Health & Well-Being

What we know about Madison County...

Birth, marriage, death, disease, and accidents are among the vital statistics collected to help measure the health and well-being of the population. Madison County had 1,693 births in 1996, a change of -57 births from five years earlier in 1992 (-3.3 percent decrease). Of those live births, 293 were to teen mothers under age 20 — or 17.3 percent of all births in the county. Most births occurred to women between the ages of 20 to 29 (60.1 percent) and 30 to 39 (21.7 percent). There were 14 births to women age 40 and older in 1996, and 16 in 1992. The number of teen pregnancies in 1995 was 376, compared to 389 (18.5 percent) in 1990. There were 1,155 marriages in 1996, and 1,376 in 1990.

Among Madison County two-year old children in 1996, 78 percent had been fully immunized. Madison County had 1,384 deaths in 1996. Of those deaths, 475 (34.3 percent) were due to heart disease and 321 (23.2 percent) due to cancer. Motor vehicle accidents claimed 21 lives in 1996.

Sadly, in fiscal year 1997, 531 Madison County children were reported abused and 1,082 neglected; of those, 59 were substantiated as physical abuse, 56 as sexual abuse, and 251 as neglect. The percent of cases substantiated was 21.7 percent for abuse and 23.2 percent for neglect. The rate of abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under age 18 in Madison County was 11.3 in 1997, compared to 22.5 in 1996.

Births by Age of Mother

![Births by Age of Mother graph]

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?