

# Public Health Practice



## Stories from the Field

The University of Texas School of Public Health  
Student Practicum Experiences  
Spring 2013 – Biostatistics

The practicum experience is an integral part of the MPH and DrPH curricula. Public health students are provided with the opportunity to apply their classroom knowledge to real world settings through which they make a meaningful contribution to a public health organization.

Under the guidance of a community preceptor and faculty sponsor, students from all divisions gain a deeper understanding of public health practice, interact with professionals in the field, and expand their repertoire of professional skills.

This tenth-edition e-magazine showcases student practicum experiences throughout the Spring 2013 semester. (Prior semesters may be accessed through the e-book, a collection of student abstracts and e-magazines describing their experiences.)

# Practicum Topics

Serving Size: 1 Practicum per Student

Servings per e-Magazine: 3

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Hours per Week per Student	Approximately 12
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Campuses (Houston)	1
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Division	1
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Student

## Biostatistics

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Preconception Care Program Evaluation	Apaporn Kitsanapun
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Statistical Analysis – Chemical Products	Xi Rong
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Social Support Research	Miao Sun
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# Women With IMPACT



*Wildflowers  
blooming in  
front of Harris  
Health System  
: Photography  
by Apaporn*

## *Duties during my practicum*

- Doing on real life data
  - how to manage data, for example, there was some error need to be fixed.

## *Lessons Learned*

- Working on health organization is valuable to me and give me an experience what I want to do in the future.

## Demographic Characteristics of WWI participants

By: *Apaporn Kitsanapun*

Women With IMPACT - Impacting Maternal & Prenatal care together is the project I am working with. The goal of this project is to reduce unwanted outcome, preterm birth and infant mortality rates that is long term outcomes. Baseline characteristics of all participants were corrected and need to be summarized that was my duty. I have been doing on data including, managing, analyzing,

summarizing, and reporting the baseline demographic data. There are three series of workshop in this project. I mainly do data summary for Series II and combined Series I and II.

A short report has been doing including presentation. It is a summary of baseline characteristics of WWI participants.

## Public Health Significance

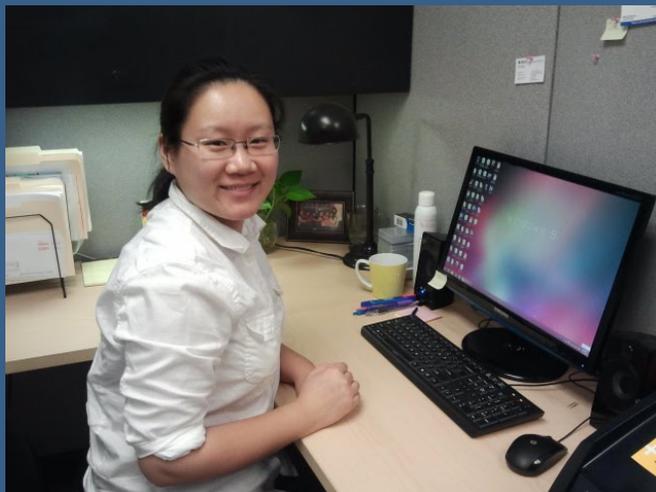
The Goal of the project need to improve both physical and mental health in target group that they already identified from monitoring data. According to the goal of the project, the organization " **inform, educate, and empower** people about health issues" that is one of the Public Health Essential Service(s) (PHES) <http://www.apha.org/programs/standards/performancestandardsprogram/ressexentialservices.htm> )

Limitation of my work under the project is unauthorized to access to original participant's questionnaires. I sometimes had data error and need to be corrected. However, I could solve this issue with my preceptor.



*A wildflower in front of Harris Health System. Photography by Apaporn*

# Little Step, big improvement



*My Cubic in the Research & Development Department.*

## *My duty is*

- Reading
- Thinking
- Analyzing

## Statistical Analysis for Chemical Products

**By: Xi Rong**

In my practicum, I focused on the how to perform the statistical analysis and make statistically relevant conclusion for the chemical products.

Selleck Chemicals is one of the world leading suppliers of high-performance life-science products. It has over 8,000 products which consist of inhibitors, antibodies, RNAis, proteins and peptides which focus on signaling pathways such as MAPK, PI3K/Akt,

apoptosis etc. My duty in this practicum was to perform statistical analysis to the dataset, and further provide predictions as part of inputs for the decision on the product research and development.

The final product was a summary report and presentation in the weekly meeting held by our department.

•It's never too late to find a practicum for yourself because this opportunity will bring you a big improvement for future career.

## Public Health Significance

The PHES that most closely relates to my practicum is "Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems."

The goal of Selleck Chemicals is to provide scientists worldwide an easy access to the most innovative life science reagents, and to help them make more significant discoveries cancer biology or related field. The Research & Development department mainly focuses on researching and developing new products for the

research in cancer biology, biochemistry, molecular biology, and related field.

The purpose of the work I involved in is to make our products can be helpful in the research on identifying and solve the problems in public health.

# Social Support for People with HIV/AIDS

## Study of Social Support for People Living With HIV/AIDS

By: Miao Sun

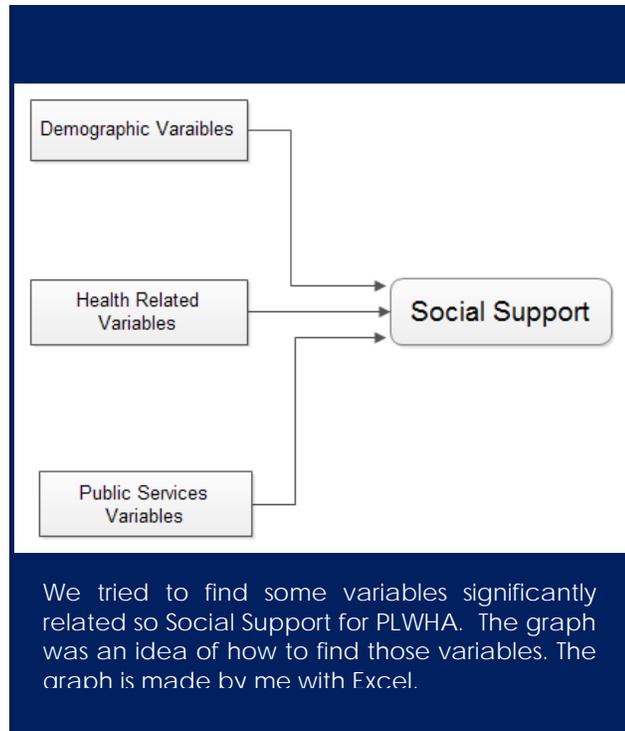
My 2013 spring practicum was working in Houston Department of Health and Human Services, Houston Medical Monitoring Project. I did data analysis for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). I tried to find something interesting from the questionnaires and then focused on doing research on social support analysis for PLWHA.

My responsibilities:

Cleaned and managed questionnaire data from face to face interview  
Analyzed the questionnaire data with SAS and Excel using Categorical Analysis  
Prepared results summary tables, graphs and PowerPoint presentations  
Developed reports and publications, where applicable

My final products:

Practicum report and presentations  
I found several variables significantly related to social support.



### Highlights:

\*Used various models and tools learned from school.

\*Work may contribute to help improve life quality for PLWHA.

\*Work may contribute to help improve services provided to PLWHA.

\*Study found several variables significantly related to social support.

### Lessons Learned

\*Never wait for job, be motivated and try to find something to do by your self!

\*Practicum can be very helpful for your future career!

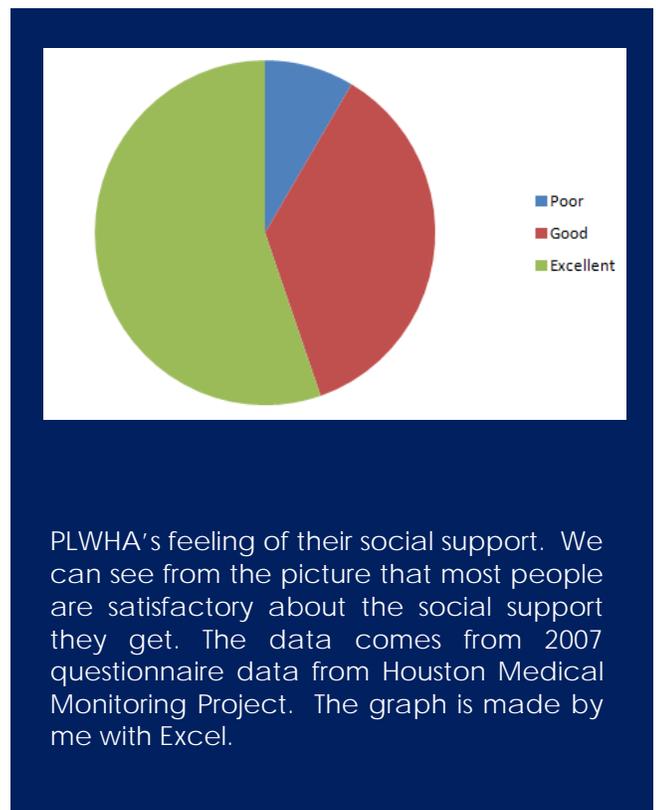
\*It is a good opportunity to practice English for international student!

## Public Health Significance

Monitor: we used questionnaire to monitor PLWHA's health status in Houston area.

Evaluate: we did data analysis of the questionnaire data to evaluate PLWHA's life quality and the effectiveness and quality of health and public services

Research: we used research methods and advanced analytical skills to find variables related to social support index aiming at finding some new insights to improve social support for PLWHA.



For more information regarding  
The University of Texas School of Public Health,  
Office of Public Health Practice  
and the practicum program, please visit:

<https://sph.uth.tmc.edu/practicum/>