



Health Statistics on the Web Guided Handout

Presenters: Christine Nieman, NNLM Region 1 and Erica Lake, NNLM Region 6
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In your own words, differentiate between data, data set, and statistics.

Data

Data Set

Statistics

What are 3 or more ways to use health statistics?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4 step process to finding health statistics

1. Formulate a question
2. Choose the best resource
3. Evaluate what you've found
4. Repeat as needed



Guided Exercise Part 1

What question or topic will you search today?

Take 2 minutes to think of a question for a health statistic you are interested in finding today. You may want to include age range, geography, and/or timeframe in your question.

Example questions:

- What % of those 18 & over reported having coronary heart disease in Vermont in 2019?
- How has the rural-urban distribution of the geriatric patient population in the United States changed in the last decade?

My Question



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Statistics Portals

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

- Produced by the CDC, 1987-present
- Population surveys, Vital Records, Data Briefs, Fast Stats, Stats of the States

Notes:

MedlinePlus

- Produced by the National Library of Medicine
- Health Topics include "Statistics and Research" category
- Easy to understand, in both English and Spanish

Notes:



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National Statistics

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

- Sponsored by the CDC and other federal agencies, 1984-present
- World's longest continually conducted survey
- Search by location, topic, compare states, some city/local-level data estimates

Notes:

State Health Facts

- Produced by Kaiser Family Foundation, a non-profit organization
- Annual statistics on 800+ health topics, compare states, custom state reports

Notes:



Local Statistics

U.S. Census Bureau

- Produced by the U.S. Department of Commerce
- Find demographics and statistics at the state, county, city, town, zip code, and census tract level.
- ZCTA: zip code tabulation area

Notes:

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

- Produced by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute
- Annual rankings provide a snapshot of a community's health
- Search, browse, compare counties

Notes:



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City Health Dashboard

- Produced by the non-profit National Resource Network in partnership with the Department of Population Health at NYU Langone Health and the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at NYU, 2017-present.
- Search, browse and compare data on 750+ cities in the United States

Notes:

Rural Data Explorer

- Part of the Rural Health Information Hub
- View statistics for metro and non-metro counties

Notes:



Guided Exercise Part 2

Take 5 minutes to explore steps 2 through 4 of the 4-step process for locating health statistics. Search your question and take some notes on what you find.

2. Choose the best resource

- Which resource might collect the data to produce or publish the statistic you want?
- Consider federal agencies, state and local organizations or institutions tied to the subject of your search.

Notes:

3. Evaluate what you've found

- Is it appropriate and sufficient to answer your question?

Notes:

4. Repeat as needed

- Search another resource for additional information

Notes:



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Continue Learning!

Explore health statistics with additional resources from NLM.

[Finding and Using Health Statistics](#)

This self-paced tutorial describes different types of health statistics, how they are collected, and where they can be found.

[Know your Chances: Understanding Health Statistics](#)

Read this free book to learn about numbers behind the messages—the medical statistics on which the claims are based.