

care in 1998. Each of these counties had a ratio of providers to relevant population of 1:5,032 or greater. The statewide ratio of obstetric providers to population was 1:1,662 in 1998 compared to 1:1,809 in 1997. The statewide ratio of obstetric care providers to females aged 15-44 was 1:1,737 in 1998, compared to 1:1,897 in 1997, and 1:1,729 in 1996.

Pediatric Services

- In 1998, 1,009 FTE general pediatric physicians provided direct patient pediatric primary care in the State. Over two-thirds of these (n=689) were practicing in the four largest metropolitan counties of Davidson, Knox, Hamilton, and Shelby.
- Nearly one-third of these physicians were located in the 91 nonmetropolitan Tennessee counties, compared to 60% of the pediatric population (0-17 years of age).
- A total of 183 pediatric mid-levels (nurse practitioners and physician assistants) were actively practicing in Tennessee in 1998, with over 80% practicing in the four largest counties.
- The statewide pediatric physician-to-population ratio in 1998 was 1:1,356. The ratio in nonmetropolitan areas (1:2,569) was over three times that in metropolitan areas (1:792) in 1998. The ratio of pediatric providers to population was 1:148, or 1:2,310 in nonmetropolitan areas and 1:653 in metropolitan areas.

TennCare Primary Care Providers⁴¹

- As of July 1998, 1,607 FTE TennCare primary care physicians were actively practicing in Tennessee. Seventy-two percent were practicing in the four largest metropolitan counties where less than 40% of TennCare enrollees resided.
- A total of 186 FTE TennCare primary care mid-level providers were practicing in the State in 1998, with over 60% located in the 91 nonmetropolitan counties.
- The TennCare primary care provider-to-population ratio statewide was 1:674, with a four-fold difference between metropolitan counties' ratios (1:365) and nonmetropolitan counties' ratios (1:1,419).

⁴¹These are MDs and DOs with primary care specialties who contract with one or more managed care organizations to serve the TennCare population. Their numbers also include mid-level providers - nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and physician assistants.