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Kane County is 9th healthiest in Illinois, according to new rankings
*Annual rankings show where counties do well and
opportunities for improvement*

Kane County ranks as the 9th healthiest in Illinois, according to the fifth 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 www.countyhealthrankings.org.

“Health is everyone’s responsibility. Working together, we can make Kane County a healthier place to live, learn, work, and play,” said Barbara Jeffers, Executive Director of the Kane County Health Department. “The Rankings help us identify factors that are making our residents unhealthy and understand how we compare to other counties in the state. With this knowledge, we can take steps to improve the health of our residents.”

The *County Health Rankings* rank the overall health of nearly every county in all 50 states. The *Rankings* allow counties to see how well they are doing on 29 factors that influence health including smoking, high school graduation rates, employment, physical inactivity, and access to healthy foods.

“While this demonstrates that Kane is one of the healthiest counties in the state, it also shows that there remains much work to be done,” Jeffers said

Out of 102 counties, Kane was ranked 12th in 2013, 8th in 2012, 9th in 2011, 11th in 2010.

“The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s vision for a culture of health is one where everyone has the opportunity to be healthy,” said Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, RWJF president and CEO. “The *County Health Rankings* are a starting point for change, helping communities come together, identify priorities, and create solutions that will help all in our diverse society live healthier lives, now and for generations to come.”

(MORE)

The *Rankings* provide county-to-county comparisons within a state. Nationally, this year's *Rankings* show that people living in the least healthy counties are twice as likely to have shorter lives as people living in the healthiest counties. Unhealthy counties also have twice as many children living in poverty and twice as many teen births as the healthiest counties. This year's *Rankings* also feature several new measures including housing, transportation, and access to mental health providers.

The *County Health Rankings* is part of the *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps*. The program includes the *Roadmaps to Health* Action Center which provides local leaders with tools, step-by-step guides, and stories to help communities identify and implement solutions that make it easier for people to live healthy lives. The program also includes the annual *RWJF Culture of Health Prize*, which celebrates communities who are harnessing the collective power of leaders, partners, and stakeholders to build a culture of health. This year's Prize winners and the call for 2014-2015 prize applications will be announced in June at the Aspen Ideas Festival, Spotlight: Health.

"The *County Health Rankings* show us how health is influenced by our everyday surroundings—where we live, learn, work, and play," said Bridget Catlin, PhD, MHSA, director of the *County Health Rankings*. "The *County Health Rankings* often provide the spark for businesses, community planners, policy-makers, public health, parents, and others to work together for better health."

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