

# SOUTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN 2005

## South Carolina's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) <sup>1</sup> .....	4,147,152
State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) <sup>2</sup> .....	1,023,504
State Poverty Rate (2003) <sup>3</sup> .....	14.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) <sup>4</sup> .....	19.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) <sup>5</sup> .....	16.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) <sup>6</sup> .....	23.0%

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 30,937 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in South Carolina, a rate of 30.4 per 1,000 children.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2002, 10,738 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in South Carolina, a rate of 11.0 per 1,000 children, representing a 4% decrease from 2000. Of these children, 64.8% were neglected, 33.4% were physically abused, and 8.8% were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2002, 16 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in South Carolina.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2002, 4,818 children in South Carolina lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 4,774 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 28.5% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 21.6% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- On September 30, 2002, 40.2% white children, 56.3% black children, 2.3% Hispanic children, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 1.1% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in South Carolina.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,407 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 71.2% were reunited with their birthfamilies.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2002, 344 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in South Carolina, a 10.4% decrease from 384 in 2001.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 4,818 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 1,965 or 40.8% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 45,461 South Carolina grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 4,818 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 2.8% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all South Carolina children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 54.5% were white, 41.8% were black, 0.7% were Hispanic, 1.5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.5% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in South Carolina declined from 53,403 in March 2002 to 48,028 in March 2003, a decrease of 10.1%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 19,836, an 8.1% decrease from March 2002.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in South Carolina was 55% below the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2003, South Carolina spent \$148,442,320 in TANF funds, including 32.8% on cash assistance, 1.7% on transportation and support activities, and 65.5% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2002, South Carolina collected and distributed \$224,346,732 in child support funds, an increase of 7.8% from 2001.<sup>21</sup>

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in South Carolina was \$548 per month, or 67% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the federal minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.<sup>22</sup>

#### C H I L D C A R E A N D H E A D S T A R T

- In 2001, South Carolina served an estimated monthly average of 20,300 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 16,500 children were served, and in 1999, when 17,800 children were served.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 48% of South Carolina's median income, or \$21,948, to be eligible for subsidized child care.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2001, South Carolina had no children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2003, 12,248 South Carolina children were served by Head Start, the same as in 2002.<sup>26</sup>

#### H E A L T H A N D S U B S T A N C E A B U S E

- In 2001, 412,529 South Carolina children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 54.2% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2003, South Carolina had 76,128 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 10.4% increase from 2002, when 68,928 children were enrolled.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2002, 19 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in South Carolina. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 7,327, reflecting a rate of 53.0 births per 1,000 girls.<sup>29</sup>
- As of December 2002, 10,967 adults and adolescents, as well as 88 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in South Carolina.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2001, 21 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.9 per 100,000 children in the population.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2002, an estimated 26,000 children ages 12–17, and 275,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.<sup>32</sup>

#### V U L N E R A B L E Y O U T H

- In 2003, 7% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 7% decrease from 2000.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2002, 16% of young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>34</sup>

#### J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E A N D D E L I N Q U E N C Y P R E V E N T I O N

- In 2001, 9 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in South Carolina, compared with 11 in 2000.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2003, 1,353 children under age 18 were arrested in South Carolina, a 91% decrease from 15,696 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 29 were for violent crimes and 45 were for possession of weapons.<sup>36</sup>
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,398 children in juvenile correction facilities in South Carolina.<sup>37</sup>

#### F U N D I N G C H I L D W E L F A R E S E R V I C E S F O R S O U T H C A R O L I N A ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, South Carolina spent \$239,800,000 for child welfare services. Child welfare services refer to all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.<sup>38</sup> Of this amount, 71% was from federal funds and 29% was from state funds.<sup>39</sup>

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## C H I L D W E L F A R E L E A G U E O F A M E R I C A

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- In 2002, of the \$239,800,000 spent for child welfare, 17% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 35% was from Medicaid, 6% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 5% was from TANF, 1% was from Supplemental Security Income, and 2% came from other federal sources.<sup>40</sup>
- Out of 4,818 children in out-of-home care in South Carolina on September 30, 2002, only 2,496 or 52% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>41</sup>

## SOUTH CAROLINA'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well being for children.<sup>42</sup>
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.<sup>43</sup>
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children and that these high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.<sup>44</sup>
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in South Carolina was \$26,632; the median income for a family of four in South Carolina was \$56,110.<sup>45</sup>

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