

Measles
Rubella

Gonococcal infections were the most prevalent in the county. Sexually transmitted disease rates over a ten-year period were presented at the Health Council. The sexually transmitted disease rate (per 100,000) for teens 15-19 years in Bedford County is the second highest in the South Central Region.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the county for those over the age of 45 years. Colon cancer was the leading cancer diagnosis in Bedford County. Female breast cancer in women over 40 years of age has been on an upward trend in Bedford County since 1989. The mortality rate for the county is higher than the rate for state as well as the region.

Children and Youth:

The Health Council reviewed data concerning child abuse and neglect. The child abuse and neglect rate is the number of cases per 1,000 children under 18 years old in the population. Child abuse and neglect occur when a child is mistreated, resulting in injury or risk of physical harm. In Bedford County during fiscal year 1993-1994 there were 43 cases indicated cases of child abuse with a rate of 5.3 per 1,000. (Indicated refers to cases that have been investigated with the investigation concluding that an incidence of abuse occurred.) Bedford County's indicated child abuse rate is significantly lower than the state rate of 9.7 and the regional rate of 7.23. Commitment to state custody is the most serious sanction juvenile courts judge can administer a child. In Bedford County during fiscal year 1994-95 the commitment rate of children to state custody was 14.5 per 1,000 (117 children). This number is twice as high as the state's commitment rate of 7.1 and the region's commitment rate of 7.38.

The number of teen violent deaths has grown 30% statewide in the past decade for teens aged 15-19. Violent deaths include motor vehicle accidents, suicides and homicides. The three-year average (1992-1994) of adolescent violent deaths in Bedford County is six. The three-year average rate (per 100,000 teen ages 15-19) for the county is 90.1, which is above the state average of 82.1, but below the regional average 112.86. The major cause of teen violent deaths in the county was accidents and adverse effects. It is interesting to note that this is also the fourth leading cause of death to the county as a whole.