

NEWS RELEASE
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Douglas County ranks as eighth healthiest in state

(Lawrence, KS) – In its second annual report on the health status of counties around the state and the nation, the University of Wisconsin found that the top three factors affecting Douglas County’s health ranking are binge drinking, sexually-transmitted infections and adult obesity. The report, “County Health Rankings: Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health,” was conducted by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

By using a standard formula to measure how healthy people are and how long they live, the report ranks the overall health of the counties in all 50 states. Compared to 2010, Douglas County dropped from the fourth healthiest county to the eighth healthiest county in Kansas.

“We want this report to create conversation in our community about health issues and what we can do to address them,” said Dan Partridge, Director of the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. “There is a lot that we as individuals can do such as eating right, but having policies and a supportive environment in place can make a significant difference in improving our health.”

The following is a list of how Douglas County ranked in the specific health measures:

- **No. 5** for mortality. This measure looks at years of potential life lost. In 2010: No. 3.
- **No. 35** for morbidity. This measure is based on quality of life and birth outcomes. In 2010: No. 36.
- **No. 8** for health behaviors. This measure includes smoking, diet, exercise, alcohol use and risky sexual behavior. In 2010: No. 4.
- **No. 35** for clinical care. This measure includes access to care and quality of care. In 2010: No. 20.
- **No. 12** for social and economic factors. This measure includes education, employment, income, family and social support, and community safety. In 2010: No. 14.
- **No. 88** for physical environment. This includes measures of environmental quality and the built environment. In 2010: No. 4.

The five healthiest counties in Kansas are: Riley, Johnson, Mitchell, Coffey and

Ellis.

For more information on the report and to see how other Kansas counties ranked, go to www.ldchealth.org/rankings.htm.

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