



Office on Women's Health

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

THE WOMEN'S & MINORITY HEALTH DATABASE PROJECT FACT SHEET

HISTORY & BACKGROUND

The US Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health (OWH) is the government's champion and focal point for women's health issues. OWH works to redress inequities in research, health care services, and education that have historically placed the health of women at risk. In 2004, OWH finished developing a comprehensive Women's and Minority Health Database. The purpose of this database is to provide users with reliable comparative data for monitoring health status changes, developing health programs and policy initiatives, and responding to congressional and health department inquiries. Users include federal, state, and local health department employees as well as other health professionals, researchers, and members of the press.

It contains extensive health data from the year 2000 for the entire United States. The data is broken down by sex, age, and race/ethnicity on a state and county level for each of the ten DHHS regions. This information can benefit federal, state, and local health department employees as well as other health professionals, researchers, members of the press, and consumers. The reliability of the data is enhanced by the inclusion of three-year averages in addition to single point in time estimates. Healthy People 2010 indicators are included wherever possible. Data on men is included so that users can identify health disparities between men and women.

BENEFITS

The database is the only one of its kind that allows for the presentation of extensive health data on both the county and state level by age, race/ethnicity, and gender at the same time. The database is also unique in that it allows for "one stop shopping" of comprehensive data on women's and minority health.

HEALTH DATA OFFERED FOR YOUR USE INCLUDES:

- Mortality and incidence rates for a variety of chronic and infectious diseases
- Heart disease data and indicators for mental health
- Reproductive health data
- Maternal health data
- Violence and abuse data
- Illness prevention data
- Statistics on access to health care
- 4,600 phone calls answered through the call center about various women's health topics
- 600 emails requesting health information
- 4,500 women's health publication requests
- 15,000 monthly health newsletter subscribers

AVAILABILITY

OWH is in the process of preparing a summary book, called the "Health Status of Women," for each region that will provide a synthesis of the data for that region. In September of this year, the entire database and the "Health Status of Women" books for each region will be available online through the OWH website (www.4woman.gov). The online version of the database will also include a sophisticated geographic information system (GIS) that will allow users to create complex maps of the data on the county level.

