What we know about Allen County...

Birth, marriage, death, disease, and accidents are among the vital statistics collected to help measure the health and well-being of the population. Allen County had 4,824 births in 1996, a change of -309 births from five years earlier in 1992 (-6.0 percent decrease). Of those live births, 641 were to teen mothers under age 20 — or 13.3 percent of all births in the county. Most births occurred to women between the ages of 20 to 29 (55.0 percent) and 30 to 39 (29.7 percent). There were 84 births to women age 40 and older in 1996, and 54 in 1992. The number of teen pregnancies in 1995 was 803, compared to 928 (14.9 percent) in 1990. There were 2,664 marriages in 1996, and 2,890 in 1990.

Among Allen County two-year old children in 1996, 44 percent had been fully immunized. Allen County had 2,466 deaths in 1996. Of those deaths, 784 (31.8 percent) were due to heart disease and 618 (25.1 percent) due to cancer. Motor vehicle accidents claimed 36 lives in 1996.

Sadly, in fiscal year 1997, 1,369 Allen County children were reported abused and 2,520 neglected; of those, 288 were substantiated as physical abuse, 150 as sexual abuse, and 924 as neglect. The percent of cases substantiated was 32.0 percent for abuse and 36.7 percent for neglect. The rate of abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under age 18 in Allen County was 16.3 in 1997, compared to 18.3 in 1996.

Questions to ponder...

Are low-cost health services such as immunization for children available to the working poor? What programs can help children and teens at risk? Are services available to help mothers of newborns? Do schools or other organizations provide education to children on drug and alcohol abuse? Is there a safety-net available to abuse victims?