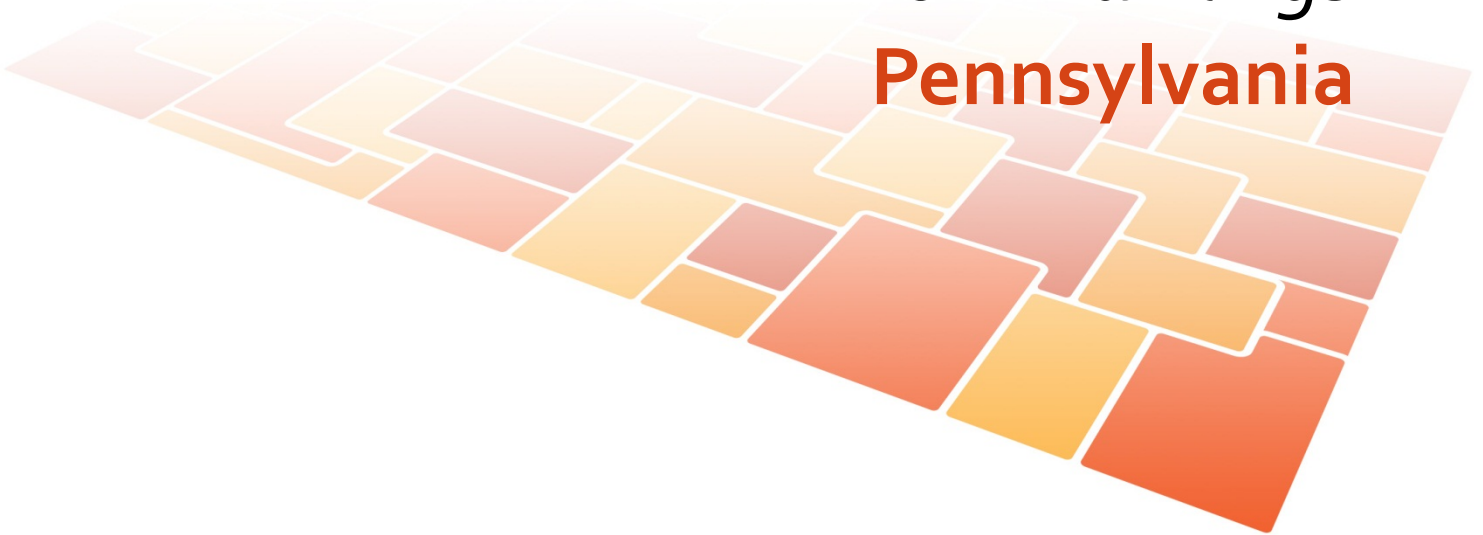# County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

A Healthier Nation, County by County

2012 *Rankings*
Pennsylvania

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 the environment, education and jobs, access to and quality of healthcare, and individual behaviors. We can improve a community's health by implementing effective policies and programs. For example, 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. In addition, people who live in communities with safe and accessible park and recreation space are more likely to exercise, which reduces heart disease risk.

However, health varies greatly across communities, with some places being much healthier than others. And, until now, there has been no standard method to illustrate what we know about what makes people sick or healthy or a central resource to identify what we can do to create healthier places to live, learn, work and play.

We know that much of what influences our health happens outside of the doctor's office – in our schools, workplaces and neighborhoods. The *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* program provides information on the overall health of your community and provides the tools necessary to create community-based, evidence-informed solutions. Ranking the health of nearly every county across the nation, the *County Health Rankings* illustrate **what we know** when it comes to what is making communities sick or healthy. The *County Health Roadmaps* show **what we can do** to create healthier places to live, learn, work and play. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation collaborates with the University of Wisconsin

Population Health Institute to bring this groundbreaking program to counties and states across the nation.

The *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* program includes the *County Health Rankings* project, launched in 2010, and the newer *Roadmaps* project that mobilizes local communities, national partners and leaders across all sectors to improve health. The program is based on this model of population health improvement:
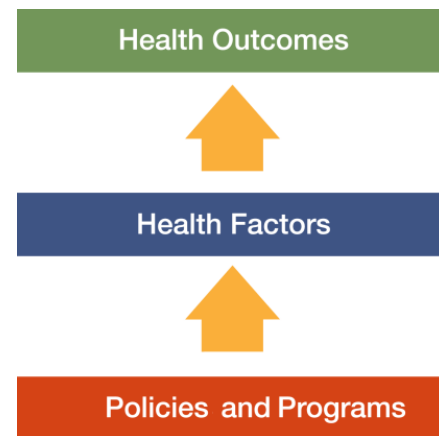
In this model, health outcomes are measures that describe the current health status of a county. These health outcomes are influenced by a set of health factors. Counties can improve health outcomes by addressing all health factors with effective, evidence-informed policies and programs.

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

Guide to Our Web Site

To compile the *Rankings*, we selected measures that reflect important aspects of population health that can be improved and are available at the county level across the nation. Visit www.countyhealthrankings.org to learn more.

To get started and see data, enter your county or state name in the search box. Click on the name of a county or measure to see more details. You can: Compare Counties; Download data for your state; Print one or more county

snapshots; or Share information with others via Facebook, Twitter, or Google+. To understand our methods, click on Learn about the Data and Methods. To learn about steps that you can take to improve health in your community, click on the *Roadmaps* tab. The *Roadmaps to Health* Action Center provides tools and resources to help groups working together to create healthier places. The Opportunities section provides information on funding, recognition, and partnership opportunities. The Connections section helps you learn what others are doing.

County Health Roadmaps

The *Rankings* illustrate **what we know** when it comes to making people sick or healthy. The *County Health Rankings* confirm the critical role that factors such as education, jobs, income and the environment play in how healthy people are and how long we live.

This report introduces the *County Health Roadmaps*, a new partnership that mobilizes local communities, national partners and leaders across all sectors to improve health. The *County Health Roadmaps* show **what we can do** to create healthier places to live, learn, work and play. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation collaborates with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute to bring this groundbreaking project to cities, counties and states across the nation.

The *Roadmaps* project includes grants to local coalitions and partnerships among policymakers, business, education, public health, health care, and community organizations; grants to national organizations working to improve health; recognition of communities whose promising efforts have led to better health; and customized technical assistance on strategies to improve health.

Roadmaps to Health Community Grants

The *Roadmaps to Health* Community Grants provide funding for 2 years to state and local efforts among policymakers, business, education, healthcare, public health and community organizations working to create positive policy or systems changes that address the social and economic factors that influence the health of people in their community.

Roadmaps to Health Partner Grants

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is awarding *Roadmaps to Health* Partner Grants to national organizations that are experienced at engaging local partners and leaders and are able to deliver high-quality training and technical assistance, and committed to making communities healthier places to live, learn, work and play. Partner grantees increase awareness about the *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* to their members, affiliates and allies. The first Partner Grant was awarded to United Way Worldwide (UWW) in July 2011.

Roadmaps to Health Prize

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute will award *Roadmaps to Health* Prizes of $25,000 to up to six communities that are working to become healthier places to live, learn, work and play. The *Roadmaps to Health* Prize is intended not only to honor successful efforts, but also to inspire and stimulate similar activities in other U.S. communities.


Roadmaps to Health Action Center

The *Roadmaps to Health* Action Center, based at the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, provides tools and resources to help groups working to make their communities healthier places. The new Action Center will provide guidance on developing strategies and advocacy efforts to advance pro-health policies, offer opportunities for ongoing learning, and in the summer of 2012, host a searchable database of evidence-informed policies and programs focused on health improvement. Experts provide customized consultation to local communities who have demonstrated the willingness and capacity to address factors that we know influence how healthy a person is, such as education, income and family connectedness.

County Health Rankings

The 2012 *County Health Rankings* report ranks Pennsylvania counties according to their summary measures of **health outcomes** and **health factors**. Counties also receive a rank for mortality, morbidity, health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment. The figure below depicts the structure of the *Rankings* model; 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.
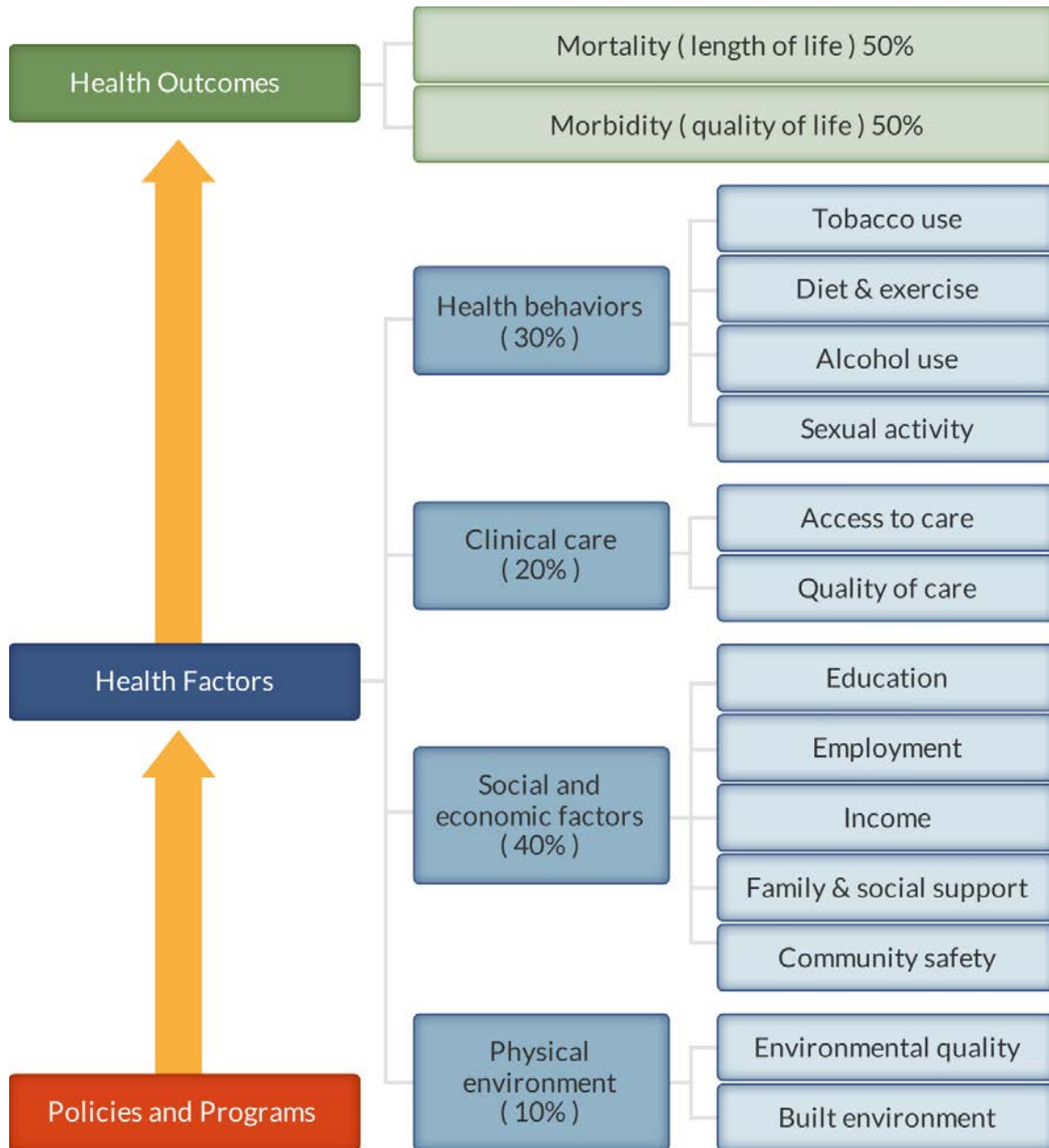

County Health Rankings model ©2012 UWPHI

The maps on this page and the next display Pennsylvania's counties divided into groups by health rank. Maps help locate the healthiest and least healthy counties in the state. 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.

HEALTH OUTCOMES

Rank 1-17   Rank 18-34   Rank 35-50   Rank 51-67
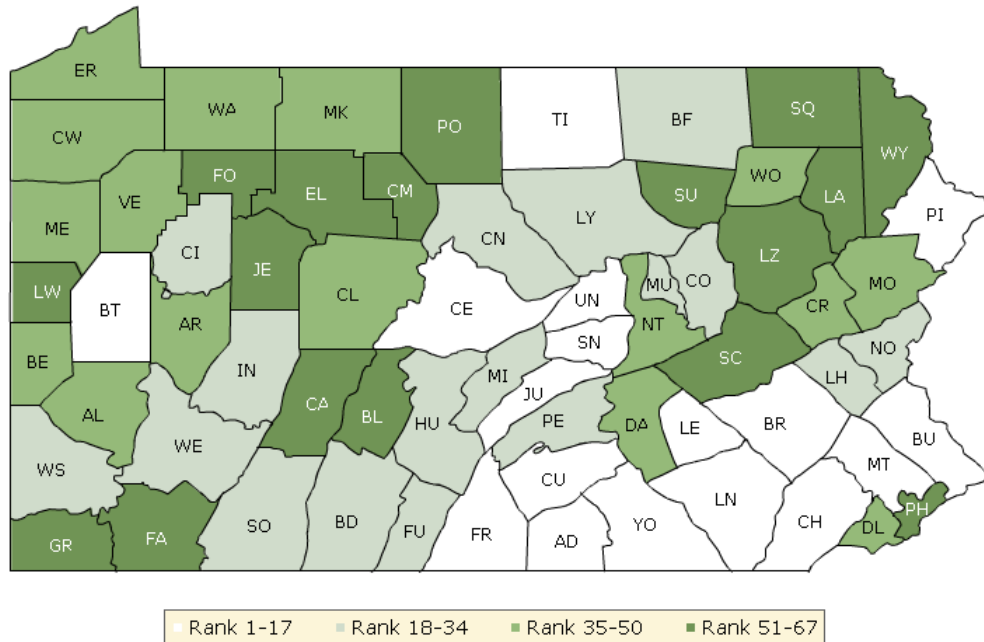
County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank
Adams	17	Clinton	27	Lackawanna	51	Pike	13
Allegheny	44	Columbia	24	Lancaster	9	Potter	55
Armstrong	41	Crawford	42	Lawrence	53	Schuylkill	57
Beaver	43	Cumberland	8	Lebanon	15	Snyder	6
Bedford	20	Dauphin	46	Lehigh	23	Somerset	22
Berks	14	Delaware	37	Luzerne	61	Sullivan	64
Blair	56	Elk	62	Lycoming	18	Susquehanna	52
Bradford	19	Erie	40	McKean	45	Tioga	12
Bucks	7	Fayette	65	Mercer	50	Union	1
Butler	10	Forest	58	Mifflin	32	Venango	35
Cambria	63	Franklin	11	Monroe	36	Warren	39
Cameron	59	Fulton	30	Montgomery	5	Washington	31
Carbon	49	Greene	66	Montour	28	Wayne	54
Centre	4	Huntingdon	26	Northampton	25	Westmoreland	21
Chester	2	Indiana	29	Northumberland	47	Wyoming	48
Clarion	33	Jefferson	60	Perry	34	York	16
Clearfield	38	Juniata	3	Philadelphia	67		

HEALTH FACTORS

Rank 1-17 | Rank 18-34 | Rank 35-50 | Rank 51-67
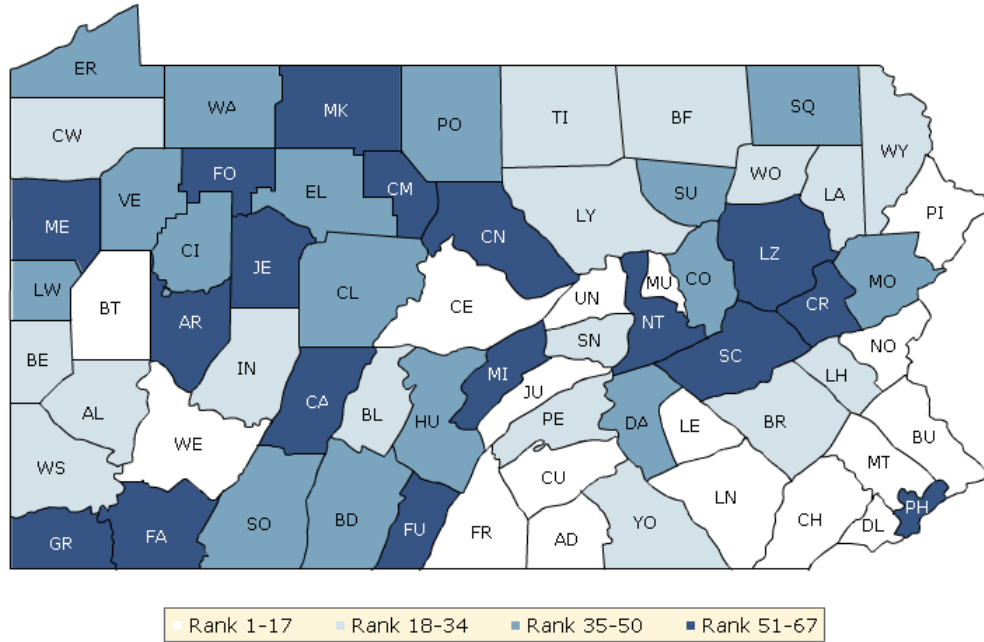
County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank
Adams	8	Clinton	52	Lackawanna	27	Pike	11
Allegheny	21	Columbia	42	Lancaster	9	Potter	48
Armstrong	63	Crawford	33	Lawrence	49	Schuylkill	59
Beaver	32	Cumberland	5	Lebanon	15	Snyder	19
Bedford	39	Dauphin	45	Lehigh	25	Somerset	46
Berks	26	Delaware	13	Luzerne	53	Sullivan	47
Blair	29	Elk	35	Lycoming	34	Susquehanna	38
Bradford	23	Erie	44	McKean	64	Tioga	28
Bucks	4	Fayette	66	Mercer	54	Union	16
Butler	7	Forest	65	Mifflin	51	Venango	36
Cambria	56	Franklin	17	Monroe	40	Warren	50
Cameron	62	Fulton	60	Montgomery	2	Washington	22
Carbon	61	Greene	57	Montour	6	Wayne	20
Centre	3	Huntingdon	41	Northampton	10	Westmoreland	12
Chester	1	Indiana	30	Northumberland	55	Wyoming	31
Clarion	43	Jefferson	58	Perry	24	York	18
Clearfield	37	Juniata	14	Philadelphia	67		

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 represent what influences the health of the county.

Rank	Health Outcomes	Rank	Health Factors
1	Union	1	Chester
2	Chester	2	Montgomery
3	Juniata	3	Centre
4	Centre	4	Bucks
5	Montgomery	5	Cumberland
6	Snyder	6	Montour
7	Bucks	7	Butler
8	Cumberland	8	Adams
9	Lancaster	9	Lancaster
10	Butler	10	Northampton
11	Franklin	11	Pike
12	Tioga	12	Westmoreland
13	Pike	13	Delaware
14	Berks	14	Juniata
15	Lebanon	15	Lebanon
16	York	16	Union
17	Adams	17	Franklin
18	Lycoming	18	York
19	Bradford	19	Snyder
20	Bedford	20	Wayne
21	Westmoreland	21	Allegheny
22	Somerset	22	Washington
23	Lehigh	23	Bradford
24	Columbia	24	Perry
25	Northampton	25	Lehigh
26	Huntingdon	26	Berks
27	Clinton	27	Lackawanna
28	Montour	28	Tioga
29	Indiana	29	Blair
30	Fulton	30	Indiana
31	Washington	31	Wyoming
32	Mifflin	32	Beaver
33	Clarion	33	Crawford
34	Perry	34	Lycoming
35	Venango	35	Elk
36	Monroe	36	Venango
37	Delaware	37	Clearfield
38	Clearfield	38	Susquehanna
39	Warren	39	Bedford
40	Erie	40	Monroe
41	Armstrong	41	Huntingdon
42	Crawford	42	Columbia

Rank	Health Outcomes	Rank	Health Factors
43	Beaver	43	Clarion
44	Allegheny	44	Erie
45	McKean	45	Dauphin
46	Dauphin	46	Somerset
47	Northumberland	47	Sullivan
48	Wyoming	48	Potter
49	Carbon	49	Lawrence
50	Mercer	50	Warren
51	Lackawanna	51	Mifflin
52	Susquehanna	52	Clinton
53	Lawrence	53	Luzerne
54	Wayne	54	Mercer
55	Potter	55	Northumberland
56	Blair	56	Cambria
57	Schuylkill	57	Greene
58	Forest	58	Jefferson
59	Cameron	59	Schuylkill
60	Jefferson	60	Fulton
61	Luzerne	61	Carbon
62	Elk	62	Cameron
63	Cambria	63	Armstrong
64	Sullivan	64	McKean
65	Fayette	65	Forest
66	Greene	66	Fayette
67	Philadelphia	67	Philadelphia

2012 *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	2006-2008
Morbidity	Poor or fair health	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2004-2010
	Poor physical health days	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2004-2010
	Poor mental health days	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2004-2010
	Low birthweight	National Center for Health Statistics	2002-2008
HEALTH FACTORS			
HEALTH BEHAVIORS			
Tobacco Use	Adult smoking	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2004-2010
Diet and Exercise	Adult obesity	National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion	2009
	Physical inactivity	National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion	2009
Alcohol Use	Excessive drinking	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2004-2010
	Motor vehicle crash death rate	National Center for Health Statistics	2002-2008
Sexual Activity	Sexually transmitted infections	National Center for Hepatitis, HIV, STD and TB Prevention	2009
	Teen birth rate	National Center for Health Statistics	2002-2008
CLINICAL CARE			
Access to Care	Uninsured	Small Area Health Insurance Estimates	2009
	Primary care physicians	Health Resources & Services Administration	2009
Quality of Care	Preventable hospital stays	Medicare/Dartmouth Institute	2009
	Diabetic screening	Medicare/Dartmouth Institute	2009
	Mammography screening	Medicare/Dartmouth Institute	2009
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS			
Education	High school graduation	National Center for Education Statistics and state-specific sources[1]	2008-2010
	Some college	American Community Survey	2006-2010
Employment	Unemployment	Bureau of Labor Statistics	2010
Income	Children in poverty	Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates	2010
Family and Social Support	Inadequate social support	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2006-2010
	Children in single-parent households	American Community Survey	2006-2010
Community Safety	Violent crime rate[2]	Federal Bureau of Investigation	2007-2009
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT			
Environmental Quality[3]	Air pollution-particulate matter days	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	2007
	Air pollution-ozone days	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	2007
Built Environment	Access to recreational facilities	Census County Business Patterns	2009
	Limited access to healthy foods[4]	U.S. Department of Agriculture	2006
	Fast food restaurants	Census County Business Patterns	2009

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[1] NCES used for AK, AL, AR, CA, CT, FL, HI, ID, KY, MT, ND, NJ, OK, SD and TN

[2] State data source for IL.

[3] Not available for AK and HI.

[4] Access to Healthy Foods (2009) from Census Zip Code Business Patterns for AK and HI.

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Media Solutions, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

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James S. Marks, MD, MPH – Senior Vice-President and Group Director, Health Group
Joe Marx – Senior Communications Officer

Suggested citation: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. *County Health Rankings 2012.*

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