

Health Issues and Priorities

Preliminary List

After reviewing the available data sets, the county health council compiled a list of what they considered to be the “Top Ten Health Problems in Williamson County.” This list was achieved by group consensus. The preliminary list of major health problems with pertinent data indicators is provided in alphabetical order.

- Alcohol, Drugs, And Tobacco - Teen, Early Intervention, Violence, Crime
 - High school students in the Mid-Cumberland Region show higher rates of having ever had or used cigarettes, alcohol, and illegal drugs.
 - Twenty-seven percent of High School students in the Mid-Cumberland Region think they may now be addicted to tobacco/nicotine. They are at greater risk for lifetime health problems and use of other illegal substances.
 - Many students have had education and information on this subject but are not deterred. (25% of MC Region students report drug education experiences were of no value)

- Cancer
 - Mortality Data does not show a problem - incidence rate probably a detection artifact.
 - Lack of Wellness Programs increases cancer rates.
 - Female breast cancer (incidence) rates are significantly higher in the county (27% & 18% respectively) as compared to the region and State.
 - According to Health statistics, prostate cancer incidence rates in Williamson County are 50% higher than the statewide rate.

- Children - Visual And Dental, Body Lice, Immunization And Basic Health Care
 - No statistical data
 - Parents and teachers appear to be uninformd about body lice.
 - Parents are seemingly unaware of the importance of immunizations

- Dental Health
 - No statistical data
 - Adequate dental care needs to be provided to indigents in Williamson County.
 - Not accessible to the poor.
 - The new Health Department facility will have facilities for dentistry - hopefully the problem of care for low-income can be resolved.
 - Current TennCare statistics do not reflect the county as a shortage area, however it is unknown how many uninsured are without access to services.