

MORTALITY EXPERIENCE OF RURAL TENNESSEE RESIDENTS, 1995

- In 1995, the age distribution of deaths was similar in the most rural¹ compared to less rural counties in Tennessee -- 22% to 23% occurred to persons aged 65 and over. Deaths to youth under 9 were most frequent in less rural areas.
- 28% of whites who died in Tennessee in 1995 were from one of the 55 most rural counties (i.e. counties in which 70% or more of the population was classified as rural by the U.S. Census), compared to 10% of blacks who died that year.
- A higher percentage of residents of the most rural areas was dead on arrival (DOA) than residents of less rural counties (18% vs. 13%, respectively). Residents of the less rural counties (20%) were more likely than those in the most rural counties (15%) to have died in their residences. About the same proportions died as inpatients, in ERs or as outpatients. Somewhat higher percentages of residents of less rural areas died in nursing homes (17% vs. 14%, respectively).
- International Classification of Disease (ICD) codes more frequently assigned to deaths in most rural areas were
 - acute myocardial infarction (MI) - 15% vs. 9.8% in less rural areas;
 - accidents/unintentional injury - 6.0% vs. 4.3% in deaths in less rural areas;
 - COPD - 4.6% vs. 4.2% in deaths in less rural areas; and
 - heart disease, other than MI, - 33.0% vs. 30.9% in deaths in less rural areas.

- Less rural/more urban areas had higher percentages of homicides and deaths from perinatal conditions than most rural areas.
- Similar proportions of deaths from cancer, stroke, pneumonia, kidney disease, and suicide occurred in both rural and urban areas of Tennessee.
- A higher percentage of residents of the most rural counties in Tennessee died from congenital anomalies, heart disease especially acute MI, COPD and accidents, including fractures.

Source: Mortality Data, TDH, Health Statistics and Information, 1995.

¹The most rural counties (70+% rural by the Census definition) in Tennessee are:

Benton, Bledsoe, Campbell, Cannon, Cheatham, Claiborne, Clay, Cocke, Crockett, Cumberland, Decatur, DeKalb, Dickson, Fayette, Fentress, Franklin, Grainger, Greene, Grundy, Hancock, Hardeman, Hardin, Henderson, Hickman, Houston, Humphrey, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Lake, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lincoln, McNairy, Macon, Marion, Meigs, Monroe, Moore, Morgan, Overton, Perry, Pickett, Polk, Rhea, Scott, Smith, Stewart, Tipton, Trousdale, Union, VanBuren, Wayne, Weakley, White.