

Introduction

Ensuring healthy beginnings for mothers and infants and preventing illness and disability among children are primary goals of the Community Health Services Division (CHS) of the Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE). To identify trends in health risks and outcomes among county mothers, infants, children and adolescents, the Epidemiology Program and CHS Division studied numerous indicators of maternal and child health. Where possible, we compared Jefferson County data with national objectives of the *Healthy People 2010* program of the U.S. Public Health Service.¹ Other indicators or incidence rates for comparison were from published national or state data. The majority of these were abstracted from two sources: *Colorado Vital Statistics* (volumes 1990 through 1999)², the annual publication of the Health Statistics and Vital Records Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (HSVRD-CDPHE), and *Healthy People 2000* annual reviews tracking national health promotion and disease prevention objectives.

This report examines trends from 1990 to 2000 and identifies specific areas of need within our county. It is an update of an earlier report of Jefferson County indicators³ based on 1990-97 data and *Healthy People 2000*⁴ objectives.

Technical Notes

Records of births and deaths and reportable diseases and conditions of Jefferson County residents between 1990 and 2000 were the primary data sources for this report. The HSVRD-CDPHE collects health and demographic data on each birth and death in Colorado and supplies appropriate data to local health departments and researchers.⁵ The Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division, CDPHE, conducts passive surveillance for numerous reportable diseases and conditions and also supplies appropriate data to health departments and disease investigators.

Systematic passive surveillance is an essential function for protecting the health of the public. However, data from these systems can only partially describe a community's health status. These systems measure extreme events (as in the case of mortality) or specific diseases, and do not provide qualitative and quantitative details about health, morbidity or disability. This leaves many important questions unanswered.

JCDHE Epidemiology Program and Community Health Nursing Section performed all analyses for this report. Interpretations and conclusions derived from the analyses are the responsibility of JCDHE.

For many analyses population data were required for computing disease incidence or other rates. Most population data were obtained online from the Demography Section, Colorado Division of Local Affairs⁶ and the U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce.⁷

Maps were produced using ArcView GIS v3.2, with county coverages provided by the Jefferson County Information Technology-Development Department.

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