

Getting Started with Statistics: Basic Statistics for the Generalist
A Workshop Sponsored by the Reference Interest Group (RIG)
Washington Library Association

1. How many troops are currently serving in Iraq?

Digest Approach

1. Stat Ab US → Index → Defense → Military Personnel tables 500-502, 507-508

Note the footnote on 503 "...Active Duty in ...Foreign Countries 1995-2002" → *Selected Manpower Statistics*

<http://www.dior.whs.mil/mmid/military/miltop.htm>

provides more recent data

2. Stat Abstract -> Index -> M -> scroll to Military Services -> Personnel -> note table numbers 496, 499, 503 -> Tables -> 506 Summary by Major Conflict (NOTE – IRAQ not included)

503. U.S. Military Personnel on Active Duty in Selected Foreign Countries:1995 to 2002 -> SEE FOOTNOTE FOR SOURCE – search source in google OR use URL provided

Portal approach

1. FedStats – by subject → NO Defense option
FedStats – by agency → word find "Defense" → Directorate for Information Operations and Reports → Personnel → Military
2. FedStats → by agency → word find "defense" → Office of the Secretary of Defense, Deputy Asst Secretary for Administration → About DoD → DIOR Personnel Statistics
3. Fedstats → by agency → word find 'defense' → Office of the Secretary of Defense, Deputy Asst Secretary for Administration → Search Box → Search DoD websites 'personnel statistics' 'active duty personnel statistics' → (not convincing clear answer this way)
4. FedStats → by agency → word find 'defense' → Office of the Secretary of Defense, Deputy Asst Secretary for Administration → Site Map → FAQ → search using 'iraq', 'active duty', 'deployment', **'statistics'**

Index approach? – use my login?

Statistical Universe → Search Tables Base Edition → iraq and deployment → 1 hit, "Selected Manpower Statistics, FY2003" table and full document (display list of .gif tables)

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Statistical Universe → Search Tables Base Edition → military and
iraq and personnel → 26
(Gallup Poll results, Military Manpower fit for service, DoD Active
Duty Military Personnel Strength, Defense expenditures, etc etc etc

2. How many African-Americans died in the Vietnam War?

Historical Statistics colonial times to 1970 only covers a portion of the Vietnam War
years

Statistical Abstract 2004-05 → Index → M – Military services – personnel – by war
→ Table 506

When get to this portion of the chapter, notice table 505 just above one id'd in
index.

Table 505 US Active Duty Military Deaths by Manner of Death 1980-2002 – SEE
source notes → Source: U.S. Department of Defense, DODWorldwide U.S.Active
Duty Military Personnel. www.diro.whs.mil/mmid/casualty/castop.htm

URL Doesn't work but google search on "defense Active Duty Military Personnel"
brings up link to InfoPlease Almanac **Active Duty Military Personnel**, 1940–2005
<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0004598.html> (annual figure ONLY)

SIAD (Statistical Information Analysis Division) website with .mil domain in url
<http://web1.whs.osd.mil/mmid/pubs.htm>

Military Casualty Information same web domain

<http://web1.whs.osd.mil/mmid/casualty/castop.htm> (Note similarity to original url cited –
things change) → Scroll to Vietnam War Casualty Summary at
<http://web1.whs.osd.mil/mmid/CASUALTY/vietnam.pdf> (nothing by race)

Turn now to statistical index or scholarly books/articles for discussion of racial
analysis of military during Vietnam era.

Statistical Universe → Vietnam War → 15 items → #12, 13, 15 U.S. Military Personnel In
South Vietnam 1960 Through 1973 [By Branch Of Service] (not by race)

Would print publication Selected Manpower Statistics, from the time (not published in
2000, 2002, 2004) have more detail? NOT IN THIS INDEX

3. How many Native Americans live in X city in 2000?

Digest Approach

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STAT ABSTRACT -> Index -> Cities -> Population -> tables 26, 27

SEE ALSO METROPOLITAN AREAS -> M -> Population -> table 24

SEE ALSO INDEX UNDER S "STATE DATA" -> listing of topics where tables present state aggregations of the data -> American Indian / Native Alaskan population -> table 21

SEE ALSO INDEX UNDER P "POPULATION" -> RACE -> tables 13-16, 21

SEE ALSO INDEX UNDER P "POPULATION" -> cross ref to A - American Indian Alaska Native Population -> lots of breakdowns, many tables

Portal Approach

American FactFinder

King County Census View

Pierce County Census View

4. How many Native Americans lived in Seattle in 1950?

Digest → Historical Digests → Historical Census Browser → 1950 → Ethnicity/Race/Origin (native = native born, nothing on Indians)

Historical Statistics 1790-1970 – doesn't get specific on race breakout or geographic area

Portal → Census Bureau Homepage → Subjects A-Z → D Decennial Census, Historical Data 1790-1990 → scroll to find "Largest Cities & Other Urban Places 1790-1990, #31 Historical Census Statistics on Population Totals by Race, 1790-1990, and By Hispanic Origin" → scroll to links for each state → .pdf

www.census.gov/population/documentation/twps0076/WAtab.pdf

5. I want to market my incredible product. I have a list of addresses sorted by zip code. How can I find out how much money people make who live in various zip code areas in Seattle (or Spokane, or

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Ellensberg, etc.)? And while I'm at it, knowing something about the age of these folks would also be useful.

Census 2000 Zip code geography, income tables

6. How many businesses are there which make bicycles in Washington State?

HINT: Data for products, commodities, sectors of the economy, etc. are often collected using a coding scheme to ensure that information about drug and pharmaceutical manufacturers are grouped together. North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) was developed jointly by the U.S., Canada, and Mexico to provide new comparability in statistics about business activity across North America.

Return to Census Bureau Website → NAICS → Search Box Top LEFT → Bicycles → Bicycles & Parts Manufacturing = 336991

Return to Census Bureau Website → Economic Census → Industry Series OR Geographic Area Series OR Subject Series → 31-33 MFG MORE → PDF Report

Return to Economic Census webpage → Drill Down Tables, 2002 data by NAICS - U.S., states, counties, cities, and metro areas, MORE → 31-33 Mfg MORE → Select STATE in pulldown menu top right, press GO → Scroll to 336991 → 14 Establishments with 100-249 employees

7A. What is the cost of living in X city? How does that compare to Y city?

HINT: A "Cost of Living" indicator is not calculated by any federal agency. "Cost of Living" statistics are available, however they are NOT FREE. One of the Federal indicators which can help you with these questions, and which IS FREE, is the **Consumer Price Index**.

StatUSA

WA OFM SITE

inflation might relate to cost of living → pointer to CPI info at BLS

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7B. I work as a legal assistant (truck driver, teacher, whatever) in Seattle and am interviewing for a job in Y city. How can I know what is a reasonable salary to negotiate for during my interview?

HINT: 7B is related to 7A but asks about earnings (wages) rather than expenses (costs) and can will be answered using very different sources. Patron 7B would be well served to have information on both wages and living costs when planning to relocate.

WA OFM SITE

labor force & income might relate to wages
see also: links to other state/federal sources → State Employment Security

BLS Website on wages

Wage and Inflation calculators at www.bls.gov

8. How many people in Africa died of AIDS last year? Or for the most recent year you can find?

Finding infection rates and child mortality but not overall mortality

WHO - World Health Report → Current World Health Report 2005 → skim chapters/notice statistical appendices → "World Health Reports Statistical Annex pdf" → skim table headings → page 9 of pdf "**Annex Table 3 Annual number of deaths by cause for children under five years of age in WHO regions, estimates for 2000–2003a**"

No summary by continent – no mortality totals for population

Select HEALTH TOPICS (left menu bar) → A-Z list → AIDS → HIV Infections

See link to UNAIDS JT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS → Geographical Area → Region → Sub-Saharan Africa [provides rates of infection → link to AIDS EPIDEMIC UPDATE 2004 → PDF format → Sub-Saharan Africa → "**HIV and AIDS statistics and features, end of 2002 and 2004**"

WHO Home page → Select HEALTH TOPICS (left menu bar) → A-Z list → Mortality → WHO Mortality Database, Reported Deaths by Cause, Tables → Table 1 → select country name Zimbabwe

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Very incomplete – several African nations not included in list, e.g. they did not report to WHO.

WHO Home page → Select HEALTH TOPICS (left menu bar) → A-Z list → Mortality → Estimates of Death by Cause → World Health Report 2004 Changing History “**Annex Table 2 Deaths by cause, sex and mortality stratum in WHO regions, a estimates for 2002**”

Statistics Division, United Nations → tab across top of page “Statistical Databases”

→ Demographic Yearbook → mortality (numbers, rates, urban/rural) but not cause of death

→ Social Indicators → Health → life expectancy at birth; infant/child mortality rate

World Health Organization home page → Research Tools → Statistics by Disease or Condition → HIV/AIDS → WHO HIV/AIDS Programme → UNAIDS/WHO Global HIV/AIDS Online Database →

9. How many apples were grown in Washington State last year? Or for the most recent year you can find?

FedStats → by subject Agriculture → National Agricultural Statistics Service → Publications → Ag Stats USDA → 2005 → Fruit tree nuts ... → Apples → table – production, utilized production, price for crop for 2002, 03, 04 BY STATE

FedStats → by subject Agriculture → National Agricultural Statistics Service → Publications → State Reports → WA → Annual Bulletin → scroll to section on fruits & nuts pp 81-87 some text accompanies data, data table includes yield/acre (not provided above)

FedStats → by subject Agriculture → National Agricultural Statistics Service → Publications → State Reports → WA → National – Ag Census → etc etc etc

10. How much funding each year goes to the National Endowment for the Arts? Has that changed much?

Stat Abstract 2004-05 → browse section 26 Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation

Stat Abstract 2004-05 → Index → Arts & Humanities, aid to; Arts & Humanities, federal aid TABLE 1231 (provides appropriation & grants awarded, selected years 1980-2002)

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Table source notes indicate Annual Report of the NEA – search google for NEA website → www.nea.gov → About Us → Annual Report (2001, 2002, 2003 online)

11. How many people are without health insurance in the United States? In Washington state?

WA OFM Site

<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/> → Research Data Health Care → “Lack of Health Insurance Coverage and Type of Coverage” http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/200412_01.pdf (National)

<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/> → Research Data Health Care → scroll to Health & Insurance Status, “Access to Health Insurance” → Talking Points provides numbers but LOTS OF OPTIONS TO EXPLORE HERE including reports from 2002, SECTION ON Data Sources For Analysis Of The Uninsured - **Technical Briefs and Data**, Health Insurance by Race/Ethnicity—September 2005 etc.

12. What statistical questions have you had difficulty with? Make a note of them here and we'll look for resources to solve them.