

workers, and consult with TennCare providers treating children in or at risk of custody. In January, Vanderbilt University began operating the first COE. The second COE, the Boling Center at the University of Tennessee in Memphis, became operational a few weeks later. Three additional centers are expected to begin operation by the end of calendar year 2002.

Beginning on October 1, 2001, children in DCS custody became eligible to receive mental health case management. These mental health case management services include intensive in-home programs, which can be used by DCS to promote reunification, assist pre-adoptive homes, and reduce foster home disruptions. Implementation of TennCare Select was accomplished without a reduction in EPSDT percentages.



Education Division

The Education division of the Department of Children's Services oversees education services for students in state custody residing in Youth Development Centers (YDCs) and in DCS group homes. This division also provides technical assistance to contract facilities with on-site schools. The DCS Education division is recognized by the TN Department of Education as a Local Education Agency (LEA).

Every youth committed to the Department of Children's Services is screened by a community or facility classification/assessment team to determine his or her educational needs. A treatment team develops an Individual Program Plan (IPP) for each student, and those eligible for special education services also receive an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

During fiscal year 2001-2002, 12 Educational Specialists and 12 Educational Attorneys were hired to serve as advocates for students in state custody. These two groups, along with the Education and Legal divisions, began helping students successfully transition from DCS educational placements to the public schools.

Accomplishments in fiscal year 2002:

- Implementation of the Special Education Automated Software (SEAS) program to assist special education teachers in providing appropriate services for students. SEAS is used by teachers to write individual education plans for students and to complete various forms that are used in special education.
- Pilot testing of PLATO (an interactive soft-

Figure 11. EPSDT and Dental Screen Completion Rates January 1999 through June 2002

