Resources For Civil and Human Rights Reporting

Child Well-Being

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/child-maltreatment
-- The annual "Child Maltreatment" report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services describing the rate of all kinds of child abuse (neglect, physical or sexual, etc.) as well as the timelines, caseloads and some trends in the efforts of child protective services workers. Reports here for 1990-2016 (state and national data). 2016 report released Feb.1, 2018.

http://datacenter.kidscount.org/
-- This is the access point to a very wide range of data about kids, the socio-economic condition of their families, their health, education, safety and "risky behavior." Data is available for the nation and by state, and can be further disaggregated by race, age and whether a child is a member of an immigrant family or not. Unless otherwise noted, this is federal government data compiled and presented by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a nonprofit advocacy organization.

https://www.hrw.org/topic/childrens-rights
-- Access to reports and data as well as analysis on human rights and welfare issues in almost every country in the world produced by the staff of Human Rights Watch, a nonprofit advocacy organization.

https://www.adoptioninstitute.org/issue-areas/
-- Access to reports filled with data and research on adoption and all the parties and agencies involved, produced by the staff of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, a nonprofit advocacy organization.

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research
-- This is an access point to a number of very useful stats on adoption and foster care, child welfare spending and outcomes and youth transitioning out of foster care. This is where, among other things, one can find federal data demonstrating how much longer children of color tend to remain in foster care and the effect this has on life outcomes. These reports (in most cases stretching back at least a decade) come from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families Children's Bureau, and includes state and national data.

https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption.html
-- At this site, one can find the rules, The Hague Adoption Convention (an international agreement), signatory status, options, conditions and eligibility requirements for adoption from almost every country.

Criminal Justice/ Crime

https://ucr.fbi.gov/
-- The FBI 's portal for accessing the annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR) and Hate Crimes Report compiling info on violent and property crime across the country, types of hate crimes and info on victims and perpetrators. The site has data and some analysis, and is easy to search.

https://www.bjs.gov/
--The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) compiles federal data here on interactions with police, activity and individuals in courts, corrections (including prisoners and prison staff), the "Indian Country" Justice system, surveys that gather info on crime victims of even unreported or otherwise unrecognized crime (note the national criminal victimization studies are particularly useful in describing the frequency of crimes such as sexual assault, hate crimes and intimate partner violence, as all are known to be severely underreported and sometimes face challenges when reported). Some of the data can be placed on customizable tables to describe trends over time or compare some concepts.

https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/total-population-in-u-s-adult-correctional-systems-by-correctional-status/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D

-- Data on the number or people incarcerated in each state, on probation or parole (community supervision) and national figures. This is federal data presented in a really easy-to-use and read format by the Kaiser Family Foundation's website. Data as of Dec. 31, 2015.

Find federal court cases with a variety of search terms. Most civil rights lawsuits filed here:
http://www.uscourts.gov/court-records/find-case-pacer
-- PACER. Use to look up cases filed in the last 15 years. Registration required. Small fees involved.
https://www.archives.gov/research/court-records
-- Use to look up cases more than 15 years old.

https://www.justice.gov/crt/conduct-law-enforcement-agencies
-- The DOJ's work to oversee police department conduct. This effort has changed under the Trump administration but, info about the work (past and present) can be found here, and links to specific suits, investigations, agreements/ settlements and what court-appointed monitors have found when they followed up.

https://epic.org/algorithmic-transparency/crim-justice/
-- a pretty comprehensive outline of problems with the growing use of algorithms in criminal justice (particularly sentencing) and a chart describing their use in each state. This info was compiled by a nonprofit issue advocacy organization.

https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/views-executions
-- It is well known that death sentences are disproportionately handed down on defendants who are poor and/or people or color. This database search tool (many

options) proves it along with other lesser-known facts such as the sharp drop off in the number of death sentences nationwide. The main page of the issue advocacy organization behind this database also includes lots of info as well as a list of upcoming executions.

[Wrongful convictions not only happen](#), but there is a lot known about [the contributing or common factors](#), and [numerical proof,](#) that [people of color are over-represented](#). The links here all lead to news reporting, public data and insights compiled by a nonprofit issue advocacy organization and academic research.

Demographic Data, Major Sources of Statistics

https://www.census.gov/
-- Spend some time really getting to know this site and how to use it. There's no way to begin describing how much information can be found here. A few worth noting and specific links in other sections:

> *Google the phrase "Census quick facts AND xxxxx (enter the city, county or state of choice)" If it is a community of about 35,000 people or more a link will appear to a chart with basic info such as population size, racial and ethnic makeup, median income, homeownership rate, poverty rate, etc., from the last census. For most midsized and all large cities, this info is updated more frequently. This is a great way to gain a quick and fundamental, numbers-based understanding of a place and people living in it.

> *https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml - This is the real beating heart of the census where highly customizable searches for information can be accomplished and both historic and the most recent info available can be found. For example, this is where one can find out the distinct poverty rates for black, white and Latina women living in New Orleans in 2010, 2000 and 1990. Using this tool takes some practice, but the staff in the Census press office are willing to walk reporters through the process of finding the specific information needed.

> *https://www.census.gov/mycd/ - Use this link to find the Congressional District in which a location sits. All you need is a zip code. Then click on the graphic options such as "People," "Socioeconomic" "Housing" and "Business." With this look-up tool you get some detailed info on conditions in the district, including a sense of the industries that employ the most people in the area, what they earn, the kind of housing in which they live, how much education they have, the racial and ethnic makeup of the district and more. The info is usually about two years old but can be useful for general understanding, to make comparisons among communities and enables a user to then wisely use other resources at the census and other websites to gather more information.

> *https://www.huduser.gov/qct/qctmap.html- - Use this link to find the census tract number in which a specific address sits. With this info, one can narrow a search on the census website to very small areas and describe things such as the change in median rent or poverty rates in a specific location over time.

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/index.htm
-- The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is the place to start for health related data. More specific links are included in the "Health" section of this list. However, the NCHS is where one can find regular releases and reports of things like life expectancy, birth and death rates, leading causes of death, most common and least common chronic diseases, immunization and infection, addiction, fatal overdose, abortion, long-acting contraception use, depression, head injury and its most common causes, and much more by race, ethnicity, gender, location (sometimes down to the city level but most often down to the state level). The National Center for Health Statistics also conducts scientifically sound surveys of individuals and health providers that provide insights such as "Reasons for Never Testing for HIV Among Men and Women Ages 15-44." These insights are often useful context for stories or can be prompts for stories themselves.

https://www.bls.gov/
-- The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is the source of the monthly "jobs" reports, unemployment numbers and a treasure trove of data about different groups of workers, their pay, education levels and even how much money Americans spend on certain goods and time we spend working, relaxing, caring for children or meeting household responsibilities. To really make use of this dense site you must practice using it, particularly the options under "Data Tools" where many different custom and pre-existing data reports can be pulled. Some information is available down to the city level. More specific links are included in the "Economic or Business Matters" section of this list.

http://soba.iamempowered.com/2017-report
-- A link to the National Urban League's semiannual "State of Black America" report. This is a report that has tracked over time a number of measures of social, political and economic wellbeing. It is based largely on census and other government data but, of course, compiled by a nonprofit issue advocacy organization. It includes some analysis and comparisons among the wellbeing of racial and ethnic groups that can not be found elsewhere or as part of a long-running historical series, making trends and patterns easier to describe. That said, it has, at times, quantified things like consumption of certain types of alcohol but other items tracked include things like income, unemployment, the homeownership rate, the high school and college graduation rate, etc., all compiled in a way that makes the situation of black and white Americans clear. There's also a fair bit of major city- level data here. For nearly a decade, the report has also included some data on Latinos. In 2017, the organization released its 41st edition, so previous reports are also available.

Economic and Business Matters

https://www.census.gov/econ/
 -- Known as the "Business Census," a wealth of information about economic conditions, down to the city level available here. Includes every industry, useful insights about access to business capital, jobs, workers and owners. It is updated every five years. The 2017 update will be released in 2018. Also available here are monthly (national-level only) reports on economic conditions.

https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm-
-- The monthly labor situation report. Includes employment and unemployment rates. Also take note of links to more detailed information at the bottom of this report. Lots here

about employment, unemployment and race/ ethnicity/ gender. If this link goes dead, Google "BLS Monthly Labor Situation Summary." Also take note of links to more detailed information at the bottom of this report.

https://www.bls.gov/bls/glossary.htm
-- This is a glossary of economic terms. Be sure that you know what even common terms like unemployment and employment mean. They have technical definitions with meaning for those reporting or civil and human rights. Also consider Googling "BLS AND How the government calculates unemployment." It's not just a count of all the people who do not have jobs.

https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t02.htm
-- A link to the most recent chart depicting employment and unemployment by race, ethnicity and gender. This is easy to read and where one can quickly access the number of white women who are employed, the rate of unemployment among black men, the youth labor force participation rate and more. Plus, there is year-over-year data (meaning Jan. 2017 and Jan. 2018) as well as several successive months of data for most demographic groups (meaning Oct. 2017, Nov. 2017, Dec. 2017 and January 2018). If the link goes dead, Google "Table A-2. Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, and age AND BLS."

https://www.bls.gov/cex/tables.htm
-- A link to tables revealing information about which consumers spend money and on what -- food, clothing, housing, alcohol and more.

https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/NYT?p=NYT

-- Use search at top to input company name and find out if it is a publicly traded company as well as its stock symbol/ ticker name. Google has a less graphic tool that does the same.

https://www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/companysearch.html
-- This is a link to EDGAR, the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) online tool for looking up public company info. It is very useful. Reporters who take the time to read more than a public company's press releases and beautifully laid out, graphics-heavy annual reports come here and are often rewarded with insights, information and admissions straight from companies. This often includes: a company's history; major changes or developments; how the company really makes its money or the product lines producing the most profit and those producing the least; which consumers are most essential; pending litigation; regulatory activity/ warnings and investigations that may be underway; voluminous consumer concerns or complaints. How much companies spend on marketing or other major activities all show up in the numbers, text and footnotes of 10-K reports. Also be sure to read the section labeled "Management's Discussion and Analysis" (MD&A). Finally, When a company can't file a 10-K, it has to explain why on a form called an NT.

https://www.investopedia.com/articles/fundamental-analysis/08/sec-forms.asp?ad=dirN&qo=investopediaSiteSearch&qsrc=0&o=40186

-- This is a very quick reference guide to other forms filed with the SEC and a glossary of some terms that may be helpful when digging into public companies.

https://www.federalreserve.gov/econres.htm
-- The Federal Reserve and its regional operations around the country conduct a lot of research that describes economic conditions, trends and problems. There are a few specific links worth exploring as well: Annual Report on the Economic Well Being of American Households, May 2017 https://www.federalreserve.gov/publications/files/2016-report-economic-well-being-us-households-201705.pdf

https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/res_e.htm
-- The World Trade Organization's major links to data and info about trade between WTO countries, including trade profiles (exports/ imports).

https://comtrade.un.org/db/default.aspx
--The United Nations (UN) has compiled a wealth of trade and economic data and other information on most countries that can be customized and has been standardized so that the information is comparable across countries. This is where and how you can find out what Lithuania exports to The Congo and its value or, for that matter, what Congo exports to the United States. The interface is not beautiful but the results are useful.

https://ustr.gov/
-- Details of US Trade and foreign investment agreements can be found here

Education

https://nces.ed.gov/
-- The range of data, trends and information here is hard to describe. Essentially, if you have a question about education (K through post-graduate) and how different groups are performing, what they are experiencing or able to get in a school, it can likely be found here. The same can be said about graduation rates, borrowing info, enrollment, AP course availability, and many other pieces of information critical to understanding life in the United States. Data can be obtained for the nation, states, and down to the local school district. Navigation is not always easy but this is a resource that can be tremendously useful and where the data to back up little-known truths can be found. For example, while white Americans continue to graduate from college at a higher rate, college-going gaps have narrowed (and in some cases closed) and the rate of college-going growth among non-white students has outpaced that of white students for years. Hover over the menu and select "data and tools" to get started.

https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/financial-aid-and-undocumented-students.pdf
-- A useful FAQ from the Department of Education regarding undocumented students, those with DACA status and federal financial aid

http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018-01-10-Education-Inequity.pdf
-- U.S. Commission on Civil Rights January 2018 report "Public Education Funding Inequality: An Era of Increasing Concentration of Poverty and Resegregation." This is from the federal government's official civil rights watchdog agency and describes conditions, trends and damning evidence.

https://ocrdata.ed.gov/

-- U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights Data Collection. Title says all. Easy to use interface. Very useful detailed info available here.

Gender and Sexuality Issues

https://www.glsen.org/article/2015-national-school-climate-survey
-- The "National School Climate" Survey describing what kids experience and deal with at school. Besides a link to the most recent report, there's also a link on this page to archived school climate surveys dating back to 2001. This study does not appear to be annual but includes useful data and insights from GLSEN, a nonprofit issue advocacy group founded by teachers concerned about the widespread way in which the bullying of LGBT students and discrimination were regularly ignored or insufficiently addressed by schools.

http://www.endthebacklog.org/backlog/where-backlog-exists-and-whats-happening-end-it
-- This is a link to an issue advocacy group's website displaying the number of untested rape kits in different states and status of efforts to reform related policy in easy-to-read form.

https://www.state.gov/j/tip/
-- U.S. State Department Human Trafficking Division. Annual trafficking reports with analysis and data for each year, 2001-2017.

http://www.who.int/gender-equity-rights/understanding/gender-definition/en/
-- How the World Health Organization views gender equity in different regions of the world including the Americas. Links at bottom of page. This is info from an NGO.

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625_eng.pdf
-- The World Health Organization's estimates of violence against women around the world, available by region. This is info from an NGO.

https://statusofwomendata.org/explore-the-data/violence-safety/
-- This is a VERY useful tool that allows users to search for data and insights on the condition of women in states, regions and the nation (U.S.). Search terms include sexual harassment at work, intimate partner violence, stalking, rape and sexual assault, and more. The data comes largely from government sources but the tool was created by a nonprofit issue-advocacy organization.

Pay gaps between groups of women are so large that excluding this fact can push reporting toward the idea that the gender pay gap is a questionable concept or small disparity. Here's the data from government sources. However, the first three have been compiled by a nonprofit issue-advocacy organization. An alternative would be to search for or create a custom table depicting median or average wages for full-time women workers by race on the Bureau of Labor Statistics website.
http://www.epi.org/publication/black-and-hispanic-women-are-hit-particularly-hard-by-the-gender-wage-gap/
https://iwpr.org/issue/employment-education-economic-change/pay-equity-discrimination/

https://nwlc.org/issue/race-gender-wage-gaps/
http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/07/01/racial-gender-wage-gaps-persist-in-u-s-despite-some-progress/
https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/wkyeng.pdf
-- Be sure to see Tables 2,3 and 7
https://www.bls.gov/news.release/wkyeng.t03.htm

Government, Nonprofit/Key Non-Governmental Organizations, Info Access Points

https://www.congress.gov//
-- This site used to be known as Thomas.gov but is now Congress.gov. Here, one can look up Congressional bills and their status by key words or bill number, search and read the Congressional Record, Congressional schedules and calendars, video of Congressional proceedings, presidential nominations, treaties, committee reports, and find and read specific sections of the U.S. legal code.

http://www.oecd.org/about/
-- Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. This site provides a way to access well-researched comparisons, reports and data about a very wide range of social, economic and political issues in 35 developed countries. It is often a useful source of context for the way that various systems, policies and practices are structured in the U.S. Strong emphasis is placed on assessing results.

https://www.clearinghouse.net/
-- This is a great resource and one worth checking when looking for stories, sources or experts on civil rights issues. This is a clearing house compiling documents, data, trends and information on civil rights litigation in the United States. It includes a tab listing recently filed cases and usually a description of the issues in the case. Sometimes, case documents can be pull here and printed (without the costs involved in using PACER, the federal court case search tool).

https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2018
-- Human Rights Watch's annual review of human rights around the world, searchable by country. Includes much insight, data and analysis of conditions in almost every country. This is a report generated by a nonprofit issue-advocacy organization and describes events in 2017.

https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2018/country-chapters/united-states
-- Human Rights Watch's Annual Report, chapter on conditions inside the United States. This is a report generated by a nonprofit issue-advocacy organization and describes events in 2017.

https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/
-- This is a link to the CIA's World Fact book. This is, of course, the U.S. government's perspective on countries around the world but almost can not be beat in terms of the amount of carefully researched and documented information it contains on every country recognized by the U.S. government. Here one can find median income, HIV infection

rates, narrative on recent and key historical events shaping the country's politics, the country's GDP, the racial/ethnic makeup of the population and how it is distributed across age groups, the birth death, literacy and unemployment rates. The list goes on. But it's laid out in a way that is designed for quick reading. Use the drop down menu on the top right labeled "Please select a country to view," to pull up info on a specific country.

https://www.fpds.gov/fpdsng_cms/index.php/en/
-- US Government's Federal Procurement (Purchase) Data System Lots can be found here. Lots. But among the things that may be useful are annual reports on spending by each federal agency with "Small Disadvantaged Businesses," as there are generally minority-owned firms. There are also a breakdown of spending after major natural disasters and other events requiring federal intervention and lists of the companies receiving the largest amounts of federal spending on this page.

https://www.gao.gov/browse/date/week
-- General Accounting Office Reports (GAO Reports). Don't let the look of this site turn you off. Amid the minutiae are some bombshells. There are incredible finds to be had here, where the government's central auditing agency studies all manner of issues and topics, then describes with often brutal clarity government failures, waste, counterproductive policies or their unintended consequences. The auditors behind the reports sometimes make recommendations. This is an apolitical agency that does not seek attention. It can be good to add this site or the agency's blog to the list of sites one checks frequently for this reason.

https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/146379.pdf
-- **This is what the United States government officially reported to the UN about itself on civil and human rights in 2015, its most recent report.** The most neutral description of this document would be that it includes a litany of America's professed principles, existing laws and a list of gentle admissions framed as we are working on this (educational achievement gap, racial profiling, unemployment disparities). **There is no indication of alarm or crisis in ANY area.** This document is a useful point of reference for anyone writing about civil and human rights.

https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/united_states/session_22_-_may_2015/a_hrc_wg.6_22_l.10.pdf
-- **The United Nation's Human Rights Committee's May 2015 (most recent) report about** Human Rights inside **the United States that includes 348 recommendations for improvements. The ACLU called it "scathing."** This is an NGO report.

https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/242228.pdf
--This is how the United States officially responded to the UN (answer) and its "scathing" May 2015 report.

https://www.state.gov/j/drl/reports/treaties/index.htm#ftn4
-- Link to the International Human and Civil Rights treaties signed by the United States.

https://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/afdr/
-- US State Department annual reports on U.S. efforts to "support democracy and human rights in non-democratic countries and countries undergoing democratic transitions worldwide." Reports for 2008 to 2015 available here.

https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/?utm_source=et&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter&utm_content=&utm_name=
-- Another useful resource for info on nonprofits and their finances.

http://www.nccs.urban.org/
-- Another useful resource for info on nonprofits and their finances.

http://foundationcenter.org/gain-knowledge/foundation-data
-- Another useful resource for info on nonprofits and their finances.

Health

The old theory was that the nation's health disparities could be explained by uneven health insurance coverage/ access to health care, genetics and personal choices. For several decades now, evidence has grown indicating that that alone explains why the US has the developed world's worst maternal mortality rate, why black infant mortality and preterm birth rates in some places rival those of very poor nations or why obesity has become a widespread problem. The CDC and many other agencies now frequently make reference to the concept of "social determinants of health." This includes everything from access to care and care quality differentials to the stress created by poverty, the presence or absence of sidewalks, parks and full service grocery stores in one's community and more. It's an important concept to grasp when reporting on civil and human rights.

Get the CDC basics on the social determinants of health with some useful links to customizable data and info here. One bad thing: CDC data often lags by several years. However, it represents the most recent, sound information available.
https://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/

There are known differences in the quality of care white and non-white patients receive.
https://archive.ahrq.gov/research/findings/nhqrdr/nhqrdr10/minority.html
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4843483/
https://www.acponline.org/acp_policy/policies/racial_ethnic_disparities_2010.pdf

Differences in health care access and well being also persist and are in some cases vast. Here's the info and proof:

> https://www.kff.org/disparities-policy/report/key-facts-on-health-and-health-care-by-race-and-ethnicity/

> Births (including method and location of delivery, gestation period and weight, average age of mothers, infant mortality, multiple births, births to teens, births outside marriage) https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/births.htm

> Infant Mortality -
> https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/infantmortality.htm

> Maternal Mortality -
> https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/pmss.html

Life expectancy - https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/life-expectancy.htm

Leading causes of death (by race and ethnicity also available here) - https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/leading-causes-of-death.htm

Fast stats and info about the health of all racial and ethnic groups can be accessed here (see menu to left to move between groups) - https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/white-health.htm

Diagnosis and Death Rates for Specific Forms of Cancer (a place where racial and ethnic health disparities are sometimes stark. See colon cancer, breast cancer and head and neck cancer rates for examples). Custom tables and graphics can be built here too. - https://nccd.cdc.gov/uscs/

https://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/leadcaus10_us.html - Highly specific custom tables available here describing the leading causes of death by race, ethnicity, age, gender, time frame or combinations thereof. What it yields is super grim (young white men are the most likely to die by self-inflicted gun shot while young black men are most likely to die after being shot by someone else). Very useful for reporters.

Understanding the relationship between health and place, clusters of health problems and more

https://www.cdc.gov/cdi/index.html - A really useful tool for generating maps, charts, tables and gathering data on the prevalence of certain chronic or potentially fatal diseases and conditions (asthma, diabetes, heart disease, immunization, obesity, for example, but there's more here). Data available by year, race and gender with an option to create custom comparisons. This is how one can quickly describe the prevalence of diabetes among African Americans in Georgia and New York; Latinos and African Americans in the U.S.; or white women and black women in the 10 most populous states, etc. Those who are more adept at data analysis and dealing with large data sets or looking for reports that have been compiled on specific conditions such as cancer, alcohol use, mental health challenges, etc., can go even deeper here. https://chronicdata.cdc.gov/browse?category=Chronic+Disease+Indicators

https://nccd.cdc.gov/dhdspatlas/ health alongside social and economic conditions data can be had here, down to the census tract level and up to the national level. Also available here, statistically significant clusters of disease and their location (known as disease hot spots) and the ability to map (in layers) all sorts of health matters such as social and economic data, health care center location and what services these centers offer. This is a GREAT tool with which it is worth getting familiar so that this sort of information can be incorporated in all sorts of stories accurately. For example, a story about a family in which several members are obese, have diabetes or asthma might be enhanced by a line or paragraph of context about the people living nearby, the available health resources and social conditions. One bad thing: CDC data often lags by several years but varies by report.

https://www.communitycommons.org/maps-data/ -- Use this link and the data/ maps it provides to map and describe populations vulnerable to health conditions, known health disparities, already living with them and the "quality of life" ; the availability of housing and transportation costs, school proficiency and jobs in distinct locations; brownfield locations; where supermarkets exist and where they don't; and where the uninsured live just to name a few options here. Also try this more visual layout https://assessment.communitycommons.org/Footprint/. Again, take a moment to imagine what this data might do to enrich all sorts of stories and help readers understand conditions in a community or affecting a source about whom you are writing. One bad thing: CDC data often lags by several years but varies by report.

https://svi.cdc.gov/ -- This tool aims to assess an entire community's health or really its wherewithal in the event of a crisis or stressor such as a natural disaster or epidemic. Just enter a zip code. Requires Adobe Flash Player 11.1.0 or higher. Also, CDC data often lags by several years but varies by report.

https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas/ -- A mapping tool that identifies food environment factors contributing to health and diet choices such as store/restaurant proximity, food prices, food and nutrition assistance programs, and community characteristics.

Housing

https://data.hud.gov/data_sets.html
-- A trove of info and analysis here from average rent prices to info on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's major affordable housing and community development programs, housing discrimination complaint data by state and much more.

https://www.justice.gov/crt/housing-and-civil-enforcement-section
-- U.S. Department of Justice Fair Housing Enforcement Activity, including info on litigation and settled cases.

https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs.html
-- Visit this page for the most up-to-date census data on housing and housing affordability. Technically, the Census updates data related to housing in specific areas every two years. However, this means that for some areas the most recent data dates to 2015 and for others 2013. That said, one can also find at this site housing situation reports for specific areas of the country (cost, size, average household makeup, average proximity to public transit), or create a custom table with critical insights such as the share of people living in the Atlanta metro area in 2015 who were spending far more than the recommended 33 percent of their income on housing, a key indicator that housing costs in a market are outstripping incomes (hard to afford). This is a clue of life close to the economic edge.

http://web.archive.org/web/20170128034927/http://www.census.gov/housing/hvs/index.html

--Quarterly census data on housing vacancy rates (rental and for sale). However, there is a reporting lag

https://www.consumerfinance.gov/data-research/hmda/explore
-- Home lending info. When used with care, this massive trove can yield in a custom table insights such as the number of home loans for properties with four units or less applied for by Latinos with or without a white co-applicant (usually a spouse), how many were denied and the reason why. Or, click on summary tables and gather data on some of the mostly commonly searched variables.

http://www.freddiemac.com/research/datasets/sf_loanlevel_dataset.html
-- With some work, similar info can be found here on loans underwritten by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) -- about 25.4 million loans issued between 1999 and 2016 for single family homes. This Data for 2017 will be added in 2018 and so on. This is a major portion of the U.S. home lending market but a subset of the data that can be found on the CFPB database above. This data set can also provide more detailed insight into payment delinquency, refinancing and other patterns. The major difference here is that to cull this info one must download the entire data set and will need some data analysis skills to then find the info desired.

http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/research/state_nations_housing
-- An annual report on "The State of the Nation's Housing," released by Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies. It provides an overview of home lending and cost trends, challenges and various social justice issues in housing.

http://nationalfairhousing.org/reports-research/
-- Link to the National Fair Housing Alliance's (a nonprofit advocacy group) annual report on trends and enforcement activity in fair housing, challenges, patterns and more. Reports for 2006-2017 here.

Immigration, Immigrant and Refugee Issues

https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/yearbook/2016
-- This is an annual publication produced by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), a division of the Department of Homeland Security. The report is updated regularly but generally its contents lag behind the current date by two years. There is a WEALTH of info here including info on legal immigration by country of origin and information on the immigration population in different states, visas given and the situation (caseloads and backlogs) in immigration courts. Also easily accessible here is data showing the decline in the number of people (called aliens here) caught trying to cross the border illegally and where (Table 35) and a chart depicting annual deportation figures from 1892 to 2016 (Table 39). Perhaps most notable is the report's first table. Its title: "Persons Obtaining Lawful Permanent Resident Status: Fiscal Years 1820 To 2016." The trends here are interesting and useful.

https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-statistics.html
-- The most recent info available (monthly) on visas issued to enter the US available here

https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-bulletin.html
-- This is a link to the most current visa bulletin. **It is a little reported upon but important document** filled with a glossary describing the country's official immigration jargon, how the proverbial "line" for legal immigration is really formed and most importantly includes a table showing how long it really takes to emigrate legally from different countries. For example, in February 2018, the U.S. government was considering (approval is not automatic) visa applications from the unmarried adult sons and daughters (this group is known as the F1) of U.S. citizens. If from mainland China or India, applications filed BEFORE March 15, 2011, will be evaluated. If from the Philippines that date is Aug. 1, 2005, and if from Mexico, only applications filed BEFORE July 1, 1996. This info is updated and published regularly (usually each month).

https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Lawful_Permanent_Residents_2015.pdf
-- The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' most recent report on legal permanent residents (commonly known as green card holders)

https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/daca_performancedata_fy2017_qtr2.pdf
-- A detailed, numbers only U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) report on all DACA applications and their status between 2012 and 2017

http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean#_ga=1.260076365.117186915.1443729567
-- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees data porthole and map with very detailed information on the movement of refugees, the age and sex of the world's refugees and the situation in various countries leading refugees to flee or take shelter. This data is sometimes updated more than once a day. While it has limits (such as the fact that most numbers are based on refugees who have registered with the UN), it is very helpful. This is info presented by an NGO.

http://www.wrapsnet.org/admissions-and-arrivals/
-- This is the U.S. State Department's data porthole for information about refugee resettlement (resettlement to the United States). Read the links listed here with care. There's info about all refugees and where they are settled in the U.S. (specific state), the languages refugees speak, the religions they practice (remember that the Trump administration has expressed interest in prioritizing and limiting adherents to certain faiths). Some info here updated monthly.

http://www.wrapsnet.org/siv-iraqi-syrian-p-2/
-- This is the U.S. State Department's data porthole for information about Syrian refugee resettlement.

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/580e4274e58c624696efadc6/t/583c72eb37c5810ef265fd3e/1480356588974/Report+to+Congress+for+FY+2017+USRAP.pdf
-- Annual joint report to Congress on refugees from the U.S. Departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security. This is the 2017 report. (Historic Reports can be found here: http://www.wrapsnet.org/resources/)

https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/17_0904_DOJ_AG-letter-DACA.pdf

-- U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' Memo detailing the Trump administration's rationale for ending Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Politics and Voting

https://ballotpedia.org/Main_Page
-- Think of this like a carefully researched and accurate political Wikipedia with all kinds of info on individual candidates and officeholders, state and local elected bodies; upcoming and recent (past) federal, state and some local elections with results; info on some PACs, etc.

Campaign Finance

A primer on campaign finance (money in politics including direct and indirect contributions. This is key to understanding the influence that helps shape public policy, drive who is elected and what they do in office)
https://journalistsresource.org/studies/politics/finance-lobbying/writing-campaign-finance-tip-sheet-tools-examples

https://www.fec.gov/data/
-- Federal Election Commission (FEC) search tool. Find info on donors (amounts given to which candidates and committees and when), candidates and their campaign spending, as well as fundraising, financial health of campaign, campaign contractors (who they are paying to print signs, conduct research, polling, etc.). This data pertains to FEDERAL candidates, campaigns and committees only, and donors to FEDERAL campaigns.

https://www.opensecrets.org/
-- Much of the same info available at FEC website presented in an easy-to-read way, but also wise to double check your conclusion on the FEC site and see what else pops up (for example, is there more than one donor with the same name and does the info there help you to distinguish between the person of interest to you and those who share his or her name?). But Open Secrets also produces frequent trends and analysis as well as tons of info on PACs in a format that's a little easier to read.

https://www.followthemoney.org/
-- for a closer look at donors, donations, candidates and campaigns at the state level and the money behind them search here
https://www.theinvestigativefund.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/ToolsLightDarkMoneyIRE2017-tipsheet.pdf

Voting

A primer on rank choice elections - one theory on how to ensure minority representation now and as the population changes
https://journalistsresource.org/tip-sheets/proportional-representation-ranked-choice-municipal-elections

A primer on single-member districts vs. at large elections and minority group representation from a global issue advocacy organization.
http://aceproject.org/main/english/es/esy_us.htm

http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/voter-id.aspx -- A primer on Voter ID from the National Conference of State Legislatures

From the Federal Election Commision (FEC) **and important to understanding voter suppression:**

> https://www.fec.gov/updates/?category=litigation -- to find and follow lawsuits involving the FEC
> https://www.fec.gov/data/legal/search/murs/?search_type=murs&search=suppression&mur_no=&mur_respondents= -- use this and search regularly for terms like "caging," "suppression" and "voter ID" in quotes. May alert one to interesting stories, possible sources, growing practices and more

https://www.census.gov/topics/public-sector/voting.html
-- link to key Census data and reports on voting, the electorate (national and state specific), and redistricting.

https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/voting-and-registration/voting-historical-time-series.html -- links to historical Census data on voting rates/ turnout

https://www.idea.int/data-tools/data/voter-turnout -- a searchable database of info on voter turnout and some info on voting eligibility in most of the world's nations. Info gathered and presented by an NGO.

http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/05/15/u-s-voter-turnout-trails-most-developed-countries/-- useful context and data comparing the U.S. low-voter turnout compared to other countries.

https://www.sentencingproject.org/the-facts/#map -- a very useful, nicely laid-out presentation of every state's practices regarding voting and those who have been convicted of crimes, how many people are disqualified (banned) from voting and who (mostly people of color) is affected. Info gathered and presented by a nonprofit issue advocacy organization.

Public Opinion/ Polling

https://ropercenter.cornell.edu/
-- Roper Center polling going back to 1934. One must sign up for access but it is well worth it to gather info on ways that public opinion has and has not evolved over time. Also available here are detailed breakdowns of presidential voting patterns (exit polling), and issues of concern in presidential elections dating back to 1976.

(https://ropercenter.cornell.edu/polls/us-elections/presidential-elections/) One look at this site and the hand wringing about the disappearance of white voters from the Democrat Party seems suspiciously tardy. It's a clear and overwhelming pattern that dates back decades.

http://gss.norc.org/
-- General Social Survey has asked large numbers of Americans questions about social issues, their feelings/attitudes, beliefs and the like. Many questions have been asked consistently since 1972 and many new questions added since that time. Lots of useful stuff here on attitudes and opinions about race, religion, civil rights and some public policy. Register for an account and use the search tool, call and ask for help or search the website for pre-compiled reports by topic. This is probably the most definitive and large-scale public opinion data set in the country. The organization has also done some work in other countries.

http://www.pewresearch.org/
-- Pew conducts easy-to-find public opinion research on policy, social issues; political behavior, concerns and affiliation; religion, gender, media and much more. The data is also presented on graphics that are easy to read.

http://news.gallup.com/poll/201617/gallup-daily-trump-job-approval.aspx
-- Gallup, a polling agency at work since the 1930s. It is no longer in what it calls "horse race" political polling (this candidate or that) but continues to gauge presidential popularity and poll on a wide range of social, political and economic issues. Some international insights available here, too, but the bulk of publicly available info focuses on the U.S. Like Pew, Gallup's data is presented in easy to read ways.

https://www.nlsinfo.org/content/cohorts/nlsy97/topical-guide
-- Their description: "The NLSY97 Cohort is a longitudinal project that follows the lives of a sample of American youth born between 1980-84; 8,984 respondents were ages 12-17 when first interviewed in 1997. This ongoing cohort has been surveyed 17 times to date and is now interviewed biennially. Data is now available from Round 1 (1997-98) to Round 17 (2015-16). Questions cover a wide range of topics including dating, marriage, cohabitation, childbearing and rearing, work, education, income, expectations, experiences with crime and more. Also in the menu to the left one can access data for a previous long-term study that began in 1979. May be particularly useful to compare things like expectations across generations.

Public Spending, Priorities and Taxation

Public spending, budgets and taxation are highly politicized and social aid programs and their dependents often demonized. Facts are extremely valuable in this arena. Here are a few places to begin looking for them:

https://journalistsresource.org/studies/economics/taxes/corporate-tax-cuts-inversions-passthrough-reform
-- Understanding corporate taxes

https://journalistsresource.org/tip-sheets/municipal-bonds-munis-finance-tip-sheet
-- Understanding municipal (or public) bonds

https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/qtax.html
-- Info on state and local tax revenue. What's really valuable to reports on the race and human rights beat here is that this data is updated quarterly, can be broken down by state or region and details the sources of the revenue that governments then have to spend.

There's a HUGELY underreported fact hiding on page 2 of this report https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2017/econ/g17-qtax3.pdf. Sales taxes -- not corporate income taxes -- make up a substantial share of revenue in EVERY region and EVERY state. That's noteworthy because there is no one in the U.S. who can avoid most sales taxes. That includes undocumented immigrants. Note that in the South, sales taxes make up 39.1 percent of state and local tax revenue.

https://www.cbpp.org/
-- This is a nonprofit issue advocacy organization that uses mostly government data to compile all sorts of interesting reports and data about public spending particularly on welfare, Medicaid/ Medicare and other aspects of the social safety net. This is one place to start looking to cut through the often repeated stereotypes and assumptions about those who use the social safety net and how much it eats into public budgets. This is an advocacy organization with a liberal perspective but its analyses are respected and used even by those with a different political point of view to sometimes make a different case. https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/qtax.html

The Social Safety Net

> https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/resource/tanf-caseload-data-2017 -- Temporary Aid To Needy Families (TANF), the formal name for cash welfare aid. Find enrollment data for each state and the nation here.

> https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/resource/twelfth-report-to-congress -- Report on TANF to Congress Jan. 25, 2018.

> https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/fy16_characteristics.pdf -- This is a link to the latest report detailing the demographics of TANF recipients in fiscal year 2016, a report likely to be useful. State and national data. Pay special attention to U.S. nationwide data (first line) in Tables 10, 19, 33, and in particular 49. The patterns you see here are not new. Use this link to search in the future, for past reports as well as other related data. The same info can be found for the Tribal TANF program here.

> https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/pd/SNAPsummary.pdf -- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), better known as food stamps, average participation (it varies by month) and annual total national costs data for every year 1969-2017

> https://www.kff.org/medicare/state-indicator/medicare-beneficiaries-by-raceethnicity/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D -- Medicare enrollment by race. This is federal data presented by the Kaiser Family Foundation in a clear easy-to-read format. Can also change year. Data available for 2013-2016. More is available.

https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/ops/WICPC2014.pdf -- This data for participants enrolled in the Women, Infants and Children Food and Nutrition Service (WIC) is more dated. It's 2014 data published in 2015. An update is overdue. Before using, try searching Google or Startpage for this report's title with subsequent dates. Racial and ethnic enrollment data is on page 24 of 2014 data report. It reflects who is and who is not having children in the U.S. A large share of children born every year in the U.S. are eligible. And about half of all children born each year -- 50 percent -- receive WIC benefits.

https://www.kff.org/medicare/state-indicator/total-disabled-social-security-disability-insurance-ssdi-beneficiaries-ages-18-64/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D -- This is another easy-to-read national and state data presentation from the Kaiser Family Foundation on enrollment in the Social Security Disability program. Data comes from federal government. Includes 2013-2016. No racial/ ethnic info on this chart.

https://www.ssa.gov/policy/data_subject.html -- all sorts of data from the Social Security Administration on SSI (generally for the retired), SSDI (generally for the disabled) with some demographic info.

https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2017/demo/p70br-149.html -- link to nicely laid-out data and analysis reports from the U.S. Census describing participation in a wide range of public assistance programs from food aid to transit assistance. Data for 2013 published in 2017. Demographic data included.

https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/public-assistance/library/publications.html -- links to nicely laid-out data and analysis reports from the U.S. Census describing participation in various social aid programs. Reports available which were published between 2006 and 2017.

The Federal Budget/ Spending

https://www.cbo.gov/about/products/budget-economic-data#2 -- Lots of historical and projected federal budget data here from the Congressional Budget Office.

https://www.cbo.gov/publication/52370 - The Congressional Budget Office's assessment and projections of federal spending 1970-2025

https://www.cbpp.org/research/policy-basics-introduction-to-the-federal-budget-process -- A primer on how the federal budget is made from a nonprofit organization.

Religion

http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/
-- Link to Pew's annual "Religious Landscape" study surveying 35,000 Americans. It is widely regarded as one of the more reputable sources of data on the number of people practicing different faiths in the U.S. Also on this page, links to analytical reports about trends in religiosity and practice in the U.S. Keep in mind that the U.S. Census is legally barred from posing questions about religious practice or affiliation. So, this sort of data is not compiled by many organizations who rely on Census data to create analyses of other issues.

Religion Dictionary: http://www.thearda.com/learningcenter/religiondictionary.asp

http://www.thearda.com/internationalData/multicompare.asp?c=26&c=25&c=&c=&c=&c=&c=&c=
-- This site allows one to pull religious profiles of nations and compare up to seven nations at a time the basic info and religious group breakdown by country in easy-to-read form.

http://pluralism.org/religions/religious-calendar/
-- A multi-faith list of holidays this year with descriptions of the core idea behind the event and http://www.interfaith-calendar.org/ years to come

http://hirr.hartsem.edu/megachurch/database.html
-- Database of U.S. mega churches (not exhaustive but large with some basic info on each church including self-reported membership figures), searchable by congregation size, state, denomination or affiliation

http://pluralism.org/profiles/
--similar database of "religious centers," all faiths and sizes, in the U.S. searchable by faith "tradition," and city with address and other contact info.

http://hirr.hartsem.edu/denom/homepages.html
-- Links to many denominations' official websites that may be helpful in accurately describing theology, dogma, practices, prohibitions, membership counts and making contact with people who can do so. Great way to find sources.

Transportation

https://www.census.gov/topics/employment/commuting.html
-- Link to useful Census reports detailing the relationship between transportation and the way that people live and work. Lots of useful stuff here.

https://www.bts.gov/product/transportation-statistics-annual-report
-- The U.S. Transportation Department's Bureau of Transportation Statistics annual report with a wide range of data and analysis about transit inside the U.S.

http://osav-usdot.opendata.arcgis.com/

-- The U.S. Transportation Department's data and info look-up tool for a wide range of transit modes and issues including infrastructure, its integrity, passengers, their safety and transit accessibility/location and spending.

o-A-Civil-Rights-Roadmap-for-Transportation-Equity.pdf
-- A report from a nonprofit issue advocacy organization that lays out a way of viewing transportation through a civil and human rights lens.