

## Child Abuse and Neglect - S.C. Statistics

- South Carolina ranks **46th** in the overall well-being of children in the 2007 Kids Count State Profiles of Child Well-Being. <sup>1</sup>
- South Carolina ranks **47th** in percent of babies born at low birthweight. <sup>1</sup>
- South Carolina ranks **48nd** in infant mortality. <sup>1</sup>

### Types of Abuse and Neglect\*

Neglect and Medical Neglect	<b>71.2%</b>
Physical Abuse	<b>32.3%</b>
Sexual Abuse	<b>8.5%</b>
Psychological and Other Maltreatment	<b>1.5%</b>

\*Percentages may not total 100% because abuse or neglect can be reported in one or more categories <sup>3</sup>

- A child in South Carolina is born into poverty every **50** minutes. <sup>2</sup>
- **16, 898** reports of child abuse or neglect (*this number is estimated to be three times higher making it closer to 50,694*) <sup>5</sup>
- **4,894** children in foster care and **53,881** children being raised by their grandparents. <sup>2</sup>
- In 2004, there were **33** abuse and neglect **child fatalities** in South Carolina. <sup>2</sup>
- A child or teen in South Carolina is killed by gunfire every week. <sup>2</sup>
- **45%** or **461,115** of South Carolina's children are living in low in-come households (*below 200% of poverty*) <sup>1</sup>
- **9,950** Child Victims (*The actual number is estimated at three times the reported number*) <sup>3</sup>
- Young adults in foster care, on average are **placed 8 times before exiting the foster care system**. <sup>4</sup>
- On average, youth spend 5 years in foster care during one "episode" (youth may be in foster care more than once) before exiting the system. <sup>4</sup>
- Reaching the age of maturity and no longer being able to receive services was the number one cause for exiting the **foster care system** <sup>4</sup>
  - **80%** Reached age of maturity, <sup>4</sup>
  - **7%** Runaway, <sup>4</sup>
  - **18.6%** Emancipation<sup>4</sup>

#### Sources:

- 1) Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2007 Kids Count Data Book. { 1<sup>st</sup> represents the best state for children and 50<sup>th</sup> represents the worst state for children}.
- 2) The Children's Defense Fund, South Carolina State Report May 2006.
- 3) DHHS, Children's Bureau Child Maltreatment 2004
- 4) Preliminary Data November 2006 of the Data Warehouse Pilot Study of Youth Who Exit South Carolina Foster Care at Age 18 or Older During Calendar Year 2005
- 5) South Carolina Department of Social Services, 2005-2006