



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Idaho Public Health Districts

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May 2015

County Health Rankings Illustrate Public Health's Lead Role in the Health of Communities

The *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* program helps communities identify and implement solutions that make it easier for people to be healthy in their neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces. Ranking the health of nearly every county in the nation, the *County Health Rankings* illustrate what we know when it comes to what is keeping people healthy or making people sick. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) collaborates with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (UWPHI) to bring this program to cities, counties, and states across the nation.

All of us have a role to play in raising awareness about the multiple factors that affect our health and the health of our communities. Elected officials and government leaders, are uniquely positioned to use the *County Health Rankings* as a call to action, informing community members about the findings and implementing policies to address those health factors.

Policies and programs implemented at the local level have an impact on population health in a variety of ways. Local Public Health Districts implement policies and programs designed to target health outcomes. Our tobacco prevention and cessation effort are a great example of how Local Public Health works with our communities to implement health policies around tobacco and how we help people to stop smoking to improve their health.

The Rankings examine four types of health factors that influence the health of a county: social and economic, health behaviors, clinical care, and physical environment. In turn, each of these factors is based on several measures.

The *County Health Rankings* illustrate that everyone has a role to play in improving the health of communities. Local Public Health takes the lead in working with our communities in promoting positive changes in health outcomes. This is evident throughout our statewide Strategic Plan, especially in our work to decrease obesity and improve physical activity in our population.

Published online at countyhealthrankings.org, the Rankings help counties understand what influences how healthy residents are and how long they will live.

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC FACTORS	HEALTHIEST COUNTIES	UNHEALTHIEST COUNTIES
Education 	Higher college attendance	Lower high school graduation rates
Employment 	6% of adults are unemployed	9% of adults are unemployed
Income 	Fewer children living in poverty	Higher income inequality
Family & Social Support 	25% of children live in single-parent households	38% of children live in single-parent households
Community Safety 	Less violent crime	More deaths due to injuries
HEALTH BEHAVIORS	HEALTHIEST COUNTIES	UNHEALTHIEST COUNTIES
Tobacco Use 	16% of adults smoke	25% of adults smoke
Diet & Exercise 	76% of population has easy access to exercise opportunities	58% of population has easy access to exercise opportunities
Alcohol & Drug Use 	29% of car crash deaths involve alcohol	31% of car crash deaths involve alcohol
Sexual Activity 	Fewer sexually transmitted infections	Teen birth rate twice as high
CLINICAL CARE	HEALTHIEST COUNTIES	UNHEALTHIEST COUNTIES
Access to Care 	More access to primary care physicians, dentists and mental health providers	More uninsured adults
Quality of Care 	Fewer preventable hospital stays	Lower mammogram rates
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	HEALTHIEST COUNTIES	UNHEALTHIEST COUNTIES
Air & Water Quality 	Better air and water quality	Worse air and water quality
Housing & Transit 	Fewer households have housing problems	More households have housing problems

HEALTHY PEOPLE IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

PANHANDLE HEALTH DISTRICT (1)	PUBLIC HEALTH - IDAHO NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT (2)	SOUTHWEST DISTRICT HEALTH (3)	CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH (4)	SOUTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT (5)	SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO PUBLIC HEALTH (6)	EASTERN IDAHO PUBLIC HEALTH (7)
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