



County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

A Healthier Nation, County by County

2013 *Rankings* **North Dakota**



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.



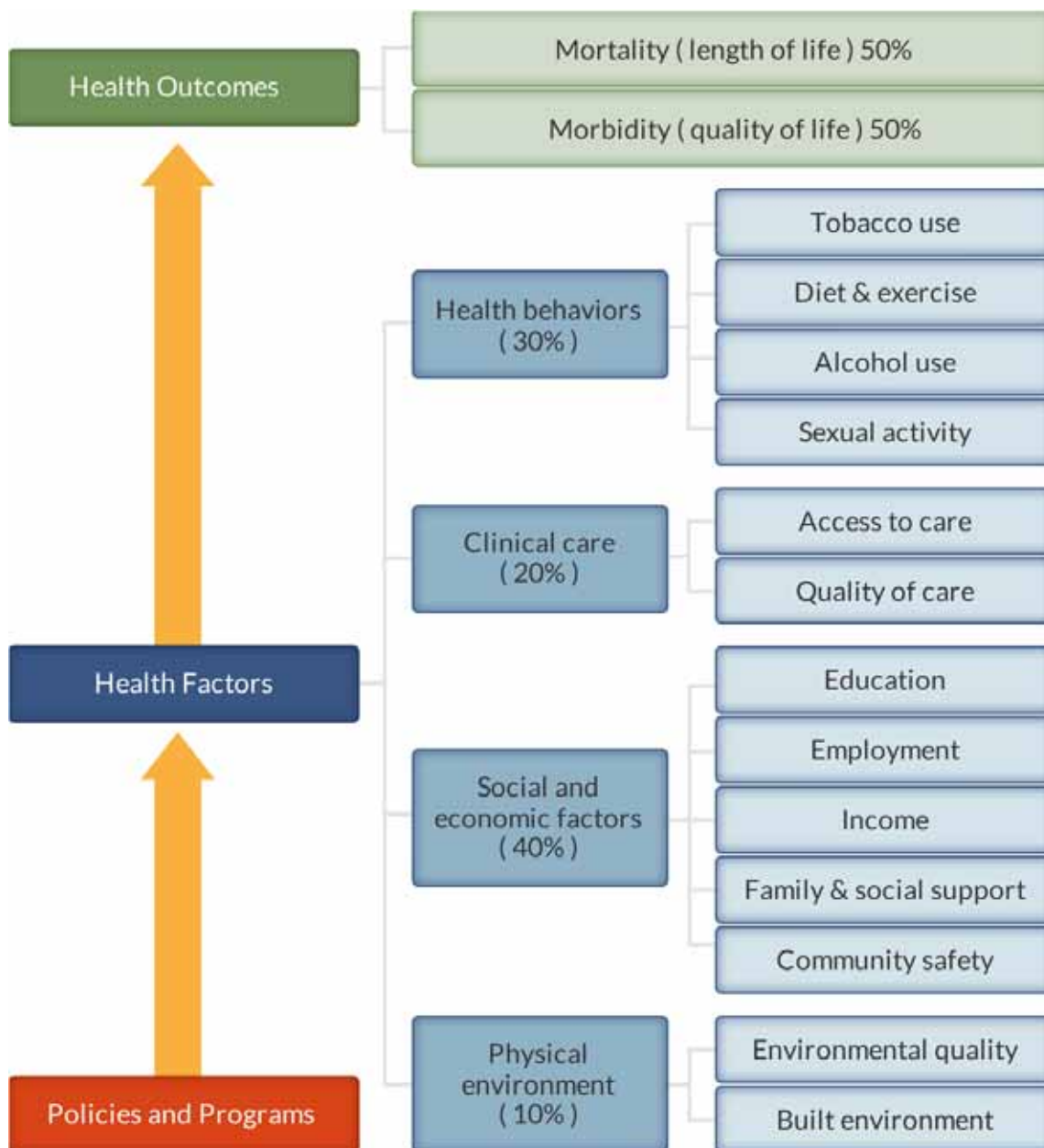
Roadmaps to Health Action Center

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 North Dakota 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.

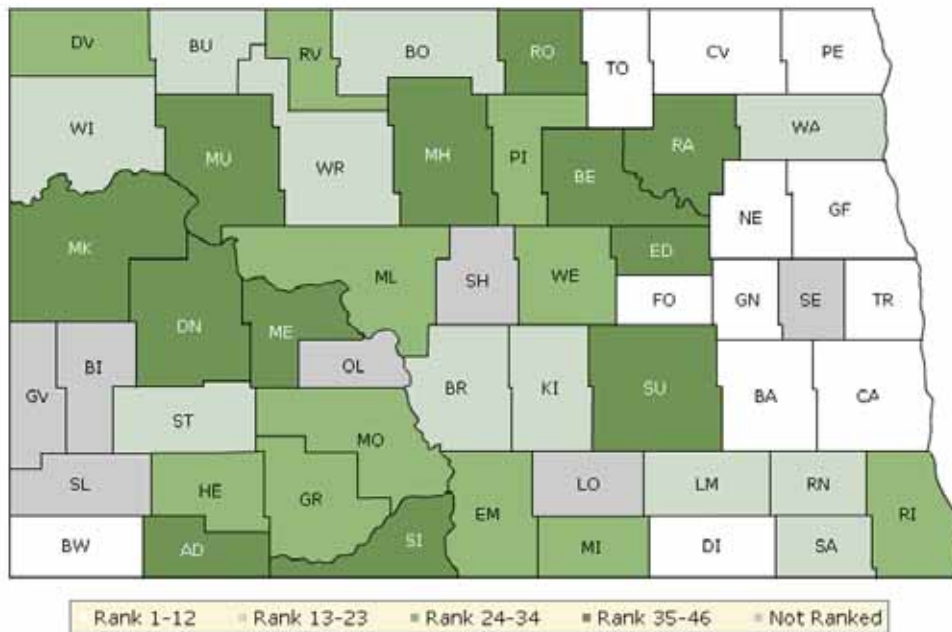


County Health Rankings model ©2012 UWPHI

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

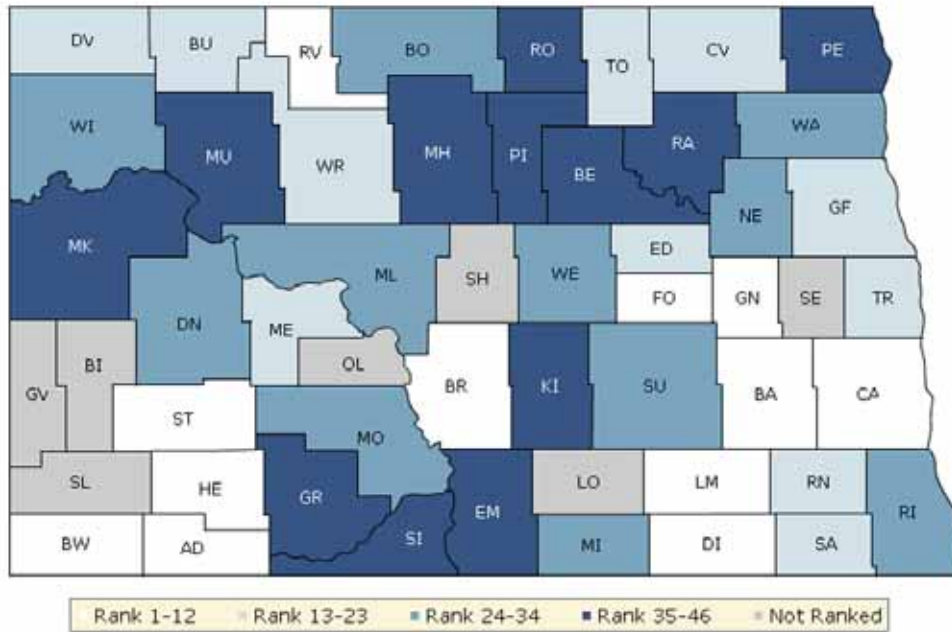
better performance in the respective summary rankings. The green map shows the distribution of summary health outcomes. The blue displays the distribution of the summary rank for health factors.

HEALTH OUTCOMES



County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank
Adams	40	Emmons	32	Mercer	36	Sioux	46
Barnes	2	Foster	3	Morton	31	Slope	NR
Benson	45	Golden Valley	NR	Mountrail	43	Stark	19
Billings	NR	Grand Forks	11	Nelson	4	Steele	NR
Bottineau	23	Grant	25	Oliver	NR	Stutsman	37
Bowman	8	Griggs	7	Pembina	6	Towner	12
Burke	17	Hettinger	24	Pierce	34	Traill	5
Burleigh	21	Kidder	22	Ramsey	41	Walsh	18
Cass	10	LaMoure	16	Ransom	14	Ward	13
Cavalier	9	Logan	NR	Renville	26	Wells	27
Dickey	1	McHenry	39	Richland	33	Williams	15
Divide	28	McIntosh	29	Rolette	44		
Dunn	35	McKenzie	42	Sargent	20		
Eddy	38	McLean	30	Sheridan	NR		

HEALTH FACTORS



County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank
Adams	8	Emmons	36	Mercer	13	Sioux	44
Barnes	6	Foster	2	Morton	24	Slope	NR
Benson	45	Golden Valley	NR	Mountrail	43	Stark	12
Billings	NR	Grand Forks	16	Nelson	26	Steele	NR
Bottineau	25	Grant	42	Oliver	NR	Stutsman	31
Bowman	4	Griggs	3	Pembina	41	Towner	17
Burke	15	Hettinger	11	Pierce	35	Traill	14
Burleigh	1	Kidder	39	Ramsey	37	Walsh	32
Cass	5	LaMoure	7	Ransom	22	Ward	20
Cavalier	18	Logan	NR	Renville	9	Wells	28
Dickey	10	McHenry	40	Richland	27	Williams	33
Divide	19	McIntosh	34	Rolette	46		
Dunn	30	McKenzie	38	Sargent	21		
Eddy	23	McLean	29	Sheridan	NR		

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	Dickey	1	Burleigh
2	Barnes	2	Foster
3	Foster	3	Griggs
4	Nelson	4	Bowman
5	Trails	5	Cass
6	Pembina	6	Barnes
7	Griggs	7	LaMoure
8	Bowman	8	Adams
9	Cavalier	9	Renville
10	Cass	10	Dickey
11	Grand Forks	11	Hettinger
12	Towner	12	Stark
13	Ward	13	Mercer
14	Ransom	14	Trails
15	Williams	15	Burke
16	LaMoure	16	Grand Forks
17	Burke	17	Towner
18	Walsh	18	Cavalier
19	Stark	19	Divide
20	Sargent	20	Ward
21	Burleigh	21	Sargent
22	Kidder	22	Ransom
23	Bottineau	23	Eddy
24	Hettinger	24	Morton
25	Grant	25	Bottineau
26	Renville	26	Nelson
27	Wells	27	Richland
28	Divide	28	Wells
29	McIntosh	29	McLean
30	McLean	30	Dunn
31	Morton	31	Stutsman
32	Emmons	32	Walsh
33	Richland	33	Williams
34	Pierce	34	McIntosh
35	Dunn	35	Pierce
36	Mercer	36	Emmons
37	Stutsman	37	Ramsey
38	Eddy	38	McKenzie
39	McHenry	39	Kidder
40	Adams	40	McHenry
41	Ramsey	41	Pembina
42	McKenzie	42	Grant

Rank	Health Outcomes	Rank	Health Factors
43	Mountrail	43	Mountrail
44	Rolette	44	Sioux
45	Benson	45	Benson
46	Sioux	46	Rolette

Not Ranked: Billings, Golden Valley, Logan, Oliver, Sheridan, Slope, Steele

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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