What we know about Hamilton County...

Birth, marriage, death, disease, and accidents are among the vital statistics collected to help measure the health and well-being of the population. Hamilton County had 2,389 births in 1996, a change of 447 births from five years earlier in 1992 (23.0 percent increase). Of those live births, 114 were to teen mothers under age 20 — or 4.8 percent of all births in the county. Most births occurred to women between the ages of 20 to 29 (39.9 percent) and 30 to 39 (53.0 percent). There were 56 births to women age 40 and older in 1996, and 30 in 1992. The number of teen pregnancies in 1995 was 134, compared to 163 (7.7 percent) in 1990. There were 1,041 marriages in 1996, and 816 in 1990.

Among Hamilton County two-year old children in 1996, 94 percent had been fully immunized. Hamilton County had 788 deaths in 1996. Of those deaths, 218 (27.7 percent) were due to heart disease and 196 (24.9 percent) due to cancer. Motor vehicle accidents claimed 10 lives in 1996.

Sadly, in fiscal year 1997, 225 Hamilton County children were reported abused and 177 neglected; of those, 26 were substantiated as physical abuse, 51 as sexual abuse, and 29 as neglect. The percent of cases substantiated was 34.2 percent for abuse and 16.4 percent for neglect. The rate of abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under age 18 in Hamilton County was 3.4 in 1997, compared to 2.8 in 1996.

Births by Age of Mother

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?