

The results of the Score and Rank Process were:

TOP ISSUES

- 1) Teen Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- 2) Tobacco Use
- 3) Teen Pregnancy
- 4) Adult Alcohol Abuse
- 5) Cancer
- 6) Adult Drug Abuse
- 7) Heart Conditions
- 8) High Blood Pressure
- 9) Obesity
- 10) Health Problems of the Lungs

At this point in the prioritization process, the Van Buren County Health Council members performed the PEARL TEST. Once health problems have been rated for size, seriousness and effectiveness of available interventions, they should be judged on the factors of: Propriety, Economics, Aceptability, Resources and Legality. The initial letters of these factors make up the acronym **PEARL**. The PEARL TEST is an additional way to gain a consensus of the council for the priority issue. The following is a brief description of the PEARL TEST.

- Propriety:*** Is a Program for the health problem suitable?
- Economics:*** Does it make economic sense to address the problem? Are there economic consequences if a problem is not carried out?
- Acceptability:*** Will the community accept a program? Is it wanted?
- Resources:*** Is funding available or potentially available for a program?
- Legality:*** Do current laws allow program activities to be implemented?

After reviewing the PEARL Test the Council decided to focus on Teen Alcohol and Drug Abuse.