



JOHNSON COUNTY
KANSAS
Health & Environment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Johnson County maintains ranking as one of the healthiest in Kansas

JOHNSON COUNTY, KAN. (March 25, 2015) – Johnson County is still one of the healthiest counties in Kansas, 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 www.countyhealthrankings.org.

Johnson County remained top in the state for health factors such as healthy behaviors, clinical care and social and economic factors and came in second place for health outcomes – length and quality of life.

“Johnson County is fortunate to have many factors that make it easy to lead a healthy lifestyle,” said Lougene Marsh, director of the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment. Marsh cites the county’s many parks and trails, access to quality health care, smoke-free air and availability of healthy, nutritious foods as significant factors affecting the health of the county.

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.

“We all have a stake in creating a healthier community,” said Marsh. “These rankings are a call to leaders in public health and health care, business, education, and government to work together to create policies and programs to improve people’s health, reduce health care costs, and increase productivity.”

Johnson County was ranked number one in Kansas for health outcomes in 2014 and 2013, number two in 2012 and 2011 and was third in 2010.

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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 550,000, 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.