County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Building a Culture of Health, County by County

A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program

2014 *Rankings*

Alabama

A collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Support provided by
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

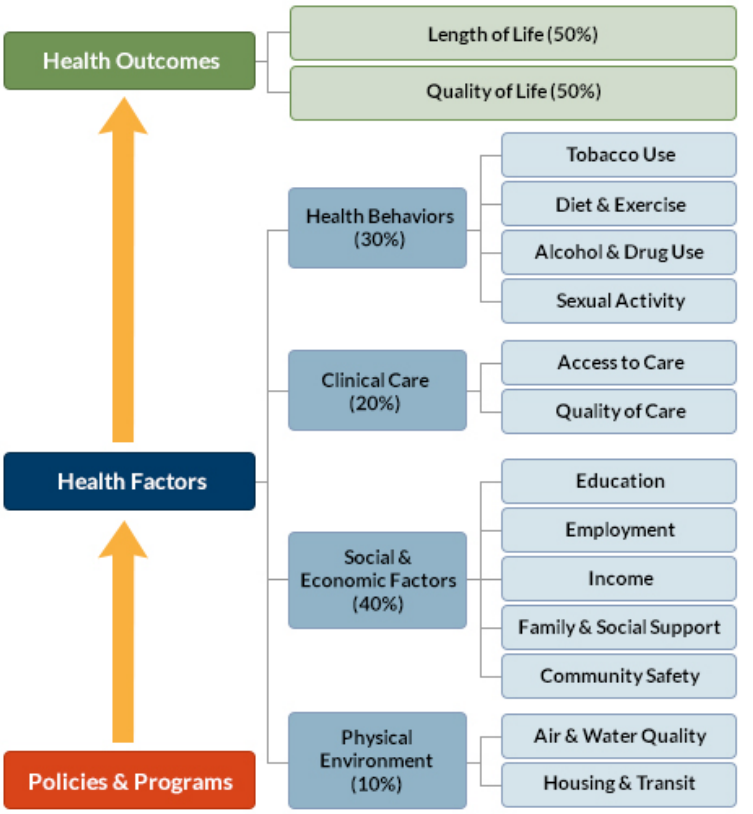
INSIDE FRONT COVER – INTENTIONALLY BLANK

INTRODUCTION

The *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* program helps communities identify and implement solutions that make it easier for people to be healthy in their schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods. Ranking the health of nearly every county in the nation, the *County Health Rankings* illustrate what we know when it comes to what is making people sick or healthy. The *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 program to cities, counties, and states across the nation.

WHAT ARE THE *COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS*?

The *County Health Rankings* measure the health of nearly every county in the nation. Published online at countyhealthrankings.org, the *Rankings* help counties understand what influences how healthy residents are and how long they will live. The *Rankings* look at a variety of measures that affect health, such as high school graduation rates, access to healthy foods, rates of smoking, obesity, and teen births. Based on data available for each county, the *Rankings* are unique in their ability to measure the overall health of each county in all 50 states. They have been used to garner support for local health improvement initiatives among government agencies, healthcare providers, community organizations, business leaders, policy makers, and the public.



HOW ARE PEOPLE USING THE *RANKINGS*?

- Highlighting community success
- Identifying root causes of poor health
- Supporting policy change
- Engaging communities in health improvement

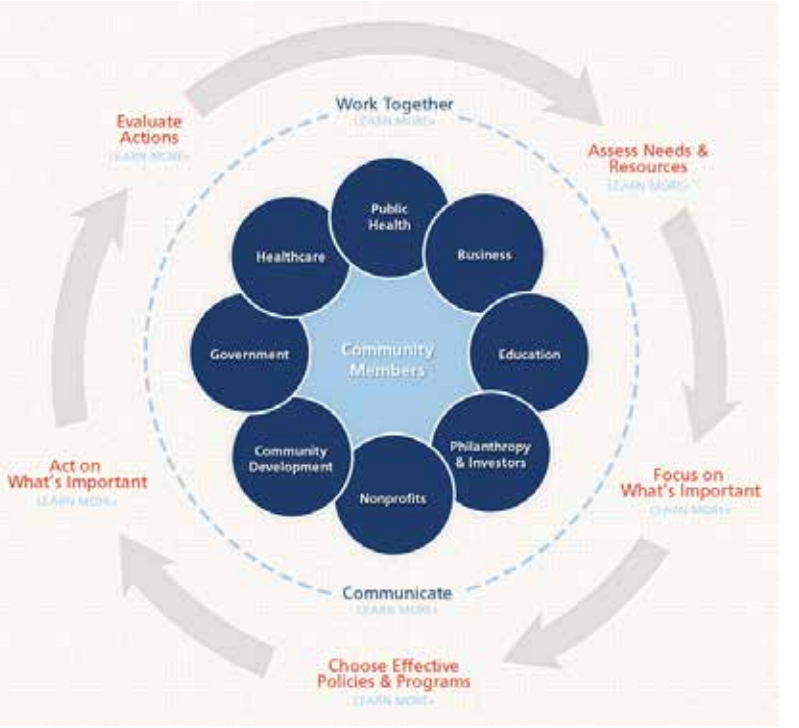
For more information, visit countyhealthrankings.org

WHAT ARE THE *ROADMAPS TO HEALTH*?

The *Roadmaps to Health* help communities bring people together to look at the many factors that influence health, select strategies that work, and make changes that will have a lasting impact. The *Roadmaps* focus on helping communities determine what they can do and what they can learn from others.

What You Can Do

The *Roadmaps to Health* Action Center provides step-by-step guides, tools, and webinars to help groups working to improve the health of their communities. Community Coaches also provide customized consultation to local communities that have demonstrated a willingness to address factors that we know influence health, such as education, income, and community safety.



The Action Center also features *What Works for Health* – a searchable database of evidence-informed policies and programs that can improve health.

Learning From Others

Honoring the efforts of communities working at the forefront of health improvement, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation annually awards the *RWJF Culture of Health Prize* to outstanding communities that are working toward better health. The *Prize* recognizes communities with strong and diverse partnerships that are coming together with a shared vision and commitment to address multiple factors that affect health and make lasting changes that create a culture of health for all. Visit countyhealthrankings.org or rwjf.org/prize to learn about the work of past prize winners.

At countyhealthrankings.org, we also feature stories from communities across the nation who have used data from the *County Health Rankings* or have engaged in strategies to improve health. For example, you can learn from the successes and challenges of the 30 *Roadmaps to Health* Community Grantees. These grantees are working to create positive policy or systems changes that address social and economic factors that influence how healthy people are and how long they live, such as education and community safety. You might also want to contact your local affiliate of United Way Worldwide, the National Business Coalition on Health, or the National Association of Counties - their national parent organizations have partnered with us to raise awareness and stimulate action to improve health in their local members' communities.

How can you get involved?

In communities large and small, people from all walks of life are taking ownership and action to improve health. Visit countyhealthrankings.org to get ideas and guidance on how you can take action in your community. Working with others, you can improve the health of your community.

The green map below shows the distribution of Alabama's **health outcomes**, based on an equal weighting of length and quality of life.

Lighter colors indicate better performance in the respective summary rankings. Detailed information on the underlying measures is available on our web site.

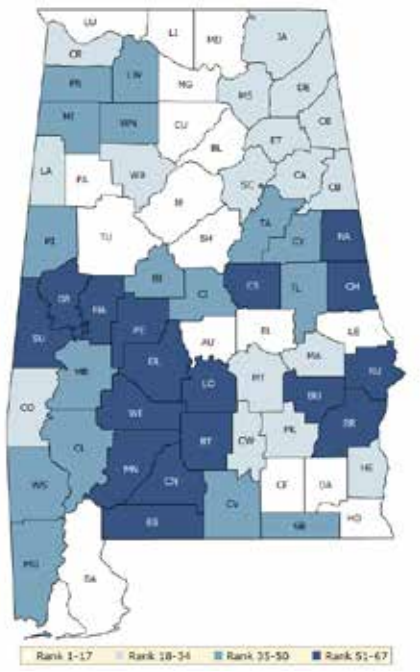
HEALTH OUTCOMES RANKS

County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank
Autauga	10	Conecuh	61	Houston	8	Morgan	9
Baldwin	2	Coosa	49	Jackson	45	Perry	65
Barbour	32	Covington	24	Jefferson	25	Pickens	50
Bibb	51	Crenshaw	18	Lamar	46	Pike	33
Blount	12	Cullman	16	Lauderdale	11	Randolph	35
Bullock	39	Dale	14	Lawrence	41	Russell	53
Butler	27	Dallas	57	Lee	3	Shelby	1
Calhoun	40	DeKalb	19	Limestone	4	St. Clair	13
Chambers	48	Elmore	7	Lowndes	67	Sumter	52
Cherokee	26	Escambia	44	Macon	59	Talladega	58
Chilton	31	Etowah	43	Madison	5	Tallapoosa	47
Choctaw	60	Fayette	55	Marengo	38	Tuscaloosa	21
Clarke	22	Franklin	28	Marion	30	Walker	66
Clay	42	Geneva	17	Marshall	23	Washington	29
Cleburne	34	Greene	63	Mobile	37	Wilcox	62
Coffee	6	Hale	64	Monroe	54	Winston	56
Colbert	36	Henry	15	Montgomery	20		

The blue map displays Alabama's summary ranks for **health factors**, based on weighted scores for health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment.

Lighter colors indicate better performance in the respective summary rankings. Detailed information on the underlying measures is available on our web site.

HEALTH FACTORS RANKS



County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank
Autauga	7	Conecuh	61	Houston	14	Morgan	16
Baldwin	6	Coosa	57	Jackson	23	Perry	66
Barbour	58	Covington	39	Jefferson	10	Pickens	45
Bibb	38	Crenshaw	26	Lamar	34	Pike	25
Blount	13	Cullman	9	Lauderdale	4	Randolph	53
Bullock	67	Dale	17	Lawrence	41	Russell	54
Butler	60	Dallas	64	Lee	3	Shelby	1
Calhoun	29	DeKalb	30	Limestone	8	St. Clair	21
Chambers	51	Elmore	12	Lowndes	63	Sumter	52
Cherokee	24	Escambia	55	Macon	32	Talladega	43
Chilton	35	Etowah	28	Madison	2	Tallapoosa	48
Choctaw	31	Fayette	15	Marengo	46	Tuscaloosa	11
Clarke	44	Franklin	40	Marion	37	Walker	27
Clay	47	Geneva	49	Marshall	33	Washington	36
Cleburne	18	Greene	62	Mobile	42	Wilcox	65
Coffee	5	Hale	59	Monroe	56	Winston	50
Colbert	19	Henry	20	Montgomery	22		

Summary Health Outcomes & Health Factors Rankings

Counties receive two 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	Shelby	1	Shelby
2	Baldwin	2	Madison
3	Lee	3	Lee
4	Limestone	4	Lauderdale
5	Madison	5	Coffee
6	Coffee	6	Baldwin
7	Elmore	7	Autauga
8	Houston	8	Limestone
9	Morgan	9	Cullman
10	Autauga	10	Jefferson
11	Lauderdale	11	Tuscaloosa
12	Blount	12	Elmore
13	St. Clair	13	Blount
14	Dale	14	Houston
15	Henry	15	Fayette
16	Cullman	16	Morgan
17	Geneva	17	Dale
18	Crenshaw	18	Cleburne
19	DeKalb	19	Colbert
20	Montgomery	20	Henry
21	Tuscaloosa	21	St. Clair
22	Clarke	22	Montgomery
23	Marshall	23	Jackson
24	Covington	24	Cherokee
25	Jefferson	25	Pike
26	Cherokee	26	Crenshaw
27	Butler	27	Walker
28	Franklin	28	Etowah
29	Washington	29	Calhoun
30	Marion	30	DeKalb
31	Chilton	31	Choctaw
32	Barbour	32	Macon
33	Pike	33	Marshall
34	Cleburne	34	Lamar
35	Randolph	35	Chilton
36	Colbert	36	Washington
37	Mobile	37	Marion
38	Marengo	38	Bibb
39	Bullock	39	Covington
40	Calhoun	40	Franklin

Rank	Health Outcomes	Rank	Health Factors
41	Lawrence	41	Lawrence
42	Clay	42	Mobile
43	Etowah	43	Talladega
44	Escambia	44	Clarke
45	Jackson	45	Pickens
46	Lamar	46	Marengo
47	Tallapoosa	47	Clay
48	Chambers	48	Tallapoosa
49	Coosa	49	Geneva
50	Pickens	50	Winston
51	Bibb	51	Chambers
52	Sumter	52	Sumter
53	Russell	53	Randolph
54	Monroe	54	Russell
55	Fayette	55	Escambia
56	Winston	56	Monroe
57	Dallas	57	Coosa
58	Talladega	58	Barbour
59	Macon	59	Hale
60	Choctaw	60	Butler
61	Conecuh	61	Conecuh
62	Wilcox	62	Greene
63	Greene	63	Lowndes
64	Hale	64	Dallas
65	Perry	65	Wilcox
66	Walker	66	Perry
67	Lowndes	67	Bullock

2014 *County Health Rankings*: Measures, Data Sources, and Years of Data

	Measure	Data Source	Years of Data
HEALTH OUTCOMES			
Length of Life	Premature death	National Center for Health Statistics	2008-2010
Quality of Life	Poor or fair health	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2006-2012
	Poor physical health days	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2006-2012
	Poor mental health days	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2006-2012
	Low birthweight	National Center for Health Statistics	2005-2011
HEALTH FACTORS			
HEALTH BEHAVIORS			
Tobacco Use	Adult smoking	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2006-2012
Diet and Exercise	Adult obesity	National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion	2010
	Food environment index	USDA Food Environment Atlas, Map the Meal Gap	2010-2011
	Physical inactivity	National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion	2010
	Access to exercise opportunities	OneSource Global Business Browser, Delorme map data, ESRI, & US Census Tigerline Files	2010 & 2012
Alcohol and Drug Use	Excessive drinking	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2006-2012
	Alcohol-impaired driving deaths	Fatality Analysis Reporting System	2008-2012
Sexual Activity	Sexually transmitted infections	National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB prevention	2011
	Teen births	National Center for Health Statistics	2005-2011
CLINICAL CARE			
Access to Care	Uninsured	Small Area Health Insurance Estimates	2011
	Primary care physicians	HRSA Area Resource File	2011
	Dentists	HRSA Area Resource File	2012
	Mental health providers	CMS, National Provider Identification	2013
Quality of Care	Preventable hospital stays	Medicare/Dartmouth Institute	2011
	Diabetic screening	Medicare/Dartmouth Institute	2011
	Mammography screening	Medicare/Dartmouth Institute	2011
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS			
Education	High school graduation	data.gov, supplemented with National Center for Education Statistics	2010-2011
	Some college	American Community Survey	2008-2012
Employment	Unemployment	Bureau of Labor Statistics	2012
Income	Children in poverty	Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates	2012
Family and Social Support	Inadequate social support	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2005-2010
	Children in single-parent households	American Community Survey	2008-2012
Community Safety	Violent crime	Uniform Crime Reporting - FBI	2009-2011
	Injury deaths	CDC WONDER	2006-2010
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT			
Air and Water Quality	Air pollution - particulate matter [1]	CDC WONDER	2011
	Drinking water violations	Safe Drinking Water Information System	FY 2012-2013
Housing and Transit	Severe housing problems	HUD, Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy	2006-2010
	Driving alone to work	American Community Survey	2008-2012
	Long commute – driving alone	American Community Survey	2008-2012

[1] Not available for AK and HI.

CREDITS

Report Authors
University of Wisconsin-Madison
School of Medicine and Public Health
Department of Population Health Sciences
Population Health Institute

Bridget Catlin, PhD, MHSA
Amanda Jovaag, MS
Julie Willems Van Dijk, PhD, RN
Patrick Remington, MD, MPH

This publication would not have been possible without the following contributions:

Data
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Center for Health Statistics and Division of Behavioral Surveillance
Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice

Research Assistance
Jennifer Buechner
Hyojun Park, MA
Elizabeth Pollock
Jennifer Robinson
Matthew Rodock, MPH
Anne Roubal, MS

Communications and Outreach
Burness Communications
Alison Bergum, MPA
Matthew Call
Kate Konkle, MPH
Kitty Jerome, MA
Karen Odegaard, MPH
Jan O'Neill, MPA

Design
Forum One, Alexandria, VA

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Abbey Cofsky, MPH – Senior Program Officer
Michelle Larkin, JD, MS, RN – Assistant Vice-President, Program Portfolios
Marjorie Paloma, MPH – Senior Policy Advisor
James S. Marks, MD, MPH – Senior Vice-President and Director, Program Portfolios
Joe Marx – Senior Communications Officer

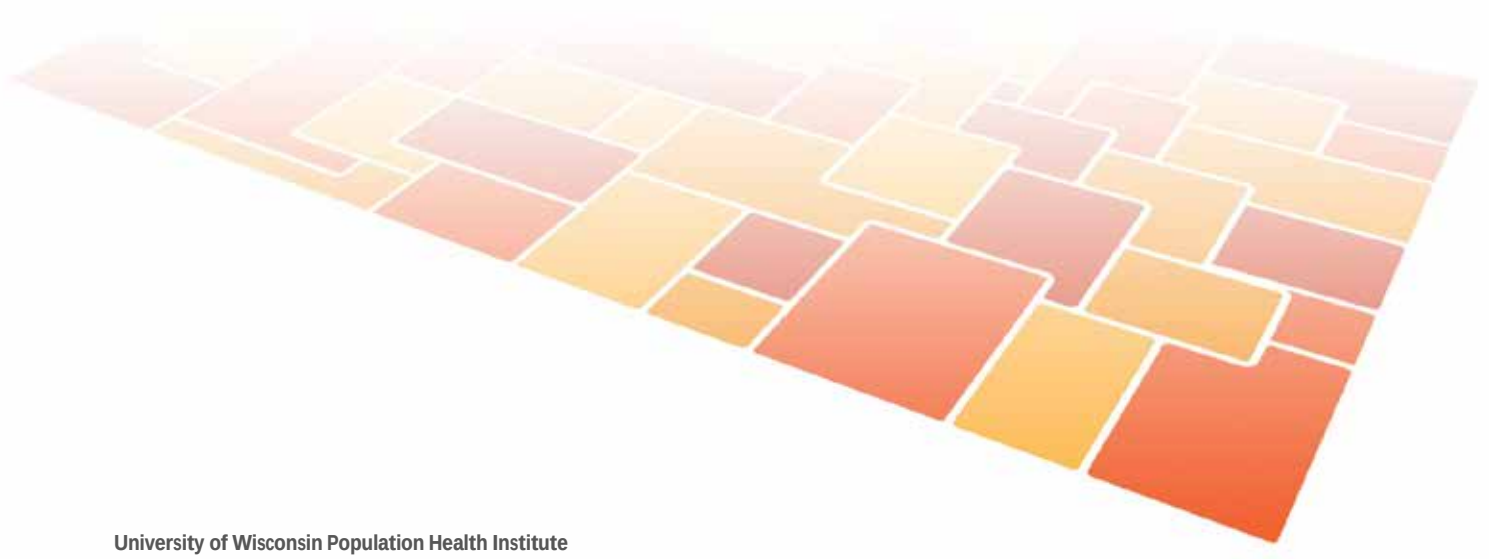
Suggested citation: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. *County Health Rankings 2014.*

INSIDE BACK COVER – INTENTIONALLY BLANK

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Building a Culture of Health, County by County

countyhealthrankings.org



University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute
610 Walnut St, #524, Madison, WI 53726
(608) 265-8240 / info@countyhealthrankings.org