Health & Well-Being

What we know about Putnam County...

Birth, marriage, death, disease, and accidents are among the vital statistics collected to help measure the health and well-being of the population. Putnam County had 419 births in 1996, a change of 31 births from five years earlier in 1992 (8.0 percent increase). Of those live births, 45 were to teen mothers under age 20 — or 10.7 percent of all births in the county. Most births occurred to women between the ages of 20 to 29 (64.0 percent) and 30 to 39 (24.8 percent). There were 2 births to women age 40 and older in 1996, and 3 in 1992. The number of teen pregnancies in 1995 was 86, compared to 66 (14.0 percent) in 1990. There were 276 marriages in 1996, and 270 in 1990.

Among Putnam County two-year old children in 1996, 74 percent had been fully immunized. Putnam County had 265 deaths in 1996. Of those deaths, 104 (39.2 percent) were due to heart disease and 61 (23.0 percent) due to cancer. Motor vehicle accidents claimed 4 lives in 1996.

Sadly, in fiscal year 1997, 138 Putnam County children were reported abused and 170 neglected; of those, 18 were substantiated as physical abuse, 32 as sexual abuse, and 55 as neglect. The percent of cases substantiated was 36.2 percent for abuse and 32.4 percent for neglect. The rate of abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under age 18 in Putnam County was 15.0 in 1997, compared to 15.4 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?