

## 2014 NEW MEASURES

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### Health Behaviors

- 1) The **food environment index** is a measure ranging from 0 (worst) to 10 (best) which equally weights two indicators:
  - Limited access to healthy foods estimates the proportion of the population who are low income and do not live close to a grocery store. Living close to a grocery store is defined differently in rural and non-rural areas; in rural areas, it means living less than 10 miles from a grocery store whereas in non-rural areas, it means less than 1 mile. Low income is defined as having an annual family income of less than or equal to 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold for the family size.
  - Food insecurity estimates the proportion of the population who did not have access to a reliable source of food during the past year. A model was created using information from the Current Population Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and American Community Survey.
- 2) **Access to exercise opportunities** measures the percentage of individuals in a county who live reasonably close to a location for physical activity. Locations for physical activity are defined as parks or recreational facilities. Parks include local, state, and national parks. Recreational facilities include businesses identified by the NAICS code 713940, and include a wide variety of facilities including gyms, community centers, YMCAs, dance studios and pools. Individuals who reside in a census block within a half mile of a park or within one mile of a recreational facility in urban areas (3 miles in rural areas) are considered to have adequate access to opportunities for physical activity.
- 3) We've replaced motor vehicle crash deaths with **alcohol-impaired driving deaths**, the proportion of driving deaths with alcohol involvement in the fatal crash. Alcohol involvement is determined via a combination of driver BACs and crash investigations.

### Clinical Care

- 4) We've added the availability of **mental health providers**, defined as the ratio of people to mental health providers. This includes psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, counselors, and advanced practice nurses who specialize in mental health care.

### Social and Economic Environment

- 5) We've added **injury deaths**, i.e., deaths any type of injury (per 100,000 people). Leading causes of injury mortality include: motor vehicle crashes, unintentional poisoning, homicides, suicides, drowning, and unintentional falls.

## Physical Environment

- 6) Under **Housing and Transit**, the **severe housing problems** measure is defined as the percent of households in a county with one or more of the following problems:
  - a. housing unit lacks complete kitchen facilities;
  - b. housing unit lacks complete plumbing facilities;
  - c. household is severely overcrowded - defined as more than 1.5 persons per room; or
  - d. household is severely cost burdened - monthly housing costs (including utilities) that exceed 50% of monthly income.
- 7) **Driving alone to work** reflects the percent of the workforce in a county that primarily drives alone to work.
- 8) **Long commute—driving alone** reflects the percent of commuters driving alone, that drive longer than 30 minutes to get to work each day.