

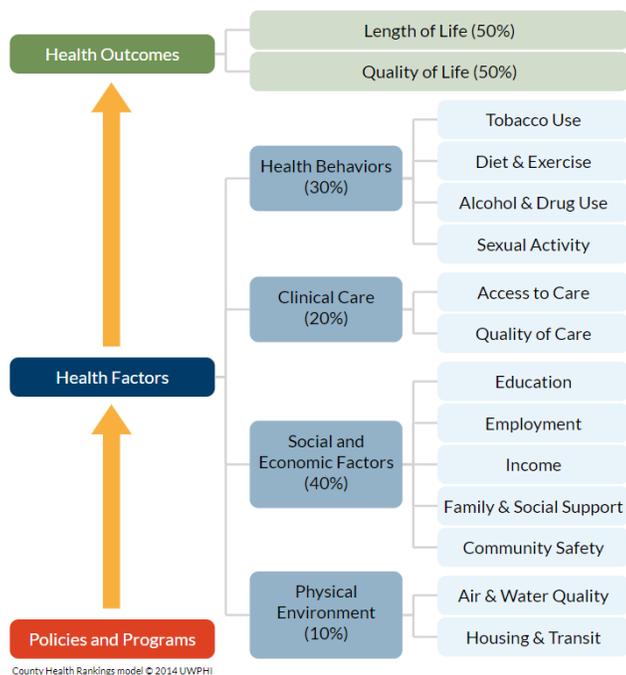


# 2022 County Health Rankings: Wicomico County

Data Brief  
April 2022

## About the County Health Rankings

The County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (CHR&R) is a program of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute in Madison, WI. The original County Health Rankings (CHR) was released in February 2010 in collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF).



The rankings are formulated using the County Health Rankings model with two core areas: Health Outcomes and Health Factors. Health outcomes are the gauges of how healthy a county is (e.g., life expectancy, poor mental health days); health factors are determinants that influence health outcomes (e.g., proportion of adult smokers, percentage below poverty). By highlighting *modifiable* population health factors, counties have the ability to assess and improve areas of need in order to make their communities a healthier place to live, work and play.

This data brief provides a general overview of the findings released in the 2022 CHR, including current Wicomico County rankings, how our data compares to other areas in the state and how our county data has changed over time. Although this is the most recent publication, it is important to note that much of the data used precedes the ranking year and may not reflect present-day trends. 2020 COVID-19 deaths *are* included in this year’s premature death rate calculation.

Source: County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin

## New Indicators in 2022

Several new measures were introduced in the 2022 CHR related to socioeconomic impacts in the county. A woman in Wicomico County earns 78 cents for every dollar a man earns, much lower than the state, and a sizeable gap considering the living wage in the county is \$36.51 per hour, with almost one-quarter of household incomes (with children) devoted to childcare costs alone.

Indicator	What it Measures	2022 Wicomico	2022 Maryland
<b>Living Wage</b>	Hourly wage needed to cover basic household needs (e.g., transportation, housing, food, etc.)	\$36.51 per hour	\$43.46 per hour
<b>Gender Pay Gap</b>	Ratio of a woman’s full-time median earnings to a man’s full-time median earnings	0.78	0.86
<b>Childcare Cost</b>	Childcare cost for a household with two children as a percentage of median household income	22%	21%



## 2022 Rankings

Wicomico County's rankings for health outcomes and health factors have remained relatively unchanged over the past five years, consistently in the lowest quartile compared to the rest of the state. However, there are several areas where the county performed better than the state in 2022. The availability of dentists and mental health providers, measured as a population to provider ratio, is better than state averages. There were also less preventable hospitalizations, in addition to a lower injury mortality rate and lower proportion of alcohol-related driving deaths. Although the resident to *traditional* primary care provider ratio (MD's and DO's) has worsened in the county, factoring in *other* primary care providers (nurse practitioners, physician assistants), Wicomico had the second best rank in the state.

Health Outcome Rank		Health Factors Rank	
Rank	County	Rank	County
1	Montgomery	1	Howard
2	Howard	2	Montgomery
3	Frederick	3	Carroll
4	Carroll	4	Frederick
5	Calvert	5	Harford
6	Queen Anne's	6	Calvert
7	Anne Arundel	7	Anne Arundel
8	St. Mary's	8	Talbot
9	Worcester	9	Queen Anne's
10	Harford	10	St. Mary's
11	Talbot	11	Baltimore County
12	Prince George's	12	Kent
13	Charles	13	Charles
14	Baltimore County	14	Garrett
15	Garrett	15	Cecil
16	Kent	16	Washington
17	Caroline	17	Prince George's
18	Cecil	18	Worcester
<b>19</b>	<b>Wicomico</b>	19	Allegany
20	Washington	20	Caroline
21	Allegany	<b>21</b>	<b>Wicomico</b>
22	Somerset	22	Dorchester
23	Dorchester	23	Somerset
24	Baltimore City	24	Baltimore City

Year	Wicomico Health Outcome Rank	Wicomico Health Factor Rank
2018	19	19
2019	19	20
2020	20	20
2021	19	20
2022	19	21

2022 County Indicators Better Than State Average		
Indicator	Wicomico	MD
Air Pollution ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	7.0	7.4
Resident to Dentist Ratio	1,220:1	1,260:1
Resident to Mental Health Provider Ratio	280:1	330:1
Preventable Hospitalization Rate (per 100,000)	3,238	3,568
Injury Death Rate (per 100,000)	85	88
Alcohol-Impaired Driving Deaths	27%	28%
30+ Min Solo Work Commute	25%	50%

2022 Highest Ranking Indicators for Wicomico County		
Indicator	Value	Rank
Resident to Other PCP Ratio	460:1	2
30+ Min Solo Work Commute	25%	2
Resident to MH Provider Ratio	280:1	3

Not all health indicators are the same across different populations. Although the county's teen birth rate has declined in recent years to 19 births per 1,000, the rates among Black and Hispanic teens are 4-5 times higher compared to White teens. Black and Hispanic children are more likely to live below the poverty line, and the mortality rate among Black infants is twice that of White infants in the County. The injury death rate, which includes drug overdoses, among White residents has increased 20% over the past three years.

Health Indicator	White	Black	Hispanic
Teen Birth Rate	9 per 1,000	40 per 1,000	48 per 1,000
Children in Poverty	10%	25%	44%
Injury Death Rate	95 per 100,000	73 per 100,000	75 per 100,000
Premature Death Rate	410 per 100,000	540 per 100,000	370 per 100,000
Infant Mortality Rate	7 per 1,000	14 per 1,000	**

\*\*Data suppressed, <20 deaths



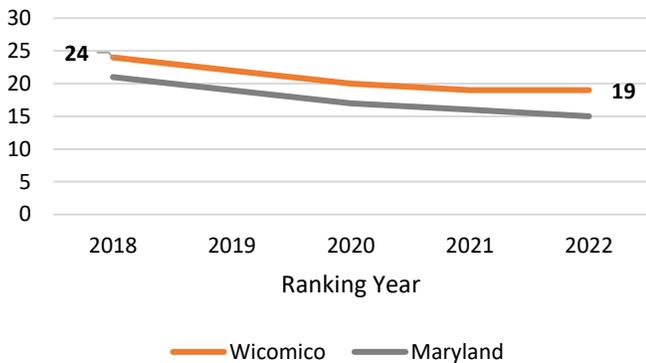
## Positive Trends and Areas for Improvement

Over the past five ranking years, the county made positive progress towards reducing the number of teen births, the number of preventable hospitalizations and increasing the density of mental health providers in the area. Across the same time, the rates of sexually transmitted infections and injury deaths increased.

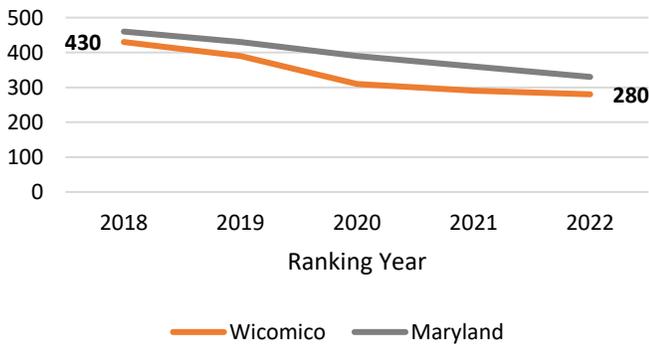
### Positive Trends

#### Teen Births

(Births per 1,000 Population 15-19 Years)

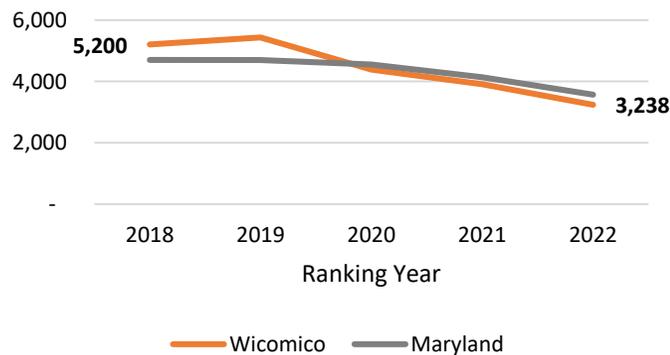


#### Residents per Mental Health Provider Ratio



#### Preventable Hospitalizations

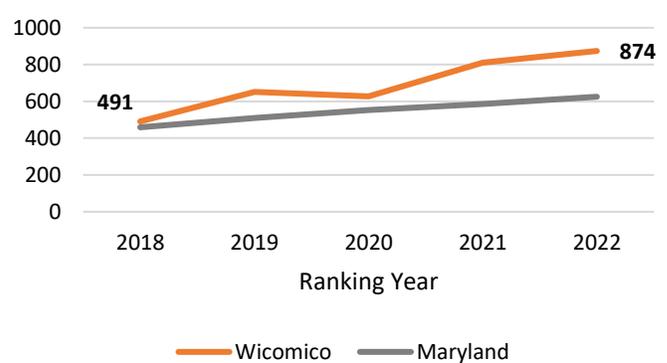
(Rate per 100,000 Population)



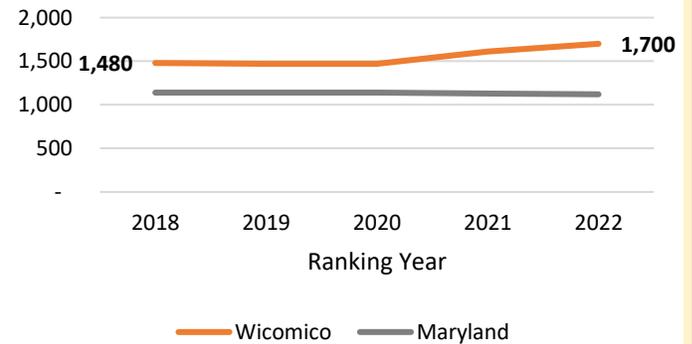
### Areas for Improvement

#### Sexually Transmitted Infections

(Rate per 100,000 Population)



#### Residents per Primary Care Provider (MD/DO) Ratio



#### Injury Deaths

(Rate per 100,000 Population)

