CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2017, South Carolina had 46,062 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 36,744 reports were referred for investigation.

- In 2017, there were 17,071 victims of abuse or neglect in South Carolina, a rate of 15.5 per 1,000 children, an increase 64.1% from 2013. Of these children, 56.6% were neglected, 54% were physically abused, and 4.9% were sexually abused.

- The number of child victims has increased 64.1% in comparison to the number of victims in 2013.

- In 2017, there were 28 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in South Carolina.

- 4,041 children in South Carolina lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 3,968 children in 2016. Of the children living apart from their families in 2016, there were 1,531 aged 5 or younger, and 551 were 16 or older.
CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, South Carolina had a monthly average of 12,400 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 10,800 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 10,800 were recipients in 2015.\(^\text{28}\)
- In 2018, to be eligible for subsidized child care in South Carolina, a family of three could make no more than $30,240 at application, which is equivalent to 54% of the state’s median income.\(^\text{29}\)
- As of early 2016, South Carolina had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.\(^\text{30}\)
- In 2017, Head Start served 12,604 children in South Carolina, an increase of 6.4% from 2015.\(^\text{31}\)
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in South Carolina made 16,125 home visits to 4,303 participants in 2,232 households.\(^\text{65}\)

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 1.8% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2016.\(^\text{13}\)

In South Carolina in 2016, 514,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.\(^\text{21}\)

- $110,218,646 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in South Carolina, including 23.5% on basic assistance, 2.5% on child care, 0.7% on transportation, and 0.0% on non-assistance.\(^\text{22}\)

- $49,145,819 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in South Carolina, serving 92,158 participants.\(^\text{23}\)

Children in Out-of-Home Care 2016

- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in South Carolina decreased from 18,764 in 2017 to 17,723 in 2018, a 5.6% change. There was a 8,210 monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 5.1% from 2017.\(^\text{20}\)

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In 2017, South Carolina distributed $289,376,633 in child support funds, an increase of 16.3% from 2013.24

311,000 children in South Carolina lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016, where more than 28% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.25

In December of 2018, the unemployment rate in South Carolina was 3.3.26

13.9% of households in South Carolina were food insecure on average from 2014 to 2016, 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

635,277 children in South Carolina were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 0.4% from 2016.32

In 2017, South Carolina had 87,624 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, an increase of 6.9% from 2014, when 81,574 children were enrolled.33

In 2017, South Carolina had 59,815 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 2017, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in South Carolina was 9.2 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 39.8 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 24 births for girls ages 15 to 19.37

Cumulative through 2017, there were 19,201 adults and adolescents and 122 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in South Carolina.38

In 2017, an estimated 6,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 220,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in South Carolina.39
In 2017, approximately 6,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.  

In 2017, approximately 11,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.  

In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in South Carolina reached $323,266,895.  

**VULNERABLE YOUTH**  


80.3% of high school students in South Carolina graduated on time at the end of the 2014-15 year.  

20,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in South Carolina were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.  

66,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2017.  

28.5% of young adults in South Carolina ages 25 to 34 had an bachelor’s degree or higher from 2015 to 2017.  

In 2017, there were less than 10 reports of children in South Carolina aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 41 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.  

**JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION**  

75 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in South Carolina in 2017, compared to 70 in 2016.  

12,279 children younger than 18 were arrested in South Carolina in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 616 of the arrests in 2017.
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 2016, South Carolina’s sum of expenditures for services totaled $23,878,428. The most utilized service in South Carolina was Protective Services for Adults totaling $6,815,626.60

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR SOUTH CAROLINA’S CHILDREN
In 2016, South Carolina spent $241,403,177 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, $147,981,300 was from federal funds and $93,418,877 was from state and local funds. In 2016, of the $147,981,300 in federal funds received for child welfare, 41.2% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4.9% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 8.9% was from Medicaid, 10% came from Social Services Block Grant, 31.5% was from TANF, and 3.5% came from other federal sources.

South Carolina received $60,987,933 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including $15,487,241 for maintenance payments and $26,696,420 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.

1 “At A Glance” statistics are from 2018.


3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.


7 Ibid.


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.


Note: The five and younger number is a CWLA calculation.


Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

22, 2019 from


Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.


Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.


Note: The percent differences are CWLA calculations.


Note: The percentages are a CWLA calculation.


Note: Some states allow families, once they begin receiving assistance, to continue receiving assistance up to a higher income level than the initial limit.

30 Ibid.

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).


Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.


Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation. Children who switched between CHIP and Medicaid are represented in both data sets.


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.


53 Ibid.


58 Ibid.


Note: Examples of direct services include child abuse/neglect investigations, foster care, community-based programs, case management, and all such services required for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Examples of administrative services include management information systems, training programs, eligibility determination processes, and all services that provide the infrastructure supports for the public agency. The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support and demonstration funds for this state.

62 Ibid.

63 Ibid.

