

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Primary Data Gathered

The Weakley County Health Council was determined to gather as much information as possible from the residents of Weakley County. The council felt that community input was the most valuable component to completing a thorough assessment. Three different survey instruments were used during the Community Diagnosis Process, and they are listed individually and include a brief explanation of their purpose and distribution.

1. Weakley Co. Community Survey:

The Weakley County Health Council created this survey in an effort to find out the citizen's perceptions of the communities needs. The anonymous questionnaire was distributed throughout the county, which asked their opinions on particular health issues. The instrument also asked respondents about their personal health and some demographic information. With the assistance of council members the surveys were distributed to an appropriate representation of the community. A total of 558 surveys were returned.

2. Weakley County Provider Survey:

The council created this survey in an attempt to obtain information from the primary care physicians and practitioners providing services in Weakley County. The primary care providers and the local health department were asked to complete a one-page survey by which they were asked to identify health problems frequently seen and to offer suggestions on improving health care delivery.

3. Behavioral Risk Factor Survey:

This survey was a random telephone survey conducted by the University of Tennessee. Approximately 200 Weakley County residents were surveyed. A majority of the questions pertained to the respondents' lifestyle and health behaviors, as well as their perception of the community and specific health concerns. It was reported that it took approximately 45 minutes to administer and the surveyors had a difficult time obtaining some of the information.