

NATIONAL  
HEALTH CARE  
*for the*  
HOMELESS  
COUNCIL

# **Learning About Homelessness and Health in Your Community: A Data Resource Guide**



2011

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page Number
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	2
<b>POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS</b>	3
State and Local	
State, County and City	
<b>HOMELESS POPULATIONS</b>	4
Estimating the Homeless Population	
Barriers to Counting Homeless Populations	
National Data on Homeless Persons and Service Providers	
State and Local Data Sources on Homelessness	
Veterans	
Rural Poverty & Homelessness	
<b>HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS</b>	8
General Health Status Indicators, Insurance, and Health Service Use	
Children and Families	
Behavioral Risk Factors	
Vital Statistics	
Substance Abuse	
Disease-Specific	
American Indian Health	
Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, & Other Pacific Islanders	
Homelessness and Health	
<b>HEALTH WORKFORCE AND SERVICE UTILIZATION</b>	13
National and State Data	
Health Workforce	
Health Professional Shortage Areas (and MUA/MUP)	
Primary Care Service Area Project	
<b>HOUSING</b>	15
Wages and Rents	
Subsidized Households	
<b>CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES</b>	16
Health	
Housing	
Homelessness and Health	
<b>ACRONYMS</b>	19

## INTRODUCTION

---

This resource guide is intended to assist those who work to meet the health care needs of homeless people in their communities. It will be particularly useful to those who are preparing funding applications for the federal Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) or other Consolidated Health Center programs. It will also be of interest to other advocates, researchers and service providers.

The resources cited in this document are available free of charge to the public on the Internet. Readers with limited Internet access may wish to contact government agencies or departments listed here directly for print publications.

Information about homelessness and health is plentiful. There is not much information about the intersection of the two, however, particularly at the local level, where services are designed and delivered. At best, this guide will point the reader to resources that may exist. We welcome recommendations from readers to improve the guide. Please contact us at [council@nhchc.org](mailto:council@nhchc.org) to submit suggestions.

Production of this Data Resource Guide was supported through a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, Inc.

National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
PO Box 60427  
Nashville TN 37206-0427

[council@nhchc.org](mailto:council@nhchc.org)  
615/226-2292

March 2011

## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

---

This section includes sources of data about state and local conditions that may directly affect homelessness in your community, including statistics on poverty, employment patterns, and housing.

### State and Local

- U.S. Census data provides information on economic characteristics (poverty, income, employment, etc.), general population, housing occupancy and tenure, and social characteristics. Also known as the American FactFinder, this user-friendly site can be found at <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>. Note: Census publications related to population can be accessed through <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/titles.html>, including several documents on poverty and health insurance coverage in the U.S. A comprehensive list of all U.S. Census resources can be found at [http://library.wlu.edu/research/government/fed\\_census.asp](http://library.wlu.edu/research/government/fed_census.asp).

### State, County, and City

- The U.S. Census provides information specific to states and counties, as well as cities and towns with populations over 25,000. County and City Data Books are also available from the Census website. This site includes data on demographic characteristics, such as income and poverty, and information on crime, housing, health and vital statistics, labor force, environment, and government programs. To access this information, visit <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/>.

---

## HOMELESS POPULATIONS

---

This section describes methods (and related barriers) for counting homeless populations, as well as national data sources describing homeless populations. It also points to potential sources for state and local data.

### Estimating the Homeless Population

- The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) published a guide entitled: *Estimating the Need: Projecting from Point-in-Time to Annual Estimates of the Number of Homeless People in a Community and Using this Information to Plan for Permanent Supportive Housing*. The authors suggest the guide is designed “to help communities that want or need to do three different but related things: 1) calculate an expected number of homeless people over a year’s time when you only have data from a point-in-time (PIT) count; 2) use both PIT information and projections to annual levels of homelessness to figure out how many chronically homeless people you are likely to have, now and in the future; and 3) plan and develop appropriate levels of permanent supportive housing...” This document can be found at: [http://documents.csh.org/documents/pubs/csh\\_estimatingneed.pdf](http://documents.csh.org/documents/pubs/csh_estimatingneed.pdf).

### Barriers to Counting Homeless Populations

People move in and out of homelessness, and people who are unstably housed often do not wish to be identified as homeless, so good data about homeless people as a group is hard to develop. These resources delineate many of the barriers confronting those interested in counting homeless populations.

- For a general overview of complications involved in counting people who are homeless, see the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH)’s fact sheet, *How Many People Experience Homelessness?*, at [http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/How\\_Many.html](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/How_Many.html) (updated July 2009).

### National Data on Homeless Persons and Service Providers

These resources represent various efforts to describe homeless populations and/or the people and programs who serve them, at the national level.

- The Homeless Resource Exchange (HRE) – HUD’s “online one-stop shop” for resources relating to homelessness – provides numerous publications, research reports, toolkits, manuals, online training modules, and fact sheets to assist constituents in better serving the people who are experiencing homelessness. Users can locate resources by searching for them by topic, target audience, or resource type. These resources, including a guidebook on participation and utilization of the *Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR)*, are available through the HRE website, <http://www.hudhre.info>.
- The Homelessness Research Institute is one branch of the National Alliance to End Homelessness that provides many useful fact sheets, research reports, and online tools regarding homelessness. The “Interactive Tools + Solutions” section of the website is

particularly helpful, as it provides various interactive tools covering topics relating to homelessness, such as cost saving with supportive housing, multi-year homeless count maps, and highest CoC homeless populations and rates. These tools are available online: [http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/about\\_homelessness/interactive\\_tools\\_solutions](http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/about_homelessness/interactive_tools_solutions).

- The *2009 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress* can be downloaded from <http://www.huduser.org/publications/pdf/5thHomelessAssessmentReport.pdf> (published June 2010). The report uses HMIS data and Continuum of Care data to describe patterns of shelter and transitional housing use among people who are homeless, as well as the nation's capacity for housing people unstably housed individuals.
- All Bureau of Primary Health Care-supported health services (including Health Care for the Homeless grantees) provide annual data using the Uniform Data System (UDS). State and regional "rollups" of UDS data are also available (see <http://www.hrsa.gov/data-statistics/health-center-data/index.html>). A variety of demographic characteristics, selected diagnoses, staffing, and service utilization variables are collected from each site. Numbers on homeless users can be extracted and their characteristics cited as a national sample on such items as percent uninsured, poverty level, and housing status.
- The United States Conference of Mayors publishes an annual status report on homelessness and hunger. This report presents the results of a survey of the 27 cities that comprise the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness. Respondents were asked to provide information on emergency food assistance and homeless services provided between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2009. Visit <http://www.usmayors.org/pressreleases/uploads/USCMHungercompleteWEB2009.pdf>.

### **State and Local Data Sources on Homelessness**

Many communities have developed estimates of the number of people who are experiencing homelessness and have compiled some information about the characteristics and needs of people who are homeless in their area. Likely sources of local information include:

- In 2009, the National Center on Family Homelessness published *America's Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness* to provide comprehensive data on the worsening problem of child homelessness in the United States. The *Report Card* provides state-specific information on the factors contributing to child homelessness. The four factors considered in this report are: extent of child homelessness (adjusted for population size), child well-being, structural risk factors, and state-by-state policy and planning efforts. An overview of the national findings can be viewed at <http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/findings.php>. The full report is available to order for \$15 or can be downloaded online free of charge.
- A Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a software application designed to record and store client-level information on the characteristics and service needs of people who are homeless. HMIS implementation presents communities with an opportunity to re-examine how homeless services are provided in their community, to make informed decisions, and to

develop appropriate action steps. Implementation of HMIS systems varies from community to community. To access HMIS Implementing Jurisdictions by state go to:

<http://www.hmis.info/Communities/>. To access other technical assistance documents on HMIS data, visit the resource library at <http://www.hmis.info>.

- *Local Homeless Coalitions.* The National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) maintains an online directory of state and local (community or county) Homeless and Housing Advocacy coalitions: [http://www.nationalhomeless.org/directories/directory\\_local.pdf](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/directories/directory_local.pdf).
- *Local Continua of Care.* Homeless services are frequently funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which requires a community planning process. Contact your local HUD office for information; contact information for the location nearest you can be found in the directory at <http://www.hud.gov/localoffices.cfm>.
- *Local government.* Mayor's offices, health departments, city councils or county commissions, social services authorities and housing bodies have been known to conduct studies of homelessness in their communities. The National Association of Counties (NACo) collects information on counties, such as county officials, courthouse addresses, county seats, cities within a county, as well as various statistical and geographical information. To see a listing of the counties for a state or search for a particular county, go to the "About Counties" section of <http://www.naco.org/>.
- *Local universities.* Academics at local universities may have collected local data on relevant topics and/or be aware of other community-level data resources.
- *Newspaper archives.* Newspapers maintain files on important issues and may provide leads to information about homelessness.
- *Homeless persons.* Services should never be developed in isolation from those who will be served. Key informants can help define what data should be sought and can help to evaluate the data that are found. (Note: Many communities have homeless-sponsored street newspapers, which can provide a sense of issues important to people who are homeless in your area. For a current directory of homeless street newspapers, see <http://www.homeless.org.au/directory/news.htm>)
- *Homeless service providers.* See section on "Contact Information for Additional Resources."

## **Veterans**

- The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) is the resource and technical assistance center for a national network of community-based service providers and local, state and federal agencies that provide emergency and supportive housing, food, health services, job training and placement assistance, legal aid and case management support for hundreds of thousands of veterans who are experiencing homelessness each year. This site provides factual information on topics such as the prevalence of homelessness among veterans, policy and

legislation, supportive housing, and advocating for homeless veterans. Information on these topics, as well as other valuable resources, is available at <http://www.nchv.org>. For information on the number of homeless veterans by state go to: <http://www.nchv.org/background.cfm>.

### Rural Homelessness & Poverty

- The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) is a nonprofit agency that aims to improve housing conditions for the rural poor through providing technical assistance, loans, training, and information to public, nonprofit, and private organizations throughout the rural United States. HAC maintains a Rural Housing Data Portal which can be accessed online at <http://216.92.48.246/dataportal2010/>. This informational tool allows users to access state- and county-specific information on various categories relating to rural housing and economic factors. Searchable topics include, but are not limited to: population counts, age and education characteristics, race and ethnicity, basic housing quality characteristics, labor force and income, poverty, housing affordability, and household crowding. Maps of data are also available on the site.
- Through the rural homelessness section of its website, the National Alliance to End Homelessness provides numerous valuable resources, including webinars, fact sheets, reports, and media clips, all relating to the often overlooked issues of rural poverty and homelessness. Featured among these resources is *Geography of Homelessness*; this report is a culmination of a multi-part series examining the geography of homelessness and examines the following major topics: Defining the Spectrum of Homelessness, Homelessness by Geographic Category, Prevalence of Homelessness, Urban Homelessness, and Homeless Assistance System - Bed Inventory. The report may be accessed at: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/3001>. Other informational resources can be found at: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/issues/rural>.
- Stemming from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Rural Initiative, the Rural Assistance Center (RAC) acts as a rural health and human services "information portal." Many rural homelessness resources and publications can be found by visiting the "Information Guides" section of the RAC website, <http://www.raconline.org/>, and selecting "Housing and Homelessness" from the alphabetical list of topics.
- For the 2007 National Symposium on Homelessness Research, Marjorie Robertson and her colleagues developed a paper addressing rural homelessness. The paper summarizes what is documented to date about the characteristics of people who are homeless in rural areas and examines whether rural homelessness and the service approaches to address it can be differentiated from urban homelessness. The authors identify gaps in current knowledge about rural homelessness and recommend new directions for research. The paper is available online at: <http://www.huduser.org/portal/publications/homeless/p8.html>.



## HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS

---

This section includes health status indicators and data on risk factors at the national, state, and local levels. These can be helpful in identifying disparities in health and health services in your community which may have an impact on your homeless population.

### General Health Status Indicators, Insurance, and Health Service Use

- The Kaiser Family Foundation website maintains a searchable database of “State Health Facts” which includes national comparison data at [www.statehealthfacts.org](http://www.statehealthfacts.org). A wide variety of variables are categorized into the following general areas: Demographics and the Economy, Health Costs and Budgets, Health Coverage and Uninsured, Health Insurance and Managed Care, Health Status, HIV/AIDS, Medicaid and CHIP, Medicare, Minority Health, Providers and Service Use, and Women’s Health.
- *America’s Health Rankings* is provided by the United Health Foundation. The purpose of the rankings is to stimulate action by individuals, elected officials, health care professionals, employers, and communities to improve the health of the population of the United States. This report looks at the four groups of health determinants that can be affected: behaviors, community and environment, public and health policies and clinical care. The latest report may be accessed at: <http://www.americashealthrankings.org/>.
- *Health, United States* presents national trends in health statistics on such as birth and death rates, infant mortality, life expectancy, morbidity and health status, risk factors, use of ambulatory and inpatient care, health personnel and facilities, financing of health care, health insurance and managed care, and other health topics. The report includes a chartbook and trend tables. To access the 2010 report, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/metro.htm>.
- The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) provides reports of a wide variety of health status indicators for every county in the nation. Existing data resources are used, primarily from the CDC, NCHS, U.S. Census Bureau, EPA, HRSA’s Area Resource File, HRSA’s Bureau of Primary Health Care, and SAMHSA. Titled the Community Health Status Indicators Project, this data (updated in 2009) is available at <http://www.communityhealth.hhs.gov/homepage.aspx?j=1>.
- The *County Health Rankings* are a key component of the Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH) project, a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. The County Health Rankings website (<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>) provides access to the 50 state reports, ranking each county within the 50 states according to its health outcomes and the multiple health factors that determine a county’s health. Each county receives a summary rank for its health outcomes and health factors and also for the four different types of health factors: health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment. Each county can also drill down to see specific county-level data (as well as state benchmarks) for the measures upon which the rankings are based.

## Children and Families

- The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics develops and publishes an annual report, *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being*, that contains a wealth of information on factors contributing to a child's well-being. The 2010 report measures well-being based on these indicators: family and social environment, economic circumstances, health care, physical environment and safety, behavior, education, and health. The most recent report can be accessed online at <http://www.childstats.gov>.
- The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau operates an Information Resource Center, <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/data>, that provides data and publications on indicators of maternal and child health. For example, *Women's Health USA 2010* (Women's Health USA website is located at <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/mchirc/whusa/>; 2010 report can be found at <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/whusa10/index.html>) includes current and historical data on some of the most pressing health challenges facing women and their families. Data on health and health-related indicators are organized into three categories: population characteristics, health status (including health behaviors, health indicators, women and aging, and maternal health), and health services utilization. In *Child Health USA 2010*, (website located at <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/mchirc/chusa/>; 2010 report can be found at <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/chusa10/index.html>) one can find population characteristics, health status of infants, children and adolescents, health services utilization, state and city-level data, and maternal and child health measures and goals.
- The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) website includes statistics, data, research and publications on children and families, including adoption and foster care statistics, child abuse statistics, child care research and data, child welfare data, community services block grant program statistics, Head Start Bureau Statistical Fact Sheets (2004-2010), Office of Refugee Resettlement data and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) data and reports. Go to [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/acf\\_policy\\_planning.html#stats](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/acf_policy_planning.html#stats) for these and other resources from the ACF.
- KIDS COUNT is a national and state-by-state statistical effort to track the status of children in the United States sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Go to <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/> to see the latest KIDS COUNT Data Book and Online Database. State-level data for over 100 measures of child well-being are available at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/Default.aspx>
- The National Center on Family Homelessness has prepared a series of fact sheets about the issues facing homeless children and families. You can find these and other useful resources at <http://www.familyhomelessness.org/facts.php?p=sm>.

### Behavioral Risk Factors

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conduct an annual survey of behavioral risk factors in the United States. Their searchable database of results from the *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System* is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss>. Data by county on health risk factors such as use of tobacco and alcohol, hypertension, cholesterol levels, diabetes, physical fitness, (for women) breast exams, mammograms and pap smears, and (for seniors) immunizations for influenza and pneumonia. The system also includes data on health care access and utilization.
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)'s Office of Applied Studies (OAS) provides national estimates on mental health problems. As of 2001, state-level estimates on mental health measures are available. Such data includes maps showing the prevalence ranks by states. Access the data and other reports at: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/mh.cfm>.
- The National Alliance on Mental Illness's *Grading the States (2009)* builds on the baseline of NAMI's first report released in 2006. *Grading the States* measures each state's progress—or lack of progress—in providing evidence-based, cost-effective, recovery-oriented services for adults living with serious mental illnesses. The report also contains policies and state-by-state recommendations for transforming the mental health challenges revealed in the document. The report can be found at: [http://www.nami.org/gtsTemplate09.cfm?Section=Grading\\_the\\_States\\_2009](http://www.nami.org/gtsTemplate09.cfm?Section=Grading_the_States_2009).

### Vital Statistics

- For national and state data on vital statistics, including birth, mortality, fetal deaths, marriages and divorces, visit the National Vital Statistics System website at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss.htm>. You can also find contact information for obtaining Vital Records in your state.
- The Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) contains data on specific diseases as reported by state and territorial health departments and reports on infectious and chronic diseases, environmental hazards, natural or human-generated disasters, occupational diseases and injuries, and intentional and unintentional injuries. Also included are reports on topics of international interest and notices of events of interest to the public health community. These reports are available at [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr\\_wk.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_wk.html).

### Substance Abuse

- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Office of Applied Studies provides recent national data on 1) alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other drug abuse; 2) drug related Emergency Department episodes and medical examiner cases; and 3) the nation's substance abuse treatment system at <http://oas.samhsa.gov/>.
- The Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Programs funded by SAMHSA provide services to people with serious mental illness, including those with co-

occurring substance use disorders, who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. Organizations that receive PATH funds submit an annual PATH Report. The PATH Report includes information about funding, staffing, enrollment, services, and demographics. Some states and providers use their PATH data to advocate for funding from other funding sources. State-level information since 2001 is available and may be sorted by state and year. To access state level data go to:

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Path/ProgramInformation.aspx>.

- The Join Together organization has compiled the *How Do We Know We Are Making A Difference? A Community Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Indicators Handbook*. They describe the document as a “guide to assist community leaders in using indicator reporting programs to identify their most important local substance use problems, focus their community prevention and treatment strategies, and measure the results of new policies and programs.” It is presented as a guide to help communities develop indicators, information collected by an organization and other local data that describes the scope and nature of local substance abuse problems. These indicators “inform your target audiences about substance use trends in your community, helping to paint a broad picture of the local impact of these problems.” To download a pdf version or order a print copy of the handbook, see <http://indicatorshandbook.org/getbook.html>. An interactive website tool provides a companion piece to the handbook, <http://www.indicatorshandbook.org/>.

### Disease-Specific

- See the HCH Clinicians’ Network’s *Adapting Your Practice* series for information about a number of health problems commonly experienced by homeless people, including diabetes, asthma, chlamydial and gonococcal infections (STDs), otitis media, HIV/AIDS, and cardiovascular diseases (hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and heart failure). See the introduction and reference sections of each adapted clinical guideline for prevalence data in surveyed populations who are unstably housed at <http://www.nhchc.org/clinicalpracticeguidelines.html>.
- See also *The Health Care of Homeless Persons: A Manual of Communicable Diseases & Common Problems in Shelters & on the Street*, <http://www.bhchp.org/BHCHP%20Manual/index.html>, published by the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council in June 2004. This publication contains a wealth of information (including some prevalence data) about a variety of diseases for which people experiencing homelessness are at disproportionately high risk. Individual chapters are available online for download at no charge.
- *HIV/AIDS*: <http://www.hab.hrsa.gov>. The Ryan White CARE Act provides resources to states, high impact localities, and agencies to improve care for low-income, uninsured, and underinsured individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. The Health Resources and Services Administration’s HIV/AIDS Bureau website has various reports and studies of interest, and visitors may search for client, provider, and service data by city and state as well. Homeless-specific data are referenced in this publication by the National Health Care for the

Homeless Council: *Adapting Your Practice: Treatment and Recommendations for Homeless Patients with HIV/AIDS*, 2008, <http://www.nhchc.org/HIVguide2008.pdf>.

- *Tuberculosis*: TB Surveillance data and statistics are available at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/surv/default.htm>. (Note: TB data are available by housing status.)
- *STDs/STIs*: The *Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Surveillance Report*, which includes national profiles as well as state and area statistics, can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats>. A complete listing of data and statistics available from the CDC can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/scientific.htm>. See also *Treatment and Recommendations for Homeless Patients with Chlamydial or Gonococcal Infections*, December 2008, by the HCH Clinicians' Network, <http://www.nhchc.org/Publications/STI123108.pdf>. Data about people who are experiencing homelessness with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are cited in the Introduction and Bibliography.

### **American Indian Health**

- The Indian Health Service maintains a variety of information and statistics on American Indian health. See the IHS website, <http://www.ihs.gov/>, for a listing of current resources. Also available are tables and charts pertaining to the IHS structure, American Indian and Alaska Native demography, patient care, and community health are included. Historical trends are depicted, and regional differences to other population groups are made, when appropriate. Reports for 2002-2003 are currently available and may be accessed at: [http://www.ihs.gov/NonMedicalPrograms/IHS\\_Stats/](http://www.ihs.gov/NonMedicalPrograms/IHS_Stats/).
- The National Council of Urban Indian Health Knowledge Resource Center website contains information and resources on Urban Indian communities in the U.S. In the Research section on the website, one will find reports generated by the Urban Indian Health Institute, reports and data from federal agencies, and state and local data. The website provides a wide range of health topics, and also includes information on community health information: [http://www.ihs.gov/generalweb/webcomponents/misc/ihs\\_disclaimer.cfm?link\\_out=http://www.ncuih.org](http://www.ihs.gov/generalweb/webcomponents/misc/ihs_disclaimer.cfm?link_out=http://www.ncuih.org).

### **Asian American, Native Hawaiians, & Other Pacific Islanders**

- The Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) is a national association of community health organizations committed to promoting advocacy, collaboration and leadership to improve the health and access to care of Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders (AA&NHOP). AAPCHO offers a directory of AA&NHOP public use health data. The database currently contains 90 online references, sorted into topics ranging from cancer statistics to mortality rates. Each reference contains a short description of the data, the geography and time by which it covers, and the organization posting the data. Disaggregated AA&NHOP data is also provided. <http://www.aapcho.org/site/aapcho/section.php?id=10973>

## HEALTH WORKFORCE AND SERVICE UTILIZATION

---

### National and State Data

- Visit the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) website at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs> to access data sets and publications from the national surveys they conduct; many of the data are available at state and/or regional levels. The National Health Care Surveys include information from a variety of health care provider surveys about the facilities that supply health care, the services rendered, and characteristics of patients served. Components of the National Health Care Surveys include the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, the National Survey of Ambulatory Surgery, the National Hospital Discharge Survey, the National Nursing Home Survey, the National Home and Hospice Care Survey, and the National Survey of Residential Care Facilities. Other surveys conducted through the NCHS include the National Health Interview Survey, the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, the National Survey of Family Growth, the National Immunization Survey, and the State and Local Area Integrated Telephone Survey.
- HCUPnet is part of the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). HCUPnet provides access to health statistics and information on hospital inpatient and emergency department utilization. Statistics are generated using data from HCUP's Nationwide Inpatient Sample (NIS), the Kids' Inpatient Database (KID), the State Inpatient Databases (SID) and the State Emergency Department Databases (SEDD). HCUPnet also provides statistics based on the AHRQ Quality Indicators (QIs). The information may be found at <http://hcupnet.ahrq.gov/HCUPnet.jsp>.
- The National Association of Community Health Centers, <http://www.nachc.com>, provides numerous informational resources, including key health center data by state. For each state, data “displays total grantees, delivery sites, patients, encounters, FTEs, percent Medicaid, percent uninsured, and percent Medicare.” Also included in state-specific resources are fact sheets that provide a brief description of what health centers are, and the most recent state-level data available for health center patients, services provided, staff, patient visits, and costs of care, and maps that illustrate key health center data. To access this information, visit <http://www.nachc.com/state-healthcare-data-list.cfm>.

### Health Workforce

- The Bureau of Health Professions provides the Area Resource File (ARF), available at <http://arf.hrsa.gov/index.htm>. This is a comprehensive county-specific health resources information system containing information on health facilities, health professions, measures of resource scarcity, health status, economic activity, health training programs, and socioeconomic and environmental characteristics. The basic file contains more than 6,000 variables for each of the nation's counties; data are collected from more than 50 sources.

**Health Professional Shortage Areas (and MUA/MUP)**

- To search databases on Health Professional Shortage Areas at state and county levels, including databases on Medically Underserved Areas (MUA) and Medically Underserved Populations (MUP), visit <http://www.bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/index.htm>.

**Primary Care Service Area Project**

- The goal of the Primary Care Service Area (PCSA) Project is to provide information about primary care resources and populations within small standardized areas that reflect patients' utilization patterns. The most recent PCSA can be downloaded here: <http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/datadownload.aspx>.

## HOUSING

---

### Wages and Rents

- Search for Fair Market Rent (FMR) data in your state or county at <http://www.huduser.org/datasets/fmr.html>. FMRs determine the eligibility of rental housing units for the Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments program. Other publications and additional datasets are available through this website.
- *Out of Reach* is a side-by-side comparison of wages and rents in every county, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), combined nonmetropolitan area, and state in the U.S. The 2010 data is available at <http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2010/>. For each jurisdiction, the report calculates the amount of money a household must earn in order to afford to a rental unit in a range of sizes (0, 1, 2, 3, and 4 bedrooms) at the area's Fair Market Rent (FMR), based on the generally accepted affordability standard of paying no more than 30% of income for housing costs. From these calculations, the hourly wage a worker must earn to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom home is derived. This figure is the Housing Wage.
- Determine your state and/or city's universal living wage at <http://www.universallivingwage.org> – go to the ULW: State/City link in the sidebar menu.
- View the Section 8 Income Limits set by HUD each year at <http://www.huduser.org/datasets/il.html>.

### Subsidized Households

- This website describes nearly five million subsidized households across the United States: <http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/assthsq.html>. It includes, at the state and national level: Public Housing; Housing Choice Vouchers; Section 8 Project-Based Housing; New Construction and Substantial Rehabilitation; and the Section 202 and 811 Supportive Housing Programs.
- The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) provides documents to introduce policy makers, public agency administrators, provider staff, and others to evidence on the effectiveness of supportive housing. The CSH Research and Evaluation section of the website has information on recent research on supportive housing, the effectiveness of systems change initiatives to increase and integrate funding for supportive housing, and the impact of supportive housing for different populations, including families and individuals leaving jail and prison. Links to several documents to assist in accessing the most recent research, or to conduct one's own research, are available. All documents may be accessed at: <http://www.csh.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageid=4452&parentID=10>



---

## CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

---

### HEALTH

#### **State Health Departments**

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) website provides links to the state health department and other health-related websites within your state; the site also includes statewide strategic plans. Connect to these resources by going to <http://www.astho.org> and selecting your state from the drop-down menu under “Find Your State Health Agency.”

#### **County and City Health Department**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NAACHO) website offers a free collection of local public health tools produced by members of the public health community. A toolbox contains materials and resources that public health professionals and other external stakeholders can use to inform and improve their work in the promotion and advancement of public health objectives. Current examples of tools include, but are not limited to case examples, presentations, fact sheets, drills, evaluations, protocols, templates, reports, and training materials. Find the toolbox and other resources at <http://www.naccho.org/>.

#### **Medicare and Medicaid Services**

Search for contact information on Medicare and Medicaid services, as well as other health and human services organizations, in your state or region at <http://www.cms.gov/apps/contacts/>.

#### **Boards of Nursing**

Find contact information for your state’s Board of Nursing through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc., website, <https://www.ncsbn.org/index.htm>.

#### **Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities**

Locate drug and alcohol abuse treatment facilities nearest you by going to <http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>.

#### **Indian Health Service**

The Indian Health Service website includes a comprehensive Indian Health Service Directory at <http://www.ihs.gov/AdminMngrResources/EmployeeServInfo/StaffDirectories/index.cfm>.

#### **Primary Care for Underserved Populations**

To locate contact information and descriptions of service delivery sites of the Bureau of Primary Health Care which are providing primary care to underserved populations—including HCH clinics, community health centers, migrant health centers, as well as enabling services—in your town, go to [http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/GoogleSearch\\_HCC.aspx](http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/GoogleSearch_HCC.aspx).

See also a directory listing, organized by state, of Health Care for the Homeless clinics across the United States at <http://www.nhchc.org/HCHdirectory.html>.

## HOUSING

### Section 8 Properties

Search for low-rent properties by state/city at <http://www.hud.gov/apps/section8/index.cfm>.

### Public Housing Agencies

For local public housing agency contact information, go to <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/pha/contacts/index.cfm>.

### Continuum of Care

Useful information on locating shelters in different states through the state is available at <http://www.hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewCocContacts>.

### National Low Income Housing Coalition

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) is dedicated solely to achieving socially just public policy that assures people with the lowest incomes in the United States have affordable and decent homes. NLIHC State contacts are available at <http://www.nlihc.org/partners/map.cfm>.

### Advocacy Groups

A directory of state and local Homeless and Housing Advocacy coalitions is maintained by the National Coalition for the Homeless, <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/directories/index.html>. The 2010 edition is available directly at [http://www.nationalhomeless.org/directories/directory\\_advocacy.pdf](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/directories/directory_advocacy.pdf).

### Homeless and Emergency Services

A variety of information on housing and homeless services and resources in your state and community can be located via the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) website. Visit <http://www.hud.gov/local/index.cfm>, select your state, then select “Find Homeless Resources” under the “I Want to” subject heading. Typical information includes contact information for shelters and emergency housing, rental assistance programs, food and clothing resources, health care (e.g. hospitals, affordable health care, detox centers), jobs and training, and legal assistance services.

Find out how much has been spent in your state or county by emergency food and shelter programs funded through the United Way at: <http://www.efsp.unitedway.org>. You can also identify organizations who have recently received funds for emergency food and shelter.

## HOMELESSNESS AND HEALTH

### National Organizations

- The National Health Care for the Homeless Council’s website, <http://www.nhchc.org>, includes a wide range of resources— publications, newsletters, videos, research, training

curricula and opportunities, policy and advocacy materials— relevant to work and advocacy in the field of homelessness and health care.

- The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty’s website includes information about income, housing, homelessness and poverty in America at <http://www.nlchp.org/publications.cfm>.
- The Homelessness Resource Center, <http://www.nrchmi.samhsa.gov/Default.aspx>, offers resources including publications, annotated bibliographies, and information on issues related to homelessness and mental illness.

## ACRONYMS

---

ACF	Administration for Children and Families
BPHC	Bureau of Primary Health Care
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
HAB	HIV/AIDS Bureau
HCH	Health Care for the Homeless
HMIS	Homeless Management Information Systems
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
HIS	Indian Health Service
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
NCH	National Coalition for the Homeless
NHCHC	National Health Care for the Homeless Council
NLCHP	National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
NLIHC	National Low Income Housing Coalition
NRCHMI	National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration