

Numbers of Primary Care Providers by Category, Tennessee, as of July, 1998			
Regions	1998 FTE Mid-Level Primary Care Providers	1998 FTE Primary Care MDs	Physician : Population 1:X
Nonmetropolitan			
Northwest	14.9	110.3	1:2,264
Southwest	18.4	134.0	1:2,450
Mid-Cumberland	28.8	282.2	1:2,747
South Central	16.4	133.0	1:2,492
Upper Cumberland	21.1	146.0	1:2,498
Southeast	11.5	123.5	1:2,264
East Tennessee	56.3	227.3	1:2,762
Northeast	30.7	258.5	1:1,777
Metropolitan			
Davidson	272	1,054	1:517
Hamilton	52	445	1:676
Knox	126	568	1:654
Shelby	185	1,163	1:760
Statewide	830	4,609	1:997

Source: **Health Status Plan Update, 1998**, TDH.

Obstetric Services

- At the start of 1998, 686 FTE obstetric (OB) care providers were practicing in Tennessee. Nearly all were FTE OB physicians (n=669); 529 of these or 79% were practicing in the four largest metropolitan counties of Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, and Shelby. An additional 31 FTE mid-level providers offered OB care, with about 60% practicing in the four largest counties.
- In 1998, 55 counties reported either no OB providers or less than one FTE provider. Seven counties reported 10 or more OB providers, of which four were the largest counties. Thirteen counties in Tennessee reported no OB providers in 1997 compared to seventeen counties in 1996.
- Shelby County had the largest number of OB providers in both 1996 and 1997--186 and 163 respectively. In 1998, Shelby County had 265 FTE OB providers or 39% of the statewide total, compared to 23% of recorded births from 1994 to 1996.
- To identify areas in Tennessee that potentially have inadequate provision of obstetric services, the ratio of providers to female population ages 15-44 years is used. Of 37 rational service areas (RSA's) for OB care, 13 were designated health resource shortage areas for OB, creating 31 counties that were underserved for OB