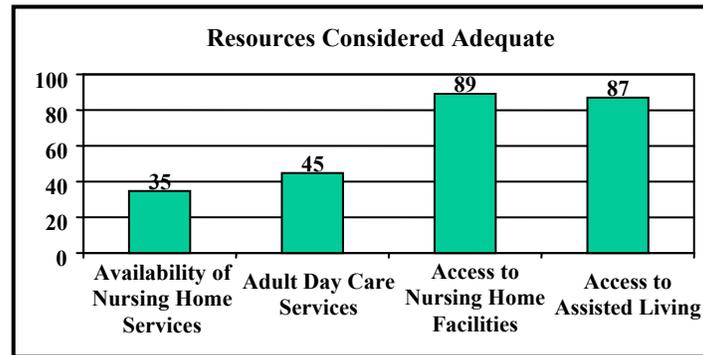


### C. Elder Care Issues

The senior population in Sullivan County is one of the highest in the state of Tennessee. In 1996, there were over 26,000 (17.5%) residents of Sullivan County between 60-79 years of age. Over 5,000 (5%) residents were over 80 years of age. Between 1980 and 2010, the population of 65+ will increase by 28%, and the population over 85 will double.

Nationwide, during 1990, 1.5 million impaired older people used some type of community service at least once. By the year 2000, 2.4 million impaired older people will use such services.

Because of the aging population, the availability of nursing home and adult day care services are becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain. This is illustrated by the Behavioral Risk Factor and Stakeholder Surveys.



In Sullivan County, approximately one third of the senior population live alone, 47% of the 85+ age group live alone. Only 5% of this population is in a nursing home at any given time. As a community, we lack the necessary structure to support/ facilitate independent living and self-sufficiency for the aging population. The needs identified by this workgroup include:

1. Lack of adequate community services to support the senior population.
2. Lack of case management in-home services for seniors.
3. Lack of availability of trained service providers/ care givers.
4. Need for available, affordable, and accessible services when needed.
5. A Medicare and Medicaid waiver is needed that would allow seniors to have choices regarding care services.
6. Lack of available transportation at point of service.

Some of the services that are currently available to assist the elderly and their families in Sullivan County include:

- Wellmont Madison House Adult
- Day Services
- Contact Concern
- Shepherd's Center
- ACCESS
- Friends in Need Health Clinic
- Healing Hands Health Clinic
- Kingsport Renaissance Center
- Bristol Slater Community Center
- Wellmont Parish Nurse Program

Since this report, there have been several assisted living centers built in the community.