

# SOUTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN 2009

## South Carolina's Children At a Glance\*

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	4,407,709
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	1,059,917
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	14.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	21.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	19.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	20.8%

\*All statistics are for 2007.

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, South Carolina had 24,855 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 16,712 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2006, 10,795 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in South Carolina, a rate of 10.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 0.3% increase from 2005. Of these children, 7,790 were neglected, 3,270 were physically abused, and 772 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2006, 19 children in South Carolina died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2006, 4,920 children in South Carolina lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 4,757 children in 2005. In 2006, 33.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 17.9% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of South Carolina children in out-of-home care in 2006, 42.6% were white, 47.7% black, 3.6% Hispanic, 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.0% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

## ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,259 children exiting out-of-home care in South Carolina in 2006, 45% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2006, 425 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in South Carolina, an 11% increase from 382 in 2005.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 4,920 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 1,751 or 35.6% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 50,206 South Carolina grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 4,920 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 7.0% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all South Carolina children in kinship care in 2006, 41.1% were white, 48.4% were black, 3.2% were Hispanic, 0.6% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.7% 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 decreased from 35,653 in March 2007 to 32,399 in March 2008, a decrease of 9.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 14,519, a 7.2% decrease from March 2007.<sup>18</sup>



- 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.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2006, South Carolina spent \$145,275,024 in TANF funds, including 26.5% on basic assistance, 0.6% on transportation, and 72.9% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2007, South Carolina spent \$55,024,552 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 144,737 participants.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2007, South Carolina collected and distributed \$242,819,338 in child support funds, a 0.2% of decrease from 2006.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in South Carolina was \$672 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$12.92 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>23</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, South Carolina had a monthly average of 19,700 children served by subsidized child care; 19,500 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 20,200 in 2004.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in South Carolina, a family of three could make no more than \$25,755, which is equivalent to 53% of the state's median income.<sup>25</sup>
- As of early 2008, South Carolina had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 12,248 South Carolina children, a 0.5% increase from 2001.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 485,400 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in South Carolina—48.7% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2005, 11,455 children were enrolled in Medicaid in South Carolina on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2005, of the 11,455 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 5,396 received Targeted Case Management services, and 532 received Rehabilitative Services.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2007, South Carolina had 36,001 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 10.4% decrease from 2006, when 40,161 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2007, South Carolina had 152,000 uninsured children, representing 14.2% of its child population.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2005, 5,885 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving South Carolina a rank of 29 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2005, 543 infants under age 1 died in South Carolina, giving it a rank of 31 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best and 50 the worst).<sup>34</sup>
- In 2005, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in South Carolina was 28 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 88. This reflects a total rate of 51 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>



- Cumulative through 2006, 13,301 adults and adolescents, as well as 105 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in South Carolina.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2006, an estimated 28,000 children ages 12–17, and 288,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in South Carolina.<sup>37</sup>

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

- In 2006, 347 children aged out of out-of-home care in South Carolina.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2007, 23,000 South Carolina teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2007, 9% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2006, 19% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2006, 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>42</sup>
- In 2006, approximately 16,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2005, 34 South Carolina children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.78 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</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 2005, 17 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in South Carolina, a 55% increase from 11 in 2004.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2007, 24,945 children younger than 18 were arrested in South Carolina, a 5.9% increase from 23,565 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 1,360 were for violent crimes and 775 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>46</sup>
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,320 children in juvenile correction facilities in South Carolina.<sup>47</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 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.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$164,038,543 in federal funds received for child welfare, 15% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 40% from Medicaid, 11% from the Social Services Block Grant, and 27% from TANF.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 4,920 children in out-of-home care in South Carolina in 2006, only 1,160, or 23.6%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</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>51</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>52</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 caseloads of 12–15 children.<sup>53</sup>

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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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