Birth, marriage, death, disease, and accidents are among the vital statistics collected to help measure the health and well-being of the population. Wells County had 343 births in 1996, a change of -44 births from five years earlier in 1992 (-11.4 percent decrease). Of those live births, 51 were to teen mothers under age 20 — or 14.9 percent of all births in the county. Most births occurred to women between the ages of 20 to 29 (56.3 percent) and 30 to 39 (27.1 percent). There were 6 births to women age 40 and older in 1996, and 2 in 1992. The number of teen pregnancies in 1995 was 61, compared to 58 (14.1 percent) in 1990. There were 215 marriages in 1996, and 243 in 1990.

Among Wells County two-year old children in 1996, 100 percent had been fully immunized. Wells County had 225 deaths in 1996. Of those deaths, 75 (33.3 percent) were due to heart disease and 46 (20.4 percent) due to cancer. Motor vehicle accidents claimed 8 lives in 1996.

Sadly, in fiscal year 1997, 131 Wells County children were reported abused and 292 neglected; of those, 33 were substantiated as physical abuse, 25 as sexual abuse, and 107 as neglect. The percent of cases substantiated was 44.3 percent for abuse and 36.6 percent for neglect. The rate of abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under age 18 in Wells County was 22.4 in 1997, compared to 16.1 in 1996.