

## Pregnancy And Birth Data (Continued)

vocational, and social disadvantages. Adolescents (17 and younger) are twice as likely to deliver low-weight babies (less than 5 1/2 pounds). These low-weight babies are 40 times more likely to die in the first month of life than normal weight babies. Teenage parents are more likely to become dependent on public assistance than those who delay childbearing until their twenties.

- The **percent of total births with Low Weight Births** in the county is equal to the Region percentage and 19% lower than the statewide percentage (1993-1995). However, the county percent (7.1) is 42% higher than the Year 2000 National Objective of 5.0% of all births. Low birthweight is a dangerous condition that has been linked to several preventable risks, including lack of prenatal care, maternal smoking, pregnancy before the age of 18, and alcohol and drug use.
- The **percent of total births with Late Prenatal Care** in the county is the 9<sup>th</sup> highest in the State. The county figures are 73% higher than the Region and 39% higher than the statewide percentage (1993-1995). The county percent (26.7) of late prenatal care is 167% above the Year 2000 National Objective of 10.0. The prenatal period can be the starting time for good health or it may be the beginning of a lifetime of illness and shortened life expectancy. Early prenatal care is critical to improving pregnancy outcomes.

## Local Health Department Data

The statistical information below indicates utilization of services at the Stewart County Medical Center are vastly different than those in the Region and the State. **WIC** (Women, Infants, and Children) and **Child Health** program encounters account for 22.3% of all services in the county compared to 59.5% in the Region and 57.7% statewide. **Adult Health** is the largest program in the county with 65.4% of the total services rendered compared to 17% in the Region and 12.8% statewide. **Dental services** are not currently available at the Stewart County Medical Center. A current assessment of TennCare Dental Coverage (January 1997) prepared by Dr. Michelle Vaughan, Mid-Cumberland Regional Office, Tennessee Department of Health, reveals there are adequate TennCare dental providers in the county for the BC/BS, HealthNet, and Access MedPlus population. However, there are no Phoenix providers for the 90 county enrollees. Statistics are unavailable for the PHP TennCare MCO. There are 2,562 residents enrolled in TennCare (1-4-97). A dental shortage area is calculated at one (1) provider (full time equivalent=40 hours) to 5,000 population or greater.