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News Release

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Greene County is 10th Healthiest in Ohio, Says New Report
*County Health Rankings Report Gives Ohioans a County-by-County Snapshot
of How Multiple Factors Can Influence Their Health*

Xenia, OH – Greene County has the 10th healthiest residents in Ohio, out of 88 counties, according to a new report released today by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The *County Health Rankings* are the first to rank the overall health of the counties in all 50 states – more than 3,000 total – by using a standard formula to measure how healthy people are and how long they live.

“This report shows us that there are big differences in overall health across Ohio counties, due to many factors, ranging from individual behavior to quality of health care, to education and jobs, to access to healthy foods, and to quality of the air,” says Patrick Remington, MD, MPH, Associate Dean for Public Health, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. “For the first time, every person can compare the overall health of their county to the health of other counties in Ohio, and also see where the state needs to improve.”

Mark A. McDonnell, Greene County Health Commissioner, said, “We are pleased to see Greene County’s state ranking and the improvement in Greene County’s health over the last 10 years. However, there is much more that Greene County’s private and public community health partners need to do, in cooperation with Greene County residents, to improve the health of our community. Working together, we will continue to strive for Greene County’s vision of healthy people in healthy communities.”

The online report, available at www.countyhealthrankings.org, includes a snapshot of each county in Ohio with a color-coded map comparing each county’s overall health ranking. Researchers used five measures to assess the level of overall health or “health outcomes” for Ohio by county: the rate of people dying before age 75, the percent of people who report being in fair or poor health, the numbers of days people report being in poor physical and poor mental health, and the rate of low-birth weight infants.

The report then looks at factors that affect people’s health within four categories: health behavior, clinical care, social and economic factors, and physical environment. Among the many health factors they looked at are rates of adult smoking, adult obesity, binge drinking, and teenage pregnancy; the number of uninsured adults, availability of primary care providers, and preventable hospital stays; rates of high school graduation, number of children in poverty, rates of violent crime, access to healthy foods, air pollution levels, and liquor store density.

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“These rankings demonstrate that health happens where we live, learn, work, and play. And much of what influences how healthy we are and how long we live happens outside the doctor’s office,” says Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, M.D., M.B.A., president and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. “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 Americans lead healthier lives.”

The University of Wisconsin’s Remington says that “It’s easier for people to lead a healthy lifestyle when they live in a healthy community – such as one that has expanded early childhood education, enacted smoke-free laws, increased access to healthier foods, or created more opportunities for physical activity. We hope this report can mobilize community leaders to learn what is making their residents unhealthy and take action to invest in programs and policy changes that improve health,” he adds.

For more information, please visit www.countyhealthrankings.org.

Greene County Combined Health District – Your center for public health services and health information in Greene County for over 80 years.

Healthy People...Healthy Communities

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