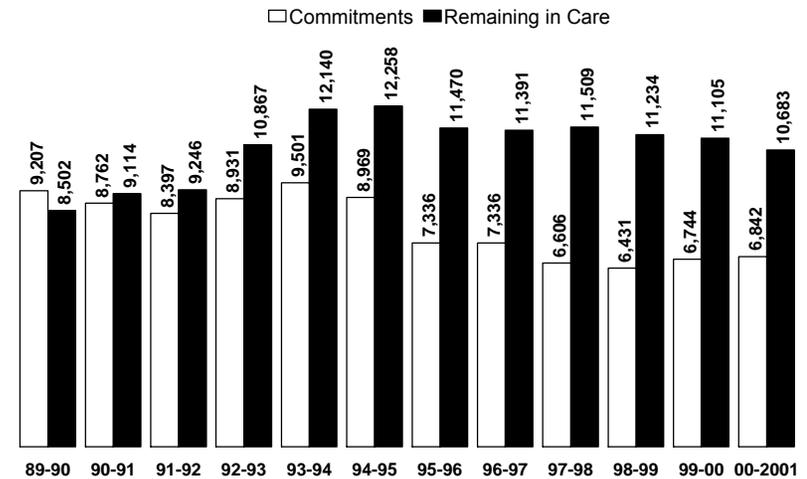


- ✓ Address the emotional well-being of children;
- ✓ Increase family unification efforts to assist families in achieving reunification;
- ✓ Improve advocacy for all children (CPORT 2001 Evaluation Results).

Additional resources for state custody children are critical; some resources that TCCY felt were most vital to ensure good services to children and their families are:

- ✓ Increase early intervention and prevention services to reduce the risk of custody;
- ✓ Provide adequate placement resources to provide appropriate out-of-home placements in a timely manner as close to home as possible;
- ✓ Expand home and community resources required to address the needs of the child and/or family;
- ✓ Continue the CPORT evaluation to provide an independent mechanism for systems improvement.

## Children Committed to and Remaining in State Custody FY 1989-90 through FY 2000-01



Source: Tennessee Department of Children's Services, 2002.

## Child Death

In the year 2000 in Tennessee 296 children between the ages of one and fourteen died, a rate of 27 per 100,000 children. This is a decrease in child deaths from the previous year. In 1999 there were 319 deaths, which was a rate of 29.4 deaths per 100,000. Following is a racial breakdown of the children ages 1 to 14 who died in 2002:

- ✓ 39 percent White male;
- ✓ 18 percent African-American male;
- ✓ 28 percent White female;
- ✓ 15 percent African-American female.

“While accidental death is the leading cause of death for young children, violence toward children and youth is of increasing concern. For children ages 10 to 14, there were nine firearm deaths. Of these deaths, four were accidental, three were intentional self-harm, and two were assault deaths” (Tennessee Department of Health, 2002). “Five children under the age of ten years died from firearm injuries. Of these five deaths, one was accidental and four were assault deaths, two of the assaults were to infants younger than 1 year of age” (Tennessee Department of Health, 2002).

The counties with the largest numbers of child deaths were Shelby County with 52, Davidson County with 39, Knox County with 19, and Rutherford County