



NEWS RELEASE

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Activating Regional Healthcare Transformation

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NEW COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS SHOW QUALITY OF CARE VARIES IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

**Statement by Vernice Davis Anthony, CEO
Greater Detroit Area Health Council**

Where we live matters to our health. That's the finding from the "[2010 County Health Rankings](#)," a collection of 50 reports released today that compares the overall health of counties in every state. For the first time, we have a county-by-county snapshot of the overall health of the region and the factors that influence our health.

The rankings show that there are wide variations in the health care available in Michigan. While this reflects a national problem, health care is delivered locally. This is why the Greater Detroit Area Health Council is part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's *Aligning Forces for Quality* initiative. We are working to drive quality improvement by aligning key players in local communities. We need to continue bringing together those who give care, get care and pay for care in a coordinated effort to lift the overall quality of Michigan's health care. As we do this, we are reducing racial and ethnic disparities in health and serving as real-world models for national reform.

The rankings released today serve as yet another call for people to work together to improve health care. Here in Southeast Michigan, we're working to improve the quality of local health care by exploring new ways to improve communication between health care providers and patients. We're giving people information and tools that help them become better partners with their doctors, so they can better manage their own health. We're also working with doctors and hospitals to improve the quality of care they deliver.

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For more information about how the Greater Detroit Area Health Council is working to improve health care quality in Southeast Michigan, see www.gdahc.org.

Greater Detroit Area Health Council

The Greater Detroit Area Health Council is a multi-stakeholder, regional coalition dedicated to improving health care quality, access and cost in southeastern Michigan with an end result of improving community health status. The Health Council actively engages and aligns leaders to activate transformative solutions through collaboration and partnerships. It is a United Way agency.

Aligning Forces for Quality

Aligning Forces for Quality, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) initiative, brings together those who get care, give care and pay for care to improve the quality of health care in entire communities. RWJF's unprecedented commitment of resources, expertise and training is turning proven practices into real results in 15 communities, including Albuquerque, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Humboldt County (Calif.), Kansas City (Mo.), Maine, Memphis, Minnesota, Puget Sound (Wash.), South Central Pennsylvania, West Michigan, Western New York, Willamette Valley (Ore.) and Wisconsin. For more information, log onto www.rwjf.org/qualityequality/af4q.