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Rankings show Kane County is 5th healthiest in Illinois

Annual rankings show where counties do well and opportunities for improvement

Kane County ranks as the 5th healthiest in Illinois in overall health outcomes, according to the sixth annual *County Health Rankings*, released today by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (UWPHI). The *Rankings* are available at [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)

“The *County Health Rankings* show us that where we live matters to our health. Even if we rank relatively high overall, we know that we can take steps to improve the health of all our residents,” said Barbara Jeffers, Executive Director of the Kane County Health Department. “All of us want Kane County to be a healthier place.”

The *Rankings* help to identify factors that are making residents unhealthy and to understand how Kane compares to other counties in the state. With this knowledge, steps can be taken to improve the health of our residents.

“The *County Health Rankings* demonstrate that Kane is one of the healthiest counties in the state, but we can also see that there remains much work to be done to get where we want to be,” Jeffers said.

Historically, Kane was ranked 9th in 2014, 12th in 2013, 8th in 2012, 9th in 2011 and 11th in 2010, out of Illinois’ 102 counties.

“The *County Health Rankings* have helped galvanize communities across the nation to improve health,” said Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, MD, RWJF president and CEO. “Solutions and innovation are coming from places as diverse as rural Williamson, West Virginia in the heart of Appalachia to urban New Orleans; they are engaging business, public health, education, parents, and young people to build a Culture of Health.”

(MORE)

Nationally, this year's *Rankings* show that the healthiest counties in each state have higher college attendance, fewer preventable hospital stays, and better access to parks and gyms. The least healthy counties in each state have more smokers, more teen births, and more alcohol related car crash deaths. This report also looks at distribution in income and the links between income levels and health.

The *Rankings* also revealed the following national trends:

- Premature death rates are dropping, with 60 percent of the nation's counties seeing declines. But for many counties these rates are not improving – 40 percent of counties are not making progress in reducing premature death.
- One out of four children in the U.S. lives in poverty. Child poverty rates are more than twice as high in the unhealthiest counties in each state than in the healthiest counties. Violent crime rates are highest in the South. Violent crime rates, which affect health, well-being, and stress levels, are highest in the Southwest, Southeast, and Mississippi Delta Regions.
- Having a job influences health. Unemployment rates are 1.5 times higher in the least healthy counties in each state as they are in the healthiest counties. During the recession, counties in the West, Southeast, and rust belt region of the U.S. were hit hardest by growing unemployment. Many, but not at all, of these counties have seen their unemployment rates drop since the recession ended in 2010.

“In the six years since the *County Health Rankings* began, we've seen them serve as a rallying point for change,” said Bridget Catlin, PhD, MHSA, co-director of the *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps*. “Communities are using the *Rankings* to inform their priorities as they work to build a Culture of Health.”

The *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* program offers data, tools, and resources to help communities throughout their journey to build a Culture of Health. Please find the official website for the County Health Rankings by clicking [here](#).

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