

For Immediate Release:
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The Health of Illinois Counties Has Been Ranked **So Where Does McDonough County Rank????**

A press briefing was held in Washington DC on February 17, 2010 to release a county ranking system for Illinois. A collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, the *Rankings* are a new way for public health and community leaders to measure the health of every county in every state in the nation so they can see how well they are doing and where they need to improve.

So where did the McDonough County rank??? Our overall ranking was 7. We ranked number 7 out of 101 counties (one county did not have enough data to be ranked) for Health Outcomes (morbidity and mortality) and 32 for Health Factors (health behaviors, clinical care, social and economical factors, and physical environment).

McDonough County Health Department Administrator, Lynnette Cale, response to the county health rankings for Illinois "We are pleased with McDonough County's ranking in this year's report. We always strive to promote and protect the health of our community through prevention, education, monitoring, and regulation. Like IPLAN, the County Health Ranking is another tool to help us focus and use our limited resources to ensure and improve the health of our residents."

To view the county health rankings please go to <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>. From the state page, users will be able to access county-specific Snapshots by clicking on the county in a state map or by selecting the county from an alphabetical listing. Each County Snapshot will list the eight ranks for each county (Health Outcomes, Mortality, Morbidity, Health Factors, Health Behaviors, Clinical Care, Social and Economic, Physical Environment) along with the specific measures that contribute to each of these ranks. In addition to each county's own values, the snapshot will display any applicable error margins, the state's value, and the state's target value (10th percentile for measures where a low value is preferred and 90th percentile when a high value is preferred). By clicking on any measure in any County Snapshot, the user will be able to access the details for that measure: a summary description, a state map and values for each county in the state.

So what does this actually mean for the county? The health department, other community agencies, and businesses will be able to use this data to help apply for grants, express the importance of obtaining certain services within the county, and determine what needs to be improved upon in the future. We will use the information provided by the county health rankings for our upcoming IPLAN (Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs) document which will help with our health assessment and planning for the health department for the next 5 years.