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Creating A Healthy Environment For The Community

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NEWS RELEASE

TO: Area Media Outlets

FROM: Tracy Metcalfe
Community Health Educator/Health Analyst

DATE: March 20, 2013

RE: **2013 County Health Rankings Now Available**

RUN: Immediate Release

The 2013 *County Health Rankings* are now available and Bay County is ranked 53 out of 82 counties overall. The County saw a slight improvement after persistent declines in ranking since 2010, going from 54 in 2012 to 53 this year. Significant declines in ranking from 2012 to 2013 were noted in the following categories: Health Behaviors (from 64 to 70), Morbidity (from 50 to 54) and Clinical Care (from 58 to 60). A significant improvement in ranking was noted in the Physical Environment category (from 75 to 59). Health Outcomes, Mortality, Health Factors and Social/Economic Factors remained mostly unchanged from 2012 to 2013.

The 2013 *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 fourth year of the *Rankings*, which are published online at 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 are developing plans to address the identified issues. The action plans will be 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 Healthy Bay Coalition visit the BCHD website at www.baycounty-mi.gov/health.