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11/19/2008

WISCONSIN

Hudson / Two counties score

high for health

St. Croix and Pierce counties are among the healthiest in Wisconsin, according to a study to be released today by the University of Wisconsin.

The 2008 Wisconsin County Health Rankings listed St. Croix and Pierce in the top quarter of Wisconsin counties, ranking seventh and 11th, respectively, in what the study called "health outcomes" — a combination of the rate of premature death (dying before age 75) and the percent of people who report being in fair or poor health.

The ranking includes all 72 Wisconsin counties and the city of Milwaukee.

Meanwhile, Polk County ranked 31st, rising 10 places from last year's study.

The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute developed the study and found Ozaukee County, a suburb of Milwaukee, to be the healthiest in the state.

The full study can be found at pophealth.wisc.edu/UWPHI/research/rankings_2008/rankings_2008.htm.

— Andy Rathbun