

to this final product. (See Appendix D for information regarding references used in preparing this report.) Dissemination of the findings here will be primarily through a web site posting similar information on all counties in Tennessee. (See Appendix E for information regarding the Health Information Tennessee web site.) Additionally, printed copies of this report will be available to local, state and national authorities as well as local businesses and foundations.

## **D E S C R I P T I O N**

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As part of the land purchased from the Chickasaw Indians in the early 1800s, the western district of Tennessee became a U S property during a deal negotiated by Isaac Shelby. Shelby County was officially created in 1819 and named after the statesman who made its purchase possible. Covering the southwestern most area in the state, Shelby is also the largest county in Tennessee, by size and population. Of its seven incorporated cities, Memphis, the largest urban center in the state, serves as the county seat. Although highly urbanized, and suburbanized, over 300 square miles within the county boundaries remain unincorporated.

### Geographic and Land Area

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Located on the Chickasaw Bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River, Shelby County's geographic location makes it prime for economic development. The 755 square mile territory has an average elevation of 331 feet above sea level. The state's lowest point, 182 feet above sea level, is located along the western border of the county on the eastern bank of the Mississippi River. Resting on the 35<sup>th</sup> latitude, the annual average temperature in the area is 62 degrees.

**Map IV-1: Shelby County Geographic Boundaries**

