

Introduction

Mission Statement

The overall mission of the council is to assist the Department of Health by advising the Department regarding the health problems of Van Buren County and thus assist the Department in its responsibility to undertake “Community Diagnosis”. The role of the Department of Health is to support the Council by providing the resources needed by the Council to undertake the work, and by facilitating the “Community Diagnosis” process. The following is a proposed objective statement. The mission of the Council is to assist the Department of Health by:

Developing a community health assessment which includes

- Health problems and needs identification.
- Developing goals, objectives, and plans of action to meet these needs along with identifying and securing resources to address these needs.
- Establishing priorities for all major identified health problems and develop/implement strategies for appropriate interventions.
- Drafting and presenting to the Department of Health the community health assessment.
- Promoting and supporting the importance of reducing the health problems to the Department and the community.
- Maintaining good communications with the Department via periodic reports from the Council through the Regional Health Council Representative and Community Development Staff.

Community Diagnosis

A simple definition (used by the North Carolina Center for Health and Environmental Statistics) of a community diagnosis is “ a means of examining aggregate health and social statistics, liberally spiced with knowledge of the local situation, in order to determine the health needs of the community.” By using this definition, we acknowledge that significant input from residents of the local area is essential to performing a community diagnosis effectively. Although a great deal of qualified health data can be obtained from the State, the process will only be successful if local citizens are fully involved and are comfortable with the eventual findings. This is why the formation and effective utilization of county health councils are vital in achieving accurate results.