

The BRFS reveals the community's perception of health-related issues and concerns. Initially the BRFS included Allergies in the survey, after its revision Allergies were excluded in the other counties. Tobacco Use was included in the revision and therefore Jackson County's BRFS does not reflect the overall community perception of Tobacco Use. In most all of the Upper Cumberland counties that were administered the revised BRFS, **Tobacco Use** was the **Number One** community concern. Even though, Jackson County's BRFS does not reveal this directly, the council surmised based on smoking questions asked that Tobacco Use would be in the top 10 problems if it had been addressed as such. Therefore, based on the questions asked pertaining to smoking habits and the fact that Lung Cancer was ranked in the top 10 problems, the council inserted Tobacco Use as a top priority.

According to the BRFS, Alcohol and Drug Abuse were ranked as top concerns of the community with teen pregnancy and unintended pregnancies ranking close to them. The council's perception is that very often these four problems are interrelated and can lead to a combination of health related problems. Across the region, alcohol/drug issues, and teenage pregnancies are in the top 10 concerns within each community.

Arthritis and High Blood Pressure are also top concerns of the community. Across the region, high blood pressure has continuously ranked as a top concern for most counties. Obesity, Heart Conditions, and Stress are also ranked as top concerns of the community. It is the council's perception that these conditions can be interrelated and one condition may be the result of the other. Therefore, the council perceived these conditions as a total Wellness issue to be addressed as a whole.

### **Access to Care Issues:**

In analyzing the access to care issues as perceived by the community, the lack of financial resources is a definite concern for the respondents. After reviewing poverty data and employment information, the council's concern is that this issue is much broader in scope and correlates to other access to care issues. Within the top areas of concern access to dental care, prenatal care and eye care, are issues that the council has focused on in merging information from other sources. Access to prenatal care is an issue that could be linked with the increasing trend in late or no prenatal care as illustrated previously in the pregnancy and birth data.