

INTRODUCTION

Data Presentation Format. A four-page data profile is given for each county and for the state as a whole. Please refer to the descriptions and caveats explained in this introduction before using the information. Also, the reader should examine the definitions given in Appendix I which also gives a detailed explanation of the rates and percentages included in this report.

Population based rates presented in this report are based on the population estimates for each county by selected indicators such as race or age group, whereas the population based rates for the state are based on the total state population by selected indicator. Beginning in this edition of *Picture of the Present*, the age-adjusted rates presented are county based for each county and adjusted to the 2000 United States population age distribution, in compliance to changes made by the National Center for Health Statistics. This replaces the previous standard based upon the estimated 1940 population age distribution. The state age-adjusted rates are based on the total state population and adjusted to the 2000 United States population also. The results of this change in population distribution are that the age-adjusted rates presented in this edition have differing scales of values than those age-adjusted rates calculated for previous editions. In general, the rates determined by the new age-adjustment methodology standard will be higher than those determined by the replaced standard. They are thus not comparable to any previously published in these prior editions and no attempt should be made to do so. It should be noted that cancer incidence rates are age-adjusted to the 1970 United States Census population for each county and for the state.

First page: Population and pregnancy data. The first page of each profile contains estimates of population for 1999 by age, race, and sex based on the August 20, 2001 population projections prepared by the Department of Sociology, University of Tennessee, and by Health Statistics and Research, Tennessee Department of Health. It should be noted that the format of the population data changed with 1993 data from that used in previous editions. Since then data is presented using the racial categories of white, black, and other races rather than white and all other races.

Pregnancy data is also shown on page one of each profile. This information was based on data extracted from Certificates of Live Birth, Reports of Fetal Deaths, and Induced Termination of Pregnancy Reports sent to Vital Records, Tennessee Department of Health. The data covers only those events that occurred to Tennessee residents.

The numbers of total pregnancies and live births, as well as the associated population based rates, are presented. Race-specific and age-specific numbers and rates are also displayed. A similar format change from the racial categories used in editions prior to 1993 data should also be noted here. Data in this section is now being presented by white and black races. Events occurring to persons of a race other than white or black or to persons of an unknown race are included in totals, but not in race-specific data. Adequacy of prenatal care information as defined by the modified Kessner Index (see Appendix II) is also given.

Second page: Mortality data. The second page displays 1999 mortality data for residents of each county plus a state total. Included is information on infant mortality, and the number of deaths and population based mortality rates for selected age groups. Leading causes of death for those under age one are broken down into causes specific to infants. Also presented