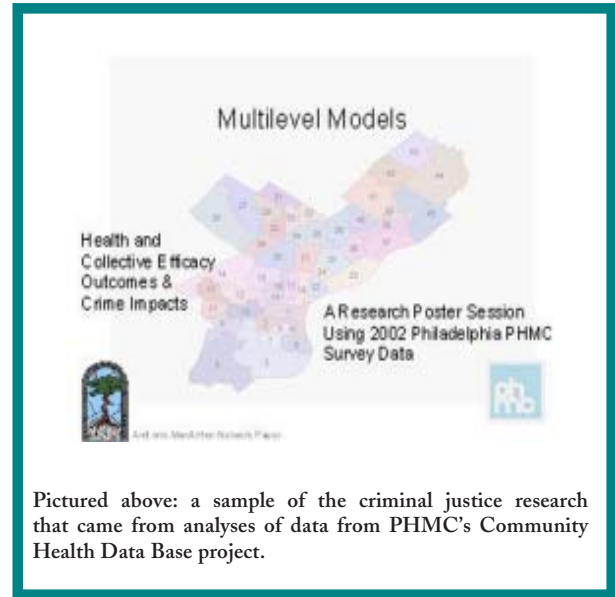




MAKING THE CONNECTION: HEALTH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

It didn't take faculty and students at Temple University long to find a myriad of new and interesting applications for PHMC's Southeastern Pennsylvania Household Health Survey. Graduate students in Professor Ralph B. Taylor's course, *Advanced Statistics for Criminal Justice*, can attest to that.

This spring, 14 out of 15 students in Taylor's class used the 2002 Household Health Survey to study neighborhood-level connections between health and crime. Among the health indicators examined, students looked at self-reported stress, number of days of poor mental health, and respondents' feelings of trust in their neighbors. Then students analyzed how these indicators related to police-based data on violent crime (murder, rape, robbery and violent assault), drug-related crime, and U.S. Census data.



Pictured above: a sample of the criminal justice research that came from analyses of data from PHMC's Community Health Data Base project.

"There really is a neighborhood effect and the PHMC data helped show it," Taylor noted. The Household Health Survey questions related to social capital are providing researchers with a source of information to study the connections between social stability, crime, and health, Taylor added.

At the end of the semester, students participated in a poster session to exhibit their "multilevel models," or maps illustrating the community-by-community variations in neighborhood status, crime rates, stability factors, and neighborhood trust. For a reading list and more photos of the poster sessions, visit www.rbtaylor.net.

Taylor, who has been at Temple for 20 years, has noticed an interesting convergence of health studies and criminal justice recently. "Some of the reading I assign to my students looks at neighborhood factors, like crime, and health outcomes, such as teen STD transmission and the prevalence of premature and low-birthweight babies."

Temple's membership in the Community Health Data Base is sponsored by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies led by Vice President Kenneth Soprano. The Office's Director of Sponsored Research Programs, Robert Gage, M.P.H., has helped raise awareness of the resource. According to Gage, students and faculty from a variety of disciplines are applying PHMC's data in statistics, criminal justice, public health, physical therapy, dental informatics, and aging. Temple University faculty and staff may access the Community Health Data Base through the University's Social Science Data Library. For more information, please email ssdl@temple.edu.

For more information on how to join the Community Health Data Base, contact CHDB Marketing Associate Siobhan Hawthorne, M.B.A. at 215.985.2527 or siobhan@phmc.org



Pictured above: Rely Livescu, a judge in her native country of Romania, participated in Taylor's graduate-level criminal justice course. Livescu and two of her classmates, Marie Garcia and Sami Aldroubi, plan to submit their work to the American Society on Criminology.

NEWS
FROM THE
COMMUNITY
HEALTH
DATABASE

WRITING A PROPOSAL OR EVALUATING A GRANT?

If your agency is a community-based nonprofit, you may qualify for the Community Health Data Bases's Affiliate Program.

Visit www.phmc.org/chdb for details and "Join Today!"

2004 SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA HOUSEHOLD HEALTH SURVEY UNDERWAY

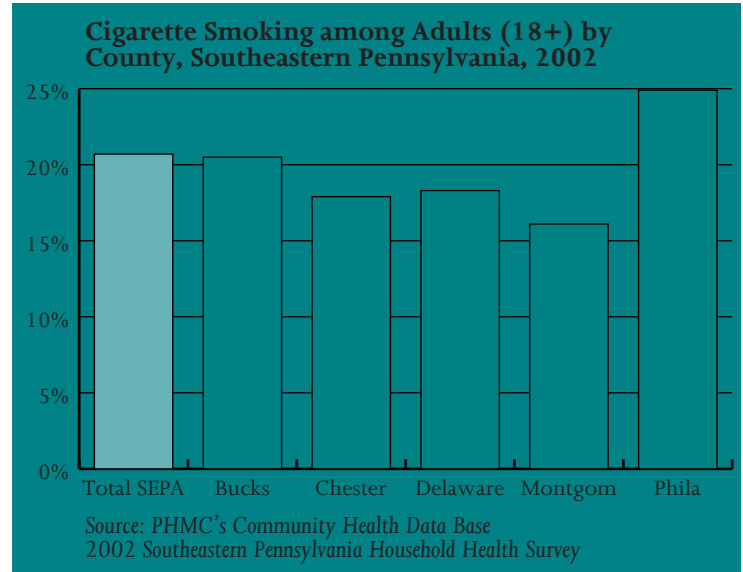
In June, the Philadelphia Health Management Corporation (PHMC) began conducting the 2004 Southeastern Pennsylvania Household Health Survey, a major telephone survey that examines the health and health care experiences of Southeastern Pennsylvania residents. The survey, the largest local health survey in the country, will continue through August. When the Survey is complete, over 10,000 households throughout Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties will be randomly contacted by telephone and asked questions about health status, health screenings, use of health services, health insurance, and personal health behaviors.

Francine Axler, M.P.H., Director of the Community Health Data Base Project, which manages the survey, says the role of area residents is crucial to the success of the survey. "By taking a few minutes to answer questions about your health and health care experiences, you play an important role in improving health care services throughout the region," Axler said.

Hundreds of health researchers, community groups, hospitals, government agencies, and foundations use survey results to plan interventions that aim to improve the health of Southeastern Pennsylvanians.

Previous household health surveys found that:

- The percentage of smokers varies across the five counties, with a low of 16.1% in Montgomery County, to a high of 24.9% in Philadelphia;
- Even though the percentage of teens diagnosed with a mental health condition is nearly twice that of younger children, younger children (ages 5-12) are more likely to receive treatment;



- Older adults in Southeastern Pennsylvania who live in a community in which neighbors have worked together on a community project are less likely to report signs of depression than those whose neighbors have not worked together (10.2% vs. 15.7%);
- Adults living below the Federal Poverty Level are more likely to have diabetes compared to non-poor adults.

The 2004 Southeastern Pennsylvania Household Health Survey is supported by The Pew Charitable Trusts, the William Penn Foundation, the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania, and local health care providers, human service, and government agencies. The first Household Health Survey was conducted in 1983. For more information, go to <http://www.phmc.org/chdb/>.

Community Focus

The COMMUNITY HEALTH DATA BASE provides population-based data to health and human services organizations interested in gaining a better understanding of the communities they serve and how to best meet their needs. The COMMUNITY HEALTH DATA BASE specializes in small-area analysis and contains information about health status, access to care, personal health behaviors, and topics such as social capital, for all segments of the population living in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties.

Geographic

- Neighborhoods
- Census tracts
- ZIP codes
- Planning Analysis Sections
- Health districts
- Suburban townships
- County
- SEPA region

Demographic

- Older adults
- Any age or age group
- Gender
- Children
- Ethnic and racial groups
- The poor/welfare recipients
- Uninsured
- And many others

How can we help you? Call: 215-985-2527; E-mail: siobhan@phmc.org; Visit: www.phmc.org/chdb