Johnson County Government Press Release  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:  
Jennifer Dunlay, Risk Communicator  
Jennifer.dunlay@jocogov.org

Media Line: (913) 477-8436

Johnson County is healthiest in Kansas

(OLATHE, KS – MARCH 20, 2013) Johnson County has the healthiest residents in Kansas, according to the fourth 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.

The County Health Rankings rank the overall health of nearly every county in all 50 states. Nationally, the data revealed that unhealthy counties have more than twice the rate of premature deaths than healthy ones and childhood poverty rates are twice as high in unhealthy counties. The Rankings allow counties to see how they compare to other counties within the state based on a range of factors that influence health including high school graduation rates, obesity, smoking, and family and social support. This year’s Rankings include new measures, such as how many dentists are in a community per resident.

“It’s not just doctors or hospitals that help us be healthier – it’s the people who build roads, teach kids, pass laws, and create businesses. Moms and dads, students, coaches, and volunteers from all walks of life create change,” said Lougene Marsh, director of the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment. “We all have a stake in creating a healthier community and maintaining the high quality of life we enjoy in Johnson County.”

Johnson County was ranked the second healthiest county in Kansas in 2012.

###

About Johnson County
Located in the southwestern quadrant of the Kansas City Metropolitan Region, Johnson County, Kan. is a community of choice with a current population of more than 544,000, making it the most populated of the 105 counties in Kansas, but traditionally having the lowest mill levy in the state. Johnson County offers a vibrant quality of life including nationally recognized schools, libraries and parks where businesses and families choose to locate and call their home. For more information visit the county’s website at www.jocogov.org.
About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
As the nation’s largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, measurable, and timely change. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org.

About the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute
The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute is the focal point within the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health for translating public health and health policy research into practice. For more information, visit http://uwphi.pophealth.wisc.edu.