Birth, marriage, death, disease, and accidents are among the vital statistics collected to help measure the health and well-being of the population. Pike County had 156 births in 1996, a change of 7 births from five years earlier in 1992 (4.7 percent increase). Of those live births, 31 were to teen mothers under age 20 — or 19.9 percent of all births in the county. Most births occurred to women between the ages of 20 to 29 (56.4 percent) and 30 to 39 (21.2 percent). There were 4 births to women age 40 and older in 1996, and 3 in 1992. The number of teen pregnancies in 1995 was 20, compared to 18 (10.5 percent) in 1990. There were 90 marriages in 1996, and 84 in 1990.

Among Pike County two-year old children in 1996, 84 percent had been fully immunized. Pike County had 133 deaths in 1996. Of those deaths, 57 (42.9 percent) were due to heart disease and 25 (18.8 percent) due to cancer. Motor vehicle accidents claimed 7 lives in 1996.

There were no reports of child abuse in Pike County in 1997. Sadly, in fiscal year 1996, 4 Pike County children were reported abused and 21 neglected; of those, 4 were substantiated as physical abuse, 2 as sexual abuse, and 10 as neglect. The percent of cases substantiated was 85.7 percent for abuse and 47.6 percent for neglect. The rate of abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under age 18 in Pike County was 5.2 in 1996.

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?