



Home → Health Topics → Health Statistics

URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/healthstatistics.html>

Health Statistics

Health statistics are numbers that summarize information related to health. Researchers and experts from government, private, and non-profit agencies and organizations collect health statistics. They use the statistics to learn about public health and health care. Some of the types of statistics include:

- How many people in the country have a disease or how many people got the disease within a certain period of time
- How many people of a certain group have a disease. The groups could be based on location, race, ethnic group, sex, age, profession, income level, or level of education. This can help identify **health disparities** [<https://medlineplus.gov/healthdisparities.html>].
- Whether a treatment is safe and effective
- How many people were born and died. These are known as **vital statistics**.
- How many people have access to and use health care
- The quality and efficiency of our health care system
- Health care costs, including how much the government, employers, and individuals pay for health care. It could include how poor health can affect the country economically
- The impact of government programs and policies on health
- Risk factors for different diseases. An example would be how air pollution [<https://medlineplus.gov/airpollution.html>] can raise your risk of lung diseases [<https://medlineplus.gov/lungdiseases.html>]
- Ways to lower risk for diseases, such as exercise and weight loss to lower the risk of getting type 2 diabetes [<https://medlineplus.gov/diabetestype2.html>]

Numbers on a graph or in a chart may seem straightforward, but that's not always the case. It's important to be critical and consider the source. If needed, ask questions to help you understand [<https://medlineplus.gov/understandingmedicalresearch.html>] the statistics and what they are showing.

Start Here

- FastStats: A to Z [<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/>] (National Center for Health Statistics)
- Health, United States, 2018 [<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/index.htm>] (National Center for Health Statistics)

Related Issues

- FastStats: Deaths and Mortality [<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/deaths.htm>] (National Center for Health Statistics)
- FastStats: Leading Causes of Death [<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/leading-causes-of-death.htm>] (National Center for Health Statistics)
- FastStats: Life Expectancy [<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/life-expectancy.htm>] (National Center for Health Statistics)
- Global Health Observatory (GHO): Mortality and Global Health Estimates [<https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/mortality-and-global-health-estimates>] (World Health Organization)
- Leading Health Indicators -- Healthy People 2030 [<https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/leading-health-indicators>] (Department of Health and Human Services)

- National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) Birth Data [<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/births.htm>] (National Center for Health Statistics)
- State Health Facts [<https://www.kff.org/statedata/>] (KFF)
- Top 10 Causes of Death in the World [<https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/the-top-10-causes-of-death>] (World Health Organization)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.who.int/es/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/the-top-10-causes-of-death>]

Specifics

- National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Reports [<https://www.ahrq.gov/research/findings/nhqrdr/index.html>] (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: HOW GENDER, LEARNING ATTITUDES, AND TEACHING EVALUATION AFFECT LEARNING OUTCOMES IN... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40737653>]
- Article: Survey on the current status of statistical cognition and teaching needs... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40703160>]
- Article: Statistics as a Tool in the Physician's Black Bag. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40291526>]
- Health Statistics -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Statistics+as+Topic%22%5Bmajr%3Aneop%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+2+Years%22+%5Bdat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29>]

Reference Desk

- MMWR: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report [<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Find an Expert

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [<https://www.cdc.gov/>]
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/spanish/>]
- National Center for Health Statistics [<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>]
- World Health Organization [<https://www.who.int/en/>]

Children

- America's Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being [<https://www.childstats.gov/americanchildren/>] (Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics)
- America's Young Adults [https://www.childstats.gov/pdf/ac2014/YA_14.pdf] (Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics) - PDF
- Death among children and adolescents [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001915.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001915.htm>]
- FastStats: Child Health [<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/faststats/child-health.htm>] (National Center for Health Statistics)
- Infant Mortality [<https://www.cdc.gov/maternal-infant-health/infant-mortality/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Infant Mortality: Death Rates among Infants by Detailed Race and Hispanic Origin of Mother, Selected Years 1983-2021 [<https://www.childstats.gov/americanchildren23/tables/health2.asp?popup=true>]
(Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics)

Teenagers

- FastStats: Adolescent Health [<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/faststats/adolescent-health.htm>] (National Center for Health Statistics)

Men

- FastStats: Men's Health [<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/mens-health.htm>] (National Center for Health Statistics)

Women

- FastStats: Women's Health [<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/womens-health.htm>] (National Center for Health Statistics)

Older Adults

- FastStats: Older Persons' Health [<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/older-american-health.htm>] (National Center for Health Statistics)



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Death among children and adolescents [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001915.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Understanding Medical Research [<https://medlineplus.gov/understandingmedicalresearch.html>]

MedlinePlus links to health information from the National Institutes of Health and other federal government agencies. MedlinePlus also links to health information from non-government Web sites. See our [disclaimer](#) [<https://medlineplus.gov/disclaimers.html>] about external links and our [quality guidelines](#) [<https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html>] .

The information on this site should not be used as a substitute for professional medical care or advice. Contact a health care provider if you have questions about your health.

[Learn how to cite this page](#)