Lesson 1.1 Investigating Public Health Data

Objective: In this module, you will be investigating the driving question – How can I make my neighborhood a healthier place to live? Before looking at your neighborhood, you will first look at some health data from across the world to think about what does it mean for an area to be “healthy” and what factors impact public health.

Directions:

You will be looking at data for common health threats in cities around the world. Below are graphs showing data for the incidence of deaths from urban air pollution, child mortality rates and access to basic urban amenities. The data are provided for global regions as a whole and not just for selected cities.

1. Investigate each of the graphs below and answer the questions.
2. Look for recurring trends as you analyze each graph.
3. At the end of the lesson, you will try to summarize your analysis across all of the data.

Deaths from urban air pollution

The data represent the number of people who die each year from urban air pollution for each million urban residents.
1. Are the death rates from air pollution equal across the world?

2. What regions of the world had the **highest** death rate from urban air pollution? Why do you think this might be the case?

3. What regions of the world had the **lowest** death rate from urban air pollution? Why do you think this might be the case?
Questions about the Child Mortality Data

1. What regions of the world have the highest child mortality rates?

2. What was the highest, and lowest rates of mortality in the dataset?

3. What general trends did you observe?
Questions about the Access to Services Data

1. What region has the lowest rates of access clean water and sewerage?
2. Which regions have at least 50% access to electricity for their urban dwellers?

Summary Across Data Sets

Now that you have had a chance to review and analyze some of the data, please answer a few questions.

1. What trends were you able to uncover? Were the regions of highest risk the same for the three graphs?

2. How would you define a “healthy” country or city? What would you look for to determine whether your city was healthy?

3. Besides air pollution and access to services (e.g. water, sewage, electricity and telephone) what other characteristics of countries or cities do you think impacts the health of the people living there? Why?