



NEWS

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
COURT HOUSE, NORRISTOWN, PA., BOX 311, 19404-0311

Frank X. Custer, Communications Director

Jessica Willingham, Communications Assistant

PHONE (610) 278-3061 FAX (610) 278-5943

COMMISSIONERS: JOSH SHAPIRO, *Chair*

LESLIE S. RICHARDS, *Vice Chair*, BRUCE L. CASTOR, JR., *Commissioner*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 4, 2014

Montco Improves Its Ranking in U.S. News Rankings of the Healthiest Counties for Kids

Norristown, PA (August 4, 2014) – Montgomery County has improved its ranking as one of the 50 healthiest counties in the United States for kids, according to the 2014 rankings by *U.S. News and World Report*. (<http://health.usnews.com/health-news/best-childrens-hospitals/articles/2014/06/16/americas-50-healthiest-counties-for-kids>)

The magazine ranks Montgomery County as the 27th healthiest county for children in 2014. Last year, the first year the rankings were produced, the county ranked 35th. In both years, Montgomery County was the only county in Pennsylvania in the top 50.

According to U.S. News, 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, a collaboration with the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#).

America's 50 Healthiest Counties for Kids represents a national, county-level assessment of how health and environmental factors affect the well-being of children younger than 18. It highlights counties that feature, among other child-friendly data, 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 every category.

The study also looked at the percentage of children without health insurance, air quality (except for Alaska and Hawaii), rates of adult smoking and adult obesity. Access to physicians and exercise opportunities also were considered. All the variables were equally weighted.

“It is exceedingly good news that not only is Montgomery County ranked as one of the healthiest counties for kids in the United States, but also that we significantly improved our position in the rankings,” said Josh Shapiro, chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

Shapiro pointed out that many factors contribute to the overall health of children in the county, but he added 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. The wonderful care and services provided by private and non-profit agencies and organizations and our wonderful hospitals, doctors, and healthcare professionals obviously play an important role.”

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)
U.S. Median			8.1%	7.1	44.0	24.0%	20
1	Marin County, CA	100.0	6.2%	3.1	13	10%	9
2	Norfolk County, MA	93.1	7.3%	3.8	7	8%	9
3	Hunterdon County, NJ	92.4	7.1%	2.6	4	5%	9
4	Chittenden County, VT	91.7	6.6%	4.4	10	11%	8
5	Nassau County, NY	91.7	8.0%	4.5	12	9%	9
6	San Francisco	91.5	7.1%	4.0	16	16%	13

	County, CA						
7	Middlesex County, MA	89.9	7.5%	4.0	12	10%	7
8	Somerset County, NJ	89.7	8.1%	2.8	11	7%	8
9	Morris County, NJ	89.7	7.6%	3.6	6	5%	7
10	Bergen County, NJ	89.5	7.7%	3.5	7	10%	6
11	San Mateo County, CA	89.4	6.7%	4.3	21	11%	10
12	Hampshire County, MA	89.0	6.5%	3.7	5	13%	7
13	Howard County, MD	88.9	7.9%	5.8	12	7%	12
14	Ozaukee County, WI	88.9	5.5%	4.3	7	6%	15
15	Westchester County, NY	88.1	8.4%	4.9	17	13%	7
16	Santa Clara County, CA	87.6	6.8%	4.0	25	13%	8
17	Placer County, CA	87.5	5.7%	4.8	16	12%	10
18	Johnson County, KS	87.5	6.3%	5.5	18	8%	12
19	Olmsted	86.7	6.3%	5.2	25	11%	12

	County, MN						
20	Montgomery County, MD	86.7	8.0%	6.0	20	8%	10
21	Waukesha County, WI	86.7	6.4%	4.6	10	7%	10
22	Johnson County, IA	86.2	6.5%	4.2	11	13%	12
23	Grafton County, NH	86.2	6.5%	5.2	14	16%	10
24	Orange County, CA	85.9	6.5%	4.7	27	18%	10
25	Monmouth County, NJ	85.7	7.6%	3.6	13	10%	11
26	San Luis Obispo County, CA	85.4	6.0%	4.2	18	17%	17
27	Montgomery County, PA	85.4	7.1%	5.4	14	8%	10
28	Santa Cruz County, CA	85.2	5.8%	4.4	26	18%	11
29	Loudoun County, VA	85.1	6.9%	4.9	13	4%	6
30	Yolo County, CA	85.0	5.4%	4.0	19	18%	13
31	Fairfield County, CT	84.9	7.7%	5.0	18	11%	9

32	Middlesex County, CT	84.8	6.5%	4.6	11	8%	7
33	Fairfax County, VA	84.6	6.9%	4.5	16	8%	9
34	Washington County, MN	84.2	5.9%	4.5	14	6%	11
35	Barnstable County, MA	84.1	6.9%	4.7	17	15%	14
36	Sonoma County, CA	84.1	5.8%	4.1	24	15%	10
37	Cumberland County, ME	83.6	6.5%	5.5	15	15%	13
38	La Crosse County, WI	83.4	6.0%	4.3	17	14%	15
39	DuPage County, IL	83.3	7.4%	6.4	15	10%	8
40	Delaware County, OH	83.0	7.1%	4.1	14	6%	7
41	Douglas County, CO	82.9	9.0%	4.2	10	4%	10
42	Napa County, CA	82.7	6.1%	5.0	26	14%	16
43	El Dorado County, CA	82.6	6.3%	4.1	18	12%	11
44	Tolland County, CT	82.4	7.2%	4.8	7	7%	7

45	Alameda County, CA	82.2	7.2%	4.6	25	17%	16
46	Washington County, VT	82.0	5.9%	5.5	19	13%	20
47	Contra Costa County, CA	81.9	6.8%	4.1	23	15%	16
48	Rockingham County, NH	81.9	6.7%	4.6	11	8%	12
49	Washington County, RI	81.9	6.6%	6.5	9	11%	11
50	Hamilton County, IN	81.8	7.1%	5.4	14	6%	10

List of Programs provided by Montgomery County Health Department

Nurse Family Partnership

Childhood Immunization Clinics

MCHD home visiting

Home Safety Visits

Ages in Stages

Early Intervention Referrals

Home Safety Checks

Lead program

Safe Sleep Initiatives

Cribs for Kids

Child Death Review

Child Passenger Safety program

Certified technicians

Free Seat Distribution program for low income

Injury Prevention Programming

Bike Helmet Distribution, Pedestrian, School Bus

School based immunization program and requirements

Community Flu Sites

Preventive Dental Care services

Prenatal service program

Support of hospital based program centering pregnancy

Childhood Obesity –

- Work with Schools who are state mandated to collect Body Mass Index data
- Provide preventive education to students and parents

Communicable disease investigation and outbreak management in schools

- Animal Bite investigation, rabies prevention
- Hand washing education program

Active participation in community collaborative groups

- Teen parent task force
- Inter network
- Family Services
- Montgomery County Tobacco Free Coalition
- (Child Passenger Safety) CPS Southeast Regional Taskforce

National Children Study

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