



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

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NEW STUDY RANKS WILL AMONG STATE'S HEALTHIEST COUNTIES

JOLIET –A grant-funded study released late Tuesday ranks Will County among Illinois' healthiest counties.

The study, called Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH), uses data sets collected from numerous sources to rank the health of each Illinois County. The University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute authored the MATCH project with the help of funding provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

According to MATCH, Will County ranks 17th best among the 101 Illinois counties surveyed in terms of health outcomes, and 10th best in health factors.

The health outcomes' ranking is based on an equal weighting of morbidity and mortality measures that influence the length and quality of life. The health factors ranking is derived from an examination of numerous health behaviors, access to clinical care, the quality of clinical care, and physical environment. Social and economic factors were also considered.

"The MATCH project provides us with a snapshot of Will County's overall health," according to Will County Health Department Executive Director John Cicero. "The rankings reflect a willingness on the part of all community segments to work together in order to achieve excellent health outcomes. Everyone plays a role in community health: educators, business leaders, hospitals, the faith community, elected officials – everyone has some key role to play in order to make the community a healthy place to live and work."

Twice each decade, the state of Illinois requires certified local health jurisdictions to complete a comprehensive needs assessment and plan to identify community health problems and address the most critical health priorities using measurable objectives. According to Cicero, Will County will use MATCH to help complete its current assessment of community need.

"We are currently working with multiple community partners to complete a needs assessment and plan during the next few months," he said. "The MATCH county rankings will help to expedite that process. The ultimate goal is to enhance the overall health and delivery of health services to Will County residents."



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