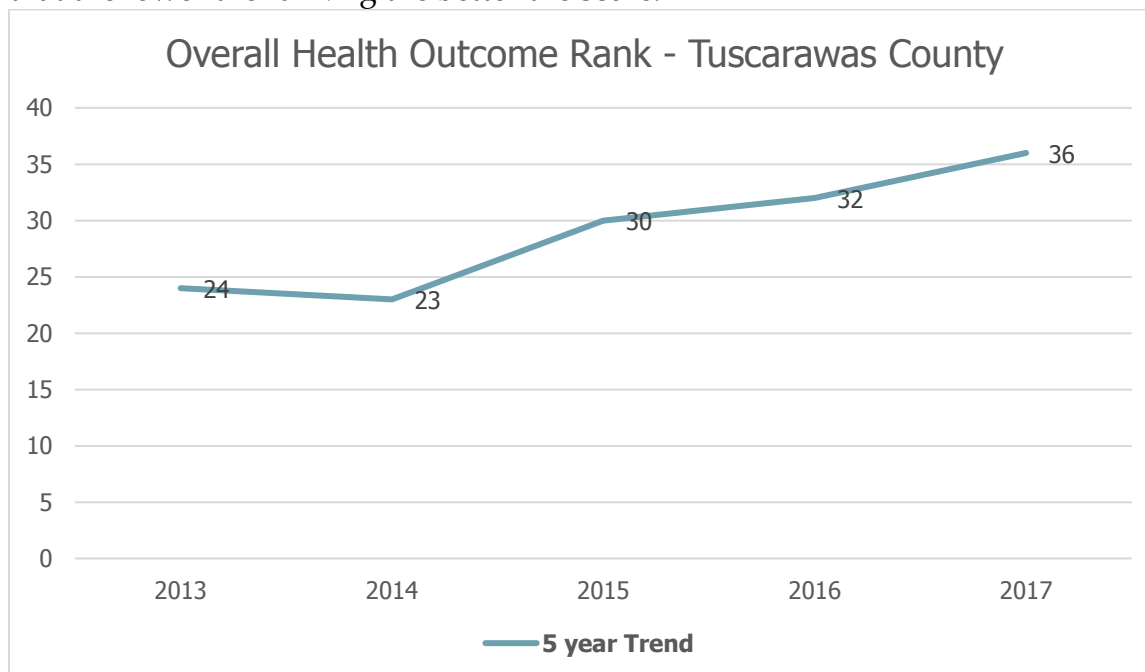


# TUSCARAWAS COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

## 2017 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps Released

On March 29, 2017 the 2017 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps were officially released. The Rankings are based on a model of population health that emphasizes the many factors that, if improved, can help make communities healthier places to live, learn, work and play. "Building on the work of America's Health Rankings, the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute has used this model to rank the health of Wisconsin's counties every year since 2003". Tuscarawas County ranked 36 out of 88 Counties in Ohio for overall health outcomes. A five year snapshot of trends for overall health outcome rankings for Tuscarawas County can be seen below. It is worth noting that the lower the ranking the better the score.

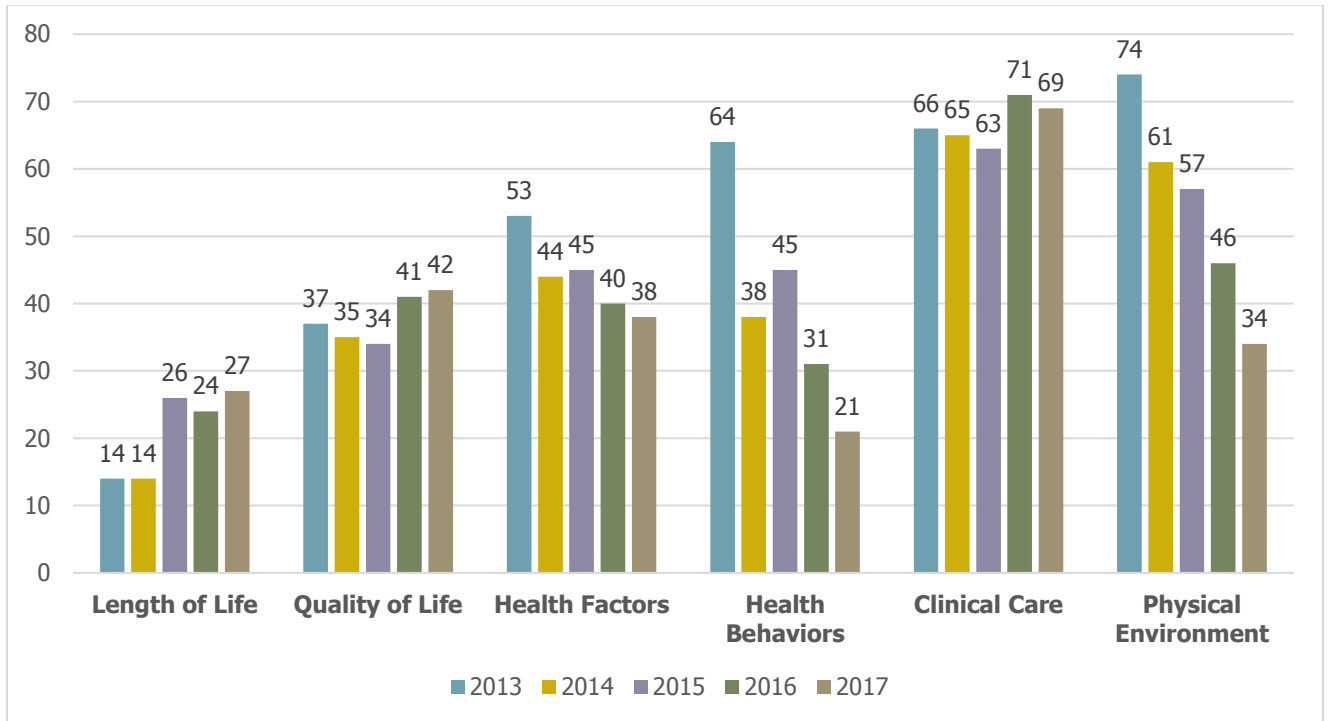


Unfortunately, as the chart illustrates Tuscarawas County has been declining in overall health rankings over the past 5 years. Additional details of the report help to shed light on this trend.



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In 2017, Tuscarawas County ranked the poorest in quality of life, which includes things such as poor health, poor mental health, and low birth weight babies. It appears based on rankings that the physical environment in Tuscarawas County has steadily improved over the past 5 years. Physical environment ranking factors in things such as air pollution, drinking water violations, severe housing problems, and long commutes to work.

### Social and Economic Factors of Tuscarawas County – 2017

87% of Tuscarawas County residents have a least a high school diploma or GED. The unemployment rate in Tuscarawas County is 5.9% which is slightly higher than the State average of 4.9%. 18% of Tuscarawas County children live in poverty and 29% of children live in single-parent households. The median household income is \$47,600.00 and 43% of children are eligible for free and/or reduced lunches. These statistics remain relatively unchanged from 2016.

### **Quality of Life in Tuscarawas County - 2017**

The quality of life ranking for Tuscarawas County has trended negatively in the past 3 years, meaning that Tuscarawas County received a lower ranking in this category. 17% of Tuscarawas County residents identify that they have poor or fair health. 8% of babies born in Tuscarawas County have a low birth weight.

### **Health Factors in Tuscarawas County – 2017**

The diabetes prevalence in Tuscarawas County is 13%. In 2014 and 2015 that prevalence was as low as 9% for residents. 11% of residents identify that they have frequent physical distress, while 12% of residents identify frequent mental distress.

### **Health Behaviors in Tuscarawas County – 2017**

The health behavior ranking is headed the right direction. In fact, 2017 is the best ranking Tuscarawas County has achieved in 5 years for this category. In 2017, it was identified that 17% of adults in Tuscarawas County are smokers. This highlights a steady decrease from 2013 when 23% of residents were smokers. 35% of Tuscarawas County residents are currently classified as obese, and 70% of residents have current access to exercise opportunities. It is unfortunate that 14% of residents have food insecurities and 6% have limited access to healthy foods. Drug overdose deaths have been on the increase in recent years with a total of 11 in 2016.

### **Clinical Care in Tuscarawas County – 2017**

12% of the population in Tuscarawas County remained uninsured, this remains relatively unchanged from previous years. See the chart below for provider information per every resident.

Year	Primary Care Physicians	Dentists	Mental Health Providers
2017	2,510:1	3,000:1	930:1
2016	2,320:1	2,990:1	1,030:1
2015	2,200:1	2,989:1	1,343:1

The average person in Tuscarawas County spends \$9,640.00 in health care cost per year.

## **Conclusion**

Public health officials, stakeholders and the community should be slightly concerned that the overall health ranking in Tuscarawas County continued to slip in the negative direction. It highlights the continued need for collaboration to ensure a healthy Tuscarawas County. The Community Health Improvement Plan developed by partners through the HealthyTusc coalition identified 4 priority areas to focus combined efforts throughout the next 5 years. Those areas include adult/youth substance abuse prevention and treatment, adult/youth mental health services, access to dental services, adult/youth obesity. The collaborative effort to focus on improvement in those four priority areas is a great start to the betterment of the health in Tuscarawas County, but other factors should be continually monitored and program implementation efforts of other health topics should not cease.

**More information available at [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)**