

INTRODUCTION

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Community Health Council is to determine the health needs of the community and develop a plan of action for improving the health status of people in Madison County, Tennessee.

COUNTY DESCRIPTION

Land Area

Madison County is located in the heart of West Tennessee. Jackson, the County seat, is in the center of the county 85 miles east of Memphis and 130 miles west of Nashville. Jackson was named in honor of war hero and future U.S. President Andrew Jackson and is known as the home of America's most legendary railroad man, Casey Jones.

Railroads have been an important part of Jackson's growth. At one time five railroad presidents lived in the community. Today, Jackson has emerged as a regional "hub" for West Tennessee. The city's location and outstanding area roads have contributed to an expansion of the local economy which was once dependent on agriculture.

ECONOMIC BASE

A reliable workforce, excellent quality of life, and outstanding industrial support services have led to an extended period of economic growth in Madison County. Primary employers in the community include Porter-Cable (power tools), West Tennessee Health Care, Jackson-Madison County School Board, Procter and Gamble (Pringles), and Murray Inc. (mowers). Madison County industries provide jobs for residents of all of West Tennessee.

Healthcare is an important industry to Jackson and Madison County. The community offers the only tertiary care centers in West Tennessee outside of Shelby County. Medical specialty and subspecialty care of all types is available. More than thirty percent of Madison County residents work in a service industry – primarily healthcare.

Tourism and recreation are fast becoming leading industries in the community. Twelve parks, encompassing over 800 acres, are operated by the Jackson Recreation and Parks Department. Jackson is also home to the West Tennessee Diamond Jaxx, a Class AA baseball team that led the Southern League in attendance in 1998.