Child Maltreatment

In 2020, South Carolina had 53,514 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 34,078 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 14,263 child victims of abuse or neglect in South Carolina in 2020, at a rate of 12.8 children per 1,000. This translates to a 17.7% decrease since 2016.²

Of the 14,263 children, 10,083 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 2,098 of the 14,263 cases.⁴

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

86% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. 14% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁶

49% of South Carolina’s child victims in 2020 were female and 50% were male. 1% of child victims are unknown or not reported.⁷

Plans of Safe Care

In 2020, South Carolina reported 451 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 decreased from 60 in 2019 to 36 in 2020.\textsuperscript{xi}

South Carolina reported 28 total child victims of sex trafficking in 2020.\textsuperscript{xii}

5,008 victims received post-response services while 7,490 non-victims received post-response services as well.\textsuperscript{xiii}

Foster Care and Adoptions
- 7,419 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- 4,070 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2020.
- 2,961 children entered care during the 2020 FY while 3,349 exited during the same year.
- 551 of South Carolina’s children were adopted while 1,623 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

There was a 9.9\% decrease in the number of children in care between 2018 and 2019. Adoptions from the system also decreased 3.9\% from 2018.\textsuperscript{xvi}

260 children in South Carolina aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is an increase from 257 in 2018 and represents a 1.1\% increase.\textsuperscript{xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of 20.6 months in care.\textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average length of stay in South Carolina for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 34.1 months.\textsuperscript{xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 8.8 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
- The average age of adopted children was 6.2 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Data from 2019 shows that 3,023 children in foster care within South Carolina were living with non-relatives while 324 stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart). xxii

868 children were staying in group homes while 42 children were classified as runaways. xxiii

4% of households in South Carolina in 2020 had a grandparent living with a grandchild. xxiv

The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 6.9 months. xxv

Child Poverty
South Carolina had 311,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 28% of all children. xxvi xxvii

26% of South Carolina’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden. xxviii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF decreased from 17,829 in 2019 to 17,527 in 2020. This represents a 1.6% decrease. xxix xxx

The state spent $32,818,881 on WIC in 2021, serving 86,819 people. This represents a 7.2% increase in total participants and a 22.9% decrease in spending. xxxi

555,630 people in South Carolina were food insecure in 2019, including 161,030 children who struggled with hunger. xxix

48.3% of households receiving SNAP benefits in South Carolina in 2019 had children. xxxii
Health
South Carolina had 5,610 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 9.8% of infants born in South Carolina in 2019.\textsuperscript{xxxiv}

South Carolina had a total of 6,539 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.8% of all white babies were born premature while 15.1% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 11.4%.\textsuperscript{xxxv}

There were 3,425 births to mothers aged 15-19 in South Carolina in 2019, representing a rate of 22 in every 1,000 teen girls.\textsuperscript{xxxvi}

391 infants under 1 died in South Carolina in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 6.9 per 1,000.\textsuperscript{xxxvii}

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020

\begin{itemize}
\item Medicaid: 14%\item CHIP: 8%\item Uninsured: 78%
\end{itemize}

5.8% of South Carolina’s children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents 69,000 children.\textsuperscript{xxxix}

633,762 children in South Carolina were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents a 1.8% decrease from 2019.\textsuperscript{xl}

111,645 children in South Carolina were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents a 1.6% decrease from 2019.\textsuperscript{xii}
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 9,403 total arrests for children under 18 in South Carolina in 2019.
- 865 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 1,918 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 1,375 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 633 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in South Carolina in 2018. This is an increase from 546 kids in 2017, representing a 15.9% increase.

Teens & Youth
- 21,000 (8%) of South Carolina’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2018.
- In 2020, there were no reports of children in South Carolina aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 48 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 127 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in South Carolina in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- South Carolina spent $258,656,956 on child welfare services in 2018. Child welfare services are all of the direct and administrative services that state agencies provide to children and families.
- $147,204,741 were allocated from the federal government and $95,078,201 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- Title IV-E: 43%
- Title IV-B: 38%
- Medicaid: 7%
- SSBG: 0%
- Other Sources: 3%
- TANF: 9%

The breakdown of the $147,204,741 in federal funding received in South Carolina in 2018:
- $41,264,169 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $20,732,391 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- South Carolina’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $24,538,241.
Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3


Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 4


Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3


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Based on Calculations from the CWLA


Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid


Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid.


