Community Assessment
Objectives

Students should be able to

- describe why community assessment is important for analyzing community health status
- describe the sources the data available for such analysis
- describe how to, how to gather and present the data to affect community public health policy & funding
- describe how to use spreadsheet and geographic analysis presentations to strengthen their presentations..
- describe data sets available to measure health status at the national, state and local level
- how to link them health data to economic status
- how to access the health care and medical care data systems and their interfaces between public & private resources.
- describe mental health issues that affect the community’s health.

Key Words
Community, jurisdiction, health status, health measurement, planning, goals, geographic analysis, birth rate, infant death rate, fertility measures, community surveys, behavioral risk factors, mental health, Marc Lalonde, Ivan Illich, Kerr White.

Concept
Improving health outcome depends on knowledge of current health status rather than responding to medical crises.

References

Essay # 3, & scan essay #6.
14th Edn, Scan Chap. 32 & 43 and 70 Secn. C
Introduction to Public Health: Schneider, Chapters 8, Scan 13 & 19.

Additional Readings:

4. MAPP – a strategic approach to community health improvement
5. Principles of Community Engagement (focus on part3).
In the mid 1970s Ivan Illich's book "Medical Nemesis" sub-titled "The Expropriation of Health" was published. His thesis was to decry the tendency to name ever symptom as a discrete disease and develop an ICDA code for it, thus increasing the complexity if medical care unnecessarily, as well as making health assessment difficult.

In 1983, Marc Lalonde, Minister of Health for Canada proposed the "Health Field Effect" Noting that up to 75% of a community's health was affected by behaviors, rather than medically treatable diseases. He started the current impetus to look carefully at the whole community environment, including behavior/mental health, no just obvious treatable entities.

The session has four presentations. Two by Dr. Bradford, one by Dr. Barrett and one by Dr. Buttery. Dr. Bradford's presentations will focus on assessment of communities where the community is defined by a population with shared characteristics such as AIDS, sexual preference or Lung Cancer. Please review Dr. Bradford's presentations. Also One of Dr Bradford's associates, Dr. Kirsten Barrett's recently completed an assessment in S.W. VA. This study is similar in scope to the report on Dr Buttery's study of the Southside AHEC. You should compare the two and consider that Dr. Barrett's was funded in excess of $200,000, while Dr. Buttery's for the AHEC was funded for $7,500, had to use secondary data and was completed in 8 weeks. There is also a Power Point presentation on community
public mental health issues.

If you don’t know where you are going, you are not going to be able to measure a result which can lead to activities that will enhance the community’s health. This is similar to the medical care providers who are so busy treating diseases that few of them take the time to prevent the diseases which they treat. Additionally, national and state legislatures only give lip service to funding prevention. This sends a false message to insurers, that it is not worth using their money to prevent disease.

What evidence is there that diseases are preventable? Where would you look? What proportion of disease might be preventable? Why? Again, look at Data Sources

The World Health Organization’s definition of ‘Health’ includes attention to physical, mental and social well-being, not just absence of disease.

work through Dr. James May’s slides (pdf copy) on definitions and parameters of major mental diseases affecting the population. Consider how many friends and relatives you know who have been diagnosed and or treated for one of these conditions. Consider the resources that should be included in a community assessment to deal with these problems

Review two assessments performed by Dr. Buttery where the population assessed were geographically defined rather than disease attribute defined.

The 1973 Assessment, was performed for the City of Portsmouth, Virginia. The data was collected and analyzed manually. The 1998 Assessment for 17 counties in Southside Virginia was performed by computer analysis by downloading data from the Virginia Center for Health Statistics, then analyzing a combination of spreadsheets, databases and GIS (geographic Information Systems) projections. For more information on GIS applications click on the Introduction to Mapping resources

These assessments consider the following issues:

How long does the population live?
How well do they live?
How much disability do they have for how long?
What are the extremes of health and disability in the community?
What seem to be the underlying causes of ill health?
How do you define ‘ill health’?
What can be done to change health status?
Whose health status are you going to affect?
What are the costs and the benefits?
How long will change take?
Are these change medical or social?
Is there a difference?
What is measurable?
Are you sure it is measurable?
What role does the environment play?
Who will pay for it?

**Once you believe you have answered these questions:**

How are you going to plan interventions to change health status?
Whose permission do you need?
What are the constraints to your actions?
Who must be involved in the change?
What can enable the changes?

For an example of a community assessment, scan the AHEC summary of the community assessment Dr. Buttery performed in 1998, from which several of the slides in the 1998 slide show were chosen. Consider why the recommendations might be unexpected.

Finally, look at the following annual reports written to a city manager more than 25 years ago. This was the director’s first position after completing his MPH. Which issues still remain important public health issues today? Why? How do you think we could resolve them before another 25 years pass by? Consider how useful these annual assessments of policy accomplishment were for the health of the city’s residents? What contributes to these assessments? Examine what happened with the grant programs over this 6 year period.

Annual report for 1970
Annual report for 1973
Annual Report for 1974

Readings for to this session, Essays 3 & 6 (scan only)
Schneider: Chapter 8

Intro to GIS

Community Assessment Bookmarks

**Community Assessment**

- Impact of upward social mobility on population mortality From the BMJ
- AMA Videocast of Health Disparities
- Atlas of Community Health - Virginia
- America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences, Volume 1
- America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences, V. II
- Atlas of Mortality
- BMJ: Socioeconomic Determinants of Health
- Census Bureau
- Census Files - 2000 Brochure
- CDC's BRFSS
- CDC's Community Guide (Home Page)
- From the BMJ Burden of disease
- Public Health Surveillance for Behavioral Risk Factors (CDC)
- BRFSS - State Information
- Ecology of Medical Care
- Public Health Disparities Geocoding Project Monograph
- Healthy Youth RBSS
- Hospital Admission and Social Deprivation (UK)
- Involving patients in the planning and development of health care
- KFF - State Health Facts
- NACCHO - Welcome to the MAPP Website
- MAPP Community Health Status Assessment from NACCHO
- NCHS - Urban & Rural chart book
- NACCHO Community Toolbox
- Measuring Health Performance in the Public Sector IOM .pdf format
- National Public Health Performance Standards Program
- Healthy People in Healthy Communities - A Planning Guide (focus on Part II)
- Ca Stated U. Guidelines for Assessment (Thee academic system as a population!)
- School of Public Health - NC Web Based Community Assessment Tutorials
- Healthy People in Healthy Communities,
  - Kittitas County, Washington - Community Health Assessment
  - Alameda County, CA - Community Assessment - How it was done
  - Island County - WA - Community Assessment (Description of the Public Process)
  - Manchester - NH. PH Assessment & Planning.
  - Missouri Information for Community Assessment
  - New River (VA) Community Health Assessment

Page 5
o NY State - Community Assessment Clearinghouse.

Healthy Cities Coalition

- **DATA 2010**
- VDH - Statistical reports and Tables
- PAHO - *Promoting Health in the Americas* [US 2004 - Chartbook](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_114.pdf)
- Large Health Data Sets - Links
- Pittsburg PH Supersite, *[GIS as a PH Tool](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_114.pdf)* - PowerPoint slide show
- NCHS - *National Vital Statistics System*
- Public Health Foundation - *Health Status Indicators*
- PHPPO Programs
- Health Statistics at the National Library of Medicine
- White House *Social Statistics Briefing Room*
- The world health report 2004 - changing history (focus on conclusion)
- U.V.A. *Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service* - Look at Data and links available
- VCU *Center for Public Policy*
- Virginia *Center for Healthy Communities*
- Virginia's Planning District Commission
- Disaster & Trauma *Resource Center Sprawl*: The New Manifest Destiny?

**GIS**

- APHA Dec 2005 meeting - *GIS Systems*
- APHA Nov 2004 Innovative use of *GIS in community needs assessment*
- Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care
- *Directions Magazine - Your Mapping & Demographics News*
- Source Microsoft Office - Microsoft MapPoint 2002
- Building a GIS
- Geosciences 2000 ESRI Virtual Campus GIS Education and Training on the Web
- NC H S, Geographic Information Systems, GIS and Public Health, GIS Home Page Gateway to GIS Resources
- Claritas Training
- CDC - GIS & Public Health
- GIS & Public Health Mapping (WHO)
- GIS in Public Health
- GIS in Public Health: Using Mapping and Spatial Analysis Technologies for Health Protection (Videocast)
- GIS in Richmond, VA
- Mapping our World - ESRI Teacher's Page GIS for Health & Human Services
- The GIS Portal
- GIS Lounge - One Stop GIS source.
- Healthy Cities Coalition
- Introduction to Demographic & Business Data
- Long Island Geographic Information System
- Public Health: Mapping the Future
- The Map Book by ESRI
- Building a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Public Health Infrastructure
- Application of GIS to public health issues
- University of Edinburgh - GIS www Resource List
- University of Iowa Improving Public Health through GIS
- U. Iowa pdf file of GIS & PH Slides.
- University of Virginia - Geospatial Data Center RPM - Public Health Resources
- Futurist.com - Vision of GIS
- Malaria Information System - S. Africa
- GIS & Prevention of Childhood Obesity
- WWW Resource List

WHO GIS for surveys