



For Immediate Release
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County Health Rankings: Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH)

The *County Health Rankings*, released earlier today, showed us that where we live matters to our health. The health of a community depends on many different factors: ranging from individual health behaviors, education and jobs, to quality of health care, to the environment.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation collaborated with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute to develop these *Rankings* for each state's counties. This model has been used to rank the health of counties in Wisconsin for the past six years. Each state's counties was ranked on both health outcomes (how healthy we are) and health factors (how healthy we can be).

The *County Health Rankings* are a "call to action" for communities to work together to develop programs and policies that address the multiple influences on health. For the second time, every county will have a snapshot of how healthy their residents are so they can see where they are doing well and where they need to improve.

Forsyth County ranked **22nd** among the 100 counties of N.C. with regard to **Health Outcome** status (*mortality and morbidity*) compared to 20th last year. Forsyth County ranked **4th** among the largest 5 counties and **8th** among 10 largest counties with regards to Health Outcomes.

Forsyth County ranked **13th** among the 100 NC counties with regard to **Health Factors** (*health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment*) compared to 20th last year. Forsyth County ranked **2nd** of the largest 5 counties and **6th** among 10 largest counties with respect to Health Factors. Forsyth County rankings in the following indicators:

- Health Behavior: 16th in the state and 3rd among the large 5 counties
- Clinical Care: 13th in the state and 3rd among the large five counties
- Socioeconomic Factors: 28th in the state and 4th among the large five counties and
- Physical Environment: 58th in the state and 1st among the large 5 counties

When the rankings of all the counties are analyzed, the strongest predictors of better or poorer health status are better or poorer socioeconomic conditions respectively. Socioeconomic Factors that were measured in the study include; children in poverty, unemployment rate, high school graduation rate, single parent households, and others. At this time, neither rankings nor other details related to the contributing factors at this level of specificity are available. Socioeconomic Factors generally includes measures of poverty, and conditions or outcomes strongly associated with poverty (single parent families, high school dropout, etc.)

Check out this URL for detailed report http://www.forsyth.cc/PublicHealth/documents/2011_Health_Rankings.pdf