



Department of Health  
Agency of Human Services



## Vermont Ranked #2 Healthiest State After Hawaii



**News Release:** December 10, 2014

### Media Contact:

Vermont Department of Health  
Communication Office  
802-863-7281

BURLINGTON – For the second year in a row, Vermont was ranked as the second healthiest state after Hawaii in the America’s Health Rankings 2014 report released today by the United Health Foundation.

Vermont has the nation’s best rate of high school graduation (93%), second lowest percent of children living in poverty (12.1%), and second lowest rate of violent crime (143 offenses per 100,000 population), according to the report.

Vermont also had the fourth lowest rate for low birth weight babies, and physical inactivity.

“We’re continually ranked among the healthiest states. But we also have significant public health challenges, such as the steady climb in obesity and too low childhood immunization rates,” said Acting Health Commissioner Tracy Dolan.

Vermont’s obesity rate is 7th lowest in the nation but has climbed steadily since 1990 from nearly 11 percent to 24.7 percent. The percentage of children age 19 to 25 months who were fully immunized in 2013 was 66.9 percent. Although this was a 4 percent increase from 2012, Vermont ranks 37th in the nation.

The Health Department, in collaboration with many Vermont organizations, is working to reverse these trends.

Vermont ranked #1 for 22 key determinants of health including behaviors, community and environment, policy, and clinical care, and 10th overall for outcomes. Hawaii ranked #3 for determinants and #1 for outcomes to achieve a better overall score.

Vermont was ranked the healthiest state for four consecutive years from 2009 to 2012, and was recognized as the second best state (after New York) for improvement over the past 25 years of the rankings. Vermont was ranked 20th in the nation in 1990.

To read the full report: [www.americashealthrankings.org](http://www.americashealthrankings.org)

**For health news, alerts and information - visit [healthvermont.gov](http://healthvermont.gov)**

Join us on [Facebook](#)

Follow us on [Twitter](#)

###

Vermont Department of Health | 108 Cherry Street | Burlington, VT 05402  
Voice: 802-863-7200 | In Vermont 800-464-4343 | Fax: 802-865-7754 | TTY/TDD: Dial 711 first  
Health Care Provider Infectious Disease Reporting: 802-863-7240 or 800-640-4374  
||||| [Web Browser](#)

