FINDING, UNDERSTANDING AND DISSEMINATING DATA AND STATISTICS TUTORIAL TOOLKIT

This toolkit was made to help you train a group of people. You can either go through the tutorial as a group by viewing it online or you can download the PDF version of the tutorial. Both options are available on the Mary Amelia Women's Center website at
http://womenshealth.tulane.edu/pages/detail/65/tutorials.

In addition to going through the tutorial, you can use the items in this toolkit to make the training more interactive. If you would like additional materials, or if you have questions, please email
mac@tulane.edu.

Highlights:
- This tutorial explains why data and statistics are useful to health professionals. It provides some questions that should be answered in order to determine the type of data needed for a project or specific research. It then introduces the Center for Disease Control as a resource for finding up-to-date data and statistics on many health indicators. A hypothetical situation in which a public health professional is trying to prove that Louisiana would benefit from a WIC breastfeeding promotion program is then discussed. In this situation, the public health professional would use data and statistics from the CDC Breastfeeding Report Card and the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) to support the argument that Louisiana should implement the program.

Learning Objectives:
- By the end of this tutorial you will
  - Be able to identify strategies to critically determine what type of data you need
  - Have the skills to navigate and understand how to access two main sources of health statistics information

Duration:
- 50 PowerPoint slides
- Approximately 20 minutes

Chapters:
- Standard questions to help determine the type of data you need for your project or research
- Introduction to two sources of health statistics information
- Case study practice with data sources

In this toolkit, you will find:
- References
- Review Questions
- Answer Sheets
- Additional Activities

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2013). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Website. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/

Public Health and Information Data Tutorial (2006). Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce. Retrieved from http://phpartners.org/tutorial/03-hs/index.html

Rowan, C. (2013). Health Statistics on the Web…It's as Easy as.. 1,2,3! [PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved from http://nnlm.gov/training/healthstatistics/

U.S. Department of Agriculture (2013). Loving Support Makes Breastfeeding Work Website. Retrieved from http://www.nal.usda.gov/wicworks/Learning_Center/loving_support.html

U.S. National Library of Medicine (2012). Finding and Using Health Statistics. Retrieved from http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/usestats/index.htm

Review Questions for *Finding, Understanding and Disseminating Data and Statistics* Tutorial

Name: _____

Date: _____

Please circle the correct answer:

1. Why are statistics and data useful to health professionals?

   A. They can be used to determine specific needs of various groups at the community, state and national level.
   B. They can be used to promote behavior change through evidence-based practices.
   C. They can be used to provide convincing arguments when grant writing.
   D. All of the above

2. Which "W" question does this statement 'African American women without a high school diploma' represent?

   A. Who
   B. What
   C. When
   D. Where
   E. Why

3. Which "W" question does the statement 'the percentage of exclusively breastfed infants at 3 months' represent?

   A. Who
   B. What
   C. When
   D. Where
   E. Why

4. True or False: When looking at a summary data source it is important to understand why they collected the data?

   A. True
   B. False

5. What are some additional data sources, other than data from the CDC that could be useful for your work?

   A. Data from peer reviewed journal articles
   B. Data from state-level offices of public health
   C. Both A and B

Answer Sheet

1. **The correct answer is D (All of the above).**

The ability to find, use, and disseminate health statistics and data allows a health professional to determine needs, promote behavior change, and provide convincing arguments.

2. **The correct answer is A (Who).**

Who are you interested in? This could include gender, age, race, socioeconomic status or all of those! Make sure to be specific and include additional demographic information such as education and income if those are relevant.

3. **The correct answer is B (What).**

The 'What' is the health indicator that you are interested in. This health indicator is a measure that reflects or indicates the state of health of persons in a defined population. The more information you can have on this indicator the better.

4. **The correct answer is A (True).**

Some sources may have ulterior motives and can present data in certain ways to satisfy their objectives and funders. Try to see if there could be any bias in data collection or presentation. Make sure the data is from credible source.

5. **The correct answer is C (Both A and B).**

For a complete picture as many data sources as possible. Start with CDC data but you can also use state-level office of public health data and other sources such a peer-reviewed journal articles.

Additional Activities

1. Answer the following questions based on the _Breastfeeding Report Card_, which is available at http://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/reportcard.htm:
    a. Where does your state rank in exclusive breastfeeding at 6 months as compared to the other states and the national value in the most recent data available?
    b. What is the most recent data showing the percentage of births in your state that occur in a facility designated as a Baby Friendly Hospital?
    c. What is the most recent data that shows the percentage of women in your state that ever breastfed?
    d. Use your data navigation skills to find data on another health indicator in your state. What is the most recent data that shows the percentage of women in your state that had a BMI classified as "obese"?
2. Compare different search tools (Google web, Google scholar, and DOAJ)
    a. First, try searching for "breastfeeding" in Google at https://www.google.com/:
        i. How many results do you get?
        ii. Are they what you expected?
    b. Now try DOAJ at http://www.doaj.org/:
        i. How many results do you get this time?
        ii. What types of results are they?
    c. Lastly, try Google Scholar at http://scholar.google.com/:
        i. How do these results differ from the DOAJ and Google web search?