



S O U T H C A R O L I N A ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 1 0

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

South Carolina's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	4,479,800
Population, Children Under 18 ²	1,067,068
State Poverty Rate ³	14.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	19.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	17.2%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	26.6%

**All statistics are for 2008.*

- In 2007, South Carolina had 27,293 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 18,337 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2007, 12,762 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in South Carolina, a rate of 12 per 1,000 children, representing a 18.2% increase from 2006. Of these children, 7,701 were neglected, 2,500 were physically abused, and 484 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 19 children in South Carolina died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 5,147 children in South Carolina lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 4,920 children in 2006. In 2007, 1,844 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 919 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of South Carolina children in out-of-home care in 2007, 44.6% were white, 45.1% black, 4.0% Hispanic, <.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.2% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,402 children exiting out-of-home care in South Carolina in 2007, 47.4% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 435 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in South Carolina, a 2.4% increase from 425 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 5,147 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 1,779 or 34.6% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 48,665 South Carolina grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 5,147 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 8.1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all South Carolina children in kinship care in 2007, 48.9% were white, 37.1% were black, 5.3% were Hispanic, 0.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 8.4% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in South Carolina increased from 32,399 in March 2008 to 37,787 in March 2009, an increase of 16.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 16,419, a 13.1% increase from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in South Carolina was at 27.8% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, South Carolina spent \$151,614,457 in TANF funds, including 20.9% on basic assistance, 0.0% on child care, <1% on transportation, and 78% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, South Carolina spent \$71,500,649 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 126,956 participants.²¹
- In 2008, South Carolina collected and distributed \$249,830,407 in child support funds, an increase of 2.9% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in South Carolina was \$675 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$12.98 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, South Carolina had a monthly average of 20,500 children served by subsidized child care; 19,700 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 19,500 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in South Carolina, a family of three could make no more than \$26,400, which is equivalent to 53% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, South Carolina had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 12,248 South Carolina children, a 0.5% increase from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 460,800 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in South Carolina—48.0% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 13,474 children were enrolled in Medicaid in South Carolina on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 13,474 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 1,837 received Targeted Case Management services, and 641 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, South Carolina had 45,332 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 25.9% increase from 2007, when 36,001 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, South Carolina had 137,000 uninsured children, representing 12.8% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 6,292 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving South Carolina a rank of 47 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 522 infants under age 1 died in South Carolina, giving it a rank of 45 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2006, the birthrate for teens 15–17 in South Carolina was 29 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 89. This reflects a total rate of 53 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 14,055 adults and adolescents, as well as 108 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in South Carolina.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 28,000 children ages 12–17, and 212,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in South Carolina.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 328 children aged out of out-of-home care in South Carolina.³⁸
- In 2008, 18,000 South Carolina teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 22,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 77,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, approximately 16,000 children ages 12–17 in South Carolina needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 17,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 28 South Carolina children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.27 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 24 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in South Carolina, a 41.1% increase from 17 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 18,306 children younger than 18 were arrested in South Carolina, a 26.6% decrease from 24,945 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 893 were for violent crimes and 438 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶

- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,320 children in juvenile correction facilities in South Carolina.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR SOUTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, South Carolina spent \$211,286,443 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 78% was from federal funds, 20% from state funds, and 2.1% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$164,038,543 in federal funds received for child welfare, 15% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 40% was from Medicaid, 11% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 27% was from TANF, and 0% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 5,147 children in out-of-home care in South Carolina in 2007, only 1,284, or 24.9%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

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.⁵¹
 - 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 that child and family.⁵²
 - 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 caseloads of 12–15 children.⁵³
 - In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in South Carolina was not available, but the median income for a family of four in South Carolina was \$59,212.⁵⁴
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