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NEWS RELEASE

ST. JOHNS COUNTY AT THE TOP IN COUNTY HEALTH RANKING REPORT

ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA – Dawn C. Allicock, M.D., M.P.H., Director/Health Officer, St. Johns County Health Department is pleased to announce that St. Johns County is ranked as one of the top two healthiest counties in Florida. St. Johns County’s health ranking is based on the 2010 *County Health Rankings* report, released on February 17, 2010, produced by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute; and is a collection of 50 health reports, one per state, that reflects the overall health of counties in every state across the nation.

For Floridians, this report provides a county-by-county snapshot of how multiple factors can influence their health. For St. Johns County, this report helps identify factors that impact its residents and also illustrates how St. Johns County compares to other counties in the state. Health happens where we live, learn, work, and play. Much of what influences how healthy we are and how long we live happens outside the doctor’s office.

Each county received two overall health rankings; one for health outcomes and one for health factors. The term “health outcomes” represents how healthy a county is while the term “health factors” is what influences the health of the county. Below is the overall health ranking summary for St. Johns County.

St. Johns County Health Ranking	Measure Summary
1 out of 67	Health Factors
2 out of 67	Health Outcomes

“It is exciting to know that this health report has identified St. Johns County as a top-ranking healthy county in Florida. These health rankings are a result of ongoing community efforts. It is important to know that the measures compiled in this report are impacted by all sectors here in St. Johns County - government, business, community and faith-based groups, education and our public health system.” said Dr. Allicock.

St. Johns County’s focus on the health of its residents is validated by these results. St. Johns County diligently supports the health of its citizens with a robust network of both public and private sector institutions. St. Johns County’s success is due in no small part to the

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Our Vision: A healthier future for the people of Florida.

Our Values: - Integrity; Commitment to Service; Respect; Excellence; Accountability; Teamwork; Empowerment –



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collaborative efforts and support of our Board of County Commissioners, the variety and quality of the services provided by the Health and Human Services Department, the availability and quality of care at Flagler Primary Care, the transportation and additional services provided by the Council on Aging, the innovative life-saving initiatives of our paramedics and Fire Rescue, our outstanding public school system, the excellent care received at Flagler Hospital, and the tireless efforts of our Sheriff's Office.

This report sheds light on the fact that there are significant differences in overall health across Florida counties. These differences are due to many factors, ranging from individual behavior to quality of health care, to education and jobs, to quality of air, and to access to healthy foods.

The measures used to compile this report are derived from data that is collected by a variety of agencies at state and/or national levels. Health outcomes are determined by statistical data such as mortality and morbidity.

Health factors that affect people's health include: tobacco use, health and fitness, and alcohol use; the number of uninsured adults, availability of primary care providers, and preventable hospital stays; rates of high school graduation, number of children in poverty, rates of violent crime, access to healthy foods, air pollution levels, and liquor store density.

St. Johns County Health Department, along with its community partners, employs a systematic community health assessment and health improvement planning process to identify, address and solve public health issues and improve health outcomes in our community.

"While we are encouraged by the overall health ranking of St. Johns County, we recognize that there are always opportunities for improvement," said Dr. Allicock.

Continuing the strong community focus on the health of our residents will lead to continuing success and improvement in all health areas. Additionally, the nationwide aspects of this health ranking will allow our community to search out winning methodologies and best practices from around our State and across the nation.

The 2010 *County Health Rankings* report is the first year of a three-year study that will allow for the identification of trends and progress across the entire study. The report findings is a "call to action" for communities to work together to develop programs and policies that address the multiple influences on health. Please visit www.countyhealthrankings.org to view this report.

St. Johns County Health Department offers a variety of services to the public. For more information on current programs and services, please call 904-825-5055 during normal business hours or visit www.StJohnsCHD.org.

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