

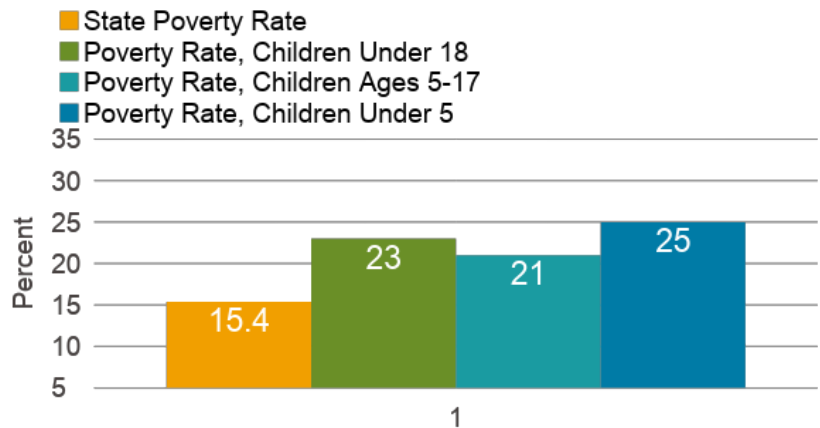
# SOUTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 5,084,127 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,118,507

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

- Of the 3,538 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in South Carolina, 45% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- 487 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in South Carolina in 2017, an increase of 11.1% from 433 in 2016.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the 4,041 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 1,470 or 36.3% waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2017, approximately 55,423 grandparents in South Carolina had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- 222 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.<sup>19</sup>

## Poverty Rates



## 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.<sup>8</sup>
  - 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.<sup>9</sup>
    - The number of child victims has increased 64.1% in comparison to the number of victims in 2013.<sup>10</sup>
      - In 2017, there were 28 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in South Carolina.<sup>11</sup>
        - 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.<sup>12</sup>



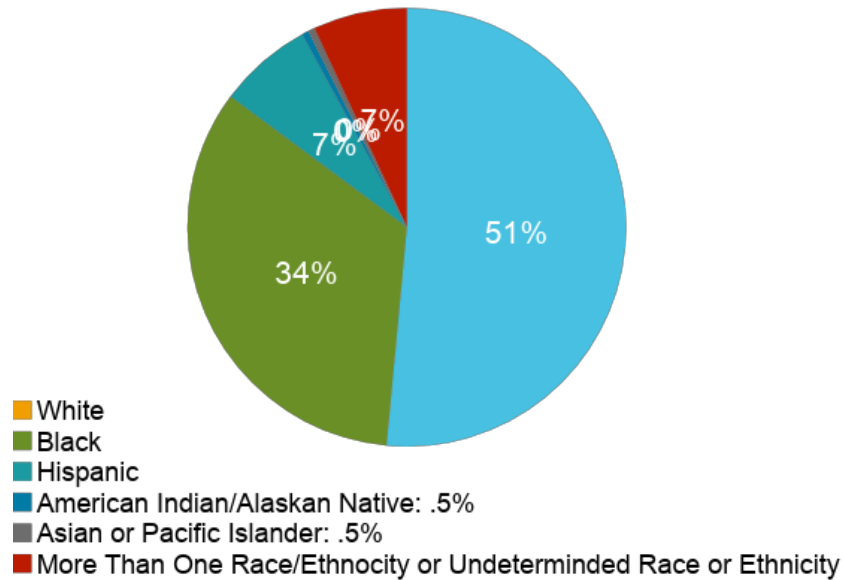
## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- 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.<sup>28</sup>
- 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.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2016, South Carolina had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2017, Head Start served 12,604 children in South Carolina, an increase of 6.4% from 2015.<sup>31</sup>
- 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.<sup>65</sup>

- 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.<sup>13</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

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.<sup>20</sup>
- In South Carolina in 2016, 514,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.<sup>21</sup>
- \$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.<sup>22</sup>
- \$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.<sup>23</sup>

- In 2017, South Carolina distributed \$289,376,633 in child support funds, an increase of 16.3% from 2013.<sup>24</sup>
- 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.<sup>25</sup>
- In December of 2018, the unemployment rate in South Carolina was 3.3. <sup>26</sup>
- 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.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 635,277 children in South Carolina were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 0.4% from 2016.<sup>32</sup>
- 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.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2017, South Carolina had 59,815 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 5,488 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in South Carolina in 2016.<sup>35</sup>
- 401 infants under age 1 died in South Carolina in 2016.<sup>36</sup>
- 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.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2017, there were 19,201 adults and adolescents and 122 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in South Carolina.<sup>38</sup>
- 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.<sup>39</sup>

- In 2017, approximately 6,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2017, approximately 11,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in South Carolina reached \$323,266,895.<sup>64</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 246 children in South Carolina aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.<sup>42</sup>
- 80.3% of high school students in South Carolina graduated on time at the end of the 2014-15 year.<sup>43</sup>
- 20,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in South Carolina were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.<sup>44</sup>
- 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.<sup>45</sup>
- 28.5% of young adults in South Carolina ages 25 to 34 had a bachelor's degree or higher from 2015 to 2017.<sup>46</sup>
- 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.<sup>47</sup>

## 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.<sup>48</sup>
- 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.<sup>49</sup>

- 693 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in South Carolina in 2015.<sup>50</sup>

## 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.*<sup>52</sup>

- 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.<sup>53</sup>
- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.<sup>54</sup> Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.<sup>55</sup>

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

- 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.<sup>57</sup>
- 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.<sup>58</sup>

## 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.<sup>60</sup>

## 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.<sup>61</sup>
  - 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.<sup>62</sup>
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- 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.<sup>63</sup>

1 "At A Glance" statistics are from 2018.

2 U.S. Census Bureau (2018). ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: 2018 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Retrieved February 15, 2019 from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/sc/PST045218>.

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4 Ibid.

5 Ibid

6 U.S. Census Bureau (2016). Selected Economic Characteristics, 2014 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>.

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9 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2019). Child Maltreatment 2017: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-4: Child Victims, 2013-2017. Retrieved February 19, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2017.pdf>.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2019). Child Maltreatment 2017: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-9: Maltreatment Types of Victims, 2017. Retrieved February 19, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2017.pdf>.

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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Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center. (2015). Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, Child Trends, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect: Children in Foster Care by Age Group, 2016, 16-20 age group (Number). Retrieved February 22, 2019 from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6244-children-in-foster-care-by-age-group#detailed/2/2-52/false/870/2619/12988>

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

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

14 Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center.(2017). Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, Child Trends, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect: Children in Foster Care by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2016(Percent). Retrieved February

22, 2019 from

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6246-children-in-foster-care-by-race-and-hispanic-origin?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/36/false/870/2638,2601,2600,2598,2603,2597,2602,1353/12992,12993>

15 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2018). FY 2008 – FY 2017 Foster Care: Entries, Exits, and in Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year: Table: Numbers of Children Exiting Foster Care by State FY 2008– FY 2017. Retrieved February 5, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/trends-in-foster-care-and-adoption>.

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16 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2018). Table: Adoptions of Children with Public Child Welfare Agency Involvement By State: FY 2008 – FY 2017. Retrieved February 5, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/trends-in-foster-care-and-adoption>.

Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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20 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2019). Data & Reports: TANF Caseload Data 2018: Table: Total Recipients. Retrieved February 22, 2019 from [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/tanf\\_totalnumrecipients2018.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/tanf_totalnumrecipients2018.pdf).

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Note: The percent differences are CWLA calculations.

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22 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2018). TANF Financial Data – FY 2017: Table B.: Total Federal TANF and State MOE Expenditures in FY 2017. Retrieved February 22, 2019 from [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/tanf\\_financial\\_data\\_fy\\_2017\\_12819\\_508\\_compliant.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/tanf_financial_data_fy_2017_12819_508_compliant.pdf).

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Note: The percentages are a CWLA calculation.

23 USDA, Food and Nutrition Service. (2018). Program Data: WIC Program: Monthly Data – State Level Participation by Category and Program Costs: Table: WIC Program—Total Number of Participants. Retrieved February 22, 2019 from <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/pd/26wifypart.pdf>.

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24 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement. (2018). FY2017 Preliminary Report. Retrieved February 22, 2019 from [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/programs/css/fy\\_2017\\_preliminary\\_data\\_report.pdf?nocache=1529610354](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/programs/css/fy_2017_preliminary_data_report.pdf?nocache=1529610354).

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26 Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2019). South Carolina Economy at a Glance. Retrieved February 22, 2019 from <https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.sc.htm>.

27 Feeding America. What Hunger Looks Like in South Carolina. Retrieved February 22, 2018 from <http://map.feedingamerica.org/>.

28 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care. (2018). FY 2017 Preliminary Data Table 1 - Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served. Retrieved February 22, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/fy-2017-preliminary-data-table-1>.

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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.

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31 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center, Office of Head Start. (2018). Head Start Program Facts Fiscal Year 2017. Retrieved February 22, 2019 from [https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/hs-program-fact-sheet-2017\\_0.pdf](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/hs-program-fact-sheet-2017_0.pdf).

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

32 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2018, May 30). FY 2017 Unduplicated Number of Children Ever Enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. Retrieved February 22, 2019 from Medicaid.Gov: <https://www.medicaid.gov/chip/downloads/fy-2017-childrens-enrollment-report.pdf>

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

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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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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.

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