



INSTITUTE OF
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About the Database

Background: Many organizations worldwide generate health data and statistics, but there was no one database that facilitated access to this information. As a result, searching for these statistics was often a time-consuming and frustrating task. This database was designed to fill that gap. It is like a giant finding aid, offering a searchable portal that provides a single access point to the wealth of free web-based health statistics available from national and global agencies and research groups.

This portal is not a comprehensive resource. It only includes web-based statistical resources that are freely available to everyone. Also, new statistics are generated daily, and old resources have a tendency to disappear without warning. While we try to keep the database as up to date as possible, there may still be some broken links or missing resources. We encourage you to use the feedback form to alert us to these issues.

This portal will hopefully address any basic statistical questions you may have regarding health matters, but for comprehensive projects you will need to consult other sources.

- If you have access to a data librarian at a local institution, we advise you to consult with them for in depth research questions. Those individuals often have expertise and experience with statistics and data sets and the various organizations and agencies that produce them that cannot be matched. However, if you are in a remote location or are not affiliated with an academic institution, this can serve as a first point of access for your health statistics needs.
- There are several high quality sources of health statistics which require purchase and are therefore not included in this database. For additional detailed health statistics, please look to CANSIM, OECD, etc.

Content/Scope: This database covers freely available web-based health statistics. Current focus is on Canadian and American statistics, but there is some international coverage. Because of the nature of the electronic medium, many of the statistics provided are from the last 20 years.

Future directions: At present, the database has a largely Canadian focus and is limited to English language resources. As we continue to populate the database, additional categories and regions will be represented. Please send us your feedback about the user interface and content of the portal, and we will try to incorporate your suggestions.

Maintenance: We recognize the importance of maintaining the currency of the database. A strategy is in place for regularly updating the database content.

Producer: The content for this database was compiled by Liz Dennett and Trish Chatterley, information specialists at the Institute of Health Economics in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The interface was designed by Yellow Pencil.

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