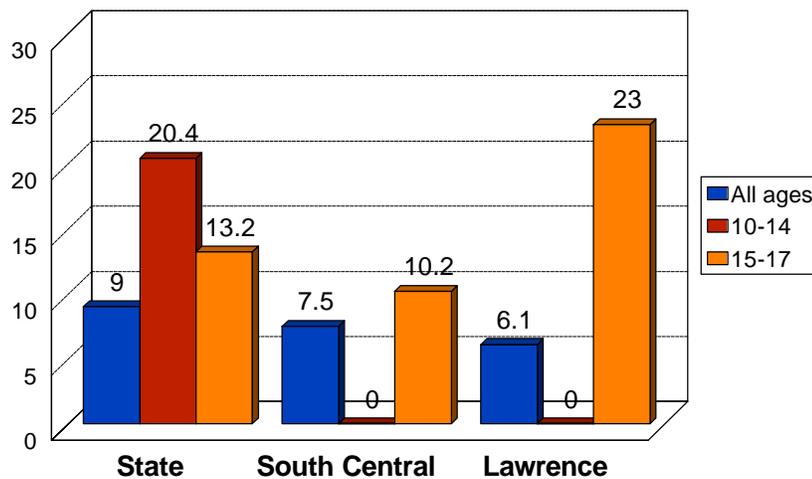


Low birthweight is a major problem in Lawrence County for teen mothers, especially those 10-14 years old. Twenty percent of babies born from 1992-1994 to mothers in this age group were low birthweight. This percentage was higher than the state (16.4%) but lower than the region (21.6%). In the 15-17 years age group in the county 6.9% of all live births were low weight babies. This average for the state during the same reporting period was 11.9% and the average for the region was 8.5%. The low birthweight for all ages from 1992-1994 was 6.8% for Lawrence County, 7.8% for the South Central Region, and 8.7% for the state.

Infant mortality is reported as a rate of every one infant death per 1,000 live births. Lawrence County's average infant mortality rate for the years 1992-1994 was 6.1 per 1,000 live births. There were no infant deaths to mothers aged 10-14 years during this time in Lawrence County or for the regional average. The states average was 20.4 for 1992-94. In 1997 the infant mortality rate in Lawrence County was 12.7 (7 infant deaths). The same year the regional rate was 6.6 and the state rate was 8.5.

Infant Mortality (Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births)
 Three Year Average 1992-1994



Data shows that more than half of the deaths that occurred, many due to low birth weight, was preventable with adequate prenatal care.