

IV. Health Issues and Priorities

Upon completion of the data review, all Council members were asked to complete a prioritization process which used size and seriousness as factors in determining which health issues had highest priorities. The "Scoring Sheet" is included as "Attachment C". The results, are listed as follows:

Priority Issues	*Total Score
Children/Youth	
#1 Teen Pregnancy	65
#2 Accidents (including Motor Vehicle)	72
#3 Low Birthweight	77
Adults	
#1 Alcohol/chronic liver disease	88
#2 Diabetes	95
#3 Low birthweight	99
Seniors (age 55+)	
#1 Heart Disease	55
#2 Stroke	66
#3 Pneumonia/influenza	84
Overall issue affecting each category	
#1 Alcohol abuse/chronic liver disease	294 total

* Note: the **lowest** score has the **highest** priority.

Other Issues of Concern

Other issues that were not included in the "Health Priorities" listing include suicide, pulmonary /chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), tuberculosis, geriatric care, early identification of children with special needs, child immunizations, and mammography for the poor.

Justification of Priority Issues

Children and Youth:

Teen Pregnancy:

Teen pregnancies have increased in rates ("number per 1,000 women") for ages 10-14 (40%) and 18-19 (8.6%) for the twelve year period 1983-1994. Twelve year number of pregnancies have increased 100% in ages 10-14 and 9.8% in ages 18-19.