

# Data Resources 101

WEBINAR RECAP | JUNE 21, 2018 | 1:48:08

## Learning Objectives

This webinar acquaints local public health with some of the data resources available on the MDH website, and connects local public health with staff at MDH who can provide assistance with data.

To watch this webinar or view the presentation slides, please contact the [Minnesota Center for Health Statistics](#).

Do not spend hours searching online for data. Contact the [Minnesota Center for Health Statistics](#) first to see if staff know about a source or know that no data are available; or if you would like help with any of the sources below; or would like a special run of data.

## Agenda

- Introduction: Ann Kinney
- [Vital Statistics](#): Pamela Jo Johnson, Kim Edelman
- [Interactive Query System](#): Kim Edelman
- [MN Public Health Data Access Portal](#): Jessie Shmool
- [Minnesota Student Survey](#): Ann Kinney
- [County-Level Indicators](#): Ann Kinney
- [Other Resources](#): Ann Kinney
- [Q&A](#)

## Questions

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## Vital Statistics Research and Reporting: Minnesota Vital Statistics System (MVSS)

**Online:** [Minnesota Center for Health Statistics Minnesota Vital Statistics System](#)

Services provided by the Minnesota Center for Health Statistics:

- Compile records and statistical data files: natality (birth), mortality (death), linked birth/infant death, fetal death, and population characteristics
- Analyze data and produce publications: [Annual Health Summary](#), [County Health Tables](#), [Vital Statistics Trends](#), [VitalSigns issue briefs](#)
- Respond to data requests, including births/deaths classified by geography, race, age, etc.

Users can be asked to be notified of new releases from the Center for Health Statistics via email:

- [Updates: Data Access Portal](#)
- [Updates: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics](#)
- [Updates: Minnesota Vital Signs](#)

If you can't find what you need in the existing reports (or if you're not sure how to ask for what you want), contact the Center for Health Statistics: [healthstats@state.mn.us](mailto:healthstats@state.mn.us), and be specific in your request: What years? What level of geography (e.g., state, county, city, community health board)? What outcomes (e.g., births, C-sections, deaths due to falls, etc.)? What comparison groups (e.g., race, ethnicity, age, education, etc.)? If there are 20 or fewer people or events within a subgroup, MDH will suppress those data.

### Vital Statistics Products

Product	Schedule	Format	Details
<a href="#">Minnesota Health Statistics Annual Summary</a>	Published annually at close of calendar year	PDF versions available from 1997 - present	Mostly state-level data; some county-level data Live births by race, age, education, smoking status; fertility; mortality by selected causes, leading causes by age, leading causes by race and education

Product	Schedule	Format	Details
<a href="#"><u>Minnesota County Health Tables</u></a>	Published annually at close of calendar year	PDF, Excel versions available from 1996 - presents	Includes statistics for counties and community health boards  Demographics, including age, race, education, poverty level; natality, including births, preterm births, low birth weight, C-sections, teen births; mortality, including age, leading causes of death, premature deaths
<a href="#"><u>Minnesota State, County, and Community Health Board Vital Statistics Trend Reports</u></a>	Updated annually If data are not yet available for a certain geography or data set, it is indicated in blue/0.0	Excel, customizable, printable reports with up to six geographic areas  Available from 1994 - present	Data for counties, community health boards, state  Demographics trends (past five years), natality and mortality trends (in five-year groups)
<a href="#"><u>Minnesota VitalSigns</u></a>	Published periodically	PDF issue briefs	Various state-level natality and mortality topics

## Vital Statistics Interactive Queries (IQ) System

**Online:** [Minnesota Department of Health Health Statistics Portal](#)

If you cannot find the data you need in Center for Health Statistics reports or would like to find it on your own, you might want to try the Vital Statistics Interactive Queries System.

- The Vital Statistics IQ System provides customized online queries for Minnesota birth, death, and population data
- You can export data into a PDF, CSV file, or Excel file
- You can use the Vital Statistics IQ System 24/7, if you can't reach staff from the Center for Health Statistics
- Be sure to reset the query form at the beginning of each new query if you're performing multiple queries in a row

## How to Get Data from the Vital Statistics IQ System

### 1. Log in (optional)

- Without a username and password, birth data are only available at the state level (some birth data are not public data); population and death data are available at the state and county level
- With a username and password, you can access birth data at the county level in addition to the state level
- To receive a username and password, please contact the [Minnesota Center for Health Statistics](#)

### 2. Select years and geographies

- Available years: 1990-2016
- Available geographies: state, counties
- If you don't select a county or year, the system will default to state of Minnesota or all years
- You can select more than one county and year for a query
- To select more than one county, select the first county, then use your shift key (for consecutive counties) or your control key (for non-consecutive counties)
- To select more than one year, select the first year, then use your shift key (for consecutive years) or your control key (for non-consecutive years)

### 3. Select display variables

- Display variables include birth weight, age, etc.
- MDH recommends you select just one variable to start with; you may select up to four variables, but MDH does not recommend selecting two variables for your columns and two variables for your rows
- You must select a variable for a column

### 4. Select analysis type

- Available analyses for births: counts, percentages, rates (rates are available only for county, age, race, ethnicity, and year)
- Available analyses for deaths: counts, crude rates, age-adjusted rates, years of potential life lost

### 5. Select sub-variables (optional)

- Use when you want to limit your query by a sub-variable: e.g., a specific race or ethnicity, a specific age, or an unusual age grouping

### 6. Submit your query

- If there are 20 or fewer people or events within a subgroup, MDH will suppress those data.

## Reading Output Tables

### Example #1: Birth rates by age, Beltrami County, 2012-2016

**1** {

**2** Number of Births and Rate by Age of Mother

**3** All Ages, Birth Interval: All, Birth Weight: All, Birthplace of Mother: All, BELTRAMI Counties, Ethnicity, Marital Status: All, Maternal Education: All, Method of Delivery: All, Parity: All, Plurality: All, Prematurity: All, Prenatal Care Initiated by Trimester: All, All Races, Years 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012

Age Group (Birth)	Number of Births	* Birth Rate
Under 15	1	
15-19	293	34.0
20-24	973	88.3
25-29	1,100	156.2
30-34	762	111.3
35-39	261	43.9
40-44	39	6.8
45 and Over	5	
<b>Total</b>	3,434	30.0

**4**

Data Source: MDH Center for Health Statistics  
 Birth Rate is per 1,000 Population  
 \* Rates based on 20 or less births are not produced

#### Key

1. Description of table elements. "All" means that that all of the groupings in the variable are included. You only need to pay attention to the variables in which "All" does not proceed the variable.
2. In this query, instead of "All Counties" it says "BELTRAMI Counties." This query is for Beltrami only.
3. For years, it indicates the years of data (2012-2016) included in the query.
4. Rates are not calculated for 20 or fewer events.

### Example #2: Low birth weight, Minnesota, 2012-2016

**1**

Year of Birth	Birth Weight						Total		
	Low Birth Weight (under 2500 grams)			Normal Birth Weight (2500+grams)			Total		
	Number of Births			Number of Births			Number of Births		
	SUM	ColPctSum	RowPctSum	SUM	ColPctSum	RowPctSum	SUM	ColPctSum	RowPctSum
2012	3,297	20.2	5.0	63,977	19.8	95.0	66,274	19.8	100.0
2013	3,147	19.3	4.7	63,497	19.9	95.3	66,644	19.9	100.0
2014	3,317	20.3	4.9	63,975	20.1	95.1	67,292	20.1	100.0
2015	3,251	19.9	4.8	64,063	20.1	95.2	67,314	20.1	100.0
2016	3,328	20.4	4.9	63,910	20.1	95.1	67,238	20.1	100.0
<b>Total</b>	16,340	100.0	4.9	318,422	100.0	95.1	334,762	100.0	100.0

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

## Key

1. 20.2 percent of low birth weight births happened in 2012 (3,297 out of 16,340)
2. Percent sum of the data of the column
3. 5.0 percent of births in 2012 were low birth weight (3,297 out of 66,274 births)
4. Percent sum of the data of the row
5. From this table, you can answer the question, “Did low birth weight increase or decrease for births in the past five years?” These data show that the percentages have remained fairly stable over the past five years: just below 5 percent of births are low birth weight.

## Advice

- **Start simply:** Do simple queries. Start with one or two variables (e.g., births by year, birth rates by counties). Compare your results with publications from the Center for Health Statistics to see if you get the same results (i.e., County Health Tables include birth rates and death rates)
- **Contact Center staff for assistance:** You can contact the [Minnesota Center for Health Statistics](#), or find specific staff under “Vital Statistics/County Health Tables” at: [Minnesota Center for Health Statistics: About Us](#).

## MN Public Health Data Access Portal

**Online:** [MN Public Health Data Access Portal](#)

Goal: To quickly get users to the data they need. Especially intended for local public health partners in Minnesota. Integrate environmental hazard, exposure, and health data and surveillance (esp. chronic disease), develop nationally consistent indicators, track trends over time and space, provide accessible risk information data to stakeholders, inform actions that promote healthy communities.

- **Format:** Interactive charts, maps, county profiles, data queries, downloads (JPGs coming soon); custom data request form; technical assistance; information on data sources, etc.
- **Updated:** Annually (dates vary by topic)
- **Data available:** 26 topics, including environmental hazards, exposures, and health; county and sub-county data (zip code, census tract)
- **Data not available:** Tribal health data, All-Payer Claims Database data, built environment, overdose, suicide, mental health data

Background/context/about: [MN Environmental Public Health Tracking](#)

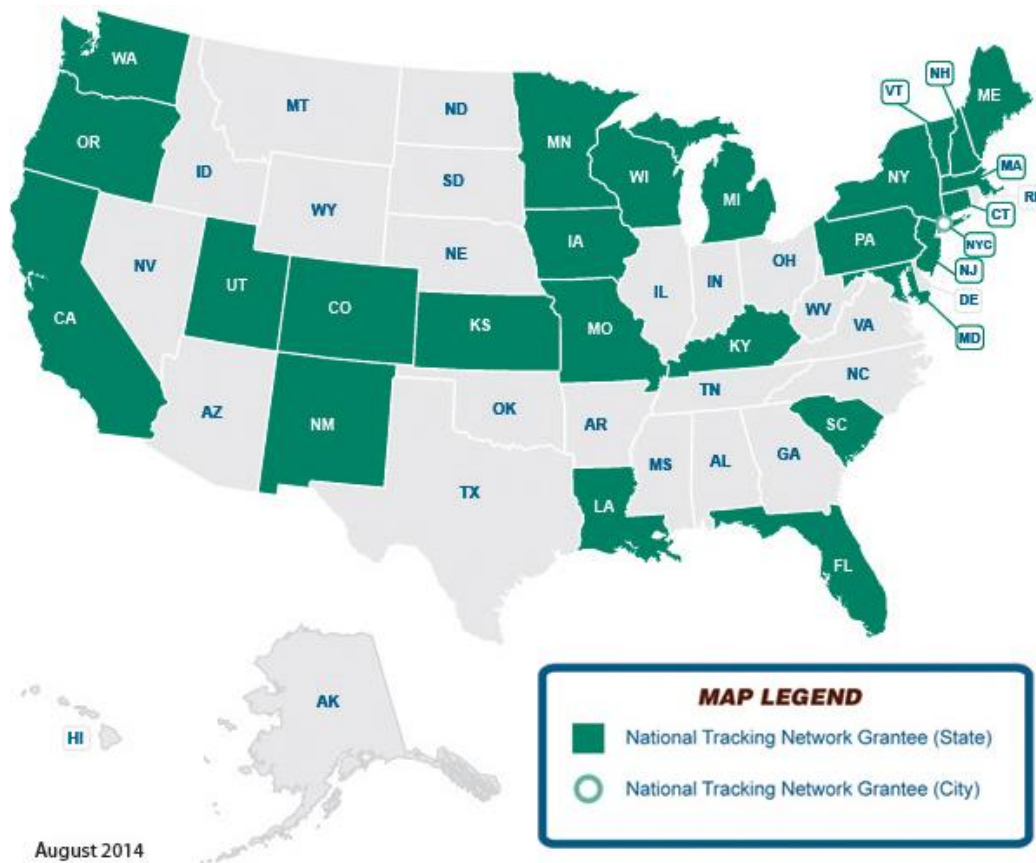
Custom data requests (zip codes, age groupings, years): [Contact Us](#)

## Tracking in Action: Minnesota

Provides examples of how various stakeholders have used data to motivate policy/programming change: [Tracking in Action: Minnesota](#)

## CDC’s National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program

Minnesota is one of 26 state/local health departments participating in a nationwide effort to achieve this. The national portal ([CDC Tracking Network](#)) has some good state/county environmental indicators that Minnesota does not.



## Minnesota Student Survey

Online: [Minnesota Student Survey](#)

- Statewide survey of students in public, charter, tribal schools (grades 5, 8, 9, 11; districts can add additional grades if desired), alternative learning situations, juvenile correctional facilities; private schools are invited to participate, but their data are not combined with public school data
- Administered every three years since 1989 under partnership of Minnesota Departments of Education, Human Services, Health, Public Safety
- Topics covered include demographics, school climate, attendance, health status, nutrition, physical activity, substance use, mental health, gambling, sexual behavior, bullying
- One of the few sources we have in Minnesota on the health of school-age children

## Available Resources (PDF)

- **Reports:** Specific topics (e.g., tobacco, tanning, etc.), overall findings, trends, health equity
- **Tables:** Statewide, regional, county (note: when accessing tables based on race, “alone” means students checked one race only,” and “alone or in combination with other groups” means students checked the indicated race in addition to other race/ethnicity categories)
- **Minnesota Student Survey Selected Single-Year Results (MSS SY):** A set of tables showing state-, county-, and community health board-level single year results over time for selected questions from the survey for 1998-2016. These results are based on students in regular public schools. These

tables include the results for counties with one participating school district. See: [Minnesota Student Survey Selected Single-Year Results](#)

## Minnesota County-Level Indicators for Community Health Assessment

Online: [Minnesota County-level Indicators for Community Health Assessment](#)

- Intended to assist local public health agencies and community health boards with community health assessment and community health improvement planning
- Indicators from various data sources, covering multiple public health categories
- **Local agencies are not required to use these specific indicators for assessment and planning**, nor are the indicators intended to represent the **only** measures that local agencies might examine to complete assessment and planning
- Organized by 2012 Statewide Health Assessment themes: People and Place, Opportunity for Health, Healthy Living

MDH suggests you print the County-Level Indicators document to make it easier to refer back and forth between data sets.

## Local Adult Health Behavior Surveys

All counties/community health boards have conducted probability sample health behavior surveys of their adult populations. These data are generally not online. For more information on these or for additional analysis (in addition to what you have already received), contact the [Minnesota Center for Health Statistics](#).

## Other Data Resources

- [Minnesota Injury Data Access System \(MIDAS\)](#), MDH
- [Drug Overdose Deaths among Minnesota Residents, 2000-2016](#), MDH
- [Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\) Program: Reports & Data](#), MDH
- [Minnesota Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System](#), MDH
- [Minnesota Student Survey Reports 2013-2016](#), Minnesota Dept. of Education  
(note: you can find district-level Minnesota Student Survey results here)
- [CDC Tracking Network: Data Explorer](#)
- [Minnesota Compass: Geographic Profiles](#)
- [Minnesota Maps](#), Minnesota Dept. of Transportation
- [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)
- [US News: Healthiest Communities](#)