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## **NEWS RELEASE**

TO: Area Media Outlets

FROM: Tracy Metcalfe, Community Health Educator/Health Analyst

DATE: March 31, 2014

RE: **2014 County Health Rankings Now Available**

RUN: Immediate Release

The 2014 *County Health Rankings* are now available and Bay County is ranked 52 out of 82 counties overall. While the County saw significant improvements from 2013 to 2014, it is important to note that data to measure the following categories has changed: Health Behaviors, Clinical Care, Social and Economic Factors and Physical Environment. Therefore, persons should take caution when comparing rankings from year to year in those categories.

The 2014 *County Health Rankings* allows counties to see what is making their residents sick or healthy, and how they compare to other counties in the same state. This is the fifth year of the *Rankings*, which are published online at [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org) by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

Bay County Health Department (BCHD) is working with other community organizations through the Healthy People Healthy Bay Coalition to address health concerns. The Community Health Assessment (CHA) completed in 2012 identified four priority health issues for Bay County: Children's Health, Access to Care, Chronic Disease and Behavioral Health. Within each priority area, are sub-categories encompassing healthy behaviors, morbidity and clinical care. Workgroups established within Healthy People Healthy Bay have been formed and plans have been created to address the identified issues. These action plans were used to create the overall Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for Bay County. The CHIP will guide the Healthy People Healthy Bay Coalition in improving the health of Bay County residents.

For more information on the *County Health Rankings*, CHA, CHIP or the Healthy People Health Bay Coalition visit the BCHD website at [www.baycounty-mi.gov/health](http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/health).