

## Finding Statistics – a Research Guide

Finding statistics can be a real challenge. Where can you find the latest numbers or historical datasets? This guide will help get you started.

### Books

If you are in the library, you may want to start with books. With books, you might find what you need quickly, and also you may find sources of data to look at on the Internet. Many charts and tables in the books have a source listed. A few good book sources include:

- **Statistical Abstract of the United States** – Reference HA 202 .U5. This book compiles thousands of statistics collected by the U.S. Federal government. Each table has a source note, often with an internet address. The book is available online at <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>.
- **World Almanac and Book of Facts** – Reference AY67 .N5 W7. Includes everything from recent election results to sports, science and world maps. Most of the information presented also has source notes.

Searching the Internet with the information in the source notes might help you find the most current information, and also historical data where available.

### Online Sources

There are thousands of quality online statistics sources. A great way to start may be our databases, which have detailed articles about hundreds of social and political topics. These articles often include statistics in tables and charts.

- **Library Databases to try:**
  - CQ Researcher
  - Issues & Controversies
  - Opposing Viewpoints
  - Oxford Reference Online (several dozen specialized encyclopedias)
- The **Library Statistics Directory Page** - <http://www.tmcc.edu/library/research/resources/subject/statistics/> This page has links to many sources of statistics.

See some specific topical suggestions below:

- **Nevada-Specific Resources**
  - Check our page of links at  
<http://www.tmcc.edu/library/research/resources/subject/statistics/nv/>
- **General Starting Points**
  - *Fedstats* (<http://www.fedstats.gov/>) – links out to over 100 federal agencies. Search by subject or see data for states.
  - *Statistical Sites on the World Wide Web* (<http://www.bls.gov/bls/other.htm#pricipal>) – this page has links to major federal agencies AND dozens of official international data sources.
- **Business/Economics**
  - *Bureau of Labor Statistics* (<http://www.bls.gov/>) – Find all sorts of economic data, such as consumer and producer prices, import/export prices, unemployment/employment numbers and productivity.
  - *Bureau of Economic Analysis* (<http://www.bea.gov/>) – This site has data on Gross Domestic Product (state and national), international trade, and industry.
- **Crime and Law Enforcement**
  - *Uniform Crime Reports* (<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/ucr>) – This federal collection compiles data on crimes reported by local law enforcement to the FBI. *Crime in the United States* is issued annually. State-specific data is included.
  - *National Crime Victimization Survey* (<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=245>) – “the Nation's primary source of information on criminal victimization.”
- **Education/Dropout Data**
  - *Dept. of Education* statistics page (<http://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/facts.html>)
  - The *National Center for Education Statistics* (<http://nces.ed.gov/>) has lots of basic statistics for education.
  - *Averaged freshman graduation (graduation rates)* by state ([http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d09/tables/dt09\\_105.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d09/tables/dt09_105.asp)). This can help determine dropout (or non-completion) rates.
- **Elections/Politics**
  - **Federal Results** (1920-2008) -  
[http://clerk.house.gov/member\\_info/electionInfo/index.html](http://clerk.house.gov/member_info/electionInfo/index.html)
  - **Federal 2010 Results** at Politico.com  
(<http://www.politico.com/2010/maps/>)
  - **Nevada Results** (state and federal, 1998-2010)  
<http://nvsos.gov/index.aspx?page=93>

- **Energy**
  - *Energy Information Administration* (<http://www.eia.doe.gov/>) – This site has a wealth of data on domestic and international energy, from petroleum to coal and renewables. For detailed state profiles, visit the [State Energy Profiles](http://www.eia.doe.gov/state/) page (<http://www.eia.doe.gov/state/>). For international data, visit the [Country Energy Profiles page](http://www.eia.doe.gov/country/index.cfm) at (<http://www.eia.doe.gov/country/index.cfm>)
  
- **Environment**
  - Browse the [Geography and Environment](http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/geography_environment.html) ([http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/geography\\_environment.html](http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/geography_environment.html)) section of the *Statistical Abstract* for data in this area.
  - Find **weather data** at the [National Climate Data Center](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/ncdc.html) (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/ncdc.html>)
  
- **Health**
  - *National Center for Health Statistics* (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/Default.htm>) – This site has data on everything from births and deaths to nutrition to patient safety.
  - *Nevada Bureau of Health Statistics* (<http://health.nv.gov/HSPER.htm>)
  
- **Transportation**
  - *Air Transport Association* (<http://www.airlines.org/pages/home.aspx>) – The primary airline trade association.
  - *Bureau of Transportation Statistics* (<http://www.bts.gov/>) – A gateway to national and international transport numbers, including air and road traffic, freight, and even pedestrian and bike traffic numbers.
  - *Federal Highway Administration* (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/>) – This agency hands out money for highway construction and improvements and has statistics on highways, bridges and transit in the United States.