

**DATE:** January 25, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Status of the Tennessee Institute of Public Health

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Information

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The Tennessee Institute of Public Health released the Tennessee County Health Rankings: 2006 Index on December 12, 2006. Adapting the model developed by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, we brought together over 34 measures of health, from over 12 different data systems, to summarize the overall health of each county in Tennessee. The 12-page report reviews three factors to determine the level of health outcomes: the rank of premature death (dying before age 75), low birth weight (a widely used and much studied marker of infant health) and how people assess their own health. The report then analyzes many different factors in four major categories to establish how health is determined: access to and quality of health care, health behaviors such as smoking and drinking, socioeconomic factors such as levels of income and education, and the physical environment such as air quality. In addition to the initial 12-page report, a Full Report and a set of County Snapshots are being developed. The initial report can be viewed at <http://www.tn.gov/tniph>.

The Ranking received considerable interest in statewide and local media, including more than 20 stories generated in daily and weekly newspaper, radio, television and internet press. The TNIPH received coverage in five major Tennessee media markets- Tri-Cities, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville, and Memphis.