



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Marin Ranked Healthiest County in California Again** ***Tobacco Control a Major Success; Alcohol Consumption Now Targeted***

**San Rafael, CA** – – For the fourth year in a row, Marin has been ranked the top county in California for both health outcomes and health factors. The 2013 County Health Rankings surveys more than 3,000 counties to measure how healthy residents are and how long they live.

Marin celebrates the healthy choices and efforts of residents leading to consistently high rankings. However, the high rankings also reflect strong partnerships between public health officials and community leaders who promote policies and programs to advance health outcomes.

“Marin’s success in tobacco control is the result of many years of community-wide effort to change social norms around tobacco use,” said Larry Meredith, Director of Marin County Department of Health and Human Services. “Policies such as San Rafael’s 100 percent smoke free multi-unit housing ordinance greatly contribute to healthy outcomes for current and future Marin residents.”

The rankings do not show the differences in health status between communities. “There is plenty here to be celebrated, but it’s important to recognize that not everyone in Marin enjoys high levels of wealth and health,” said Dr. Matt Willis, Public Health Officer.

Additionally, excessive alcohol consumption is a key area for continued improvement. Marin ranks in the bottom 25 percent for excessive drinking rates with one of the highest rates among California counties.

For more information, see our [2013 Marin Health Ranking Fact Sheet](#). Please visit us online at [www.marincounty.org/hhs](http://www.marincounty.org/hhs) for more information.

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### **The County Health Rankings**

**What:** State-by-state rankings of the health of each county in the United States, based on data collected nationwide from 2001-2010\*.

**Who:** The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (UWPHI)

**When:** Annually - 2013 Data Released

**Where:** [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)



**County Health  
Rankings & Roadmaps**  
A Healthier Nation, County by County

\*Data source details: