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Student Pages - Investigating Public Health Data

Center for Urban Resilience

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Name: _____ Date: _____ Class/Period: _____

Lesson 1.1 Investigating Public Health Data

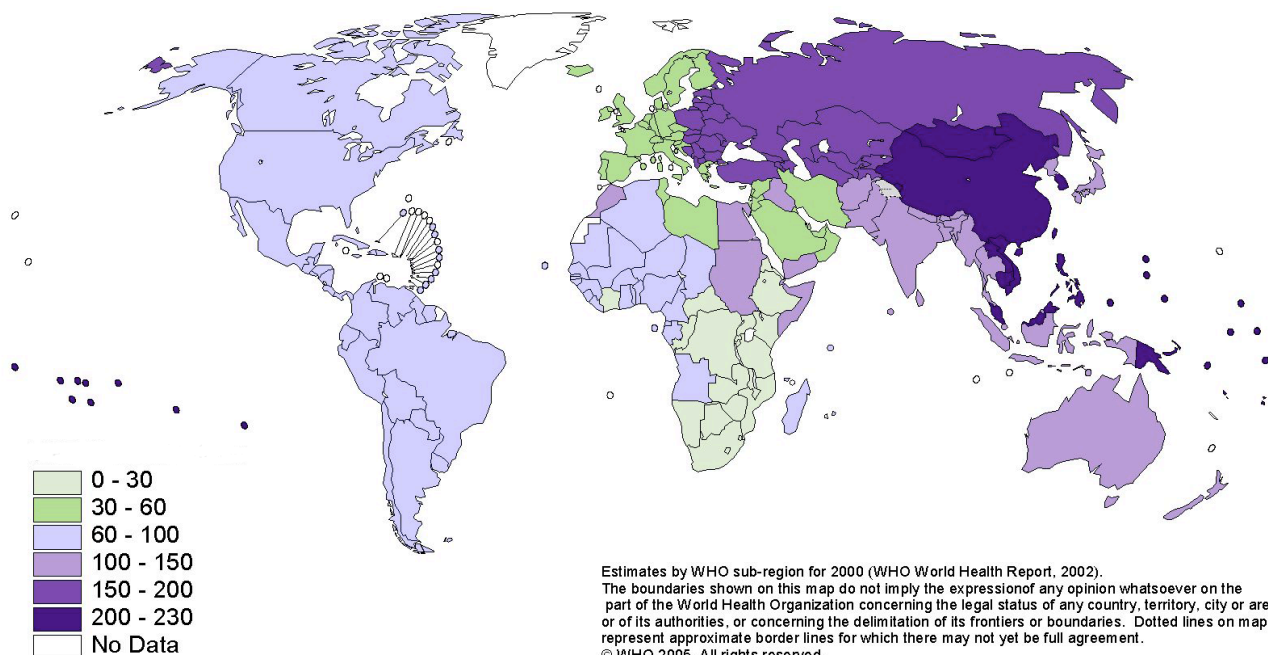
Objective: In this module, you will be investigating the driving question – How can I make my neighborhood a healthier place to live? Before looking at your neighborhood, you will first look at some health data from across the world to think about what does it mean for an area to be “healthy” and what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

Directions:

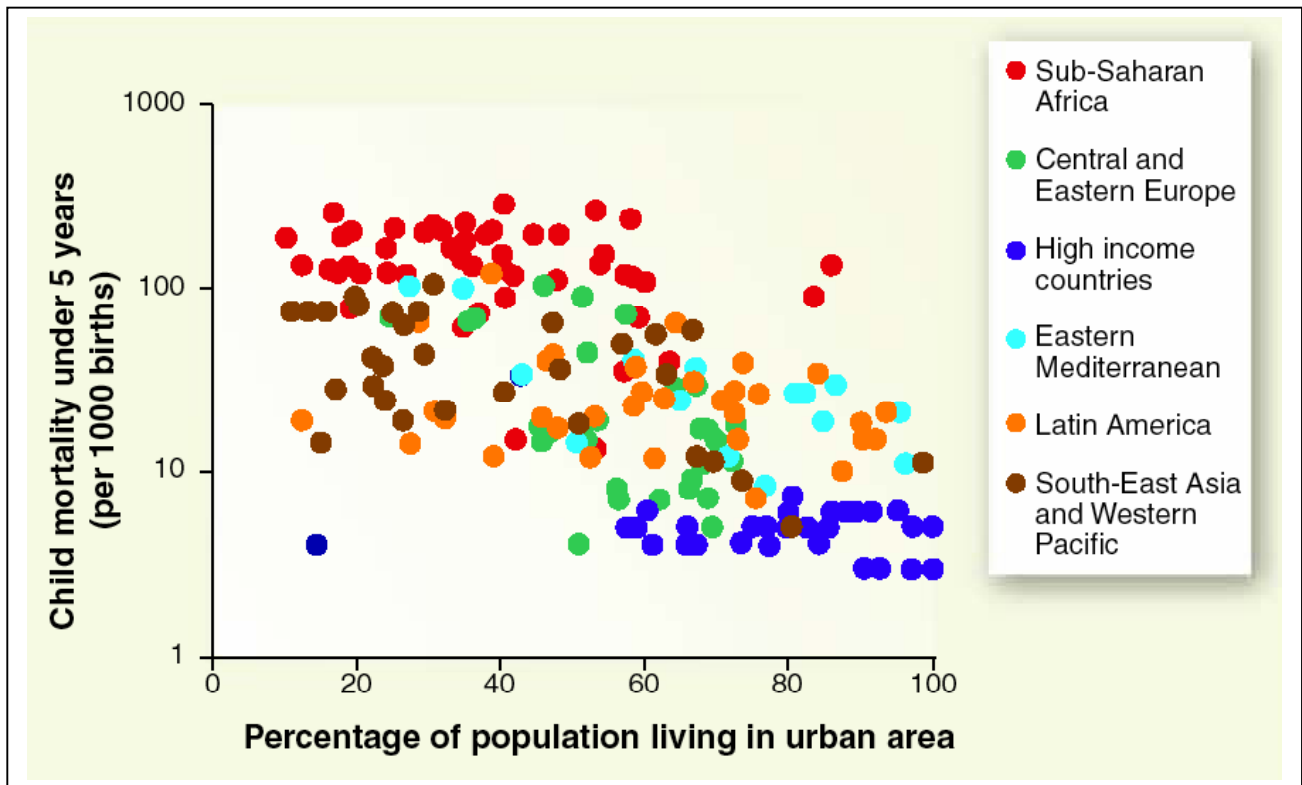
You will be looking at data for common health threats in cities around the world. Below are graphs showing data for the incidence of deaths from urban air pollution, child mortality rates and access to basic urban amenities. The data are provided for global regions as a whole and not just for selected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



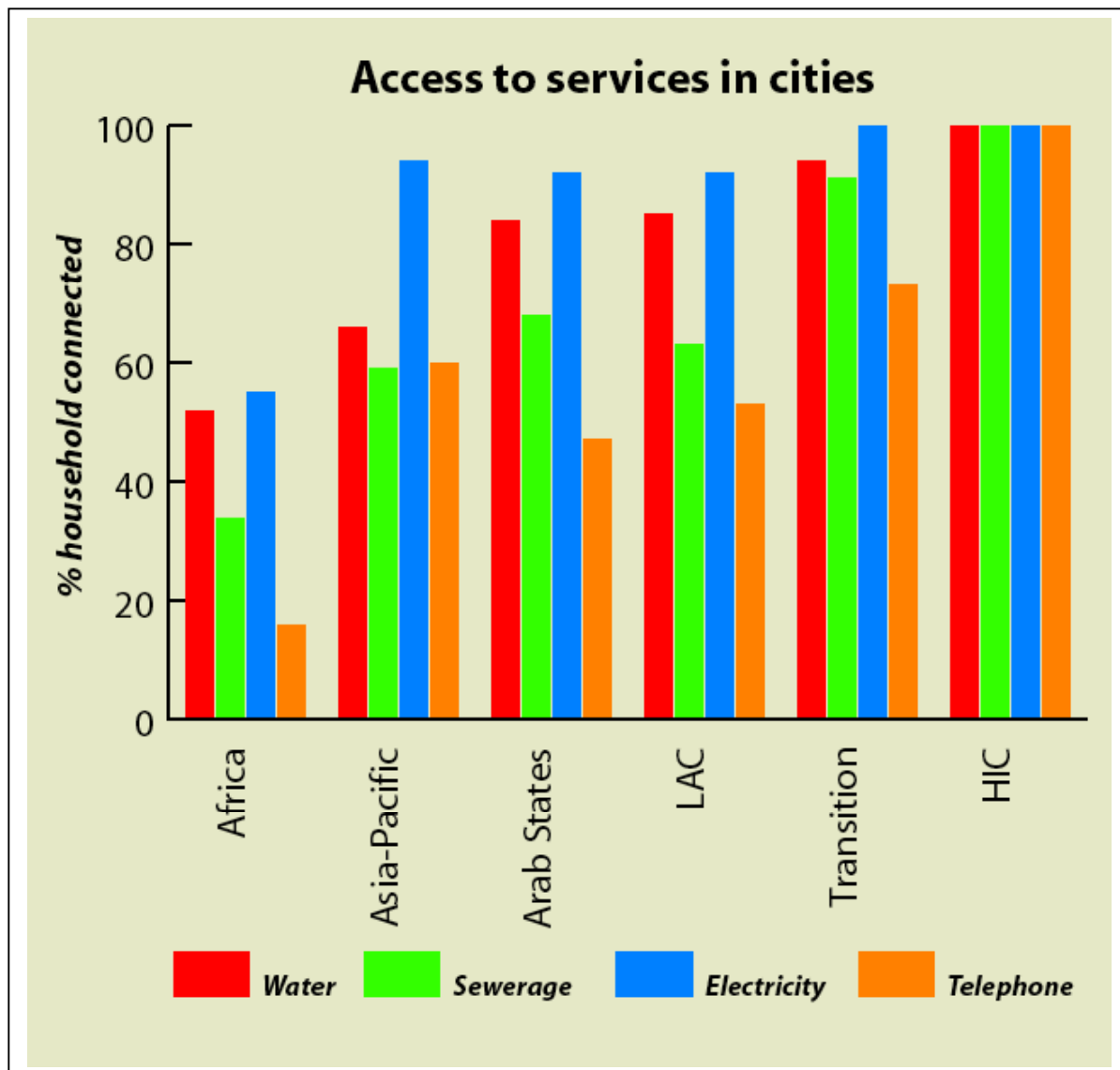
The data represent the number of people who die each year from urban air pollution for each million urban residents.



These data are the mortality rates of children under the age of five years per 1000 births in urban populations around the world. In addition, data from the wealthiest cities are provided for comparison

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?



These data from the United Nations track the access to critical services that promote public health in urban areas. The data are shown geographically for Africa, the Asia-Pacific Region and Latin America (LAC). In addition, the data are provided for developing cities worldwide that are in transition to becoming fully modern (Transition) and for wealthy cities with relatively high incomes (HIC).

Questions about the Access to Services Data

1. What region has the lowest rates of access to 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?