



JOHNSON COUNTY
KANSAS
Health & Environment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Healthy lifestyle, good medical care keep Johnson County at the top of *Rankings*

JOHNSON COUNTY, KAN. (March 16, 2016) – Johnson County ranks healthiest in Kansas according to the seventh annual *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps*, 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.

Johnson County remained top in the state for health outcomes such as a low number of sick days and a low premature death rate, and for health factors such as access to quality medical care and exercise opportunities, a low teen birth rate and a high graduation rate among high school students.

“Our high ranking reflects the priority our community has placed on influencing the factors that affect residents’ health, and it also shows how important it is for us to sustain these efforts if we want to stay healthy,” said Lougene Marsh, director of the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment.

Currently, JCDHE is working with community partners to decide on health priorities and interventions for the next Johnson County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The CHIP should be completed by the fall of 2016.

The 2016 *Rankings* allow each state to see how its counties compare on more than 30 factors that influence health including education, housing, jobs, smoking, access to healthy food and more. Marsh says that while Johnson County ranked high overall, the report identifies areas where more work needs to be done to increase physical activity in adults, lower the number of sexually transmitted infections and offer more public transportation options to reduce the number of commuters in Johnson County.

Johnson County was ranked number two in Kansas in 2015.

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About Johnson County, Kansas

Located in the southwestern quadrant of the Kansas City Metropolitan Region, Johnson County, Kansas is a community of choice with a current population of more than 570,000, making it the most populated of the 105 counties in Kansas, but traditionally having the lowest mill levy in the state. For more information visit the county’s website at www.jocogov.org.