

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

UNHEALTHY LIFESTYLES OF YOUTH

The community is concerned that our young people are making unhealthy lifestyle choices involving tobacco use, violence and teen sexual activity which are directly related to poor health outcomes. We believe that the health of the community can only be improved through a focused, long-term approach which focuses on our children and empowers those children to make good decisions.

The adolescent pregnancy rate for Tipton County has been historically among the highest in the region. There are many causal factors related to teenage pregnancy, including low self-esteem, family history of early pregnancy, previous sexual abuse, substance abuse, lack of involvement in community activities, lack of adult supervision, economic factors, lack of knowledge about reproductive health, as well as issues surrounding male involvement and responsibility.

Teenage pregnancy is important because it is associated with prenatal health problems, academic failure, diminished employment opportunities, and increased dependence on public support for sustenance, housing and health care. Community Survey Results indicated that 76 percent of respondents believe adolescent pregnancy is a “Definite” community health problem.

