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News from Livingston County

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Livingston County is Again the Healthiest in New York State
*Annual Rankings Show Where New York Counties Do Well and
Opportunities for Improvement*

Geneseo, NY (March 26, 2014) – Livingston County ranks healthiest in New York State, according to the fifth annual *County Health Rankings*, 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. In addition to the County being ranked first in the State for two consecutive years, the Livingston County Department of Health was the first public health department in New York and one of twenty-two state and county departments in the United States to achieve national accreditation.

Livingston County Administrator, Ian M. Coyle, states, "This ranking is a source of great pride to our County. It shows dedication among our staff and community partners in creating the healthiest county in New York State."

The *County Health Rankings* rank the overall health of nearly every county in all 50 states. The *Rankings* allow counties to see how well they are doing on 29 factors that influence health including smoking, high school graduation rates, employment, physical inactivity, and access to healthy foods.

"The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's vision for a culture of health is one where everyone has the opportunity to be healthy," said Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, RWJF president and CEO. "The *County Health Rankings* are a starting point for change, helping communities come together, identify priorities, and create solutions that will help all in our diverse society live healthier lives, now and for generations to come."

The *Rankings* provide county-to-county comparisons within a state. Nationally, this year's *Rankings* show that people living in the least healthy counties are twice as likely to have shorter lives as people living in the healthiest counties. Unhealthy counties also have twice as many children living in poverty and twice as many teen births as the healthiest counties. This year's *Rankings* also feature several new measures including housing, transportation, and access to mental health providers.

“The *County Health Rankings* show us how health is influenced by our everyday surroundings—where we live, learn, work, and play,” said Bridget Catlin, PhD, MHSA, director of the *County Health Rankings*. “The *County Health Rankings* often provide the spark for businesses, community planners, policy-makers, public health, parents, and others to work together for better health.”

About the Livingston County Department of Health

The Livingston County Department of Health provides comprehensive public health services for residents throughout their life span. The Department provides health protection, disease prevention, and health promotion to create a healthier Livingston County.

For more information, visit www.livingstoncounty.us/doh.htm.

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