Health statistics

How many beds? How many staff? How many cases of cancer? Here are some sources of health statistics that might give you answers. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list, but a list of starting points. At the end of the column there is a list of other possible places to start. The British Medical Association Library has a useful factsheet about statistical resources, at [http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/LIBStatistics](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/LIBStatistics)

I have included just a few sites for the UK and its constituent parts, then Europe, and the World. European and worldwide statistics will of course also include the UK, but not in as much detail. I have also included selected sites for the Republic of Ireland and for the United States of America.

I would be very happy to have other suggestions, especially for the UK and its constituent parts. Please send me any useful links and I will include them (with appropriate acknowledgement) in a future column. My contact details are at the end of the column. Thank you.

**UK as a whole**

**National Statistics**
This is the “home of official UK statistics”, and includes the Census, economic statistics, employment and population statistics. You can browse by theme using a drop down box - from that box select Health and Care for health statistics. Health and Care includes hospital inpatient activity (beds, waiting times, cancellations of operations, and more), hospital outpatient activity, personnel, and much more.

**England**

**Department of Health: Statistics**
Links to Hospital Episode Statistics, Health and Personal Social Services Statistics, and (via the “Statistical Work Areas” link), statistics on public health, health care, social care, health expenditure and workforce.

**Information Centre for Health and Social Care**
[http://www.ic.nhs.uk](http://www.ic.nhs.uk)
This Special Health Authority was created in April 2005 and exists to streamline the collection and sharing of statistical data.

**Scotland**

**Health Statistics (Scottish Executive)**
Includes the Scottish Health Survey, community care statistics, and links to other Scottish Executive sites with statistical content.
Wales

Health Statistics (Health of Wales Information Service)
http://www.wales.nhs.uk/page.cfm?pid=739
Includes waiting times and prescribing statistics.

Northern Ireland

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety – Statistics and Research – Publications
http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-pubs.htm

Elsewhere

Europe

EUROSTAT
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/
Portal to EU statistics, searchable in French or German as well as English. Part of the EUROPA portal, the European Union’s official portal.

WHO European Health for All Database
http://www.who.dk/hfadb
Produced by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and searchable: the interface enables you to select indicators, countries and years, and then you can select how you want the data to be presented to you.

Republic of Ireland

Department of Health and Children Statistics
http://www.dohc.ie/statistics/

United States of America

CDC WONDER
http://wonder.cdc.gov/
Includes links to numeric data on public health, communicable diseases, health practice and injury prevention. Produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

National Center for Health Statistics (USA)
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/
Gateway to health statistics.

Other relevant US statistics are available via FirstGov at http://www.firstgov.gov/Topics/Reference_Shelf/Data.shtml
Worldwide

Childinfo (UNICEF)
http://www.childinfo.org/index2.htm
Statistics in all sorts of areas relating to children and women.

WHOSIS (WHO Statistical Information Service)
http://www.who.int/whosis/en/
Access to the full text of World Health Statistics, plus a searchable database of health statistics. There are also links to WHO regional offices (see also under Europe above). WHOSIS is currently being redesigned. The main WHO statistics page is at http://www.who.int/topics/statistics/en/. WHO sites are also available in French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese, with links at the top of each page.

Other starting points

If what you want is not in the lists above, you could try:
OMNI's listing of statistics (http://omni.ac.uk/browse/mesh/D013223.html)
OMNI's listing of statistics [publication type]
(http://omni.ac.uk/browse/mesh/D020500.html)
SOSIG's list of health and nutrition statistics sources at
http://sosig.ac.uk/roads/subject-listing/World-cat/henustats.html

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Please contact me with suggestions for future columns or with any comments.