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Contact: Tom Schlueter (630) 444-3098

630-417-9729 (cell)

www.kanehealth.com

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County Health Rankings places Kane 12th in the state

The County Health Rankings were released today (March 20) and rank Kane 12th in Illinois, which shows Kane as one of the healthiest in the state, but also indicates there is room for improving the health of our residents.

This is the fourth year that the Rankings have been released, and show that Kane was ranked 11th in 2010, 9th in 2011 and 8th last year. While this year's ranking shows a decline when compared to other years, Kane actually improved on 12 of 29 factors measured, seven showed a decline and eight were identical to last year, while two measures, availability of dentists, and drinking water quality, were not measured last year.

Some individual rankings from this year, compared to last year:

- Unemployment: 9.9 percent, down from 10.3 percent last year
- Teen birth rate: 40 per 1,000, compared to 44 last year
- Children in poverty: 19 percent, increase from 16 percent last year
- High school graduation: 82 percent, decline from 87 percent last year

The complete data set can be found at www.countyhealthrankings.org.

What the rankings show us is that where we live, learn, work, and play matters to health, and many factors beyond medical care influence health. Because of this, the rankings give the most weight to social and economic factors. Health is everyone's business, including employers, educators, and urban planners, so all stakeholders in a community need to work together to improve the health of residents. The rankings help give counties a snapshot of how healthy residents are so they can begin to pinpoint their problems, figure out what they need to do improve, and work as a community to lift barriers to good health.

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Kane County has recognized the importance of this and taken major steps to address the issue. The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) identifies four priorities that are critical to our residents' health; the Making Kane County Fit for Kids initiative targets childhood obesity; the Kane County 2040 Plan now includes a health component in land planning decisions; and the Transportation Plan includes provisions for promoting active lifestyles. In order to reach our vision of having the healthiest residents in Illinois by 2030, we will need to focus our attention on the factors that help improve the health of our residents and make Kane County a great place to live.

Learn more about the CHIP , the Fit for Kids initiative, the 2040 Plan and 2040 Transportation plan, please visit www.kanehealth.com.

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps is a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. Based on data available for each county, the *Rankings* are unique in their ability to measure the overall health of each county in all 50 states on the many factors that influence health, and they have been used to garner support among government agencies, healthcare providers, community organizations, business leaders, policymakers, and the public for local health improvement initiatives.

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