

Five Leading Causes of Death:

The Lawrence County Health Council members were provided with county specific data concerning the leading causes of death. In 1997, the leading causes of deaths of all ages are as follows:

1. Diseases of the Heart
2. Malignant Neoplasms
3. Cerebrovascular Disease
4. Bronchitis, Chronic
5. Accidents and Adverse Effects
(Includes Motor Vehicle Accidents)

With the exception of bronchitis, these are consistent with the leading causes of death across the state of Tennessee, as well as the United States.

Teen Pregnancy

Tennessee's teen pregnancy rate continues to decline. The rate decreased 3% from 1992 to 1994. Teens are more likely than older women to have babies whose health is compromised at birth due to inadequate prenatal care. Lawrence County's teen pregnancy rate per 1,000 females ages 15-17 for 1996 (32.4) was lower than the state's rate (55.8) and the regional rate (51.02). The 1997 pregnancy rate for teenage females ages 10-17 is 14.9 for Lawrence County which is lower than the state rate of 20.2 but consistent with the regional rate of 14.7.

Birth Data

Infant mortality (deaths within the first year following birth) and births to infants that are low-weight are important indicators of a community's health status.

Through presentations by the Community Development staff, the Health Council learned that in Lawrence County, there were no infant deaths to the babies born to mothers ages 10-14 from 1992-1994. This is true for the South Central Region as well. Statewide the infant mortality rate (infant deaths per 1,000 live births) was highest in the 10-14 years age group followed by the 15-17 years age group. In 1994, the infant mortality rate for Lawrence County was 5.5 deaths per 1,000 live births (3 deaths); in 1997 this rate was 12.7 (7 deaths) as compared to the state's rate of 8.5 and the regional rate of 6.6 during this same period of time.