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### **Study ranks Kane high overall, but pinpoints areas that need improvement**

Kane County placed high in overall health when compared to other counties in Illinois, according to a national study released today. Kane ranked 11th out of 101 Illinois counties in Health Outcomes, and 19th in Health Factors.

“While we ranked relatively high overall—a solid “B” if we were getting a report card grade—this report helps us to identify areas where we need to improve if we are to reach our vision that Kane residents are healthiest people in Illinois by 2030,” Executive Director Paul Kuehnert said. “This report shows us that health is so much more than medical care alone. How we live, learn, work and play matters a great deal to how healthy we are and how long we live.”

The study, commissioned by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and conducted by the University of Wisconsin’s Population Institute, is the first-of-its-kind collection of 50 reports—one per state—and ranks each county in a state in Health Outcomes and Health Factors. Health Outcomes were measured by length and quality of life. Health Factors include clinical care, health behaviors, social and economic factors and physical environment. This model has been used to rank the health of counties in Wisconsin for the past six years.

The Health Factor in which Kane ranked the lowest (84th) was Physical Environment, which examined two areas: Environmental quality and the built environment. Environmental quality was measured by unhealthy air quality days due to ozone, and unhealthy days due to fine particulate matter; while the built environment measured ZIP codes without healthy food outlets and liquor store density.

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“This measure highlights exactly what we are talking about with our ‘Making Kane County Fit for Kids’ initiative,” Kuehnert said. “Air pollution in our county is driven largely by the fact that we drive too much! We need to work together to build our communities so that we can walk and bike more, and so that mass transit is a real option for us. And, of course, it makes sense that people who have the easiest access to relatively cheap, high-calorie food in fast food places and convenience stores will eat that food most often. Again, we need to work together in our community to make healthy, fresh food affordable and accessible to all.”

To find more information about the County Health Rankings, including accessing the full report, please visit [www.kanehealth.com](http://www.kanehealth.com).