**Health Statistics on the Web Guided Handout**

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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

# Class Exercise Part 1

## What question or topic will you search today?

Take two minutes to formulate 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 percent of adults aged 21and over reported having coronary heart disease in Kentucky in 2019?
* How has the rural-urban distribution of the geriatric patient population in the United States changed in the last decade?

## My Question:

# Statistics Portals

## [National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs)

* Principal health statistics agency; part of the CDC
* Population surveys, Vital Records, Data Briefs, Stats of the States
* Citation
  + United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). National Center for Health Statistics – Homepage [Internet]. Atlanta, Georgia, U.S., CDC; [Last reviewed 2023 Jul 25]. [Cited 2023 Jul 25]. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>.

## [MedlinePlus](https://medlineplus.gov/)

* Produced by the National Library of Medicine
* Health Topics include “Statistics and Research” category
* Easy to understand, in both English and Spanish
* Citation
  + MedlinePlus [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): United States National Library of Medicine; [1998 Oct] - [cited 2023 Jul 25]. Available from: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/>.

## Notes:

# National Statistics

## [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)](https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/)

* Sponsored by the CDC and other federal agencies, 1984-present
* World’s largest continually conducted survey
* Search by location, topic, compare states, some city/local-level data estimates
* Citation
  + United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data [Internet]. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [2023] – [cited 2023 Jul 25]. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/>.

## [State Health Facts](https://www.kff.org/statedata/)

* Produced by Kaiser Family Foundation, a non-profit organization
* Statistics on 800+ health indicators at the national and state level, compare states, custom state reports
* Citation
  + KFF. State Health Facts [Internet], [2023] – [cited 2023 Jul 25]. Available from: <https://www.kff.org/statedata/>.

## Notes:

# Local Statistics

## [U.S. Census Bureau](https://data.census.gov/)

* 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
* Citation
  + U.S. Census Bureau. Explore Census Data [Internet], [2023] – [cited 2023 Jul 25]. Available from: <https://data.census.gov/>.

## [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/)

* 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
* Citation
  + University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2023 [Internet]. [2023] – [cited 2023 Jul 25]. Available from: [www.countyhealthrankings.org/](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/).

## [City Health Dashboard](http://www.cityhealthdashboard.com)

* 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 900+ cities in the U.S.
* Citation
  + Department of Population Health, NYU Langone Health. City Health Dashboard [Internet], [2023] – [cited 2023 Jul 25]. Available from: <https://www.cityhealthdashboard.com/>.

## [Rural Health Information Hub](https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/)

* National clearinghouse on rural health issues funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy
* Health statistics of interest to those living in or working in rural areas
* Data Sources & Tools table, Rural Data Explorer
* Citation
  + Rural Health Information Hub, 2022. Healthcare Access in Rural Communities [Internet]. Rural Health Information Hub [2022] – [cited 2023 Jul 25]. Available from: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/>.

## Notes:

# Class Exercise Part 2

Take five minutes and use the question you formulated in Part 1 to explore steps 2 through 4 of the 4-step process for locating health statistics.

Perform a search for your question and take some notes on what you find.

## Step 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:

## Step 3. Evaluate what you’ve found

* Is it appropriate and sufficient to answer your question?

### Notes:

## Step 4. Repeat as needed

* Search another resource for additional information

### Notes:

# 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.
* Citation
  + Finding and Using Health Statistics Tutorial [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Library of Medicine (US), National Information Center on Health Services Research & Health Care Technology (NICHSR); 2019 [cited 2023 June 29]. Available from: <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/stats_tutorial/cover.html>

## 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.
* Citation
  + Woloshin S, Schwartz LM, Welch HG. *Know Your Chances: Understanding Health Statistics.* Berkeley (CA): University of California Press; 2008. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK115435/>