Student Resource 4.8

Assignment: Population Health Report

Student Names:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Research the health of one of the countries in the WHO Region of the Americas in preparation for writing a report that evaluates the vulnerable populations in that country and where the country is in terms of demographic and epidemiological transition. Before you begin your research, read through all of the instructions in this resource and read the assessment criteria at the end of it to make sure you understand how your work will be assessed. Be sure to go over the sample essay before you start writing.

Step One: Select a Country

WHO Region of the Americas

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| --- | --- | --- |
| ArgentinaBahamasBoliviaChileColombiaCosta RicaEcuador | El SalvadorGuatemalaGuyanaJamaicaNicaraguaPanamaParaguay | PeruPuerto RicoSurinameUruguayVenezuela |

Step Two: Research Your Country

1. As you research, keep track of the sources you use here. You will need to list your sources in your report. Refer to Student Resource 4.9, Guide: Citing Sources, to make sure that you include all of the information you need and that you format citations properly.

My sources:

1. Collect demographic data on the country you have selected. Go to the CIA World Factbook (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>). Select the country that you have chosen. Expand the “People and Society” section by clicking it. Find the data for the life expectancy at birth and the infant mortality rate, and take note of the information. What does this tell you about the health of your country?
2. Go to the heading “Age Structure” in the “People and Society” section. Click on the population pyramid. What does the population pyramid tell you about the health of your country? What stage of demographic transition do you think your country is in?
3. Scroll through the other headings under “People and Society” and take note of other information you think may be important to include in your report, such as languages spoken or the total population of the country.
4. To find out where your country is in terms of its epidemiological transition, find your country’s page on the WHO site (for a list of countries, see <http://www.who.int/gho/countries/en/>). Download the country’s health profile (the title is usually something like “*Country name*: health profile”). Look at the chart at the top called “Distribution of years of life lost by causes.” Take note of your country’s percentage of years of life lost for communicable disease, noncommunicable disease, and injury. Based on this information, which stage of epidemiological transition do you think your country is in? If you are having difficulty accessing the report, use the report “Noncommunicable Diseases Country Profiles 2011” as an alternative source ([www.who.int/nmh/publications/ncd\_profiles\_report.pdf](http://www.who.int/nmh/publications/ncd_profiles_report.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)). First find your country, and then look at the information in the pie chart about mortality at the top of the page.
5. Look for information about your country’s vulnerable populations. Remember, some populations are considered vulnerable in every country. Take note of those populations, but also think about specific populations, such as women or war refugees, that may be vulnerable. Take note of any initiatives that you read about that are helping vulnerable populations in your country. Look for information about vulnerable populations under the “Introduction” tab on your country’s CIA World Factbook page, on your country’s Wikipedia page, or on your country’s WHO page.
6. You will need background information about your country for the report. You will especially want to include information that has affected the country’s economy and health status, such as the income group of your country (lower income, middle income, etc.), wars or natural disasters that have affected your country, the geography and climate, and major health innovations. Look for information under the About tab on your country’s CIA World Factbook page, on your country’s Wikipedia page, or on your country’s WHO page.

Step Three: Write Your Report

Now that you’ve done your research, it’s time to write your report. Your report should be a total of six short paragraphs. Read the descriptions below of what each paragraph should contain and take notes about what you want to include in each paragraph before you begin writing. Make sure to also include your sources at the bottom of your report.

If you have time, include an image to illustrate your report, such as a map, the country’s population pyramid, or a photograph of a member of a vulnerable population. Include a caption with the image.

**Paragraph 1: Introduction.** Use this paragraph to give some background information about your country, such as what its geography and climate are like, what languages are spoken, and what the total population is. The background information should include information that may be linked to the country’s health status or that may help the reader better understand the state of the country, such as recent wars it has engaged in or natural disasters it has endured.

**Paragraph 2: Health Indicators.** In this paragraph, give the life expectancy and infant mortality rate for your country and explain what these statistics say about the health status of your country.

**Paragraph 3: Demographic Transition.** In this paragraph, use what you learned from the country’s population pyramid to explain what stage of demographic transition you think your country is in.

**Paragraph 4: Epidemiological Transition.** In this paragraph, give the data you collected about years of life lost and explain what stage of epidemiological transition you think your country is in.

**Paragraph 5: Vulnerable Populations.** In this paragraph, explain what you’ve learned about specific vulnerable populations in your country and any initiatives you learned about that are in place to help these populations.

**Paragraph 6: Conclusion.** Conclude your report by summarizing the health status of your country.

Make sure your assignment meets or exceeds the following assessment criteria:

* The report’s introductory paragraph gives relevant and accurate background information on the country that will help the reader understand the country’s health status.
* The report uses current and accurate life expectancy and mortality data to explain the country’s health status.
* The report describes the country’s population pyramid and uses that data to make an informed and logical guess about which state of demographic transition the country is in.
* The report describes the causes of years of life lost and uses that data to make an informed and logical guess about which state of epidemiological transition the country is in.
* The report demonstrates knowledge of what makes a vulnerable population.
* The data in the report supports the summary of the country’s health status given in the report’s concluding paragraph.
* The completed assignment is neat and uses proper spelling and grammar.