

INTRODUCTION

- This is Volume 1 of two volumes of the Tennessee Health Status Report - Report '97 - which is a benchmark, objective appraisal of the health status of Tennesseans.
- Three focal points are current health-related characteristics of the population, emerging health issues, and guidelines for improvements.
- Baseline health status information is provided at state, regional, and county levels by age, sex, race, and risk.
- Selected indicators from CDC's Healthy People 2000 goals are analyzed, and progress toward their achievement is monitored.
- Data are presented for health manpower as well as health facilities and services utilization. Health professionals are classified by major professional category. Licensed, regulated health facilities - hospitals, nursing homes, home health care agencies - are located and described at the county level.
- Goals of Report '97 are to:
 - provide baseline measures for health status and problem identification in Tennessee;
 - further develop needs assessment and planning infrastructure;
 - maximize communication via integrated data-sharing technologies;
 - target potential year-by-year goals; and
 - identify possible outcome measures to monitor goal attainment.
- The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) is a free-standing department within the state government headed by a cabinet level appointee reporting directly to the Governor.
- The TDH divides the State into 14 statistical regions - 6 metropolitan and 8 rural.
- Health departments in each of 95 counties have an appointed county health officer, a local county director, and a board of health.
- The Mission of the TDH is to:
 - promote, protect, and restore the health of all Tennesseans;
 - prevent problems that contribute to disease, injury, and disability;
 - promote healthy lifestyles through health education;
 - ensure quality health care through licensure and regulation of health professionals and health care facilities; and
 - assure availability of services despite economic and geographical barriers.

