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Independent Study and Mentorship

Evidence of Learning Assessment #3

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Subject: Demographics and the Demand for Healthcare in Rural Texas

Source(s):

"Texas Migration." *Texas Demographic Center*. N.p., n.d. Web. 06 Feb. 2017.

<<http://txsdc.utsa.edu/>>.

Analysis:

To start off the research process for my final product, I began by finding reports on the population and demographics of rural Texas. The goal of this phase of my research is to target certain towns and counties that demonstrate a lack of proper medical services. Ultimately, I will be focusing on these areas and using them in my public policy proposal as hypothetical locations for telemedical pediatric clinics.

This topic of research regarding population and demographics is extremely broad, especially with the sheer size of Texas and the amount of resources available online to synthesize information from. I focused my time primarily on the documents from the Texas Demographic Center website. The data I pulled was from the Total Population by

County, Total Population by Place, and Demographics for State and Counties sheets. I found these resources particularly helpful in conjunction because I could use information from one form to lead me in the right direction as I approached the next set of data. My process consisted of first going through the County census and concentrating on the counties with populations falling in the 4,000 to 8,000 range. From there, I made a list of target counties and moved to the Total Population by Place document to record data on the specific towns within these selected counties. Finally, I was able to find the specific demographics for these target populations. The ideal town size to locate a pediatric telemedicine clinic would be about 2,000 to 4,000 people, so this way of gathering data was an effective way to create a comprehensive list of towns to potentially locate these clinics in,

After conducting this preliminary research on the population and demographics of target locations in rural Texas, the next step will be to analyze the demand in these towns for a convenient and cost-effective source of pediatric medical care. Many of these rural families have to travel over an hour away and spend hundreds of dollars on simple medical visits to hospitals that could easily be diagnosed at a new clinic using the incredibly effective and remarkably less expensive telemedical system that could be implemented at a low operating cost.

The next step in my research will be to create a synthesized list of areas to lock down as projected locations for these clinics. I will have to go over the numbers from the resources to confirm that each town fits the requirements and possesses a clear need for healthcare services, and from there I will be able to develop my proposal off of these towns in rural Texas.