



News from the Office of  
**ERIE COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARK POLONCARZ**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Health Commissioner Dr. Gale Burstein**

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### **Healthiest and Least Healthy Counties Ranked in Every State**

#### *2013 County Health Rankings Show What Influences How Healthy Residents Are*

ERIE COUNTY, NY— The Erie County Department of Health (“ECDOH”) has announced that the 2013 County Health Rankings will be released tomorrow. The Rankings are an annual check-up highlighting the healthiest and least healthy counties in every state, as well as those factors that influence health outside of the doctor’s office.

“The County Health Rankings show us that much of what influences our health happens outside of the doctor’s office. In fact, where we live, learn, work and play has a big role in determining how healthy we are and how long we live,” **said Erie County Health Commissioner Dr. Gale Burstein.** “The good news is that businesses, health care providers, government, consumers and community leaders are already joining forces in Erie County to change some of the gaps that the Rankings highlight.”

The Rankings highlight the importance of critical factors such as education rates, income levels, and access to healthy foods, as well as access to medical care, in influencing how long and how well people live. Erie County ranks 57<sup>th</sup> out of the 62 counties in New York State with numbers that need improvement in areas such as adult obesity, adult smoking and physical activity. Erie County also has high rates for sexually transmitted infections and violent crime. The good news is that in ratings of clinical care, which includes mammography screening, preventable hospital stays, and diabetic screening, Erie County ranks among the top at 12<sup>th</sup> in the state.

The Erie County Department of Health will continue to aggressively work to improve the health of Erie County Residents through programs like:

- Erie County Cancer Services Program Free Cancer screening for un and under insured
- Erie Niagara Tobacco Free Coalition Smoke Free Parks, Beaches and Forests
- Training for Physicians on Diagnosis and Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Westside Youth Development Coalition to Improve Community Safety

To access the ratings, which will be publically available March 13th, 2013 go to:

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

To access Erie County programs and services: [www.erie.gov/health](http://www.erie.gov/health)