

Definitions and Data Sources

Births Lacking Adequate Prenatal Care is the percent of births which have inadequate or intermediate prenatal care as measured by the Kessner Index. The Kessner Index is a scale of adequacy of prenatal care based on standards of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. This index of adequacy of prenatal care is based on the number of prenatal visits adjusted for gestational age. The data compared in this report are from 1990 and 1995. The source was the Tennessee Department of Health.

Child Abuse and Neglect Rate is the number of cases per 1,000 children under 18 years old in which someone causes foreseeable and avoidable injury or impairment to a child or contributes to the unreasonable prolonging or worsening of an existing injury or impairment in a child. The data compared in this report are from fiscal year 1991-92 and calendar year 1995. The source was the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

Child Death Rate is the number of deaths per 100,000 children aged 1-14 from all causes. The data are reported by residence. (This rate may appear excessively high in counties with small populations although few child deaths occurred.) The data compared in this report are from 1990 and 1995. The source was the Tennessee Department of Health.

Children in State Care are committed to state custody by a court order or a juvenile court commitment order issued by a juvenile court judge or referee. Children in state care are in the legal custody of the Tennessee Department of Children's Services. The data compared in this report are from July 31, 1991 and FY 1995-96. The data source for the 1991 data was the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth's Baseline Survey for Tennessee Children's Plan. The data source for the FY 1995-96 statistics was the Tennessee Department of Children's Services.

Children Receiving AFDC is the percent of children under 18 years old who received financial support from Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) which provides subsistence-level income for children and families. The data compared in this report are from January, 1992 and fiscal year 1995-96. The source was the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

Children Referred to Juvenile Courts is the percent of children under 18 years old who are referred to a juvenile court. There are three categories of reasons for referrals. The first category includes offenses against persons, offenses against property, illegal conduct, violation proceedings, and status offenses. The second category involves issues affecting the safety and well-being of the referred child such as abuse, dependency, neglect, termination of parental rights, etc. The third category includes judicial actions taken on behalf of the child or upon request of the child and parent or guardian. The data compared in this report are from calendar year 1991 and calendar year 1995. The source was Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Food Stamp Population is the percent of Tennessee's population that is eligible to receive food coupons from the federally funded Food Stamp Program. Data compared in this report are from 1992 and 1996. The data source was the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

High School (Grade 9-12) Dropouts is the number of dropouts per 100 students in grades 9-12 in a calendar year from June to June (the school year and preceding summer) divided by net enrollment at the end of school year. The number of dropouts is collected and reported by school