

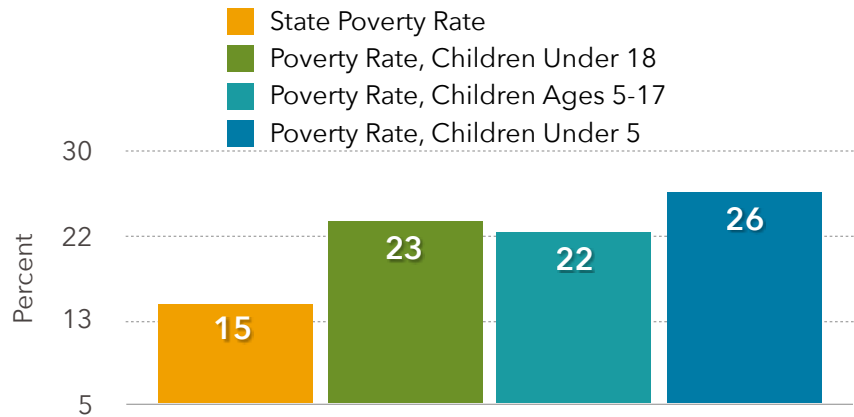
SOUTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 4,896,146 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,089,308

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the **3,445** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in South Carolina, 45% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- **433** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in South Carolina in 2016, an increase of 7.4% from **403** in 2015.¹⁶
- Of the **3,968** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **1,344** or 33.9% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2016, approximately **51,129** grandparents in South Carolina had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- **232** of the children in out-of-home care in 2015 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹

Poverty Rates



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2016, South Carolina had 44,196 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 34,681 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2016, there were 17,331 victims of abuse or neglect in South Carolina, a rate of 15.8 per 1,000 children, an increase of 16.7% from 2015. Of these children, 59.7% were neglected, 52.9% were physically abused, and 4.4% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has increased 16.7% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.¹⁰

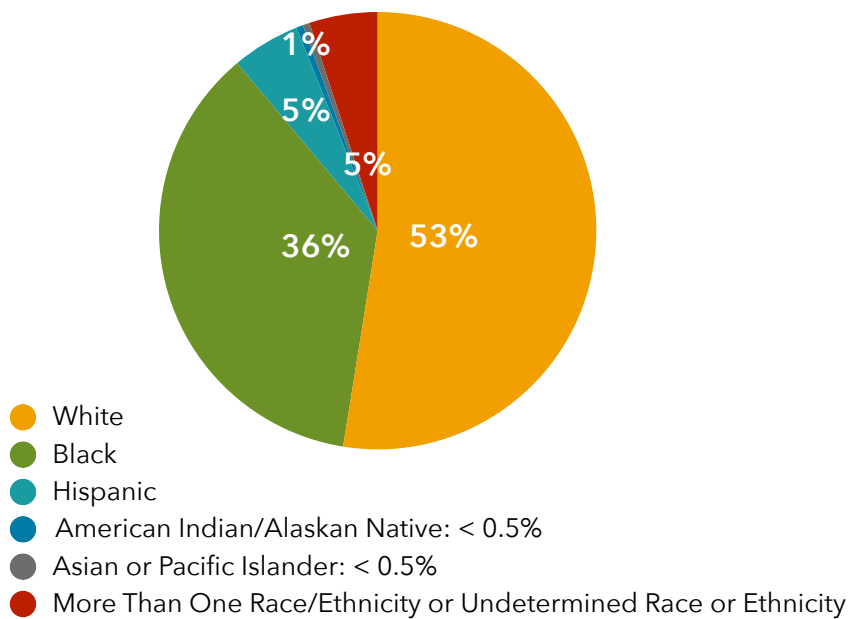


CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, South Carolina had a monthly average of 10,800 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 12,000 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 13,800 were recipients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in South Carolina, a family of three could make no more than \$30,135 at application, which is equivalent to 56% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, South Carolina had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2016, Head Start served 12,549 children in South Carolina, a decrease of 6.8% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in South Carolina made 13,362 home visits to 4,455 parents and children in 2,317 families, as well as enrolled 2,929 new parents and children to the program.⁶⁴

- In 2016, there were 22 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in South Carolina.¹¹
- 3,968 children in South Carolina lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 3,726 children in 2015.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 6.5% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2015.¹³

Children in Out-of-Home Care
2015



CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in South Carolina decreased from 23,572 in 2015 to 21,013 in 2016, a 12.1% change. There was a 9,536 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 9.6% from 2015.²⁰
- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 11 received TANF cash assistance.²¹

- \$199,526,904 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in South Carolina, including 15.5% on basic assistance and 0.4% on transportation.²²
- \$26,440,565 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in South Carolina, serving 107,257 participants.²³
- 20.7% of households in South Carolina were food insecure in 2015, meaning that the family experienced difficulty providing enough food due to lack of resources at some point during the year.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 632,686 children in South Carolina were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, an increase of 2.1% from 2015.³²
- In 2016, South Carolina had 81,574 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 17.1% from 2015, when 98,336 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, South Carolina had 61,394 uninsured children.³⁴
- 5,488 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in South Carolina in 2016.³⁵
- 401 infants under age 1 died in South Carolina in 2016.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in South Carolina was 11.4 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 47.8 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 26 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 18,799 adults and adolescents and 120 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in South Carolina.³⁸
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in South Carolina reached \$323,266,895.³⁹

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 184 children in South Carolina aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.⁴²
- 20,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in South Carolina were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴

- 66,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- In 2016, there were less than 10 reports of children in South Carolina aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 34 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 70 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in South Carolina in 2016, compared to 58 in 2015.⁴⁸
- 12,987 children younger than 18 were arrested in South Carolina in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 682 of the arrests in 2016.⁴⁹
- 693 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in South Carolina in 2015.⁵⁰

CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

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.⁵²

- According to a 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
- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.⁵⁴ Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.⁵⁵

Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.⁵⁶

- According to the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II baseline report, 75% of caseworkers earned a salary between \$30,000 and \$49,999.⁵⁷
- The majority of caseworkers hold a bachelor's degree (52.3%) or a bachelor of social work degree (21.9%). Only 25% of caseworkers hold a master's degree.⁵⁸

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

- In 2014, South Carolina's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$22,389,238. The most utilized service in South Carolina was Protective Services for Children totaling \$8,816,592.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ALASKA'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, South Carolina spent \$250,998,664 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$153,564,818 was from federal funds and \$97,433,846 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
- In 2014, of the \$153,564,818 in federal funds received for child welfare, 35.2% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 6.3% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 25.2% was from Medicaid, 11.7% came from Social Services Block Grant, 18.7% was from TANF, and 2.8% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- South Carolina received \$35,461,479 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$11,631,865 for maintenance payments and \$23,829,614 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶³

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8 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2018). Child Maltreatment 2016: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2-1: Screened-In and Screened-Out Referrals, 2016. Retrieved February 06, 2018 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2016.pdf>.

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- Note: The percentage difference is a CWLA calculation. Overlap in the percentages of types of abuse is possible as a child may have experienced more than one type of abuse.
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- Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 U.S. Census Bureau. (2017). American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2016. Retrieved January 22, 2018 from https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_1YR_DP02&prodType=table.
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Note: A family that is eligible for child care assistance may not necessarily receive it. States may place families on waiting lists, or freeze intake (turning away eligible families without adding them to a waiting list).

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- 51 Note: The dearth in current state-by-state workforce data makes clear the need for critical data on compensation, working conditions including safety issues, academic degrees held, education and training received, and factors contributing to turnover. To address this, CWLA is calling for Congress to authorize the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct an updated study on the child welfare workforce. It would make recommendations regarding caseloads and workloads, education levels, and training requirements. In addition, the study would examine data reporting and collection and make recommendations on how states might improve these efforts.
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