



County Health Rankings

Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health

2011

Arkansas



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Population Health Institute

Translating Research into Policy and Practice

Introduction

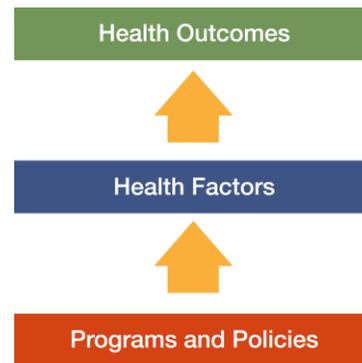
Where we live matters to our health. The health of a community depends on many different factors, including quality of health care, individual behavior, education and jobs, and the environment. We can improve a community's health through programs and policies. For example, people who live in communities with ample park and recreation space are more likely to exercise, which reduces heart disease risk. People who live in communities with smoke-free laws are less likely to smoke or to be exposed to second-hand smoke, which reduces lung cancer risk.

The problem is that there are big differences in health across communities, with some places being much healthier than others. And up to now, it has been hard to get a standard way to measure how healthy a county is and see where they can improve.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute are pleased to present the 2011 *County Health Rankings*, a collection of 50 reports that reflect the overall health of counties in every state across the country. For the second year in a row, counties can get a snapshot of how healthy their residents are by comparing their overall health and the factors that influence their health with other counties in their state. This allows communities to see county-to-county where they are doing well and where they need to improve.

Everyone has a stake in community health. We all need to work together to find solutions. The *County Health Rankings* serve as both a call to action and a needed tool in this effort.

All of the *County Health Rankings* are based upon this model of population health improvement:



In this model, health outcomes are measures that describe the current health status of a county. These health outcomes are influenced by a set of health factors. These health factors and their outcomes may also be affected by community-based programs and policies designed to alter their distribution in the community. Counties can improve health outcomes by addressing all health factors with effective, evidence-based programs and policies.

To compile the *Rankings*, we built on our prior work in Wisconsin, obtained input from a team of expert advisors, and worked closely with staff from the National Center for Health Statistics. Together we selected a number of population health measures based on scientific relevance, importance, and availability of data at the county level.

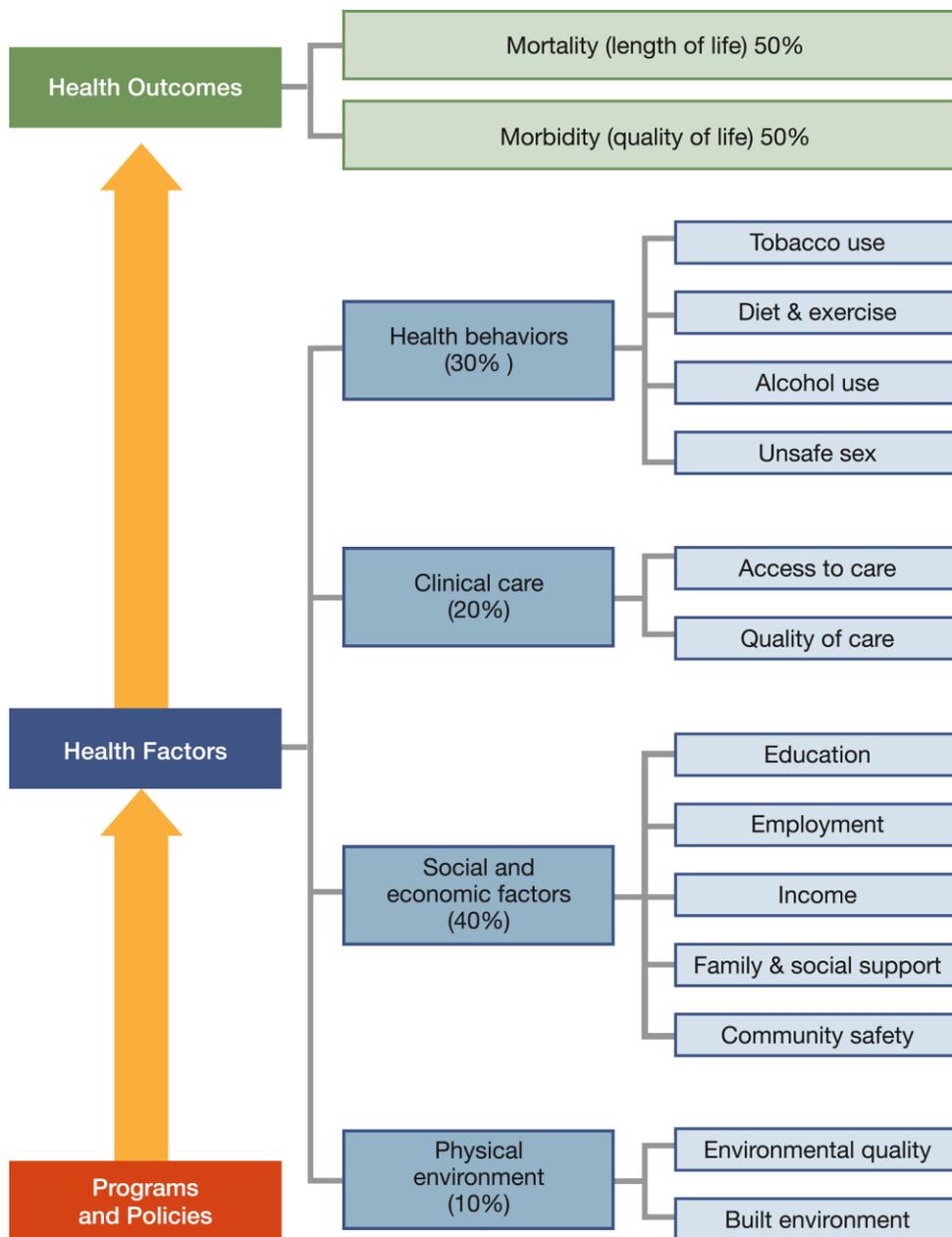
For a more detailed explanation of our approach, the methods used to compile the *Rankings*, information on the action steps communities can take to improve their health, and examples of communities in action, see www.countyhealthrankings.org



The Rankings

This report ranks Arkansas counties according to their summary measures of **health outcomes** and **health factors**, as well as the components used to create each summary measure. The figure below depicts the structure of the *Rankings* model. Counties receive a rank for each population health component; those having high ranks (e.g., 1 or 2) are estimated to be the “healthiest.”

Our summary **health outcomes** rankings are based on an equal weighting of mortality and morbidity measures. The summary **health factors** rankings are based on weighted scores of four types of factors: behavioral, clinical, social and economic, and environmental. The weights for the factors (shown in parentheses in the figure) are based upon a review of the literature and expert input, but represent just one way of combining these factors.

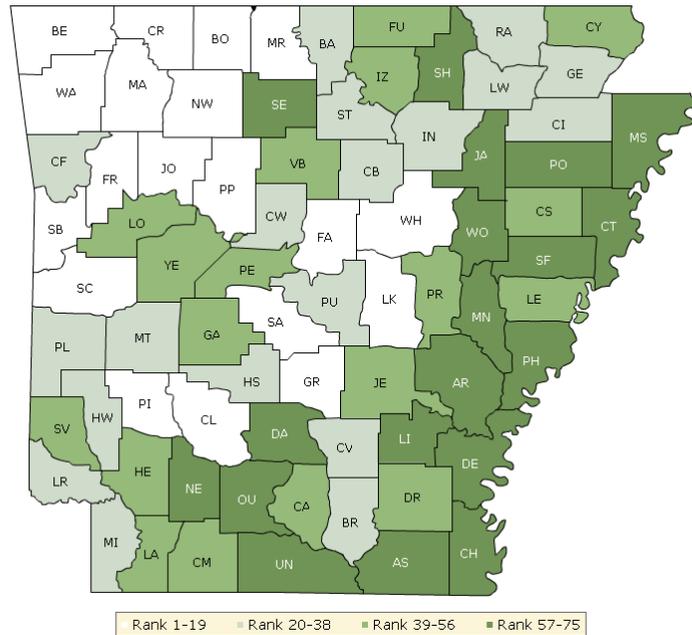


County Health Rankings model ©2010 UWPHI

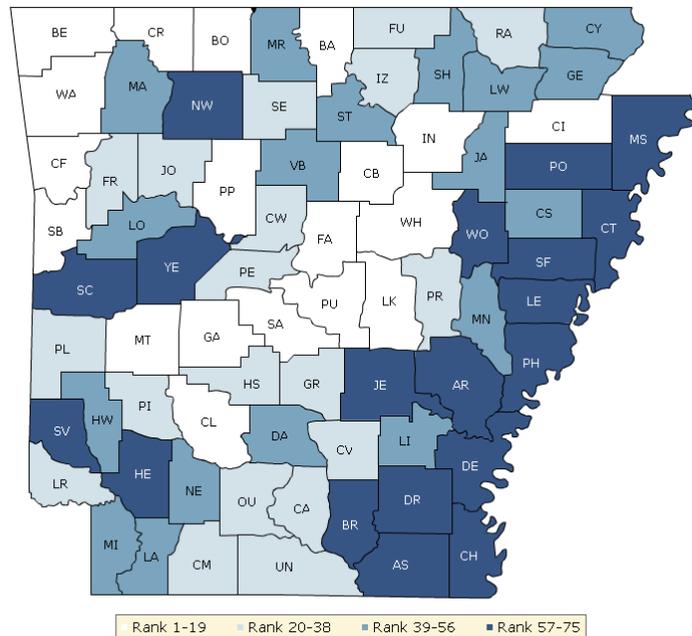
The maps on this page display Arkansas's counties divided into groups by health rank. The lighter colors indicate better performance in the respective summary rankings. The green map shows the distribution of summary health outcomes. The blue displays the distribution of the summary rank for health factors.

Maps help locate the healthiest and least healthy counties in the state. The health factors map appears similar to the health outcomes map, showing how health factors and health outcomes are closely related.

HEALTH OUTCOMES



HEALTH FACTORS



Summary Health Outcomes & Health Factors Rankings

Counties receive two summary ranks:

- Health Outcomes
- Health Factors

Each of these ranks represents a weighted summary of a number of measures.

Health outcomes represent how healthy a county is while health factors are what influences the health of the county.

Rank	Health Outcomes	Rank	Health Factors
1	Benton	1	Faulkner
2	Washington	2	Benton
3	Faulkner	3	Washington
4	Pope	4	Saline
5	Newton	5	Sebastian
6	Franklin	6	Cleburne
7	Madison	7	Craighead
8	Clark	8	Pulaski
9	Pike	9	Boone
10	White	10	Baxter
11	Carroll	11	Clark
12	Johnson	12	White
13	Grant	13	Pope
14	Saline	14	Lonoke
15	Boone	15	Montgomery
16	Lonoke	16	Independence
17	Sebastian	17	Carroll
18	Marion	18	Crawford
19	Scott	19	Garland
20	Baxter	20	Izard
21	Howard	21	Cleveland
22	Crawford	22	Conway
23	Conway	23	Randolph
24	Stone	24	Pike
25	Randolph	25	Union
26	Craighead	26	Fulton
27	Montgomery	27	Franklin
28	Cleburne	28	Little River
29	Hot Spring	29	Columbia
30	Polk	30	Hot Spring
31	Pulaski	31	Johnson
32	Cleveland	32	Searcy
33	Independence	33	Perry
34	Bradley	34	Ouachita
35	Miller	35	Prairie
36	Lawrence	36	Polk
37	Little River	37	Grant
38	Greene	38	Calhoun
39	Columbia	39	Greene
40	Perry	40	Logan

Rank	Health Outcomes	Rank	Health Factors
41	Yell	41	Van Buren
42	Sevier	42	Monroe
43	Drew	43	Marion
44	Fulton	44	Howard
45	Garland	45	Madison
46	Izard	46	Nevada
47	Cross	47	Lafayette
48	Hempstead	48	Sharp
49	Logan	49	Miller
50	Jefferson	50	Lawrence
51	Lafayette	51	Dallas
52	Calhoun	52	Cross
53	Clay	53	Clay
54	Van Buren	54	Stone
55	Prairie	55	Lincoln
56	Lee	56	Jackson
57	Ashley	57	Bradley
58	Lincoln	58	Woodruff
59	Searcy	59	Jefferson
60	Ouachita	60	Drew
61	Sharp	61	Scott
62	Jackson	62	Arkansas
63	Union	63	Hempstead
64	Nevada	64	Newton
65	Desha	65	Sevier
66	Arkansas	66	Ashley
67	Woodruff	67	Poinsett
68	St. Francis	68	Yell
69	Monroe	69	Lee
70	Mississippi	70	Crittenden
71	Crittenden	71	St. Francis
72	Chicot	72	Chicot
73	Dallas	73	Mississippi
74	Poinsett	74	Desha
75	Phillips	75	Phillips

Health Outcomes Rankings

The summary health outcomes ranking is based on measures of mortality and morbidity. Each county's ranks for mortality and morbidity are displayed here. The mortality rank, representing length of life, is based on a measure of premature death: the years of potential life lost prior to age 75.

The morbidity rank is based on measures that represent health-related quality of life and birth outcomes. We combine four morbidity measures: self-reported fair or poor health, poor physical health days, poor mental health days, and the percent of births with low birthweight.

Rank	Mortality	Morbidity
1	Benton	Benton
2	Washington	Washington
3	Grant	Baxter
4	Faulkner	Marion
5	Franklin	Boone
6	Cleveland	Madison
7	Newton	Pope
8	Pike	Newton
9	Pope	Faulkner
10	Saline	Crawford
11	Randolph	Clark
12	Stone	Franklin
13	Carroll	Lonoke
14	Cleburne	White
15	White	Johnson
16	Johnson	Sebastian
17	Clark	Scott
18	Madison	Carroll
19	Hempstead	Craighead
20	Sebastian	Sevier
21	Lonoke	Howard
22	Independence	Conway
23	Montgomery	Pulaski
24	Scott	Pike
25	Howard	Drew
26	Polk	Saline
27	Conway	Lawrence
28	Miller	Fulton
29	Little River	Calhoun
30	Boone	Hot Spring
31	Crawford	Bradley
32	Hot Spring	Union
33	Craighead	Greene
34	Marion	Columbia
35	Bradley	Montgomery
36	Lafayette	Garland
37	Perry	Clay
38	Baxter	Monroe
39	Cross	Stone
40	Pulaski	Lincoln

Rank	Mortality	Morbidity
41	Lawrence	Polk
42	Izard	Jefferson
43	Lee	Yell
44	Yell	Independence
45	Logan	Little River
46	Greene	Miller
47	Ashley	Van Buren
48	Columbia	Grant
49	Prairie	Perry
50	Ouachita	Searcy
51	Van Buren	Randolph
52	Jefferson	Izard
53	Garland	Cleburne
54	Sharp	Dallas
55	Jackson	Cross
56	Nevada	Logan
57	Fulton	Prairie
58	Drew	Woodruff
59	Clay	Lafayette
60	Searcy	Ashley
61	Sevier	Cleveland
62	Lincoln	Arkansas
63	Calhoun	Lee
64	St. Francis	Desha
65	Desha	Poinsett
66	Arkansas	Ouachita
67	Mississippi	Crittenden
68	Chicot	Sharp
69	Woodruff	Jackson
70	Crittenden	Phillips
71	Union	Nevada
72	Monroe	Hempstead
73	Phillips	St. Francis
74	Poinsett	Chicot
75	Dallas	Mississippi

Health Factors Rankings

The summary health factors ranking is based on four factors: health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic, and physical environment factors. In turn, each of these factors is based on several measures. Health behaviors include measures of smoking, diet and exercise, alcohol use, and risky sex behavior. Clinical

care includes measures of access to care and quality of care. Social and economic factors include measures of education, employment, income, family and social support, and community safety. The physical environment includes measures of environmental quality and the built environment.

Rank	Health Behaviors	Rank	Clinical Care	Rank	Social & Economic Factors	Rank	Physical Environment
1	Montgomery	1	Pulaski	1	Saline	1	Carroll
2	Benton	2	Jefferson	2	Faulkner	1	Howard
3	Boone	3	Sebastian	3	Benton	3	Clark
4	Faulkner	4	Union	4	Washington	3	Columbia
5	Cleburne	5	Garland	5	Lonoke	5	Chicot
6	Izard	6	Faulkner	6	Grant	6	Sebastian
7	Washington	7	Craighead	7	Little River	7	Union
8	White	8	Baxter	8	Pope	7	Washington
9	Clark	9	Independence	9	Cleburne	9	Poinsett
10	Pulaski	10	Ouachita	10	Craighead	10	Benton
11	Baxter	11	Cleburne	11	Boone	11	St. Francis
12	Sebastian	12	Conway	12	Franklin	12	Jackson
13	Searcy	13	Chicot	13	Carroll	13	Monroe
14	Saline	14	Saline	14	Crawford	13	Sevier
15	Carroll	15	Fulton	15	Cleveland	15	Hempstead
16	Lafayette	16	Miller	16	Sebastian	16	Cross
17	Independence	17	Randolph	17	White	16	Faulkner
18	Cleveland	18	Ashley	18	Pike	18	White
19	Pike	19	Lincoln	19	Independence	19	Ouachita
20	Marion	20	Pope	20	Madison	20	Conway
21	Craighead	21	Benton	21	Perry	21	Craighead
22	Crawford	22	Searcy	22	Johnson	21	Grant
23	Columbia	23	Arkansas	23	Baxter	23	Randolph
24	Garland	24	Logan	24	Clark	24	Lonoke
25	Woodruff	25	Nevada	25	Cross	25	Garland
26	Jackson	26	Boone	26	Fulton	26	Bradley
27	Randolph	27	Johnson	27	Hot Spring	27	Prairie
28	Perry	28	Monroe	28	Conway	28	Baxter
29	Prairie	29	Columbia	29	Polk	29	Hot Spring
30	Dallas	30	Clay	30	Izard	29	Van Buren
31	Pope	31	Clark	31	Pulaski	31	Montgomery
32	Stone	32	Lawrence	32	Greene	32	Drew
33	Bradley	33	Sharp	33	Montgomery	32	Phillips
34	Hot Spring	34	Crawford	34	Miller	34	Desha
35	Calhoun	35	Crittenden	35	Prairie	35	Cleveland
36	Fulton	36	Washington	36	Garland	35	Dallas
37	Clay	37	Polk	37	Randolph	35	Pike
38	Conway	38	Marion	38	Logan	35	Woodruff
39	Van Buren	39	Lafayette	39	Calhoun	39	Mississippi
40	Howard	40	Lonoke	40	Lawrence	40	Crawford

Rank	Health Behaviors	Rank	Clinical Care	Rank	Social & Economic Factors	Rank	Physical Environment
41	Lee	41	Franklin	41	Scott	41	Lincoln
42	Sharp	42	Lee	42	Ouachita	42	Polk
43	Union	43	Greene	43	Nevada	43	Marion
44	Franklin	44	White	44	Sevier	44	Johnson
45	Greene	45	Izard	45	Stone	45	Cleburne
46	Johnson	46	Hot Spring	46	Union	45	Jefferson
47	Ouachita	47	Dallas	47	Van Buren	47	Izard
48	Lonoke	48	Poinsett	48	Yell	48	Calhoun
49	Scott	49	Calhoun	49	Howard	48	Little River
50	Monroe	50	Van Buren	50	Newton	50	Pope
51	Drew	51	St. Francis	51	Columbia	51	Madison
52	Polk	52	Bradley	52	Monroe	51	Sharp
53	Lincoln	53	Montgomery	53	Sharp	53	Nevada
54	Madison	54	Little River	54	Hempstead	54	Saline
55	Logan	55	Mississippi	55	Searcy	55	Stone
56	Nevada	56	Carroll	56	Drew	56	Ashley
57	Arkansas	57	Grant	57	Clay	57	Arkansas
58	Little River	58	Howard	58	Poinsett	58	Franklin
59	Newton	59	Cleveland	59	Ashley	58	Scott
60	Lawrence	60	Woodruff	60	Lafayette	58	Searcy
61	Sevier	61	Prairie	61	Marion	61	Miller
62	Hempstead	62	Perry	62	Jackson	62	Independence
63	St. Francis	63	Drew	63	Dallas	63	Boone
64	Cross	64	Desha	64	Lincoln	63	Lee
65	Mississippi	65	Hempstead	65	Arkansas	65	Yell
66	Desha	66	Pike	66	Jefferson	66	Lawrence
67	Grant	67	Newton	67	Bradley	67	Logan
68	Yell	68	Cross	68	Woodruff	68	Pulaski
69	Jefferson	69	Madison	69	Crittenden	69	Lafayette
70	Crittenden	70	Phillips	70	Desha	70	Newton
71	Miller	71	Jackson	71	St. Francis	71	Perry
72	Poinsett	72	Stone	72	Mississippi	72	Fulton
73	Ashley	73	Scott	73	Chicot	73	Greene
74	Phillips	74	Yell	74	Lee	74	Clay
75	Chicot	75	Sevier	75	Phillips	75	Crittenden

2011 County Health Rankings: Measures, Data Sources, and Years of Data

	Measure	Data Source	Years of Data
HEALTH OUTCOMES			
Mortality	Premature death	National Center for Health Statistics	2005-2007
Morbidity	Poor or fair health	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2003-2009
	Poor physical health days	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2003-2009
	Poor mental health days	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2003-2009
	Low birthweight	National Center for Health Statistics	2001-2007
HEALTH FACTORS			
HEALTH BEHAVIORS			
Tobacco	Adult smoking	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2003-2009
Diet and Exercise	Adult obesity	National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion	2008
Alcohol Use	Excessive drinking	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2003-2009
	Motor vehicle crash death rate	National Center for Health Statistics	2001-2007
High Risk Sexual Behavior	Sexually transmitted infections	National Center for Hepatitis, HIV, STD and TB Prevention	2008
	Teen birth rate	National Center for Health Statistics	2001-2007
CLINICAL CARE			
Access to Care	Uninsured adults	Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, U.S. Census	2007
	Primary care providers	Health Resources & Services Administration	2008
Quality of Care	Preventable hospital stays	Medicare/Dartmouth Institute	2006-2007
	Diabetic screening	Medicare/Dartmouth Institute	2006-2007
	Mammography screening	Medicare/Dartmouth Institute	2006-2007
SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS			
Education	High school graduation	National Center for Education Statistics ¹	2006-2007
	Some college	American Community Survey	2005-2009
Employment	Unemployment	Bureau of Labor Statistics	2009
Income	Children in poverty	Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Census	2008
Family and Social Support	Inadequate social support	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2005-2009
	Single-parent households	American Community Survey	2005-2009
Community Safety	Violent crime ²	Uniform Crime Reporting, Federal Bureau of Investigation	2006-2008
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT			
Air Quality ³	Air pollution-particulate matter days	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency / Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	2006
	Air pollution-ozone days	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency / Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	2006
Built Environment	Access to healthy foods	Census Zip Code Business Patterns	2008
	Access to recreational facilities	Census County Business Patterns	2008

¹ State data sources for KY, NH, NC, PA, SC, and UT (2008-2009).

² Homicide rate (2001-2007) from National Center for Health Statistics for AK, AZ, AR, CO, CT, GA, ID, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, MN, MS, MT, NE, NH, NM, NC, ND, OH, SD, UT, and WV. State data source for IL.

³ Not available for AK and HI.

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