KANSAS HEALTH INSTITUTE

Power and Societal Rules: *Incorporating Structural Determinants in Health Promotion Efforts*

Elevate Kansas Pop Up Webinar

December 17, 2025

Who We Are

- Nonprofit, nonpartisan educational institution based in Topeka.
- Established in 1995 with a multi-year grant from the Kansas Health Foundation.
- Committed to convening meaningful conversations around tough topics related to health.

Agenda

In this session, we'll cover:

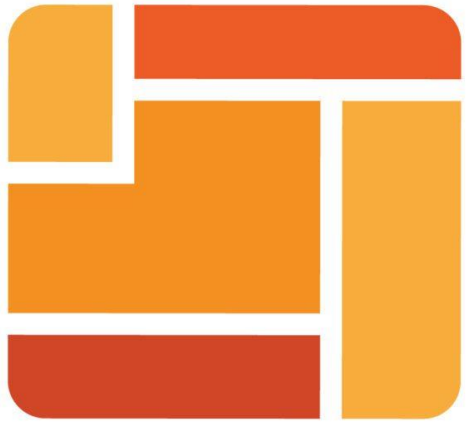
- County Health Rankings & Roadmaps Background
- County Health Summary
- New Model of Health
- Stakeholder Mapping
- Your Questions

How healthy is your county?

What are the community conditions driving health in your county?

Who and what shapes those community conditions in your county?

About County Health Rankings & Roadmaps



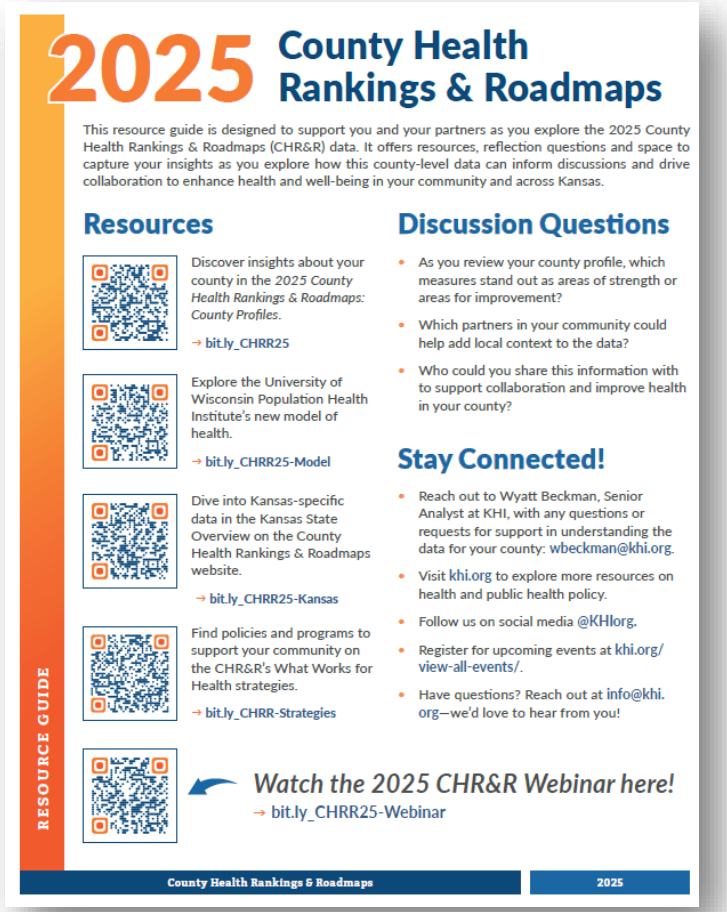
County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Population Health Institute
Translating Research for Policy and Practice

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

2025 CHR&R Resource Guide

Resource Guide Follow Up Resource



2025 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

This resource guide is designed to support you and your partners as you explore the 2025 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (CHR&R) data. It offers resources, reflection questions and space to capture your insights as you explore how this county-level data can inform discussions and drive collaboration to enhance health and well-being in your community and across Kansas.

Resources

Discover insights about your county in the *2025 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps: County Profiles*.
→ bit.ly_CHRR25

Explore the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute's new model of health.
→ bit.ly_CHRR25-Model

Dive into Kansas-specific data in the Kansas State Overview on the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps website.
→ bit.ly_CHRR25-Kansas

Find policies and programs to support your community on the CHR&R's What Works for Health strategies.
→ bit.ly_CHRR-Strategies

Watch the 2025 CHR&R Webinar here!
→ bit.ly_CHRR25-Webinar

Discussion Questions

- As you review your county profile, which measures stand out as areas of strength or areas for improvement?
- Which partners in your community could help add local context to the data?
- Who could you share this information with to support collaboration and improve health in your county?

Stay Connected!

- Reach out to Wyatt Beckman, Senior Analyst at KHI, with any questions or requests for support in understanding the data for your county: wbeckman@khi.org.
- Visit khi.org to explore more resources on health and public health policy.
- Follow us on social media @KHIorg.
- Register for upcoming events at khi.org/view-all-events/.
- Have questions? Reach out at info@khi.org—we'd love to hear from you!

RESOURCE GUIDE

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps | 2025

Health Summary “Snapshot”

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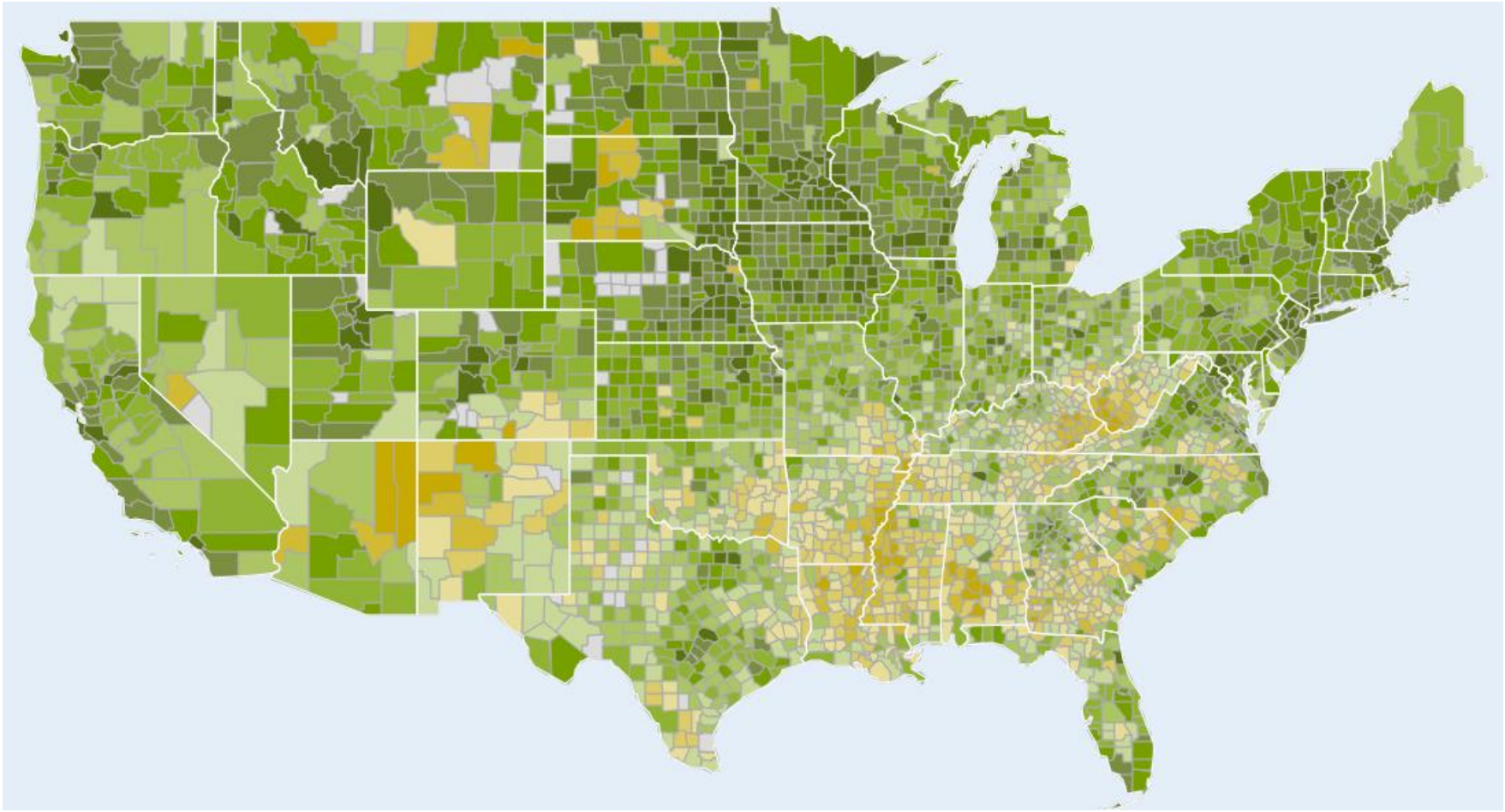
Population Health & Well-being



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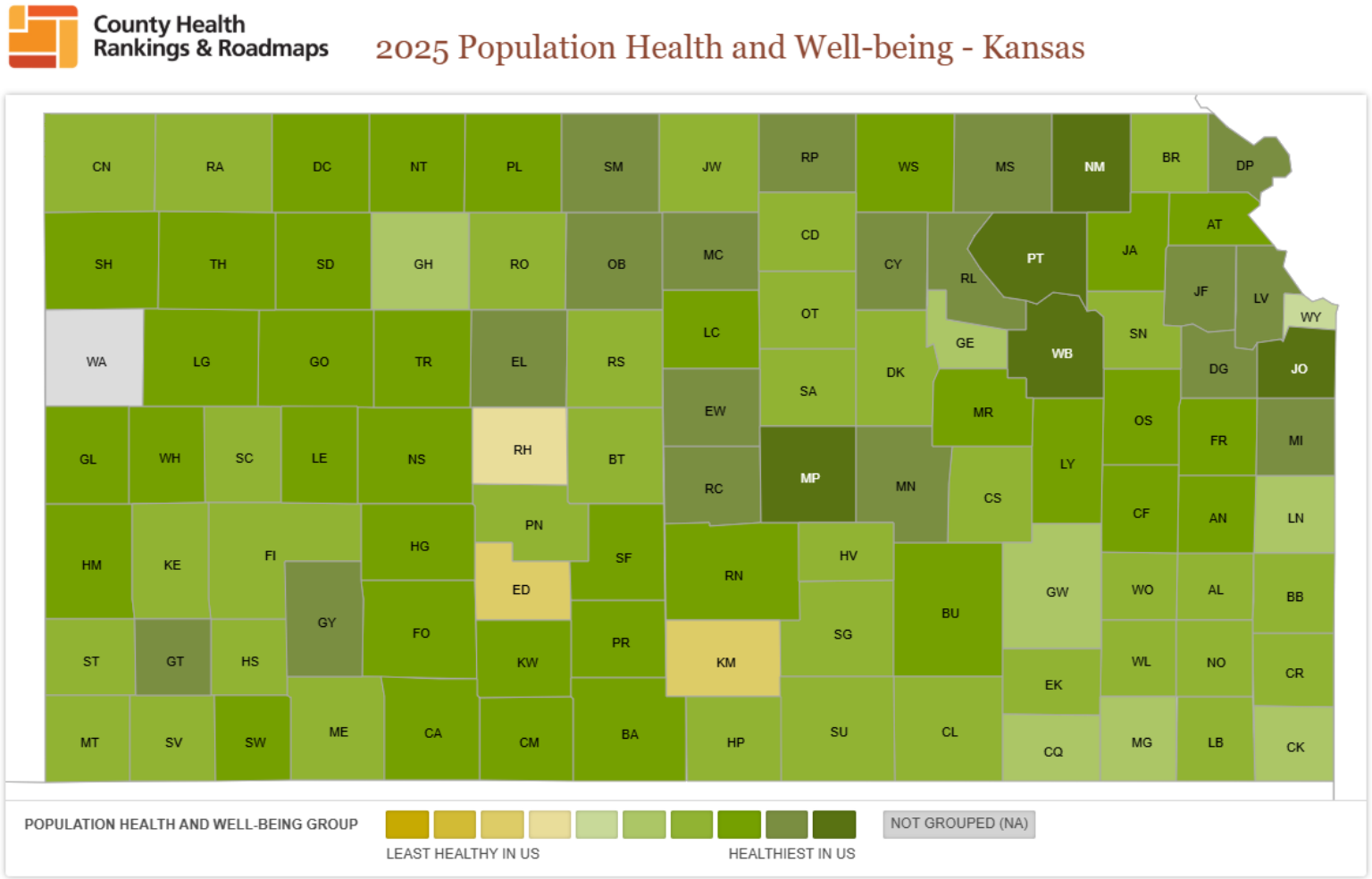
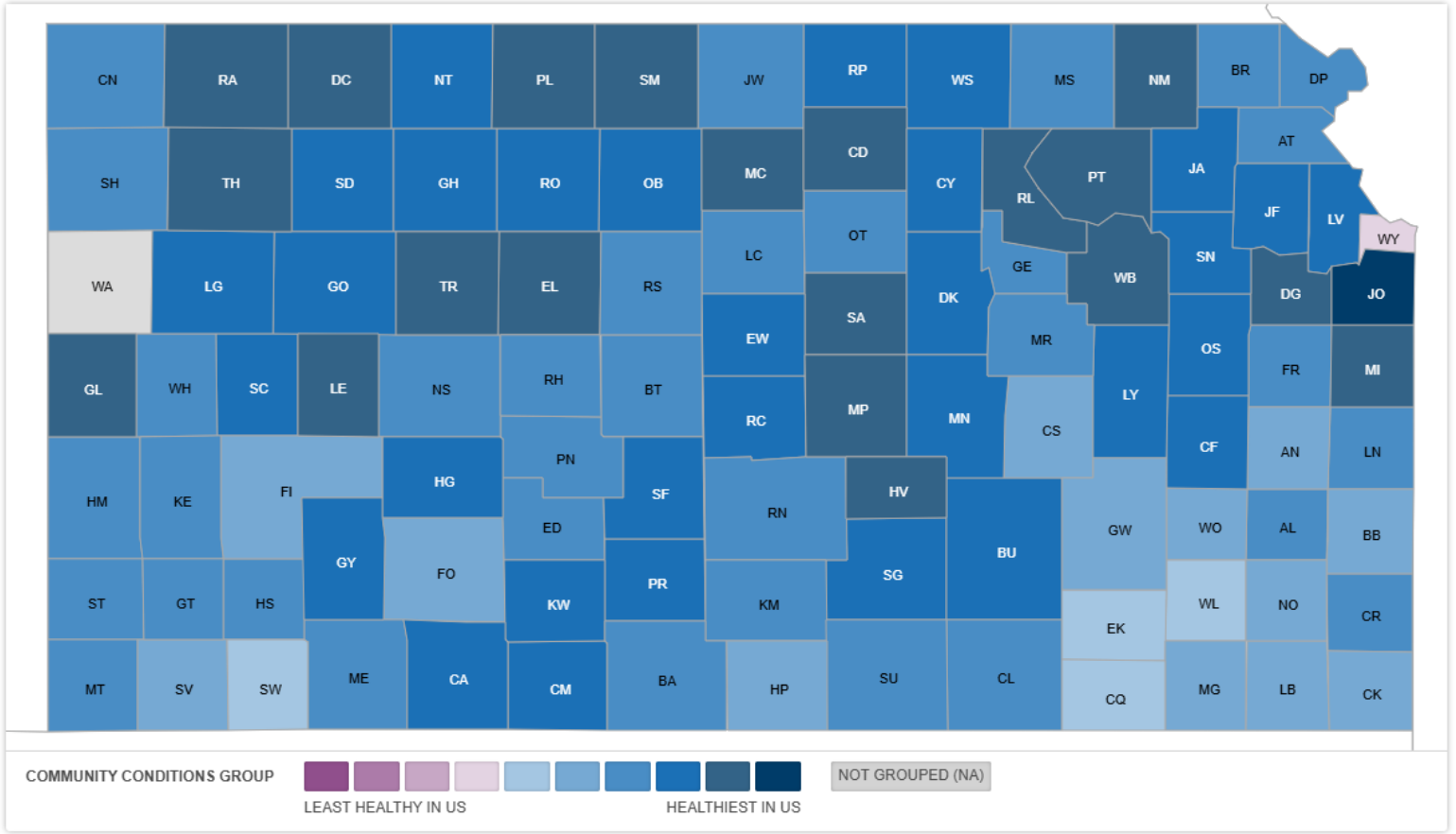
Population Health & Well-being



Community Conditions

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

2025 Community Conditions - Kansas



Health Groups

Key Points

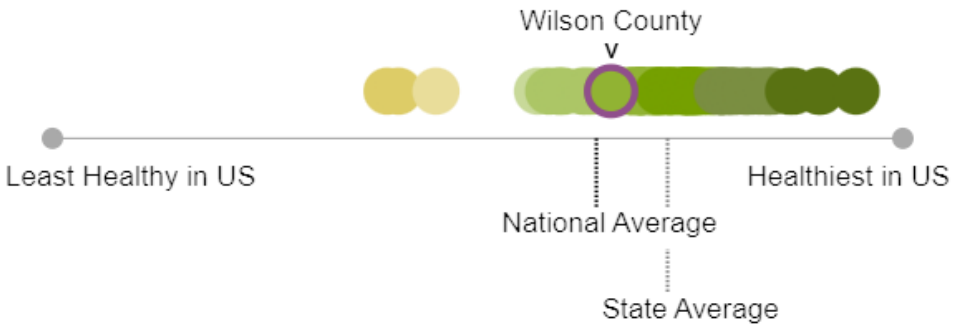
- 10 data-informed groupings
- All U.S. counties
- Groups have similar composite scores
- Not equal-sized

Population Health & Well-being

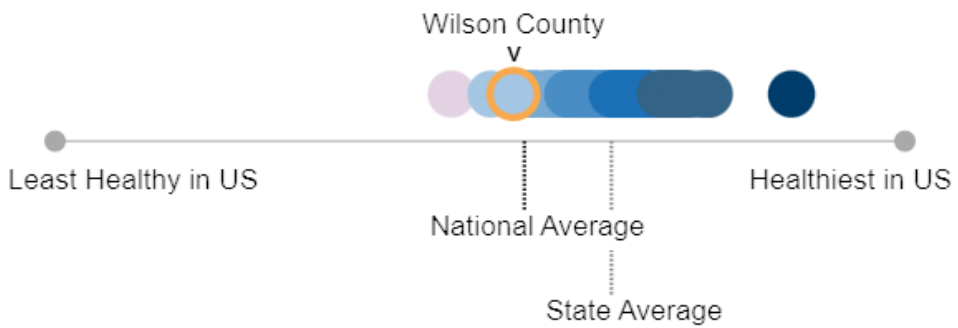
Community Conditions

Health Summaries

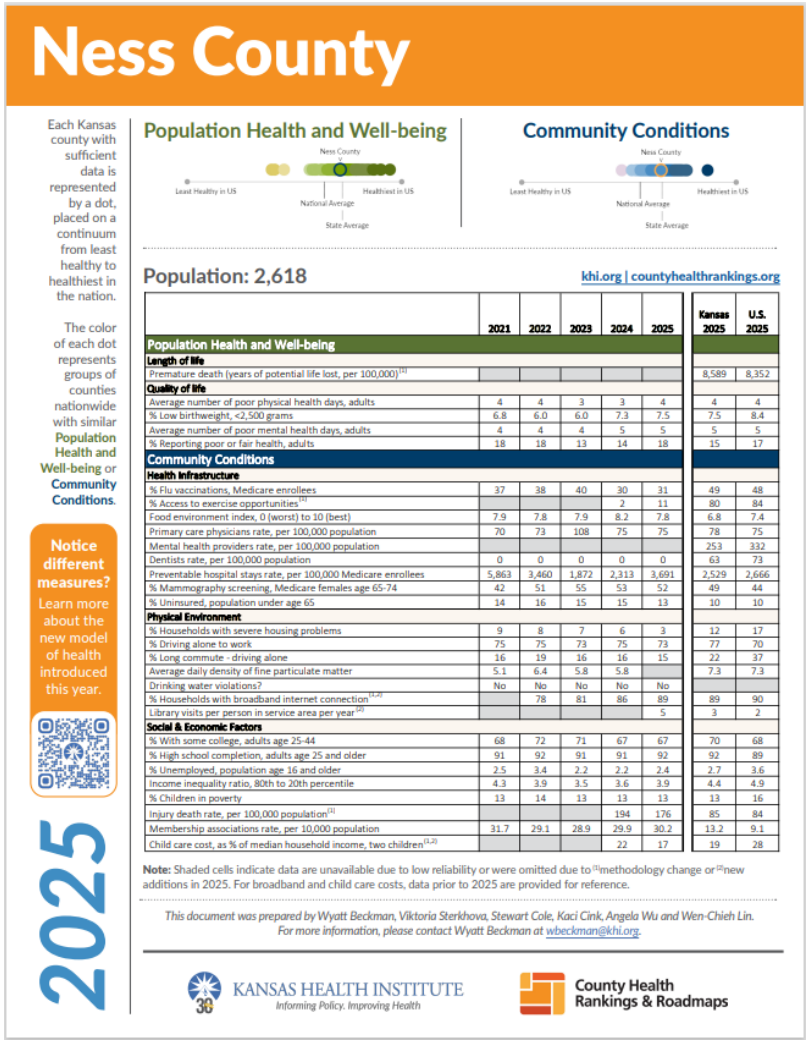
Population Health & Well-being



Community Conditions



County Profiles



Ness County

Each Kansas county with sufficient data is represented by a dot, placed on a continuum from least healthy to healthiest in the nation.

The color of each dot represents groups of counties nationwide with similar **Population Health and Well-being** or **Community Conditions**.

Notice different measures? Learn more about the new model of health introduced this year.

2025

Population Health and Well-being

Community Conditions

Population: 2,618

khi.org | countyhealthrankings.org

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Kansas 2025	U.S. 2025
Population Health and Well-being							
Length of life							
Premature death (years of potential life lost, per 100,000)[3]						8,589	8,352
Quality of life							
Average number of poor physical health days, adults	4	4	3	3	4	4	4
% Low birthweight, <2,500 grams	6.8	6.0	6.0	7.3	7.5	7.5	8.4
Average number of poor mental health days, adults	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
% Reporting poor or fair health, adults	18	18	13	14	18	15	17
Community Conditions							
Health Infrastructure							
% Flu vaccinations, Medicare enrollees	37	38	40	30	31	49	48
% Access to exercise opportunities[4]				2	11	80	84
Food environment index, 0 (worst) to 10 (best)	7.9	7.8	7.9	8.2	7.8	6.8	7.4
Primary care physicians rate, per 100,000 population	70	73	108	75	75	78	75
Mental health providers rate, per 100,000 population						253	332
Dentists rate, per 100,000 population	0	0	0	0	0	63	73
Preventable hospital stays rate, per 100,000 Medicare enrollees	5,863	3,460	1,872	2,313	3,691	2,529	2,666
% Mammography screening, Medicare females age 65-74	42	51	55	53	52	49	44
% Uninsured, population under age 65	14	16	15	15	13	10	10
Physical Environment							
% Households with severe housing problems	9	8	7	6	3	12	17
% Driving alone to work	75	75	73	75	73	77	70
% Long commute - driving alone	16	19	16	16	15	22	37
Average daily density of fine particulate matter	5.1	6.4	5.8	5.8		7.3	7.3
Drinking water violations?	No	No	No	No	No		
% Households with broadband internet connection[1,2]		78	81	86	89	89	90
Library visits per person in service area per year[5]					5	3	2
Social & Economic Factors							
% With some college, adults age 25-44	68	72	71	67	67	70	68
% High school completion, adults age 25 and older	91	92	91	91	92	92	89
% Unemployed, population age 16 and older	2.5	3.4	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.7	3.6
Income inequality ratio, 80th to 20th percentile	4.3	3.9	3.5	3.6	3.9	4.4	4.9
% Children in poverty	13	14	13	13	13	13	16
Injury death rate, per 100,000 population[1]				194	176	85	84
Membership associations rate, per 10,000 population	31.7	29.1	28.9	29.9	30.2	13.2	9.1
Child care cost, as % of median household income, two children[1,2]				22	17	19	28

Note: Shaded cells indicate data are unavailable due to low reliability or were omitted due to [1]methodology change or [2]new additions in 2025. For broadband and child care costs, data prior to 2025 are provided for reference.

This document was prepared by Wyatt Beckman, Viktoria Sterkhova, Stewart Cole, Kaci Cink, Angela Wu and Wen-Chieh Lin. For more information, please contact Wyatt Beckman at wbeckman@khi.org.

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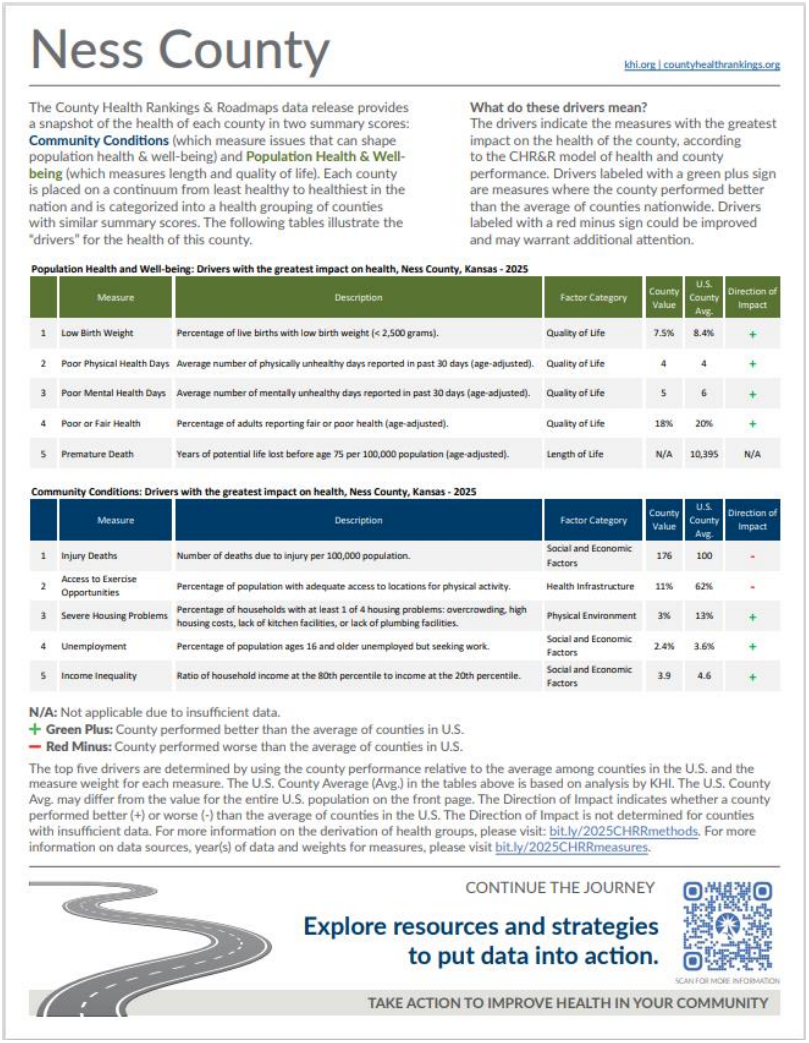
County Health Rankings & Roadmaps



Ness County

khi.org | countyhealthrankings.org

The County Health Rankings & Roadmaps data release provides a snapshot of the health of each county in two summary scores: **Community Conditions** (which measure issues that can shape population health & well-being) and **Population Health & Well-being** (which measures length and quality of life). Each county is placed on a continuum from least healthy to healthiest in the nation and is categorized into a health grouping of counties with similar summary scores. The following tables illustrate the "drivers" for the health of this county.

What do these drivers mean?
The drivers indicate the measures with the greatest impact on the health of the county, according to the CHR&R model of health and county performance. Drivers labeled with a green plus sign are measures where the county performed better than the average of counties nationwide. Drivers labeled with a red minus sign could be improved and may warrant additional attention.

Population Health and Well-being: Drivers with the greatest impact on health, Ness County, Kansas - 2025

	Measure	Description	Factor Category	County Value	U.S. County Avg.	Direction of Impact
1	Low Birth Weight	Percentage of live births with low birth weight (< 2,500 grams).	Quality of Life	7.5%	8.4%	+
2	Poor Physical Health Days	Average number of physically unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age-adjusted).	Quality of Life	4	4	+
3	Poor Mental Health Days	Average number of mentally unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age-adjusted).	Quality of Life	5	6	+
4	Poor or Fair Health	Percentage of adults reporting fair or poor health (age-adjusted).	Quality of Life	18%	20%	+
5	Premature Death	Years of potential life lost before age 75 per 100,000 population (age-adjusted).	Length of Life	N/A	10,395	N/A

Community Conditions: Drivers with the greatest impact on health, Ness County, Kansas - 2025

	Measure	Description	Factor Category	County Value	U.S. County Avg.	Direction of Impact
1	Injury Deaths	Number of deaths due to injury per 100,000 population.	Social and Economic Factors	176	100	-
2	Access to Exercise Opportunities	Percentage of population with adequate access to locations for physical activity.	Health Infrastructure	11%	62%	-
3	Severe Housing Problems	Percentage of households with at least 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen facilities, or lack of plumbing facilities.	Physical Environment	3%	13%	+
4	Unemployment	Percentage of population ages 16 and older unemployed but seeking work.	Social and Economic Factors	2.4%	3.6%	+
5	Income Inequality	Ratio of household income at the 80th percentile to income at the 20th percentile.	Social and Economic Factors	3.9	4.6	+

N/A: Not applicable due to insufficient data.
+ Green Plus: County performed better than the average of counties in U.S.
− Red Minus: County performed worse than the average of counties in U.S.

The top five drivers are determined by using the county performance relative to the average among counties in the U.S. and the measure weight for each measure. The U.S. County Average (Avg.) in the tables above is based on analysis by KHI. The U.S. County Avg. may differ from the value for the entire U.S. population on the front page. The Direction of Impact indicates whether a county performed better (+) or worse (-) than the average of counties in the U.S. The Direction of Impact is not determined for counties with insufficient data. For more information on the derivation of health groups, please visit: bit.ly/2025CHRRmethods. For more information on data sources, year(s) of data and weights for measures, please visit bit.ly/2025CHRRmeasures.

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

Explore resources and strategies to put data into action.

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION

TAKE ACTION TO IMPROVE HEALTH IN YOUR COMMUNITY

University of Wisconsin Model of Health

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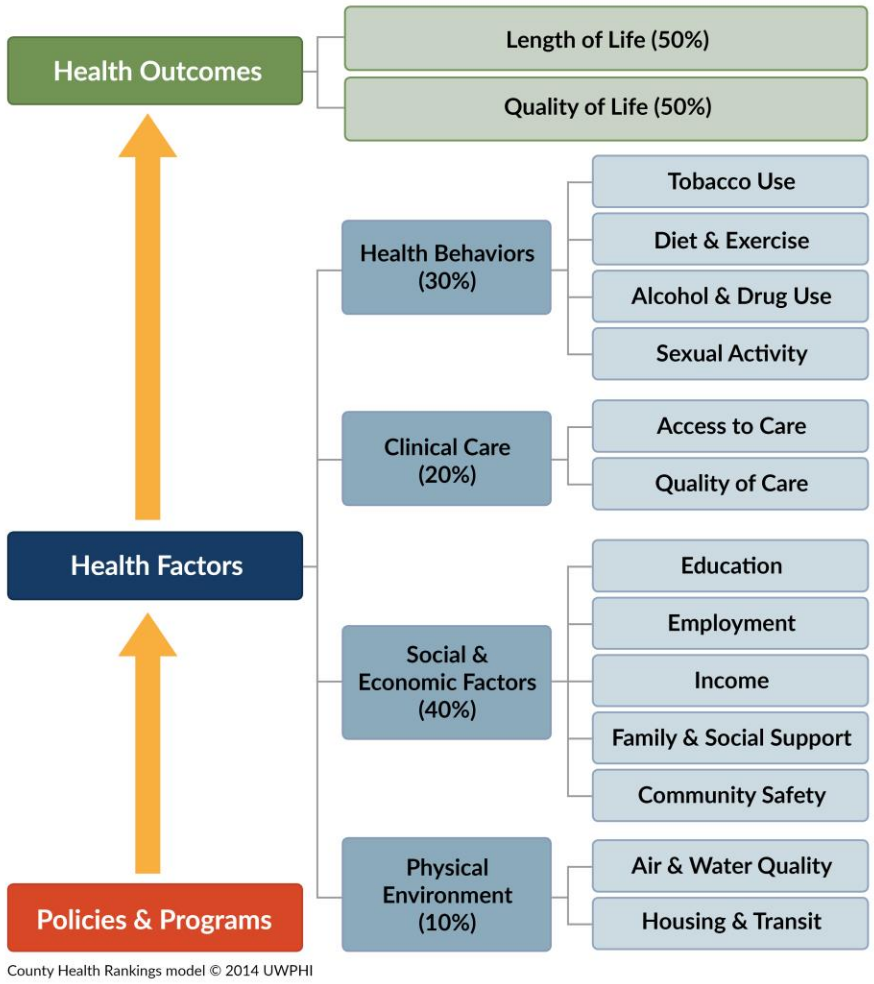
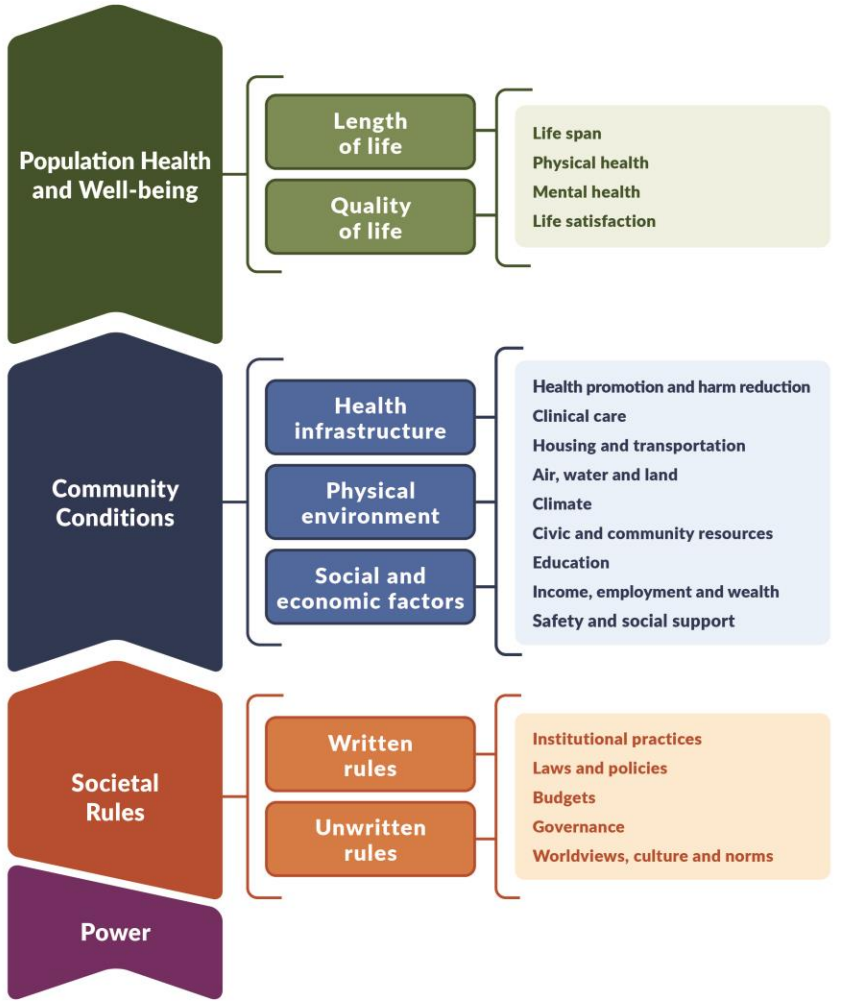
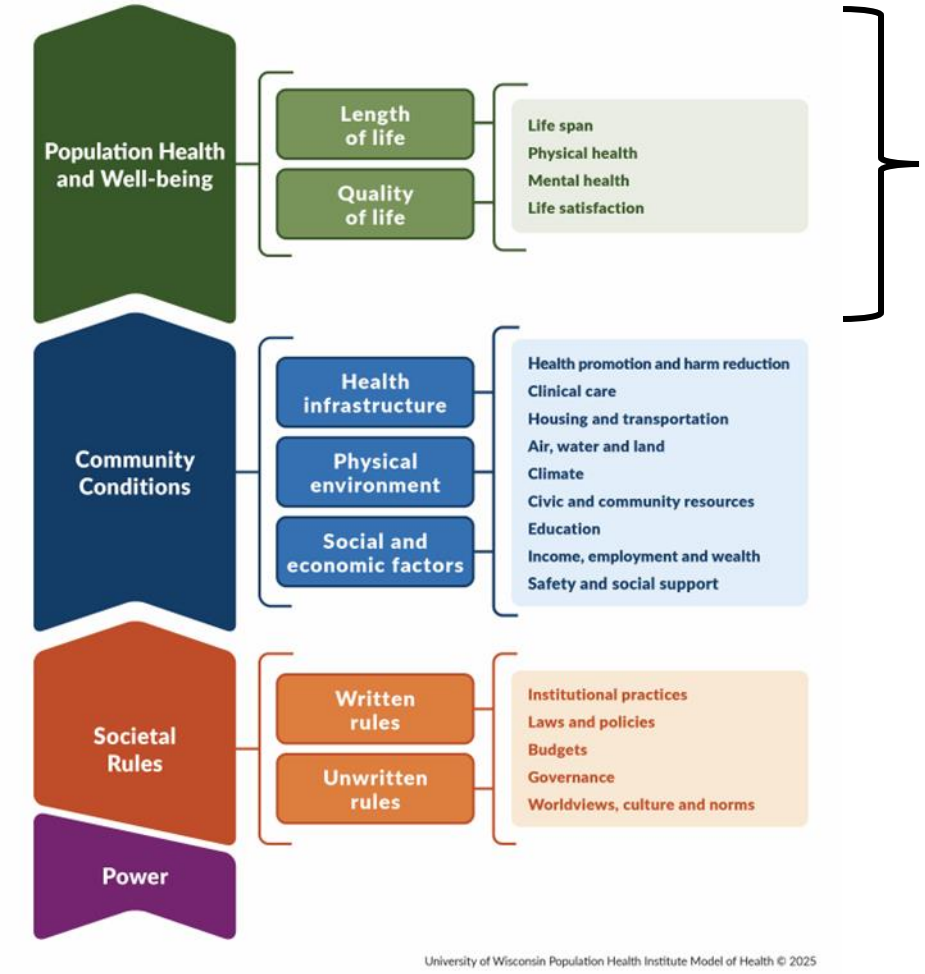
New Model of Health





New Model of Health

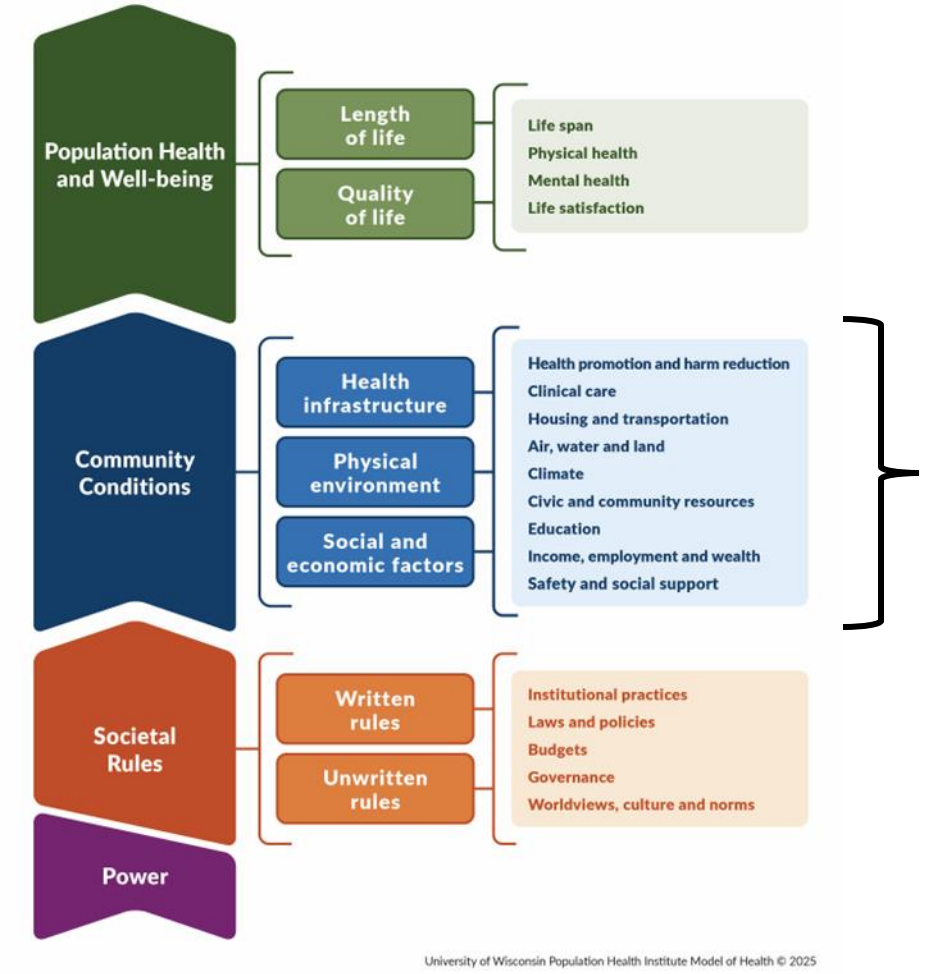


Population Health & Well-being

- Formerly “Health Outcomes”

No changes to categories, measures or weights.

New Model of Health



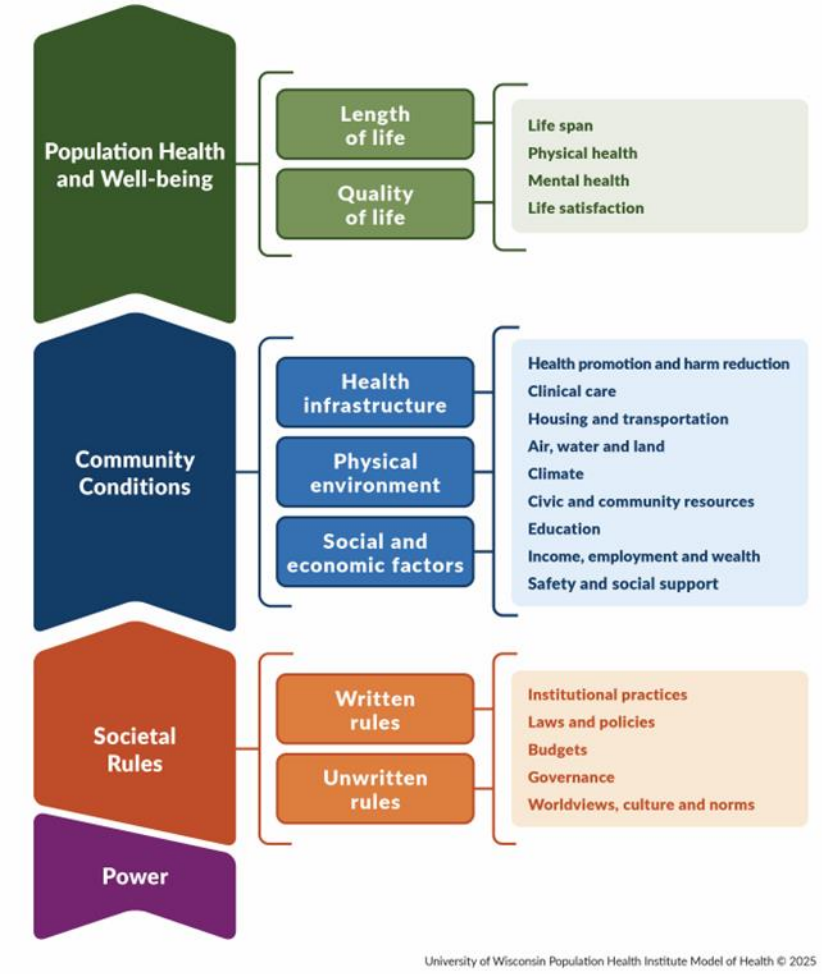
Community Conditions

- Formerly “Health Factors”

Categories & Weights:

- **Health Infrastructure (25%)**
- **Physical Environment (25%)**
- **Social and Economic Factors (50%)**

New Model of Health



Power & Societal Rules

- No identified measures for this year
- No summary score

Power & Societal Rules

Power

Power is the **ability to achieve a purpose and to effect change**. People can build community power when they organize and act together to set agendas, shift public discourse, influence who makes decisions and cultivate relationships with decision makers.

Societal Rules

Societal rules are the **written and unwritten rules and how they are applied to shape community conditions**. Written rules may be formalized and documented in laws, policies, regulations and budgets. Unwritten rules are made up of worldviews, cultural and norms.

Example: Education

What are some potential societal rules shaping education?

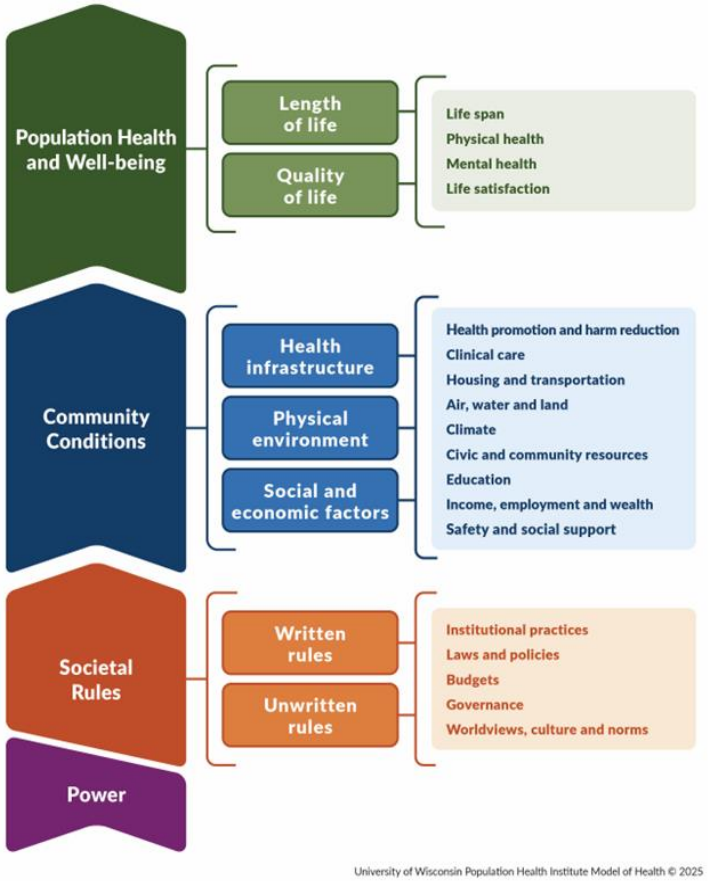
Institutional Practices: Disciplinary protocols

Budgets: School budget decisions

Laws & Policies: Cell phone use policies

Worldview: Perceived importance and value of education

Norm: Language of instruction



Stakeholder Mapping

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Understanding Power through Stakeholder Mapping

Power Analysis of the Stakeholders Involved in an Issue

- Understand how power is exercised and by whom to cause and maintain the problems and conditions that we seek to change
- Develop strategies to change power relationships and mobilize stakeholders around an issue

Recognizing which stakeholders have power to influence an issue can help you develop strategies to address the realities we face.

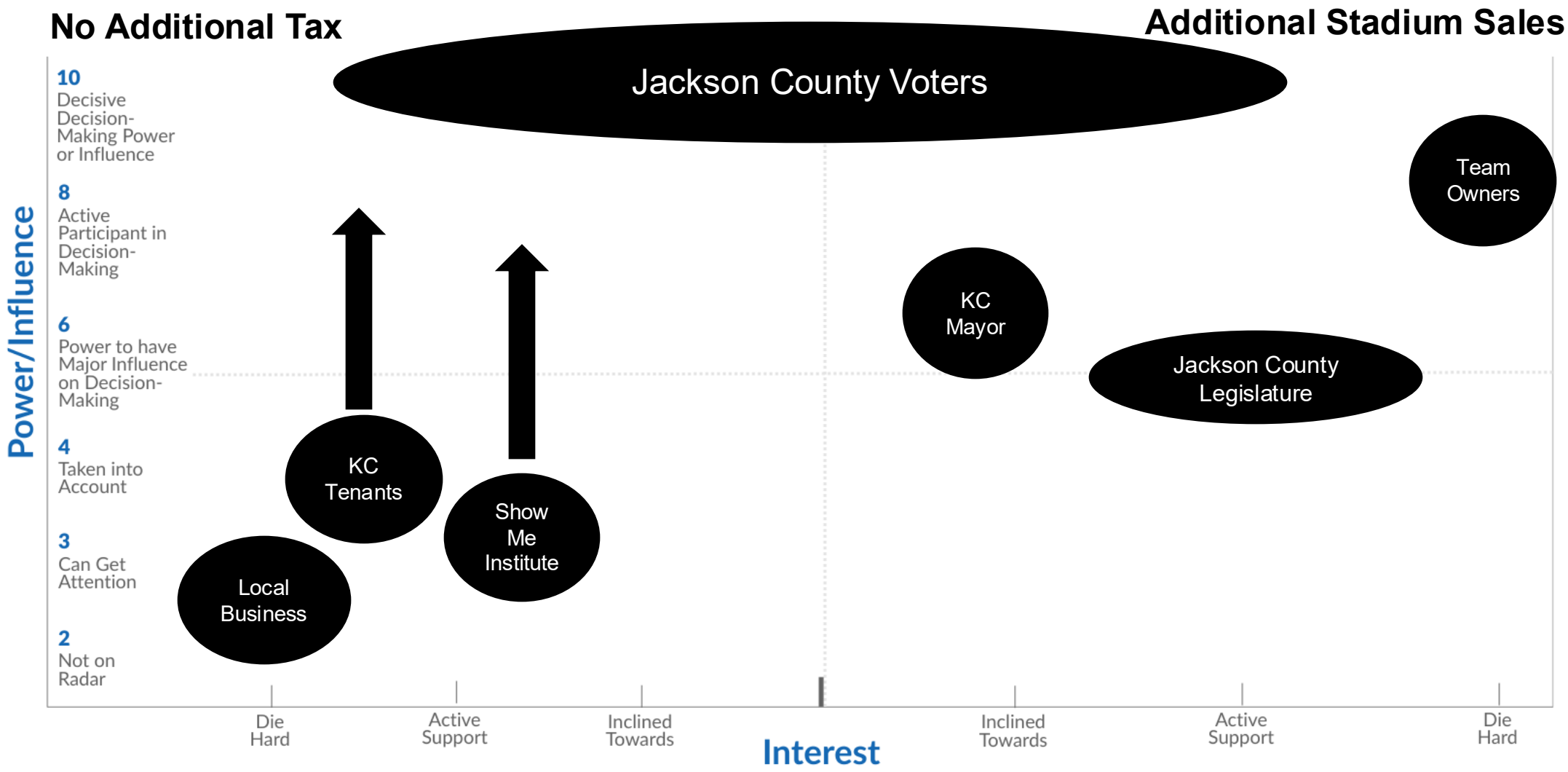
Stakeholder Mapping Instructions

Steps:

1. **Identify an issue** that is affecting the health of your community. What power imbalances or societal rules cause this issue?
2. **Define the competing agendas.**
3. **Identify the stakeholders** (people, organizations, etc.) that have power and influence over each agenda.
4. **Place stakeholders on the map** by their decision-making power/influence and interest in the issue.

Stakeholder Mapping

Jackson County, Missouri Stadium Tax Vote



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Adapted from Power Tools by SCOPE

Practice Stakeholder Mapping

Instructions:

1. **Identify issue**.
2. **Define the competing agendas.** Think about the specific context in your communities.
3. **Identify the stakeholders with power and influence over each agenda.** Consider individuals, organizations and group.
4. **Place stakeholders on the map** by their decision-making power/influence and interest in the issue

Discussion & Share Out

What strategies can you develop to change power relationships and engage stakeholders around an issue affecting health in your community?

Who are the important stakeholders to engage?

Who are the important stakeholders to engage, who aren't currently involved?

Additional Resources & Data

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Kansas Health Matters

All Things Kansas

Share Your Feedback

Elevate Kansas Pop Up Webinar:
Power & Societal Rules | Evaluation

Reach out to us!

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THANK YOU!

Any Questions?

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