

2008 Wisconsin County Health Rankings



mortality • health status
health care • health behaviors
socioeconomics • environment



University of Wisconsin
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
AND PUBLIC HEALTH

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute
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Table of Contents

Introduction _____	1
The Rankings _____	2
Health Outcomes by Quartile _____	3
Health Determinants by Quartile _____	3
Summary Health Outcomes and Determinants Rankings _____	4
Summary 2008 Population Health Rankings for 73 Wisconsin Places _____	5
Outcomes Components Ranking _____	6
Determinants Components Ranking _____	7
Special Feature: The Five Leading Causes of Death in Wisconsin _____	8
Indicators, Data Sources, and Years of Data _____	9

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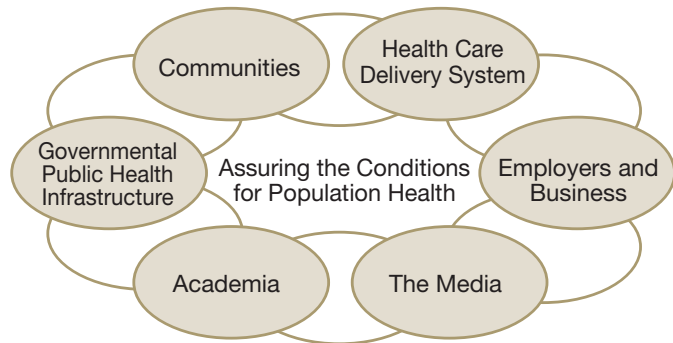
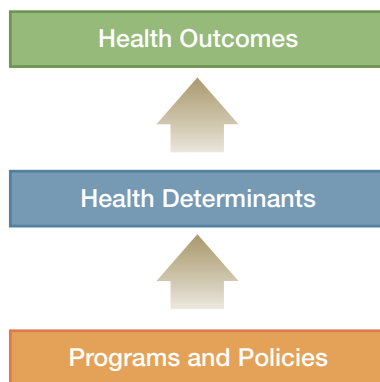
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Introduction

The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute is pleased to present the *2008 Wisconsin County Health Rankings*. Now in its sixth year, the *Rankings* are designed to summarize the current health of the counties, as well as the distribution of key factors that determine future health. By taking a broad perspective on the factors that influence health—health care, health behaviors, socio-economic factors, and the physical environment—we hope to encourage all community stakeholders to work with health departments and health care providers as partners in the public health system (see image at right). We hope these new partnerships will serve to improve Wisconsin's health, as well as provide a model for others to follow in monitoring population health.

The *Wisconsin County Health Rankings* are based upon the model of population health improvement shown below. In this paradigm, health outcomes are considered the result of a set of health determinants and their distribution in the population. These determining factors and their outcomes may also be affected by policies or programs designed to alter their distribution in the community. Counties and cities can play a significant role in improving health through the adoption of appropriate programs and policies.



Source: IOM, 2002.¹

To compile the *Rankings*, we have selected a number of population health determinants based on the health priorities of the Wisconsin state health plan, scientific relevance, importance, and availability of data at the county and city level. Many of the same measures are included in the *Rankings* each year but new measures are added as additional relevant sources of data are identified. This year the *Rankings* include Inpatient Quality of Care as a new measure in the Health Care category of determinants. For a more detailed explanation of the choice of measures, see the *2008 Wisconsin County Health Rankings Full Report*.²

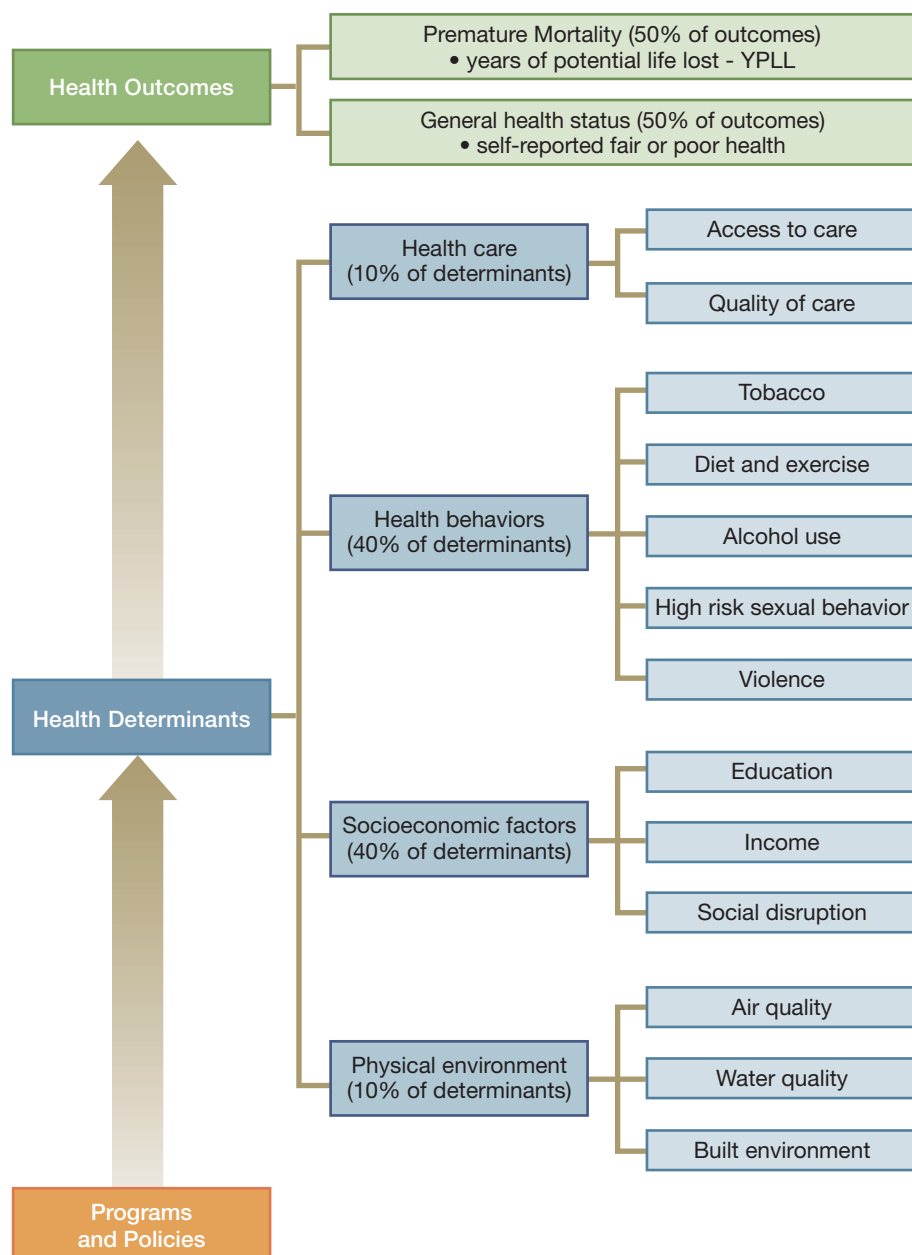
This year's *Rankings* include a special feature providing an in-depth look at leading causes of mortality by county. Examining the primary causes of death within counties helps identify where it may be appropriate to implement evidence-based programs and policies.

1. Institute of Medicine. *The Future of the Public's Health in the 21st Century*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press. 2002.
2. Taylor KW, Athens JK, Booske BC, O'Connor CE, Jones NR, Remington PL. *2008 Wisconsin County Health Rankings Full Report*. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. 2008.
Available at: www.pophealth.wisc.edu/uwphi/research/rankings2008.htm.

The Rankings

This report ranks Wisconsin's counties and the City of Milwaukee according to their summary measures of **health outcomes** and **health determinants**, as well as the components used to create each summary measure. The figure below depicts the structure of the *Rankings* model. Places receive a rank for each population health component; those having high ranks (e.g., 1 or 2) are estimated to be the "healthiest."

Our summary **health outcomes** rankings are based on an equal weighting of two measures: mortality and general health status. **Health determinants** are based on weighted scores of four major components: health care, health behaviors, socioeconomic factors, and the physical environment. The weights for the components (shown in parentheses in the figure) are based upon a review of the literature and expert input, but represent just one way of combining these components.

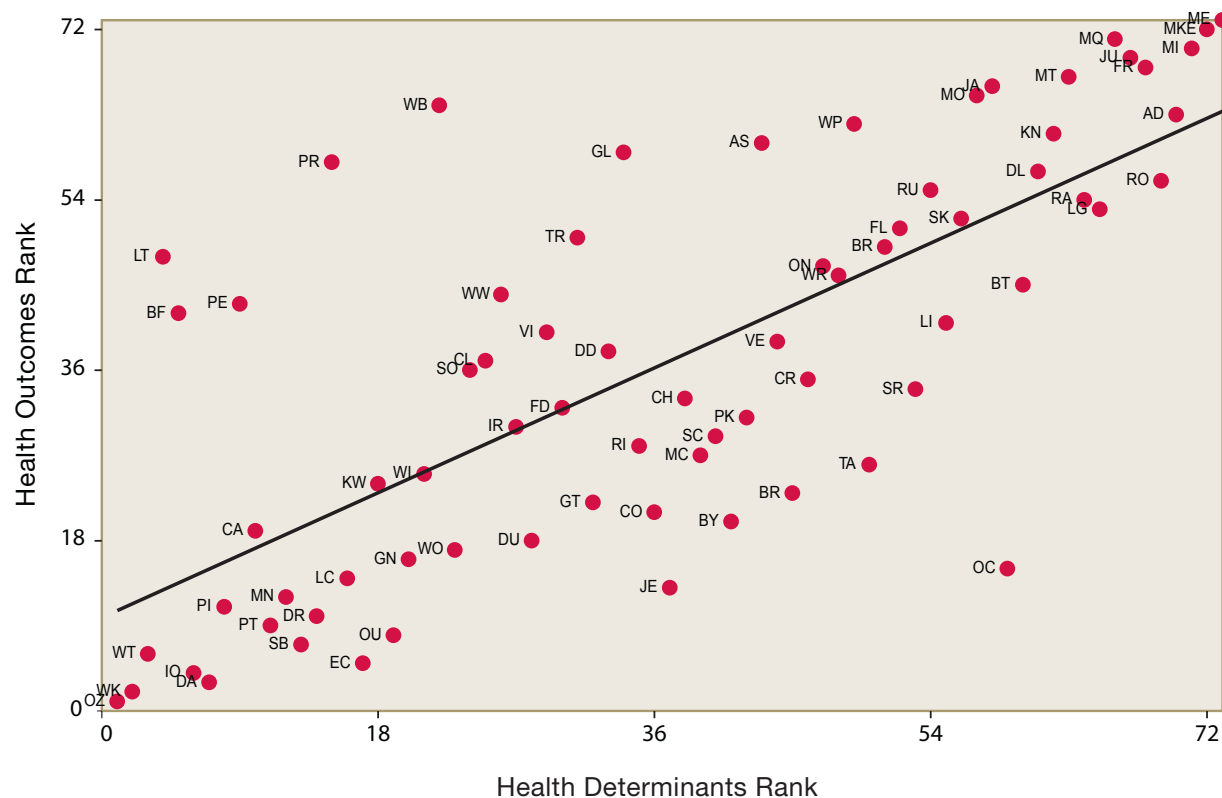


Summary Health Outcomes and Determinants Rankings

The table on the facing page presents the overall summary population health ranking for **health outcomes** and **health determinants**. Each of these rankings represents a weighted summary of a number of individual health measures.

As predicted by the model, the rankings of current health outcomes and current health determinants are closely related. This can be seen in the figure below where each county's outcomes rank is plotted against its determinants rank (each county is represented by a two letter code). The correlation between the outcomes and determinants ranks is strong (correlation coefficient = 0.73).

No one county ranks highest in one aspect of the *Rankings* and lowest in the other, but there is some variation. Lafayette County, for example, ranks well (4th) in determinants, but worse (48th) in outcomes. Since health determinants are indicators of future health, Lafayette County, and other counties where their determinants rank is better than their outcomes rank, may see an improvement in future health outcomes. This lag may be a result of recently instituted policies and programs that have not yet resulted in their expected improvements in community well-being. Likewise, counties that rank poorly in health determinants may experience declining population health outcomes in the future.



Summary 2008 Population Health Rankings for 73 Wisconsin Places

Ranks for Health Outcomes and Determinants

RANK	HEALTH OUTCOMES	HEALTH DETERMINANTS
1	Ozaukee	Ozaukee
2	Waukesha	Waukesha
3	Dane	Washington
4	Iowa	Lafayette
5	Eau Claire	Buffalo
6	Washington	Iowa
7	St. Croix	Dane
8	Outagamie	Pierce
9	Portage	Pepin
10	Door	Calumet
11	Pierce	Portage
12	Marathon	Marathon
13	Jefferson	St. Croix
14	La Crosse	Door
15	Oconto	Price
16	Green	La Crosse
17	Wood	Eau Claire
18	Dunn	Kewaunee
19	Calumet	Outagamie
20	Bayfield	Green
21	Columbia	Winnebago
22	Grant	Washburn
23	Brown	Wood
24	Kewaunee	Sheboygan
25	Winnebago	Clark
26	Taylor	Walworth
27	Manitowoc	Iron
28	Richland	Dunn
29	Sauk	Vilas
30	Iron	Fond du Lac
31	Polk	Trempealeau
32	Fond du Lac	Grant
33	Chippewa	Dodge
34	Shawano	Green Lake
35	Crawford	Richland
36	Sheboygan	Columbia
37	Clark	Jefferson
38	Dodge	Chippewa
39	Vernon	Manitowoc
40	Vilas	Sauk
41	Lincoln	Bayfield
42	Buffalo	Polk
43	Pepin	Ashland
44	Walworth	Vernon
45	Burnett	Brown
46	Waushara	Crawford
47	Oneida	Oneida
48	Lafayette	Waushara
49	Barron	Waupaca
50	Trempealeau	Taylor
51	Florence	Barron
52	Sawyer	Florence
53	Langlade	Shawano
54	Racine	Rusk
55	Rusk	Lincoln
56	Rock	Sawyer
57	Douglas	Monroe
58	Price	Jackson
59	Green Lake	Oconto
60	Ashland	Burnett
61	Kenosha	Douglas
62	Waupaca	Kenosha
63	Adams	Marinette
64	Washburn	Racine
65	Monroe	Langlade
66	Jackson	Marquette
67	Marinette	Juneau
68	Forest	Forest
69	Juneau	Rock
70	Milwaukee County	Adams
71	Marquette	Milwaukee County
72	Milwaukee City	Milwaukee City
73	Menominee	Menominee

Outcomes Components Ranking

The summary health outcomes rankings are based on two components: premature mortality and general health status. The rank and actual values for each place are displayed here.

Premature Mortality is measured as years of potential life lost prior to age 75 (YPLL). This is an indicator of county mortality that accounts for the age at which a person dies; persons who die at a younger age are considered to have lost more “potential” years of life.³ For example, persons who die at age 65 are considered to have lost 10 potential years of life. YPLL is age-adjusted and represented as a rate per 100,000 people. The average years of potential life lost from 2004-2006 for the entire state was 5,979 years per 100,000 people.

General Health Status is measured as the percent of the population that reports fair or poor health. The data are based on responses to the telephone survey question, “In general, would you say that your health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?” The age-adjusted percentage of people reporting fair or poor health is displayed in the table. We combine responses from two random-digit dial surveys, the Wisconsin Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and the Family Health Survey (FHS), to provide these estimates. For the entire state, on average, 13.2% of people reported fair or poor health.

3. Vila PM, Booske BC, Remington PL. Measuring mortality in the *Wisconsin County Health Rankings*. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute Technical Report. 2006. Available at: http://www.pophealth.wisc.edu/uwphi/publications/other_pubs/mortality_measures_tech_rpt.pdf.

RANK	PREMATURE MORTALITY: YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST (YPLL)*	RANK	GENERAL HEALTH STATUS: % WITH FAIR/POOR HEALTH
1	Ozaukee 4,020	1	Iowa 6.6%
2	Calumet 4,269	2	Ozaukee 7.8%
3	St. Croix 4,321	3	Waukesha 8.6%
4	Waukesha 4,336	4	Eau Claire 9.4%
5	Washington 4,498	5	Dane 9.5%
6	Portage 4,570	6	Sawyer 9.6%
7	Dane 4,735	7	Grant 9.6%
8	Pierce 4,807	8	Outagamie 9.8%
9	Outagamie 4,855	9	Door 10.1%
10	Wood 4,914	10	Marathon 10.2%
11	Eau Claire 4,917	11	Green 10.5%
12	Door 4,975	12	Washington 10.6%
13	Buffalo 4,991	13	Pierce 10.6%
14	Shawano 5,138	14	Jefferson 10.7%
15	Marathon 5,168	15	Portage 10.8%
16	Manitowoc 5,187	16	Oconto 11.0%
17	Dunn 5,192	17	Bayfield 11.0%
18	La Crosse 5,221	18	St. Croix 11.0%
19	Brown 5,256	19	Clark 11.1%
20	Richland 5,399	20	La Crosse 11.6%
21	Pepin 5,429	21	Jackson 11.9%
22	Polk 5,451	22	Dunn 12.0%
23	Langlade 5,475	23	Sauk 12.1%
24	Kewaunee 5,490	24	Columbia 12.1%
25	Winnebago 5,497	25	Lafayette 12.3%
26	Oconto 5,506	26	Vilas 12.3%
27	Columbia 5,509	27	Vernon 12.4%
28	Jefferson 5,570	28	Wood 12.6%
29	Lincoln 5,576	29	Chippewa 12.6%
30	Taylor 5,617	30	Taylor 12.7%
31	Green Lake 5,668	31	Kewaunee 12.7%
32	Green 5,712	32	Racine 12.9%
33	Iron 5,714	33	Winnebago 12.9%
34	Dodge 5,736	34	Sheboygan 13.0%
35	Fond du Lac 5,784	35	Trempealeau 13.0%
36	Walworth 5,787	36	Brown 13.0%
37	Crawford 5,798	37	Fond du Lac 13.1%
38	Bayfield 5,856	38	Crawford 13.1%
39	Sheboygan 5,888	39	Iron 13.1%
40	Iowa 5,896	40	Burnett 13.1%
41	Chippewa 5,981	41	Douglas 13.3%
42	Sauk 6,022	42	Oneida 13.4%
43	Barron 6,156	43	Wausara 13.5%
44	Vernon 6,245	44	Richland 13.6%
45	Waupaca 6,350	45	Dodge 13.6%
46	Wausara 6,367	46	Florence 13.7%
47	Oneida 6,418	47	Ashland 13.7%
48	Monroe 6,458	48	Polk 13.9%
49	Juneau 6,476	49	Rock 14.0%
50	Burnett 6,498	50	Rusk 14.0%
51	Vilas 6,507	51	Manitowoc 14.1%
52	Grant 6,512	52	Washburn 14.1%
53	Price 6,527	53	Barron 14.4%
54	Rusk 6,606	54	Walworth 14.7%
55	Rock 6,615	55	Price 14.7%
56	Florence 6,645	56	Shawano 14.8%
57	Clark 6,682	57	Lincoln 14.9%
58	Trempealeau 6,855	58	Calumet 14.9%
59	Lafayette 6,860	59	Pepin 15.5%
60	Adams 6,882	60	Kenosha 15.5%
61	Kenosha 6,910	61	Milwaukee County 15.8%
62	Forest 6,987	62	Adams 16.1%
63	Racine 7,015	63	Marinette 16.1%
64	Douglas 7,037	64	Buffalo 16.4%
65	Ashland 7,155	65	Langlade 16.8%
66	Marinette 7,282	66	Waupaca 17.0%
67	Washburn 7,688	67	Green Lake 17.0%
68	Marquette 8,201	68	Monroe 17.5%
69	Sawyer 8,263	69	Forest 18.8%
70	Milwaukee County 8,389	70	Milwaukee City 19.3%
71	Jackson 8,903	71	Marquette 19.6%
72	Milwaukee City 10,379	72	Juneau 20.4%
73	Menominee 11,380	73	Menominee 26.6%

* years per 100,000 population

Determinants Components Ranking

RANK	HEALTH CARE	HEALTH BEHAVIORS	SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS	PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT
1	Eau Claire	Ozaukee	Ozaukee	Menominee
2	Marathon	Waukesha	Waukesha	Iron
3	Wood	Lafayette	Washington	Vilas
4	Portage	Dane	Pierce	Ashland
5	Outagamie	Washburn	Calumet	Washburn
6	La Crosse	Iowa	St. Croix	Oconto
7	Ozaukee	Buffalo	Kewaunee	Sawyer
8	Calumet	Washington	Portage	Bayfield
9	Waukesha	Pepin	Outagamie	Oneida
10	Manitowoc	Iron	Buffalo	Forest
11	Winnebago	Clark	Lafayette	Burnett
12	Dane	Price	Dane	Price
13	Jefferson	Door	Marathon	Marinette
14	Washington	Vilas	Iowa	Vernon
15	Trempealeau	Green	Eau Claire	Juneau
16	Vilas	Waushara	Pepin	Richland
17	Brown	Marathon	La Crosse	Jackson
18	Door	Pierce	Grant	Douglas
19	Fond du Lac	Walworth	Dunn	Marquette
20	Bayfield	Portage	Sheboygan	Rusk
21	Grant	Rusk	Door	Lafayette
22	Buffalo	La Crosse	Columbia	Adams
23	Sheboygan	Green Lake	Dodge	Barron
24	Kewaunee	Bayfield	Manitowoc	Taylor
25	Walworth	Calumet	Fond du Lac	Iowa
26	St. Croix	Winnebago	Wood	Buffalo
27	Barron	Ashland	Winnebago	Pepin
28	Pepin	Wood	Jefferson	Grant
29	Oneida	Richland	Sauk	Polk
30	Sauk	Chippewa	Green	Florence
31	Lafayette	Trempealeau	Price	Waushara
32	Lincoln	Sawyer	Walworth	Dunn
33	Green	Sheboygan	Green Lake	Green Lake
34	Dunn	Polk	Lincoln	Dodge
35	Chippewa	Fond du Lac	Trempealeau	Trempealeau
36	Rusk	Crawford	Clark	Clark
37	Racine	St. Croix	Chippewa	Brown
38	Washburn	Oneida	Waupaca	Outagamie
39	Dodge	Vernon	Taylor	Crawford
40	Marinette	Burnett	Polk	Eau Claire
41	Kenosha	Eau Claire	Richland	Sauk
42	Price	Dunn	Crawford	Green
43	Shawano	Barron	Brown	Pierce
44	Richland	Racine	Vernon	Walworth
45	Rock	Florence	Oconto	Jefferson
46	Monroe	Dodge	Shawano	Columbia
47	Douglas	Brown	Monroe	Kewaunee
48	Waupaca	Douglas	Iron	Winnebago
49	Iowa	Kewaunee	Jackson	Fond du Lac
50	Langlade	Waupaca	Florence	Manitowoc
51	Clark	Milwaukee County	Marinette	Ozaukee
52	Florence	Columbia	Langlade	Shawano
53	Columbia	Shawano	Vilas	Sheboygan
54	Crawford	Outagamie	Washburn	Monroe
55	Burnett	Kenosha	Ashland	Milwaukee City
56	Vernon	Juneau	Oneida	Racine
57	Oconto	Jefferson	Barron	Waukesha
58	Milwaukee County	Adams	Marquette	Wood
59	Iron	Sauk	Waushara	Langlade
60	Jackson	Monroe	Kenosha	Kenosha
61	Pierce	Taylor	Bayfield	Marathon
62	Polk	Forest	Douglas	St. Croix
63	Sawyer	Jackson	Burnett	Washington
64	Taylor	Grant	Rock	Milwaukee County
65	Waushara	Milwaukee City	Sawyer	Chippewa
66	Forest	Manitowoc	Rusk	Portage
67	Ashland	Lincoln	Juneau	Waupaca
68	Milwaukee City	Rock	Racine	Lincoln
69	Green Lake	Oconto	Forest	Door
70	Adams	Marquette	Adams	Dane
71	Marquette	Marinette	Milwaukee County	Calumet
72	Menominee	Langlade	Milwaukee City	La Crosse
73	Juneau	Menominee	Menominee	Rock

In the table to the left, places are ranked according to measures representing four major categories of health determinants.

Each of these categories reflects a composite of multiple factors that are summarized to create the component-level rankings (see the figure on page 2 for a list of the factors corresponding to the major components ranked here). In turn, each of these factors is based on several measures. For example, the health care rank is calculated from data on

1) access to care: based on measures of health insurance coverage, forgoing needed care, and recent dental visits, and

2) quality of care: based on measures of diabetic care quality, biennial mammography rates, and inpatient care quality.

Comparisons to previous years' rankings for each component should be made with caution. Each year we re-evaluate the measures within each component to ensure that we incorporate the most valid and reliable data available. Although we have kept most measures the same over the years, we have made some revisions in order to represent more accurately the health of Wisconsin's communities. Information about the details of each measure is included in the *Full Report*.⁴

4. Taylor KW, Athens JK, Booske BC, O'Connor CE, Jones NR, Remington PL. 2008 *Wisconsin County Health Rankings Full Report*. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. 2008. Available at: www.pophealth.wisc.edu/uwphi/research/rankings2008.htm.

Special Feature: The Five Leading Causes of Death in Wisconsin

The *Rankings* examine overall premature mortality at the county level. For this special feature, mortality rates were analyzed *by cause* among people under age 75. At the state level, the five leading causes of death are malignant neoplasms, heart disease and stroke, respiratory diseases, motor vehicle accidents, and suicide. Although the state's leading causes tend to remain in the same order when disaggregated by county, there is considerable variation in cause-specific mortality rates among counties. Inspection of causes of death by county can provide important information for setting health priorities.

Although there are differences in the rank order of counties by cause of death, some counties cluster into the top or bottom quartile of mortality rates for several causes. For example, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Monroe, Sawyer, and Waupaca counties are in the bottom quartile for at least four of the five leading causes of death. Calumet, Ozaukee, Pierce, Portage, Washington, and Waukesha are in the top quartile for at least four of the five leading causes. In addition to these patterns, several counties were in the top quartile for some causes and the bottom quartile for others. These observations suggest that the distribution of mortality rates is determined by a complex set of factors such as the multiple determinants of health examined in the *Rankings*. Variations in cause-specific death rates across counties warrant further investigation.

Mortality data from 1999-2006 are the most recently available and use consistent ICD-10 codes to classify underlying cause of death. Due to the small population of many counties, deaths from eight years were pooled to calculate the cause-specific death rates. Rates per 100,000 population were age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Census.

Source: Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH), accessed June 30, 2008.

Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates Under Age 75 per 100,000

County	Malignant Neoplasms	Heart Disease or Stroke	Lower Respiratory Diseases	Motor Vehicle Accidents	Suicide
Wisconsin	108	83	15	14	12
Adams	115	92	16	40	13
Ashland	114	122	17	21	11
Barron	106	84	19	24	12
Bayfield	120	82	18	19	12
Brown	98	82	13	11	11
Buffalo	110	82	11	18	18
Burnett	112	93	9	37	14
Calumet	94	70	10	14	8
Chippewa	103	74	16	18	15
Clark	85	74	18	30	10
Columbia	107	70	16	20	14
Crawford	116	91	21	22	13
Dane	94	64	13	10	11
Dodge	117	91	13	21	10
Door	88	75	10	17	20
Douglas	128	77	18	14	12
Dunn	85	80	16	19	11
Eau Claire	92	71	13	11	12
Florence	107	76	12	21	2
Fond du Lac	107	86	11	14	14
Forest	107	86	16	35	16
Grant	102	94	12	22	11
Green	104	71	17	21	13
Green Lake	119	77	13	16	13
Iowa	109	90	14	26	11
Iron	107	86	23	13	6
Jackson	111	96	21	20	16
Jefferson	108	81	11	16	14
Juneau	137	94	19	22	12
Kenosha	120	97	23	12	14
Kewaunee	100	66	16	18	10
La Crosse	110	73	16	7	10
Lafayette	116	76	18	25	6
Langlade	116	85	11	25	11
Lincoln	104	78	17	17	18
Manitowoc	97	79	12	14	11
Marathon	95	56	13	15	12
Marinette	116	105	16	27	14
Marquette	130	91	27	35	21
Menominee	127	98	12	71	21
Milwaukee	124	113	18	8	11
Monroe	118	93	24	20	14
Oconto	106	75	11	31	11
Oneida	106	82	13	25	10
Outagamie	102	74	13	14	10
Ozaukee	104	60	7	9	10
Pepin	106	62	11	10	15
Pierce	90	71	12	20	9
Polk	106	76	10	32	11
Portage	94	73	11	14	10
Price	101	92	17	23	14
Racine	111	87	15	14	12
Richland	97	74	17	17	10
Rock	120	89	25	17	11
Rusk	113	96	23	23	9
St. Croix	100	69	14	15	8
Sauk	103	88	12	19	14
Sawyer	115	107	18	44	14
Shawano	103	82	13	22	15
Sheboygan	106	84	15	13	13
Taylor	94	70	12	21	14
Trempealeau	104	81	14	29	13
Vernon	101	90	14	19	14
Vilas	107	85	7	22	11
Walworth	109	76	15	17	12
Washburn	127	86	12	24	9
Washington	95	69	11	14	9
Waukesha	98	64	10	8	8
Waupaca	119	99	20	32	11
Waushara	119	107	12	34	11
Winnebago	108	72	13	11	12
Wood	94	72	15	15	11

Top Quartile

Bottom Quartile

Indicators, Data Sources, and Years of Data

	Indicator	Data Source	Years of Data
HEALTH OUTCOMES			
Mortality	Years of Potential Life Lost	WI Interactive Statistics on Health	2004-2006
Morbidity	General Health Status	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2001-2007
		WI Family Health Survey	2000-2006
HEALTH DETERMINANTS			
HEALTH CARE			
Access to Care	No Health Insurance	WI Family Health Survey	2000-2006
	Did Not Receive Needed Health Care	WI Family Health Survey	2000-2006
	No Recent Dentist Visit	WI Family Health Survey	2000-2006
Quality of Care	Poor Diabetic Care	Metastar, Inc.	2005-2007
	No Biennial Mammography	Metastar, Inc.	2005-2007
	Inpatient Quality of Care	U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services Hospital Compare	2006-2007
HEALTH BEHAVIORS			
Tobacco	Cigarette Smoking	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2001-2007
	Smoking During Pregnancy	WI Interactive Statistics on Health	2002-2005
Diet and Exercise	Physical Inactivity	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2003, 2005, 2007
	Obesity	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2001-2007
	Less Than 5 a Day	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2001-2005, 2007
Alcohol Use	Binge Drinking	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	2001-2007
	Motor Vehicle Crash Occupancy	WI Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System	2003-2005
	Motor Vehicle Crash-Related ER Visits (On-Road)	WI Interactive Statistics on Health	2004-2006
	Motor Vehicle Crash-Related ER Visits (Off-Road)	WI Interactive Statistics on Health	2004-2006
High Risk Sexual Behavior	Teen Birth Rate	WI Interactive Statistics on Health	2003-2006
	Sexually Transmitted Disease	WI Dept. of Health Services	2003-2006
Violence	Violent Crime	WI Office of Justice Assistance	2003-2006
SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS			
Education	High School Noncompletion	WI Dept. of Public Instruction	2006-2007
	No High School Diploma	U.S. Census	2000
Income	Unemployment Rate	WI Dept. of Workforce Development	2007
	Children in Poverty	Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Census	2005
Social Disruption	Divorce	U.S. Census	2000
	Single Parent Households	U.S. Census	2000
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT			
Air Quality	Air Quality Risk	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, WI Dept. of Natural Resources	1999, 2005-2007
Water Quality	Nitrate Levels in Water	WI Dept. of Natural Resources	2006-2007
Built Environment	Housing with Increased Lead Risk	U.S. Census	2000
	Lead Poisoned Children	WI Dept. of Health Services	2007
	Radon Risk	WI Dept. of Health Services	2006
	Method of Commuting: Driving Alone	U.S. Census	2000



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Population Health Institute

Translating Research into Policy and Practice



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