

**SOC 222W – Introduction to Human Services  
Dr. McCall – Spring 2009**

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**“Defining the Problem” Report**

**What do I need to complete this report?**

1. I need to choose a social problem to research. How will I do this?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. For ideas or overviews of social problems, check out the brand-new *Encyclopedia of Social Problems* Ref. HN28 .E55 2008 v.1-2
  
2. I need data on the social problem (percentage of population affected, demographics of those affected, monetary impact of the problem, etc.):
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ data
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ data
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ data
  
3. I need information on \_\_\_\_\_ addressing the problem.
  
4. I need evidence from \_\_\_\_\_ about how the issue has historically been addressed.
  
5. I may need to use Web sites, but the **ONLY** Web sites I may use are:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_

## Finding Statistics on Social Problems

- There are many governmental agencies devoted specifically to gathering and publishing statistics, such as the Census Bureau, the National Center for Health Statistics and FastStats from the Center for Disease Control, and the National Center for Education Statistics.
- Federal agencies often break down their figures by state, though states often have their own equivalent departments (such as the Pennsylvania Department of Education.)
- State agencies often provide data on the county or municipal level.

### Sampling of Statistical Resources in our Reference Collection

<i>Statistical Abstract of the United States</i>	Ref. HA 202 .U55 2008
<i>County and City Data Book: A Statistical Abstract Supplement</i>	Ref. HA 202 .A36
<i>County and City Extra: Annual Metro, City, and County Data Book</i>	Ref. HA 203 .C68
<i>Pennsylvania Statistical Abstract</i>	Ref. HA 607 .P4 (by the Reference Desk)
<i>Historical Statistics of the United States</i>	Ref. HA 202 .H57 2006, v. 1-5

### Statistical Resources on the Internet – Be sure they are government Web sites!

Limit Google results to only government Web sites:

1. Go to Google.com
2. Click on the Advanced Search link at the right side of the search bar
3. Type in your search terms
4. The bottom box is for “Search within a site or domain.” Type “.gov” in this box.
5. Now click on “Advanced Search.”
6. Results will be government Web sites (federal, state or local.) Note that Google’s “Sponsored Links” will NOT be government sites.

# Searching Within a Government Web Site: Two Methods

Use the "Search only on the current Web site" Google tool.

Use the internal search engine.

