

Teen Pregnancy:

The Health Council was presented with number of occurrences of births to unwed mothers aged 10-44 years, as well as births occurring to adolescent females aged 10 to 17 years residing in their county. The number of out- of- wedlock pregnancies in Lincoln County has been on an upward trend for several years. The number of teen pregnancies has declined among the minority population in the county and have primarily remained constant among the white population.

Upon comparison to regional and statewide data, the Health Council found the adolescent pregnancy rate to be lower in Lincoln County among the non-white population, and consistent among the white population. Lincoln County, and the South Central Region had experienced a lesser percent of births to unwed mothers than statewide percents for the same time frame.

Birth Data:

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

Through presentations by the Community Development staff, the Lincoln County Health Council learned that Lincoln County had the third highest infant mortality rate for the South Central Region, (based on 1994 data). Infant mortality was higher in Lincoln County than overall region wide, and statewide. Rates for infant mortality were higher among the white population than the non-white birth mothers.

Lincoln County had experienced a higher percent of low weight births than state and regional percentages (based on three-year averages 1992-1994). Mothers between the ages of ten - fourteen years were especially at high risk for delivering a low weight baby. Nonwhite mothers were more likely to have a low weight infant than white mothers.

Reportable Diseases:

The Health Council reviewed county specific data on the following reportable diseases. Comparisons were also provided of regional and state data.

- Syphilis
- Gonococcal Infections
- Chlamydia
- Lyme Disease
- Meningitis