

Health Policy and Management Assignment 2

State and Community Health Profiles Health Disparity Policy Brief

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Presentation Overview

- **Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQOL): concepts and measurement**
 - **CDC HRQOL Surveillance Program's Healthy Days Measures**
- **Data: HRQOL at state/community level**
- **Assignment overview: Policy brief on addressing disparities in HRQOL at the state and community level**

• Introduction and outline of the presentation.

• 3 primary components of presentation include an overview of QOL, HRQOL, and the CDC's Healthy Days Measures, relevant data resulting from use of the measures, and assignment instructions.

Measuring Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQOL)

- **Broad outcome measures designed to measure physical, emotional, and social dimensions of health** (*McDowell & Newell, 1996*).
- **No one definition of HRQOL is agreed upon, but generally assessed with generic measures (e.g., Short-Form 36) or disease-specific measures (e.g., Quality of Life in Epilepsy Scale-10** (*Ware & Sherbourne, 1992; Cramer et al., 1996*).
- **Quality of Life Instruments Database (QOLID): Online database of generic and disease-specific measures.** <http://www.proqolid.org>

- Introduce the concept of HRQOL and its measurement.
- There are varying definitions for HRQOL.
- There are many ways and scales with which to measure HRQOL depending on one's needs. Generally, each scale has its advantages and disadvantages that make it more or less advantageous to use depending on the scenario in question. See the provided link for a database of QOL scales.

What is Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQOL)?

- **For public health surveillance purposes, HRQOL was defined as...“an individual’s or group’s perceived physical and mental health over time.”**

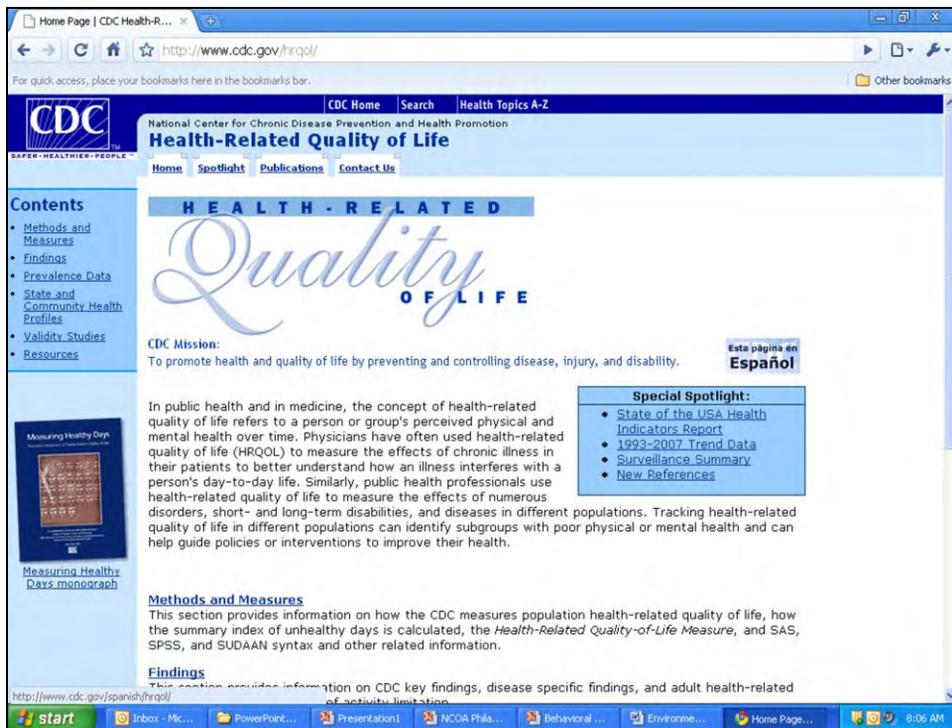
(Measuring Healthy Days, CDC 2000)

- <http://www.cdc.gov/hrqol>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss>

•This slide presents a definition of HRQOL as defined by CDC.

•Links: 1st link is to the CDC’s HRQOL Surveillance Program homepage;

2nd link is to the CDC BRFSS homepage. The Healthy Days Measures are administered as part of the annual BRFSS.



- This is CDC’s HRQOL Surveillance Program’s homepage.
- Use this slide just to familiarize the class with the website and what it contains. Note the definition of HRQOL in the main paragraph.

Core Healthy Days Measures

1. Would you say that in **general** your **health** is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?
2. Now thinking about your physical health, which includes physical illness and injury, for how many **days during the past 30 days** was your **physical health not good**?
3. Now thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your **mental health not good**?
4. During the past 30 days, for about how many days did **poor physical or mental health keep you from doing your usual activities**, such as self-care, work, or recreation?

•These are the 4 core Healthy Days measures (HRQOL-4) used in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES).

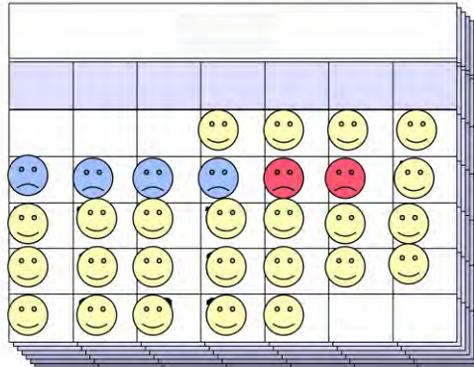
•While there are other Healthy Days measures that are sometimes included in these surveys (Activity Limitations module (4 questions), Healthy Days Symptoms module (5 questions)) (see http://www.cdc.gov/hrqol/hrqol14_measure.htm), these are 4 core questions that are most widely used.

Unhealthy Days = days in the past 30 days when both physical and mental health were not good

 = Physically unhealthy day

 = Mentally unhealthy day

 = Healthy day



- This graphic provides an idea as to how physically, mentally, and overall unhealthy days are calculated from the questions on the previous slide.
- Unhealthy days are an estimate of the overall number of days during the previous 30 days when the respondent felt that either his or her physical or mental health was not good. To obtain this estimate, responses to questions 2 and 3 are combined to calculate a summary index of overall unhealthy days, with a logical maximum of 30 unhealthy days. For example, a person who reports four physically unhealthy days and two mentally unhealthy days is assigned a value of six unhealthy days, and someone who reports 30 physically unhealthy days and 30 mentally unhealthy days is assigned the maximum of 30 unhealthy days.
- The majority of individuals report substantially different numbers of physically unhealthy days versus mentally unhealthy days; for example, in the 1998 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 67.8% of the 68,619 adults who reported any unhealthy days reported only physically unhealthy days or mentally unhealthy days.

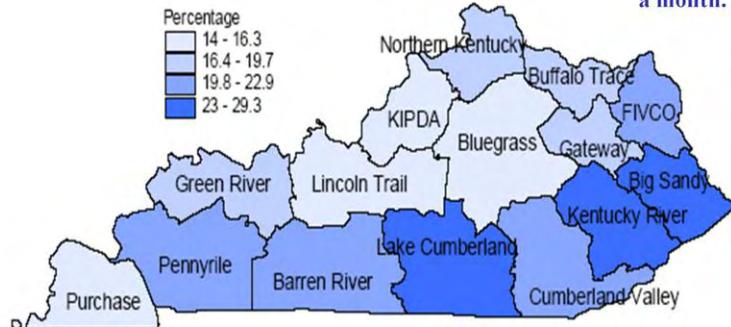


Health Status: Frequent Mental Distress

Kentucky BRFSS 2002 Report

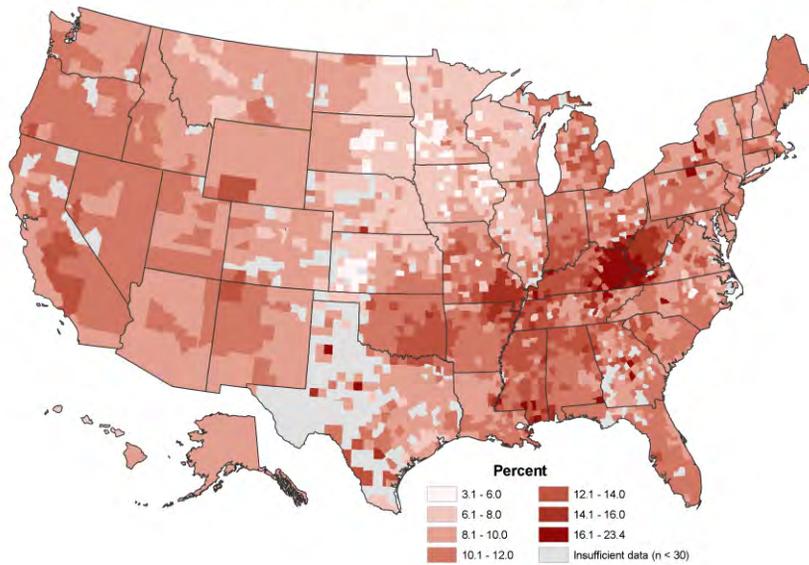
Frequent Mental Distress 2002 BRFSS Data by Area Development District

FMD is defined as
 ≥ 14 days of
mentally
unhealthy days in
a month.



- State map of Kentucky displays level of FMD experienced in different regions of the state.
- Relevance: map exhibits how an HRQOL indicator (FMD) can vary from one region to another within a state.

Percentage of adults with frequent mental distress by geographic area, 2003-2006



- Map indicates percentage of people experiencing FMD according to geographic area (county-level) in the US from 2003-2006.
- Relevance: similar to the previous map, this US map indicates disparities in an HRQOL indicator (FMD) between and within states.

Assignment Instructions:

- 1. Review the CDC's HRQOL Surveillance Program's website, State and Community Health Profiles page (available at <http://www.cdc.gov/hrqol/community.htm>). State, local, and organizational reports are available for review.**
- 2. Choose and review a report of interest. Identify a disparity in HRQOL in a state or community of interest.**
- 3. Search and review additional articles on the chosen topic/disparity (see http://www.cdc.gov/hrqol/publications_topic.htm as one possible resource).**

- Instructions for the student assignment.

Instructions continued:

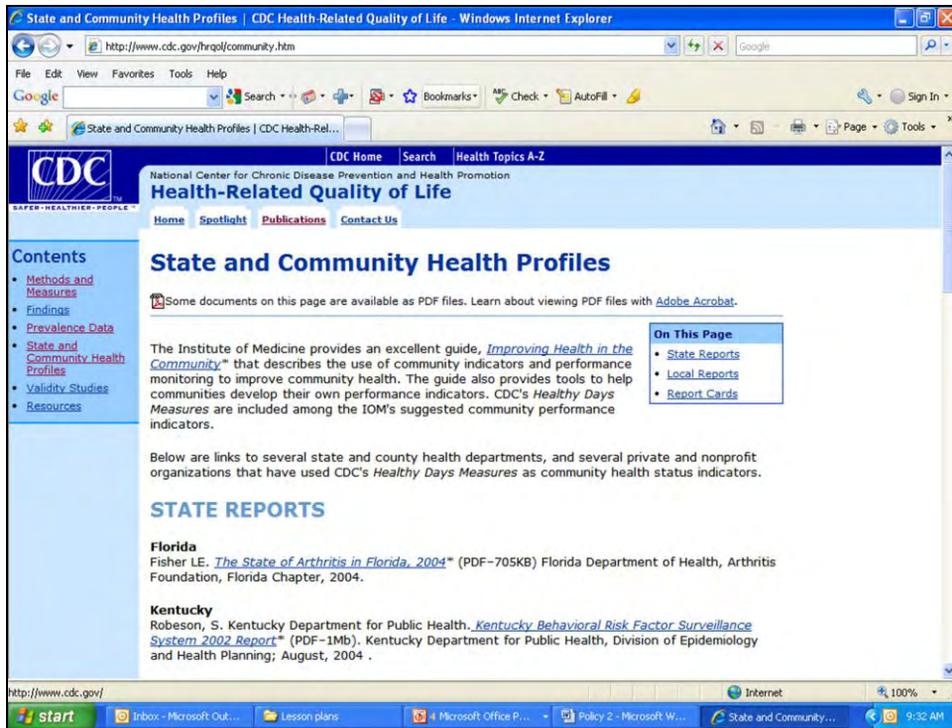
- 4. Based on the review of these information sources, write a policy briefing (4-5 pages) recommending and making the case for a specific intervention or action to address the disparity.**

Intermediate-level students should also:

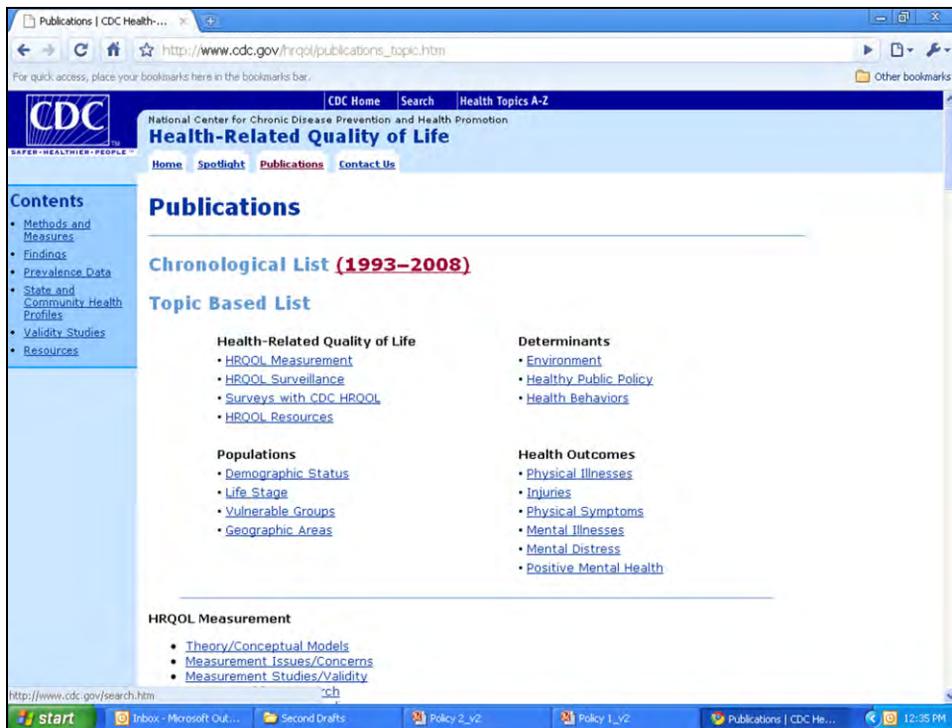
- 5. Give consideration to necessary partnerships, appropriate evaluation methods, and propose a budget.**

- Student instructions continued.

- Note that step 5 should be deleted from the slide and lesson plan if assignment is given to an introductory-level class or if students are not required to do this step.



- CDC HRQOL Surveillance Program’s State and Community Health Profiles Page.
- Students will visit this website to find a state or organizational report to review.



- CDC HRQOL Surveillance Program’s Publications Page: Topic Based Listing.
- Students can visit this website as a resource for additional relevant articles.