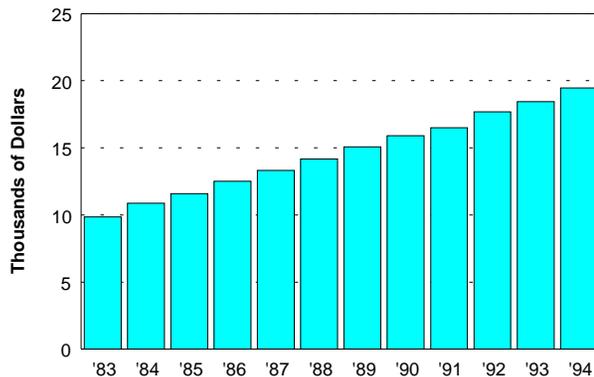


## Tennessee's Per Capita Income, 1983-1994



Source: Tennessee State Data Center

unnecessary custody and to move children more quickly through the system to reunification with their families. If reunification were not possible, steps were taken to terminate parental rights so children might be placed for adoption.

New commitments of children to state care increased steadily from 1984 to 1990. With the implementation of prevention programs like HomeTies Family Preservation Program - implemented in 1990 - and implementation of the Children's Plan in 1991 new commitments leveled off after 1990, except for a jump in 1994. These efforts clearly have slowed the continuing growth rate of new commitments to state care experienced from 1984 to 1990.

### PER CAPITA INCOME

Tennessee lead all southeastern states in per capita income growth from 1985 to 1993 and its growth was two times the national average. The per capita income in Tennessee in 1983 was \$9,850 and it was \$19,450 in 1993.

Tennessee's effectiveness in creating new jobs is one factor that has influenced the state's income growth during this period, according to Dr. Matthew Murray, professor at the University of Tennessee's Center for

Business and Economic Research.

However, the per capita income figure masks the huge disparities in income. As an indicator of poverty, there was a 9.6% increase in the percent of all school children participating in the federally subsidized National School Lunch Program. In school year 1991-92, 31.1% of the school population participated while in 1995-96 school year, the figure had risen to 34.1%. An additional 48,135 children received FRPL from 1991-92 to 1995-96. This means that not everyone has benefited from the substantial growth in per capita income in Tennessee.

### AFDC

Fewer children have received AFDC benefits since 1992 in Tennessee. The most current statistics show that there was a 6.6% reduction in the percent of children who received AFDC benefits in 1992 compared to 1996. In 1992, 174,816 children received benefits, compared to 170,860 children in 1996.

Eligibility for AFDC requires that children be dependent due to their having an absent, unemployed, incapacitated or deceased parent. Nine in ten of the children are classified