

IV. SECONDARY DATA

Secondary data (information already collected by other sources for other purposes) is assembled each year by the State Office of Health Statistics and Information for Bledsoe County. This data includes county-specific birth statistics, morbidity or disease statistics and mortality or death statistics. The data covers a twelve-year trend and is provided in three-year averages to smooth the trend lines and eliminate wide fluctuations in year-to-year rates that may distort the true trends. Bledsoe County's data is compared to the corresponding state and Southeast Region (Bledsoe, Bradley, Franklin, Grundy, McMinn, Marion, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, and Sequatchie Counties) rates, national "Year 2000 Objectives," and includes rates for white, non-white, and all races combined. The secondary data used in the Community Diagnosis Process is described below, with *graphs and tables used to highlight issues recognized as potential problems* by the Bledsoe County Health Council.

Bledsoe County Pregnancy And Birth Experience

- **Number of Births Per 1,000 Females Ages 10-44** - The Bledsoe County trend increased between 1985 and 1996. Traditionally, the trend is slightly higher than the Southeast Region and the State. Women of child bearing age in Bledsoe County give birth to approximately 113 babies each year (51 per 1,000 females ages 10-44).
- **Number of Births Per 1,000 Females Ages 10-14** – The Bledsoe County trend is decreasing in this age group and are lower than both the Southeast Region and the State. There were no births in this age category from 1993 – 1996.
- **Number of births per 1,000 Females Ages 15 – 17** – Bledsoe County's rate increased and remains higher than both the region and state numbers. This age group had an average of 10 births per year with an average rate of 53 per 1,000 females. Over the twelve-year trend period, there was a 10% increase.
- **Percentage of Births to Unwed Mothers Ages 10-44** -- The Bledsoe County trend has increased, and is nearly equal that of the Southeast Region but lower than the state. Annually, nearly 20% of Bledsoe County births occur to unwed mothers.
- **Number of Pregnancies per 1,000 Females Ages 10 - 44** - The Bledsoe County trend has increased between 1985 and 1996. While the rates are equal to the region, they are lower than the State's rates. Pregnancies in this age group have risen over 17% during the reporting period.
- **Number of Pregnancies per 1,000 Females Ages 10 14** – Bledsoe County has reported fewer and fewer pregnancies in this age group and has had zero pregnancies since 1993, well below both the Region and State numbers.
- **Number of Pregnancies per 1,000 Females Ages 15 –17** – The Bledsoe County rate is higher as compared to the Region and State.
- **Percentage of Pregnancies to Unwed Women Ages 10-44** – The county's pregnancy rate increased 33% from 1985 to 1996, but remains lower than the State and Region. An average of 25% of all pregnancies were to unwed women.