



Williamson County and Cities Health District

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Williamson County Ranked Among Healthiest Counties in Texas

Where we live, work and play matters to our health. In good news for Williamson County residents, the 2019 County Health Rankings, released today, deem the county as Texas' third healthiest place to live among 244 ranked counties.

All ranked counties are evaluated using a variety of data including Health Factors, which measure the rate of education, housing, crime, employment, unhealthy behaviors and exercise. These components are considered to be "changeable behaviors" and indicate the current and future health of a county. Additional measures make up Health Outcomes, which are based on length of life and the quality of daily physical and mental health. Since the rankings were first introduced in 2010, Williamson County has been ranked among the top five healthiest counties.

The rankings are a population health "checkup" for counties. "Williamson County has an ongoing community health assessment and improvement process," said Derrick Neal, Williamson County and Cities Health District Executive Director. "Critical to this process are the Health District's many partners such as stakeholders at the local, county and state level, healthcare partners, school districts, non-profit partners and The WilCo Wellness Alliance Coalition. The county health rankings are one of the many tools we use to help us understand our strengths and assess our most pressing health issues so that we can work together on solutions." Our ability to increasingly focus on equity and inclusiveness in the realm of public health will be critical to remaining one of the healthiest communities in Texas.

Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) is deliberate and proactive in its approach to improving the overall health of the community. In 2018 WCCHD and partners embarked on a seven-month Community Health Assessment process, engaging a wide range of community input to produce a collaborative and comprehensive health assessment that will be used to develop the 2020-2022 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The WilCo Wellness Alliance's (WWA) working groups comprised of education, healthcare, business, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and government agencies are active and ongoing leaders in this collaborative process.

"We, as residents of this county through the WilCo Wellness Alliance Coalition, are taking the lead and making the changes that will ensure our place as one of the healthiest counties for years to come," said Coalition Coordinator Kelli Becerra, M.Ed., CHES.

The rankings are produced by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The annual report analyzes the health of nearly every county across the United States. The rankings are available online at www.countyhealthrankings.org/texas/williamson. Learn more about Your Public Health Department at www.wcchd.org. Public comment on the 2019 CHA is open at www.healthywilliamsoncounty.org.

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