

#5 STDs

- Trend information from the Department of Health shows increases in rates of chlamydia. There was an overall eight-year increase of 887% with a 3,290% increase in ages 25-44. The rates still remained lower than for the region and state. The rates for syphilis were unstable (although lower than the national objective), however gonorrhea has shown increases over the past four years. In ages 5-14 there was a 430% increase over twelve years. There is no national objective for gonorrhea. AIDS has an average rate of 7.7 per 100,000 in the county for years 1994-1996. This represents approximately 9 cases per year. The national objective is to confine U.S. annual incidence cases to 98,000.
- The 1996 “Kids Count” report shows the STD rate for teens ages 15-17 was 1232.5 per 100,000. This was an increase of 252.1% from 1992-1996. This was lower, however, than the state rate of 2348.9 per 100,000.

#6 Violent Deaths

- Violent deaths, which include homicides and suicides, averaged 13.5 per 100,000 population during 1992 – 1994 and showed increases in ages 45-64 of 60.9% and in ages 15-24 of 5.8% over twelve years according to Department of Health data. The 1996 “Kid’s Count” reports the teen violent death rate at 46.6 per 100,000. The trend from 1992-1996 showed a 37.9% decrease. This is below the state’s rate of 91.8.
- Homicide – homicides averaged 4.6 per 100,000 (5 per year) for the years 1994-1996. This is below the national objective of 7.2 and the state rate of 11.1. Homicide was the fifth leading cause of death based on “years of potential life lost”.
- Suicide – deaths from suicide averaged 10.9 per 100,000 during years 1994-1996 (12 per year), which is below the state rate of 12.1, and close to the state rate of 10.5. Suicide, however, is the sixth leading cause of death in terms of “years of potential life lost”. It was the second leading cause of death for those aged 15-24.

#7 Cardio/Cerebrovascular Disease

- Sumner County has a higher rate of deaths due to heart disease than the national objective of 100 per 100,000 population with an average of 126.4 deaths per 100,000 (approximately 263 per year) for the years 1994-1996. This is also above the state rate of 125.8. Heart disease has shown increases for all ages except 15-24, according to Department of Health data. This particular age group has shown a 43.5% increase from 1983-1994.
- The 1996 “Behavior Risk Factor Survey” reports health behaviors that may contribute to this problem. 29% of respondents were currently smoking cigarettes (58 out of 203 respondents). 20% had been told they had high blood pressure, while only 19% had been given advice by their doctor about their weight. However, obesity was seen as a problem in the community by 66% of the respondents. Heart conditions were seen as a problem in the community by 67% of the respondents. Obesity, poor lifestyle habits, and heart disease were also found in the “Council Members Survey” to be problems in the community.
- Sumner County’s rate of deaths due to stroke was 10.9 per 100,000, which is slightly above the national average of 10.5 and below the state rate of 12.1. Deaths due to stroke have