

## 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 Rhea 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. Rhea County's data is compared to the corresponding state and Southeast Region (Bradley, Polk, McMinn, Meigs, Rhea, Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Grundy, Franklin, and Marion 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 Rhea County Health Council.

### Rhea County Pregnancy And Birth Experience

- **Number of Births Per 1,000 Females Ages 10-44 -**

The Rhea County trend has decreased during the 1990's. Traditionally, the trend is slightly higher than the Southeast Region, but lower than the State. Women of child-bearing age in Rhea County give birth to approximately 330 babies each year (53 per 1,000 females ages 10-44).

decreased on the county, Southeast Region, and State levels. Traditionally, Rhea County's trend is lower than the Southeast Region and significantly lower than the State.

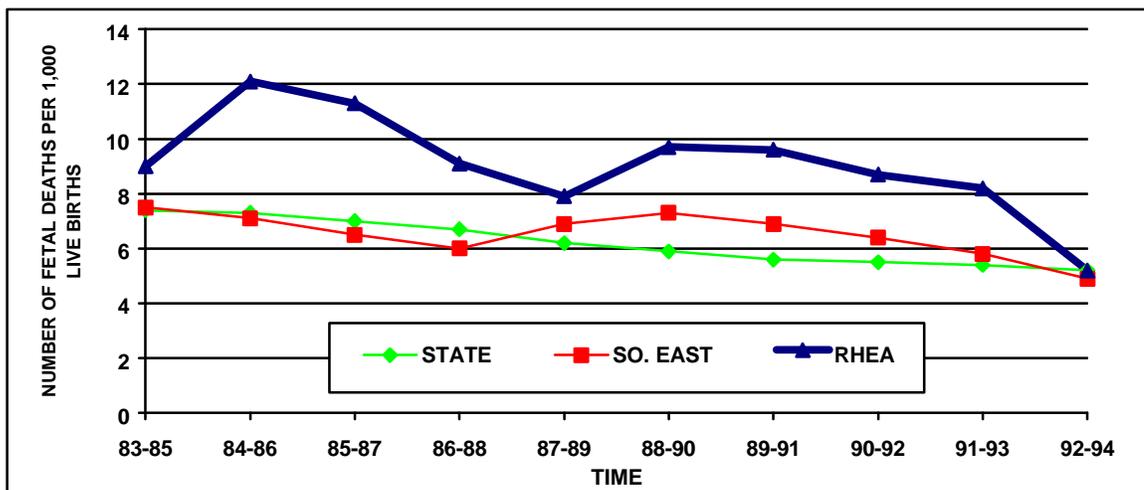
- **Percentage of Births to Unwed Mothers Ages 10-44**

- While the Rhea County trend has increased, so has that of the Southeast Region and the State. Traditionally, the trend is lower than the State and higher than the Southeast Region. Annually, 28% of Rhea County births occur to unwed mothers.

- **Percentage of Abortions to Unwed Females Ages 10-44 -** The Rhea County trend has remained fairly stable throughout the twelve-year period, unlike the Southeast Region and the State, which have both increased. Across the State and Southeast Region approximately 75% of all abortions occur to unwed females. In Rhea County about 69% occur to unwed females.

- **Number of Abortions Per 1,000 Live Births to Females Ages 10-44 -** In the last decade, trends have

- **Number of Fetal Deaths Per 1,000 Live Births to Females Ages 10-44 -** The Rhea County rate is decreasing, but has traditionally been higher than the State and the Southeast Region.



YEAR	83-85	84-86	85-87	86-88	87-89	88-90	89-91	90-92	91-93	92-94	Percent Change
RHEA CO.	9.0	12.1	11.3	9.1	7.9	9.7	9.6	8.7	8.2	5.2	-42.2

(NOTE: Fetal death and abortion statistics no longer available after 1994.)