Class Activities

# Chapter #8: Secondary Data

1. The American Community Survey (ACS) is a great source of secondary data on populations and communities. This activity will provide you with an opportunity to review data from your own community. Follow the steps below:
   1. Visit the Census Bureau’s American Fact Finder website at <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml?_ts=512426460643>
   2. In the box under “Community Facts” type in your community zip code and click “Go”
   3. Find the following facts for your respective community by clicking on the toolbar on the left of this page
      * Total population
      * Median age
      * Educational attainment (high school graduate or higher)
      * Total housing units
      * Median household income
      * Individuals below poverty line

Share this information with other students in your class and compare and contrast your community statistics. Discuss the potential limitations of this data as a class.

1. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is a great resource for data on key health indicators. This activity will provide you with an opportunity to learn more about these key health indicators.
2. Visit the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/DataStatistics/>
3. Click on “Diseases and Conditions” in the toolbar at the top of the page
4. Click on “Data and Statistics” in the drop down menu that appears
5. Pick one disease topic interest to you from the list of Diseases and Conditions
6. Based on the data that is presented to you, respond to the following questions:
   * Number of people affected by this problem (morbidity statistics)
   * Populations disproportionately affected by this problem (disparities)

Please note, each disease topic page is organized differently. This exercise is intended to give you an opportunity to browse the information included on this secondary data resource.

1. There are various online sources of data, including data warehouses such as the ICPSR website. This activity will provide you with experience in accessing and downloading data.
   * Click on <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/>
   * Click on “Find Data” in the toolbar
   * Pick a topic area of interest to you and type it into the box (e.g., suicide)
   * Click on one of the data sets the website identifies for you
   * Read the study “Summary”
   * Under “Table of Contents” on the left hand side of the page, click on “Methodology”
   * Read and briefly summarize the study methods
   * Share what you have learned about this study goals and methodology with students in your class