



# KIDS Still COUNT

## TCCY Releases State of the Child

Assisted by good public policies, Tennessee's children are coming into the world healthier and better able to grow, learn and take on life's challenges, according to *KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee 2001*, published annually by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth.

"Despite state budget constraints, good public policy choices by Tennessee leaders have produced positive outcomes for children, especially in the health care categories," said Linda O'Neal, executive director of the agency.

Access to adequate prenatal care is improving. By 1999, approximately three-fourths of Tennessee's pregnant women received sufficient health care services during their pregnancies, compared to only about two-thirds in 1990.

Tennessee's infant mortality rate, a related measure of community and individual well-being, has also improved, falling to seven per every 1,000 births in 1999 from 11 in 1989. The babies who died would have filled 30 kindergarten classes, eight in Shelby County. Infant mortality reflects both improved social and economic conditions and successful public policy efforts, including TennCare.

Tennessee's children are much better able to fight disease because the rate of immunizations for 2-year-olds has increased from 81 percent in 1995 to 88 percent in 2000. Approaching the state's goal of 90 percent means more children and their

communities avoid the drain on resources and opportunities caused by brain damage, permanent disability, birth defects and even death resulting from communicable diseases.

"And thanks to collaborative outreach efforts by the Department of Health, TennCare, private providers, and advocates," O'Neal reported, "we have almost closed the immunization gap between children on TennCare and those on private insurance."

*KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child 2001* contains 34 indicators of child and community well-being on individual county pages and statewide tables. These include information on health, education and economic security, as well as demographic data on children.

Additional information is presented on infant, child, and teen health; child, and teen well-being; education; and economic security. An overview of state information is included in this newsletter.

### Infant, Child, and Teen Health

TennCare. Nearly half (47.4 percent) of all Tennessee counties have more than 30 percent of their population



Continued on Page 2.

# Statewide Data

Primary Indicators	Number		State Rate		State Change
	Current Year	Previous Year	Current Year	Previous Year	
Low Birthweight Babies (Less than 5.5 lbs): 1999/1998	7,151	7,024	9.2	9.1	WORSE
Infant Mortality (Rate per 1,000 Live Births): 1999/1998	597	634	7.7	8.2	BETTER
Child Deaths (Rate per 100,000 Children 1-14 Years): 1999/1998	319	279	29.4	26.1	WORSE
Teen Deaths (Rate per 10,000 Teens 15-19 Years): 1999/1998	272	305	7.2	8.1	BETTER
Free or Reduced Lunches: 2000/1999	281,058	293,929	33.3	35.4	BETTER
Cohort Dropouts: 2000/1999	11,881	11,991	14.4	14.8	BETTER
Children Under Age 18 Receiving TANF: 2000/1999	111,049	108,069	7.9	7.8	WORSE
Children Under Age 18 Receiving Food Stamps: 2000/1999	242,796	235,059	17.4	17.0	WORSE
Substantiated Child Abuse: 1999/1998	10,611	9,930	7.7	7.2	WORSE
Juvenile Court Referrals: 1999/1998	71,311	69,941	5.1	5.1	SAME
School Suspensions: 2000/1999	66,207	66,764	6.7	7.4	BETTER

## Count

Continued from Page 1.

covered by TennCare. Of those counties, 21 have more than 35 percent covered, nine counties have more than 40 percent, and four counties have more than half of their populations on TennCare (TDH/TCCY, 2000).

Prenatal Care. The counties where the fewest pregnant women receive adequate prenatal care are Montgomery County, 53.1 percent; Moore County, 53.3 percent; Franklin County, 53.4 percent; Stewart County, 53.8 percent; Coffee County, 56.3 percent; Grundy County, 57.3 percent; Jackson County, 58.6 percent; and Lawrence County, 58.7 percent (TDH, 1999).

In Tennessee the rate of access to prenatal care improved with the expansion of the Medicaid program to serve pregnant women above the poverty level and later with the advent of TennCare.

Low Birthweight. In 1999, 1,265 babies were born who weighed less than 3½ pounds (1,500 grams) and were considered to be very low-birthweight babies

(Tennessee DOH, 1999).

The Tennessee Department of Health reported in July 2000 that the percentage of low-birthweight children has increased 10 percent during the past 17 years despite declines in many of the risk factors. This was believed to be due to an increase in the percentage of very low-birthweight babies. Large improvements in neonatal technology in the last two decades have significantly improved the survival prospects of very low-birthweight babies.

Immunization. A survey of 24-month-old children by the Tennessee Department of Health during the year 2000 revealed that 87.7 percent had been fully immunized, just missing the Tennessee goal for immunization compliance of 90 percent. In the Tennessee survey, completion rates for MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), polio, HBV (hepatitis B), and HIB (haemophilus influenzae type B) were all well above 90 percent.

**Continued on page 3.**

## Count

Continued from Page 4.

According to the Department of Health, the immunization completion rate for children enrolled in TennCare was 86.1 percent, compared to 89.5 percent for privately insured children.

**WIC.** Shelby County leads the state in the greatest number of children served, with 20,552 receiving WIC benefits. Rural Lake County is first in the state with the greatest percentage of children receiving benefits; 61.40 percent of all eligible children in that county benefited from WIC. In Moore County only 77 children receive WIC, making it the Tennessee county with the fewest number of children receiving benefits. However, Williamson County has the lowest percentage of children in the program, with only 8 percent of its children receiving benefits.

**Infant Mortality.** The infant mortality rate for Tennessee children continues to decline. In 1999 the Tennessee Department of Health reported that 597 infants younger than 1 year of age died, as compared to 634 infant deaths in 1998. The infant mortality rate in Tennessee declined from 8.2 in 1998 to 7.7 in 1999, a 6-percent decrease. The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths per 1,000 live births of infants younger than 1 year of age.

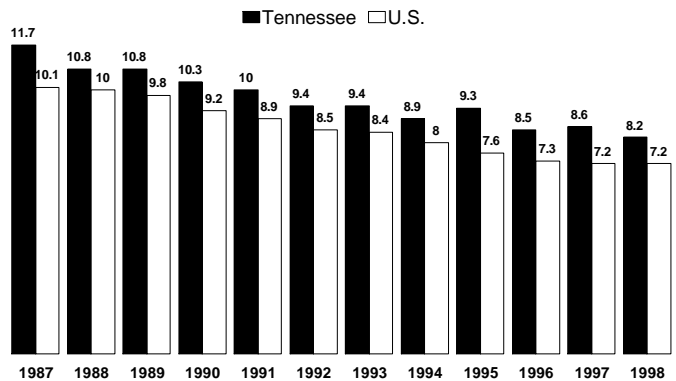
**Teen Pregnancy and Birth.** Between 1989 and 1999, Tennessee's teen pregnancy rate fell every year except one. In Tennessee, the number of teen births among girls 15- to 17-years-old dropped from 4,183 in 1998 to 3,848 in 1999, a decrease of 8 percent (TDH, 2001). The rates for both Hispanic and African-American teens remain the highest, with Hispanics now having the highest teen birth rates (National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 2001). Similarly, the number of teen pregnancies in Tennessee among girls ages 15 to 17 declined from 5,296 in 1998 to 4,804 in 1999, a decrease of 9.3 percent (TDOH, 2001).

**STDs.** In Tennessee, STD cases among teens ages 15 to 17 increased from 4,075 in 1999 to 4,173 in 2000, a rate of 2.2 percent. Nationally, by the 12th grade, 65 percent of all students reportedly are sexually active, with one out of five having five or more partners (CDC, 1999). In Tennessee, 21 percent of teens reported more than four sexual partners, while

## Infant Mortality Rate

(Per 1,000 Live Births)

Twelve-Year Comparison Between Tennessee and U.S.



Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation (1999) Kids Count Data Book, State Profiles of Child Well-Being. Baltimore: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

12 percent became sexually active before the age of 13 (Tennessee Department of Health, 2000).

## Child, and Teen Well-Being

**Child Abuse.** In 1999, there were 4,520 substantiated neglect cases in Tennessee, where an adult failed to provide for a child's physical survival needs to the extent that there was harm or risk of harm to the child's health or safety. In 1999, 2,175 cases of sexual abuse (sexual assault and sexual exploitation) were substantiated in Tennessee.

Forty-one percent of all reports involved children under the age of 5. Children ages 6 through 11 comprise 36 percent of all reported cases. Children ages 12 to 17 make up the remaining 23 percent of reported cases. Fifty-two percent of alleged child victims were females; 47 percent were males. Parents and relatives of child abuse and neglect victims comprise 86 percent of the alleged perpetrators. Only 2 percent of cases involved staff members of schools, child-care settings, or institutions allegedly indicated as perpetrators of child abuse (DCS, 1999).

**Child Death.** When the death is ruled as an inflicted injury, 64.3 percent occurred in the child's residence, with 35.7 percent of the cases showing the perpetrator as a parent or relative.

There were 115 deaths due to natural causes, the largest category for all deaths, among Tennessee children ages 1 to 13, representing 43 percent of all deaths for this age group. The greatest number of deaths for all children (ages birth to 17) was due to

Continued on Page 4

illness. Among the deaths due to natural causes, 54.9 percent were males, and 45.1 percent were females. The proportion of male fatalities was greater in each of the major categories (TDH, 2001).

**Teen Death.** Motor vehicle accidents continue to be the leading cause of death among teens in Tennessee. According to National Highway Traffic Safety statistics, 160 Tennessee drivers between the ages of 15 to 19 died in traffic accidents during 1999.

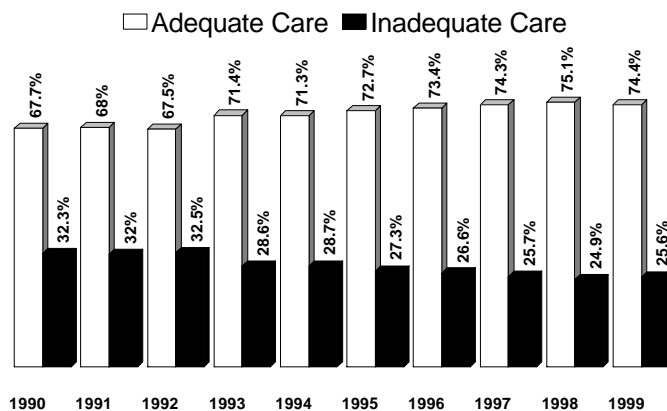
**Juvenile Justice.** The Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (TCJFCJ) reported that the overall percentage of children in Tennessee referred to juvenile courts remained at 5.1 percent from 1998 to 1999. Children are referred to juvenile court for alleged delinquency and status offenses but also for non-offenses, dependency or neglect and child custody issues.

The juvenile courts with the largest number of children referred and disposed were the four urban areas of Shelby County/Memphis, Davidson County/Nashville, Hamilton County/Chattanooga, and Knox County/Knoxville. Most children referred to the juvenile courts fell within the 15- to 16-year-old range. The 2000 (TCJFCJ) data also showed that the most commonly reported delinquent referral reasons were traffic offenses, theft of property, assault, and disorderly conduct. The most often reported status offense referrals were due to truancy, in-state runaway, and unruly behavior. Overall, the majority of these findings have remained relatively constant for the past six years (TCJFCJ, 2000).

**Alcohol and Substance Abuse.** A comparison of Tennessee teen substance use, including alcohol and marijuana use, within the 30 days prior to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, indicates that teen drug use has not declined. Although not increasing significantly, the percentage of Tennessee teens who have smoked cigarettes within the 30 days prior to the YRBS remains higher than the national average.

**Mental Illness.** During the 2000-2001 fiscal year, 40,902 Tennessee children and youth with serious emotional disturbance (SED) were identified as participants in the TennCare Partners Program (TCPP), the behavioral health care component of TennCare. Approximately 24,557 children with SED received

## Prenatal Care, 1990-1999



Source: Tennessee Department of Health

a service from the more than 1,200 licensed providers contracted through the Behavioral Health Organizations. This represents a 15-percent increase in the children and youth priority population enrollment and a 13-percent increase in children and youth younger than age 18 receiving a service from fiscal year 1999-2000.

Of the 574,824 children and youth enrolled in TennCare in fiscal year 2001, approximately 7 percent received a diagnosis of Serious Emotional Disorder.

**State Custody.** New commitments to state custody peaked in 1993-1994 and had gradually declined since that time. Between 1994-95 and 2000 the number of children committed to state custody decreased by nearly one-fourth (25 percent). During the same period, the number of children remaining in care decreased by only 9.4 percent (an improvement of 2.4 percent over 1999).

### Education

**Child Care.** The inability of many families to pay for child care is a public policy issue with far-reaching consequences for Southern states. Child care assists states in maintaining the workforce required to fuel economic progress; greater investments in strategies that make child care more accessible and affordable are essential (The Southern Institute, 2001).

**Head Start.** In Tennessee 33 agencies with a total of 3,001 staff members, 925 who are current or former Head Start parents, provided Head Start services to low-income children. In addition to paid staff

Continued on Page 5

members, 24,526 volunteers, 15,143 of whom are parents or guardians of Head Start children, participated. The 33 Head Start agencies operated 767 classrooms in 300 centers throughout Tennessee, with a total enrollment of 16,627 children, including Early Head Start.

**Education.** Average class-size goals are 20 students per teacher for kindergarten to grade four, 25 for grades four to six, and 30 for secondary schools. The state's efforts to find teachers to fill these classrooms, coupled with an increase in students and in teacher retirements, resulted in more than 25 percent of the teachers in Tennessee having fewer than five years experience in 1999; 6 percent, or 3,000, had no experience at all (SREB, 2001). The number of waivers requested to allow professionals to teach subjects for which they were not trained rose 95 percent, to 823 in 1999-2000 from 422 in 1997-98. The number of people teaching without a license increased to 1,390, doubling the number in the previous year and increasing 325 percent from 327 in 1994-95. Large urban districts accounted for 50 percent of the permits (DDA, 2000). The quality of the state's universities impacts its schools, since 66 percent of the teachers earning bachelor's degrees from the state's public universities are hired in Tennessee (TDOE, 2000).

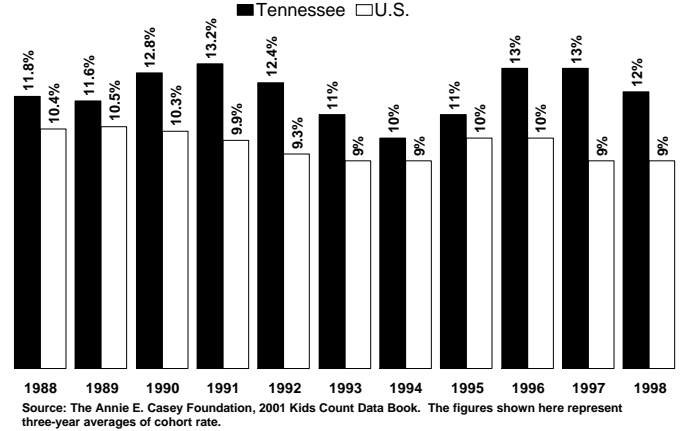
The percentage of Tennessee's schools accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities in 1999-2000 shows improvement. Eighty-five percent of Tennessee secondary schools and 64 percent of elementary schools were accredited, up from 39.8 and 48.5, respectively, in 1991-92.

**Special Education.** Since 1976-77, when national data on special education was first collected, the total percentage of K-12 special education students has continued to rise each year.

In 2000, Tennessee children ages 6 to 11 made up 48.8 percent; ages 12 to 17 made up 46.2 percent; and ages 18 to 21 made up 5.4 percent of school-age children receiving special education services; 32.3 percent of these students (115,164) were represented in Tennessee's four largest counties. Shelby County accounted for 14.9 percent (17,153) of students receiving special education; Davidson County accounted for 7.9 percent (9,177); Knox County

**Percent of Teens Aged 16-19 Who Are High School Dropouts**

Eleven-Year (Academic Years) Comparison Between Tennessee and U.S. Average



accounted for 5.3 percent (6,067); and Hamilton County accounted for 4.2 percent (4,867).

**School Dropout.** Five rural counties in Tennessee had cohort dropout rates exceeding that of Shelby County, and 20 counties had rates exceeding that of Davidson County. In 1999-2000, the event, or one-year, dropout rate was 3.9 percent statewide; the cohort rate, which measures the percentage of ninth graders who drop out before the end of the 12th grade, was 14.4 percent (DOE, 2000). The 1999 school completion rate reported for Tennessee by the Census Bureau was 89.5 percent, reflecting the percentage of Tennessee youth ages 18 to 24 who had a high school certification.

**School Safety.** Only 9 percent of Tennessee students responding to the 1999 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, which is conducted in odd years, reported being threatened or injured by a weapon on school property. During the 1990s, the national rate has been around 7 or 8 percent. Four percent of Tennessee students in 1999 said that within the past 30 days they stayed home from school because of fear of violence. Thirteen percent of Tennessee students said they were involved in a physical fight on school property in the past 12 months (17 percent of males and 9 percent of females). Nearly 22 percent of students reported carrying a weapon during the past 30 days, including 6 percent of African-American students and more than 22 percent of White students (YRBS, 2000). Nationally, 5 percent of students ages 12 to 18 reported being bullied at school during the past six months. Ten percent of students in grades six and seven reported bullying, but only 2 percent of students in grades 10

Continued on Page 6.

to 12.

School Nutrition. Tennessee ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the states for having the most food insecure households in the last analysis reported (Center on Hunger and Poverty, 2000), with 11 percent of its households having members who were hungry or at risk of being hungry. However, the state ranked eighth in the percent of households who were hungry, with 4 percent. Six hundred thousand people in 221,000 households were food insecure, and 221,000 in 86,000 households experienced hunger (Center on Hunger and Poverty, 2000).

In 1999-2000, Tennessee schools served a total of 97,639,354 school lunches and 29,761,158 school breakfasts to an average of 602,639 and 192,936 students in 1,628 and 1,459 schools, respectively. About 41 percent of the state's students were eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Throughout the past decade the percent of all students receiving free or reduced-price breakfasts has hovered around 31-33 percent; however, the percent of lunches served that were provided free or at the reduced price was at 48 percent during the 1993-94 school year (FRAC, 2001).

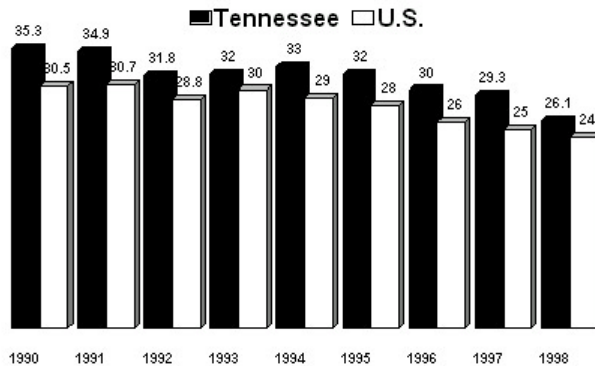
Free or reduced-price breakfasts were served to 17 percent of students in Tennessee, 152,181, received. Nationally, 7.6 million children and 71,180 schools participated in the School Breakfast Program.

**Economic Security**

Economic Security. The median income for households in Tennessee grew to \$35,874 for the average of the years 1998, 1999, and 2000, an increase of more than \$3,500 from the years of 1996 through 1998. Tennesseans made only 86 percent of the national median income of \$41,789, ranking 42nd among all states; compared to bordering states, only Mississippi and Arkansas ranked worse.

For 1999, per capita personal income in Tennessee

**Child Death Rate Per 100,000, Aged 1-14**



Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation 2000 Kids Count Data Book.

grew more than \$1,000 to \$25,548, ranging from \$13,370 in Hancock County to \$38,236 in Williamson County. Tennesseans make 90 percent as much income on a per capita basis as the nation as a whole, ranking 34th. Among border states, Georgia, Virginia, Missouri, and North Carolina, ranked better.

The fastest growing employment sector in Tennessee was the service industry. Since 1982 this sector has grown 138 percent, while the total non-farm sector has grown by only 61 percent. The slowest growing sector, other than mining, which declined by 54 percent, is the manufacturing sector, which has grown by only 9 percent. The next slowest growing sector has been government. The service sector is also the lowest paying sector, with an average weekly salary of \$534 (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2001).

Tennessee's youth unemployment rate was very poor given the ready availability of jobs. The youth unemployment rate was 12 percent compared to around 4 percent for the adult work force. These figures did not consider whether the child is looking for a job or not. Youth neither working nor going to school measure 11 percent (Annie E. Casey, 2001).

Families First. The number of participants younger than the age of 18 in Families First, Tennessee's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, grew only slightly in the 1999-2000 fiscal year to 111,049, 0.1 percent, reflecting the slow growth of unemployment and the barriers to employment of those hardest to serve clients in the program. The steady decline in participation in the program began to level off in 1997. Families First served just 56 percent

The *KIDS COUNT: State of the Child 2001* is available on the Internet at [www.state.tn.us/tccy/kc-soc01.htm](http://www.state.tn.us/tccy/kc-soc01.htm). It is partially funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. For more information contact (615) 741-2633 or the TCCY coordinator in the region.

**Continued on Page 10.**

# Tennessee Moves Up Again on Well-Being Measure

Tennessee is doing better on the 10 indicators on which the **KIDS COUNT National Data Book** state composite rankings are based. The state ranked 42<sup>nd</sup> among the 50 states, better than the 43<sup>rd</sup> last year and 45<sup>th</sup> the previous year. Rankings for this year are based on 1999 data.

Only two of the 10 core indicators were worse. The state improved at a rate better than or equal to the national rate on six of the core indicators, including percent of children in poverty.

Tennessee's best national ranking on an indicator, and the only one in the top half, was 24<sup>th</sup> for the percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment. TCCY Executive Director Linda O'Neal attributed this positive ranking to good Families First policies that provide supportive services essential to moving families from welfare to work, including child care, transportation, education, job training and counseling.

For the first time in the 13-year history of the KIDS COUNT national evaluation of child well-being, Tennessee was No. 1 in a category, although not one of the 10 indicators on which the KIDS COUNT state composite rankings were based. Tennessee had the best rate in the nation for health insurance coverage of children in low-income working families, according to the national **2002 KIDS COUNT Data Book** released on May 23. In any group of 12 Tennessee children from low-income working families, only one risks going without needed dental care, eyeglasses, prescription drugs and other medical services because of no health insurance. Nationwide, three of every 12 children in low-income working families lack health care coverage.

"TennCare policies have extended health care coverage to uninsured low-income Tennessee children whose parents are in jobs that do not provide insurance or do not pay enough for them to afford insurance if available," said O'Neal.

Studies reported in Tennessee's book, **KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee**, show that insured children do better in school and that

increased health care coverage saves money, as insured families are less likely to use expensive emergency room services. TennCare has also saved the state money. An analysis found that the TennCare program cumulatively saved the state more than \$2 billion in state tax dollars. This analysis compared state

TennCare expenditures with what the state would have spent if TennCare expenditures had grown at the same rate as in the SLC states

Only two of the 10 core indicators were worse. The state improved at a rate better than or equal to the national rate on six of the core indicators, including percent of children in poverty.

Information in the report also has implications for child care public policy: more than one of every three Tennessee children under age 6 are in paid child care compared to approximately one-fourth nationally. "With more children in child care," O'Neal said, "it is essential that we work to ensure quality early learning experiences so children start school ready to learn and have a better opportunity to achieve their full potential."

The **KIDS COUNT National Data Book** is available on the Internet at [www.kidscount.org](http://www.kidscount.org) or through TCCY's website ([www.state.tn.us/tccy](http://www.state.tn.us/tccy)). The KIDS COUNT program is funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a foundation devoted to children.



## TennCare Waiver Information Available

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has approved the TennCare waiver requested by the governor. This will result in substantial changes in the TennCare program, including in eligibility and services provided participants. Information about the "New TennCare Waiver" is avail-

**Background Information**

**Demographic Change**

Number of Children: 1990 and 2000

	1990	2000	NUMBER CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
All children under age 18	1,216,604	1,398,521	181,917	15%
Preschool age 0-4 years old	333,415	374,880	41,465	12%
Elementary school age 5-11 years old	476,930	557,697	80,767	17%
Middle school age 12-14 years old	199,536	233,271	33,735	17%
High school age 15-17 years old	206,723	232,673	25,950	13%

**Education**

	STATE	NATIONAL
3- to 5-year-olds enrolled in nursery school or kindergarten: 1999	62%	67%
Children under age 6 in paid child care while parents work: 1999	35%	26%

**Economic Conditions of Families**

	STATE	NATIONAL
Median income of families with children: 1999	\$40,300	\$47,900
Children in extreme poverty (income below 50% of poverty level): 1999	7%	7%
Female-headed families receiving child support or alimony: 1999	32%	35%

**Child Health**

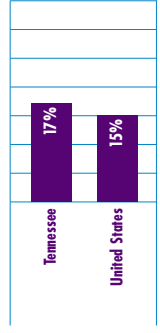
	STATE	NATIONAL
Children without health insurance: 1999	8%	14%
2-year-olds who were immunized: 2000	82%	78%

**Children in Low-Income Working Families**

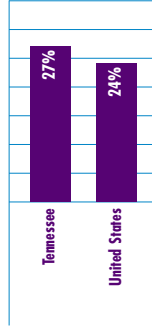
Number of children under age 18 in low-income working families: 1999

230,000

Percent of children under age 18 in low-income working families: 1999



Children in low-income working families receiving food stamps: 1999



Children in low-income working families without health insurance: 1999





**Tennessee**

**TN**

National Composite Rank [ 42 ]

Indicators*	Percent Change from 1990 to 1999		Trend Data		National Rank <small>National Rank is based on 1999 figures</small>
	W O R S E	B E T T E R	1990	1999	
Percent low-birthweight babies 1990-1999	12		STATE: 8.2 NATIONAL: 7.0	9.2 7.6	[ 46 ]
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) 1990-1999		25	STATE: 10.3 NATIONAL: 9.2	7.7 7.1	[ 35 ]
Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14) 1990-1999		11	STATE: 35 NATIONAL: 31	31 24	[ 43 ]
Rate of teen deaths by accident, homicide, and suicide (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19) 1990-1999	4		STATE: 75 NATIONAL: 71	72 53	[ 40 ]
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15-17) 1990-1999		22	STATE: 45 NATIONAL: 37	35 29	[ 39 ]
Percent of teens who are high school dropouts (ages 16-19) 1990-1999		15	STATE: 13 NATIONAL: 10	11 10	[ 35 ]
Percent of teens not attending school and not working (ages 16-19) 1990-1999		23	STATE: 13 NATIONAL: 10	10 8	[ 38 ]
Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment 1990-1999		31	STATE: 35 NATIONAL: 30	24 25	[ 24 ]
Percent of children in poverty (data reflect poverty in 1989 and 1998) 1990-1999		14	STATE: 22 NATIONAL: 20	19 19	[ 33 ]
Percent of families with children headed by a single parent 1990-1999	12		STATE: 26 NATIONAL: 24	29 27	[ 39 ]

\*See Definitions and Data Sources, page 181.

■ Solid bars indicate state change.  
▨ Patterned bars indicate national change.

## Count

Continued from Page 5.

of the number of children it served in the 1993-1994 fiscal year under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program.

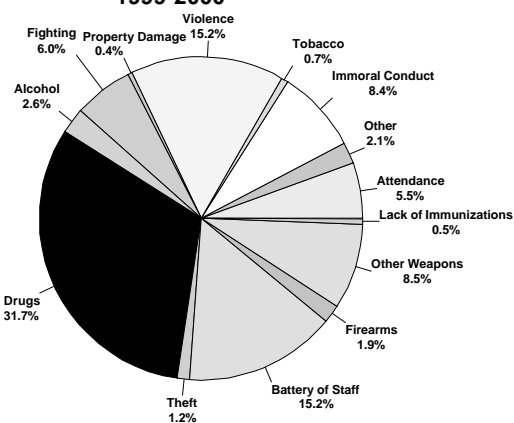
New data from the Tennessee Department of Human Services for October 2000 indicated there were 51,347 Families First cases in Tennessee, representing 134,066 people. The average year 2000 Families First family had 2.6 members and was headed by a 33.7-year-old caretaker. While the average family size had remained unchanged since 1997, the caretaker's average age has decreased slightly by .5 years. Nearly all caretakers (95.7 percent) are female, and the families average two or fewer children each. The children's ages are distributed somewhat evenly across all years, with a general tendency for children to be in the 4- to 10-year-old range. The average age of a Families First child had decreased from 7.6 years in 1997 to 7.3 years in 2000.

**Food Stamps.** The Food Stamp Program served more than 215,000 households, or 2.9 percent of all households in Tennessee. The average household size of food stamp participants in Tennessee was 2.3 persons, and the average monthly benefit is \$144, or slightly more than \$2 per day per person (USDA, 2001).

**Housing.** Tennessee was one of the least affordable housing states, which led to great hardship for low-income families with children. The Housing Wage in

## Reasons for Expulsions in Tennessee Schools 1999-2000

Total Number of Expulsions 2190



Source: Tennessee Department of Education

Tennessee (the hourly wage a worker would need to earn to be able to pay no more than 30 percent of his or her income in rent) is \$9.95 per hour, almost twice the minimum wage. A minimum wage earner (\$5.15) could afford to pay no more than \$389 in rent. To afford a two-bedroom unit at the Fair Market rent, the minimum wage earner would need to work 77 hours per week. In Tennessee, 38 percent of all renters paid more than 50 percent of their income for housing costs (NLIHC, 2001).

**Population.** Tennessee has kept pace with the population growth occurring in other regions of the nation, growing slightly faster than the national average while at the same time becoming more diverse. Tennessee's population grew by 14 percent from 1990 to 2000. Nearly 25 percent of the state's population was younger than 18 years of age.

The African-American population increased slightly as a percentage of the total by four-tenths of 1 percent to 16.4 percent. The White population declined by 3.4 percent to 79.2 percent of the total state population. The 2000 Census indicated that one-third of the foreign-born population in the United States is from Mexico or another Central American country. The foreign-born population includes legal immigrants; undocumented immigrants; and temporary residents, such as students and workers on business visas (U.S. Census Bureau, 2001).

For information about sources, consult the References and Data Definitions and Sources sections of KIDS COUNT: State of the Child in Tennessee.

*The Advocate* is published by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth as an information forum on children's issues. The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, an independent state agency, serves as an advocacy agency and information resource for planning and coordination of policies, programs, and services on behalf of the state's children and youth. The 21-member Commission, appointed by the governor, works with other agencies and with regional councils on children and youth in each development district to collect information and solve problems in children's services. To receive *The Advocate*, contact Fay L. Delk, Publications Editor, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, 710 James Robertson Parkway, 9th Floor, Nashville, TN 37243-0800. Phone: (615) 741-2633. Fax No.: (615) 741-5956 (fdelk@mail.state.tn.us).

The state of Tennessee is an equal opportunity, equal access, affirmative action employer.

No person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or ability to pay, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity operated, funded, or overseen by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY). It is the intent of TCCY to bind all agencies, organizations, or governmental units operating under its jurisdiction and control to fully comply with and abide by the spirit and intent of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

# Outstanding Advocates, Juvenile Justice Survivor Honored

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Children's Advocacy Days, held on March 5-6 at the War Memorial Auditorium was another success. More than 700 child advocates participated in the two days of events and in meeting with their legislators. The gubernatorial forum included presentations by candidates Phil Bredesen, Jim Henry, Randy Nichols, Bob Tripp, Ed Sanders, and Charles Smith.

Other speakers included Natasha Metcalf, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Human Services; Elisabeth Rukeyser, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities; and John Morgan, state comptroller.

TCCY honored the winners of the Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award, the Youth Excellence Award, and the Making KIDS COUNT Media awards. George Spain, chief executive officer of Centerstone Mental Health Centers Inc., which serves Middle Tennessee, received the Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award for his 40 years of caring for the mental health needs of the state's children.

Reginald Dewayne Taylor, 27, of Memphis credits prayer along with the help of his teachers, counselors, officers and work supervisors at Wilder Youth Development Center with changing his future. In addition to serving as minister, he now volunteers for Shelby Training Center and Melrose High School.

David Carroll of the WRCB Television, Channel 3

in Chattanooga, earned the Making KIDS COUNT Broadcast Media Award for keeping the families of his city up to date on education issues. Richard Locker and Paula Wade, Nashville-based reporters for the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, received the Making KIDS COUNT Media Large Market Print Award for their work in helping Tennesseans understand legislative issues critical to the well-being of its children. Penny Bandy, Laura Long Martin and Anna Garber, reporters for the *The (Sevierville) Mountain Press* shared the Making KIDS COUNT Small Market Print Media Award for their consistent and comprehensive coverage of local and state issues related to children.

George Hattaway, who is leaving the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, was recognized for 36 years of state service.

Co-sponsors included the Nashville Area Association for the Education of Young Children, Tennessee Voices for Children, Youth Villages and other organizations serving the children of Tennessee: the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations; the Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children; the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network; the Mid-Cumberland, South Central, and other Tennessee Community Services Agencies; National Association of Social Workers, Tennessee Chapter; and the Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare. The TCCY regional councils on children and youth were also co-sponsors.

## Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Regional Coordinators

### Northeast Tennessee Council

Diane Wise  
1233 Southwest Ave., Extension  
Johnson City, TN 37604  
(423) 979-3200 ext 105  
Diane.Wise@state.tn.us

### East Tennessee Council

Robert Smith  
531 Henley St., 7th Floor  
Knoxville, TN 37902  
(423) 594-6658  
Robert.E.Smith@state.tn.us

### Southeast Tennessee Council

Marilyn Davis  
540 McCallie Ave., Suite 643  
Chattanooga, TN 37402  
(423) 634-6210  
Marilyn.Davis@state.tn.us

### Upper Cumberland Council

Kathy Daniels  
435 Gould Drive  
Cookeville, TN 38506-4194  
(931) 432-4494  
Kathy.Daniels@state.tn.us

### Mid-Cumberland Council

Jo Stanley  
710 James Robertson Parkway, 9th Floor  
Nashville, TN 37243-0800  
(615) 532-1579  
Jo.Stanley@state.tn.us

### South Central Tennessee Council

Elaine Williams  
Post Office Box 397  
Columbia, TN 38402-0397  
(931) 388-1053  
Elaine.Williams@state.tn.us

### Northwest Tennessee Council

Dana Cobb  
P. O. Box 586  
Huntingdon, TN 38344  
731-986-4243  
Dana.Cobb@state.tn.us

### Southwest Tennessee Council

Rodger Jowers  
225 Dr. Martin Luther King Drive  
Jackson, TN 38301  
(901) 423-6545  
Rodger.Jowers@state.tn.us

### Memphis/Shelby County Council

Gwendolyn Glenn  
170 N. Main St., 9th Floor  
Memphis, TN 38103  
(901) 543-7657  
Gwendolyn.Glenn@state.tn.us

# Meetings and Events

## Council Activities

Mid-Cumberland

County meetings held monthly.

Contact regional coordinator for more information.

Northwest

July 19, Juvenile Justice Conference at U.T. Martin, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sept. 17, Understanding Adolescents Conference, (co-sponsor)

Oct. 4, Education/Prevention Conference at U.T. Martin

## C-PORT Review Schedule

July 15-19, Mid-Cumberland Region.

Exit Conference: July 30, 10:30 a.m.

Aug. 19-23, Memphis/Shelby Region.

Exit Conference: Aug. 30, 10:30 a.m.

Sept. 9-13, Southeast Region. Exit Conference: Sept. 27, 10:30 a.m.

## Commission Meeting

July 25-26, Nashville

Nov. 20-21, Nashville

For information on 2002 meetings, call (615) 741-2633.

DMC Task Force

July 9, Quarterly Meeting & Mini

Retreat. Family Affairs Ministries, Nashville. Contact 228-0125

## Special Events

Aug. 11-14, Tennessee Juvenile Court Services Association State Conference. Contact (615) 741-0583

August 26-28, Tennessee Association for Child Care 1st Leadership Conference, Nashville

Aug. 29, Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare West Tennessee Provider Fair, Jackson. Contact Tina

at (731) 884-2630

Sept. 30 - Oct. 2, Tennessee Correctional Association, 2002 Annual Fall Training Conference, Regal Maxwell House, Nashville  
July 14 - 17, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges 65th Annual Conference, Boston Park Plaza Hotel. Contact 775-784-6012.

July 15-19, Children's Defense Fund, 8th Annual Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry at Haley Farm, Clinton, Tennessee. Call 865-457-6466 or email [jking@childrensdefense.org](mailto:jking@childrensdefense.org)

**For more updated information on TCCY and child advocacy events, see the TCCY Web Events Calendar at [www.state.tn.us/tccy/events.html](http://www.state.tn.us/tccy/events.html).**



**The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth**  
Betty Cannon, Chair  
Nashville

Angi Agle  
Oak Ridge

Kate Rose Krull  
Covington

Betty Anderson  
Covington

Mary Lee  
Dickson

Kimalishea Anderson  
Knoxville

Christy Little  
Jackson

Shirlene Booker  
Gray

Alisa Malone  
Franklin

P. Larry Boyd  
Rogersville

Jerry Maness  
Memphis

Murray Butler  
Huntingdon

Sharon T. Massey  
Clarksville

Rebecca G. Dove  
Springfield

Linda Miller  
Memphis

James B. Ford  
Franklin

Susie Mitchell  
Johnson City

Kandenna J. Greene  
Goodlettsville

John Rambo  
Johnson City

Johnny Horne  
Chattanooga

Semeka Randall  
Knoxville

Drew Johnson  
Johnson City

Mary Kate Ridgeway  
Paris

Jim Kidd  
Fayetteville

James Stewart  
Jackson

Linda O'Neal  
Executive Director

Commission on Children & Youth  
Andrew Johnson Tower, Ninth Floor  
710 James Robertson Pkwy.  
Nashville, TN 37243-0800  
(615) 741-2633

Return Service Requested



PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
NASHVILLE, TN  
PERMIT NO. 1446



TCCY Authorization No. 316049. August 2001. 5,500 copies per issue. This public document was promulgated at a cost of 18 cents each.