

**Seminars in Health Services Research Methods
NLM Tools: From Research to Presentation
Finding and Using Health Statistics on the Web**

Exercises [Answers] Using the HSRR database

1. Identify datasets that can include data on nursing homes.

[Type nursing homes in Search box]

2. Find instruments that used the Likert scale.

[Type likert in the Search box]

3. Find an article that describes the Duke Health Profile instrument.

[Type Duke in Search box, Scroll down to Duke Health Profile, Click on Title, Click on PubMed Search]

Exercises [Answers] for Finding and Using Health Statistics

4. Find the total number of deaths in the U.S. attributed to bronchitis each year. Use the National Center for Health Statistics <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs>

[FASTATS – Bronchitis]

5. The National Health Care Survey (NHCS) encompasses a number of surveys. Find and list 2-3. Include what type of data is collected and how often the survey is conducted.

[National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). Conducted annually since 1989. Based on sample of visits to nonfederal office based physicians. Data obtained on patient symptoms, physicians diagnosis, and medications prescribed.]

[National Nursing Home Survey (NNHS). Latest is 1999. Data collected about the facilities – size, ownership, occupancy rate and about the residents - health status and services received.]

6. Investigate the FedStats portal. <http://www.fedstats.gov/> Find the % of people living below the poverty level in Baltimore County, MD.

[FedStats, MapStats]

7. Take a look at a nonfederal portal, the University of Michigan's Statistical Resources on the Web. Use this site to find the % of uninsured nationwide.

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/stats.html>

8. Find a recent report showing rates of immunization for children based on the National Immunization Survey and the description of the survey. The report is in the **MMWR**. Start at the CDC Portal. <http://www.cdc.gov>]

[Search MMWR issues for "national immunization survey"]

9. Which conditions limit people the most in their ability to work? How many days per year do people miss because of them? Start your research with the National Center

for Health Statistics or Bureau of Labor Statistics <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs>
<http://www.bls.gov>

[FASTSTATS – occupational health – link to Health US, 2001, Table 51. Reference: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, 1980-2000. <http://www.bls.gov/iif/home.htm>]

10. Go to HCUPnet and find the median cost, length of stay and hospital death rate associated with hospital treatment of acute myocardial infarction. How was this information collected? Find the description of the procedures.

<http://www.ahcpr.gov/data/hcup/hcupnet.htm>

[Use Instant Tables-Top 50 CCS diagnosis AMI. OR use follow HCUPNET directives to create a data table for AMI.]

11. Find Medicare benefit payments for the District of Columbia for 2001. Use the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

<http://cms.hhs.gov/researchers/statsdata.asp>

12. Surveillance is action oriented. Reporting depends on the health care system's consensus on the importance of tracking particular diseases. Compare AIDS reporting to the reporting for TB and STDs. <http://www.cdc.gov/scientific.htm>

13. Use FEDSTATS to explore statistical sites for federal agencies. Try to identify the different perspectives and objectives of federal agencies and how this shapes the way reports and tables are created. For example, TB data collected by NIH will be reported differently than TB data collected by the CDC. How does this compare with international data collection and reporting? <http://www3.who.int/whosis/menu.cfm>

14. Locate data on injuries – occurrence and causes for fatal and nonfatal events. Use WISQARS (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System) to develop a table for the 10 Leading Causes of Injury Deaths.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/>

[NVSS – National Vital Statistics System <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss.htm>
Deaths: Leading Causes for 2000. NVSR Vol. 50, No. 16. 86 pp. (PHS) 2002-1120.
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/ncipchm.htm>]