

County Selected Economic Indicators

Labor Force Estimates

Total Labor Force: 48,980
 Unemployment: 2,610
 Unemployment Rate: 5.3

Tax Structure

County Property Tax Rate per \$100: \$2.10
 Per Capita Income (1995): \$19,346

Table 1
Health Care Resources

	County	Region	State
Persons per Primary Care Physician	1,592	1,776	1,053
Persons per Nurse Practitioner	6,982	7,429	7,134
Persons per Physician Assistant	15,128	15,053	18,664
Persons per Registered Nurse	143	178	106
Females 10-44 per OB/GYN	2,783	4,509	2,100
Persons per Dentist	1,852	2,414	1,853
Persons per Staffed Hospital Bed	447	491	245
Percent occupancy in community hospitals	61.0	57.3	57.7
Persons per Staffed Nursing Home Bed	166	119	135
Percent occupancy in community nursing homes	94.1	96.4	93.6
Physician shortage area for OB	YES		
Physician shortage area for Primary Care	NO		

Note: Manpower data are 1996; shortage areas, 1995; facilities, 1994.

Hospitals

Blount Memorial Hospital—324 beds

Nursing Homes

Asbury Acres Health Center
 Blount Memorial Transitional Care Unit
 Colonial Hills Nursing Center
 Fairpark Healthcare Center
 Maryville Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center

B. County Process—Overview

The Assessment Process

The Tennessee Department of Health has made a strong commitment to strengthening the performance of the public health system in performing those population-based functions that support the overall health of Tennesseans: assessment, assurance and policy development.

Community Diagnosis is a public-private partnership to define the county's priority health problems and to develop strategies for solving these problems. The Blount County Community Health Initiative Steering Team in collaboration with the East Tennessee Regional Health Office conducted an extensive assessment of the status of health in Blount County. The Community Health Initiative contains community representatives from various geographic locations, social-economic levels, and ethnic groups. An extensive amount of both primary and secondary data were collected and reviewed as the first step in the process. Major issues of concern identified by the community were perception and knowledge of health problems, which were important factors in analyzing the data. Initiative members identified major issues of concern and each issue was then ranked according to size, seriousness, and effectiveness of interventions (Table 7).