

Children's Defense Fund

Children in South Carolina

March 2013



1,079,353 children live in South Carolina:

597,456 are White, non-Hispanic
348,991 are Black
81,836 are Hispanic
13,515 are Asian/Pacific Islander
3,027 are American Indian/Alaska Native
42,978 are two or more races

302,670 are under the age of 5
538,742 are ages 5 to 13
239,143 are ages 14 to 17
777,885 are ages 5 to 17

In South Carolina:

A child is abused or neglected every 46 minutes.

A child dies before his or her first birthday every 20 hours.

South Carolina Ranks:*

47th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

42nd among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

37th 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)	296,759 (27.8%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	139,974 (13.1%)
Number of children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	30,360
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$216

Child Health in South Carolina

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	142,101 (13.3%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	72,084
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$47,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	501,025
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	53.4%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	84.3%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	31.8%
Percent of 19-35 months-olds not fully immunized	30.2%

Child Hunger in South Carolina

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	372,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	82%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	493,440
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	56,149
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	130,525

Early Childhood Development in South Carolina

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	67.3%
Number of children served by Head Start	15,233
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	19,600
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$5,455
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	15.5%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	51.6%

Education in South Carolina

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$9,080
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 (percentage) of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	17,884 (6.7%)

Child Welfare in South Carolina

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	11,324
Number of children in foster care	3,821
Number of children adopted from foster care	588
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	53,122

Youth at Risk in South Carolina

Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	68.2%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	25.5%
Number of juvenile arrests	15,796
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,258
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.0
Number of children and teens killed by firearms	42

This fact sheet contains the most recent data as of March 20, 2013. Most of the data are from 2011 and 2010. For more information on data year, 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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