

BUSINESS FIRST

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Oldham is No. 2 healthiest Kentucky county

Business First of Louisville

Oldham County is the second healthiest county in Kentucky, second only to Cincinnati suburb Boone County, according to a new County Health Rankings report from the **University of Wisconsin's** Population Health Institute and the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**.

Jefferson County ranked No. 33 in the survey, with Spencer County ranked No. 9, Bullitt County No. 12 and Shelby County No. 19. Kentucky has 120 counties.

Among Indiana's 92 counties, Harrison County ranked No. 39, Floyd County ranked No. 43, Clark County ranked No. 59 and Washington County ranked No. 60.

"We hope this report will be useful to our counties in targeting their health efforts," Dr. William Hacker, commissioner of public health in Kentucky, said in a news release announcing Kentucky's rankings.

Researchers used five measures to assess overall health: the rate of people dying before age 75, the percentage of people who report being in fair or poor health, the number of days people report being in poor mental health, the number of days they report being in poor physical health and the rate of low-birthweight infants.

The report also looks at factors that negatively affect health, including clinical care, the adult smoking rate, teen-age pregnancy rates, the number of uninsured residents and air pollution levels.

Oldham ranked No. 4 among counties with the fewest negative health factors. Other local counties included Spencer at No. 19, Shelby at No. 21, Bullitt at No. 33 and Jefferson at No. 34.

In Indiana, Harrison County ranked No. 26 among counties with the fewest negative health factors. It was followed by Floyd County at No. 37, Clark County at No. 63 and Washington County at No. 83.

For more information, see www.countyhealthrankings.org