



Lake County General Health District

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LAKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

LAKE COUNTY CONTINUES TO RANK HIGH IN 2015 COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute today released the sixth year of the [County Health Rankings](#), a comprehensive report that ranks the overall health of nearly every county in all 50 states by using a standard way to measure how healthy people are and how long they live. Lake County General Health District (LCGHD) is pleased that Lake County continues to be in the top tier of Ohio counties for Health Outcomes and Health Factors.

This year's *Rankings* continue to show that much of what affects health occurs outside of the doctor's office. 2015 Lake County comes in at 14th the state for health outcomes and slips from 17th to 19th for health factors. As health factors worsen so well health outcomes as a result. LCGHD Health Commissioner Ron H. Graham commented, "These rankings provide important information to help inform community leaders of the health factors, and their associated health outcomes, so that we can work together in a collaborative manner to make the greatest impact on improving health across the public health system. The public health system is a very complicated web of private, nonprofit, and public agencies that often work in silos and the Health District has worked very hard to create coordinated the services provided by each of us".

The *2015 Rankings* also demonstrates the role of personal behaviors and the impact on a person's health. The details within the *2015 Rankings* demonstrate that Lake County has improved in the areas of: adult obesity, physical inactivity, access to exercise opportunities, and social supports. Physical activity and access to exercise opportunities are critical in reversing the level of adult and child obesity as well as reversing the growing trends of diabetes, hypertension, and other chronic diseases impacting communities across the nation; efforts such as the [Central Lake County Lakefront Connectivity Plan](#) and [ACHIEVE Wellness Lake County](#) focus on increasing access to physical activity with policy development and modifications to the built environment.

Additionally, uninsured adults decreased to a low of 12% and is a reflection of the affordable care act and expanded Medicaid. Ron Graham commented "the Health District understands the importance of health care coverage and actively pursued a grant for supporting a Certified Application Counselor in order to help ensure the service was available in Lake County." The program, funded by the Ohio Association of Food banks, is entering its second year.

Worsening trends in the areas of mammography screening, injury related deaths, violent crime rate, and sexually transmitted infections demonstrate the impact of social and economic factors in a community.

The *2015 Rankings* are consistent with the [LCGHD](#) and the [Lake Health](#) Community Assessments performed in 2011 and 2013, respectively. The *2015 Rankings* also include new areas, such as alcohol impaired driving deaths, number of mental health providers, number of people driving alone to work, and the number of injury deaths. Increases or decreases in the *Rankings* from year-to-year may be caused by an addition or deletion of these new areas and makes identifying trends difficult. Graham responded "the health District is currently conducting its first countywide community assessment which is geared out aligning the collective efforts of

over 50 partners to focus on three to five goals in order to most effectively impact significant community health improvement and change. It is truly an exciting time to be in public health.”

All of the rankings are relative to each other so that a county’s rank may move up or down even if all data stays the same for that county but other counties change. Change from one year to the next cannot always be measured, but for some measures there are trend graphs showing change in measures over four or more years. “Although the *Rankings* have only shown slight movement in both measures over the last six years,” remarked Graham “The *Rankings* continue to demonstrate that Lake County is a safe and healthful place to live that invests in wellness.”

Table 1: Lake County Health Ranking trends 2010 to 2015

Category	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Health Outcomes	13	13	13	17	17	19
Mortality	9	12	12	12	12	15
Morbidity	20	19	13	20	25	29
Health Factors	17	14	14	12	14	14
Health Behaviors	31	48	26	18	16	9
Clinical Care	38	29	27	18	21	25
Social & Economic						
Factors	9	9	8	10	11	15
Physical Environment	68	74	75	51	62	58

Red = Higher score than previous year

Black = Same score as previous year

Green = Lower score than previous year

Additionally, the [Lake County Network of Care](http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/networkofcare) website is available to assist stakeholders and policy makers in making decisions about new and existing programs based on statistical evidence. Lake County residents are able to use the site to research information on a variety of topics to make better decisions about their health. LCGHD will provide two opportunities for the community to learn about the site’s capabilities. Training dates are Wednesday, May 13, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and Thursday, May 14, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Both trainings will be held at Lake County Department of Utilities Business and Learning Center, 1981 Blasé Nemeth Rd, Painesville 44077. Attendees need only attend one session. For more information, contact Christine Margalis at 440-350-2879.

The 2015 *Rankings*, available at www.countyhealthrankings.org, include a snapshot of each county in Ohio with a color-coded map comparing each county’s overall health. For Lake County- specific information, please visit:

- 1) LCGHD Community Health Assessments (CHA) <http://www.lcghd.org/documents/2011LLCAssessment.pdf>
- 2) LCGHD Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) at http://www.lcghd.org/documents/CHIP_REV-July%205th%202013.pdf
- 3) Lake Health assessment at <http://www.lakehealth.org/about/health-needs-assessment> –
- 4) 2014 Lake County Youth Assessment at https://www.lcghd.org/LC_Youth_Health_Status_Assessment
- 5) United Way of Lake County Community Needs Assessment <http://www.uwlc.org/community-needs-assessment>
- 6) LCGHD Website at www.lcghd.org
- 7) Lake County Network of Care data site at <http://lake.oh.networkofcare.org/ph/>