Birth, marriage, death, disease, and accidents are among the vital statistics collected to help measure the health and well-being of the population. Jackson County had 569 births in 1996, a change of 30 births from five years earlier in 1992 (5.6 percent increase). Of those live births, 78 were to teen mothers under age 20 — or 13.7 percent of all births in the county. Most births occurred to women between the ages of 20 to 29 (63.4 percent) and 30 to 39 (22.0 percent). There were 3 births to women age 40 and older in 1996, and 1 in 1992. The number of teen pregnancies in 1995 was 104, compared to 99 (17.5 percent) in 1990. There were 387 marriages in 1996, and 392 in 1990.

Among Jackson County two-year old children in 1996, 92 percent had been fully immunized. Jackson County had 404 deaths in 1996. Of those deaths, 132 (32.7 percent) were due to heart disease and 83 (20.5 percent) due to cancer. Motor vehicle accidents claimed 9 lives in 1996.

Sadly, in fiscal year 1997, 188 Jackson County children were reported abused and 318 neglected; of those, 8 were substantiated as physical abuse, 24 as sexual abuse, and 43 as neglect. The percent of cases substantiated was 17.0 percent for abuse and 13.5 percent for neglect. The rate of abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under age 18 in Jackson County was 7.4 in 1997, compared to 7.8 in 1996.