

Appendix E

Williamson County Data Summary

Morbidity & Mortality Data

According to Tennessee's Healthy People 2000, Williamson County has the lowest rate in the State for Deaths From All Causes. A review of the leading causes of death by age group reveals county rates are categorically lower than the Mid-Cumberland Region and the State of Tennessee. Cancer rates for the 45 to 64 age group have been decreasing during the 1983-1994 period. This is significantly below the region and the State. However, cancer rates for the 65 + age group has been slightly increasing during this period and is practically equal to the region and State rates.

The age-adjusted cancer incidence rates for all cancer sites reveals Williamson County exceed both the region and the State. This is true also in regard to sex and race rates. Cancer rates for white males represent the most significant differential between the county and the State. An examination of specific cancer sites using the age-adjusted incidence rates reveals the following:

Non-white male lung cancer incidence rates are significantly above that of the region and the State. Non-white female lung cancer rates (although at a lower incident rate) also reflect a significant differential above the region and the State.

Prostate cancer incident rates are significantly higher in Williamson County as compared with the region and the State. This is true of both white and non-white rates.

Female breast cancer incidence rates are significantly higher in the county as compared to the region and the State. The most significant difference is among the white female rates.

The council suggested an explanation for the high cancer incidence rates in Williamson County. Williamson County residents are a very educated and informed citizenry. They may be utilizing health screenings more frequently than other counties and thereby detecting cancer early. Early treatment would be accessed, however the county's cancer incident rates would be increased. This explanation has credence when cancer mortality rates are compared. Although cancer is the leading cause of death for ages 45-64, the Williamson County rates are significantly lower than those of the region and the State. Cancer mortality rates for the 65 and over age group are about equal to the region and slightly less than the State rate. The higher cancer incidence rate in the county has not led to a higher mortality rate. In fact, deaths from "Lung Cancer" and "Female Breast Cancer" are already below the rates for the Year 2000 National Objective. Cancer is the second leading cause of death throughout the U.S.

The leading cause of death in Williamson County is "Diseases of the Heart." This is true in Tennessee and the U.S. The county rate of deaths from Heart Disease is among the lowest in Tennessee and already below the Year 2000 National Objective.