



# Assessment of Health in Putnam County

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ALISON KAUFMAN, DVM, MPH

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# Objectives

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- ❖ Describe the framework and methods used by PCDOH to assess the health of Putnam County
- ❖ Review the Putnam County findings in the 2024 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps

# Health Assessment Framework

## Surveillance *Continuous*

### Purpose:

- detect events that require prompt public health action
- Supply data to understand and monitor epidemiologic trends

### Examples:

- Communicable disease surveillance
- Blood lead surveillance

## Community Health Assessment *Cyclical*

### Purpose:

- Create a comprehensive picture of determinants of health and health status of the population to facilitate data driven community health improvement planning

### Components:

- Secondary data compilation and analysis
- Community Health Survey
- Community Partner Survey

## Special Projects *Ad Hoc*

### Purpose:

- Create deeper understand on a specific subject
- Inform programmatic work and development of interventions

### Examples:

- [Early Childhood Vaccination Parent and Provider Surveys](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Surveys](#)

# Community Health Assessment

## What is a Comprehensive Community Health Assessment (CHA)?

- Descriptive summary of the population, its health status, and the distribution of health issues
- Identifies the main health challenges in the population and their determinants
- Summarizes the assets and resources that can be mobilized to address the health issues identified

## How often does PCDOH do a Comprehensive CHA?

- NYSDOH requires that LHDs complete and submit a CHA every three years
- Nonprofit hospitals are also required to submit a similar document called a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years
- Hospitals and LHDs are encouraged to work together
- PCDOH also works collaboratively with 6 other LHDs in the Mid-Hudson Region

## How does PCDOH assess community health in-between CHA years?

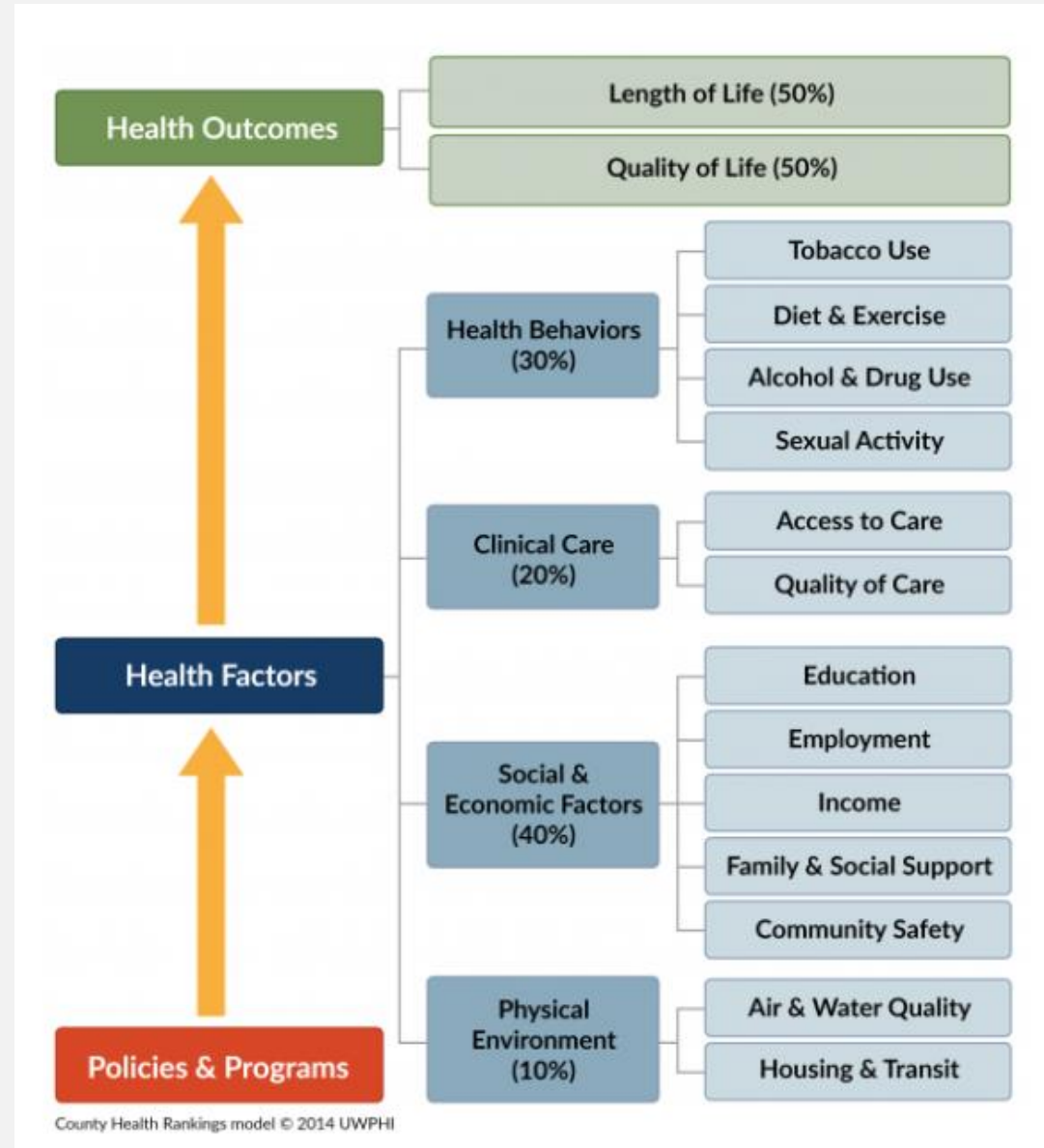
- Periodic review of other data dashboards
- Annual review of County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, with publication of [Putnam County Executive Summary](#)

# 2024 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Health Indicators are categorized as:

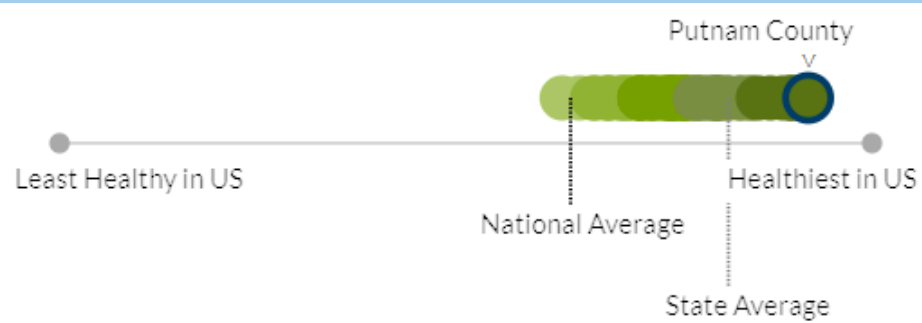
- Health Outcomes
- Health Factors

Counties nationwide are placed in “Health Groups” ranging from 1 (healthiest in the nation) to 10 (least healthy in the nation)



# Putnam County 2024 Health Snapshot

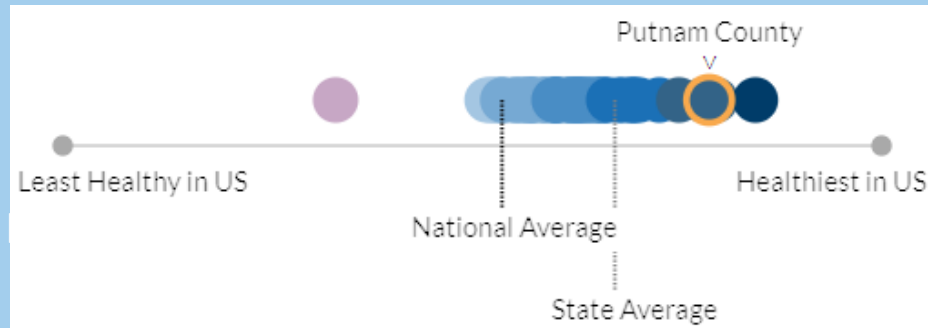
## Putnam Health Outcomes



- Performs better than the national and state average and is in the healthiest nationwide group of counties.
- Has the highest composite score amongst other counties in this healthiest group in NYS (Nassau, New York, Rockland, Saratoga, Tompkins, and Westchester)

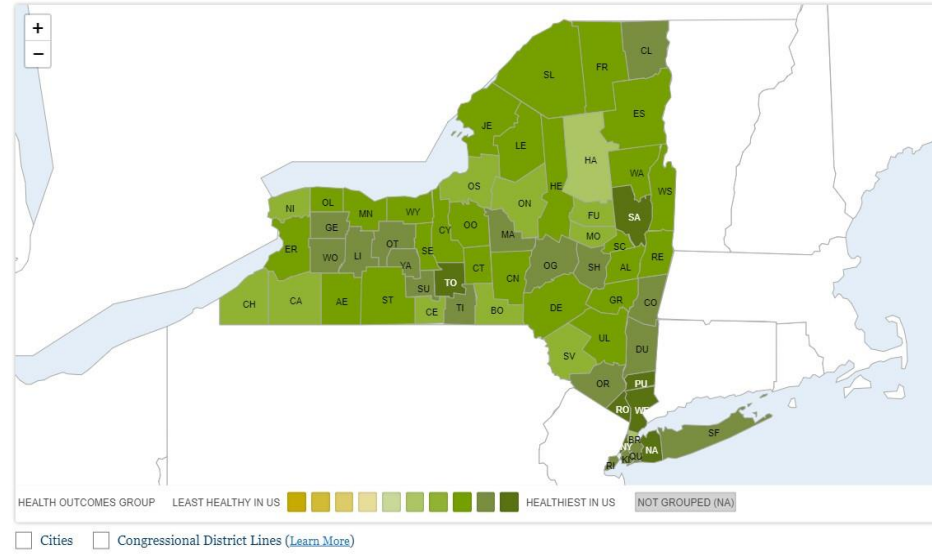
- Performs better than the national and state average and is in the 2nd healthiest nationwide group of counties.
- Has the fifth highest composite score in NYS behind Nassau, Westchester, Saratoga and New York.

## Putnam Health Factors



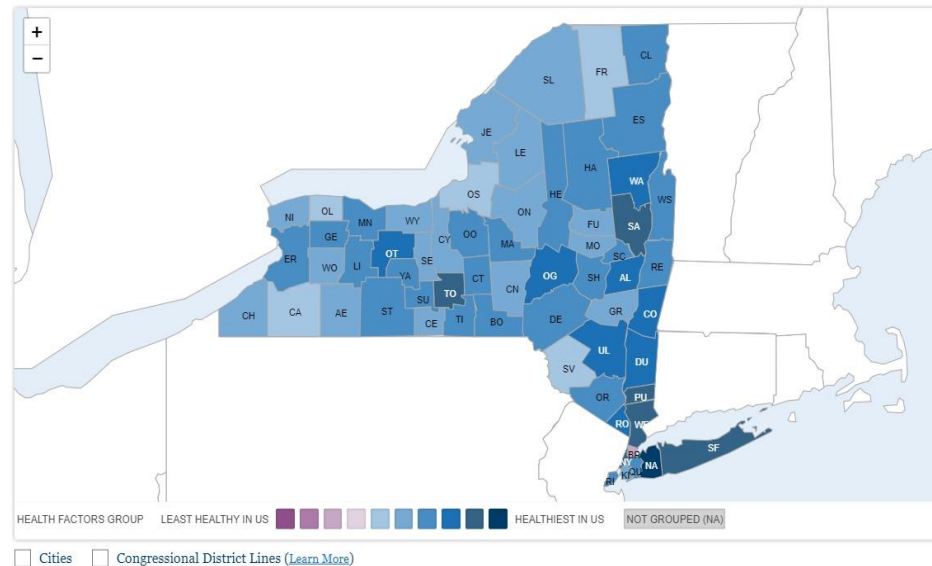
County Health  
Rankings & Roadmaps

2024 Health Outcomes - New York



County Health  
Rankings & Roadmaps

2024 Health Factors - New York



# Putnam CHR&R Review Methodology

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- Each year the Epidemiologist conducts a full review of the findings and prepares an executive summary
  - In addition to data that contributes to Putnam County Health Snapshot, this review includes examination of additional measures and, when available, trends over time and stratification by race/ethnicity.
- Data is reviewed systematically to delineate areas in which Putnam over or under performs:
- Individual measures are flagged for **poor performance** if they met the following criteria:
  - Performance worse than New York State **OR**
  - Performance in the bottom three amongst the seven counties that make up the Mid-Hudson Region **OR**
  - Any indicator with time trend data available where performance is worsening over time **OR**
  - Any indicator stratified by race/ethnicity where a disparity is identified
- Individual measures are flagged for **strong performance** if they met the following criteria:
  - Performance better than NYS **AND**
  - Top performer amongst Mid-Hudson Region counties
- Key findings are a review of flagged indicators broken down by Health Outcomes, Health Factors and their sub-categories and focus areas.

# Key Findings- Health Outcomes

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Strong performance is driven by results for measures of **length of life**. Amongst the seven Mid-Hudson Counties, Putnam had:

- The lowest age adjusted years of potential life lost (YPLL) before the age of 75 per 100,000 population
- The second highest life expectancy
- The lowest child mortality rate

In measures of **quality of life**, Putnam performs better in measures of **physical health** than in those of **mental health**.

- Flags for strong performance in self reports of physical health in the past month, percentage of adults with diabetes, and rates of HIV
- Flags for poor performance in self reports of mental health



# Key Findings- Health Factors

## Areas of Strength:

- Access to and participation in physical activity
- Percent population with health insurance
- Low ratio of population to mental health providers
- Measures related to housing
- Low unemployment
- Measures of education
- Measures of safety including suicide rate, firearms death rate and juvenile arrest rate
- Measures of childcare

## Areas of Weakness:

- Increasing rates of chlamydia
- Higher percentage of adults who smoke than NYS
- High ratios of population to primary care & dentists
- Measures related to transit
- High cost of living

## Mixed Results:

- Strong overall access to food, but high percentage of low-income residents live distant from a grocery store
- Strong overall performance in measures of quality of care, but disparities based on race and ethnicity
- Strong overall performance in measures of income, but disparities based on race and ethnicity
- Mediocre performance in measures of injuries, and a higher injury death rate in the Hispanic population
- Measures of civic engagement: high rates of voting and census participation, but low incidence of membership organizations

# Recommendations

## Recommendations for Putnam County leaders:

- Work collaboratively with healthcare organizations to further assess and address potential gaps in access to primary care
- Further assessment of the drivers of poor mental health outcomes, including exploration of the relationship between potential risk factors for less-than-optimal mental health such as stress related to high cost of living, and high rates of commuters driving long distances.

## It is also recommended that Putnam County continue to:

- Prioritize ongoing population health initiatives aimed at
  - Reducing rates of sexually transmitted infections
  - Reducing rates of adult smokers
- Support Cornell Cooperative Extension initiative to fill gaps in food access
- Seek opportunities to work collaboratively with healthcare and other partners to reduce disparities in measures of health care quality and promote health equity



*Thank you!*

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ANY QUESTIONS?