

COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS: 2010

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute are pleased to present the 2010 *County Health Rankings*, a collection of 50 reports that reflect the overall health of counties in every state across the country. For the first time, counties can get a snapshot of how healthy their residents are by comparing their overall health and the factors that influence their health, with other counties in their state. This will allow them to see county-to-county where they are doing well and where they need to improve. Everyone has a stake in community health. We all need to work together to find solutions. The *County Health Rankings* serve as both a call to action and a needed tool in this effort.

All of the *County Health Rankings* are based upon this model of population health improvement:



In this model, health outcomes are measures that describe the current health status of a county. These health outcomes are influenced by a set of health factors. These health factors and their outcomes may also be affected by community-based programs and policies designed to alter their distribution in the community. Counties can improve health outcomes by addressing all health factors with effective, evidence-based programs and policies.



To compile the *Rankings*, we built on our prior work in Wisconsin, worked closely with staff from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Dartmouth College, and obtained input from a team of expert advisors. Together, we selected a number of population health measures based on scientific relevance, importance, and availability of data at the county level. For a more detailed explanation of the choice of measures, see www.countyhealthrankings.org.