

HEALTH ISSUES AND PRIORITIES

Priority Problem Justification

Heart Disease, Hypertension, Stroke, Obesity, and Smoking

The following information was extracted from current Healthy People 2000 statistics for the 3 year period of 1994-96. Tennessee Vital Statistics data covering the past 10 years, Tennessee Behavioral Risk Factor Survey data, and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Data.

Heart Disease was the #1 leading cause of death in Dyer County during 1996. A total of 132 deaths were attributed to heart disease, this translates into a rate of 364.7 per 100,000 of the population.

Stroke was the #3 leading cause of death in Dyer County in 1996. A total of 38 deaths were attributed to stroke, this translates into a rate of 105.0 per 100,000 of the population.

A look at the 12 year period 1985-1996

Average Number of Deaths for 3 year Periods Shown

	1985-87	1988-90	1991-93	1994-96
Heart Disease	114	126	136	141
Stroke	28	25	22	31

Estimates of Overweight Individuals in Dyer County

Children age 6-11	3,037	14%	425 estimated
Adolescents age 12-17	2,900	12%	348 estimated
Adults age 20 +	24,894	35%	8,713 estimated

The following are comparisons of the State of Tennessee Behavioral Risk Factor Survey Data to the adult population of Dyer County. There are an estimated 26,032 adults residing in Dyer County. (90 Census)

- 18.7% of adult TN residents have been told they have high cholesterol levels. 18.7% of Dyer County's population is 4,868.
- Approximately 7,531 Dyer County residents have not had their cholesterol checked in last 5 years.
- 26.7% of adult TN residents were told they have high blood pressure. 26.7% of Dyer County adult population represents 6,951.

Tobacco Use:

Tobacco use is addictive and is responsible for more than one of very five deaths in the United States (CDC Report, 1997). On average, more than 3,000 young persons, most of them children and teens, begin smoking each day in the United States. Approximately 82 percent of adults aged 30-39 years who have smoked daily had their first cigarette before 18 years of age. National surveys indicate that 70 percent of high school students have tried smoking and that 28 percent reported having smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days (CDC, 1991).

In a community survey conducted by the Health Council, 64 percent of the respondents reported youth tobacco use to be a problem in their community, and 68 percent reported adult tobacco use to be a problem.