



Press Release

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Baker County has just gotten a lot of new data about its residents' health.

In March, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, a project of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, announced the annual data release for over 80 measures of both health factors and outcomes, including number of adults who smoke, number of primary care physicians in the county, and access to healthy foods.

In past years, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps has ranked every county in Oregon from one to 36 in order of healthiest to least healthiest, according to their data. This year, the project has stopped giving out numbered rankings. Instead, the report for each county compares it against state and national averages. "Baker County is faring worse than the average county in Oregon for Health Outcomes, and about the same as the average county in the nation," the report finds.

Baker County's health data shows strong civic participation, with the number of social organizations and voter turnout higher than the state average. For 2024, County Rankings and Roadmaps emphasized the importance of "civic health." According to the report, "Evidence shows that participating in our communities, whether through volunteering or joining neighborhood groups, strengthens our social connections and sense of belonging which in turn, benefits our physical and mental health."

Baker County's report also highlighted some areas to improve, including lowering rates of smoking and injury deaths, and raising the rates of mammogram screenings and flu vaccinations for older adults.

Community members are welcome to read Baker County's 2024 report and all health data at <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/oregon/baker?year=2024>