

Top Online Sources for Indiana Statistics: Recommendations from the Indiana State Library

By: Katharine Springer

Have you ever been number-stumped? Think for a moment about the latest statistical question or data request you received at your library. Did you or your colleagues know where to search for the information? How long did you feel stuck (if you did) and where did the answer finally appear? Not to worry — plenty of options exist for locating the data your library patrons need! Keep the resources below in mind whether you're an academic librarian looking for the latest population data for a certain Indiana city, a public librarian helping a patron with business research, or a school librarian helping a student with statistics for a paper. Link these resources to your library's website for quick access to data about Indiana. They are authoritative, reliable online resources by governmental and non-governmental organizations appropriate for all levels of library users. This article lists and annotates the top online sources for Indiana statistics. Further detailed statistical information is available from Indiana depository libraries and the Indiana State Library State Library Data Center at www.in.gov/library/isdc.htm.

**Stats Indiana, www.stats.indiana.edu/,
Indiana Business Research Center (IBRC)
and InContext, www.incontext.indiana.edu**

Stats Indiana is Indiana's premier portal to current statistical data at the state, county, township, and metro levels. It provides quick access to economic data such as income and earnings, property values, wages, bankruptcies, business activity, cost of living, and more. In the past year, the Stats Indiana website has undergone a makeover to make it easier to use. It is now divided into four main easy-to-navigate sections: Explore Profiles, Data by Topic, Data by Location, and Additional Resources, making it an excellent resource for patrons who want to perform their own research.

IN Depth Profiles provide basic Indiana data at the county level, along with comparisons to Indiana as a whole — population estimates and changes, educational enrollment and attainment, income and poverty, birth and death statistics, and employment. Data by Topic is a quick alphabetical guide to the topics requested most often. Use the Data by Location for Indiana cities and get population estimates for the last eight years and links to data on topics such as employment, home value, income, and poverty.

Under Stats Indiana, Additional Resources, the A to Z Data Guide leads to 'A to Z: An Alpha Guide to Economic and Demographic Data,' www.stats.indiana.edu/atozed.asp, which has over 150 searchable topics indexing and linking to online resources that provide direct data access. Additional Resources also features the Find Maps categories for Boundary, Thematic, and Interactive Maps, where the boundary maps include online maps of counties, townships, zip codes, library districts, and more. If you follow the Geography Tools link under Find Maps, you'll find the Every Place in Indiana spreadsheet. This contains all named places in Indiana (counties, cities, towns, Census Designated Places), both incorporated and unincorporated, along with geographic codes and coordinates.

For demographic, economic, and workforce news about Indiana, check out the IBRC publication *InContext*, published online every two months. Topics covered in the past include the economic impact of libraries in Indiana, Hispanics gaining population in Indiana, Indiana bank performance, and the Indiana housing market. You can subscribe using email, RSS, and/or Twitter using www.incontext.indiana.edu/notification.html.

American FactFinder, <http://factfinder.census.gov>, U.S. Census Bureau

For immediate access to data from Census 2000, the American Community Survey, and the Census Bureau's Population Estimates published each spring to the county-level, consult the American FactFinder on the Census Bureau's website. Under the grey bar 'Getting Detailed Data,' the links to 'Learn More' explain the differences between the decennial census (the 'historical snapshot of the nation') and the American Community Survey (ACS), the Census Bureau's ongoing confidential survey that produces annual population and housing estimates. Use the links to 'Get Data' to access all data tables. New in 2010, the first ACS 5-year estimates will be available for areas of less than 20,000 inhabitants. In 2009, the ACS 3-Year Estimates, were first published for geographic areas of 20,000 or greater. These compare to the ACS 1-year estimates which are published for geographic areas of only 65,000 or greater.

April 1, 2010 was the official Census Day for the decennial census. The U.S. Census is taken every ten years. The decennial census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution and collects information from every household in the United States, as compared to the ACS which collects information from only a sample of the population. This year, the 2010 Census will include 10 population and housing questions which will take about 10 minutes to answer. Visit Indiana's Census 2010 website for more information: www.census.indiana.edu/

From the American FactFinder home page, users can access Fact Sheets for any Indiana county, city/town, or zip code either at the top of the page under Fast Access to Information, or on the left bar under Fact Sheets. This resource features the latest population data available for an Indiana geographical area, broken down by race and Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, as well as social, economic, and housing characteristics. Information is available from the latest estimates of the ACS and Census 2000.

The Search feature on the top bar of American FactFinder is also very useful. Users can search for the most recent data from all U.S. Census Bureau programs for a particular Indiana geography.

Hoosiers by the Numbers, www.hoosierdata.in.gov/, Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Economy and workforce data is often requested by library users and is not always easy to identify; this is where Hoosiers by the Numbers is especially helpful. Use County Highlights to view graphics on population, education, commuting, labor force, industry, income, and firm size within Indiana counties. Use the Data by Region and Data by Topic menus (left sidebar) to narrow a data search. The Business Lookup Tool, built with information from infoUSA, allows users to search for Indiana businesses by economic growth region, (created by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development to determine areas of long range economic growth potential), county, city, or name. It displays business address, employer size, and annual sales.

The latest unemployment figures are also available here. Under the 'Employment Data' category, Monthly Unemployment Rates leads to the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) website where current labor force and employment data and graphics are provided for Indiana counties, metro areas, cities and towns, and economic growth regions.

Indiana State Department of Health: Reports and Statistics, <http://www.in.gov/isdh/18888.htm>

This website is an alphabetical list by topic for reports and statistics released by the Indiana State Department of Health. It covers mortality (death) and natality (birth) data; marriage data; results from *Indiana's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System* (BRFSS) and the *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*; and more. Also included is a Data Users' Guide which instructs users how to correctly calculate rates and percentage changes, how to demonstrate data using graphs, and the affect of HIPAA on the release of information.

Indiana K-12 Education Data, www.doe.in.gov/data/, Indiana Department of Education

This is the state's main online government resource for the most current data on Indiana schools, students, and school personnel.

It features educators by first and last name. Access data tables to compare school performance and create customized school data reports. Check student performance on ISTEP, NAEP, and SAT tests. Select links under the topic headings to find helpful colorful, interactive graphs.

Kids Count Data Center — Indiana, datacenter.kidscount.org/, Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Kids Count project provides users access to state-specific data that act as indicators of the educational, social, economic, and physical well-being of children. On the Kids Count Data Center website, you can access data by state (including community-level data) or compare states or cities. Indicators of well-being are broken down by categories: Demographics, Education, Economic Well-Being, Family and Community, Health, and Safety and Risky Behaviors (including Juvenile Justice). See in an instant where every state ranks in the 'Now You Know' graphs in the center of the webpage. Find out when data has been updated using the 'Data Center Spotlight' section of the page. Data users can add Kids Count data to their own websites and blogs using Web widgets under the 'New Tools' section. Indiana's database is available at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/in>.

Indiana's national ranking for several key indicators like child & teen death rates and percentage of high school dropouts is shown on the Indiana page of the Foundation's 2009 Kids Count Data Book, *Counting What Counts: Taking Results Seriously for Vulnerable Children and Families*: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2009/Default.aspx>. Indicator data back to 2000 is also available in this publication.

The Indiana Youth Institute publishes a state-level book, the 2009 *Kids Count in Indiana Data Book: A Profile of Child Well-Being*, which goes into further detail about the state's performance on the indicators listed above. This valuable resource compiles information from federal and state agencies specifically about Indiana children. Some of the data is broken down by sex and race. This book is available on the Institute's website: www.iyi.org/reports/order-indiana-data-book.aspx.

Statistics by Topic, www.in.gov/library/2409.htm, Indiana State Library

For a comprehensive alphabetical list of statistical resources at the national, state, county, and local levels, visit the Indiana State Library's A-Z list of Statistics by Topic. This resource includes links to many Indiana state agencies, U.S. government agencies, and other organizations producing statistical databases and publications that include information about Indiana. Statistics by Topic is a subject guide organized by over 125 subjects linking to many of the Web statistical resources needed by library users. It is a reliable resource also appropriate for library websites. Finally, librarians and library users may contact the State Data Center with any statistical reference questions on the State of Indiana. We are also willing to arrange for training for libraries and staff based on your individual needs.

Now you have no reason to fear searching for statistical answers. Even the statistically challenged will find these Web resources useful for libraries and their users. Please keep these websites, online publications, and databases at the top of your list for reference and research questions as well as website guides; and remember that the Indiana State Data Center at the State Library is always here to help!

About the Author

Katharine Bourne Springer is the State Data Center Coordinator and a Reference Librarian at the Indiana State Library. She is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College and graduated from IUPUI in 2007 with her MLS. She is interested in public access to government information, learning about new library technology, and making statistics more accessible to the general public. She is dedicated to serving the learning public and helping patrons with their data needs.