

Biostatistics Assignment 2

In-Class Group Discussion of Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Data Analysis Assignment

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Discussion Instructions

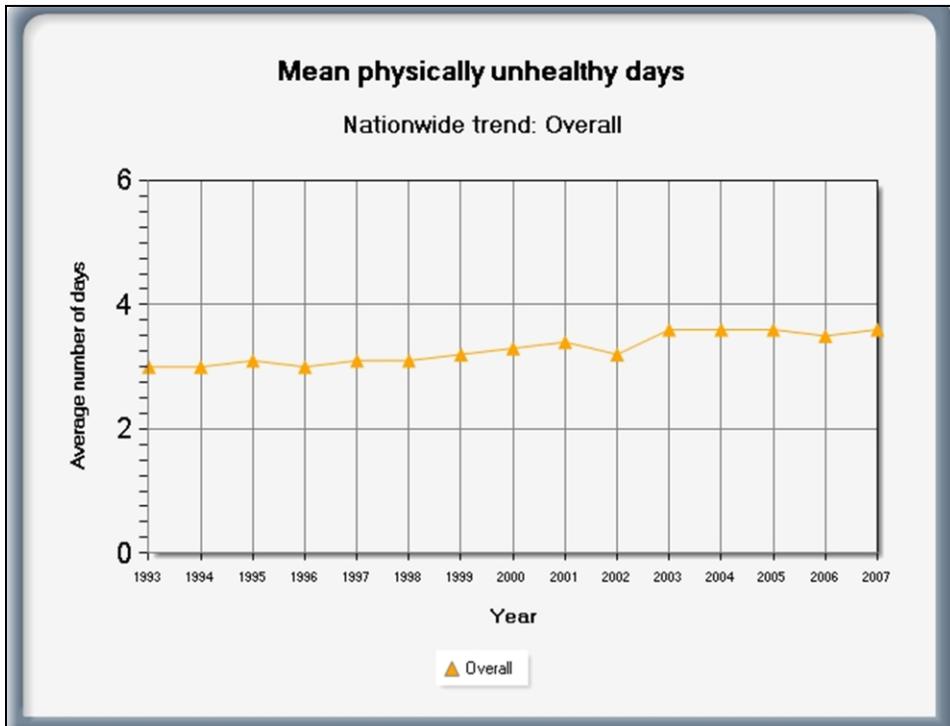
- 1. Break into discussion groups with others who analyzed the same dataset.**
- 2. Discuss and compare your individual findings on the MSA data analysis assignment with your group members (you will have **XX** minutes).**
- 3. We will reconvene and each group will report on their discussions, answering the following questions.**

•Instructions for students to display on the day of the in-class discussion.

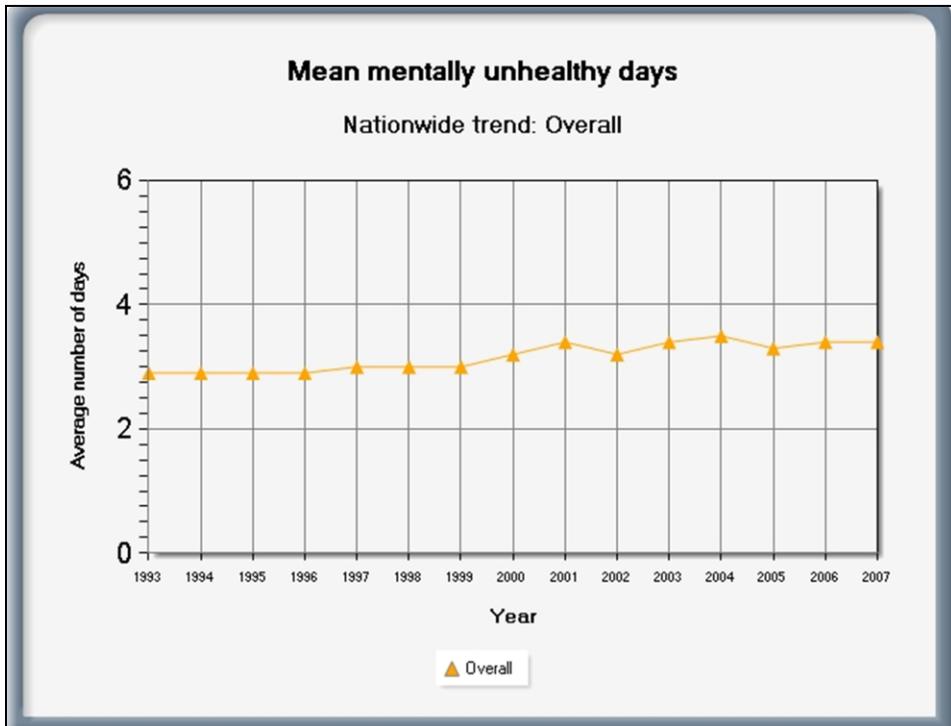
Discussion Questions

- 1. What do the calculations performed tell us?**
- 2. What is the public health impact of the findings?**
- 3. Does statistical significance necessarily imply “real-world” meaning or significance?**
- 4. What are some possible explanations for the observed findings?**
- 5. What, if any, additional questions do these findings raise?**
- 6. Is there any additional information that would prove useful?**

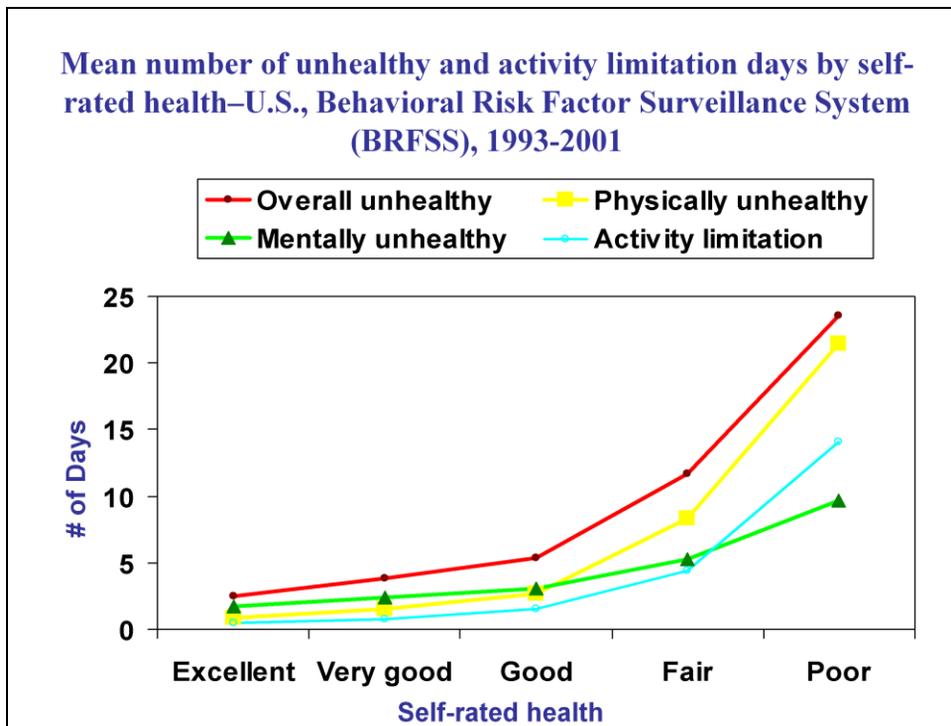
- Have the students discuss and answer these questions in their smaller groups.
- Groups should select a spokesman or two to report to the class on their discussion.
- The professor should actively facilitate the discussion and ask appropriate follow-up questions.



- Graph displays the mean number of physically unhealthy days in the US by year from 1993-2007.
- Note that there has been a slight increase over time.
- Relevance: Students were asked to calculate mean number of physically unhealthy days for their MSA datasets. They can compare their findings to the national trend.



- Graph displays the mean number of mentally unhealthy days in the US by year from 1993-2007.
- Note that there has been a slight increase over time.
- Relevance: Students were asked to calculate mean number of mentally unhealthy days for their MSA datasets. They can compare their findings to the national trend.



- Mean unhealthy and activity limitation days by self-rated health in the US, 1993-2001.

- Note that mean number of unhealthy and activity limitation days increase with poorer self-rated health status.

- Relevance: Students were required to calculate mean number of overall unhealthy days (UNHEALTH), mentally unhealthy days (MENTHLTH), physically unhealthy days (PHYSHLTH), and activity limitation days (POORHLTH) as part of the MSA analysis assignment. This graph displays these values for the US by another variable included in the MSA datasets: self-rated health (GENHLTH).