



Health & Community Services

3299 Gull Road Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Phone: 269-373-5200 Fax: 269-373-5363 Website: www.kalcounty.com

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

KCHCS Public Information Office

Courtney Davis, MPH (269) 373-5025

Lyndi Warner, MPA (269) 373-5197

pio@kalcounty.com

Working to Create the Healthiest Nation in One Generation

National Public Health Week 2017 & Eight Annual County Health Rankings

Kalamazoo, Mich. [April 3, 2017] – Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services invites residents, organizations, businesses and elected officials to join in the observance of National Public Health Week, April 3 to 9, 2017. National Public Health Week unites public health work in Kalamazoo County to others throughout the State and across the nation who are all striving to create the healthiest nation by 2030. During the week, celebrate the power of prevention, advocate for healthy and equitable policies and share in strategies that create successful partnerships that continue to build a strong public health system that serves Kalamazoo County.

Locally, Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services is working to ensure everyone has a chance to a long and healthy life. An important aspect of this is the Department’s commitment to tackling the underlying causes of poor health and disease risk; causes that are rooted in how and where individuals live, learn, work and play.

“Partnerships across public and private sectors are critical to ensuring that decisions made locally have a positive and healthy impact on the mental, physical, social and emotional health of all residents,” shares Jim Rutherford, Health Officer for Kalamazoo County, “We cannot simply focus on clinical care and expect to improve our community’s health. We must also look at the social determinants that impact our ability to be a truly successful and healthy member of society.”

These root causes are a reflection of the overall health and well-being of county residents and are contributing factors to Kalamazoo County’s health ranking of 37 out of 83 for health outcomes and 23 for health factors in the eighth annual [County Health Rankings](#), released on March 29th by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. The County Health Rankings is one tool of many that helps to identify priority areas for Kalamazoo County and provide a platform from which current and future partnerships and collaborations can work to make our community the healthiest place it can be.

###

County Health Rankings measure the health of nearly every county in the nation and show us that where we live matters to our health. All counties can take action to improve, no matter where they rank. It’s not a race to the top, but about the progress toward a society where everyone has the opportunity to live a healthier life. Health outcomes look at overall length and quality of life, while health factors examine health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors and physical environment. In summary, health outcomes represent how healthy a county is while health factors represent what influences health in a county. Learn more at www.countyhealthrankings.org .

Promoting Health for All



Follow us [@KzooHealth](https://twitter.com/KzooHealth)



Like [Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services](https://www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyHealthCommunityServices)