

Syllabus for Measuring Health Disparities

Course Description

This interactive course focuses on some basic issues for public health practice -- how to understand, define and measure health disparity. This course examines the language of health disparity to come to some common understanding of what that term means, explains key measures of health disparity and shows how to calculate them. This computer-based course provides a durable tool that is useful to daily activities in the practice of public health.

The material is divided into four content sections. Parts I and II review what health disparities are, how they are defined, and provide an overview of common issues faced in measuring health disparities. Parts III and IV introduce users to a range of health disparity measures, providing advantages and disadvantages of each, and discuss how best to use different measures to communicate and evaluate health disparity in our communities.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the first content section (which includes Part I *What are Health Disparities?* and Part II *Issues in Measuring Health Disparities*), you will be able to:

- Identify the dimensions of health disparity as described in Healthy People 2010
- List three definitions of health disparity
- Interpret health disparity in graphical representations of data
- Explain relative and absolute disparity
- Describe how reference groups can affect disparity measurement

By the end of the second content section (which includes Part III *Measures of Health Disparities* and Part IV *Analytic Steps in Measuring Health Disparity*), you will be able to:

- Describe at least three complex measures of health disparities
- List strengths and weaknesses of at least three health disparity measures
- Summarize the analytic steps in measuring health disparity

Course Methodology

This course, while self-paced, can be expected to take between two to three hours to complete. The various health disparity measures are explained with interactive slides and audio commentary. Real-world examples illustrate concepts and carefully thought-out exercises help build knowledge.

Target Audience

The course is designed to be accessible to a broad audience of practitioners across all sectors of the public health and related workforce who are concerned about the issue of health disparity. Parts III and IV are more technical; although not required, it is helpful to have a background in statistics, epidemiology, or other related sciences for ease of understanding these sections.

Continuing Education Credit and Completion Certificate

For continuing education credit or completion certificate, you may complete the entire course or the first two parts (Parts I & II). Certificates are awarded upon submission of an evaluation and successful completion of the relevant tests. (There is a post-test covering Parts I & II and another covering

Parts III & IV.) The computer-based course contains a link to the evaluation and post-tests, which are online.

Parts I & II provide 1.5 Contact hours in Nursing, 1.5 credits for social work continuing education, or 1.0 Contact hours for CHES; the entire course (Parts I-IV) provides 3.3 Contact hours in Nursing, 3.3 credits for social work continuing education, or 3.0 Contact hours for CHES. Additional information about social work, nursing and CHES continuing education provisions is available on the [Career Advancement](#) page of our website.

Level

This course has been classified as "knowledgeable" by the criteria of the Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice, based on depth of material covered and length of course.

Core Competencies

Competency Domain #1 Analytic/Assessment Skills	Level
Applies ethical principles to the collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of data and information	Aware
Makes relevant inferences from quantitative and qualitative data	Aware
Recognizes how the data illuminates ethical, political, scientific, economic, and overall public health issues	Proficient

Competency Domain #2 Policy Development/Program Planning Skills	Level
Collects, summarizes, and interprets information relevant to an issue	Aware

Competency Domain #3 Communication Skills	Level
Effectively presents accurate demographic, statistical, programmatic, and scientific information for professional and lay audiences	Aware

Competency Domain #4 Cultural Competency Skills	Level
Develops and adapts approaches to problems that take into account cultural differences	Knowledgeable

Competency Domain #6 Basic Public Health Sciences Skills	Level
Defines, assesses, and understands the health status of populations, determinants of health and illness, factors contributing to health promotion and disease prevention, and factors influencing the use of health services	Aware
Identifies and applies basic research methods used in public health	Aware
Applies the basic public health sciences including behavioral and social sciences, biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental public health, and prevention of chronic and infectious diseases and injuries	Aware
Identifies the limitations of research and the importance of observations and interrelationships	Knowledgeable

Other

Information about scholarships, fees and refunds, cancellations, registration deadlines, certificates, ADA accommodations, and our grievance policy and procedures can be found under Help in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section.

Sponsors

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