

# INTRODUCTION

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Community Diagnosis Program is to help communities to assess the county's current health status and problems and to develop a localized plan to improve the health status, the health delivery system, and to correct identified problems.

*"Health Departments across the country have not developed good assessment capabilities, but we must concentrate on this function if we are to enter the 21st century with the data and system to recognize health problems as well as resolve them."*

Dr. Fredia Wadley, Commissioner  
Tennessee Department of Health  
February 1995

## Definition of Community Diagnosis

Community Diagnosis is a community-based community-owned process to assess the health status of Tennesseans. The process is a means of examining aggregate health and social statistics, liberally spiced with knowledge of the local situation, in order to determine the health needs of the community.

## Summary

Health issues for Dyer County were identified from primary data and secondary data sources, the issues were prioritized for size, seriousness, and effectiveness of intervention. As a result of the assessment process, the council will develop a health plan for the priority issues. The plan will contain goals and objectives which will lead to the improvement of access to care, and improve the health status of residents in Dyer County.

This document provides a description of the community assessment activities of the Dyer County Health Council and the priority health issues identified through the assessment.

## Council Make-up

The Dyer County Health Council was established on March 26, 1998 with 29 members. Through attrition the active membership now stands at 27. The membership consists of a broad-based representation of the community that includes: the local health department; local hospital staff, chamber of commerce, mental health, local business, public schools, local government, ministers, private medicine and consumers. The current council membership is located in **Appendices A.**