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Study: Outagamie eighth healthiest county in state

Staff and wire reports

WAUSAU — Southeast Wisconsin is home to some of the state's healthiest — and least healthy — people, according to a University of Wisconsin-Madison study released today.

It showed that Milwaukee is one of the unhealthiest places to live in Wisconsin, while suburban Ozaukee and Waukesha counties are among the healthiest.

Outagamie County ranked in the top 10, in terms of health outcomes, finishing eighth. Calumet County fell five spots from its 2007 ranking to 19.

Winnebago County improved five positions from 2007, placing in the 25th spot. Waupaca County showed a one place improvement from last year, but still was near the bottom at 62.

The study calls "attention to the fact we have health discrepancies in Wisconsin," said Pat Remington, director of UW Population Health Institute. "It is a challenge for the entire state to think about what we might call the unequal distribution of health across the state and what approaches the entire state might do to provide resources and support for communities who need it the most."

A healthy county is one where people live to be over 75, their health is generally good and their quality of life is high, Remington said.

The sixth annual study ranked counties based on 30 factors, including availability of health care, whether people smoked or were obese, and binge drinking.
