

Health Disparities

'Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.'

-Martin Luther King Jr.

OVERVIEW:

What can we do to eliminate inequality and injustice in health care? How can we ensure that future generations are not victims of the health disparities that plague our society. This challenge will put to use your skills as an investigator and advocate. You will find the most compelling health disparity and determine a key risk factor that drives that disparity. Then you will communicate your findings and advocate for solutions to bring equity and justice to health for all Americans.

GOAL:

Conduct a literature review research project on a health disparity and advocate for interventions that will help remove or reduce the disparity.

ROLE:

You are a team of researchers who have received a multi-million dollar NIH grant to conduct research that will help reduce & eliminate health disparities.

OBJECTIVE:

Obj. 12.9: Conduct a literature review and an analysis of secondary data to answer a research question.

DELIVERABLES:

- 1) Literature Review
- 2) Research Poster

ASSESSMENT:

Your literature review and research poster will be graded on a rubric.

TEAMWORK PREP:

Complete the table below to facilitate communication and identify different strengths & skills within the team (i.e. artistic, likes writing, speaks up, etc.).

Team Member	Contact Information	Strength

Complete the table together to elaborate on & personalize the agreed upon team norms.

Team Norms Contract
For each category, establish a specific team norm that will help ensure you are applying teamwork principles to your collaborative research project.
Conflict: Ask questions to push other team members' thinking and debates issues to find the best answer
Leadership: Takes a leadership role in redirecting the group to focus on the most important issues
Accountability: Bring appropriate assignments to group meetings AND encourage struggling group members
Communication: Always contributes, listens, and responds appropriately.
Planning: All responsibilities are delegated using an organizational tool. Deadlines are clearly set and met.

Case Introduction:

Despite leading the world on medical care spending, Americans have worse health and shorter lives than people in other affluent nations. Our international ranking has been slipping over time, and it is not only poor Americans who are affected. Middle-class and even wealthy Americans also are less healthy than their counterparts in other affluent countries.

- *Overcoming Obstacles to Health in 2013 & Beyond*, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission to Build a Healthier America

Health disparities have a negative impact on millions of people in our nation. Any health issue or outcome could be worsened or caused by a disparity in environment, social factors, access to health care, and so many others.

Overview of Case Study Steps

1. Identify a specific health outcome or issue that is a health disparity for some populations in the U.S.
2. Choose a key factor that drives the health disparity.
3. Study the topic to determine:
 - ✓ the present status of the problem (who is affected and why?)
 - ✓ the future outlook for the problem
 - ✓ research findings regarding the problem
 - ✓ analysis of secondary data sets related to the problem
 - ✓ recommendations for individuals, health professionals, and/or policy makers to address the problem
4. Create a research poster (using PowerPoint) to present the information above in a visual format.

Selection of Focus Area:

For this case study, you will select ONE health issue or outcome and ONE key factor that shapes disparities. Read the lists below, then conduct initial background research so that your choices are supported by evidence. Use the Unnatural Causes packet for the Key Factors along with any other credible resources online. You need to be able to defend the issue and factor you choose with data showing that it is a serious health disparity that impacts a great number of people.

HEALTH ISSUE/OUTCOMES:	KEY FACTORS:
1. Obesity 2. Diabetes 3. Heart Disease 4. Mental Health 5. Infant mortality (or low birth weight) 6. Lung Cancer (or smoking) 7. Cirrhosis (or alcoholism) 8. Suicide 9. Homicide/Violence 10. Cancer (i.e. breast cancer) 11. Asthma 12. Oral Health 13. Sexually Transmitted Infections 14. Other : _____ 15. Other : _____ 16. Other : _____ 17. Other : _____	1. Childhood/Early Life 2. Chronic Stress 3. Education 4. Food Security 5. Genetics 6. Housing/Neighborhoods 7. Income & Wealth 8. Jobs & Work 9. Race/Racism 10. Social Inclusion 11. Other: _____ 12. Other: _____ 13. Other: _____ 14. Other: _____

Background Research:

As a team, pair each member with ONE health outcome/issue and ONE key factor to gather background information on. Then present your findings to the team select and vote on your final outcome/issue & key factor for your research project, based on the evidence and data presented.

Health issue/outcome: _____	Key Factor: _____
<i>Evidence/data supporting this issue/ outcome as a major health disparity:</i>	<i>Evidence/data supporting this key factor as a driver of the health disparity:</i>

Team Research Findings:

Health issue/outcomes:	Key Factors:
1. _____ Data/Evidence:	A. _____ Data/Evidence:
2. _____ Data/Evidence:	B. _____ Data/Evidence:
3. _____ Data/Evidence:	C. _____ Data/Evidence:
4. _____ Data/Evidence:	D. _____ Data/Evidence:

FINAL TEAM SELECTION:

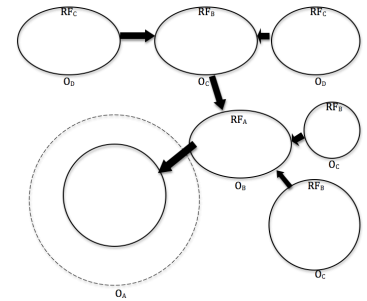
HEALTH ISSUE/OUTCOME: _____**KEY FACTOR:** _____

Explore the Problem:

IDENTIFYING KNOWLEDGE:

Factor Outcome Web:

A Factor-Outcome web is a tool used to show the relationship between risk or protective factors and associated outcomes, made by connecting variables with bubbles and arrows, pointed in the direction of hypothesized influence.



Create a Factor-Outcome web that connects factors and variables related to your health disparity. You may choose to organize this web in any way that makes the most sense to you; it should be a visual map to track your thinking!

Research:**LITERATURE REVIEW:**

Each team member should choose a particular aspect of the health disparity (outcome/ issue & key factor) to focus on. Locate two peer-reviewed, scholarly journal articles describing a study related to that risk factor.

Scholarly Source #1:

Info Type:	Information:
Source <i>(title, author, name of site, date, and URL below)</i>	
Variables of Interest	
Purpose of Study	
Methods	
Results	
Conclusions	

Scholarly Source #2:

Info Type:	Information:
Source <i>(title, author, name of site, date, and URL below)</i>	
Variables of Interest	
Purpose of Study	
Methods	
Results	
Conclusions	

IDENTIFY PRIORITIES:

What were the major findings from your literature review? Share your findings and record the key conclusions in the table below.

Major Research Findings:

Focus	Literature Review Findings

Identify Solutions:

Review all of your notes and research findings about the health disparity. Discuss the information you gathered and select a focus area (one specific factor to address).

Now you will propose a SMART intervention, aligned to your factor.

Use the space below to brainstorm your intervention, then fill out the Intervention Proposal on the next page.

BRAINSTORM SPACE:

Intervention Proposal:

Risk/Protective Factor:

Name of Intervention:

Description:

How is this intervention SMART?

Specific:

Measurable:

Achievable (yet Ambitious!):

Relevant:

Time-bound:

How would your intervention be evaluated in order to determine how it worked and whether it was successful or not?

Research Poster:

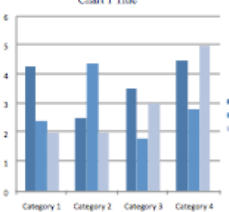
Examine the poster template Powerpoint file (image appears below). Organize your research into the following sections to place on your research poster.



Project Title

Name #1, Name #2, Name #3, Name #3

School Name & Address

Abstract Concisely summarize: - Purpose: State why your study is important and your research question - Methods: State your population, type of study, R/I/outcome that was measured - Conclusion: State the answer to your research question with claim-evidence warrant, and your proposed intervention or prevention.	Data Analysis This will be the largest section of your poster. Use online databases (secondary data) to find and organize relevant evidence to support your aim and conclusion. Arrange your results in a logical order according to the points you want to get across. Use tables, graphs, and charts to illustrate findings. All charts and graphs need a title. Chart 1 Title  Chart 2 Title <table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Table 1</th> <th>Example 1</th> <th>Example 2</th> <th>Example 3</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table> Under your charts write about any results you made through calculations. You do not need to include how results were calculated.	Table 1	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3													Conclusion - Explain the strengths and limitations of your study - Explain how your conclusions could lead to future research - Propose an intervention based on the DATA you collected in your study. - Your intervention should be proposed in a Claim-Evidence-Warrant format. - Your intervention should be a clear proposal for what should be done to address the disparities of your population and should be able to be carried out from reading your description.
Table 1	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3															
Aim Communicates the purpose of the study through: - Context - Background Information - Intended Outcomes - Research Question	Literature Review Reviews key research findings from other scholarly texts: - Purpose of each study - Description of basic study methods for each study - Overview of key results and conclusions for each study	Discussion - Clearly state answer to your research question based on DATA - Clearly answer all questions presented in your Aim as intended outcomes supported by data. - Discussion clearly aligns to the purpose of the study in the AIM.																
Works Cited Use MLA formatting to cite your sources.																		

Poster Section	Information
Abstract	
Aim	

Poster Section	Information
Literature Review	
Data Analysis	
Discussion	
Conclusions	
Works Cited	

Rubric:

You will be evaluated using the rubric below:

Obj. 12.9: Conduct a literature review and an analysis of secondary data to answer a research question.				
	Needs Improvement	Emerging Mastery	Partial Mastery	Mastery
LITERATURE REVIEW & ANALYSIS OF DATA	Achieved 3 of 3 factors: 1) Comprehensive, clear, and articulate overview of the scholarly literature presented; 2) Clear, compelling & accurate presentation of secondary data set analysis; 3) At least 4 aligned studies in lit review	Achieved 1 of 3 factors: 1) Comprehensive, clear, and articulate overview of the scholarly literature presented; 2) Clear, compelling & accurate presentation of secondary data set analysis; 3) At least 4 aligned studies in lit review	Achieved 2 of 3 factors: 1) Comprehensive, clear, and articulate overview of the scholarly literature presented; 2) Clear, compelling & accurate presentation of secondary data set analysis; 3) At least 4 aligned studies in lit review	Achieved 3 of 3 factors: 1) Comprehensive, clear, and articulate overview of the scholarly literature presented; 2) Clear, compelling & accurate presentation of secondary data set analysis; 3) At least 4 aligned studies in lit review
QUALITY OF CONCLUSION (Follows C-E-R format)	Achieved 0 of 3 factors	Achieved 1 of 3 factors: 1) Clear and thorough Claim 2) Accurate and aligned Evidence ; 3) Logical & useful Warrant	Achieved 2 of 3 factors: 1) Clear and thorough Claim 2) Accurate and aligned Evidence ; 3) Logical & useful Warrant	Achieved 3 of 3 factors: 1) Clear and thorough Claim 2) Accurate and aligned Evidence ; 3) Logical & useful Warrant
ACCESSIBILITY OF INFORMATION	Achieved 0 of 3 factors: 1) Clear and easy to understand information 2) User-friendly; 3) Neat and professional	Achieved 1 of 3 factors: 1) Clear and easy to understand information 2) User-friendly; 3) Neat and professional	Achieved 2 of 3 factors: 1) Clear and easy to understand information 2) User-friendly 3) Neat and professional	Achieved 3 of 3 factors: 1) Clear and easy to understand information 2) User-friendly; 3) Neat and professional
WRITING	Many spelling, grammar, and vocabulary errors.	Some spelling, grammar, & vocabulary errors.	Very few spelling, grammar, and vocabulary errors.	Easily read & understood; almost perfect grammar, spelling & vocabulary