



County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

A Healthier Nation, County by County

2013 *Rankings* Georgia



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Population Health Institute

Translating Research for 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. You can also take advantage of the Using the *Rankings* Data guide to help you explore the data and figure out more about what is driving your community's health. To learn about what you can do to improve health in your community, visit the *Roadmaps to Health* Action Center. Finally, you can learn what others are doing by reading Communities Stories and visiting the Project Showcase.

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.

The *County Health Roadmaps* 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 (RWJF) collaborates with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (UWPHI) 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 guidance on strategies to improve health.

Roadmaps to Health Community Grants

The *Roadmaps to Health Community Grants* provide funding for 2 years to thirty 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

RWJF 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. As of February 2013, RWJF has awarded partner grants to United Way Worldwide, National Business Coalition on Health, and National Association of Counties.

RWJF Roadmaps to Health Prize

In February 2013, RWJF awarded the first *RWJF Roadmaps to Health Prizes* of \$25,000 to six communities that are working to become healthier places to live, learn, work and play. The *RWJF 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.



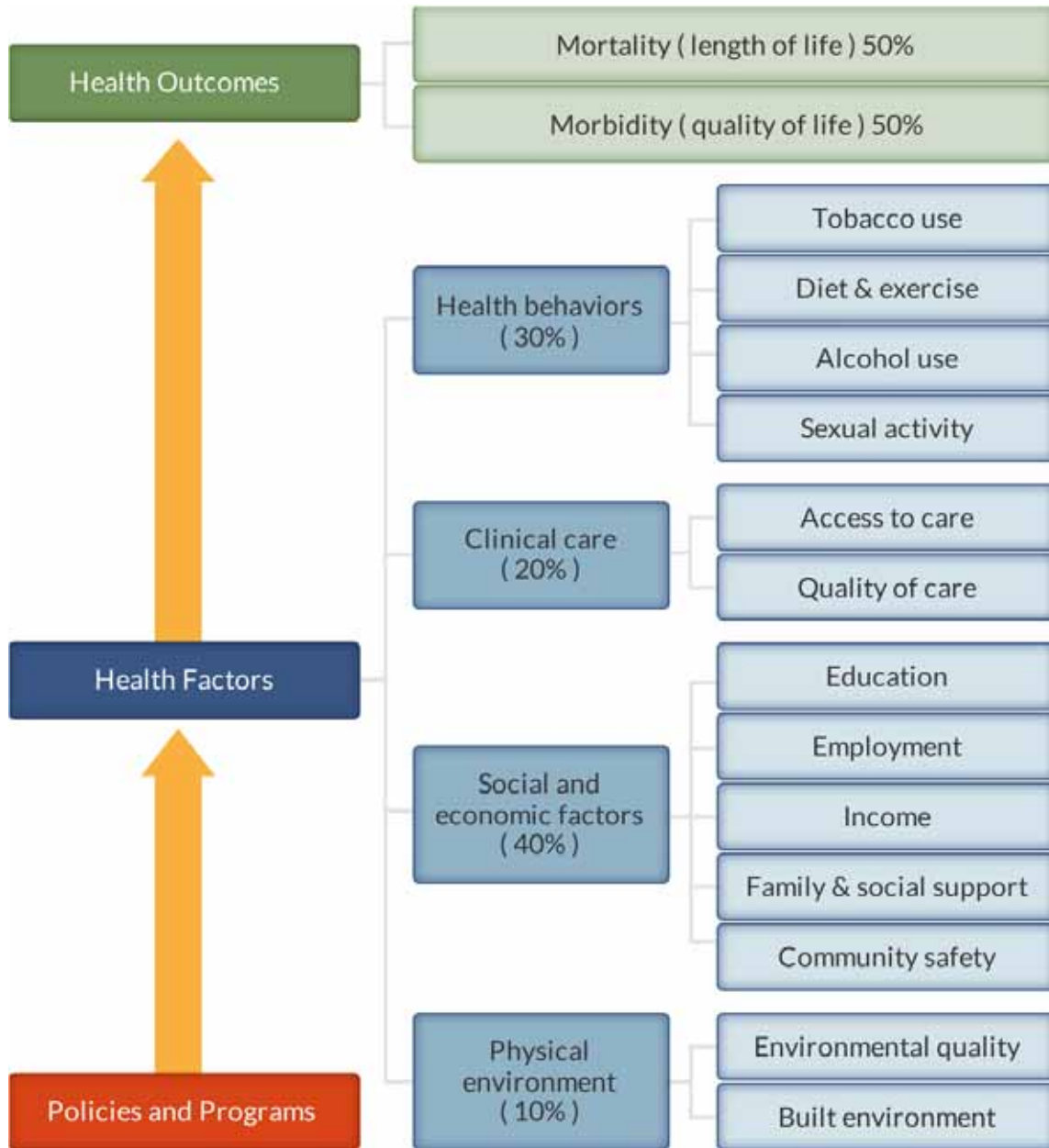
Roadmaps to Health Action Center

The *Roadmaps to Health Action Center*, based at UWPHI, provides tools and guidance to help groups working to make their communities healthier places. The Action Center website provides guidance on developing strategies and advocacy efforts to advance pro-health policies, opportunities for ongoing learning, and a searchable database of evidence-informed policies and programs focused on health improvement: *What Works for Health*. Action Center staff provide customized consultation via email and telephone to those seeking more information about how to improve health. Coaching, including possible on-site visits, is also available for 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 2013 *County Health Rankings* report ranks Georgia 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.

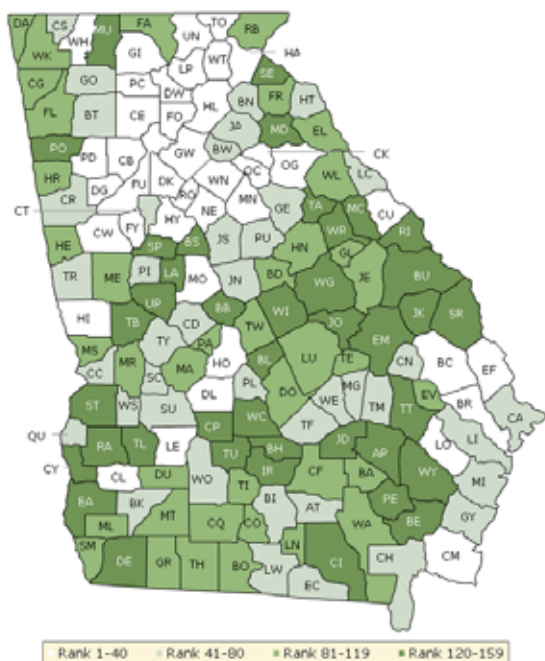


County Health Rankings model ©2012 UWPHI

The maps on this page and the next display Georgia’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.

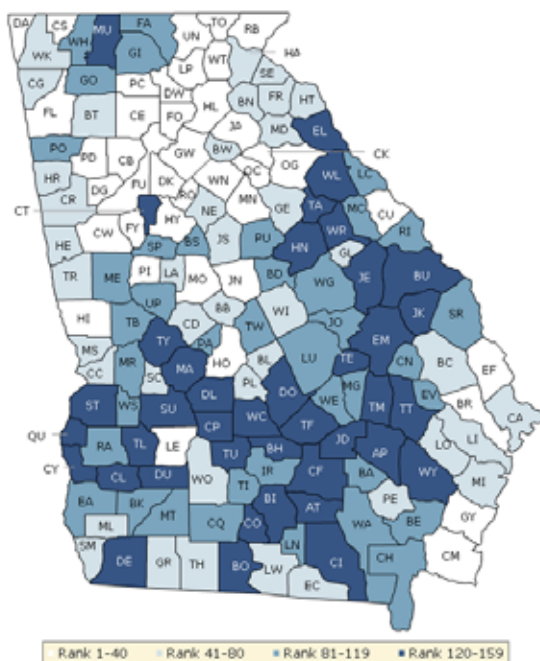
HEALTH OUTCOMES



County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank
Appling	149	Dade	114	Jefferson	110	Richmond	135
Atkinson	69	Dawson	18	Jenkins	143	Rockdale	10
Bacon	107	Decatur	140	Johnson	131	Schley	59
Baker	65	DeKalb	17	Jones	54	Screven	128
Baldwin	90	Dodge	119	Lamar	120	Seminole	101
Banks	41	Dooly	26	Lanier	100	Spalding	141
Barrow	44	Dougherty	109	Laurens	84	Stephens	124
Bartow	61	Douglas	27	Lee	19	Stewart	158
Ben Hill	147	Early	154	Liberty	43	Sumter	62
Berrien	76	Echols	60	Lincoln	67	Talbot	148
Bibb	139	Effingham	34	Long	35	Taliaferro	152
Bleckley	137	Elbert	112	Lowndes	72	Tattnall	145
Brantley	122	Emanuel	138	Lumpkin	12	Taylor	78
Brooks	82	Evans	103	Macon	104	Telfair	73
Bryan	21	Fannin	106	Madison	123	Terrell	157
Bulloch	40	Fayette	2	Marion	97	Thomas	81
Burke	144	Floyd	91	McDuffie	156	Tift	89
Butts	133	Forsyth	1	McIntosh	63	Toombs	75
Calhoun	39	Franklin	95	Meriwether	85	Towns	22
Camden	13	Fulton	29	Miller	102	Treutlen	93
Candler	77	Gilmer	36	Mitchell	105	Troup	79
Carroll	58	Glascocock	116	Monroe	37	Turner	153
Catoosa	51	Glynn	49	Montgomery	71	Twiggs	94
Charlton	70	Gordon	57	Morgan	8	Union	20
Chatham	52	Grady	99	Murray	121	Upson	134
Chattahoochee	56	Greene	74	Muscogee	113	Walker	118

County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank
Chattooga	111	Gwinnett	4	Newton	33	Walton	30
Cherokee	5	Habersham	16	Oconee	3	Ware	117
Clarke	14	Hall	11	Oglethorpe	24	Warren	129
Clay	159	Hancock	92	Paulding	25	Washington	127
Clayton	42	Haralson	115	Peach	96	Wayne	126
Clinch	151	Harris	31	Pickens	32	Webster	64
Cobb	6	Hart	45	Pierce	130	Wheeler	68
Coffee	98	Heard	87	Pike	46	White	38
Colquitt	88	Henry	15	Polk	125	Whitfield	28
Columbia	7	Houston	23	Pulaski	47	Wilcox	155
Cook	108	Irwin	132	Putnam	53	Wilkes	86
Coweta	9	Jackson	48	Quitman	80	Wilkinson	142
Crawford	50	Jasper	55	Rabun	83	Worth	66
Crisp	150	Jeff Davis	136	Randolph	146		

HEALTH FACTORS



County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank
Appling	141	Dade	31	Jefferson	137	Richmond	107
Atkinson	151	Dawson	17	Jenkins	158	Rockdale	35
Bacon	104	Decatur	152	Johnson	114	Schley	58
Baker	116	DeKalb	29	Jones	26	Screven	101
Baldwin	87	Dodge	134	Lamar	70	Seminole	79
Banks	41	Dooly	150	Lanier	102	Spalding	93
Barrow	75	Dougherty	132	Laurens	95	Stephens	53
Bartow	50	Douglas	28	Lee	15	Stewart	154
Ben Hill	153	Early	94	Liberty	64	Sumter	148
Berrien	144	Echols	54	Lincoln	100	Talbot	119
Bibb	77	Effingham	18	Long	49	Taliaferro	159
Bleckley	55	Elbert	146	Lowndes	63	Tattnall	136
Brantley	82	Emanuel	127	Lumpkin	13	Taylor	125
Brooks	120	Evans	117	Macon	140	Telfair	155
Bryan	10	Fannin	92	Madison	61	Terrell	149
Bulloch	51	Fayette	1	Marion	118	Thomas	47
Burke	133	Floyd	38	McDuffie	90	Tift	96
Butts	85	Forsyth	3	McIntosh	71	Toombs	130
Calhoun	129	Franklin	52	Meriwether	111	Towns	21
Camden	30	Fulton	19	Miller	68	Treutlen	143
Candler	109	Gilmer	97	Mitchell	112	Troup	73
Carroll	56	Glascocock	46	Monroe	25	Turner	126
Catoosa	37	Glynn	39	Montgomery	99	Twiggs	108
Charlton	88	Gordon	91	Morgan	12	Union	9
Chatham	42	Grady	74	Murray	142	Upson	83
Chattahoochee	43	Greene	66	Muscogee	76	Walker	80

County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank
Chattooga	60	Gwinnett	8	Newton	59	Walton	33
Cherokee	5	Habersham	44	Oconee	2	Ware	106
Clarke	20	Hall	32	Oglethorpe	34	Warren	131
Clay	122	Hancock	156	Paulding	16	Washington	110
Clayton	147	Haralson	62	Peach	105	Wayne	124
Clinch	128	Harris	6	Pickens	40	Webster	84
Cobb	7	Hart	57	Pierce	65	Wheeler	89
Coffee	157	Heard	69	Pike	23	White	22
Colquitt	115	Henry	14	Polk	98	Whitfield	86
Columbia	4	Houston	27	Pulaski	45	Wilcox	139
Cook	121	Irwin	103	Putnam	81	Wilkes	135
Coweta	11	Jackson	24	Quitman	138	Wilkinson	78
Crawford	67	Jasper	48	Rabun	36	Worth	72
Crisp	145	Jeff Davis	123	Randolph	113		

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	Forsyth	1	Fayette
2	Fayette	2	Oconee
3	Oconee	3	Forsyth
4	Gwinnett	4	Columbia
5	Cherokee	5	Cherokee
6	Cobb	6	Harris
7	Columbia	7	Cobb
8	Morgan	8	Gwinnett
9	Coweta	9	Union
10	Rockdale	10	Bryan
11	Hall	11	Coweta
12	Lumpkin	12	Morgan
13	Camden	13	Lumpkin
14	Clarke	14	Henry
15	Henry	15	Lee
16	Habersham	16	Paulding
17	DeKalb	17	Dawson
18	Dawson	18	Effingham
19	Lee	19	Fulton
20	Union	20	Clarke
21	Bryan	21	Towns
22	Towns	22	White
23	Houston	23	Pike
24	Oglethorpe	24	Jackson
25	Paulding	25	Monroe
26	Dooley	26	Jones
27	Douglas	27	Houston
28	Whitfield	28	Douglas
29	Fulton	29	DeKalb
30	Walton	30	Camden
31	Harris	31	Dade
32	Pickens	32	Hall
33	Newton	33	Walton
34	Effingham	34	Oglethorpe
35	Long	35	Rockdale
36	Gilmer	36	Rabun
37	Monroe	37	Catoosa
38	White	38	Floyd
39	Calhoun	39	Glynn
40	Bulloch	40	Pickens
41	Banks	41	Banks
42	Clayton	42	Chatham

Rank	Health Outcomes	Rank	Health Factors
43	Liberty	43	Chattahoochee
44	Barrow	44	Habersham
45	Hart	45	Pulaski
46	Pike	46	Glascok
47	Pulaski	47	Thomas
48	Jackson	48	Jasper
49	Glynn	49	Long
50	Crawford	50	Bartow
51	Catoosa	51	Bulloch
52	Chatham	52	Franklin
53	Putnam	53	Stephens
54	Jones	54	Echols
55	Jasper	55	Bleckley
56	Chattahoochee	56	Carroll
57	Gordon	57	Hart
58	Carroll	58	Schley
59	Schley	59	Newton
60	Echols	60	Chattooga
61	Bartow	61	Madison
62	Sumter	62	Haralson
63	McIntosh	63	Lowndes
64	Webster	64	Liberty
65	Baker	65	Pierce
66	Worth	66	Greene
67	Lincoln	67	Crawford
68	Wheeler	68	Miller
69	Atkinson	69	Heard
70	Charlton	70	Lamar
71	Montgomery	71	McIntosh
72	Lowndes	72	Worth
73	Telfair	73	Troup
74	Greene	74	Grady
75	Toombs	75	Barrow
76	Berrien	76	Muscogee
77	Candler	77	Bibb
78	Taylor	78	Wilkinson
79	Troup	79	Seminole
80	Quitman	80	Walker
81	Thomas	81	Putnam
82	Brooks	82	Brantley
83	Rabun	83	Upson
84	Laurens	84	Webster
85	Meriwether	85	Butts
86	Wilkes	86	Whitfield
87	Heard	87	Baldwin
88	Colquitt	88	Charlton
89	Tift	89	Wheeler
90	Baldwin	90	McDuffie

Rank	Health Outcomes	Rank	Health Factors
91	Floyd	91	Gordon
92	Hancock	92	Fannin
93	Treutlen	93	Spalding
94	Twiggs	94	Early
95	Franklin	95	Laurens
96	Peach	96	Tift
97	Marion	97	Gilmer
98	Coffee	98	Polk
99	Grady	99	Montgomery
100	Lanier	100	Lincoln
101	Seminole	101	Screven
102	Miller	102	Lanier
103	Evans	103	Irwin
104	Macon	104	Bacon
105	Mitchell	105	Peach
106	Fannin	106	Ware
107	Bacon	107	Richmond
108	Cook	108	Twiggs
109	Dougherty	109	Candler
110	Jefferson	110	Washington
111	Chattooga	111	Meriwether
112	Elbert	112	Mitchell
113	Muscogee	113	Randolph
114	Dade	114	Johnson
115	Haralson	115	Colquitt
116	Glascok	116	Baker
117	Ware	117	Evans
118	Walker	118	Marion
119	Dodge	119	Talbot
120	Lamar	120	Brooks
121	Murray	121	Cook
122	Brantley	122	Clay
123	Madison	123	Jeff Davis
124	Stephens	124	Wayne
125	Polk	125	Taylor
126	Wayne	126	Turner
127	Washington	127	Emanuel
128	Screven	128	Clinch
129	Warren	129	Calhoun
130	Pierce	130	Toombs
131	Johnson	131	Warren
132	Irwin	132	Dougherty
133	Butts	133	Burke
134	Upson	134	Dodge
135	Richmond	135	Wilkes
136	Jeff Davis	136	Tattnall
137	Bleckley	137	Jefferson
138	Emanuel	138	Quitman

Rank	Health Outcomes	Rank	Health Factors
139	Bibb	139	Wilcox
140	Decatur	140	Macon
141	Spalding	141	Appling
142	Wilkinson	142	Murray
143	Jenkins	143	Treutlen
144	Burke	144	Berrien
145	Tattnall	145	Crisp
146	Randolph	146	Elbert
147	Ben Hill	147	Clayton
148	Talbot	148	Sumter
149	Appling	149	Terrell
150	Crisp	150	Dooly
151	Clinch	151	Atkinson
152	Taliaferro	152	Decatur
153	Turner	153	Ben Hill
154	Early	154	Stewart
155	Wilcox	155	Telfair
156	McDuffie	156	Hancock
157	Terrell	157	Coffee
158	Stewart	158	Jenkins
159	Clay	159	Taliaferro

2013 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	2008-2010
Morbidity	Poor or fair health	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2005-2011
	Poor physical health days	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2005-2011
	Poor mental health days	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2005-2011
	Low birthweight	National Center for Health Statistics	2004-2010
HEALTH FACTORS			
HEALTH BEHAVIORS			
Tobacco Use	Adult smoking	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2005-2011
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	2005-2011
	Motor vehicle crash death rate	National Center for Health Statistics	2004-2010
Sexual Activity	Sexually transmitted infections	National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB prevention	2010
	Teen birth rate	National Center for Health Statistics	2004-2010
CLINICAL CARE			
Access to Care	Uninsured	Small Area Health Insurance Estimates	2010
	Primary care physicians	HRSA Area Resource File	2011-2012
	Dentists	HRSA Area Resource File	2011-2012
Quality of Care	Preventable hospital stays	Medicare/Dartmouth Institute	2010
	Diabetic screening	Medicare/Dartmouth Institute	2010
	Mammography screening	Medicare/Dartmouth Institute	2010
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS			
Education	High school graduation	Primarily state-specific sources, supplemented with National Center for Education Statistics	State-specific
	Some college	American Community Survey	2007-2011
Employment	Unemployment	Bureau of Labor Statistics	2011
Income	Children in poverty	Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates	2011
Family and Social Support	Inadequate social support	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2005-2010
	Children in single-parent households	American Community Survey	2007-2011
Community Safety	Violent crime rate	Federal Bureau of Investigation	2008-2010
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT			
Environmental Quality	Daily fine particulate matter ¹	CDC WONDER Environmental data	2008
	Drinking water safety	Safe Drinking Water Information System	FY 2012
Built Environment	Access to recreational facilities	Census County Business Patterns	2010
	Limited access to healthy foods	USDA Food Environment Atlas	2012
	Fast food restaurants	Census County Business Patterns	2010

¹ Not available for AK and HI.

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This publication would not have been possible without the following contributions:

Data

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Center for Health Statistics and Division of Behavioral Surveillance
Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice

Research Assistance

Jennifer Buechner
Hyojun Park, MA
Elizabeth Pollock
Jennifer Robinson
Matthew Rodock, MPH
Anne Roubal, MS

Communications and Outreach

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Forum One, Alexandria, VA

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Suggested citation: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. *County Health Rankings 2013*.



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