Capstone Two - Project Proposal (Draft)

According to the global Top 10 Causes of Death chart on the World Health Organization website, “Trachea, bronchus, lung cancers” place 6th place.

When we remove the countries with lower income groups where most causes of death are a result of inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene, some types of cancer claim a spot in the top 3 causes of death.

Other than taking care of ourselves by eating well, exercising, and having regular check ups, we can’t really do anything because there are so many types of cancers.

However, it may give us a little peace of mind, if we knew what cancer we are more likely to get. We can, then, hone into the symptoms and have specialized exams for certain cancers periodically.

I often see a chart of cancer cases by ethnic groups in the US. While certain ethnic groups are more prone to getting certain cancer, I see that regionally, Eastern states have a higher number of cancer cases than that of the Western states. Is this simply because of the diversity of the certain ethnic groups in those regions?

By analyzing what type of cancers in those states, and comparing to the ratio of the ethinic groups in those states, I may be able to see some tendencies. Further, comparing the ratios of certain cancers in ethnic groups with those of the countries which have high concentration of certain ethinic group may further indicate whether cancer trends are more likely by ethnicity or region/cultural (life style), or if there is even ethnic tendencies at all.

I will acquire data from the World Health Organization, Our World in Data, National Cancer Institute, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and some others. Surprisingly, there is so much data available for cancer related statistics which shows the high interest/demand among us.

There are so many other factors for the cause of cancer which can’t just be simply categorized in ethnicity and region/culture. What I am trying to analyze may not be anything new or anything at all, but I am hoping to be able to see if for myself some relationships between types of cancers, the ethnicity and regional/cultural differences.

As a person who has cancers in my family history, I was told by my doctors to be careful and have regular check ups. But I was never told to watch out for certain types of cancer because of my ethnicity or where I live. If there are any tendencies or if I am prone to getting certain types of cancer more than other types, it would be helpful to know or to be told at the doctor visits, even if it is of little significance.

Presenting in slides with charts and graphs will hopefully make it easier for anyone to see the steps I took and how I derived my conclusion. Any increase in awareness among people will lead to early detection of cancer, which is the best strategy we have in fighting cancer today.