As a staff member at the Phelps County Health Department, you eagerly scan each MICA newsletter to discover better ways to track health status in your county. After reading about the MAP program in the Spotlight article on Belinda Heimericks, you decide to explore data on the impact of heart disease and stroke in Phelps County.

1. According to the Heart Disease Profile, what is the frequency and rate of hospitalizations due to heart disease in Phelps County?  Which years of data were included in this statistic? **Phelps County had 3,742 hospitalizations due to heart disease for 2007-2011. The age-adjusted rate for this time period was 159.0 heart disease hospitalizations per 10,000 residents.**
2. What were the total charges for hospital utilization due to diseases of the heart? **The total hospital charges for diseases of the heart were $27,548,649 for 2011.**
3. What percentage of adult residents in the Central Region, which contains Phelps County, are estimated to have incorrectly answered survey questions about the signs and symptoms of heart attack? (The source of this indicator is the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, which does not provide county-level data. The regional percentage is provided on county-level Profiles as a proxy.) Is this statistically significantly different from the state percentage? **86.6% of adult Central Region residents were estimated to have incorrectly answered survey questions about the signs and symptoms of heart attack during 2009. This percentage is not statistically significantly different from the state estimate of 84.5%.**
4. According to the Stroke Profile, what is the Phelps County death rate from strokes and other cerebrovascular diseases? How does the county rate compare to the state rate? **Phelps County lost 344 residents due to strokes and other cerebrovascular diseases during the 2001-2011 time period. The age-adjusted death rate for this time period was 66.2 per 100,000 residents. The state rate for the same time period was 51.7. Phelps County’s stroke death rate was statistically significantly higher than the state rate.**
5. Use the Comparison Bar Graphs feature to compare the stroke/other cerebrovascular disease hospitalization rate in Phelps County to the rates of its neighboring counties – Crawford and Pulaski. How does Phelps County compare to Crawford and Pulaski? Do any of the counties have a rate that is statistically significantly different from the state rate? **Phelps County has the highest rate of stroke hospitalizations among these three counties, while Crawford County has the lowest rate. Pulaski falls in the middle. Crawford County’s stroke hospitalization rate is statistically significantly lower than the state rate, but the other counties are not significantly different from the state.**