Conducting a Community Health Assessment
What is a community health needs assessment?

A process that:

- Describes the state of health of local people
- Identifies the major risk factors and causes of health problems
- Enables health care professionals, organizations, a government agencies to identify the actions needed to address these health problems.
What information is included in a community health analysis?

- Includes data on both demographics and health issues.
- Health statistics become more meaningful and interesting when you consider the general characteristics of the population being profiled.
Terms you should know:

- **Demographics:** Data of the size, structure and dynamics of human populations, including socioeconomic factors such as employment, housing, education, and income. **Example:** Metro Pulse

- **Health Statistics:** Information on diseases or health conditions, data on morbidity, mortality, incidence (number of new cases for a specified population at a given point in time) and prevalence (total number of cases at a given point in time). **Example:** Chicago Health Atlas
Key questions to ask:

- What are the key characteristics of the population?
- What is the health status of the people?
- What local factors are affecting their health and what impact do they have (good or bad)?
- What services are currently being provided? What services are not available?
- What do local people see as their health needs?
- What are the national and local priorities for health?
Goals for today’s library session:

- Identify a Chicago/Suburban community area to research for your community health assessment.
- Explore resources for gathering demographic and health data for that community area.
- Identify the major risk factors and health problems for that community.
Research Guides

Chicago Community Areas:
http://guides.northpark.edu/Nurs4500Chicago

Suburban Community Areas:
http://guides.northpark.edu/NURS4500CookLake