

shown overall twelve year increases in ages 25-44 (69.7%) and ages 65+ (25.6%) according to Department of Health information.

#8 Access to and availability of Elderly Health Services

- The 1996 “Behavior Risk Factor Survey” indicates problems with access to various services (for all ages). 9% of the respondents to this survey were age 65+, closely matching the 1996 65+ population which was 10.6%. Transportation to health care services was seen as a problem by 34% of respondents, access to assisted living services by 28% of respondents, and access to nursing home care by 24% of respondents.

#9 Diabetes

- The 1996 “Behavior Risk Factor Survey” indicates that 42% of the respondents felt diabetes was a problem in the community.
- According to Department of Health data, diabetes was a risk factor in about 4-5% of total births. Over six years, there have been overall increases of 61.5%.
- There have been increases in deaths due to diabetes over the 1983-1994 time period, per Department of Health data. Although diabetes is not one of the “top five” causes of death, and rates are somewhat similar to that of the state and region, the county rates have shown increases. Ages 25-44 (diabetes is the #8 cause of death) have shown a 72.7% increase, 45-64 (diabetes is the #6 cause of death) a 293.3% increase, and 65+ (diabetes is the #6 cause of death) a 51.6% increase.

V. FUTURE PLANNING

The Council continues to meet on a regular basis to address the health priorities identified, through the development of goals, objectives, and activities. This “plan of action” will be outlined in a subsequent report.

The Council will also be involved in recommendations for additional Governor’s Community Prevention Initiative funding, as Sumner County’s “Project C.I.R.C.L.E.S.” was funded under the 1996-1997 Initiative. A formal evaluation of all projects started in 1996 will be available in March of 1999 from the University of Tennessee in Memphis. This will be a key resource for health councils and planning committees to use for future recommendations.