Megan Pera

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Professional Profile

Academic and professional background in public health and nutrition, and especially interested in increasing access to healthy food and quality health care. Currently working towards a degree in information and data science to acquire skills in data management, analysis, and visualization. Looking to combine data skills with my passion for public health.

Education

University of California, Berkeley – Master of Information and Data Science   2017 (anticipated)
Relevant Courses: Regression Analysis, Data Storage and Retrieval, Data Visualization and Communication

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – Bachelor of Science in Public Health, Nutrition   2014

Projects

Finding Needles in a Haystack: Dealing with Document Overload in the Enron Investigation   2016
Description: Used tools such as Hadoop, Spark, PostgreSQL, and Neo4j to parse through and visualize information from 1.8 million emails from the Enron investigation

Visualizing Green House Gas Emissions in the United States: Are We Doing Enough?   2016
Created a series of US maps to show GHG emissions and sequestration by state; used D3.js and Tableau.

Trouble in Paradise: Food Insecurity on the Galapagos Islands   2014
Honors thesis at UNC Chapel Hill; investigated food access and insecurity using Dedoose and Excel

Skills and Tools

- Python, iPython notebook, R, Stata
- Hadoop, Spark, PostgreSQL

- D3.js, Tableau
- Access, Excel & MS Office suite

Experience

UC Berkeley School of Public Health   **Berkeley, California**
Research Assistant   2014-2015
- Led a data collection team for a USDA-funded grant to measure food waste and consumption in San Francisco Public Schools; managed supplies, volunteers, and oversaw the data entry process
- Methodically maintained datasets for accuracy and completeness, requiring great attention to detail
- Evaluated FitBit accuracy using research-grade accelerometers; performed analysis in Stata and Python

Program for HIV Prevention and Treatment   **Chiang Mai, Thailand**
Living With AIDS (LIWA) Study Data Analyst   2013
- Spearheaded quantitative analysis of the LIWA study, which sought to elucidate the experience of 500 HIV positive adults receiving anti-retroviral (ARV) therapy in Northern Thailand
- Analyzed data using Stata and found statistically significant relationships between body mass index and HIV positive status; results were used to inform the Thai Ministry of Public Health ARV program

West Side Community Health Services   **Saint Paul, Minnesota**
County Grant Coordinator and Fitness Educator   2011
- Implemented a grant at a Federally Qualified Health Center serving a predominantly low-income population; created training tools, tracked grant implementation, and wrote reports to Ramsey County
- Coached medical assistants on how to inform patients of their BMI, and served as a patient fitness educator; contributed to an overall healthy clinic environment through coaching and education