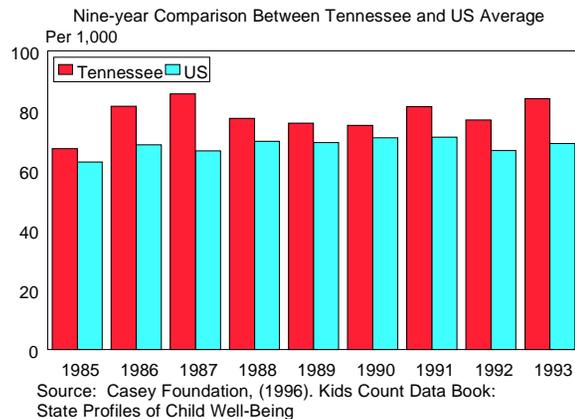


Teen Violent Death Rate, Ages 15-19



SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE RATE

Compared to 1991, there were fewer reported cases of sexually transmitted diseases among teens ages 15 - 17 in 1995. In 1991, there were 9,664 cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, or chancroid (a bacterial infection) compared to 5,065 cases of these diseases in 1995.

The sexually transmitted disease (STD) rate declined 10.9% from the 1991 rate of 2636.4 per 100,000 to the 1995 rate of 2348.9 per 100,000 teens. An official with the Tennessee Department of Health said efforts at the state level to improve clinical services to teens with STDs, improved medication to fight the diseases, and general education about STDs and AIDS in the schools have helped reduce the STD rate.

Teens most at risk of contracting these diseases are those who are more likely to have sex sporadically, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute's 1994 publication *Sex and America's Teenager*. This tendency for teen's to have sex sporadically can affect their efforts to prevent STDs and unintended pregnancy by making them unprepared to use contraceptives when they do have intercourse,

according to the report.

Fortunately, chlamydia and syphilis can generally be cured quite easily if they are treated at an early stage. If not treated early, both diseases can cause infertility.

Other consequences of STDs can be life-threatening. Viral infections such as HPV, genital herpes, hepatitis B and HIV cannot be cured and can be transmitted to sexual partners even years after viral infections. The consequences for the infected person with a noncurable, viral STD include cancer, cirrhosis, and immune system disorders.

TEEN VIOLENT DEATH RATE

An increasing number of teens are dying violently. The teen violent death rate increased 22.4% from 1990 to 1995. In 1990, the rate was 75 per 100,000 (275 deaths). The rate in 1995 was 91.8 per 100,000 (330 deaths). Violent deaths include motor vehicle accidents, suicides, and homicides.

The leading cause of teen violent deaths is motor vehicle accidents. Out of a total number of 398 deaths of all causes for teens ages 15-19, 44% (177 deaths) were due to motor vehicle accidents. The majority of the motor vehicle deaths could have been prevented if