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Oneida County Health Ranking Improves

The newly released county health rankings compiled by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (UWPHI) show an improvement in health outcomes and health factors for Oneida County.

Out of 62 counties, Oneida County ranked 41 in the category of health factors which includes indicators in the areas of health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors and the physical environment. Adult smoking, access to exercise opportunities and the percent of people who have health insurance improved. These positive changes improved our score from 52 in 2017 to 41 in 2018. In the area of health outcomes, which includes length and quality of life, Oneida County ranked 51 this year, which is an improvement from 52 last year.

“I am pleased to see that Oneida County’s health rankings have improved this year thanks to the hard work of Director of Health Phyllis Ellis and her dedicated department,” said Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr. “Public health is a major priority of this administration, and the initiatives that have been instituted by the Health Department have had a positive impact on the services we deliver.”

The rankings are an easy-to-use snapshot that compares counties within states and are meant to be used to communicate with a wide range of audiences. The county health rankings look at the overall health of our county and compare it with the health of the rest of the counties in New York State. The rank of a particular county can be influenced by a number of factors including how other counties have performed and is most useful to look at changes in specific measures over time. The Rankings are available at www.countyhealthrankings.org.

The local-level data makes it clear that good health is influenced by many factors beyond medical care including housing, education and jobs. This year’s new Rankings State Reports show meaningful gaps in health persist not only by place, but also by race and ethnicity. With this knowledge we can continue locally to focus on our identified issues through our Community Health Assessment, including disparities.

“Our current initiatives of improving breastfeeding rates and decreasing tobacco use will continue through the Community Health Improvement Plan. Along with this work, the Creating Healthy Schools and Communities program’s focus on obesity and access to healthy foods will continue to address health indicators, said Oneida County Director of Health, Phyllis Ellis.” There are numerous organizations and partnerships that play a role in the health and quality of life in a community; Oneida County Health Department will also continue to work with community partners on a variety of health issues, promote awareness of and monitor emerging issues and trends, and encourage collaborative actions to address them.

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