

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Becoming the Healthiest Nation in One Generation**

*National Public Health Week and Newly Released County Health Rankings*

**April 5, 2017** – District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) invites all residents, businesses, organizations and elected officials within our ten-county area to join us in observing **National Public Health Week, April 3-9, 2017**. [Join the movement](#) to create the healthiest nation in one generation by making healthy choices as a society. By improving everything that impacts health – from housing, education and income to community design, transportation and our environment, we are part of the generation that changes the course of health in America, starting in our own communities.

DHD#10 works locally to enhance the health of our communities and environments through protection, prevention, and intervention. Community partnerships with other public and private sector organizations is essential to tackle the underlying causes of poor health and increased risk to disease.

“Having strong, healthy communities takes more than just adequate clinical care”, states Kevin Hughes, Health Officer for DHD#10. “It requires the collaboration of people and organizations to find the root causes of health disparities so solutions can be developed and implemented.”

DHD #10 leads a regional Northwest Michigan Chronic Disease Prevention Coalition with members from health agencies across our ten-county jurisdiction. A major goal of this regional Coalition is improved health in all communities through active engagement at the local level. Each county in the DHD #10 jurisdiction has an active coalition working on issues related to reducing chronic disease and increasing healthy lifestyles. For information about local coalition activities in your county and to take part in health improvement initiatives, go to [www.livewell4health.org](http://www.livewell4health.org).

Another tool shedding light on the overall health and well-being of community residents is the annual [County Health Rankings](#), just released on March 29<sup>th</sup> by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. Now in its eighth year, the County Health Rankings are based on a model of population health that emphasizes the many factors that, if improved, can help make communities healthier places to live, learn, work and play.

The two overall ranks are **health outcomes** that look at overall length and quality of life, and **health factors** that examine health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors and physical environment. The ranks call attention to the wide gaps among counties within a state in what matters for health. These gaps represent disparities in health outcomes and inequities in opportunities to live long and well. All counties can act to make improvements, no matter where they rank. It’s not a race to the top, but about the progress toward a society where everyone can live a healthier life.

There are 83 counties in Michigan and rankings go from 1 being the healthiest county to 83 being the least healthy. DHD#10’s 2017 rankings are as follows:

## DHD#10 HEALTH OUTCOMES

*Based on equal weighting of length and quality of life.*

COUNTY	RANK
Crawford	71
Kalkaska	75
Lake	81
Manistee	33
Mason	46
Mecosta	57
Missaukee	21
Newaygo	47
Oceana	78
Wexford	65

County Health Rankings 2017: Michigan

## DHD#10 HEALTH FACTORS

*Based on weighted scores for health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment.*

COUNTY	RANK
Crawford	28
Kalkaska	71
Lake	82
Manistee	53
Mason	25
Mecosta	67
Missaukee	42
Newaygo	50
Oceana	70
Wexford	44

County Health Rankings 2017: Michigan

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The mission of District Health Department #10 is to promote and enhance the health of our communities and environment through protection, prevention, and intervention. We serve Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, and Wexford counties.