

# The County Health Rankings Project

A Product of the Robert Wood Johnson  
Foundation

&

The University of Wisconsin Population  
Health Institute



# What are the County Health Rankings?

- ✦ The *Rankings* are based on a model of population health that emphasizes the many factors that, if improved, can help make communities healthier places to live. The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute has used this model to rank the health of Wisconsin's counties every year since 2003.

# Sources of Data

(Alphabet Soup)

- ✦ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
- ✦ Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
- ✦ National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
- ✦ National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (Division of Diabetes Translation)
- ✦ National Center for Hepatitis, HIV, STD, and TB Prevention
- ✦ Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- ✦ Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- ✦ Decennial Census
- ✦ American Community Survey (ACS)
- ✦ Census/Current Population Survey: Small Area Health Insurance Estimates and Income and Poverty Estimates, and Census County and Zip Code Business Patterns
- ✦ Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- ✦ Medicare claims/The Dartmouth Institute
- ✦ National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
- ✦ Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

## What Process was used to select the measures used in the Rankings

- ✦ Review of the literature around the impact of various factors on health outcomes
- ✦ Ability for factors to be modified through community action
- ✦ Availability and reliability of measures at the county level throughout the nation
- ✦ Analysis and feedback by a panel of technical experts.

# Ranking Methods

- ✦ The County Health Rankings are based on a model of population health including 2 primary categories
  - ✦ Health outcomes (2)
  - ✦ Health factors (4)



# Health Outcomes

- ✦ Health outcomes in the *County Health Rankings* represent how healthy a county is. This report measure two types of health outcomes:
  - ✦ Mortality - how long people live
  - ✦ Morbidity - how healthy people feel while alive

## Health Outcome Categories - Mortality

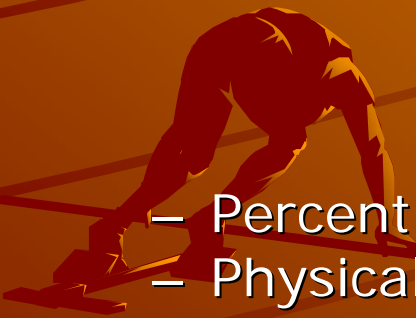
- ✦ Mortality – Measurement Tool- Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL)
- ✦ Premature death is represented by the years of potential life lost before age 75 (YPLL-75). Every death occurring before the age of 75 contributes to the total number of years of potential life lost. For example, a person dying at age 25 contributes 50 years of life lost, whereas a person who dies at age 65 contributes 10 years of life lost to a county's YPLL. The YPLL measure is presented as a rate per 100,000 population and is age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. population.
- ✦ Age-adjusting adjusts for variations in population against a standard (US Census)

# Health Outcomes - Morbidity

- ✦ Morbidity is the term that refers to how healthy people feel while alive. Specifically the measures of health-related quality of life (a persons overall health, their physical health, their mental health) and birth outcomes (in this case, babies born with a low birth weight).

## Measurement Tools

- Percent reporting poor or fair health (BRFS)
- Physically unhealthy days (BRFS)
- Mentally unhealthy days (BRFS)
- Low birth weight live births (Birth files)



# Health Factors

Health factors in the *County Health Rankings* represent what influences the health of a county. The Report measure four types of health factors:

- ◆ Health behaviors
- ◆ Clinical care
- ◆ Social and economic
- ◆ Physical environment



# Health Behaviors

## Focus

Smoking

Diet & Exercise

Alcohol use

Unsafe Sex

## Measures

Adult smoking rate

Adult obesity rate

Binge drinking

MV crashes w alcohol

Chlamydia rate

Teen Birth rate

Data sources: BRFSS, MV Reports, NCHS, ACS

# Clinical Care

Focus

Measure

Access to care

Adult uninsured  
Primary Care Providers

Quality of Care

Hospice use  
Diabetic screening  
Ambulatory Hospitalization  
(infections, diabetes, asthma)

Data Sources: BRFSS, NCCDP, HRSA, NCHS




# Social and Economic

Sources: NCES, BLS, ACS, Census

## Focus area

## Measures



◆ Education	Grad. Rate/College Degrees
◆ Employment	Unemployment rate
◆ Income	Children in poverty; income inequality
◆ Inadequate Social Supports	Social emotional support;
◆ Single parent HH	Percent from ACS
◆ Safety	Violent crime rates

# Physical Environment

## Focus Areas

✦ Environmental Quality

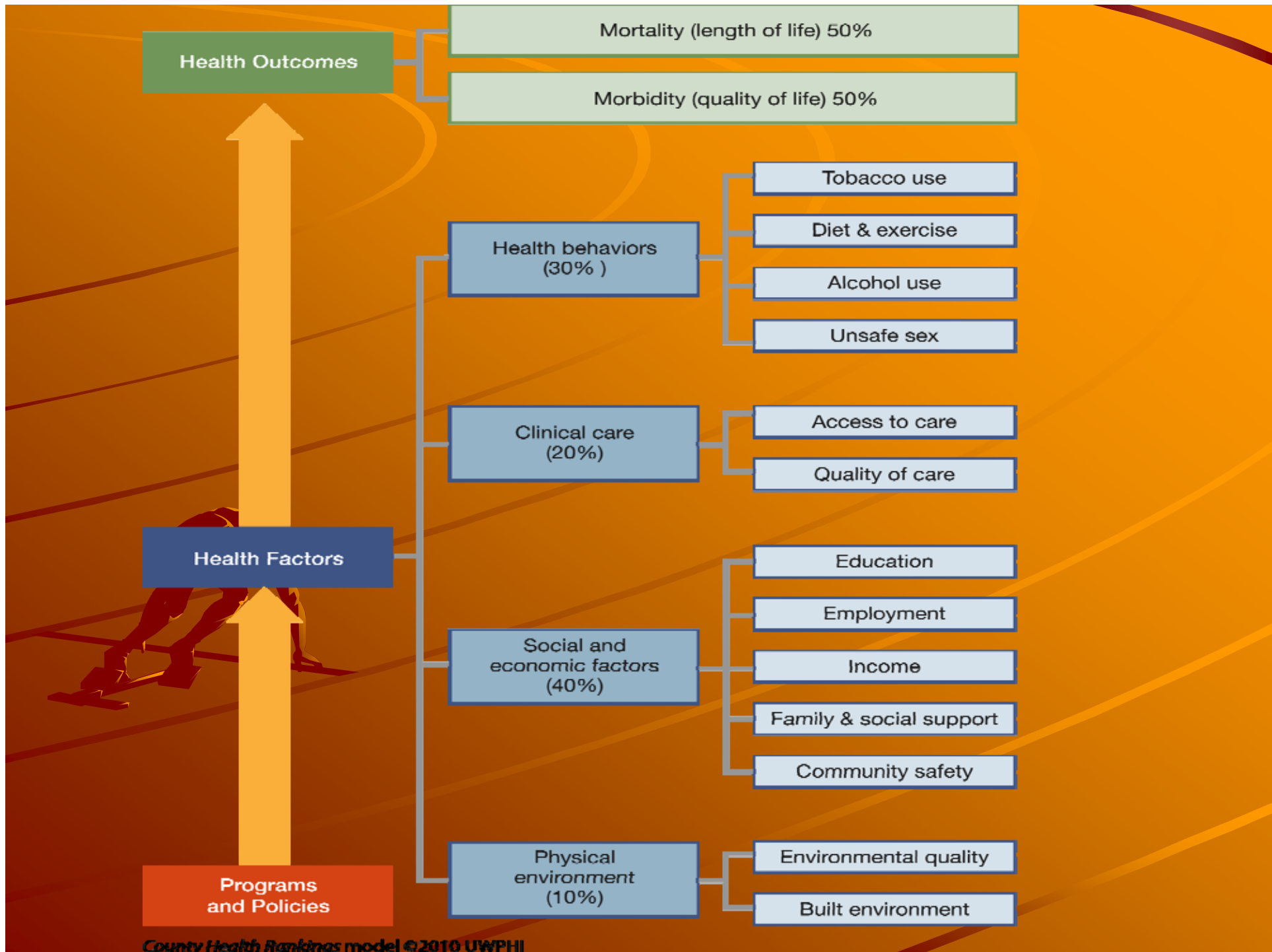
✦ Built Environment

## Measurement Tools

Ozone pollution days  
Air pollution particulate matter days


Access to healthy foods  
Liquor Store Density

Sources: EPA, CDC, US Census



# Computing your 'Score'

- ✦ The Rankings are based on summary composite scores of individual measures. The Report uses within-state z-scores (not ranks) to standardize each individual measure to the same scale. These z-scores are combined into summary composite scores using weights. Ranking is based on 82 Counties (Keweenaw not included; pop. 2200)



	Branch County	MI	Rank
<b>Mortality</b>	7363	7390	49
<b>Morbidity</b>			42
Poor/fair health	16%	14%	
Poor physical health	5 days	3.6	
Poor mental health	3.4 days	3.7	
Low Birth weight	6%	8%	
<b>Health Behaviors</b>			49
Adult Smoke	24%	23%	
Adult Obesity	30%	28%	
Binge Drink	16%	18%	
MV Crash Death Rate	17	13	
Chlamydia Rate	129	370	
Teen Birth Rate	53	36	

## Branch County

	County	MI	Rank
<b>Social &amp; Economic</b>			<b>39</b>
HS Graduation	79%	72%	
College Degrees	14%	24%	
Unemployment	9%	8%	
Kids in Poverty	20%	19%	
Income Inequality	42	45	
Inadequate Social Support	16%	19%	
Single parent HH	9%	10%	
Violent Crime rate	251	550	
<b>Physical Environment</b>			<b>69</b>
Air Pollution Days	6	3	
Ozone Days	4	4	
Access to Healthy Foods	33%	51%	
Liquor Store Density	1.1	1.1	

# Branch County

## Clinical Care

Rank  
79

	County	MI
Uninsured Adult	12%	12%
Primary Care Providers	54	113
Prevent/Hospitalizations	92	76
Diabetic Screening	78%	82%
Hospice Use	17%	38%



## Hillsdale County

	County	MI	Rank
<b>Mortality</b>	<b>6778</b>	<b>7390</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Morbidity</b>			<b>41</b>
<b>Poor/fair health</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>14%</b>	
<b>Poor physical health</b>	<b>3.6 days</b>	<b>3.6</b>	
<b>Poor mental health</b>	<b>2.8 days</b>	<b>3.7</b>	
<b>Low Birth weight</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>8%</b>	
<b>Health Behaviors</b>			<b>47</b>
<b>Adult Smoke</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>23%</b>	
<b>Adult Obesity</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>28%</b>	
<b>Binge Drink</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>18%</b>	
<b>MV Crash Death Rate</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b>Chlamydia Rate</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>370</b>	
<b>Teen Birth Rate</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>36</b>	

## Hillsdale County

	County	MI	Rank
Clinical Care			58
Uninsured Adult	11%	12%	
Primary Care Providers	55	113	
Prevent/Hospitalizations	83	76	
Diabetic Screening	81%	82%	
Hospice Use	32%	38%	



## Hillsdale County

	County	MI	Rank
<b>Social &amp; Economic</b>			<b>51</b>
HS Graduation	75%	72%	
College Degrees	15%	24%	
Unemployment	11%	8%	
Kids in Poverty	21%	19%	
Income Inequality	40	45	
Inadequate Social Support	19%	19%	
Single parent HH	8%	10%	
Violent Crime rate	218	550	
<b>Physical Environment</b>			<b>64</b>
Air Pollution Days	5	3	
Ozone Days	4	4	
Access to Healthy Foods	19%	51%	
Liquor Store Density	.4	1.1	

## St. Joseph County

	County	MI	Rank
<b>Mortality</b>	<b>8713</b>	<b>7390</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Morbidity</b>			<b>60</b>
<b>Poor/fair health</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>14%</b>	
<b>Poor physical health</b>	<b>3.6 days</b>	<b>3.6</b>	
<b>Poor mental health</b>	<b>3.8 days</b>	<b>3.7</b>	
<b>Low Birth weight</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>8%</b>	
<b>Health Behaviors</b>			<b>61</b>
<b>Adult Smoke</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>23%</b>	
<b>Adult Obesity</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>28%</b>	
<b>Binge Drink</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>18%</b>	
<b>MV Crash Death Rate</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b>Chlamydia Rate</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>370</b>	
<b>Teen Birth Rate</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>36</b>	

**St. Joseph County  
County**

**MI Rank**

**Clinical Care**

**68**

**Uninsured Adult**

**12%**

**12%**

**Primary Care Providers**

**80**

**113**

**Prevent/Hospitalizations**

**84**

**76**

**Diabetic Screening**

**78%**

**82%**

**Hospice Use**

**29%**

**38%**



## St. Joseph County

	County	MI	Rank
<b>Social &amp; Economic</b>			<b>47</b>
HS Graduation	76%	72%	
College Degrees	13%	24%	
Unemployment	9%	8%	
Kids in Poverty	21%	19%	
Income Inequality	41	45	
Inadequate Social Support	16%	19%	
Single parent HH	10%	10%	
Violent Crime rate	364	550	
<b>Physical Environment</b>			<b>25</b>
Air Pollution Days	6	3	
Ozone Days	5	4	
Access to Healthy Foods	70%	51%	
Liquor Store Density	.3	1.1	

## Final Rankings

- ✦ Ranked in 2 summary categories
- ✦ Health Outcomes – How healthy is the County
- ✦ Health Factors – What factors are influencing the health of the County



## Health Outcomes Ranking (Mortality, Morbidity) How do we stack up?

- ◆ 1. Livingston County
- ◆ 15. Lenawee
- ◆ 29. Hillsdale
- ◆ 32. Ingham
- ◆ 37. Kalamazoo
- ◆ 46. Van Buren
- ◆ 47. Branch
- ◆ 63. Cass
- ◆ 65. Jackson
- ◆ 69. St. Joseph
- ◆ 75. Calhoun
- ◆ 81. Wayne
- ◆ 82. Clare

# Health Factors Ranking

1. Washtenaw
13. Kalamazoo
24. Lenawee
30. Ingham
47. Van Buren
50. Cass
53. Jackson
56. Hillsdale
58. St. Joseph
60. Branch
73. Calhoun
82. Wayne

## Health Factors – A Breakdown of Components

	Health Behavior	Clinical Care	Social Economic	Physical Environ.
Branch	49	79	39	69
Hillsdale	47	58	51	64
St. Joseph	61	68	47	25
Calhoun	71	29	74	58
Jackson	59	40	46	32
Lenawee	26	24	28	62
Cass	63	73	27	53
Kalamazoo	13	19	20	63

HD – Physical Environment – 3/16 zips with Healthy Foods, SJ county 7/10

# Now What?

- ◆ Improving your community's health involves a cycle of activities
- ◆ Assessing needs and resources,
- ◆ Picking priorities,
- ◆ Finding programs and policies that work
- ◆ Implementing strategies
- ◆ Evaluating efforts.

# Take Action

WORK TOGETHER



## Strengths/Weaknesses

- ◆ + Wide variety of indicators
- ◆ - Missing some key indicators
  - ◆ Immunization rates/parks & rec. opportunities/population density/non-violent crime
- ◆ - Data is old
- ◆ - Several elements are estimates
- ◆ + Starts Communities Talking



✦ Questions?

✦ Follow-up?

