

Children's Defense Fund

Children in South Carolina

January 2012



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1,077,717 children live in South Carolina:
599,063 are White, non-Hispanic
351,652 are Black
76,975 are Hispanic
12,470 are Asian/Pacific Islander
2,632 are American Indian/Alaska Native
40,985 are two or more races

In South Carolina:

A child is abused or neglected every 45 minutes.
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 17 hours.

South Carolina Ranks:*

47th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi
42nd among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is New Hampshire; worst is the District of Columbia
36th among states in per pupil expenditures.
The District of Columbia is best; Utah is the worst state

[*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)	277,722 (26.1%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	142,050 (13.3%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	40,787
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$270

Child Health in South Carolina

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	155,185 (14.5%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	73,438
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$46,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	485,322
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	53.1%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	84.1%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	32.4%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	26.4%

Child Hunger in South Carolina

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	354,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	75%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	497,671
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	44,507
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	130,647

Early Childhood Development in South Carolina

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	68.2%
Number of children served by Head Start	14,712
Average monthly 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	\$5,450
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	14.5%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	48.6%

Education in South Carolina

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$9,228
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	71.7%
unable to do math at grade level	63.9%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	73.4%
unable to do math at grade level	68.2%
Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	17,392

Child Welfare in South Carolina

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	11,802
Number of children in foster care	4,485
Number of children adopted from foster care	529
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	54,336

Youth at Risk in South Carolina

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	6.5%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	66.0%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	32.1%
Number of juvenile arrests	19,258
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,258
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.00
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in homicides	35
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in suicides	16

This fact sheet contains the most recent data as of January 26, 2012.
For data sources and methodological notes, please visit: www.childrensdefense.org/cits.

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

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