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Williamson County: One of the Healthiest Counties in Texas for the 5th year in a row

The 2014 County Health Rankings list Williamson County as the second healthiest place to live among 232 Texas counties. Since the County Rankings were first introduced in 2010, Williamson County has been ranked either #1 or #2. The health score for each county is based on health outcomes and health factors. Health outcomes include data that describe the length of life and quality of life in each county. Health Factors are data that show what influences the health of the county population. For example, health factors include housing, transportation, access to mental health providers, opportunities to exercise, injury deaths, and consistent access to food. According to the 2014 ranking results, Williamson County residents are living longer healthier lives. Williamson County and Cities Health District Executive Director, W.S. “Chip” Riggins Jr., M.D, M.P.H. says, “We look forward to this report every year because it highlights the efforts of our community partnerships and the work of our coalition, the WilCo Wellness Alliance. For us, the county health ranking is not about comparing ourselves to other counties, but about how we can use data to evaluate and make ours the healthiest county we can be.”

The rankings are produced by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The annual report analyzes the health of every county across the United States. The Williamson County and Cities Health District uses this data to guide its prevention efforts and focus on existing health challenges. Since last year’s rankings, the WilCo Wellness Alliance has assessed the health of the county population and is implementing a Community Health Improvement Plan to address a variety of health concerns. More information about the Williamson County Health Assessment and Health Improvement Plans along with additional health data indicators and information about the Alliance can be found at: www.healthywilliamsoncounty.org .

The 2014 County Health Rankings are available online at www.countyhealthrankings.org . For more information about the Williamson County and Cities Health District, visit your public health department website at www.wcchd.org .

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