Santa Barbara County Improves in California County Health Rankings

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute released the 2011 County Health Rankings, a study that ranks the health of California counties. In 2011, Santa Barbara County was 18th out of 56 counties that were ranked for “Health Outcomes”, up from a ranking of 20th in 2010. The report also ranked counties by “Health Factors” and in 2011 Santa Barbara County was 13th, up from the 2010 ranking of 17th. Ratings for Santa Barbara County improved in a number of areas.

The Health Outcomes rating is based on measures premature deaths, perceived health status and low birth weight. The Health Factors rankings are based on measures of various health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors and physical environment factors.

The California County Health Rankings provide a snapshot of how healthy Santa Barbara residents are by comparing their overall health and factors that influence their health, with other counties in California. The rankings are based on a model of population health that emphasizes the many factors that, if improved, can help make communities healthier places to work, play and live.

The 2011 County Health Rankings report is being released just in time for Public Health Week, April 4 – 10. During this week, the nation celebrates the many public health advances that have made it possible to live longer and healthier lives.

You can see the full report at www.countyhealthrankings.org.

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