



COMMON TABLE

Take Charge for Better Health

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NEW COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS SHOW QUALITY OF CARE VARIES IN MEMPHIS

**Statement by Reneé S. Frazier, Executive Director
Healthy Memphis Common Table**

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 Tennessee. While this reflects a national problem, health care is delivered locally. This is why the Healthy Memphis Common Table 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 Tennessee'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 Tennessee, 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 Healthy Memphis Common Table is working to improve health care quality in Tennessee, see www.healthymemphis.org.

Healthy Memphis Common Table (HMCT), founded in 2004, is a non-profit coalition of community partners, agencies, churches, schools, individuals, governments and businesses working together to improve the health of **everyone** in Greater Memphis. HMCT initiatives include reducing obesity and diabetes, reducing disparities in health care and educating patients about quality care. In 2008, HMCT was recognized as a promising national model for a regional health collaborative by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For more information on how to take charge for better health, visit www.healthymemphis.org.

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.