



NEWS RELEASE

St. Charles County Government

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Community Health Rankings Place County No. 1 In State

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. CHARLES COUNTY _ St. Charles County is one of the healthiest places to live in Missouri, according to a major report released Wednesday (Feb. 17). The county ranks at or near the top in almost every category in community health status.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute did the survey of all counties in the nation. The Missouri rankings showed St. Charles County ranked second in the state on Health Outcomes and first in the state in Health Factors.

Health Outcomes were determined by Mortality and Morbidity. St. Charles County was ranked first on Mortality (defined as premature death) and second on Morbidity (determined by three measures of resident current health status on one measure of Infant Mortality)

Health Factors were based on four specific areas:

- Health Behaviors (St. Charles County, No. 1)
- Clinical Care (St. Charles County, No. 5)
- Social and Economic (St. Charles County, No. 2)
- Physical Environment (St. Charles County, No. 111)

It should be noted that each area was ranked based on two to five additional factors. Half of the Physical Environment rank was based on air quality measurements for Ozone and Particulate Matter. However, when all the health factors and sub-factors were weighted and calculated, St. Charles County ranked No. 1 in Health Factors.

“While we are very pleased with our excellent place in the Missouri County Health Ranking released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, we are continuing our focus on maintaining positive outcomes for those measures of health and well-being used to determine the ranking,” said Gil Copley, Director of the Department of Community Health and the Environment.

“ We are doing this through ongoing programs to protect our residents from disease and injury and by providing education to residents and children in our schools. Our disease surveillance program also serves to notify us of any growing problem so we can address it before it gets out of hand. The healthy county that we see in the rankings is a reflection of decisions by tens of thousands of St. Charles County citizens to take control of their own health and actions affecting health. We are fortunate as public health providers to live in such a county.”

The complete report can be found online at <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/> (click on Missouri).

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