



PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

Central Michigan District Health Department
"Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities"

For more information, please call: (989) 773-5921 ext. 8413
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To: Local News Media
From: Central Michigan District Health Department
Release Date: February 17, 2010
RE: County Health Rankings Data

County Health Rankings Data Released
Central Michigan District Health Department taking Proactive Approach

The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute released today, February 17, 2010, the County Health Rankings for 82 Michigan counties, including those in Central Michigan District Health Department's (CMDHD) jurisdiction. The County Health Rankings provide a snapshot of overall health and the factors that influence health including health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors and physical environment. Wisconsin has been utilizing this data since 2003 to create and implement local action plans to improve the health rankings of their communities.

Central Michigan District Health Department has chosen to take a proactive approach with regards to a local action plan. "We've been waiting for this kind of data for quite some time," states Mary Kushion, Health Officer for Central Michigan District Health Department. "Now that we have the data, we can review it and bring together our consumers/stakeholders to create and implement action plans to improve our county rankings," adds Ms. Kushion. While some of CMDHD's counties ranked low in health outcomes (morbidity/mortality), some ranked high in physical environment health factors such as air quality and access to healthy foods.

Central Michigan District Health Department will be hosting a Public Health Summit on March 10, 2010 at the Doherty Hotel in Clare for anyone who is interested in learning more about the data and wanting to become part of the efforts to improve data. "This will take the time and talents of many. This effort will be larger than just the governmental public health department – it will take the entire community to improve the health of our citizens," states Ms. Kushion.

Those interested in attending the Public Health Summit on March 10th should call and register ahead of time by calling (989) 773-5921 ext. 8413.

Central Michigan District Health Department serves Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon Counties.

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