



Grant County Health District – Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Grant County

Ephrata Office County Courthouse
PO Box 37, Ephrata, WA 98823
509-754-6060

Moses Lake Office
1038 West Ivy Suite 1, Moses Lake WA 98837
509-766-7960

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 04/28/2010

TO: Grant County Media

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

Theresa Fuller, Public Information Officer
509-766-7960 x24

County health rankings are a “call to action” for Grant County

GRANT COUNTY- In February 2010, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin released county health rankings for every county in the United States. Grant County’s health was ranked 28th out of Washington State’s 39 counties. The county ranked number 1 is considered the “healthiest” county in the state. The categories used to rank the counties give public health officials an indication of the general health of the community.

Grant County’s rankings by health categories included in the report:

- Mortality (death rates) 28th
- Morbidity (disease rates) 27th
- Health Behaviors 30th
- Clinical Care 31st
- Social & Economic Factors 27th
- Physical Environment 7th

“While it is good to see the abundance of nutritious foods from local growers contributing to a healthy physical environment, our high motor vehicle crash death, premature death, and teen pregnancy rates are reminders of the critical work before us in improving the health of our community. This report will serve as a planning tool for setting future priorities.” said Jefferson Ketchel, Grant County Health District Administrator.

One of the health behaviors listed in the report was the Grant County teen pregnancy rate, which is about double the Washington State average. Lowering teen pregnancy is a public health priority because babies of teen moms are more likely to have a low birth weight and to die in the first year of life. Children of teen moms also tend to face future problems such as being victims of abuse and neglect, failing to complete high school, becoming incarcerated as a young adult, and under-employment or unemployment.

“The findings of this report are in line with data we already collect and analyze. What makes this report compelling is how we compare with other counties.” said Joy Reese, Grant County Health District Assessment Coordinator.

Grant County Health District, with input from public and private partners, will continue to evaluate data while working towards solutions for making Grant County a safe and healthy place to live and work.

To view the county health rankings, visit www.countyhealthrankings.org.