

## Health of Wisconsin Report Card 2007

As part of its UWSMPH Partnership Program funded project, "Making Wisconsin the Healthiest State", the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute prepared the *Health of Wisconsin Report Card* to assess Wisconsin's progress towards meeting two of the three overarching goals of the Healthiest Wisconsin 2010 State Health Plan to

- 1) protect and promote the health for all and
- 2) eliminate health disparities.

The *Report Card* gives grades for four life stages, and two overall grades for all ages for the health of Wisconsin: a B- for overall health and a D for health disparities.

The four life stages were

1. infants (less than 1 year old),
2. children and young adults (ages 1-24),
3. working-age adults (ages 25-64), and
4. older adults (ages 65 and over).

The grades were based on two ways of measuring health:

1. length of life (age-adjusted mortality rates) and
2. quality of life (age-adjusted mean number of unhealthy days) – for adults only.

Grades were developed for each life group and each health measure based on the distribution of comparable measures for all states in the US. Grades were averaged for the two measures to give one grade per life stage, and then these four grades were average to come up with an overall state grade for health.

In addition, the *Report Card* includes health disparity grades for each lifestage and for the state as a whole, based on the health of different groups of people. This was accomplished by examining the health of subgroups of the population within each life stage based on four characteristics (selecting based on data availability):

1. Gender
2. Geography
3. Socioeconomic Status
4. Race/Ethnicity

For each life stage, the health of each Wisconsin subgroup was graded in comparison to the health of the total population in that age group in other states. To measure the disparity among subgroups within each life stage, the health grade of each Wisconsin subgroup was compared to the grade of the healthiest subgroup of the same age in Wisconsin. These comparisons were used to calculate disparity scores and grades for mortality and health-related quality of life. The disparity grades for the four life stages were averaged to determine an overall grade for health disparity.