This Week in Health Policy…
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• Upcoming Health Summit
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County Health Rankings

State Picture: View your state map showing where all counties within your state rank on overall health.

**Maryland**

Health Outcomes are the primary ranking used to rank the overall health of counties. The county ranked number one is considered the healthiest county.

**HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR COUNTY? Find out at:**

[www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)

The 50-state report, *County Health Rankings*, identifies the healthiest and least healthy counties within every state. Each county is ranked within the state on key factors that affect health such as:

- Health behaviors
- Clinical care
- Social and economic factors
- Physical environment

County Health Rankings was produced by the University of Wisconsin’s Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
Trends that emerge when you compare the 50 healthiest counties (one from every state), with the 50 least healthy counties:

- Healthier counties are urban/suburban, whereas least health counties are mostly rural.
- Healthier counties have significantly lower rates of premature death—2.5 times lower than the least healthy counties.
- Residents of the least healthy counties report being in significantly poorer health compared with the healthiest counties.
- Residents of least healthy counties are more likely to smoke.
- Residents of least healthy counties are 60% more likely to be admitted to the hospital for preventable conditions.
- The least healthy counties have higher rates of poverty, with 30% of children living in poverty compared with 9% in the healthiest counties.
- Least healthy counties have fewer grocery stores – only 33% of zip codes have at least one grocery store.
Health Care Insurance Reform Remains a Key Priority for President Obama

Will reform provide adequate protection against abuses by the insurance industry? Will it make coverage affordable and available for Americans families? Will it get the country on the path of fiscal sustainability?

The public can look forward to a televised discussion on these critical questions between Democratic and Republican leaders during President Obama’s upcoming bipartisan health summit on February 25th.

The President is inviting senior House and Senate leaders from both parties, as well as the chairmen and ranking members of the committees that oversee health insurance reform legislation in both chambers.

The President will moderate discussion on four critical topics: insurance reforms, cost containment, expanding coverage, and the impact health reform will have on deficit reduction.

Health Care Reform is Still Urgent:

Just last week, a major insurer, Anthem Blue Cross, announced plans to increase premiums to policyholders in California by as much as 39 percent. If it can happen in California, it can happen in any state.
What You Can Do

Before the February 25th bipartisan meeting on health reform, call your Member of Congress with this simple message - 
thousands of Americans are losing their coverage every day, and cannot afford care if they get sick, so we need reform now, not later.

• Find contact information for your member of Congress: [click here](#).

• Share your feedback with the NMA Health Policy Team. Contact us at [healthpolicy@nmanet.org](mailto:healthpolicy@nmanet.org).

• Share Policy Beat with your friends and colleagues.

For the latest health policy news and information visit our page [NMA Health Policy Updates](#).
Haiti Relief Efforts

We will continue to update our Haiti Earthquake Relief page as information becomes available.

If you have traveled to Haiti for earthquake response efforts, please share your experience with the NMA by e-mailing haitirelief@nmanet.org

Resources:
- White House Haiti Earthquake Relief
- CDC Guide for Relief Workers Traveling to Haiti for Earthquake Response
- USAID – Haiti
- HHS – Haiti
- Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad (AMHE)
- Center for International Disaster Information
Work Cited


