

## *Data Sources for News Stories*

### **1. Bringing Census data down to local level**

A factsheet on your city from the Census Bureau's *American FactFinder*  
<http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html>

**Stats on various subjects** (eg consumer patterns, education, religious affiliation)  
Mostly national and state level but some county & city from the *Statistical Abstract of the United States* - each table has source cited:  
<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>

### **2. State and County Government**

State statistical abstracts  
List available at  
[http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/st\\_abstracts.html](http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/st_abstracts.html)

California Statistical Abstract  
[http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/FS\\_DATA/STAT-ABS/Statistical\\_Abstract.php](http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/FS_DATA/STAT-ABS/Statistical_Abstract.php)

National Association of Counties  
[http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=Find\\_a\\_County&Template=/cfiles/counties/usamap.cfm](http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=Find_a_County&Template=/cfiles/counties/usamap.cfm)  
Find maps and search for county stats, including Census QuickFact sheets, county official lists and links, geographical information, and more

USA Counties  
Census statistical compilation (latest edition 2006): agriculture, crime, housing, employment, and more  
<http://censtats.census.gov/usa/usa.shtml>

State and county data tables  
Census Bureau (latest data available 2007)  
<http://www.census.gov/statab/ccdb/ccdbstcounty.html>

State and metropolitan area ranking tables  
Census Bureau (latest data available 2006)  
<http://www.census.gov/compendia/smadb/SMADBrank.html>

### **3. Local Government**

Local agency examples from San Francisco Bay Area (your mileage may vary):

**Police:** Many present mappable stats, but check closely for currency and relevance of data

San Francisco Police Department

[http://gispubweb.sfgov.org/website/san\\_francisco\\_community/default.asp](http://gispubweb.sfgov.org/website/san_francisco_community/default.asp)

Berkeley Police Department even presents daily crime bulletins

<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=14482>

**Fire:** Some aggregate stats for previous periods; current contact info

Berkeley Fire Department

<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=4280>

Association of Bay Area Governments Wildfire Hazard Maps

<http://www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/eqmaps/wildfire/>

**Other services:** Some web-based stats and documents from appropriate unit (i.e., health & human services, city attorney) can be complete and current

### **Regional planning**

Often a cooperative effort for a greater metro area; website can also be a good gateway to related city sites

Association of Bay Area Governments

<http://www.abag.ca.gov/>

### **4. Business and finance**

Corporate public records are findable on the web. One of the most important sources:

**Securities & Exchange Commission's EDGAR**

<http://www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml>

### **5. Free (or almost) research databases from libraries – great for background**

Use New York Public Library's remotely accessible research databases by two methods: \$100 library card available to nonresidents w/ application process completed by mail; free Access Card also available but must apply in person. Databases remotely accessible:

<http://www.nypl.org/databases/index.cfm?act=2&j=home>

San Francisco Public Library's extensive list is available free to California residents:

<http://sfpl.lib.ca.us/sfplonline/dbcategories.htm>

Check your region for public libraries and university libraries that might offer similar subscriptions to research databases for their cardholders.

## 6. Opinion polls

Poll results on topics of current interest are often fee-based. Academic libraries may arrange subscription access to support political science scholars. Opinion polls available through UC Berkeley Library (UCB access only):

Field Poll: <http://field.com/fieldpollonline/subscribers/>

Gallup Brain: <http://institution.gallup.com/>

National Journal Group's Policy Central: <http://nationaljournal.com/about/policycentral/>

Roper Center for Public Opinion Research: <http://www.ropercenter.uconn.edu/>

Other opinion poll websites:

Rasmussen

[http://www.rasmussenreports.com/older\\_content/home/most\\_recent\\_articles/most\\_recent\\_articles](http://www.rasmussenreports.com/older_content/home/most_recent_articles/most_recent_articles)

PollingReport.com

Makes state and local data and some other detailed data available only to subscribers

<http://www.pollingreport.com/>

Cornell Institute of Social and Economic Research regional polling data websites

<http://www.ciser.cornell.edu/info/polls.shtml>

## 7. Newspaper archives

Apart from whatever is offered in the publishers' own web-based archives, news article aggregators pull articles from many publishers into searchable databases usually available through libraries (or in your newsroom if your publisher can foot the bill.) LexisNexis is the largest and most well-known. The NYPL remote-access databases include several for news content (though majority on this list are on-site use only):

<http://wfsearch.webfeat.org/clients/nypl/nyplsubjects.asp?action=catlist&catname=News papers>

## 8. Media archives

The list below includes freely available public archives and those which will provide content for a fee; check conditions of use.

Moving Image Collections (Library of Congress)

<http://mic.loc.gov/>

News and Information via Streaming Audio & Video  
Compiled by Gary Price, ResourceShelf  
<http://www.freepint.com/gary/audio.htm>

Vanderbilt Television News Archive  
<http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/>

BBC Archive  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/>

NewsFilm Library (University of South Carolina)  
<http://www.sc.edu/library/newsfilm/>

Internet Moving Images Archive  
<http://www.archive.org/details/movies>

YouTube  
<http://www.youtube.com>

Blinkx  
<http://www.blinkx.com>

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