



**McHenry County
Department of Health**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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McHenry County's health ranks in State's top 10

Woodstock IL – According to a new county health rankings report, McHenry County ranked as one of the healthiest counties in Illinois. The report was published yesterday by the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation at a briefing in Washington DC. All counties in all 50 states were ranked in the report.

"Local health departments are part of a larger public health system. This report shows that the health of a community depends on many different factors – from individual health behaviors, jobs and education, to quality of health care and the environment", says Patrick J. McNulty, Public Health Administrator for McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH). Using national and state data from 2000-2008, the study provides a snapshot of a community's health from a broader public health standpoint. Counties were ranked using summary measures of **health outcomes** (how healthy a county is – morbidity and mortality) and **health factors** (what influences a county's health such as health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and physical environment). The report is available online at www.countyhealthrankings.org.

McHenry County's "health outcomes" received a rank of 5 (out of 101 counties), with a "health factors" ranking of 7. Rankings for other measures included mortality (4), morbidity (19), health behaviors (29), clinical care (27), social and economic factors (5) and physical environment (70). McNulty states, "We hope the *County Health Rankings* spur all sectors – government, business, community and faith-based groups, education and public health – to work together on solutions that address barriers to good health and help all residents lead healthier lives." Since 2006, MCDH has used a community-based planning tool called MAPP ("*mobilizing for action through planning and partnership*") to bring together a wide range of community partners to address the County's top health needs and disparities. Organizations interested in learning more about MAPP can contact MCDH's Debra Quackenbush at 815-334-4456 or visit the webpage at www.mcdh.info (select "quick links" to MAPP/IPLAN).

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"Working to prevent disease and promote health and safety for all people of McHenry County since 1966."