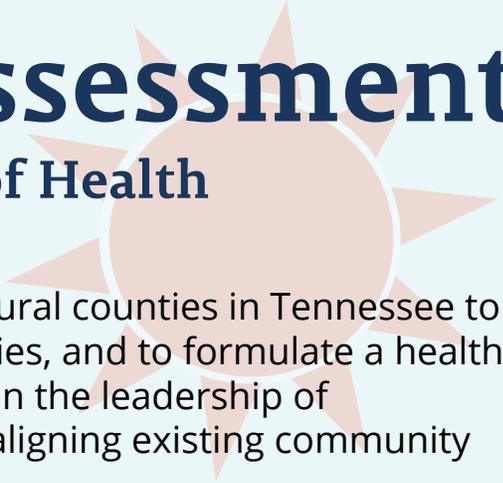


County Health Assessment

Tennessee Department of Health



What

The County Health Assessment (CHA) is a process for rural counties in Tennessee to identify strengths and address needs in our communities, and to formulate a health council action plan. The CHA process aims to build upon the leadership of Tennessee's rural communities, while supporting and aligning existing community activities already in place.

How

The CHA will be conducted through established health councils in each county with support from the local health department. Counties will be provided a uniform data package from the Tennessee Department of Health with 27 indicators specific to their county. Counties also have the opportunity to collect their own primary data through interviews, listening sessions, or local surveys, to better tell the story of health and wellness in our communities.

Who

All 89 rural counties in Tennessee will conduct a CHA once every 3 years, with 16 counties having participated in the pilot in 2019. The CHA will be conducted through the county health council and supported by the local health department. The CHA process is driven by local expertise, so the involvement of stakeholders from various sectors and populations across each county is necessary for a meaningful CHA.

Why

Each county will be asked to identify 3 priority issues. Local health departments will use this information to select evidence-based strategies for addressing these priorities that include funding, policies, programming, and more. In time, priorities from all 89 rural counties will be considered in the strategic planning process for the Tennessee Department of Health in an effort to align new and existing activities.

When

In 2019, 16 counties participated in a pilot CHA process. Starting in 2020, roughly one-third of Tennessee's rural counties will be participating each year. Trainings for the CHA will typically be held in November-December, and CHA action planning process will be conducted on a 6-month schedule, beginning the following January.