The 2014 Tennessee Men’s Health Report Card will be launched in Nashville, TN on June 10th, and a regional summit will be held on June 20th at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) to discuss the chief health concerns for men in the Tri-Cities area.

**Men’s Health Report Card**
Consistent with the report cards issued in 2010 and 2012, the 2014 Tennessee Men’s Health Report Card is a collaborative effort that is led by the State Department of Health, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Meharry Medical College and advisory board members representing ETSU and other academic, health care, and faith-based institutions across the state.

The report card’s team collected state-wide data on over 30 indicators of men’s health, and graded the health of men in Tennessee against national Healthy People 2020 benchmarks.

“Men’s health”, according to the Chair of the 2014 Report Card, Dr. Derek Griffith, “is not just about those conditions that are unique to men, like prostate cancer.” Men’s health also includes smoking, motor vehicle accidents, unintentional injuries, suicide and other health issues or conditions that may require different explanations or interventions to improve men’s health.

In addition to monitoring progress being made to improve the health of men in our state, the report card is designed to educate Tennesseans about men’s health and to guide individual, family and community efforts to help men be as healthy and live as long as possible.

The June 20th event will begin that conversation for the Tri-Cities region.

**Who Will Benefit from the Report**
Members of the Men’s Health Report Advisory Panel from Upper East Tennessee—Michelle Reece of ETSU College of Public Health, Dr. David Kirschke of the Tennessee Department of Health-NE Region, Dr. Mark Dalle-Ave, Family Physician, Rogersville, TN and Mike Levinthal of the Tennessee Men’s Health Network—are reaching out to the following audiences.

- **Health Providers** may use the information to help structure discussions of individual risk factors for chronic conditions with patients and of how health behaviors impact health directly. Other tools might focus on how to motivate behavior change, or on how to more effectively discuss need for appropriate screenings and preventative care to men of different age groups.

- **Health Educators** can use the data for adapting messaging, materials, to provide more health education, motivation, and support not only in the clinical setting but also in schools and colleges. Health professional students, coordinated school health coordinators, health student societies and student health center staff can use the information specific to their priority age groups to advance the health of their group members.

- **Faith Communities** throughout our state often have health ministries or parish nurse programs that take active roles in promoting physical, mental and spiritual health of their congregations. They provide opportunities for education, screening, support for health behavior change, and advocate for access to needed care. Churches have also been key in local efforts across the state to promote awareness...
and enrollment in new health plans offered through the Affordable Care Act. Often there are congregational networks or interfaith councils in urban areas that could be approached to help design effective men’s health outreach activities and longer term programs that identify and help remove obstacles to better health for congregational members and their families.

**Health Planners, Advocates, Policy-makers** can use the state wide as well as regional/localized breakdown of data to enable them to prioritize interventions or understand options for policy changes in their regions.

**Concerned men and/or their family members, Community organizations, Fraternities and Others** can get a sense of the overall state of the health of men may be motivated to engage in more preventive health behaviors. These individuals and groups might also be willing to assist in promoting men’s health and increasing awareness of the issues that affect men in this region.

**Helping Men with Better Health**

On average men tend to access health care services at lower rates than women, have poorer health outcomes and are more likely to have shorter life spans than women. Men’s health patterns, and the factors that influence men’s health, force us to rethink some of our basic assumptions about what determines health and it is important to recognize that men’s friends, families and communities are important influences on men’s health.

This report helps us to monitor the progress of men’s health, educate men about health risks, engage men in health promotion activities, identify new health issues for research, prioritize and promote men’s health programs and advocate for policy changes that would improve men’s health across our great state.

Improving men’s health has to include more than simply telling men what is wrong about their behavior. We hope that one of the key take home points from the Report Card is the realization that the factors that influence men’s health are complex and we need to be more thoughtful, intentional and consistent if we’re going to make progress in these key health indicators.

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**2014 Tennessee Men’s Health Report Card**


**Friday, June 20th, 2014**

Lamb Hall, East Tennessee State University, College of Public Health, Johnson City TN

Meet and Greet: 10-10:30 AM EST

Presentation of Report Card: 10:30 AM EST

For more information, and to RSVP for launch please see our website at: tnmenshealthreportcard.vanderbilt.edu

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[Logos of Meharry, University of Tennessee, and Vanderbilt University]