2013 Rankings
New Mexico
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 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.

www.countyhealthrankings.org/new-mexico
**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 New Mexico 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.
The maps on this page and the next display New Mexico’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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
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HEALTH FACTORS

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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.

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Not Ranked: Harding
## 2013 County Health Rankings: Measures, Data Sources, and Years of Data

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1 Not available for AK and HI.
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