Chapter 11 Questions and Exercises

As mentioned in the exercises for Chapters 9 and 10, the US Bureau of the Census conducts a Census of Governments every five years. One of the reports generated from this census is “Finances of Municipal and Township Governments.” The current version of this report is available online at

1. <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2018/econ/local/public-use-datasets.html>. Select three US states you wish to study and examine the finances for local governments within those states.

* For each state you selected, what is the amount (if any) local governments spend on public welfare, health and hospitals, and police protection? You will find these data beginning on Line 54, “Expenditures.”
* What is the percentage of total local government expenditures devoted to each of these categories for your three states?
* How do these percentages vary from one state to another?

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) publishes “Big Cities Health Inventory,” a compilation of health data covering the 54 largest cities in the United States. This report is available at <https://www.bigcitieshealth.org/city-data>.

1. Go to this report and scroll down to the map titled “Cities Represented in This Report.” Select eight of the cities shown. Then scroll down through the tables and, for each of these cities, determine whether they are above or below the city average for:

* heart disease
* mortality rate
* lung cancer mortality rate
* diabetes mortality rate
* infant mortality rate

1. Now examine how these rates of disease vary within each city by race, ethnicity, and median income. How large are these disparities? Do some of the cities you selected demonstrate less inequality in these health outcomes?