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)

- Principal health statistics agency; part of the CDC
- Population surveys, Vital Records, Data Briefs, Stats of the States
- Citation
    o 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

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

National Library of Medicine
Network of the National Library of Medicine

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

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
- Citation
  o University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2023 [Internet]. [2023] – [cited 2023 Jul 25]. Available from: www.countyhealthrankings.org/.

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 900+ cities in the U.S.
- Citation
  o 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
- 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
  o 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/