March 03, 2010

News Release

For Immediate Release

Ranking Data Sheds Light on County's Health

According to a data from the County Health Rankings Data released in February 2010, Greene County ranks 77 out of 115 counties in the state in access to healthy foods. Greene County ranked 3/115 in clinical care. This ranking was determined by analyzing the number of uninsured adults, primary care provider rates, preventable hospital stays, diabetic screenings and hospice use. Although the ranking in this category is high, it should be noted that clinical care, including access to care, remains one of the greatest needs for the Greene County community. Access to care has profound effects on the overall health and well-being of the individuals in our community.

According to the authors of the County Health Rankings, "...where we live matters to our health. The health of a community depends on many different factors - ranging from individual health behaviors, education and jobs, to quality of health care, to the environment. This first-of-its-kind collection of 50 reports – one per state – helps community leaders see that where we live, learn, work and play influences how healthy we are and how long we live."

The County Health Ranking data was compiled from a list of national data resources. The Rankings were based on a model developed and used over the past six years to assess and rank the counties of Wisconsin. The University of Wisconsin has partnered with the Robert Wood Johnson foundation to assemble this information and provide a framework to promote local public health agency action to celebrate health successes and address health disparities. These Rankings provide an additional source of data collection and assembly to draw attention and focus to some of the troubling issues in the health of the community. Due to the sizeable nature and assembly of data, each focus area of this study should be evaluated and compared to local health data collection when used for evaluation and planning efforts. These Rankings can provide a reference point to address specific community health challenges when the capacity of local public health is limited. The full report is available at www.countyhealthrankings.org/missouri.

Overall Greene County ranked 26/115 in Health Outcomes which is based on mortality and morbidity data. Greene County then ranked 10/115 in Health Factors which is based on health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic data, and physical environments.

"The health of the individuals of Springfield and Greene County is a vital part of the livelihood and vitality of our community," said Kevin Gipson, Director of the Springfield-Greene County Health Department. "This data sheds light on successes and challenges in our community's health. As we continually work to improve the state of health in our community, we will draw upon current partnerships and seek to develop new opportunities to promote public health for every individual in our community."
For more information contact Katie Towns-Jeter MPH, Public Information Administrator, 417-874-1205.