



JOHNSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

dedicated to the prevention of disease and promotion of wellness for our community.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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RATE OF OVERWEIGHT AND OBESE IN JOHNSON COUNTY

(OLATHE, KS – **AUGUST 21, 2008**) JOHNSON COUNTY, along with the State of Kansas and the nation – has continued throughout the past decade to show an overall increase in the percentage of people who are either overweight or obese. According to data calculated from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), since 2001, more than half the adult population of our county is either overweight or obese. The good news is that Johnson County's overweight and obesity statistics remain below the state and national averages. The bad news is the prevalence of obesity is on the rise across all populations in all geographic areas.

In 2001, 53% of Johnson County adults 18 years and older were either overweight or obese. By 2007, this figure increased to 58.3%. In 2007, one in three (35.3%) adults in Johnson County were overweight and one in four (23%) adults in Johnson County were obese. These statistics and more information will be presented in the Johnson County Health Department's "Overweight and Obesity Report".

"The Johnson County Health Department is working to address this community health concern" said Dr. Leon Vinci, Director of Public Health for Johnson County. "The reversal of this trend is one of our top priorities".

Look for the release of the "Johnson County Overweight and Obesity Report 2008" in late September.

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