



JOHNSON COUNTY
KANSAS
Health & Environment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Johnson County named healthiest in Kansas for second straight year

(Johnson County, Kan.) March 26, 2014 – Johnson County was named the healthiest county in the state of Kansas for the second straight year, 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.

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.

“The Rankings help us to understand what factors have influenced good health in our community and how we can continue to make Johnson County a healthy place to live, learn, work and play,” said Lougene Marsh, director of the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment.

While Johnson County ranked highest in the categories of health behaviors, access to clinical care and other social and economic factors, Marsh said this report also identifies areas where Johnson County can improve, such as educating residents on how to reduce commute times to work.

“These rankings often provide the spark for businesses, community planners, policy-makers, public health, parents and others to work together for better health,” said Marsh.

Johnson County was ranked number one in Kansas in 2013 and number two in 2012.

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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.