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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PUTNAM COUNTY RANKS 4TH IN NYS FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES

Brewster, NY—The 2014 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, presented by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, were released to the public this morning. For the second year in a row, Putnam County ranks fourth in the state in the overall category of “health outcomes.” The rankings provide a snapshot of a community’s health and a starting point for investigating and discussing ways to improve health.

“I am so proud that once again Putnam County has ranked among the highest counties in the Hudson Valley region,” said County Executive MaryEllen Odell. “The rankings reflect the healthy lifestyle choices of our residents and the work that our Health Department does to make our communities aware of the tools available to individuals and families.”

“We will continue to work to help Putnam residents remain healthy and to provide access to resources that support their efforts,” said Allen Beals, M.D., Commissioner of Health. The rankings are based on a model of population health that emphasizes many factors that, if improved, can help make communities healthier places to live, learn, work and play.

The Putnam County Department of Health recently collaborated with 82 community partners to develop and complete the Putnam County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for 2013-2017. This plan focuses on areas that these partners identified in order to improve overall health, including obesity prevention, smoking cessation, and overall mental health and well-being.

For more information on the 2014 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, visit

<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

The Health Department's mission is to improve and protect the health of the Putnam County community, composed of nearly 100,000 residents. Core services include community health assessment, disease surveillance and control, environmental health protection, family health promotion and health education. For more information, please visit our website at www.putnamcountyny.com/health; or visit our social media sites on Facebook at www.facebook.com/putnamhealth and Twitter @PutnamHealthNY.

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