Health Statistics on the Web

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Agenda

• Welcome and Introductions
• Overview
  ▫ Data vs. Statistics
  ▫ Key Features of Health Statistics
  ▫ Uses of Health Statistics
  ▫ Steps to Finding Health Statistics
• Sources of Health Statistics
  ▫ National Sources of Statistics
  ▫ State/Local Sources of Statistics
  ▫ International Sources of Statistics
Data vs. Statistics

• Data
  ▫ “Raw” numbers
  ▫ Counts of individual events or services
  ▫ Collected at local, state, national, or international level

• Data Sets
  ▫ Data collected and arranged logically according to definite criteria
  ▫ Major unit of data storage and retrieval
  ▫ May/may not represent entire population
Data vs. Statistics continued

• Statistics
  ▫ Data already analyzed and summarized
  ▫ Information presented as text, figures, graphs, or maps
  ▫ Most data on Websites is compiled statistics

*Statistics are collected to meet the needs of the collector!
To count ... or not to count

• “Everything that can be counted does not necessarily count; everything that counts cannot necessarily be counted.”

--Albert Einstein
Key Features of Health Statistics

• Population based

• Measure a wide range of health indicators

• Often collected and analyzed over a period of time

• Include different types of data
  ▫ Vital (birth, death, marriage, divorce)
  ▫ Morbidity & mortality
  ▫ Use and cost of health care
  ▫ Epidemiology
Uses of Health Statistics
Locating Health Statistics: It May be Easier than You Think!
Steps to Finding Health Statistics - #1

- Formulate the question
Steps to Finding Health Statistics #2

- Choose the “best” resource for the question.
Steps to Finding Health Statistics #3

- Evaluate the results.
Steps to Finding Health Statistics #4

- Repeat as often as necessary.
Sources of Health Statistics

• U.S. Government
  ▫ Federal, state, local

• Organizations and associations
  ▫ Non-profit
  ▫ For profit
Finding and Using Health Statistics

Health Statistics provide information for understanding, monitoring, improving and planning the use of resources to improve the lives of people, provide services and promote their well being.

This course describes the range of available health statistics, identifies their sources and helps you understand how to use information about their structure as you search.

This course links to numerous examples. Each example opens in a separate page of your browser. To return to the course close the new window -- the course window remains open and you can proceed.

Parts of the Course

The course is divided into 2 main parts

- **About Health Statistics** - which describes these sources and explores how they are created and

- **Finding Health Statistics** - which presents strategies you can use to successfully search for the material

Supporting Material

The course also contains supporting material including:

- [A Glossary](#)
- [Examples of webpages where you can find health statistics](#)
- [Exercises](#)

Start Here
One Size Does Fit All!

- Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce
  - [http://phpartners.org/](http://phpartners.org/)
  - Health Data Tools and Statistics
National Statistics

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
  - Point of access to all public health data and statistics sites developed through CDC
    - A – Z Index
    - Behavioral Risk Surveillance System (BRFSS)
    - National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)
    - Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)
National Statistics - NCHS

- National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
  - [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/)
  - Principal health statistics agency for the U.S.
  - “Monitoring the nation’s health”
  - [FastStats](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats)
  - Provide information to support actions and policies relevant to health of the American people
  - NCHS for You!
FastStats Example

- According to the most recent information, what is the percentage of children (19 – 35 months old) receiving vaccinations for Chickenpox?

- Is this a recommended vaccine for this age group? Give the source of this information.
National Statistics - BRFSS

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
  - [http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/](http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/)
  - World’s largest telephone survey
  - New 2014 Methodology included cell phone use
  - Self-reporting
  - All 50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands
  - Allows creation of customized data tables
  - Now also includes data from selected MMSAs
According to the most recent data, what is the percentage of adults in Texas who are current smokers?

How does this compare to the nationwide percentage?

How does this compare to the percentage of smokers ten years ago?

Is it possible to compare the percentage of smokers in the Dallas and Houston metropolitan areas?
National Statistics - WISQARS

- Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)
  - Interactive database system
  - Customized reports
  - Fatal and non-fatal injury-related data
WISQARS Example

• According to the most recent information available, what was the most common cause of death for Hispanics, age 35 – 44, in the state of Texas?

• Is this the same as for Whites?

• Is this the same for this population group in the U.S. as a whole?
National Statistics - NHANES

- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)
  - http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm
  - Assesses health and nutritional status of adults and children (non-institutionalized civilian population)
  - Continuous survey since 1999
  - Combines face-to-face interviews and physical exams
Federal Agencies - SAMHSA

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – Office of Applied Studies
  - [http://samhsa.gov/](http://samhsa.gov/)
  - Prevalence, treatment, and consequences of substance abuse and mental illness in the U.S.
  - Includes information on drug-related emergency room visits, drug-related deaths, and the substance abuse treatment system
Federal Agencies - CMS

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
  - Used primarily by researchers and health care professionals
  - Statistics on enrollment, spending, and claims data for Medicare and Medicaid
Federal Agencies - AHRQ

- Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ)
  - Healthcare quality, cost, patient safety, etc.
  - Resource for discharge-level health care data
  - State Snapshots
AHRQ Example

- What are the top 3 reasons for visits to emergency departments in all hospitals, based on diagnosis category?

- Is there a region of the United States for which the top reason is different?

- Is it possible to determine this for the state of Maryland only?
One More Federal Agency

- U.S. Census Bureau
  - Demographic data on the national, state, and county levels
  - Based on the most recent census

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the resident population of the United States, projected on July 1, 2015 is **321,418,820**
Practice Exercises
State and Local Statistics

- Many states have their own system for reporting
- May include vital statistics
  - Births, deaths, marriages, divorces
- Statewide injury data collection
- Cities and regions may also provide data
State and Local Statistics - KFF

- State Health Facts Online (Kaiser Family Foundation)
  - [http://kff.org/statedata/](http://kff.org/statedata/)
  - Allows comparisons on a state level
State Health Facts Example

- What are the rates of Preterm Births as a Percent of All Births, by Race/Ethnicity?

- Are these rates the same for all states in the New England Region?
State and Local Statistics - America’s Health Rankings

- America’s Health Rankings
  - [http://www.americashealthrankings.org/](http://www.americashealthrankings.org/)
  - Provided by the United Health Foundation
  - Yearly assessment of the health of the U.S., on a state-by-state basis
  - Every year for last 20 years
America’s Health Rankings Example

• What two states ranked the lowest for percentage of smokers?

• How does this compare with the national average?
State and Local Statistics - County Health Rankings

• County Health Rankings (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)
  ▫ Provides a snapshot of a county’s overall health
County Health Rankings Example

• How does Gwinnett County rank in terms of the other 159 counties in Georgia for overall health outcomes?

• Find at least three parameters for which Gwinnett County ranks higher/better than the average for Georgia.
State Cancer Profiles

- Provided by the National Cancer Institute
State Cancer Profiles Example

• According to the most recent information available, what is the overall incidence rate for all types of cancer in female persons in Virginia?

• Is this rate higher or lower than the overall rate for all females in Oregon?
State and Local Agencies

- Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
International Statistics

• World Health Organization – Global Health Observatory
  ▫ Health-related epidemiological and statistical information from the WHO
  ▫ Interactive database for core health statistics on the 194 WHO members
International Statistics

• Global Health Policy – Polls, graphics, interactives
  ▫ Also from Kaiser Family Foundation
  ▫ World health data organized by topic

• Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
  ▫ Information exclusively on the Americas
  ▫ Health in the Americas:
Global Health Facts Example

- According to the most recent statistics available, which nation has the highest number of AIDS Deaths?
- Where does the United States rank?
- What is the source of this data?
- What is the timeframe?
Practice Exercises - Part 2
In Summary

- Finding Health Statistics on the Web can be easy or at least findable!
- Don’t be afraid to get started, and follow these simple steps:
  - 1. Formulate the question
  - 2. Search for answers
  - 3. Evaluate the results
  - 4. Repeat as often as necessary
Thank you for coming and good luck!

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