Title: How healthy is your state? A look at Chronic Diseases

Author: Kerstin Stoedefalke

Summary: A chronic disease is a disease that develops over a long period of time, is rarely cured by a medication and cannot be prevented with a vaccine. The United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has the most comprehensive data bases on chronic diseases. This activity will require the students to utilize the CDC’s website (http://www.cdc.gov/surveillancepractice/data.html) to collect data on chronic disease. The students will use the data to compare results for NH, a south eastern state, a south western state, a mid western state and a north western state. Data will be recorded and analyzed in excel.

Context for use: Sophomore to junior students, studying in the health/medical science fields. Can be used as an in class assignment as long as students have access to a computer or as a take home assignment. Access to the internet is also required.

Learning outcomes: Ability to create both a line graph and a bar graph in excel from data collected at the CDC website

Ability to analyze the data to obtain answers to the assignment questions

Quantitative skills: Graphing

Background/skills: familiarity with excel

Materials needed: computer, calculator and access to the internet

Assessment plan: Completion of all required components of the assignment will demonstrate whether or not he student is able to obtain the outcomes