
Introduction

Description of Project

Community Diagnosis is a community-based, community-owned process to assess the health status of Tennesseans. The Washington County Health Council was formed to conduct the community diagnosis process and future health planning. The Community Development Program of the Northeast Tennessee Department of Health facilitates the community diagnosis, assessment process, and resulting health plans among all county health councils in the Northeast Tennessee region. The Washington County Health Council conducted a community survey, reviewed various data sets and evaluated resources in the community to identify areas of concern that affect the health of its citizens.

Health issues for Washington County were identified from the data sources and prioritized for size, seriousness, and effectiveness of intervention. As a result of the assessment process, the health council is developing action strategies for Washington County to address the identified areas of priority concern. An Action Strategies Report will be published in the future and will contain goals to improve the health of the residents of Washington County.

Washington County Health Council and its Mission

The Washington County Health Council is a long-standing council made up of members who broadly represent its citizens (please see Appendix for complete list of council members and the diverse areas they represent). All members share a strong desire to promote the highest level of health and well being for all residents of Washington County.

The mission of the council in conducting the Community Diagnosis is to develop a community-based, community-owned, and community-directed process to:

- ◆ Analyze the health status of the community,
- ◆ Evaluate health resources, services, and systems of care within the community,
- ◆ Assess attitudes toward community health services and issues,
- ◆ Identify priorities, establish goals, and determine courses of action to improve the health status of the community,
- ◆ Establish a baseline for measuring improvement over time.

Benefits of the Community Diagnosis process for the community include:

- ◆ The process provides communities with the opportunity to participate in directing the course of health services and delivery systems,