

2. Substance Abuse (ATOD) [61 Points]

- Data Observations: According to Juvenile Court records, there were 109 substance related charges (possession of alcohol, cocaine, marijuana, tobacco, prescription drugs, drug paraphernalia). Total number of charges heard in Juvenile Court has been declining: 1064 (1994), 1056 (1995), 1008 (1996). Currently, first substance abuse offense can result in loss of driver's license from 90 days to 1 year and required attendance in an Alcohol & Drug Certified Class. Bradford Health currently conducts the A & D class "Challenge to Change" at the county courthouse. This is a four-week educational/awareness class. No statistics were available to determine the number of graduates of the class that are charged at a later time with another substance offense.
- It was noted that juvenile crime generally occurs between 8:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Truancy, apparently, would be a factor in the juvenile crime rate. According to Lori Worster (Juvenile Court), truancy and tobacco use are seen in most of the juveniles in court for other problems and may indicate these two issues are the gateway for other more serious problems. Jimmy Stack (School Superintendent) noted Cheatham County truancy rates are lower than statewide rates. Kindergarten and 1st grade students were indicated as the worse violators of school attendance and exaggerate the truancy figures.
- Council members were given a handout "Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs" containing data from "Juvenile Court Referrals for Drug-Related Offenses, the Tennessee ATOD High School Survey, and the Tennessee ATOD Survey." This data reveals the use of substances in the Mid-Cumberland, State of Tennessee, or the Nation. The council was informed that no county-specific data was available at this time.

3. Affordable Health Care-Cost Containment-Cost Of Health Care (78)

- No health care plan:
 - Statewide survey (BRFS) estimates 15.8% had no access in 1991
 - Statewide survey (BRFS) estimates 11.3% had no plan in 1995
 - BRFS survey for Cheatham County estimates 7% had no plan in 1997
- Health care coverage limitations:
 - BRFS survey for Cheatham County estimates 32% of residents covered by a health care plan believe their health care coverage limits the care they receive
- Unable to see a MD due to cost:
 - Statewide survey (BRFS) estimates 12.3% of residents in TN needed to see a doctor but didn't due to cost in 1995
 - Cheatham County BRFS survey estimates 14% of county residents needed to see a doctor but didn't due to cost in 1997