

Descriptive epidemiology and data sources (Guideline Questions) (Week 2)

Instructions: Use the questions below and thoroughly answer each in your 2-3 page paper. You will select a case study found in a scholarly article (no older than 3 years of publication) that evaluates social determinants of health in relation to a health issue.

- Some factors may cause an increase in incidence but, not necessarily, represent a true increase nor an epidemic. What factors might lead to an increase of new cases (incidence) of your disease but not represent an outbreak or epidemic?
- Describe and explain at least two factors as they relate to your health issue.
 - Example factors include screenings, testing, changes in diagnostic criteria, policies, laws, campaigns, etc.
- List the descriptive epidemiologic factors (person/place/time) you would assess to evaluate populations at risk (i.e., what factors are relevant for your health issue within the categories of person, place, and time)?
- From your review of relevant resources, characterize your health issue by person, place, and time. Who is more at-risk for the disease based on these factors? Provide data and statistical evidence from sources and discuss.

Note: Be sure to support your work with specific citations from this week's Learning Resources and additional scholarly sources specific to your disease. Ensure your in-text citations and reference list are in APA format. For more information on APA style, use the following Walden University resource:

- Walden University Writing Center. (2019). APA style: Overview. Retrieved from <https://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/apa>

Assignment: Measures of Occurrence and Data Sources

Epidemiologists spend much of their time analyzing data and evaluating the validity of the sources of their data. Measure of occurrence refers to the quantifying (count, ratio, proportion, rate, prevalence, and incidence) of events (Friis & Sellers, 2014). Data sources are critical elements that provide foundation and grounding for research. It is important to attain and evaluate the validity of data sources. Data sources require analysis and interpretation.

In this Assignment, you are presented with a scenario in the "To prepare for this Assignment" section, where you are asked to search and interpret the meaning of the data. You will also determine the probable source and validity of the data. You will search in the Walden Library for scholarly articles and identify data using the sources of data provided to you in the Learning Resources to complete this Assignment.

Reference

Friis, R. H., & Sellers, T. A. (2014). *Epidemiology for public health practice* (5th ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett.

To prepare for this Assignment:

- Refer to the health issue you selected in Week 1.
- Perform a search in the Walden Library, and identify **at least two** recent scholarly articles (no older than 3 years of publication) related to the health issue you have chosen.
- Perform a search of sources of data provided to you in the Learning Resources to identify data relevant to the health issue you have chosen.
- Review the following scenario:
 - Imagine that you work for a state health department monitoring trends in the occurrence of various reportable infectious diseases, as well as major chronic diseases. As you compare this year's trends with last year's, you notice an increase in the occurrence of the disease that you chose.

Keep in mind, that some factors may cause an increase in incidence but, not necessarily, represent a true increase nor an epidemic.

With this scenario in mind, write a 2- to 3-page paper that addresses the following:

- Identify the health issue you have selected.
- Identify and describe **at least two factors** that might lead to an increase of new cases (incidence) of your health issue but not represent an outbreak or epidemic. Explain your thinking.

- Example factors include screenings, testing, changes in diagnostic criteria, policies, laws, campaigns, etc.
- Identify and describe the descriptive epidemiologic factors (person/place/time) you would use to evaluate populations at risk (i.e., what factors are relevant for your health issue within the categories of person, place, and time). Using the scholarly resources that you identified, support and explain your thinking.
- Identify and explain who is more at-risk for the health issue based on the epidemiologic factors. Provide data and statistical evidence from the sources you identified to support your response. Explain your thinking.

Note: Be sure to support your work with specific citations from this week's Learning Resources and additional scholarly sources specific to your disease. Ensure your in-text citations and reference list are in APA format. For more information on APA style, use the following Walden University resource:

- Walden University Writing Center. (2019). *APA style: Overview*. Retrieved from <https://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/apa>

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