Goal:
1. To evaluate the differences in health between two different places in Massachusetts.

Assignment:
   Using the MassCHIP website, you are to collect health information from the same cities/towns that you used in assignment #3 (census assignment) and Massachusetts. You are to compare at least three (3) different race/ethnic groups. You will write a brief essay (800 words maximum) that describes <u>the patterns</u> that you find across cities/towns and compare to the state. <u>You are not to use the counts in the description of the data. You are only to make comparisons based on the rates</u>. In your essay you should try to explain what role race/ethnicity plays in the patterns that you found.

   You are to write your summary in your blog.

Due date:
   April 5, before midnight.

F.A.Q.
   Do I have to include the city/town I was assigned? Can't I just choose what place I want to look at?
     Yes, you must include your assigned city/town. You can choose any other city/town as you comparison. You must look at Massachusetts only.

   Do I have to pay attention to the confidence intervals?
     You only have to pay attention to the confidence intervals if you want to state that there is a statistically significant difference between two groups. If you are not comfortable doing that, then do not try this. You will earn more points if you do, but you will lose points if you are wrong. If you do discuss statistical significance, you need to include the confidence intervals in your table.

   I don't know how to write something like this. What should it look like?
     The summary should be clear, concise, and convincing. Do not try to sound smart. Just try to be clear.

     If you are struggling with how to write this, you might want to try this structure:

- 1 paragraph summarizing what information you obtained and why you thought this was interesting. This should include the race/ethnic groups and the geographic areas.

- 2-3 paragraphs summarizing the patterns of you found. When I say patterns I mean, what were the important similarities and what were the important differences between them?

- 2-3 paragraphs reflecting on the patterns and what the implications of your findings are. Some ways you can reflect include: What do you think explains this? How can this be changed? What are other people/organizations doing to change this? (NOTE: you do not have to answer all of these).

   You wrote in the comments on previous assignments that I need to proofread my essay. Do you I have to do that this time too?
     Yes. You always need to have someone else proofread your essays before uploading. If I told you to go to the Writing Center for help, I expect that you will have done so for this assignment.

   Do I have to include a table? I don't know what a good table is supposed to look like.

   Yes, you have to have a chart. A good chart looks like this:

Asthma Inpatient Hospitalization Rate per 100,000 and 95% confidence intervals (2006-2008)	Quincy	Leominster	Massachusetts
Latino/Hispanic	234.9 (106.3 - 363.4)	107.3 (54.7 - 159.8)	304.7 (293.9 - 315.5)
Asian, Non-Hispanic	100.6 (65.8 - 135.4)	0.0 (0.0 - 0.0)	75.1 (68.6 - 81.6)
Whites, Non-Hispanic	119.9 (104.2 - 135.7)	119.9 (99.1 - 140.6)	112.8 (111.1 - 114.4)

Source: MassCHIP, Department of Public Health. Found at: http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/researcher/community-health/masschip/topics/asthma-mortality-and-hospital-data.html#cities_towns

Please note that a good chart also include the source information.