

Health Issues and Priorities

Preliminary List

After reviewing the primary data sets, the county health council listed those issues they considered the major problems in the county. This list was achieved by group consensus. Below in alphabetical order is the list of problems selected by the council for review.

- ❑ Accidental Death Rate of Persons Age 21 and Under
- ❑ Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
- ❑ Cancer
- ❑ Cardiovascular Disease
- ❑ Diabetes (Lack of Services)
- ❑ Juvenile Sex Issues (Unwanted Pregnancies)
- ❑ Limited Access To Health Care (Under-insured, Uninsured, Hospital)
- ❑ No After Business Hours Emergency Care
- ❑ Obesity
- ❑ Unemployment

Priority Problems List

The Stewart County Health Council reviewed a considerable amount of data related to the health status of its residents during 1997. A summary of the data, as related to each of the preliminary problem areas, was assembled to determine the degree of each problem. Where possible, problem areas were combined. The data validated the preliminary problem list. One additional problem area, Child Abuse and Neglect, was added to the problem list after a complete review of all available data sets.

To establish the priorities among the identified health problems, the council used a modified version of the J.J. Hanlon method. The nine problem areas were ranked 1 through 9 in two categories: size and seriousness (the number of people affected, the impact on health, and the financial cost). The rank assigned in each category was based on each member's perception of the problem from personal awareness and the available data. The rankings for each category were combined to provide a total score for each problem. The problem area with the lowest total score became the individual's #1 ranked problem, and the problem area with the highest total score became the individual's #7 ranked problem. All member score sheets were combined in the same manner to obtain the council's priority problem rankings. The priority problems, their rank and score, and the supporting data utilized to validate each problem area are provided below.