

# **Tipton County Community Health Council**

## **Community Needs Assessment**



**1998**

### **Volume I**

**A report on the county's health status and strategies  
developed by the community**

Community Development  
Tennessee Department of Health  
295 Summar Avenue  
Jackson, TN

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# INTRODUCTION

## Mission Statement

*The Mission of the Community Health Council is to determine the health needs of the community and develop a plan of action for improving the health status of people in Tipton County, Tennessee.*

## COUNTY DESCRIPTION

### Land Area

Tipton County comprises 459 square miles located on the banks of the Mississippi River bordered by Shelby County to the south, Lauderdale County to the north and Haywood County to the east. The county was organized in 1823 and named for Jacob Tipton who led the defense of the Northwest Territory from Indian attack in the late 1700s.

Tipton County is the third most populous and the fastest growing county in West Tennessee. About 1,800 families per year are moving to Tipton County. The county seat of Covington is a thriving community of 7,487. Tipton County has many other incorporated towns including Munford, Mason, Gilt-Edge, Garland, Drummonds, Burlison, Brighton and Atoka.

## ECONOMIC BASE

A reliable workforce, excellent quality of life, and outstanding industrial support services have led to an extended period of economic growth in Tipton County. Primary employers in the community include Charms Company (candy), World Color Press (magazines), Mueller Copper Fittings (brass & copper mill products), Delfield Company (freezers) and Paslode Corporation (metal nails). Many of the newer residents of the county commute to adjacent Shelby County to work but choose to live and raise their children in Tipton County.

Agriculture remains an important part of the economy. Local crops include corn, cotton, forestry, orchards, peppers, soybeans, squash, and wheat. Cotton and corn are the leading crops. Tipton County is also a leading pig producer in Tennessee.

Tourism and recreation are fast becoming the leading industries in the community. Recreational opportunities include hunting, fishing, boating, swimming, and golf. Tipton County is home to 310 acre Glenn Springs Lake and the Hatchie River – the only natural scenic river in West Tennessee.

# Demographics of Tipton County

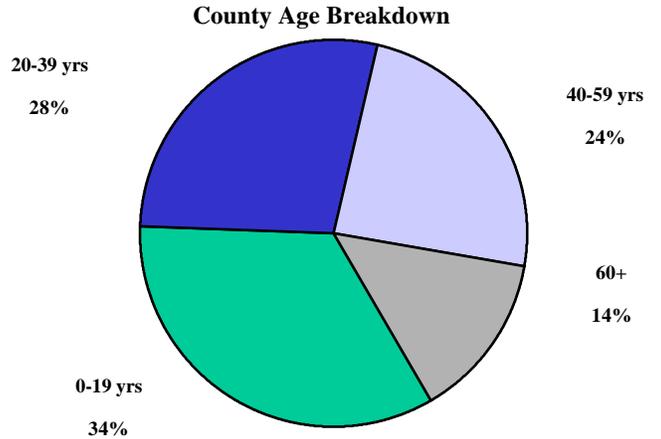
## **MEDICAL COMMUNITY**

Baptist Memorial Hospital in Tipton County is a full-service 100 bed, not-for-profit general acute care facility offering a wide range of services on both an inpatient and outpatient basis. Some of the newer services include: Ambulatory Surgery, CAT Scan, Nuclear Medicine, 24 Hour Cardiac Monitoring, Cardiac Stress Testing, Home Health, and Hospice. Such specialties as internal medicine, pediatrics, urology, cardiology, radiology, pathology, and obstetrics are represented on the medical staff.

The expanded medical community offers general and family practitioners, dental and orthodontic services, optometrists and opticians. Professional Counseling Services, Inc. offers a variety of services from early childhood intervention to stress management. There are two intermediate care facilities to meet the nursing home needs of the area. Home health agencies provide services to those in need of special treatment.

The Tipton County Health Department offers a wide range of services including family planning, prenatal care, WIC, nutritional counseling, child immunizations, adolescent dentistry, Resource Mothers, Childrens' Special Services, STD testing, adolescent pregnancy prevention programs, and health education services.

## **DEMOGRAPHICS**



## **POPULATION CATEGORY**

### **TIPTON COUNTY**

<b>SEX</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>TN PERCENT</b>
FEMALE	23,632	53	52
Male	22,349	47	48
<b>Race</b>			
White	35,749	78	83
Black	9,895	22	16
Other	337	-	-

# DEMOGRAPHICS OF TIPTON COUNTY

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## HOUSEHOLDS

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Total Number of Households: 13,033

	<b>County</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
Percent of households that are family households	79.4	74.7	72.7
Percent of households that are families headed by a female with no husband present	13.7	11.8	12.6
Percent of households that are families headed by a female with no husband present and with children under 18 years	8.2	6.4	6.9
Percent of households with the householder 65 and up	20.6	27.5	21.8

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## EDUCATION

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	<b>County</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
Number of persons age 25 and older	22,479	294,457	3,139,066
Percent of persons 25 and up that are high school graduates or higher	61.8	56.5	67.1
Percent of persons 25 and up with a bachelor's degree or higher	6.7	7.6	16.0

# DEMOGRAPHICS OF TIPTON COUNTY

## EMPLOYMENT

	<b>County</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
Number of Persons 16 and Older	27,191	352,668	3,799,725
Percent In Work Force	64.7	59.6	64.0
Number of Persons 16 and Older in Civilian Work Force	17,091	209,376	2,405,077
Percent Unemployed	7.7	7.4	6.4
Number of Females 16 Years and Older with Children Under 6	2,762	26,205	287,675

## POVERTY STATUS

	<b>County</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
Per capita income in 1989	\$9,796	\$9,850	\$12,255
Percent of persons below the 1989 poverty level	20.0	19.0	15.7
Families with children under 18 years, percent with income in 1989 below poverty level	27.2	23.8	20.7

Source: Bureau of the Census, 1990

# COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## HISTORY OF THE PROCESS

In 1997 local health care providers and community leaders in Tipton County began an on-going dialogue about the challenges facing the community's health care delivery system. It was becoming apparent that the pressures of reform including changes in Medicaid, AFDC, and reimbursement rates for rural hospitals were beginning to strain the community's limited resources. Local leaders responded by forming a Community Health Council to serve as a mechanism for evaluating the health status of the community and pooling resources to address shared problems. The Health Council conducted a comprehensive assessment of the health status of Tipton County residents and developed a strategy to address the needs identified.

### COMMUNITY DIAGNOSIS

The "Community Diagnosis" process developed by the Tennessee Department of Health was the basis for the assessment. Community Diagnosis is a data-driven assessment process which helps communities identify and prioritize health problems.

Information regarding the community's health status, in addition to data available from the State, was collected and analyzed. Data from a behavioral risk factor survey conducted by the University of Tennessee was also reviewed. Secondary data available from the Department of Health and other sources were then studied in order to focus discussion. Once a comprehensive list of problems had been compiled, the problems were prioritized based on size, seriousness, and effectiveness of interventions. Using this approach a Community Health Problems List was developed. Once this list had been compiled, work groups were developed to begin developing specific goals and designing appropriate interventions.

***"Health Departments across the county have not developed good assessment capabilities, but we must concentrate on this function if we are to enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century with the data and system to recognize health problems as well as resolve them."***

***Fredia Wadley, Commissioner  
Tennessee Department of Health  
February 1995***

# COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## **COUNCIL MAKE-UP**

The Tipton County Community Health Council consists of a diverse group of community leaders which is representative of the community in terms of geography, race, profession, and institutional factors. A list of council representatives is attached as Appendix A.

## **DATA GATHERED**

### ***Demographic and Socioeconomic Data***

Population Demographics  
Life Cycle of Residents  
Labor Force Status  
Marital Status  
Poverty Status  
Family/Household Status

### ***Health Professionals Data***

Primary Care Physicians  
OB/GYN Physicians  
Internists  
Pediatricians  
Specialists  
Dentists  
Nurse Practitioners/Nurse  
Midwives

### ***TennCare Data***

Number of Enrollees  
Managed Care Organizations  
Number of Providers by MCO

## ***Health and Vital Statistics Data***

Fertility Data  
Cancer  
Adolescent Pregnancy Rates  
Diabetes  
Live Births by Age and Race  
Heart Conditions  
Birthweight Trends  
Hypertension  
Infant Deaths by Race  
HIV/Aids  
Leading Causes of Death  
Stress  
Mothers Exhibiting Maternal Risk Factors  
Tobacco Use  
Motor Vehicle Mortality  
Hospital Discharge Data  
Accidental Death Mortality  
Violent Deaths  
Sexually Transmitted Diseases  
Obesity

### ***Family Data***

Domestic Violence Patterns  
Child Abuse and Neglect  
Alcohol and Drug Abuse

# COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## ***Community Health Surveys***

The Council supplemented published data by reviewing survey data regarding behavioral risk factor conducted by the University of Tennessee. Focus groups were also conducted to gather input and identify anecdotal data to support the assessment process.

## **Community Health Concerns Identified**

- ◆ Teen Pregnancy/Sex Among Teens
- ◆ Alcohol & Drug Abuse
- ◆ Access to TennCare
- ◆ Obesity/Sedentary Lifestyle
- ◆ Stress
- ◆ Smoking/Smokeless Tobacco
- ◆ Hypertension/Heart Disease
- ◆ Diabetes
- ◆ Child/Abuse/Neglect
- ◆ Cancer

## ***PRIORITIZED PROBLEMS***

The Council discussed an increasing range of pressing health problems that the community must address with limited resources. To direct those resources well, the Council established priorities from among the problems identified. For this task the Council chose a modification of the method developed by J.J. Hanlon who is a nationally known public health professional. This method sets priorities on the basis of the size and seriousness of the problem in conjunction with knowledge about the effectiveness of potentially available interventions. Each problem being considered was given a numerical score on a scale of 0 to 10 based on the size of the population affected, the seriousness of the problem and the effectiveness of potential interventions. The following formula was used for the calculation of total scores (D) where A = Size; B = Seriousness, and C = Effectiveness of Interventions,

$$D = A + (2B) \times C$$

# COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Community Health Priorities

1997-98

### Unhealthy Lifestyles of Youth

The Community Health Council selected one problem from the list of health concerns to be addressed during the first project year. The community health priority selected was unhealthy lifestyles of youth. When selecting this priority for 1997-98, the Council worked through the entire sequence of interacting factors that contribute to each community health problem identified. Links between problems, barriers to effective intervention and the availability of resources were important considerations.

- API Council
- March of Dimes
- Resource Mothers
- CHAD
- Tennessee Dept. of Transportation
- Governor's Highway Safety Office
- Tennessee Highway Patrol
- National Highway Safety Administration
- University of Tennessee
- University of Memphis
- Schools
- Churches
- Tipton County Juvenile Court
- Tipton County Emergency Services
- Civic Clubs

## Community Resources

### UNHEALTHY LIFESTYLES OF YOUTH

- Local Physicians
- Tipton County Health Dept.
- Regional Health Department
- Schools
- TN Department of Children's Services
- Churches
- Tipton County Juvenile Court
- Professional Counseling Services, Inc
- Genesis Treatment Center
- Children & Family Services, Inc.

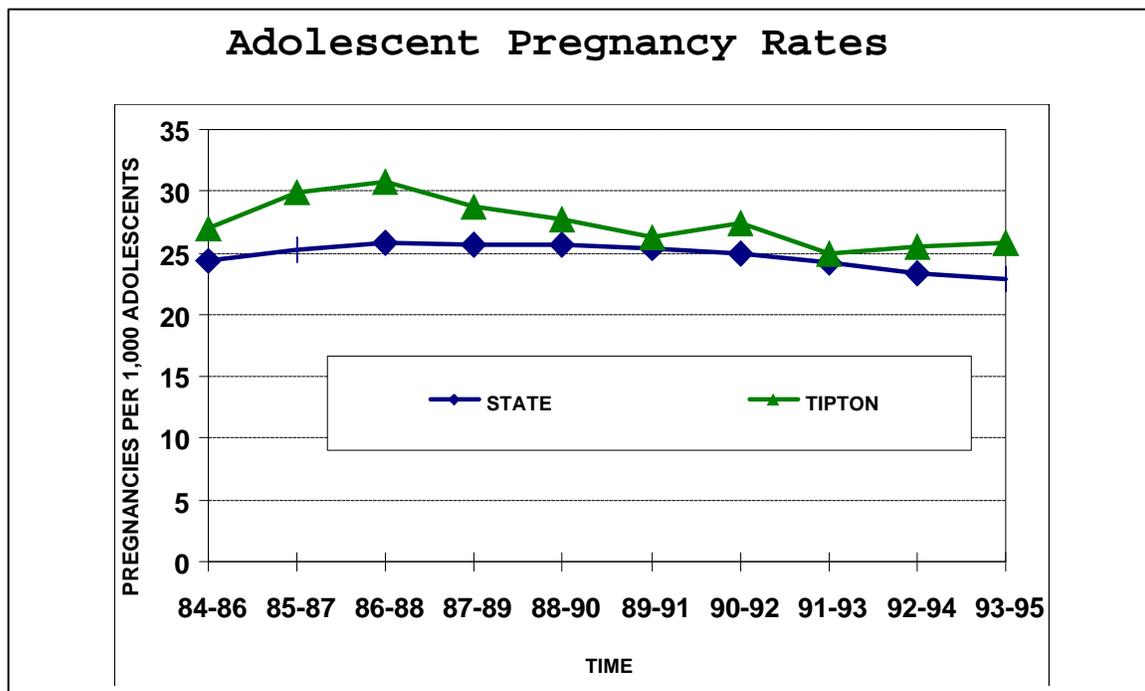
# COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## ***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.

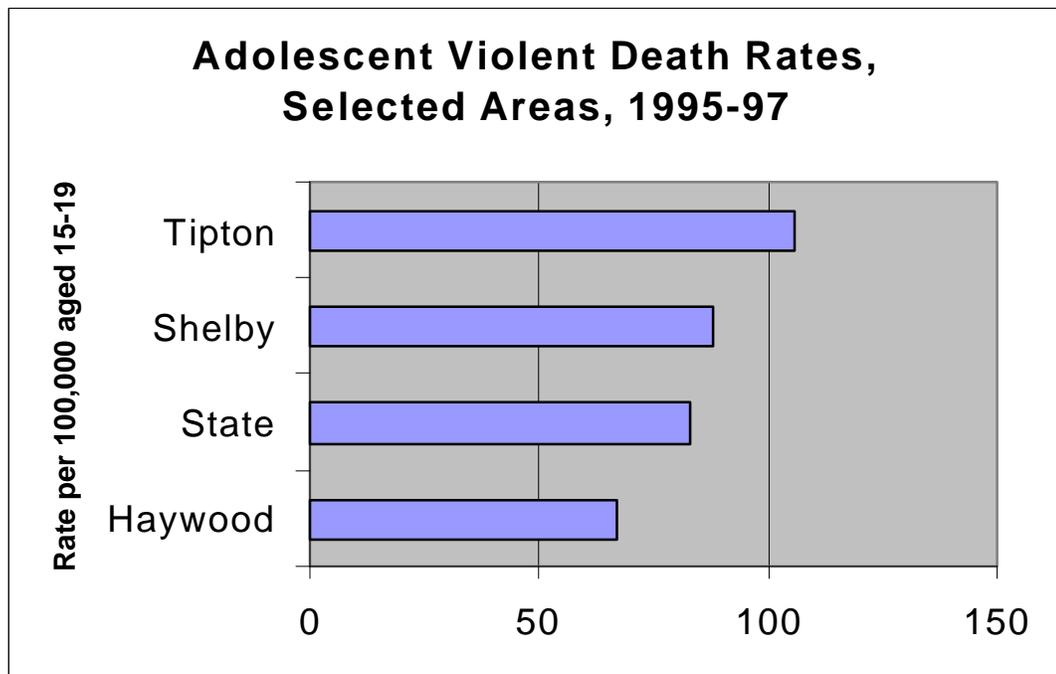
The adolescent pregnancy rate for Tipton County has been historically among the highest in the region. There are many causal factors related to teenage pregnancy, including low self-esteem, family history of early pregnancy, previous sexual abuse, substance abuse, lack of involvement in community activities, 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.



# COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A second indicator for unhealthy lifestyles of youth is the rate of adolescent violence in the community. For the three year period 1995-97, Tipton County averaged eleven violent adolescent (aged 15-19) deaths per year. The contiguous counties of Haywood and Lauderdale averaged three and one death(s) respectively. The number of adolescent violent deaths in Tipton County equates to a rate of 106.0 per 100,000 as compared to a rate of 82.7 for the state as a whole.



A third indicator for unhealthy lifestyles of youth is use of tobacco. In a behavioral risk factor survey conducted by the University of Tennessee, tobacco use was identified as a “serious” community health problem by 57 percent of respondents. This percentage was far greater than in a survey conducted by the Health Council, 46 percent of respondents reported smoking cigarettes everyday. Nationally, approximately 30 percent of adults smoke cigarettes.

## ***Actions and Strategies***

***Subcommittees were formed to serve as working groups for each priority identified and were expanded to include individuals with knowledge and experience related to each problem. Each subcommittee was charged with the responsibility of developing a plan of action which included objectives, activities and evaluation criteria. Volume II of this report will include those findings and recommendations.***

Tipton County  
Community Health Council

**Ina Yarbrough**  
**Board of Education**

**Jeff Huffman**  
**County Executive**

**Essie Crum**  
**Retired Nurse**

**Cathy Billings**  
**Baptist Memorial Hospital**

**Laverne Smith**  
**Delta Human Resources**

**Russell Lindsey**  
**Board of Education**

**Linda Huffman**  
**Health Department**

**Rev. Marvin Hall**  
**St. Stephens Baptist Church**

**John Snead**  
**Delta Human Resources**

**Regina Watson**  
**Delta Air Lines**

**Sue Dorsett**  
**County Health Dept.**

**Linda Hughlett**  
**Baptist Memorial Hospital**

**James Keys**  
**Board of Education**

**Diane Wynn**  
**Children & Family Services**

**Sally Shoaf**  
**Special Education**

**Joan Hendren**  
**County Health Dept.**