



County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

A Healthier Nation, County by County

2013 *Rankings* **Louisiana**



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.



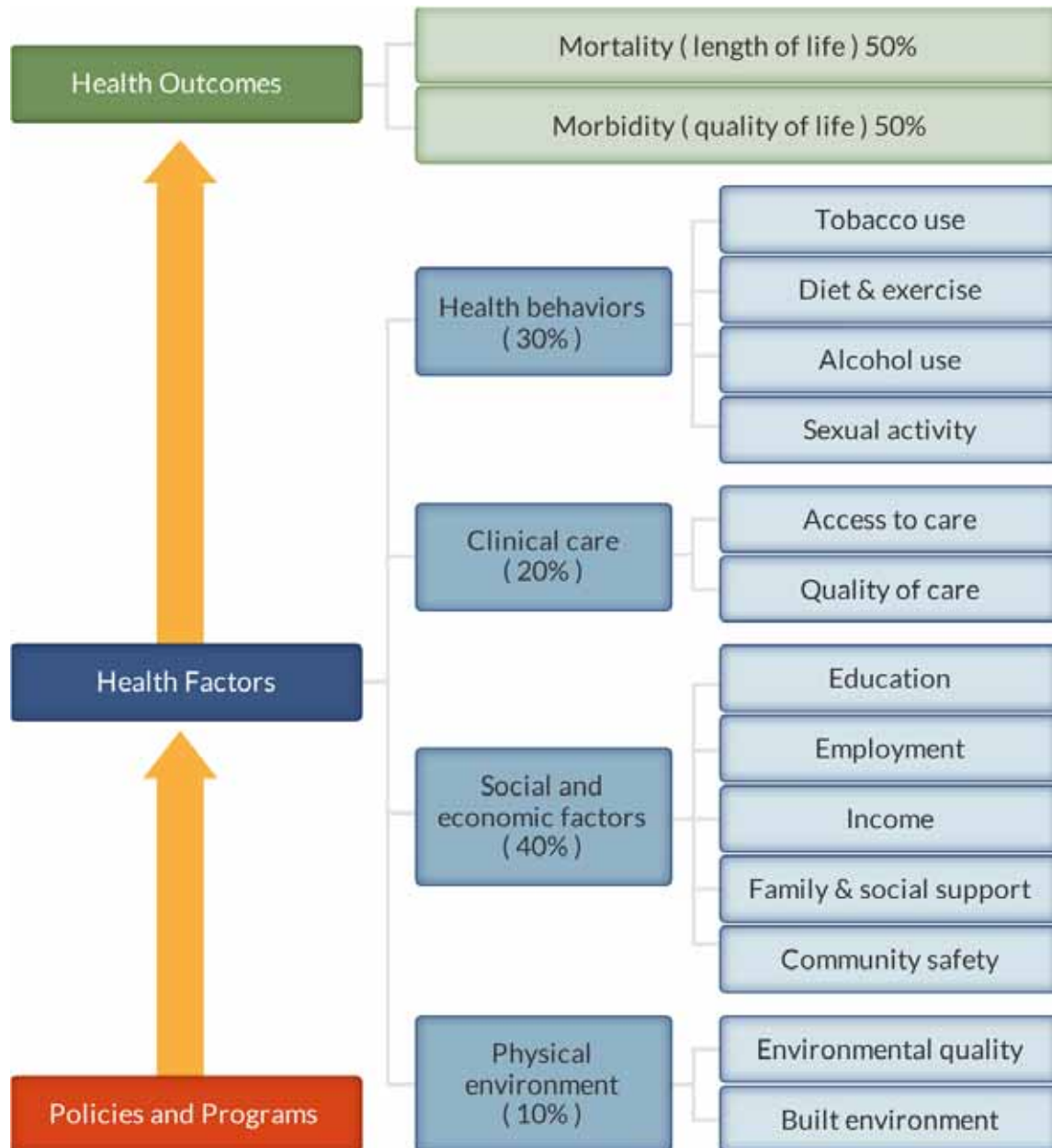
Roadmaps to Health Action Center

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 Louisiana 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.

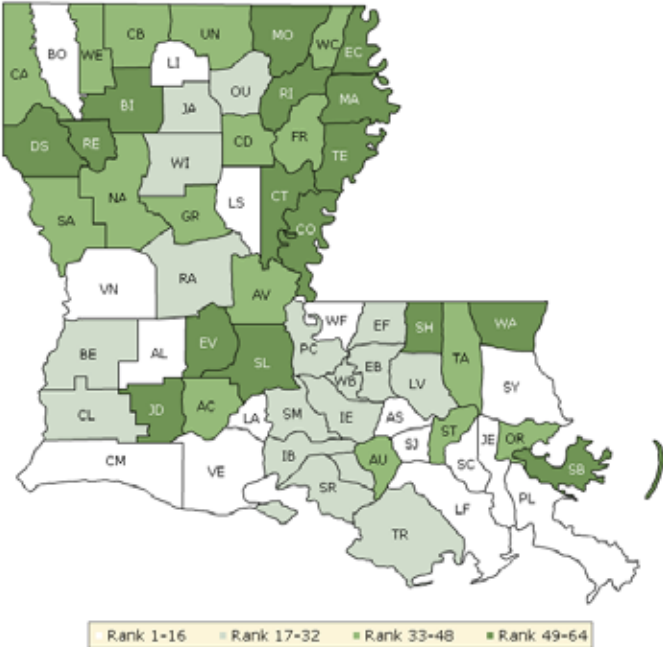


County Health Rankings model ©2012 UWPHI

The maps on this page and the next display Louisiana’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

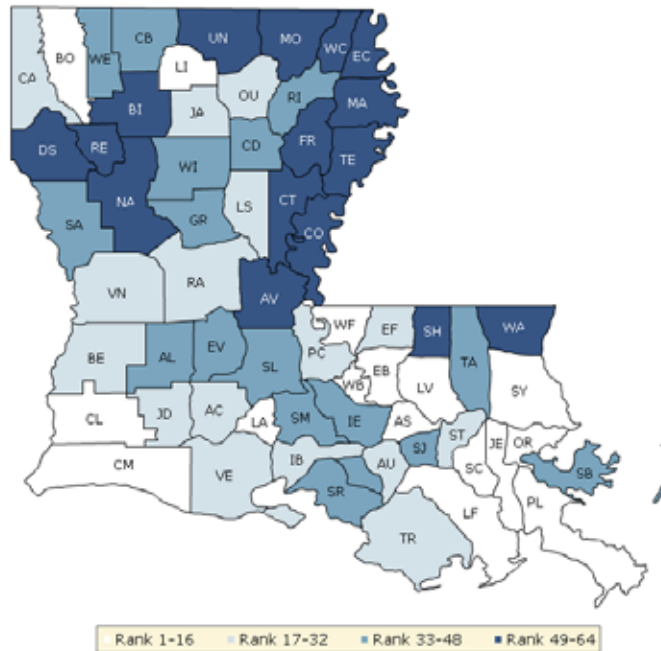
summary rankings. The green map shows the distribution of summary health outcomes. The blue displays the distribution of the summary rank for health factors.

HEALTH OUTCOMES



County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank
Acadia	45	East Baton Rouge	18	Madison	60	St. Landry	57
Allen	16	East Carroll	64	Morehouse	56	St. Martin	26
Ascension	7	East Feliciana	22	Natchitoches	36	St. Mary	32
Assumption	39	Evangeline	52	Orleans	48	St. Tammany	3
Avoyelles	44	Franklin	43	Ouachita	30	Tangipahoa	46
Beauregard	21	Grant	38	Plaquemines	4	Tensas	63
Bienville	62	Iberia	29	Pointe Coupee	20	Terrebonne	27
Bossier	9	Iberville	25	Rapides	31	Union	40
Caddo	47	Jackson	28	Red River	53	Vermilion	10
Calcasieu	24	Jefferson	15	Richland	50	Vernon	14
Caldwell	37	Jefferson Davis	49	Sabine	41	Washington	58
Cameron	2	La Salle	8	St. Bernard	55	Webster	42
Catahoula	61	Lafayette	5	St. Charles	6	West Baton Rouge	19
Claiborne	34	Lafourche	11	St. Helena	51	West Carroll	33
Concordia	59	Lincoln	13	St. James	12	West Feliciana	1
De Soto	54	Livingston	17	St. John the Baptist	35	Winn	23

HEALTH FACTORS



County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank
Acadia	19	East Baton Rouge	7	Madison	63	St. Landry	48
Allen	45	East Carroll	64	Morehouse	58	St. Martin	40
Ascension	2	East Feliciana	30	Natchitoches	49	St. Mary	39
Assumption	29	Evangeline	44	Orleans	16	St. Tammany	1
Avoyelles	51	Franklin	61	Ouachita	27	Tangipahoa	33
Beauregard	21	Grant	35	Plaquemines	11	Tensas	62
Bienville	50	Iberia	23	Pointe Coupee	18	Terrebonne	32
Bossier	12	Iberville	34	Rapides	17	Union	53
Caddo	31	Jackson	25	Red River	55	Vermilion	20
Calcasieu	14	Jefferson	9	Richland	43	Vernon	24
Caldwell	47	Jefferson Davis	28	Sabine	42	Washington	56
Cameron	6	La Salle	22	St. Bernard	37	Webster	36
Catahoula	60	Lafayette	4	St. Charles	3	West Baton Rouge	13
Claiborne	41	Lafourche	15	St. Helena	57	West Carroll	59
Concordia	54	Lincoln	10	St. James	38	West Feliciana	5
De Soto	52	Livingston	8	St. John the Baptist	26	Winn	46

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	West Feliciana	1	St. Tammany
2	Cameron	2	Ascension
3	St. Tammany	3	St. Charles
4	Plaquemines	4	Lafayette
5	Lafayette	5	West Feliciana
6	St. Charles	6	Cameron
7	Ascension	7	East Baton Rouge
8	La Salle	8	Livingston
9	Bossier	9	Jefferson
10	Vermilion	10	Lincoln
11	Lafourche	11	Plaquemines
12	St. James	12	Bossier
13	Lincoln	13	West Baton Rouge
14	Vernon	14	Calcasieu
15	Jefferson	15	Lafourche
16	Allen	16	Orleans
17	Livingston	17	Rapides
18	East Baton Rouge	18	Pointe Coupee
19	West Baton Rouge	19	Acadia
20	Pointe Coupee	20	Vermilion
21	Beauregard	21	Beauregard
22	East Feliciana	22	La Salle
23	Winn	23	Iberia
24	Calcasieu	24	Vernon
25	Iberville	25	Jackson
26	St. Martin	26	St. John the Baptist
27	Terrebonne	27	Ouachita
28	Jackson	28	Jefferson Davis
29	Iberia	29	Assumption
30	Ouachita	30	East Feliciana
31	Rapides	31	Caddo
32	St. Mary	32	Terrebonne
33	West Carroll	33	Tangipahoa
34	Claiborne	34	Iberville
35	St. John the Baptist	35	Grant
36	Natchitoches	36	Webster
37	Caldwell	37	St. Bernard
38	Grant	38	St. James
39	Assumption	39	St. Mary
40	Union	40	St. Martin
41	Sabine	41	Claiborne
42	Webster	42	Sabine

Rank	Health Outcomes	Rank	Health Factors
43	Franklin	43	Richland
44	Avoyelles	44	Evangeline
45	Acadia	45	Allen
46	Tangipahoa	46	Winn
47	Caddo	47	Caldwell
48	Orleans	48	St. Landry
49	Jefferson Davis	49	Natchitoches
50	Richland	50	Bienville
51	St. Helena	51	Avoyelles
52	Evangeline	52	De Soto
53	Red River	53	Union
54	De Soto	54	Concordia
55	St. Bernard	55	Red River
56	Morehouse	56	Washington
57	St. Landry	57	St. Helena
58	Washington	58	Morehouse
59	Concordia	59	West Carroll
60	Madison	60	Catahoula
61	Catahoula	61	Franklin
62	Bienville	62	Tensas
63	Tensas	63	Madison
64	East Carroll	64	East Carroll

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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