

**Maine Center for Public Health
Area Health Education Center
12 Church St.
Augusta, Maine 04330
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www.mcph.org
Contact: Karen O'Rourke, MPH**

**UNECOM Clinical Clerkship/Population Health Assignment
Information for Students and Preceptors**

For preceptors:

Information about the population health assignment conducted during a student's clerkship is detailed below. In the assignment, the student examines a public health problem he/she recognizes in his clerkship experience, reviews the literature and identifies an effective, community based strategy to address the problem. The student thus demonstrates his/her theoretical and practical knowledge of population health and the ability to address such issues. We have assembled a rough "road map" for the student by delineating sources of information, although the students are to autonomously identify a strategy.

Questions concerning the assignment can be addressed to Karen O'Rourke, Interim Director of the MCPH AHEC, at 207/629-9272, x203, korourke@mcph.org.

For students:

The UNECOM Student and Clinical Faculty Syllabus describes this assignment as follows:

V. Student Responsibilities

A. Complete Population Health assignment. This project will be completed over the course of the rotation and will require four hours per week. The four hours should, when possible, be arranged for a time when there are no office hours. The assignment is designed to help the student continue to develop competency in the incorporation of the practice of health promotion and disease prevention in the care of patients, families and communities. The 16 hours needed to complete this project should be arranged with the preceptor.

1. During the first week, the student will research and establish the prevalence of disease in the practice.
2. During the second week, the student will research the current literature on guidelines for prevention of one of the prevalent diseases.

3. During the third week, the student will research the current community resources to address this disease.
4. During the fourth week, the student will write a summary which will include:
 - a) The method used to establish disease prevalence in the practice.
 - b) A discussion of one community based intervention (or linkage with existing program/resource) that you, if you were a physician in this community, would like to see happen. This should be based on your literature review and review of community resources.
 - c) The completed paper should be submitted to ***Karen O'Rourke of the Maine Center for Public Health Area Health Education Center*** (see contact information below), ***no later than one week after the completion of the rotation***. Please submit this by e mail and be sure to keep a copy. If you wish the assignment returned, send a hard copy and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of the graded paper (Pass/Fail).

Helpful Hints:

The Maine Center for Public Health web site contains a great deal of useful information for completing this assignment. We urge you to familiarize yourself with this site. In particular, the "Public Health Links" section points you to many important sources of information on Maine health issues, public health initiatives, literature reviews on evidence-based practice, disease prevalence information and the many community, statewide and national resources which address public health problems. For state-based information, we recommend the web sites of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, including the Bureau of Health (state public health department—check in particular the activities of the Healthy Maine Partnerships, the 31 community coalitions around the state, which help to address Maine's chronic disease burden), the Office of Substance Abuse and other offices. The voluntary association web sites, such as that of the American Lung Association of Maine, also contain much valuable information.

National resources which may be especially helpful include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Partnership for Prevention.

Please express interest and/or ask questions about this assignment by contacting:

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