

Morbidity & Mortality Data (continued)

Deaths from Stroke are the third leading cause of death throughout the nation. Williamson County's rate is below the State rate but above the Year 2000 National Objective.

Infant Mortality data reveals Williamson County's Infant Death rate is among the lowest in Tennessee. As of the last report (1992-1994), the county rate is 66% less than the State rate and 50% less than the Year 2000 National Objective.

Accidents and Adverse Effects have the greatest impact on premature death in terms of "Years of Productive Life Lost." This is also true of the region and the State. The majority of premature deaths in this domain are Motor Vehicle Accidental Deaths. Overall, Williamson County's rates are slightly less than the region and the State in this category. However, in the 15-24 age group, there is a significantly higher rate of Motor Vehicle Accidental Deaths as compared to both the region and the State. Also, the 65 and up age group has higher rates than their counterparts in the region and the State in this category.

Violent Death Rates (motor vehicle accidents, suicides, and homicides) are significantly lower in the county when compared as a whole to the region and the State. There are two exceptions when broken out by age groups. The white race, 65 and up age group rates have been consistently higher than the region and the State. Currently, this rate is nearly double the region and State rate. In the 1995 KIDS COUNT material from the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, the Teen Violent Death Rate (Ages 15-19) is slightly above the State rate and significantly above the U.S. rate. It should be noted that the leading cause of teen violent death is motor vehicle accidents. The second leading cause of death is firearm-related deaths. Williamson County's rate of deaths from motor vehicle accidents is lower than the State rate but slightly over the Year 2000 National Objective. The county's death rates from homicide and suicide are already below the Year 2000 National Objective.

The incidence of Tuberculosis in the county is significantly lower than the State rate but higher than the Year 2000 National Objective. The incidence of Syphilis is lower than the State rate but slightly higher than the Year 2000 National Objective.

Program Data From Other Departments

The Williamson County and Franklin School Districts report a higher percentage of students receiving Special Education than the State of Tennessee rate. The council offered several explanations for this occurrence. Students with behavioral problems are being placed in special education, informed parents are accessing this resource frequently, and Williamson County schools have an excellent reputation that attracts families with special needs to the county.

The percent of children under 18 being referred to Juvenile Court in Williamson County is above the average for Tennessee. The Juvenile Services Director provided several reasons for the high rate. Williamson County petitions may be acquired twenty-four a day, seven days a week. The excellent reputation and availability of Juvenile Justice resources in the county have encouraged greater use of the system. The most frequent offense is theft occurring at the Cool Springs Mall. Merchants know a guilty verdict means an automatic 48-hour detention for the offender. This is viewed as an effective