

Tennessee Community Health Research Group
“HIT” Internet website.

Please visit the Health Information of Tennessee (“HIT”) website where county-specific health data is continually being expanded and updated. The address is:

WWW.HITSPOT.UTK.EDU

At this address you may submit custom queries on health data by going to Statistical Profiling of Tennessee (‘SPOT’).

III. Health Issues & Priorities

After a review of available data, the council compiled and defined key health issues that had been identified throughout the Community Diagnosis process. These issues included (not listed in order of importance or severity):

Smoking
Unemployment
Crime
Poverty
Alcohol & Drug Abuse
Health Insurance Coverage
East of Seeing Doctor of Choice
Recreational System/Health Alternatives
Education: Increased Retention Rates & Continuing Education
Dental Care
Transportation for Health Care
Mental Health Services (Increasing Community Awareness of Availability)
High Blood Pressure
Senior Citizens’ Services (esp. Adult Day Care, Assisted Living, & Nursing Home Care)
Low-Weight Births & Late Prenatal Care
Infant Mortality Rates
Heart Disease Death Rates
Pneumonia & Influenza Death Rates

The council then prioritized these key issues on the basis of the size of population impacted, the seriousness of the health concern, and the effectiveness of potential interventions.

Because of the first-hand knowledge council members possessed about various key health issues and their familiarity with effects key health issues had on their community, a relatively straightforward process of multi-voting was used to rank issues in order of priority for being addressed through strategic planning efforts.

The following ordered list of priority health concerns was rendered by the Carter County Health Council through the initial Community Diagnosis assessment process:

Priority Health Concerns:

- ✓ **Smoking & Alcohol/Drug Abuse (as *Symptoms* of other identified community problems like unemployment & poverty and linked with stress, depression, high blood pressure, domestic violence, exercise, lack of choice to partake in healthy alternatives & outlets for stress, low voting turnout & lack of individual commitment to contribute back to community’s infrastructure)**
- ✓ **Education System (Keeping people in or returning to school, Raising school standards, Producing higher-skilled, higher-earning, more employable population)**
- ✓ **Health Insurance Coverage & Managed Care Problems**
- ✓ **Late Prenatal Care (esp. related to Infant Mortality rates & Low-Weight Births - better introduction to prenatal care)**
- ✓ **Senior Citizens’ Services (expansion of all, esp. Adult Daycare & Homemaker Services)**
- ✓ **Pneumonia & Influenza Death Rates**
- ✓ **Dental Services (esp. Adult/Indigent Care)**
- ✓ **Heart Disease**
- ✓ **Mental Health Services (increase community awareness of availability)**