

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Building a Culture of Health, County by County

A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program

2016 *County Health Rankings* Nebraska



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



Support
provided by

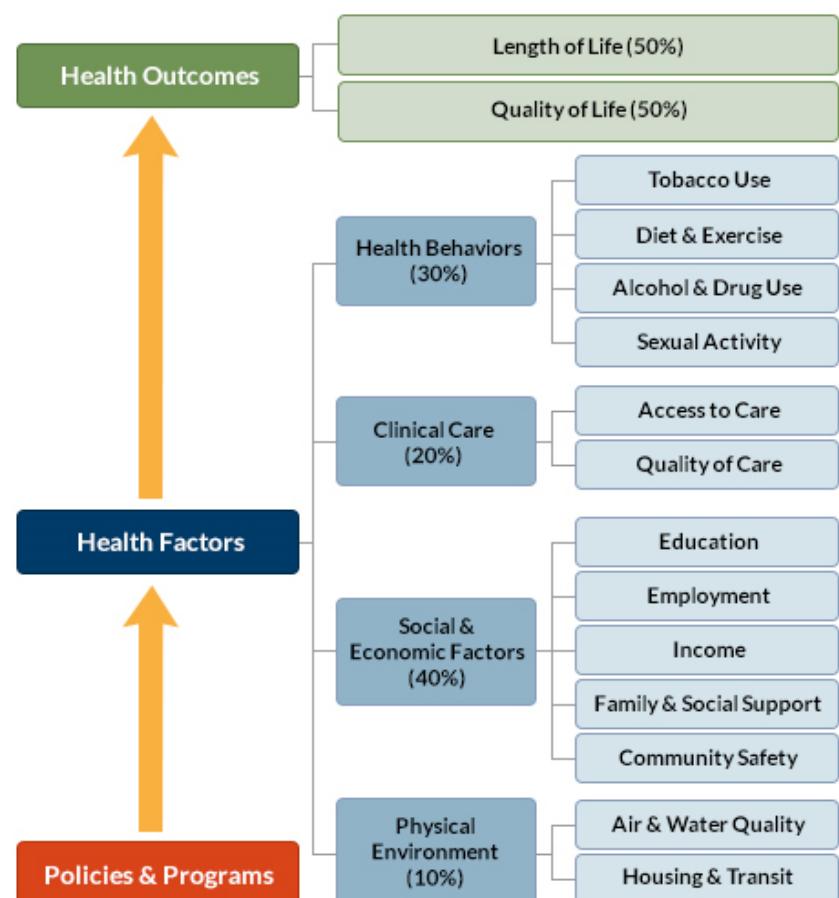


INTRODUCTION

The *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* program brings actionable data and strategies to communities to make it easier for people to be healthy in their homes, 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?

Published online at countyhealthrankings.org, the *Rankings* help counties understand what influences how healthy residents are and how long they will live. The *Rankings* are unique in their ability to measure the current overall health of nearly every county in all 50 states. They also look at a variety of measures that affect the future health of communities, such as high school graduation rates, access to healthy foods, rates of smoking, obesity, and teen births. Communities use the *Rankings* to help identify issues and opportunities for local health improvement, as well as to garner support for initiatives among government agencies, healthcare providers, community organizations, business leaders, policy makers, and the public.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO HEALTH DATA

Although we know that a range of factors are important for good health, every state has communities that lack both opportunities to shape good health and strong policies to promote health for everyone. Some counties lag far behind others in how well and how long people live – which we refer to as a “health gap.” Find out what's driving health differences across your state and what can be done to close those gaps. Visit countyhealthrankings.org/reports.

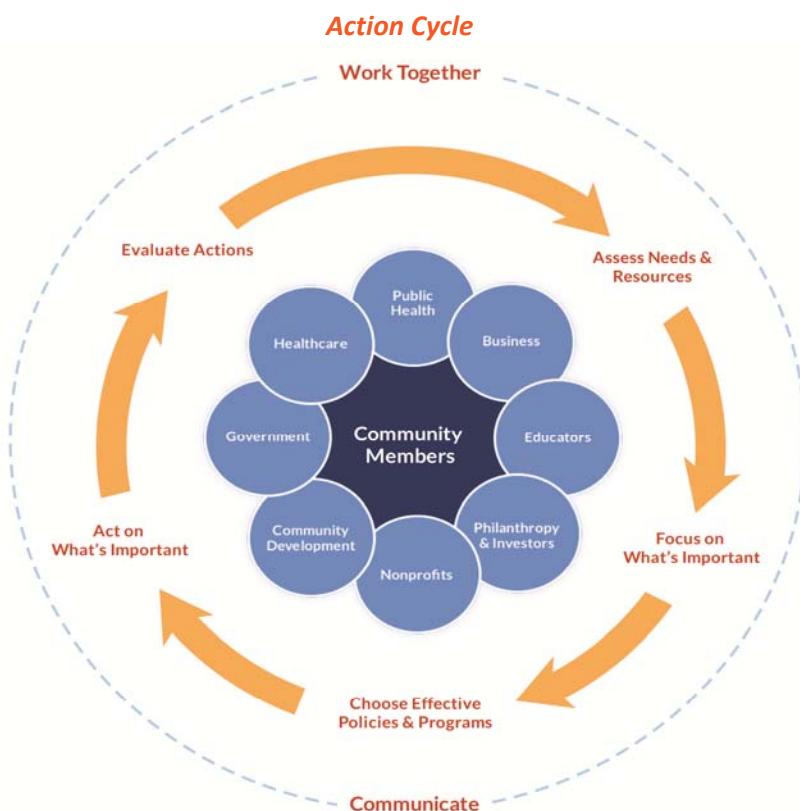
To further explore health gaps and other data sources in your community, check out the feature to [find more data](#) for your state and [dig deeper](#) on differences in health factors by geography or by population sub-groups. Visit countyhealthrankings.org/using-the-rankings-data.

MOVING FROM DATA TO ACTION

Roadmaps to Health help communities bring people together to look at the many factors that influence health and opportunities to reduce health gaps, select strategies that can improve health for all, and make changes that will have a lasting impact. The *Roadmaps* focus on helping communities move from *awareness* about their county's ranking to *actions* designed to improve everyone's health. The *Roadmaps to Health* Action Center is a one-stop shop of information to help any community member or leader who wants to improve their community's health by addressing factors that we know influence health, such as education, income, and community safety.

Within the Action Center you will find:

- Online step-by-step guidance and tools to move through the Action Cycle
- [What Works for Health](#) – a searchable database of evidence-informed policies and programs that can improve health
- Webinars featuring local community members who share their tips on how to build a healthier community
- Community coaches, located across the nation, who provide customized consultation to local leaders who request guidance in how to accelerate their efforts to improve health. You can contact a coach by activating the Get Help button at countyhealthrankings.org



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

You might want to contact your local affiliate of United Way Worldwide, the National Association of Counties, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), or Neighborworks— their national parent organizations have partnered with us to raise awareness and stimulate action to improve health in their local members' communities. By connecting with other leaders interested in improving health, you can make a difference in your community. 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.

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
Marjory Givens, PhD, MSPH
Julie Willems Van Dijk, PhD, RN

Suggested citation: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. *County Health Rankings 2016*

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

Data

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Center for Health Statistics and National Center for Chronic Disease and Health Promotion
Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice

Research Assistance

Paige Andrews
Kathryn Hatchell
Keith Gennuso, PhD
Hyojun Park, MA
Elizabeth Pollock
Jennifer Robinson
Matthew Rodock, MPH

Communications and Outreach

Burness
Mary Bennett, MFA
Matthew Call
Megan Garske
Kitty Jerome, MA
Kate Konkle, MPH
Jan O'Neill, MPA

Design

Forum One, Alexandria, VA

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Andrea Ducas, MPH
Michelle Larkin, JD, MS, RN
James Marks, MD, MPH
Joe Marx
Donald Schwarz, MD, MPH
Amy Slonim, PhD
Kathryn Wehr, MPH

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Building a Culture of Health, County by County

countyhealthrankings.org



University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute
610 Walnut St, #527, Madison, WI 53726
(608) 265-8240 / info@countyhealthrankings.org