Finding What You Need:
Sources for National, State, and Local Information and Data

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• Getting started
• Planning a strategy
• Finding available resources
• Organizing results and findings
• Staying current
• Staying in touch
• Q&A
VFAQ: How can I find health statistics?

The good news:

- The U.S. Government collects and makes freely available many valuable statistics and data sets.
- Many public-use data files are available for purchase from the National Center for Health Statistics.
- Some government sites offer tools for finding data.
- States vary in the amount of data they provide, but national statistics often have a state, and sometimes a county and metropolitan area, component.

However:

- Be aware that data may not have been collected on your subject.
- Data may not be available for very recent years. It takes time to collect, analyze data and publish it.
- Local data continue to present challenges.
- Although abundant data is freely available on the web from government or education sites, some data may not be free.
- Private statistics organizations may charge for hard-to-find data collected through private surveys.
- Consider the limitations of your data.
- Data are only as reliable as the methods used to collect them and those who collected them. Therefore, some data may be of varying quality.
- Certain methods of collecting data, such as telephone surveys, may have inherent limitations.

http://libguides.lhl.uab.edu/healthstatistics
Planning : Strategizing

• **Why** are you looking for this information?
  – Evaluating programs
  – Planning programs and/or research
  – Looking for trends

Why you’re looking  Why it was collected
A Few More Points To Keep in Mind

Health statistics are generally the result of large, organized efforts.

Use this characteristic to your advantage when planning out your search strategy.

Finding and Using Health Statistics
National Information Center on Health Services Research and Health Care Technology (NICHSR)
STEPS IN A SUCCESSFUL SEARCH

Finding and Using Health Statistics
National Information Center on Health Services Research and Health Care Technology (NICHSR)
Where to Look

- NATIONAL RESOURCES
- STATE RESOURCES
- SPECIFIC POPULATION RESOURCES
- HEALTH TOPIC RESOURCES
NATIONAL INFORMATION & STATISTICS

Shaping a Health Statistics Vision for the 21st Century

Department of Health and Human Services Data Council
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics
National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics

- National Center for Health Statistics
  - http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/
- Health Services Research and Public Health Information Programs
- HSR Information Central
- National Surveys & Data Collection Systems
  - http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/surveys.htm
- American Fact Finder
  - http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
- MedlinePlus Health Statistics
- HSRIC
• Executive Office of Health & Human Services – Researcher Page
  • http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/researcher/

• MA Community Health Profiles aka MassCHIP
  • http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/researcher/community-health/masschip/

• Our Healthy Massachusetts
  • http://ourhealthymass.org/

• County Health Rankings & Road Maps*
  • http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/home

• MassBenchmarks
  • http://www.massbenchmarks.org/statedata/data.htm

• Planet Mass Connect
  • http://www.planetmassconnect.com/
SPECIFIC POPULATION INFORMATION & STATISTICS

- USA.gov: Health by population group
  - http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Health/Population.s.html
- ChildStats.gov
  - http://ChildStats.gov/
- CDC: Maternal, Infant, and Child Health
  - http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/MaternalInfantHealth/
- Kids Count Data Center*
  - http://datacenter.kidscoun.org/
- PeriStats
- UNICEF
- Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System
  - http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/yrbs/
- AgingStats.gov
- Age Data of the U.S.
  - http://www.census.gov/population/age/
- National Institutes on Aging
SPECIFIC HEALTH TOPIC INFORMATION & STATISTICS

- **Cancer***
  - National Cancer Institute (SEER)
  - National Program of Cancer Registries
    - http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/npcr/
  - American Cancer Society
    - http://www.cancer.org/research/cancerfactsstatistics/index

- **Mental Health & Substance Abuse**
  - SAMHSA: Mental Health Statistics / Data, Outcomes, and Quality
    - http://www.samhsa.gov/data/
    - http://www.samhsa.gov/dataoutcomes/urs/

- **Health Services & Health Care**
  - NICHSR
  - National Hospital Survey (CDC)
  - HRSA Data Warehouse
    - http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/

Healthy People 2020
BOOKMARK THESE!

- UMass CCTS CER Resources
  - http://libraryguides.umassmed.edu/CTSACE

- Lamar Soutter Library, UMMS, Statistics Guide
  - http://libraryguides.umassmed.edu/Statistics

- Lamar Soutter Library, UMMS, Statistics Resources
  - http://library.umassmed.edu/find_dbs?field_resource_title_value=&kw=statistics&dbsubjects=All

- Lister Hill Library, University of Alabama, Birmingham
  - http://libguides.lhl.uab.edu/content.php?pid=113145&sid=852588

- Boston College Library
  - http://libguides.bc.edu/content.php?pid=787&sid=2290

- UC Davis Library
  - http://ucdavis.libguides.com/healthstatistics
And A Few Others to Remember

- **PHPPartners** - [http://phppartners.org/health_stats.html](http://phppartners.org/health_stats.html)
Tour de Interwebs

- Sally Gore
  - Tour Guide
  - CCTS CER Consultant
  - Here to help!

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This isn’t me, but play along.