

How to Use this Book

- ✓ KIDS COUNT 2002 State of the Child in Tennessee provides data about child well-being. It is designed for use by diverse groups of individuals. The book includes selected indicators that impact children's health, social, educational, and economic status in the state. The indicators are grouped into five categories: **Infant, Child, And Teen Health; Child and Teen Well-Being; Education; Economic Security;** and **Demographics**, and include 33 indicators. Eleven indicators are **Primary**, and 22 are **Secondary**. Numerous state agencies, along with other outside resources, served as data sources.
- ✓ The **Narrative** discusses issues pertinent to each indicator per category. Following that are pages that show what's better and what's not for selected State Indicators. **County pages** have been maintained, incorporating indicators from the 2001 book unless contraindicated, as described in "Please Note."
- ✓ Data may be presented as a count or amount, or as a rate. Rates can be percentages (per 100), or some multiple thereof. Indicators of lower incidence are typically displayed as rates that are multiples of 1,000. The denominator for most indicators is the population estimate for the age group reflected by the indicator of interest. Small denominators can inflate rates, so use caution when interpreting rates for counties having smaller populations for the indicator of interest.
- ✓ Following the county pages are tables with maps that show the way Tennessee counties stack up on 11 Primary Indicators when the distribution of rates is subdivided into fourths. Each fourth is a quartile, or 25 percent of the data. Counties with smaller rates reflect more positively on indicators than counties with larger rates.
- ✓ For example, counties with the lowest rates are in the top 25th percentile on the indicator; counties with the highest rates fall in the bottom 25th percentile, on the other hand. Counties in the top 25th percentile are doing better than 75 percent of their counterparts on a given indicator; for counties in the bottom 25th percentile, 75 percent of the counties are doing better than they are. (Adequate prenatal care is the only indicator for which higher rates are more positive, and it is a Secondary, versus a Primary, indicator.)
- ✓ Subsequent pages include tables with appropriate counts and/or rates for the 22 Secondary Indicators. These tables give a detailed picture across counties and statewide on Secondary Indicators. The book closes with Data Definitions and Sources, and References.
- ✓ Current data represent year 2000 or 2001. Data for the same year, however, may not reference the same point in time. The data may indicate fiscal year, federal fiscal year, calendar year, or school year. Data Definitions and Sources provides information on the exact time period being reported.