

Program Data From Other Departments (continued)

deterrent and therefore routinely accessed. The rate of children under 18 committed to State Custody by the Court is less than the State rate. This appears to negate the concern that the county has a worse juvenile delinquency problem than comparable communities and verifies current interventions are effective in reducing the commitment rate of children into State Custody.

Williamson County compares very favorably to the State in regard to issues that relate to poverty. The county has 63% fewer persons below the poverty level, 72% fewer children under 18 receiving AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children), and 67% fewer students participating in the Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program compared to the Tennessee rate. Child Abuse and Neglect Cases are 77% fewer in the county compared to the State rate.

Local Health Department Data

Statistics indicate utilization of services in Williamson County vary somewhat from local health departments in the region and the State. The program groups rank in the same order of use as the region and the State with the exception of the reversal of the top two categories. WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) and Child Health program encounters lead the list of services in the region and the State. WIC encounters are 6% below the State rate and ranks as the second leading program in the county health department.

Dental services are not available at the Williamson County Health Department. Dental services account for 2.7% of the total encounters in local health departments in Tennessee. An assessment of TennCare Dental Coverage prepared for the Mid-Cumberland Community Health Agency in July 1995 designated Williamson County an extreme shortage area for TennCare Dental Care. This was based upon 1 FTE (Full Time Equivalent dental provider available to the population) per 10,507 TennCare population in the county. The Public Health Service Criteria for a shortage designation is one (1) Provider FTE per 5,000 population.

Pregnancy And Birth Data

The percent of mothers with selected risk factors in the county is slightly less than those of the region and the State. The percent of live births with selected maternal risk factors, all ages and races, for county residents is less than the region and State rates. However, when this is broken out by age and race, the 10-17 age group, nonwhite percentages is significantly higher than the region and the State. The 18-19 age group, nonwhite percentages are also higher than the region and State rates.

Teen Pregnancy (Ages 10-17) rates for the county were compared with Tennessee and the Mid-Cumberland Region during the 1983-1994 time frame. Williamson County's rates are significantly lower than both the Region and Tennessee rates. As a whole, the teen pregnancy rate in the county is one-half of the State rates. However, when broken out into white and non-white rates, non-white rates are slightly higher than the Region while lower than the non-white Tennessee rate. Teen pregnancy rates are among the lowest in the State and currently within the Tennessee 2000 goal. No Year 2000 National Objective has been determined.