

## Cheatham County Data Summary (Continued)

- **Accidents and Adverse Effects** are the fifth leading cause of death in the county (fourth leading cause of death statewide). These 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.
  - **Motor Vehicle Accidental Deaths** (1994) accounted for seventy-three (73) percent of deaths occurring by accident or adverse effects in Cheatham County. Overall, the county’s MVA death rates are 75% higher than the region and 49% higher than the State. The death rate in the 45-64 age group has the largest differential in comparison with the State. The county rate is 150% higher than the State rate in this age group. The death rate in the 15-24 age group is 21% higher than the State rate.
- **Violent Death Rates** (motor vehicle accidents, homicides, and suicides) are higher in the county when compared to the Region and the State.
  - The **Motor Vehicle Accidental Death Rate** in the county is 75% higher than the Region and 49% higher than the State. The 15-24 age group has the highest (MVA) death rate, and the rate is 37% higher than the Region and 21% higher than the State. The 45-64 age group has the second highest (MVA) death rate, and the rate is 154% higher than the Region and 150% higher than the State. The “Tennessee’s Healthy People 2000” information shows the county’s death rate from motor vehicle accidents is 145% above the Year 2000 National Objective. Preventive measures to reduce this rate include using seat belts, helmet laws, better design in both vehicles and roadways, traffic and drunk driving law enforcement, reduced highway speed, and safety education.
  - The **Homicide/Suicide** death rate is 44% higher than the Region and 10% higher than the State. The “Tennessee’s Healthy People 2000” booklet reveals the rate of deaths from homicide in the county are 25% lower than the State but 26% higher than the Year 2000 National Objective. This rate is considered unreliable as the relative standard error exceeds 30%. The rate of deaths from suicide in the county are 14% higher than the State and 37% higher than the Year 2000 National Objective. Currently the most promising approach to suicide prevention is the early identification and treatment of persons suffering from mental disorders.
  - In the “1995 KIDS COUNT” material from the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, the **Teen Violent Death Rate** (Ages 15-19) is 0 due to no violent deaths in 1994. 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. For Cheatham County to be similar to the State regarding teen violent deaths, 1.8 deaths would have occurred during 1994 in the 15-19 age group. The Year 2000 National Objective can be met by in the county by keeping the teen violent death rate less than 1.3 per year with the current population.