Creating a Rural County Health Profile in the State of Nevada

Troy Jorgensen, CHS Undergraduate
Office of Statewide Initiatives, University of Nevada School of Medicine

Background

The State of Nevada is a diverse landscape with dense urban centers, rural towns, and vast frontier and rangelands. These various locales have just as diverse healthcare needs as well. These needs must be addressed properly in order to ensure positive health care outcomes. However, in order to improve these outcomes we must first understand where the differences lie.

The Nevada Office of Statewide Initiatives is critical in performing a public health assessment for the state. The agency is dedicated to improving the health of all Nevadans by implementing various community programs. By collecting and analyzing data they are able to design programs to help limit any health disparities that might exist throughout rural Nevada.

Methods

Data Collection and Management:
- Locate secondary sources of health data for rural counties in Nevada via the CDC, BRFSS, National County Health Rankings, and the Health Indicators Warehouse
- Assess various health data indicators:
  - Morbidity and Mortality
  - Health Care Access
  - Personal Health Behaviors
  - Population Demographics

Mapping and Displaying Results
- Use Instant Atlas software to display an interactive map of results
- Show health indicator data by county with comparisons to statewide and national averages
- Update data to ensure most current information is available

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Indicators by Topic</th>
<th>Nevada State Office of Rural Health</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural and Frontier</td>
<td>Humboldt County</td>
<td>Hospitalization - CHF</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hospitalization - COPD</td>
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<td>Hospitalization - CHF</td>
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Goals and Objectives

- The overall goal for this project will be to create an online health database that will be available to health care workers, insurance providers, doctors, and researchers to use at any time.
- This will help consolidate the various sources that this information is currently spread across. State health data is currently published in several books, but its wide spread makes finding precise information extremely time consuming.
- By using the Instant Atlas software we will be able to pinpoint specific health care needs for individual counties. This will lead to creation of plans and initiatives to address these areas.
- After the implementation of these projects we will be able to track progress via the Instant Atlas software. This will show if the project succeeded, or if any improvements are necessary.

Reflection

This project will assist in improving the health of the state’s rural regions by being able to address the specific needs that those types of communities face. The completed maps and databases will be able to measure health care improvements for many years to come.

As a native Nevedan I care deeply about my state and want all those living here to have equal access to healthcare. I also have a passion for epidemiology so analyzing data on disease and health issues makes this project very exciting to me.

References

2. Welcome to the Health Indicators Warehouse (HIW) - Health Indicators Warehouse. (National Center for Health Statistics). Retrieved September 1, 2015.