

Chlamydia 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 15-17 years in Perry County was the third highest in the South Central Region in 1996.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the county for those over the age of 45 years. Lung cancer was the leading cancer diagnosis in Perry County followed by colon and prostate cancer; both tied for second. Early diagnosis and treatment can decrease the number of cancer deaths in the county. Survival rates increase with earlier diagnosis.

**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 Perry County during fiscal year 1993-1994 there were 9 cases indicated cases of child abuse with a rate of 5.5 per 1,000. (Indicated refers to cases that have been investigated with the investigation concluding that an incidence of abuse occurred.) Perry County’s indicated child abuse rate is lower than the state rate of 9.7 and the regional rate of 7.23 for this same period of time. Commitment to state custody is the most serious sanction juvenile courts judge can administer a child. In Perry County during fiscal year 1994-95 the commitment rate of children to state custody was 8.5 per 1,000 (14 children). This number is higher than 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 (1994-1996) of adolescent violent deaths in Perry County was 4.7, which was below the state’s rate of 23.7 and the South Central Regional rate of 21.0. The major cause of teen violent deaths in the county was accidents and adverse effects.

**Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate**  
1993-1994 Data

