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## Utilizing an Epidemiology Project Assignment to help DNP Students Navigate through their DNP Capstone Project

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### Purpose

The purpose of the Epidemiology Project Assignment is to have DNP Students early in their Course Work have an Assignment that demonstrates a representation of a DNP Capstone Project

### Objective

1. The DNP student will Identify health care policy and practices that will improve health care outcomes.
2. The DNP student will Identify risk factors for diseases and determine various ways of treating the disease entities.
3. The DNP student will realize the innovative roles and strategies of the DNP prepared nurse to improve health care outcomes.

### Background and Significance

The DNP Epidemiology Assignment focuses on how epidemiology is concerned with the study of factors that determine and influence the frequency and distribution of disease, injury, and other health-related events and their causes in a defined human population. The ability to identify risk factors for diseases and to determine various ways of treating the disease is imperative to the health professional and their clients. The DNP Epidemiology Assignment provides an opportunity to investigate regional and national databases regarding health disparities, disease entities and genetic problems. It provides an avenue to determine and review optimal treatment modalities utilizing evidence-based practice approaches to clinical practice. This assignment explores the ethical, legal and financial responsibilities of a research based project.

### Researching an Epidemiology Project

The DNP student is required to research an Epidemiology Project that is currently in progress or a project that has recently been completed. It is suggested to the student to find an Epidemiology Project that is relevant to the area of the student's specialty or the student's proposed Capstone area of interest. The DNP Student can utilize this project as a stepping stone to his/her Capstone Project

**Epidemiology Project Assignment should include:**

**Title of Epidemiology Project**

**What is the purpose of the Epidemiology Project?**

**How was the Epidemiology Project funded?**

**How was the Epidemiology Project implemented?**

**What is the impact of the Epidemiology Project on society or the health care system?**

**What did you learn from your interaction with the researchers of the Epidemiology Project?**  
(Submit email and verbal correspondence)

**Critique the articles that the Epidemiology Project published**  
(If articles were not published regarding the Epidemiology Project, select several recent (2013-2016) professional peer-reviewed articles pertaining to the topic and critique those articles.)

**Can this Epidemiology Project be utilized in your practice?**

**Conclusion: What is your opinion of the Epidemiology Project?**

**Grading Rubric Points:**  
Minimal, Satisfactory, Good and Excellent

**Evaluation of Epidemiology Project:**

**Purpose/Problem**

**Funding**

**Research/Implementation /Researchers Impact on Society or the Health Care System**

**Critique of the Articles**

**Conclusion**

**Mechanics**

**Epidemiology Project Assignment presented by Student:**

• **Hispanic Community Health Study – Study of Latinos (HCHS-SOL)**

- The purpose of the study was to identify potential risk and protective factors in the development of CVD in Hispanics/Latino communities in the US. (Davigliue, et al (2012).
- The study was funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and six other institutes or centers within the National Institute of Health (NIH) through a transfer of funds to the NHLBI
- HCHS/SOL is a multicenter, prospective cohort study of Hispanic/Latinos participants identifying risk factors for CVD. A full physical exam, blood work, electrocardiogram and other various tests were performed on the participants and results analyzed.
- This study addressed the health disparities in the Hispanic/Latino population and serves as a foundation for future research into possible causes as well as prevention measures for this growing population. Prevalence of CVD risk factors among all Hispanic/Latino groups was higher than non-Hispanic white individuals (Sorlie et al. 2014).
- The study provided an in depth analysis on lifestyle, socioeconomic and sociocultural factors associated with CVD risk factors among a specific targeted group of the U.S. Hispanic/Latino population.
- The DNP Student met with representatives of the Hispanic Community Health Study – Study of Latinos while researching this project.
- The HCHS/SOL study is a landmark epidemiological cohort study representing multiple Hispanic/Latino backgrounds. Baseline findings from this study demonstrated that CVD risk

- existed among all major Hispanic / Latino populations. The long-term effect of the findings will help to fill the gaps in knowledge on Hispanic / Latino health. The study laid a foundation to address the burden of CVD risk factors on the Hispanic / Latino population and the need to develop public health programs and policies.

### Capstone Project Significance:

- The HCHS/SOL project can be utilized in the current DNP Capstone Project, which is a House Calls Program located in Bronx, NY. The area of practice serves a diverse sample of Hispanics/Latinos in the Bronx community. The knowledge gained from this project would help the nurse practitioner to identify health risk factors and potential disease outcome among Hispanics/Latinos. The study would help to develop community based programs and implementation of preventive screening measures. Care-giver education on life style modification in the Hispanic/Latino community is also planned.

**Permission granted by DNP Student to present her Epidemiology Project Assignment.**

### References:

- Aviles-Santa, L. (2014). Hispanic Community Health Study (HCHS)/Study of Latinos (SOL). Retrieved from <http://nhlbi.nih.gov/research/resources/obesity/population/hchs.htm>
- Macha, K. and McDonough (2012). *Epidemiology for Advanced Nursing Practice*. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett
- Daviglius, M. and et al. (2012). Prevalence of major cardiovascular risk factors and cardiovascular diseases among Hispanic/Latino individuals of diverse backgrounds in the United States. *Journal of American Medical Association*, 308(17), 1775-1754. DOI: 10.1001/jama.2012.14517
- Rodriguez, C. J., Allison, M., Daviglius, M. L., Isasi, C. R., Keller, C., Leira, E. C.,...Sims, M. (2014). Status of cardiovascular disease and stroke in Hispanics/Latinos in the United States: A science advisory from the American heart association. *Circulation*, 130, 593 – 625.
- Sorlie, D. P. and et al. (2014). Prevalence of hypertension, awareness, treatment and control in the Hispanic community health study/study of Latinos. *American Journal of Hypertension*, 27(6), 793-800.