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Dane, Iowa counties healthy places to live

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Dane County and neighboring Iowa County remain among the healthiest counties in Wisconsin, according to an annual report released today by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Population Health Institute.

The reports ranks the state's 72 counties and the city of Milwaukee in two areas: health outcomes, based on premature deaths and surveys of people's health; and health determinants, which include health behaviors, access to health care and socioeconomic and environmental factors.

Dane County ranks third in health outcomes and seventh in health determinants this year. It ranked fifth in both categories last year.

Iowa County ranks fourth in health outcomes and sixth in health determinants this year, the same as it ranked in both categories last year.

Ozaukee County, north of Milwaukee, is No. 1 in both categories this year. Waukesha County, west of Milwaukee, is No. 2 in both categories.

Menominee County, northwest of Green Bay, ranks last in both categories, just behind the city of Milwaukee.

Dane County's low rates of smoking, obesity and unemployment — and its high rates of education and fruit and vegetable consumption — helped earn its high rankings. The county's poor marks for air quality and nitrates in water were among the factors that kept it from ranking higher overall.

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