Birth, marriage, death, disease, and accidents are among the vital statistics collected to help measure the health and well-being of the population. Hendricks County had 1,151 births in 1996, a change of 157 births from five years earlier in 1992 (15.8 percent increase). Of those live births, 97 were to teen mothers under age 20 — or 8.4 percent of all births in the county. Most births occurred to women between the ages of 20 to 29 (49.3 percent) and 30 to 39 (40.3 percent). There were 22 births to women age 40 and older in 1996, and 4 in 1992. The number of teen pregnancies in 1995 was 130, compared to 139 (11.2 percent) in 1990. There were 612 marriages in 1996, and 684 in 1990.

Among Hendricks County two-year old children in 1996, 99 percent had been fully immunized. Hendricks County had 626 deaths in 1996. Of those deaths, 168 (26.8 percent) were due to heart disease and 179 (28.6 percent) due to cancer. Motor vehicle accidents claimed 21 lives in 1996.

Sadly, in fiscal year 1997, 233 Hendricks County children were reported abused and 239 neglected; of those, 42 were substantiated as physical abuse, 37 as sexual abuse, and 65 as neglect. The percent of cases substantiated was 33.9 percent for abuse and 27.2 percent for neglect. The rate of abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under age 18 in Hendricks County was 6.8 in 1997, compared to 10.8 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?