

County Health Rankings

About

The County Health Rankings, a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, measure the health of nearly all counties in the nation and rank them within states. The rankings are compiled using county-level measures from a variety of national and state data sources. These measures are standardized and combined using scientifically-informed weights. The County Health Rankings provide a snapshot of a community's health and a starting point for investigating and discussing ways to improve health. The rankings provide information on the big picture of health in your county, how your county compares to others, how your county may have changed over time and whether the health or opportunity vary by demographic in your county.

About the Measures

The County Health Rankings considered the following measures by category and focus area:

Health Outcomes

Length of Life

- Years of potential life lost before age 75 per 100,000 population (age-adjusted).
- Average number of years a person can expect to live.
- Number of deaths among residents under age 75 per 100,000 population (age-adjusted).
- Number of deaths among children under age 18 per 100,000 population.
- Number of all infant deaths (within 1 year), per 1,000 live births.

Quality of Life

- Percentage of adults in a county who consider themselves to be in poor or fair health.
- Average number of physically unhealthy days reported in past 30 days.
- Average number of mentally unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age-adjusted).
- Percentage of live births with low birthweight (< 2,500 grams).
- Percentage of adults reporting 14 or more days of poor physical health per month.
- Percentage of adults reporting 14 or more days of poor mental health per month.
- Percentage of adults aged 20 and above with diagnosed diabetes.
- Number of people aged 13 years and older living with a diagnosis of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection per 100,000 population.

Health Factors: Health Behaviors

Tobacco Use

- Percentage of adults who are current smokers.

Diet and Exercise

- Percentage of the adult population (age 20 and older) that reports a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30 kg/m².
- Index of factors that contribute to a healthy food environment, 0 (worst) to 10 (best).
- Percentage of adults age 20 and over reporting no leisure-time physical activity.
- Percentage of population with adequate access to locations for physical activity.
- Percentage of population who lack adequate access to food.
- Percentage of population who are low-income and do not live close to a grocery store.

Alcohol and Drug Use

- Percentage of adults reporting binge or heavy drinking.
- Percentage of driving deaths with alcohol involvement.
- Number of drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 population.
- Number of motor vehicle crash deaths per 100,000 population.

Sexual Activity

- Number of newly diagnosed chlamydia cases per 100,000 population.
- Number of births per 1,000 female population ages 15-19.

Insufficient Sleep

- Percentage of adults who report fewer than 7 hours of sleep on average.

Health Factors: Clinical Care

Access to Care

- Percentage of population under age 65 without health insurance.
- Ratio of population to primary care physicians.
- Ratio of population to dentists.
- Ratio of population to mental health providers.
- Percentage of adults under age 65 without health insurance.
- Percentage of children under age 19 without health insurance.
- Ratio of population to primary care providers other than physicians.

Quality of Care

- Rate of hospital stays for ambulatory-care sensitive conditions per 100,000 Medicare enrollees.
- Percentage of female Medicare enrollees ages 65-74 that received an annual mammography screening.
- Percentage of fee-for-service (FFS) Medicare enrollees that had an annual flu vaccination.

Health Factors: Social & Economic Factors

Education

- Percentage of ninth-grade cohort that graduates in four years.
- Percentage of adults ages 25-44 with some post-secondary education.
- Percentage of teens and young adults ages 16-19 who are neither working nor in school.

Employment

- Percentage of population ages 16 and older unemployed but seeking work.

Income

- Percentage of people under age 18 in poverty.
- Ratio of household income at the 80th percentile to income at the 20th percentile.
- The income where half of households in a county earn more and half of households earn less.
- Percentage of children enrolled in public schools that are eligible for free or reduced price lunch.

Family and Social Support

- Percentage of children that live in a household headed by single parent.
- Number of membership associations per 10,000 population.
- Index of dissimilarity where higher values indicate greater residential segregation between black and white county residents.
- Index of dissimilarity where higher values indicate greater residential segregation between non-white and white county residents.

Community Safety

- Number of reported violent crime offenses per 100,000 population.
- Number of deaths due to injury per 100,000 population.
- Number of deaths due to homicide per 100,000 population.
- Number of deaths due to firearms per 100,000 population.

Health Factors: Physical Environment

Air and Water Quality

- Average daily density of fine particulate matter in micrograms per cubic meter (PM2.5).
- Indicator of the presence of health-related drinking water violations. Yes indicates the presence of a violation, No indicates no violation.

Housing and Transit

- Percentage of households with at least 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen facilities, or lack of plumbing facilities.
- Percentage of the workforce that drives alone to work.

- Among workers who commute in their car alone, the percentage that commute more than 30 minutes.
- Percentage of occupied housing units that are owned.
- Percentage of households that spend 50% or more of their household income on housing.

About the Data

The County Health Rankings measure the health of nearly all counties in the nation and rank them within states. The Rankings are compiled using county-level measures from a variety of national and state data sources. These measures are standardized and combined using scientifically-informed weights. Counties in each of the 50 states are ranked according to summaries of a variety of health measures. Those having high ranks, e.g. 1 or 2, are considered to be the “healthiest.” Counties are ranked relative to the health of other counties in the same state. The team goes through a careful and deliberate process when selecting measures for Ranking, ensuring measures reflect important aspects of population health that can be improved, and that they are innovating to meet the needs of communities. Measures are also selected based on their technical and analytical feasibility, ensuring they are not limited by availability, cost, validity, coverage, or other concerns. The Rankings are based on counties and county equivalents (ranked places). Any entity that has its own Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) county code is included in the Rankings and only counties and county equivalents within a state are ranked. The major goal of the Rankings is to raise awareness about the many factors that influence health and that health varies from place to place, not to produce a list of the healthiest 10 or 20 counties in the nation and only focus on that.

Disclaimer

Data are intended to spur further research and should be used only as a starting point to understanding how the environment and other contributing factors may be connected to disease. Datasets presented on this site are intended to answer some basic questions, but should ultimately lead to further inquiry and more detailed study.

Data limitations should be noted if conducting exploratory ecological studies with these data. Limitations may include data gaps, reporting discrepancies (for example, a disruption of reporting or instrument recording following hurricanes) and insufficient data on all potentially confounding factors. There are numerous additional factors which may contribute to disease onset. These include genetics, access to health care, existing health conditions, medicines, other chemical substances we come into contact with or ingest, nutrition, route and duration of exposure, level of activity, level of stress, and many others.

Responsible use of this data therefore requires exercising caution when drawing conclusions based solely on views of the limited available data. Any perceived relationship, trend, or pattern apparent in the data should not be interpreted to imply causation; may in fact be unrelated; and should be regarded as preliminary, and potentially erroneous, until more in-

depth study and if applicable, statistical evaluation, can be applied. The LDH Bureau of Health Informatics and Environmental Public Health Tracking Program cannot guarantee the completeness of the information contained in these datasets and expressly disclaim liability for errors and omissions in their content.

Data Sources

- [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)
- [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System \(BRFSS\)](#)
- [National Center for Health Statistics - Mortality Files](#)
- [National Center for Health Statistics - Natality files](#)
- [CDC Diabetes Interactive Atlas](#)
- [National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention](#)
- [USDA Food Environment Atlas](#)
- [Map the Meal Gap from Feeding America](#)
- [Fatality Analysis Reporting System](#)
- [Small Area Health Insurance Estimates](#)
- [Area Health Resource File](#)
- [CMS, National Provider Identification](#)
- [Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool](#)
- [EDFacts](#)
- [American Community Survey, 5-year estimates](#)
- [Bureau of Labor Statistics, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates](#)
- [County Business Patterns](#)
- [Uniform Crime Reporting – FBI](#)
- [CDC WONDER mortality data](#)
- [Environmental Public Health Tracking Network](#)
- [Safe Drinking Water Information System](#)
- [Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy \(CHAS\)](#)
- [National Center for Education Statistics](#)
- [Census Population Estimates](#)

Additional Information

- [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)
- [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System \(BRFSS\)](#)

Questions

- Email: healthdata@la.gov