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"Working towards a healthy and safe Putnam County"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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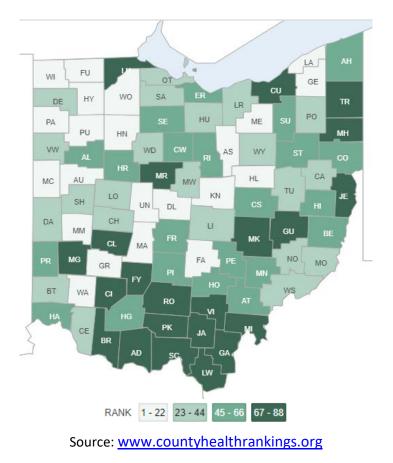
Putnam County Ranks 3rd in Ohio's County Health Rankings 2023

Each year the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation releases County Health Rankings. The County Health Rankings ranks the health of nearly every county in the U.S with data that reveals what factors contribute to the health of residents. In 2023, Putnam County was ranked the 3rd healthiest county in Ohio. In 2022 Putnam County was ranked 5th healthiest county in Ohio. Putnam County Health Department uses this data along with other sources to create strategies to develop healthier communities in the county.

The Rankings look at factors such as children living in poverty, access to nutritious foods, smoking rates, obesity rates, and teen births. A few areas Putnam County ranked well were the percentage of flu vaccinations (57% vs. 53% Ohio), and a decrease in new cases of sexually transmitted diseases from the previous year. Health behaviors that Putnam County could improve on include excessive drinking (21% vs. 19% Ohio), and adult smoking (20% vs. 20% Ohio).

"While we are happy to once again be in the top 5 healthiest counties in Ohio according to the County Health Rankings, our goal must be to continue to improve our own county's statistics. The Putnam County Health Department and our partner agencies are excited to work together to address our areas for improvement," said Kim Rieman, Putnam County Health Commissioner.

For more information about the County Health Rankings, or to see how we compare to other Ohio Counties, visit <u>www.countyhealthrankings.org</u>.



2023 Ohio County Health Rankings

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Our mission is to protect, promote and improve the health, safety and quality of life of the Putnam County community.