ASA TRAILS Resources

*Our Social World 6e*

# Chapter 11: Health Care: An Anatomy of Health and Illness

1. [Using County-Level Health Data to Examine the Social Determinants of Health](http://trails.asanet.org/Pages/Resource.aspx?ResourceID=13035)

This assignment prompts students to apply understandings of the social determinants of health to analysis of publically available socioeconomic and health data, with the ultimate goal of encouraging students to critically engage in and personally relate to course material. Students are asked to use data from the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps program (www.countyheathrankings.org), a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, to analyze the county-level social and economic contributors to health within a county of their choosing. This assignment (1) tests understanding of social conditions as fundamental causes of disease, (2) evaluates student ability to interpret population data, and (3) garners interest in the material by providing the opportunity to study a county of personal relevance to the student.

Resource Type(s): Assessment, Assignment

**Authors(s):** Kristen M. Schorpp

**Date Published:** 6/27/2016

**Subject Area:** Medical Sociology

**Class Level:** Any

**Class Size:** Any

**Language:** English

2. [Teaching Healthcare Students How to Think Sociologically](http://trails.asanet.org/Pages/Resource.aspx?ResourceID=12983)

This in-class activity and assignment builds on Adam’s (2010) exercise on the differences between sociological and nonsociological explanations for human behavior but with a focus on healthcare students. Healthcare students are already familiar with the general concept of medication adherence; however, they have most likely not been encouraged to consider the behavior from a sociological perspective. This activity asks students to generate sociological and nonsociological explanations for medication-taking behaviors and to consider the implications of these explanations for their future interactions with patients.

**Resource Type(s):** Assignment, Class Activity

**Authors(s):** Danielle M. Giffort, updated from David S. Adams (2010)

**Date Published:** 2/5/2016

**Subject Area:** Introduction to Sociology/Social Problems

**Class Level:** College 100

**Class Size:** Any

**Language:** English

3. [Identifying Sociological and Psychological Perspectives on Mental Illness](http://trails.asanet.org/Pages/Resource.aspx?ResourceID=12902)

Students often enter sociology courses with preconceived ideas about mental health and illness. Because of these preconceived notions, understanding the differences between sociological and psychological approaches to mental health can be difficult for students to grasp. The object of this in-class assignment is to engage students with specific examples sociological and psychological theories of mental illness found in a documentary. This activity will assess students’ understanding of psychological and sociological perspectives such as the biological/medical approach, stress theory, and labeling theory. In order to do this, the activity will consist of a think-pair-share technique of learning. Students will work independently for a portion of the activity and work in small groups for the final portion of the activity. Students will view a *Frontline* documentary titled “Medicating Children,” which focuses on several families coping with the diagnosis and medication of their children with attention deficit disorder.

**Resource Type(s):** Class Activity

**Authors(s):** Struthur L. Van Horn

**Date Published:** 4/17/2015

**Subject Area:** Mental Health

**Class Level:** Any

**Class Size:** Any

**Language:** English