

with 12. Forty-one percent of all child deaths in the state occurred in these four counties, with Shelby County accounting for almost 18 percent.

Rural counties had the highest rates of child deaths. Benton County had the highest rate of 141.3 child deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 through 14. McNairy County had a rate of 109.2, and Lewis County had a rate of 90.5.

On the national level, “motor vehicle crashes claimed the lives of fewer children ages 15 and under than any time in history. The number of fatalities for children younger than five dropped significantly, an 8.6 percent decrease. There were 710 in 2000 compared to 649 in 2001. The number of fatalities for children ages 5 to 15 also dropped 8.6 percent from 2,121 in 2000 to 1,939 in 2001. The number of fatalities in both age groups is the lowest since the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s Fatality Analysis Reporting System record keeping began in 1975” (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2002).

Cause of Death in Child Fatality Cases

Ages 1 Through 14, 2000

Age	Homicide	Accident	Natural	Suicide	Not Determined	Undetermined /Suspicious
1-2	5	23	32	0	0	0
3-5	3	23	20	0	0	0
6-8	4	18	15	0	1	0
9-11	4	18	26	0	1	0
12-14	4	25	30	8	2	2
Total	20	107	123	8	4	2

Source: Child Fatality Review Team

Teen Violent Death

Three hundred fifty-five teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19 died in Tennessee during the year 2000.

- ✓ Larger urban counties had the largest number of teen deaths.
- ✓ Shelby County leads with 61 deaths, followed by Davidson County with 46.
- ✓ Knox County and Hamilton County suffered 17 and 16 deaths respectively.
- ✓ Rutherford County follows with 13 deaths.

The rate of teen violent death was much higher in rural counties. The rate is based on the 2000 population in each county per 10,000 teens ages 15 to 19. Sequatchie County in southeast Tennessee had a teen death rate of 42.7. Houston County was second with a teen death rate of 42.1, and its immediate neighbor to the west, Benton County, had a rate of 29.8.

Of the 355 teens who died in the year 2000, 49 died from assault, and 38 died from intentional self-harm (TDH, 2002).

One emerging issue of concern is job safety for young workers. “With nearly 4 million teenagers at work across the nation this summer, many health safety experts say it is time for the government to revise its 60-year-old list of jobs barred to young people because they are too dangerous” (The New York Times,