

## **CHILDREN'S HEALTH STATUS AND HEALTH INITIATIVES IN TENNESSEE (KIDS COUNT AND TN KIDS)**

### **Demographic Trends**

- In 1996, children ages 0-13 made up 20% of Tennessee's total population.
- In 1996, of all children ages 0-13 in Tennessee, 22% were black, 77% were white, and 1% were of other races.
- The number of children in Tennessee increased by 11% between 1990 and 1996.
- The largest percentage increase in the number of children in Tennessee from 1990 to 1996 occurred among children of races other than white or black (18%). The number of black children in Tennessee increased by 14% from 1990 to 1996, while the number of white children in Tennessee increased by 10%.
- The overall number of children under age 18 in Tennessee is projected to increase by 6% between 1996 and 2005. The projected changes from 1996 to 2005 by age of child are as follows:
  - Numbers of children 0-5 years old will decrease by 1%;
  - Numbers of children 6-12 years old will increase by 8%; and
  - Numbers of children 13-17 years old will increase by 13%.

Source: Health Information Tennessee Web site, CHRGT-DH June 1998. **1998 Kids Count Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being**, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD, 1998.

### **Children's Health Status and Health Initiatives in Tennessee and Changes from 1985 to 1995**

- Between 1985 and 1995, infant mortality rates and child death rates decreased in Tennessee, as well as in the United States. The United States had a greater decrease in infant mortality rates than did Tennessee. Tennessee, on the other hand, registered a greater decrease in child death rates than did the United States.
- Between 1985 and 1995, teenage birth rates, the percent of low birth-weight babies, and the rate of teenage deaths by accident, homicide, and suicide increased in both Tennessee and the United States. The increase in the teenage birth rate was higher for the United States (16%) than for Tennessee (8%), while the increase in the percent low birth-weight babies was greater in Tennessee (10%) than in the United States (7%).