



# Public Health Press Release

February 18, 2010

Amador Public Health, 10877 Conductor Blvd, Ste 400 Sutter Creek, CA 95685  
Phone (209) 223-6407 Fax (209)223-1562  
publichealth@co.amador.ca.us

## **STUDY ANNOUNCES COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS**

Amador County is the 20th healthiest county in California according to recently released rankings of a national analysis of health factors. The study, undertaken by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, examined all counties in the United States, measuring each county using national benchmarks.

"Our overall results were good" said Dr. Bob Hartmann, Amador County Public Health Officer. "We are 4th best in Morbidity, a broad measure that represents health-related quality of life."

In addition, Amador County ranks 18th in Health Outcomes and 22nd in Health Factors. Health Outcomes looks at death rates and morbidity. Health Factors focuses on healthy behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment.

The County places 12th in Clinical Care and 22nd in Social and Economic Factors. The Physical Environment ranking is 31st. This measure encompasses air quality and the built environment. "As our county grows, we should have opportunities to improve this area" adds Hartmann.

"The main value is that this study shows where we can improve," Hartmann points out. "Amador's lowest ranking is Health Behaviors which measures obesity, smoking, alcohol use and unsafe sex. We need to develop more effective prevention strategies to improve these factors."

The Public Health Department plans to look at the ranking data in more detail. "We can be proud of where we are in many areas, but there are always opportunities to work with our community partners to improve the health of our citizens," says Hartmann.

Details of the study can be found at <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>.