Keeping up with the news:

**Association of Schools of Public Health: Friday Letter**
http://fridayletter.aspph.org/press.cfm?FL_Index=23
The *Friday Letter* is a weekly publication of the Association of Schools of Public Health, the only national organization representing the deans, faculty and students of the accredited member schools of public health and other programs seeking accreditation as schools of public health.

**Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce / News**
http://phpartners.org/news.html
Public health news; also valuable as a collection of links to other public health news sites.

**Center for the Advancement of Health**
http://www.cfah.org/hbns/
CFAH’s Health Behavior News Service covers the latest peer-reviewed studies and systematic reviews on the effects of behavior on health, health disparities and patient engagement research.

**World Health News / Harvard School of Public Health**
http://www.worldhealthnews.harvard.edu/
*World Health News* offers a combination of original reporting and a digest of news stories and commentaries from newspapers and magazines worldwide on pressing issues in public health.

**Public Health Foundation's E-News**
http://www.phf.org/news/Pages/default.aspx
The Public Health Foundation’s E-News provides the public health community with access to valuable and timely information to improve performance, strengthen the workforce, and build public health infrastructure.

**Daily Reports from Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation**
http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Headlines.aspx
Daily reports on health policy, HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, Affordable Care Act, etc. – best one stop site for health news and analysis.

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**Best journals:**

**Highest Impact Public Health Journals**
http://library.umassmed.edu/ebpph/top25.cfm
Top 25 public health journals compiled by librarians at Lamar Souter Library at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

**Major surveys:**

**Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)**
http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/
BRFSS is the world’s largest telephone survey; it tracks health risks of adults in the United States. A federal and state partnership allows data collection at the national, state and local levels. (Note: CDC surveys are great sources of validated questions on a wide variety of health/social topics. The questionnaires are available for each survey.)

**National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS)**
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhcs/about_nhcs.htm#survey
The NHCS is a collection of health care provider surveys, obtaining information about the facilities that supply health care, the services rendered, and the characteristics of the patients served. Note: NHCS replaced the National Hospital Discharge Survey, 1965–2010:
National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm
NHIS is a continuing nationwide survey (1957 to present) of the U.S. civilian non-institutionalized population conducted in households. Each week a probability sample of households is interviewed by trained personnel of the U.S. Bureau of the Census to obtain information about the health and other characteristics of each living member of the sample household.

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm
NHANES collects information about the health and diet of people in the United States. It is unique in that it combines a home interview with health tests that are done in a mobile examination center.

National Immunization Survey
http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/imz-coverage.htm#nis
A large on-going survey of immunization coverage among U.S. preschool children (19 - 35 months old). Several surveys are used to: identify groups at risk of contracting vaccine-preventable diseases; stimulate efforts to increase coverage; and, evaluate how well the efforts work.

Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)
http://www.cdc.gov/ncedphp/dash/yrbs/index.htm
The YRBSS includes national, state, and local school-based surveys of representative samples of students in grades 9-12. These surveys are conducted by CDC every two years, usually during the spring semester.

National Survey on Drug Use & Health
http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH.aspx
This is the primary source of information on the prevalence, patterns, and consequences of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drug use and abuse in the general U.S. civilian non-institutionalized population, aged 12 and older (formerly called the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse).

Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS)
A continuous, multipurpose survey of a nationally representative sample of aged, disabled, and institutionalized Medicare beneficiaries. MCBS produces two files annually, Access to Care and Cost and Use.

Statistics:

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/
This is the principal health statistics agency in the U.S. It is part of the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention (CDC). Texas Center for Health Statistics: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/

Dartmouth Health Atlas of Health Care
http://www.dartmouthatlas.org/
For more than 20 years, the Dartmouth Atlas Project has documented glaring variations in how medical resources are distributed and used in the United States. The project uses Medicare data to provide information and analysis about national, regional, and local markets, as well as hospitals and their affiliated physicians. The site is widely used as a source for scholars, journalists, and policy makers.

Health Data Tools and Statistics / Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce
http://phpartners.org/health_stats.html
This public health portal has categorized data tools and statistics into subcategories: Health Statistics, National Public Health Data Sets, State and Local Public Health Data Sets, Public Health Infrastructure Data, Search for Other Tools, and Tools for Data Collection and Planning.

HHS Data Council Gateway to Data and Statistics
The HHS Directory of Health and Human Services Data Resources is a compilation of information about virtually all major data collection systems sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Note: This site is not being currently updated, but still has many useful links.

FedStats – Federal Government
http://www.fedstats.gov/aboutfedstats.html
FedStats provides access to the full range of official statistical information produced by the Federal Government without having to know in advance which Federal agency produces which particular statistic. Note: This site is not being currently updated, but still has many useful links.
State & County QuickFacts – U.S. Census Bureau
http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps / University of Wisconsin Population Health Project & Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/#app/
The County Health Rankings show the rank of the health of nearly every county in the nation and illustrate that much of what affects health occurs outside of the doctor’s office. The County Health Roadmaps project involves grants to national organizations and local coalitions across the U.S. to improve the health of people in their communities.

Texas County Health Profiles / Texas Department of State Health Services
http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/cfs/Texas-Health-Facts-Profiles.doc
The Texas Health Currents site also produces demographic reports (including health indicators) by county: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/hcquery/.

Health Services and Sciences Research Resources (HSRR)
HSRR is a searchable database of information about research datasets, instruments/indices and software. Users may examine and compare characteristics of some of the resources employed in Health Services Research, the Behavioral and Social Sciences and Public Health. HSRR includes clinical records, discharge summaries, claims records, epidemiological surveys, health/behavioral/social surveys, disease registries, birth registries, and data about practitioners, programs, and facilities.

MEPS / Medical Expenditure Panel Survey
http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/
MEPS is the most complete source of U.S. data on the cost and use of health care and health insurance coverage. MEPS produces nationally representative statistics on health care expenses, including the type of medical services used, how frequently they are used, the cost of services, and how they are paid for, as well as health conditions and health insurance availability and coverage.

Organizations and Agencies:

Healthy People 2020
Healthy People provides science-based, 10-year national objectives for improving the health of all Americans. For 3 decades, Healthy People has established benchmarks and monitored progress over time in order to: encourage collaborations across communities and sectors; empower individuals toward making informed health decisions; measure the impact of prevention activities. The Topics & Objectives site allows you to search the objectives by topic. Each objective summary includes notes on data sources.

Public Health Foundation / Public Health Improvement Resource Center
http://www.phf.org/improvement/
The Public Health Improvement Resource Center provides over 500 resources and tools for evaluating and building the capacities of public health systems.

Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce
http://phpartners.org/
Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce is a collaboration of U.S. government agencies, public health organizations, and health sciences libraries which provides timely, convenient access to selected public health resources.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
http://www.ahrq.gov/
AHRQ is the lead scientific research federal agency charged with supporting research designed to improve the quality of healthcare. AHRQ publishes annually the National Healthcare Disparities Report and National Healthcare Quality Report.
American Public Health Association
http://www.apha.org/
The American Public Health Association is the oldest and most diverse organization of public health professionals in the world and has been working to improve public health since 1872.

International:

United Nations Statistics Division
The Statistics Division compiles statistics from many international sources and produces global updates in specialized fields including health & disability.

World Bank Data and Statistics
http://data.worldbank.org/topic/health
Provides data derived, either directly or indirectly, from official statistical systems organized and financed by national governments, including health data.

World Health Organization / Global Health Observatory
http://www.who.int/research/en/
The WHO provides health and health-related epidemiological and statistical information; publishes annual World Health Statistics Report. The Global Health Observatory collects data around various themes, including public health:

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is an international public health agency with more than 100 years of experience in working to improve health and living standards of the countries of the Americas.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
http://www.oecd.org/
The mission of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), founded in 1961, is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. OECD health statistics:

Environment:

Toxnet / Toxicology Data Network
Toxnet is a database of hazardous chemicals, toxic releases and environmental health, including tools to identify pollution sources in your community.

[Links current as of January 2014. Contact: 214-828-8151, jfullinwider@bcd.tamhsc.edu.]