

Interpreting the Health Rankings for Menominee County

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BACKGROUND:

- ❑ The UW Population Health Institute annually publishes the *Wisconsin County Health Rankings*.
- ❑ A county's health is measured by its health outcomes and health determinants.
- ❑ Menominee County is a reservation inhabited by the Menominee Nation.

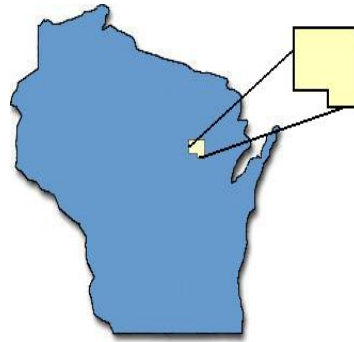


Table 1: Demographics

	Menominee County	Wisconsin
Population Size	4,620	5,539,190
Gender:		
Male	49%	50%
Female	51%	50%
Age:		
0-17	34%	24%
18-44	34%	38%
45-64	22%	25%
65+	10%	13%
Race/ethnicity:		
American Indian/Alaska Native	87%	1%
White	12%	89%
Black	<1%	6%
Hispanic	3%	4%
Asian	0%	2%
Median household income	\$29,440	\$43,791
Persons below poverty	29%	9%

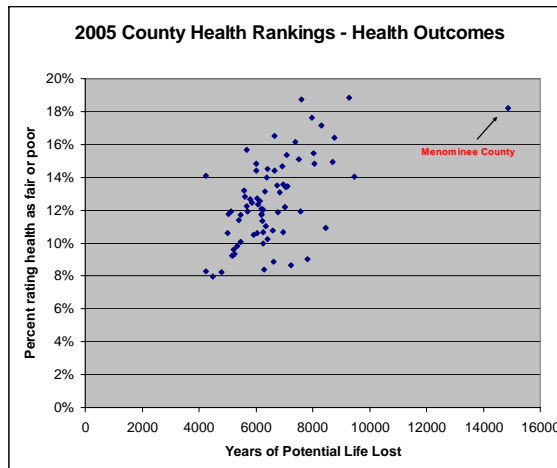
*Gender and age from DHFS 2004 mid-year estimates
<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/population/04demog/menominee.htm>

**Race/ethnicity and income information from the 2000 U.S. census
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/55/55078.html>

RESULTS:

- ❑ Menominee County has consistently ranked highly in the physical environment component of the health determinants, as well as the percentage of the population receiving needed health care (see Table 2.)
- ❑ In contrast, Menominee has consistently ranked as one of the worst counties for most of the measures of health behaviors and socioeconomic factors, which make up 80% of the total health determinants score.
- ❑ Rates of health risk behavior were significantly elevated, despite small sample sizes (13 BRFSS respondents from 1998-2004)

Figure 1: Menominee County's Outlying Health Outcomes Ranking



PROBLEM STATEMENT:

- ❑ Menominee County has ranked 72nd in health outcomes out of 72 counties each year since the first publication in 2003.
- ❑ Menominee County has the smallest population of all Wisconsin counties (see Table 1).
- ❑ Two of the data sources used to determine the rankings are limited in their ability to measure health determinants for counties with small population sizes.
- ❑ The question arises as to whether Menominee County's rank is a result of poor health or inadequate data.

Table 2 Wisconsin County Health Rankings 2005: Menominee County Health Determinants				
Measure (contribution to determinants rank)	Rank	Rate	Range of rates for all counties (Best-Worst)	Data source
Health Care (10%)	55			
Percent with no health insurance (1.67%)	64	11.2	3.1-20.5	FHS
Percent who did not receive needed care (1.67%)	1	0.0	0.0-5.6	FHS
Percent with no recent dentist visit (1.67%)	63	58.1	33.9-68.1	FHS
Percent over 65 getting pneumococcal vaccinations (0.83%)	68	31.9	57.3-22.0	Metastar
Percent over 65 getting Influenza vaccinations (0.83%)	29	59.3	68.7-25.7	Metastar
Percent diabetics over 65 getting eye exams (0.83%)	51	75.9	85.8-66.9	Metastar
Percent diabetics over 65 getting lipid profile (0.83%)	11	90.4	92.7-77.3	Metastar
Percent diabetics getting HbA1c testing (0.83%)	56	89.2	96.1-80.5	Metastar
Percent over 65 getting biennial mammography (0.83%)	68	56.9	76.2-50.7	Metastar
Health Behaviors (40%)	72			
Percent who smoke cigarettes (6%)	72	44.2	12.6-44.2	BRFSS
Percent who smoke during pregnancy (6%)	72	45.2	7.2-45.2	WISH
Percent who are physically inactive (4%)	72	100.0	38.6-100.0	BRFSS
Percent who are overweight (3%)	72	79.3	45.2-79.3	BRFSS
Percent who are obese (3%)	72	49.6	11.6-49.6	BRFSS
Percent consuming less than 5 fruit/vegetable per day (3%)	47	79.8	66.6-88.5	BRFSS
Percent binge drinking (10%)	72	45.8	9.3-45.8	BRFSS
Teen birth rate per 1,000 (1%)	72	94.2	9.6-94.2	WISH
Sexually transmitted disease per 100,000 (1%)	72	1568	39-1568	WDHFS
Violent crimes per 100,000 (1.5%)	72	1507	35-1507	WQJA
Motor vehicle crash deaths per 100,000 (1.5%)	72	66	0-66	WISH
Socioeconomic Factors (40%)	72			
High school graduation rate (6.7%)	71	76.3	98.9-75.8	WDPI
Level of education (% HS grads) (6.7%)	70	78.2	92.2-75.4	US Census
Income/Household poverty ratio (13.3%)	72	1.78	2.84-1.78	US Census
Divorce rate (13.3%)	72	11.1	6.5-11.1	US Census
Physical Environment (10%)	1			
Air quality cancer risk per 1,000,000 (0.83%)	6	22	21-90	EPA
Air quality hazard index (0.83%)	6	0.50	0.28-8.70	EPA
Air quality-fine particulate matter in air (0.83%)	4	9.24	6.60-13.10	WDNR
Ozone level (0.83%)	4	71	67-99	WDNR
Percent nitrate levels in water > 2 (1.67%)	1	0.0	0.0-72.1	WDNR
Percent nitrate levels in water > 10 (1.67%)	1	0.0	0.0-8.5	WDNR
Percent pre-1950 housing (1.67%)	1	8.2	8.2-52.6	US Census
Percent lead poisoned children (1.67%)	16	0.6	0.0-7.9	WDHFS

CONCLUSIONS:

- ❑ Despite small sample sizes, these data show a consistent pattern of rates of health risk behaviors in Menominee County.
- ❑ Future work will involve comparing data used in the *Rankings* to data collected by the county itself.
- ❑ For Menominee County to significantly improve its ranking, long-term improvements in health behaviors and socioeconomic factors need to be made via policy changes at the local and state level.

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