

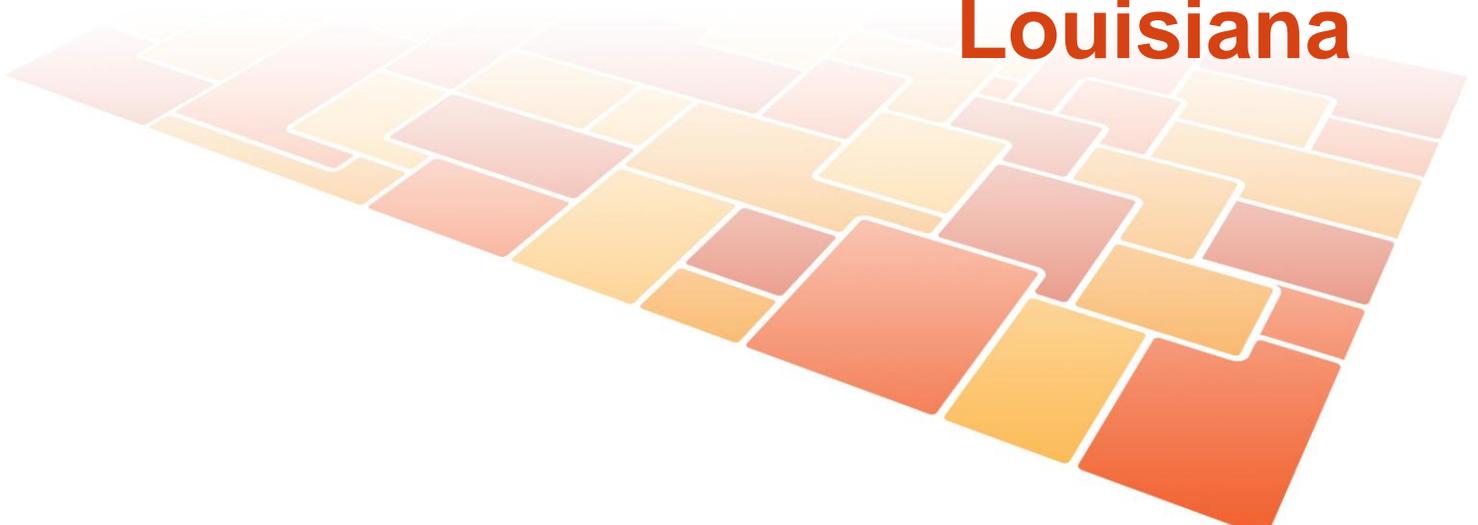


# County Health Rankings

Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health

2011

**Louisiana**



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.

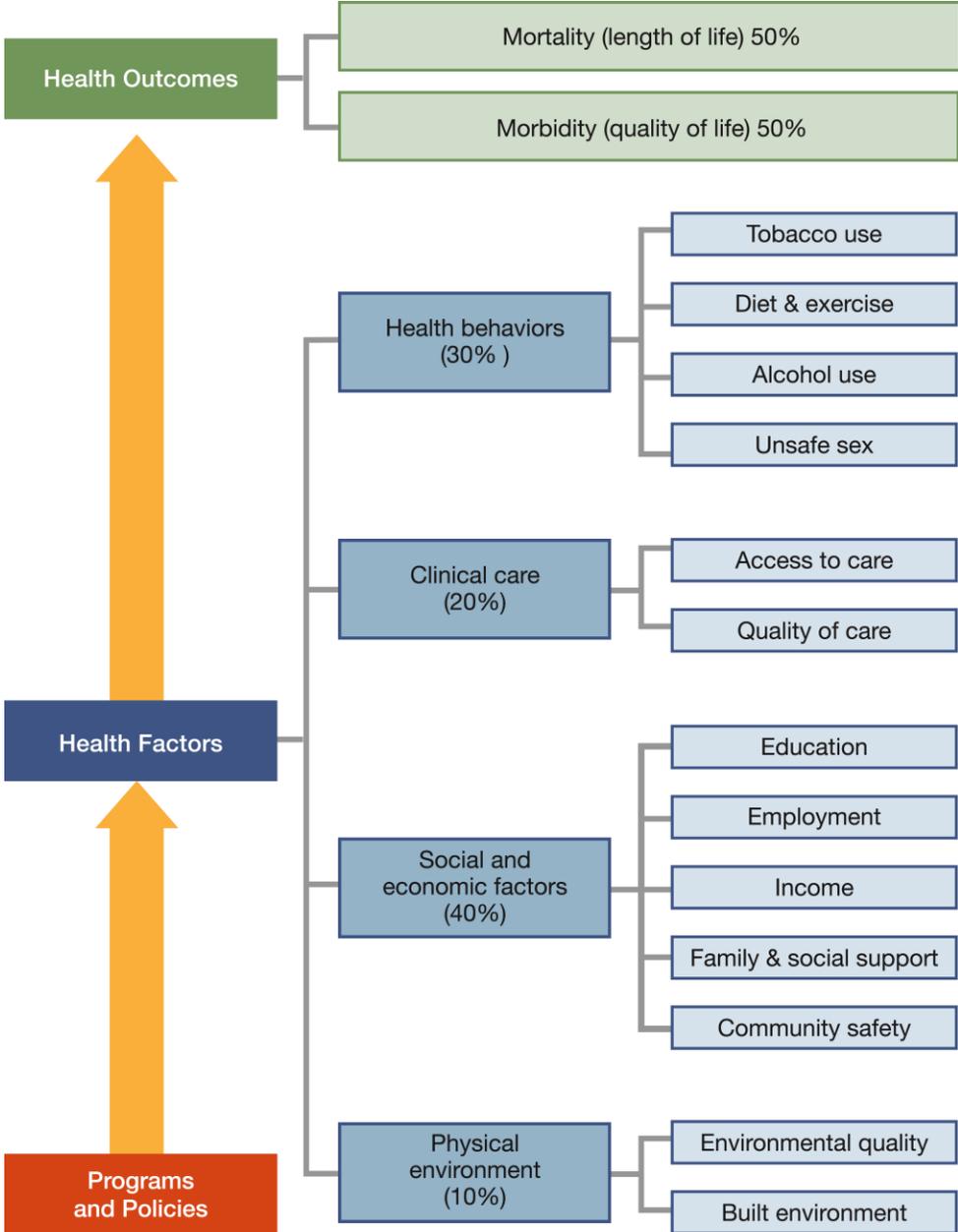
For a more detailed explanation of our approach, the methods used to compile the *Rankings*, information on the action steps communities can take to improve their health, and examples of communities in action, see [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)



# The Rankings

This report ranks Louisiana 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.

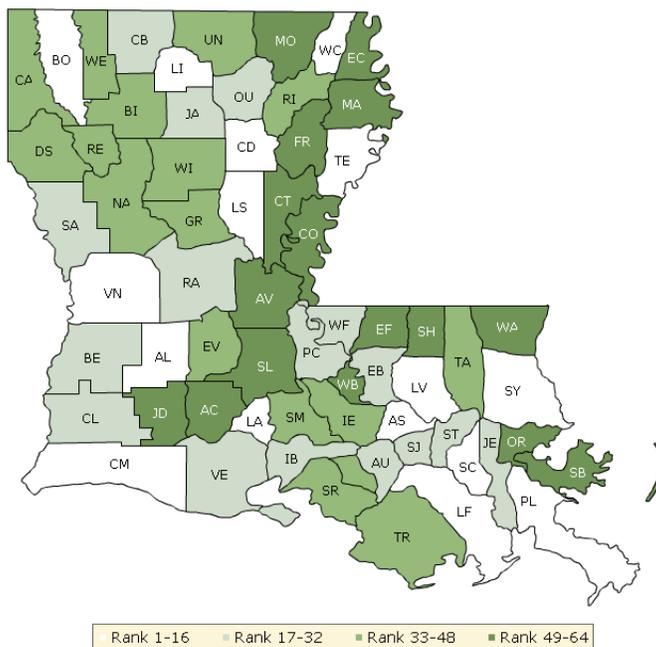


County Health Rankings model ©2010 UWPHI

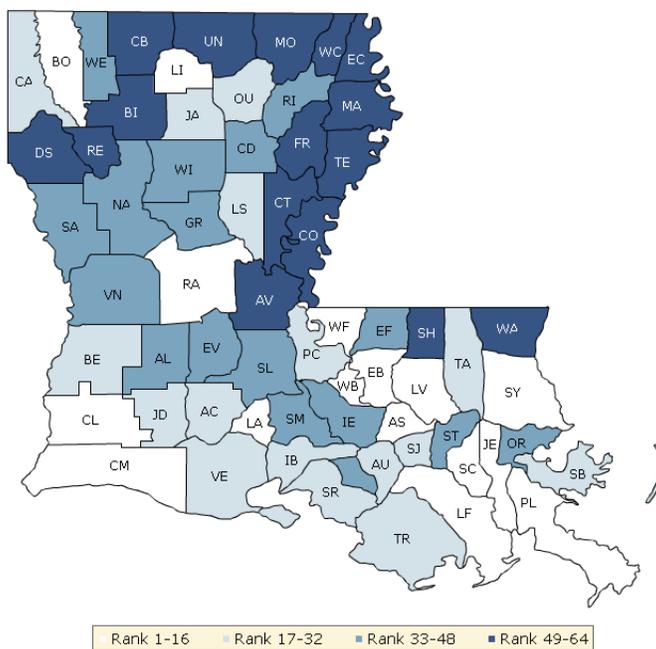
The maps on this page display Louisiana's counties divided into groups by health rank. The lighter colors indicate better performance in the respective summary rankings. The green map shows the distribution of summary health outcomes. The blue displays the distribution of the summary rank for health 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	St. Tammany	1	St. Tammany
2	Allen	2	Lafayette
3	Cameron	3	Ascension
4	Bossier	4	St. Charles
5	Vernon	5	Cameron
6	Plaquemines	6	East Baton Rouge
7	Lincoln	7	Jefferson
8	Lafayette	8	Bossier
9	Lafourche	9	West Feliciana
10	Ascension	10	Rapides
11	St. Charles	11	Livingston
12	Tensas	12	Plaquemines
13	La Salle	13	West Baton Rouge
14	Caldwell	14	Lincoln
15	West Carroll	15	Calcasieu
16	Livingston	16	Lafourche
17	Jefferson	17	Ouachita
18	Vermilion	18	Caddo
19	East Baton Rouge	19	Jackson
20	West Feliciana	20	Beauregard
21	Jackson	21	Acadia
22	Sabine	22	Pointe Coupee
23	Ouachita	23	Vermilion
24	Rapides	24	St. James
25	St. James	25	Iberia
26	Iberia	26	St. Mary
27	Pointe Coupee	27	Terrebonne
28	St. John the Baptist	28	St. Bernard
29	Beauregard	29	Jefferson Davis
30	Claiborne	30	La Salle
31	Assumption	31	Tangipahoa
32	Calcasieu	32	Assumption
33	Winn	33	Webster
34	Union	34	St. John the Baptist
35	Natchitoches	35	St. Martin
36	Terrebonne	36	Allen
37	St. Mary	37	East Feliciana
38	Caddo	38	Caldwell
39	Richland	39	Evangeline
40	Bienville	40	Winn

Rank	Health Outcomes	Rank	Health Factors
41	De Soto	41	Vernon
42	Red River	42	Natchitoches
43	St. Martin	43	Grant
44	Grant	44	St. Landry
45	Webster	45	Iberville
46	Evangeline	46	Richland
47	Tangipahoa	47	Sabine
48	Iberville	48	Orleans
49	East Feliciana	49	Claiborne
50	Acadia	50	De Soto
51	Avoyelles	51	Union
52	Jefferson Davis	52	Concordia
53	Catahoula	53	Red River
54	Franklin	54	Avoyelles
55	St. Landry	55	Catahoula
56	Morehouse	56	Bienville
57	St. Helena	57	Washington
58	St. Bernard	58	St. Helena
59	West Baton Rouge	59	West Carroll
60	Orleans	60	Tensas
61	Washington	61	Morehouse
62	Concordia	62	Franklin
63	Madison	63	Madison
64	East Carroll	64	East Carroll

## 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	Allen	West Feliciana
2	Bossier	St. Tammany
3	St. Tammany	Cameron
4	Cameron	Lafayette
5	Lafourche	La Salle
6	Vernon	Vernon
7	Ascension	Caldwell
8	Plaquemines	Tensas
9	Lincoln	Lincoln
10	St. Charles	Plaquemines
11	Assumption	Livingston
12	Lafayette	St. Charles
13	Sabine	Ascension
14	Tensas	West Carroll
15	Jackson	Lafourche
16	West Carroll	Jefferson
17	St. John the Baptist	Bossier
18	La Salle	East Baton Rouge
19	Vermilion	Calcasieu
20	Caldwell	East Feliciana
21	Jefferson	Vermilion
22	Livingston	Pointe Coupee
23	Iberia	Claiborne
24	St. James	Beauregard
25	Ouachita	Union
26	East Baton Rouge	Bienville
27	Rapides	Ouachita
28	Winn	Rapides
29	St. Mary	St. James
30	Catahoula	Tangipahoa
31	Beauregard	Grant
32	De Soto	Natchitoches
33	Terrebonne	Iberia
34	St. Martin	Red River
35	Pointe Coupee	Webster
36	Claiborne	Terrebonne
37	Evangeline	Caddo
38	Natchitoches	Jackson
39	Richland	Richland
40	Caddo	St. John the Baptist

Rank	Mortality	Morbidity
41	Union	Sabine
42	Calcasieu	Winn
43	Avoyelles	St. Mary
44	Iberville	Acadia
45	Bienville	East Carroll
46	West Feliciana	Jefferson Davis
47	Red River	Franklin
48	St. Landry	Orleans
49	Webster	Allen
50	Morehouse	St. Helena
51	Grant	Iberville
52	Acadia	Washington
53	Jefferson Davis	De Soto
54	Tangipahoa	St. Bernard
55	Franklin	St. Landry
56	St. Bernard	St. Martin
57	West Baton Rouge	Avoyelles
58	St. Helena	Madison
59	East Feliciana	Assumption
60	Washington	Morehouse
61	Concordia	Evangeline
62	Orleans	Concordia
63	Madison	West Baton Rouge
64	East Carroll	Catahoula

## 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	St. Tammany	1	Caddo	1	St. Tammany	1	St. Tammany
2	East Baton Rouge	2	Orleans	2	Cameron	2	Plaquemines
3	Cameron	3	East Baton Rouge	3	Ascension	3	Lafayette
4	Lafayette	4	Rapides	4	Lafayette	4	West Baton Rouge
5	West Feliciana	5	Jefferson	5	Livingston	5	Jefferson Davis
6	Jefferson	6	Lafayette	6	St. Charles	6	Red River
7	Ascension	7	St. Tammany	7	Bossier	7	Tangipahoa
8	Orleans	8	Pointe Coupee	8	Lafourche	8	Ouachita
9	Lincoln	9	Calcasieu	9	Vernon	9	Madison
10	West Baton Rouge	10	Ascension	10	Calcasieu	10	Jackson
11	Caldwell	11	St. Mary	11	Plaquemines	11	Union
12	St. Charles	12	Ouachita	12	Jackson	12	St. John the Baptist
13	Pointe Coupee	13	St. Landry	13	Beauregard	13	Concordia
14	Caddo	14	Webster	14	Jefferson Davis	14	St. Charles
15	Rapides	15	Lafourche	15	Lincoln	15	West Feliciana
16	Plaquemines	16	St. Bernard	16	West Feliciana	16	St. Martin
17	La Salle	17	Assumption	17	La Salle	17	West Carroll
18	Bossier	18	Terrebonne	18	Rapides	18	Franklin
19	Ouachita	19	St. Charles	19	Terrebonne	19	Livingston
20	Winn	20	Iberville	20	Vermilion	20	Jefferson
21	Acadia	21	Iberia	21	Jefferson	21	Vermilion
22	Natchitoches	22	Concordia	22	East Baton Rouge	22	Washington
23	Jackson	23	Bossier	23	St. James	23	Iberia
24	St. James	24	St. John the Baptist	24	West Baton Rouge	24	Acadia
25	Beauregard	25	Lincoln	25	East Feliciana	25	Tensas
26	Livingston	26	Morehouse	26	St. John the Baptist	26	Orleans
27	Red River	27	Acadia	27	St. Mary	27	St. Landry
28	Iberville	28	Natchitoches	28	Grant	28	St. Bernard
29	West Carroll	29	West Baton Rouge	29	St. Martin	29	Avoyelles
30	Assumption	30	West Feliciana	30	Acadia	30	St. Mary

Rank	Health Behaviors	Rank	Clinical Care	Rank	Social & Economic Factors	Rank	Physical Environment
31	Vermilion	31	Claiborne	31	Tangipahoa	31	Terrebonne
32	Claiborne	32	Jefferson Davis	32	Ouachita	32	Allen
33	St. Bernard	33	Tensas	33	Iberia	33	Bossier
34	Allen	34	Avoyelles	34	Allen	34	Winn
35	Evangeline	35	Tangipahoa	35	Sabine	35	Evangeline
36	Iberia	36	Richland	36	De Soto	36	East Feliciana
37	Concordia	37	St. James	37	Pointe Coupee	37	Richland
38	Tensas	38	Plaquemines	38	Winn	38	Rapides
39	Calcasieu	39	Evangeline	39	Webster	39	Calcasieu
40	Lafourche	40	Livingston	40	Caldwell	40	Natchitoches
41	Richland	41	Washington	41	Avoyelles	41	Lincoln
42	Webster	42	Bienville	42	Evangeline	42	Sabine
43	Catahoula	43	East Feliciana	43	Bienville	43	Cameron
44	St. Martin	44	St. Martin	44	Assumption	44	Webster
45	Union	45	Beauregard	45	Caddo	45	St. Helena
46	Sabine	46	Catahoula	46	St. Bernard	46	La Salle
47	Tangipahoa	47	Allen	47	St. Landry	47	Vernon
48	Morehouse	48	Vermilion	48	Union	48	East Carroll
49	Grant	49	Franklin	49	Richland	49	Beauregard
50	St. Mary	50	Madison	50	Natchitoches	50	Bienville
51	De Soto	51	De Soto	51	Iberville	51	Caldwell
52	East Feliciana	52	East Carroll	52	Washington	51	Grant
53	St. Helena	53	Grant	53	Red River	53	De Soto
54	St. John the Baptist	54	Cameron	54	Claiborne	54	Claiborne
55	St. Landry	55	Union	55	Catahoula	55	East Baton Rouge
56	Vernon	56	Sabine	56	St. Helena	56	Lafourche
57	Madison	57	Jackson	57	Franklin	57	Assumption
58	Terrebonne	58	St. Helena	58	Concordia	58	Catahoula
59	Jefferson Davis	59	Winn	59	West Carroll	59	Caddo
60	East Carroll	60	Red River	60	Morehouse	60	Morehouse
61	Avoyelles	61	Caldwell	61	Madison	61	St. James
62	Bienville	62	Vernon	62	Tensas	62	Pointe Coupee
63	Washington	63	La Salle	63	Orleans	63	Iberville
64	Franklin	64	West Carroll	64	East Carroll	64	Ascension

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

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

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Not available for AK and HI.

## CREDITS

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