



# NEWS

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## **Montco One of America's 50 Healthiest Counties for Kids**

**Norristown, PA (June 18, 2013)** – Montgomery County is one of the 50 healthiest counties in the United States for kids, according to a new set of rankings by *U.S. News and World Report*.

(<http://health.usnews.com/health-news/best-childrens-hospitals/articles/2013/06/11/americas-50-healthiest-counties-for-kids>). Overall, Montgomery County was ranked 35<sup>th</sup> healthiest county for children in the country, and was the only county in Pennsylvania in the rankings.

The survey took into account many child-friendly data including fewer infant deaths, fewer low-birth-weight babies, fewer deaths from injuries, fewer teen births, and fewer children in poverty.

Montgomery County ranked well above the median in virtually every category.

The rankings were developed with the help of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, which evaluates health data for the U.S. population as part of its County Health Rankings and Roadmaps program in collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Besides the data displayed here, the percentage of uninsured children, air quality (except for Alaska and Hawaii), rates of adult smoking and adult obesity, and access to physicians and parks also were considered. All of the variables were equally weighted.

Experts say the analysis, released as part of U.S. News Best Children's Hospitals 2013-2014, represents the first national, county-level assessment of how health and environmental factors affect the well-being of children younger than 18. Perhaps the most striking finding is that what it takes to make a county healthy for kids can't be reduced to one or two numbers. As shown in the table below, even the highest-ranking counties grapple with such challenges as large numbers of children in poverty and high teen birth rates. Top-ranked Marin County, a northern suburb of San Francisco, struggles with rates of teen births and children in poverty almost twice as high as 5<sup>th</sup>-ranked metro Milwaukee's Ozaukee County.

“The fact that Montgomery County ranked so high in this survey is due to many factors,” said Josh Shapiro, chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, “but there is no denying the fact that the programs and care provided by our county health department and other county agencies that care for the well-being of children such as the Office of Children and Youth and Behavioral Health are critically important. Add to that the wonderful care and services provided by private and non-profit agencies and organizations and our wonderful hospitals, doctors, and healthcare professionals, and it is easy to understand how we ranked so highly.”

Montgomery County ranked well above the national median in all categories and ranked in the top 10 percent of all counties in the injury mortality among those 1 to 19 years old; ten birthrate; high school graduation; children in poverty; and, uninsured children.

Here are the rankings, as published in *U.S. News*:

Healthiest Counties for Kids							
Rank	County	Score (0-100)	Low Birthweight (under 5.5 lbs)	Infant Death Rate (per 100,000)	Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	Children in Poverty	Injury Death Rate Ages 1-19 (per 100,000)
<b>U.S. Median</b>			<b>7.9%</b>	<b>697.2</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>24.0%</b>	<b>21.7</b>
<b>1</b>	Marin County, Calif.	<b>100.0</b>	6.3%	319.2	13.6	10.8%	8.7
<b>2</b>	San Francisco County, Calif.	<b>94.0</b>	7.0%	446.6	16.9	16.0%	13.0
<b>3</b>	Chittenden County, Vt.	<b>93.6</b>	6.7%	337.6	10.9	10.7%	7.9
<b>4</b>	Norfolk County, Mass.	<b>93.4</b>	7.2%	354.4	7.1	6.7%	8.8
<b>5</b>	Ozaukee County, Wis.	<b>91.8</b>	5.4%	372.3	7.3	6.0%	14.5
<b>6</b>	Middlesex County, Mass.	<b>90.8</b>	7.5%	426.8	12.2	9.3%	6.5

<b>7</b>	Boulder County, Colo.	<b>90.7</b>	7.7%	571.0	18.2	13.0%	10.3
<b>8</b>	Douglas County, Colo.	<b>90.5</b>	8.9%	401.7	10.5	4.9%	10.3
<b>9</b>	Montgomery County, Md.	<b>90.1</b>	8.1%	563.8	20.6	8.8%	9.9
<b>9</b>	San Mateo County, Calif.	<b>90.1</b>	6.7%	385.3	22.4	10.0%	10.0
<b>11</b>	Placer County, Calif.	<b>89.6</b>	5.7%	399.2	16.5	9.9%	10.2
<b>12</b>	Johnson County, Iowa	<b>88.5</b>	6.6%	554.2	11.4	15.9%	11.8
<b>13</b>	Hunterdon County, N.J.	<b>87.9</b>	6.7%	267.0	4.3	4.5%	8.5
<b>14</b>	Bergen County, N.J.	<b>87.6</b>	7.7%	337.0	5.6	8.2%	7.3
<b>14</b>	Hampshire County, Mass.	<b>87.6</b>	6.7%	425.2	6.8	12.3%	5.8
<b>16</b>	Waukesha County, Wis.	<b>87.5</b>	6.4%	546.0	10.2	6.6%	10.1
<b>16</b>	Westchester County, N.Y.	<b>87.5</b>	8.4%	524.9	13.6	6.8%	17.7
<b>18</b>	Nassau County, N.Y.	<b>87.4</b>	8.0%	504.6	8.6	9.3%	11.8
<b>19</b>	Santa Clara County, Calif.	<b>87.3</b>	6.7%	376.3	8.0	12.6%	25.7
<b>20</b>	DuPage County, Ill.	<b>87.2</b>	7.2%	612.6	8.0	11.0%	15.8
<b>21</b>	Dane County, Wis.	<b>86.7</b>	6.2%	507.3	10.8	14.5%	18.7
<b>22</b>	Cass County, N.D.	<b>86.4</b>	6.5%	589.3	7.9	12.1%	18.7
<b>23</b>	Olmsted County, Minn.	<b>86.1</b>	6.4%	663.9	12.4	10.8%	25.1
<b>24</b>	Morris County, N.J.	<b>85.5</b>	7.5%	367.8	6.9	5.5%	6.8

<b>24</b>	Yolo County, Calif.	<b>85.5</b>	5.3%	393.2	20.2	20.5%	13.0
<b>26</b>	Howard County, Md.	<b>85.4</b>	7.8%	517.3	12.8	7.5%	12.0
<b>27</b>	Johnson County, Kan.	<b>85.2</b>	6.3%	621.5	19.3	8.4%	11.8
<b>28</b>	Fairfax County, Va.	<b>85.1</b>	6.9%	515.4	16.5	9.0%	8.7
<b>28</b>	La Crosse County, Wis.	<b>85.1</b>	6.0%	461.1	17.5	15.4%	14.9
<b>28</b>	Somerset County, N.J.	<b>85.1</b>	8.0%	281.7	12.0	6.2%	8.4
<b>31</b>	Santa Cruz County, Calif.	<b>84.8</b>	5.8%	404.5	27.2	18.5%	11.3
<b>32</b>	King County, Wash.	<b>84.3</b>	6.6%	420.3	19.8	14.5%	11.8
<b>33</b>	Washington County, Minn.	<b>84.0</b>	6.1%	505.6	14.4	7.1%	11.2
<b>34</b>	Grand Forks County, N.D.	<b>83.9</b>	6.5%	418.6	20.9	14.6%	14.5
<b>35</b>	Montgomery County, Pa.	<b>83.4</b>	7.2%	526.8	14.9	7.2%	9.6
<b>36</b>	Orange County, Calif.	<b>83.2</b>	6.4%	474.7	28.0	17.9%	10.2
<b>37</b>	Alameda County, Calif.	<b>83.1</b>	7.1%	469.8	26.6	16.8%	16.1
<b>38</b>	Delaware County, Ohio	<b>83.0</b>	7.2%	383.8	15.1	5.8%	7.3
<b>38</b>	Grafton County, N.H.	<b>83.0</b>	6.4%	530.6	14.5	14.3%	9.9
<b>38</b>	New York County, N.Y.	<b>83.0</b>	8.7%	458.2	26.1	26.7%	7.6
<b>41</b>	Dakota County, Minn.	<b>82.8</b>	6.2%	350.2	18.6	9.2%	8.1
<b>42</b>	Cumberland County, Maine	<b>82.5</b>	6.6%	618.9	16.0	15.1%	13.2

<b>43</b>	Fairfield County, Conn.	<b>82.3</b>	7.6%	504.2	18.9	12.4%	9.2
<b>44</b>	Carver County, Minn.	<b>82.0</b>	5.7%	443.9	11.3	6.2%	12.3
<b>45</b>	Gallatin County, Mont.	<b>81.7</b>	6.5%	629.1	16.4	13.1%	10.5
<b>45</b>	San Luis Obispo County, Calif.	<b>81.7</b>	6.0%	383.0	19.1	17.5%	16.5
<b>47</b>	Monmouth County, N.J.	<b>81.5</b>	7.6%	417.9	14.4	9.3%	10.9
<b>48</b>	Larimer County, Colo.	<b>81.3</b>	7.8%	475.7	21.3	14.0%	10.9
<b>49</b>	Sonoma County, Calif.	<b>81.0</b>	5.8%	435.8	25.4	15.9%	9.6
<b>50</b>	Williamson County, Tenn.	<b>80.9</b>	6.9%	263.9	13.0	7.3%	8.4

**NOTE:** *U.S. News* was the source for some of the material in the above press release.