

Handout #6: Guide to Secondary Sources

Useful Web Sites:

Government-sponsored Web sites:

- <http://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/>
 - **Rate/Trend Comparisons:** Compares State counties' cancer death rates with the overall State or the United States as a whole; click on the data table icon for more detailed data.
 - **Death Rates:** Find the number of people who die from cancer in a particular State, by type of cancer, race, and sex
 - **Incidence Rates:** For all cancers, by State, race, and sex
 - **5-Year Rate Changes:** For all cancers according to area, data type (SEER for incidence; other for mortality), race, sex, and age
 - **Historical Trends:** Multi-line graph, each line based on area, cancer, data type, race, sex, and age
 - **Latest Rates, Percents, and Counts**
 - **Screening and Risk Factors:** Select a screening method qualified by age and medical history and select sex where applicable
 - **Peer Counties:** Identifies counties that are comparable based on State, county, peer basis (race or age), comparison counties, and number of peers
- <http://www.census.gov>
 - State and county QuickFacts (right column of the home page) provides demographic data for States and counties
- <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs>
 - Provides information on health indicators such as mortality/morbidity and birth/death rates
 - Information is categorized according to disease type or by State

Additional Web searches:

- American Cancer Society Facts and Figures (http://www.cancer.org/docroot/STT/stt_0.asp)
 - Current statistics on cancer incidence, including the number of deaths, cases, and survival rates

- Search engines (e.g., <http://www.google.com/>) for:
 - Background information about the county/city
 - Names of community leaders
 - Potential partners, like cooperative extensions, universities, other health-related programs/initiatives.

Remember, try to use .gov, .org, and .edu sites. However, while .org, .edu, and .gov Web sites will have more reliable information, it may be framed in a particular way to promote their views. If you use information provided by a .com, look into the source of information for accuracy and bias. For any information from the Internet, look at when the Web site was last updated. Some of the facts may be outdated.

Non-Web-based searches:

If you cannot interview a community leader or a community group, you may be able to find trusted information about their health beliefs and concerns through your institution or a local library. Some journals to search are: the *Journal of Health Communication*, *Health Education Research*, *Qualitative Health Research*, *Health Education & Behavior*, and *American Journal of Public Health*. You may also find useful information in reports from nonprofit media research or health agencies, like the Kaiser Family Foundation.