



**HSIS**

## Health Sciences Information Service

Alaska's Medical Library

Number 9

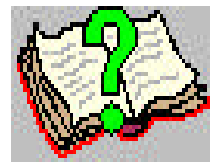
Mar.-Apr. 2002

**Q: I need health-related information for patients--what's a good source?**

**A: Use PubMed's medical database, and limit the subject to "patient education handout"**

Some journals publish summaries intended for patients or the lay public to explain a procedure or condition or summarize or comment on articles that report scientific or medical findings in the same issue. These summaries are designed for patients or to assist health professionals in talking to patients. In the 2002 indexing year and forward, the patient summaries are indexed with the new Publication Type: Patient Education Handout.

For more information on this new Publication Type and how to search PubMed for patient education information prior to 2002, go to the article in the *NLM Technical Bulletin* at [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/ma02/ma02\\_new\\_pt.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/ma02/ma02_new_pt.html)



**All Choked Up:** A study of half a million people in 116 cities shows that long term exposure to tiny soot particles from coal-burning power plants and diesel engines raises the risk of lung cancer some 20%--comparable to the effect of living with a smoker. *Time* 3/18/02 / *JAMA*



**Finding Statistics:** Each year the publishers of the journal *Modern Healthcare* publish a supplement titled "By The Numbers." It's filled with often-hard-to-find tidbits of information. Some of the charts and numbers include:

- Healthcare spending per capita
- Hospital admissions and outpatient visits

- Medicaid and Medicare spending
- Five year forecast for inpatient demand
- Median U.S. physician income
- Healthiest, unhealthiest states
- Leading cause of death

It is available in PDF format at: <http://www.modernhealthcare.com/pdf/2001by.pdf>

Rush literature searches of health-related databases are available 24/7: Loretta Andress, beeper 269-5520 x1426. Emergencies only please.

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