

Prevention Needs Assessment Profile for Hickory County

County Population Characteristics

2000 Total Population: 8,940
 2000 Population Age 17 and Younger: 1,782
 2000 Racial/Ethnic Composition:
 White 97.5% Other 2.4%
 Black 0.1% Hispanic/Latino (any race) 0.8%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census.



Risk Constructs (indicators comprising construct)

Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Substance abuse-related morbidity/mortality
 (alcohol and drug-related hospital discharge and death rates)

Liquor law violations (adult and juvenile arrest rates for liquor law violations, adult DUI arrest rate)

Driving while impaired (percent vehicle accidents in which alcohol/drugs were a factor)

Drug possession
 (adult and juvenile arrest rates for drug possession)

Substance abuse treatment admissions
 (adult and juvenile treatment admission rates)

Community Disorganization and Transition

Lack of civic involvement (percent unregistered voters, percent population who did not vote in presidential elections)

Community instability (percent persons moving from outside county)

Community transition and mobility (percent renter occupied housing, percent persons moving within county, percent vacant housing units)

Divorces (divorce rate)

High Risk Demographic Subgroups

Young males (percent population male aged 15 to 34)

Urban environment (population density, percent population living in urban areas)

Community Crime

Crime and violence (adult and juvenile arrest rates for violent, property, and other non-alcohol and drug-related crime)

Poverty

Socioeconomic deprivation (total and child poverty rates, unemployment rate, percent population receiving TANF, percent single parent households, median income,¹ percent adults without a high school education)

Alcohol and Drug Availability/Accessibility

Alcohol and drug availability (liquor outlets per 1,000 persons, miles to nearest interstate highway)¹

Drug manufacturing (arrest rate for drug manufacturing)

Poor Academic Performance/Commitment to School

Academic failure (percent graduates below national ACT score average)

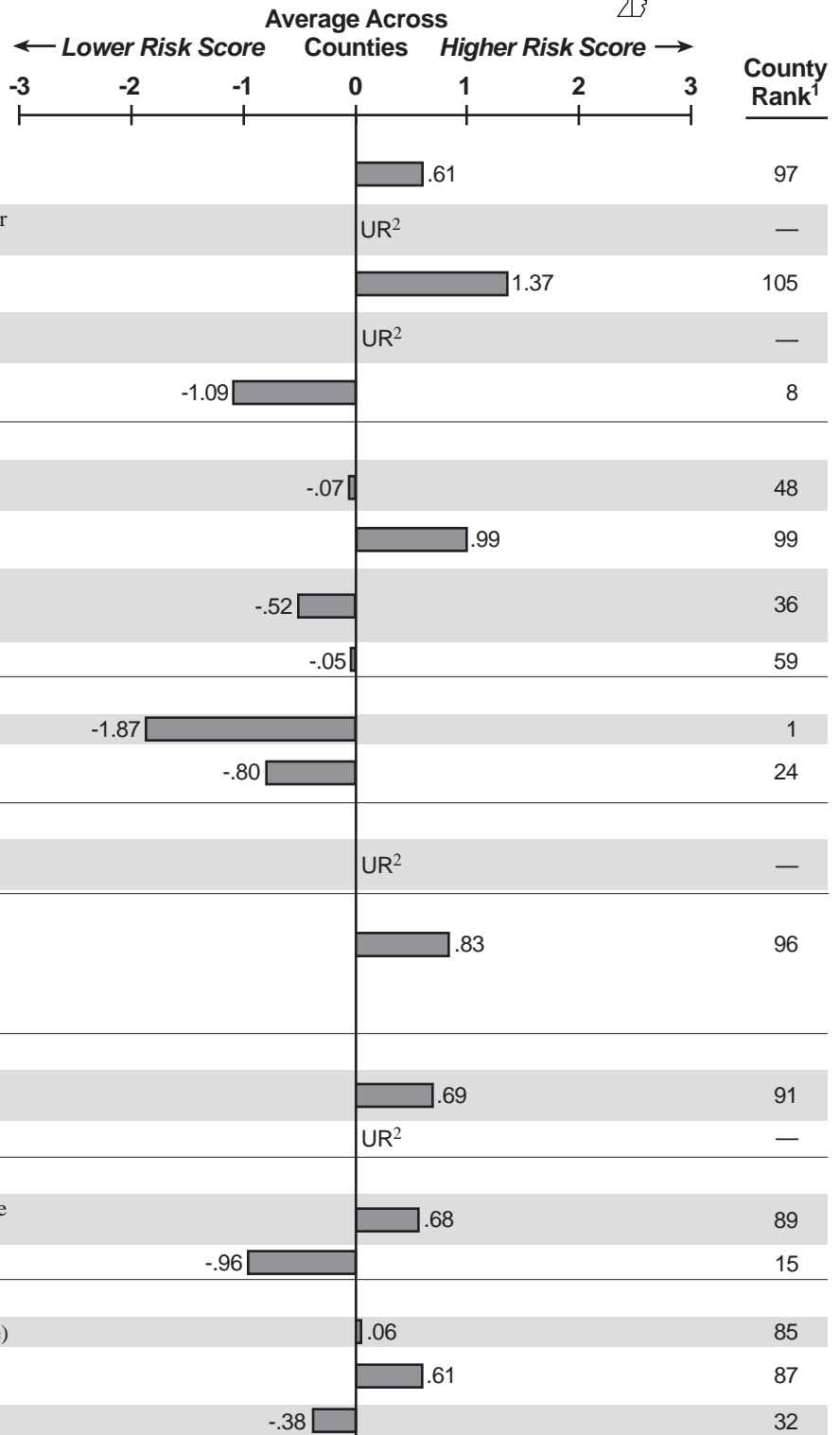
Lack of commitment to school (dropout rate)

Problems Indirectly Associated with Substance Abuse

Child abuse and neglect (child abuse and neglect referral rate)

Births to teenage mothers (rate of births to females ages 15 to 19)

Sexually transmitted disease (STD, HIV, and AIDS rates)



Note: See Appendix B for actual indicator values across available years.

Overall County Rank⁴ 66

¹Each risk score is ranked in relation to other county scores based on the following: 1=lowest risk; 63=highest risk for *drug manufacturing* construct; 64=highest risk for *liquor law violations*, *drug possession*, and *crime and violence* constructs; 115=highest risk for non-arrest constructs.

²Median income and miles to nearest interstate highway were reverse coded so that higher scores were indicative of higher risk.

³Unreliable due to nonreporting by agencies participating in the Uniform Crime Report. See Appendix A for details.

⁴Overall county rank is based on the average of all 20 risk scores, equally ranked. 1=lowest risk; 115=highest risk.