What we know about Delaware County...

Birth, marriage, death, disease, and accidents are among the vital statistics collected to help measure the health and well-being of the population. Delaware County had 1,388 births in 1996, a change of -123 births from five years earlier in 1992 (-8.1 percent decrease). Of those live births, 219 were to teen mothers under age 20 — or 15.8 percent of all births in the county. Most births occurred to women between the ages of 20 to 29 (60.2 percent) and 30 to 39 (22.8 percent). There were 15 births to women age 40 and older in 1996, and 13 in 1992. The number of teen pregnancies in 1995 was 297, compared to 366 (18.7 percent) in 1990. There were 1,029 marriages in 1996, and 1,129 in 1990.

Among Delaware County two-year old children in 1996, 88 percent had been fully immunized. Delaware County had 1,157 deaths in 1996. Of those deaths, 342 (29.6 percent) were due to heart disease and 283 (24.5 percent) due to cancer. Motor vehicle accidents claimed 17 lives in 1996.

Sadly, in fiscal year 1997, 539 Delaware County children were reported abused and 1,136 neglected; of those, 89 were substantiated as physical abuse, 86 as sexual abuse, and 334 as neglect. The percent of cases substantiated was 32.5 percent for abuse and 29.4 percent for neglect. The rate of abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under age 18 in Delaware County was 19.3 in 1997, compared to 24.6 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?