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Johnson County still the healthiest place to live in Kansas

JOHNSON COUNTY, KAN. (March 29, 2017) – Johnson County ranks healthiest in Kansas according to the eighth 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.

“Our number one ranking reflects the efforts of many community partners, healthcare providers, business leaders and individuals to make Johnson County a healthy place to live, work and raise a family,” says Lougene Marsh, director of the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment. “We must continue this great work of building a healthier, more equitable community so everyone can reach their greatest health potential.”

Johnson County remained top in the state for another year for health outcomes like a low number of premature deaths and a low percentage of adults reporting fair or poor health. The county also ranked number one for health factors such as access to quality medical care and exercise opportunities, a low number of adult smokers and a high number of adults with some post-secondary education.

The 2017 *Rankings* allow each state to see how its counties compare on more than 30 factors that influence health including education, air pollution, commute time, housing, jobs, smoking, access to medical care, healthy food and more. Marsh says that while Johnson County ranked high overall, the report identifies areas where more work needs to be done in Johnson County to reduce obesity in adults, slow down the rate of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and address the number of children living in poverty.

Johnson County has a number of initiatives underway to address these issues: [WIC](#) (Women, Infants and Children), a program that provides nutrition-related education and counseling, health screenings and the means to buy nutritious food for families that qualify; [LiveWell Johnson County](#), a grant-funded program that addresses chronic disease prevention by promoting healthy eating and active living; and [abstinence-based programs](#) for adolescents that focus on STI and pregnancy prevention.

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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.