

# SOUTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN 2008

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## South Carolina's Children At a Glance

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	4,321,249
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	1,027,202
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	11.2
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	15.6
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	14.1
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	25.4

*All statistics are for 2006.*

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2005, South Carolina had 25,376 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 17,088 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2005, 6,282 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in South Carolina, a rate of 10.5 per 1,000 children, and representing a 7.6% increase from 2004. Of these children, 69.8% were neglected, 30% were physically abused, and 8.4% were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2005, 23 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in South Carolina.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2005, 4,757 children in South Carolina lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 4,855 children in 2004. In 2005, 32.3% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 17.2% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2005, 42.5% were white, 48.3% black, 3.8% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.2% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,071 children exiting out-of-home care in 2005, 71.7% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2005, 382 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in South Carolina, a 6% increase from 359 in 2004.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 4,757 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 1,819, or 38.2%, were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 59,582 South Carolina grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 4,757 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 6.7% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all South Carolina children in kinship care in 2005, 47.8% were white, 41.8% were black, 4.7% were Hispanic, none were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.7% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in South Carolina decreased from 34,300 in March 2006 to 32,430 in March 2007, a 3.9% decrease. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2007 was 14,479, a 6% decrease from March 2006.<sup>18</sup>

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## CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in South Carolina was at 27.8% of the federal poverty level.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2006, South Carolina spent \$145,275,024 in TANF funds, including 26.5% on basic assistance, 0.6% on transportation, 72.9% on nonassistance, and none on child care.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2006, South Carolina collected and distributed \$243,280,928 in child support funds, an increase of 3% from 2005.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2006, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in South Carolina was \$615 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$11.82 per hour working a 40-hour week.<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 2005, South Carolina had an estimated monthly average of 19,500 children served by subsidized child care; 20,200 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 23,000 in 2003.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2007, to be eligible for subsidized child care in South Carolina a family of three could make no more than \$24,900, which is equivalent to 52% of the state's median income.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2007, no South Carolina children were on the state's waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2006, Head Start served 12,248 South Carolina children, the same as in 2005.<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 2004, 484,500 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in South Carolina, representing 48.8% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2004, 10,267 children were enrolled in Medicaid in South Carolina on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2004, South Carolina spent \$86,782,205 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$8,453 per foster care enrollee on Medicaid services.<sup>29</sup>
- South Carolina reported spending \$22,018,533 of its total Medicaid spending in 2004 for children in foster care on targeted case management services.<sup>30</sup>
- South Carolina reported spending \$1,558,754 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2004 for foster children on rehabilitative services.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2006, South Carolina had 68,870 children enrolled in its Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a 17.1% decrease from 2005, when 80,646 children were enrolled.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2004, 5,761 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving South Carolina a rank of 47 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2004, 525 infants younger than age 1 died in South Carolina, giving it a rank of 48 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>34</sup>

- In 2004, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in South Carolina was 28.8 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 87.8. This reflects a total rate of 52.1 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2005, 12,770 adults and adolescents, as well as 77 children under the age of 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in South Carolina.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2005, an estimated 27,000 children ages 12–17, and 211,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in South Carolina.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2005, 361 children aged out of out-of-home care in South Carolina.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2005, 20,000 South Carolina teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2005, 18% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2005, approximately 16,000 children ages 12–17 in South Carolina needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2005, approximately 15,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2004, 30 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.61 per 100,000 children.<sup>43</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2004, 19 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in South Carolina, a 46% increase from 13 in 2003.<sup>44</sup>
- In 2006, 23,565 children younger than 18 were arrested in South Carolina, a 15.04% increase from 27,736 arrests in 2005. Of the arrests in 2006, 1,469 were for violent crimes and 874 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>45</sup>
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,443 children in juvenile correction facilities in South Carolina.<sup>46</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR SOUTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, South Carolina spent \$61,841,677 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 69% was from federal funds, and 31% was from state funds.<sup>47</sup>
- In 2004, of the \$42,926,730 in federal funds received for child welfare, 74% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, and 26% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families.<sup>48</sup>
- Out of 4,757 children in out-of-home care in South Carolina in 2005, only 1,000 children, or 21%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>49</sup>

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# CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

## 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>50</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>51</sup>
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/ foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; these high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have case-loads of 12–15 children.<sup>52</sup>

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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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