

IV. BEDFORD COUNTY DESCRIPTION

A. Geographic & Land Area

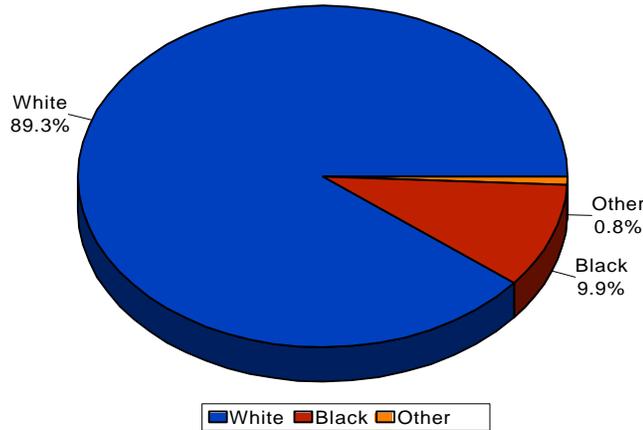
Bedford County is a rural, sparsely populated community. Bedford County is one of twelve counties located in the South Central Region of the Tennessee Department of Health.

Bedford County's geographical location is due east of the Department of Health's South Central Regional Office. It is bordered by Coffee County to the East, Moore County to the Southeast, Marshall County to the West, and Lincoln County to the South.

B. Demographics

The county was settled in 1810 with Shelbyville as the county seat. According to the 1994 Picture of the Present, Bedford County has a total population of 31,649. Of this total 89% are Caucasian, 10% are Black and 1% are classified as other races.

Distribution of Bedford County's Population
According to Race, 1994



C. Economic Base

According to 1997 Poverty Level Guidelines, an individual earning less than \$657.50 per month is considered impoverished. For a family of four, \$1,337.50 per month is 100% of poverty.

The Health Council was provided with the 1994 estimates based on 1990 census data. Bedford County had approximately 21.5% of families with children under the age of 18 living at or below 100% of poverty. Poverty rates for the entire county population was 16%, which is higher than the regional and state rate. The per capita income for 1993 was \$16,196, which was slightly lower than the state's per capita income.