

Creating an Interactive Guide to Support Health Disparities Competency

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Today's Session

- ✓ **Background**
- ✓ **Instructional Guide**
- ✓ **Modules**
- ✓ **Future Directions**






Background

Background

EBOOK COLLECTION

In 2021, our medical library purchased a collection of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) eBooks. Instead of merely folding them into our digital collection, we built a resource guide that highlights those purchased eBooks alongside newly created tutorials.





Social Determinants of Health & Vulnerable Populations

LibGuide Development



Three tutorials for concepts examining:

- **Social Determinants of Health**
- **Vulnerable Populations**
- **Research Health Disparities**



Three interactive modules examining literature searching for special populations:

- **LGBTQIA+**
- **Appalachian Populations**
- **Racial and Ethnic Minorities**



Embed curated collection of populations based eBooks:

- **on guide homepage; and**
- **in embedded Primo collections.**

LibGuide Development

Searching Health Disparities Literature: Home

Welcome to the Searching Health Disparities Literature Resource Guide!

This guide is divided into three tutorials and three interactive modules. The three tutorials examine concepts related to research in healthcare access and outcomes.

These concepts are:

- [Social Determinants of Health](#)
- [Vulnerable Populations](#)
- [Researching Health Disparities](#)

The three interactive modules examine strategies for conducting literature searches focused on specific population groups.

These population groups are:

- [LGBTQIA+ Populations](#)
- [Appalachian Populations](#)
- [Racial and Ethnic Minorities](#)



Social Determinants
of Health



Vulnerable
Populations



Health Disparities
Research



LGBTQIA+
Populations

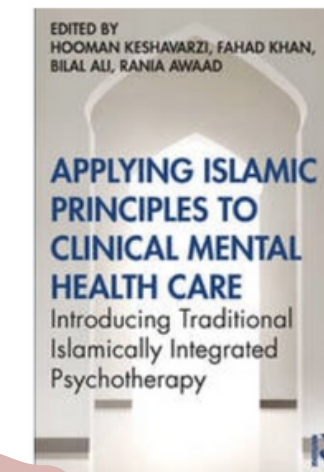
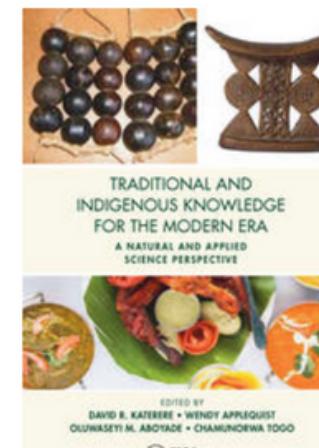


Appalachian
Populations



Racial & Ethnic
Minorities

Curated eBooks provided by UK Libraries:



<https://libguides.uky.edu/healthdisparities/GettingStarted>

Social Determinants of Health

Understanding SDOH

- Help users learn about factors related to social determinants of health.
- First video created to explain social determinants of health.
- Five additional videos present specific domains associated with the topic.

Searching Health Disparities Literature: Social Determinants of Health

What are Social Determinants of Health?



Social determinants of health (SDOH) are non-medical, environmental factors that impact health-related quality of life. Addressing these factors is fundamental to reducing inequities in health outcomes. The US Department of Health and Human Services outlines five domains of SDOH: economic stability, education access & quality, healthcare access & quality, neighborhood & built environment, and social & community context. The videos and links below provide an overview of SDOH and detailed information on each of the five domains.

- US Department of Health & Human Services. (n.d.). *Social determinants of health*. Healthy People 2030. <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health>

Getting Started

1: Social Determinants of Health

2: Vulnerable Populations

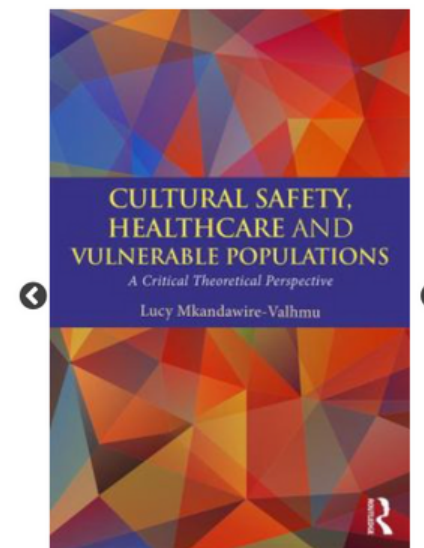
3: Researching Health Disparities

4: LGBTQIA+ Populations

5: Appalachian Populations

6: Racial and Ethnic Minorities

Highlighted E-Books



Social Determinants of Health



<https://libguides.uky.edu/healthdisparities/SocialDeterminants>

Healthcare Access and Quality



Vulnerable Populations

Student & Faculty Project

We have seen an increase in student research, and in particular this research focuses on vulnerable populations. In a 1st year medical student class, a group project is assigned where students have to choose a vulnerable population and design an intervention. This assignment and question received from students influenced the design of this page.

How to Define a Population

The Vulnerable Populations tutorial video helps students examine how to define a vulnerable population. It challenges them to think more holistically when choosing and defining their research population.

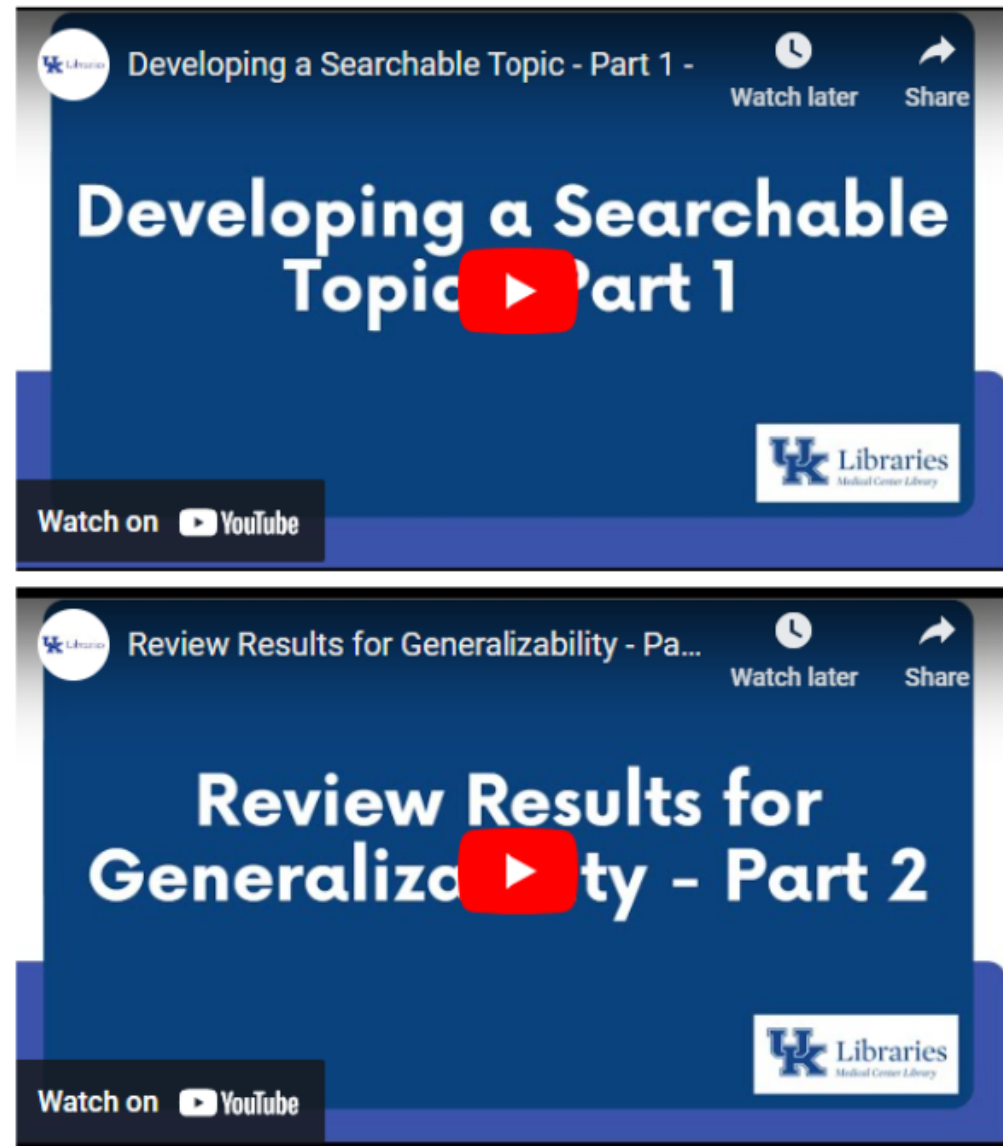
Vulnerable Populations Terminology



<https://libguides.uky.edu/healthdisparities/VulnerablePopulations>

Researching Health Disparities

How to Search for Social Determinants of Health & Health Disparities



Searchable Topics

A quick video created to help users develop searchable topics. Designed to demonstrate which topics are too broad or too narrow when searching for vulnerable and health disparate populations.

Generalizability

Second part to the first video. Demonstrates how to find results on a vulnerable population or health disparity topics and be able to generalize articles and results to another, similar, population.

Term List

This page also contains a term list for users to begin searching for vulnerable and health disparate populations.

<https://libguides.uky.edu/healthdisparities/ResearchingHealthDisparity>



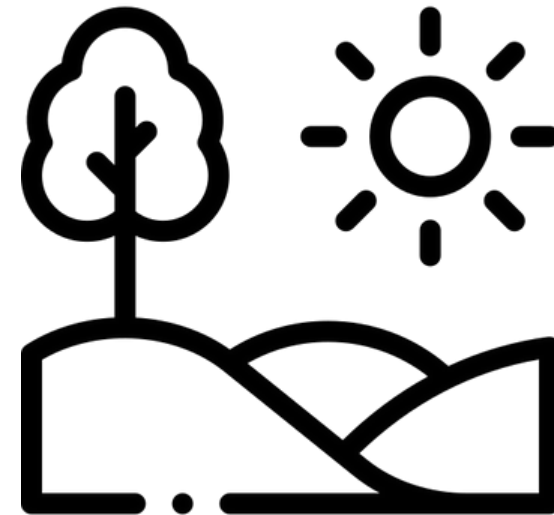
Instructional Module Development

Modules



LGBTQIA+

This module highlights some of the many identities and orientations that may be searched while addressing problematic terminology and issues of previous indexing.



Appalachian

This module addresses unique challenges to searching populations across a nebulous geographic designation and how controlling tools like explosion can improve a search.



Racial & Ethnic Minorities

This module highlights recent changes in MeSH to more inclusive language as well as the importance of tools like the OR Boolean operator to successful searching.

LGBTQIA+

Searching Health Disparities Literature: LGBTQIA+

Setting the Stage: *Searching for LGBTQIA+ Literature*



The LGBTQIA+ acronym embraces culturally diverse individuals with a variety of identities, behaviors, or desires that have historically exposed them to discrimination in access to adequate healthcare. Consider the role of marginalization in LGBTQIA+ health disparities. Unconscious biases negatively impact provision of quality healthcare. Likewise, perceived judgement can lead to reluctance to reveal orientation or identity, further impacting quality of care.

Healthcare practitioners must educate themselves about this history of discrimination in healthcare and modify their practice to be inclusive and affirming to LGBTQIA+ individuals. To effectively search the literature, it is important to familiarize oneself with relevant terminology, which is discussed below.

Getting Started

1: Social Determinants of Health

2: Vulnerable Populations

3: Researching Health Disparities

4: LGBTQIA+ Populations

5: Appalachian Populations

6: Racial and Ethnic Minorities

Searching Health Disparities and Vulnerable Populations

Question Development

Consider this question: ***What unconscious biases affect the LGBTQIA+ population in healthcare?***

When crafting a research question on a vulnerable population, it is important to recognize and know different identities.

Let's consider the question above: ***What unconscious biases affect the LGBTQIA+ population in healthcare?*** Do you think this question could be refined more?

There are innumerable identities and orientations for members of the LGBTQIA+ community and it may be important to highlight a specific identity or orientation when developing a research question (e.g. transgender people, gay people, lesbian people, bisexual people, asexual people, non-binary



<https://libguides.uky.edu/healthdisparities/LGBT>

Appalachian

Searching Health Disparities Literature: Appalachian

Setting the Stage: *Searching for Appalachian Literature*



Individuals living in Appalachia face significant barriers to good health outcomes. Consider the role of social determinants of health in the region's health disparities. For example, Appalachia experiences lower rates of income and postsecondary education and has higher rates of poverty and unemployment when compared to the national average..

It is challenging to comprehensively search and retrieve relevant literature about Appalachian health outcomes. The concept of Appalachia is somewhat nebulous, with a large, irregular geographic reach. (See map and tutorial below). To effectively search the literature, it is necessary to use a range of terms to cover the varied language used to describe the area.

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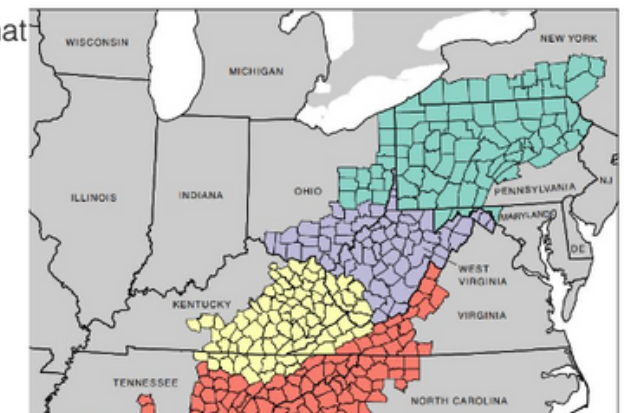
Searching Health Disparities and Vulnerable Populations

Question Development

Consider this question: *What are the effects of opioid misuse in Appalachia?*

Though opioid misuse is a widely recognized issue for all of Appalachia, it is important to consider that Appalachia is a geographically diverse area of the United States expanding from New York to Mississippi. The methods for addressing and researching opioid misuse can vary across the region. So it is important to develop or tweak your research question to address these differences.

Let's consider the question above: *What are the effects of opioid misuse in Appalachia?* Do you think this question could be refined more?



<https://libguides.uky.edu/healthdisparities/appalachia>

Racial & Ethnic Minorities

Searching Health Disparities Literature: Racial and Ethnic Minorities

Setting the Stage: Searching for Racial and Ethnic Minorities Literature



Members of racial and ethnic minority groups frequently encounter obstacles to accessing quality healthcare and achieving positive health outcomes. Searching the literature for health disparities faced by these groups can be challenging due to underrepresentation and evolving vocabularies.

Recently, attempts have been made to make Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) more inclusive, using person-first language that acknowledges race as a social construct rather than a biological concept. It is important to become familiar with the language used in indexing, by authors, and by members of these groups to effectively search the literature. The tutorial below will examine building an effective search strategy for racial and ethnic minorities in the healthcare literature.

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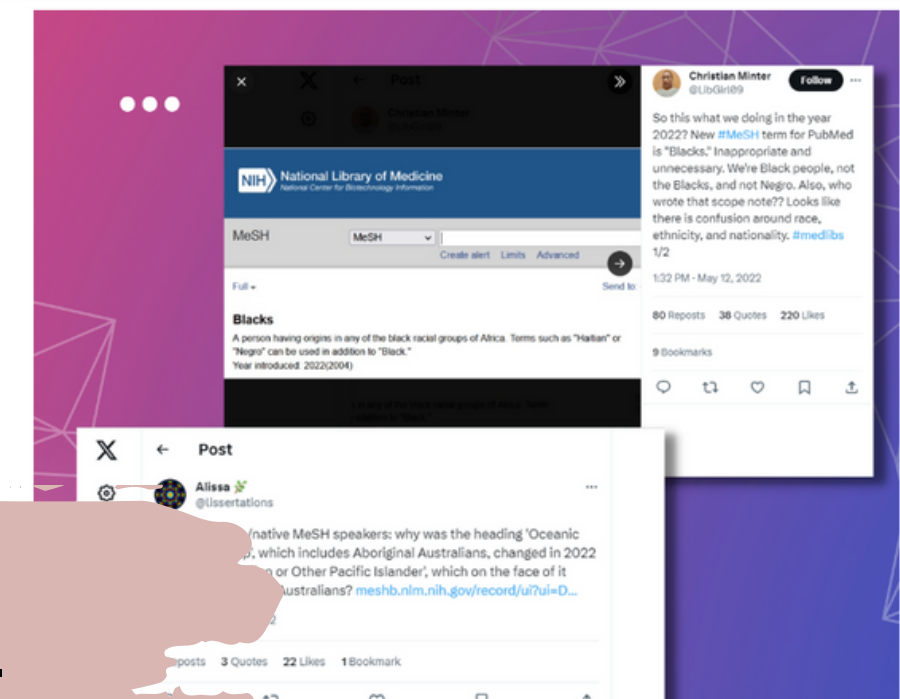
6: Racial and Ethnic Minorities

Searching Health Disparities and Vulnerable Populations

Question Development

In 2022, the National Library of Medicine changed many Medical Subject Headings (MeSH terms) within the subgroup of [Health Disparity, Minority and Vulnerable Populations](#). These changes elicited wide ranging condemnation from the medical library community because the new terminology did not adhere to person first or inclusive language. Furthermore, the new terms did not "recognize the problematic nature of outdated and offensive terms" (letter linked below).



The history of how information is shared and accessed influences the systems we use to discover research. So it is important to utilize [cultural humility](#) when conducting our own research and building search strategies.













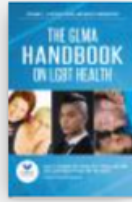




<https://libguides.uky.edu/healthdisparities/minorities>

Primo Collections

- Collection Discovery allows us to build collections and sub-collections within the Primo interface; we link to these from the LibGuide.
- LGBTQIA+ Collection has been initiated; other collections to follow
- We are currently adding previously owned and recently purchased catalog titles to those purchased as EDI collection
- Future Primo enhancement will allow Collections to link back to LibGuide

Items in this collection (25) View:  

 BOOK Adult transgender care : an interdisciplinary approach for training mental health professionals	 BOOK Affirmative counseling with LGBTQI+ people	 BOOK Aging men, masculinities and modern medicine	 BOOK Clinical manual of cultural psychiatry	 BOOK A clinician's guide to gender-affirming care : working with transgender & gender-nonconforming clients
 BOOK Contextual behavior therapy for gender and sexual minority clients : a practical guide to treatment	 BOOK Diversity and Inclusion in Quality Patient Care	 BOOK The ethics of gender-specific disease	 BOOK Exploring immigrant and sexual minority mental health : reconsidering multiculturalism	 BOOK Gender equity in health : the shifting frontiers of evidence and action
 BOOK	 BOOK	 BOOK	 BOOK	 BOOK

<https://bit.ly/3tbekgk>

Future Directions

Future Directions

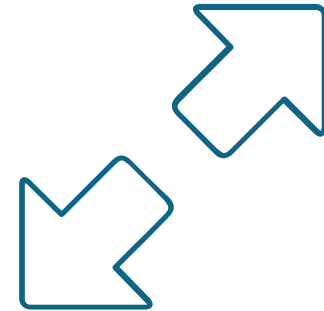
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Sensitivity Reading

Some completed,
more needed
(please let us know
if you're interested)

2

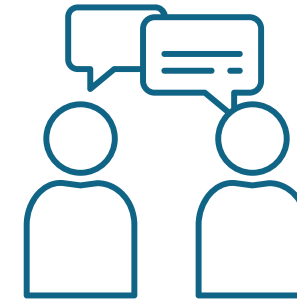


Expansion

Include other
populations

Expand on content
already provided

3



Assessment

Focus groups to
test effectiveness

Possible future
study

4



Open Access

Provide open-
source unbranded
content via OSF or
other platforms

Questions

Reach out to
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laurene.robinson@uky.edu
for any questions.