

DETAILED INFORMATION ON MEASURES AND DATA SOURCES

- **What are mortality rates?**

Mortality rates are based on counts of the number of deaths occurring in a population group divided by the total number of people in that group. These numbers are then converted to reflect rates of death per 100,000 people (per 1,000 births for infants). We report rates based on the most recent 3-year period for which data are available nationally: 2002-2004 (except for education of infants' mothers, 2000-2002). The mortality rates are adjusted for age (except the rates for infants and older adults by education).

- **Where do the mortality data used in this Report Card come from?**

Life stage	Domain	Data source
Infants	Gender	CDC WONDER : Mortality – underlying cause of death
	Education of mother	CDC WONDER : Infant deaths
	Type of county	CDC WONDER : Mortality – underlying cause of death
	Race / ethnicity	WISH : Infant mortality query (Mortality query – Asian rate)
Children and young adults	Gender	CDC WONDER : Mortality – underlying cause of death
	Type of county	CDC WONDER : Mortality – underlying cause of death
	Race / ethnicity	WISH : Mortality query
Working-age adults	Gender	CDC WONDER : Mortality – underlying cause of death
	Education	Death counts: National Center for Health Statistics mortality detail files Population counts: 2000 U.S. Census
	Type of county	CDC WONDER : Mortality – underlying cause of death
	Race / ethnicity	WISH : Mortality query
Older adults	Gender	CDC WONDER : Mortality – underlying cause of death
	Education	Death counts: National Center for Health Statistics mortality detail files Population counts: 2000 U.S. Census
	Type of county	CDC WONDER : Mortality – underlying cause of death
	Race / ethnicity	WISH : Mortality query



▪ **What are unhealthy days?**

Unhealthy days are a measure of health-related quality of life. We report the mean (average) number of unhealthy days reported per month. The numbers are based on adult (age 25+) respondents' answers to two questions about their health in the past month:

- 1) *how many days was your physical health poor?*
- 2) *how many days was your mental health poor?*

We report data for the most recent 3-year period for which data on unhealthy days are available nationally: 2003-2005. The mean number of unhealthy days per month are adjusted for age.

For more information on unhealthy days, see [How Should We Measure Health-Related Quality of Life in Wisconsin?](#) on the UWPHI web site.

▪ **Where do the unhealthy days data used in this Report Card come from?**

All of the unhealthy days data are from the [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#) for the years 2003-2005. The mortality data sources are listed in the table below; all mortality data are for the years 2002-2004, except education of mother which is for 2000-2002.

▪ **Why isn't a measure of health-related quality of life included for infants and children?**

The unhealthy days data used in this Report Card are from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, which conducts surveys of adults ages 18 and older. Although some other measures of health-related quality of life – such as general health status – exist for children and adolescents, the measure of healthy days is not readily available for individuals under 18 across the United States. Unhealthy days data for young adults ages 18-24 were not included in the Report Card because this age group is combined with children, for whom unhealthy days data are not available.

▪ **Which measures are adjusted for age?**

Mortality rates: *All mortality rates are adjusted for age, except the rates for infants – because these rates are not typically adjusted for age – and older adults by education – because census denominators by age were not readily available for those 65 years and older. Data obtained from WONDER and WISH were requested as age-adjusted numbers in the queries. Mortality rates by education for working age adults were adjusted using the age groups of 25-34, 35-44, and 45-64, and population weights from the U.S. 2000 Standard Million.*

Unhealthy days: *The mean values for unhealthy days per month for working age adults were adjusted for age using the age groups of 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, and 55-64 and population weights from the U.S. 2000 standard population. The mean values for unhealthy days per month for older adults were adjusted for age using the age groups 65-74 and 75+ and population weights from the US 2000 standard population.*

▪ **How were the urbanization classifications created?**

The four urbanization classifications used in this Report Card were based on the set of six urbanization classifications outlined by the National Center for Health Statistic (NCHS). The "large central metro" NCHS classification is represented in the report as "large urban"; the NCHS classes of "large fringe metro" and "medium metro" were combined to create the report classification of "suburban/urban"; the NCHS classes of "small metro" and "micropolitan" were combined to create the "non-urban" classification"; and the NCHS classification of "non-core" is reflected in the report as "rural." A detailed description of the classifications can be found in the table below.



<i>Health of Wisconsin Report Card Urbanization Classification</i>	National Center for Health Statistics 2006 Urban-Rural Classification*	National Center for Health Statistics Classification Description*
Large urban	Large central metro	Counties in a metropolitan statistical area of 1 million or more population: 1) that contain the entire population of the largest principal city of the metropolitan statistical area, or 2) whose entire population resides in the largest principal city of the metropolitan statistical area, or 3) that contain at least 250,000 of the population of any principal city in the metropolitan statistical area
Suburban/urban	Large fringe metro	Counties in a metropolitan statistical area of 1 million or more population that do not qualify as large central
	Medium metro	Counties in a metropolitan statistical area of 250,000 to 999,999 population
Non-urban	Small metro	Counties in a metropolitan statistical area of 50,000 to 249,999 population
	Micropolitan	Counties in a micropolitan (urban cluster of 10,000 or more people) statistical area
Rural	Noncore	Counties that are neither metropolitan nor micropolitan

*Ingram DD and Franco S. 2006 *Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties*. Online at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/r&d/rdc_urbanrural.htm.

▪ **What are the urbanization classifications for each Wisconsin county?**

The [urbanization classifications](#) for each county in Wisconsin are listed on the UWPHI website.

Wisconsin has one large urban county, 13 suburban/urban counties, 24 non-urban counties, and 34 rural counties.

▪ **In the Overview of the Report Card, what method was used to project Wisconsin’s future mortality rate?**

To calculate the rank of Wisconsin in mortality rates, we used simple linear regression on log-transformed mortality rates from 1992-2002 to identify trends for each state. We obtained our mortality rates from CDC WONDER; the data were age-adjusted to the U.S. 2000 population, included all deaths prior to age 75, and were reported as deaths per 100,000 population. We used 3-year rolled averages to improve stability in the yearly rates (for example, the mortality rates we used for 1992 were an average of the mortality rates for the years 1991, 1992, and 1993). The regression results were used to project each state’s mortality rate to 2015. We then ranked states based on the mortality rates for the years 1992, 2002, and 2012.

