

The logo for Johnson County, Kansas, Health & Environment. It features the text "JOHNSON COUNTY" in a large, bold, serif font, with "KANSAS" in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. To the right of "JOHNSON COUNTY" is a stylized sun icon. Below "JOHNSON COUNTY" is a horizontal line, and below that line is the text "Health & Environment" in a bold, sans-serif font.

JOHNSON COUNTY KANSAS Health & Environment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Lisa Jones, Director of Strategic Communications
Kansas Health Institute
ljones@khi.org
(785) 233-5443

Barbara Mitchell, Public Information Officer
Barbara.Mitchell@jocogov.org

Johnson County Department of Health and Environment Media Line: (913) 477-8436

Johnson County maintains #1 ranking as healthiest place to live in Kansas

JOHNSON COUNTY, KAN. (March 14, 2018) – Johnson County maintains its top ranking as the healthiest place to live in Kansas according to the ninth 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 is fortunate to have many of the key factors that contribute to a long and healthy life,” says Lougene Marsh, director of the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment. “However, this report is also a call to action for leaders and community members to note those areas where we can make improvements so everyone in Johnson County has a fair and just chance to lead the healthiest life possible”

The 2018 *Rankings* show that where you live influences how well and how long you live. Good health is influenced by many factors beyond medical care including housing, education, jobs, access to healthy foods and more.

Johnson County ranked number one in the state for another year for health outcomes like a low number of premature deaths and low birthweight babies. The county also ranked number one for health factors such as access to quality medical care and exercise opportunities, a healthy food environment and a high percentage of adults with some post-secondary education.

The report identifies areas where more work needs to be done in Johnson County to reduce obesity and heavy drinking in adults, slow down the rate of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and address the number of workers who commute in their car alone.

Marsh says Johnson County has a number of initiatives underway to address these issues: [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; and improved mass transit with the [expansion of RideKC routes](#) to southern Johnson County starting in April 2018.

###