Child Maltreatment
In 2018, South Carolina had 56,724 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 45,788 were referred for investigation.\(^1\)

There were 19,130 child victims of abuse or neglect in South Carolina in 2018, at a rate of 17.3 children per 1,000. This translates to a 53.8% increase since 2014.\(^2\)

Of the 19,130 children, 1,080 were first time victims.\(^3\)

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 2,462 of the 19,130 cases.\(^4\)

- 86% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 14% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.\(^6\)
- 50% of South Carolina’s child victims in 2017 were female and 50% were male.\(^7\)

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2018

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018

Plans of Safe Care
- In 2018, South Carolina reported 497 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.\(^8\)
- South Carolina reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.\(^9\)
Child fatalities increased in 2018 from 28 in 2017 to 39 in 2018.\textsuperscript{xii}

South Carolina did not report the number of sex trafficking victims in 2018.

6,698 victims received post-response services while 7,887 non-victims received post-response services as well.\textsuperscript{xvi}

### Foster Care and Adoptions

- 8,047 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- 4,456 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2018.
- 4,098 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 3,591 exited during the same year.
- 435 of South Carolina’s children were adopted while 1591 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xiv}

There was a 10.3\% increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also decreased 10.7\% from 2017.\textsuperscript{xv}

254 children in South Carolina aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is an increase from 246 in 2016 and represents a 3.3\% increase.\textsuperscript{xvi}

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 18.1 months in care.\textsuperscript{xvii}
- The average length of stay in South Carolina for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 32 months.\textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 8.7 years old.\textsuperscript{xix}
- The average age of adopted children was 6.1 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}

\textsuperscript{3.3\%}

Increase since 2016 in children aging out of foster care
Data from 2017 shows that 2,771 children in foster care within South Carolina were living with non-relatives while 199 stayed with a relative.

- 835 children were staying in group homes while 42 children were classified as runaways.xxii

- 4% of households in South Carolina in 2017 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.xxii

- The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 7.5 months.xxii

Child Poverty
South Carolina had 331,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 30% of all children.xxiv

- 28% of South Carolina’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.xxv

- The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 18,764 in 2017 to 17,773 in 2018. This represents a 5.3% decrease.xxvi

- The state spent $47,477,621 on WIC in 2019, serving 84,596 people. This represents an 8.2% decrease in total participants and a 2.9% decrease in spending. xxvii

- 679,990 people in South Carolina were food insecure in 2017, including 202,110 children who struggled with hunger.xxviii

- 48.4% of households in South Carolina with children received SNAP benefits in 2017.xxix
Health

South Carolina had 5,560 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 9.7% of infants born in South Carolina in 2017. South Carolina had a total of 943 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.7% of all white babies were born premature while 15.8% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 11.3%.

There were 3,480 births to mothers aged 15-19 in South Carolina in 2017, representing a rate of 43 in every 1,000 teen girls.

371 infants under 1 died in South Carolina in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 6.5 per 1,000.

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- 4.7% of South Carolina’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 56,000 children. South Carolina is not a Medicaid expansion state.

- 655,634 children in South Carolina were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents a 3.2% increase from 2017.

- 111,051 children in South Carolina were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents a 26.7% increase from 2017.
Juvenile Justice System
- There were **10,803** total arrests for children under 18 in South Carolina in 2018.
- **1,103** of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- **2,328** arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- **1,957** were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.\(^{xxxvii}\)
- **546** children lived in juvenile correction facilities in South Carolina in 2018. This is a decrease from **693** kids in 2015, representing a **21.2%** decline.\(^{xxxviii}\)

Teens & Youth
- **19,000** (7%) of South Carolina’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.\(^{xxxix}\)
- In 2017, there were **10** reports of children in South Carolina aged 10-14 committing suicide, and **41** reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.\(^{xli}\)
- **75** children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in South Carolina in 2017.\(^{xlii}\)

Child Welfare Services Funding
- South Carolina spent **$241,403,177** on child welfare services in 2016. Child welfare services are all of the direct and administrative services that state agencies provide to children and families.
- **$147,984,300** were allocated from the federal government and **$93,418,877** came from state and local funds.\(^{xlii}\)

The breakdown of the **$147,984,300** in federal funding received in South Carolina in 2016: \(^{xliii}\)
- **$42,171,661** as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- **$16,931,025** as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.\(^{xliv}\)
- South Carolina’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was **$22,938,219**.\(^{xlv}\)
South Carolina’s Children 2020


Based on Calculations from the CWLA


Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.


