

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

January 2009

Site of the Month

Community Health Status Indicators Reports (CHSIR)

The 2008 *Community Health Status Indicator Reports* were released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The reports are profiles of the health status of every county in the U.S. Each profile reports data on community health-status indicators, including “access and utilization of healthcare services, birth and death measures, Healthy People 2010 targets and U.S. birth and death rates, vulnerable populations, risk-factors for premature deaths, communicable diseases and environmental health.” In addition, demographic information and a list of peer counties of comparable population composition and demographics are provided that allow for comparative analysis.

Reports for all of Nevada’s 17 counties are accessible from the CHSI home page. I chose to view the Community Health Status Reports for White Pine County because one of my colleagues is from Ely, which is in White Pine County. White Pine County, relative to Clark County, is small. It has a population of only 8,994 with a population density of one person per square mile. Due to the county’s small population some of the data are not reported either due to unreliability or unavailability of the data. So how does White Pine County compare to its peers and to the U.S. on health-status indicators?

The table on the following page shows that White Pine County compares favorable with its peers (counties similar in population composition and selected demographics) and the U.S. on births to women over 40, postneonatal infant mortality, colon cancer, coronary heart disease, lung cancer, stroke, and unintentional injury (see lower right-hand box of table). The county, however, does not compare favorably to its peers and the U.S. on indicators, such as low birthweight, births to women under 18, etcetera, those indicators in the upper left-hand box. Higher rates on these indicators may be cause for concern and warrant greater attention by the community for improving health status of its residents.

The CHSIR reports can be printed as 5 ½” by 8 ½” booklets. Filled with colorful tables and figures, the booklets are presentable for distribution at meetings. Another attractive feature is that the data are downloadable to Excel for further analysis or research.

The CHSI home page is at: <http://communityhealth.hhs.gov/homepage.aspx?j=1>.

White Pine County's Health Status Compared to Its Peers and the U.S.

Relative Health Importance

White Pine County, NV

		<i>Your Health Status Compared to Peers</i>	
		<i>Unfavorable</i>	<i>Favorable</i>
<i>Your County's Health Compared to U.S. Rates</i>	<i>Unfavorable</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low birthweight (<2,500 g) • Births to women under 18 • Births to unmarried women • White, non-Hispanic infant mortality • Breast cancer (female) • Homicide • Suicide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No care in first trimester • Motor-vehicle injuries
	<i>Favorable</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very low birthweight (<1,500 g) • Premature birth (<37 weeks) • Infant mortality • Neonatal infant mortality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Births to women over 40 • Postneonatal infant mortality • Colon cancer • Coronary heart disease • Lung cancer • Stroke • Unintentional injury

“The Relative Health Importance table creates four categories of relative concern by simply comparing a county to its peers and to the U.S. A county’s indicators in the upper left-hand box are higher than the U.S. and its peers and may warrant more attention. Conversely, indicators in the lower right-hand box of the table compare favorably to both peers and the U.S. The other boxes represent intermediate levels of health where a county’s rate is higher than either its peers or the U.S., but not both.”

Source: Nevada KIDS COUNT recreated table from “White Pine County Nevada 2008,” *Community Health Status Report*, p. 8, available at: [http://communityhealth.hhs.gov/Scripts/ctredirector.dll?@_DOC_LOADhttp://communityhealth.hhs.gov/ReportPdf.aspx?GeogCD=32033&PeerStrat=80&state=Nevada&county=White Pine@_PDF](http://communityhealth.hhs.gov/Scripts/ctredirector.dll?@_DOC_LOADhttp://communityhealth.hhs.gov/ReportPdf.aspx?GeogCD=32033&PeerStrat=80&state=Nevada&county=White%20Pine@_PDF), as of 1/16/09.

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Thanks to Lynn Bretthorst, graduate assistant in CBER, for recreating the Relative Health Importance table.