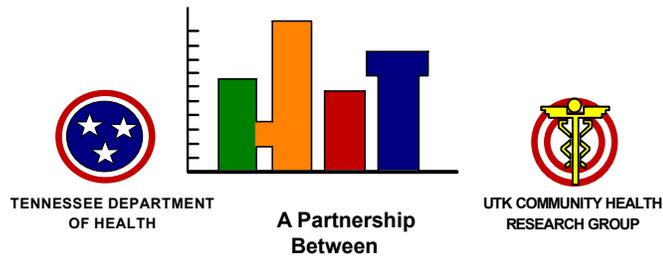


HEALTH INFORMATION TENNESSEE



Visit us on the Web at www.tennessee.gov/hitspot

ABOUT THE HEALTH INFORMATION TENNESSEE (HIT) WEB SITE

The Health Information Tennessee (HIT) Web site (www.tennessee.gov/hitspot) is the innovative product of a partnership of the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) and The University of Tennessee Community Health Research Group (UT CHRG). It was designed as an interactive means of disseminating vital statistics, manpower, facilities, survey and other data collected by the TDH and reported on by the UT CHRG in the **Tennessee Health Status Reports of 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001-2002**. The goal of the project has been to support the bottom-up, community-based health planning effort called the Community Diagnosis Initiative adopted by the TDH in 1995. Through the Health Status Reports and the HIT Web site, fourteen regional health councils representing 95 counties have assessed and prioritized community needs and are planning for effective prevention and intervention. The Internet was the chosen medium for data and report dissemination to provide ready access to summary statistics, data tables, and maps at the local level.

HIT (Health Information Tennessee) was created in January 1997. HIT not only provides a variety of previously calculated health and population statistics and prepared tables, but incorporates Statistical Profiling of Tennessee or SPOT. SPOT employs a lesser used Internet feature, Common Gateway Interface (CGI), to allow the user the opportunity to query various Tennessee health data bases in such a way that personalized plots, maps, charts and tables can be produced upon demand, interactively. The requested information is calculated at the moment the query is submitted by a self-modifying SAS program residing on a server computer at The University of Tennessee. In this way data can be analyzed and presented in an infinitely flexible manner; statewide and substate comparisons can be made; data can be standardized and updated regularly; data quality and accuracy can be assured; and access can be widespread and multifocal.

Data from three random sample surveys conducted in Tennessee by the Community Health Research Group for the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services are available for use on HIT/SPOT. These include the Tennessee Adult Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) Needs Assessment Survey of 1993 (n = 8000), Tennessee High School ATOD Survey of 1995/1997 (n = 102,000), the Tennessee Middle School Health Survey of 2002 (n=45,000), and the Tennessee Health and Lifestyles Survey of 1998 (n = 11,000). The first three data sets