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**MARTIN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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February 17, 2010

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## **MARTIN COUNTY RANKED ONE OF THE HEALTHIEST PLACES TO LIVE IN THE STATE**

Though times are tough economically, the majority of Martin County residents are enjoying good health according to a study by the University of Wisconsin.

The study ranked Martin County in the top five when it comes to the health of its residents. Collier, St. Johns, Seminole and Sarasota counties ranked highest on the list. More information about the report is available at [www.CountyHealthRankings.org](http://www.CountyHealthRankings.org)

Survey criteria included physical environment, health factors including clinical care and health behaviors as well as quality of life and length of life.

“We are pleased that Martin County ranked well in the survey.” said Mark Chittum, Administrator for the Martin County Health Department, “But, given our current economic situation, we need to ensure that needed programs and services are supported in order to continue to have a healthy community.”

To further ensure that local needs are being met, the Health Department is leading an effort to develop a Community Health Assessment. Working with a Steering Committee comprised of local community partners, the group hopes to evaluate community health needs and utilize that information to support or implement health related programs.

Community partners joining this effort include representatives from the United Way, Martin Memorial Health Systems, Children’s Services Council, Volunteers in Medicine, Martin County Government, Council on Aging and the Healthy Start Coalition.

Information for the community health assessment will be gathered from area residents and community agencies through focus groups and surveys. More information about the community health assessment and the survey will be available in the Spring.

*“Celebrating 60 Years of Service”*