

INTRODUCTION

- **The Tennessee Health Status Report, 2001-2002** is the fifth in a series of **Tennessee Health Status Reports**. These reports are benchmark, objective appraisals of the health status of Tennesseans.
- Three focal points are current health-related characteristics of the population, their health status, utilization of and need for treatment and prevention services, and emerging health issues.
- Baseline health status information is provided at state, regional, and county levels by age, gender, race, and risk, supplemented by access to tables, reports and case-level data for customized analysis and mapping on the Health Information Tennessee (HIT) Web site (www.tennessee.gov/hitspot).
- Population subgroups at excess risk of health problems and disability are identified and profiled.
- Tennessee's progress in meeting CDC's Healthy People 2000 Objectives is summarized, noting some important successes and some areas for improvement. Selected indicators from CDC's new Healthy People 2010 goals are analyzed; baseline levels are documented; and progress toward their achievement from 2000 on is monitored.
- Data are presented for health manpower, hospitals, nursing homes and other health facilities, and for services utilization. Health professionals are classified by major professional category, including mid-level practitioners -- nurse-practitioners, nurse-midwives and physician assistants -- as well as physicians, dentists, and other health practitioners. Licensed, regulated health facilities - hospitals, nursing homes, and home health agencies - are described and their characteristics profiled.
- Goals of Report 2001-2002 are to:
 - provide baseline measures for health status and problem identification in Tennessee;
 - present trends over time in key health indicators;
 - 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 department of State government headed by a cabinet level appointee reporting directly to the Governor.