

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT



1555 North 17th Avenue
Greeley, CO 80631



www.weldhealth.org



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2018

Contact: Public Information Officer
970.400.2380

National Health Rankings Report Shines Light on Efforts in Weld County

WELD COUNTY, CO - The ninth annual County Health Rankings report, released today by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute shows areas for success and improvement in Weld County. Weld County ranks near the middle for overall health status in Colorado (ranked 23rd out of 58 counties in Colorado). “While we have been taking important steps to improve the health of our community, there is more we can do to help residents lead healthier lives,” said Mark E. Wallace, MD, Executive Director of Weld County Health Department. “The health rankings support the work being done in Weld County and they show us where we are doing well, and where we can improve.”

For the past 5 years, over 90 health-minded partners have been taking steps to improve Weld’s communities. For example, efforts are underway to address the local obesity epidemic by promoting healthy eating and active living strategies throughout the county. The efforts show a decrease in children’s sugary drink consumption, modest increases in fruit and vegetable consumption, and indications that adults and children are being more physically active countywide. But, the county’s obesity rate remains one of the highest in the state, and more work is needed.

The County Health Rankings show how Weld County ranks on a variety of factors that influence its overall health standing. The rankings show Weld County has strengths in the areas of premature death and overall quality of life, where it ranked 24 out of 58 counties. The rankings also shed light on factors that are making residents less healthy such as health behaviors and social and economic factors. The rankings, coupled with current local data, will help determine priorities to make Weld County a healthier place to live, learn, work, and play.

To see a summary of Weld County’s rankings, visit: www.weldhealth.org click on *Health Hot Topics*
Detailed information about the National Rankings Report is available at www.countyhealthrankings.org

###