Building a Culture of Health, County by County

Summary of Criteria for Selecting or Revising County Health Rankings Measures

CHR&R Program Goals/Objectives & Innovating to Meet Community Needs

The measure reflects important aspects of population health that can be improved (modifiable factors)

- The measure and its association to health can be effectively communicated to the media, communities, and other key audiences
- With the mindset that fewer measures are better than more, any new measure must bring added value without diluting the model
- Measures for health outcomes will generally not be changed to ensure consistency, but measures for factors can be expanded, pared, or revised.
- New measures must fall within one of the factor areas in the model.
- The measure speaks to a current or emerging health issue that CHR&R could/should engage in and has the potential to make CHR&R more relevant to a strategic new set of partners
- The metric is a more precise measure of the intended construct and/or refines the construct dimensions based on improved understanding of its relation to health (e.g., CHR measures community safety with injury deaths because a more proximal measure is unavailable)
- The measure keeps CHR&R aligned with other metric initiatives (e.g., America's Health Rankings)
- The measure will advance efforts to address health equity

Technical/Analytical Feasibility

- The measure and its association to health are scientifically supported in the literature and/or by analysis of CHR data
- The measure draws from data that are available at the county level
- The measure draws from data sources that are valid, reliable, recognized and used by others
- The measure has been tested and used by others in the field
- The measure draws from data available for nearly all counties nationwide and puts the interests of counties and states ahead of national coverage (i.e. – the ideal is not to have missing data clustered within a particular state)
- Data to populate the measure have a short time lag (recently available within the past 3-5 years)
- Data to populate the measure will be collected regularly (ideally annually but at least every 3-5 years) and made public by the data stewards
- Data to populate the measure are available for free or at low cost
- The measure can be ranked (e.g., it has ordinal value)
- The measure can be broken down by geographic or population subgroups

