

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 101

April 13, 2021

Tools and Resources

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps Tools & Resources

- [Slides and a recording](#) are available in the Webinars section of the website. Please consider sharing with a colleague!
- [Explore Health Rankings](#): The annual Rankings provide a revealing snapshot of how health is influenced by where we live, learn, work and play. Find and use your county data, read our reports, and learn more about what and why we rank.
 - To learn about our measures and ranks investigate our interactive [County Health Rankings Model!](#)
 - Check out Countyhealthrankings.org frequently for our new themed Data Spotlights, which will let you dig deeper into key data points to learn more about important topics for community health! (Data Spotlight #1 coming end of April)
- To learn more about our 2021 Call for Research Proposals, visit www.countyhealthrankings.org/researchgrants
- [Take Action to Improve Health](#): Find strategies that we know work, guidance for setting a plan in motion, and resources to help you partner with others.
 - [What Works for Health](#): This is a direct link to What Works for Health, which can help you find policies and programs that are a good fit for your community's priorities.
 - Check out our [handy one-page guide](#) that will assist you in how to most effectively use What Works for Health.
 - Take a look at our new [Curated Strategy Lists](#), which are resources to support community change efforts around specific topics and themes, including complex health problems and systemic social issues like COVID-19 recovery efforts.
 - [The Action Center](#): This is a direct link to the Action Center which you can bookmark to easily find the right resources and tools when you need them.
 - Take a look at the new [Action Learning Guides](#), which are self-paced, interactive guides that blend guidance, tools, and activities for hands-on practice and reflection on selected topics.



Interested in a quick introduction to CHR&R to share with colleagues and community partners? Watch then share this 1.15 minute video: [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps - Our Model](#)

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- [The Partner Center](#): Find strategies for joining with others to make lasting change in your community, and help answering the question, “who should we work with?”
- [Learn from Others](#): Sharing the stories of others ignites possibilities and inspires action. Find out about upcoming webinars, learn more about the RWJF Culture of Health Prize, and check out community highlights.
 - Check out [Actions Toward Equity: Strategies Communities Are Using to Ensure Everyone Has a Fair and Just Opportunity for Health](#). This report features RWJF Culture of Health prize winning communities from 2013-2017.
 - Revisit past [CHR&R webinars](#) and join future webinars!
- [What is Health?](#) Learn about our vision of health.
- Stay in touch with County Health Rankings & Roadmaps:
 - Subscribe to our [e-Newsletter](#) to be alerted to new tools and resources released as well as upcoming webinars.
 - Follow us on Twitter [@CHRankings](#)
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Questions and Answers from the Webinar

Are County Health Ranking updates always available by March 31st?	Release date varies, but we have historically released by March 31, and likely will continue to release in March in the future.
Do you have a plan to add data from the US territories in the future?	While we have explored including US territories, the differences in data availability compared to US counties have put that on hold for now.
Has there ever been discussion on going to zip code as the lowest denominator? Are you able to get to the zip or tract level with any of your data?	We have funded several projects to examine methodology at the subcounty level. However, we are not yet ready to incorporate that work into the County Health Rankings, yet. There are quite a few measures that have zip and/or tract level data. There is a feature within each measure where we help users navigate to our data source or other sources which feature other geographic levels.
Can you talk about how you use BRFSS data to get the county level items that you provide?	BRFSS has methods which they have recently updated where they combine survey data with

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	modeling methods to arrive at county-level estimates.
What exactly does "margin of error" mean?	In most cases, the error margin refers to a 95% confidence interval around the estimate.
Is there a way to pick counties that are similar in set characteristics and matrices? For example, picking peer counties based on demographics or other health characteristics?	Yes, there is a compare counties tool in the snapshot. Its the 5th tab from the left. You can read more about our peer counties methodology here: https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/resources/peer-counties-methodology
How are "peer counties" determined?	
Will COVID deaths be included in the model for future years, or treated as a separate entity?	COVID deaths will start appearing in our health outcomes in 2022, but we have not yet discussed treating them as a separate entity.
My county is in the healthiest quartile for health outcomes, but is in the 3rd quartile for health factors. What might be some possible explanations for this difference?	We consider health outcomes the "current health" of your community, and health factors the "future health." Poorer performance in health factors now <i>may</i> point to poorer performance in health outcomes in the future.
Why aren't all the red graphs (negative trends) showing as Areas to Explore?	Ultimately "Areas to Explore" is looking at the current year alone and comparing the value to the state and national values, whereas trends are looking at the county values over time. Both are great ways to see measures that are worth exploring in more detail.
Some of my county's numbers are better than the number listed for best of the United States. How is that possible?	Top U.S. Performers is the value for the 10th/90th percentile of values in the US.
Are the states ranked?	We do not rank states, but we are happy to be partners with America's Health Rankings. You can check them out here: https://www.americashealthrankings.org/
Do you have the list of published papers/reports using your data?	If you go to countyhealthrankings.org and click on the "reports" tab, it will bring you to a page that has a list of select scholarly publications. There are now too many to list them all, so we suggest searching "County Health Rankings" in PubMed or Google Scholar to see them all.

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<p>Have you done any root cause statistical analysis of health outcomes measures?</p>	<p>We would love to know ourselves, but that's not an answer that we can easily answer. That's something that is going to differ county by county. There are some examples in the literature that have attempted to answer similar questions using advanced methods. They can be found in the "Scholarly Publications" section of the Reports tab. https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/reports</p>
<p>How can citizen leaders use this data to engage with health care providers and businesses in the county?</p>	<p>The Take Action portion of our website will likely be very helpful in this venture, please see https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health</p>