

**JUVENILE COURT DATA COLLECTION PROCESS  
FOR THE  
2000 ANNUAL REPORT**

As required by Tennessee Code Annotated § 37-1-506, 2000 data were sent to the Tennessee Juvenile Court Information System (TJCIS) by each court with juvenile jurisdiction. All ninety-eight (98) courts sent data to TJCIS electronically either on diskettes or as attachments to electronic mail. These courts either used a data entry software program provided by TJCIS staff or other software that their individual court had obtained. All data were cleaned, edited, and analyzed to produce the 2000 Annual Report, as well as year-end and ad hoc statistical reports.

In 2000, **all of Tennessee's juvenile courts once again reported data** to TJCIS. Every Tennessee court has reported data to TJCIS for the past five years, thereby distinguishing Tennessee as having one of the relatively few juvenile court statewide databases in the country with every court reporting. All automated court systems were required to utilize data edits developed by TJCIS staff. These required data edits did not allow many incomplete or incorrectly coded records to be copied to diskette for inclusion in the TJCIS database. Data received in this fashion were mostly error free with respect to coding issues.

**Limitations of the 2000 Juvenile Court Data**

There were three courts that had serious data reporting problems. Blount County has not yet reported data for the last eight months of 2000. Lincoln County only reported data for April through August 2000. Roane County did not report data for the last three months of 2000.

In addition to these three courts, other courts vary in the completeness of their reporting of dependency and neglect cases. Some courts do not report any dependency and neglect cases. Steps are under way to provide training and technical assistance to courts to improve this situation. The collection improved markedly in 2000, but still has a lot of room for improvement.

It is also important to note that many juvenile courts do not hear traffic cases. In these jurisdictions, traffic cases go to the court exercising jurisdiction over adult traffic violations. Since some courts' statistics include traffic cases and some do not, one must be cautious in comparing courts with each other. Additionally, although juvenile courts handle adult cases such as contributing to the dependency or delinquency of a minor, these cases are not reported to TJCIS.