



Contacts: Kristina Wieghmink, Communications Specialist
(616)494-5597 kwieghmink@miottawa.org or
Marcia Knol, Epidemiologist (616)494-5598, mknol@miottawa.org

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Ottawa County Ranks Highest on Health Report

According to the 5th Annual County Health Rankings

HOLLAND – Ottawa County ranks 1st out of 82 counties as the healthiest county in Michigan, according to the fifth annual [County Health Rankings](#). The report was released today by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (UWPHI). Rankings are available at www.countyhealthrankings.org or Ottawa County's report at <http://ow.ly/uZjmj>.

Annual rankings show where state counties do well and opportunities for improvement. Ottawa County Department of Public Health and several community health partners use the report to help understand what factors have influenced good health, including smoking, high school graduation rates, employment, physical inactivity and access to health care. The report also motivates community leaders and citizens to work together in new and creative ways to build a culture of health. While Ottawa County can be proud of their first place rank, sub rankings show room for growth, particularly in clinical care and physical environment, ranked 7th and 40th, respectively. Attracting and keeping healthcare providers in Ottawa County is a message heard from the report.

“It is true and important that we not only rank well in terms of living longer and with a higher quality of life, but we also rank high in those factors that are associated with remaining healthy into the future.”

Marcia Knol, Ottawa County Department of Public Health Epidemiologist

The [County Health Rankings](#) report is a good indication that Ottawa County lives up to its vision to be the location of choice for living, working and recreation. This is significant to individuals, families and business owners when choosing where to raise a family or where to establish a business.

Ottawa County health reports at www.miOttawa.org/healthdata.

Ottawa County Department of Public Health Annual Report at www.miOttawa.org/health2013.

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps News Release at <http://ow.ly/uZL61>

###



Our Vision – Healthy People