

Children's Defense Fund

Children in South Carolina



January 2011

1,080,732 children live in South Carolina:
 5,623 are American Indian/Alaska Native
 16,947 are Asian/Pacific Islander
 25,864 are two or more races
 81,034 are Hispanic
 352,136 are Black
 612,761 are White, non-Hispanic

In South Carolina:

A child is abused or neglected every 41 minutes.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 16 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 6 days.

South Carolina Ranks:*

36th among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 47th among states in its infant mortality rate.
 Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia
 47th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
 Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

[*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children in the country]

Child Poverty in South Carolina

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	259,429 (24.4%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	122,506 (11.5%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	43,503
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$240

Child Health in South Carolina

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	156,000 (13.6%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	85,046**
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	437,550**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	79.1%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	52.1%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	32.0%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	33.1%

*States may have a different name for CHIP

**The number of enrolled children throughout the year rather than on a given day

Child Hunger in South Carolina

Number of children who receive food stamps	271,376
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	74%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	322,963
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	58,328
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	126,956

Early Childhood Development in South Carolina

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	68.0%
Number of children served by Head Start	12,464
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	20,400
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$4,756
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	15.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	49.0%

Education in South Carolina

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$16,417
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$8,120
Percent of public school fourth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	72%
unable to do math at grade level	66%
Percent of public school eighth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	76%
unable to do math at grade level	70%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	17,681

Child Welfare in South Carolina

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	12,707
Number of children in foster care	4,938
Number of children adopted from foster care	513
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	51,364

Youth at Risk in South Carolina

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	6.6%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	58.9%*
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	30.3%
Number of juvenile arrests	21,129
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,200
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.0
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 60 46 homicides; 8 suicides; 4 accidents; and 2 undetermined	

Compiled from the most up-to-date data available as of January 2011. For data sources, please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits

*South Carolina did not report a diploma count for 2007-2008, so the graduation rate data here is from 2006-2007.

For more information on the state of America's children contact:

**Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 628-8787
1 (800) 233-1200
www.childrensdefense.org**