Health & Well-Being

What we know about Monroe County...

Birth, marriage, death, disease, and accidents are among the vital statistics collected to help measure the health and well-being of the population. Monroe County had 1,190 births in 1996, a change of -9 births from five years earlier in 1992 (-0.8 percent decrease). Of those live births, 139 were to teen mothers under age 20 — or 11.7 percent of all births in the county. Most births occurred to women between the ages of 20 to 29 (52.5 percent) and 30 to 39 (33.9 percent). There were 21 births to women age 40 and older in 1996, and 30 in 1992. The number of teen pregnancies in 1995 was 204, compared to 233 (13.6 percent) in 1990. There were 968 marriages in 1996, and 941 in 1990.

Among Monroe County two-year old children in 1996, 56 percent had been fully immunized. Monroe County had 672 deaths in 1996. Of those deaths, 210 (31.2 percent) were due to heart disease and 166 (24.7 percent) due to cancer. Motor vehicle accidents claimed 13 lives in 1996.

Sadly, in fiscal year 1997, 567 Monroe County children were reported abused and 913 neglected; of those, 107 were substantiated as physical abuse, 92 as sexual abuse, and 267 as neglect. The percent of cases substantiated was 35.1 percent for abuse and 29.2 percent for neglect. The rate of abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under age 18 in Monroe County was 23.2 in 1997, compared to 13.4 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?