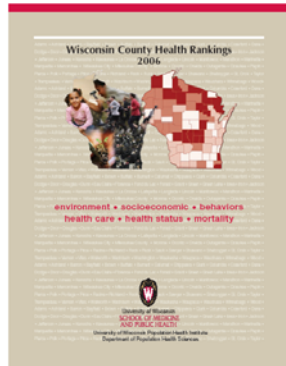


Wisconsin County Health Rankings

Patrick Remington, MD, MPH
August 24th, 2007
State Health Officers
Bi-monthly Webcast



Presentation Outline

Wisconsin County Health Rankings

- Overview and methods
- Communicating findings
- Media coverage
- Feedback and follow-up



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Wisconsin County Health Rankings

- **Overview and methods**
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Wisconsin County Health Rankings

- Launched in 2003, the *Rankings* is an annual publication
- Compilation of publicly available data for Wisconsin counties
- Modeled after the United Health Foundation's *State Health Rankings*
- Focuses on both health outcomes and health determinants





Purpose of the *Rankings*

- Provide an annual overview of health outcomes and health determinants across Wisconsin
- Spark discussion of health issues
- Stress that there are multiple broad determinants of health
- Draw insights from high-performing counties
- Draw additional resources for improvement to less healthy counties



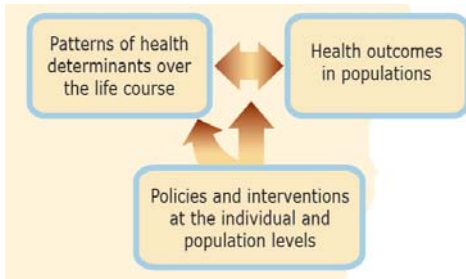
Uses of the *Rankings*

Based on feedback received from county and local health officers and other users of the *Rankings*, some of the most common uses of the *Rankings* include:

- Needs assessments and evaluations
- Program planning
- Presentation to others
 - County health boards
 - Public health staff
 - Community partners

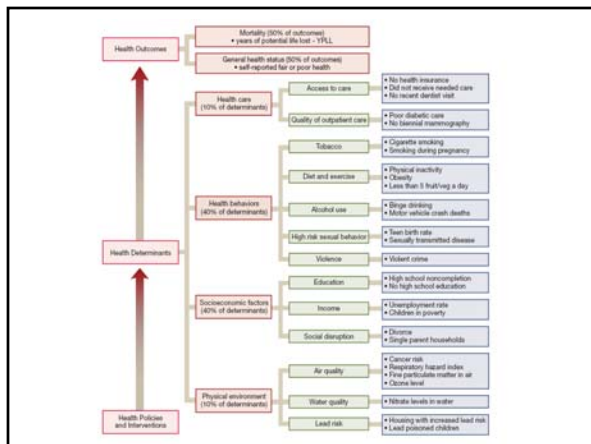


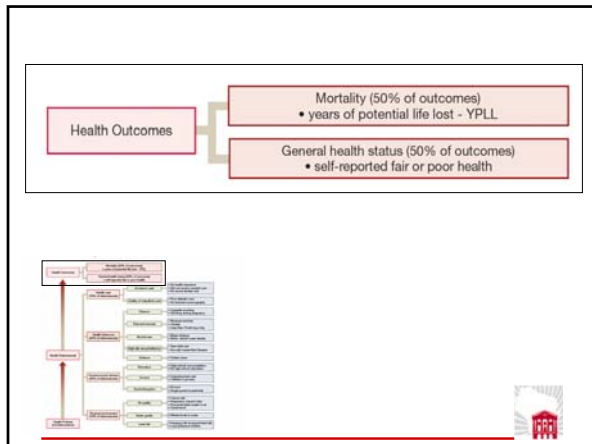
Methods

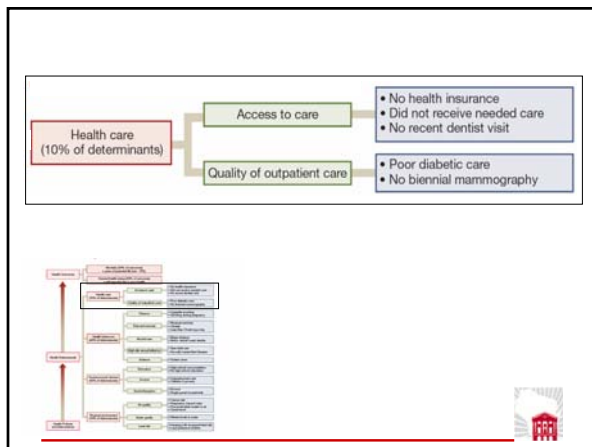


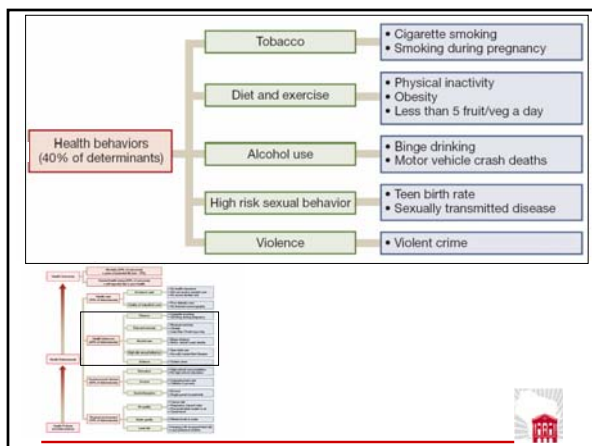
Kindig D, Stoddart G. What is population health? *American Journal of Public Health* March 2003; 93: 380-383.











Data sources

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
- CDC WONDER
- Metastar
- US Census Bureau
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- Wisconsin Crash Outcomes Data Evaluation System
- Wisconsin Dept of Health and Family Services
- Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction
- Wisconsin Family Health Survey
- Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health
- Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance



Improvements

2006

- Health care quality measures modified
- Small survey estimates censored
- City of Milwaukee included

2005

- Health care quality measures added

2004

- Physical environment measures expanded
- YPLL-85 changed to YPLL-75
- Minor adjustments made to a few other measures
- Only data from within county was used to calculate county estimates



Presentation Outline

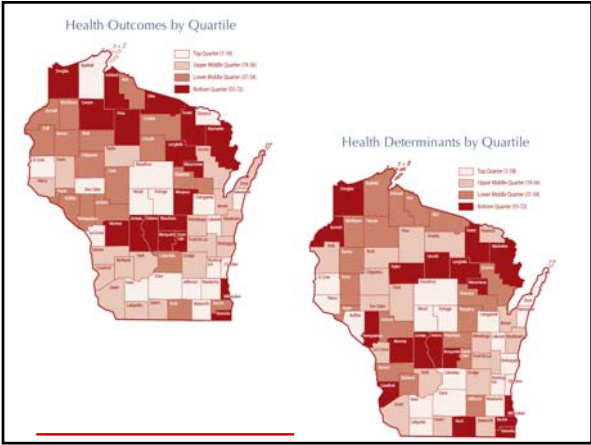
Wisconsin County Health Rankings

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- **Communicating findings**
- Media coverage
- Feedback and follow-up




RANK	HEALTH OUTCOMES	HEALTH DETERMINANTS
1	Florence	Ozaukee
2	Waukesha	Waukesha
3	Ozaukee	Washington
4	Eau Claire	Lafayette
5	Portage	Calumet
69	Adams	Forest
70	Milwaukee County	Milwaukee County
71	Menominee	Adams
72	Juneau	Milwaukee City
73	Milwaukee City	Menominee





Interpreting the *Rankings*

- Primary focus should be on ...
 - the overall health outcomes ranking
 - the overall health determinants ranking
 - the comparisons among counties
- Minor differences in the rankings among the 73 places should be interpreted with caution. For example, the data used for these rankings are not precise enough to indicate that a place ranked 40th is meaningfully healthier than a place ranked 45th.



Key messages

- Broad determinants of health
- There are things that can be done to affect the health of individuals and communities in every county in Wisconsin
- Importance of a partnership approach to public health



Public Health Stakeholders



Source: IOM, 2002.²



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Milwaukee at bottom of state health rankings

By KAWANZA NEWSON
Posted: Nov. 26, 2006

The rates of teen births, sexually transmitted diseases and violent crimes in Milwaukee are among the worst in the state, a new study shows.

The report, released this month by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, also found that the city had high levels of childhood poverty, high school dropouts and fine particulate matter in the air.

Combined, these findings place Milwaukee's health ranking at the bottom of the list of healthy communities in Wisconsin and predict that the city's health is unlikely to change in the near future.

Bevan Baker, Milwaukee's health commissioner, called the results "sobering" and said the city is looking at ways to address "precursors" such as poverty, education and economic development in an effort to make a dent in the health challenges that plague the city.





County is happy, but not so healthy

By Kurt DeLoreto
On Sauk County residents' feet good about being bad? That's the opinion of a University of Wisconsin doctor who led a study that showed while Sauk County residents are becoming healthier, there is still room for improvement.

According to the U.S. School of Medicine and Public Health annual Wisconsin County Health Rankings released Thursday, Sauk County ranks 28th out of Wisconsin's 72 counties in overall health, and local health care officials say they have some ideas on how to improve that standing.

The health of a community is determined by a number of factors, according to the study, including quality of health care, lifestyle and behaviors, socio-economic factors and physical environment. Sauk County ranks 11th in health care, 18th in general health status, 23rd in socioeconomic factors, 35 in physical environment, 57 in mortality (years of potential life lost), and 61st in health behaviors.

Dr. Patrick Remington of the U.S. School of Medicine and Public Health said Sauk County is one of just a handful of counties whose health deteriorated as not look as good as health outcomes. He said county residents reported they are in good health and have a good health care available, but reportedly they are displaying poor behaviors, such as smoking while pregnant.

They have bad behaviors and are pretty good about it, he chuckled. That might explain in the future, Sauk County's health would be as good as it is today, but obviously there are a lot of variables.

Report: County fitter but smoking, drinking too much

By TERRY KOSKULECH / La Crosse Tribune

High marks for education and physical activity and a low number of fatal motor vehicle crashes helped La Crosse County remain the 16th-healthiest county in Wisconsin in a statewide report.

Florence County was rated the state's healthiest in the report, released Thursday by the Wisconsin Public Health and Health Policy Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Medical School.

Ozaukee County fell to second after two years at the top. Juneau County was last among 72 counties.

In western Wisconsin, Eau Claire County earned the highest ranking at fourth, dropping a spot from 2005.

The report rated counties on factors such as access to health care, health behaviors, socio-economics like income and education, and physical environment. La Crosse County also ranked 16th in 2005, up from 17th in 2004 and 26th in the first report in 2003.

Doug Mommann, director of the La Crosse County Health Department, was pleased the county again was in the top 25 percent of Wisconsin counties in the rankings but said more needs to be done on issues such as binge drinking and smoking.



Washington County ranks 7th healthiest county in state

Shawano County still has work to do in improving citizen health

Wisconsin Varies Significantly By County In Health

Wealthy and healthy
Waukesha County fares well in new survey

Rock County up, slightly, in health rankings

Area counties in top 30 of healthiest in the state





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2006 Rankings Follow-up Survey

- Survey of health officers and epidemiologists across the state regarding their experiences with and feedback on the *Rankings*
- Email with web-survey link was sent to
 - 70 county health officers (60% response)
 - 24 local health officers (38% response)
 - 18 consortia epidemiologists (56% response)
- Total response rate of 54%



Results – General

- 87% – had the same or greater interest in the 2006 *Rankings* compared to 2005
- 80% – agree the *Rankings* help increase awareness of broad health determinants
- 74% – agree the *Rankings* help generate interest in public health activities
- Many respondents had not participated in the pre-release teleconferences (47%) or viewed the online Webinar (57%), often because they were not aware of these opportunities



Results – Uses

Uses of the *Rankings* for county health officers and consortia epidemiologists (n=52)

Educating and informing county board or policy makers	83%
Educating and engaging community partners	58%
Identifying program targets	48%
Performing health needs assessments	48%
Stimulating public discussion	44%
Preparing reports	33%
Preparing press releases	27%
Other	8%
Do not use the rankings	6%
Rankings are somewhat or very useful to work	88%

Results – Media interactions

- County health officers (n=42)
 - 19 respondents reported 27 media interactions
 - Newspaper (18)
 - Radio (7)
 - Television (2)
- About 30% of the media interactions were initiated by the health officer



Results – Programs and policies pilot

- Health officers were asked for comments on incorporating county-level programs and policies into the *Rankings*
 - Concerned about the lack of standardization in local programs and policies
 - May make comparing across counties very difficult
 - More research needed before measures of local policy/capacity are included in the *Rankings*



Results – Additional feedback

- Selected comments/questions
 - Support for integration of *Rankings* with community health improvement processes
 - Value of County Snapshots
 - Potential improvements to County Snapshots
 - Possibility of reporting data for other cities or non-county health department jurisdictions
 - Annual comparability of data and measures
 - Reliability of data for border counties



Acknowledgments

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David Kindig	Officers
Paul Peppard	Consortia
Peter Vila	Epidemiologists

www.pophealth.wisc.edu/uwphi



Rankings teleconference schedule

- Wed, August 29th – 11am-noon
- Tues, October 2nd – 9-10am
- Mon, November 12th – 3-4pm

Local access number: (608) 316-0022

Toll-free access number: (888) 677-9189

Passcode: 1175