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**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: Local Media

From: Katrina Harwood, Health Officer

Date: April 19, 2023

**Rock County Food Environment Report Available to Public**

**Rock County, WI** – The Rock County Public Health Department (RCPHD) is pleased to announce the release of the first [Rock County Food Environment Report](#). This report was compiled by the Rock County Public Health Department from May 2022 to April 2023.

Over the past five years, Rock County has sustained an elevated obesity rate compared to the state and national averages. In addition to the high obesity rate, the overall environment has been unstable with rising inflation and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Rock County Food Environment Report gives a detailed look at multiple data points from community surveys, store assessments, and secondary data sources to give an overall picture of where the county is at and areas for improvement in our comprehensive food system.

The Food Environment Report concludes with detailed recommendations for the next steps in addressing food access barriers within Rock County. These next steps will help ensure that every resident can access healthy and fresh foods to reach their full health potential.

For more information, please visit Rock County's [Food Access and Nutrition website](#) or contact the [Nutrition Collaborative of Rock County](#).

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*Rock County Public Health Department serves Rock County residents by improving population health outcomes and removing barriers through community partnerships to provide everyone the opportunity to reach their full health potential. Visit the Rock County Public Health Department [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Please send all media inquiries to:*

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