

Health Resource Shortage Areas for Obstetrics

In 1998, rational service areas for obstetrics were redrawn based on an in-depth analysis of patterns of patient migration, changes in health resources, and input from local agencies. There were 37 rational service areas for obstetrical care designated. These areas are analyzed annually and any necessary changes in the configuration resulting from the analysis are made. Changes can also be made after notification to the Office of Health Access of significant changes in the availability of OB services in a specific area.

By rank ordering from worst to best the ratios of obstetric providers to female population ages 15-44 years, the Tennessee Department of Health has identified counties that have inadequate obstetrical services. The rational service area ratio of OB providers to women of childbearing age was ranked for each county.