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2008 Greenwood County Kids Count Report

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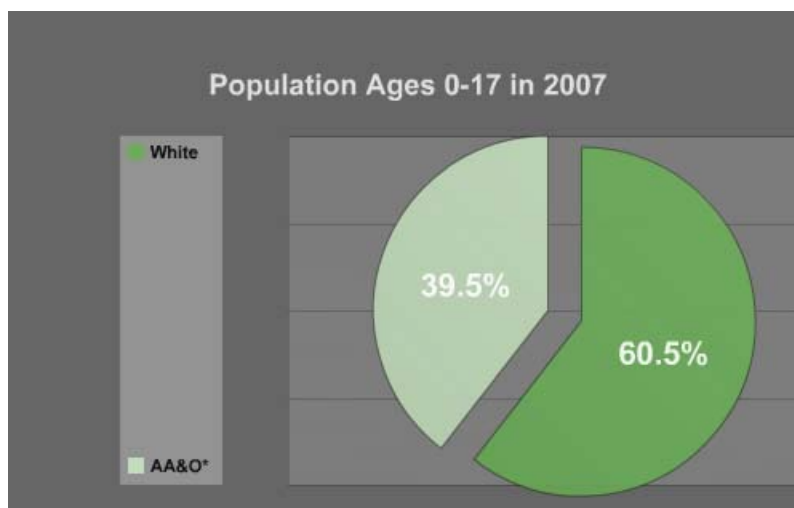
Demographics

In 2007 there were an estimated 16,586 children under age 18 in the county. Of these, 10,035 were White, 6,285 were African-American, and 266 were other races; 1,149 were recorded as Hispanic, though certainly a significant undercount. While Hispanic children are 6.9% of all children under age 18, they were 12.2% of all births during the years 2004-2007 and 13.6% in the single year 2006. There were 16,879 children under age 18 in 2000, 15,204 in 1990, 16,676 in 1980, 17,270 in 1970, and 16,468 in 1960.

Children represent a shrinking portion of the county's population. Those under 18 constituted 24.3% of the population in 2007, down from 37.1% in 1960, 34.8% in 1970, and 28.8% in 1980.

In 2007 the 5,289 pre-schoolers under age 6 were 7.7% of the overall population: 7.1% of Whites and 8.9% of African Americans and Others.

Figure 1: Population Ages 0-17 in 2007



	White	African-American and Other
Greenwood County	60.5%	39.5%

***In all charts African-American is combined with other races, and often abbreviated as AA&O. Other races comprise 1.6% of all children in the county.*

Family

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges.

Families with children make up a smaller share of all households than in the past. Only 31.7% of all households in 2000, as compared with 44% of households in 1960, had children below the age of 18.

Births to Teen Mothers: In 2006, 68 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 7.0% of all babies born in the county; 4.1% of all White and 11.7% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2006, 94.1% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

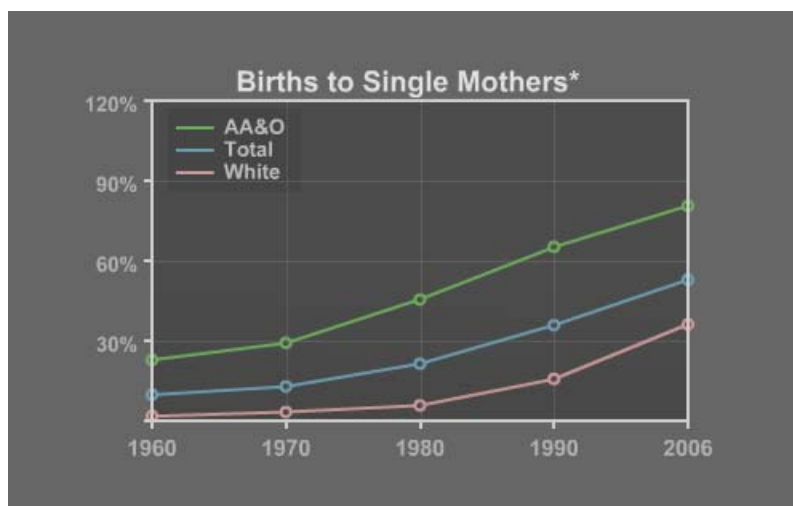
In 2006, 157 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20; of these 35 were not the first births to the teen mothers. Babies of mothers under age 20 were 16.2% of all born in the county; 11.1% of all White and 24.6% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2006, 91.1% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2006, 296 babies, 30.5% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2006, 28.4% of White and 33.9% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 42.5% in 1970. In addition, during 2006, 18.9% had completed 12 grades (16.9% of Whites and 22.4% of African Americans and Others) and 49.4% had more than a high school degree (54.2% of Whites and 41.5% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2006, 373 babies, 38.4% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 34.4% and in 1960 it was 9.8%. In 2006, 22.5% of White children and 64.8% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowledgement births.

Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 141 babies, 14.5% of all born in 2006, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2006 was 514, constituting 52.9% of all babies, 36.2% of White babies, and 80.6% of African-American and Others.

Figure 2: Births to Single Mothers



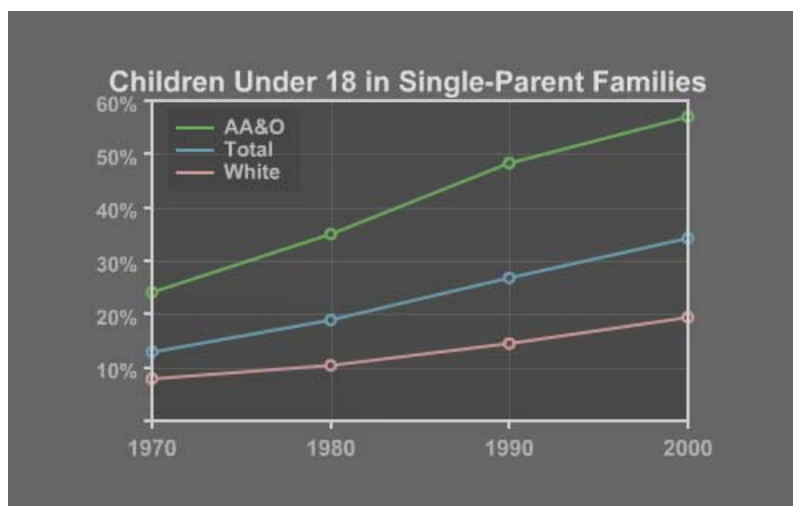
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2006
Total	9.8%	12.9%	21.4%	35.9%	52.9%
White	1.8%	3.3%	5.8%	15.7%	36.2%
African-American and Other	22.8%	29.2%	45.5%	65.2%	80.6%

***Includes paternity acknowledged babies in 1980, 1990 and 2006. Prior to 1979, paternity acknowledged cases were not a statistical category, and thus were included in births to single mothers.*

Divorce Rate: In 2005, 412 marriage licenses were issued, while 229 divorce decrees involving 185 children were filed. In 1970, there were 122 children in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 4,934 children lived with only one parent. This was 34.2% of all children, up from 26.8% in 1990, 18.9% in 1980, and 12.9% in 1970. In 2000, 19.4% of White and 57.0% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 1,615 or 33.9% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 16.9% of White and 60.9% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.

Figure 3: Children Under 18 in Single Parent Families



	1970	1980	1990	2000
Total	12.9%	18.9%	26.8%	34.2%
White	7.9%	10.4%	14.5%	19.4%
African-American and Other	24.1%	35.0%	48.3%	57.0%

Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 73.0% of mothers with children under 6 and 78.0% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 48.1% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work: 71.6% of children under 6 are in families where both parents or the single parent work; 40.8% of children under 6 have both their parents or their single parent working 35 hours or more. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work 35+ hours per week.

Overall, there are 2,750 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities in the county; 83.2% of these are in licensed programs and 16.8% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 74.0% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 3.5% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 0.4% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children, and 22.1% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the county during 2002, the average weekly charge was \$74.30 for centers and \$66.25 for homes. Consequently, center wages were low: 17.6% of centers with pre-school staff and 85.7% of centers with assistant pre-school staff reported paying these staff under \$6 per hour. Paying \$6-\$8 per hour were 70.6% of centers with pre-school staff and 14.3% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 47.1% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 85.7% of centers most assistants had only a high school degree. In 70.6% of centers, few to none of the pre-school staff had early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 57.1% of lead providers had no more education than a high school degree or GED; 7.1% had less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2004, 1,078 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 33.4% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 57.8% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 19.3% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 7.6% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 842 or 5.0% of all children lived with relatives, 241 or 1.4% lived with non-relatives, 33 or 0.2% were householders or spouses, and 161 or 1.0% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2006-07, there were 115 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 48 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 8.0% for physical abuse, 1.8% for sexual abuse, 0.0% for mental injury, 69.9% for physical neglect, 2.7% for educational neglect, 3.5% for medical neglect, 11.5% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 2.7% for other types of abuse. In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined that 96 children were victims of abuse or neglect, constituting 0.6% of children in the county. They were 80.2% male, and 19.8% female; 38.9% were White, 61.1% were African-American and Other. By age, 80.0% were 0 - 5, 10.5% were 6 - 12, and 9.5% were 13 - 17. In 2000 cases, 14.6% of the children lived in two-parent families, 48.5% in single parent families, 17.5% with unmarried couples, and 19.4% in other circumstances.

Out of Home Placements: As of June 2007, 27 children lived in foster care. The median age at first placement in the county is 4 years. The ages of children in foster care were 33.3% 0-2, 11.1% 3-5, 7.4% 6-10, 3.7% 11-13, and 44.4% 14 and above. The foster care population is 55.6% males and 44.4% females. Regarding their future, 40.7% were under a plan for placement in adoptive homes, 22.2% for return to a parent or guardian, 3.7% for placement with a relative, 7.4% for independent living, 25.9% for permanent foster care, and 0.0% for other circumstances.

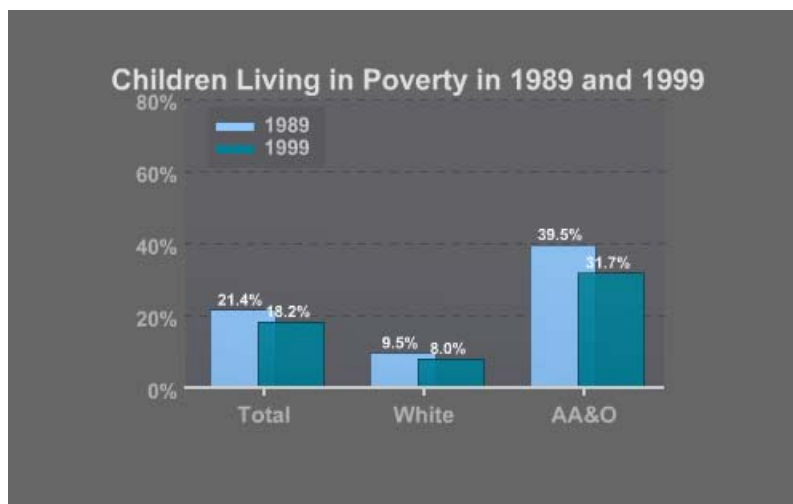
Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2007 there were 3.12 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.69 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today adults should be more available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

Economic Status

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 3,010 children and youth under the age of 18 lived in 1,313 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 18.2% of all children and youth: 8.0% of Whites and 31.7% of African-Americans and Others. An estimate of child poverty in 2005 calculated by the Census Bureau using sample data was 22.9% for children below age 18.

Figure 4: Children Living in Poverty in 1989 and 1999



	1989	1999
Total	21.4%	18.2%
White	9.5%	8.0%
African-American and Other	39.5%	31.7%

Poverty has always been a serious problem. The rate among children under age 18 was 21.4% in 1989, 17.4% in 1979, and 16.2% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 23.1% of children 0 - 5 (12.0% White, 37.5% African-American and Other), and 15.4% of children 6 - 17 (5.3% White, 29.0% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 14.1% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last four decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 39.3% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 4.8% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 67.4% of all the county's children living in poverty.

In 2007, the poverty level is estimated to be \$17,600 for a family of three and \$21,200 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 7,551 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 4,541 children were above the poverty level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below \$35,200 and \$42,400 respectively for 3 and 4 person families in 2007.

Children Under 18 in Poverty in 1999

Percent of Poverty	Total		White		African-American & Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 50%	1,396	8.4%	232	2.5%	1,164	16.3%
Under 100%	3,010	18.2%	751	8.0%	2,259	31.7%
Under 125%	4,147	25.0%	438	12.6%	2,958	41.5%
Under 150%	5,139	31%	320	16.7%	3,559	50.0%
Under 175%	6,514	39.3%	728	24.5%	4,206	59.1%
Under 185%	6,880	41.6%	244	27.0%	4,328	60.8%

Under 200%	7,551	45.6%	268	29.9%	4,731	66.4%
Total Children	16,879		9,685		7,194	

Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was \$47,359 . In 1989 it was \$45,509 , and in 1979, it was \$43,005 , adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was \$24,596 for single parents in 1999, as compared with in married-couple families with children. From 2000 to 2006, Greenwood County real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) decreased by 1.9%.

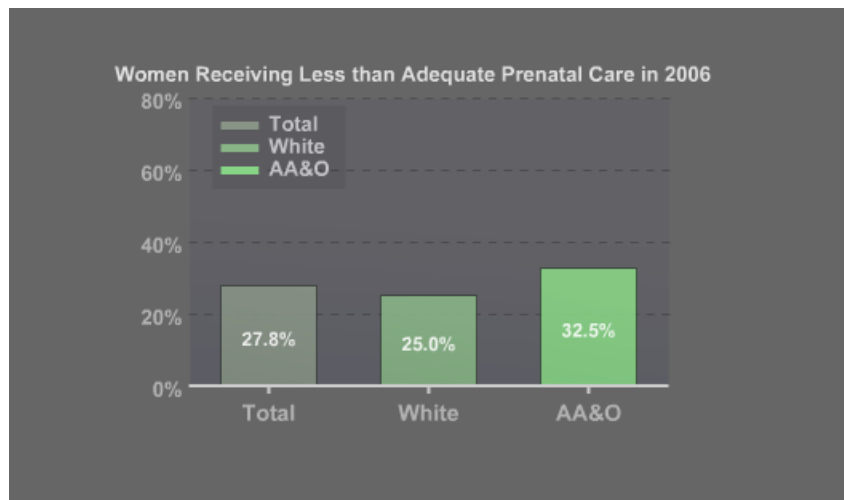
Child Support Payments: There were 518 families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in fiscal year 2007, but only 18.3% had child support court orders. Their average monthly payment of child support was \$228.15 , including child support receipts and tax refund intercepts. In addition, during fiscal year 2007, an estimated 1,215 parents in non-TANF families were obligated to pay a monthly average of \$236.04 . Information is not available regarding the amount actually paid.

Health

Good health during a child’s formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential. Good health requires healthy lifestyles and effective primary care, starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood. Children’s health reflects the well-being of the community, as well as how adequately they are protected.

Prenatal Care: Early and continuous prenatal care can make a significant difference in assuring births of healthy babies. Delayed or insufficient prenatal care can be associated with low birthweight and other health risks for infants. In 2006, 239, or 24.6% of pregnant women received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy. In 2006, 270, or 27.8% of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care: 151 or 25.0% of Whites and 119 or 32.5% of African-Americans and Others. In that same year, 16 women received no prenatal care at all.

Figure 5: Women Receiving Less than Adequate Prenatal Care in 2006



	Total	White	African-American and Other
Greenwood County	27.8%	25.0%	32.5%

Low Birthweight: Low birthweight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems. In 2006, 130 or 13.4% of all babies in the county were born with low birthweight: 20.2% of African-American and Other babies and 9.1% of White babies. During 2004-2006, approximately 26 or 2.8% of all babies were born with very low birthweight and had the most serious complications: 1.6% of White babies and 4.9% of African-American and Other babies. The average hospitalization charges for each newborn low birthweight baby in the county during 2004-2006 were \$16,056 and for each very low birthweight baby \$79,169, compared with \$3,622 for a baby of normal

birthweight. The result was additional charges above those of normal birthweight babies: \$3,095,402 for all low birthweight babies, of which \$1,939,052 was for very low birthweight babies. Low birthweight is associated with mothers in their teens or forties, with less than a high school education, unmarried, smokers, and experiencing stress or abuse.

Infant Mortality: During the decade since 1994-96, the overall infant mortality rate by 24.3% from 12.7 to 15.8 per 1000 live births. For Whites, the rate increased 37.6% from 6.3 to 8.7 per 1000 live births, while for African-Americans and Others the rate increased 26.2% from 22.3 to 28.2 per 1000 live births. Over the three-year period 2004-06, 15 White and 28 African-American and Other infants died before age one. By comparison, 10 White and 24 African-American and Other infants died during 1994-96. Infant mortality is strongly associated with low birthweight; 78% of infant deaths are low birthweight. Very low birthweight and premature babies often die soon after birth: 57% of infant deaths occur in the first week of life and 70% in the first 28 days.

Child Injuries and Deaths: Childhood deaths and injuries reflect whether communities are safe for children. In FY'07, children in the county went to the emergency room 4,089 times because of injuries. Boys are injured more often than girls. Children visit the emergency room at comparable rates for each age from 0 to 17.

In South Carolina, the major causes of death among young children are unintentional injuries, cancer, homicide, and congenital anomalies. Over the three-year period 2004-2006, 0 White and 6 African-American and Other children ages 1-14 died in the county. During 1994-1996, 6 White and 8 African-American and Other children died.

Immunization: Immunization rates are an important indication of whether young children are receiving adequate preventive health care. During FY'90, 64.4% of children less than two years old seen in public health clinics were not fully immunized against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus Influenza B and Whooping Cough. After a concerted statewide campaign to increase immunizations, the percentage of children seen in public health clinics who were not fully immunized in January 2001 had declined in the county to 6.5%. The DHEC statewide birth registry survey of all two year old children found that 88.1% were fully immunized in 2001. This success demonstrates the potential to improve the status of children when the leadership of the state and its communities act decisively together.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children and youth are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through sexual abuse or irresponsible sexual activity. National prevalence rates indicate: a 1 in 8 chance that sexually active 15 year-old girls will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the most rapidly increasing cause of infertility; 10% of sexually active adolescent girls and boys are infected with chlamydia, the most common cause of PID; and as many as 15% of teen girls are infected with human papilloma virus, often with strains linked to cervical cancer. Furthermore, research evidence indicates that susceptibility to HIV/AIDS increases by 3 to 8 times through prior infection with various STDs.

On the 2007 YRBS, 7% of students 18 or older in South Carolina said they had ever been told that they had an STD. According to national studies, approximately 1 in 4 sexually experienced youth aged 13-19 acquires a STD every year; since two-thirds of all high school students have had sexual intercourse and half engage in intercourse over a three month period, this would suggest that 10-15% of teens are infected with STDs annually. For the county during 2007, this would indicate that an estimated 357 to 535 youth ages 13-19 in the county were infected with a STD. Many infections are either not identified for treatment or not reported. In the county for 2007, there were 1 reported cases of children under age 15 and 42 youth ages 15 - 19 infected with gonorrhea; 7 youth under 15 and 199 ages 15 - 19 were reported infected with chlamydia. Youth with undiagnosed and untreated STDs often spread their infections.

Healthy Lifestyles: The 2003 National Survey of Children's Health reported that many youth ages 10-17 in South Carolina are overweight (18%), or at risk of overweight (17%), or are underweight (6%). The YRBS in 2007 revealed that 24% of middle school and 29% of high school students felt they were overweight; and that 46% were trying to lose weight: of boys 36% in middle school and 32% in high school, compared with 59% of girls in both middle and high school. The YRBS found that many high school students are not following good health habits. Although during a week 76% of high school students ate fruit, 52% ate salad, and over 79% ate vegetables, only 17% ate the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day. During a week 59% of middle school boys and 45% of high school boys versus 41% of girls in middle school and 31% in high school were physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on at least 5 days. Also among high school students, 47% did stretching. Limited exercise is likely in middle school among the 27% who play computer and videogames or use the computer for pleasure and the 51% watching television for 3 or more hours per school day; in high school among the 23% of students playing video games, 39% using computers, and 39% watching

television for 3 or more hours per school day. Parents reported on the NSCH that their children ages 6-17 watched TV or videos: 71% for 1-3 hours and 9% for 4 hours or more per school day; and used a computer on school days: 42% for 2-3 hours and 7% for 4 or more hours. Parents reported on the NSCH that their children were getting enough sleep: 94% of children 6-10, 89% of 11-14, and 85% of 14-17 year olds got enough sleep 5 or more nights per week.

Tobacco Use*: Cigarette smoking starts at a young age and often becomes habitual. In the county during 2002 among all students 15 and older, 21.9% first smoked by age 11, 45.0% by age 13, and 60.2% by age 15. In a typical month, 16.2% of 7th and 8th graders and 29.4% of high school students smoked cigarettes. White youths were much more likely than African-Americans to smoke: 24.3% of White male and 28.4% of White female 7th to 12th graders used cigarettes, as compared with 18.4% of African-American males and 19.6% of African American females. A smaller but significant group of high school students (11.9%) used smokeless tobacco monthly; it was used primarily by White males (25.5% compared with 3.6% of all other race and sex groups).

Disabilities: No data are collected on the true prevalence of disabilities within the county. According to nationally reported estimates, over 10% of children and youth have developmental disabilities at any point in time, and more than 17% are affected at some time before age 18 by deafness, blindness, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, speech defects, developmental delays, learning disabilities, and emotional or behavioral problems. For 2007 this suggests that at least 1,659 children and youth under age 18 in the county are currently affected by disabilities.

Approximately 5% of children and youth nationally have serious disabilities which have lifelong implications for work, social life and community living. Typically among children and youth, there are 1 - 2% who are mentally retarded, 2 - 3% with serious emotional disturbances, over 1% with orthopedic or multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy and many hereditary conditions, and under 1% with visual or hearing impairments. On the NSCH parents reported that 4% of children are prevented from doing what children of the same age can do because of health conditions lasting over 12 months.

Other chronic health problems also affect the lives of many children. Over 3% of children have one or more of these limitations. Such serious chronic conditions affect 1 - 2% who have respiratory problems (asthma and chronic bronchitis), 0.5 - 1.0% with neurological problems (epilepsy and seizures), and less than 1% with circulatory problems (congenital heart defects and acquired diseases). On the NSCH, parents reported being told that their children ages 11-17 had asthma (14%), learning disabilities (12%), hay fever or respiratory allergies (21%), food or digestive allergies (4%), skin allergies (8%), severe headaches or migraines (10%), stuttering or other speech problems (1%), and hearing or vision problems that could not be corrected with glasses (3.5%). The parents rated these conditions and disabilities as minor for 30% of 11-14 year olds, moderate for 16%, and severe for 2.7%. Other disabilities are identified primarily in school performance. These would include 955 students in grades 1-12 with learning disabilities and 233 students in grades 1-12 with speech/language deficits.

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: While national data indicate that over 20% of 9-17 year olds meet diagnostic criteria for some form of mental disorder, the number with serious emotional disturbance and impaired functioning in family, school, or community activities is: 9-13% for substantial functional impairment and 5-9% for extreme functional impairment. The rates among poor children are at the higher end of these ranges. Based on a federal formula for estimating prevalence, in the there are 12% or 1,017 seriously emotionally disturbed 9-17 year olds with substantial functional impairment and 8% or 678 with extreme functional impairment during the course of a year. Conduct disorders, attention deficit, depression, and anxiety disorders are the most prevalent, each affecting 3% or more of school-aged children. These disorders may occur simultaneously in a child. The prevalence rates are highest among males, adolescents, and disadvantaged persons in communities under stress and lacking social cohesion; depression, however, is more prevalent among females. Parents reported on the NSCH that 21% of their children ages 6-17 had difficulties with one or more of : emotions, concerns, behavior, or being able to get along with other people; they rated their children's difficulties as 11% minor, 7% moderate, and 3% severe. The parents also reported that for 3% of their children, their emotional and mental health caused a great burden and 5% a moderate burden on their family. As a result, they said that almost 8% of their children have emotional, developmental or behavioral problems requiring treatment or counseling. Parents reported that they had been told by a doctor or healthcare professional that their children ages 11-17 had behavior or conduct problems (6%), depression or anxiety (6%), and ADD or ADHD (12%) with over 7% taking medication for ADD or ADHD. On the 2007 YRBS, 23% of boys and 32% of girls in high school reported that during the past year they felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Another indicator of emotional

problems is the 7.5% of middle school students who reported they “ever tried to kill themselves” and that 7.5% of high school students in South Carolina who reported that they had “attempted suicide” in the past year: 7% of boys and 8% of girls. Suicide attempts resulted in 3% of high school students (4% of boys and 2% of girls) reporting that they required treatment by a doctor or nurse for injury, poisoning, or overdose.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2002-04 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 was 7.9%; for children under age 6 it was 5%; and for those 6-17 it was 9%. For children in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina the rate was 11.2%, and 4.1% above 200% of poverty. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. In 2003-04, of the 23 schools in the county, 11 had a full-time RN on-site and 4 had a full-time LPN. Of the remaining schools, 2 had an RN at least three days per week, and 3 had an LPN at least three days a week; 0 schools had a RN and 0 had an LPN one or two days per week; 1 schools had no coverage at all.

Medicaid: For several years, the State of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children into Medicaid. In late 1997, South Carolina implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of children ages 0 through 18 in county has increased by 118.6% from June 1997 to June 2008; thus Medicaid and PHC in 2008 were serving 42.5% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditures in South Carolina for services provided to children ages 0 through 18 for state fiscal year 2008 were \$936 million, at an average statewide expenditure of \$2,238 per child enrolled , approximate Medicaid expenditure for children in the county would be \$14.7 million.

In June 2008, the total number of children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 7,057. The total can be broken down into the following age and race groupings:

	White	African-American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	240	303	134	30	707
Children 1 - 5	758	942	381	89	2,170
Children 6 - 14	1,094	1,502	252	157	3,005
Children 15 - 18	440	643	24	68	1,175
Total	2,532	3,390	791	344	7,057

Ambulatory Care: When children lack adequate primary care, whether through lack of insurance, through limited access, or through failing to utilize available care, preventable and treatable conditions become serious and require hospitalization. A useful indicator of inadequate primary care is the percentage of all hospitalizations that could typically have been avoided through ambulatory care, especially for pneumonia, asthma, diarrhea and vomiting, dehydration, and severe ear, nose, and throat infections. The share of hospitalizations for these types of conditions could normally be kept below 20%; for children in the under the age of 18 during FY'07, the share was 27.0% for Whites and 24.3% for African-Americans and Others.

Readiness and Early School Performance

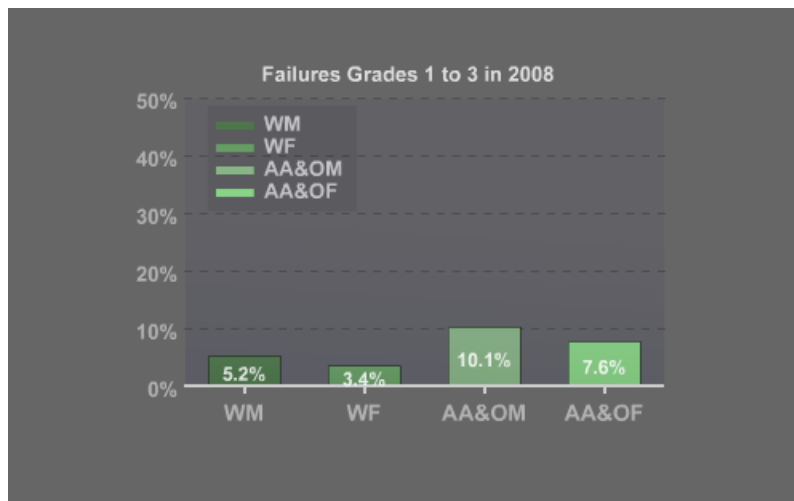
For two decades the Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery assessed language, social skills, visual and auditory discrimination, memory recall, and knowledge of colors, letters, numbers, names of objects, etc. Since 2001 the South Carolina Readiness Assessment has been carried out by classroom teachers for the entire school year to assess personal and social development and Math and English/Language Arts knowledge and skills tied to the state academic standards. These assessments have shown that too many children reach school without the readiness skills needed for success in learning. Moreover, some schools are not ready to respond appropriately to the varying developmental levels of children in the early grades. As a result, too many students do not experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement that sustain learning.

Kindergartners Consistently Demonstrating Readiness in 2008 (% of each group)

Kindergarten Assessment of Readiness for First Grade	White Male	White Female	African-American and Other Male	African-American and Other Female	Total
English-Language Arts					
Communication	68.5%	79.8%	51.5%	65.7%	67.0%
Reading	76.6%	88.7%	64.9%	76.3%	77.1%
Writing	78.2%	92.0%	70.2%	84.3%	81.4%
Mathematics					
Mathematical Processes	78.2%	83.1%	58.5%	71.7%	73.2%
Number and Operations	78.2%	92.0%	71.3%	83.8%	83.4%
Patterns, Relationships, and Functions	91.2%	93.0%	82.5%	88.4%	89.3%
Geometry and Spatial Relations	90.8%	95.3%	81.9%	85.9%	88.8%
Measurement	80.3%	86.9%	64.7%	73.2%	76.8%
Data Collection and Probability	81.1%	85.4%	62.6%	75.3%	76.5%
Personal and Social Development					
Self Concept	72.8%	81.7%	64.9%	71.2%	72.6%
Self Control	74.5%	90.6%	63.2%	85.8%	79.2%
Approaches to Learning	68.2%	82.2%	57.9%	72.7%	70.3%
Interaction with Others	79.1%	93.9%	72.5%	87.4%	83.5%
Social Problem Solving	73.2%	90.6%	67.8%	82.3%	78.6%

Failures Grades 1-3 in 2008
 36 or 3.8% children failing first grade
 14 or 1.5% children failing second grade
 10 or 1.1% children failing third grade

Figure 6: Failures Grades 1-3 in 2008



	White Males	White Females	African-American and Other Males	African-American and Other Females
Greenwood County	5.2%	3.4%	10.1%	7.6%

Over-age for Grade 3 in 2008

146 children over-age
16.3% children over-age

Special Education: Large numbers of children are placed in special education classes. In elementary school, 227 six and seven year olds and 246 eight and nine year-olds were enrolled in special education classes during 2007-08, approximately 11.9% and 13.5% of their age groups respectively. Of 8-9 year olds, 13.2% of Whites and 13.7% of African American and Others were in special education.

Readiness Summary: A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 20.2% assessed not consistently ready for the 1st grade, 16.3% over age in grade 3, and 13.5% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation.

School Achievement

By the end of elementary school, significant numbers of students perform below minimum standards. The following standardized test measures, comparing student performance to state minimum standards, should be used in combination with routine classroom assessments more reflective of real-world performance skills.

Special Education: Special education placements reflect both the significant number of children with serious handicapping conditions and a large number of students with mild learning and behavioral problems that have not been accommodated successfully by the regular educational program. The result is a large system of self-contained, resource, and itinerant services for 233 speech and language impaired, 955 learning disabled, 15 emotionally disabled, 177 mentally impaired, and 178 physically handicapped, deaf, blind, and other handicapped students. Special education classes served approximately 13.2% of all students in grades 1-12 during 2007-2008.

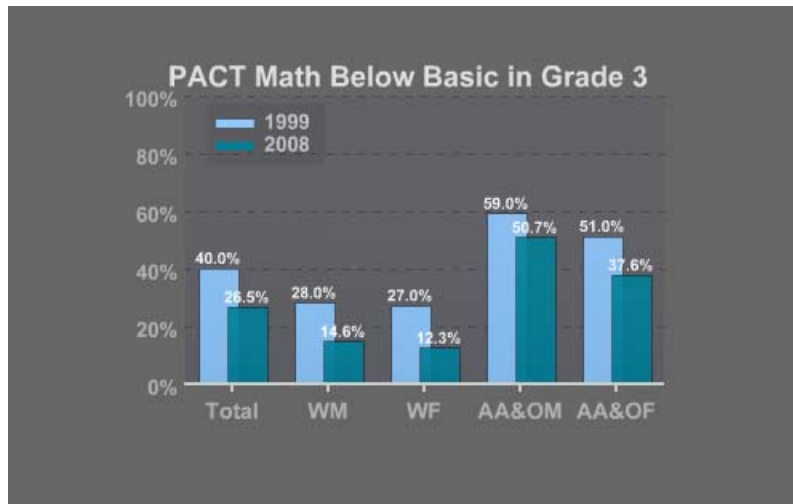
* Subgroups of less than 10 students are suppressed which may result in shown totals that are less than actuals.

Achievement Trends: How has performance on standardized achievement tests changed over the past 20 years? During the 1980s, student performance on the BSAP tests improved dramatically. Between 1981 and 1990, the percentage of 8th grade students in who did not meet standards declined from 60.7% to 36.2% in math and from 48.4% to 24.9% in reading. During the 1990's the BSAP trend changed, with 39.3% not meeting 8th grade math standards in 1998 and 36.5% in reading. On commercial standardized tests, the first year when South Carolina students take the exam is comparable to the challenge encountered by the national norm group which took the test only once. Looking at first year data, the percentage of 4th grade students at or below the 25th percentile of national norms was 26.8% in 1983 on the CTBS, 24.7% in 1990 on the Stanford, and 25.8% in 1995 on the Metropolitan; for 9th graders, the percentage in the bottom quarter was 33.2% in 1990 and 29.0% in 1995. The percent below basic on the 4th grade PACT in 1999, the first year of administration, was 37.1%, but in 2008 22.4% of 4th graders were below basic in reading and math the percentage of 8th graders below basic in reading and math averaged 37.2% in 1999 and 30.1% in 2008. Sample data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) shows that South Carolina has made dramatic progress over the past 15 years in math but only limited progress in reading. Between 1992 and 2007 the percentage of South Carolina students scoring basic or better increased on math from 48% to 80% in the 4th grade and from 48% to 71% in the 8th grade; but in reading only from 53% to 59% in the 4th grade and from 66% to 69% in the 8th grade.

PACT: The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) was first administered in 1999 for grades 3 - 8 in math and reading/language arts. Math assesses skills in numbers, numerical and algebraic concepts, patterns and functions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. The percentage of students scoring below basic in math has decreased by 40.5% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2008. In 2008 there were

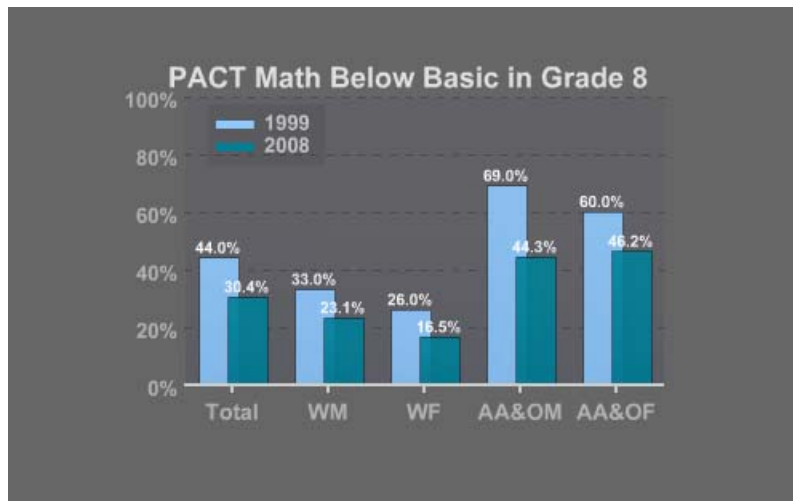
1,333 students below basic in grades 3-8 but there would have been an additional 908 at 1999 performance rates. The 2008 percentage proficient and advanced was 31.1% in 3rd grade and 18.9% in 8th grade.

Figure 7A: PACT Math Below Basic in Grade 3



Year	Total	White Males	White Females	African-American and Other Males	African-American and Other Females
1999	40.0%	28.0%	27.0%	59.0%	51.0%
2007	26.5%	14.6%	12.3%	50.7%	37.6%

Figure 7B: PACT Math Below Basic in Grade 8



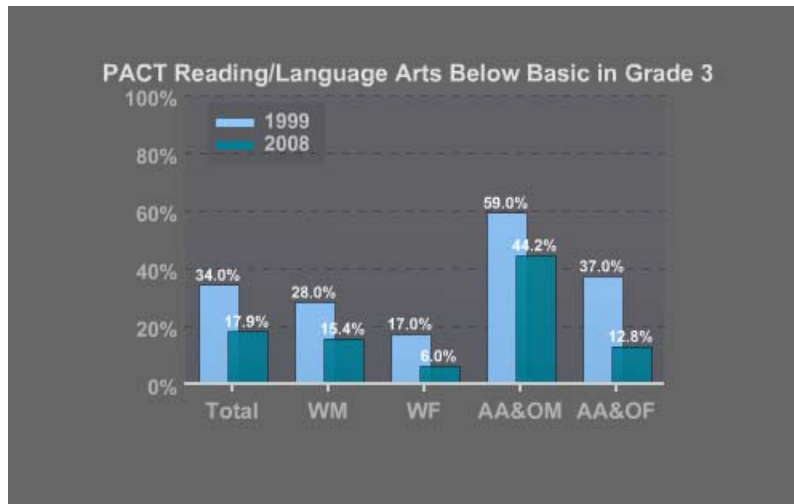
Year	Total	White Males	White Females	African-American and Other Males	African-American and Other Females
1999	44.0%	33.0%	26.0%	69.0%	60.0%
2008	30.4%	23.1%	16.5%	44.3%	46.2%

**Test Results of Students on PACT in 2008
Math %**

Test Result	Grade	Total	White Male	White Female	African-American and Other Male	African-American and Other Female
Below Basic	3	26.5%	14.6%	12.3%	50.7%	37.6%
	4	22.1%	11.9%	8.2%	37.4%	36.0%
	5	17.3%	9.0%	8.7%	23.6%	32.1%
	6	28.8%	19.0%	13.0%	50.0%	39.6%
	7	24.6%	13.9%	13.6%	42.8%	34.7%
	8	30.4%	23.1%	16.5%	44.3%	46.2%
Basic	3	42.4%	37.3%	47.0%	40.0%	45.2%
	4	36.3%	27.4%	40.5%	39.2%	42.4%
	5	39.4%	36.5%	36.0%	49.0%	40.3%
	6	36.9%	29.4%	38.0%	37.0%	45.1%
	7	47.8%	45.5%	47.7%	44.7%	56.3%
	8	50.7%	47.5%	57.3%	48.1%	48.4%
Proficient	3	16.9%	23.8%	20.8%	4.7%	15.3%
	4	20.0%	26.2%	25.0%	15.8%	9.9%
	5	27.4%	31.6%	33.1%	21.0%	22.6%
	6	18.9%	26.2%	25.0%	9.4%	11.0%
	7	13.8%	18.6%	20.5%	7.9%	5.1%
	8	13.6%	19.4%	18.5%	7.0%	5.5%
Advanced	3	14.2%	24.2%	19.9%	4.7%	1.9%
	4	21.6%	34.5%	26.4%	7.6%	11.6%
	5	15.9%	23.0%	22.3%	6.4%	5.0%
	6	15.4%	25.4%	24.1%	3.6%	4.3%
	7	13.8%	22.1%	18.2%	4.6%	4.0%
	8	5.3%	9.9%	7.7%	0.6%	0.0%

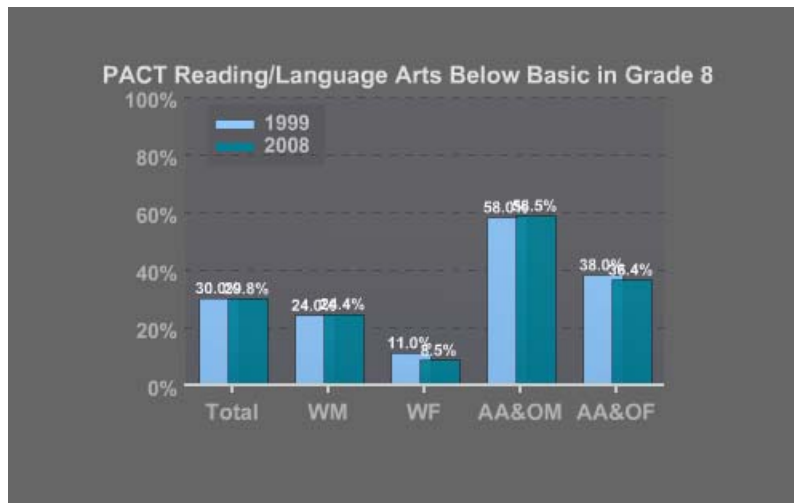
Reading/Language Arts assesses reading, listening, speaking, writing, research, and communication with technology. The first PACT assessment found a high percentage of elementary and middle grades students performing below standards and only a modest number above basic. The percentage of students scoring below basic in reading/language arts has decreased by 26.0% of students in grades 3-8 between 1999 and 2008. In 2008 there were 1,382 students below basic in grades 3 - 8 but there would have been an additional 486 at 1999 performance rates. The 2008 percentage proficient and advanced was 53.0% in 3rd grade and 26.7% in 8th grade.

Figure 8A: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grade 3



Year	Total	White Males	White Females	African-American and Other Males	African-American and Other Females
1999	34.0%	28.0%	17.0%	59.0%	37.0%
2008	17.9%	15.4%	6.0%	44.2%	12.8%

Figure 8B: PACT Reading/Language Arts Below Basic in Grade 8



Year	Total	White Males	White Females	African-American and Other Males	African-American and Other Females
1999	30.0%	24.0%	11.0%	58.0%	38.0%
2008	29.8%	24.4%	8.5%	58.5%	36.4%

**Test Results of Students on PACT in 2008
Reading/Language Arts %**

Test Result	Grade	Total	White Male	White Female	African-American and Other Male	African-American and Other Female
Below Basic	3	17.9%	15.4%	6.0%	44.2%	12.8%
	4	22.6%	14.7%	7.3%	42.0%	30.2%

	5	19.6%	14.9%	6.3%	31.2%	26.4%
	6	33.5%	24.9%	11.1%	58.7%	40.8%
	7	31.4%	27.6%	15.8%	54.7%	31.3%
	8	29.8%	24.4%	8.5%	58.5%	36.4%
Basic	3	29.1%	23.6%	21.3%	34.7%	41.0%
	4	34.1%	33.5%	32.0%	36.7%	39.0%
	5	44.6%	40.5%	40.4%	55.4%	49.1%
	6	37.2%	37.8%	34.1%	32.1%	46.2%
	7	45.0%	48.3%	42.9%	38.4%	53.3%
	8	43.5%	42.6%	44.8%	36.0%	51.6%
Proficient	3	42.1%	44.1%	56.6%	19.0%	42.9%
	4	39.4%	46.1%	53.4%	20.7%	29.7%
	5	33.5%	40.9%	50.0%	12.7%	23.9%
	6	24.3%	32.9%	42.9%	8.7%	12.4%
	7	19.9%	21.6%	32.7%	6.9%	13.2%
	8	20.9%	26.9%	33.1%	5.5%	11.4%
Advanced	3	10.9%	16.9%	16.2%	2.0%	3.2%
	4	3.9%	5.7%	7.3%	0.6%	1.2%
	5	2.3%	3.7%	3.3%	0.6%	0.6%
	6	5.0%	4.4%	12.0%	0.5%	0.6%
	7	3.8%	2.6%	8.6%	0.0%	2.2%
	8	5.8%	6.2%	13.7%	0.0%	0.5%

High School Assessment Program (HSAP): Starting in 2004, the Exit Exam was replaced by the High School Assessment Program. The HSAP tests achievement of state standards in Math and English-Language Arts.

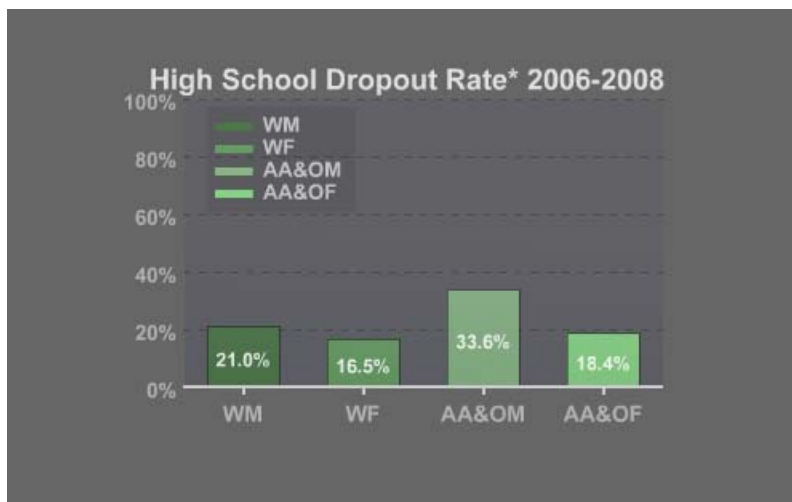
% Below Basic Standards

	Total	White Male	White Female	African-American Male	African-American Female
Math:					
2007 HSAP	14.2%	6.8%	8.3%	26.2%	20.6%
2003 Exit Exam	19.8 %	5.6%	10.8%	45.2%	37.6%
English/Language Arts:					
2007 HSAP	12.2%	7.2%	5.9%	25.3%	14.0%
2003 Exit Exam	17.7%	10.2%	6.9%	37.9%	31.4%

Dropout Rate - 8th grade students no longer enrolled in grade 12 (average of students for the three years ending 2006-2008)

207 students drop out per cohort
21.8% students drop out*

Figure 9: High School Dropout Rate* 2006-2008



	White Males	White Females	African-American and Other Males	African-American and Other Females
Greenwood County	21.0%	16.5%	33.6%	18.4%

Dropouts: Distressing numbers of students drop out and fail to graduate. An average of 28.4% of 8th graders failed to graduate** from county schools four years later during the period 1980-84, 31.8% during 1985-89, 39.1% during 1990-94, 37.1% during 1995-99, 32.3 during 2000-03, and 28.2% during 2004-2006. These calculations include state high school diplomas and certificates and local certificates as graduation.

During 2005-06, 96.8% of all who did graduate received the State High School Diploma, while 1.2% received a State Certificate for meeting the required Carnegie units but not passing the Exit Exam and 2.0% received a District Certificate. If only state diplomas are included, the 2004-2006 graduation rate was 67.3%; therefore, 32.7% had not graduated with a state diploma.

Fortunately, many dropouts enroll in adult education programs and either earn a high school diploma or obtain a GED. During calendar year 2007, 2 Adult Education high school diplomas were awarded to school completers and in 2007-08, 61 GEDs were awarded in the county. Over time, adult education high school diplomas and GEDs increase the effective school completion rate substantially. In the 2000 Census, 18.1% of county resident 25 - 34 year-olds said they had not obtained either a high school degree or a GED.

*12th grade enrollment compared to 8th grade enrollment four years earlier.

** This is calculated by using 8th grade enrollment to graduation data. Graduation includes district and state certificates and state high school diplomas.

Achievement Summary: The numbers of students testing below basic on the PACT and dropping out range from 17.3% to 33.5%. Thus, far too many students fail to acquire the knowledge, skills, learning habits, and motivation necessary to compete in the economy or contribute substantially to society in the 21st Century.

Adolescent Risk Behaviors

Academic achievement is greatly influenced by the prevailing youth culture which often promotes popularity with peers and partying rather than studying and doing well in school. The prevalence of adolescent risk-taking and under-achievement in the county is illustrated by the poor grades of substance-abusing teens.

Substance Abuser Rates by Usual School Grades in Past Year

	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	Total
Smoked Cigarettes (in past 30 days)	13.3%	24.6%	40.7%	52.9%	67.8%	29.7%
Drank 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion (in past 30 days)	9.2%	18.4%	26.7%	52.7%	46.6%	21.6%
Used Any Illicit Drug (in past 30 days)	5.8%	13.2%	21.0%	37.1%	14.4%	15.6%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

As influence from parents and other adults declines during adolescence, significant numbers of students in the county engage in violence, crime, school offenses, depressive emotions and attempted suicide:

Risk Behaviors Participated in During Past 12 Months	White Male		White Female		African-American Male		African-American Female		Total		Total (Grade 7-12)
	Middle School	High School	Middle School	High School	Middle School	High School	Middle School	High School	Middle School	High School	
Carried a handgun or knife for self-defense?	26.6%	28.1%	5.4%	7.4%	14.1%	15.4%	4.2%	5.6%	13.5%	15.9%	14.7%
Carried a handgun or knife as a weapon?	8.8%	12.1%	0.9%	1.1%	8.3%	17.8%	2.9%	5.1%	4.8%	7.2%	6.0%
Been in a fight with someone?	36.5%	33.4%	14.2%	15.5%	40.3%	21.1%	31.4%	29.1%	27.2%	24.5%	25.8%
Hit your boyfriend or girlfriend?	2.6%	2.9%	6.4%	13.8%	2.6%	2.5%	17.4%	25.2%	6.1%	9.9%	8.1%
Been hit by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	9.4%	11.0%	3.7%	10.3%	12.7%	13.6%	11.6%	7.9%	7.8%	10.6%	9.3%
Received detention or in-school suspension?	29.8%	25.4%	10.6%	12.6%	33.6%	17.7%	25.0%	29.9%	21.9%	19.9%	20.9%
Been suspended from school?	11.0%	20.3%	6.2%	9.4%	21.0%	16.8%	11.8%	8.2%	10.5%	14.1%	12.3%
Stolen anything worth more than \$5?	7.5%	7.3%	2.2%	6.0%	13.0%	7.7%	10.9%	12.2%	6.5%	7.4%	6.9%

Had an accident while driving?	NA	11.0%	NA	12.3%	NA	13.7%	NA	4.7%	NA	11.1%	NA
Been arrested and booked?	4.5%	9.2%	NA%	2.7%	5.4%	7.5%	1.2%	4.2%	0.0%	5.8%	3.0%
Felt hopeless for two weeks or more?	13.8%	12.0%	19.9%	25.8%	5.9%	2.6%	15.5%	14.9%	15.5%	17.2%	16.4%
Seriously considered attempting suicide?	7.3%	10.1%	4.3%	9.7%	5.6%	2.7%	3.5%	5.3%	5.4%	8.8%	7.1%

Source: 2001-02 DAODAS South Carolina Survey

Adolescence is often a time of taking risks and asserting independence from adults. When asked whether they would tell an adult about a problem, the following percentages of students said they would be "not likely" or "very unlikely" to tell if they:

- heard a student threaten to harm someone: 28.5% middle school, 42.2% high school;
- saw a student with a handgun at school: 18.6% middle school, 20.5% high school;
- saw a student with a knife at school: 20.3% middle school, 40.7% high school;
- saw a student with drugs at school: 27.0% middle school, 53.0% high school;

Alcohol Use:* In the county during 2001-02, 17.9% of 7th and 8th graders and 36.4% of high schoolers said they had used alcohol in the past month. Of White males in grades 7 - 12, 36.4% had used it in the past month, compared with 25.8% of African-American males; likewise, 26.8% of White females said they had used alcohol, compared with 28.3% of African-American females. Many youth first used alcohol at an early age: 16.1% had used alcohol by age 11 or younger, 36.0% by age 13, and 67.0% by age 15.

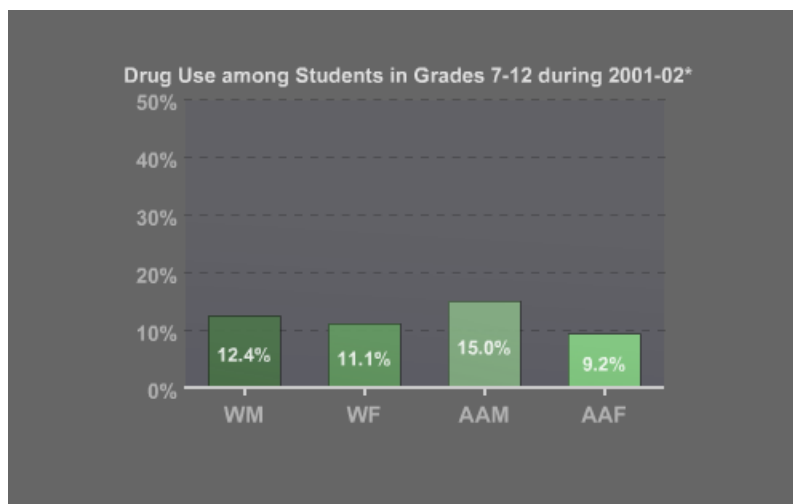
During the previous year, 17.7% of 7th and 8th graders and 27.8% of high schoolers said they had ridden with a drinking driver. Of seniors who drive, 9.2% said they had driven after drinking. Widespread use is encouraged by the ready availability and perceived low risk of alcohol use. Among students who expressed an opinion, 35.3% of eighth graders and 71.3% of seniors felt that beer was easy to get. Also, 74.6% of eighth graders and 68.1 % of seniors felt there was not a great risk in drinking two drinks a day, and 48.2 % of eighth graders and 50.0 % of high schoolers felt there was not a great risk in drinking 5 drinks every weekend.

Heavy Drinking:* In 2001-02, 6.1 % of 7th and 8th graders and 21.4 % of high school students in the county reported drinking 5 or more drinks in a day during the past month. When asked how many drinks, if any, they usually consume, 13.8 % of all county students in grades 7 - 12 in 2001-02 responded 3 or more drinks at a time and 7.7 % reported usually 5 or more drinks. Among high school students, 19.6 % reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 11.5 % 5 or more. Among seniors, 21.0 % reported usually drinking 3 or more drinks at a time and 13.0 % 5 or more; however 20.4 % of seniors said that they drank 5 or more drinks in a day once or more during the past month.

Drugs:* In 2001-02, 5.9 % of 7th and 8th graders and 15.4 % of high schoolers in the county reported using illegal drugs during the previous month. Among students in grades 7 - 12, use was reported by 12.4 % of White males, 11.1 % White females, 15.0 % of African-American males, and 9.2 % of African-American females. Some young people initiated drug use at an early age: 5.7 % had experienced their first use by age 11 or sooner; 16.2 % had used a drug by age 13, and 31.9 % by age 15.

In the past year, 7.5 % of all high school students in the county who drive and 4.1 % of seniors who drive said that they had driven after using drugs. Such use is encouraged by the ready availability of drugs: 14.0 % of 8th graders who had an opinion said it is easy to get marijuana and 5.3 % said it is easy to get cocaine or crack; 61.7 % of seniors said it is easy to get marijuana and 22.6 % said it was easy to get cocaine or crack.

Figure 10: Drug Use among Students in Grades 7-12 during 2001-02



	White Males	White Females	African-American and Other Males	African-American and Other Females
Greenwood County	12.4%	11.1%	15.0%	9.2%

Sexual Activity and Pregnancy: Many teenagers engage in sexual activity. The 2007 YRBS middle school survey found that many young adolescents had already initiated intercourse: in 6th grade 17% of boys and 10% of girls; in 7th grade 27% of boys and 17% of girls, and in 8th grade 35% of boys and 27% of girls. Although 22% of all middle school students reported that they had engaged in intercourse, there were large differences by gender and race: 15% of white girls, 18% of white boys, 22% of African-American girls, and 43% of African-American boys. Of 8th graders, 22% of boys and 9% of girls reported having had intercourse with three or more people. The 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) reported that by age 15, 38% the females and 46% of males have engaged in sexual intercourse. Statewide, 50% of females and 38% of males in the 11th and 12th grades reported engaging in intercourse during the past three months. Furthermore, 28% of male and 21% of female 12th graders have had intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetimes. During their last intercourse, 68% of males said they used a condom, while 52% of females used a condom, and 16% used birth control pills. In middle school, 66% of boys reported using a condom in their last intercourse.

Premature sexual activity often results in pregnancy. In the county, 71 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 became pregnant in 2003, 56 in 2004 and 90 in 2006. This represented 4.3% of all girls ages 14–17 in 2006; several times this percentage become pregnant at least once by age 18. The 2006 pregnancy rate for ages 14-17 was 3.0% of Whites and 6.5% of African-Americans and Others. For all pregnancies of 14-17 year olds, 74.4% resulted in live births, with almost all other pregnancies ending in abortions.

Teen pregnancy rates increased substantially across the state during the 1980s; as a result, greater emphasis was devoted to preventing teen pregnancy. Since 1989, the teen pregnancy rate in Greenwood County has decreased by 40.3% overall; it has decreased by 43.4% for Whites and decreased by 36.9% for African Americans and Others.

Juvenile Delinquency: In 2003-04, 434 individual juvenile offenders in the were referred to the Solicitor for delinquency; of these, 14.1% were age 12 or younger, 33.4% were 13 or 14, and 52.5% were 15 or older.

Of the referrals to the family court, 5.8% of all referrals were for violent and serious crimes which include drug trafficking, acts against persons for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and serious property offenses for arson and burglary. Also, 61 juvenile cases constituting 10.4% of all referrals were for status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, incorrigibility, and other offenses that would not be crimes for adults.

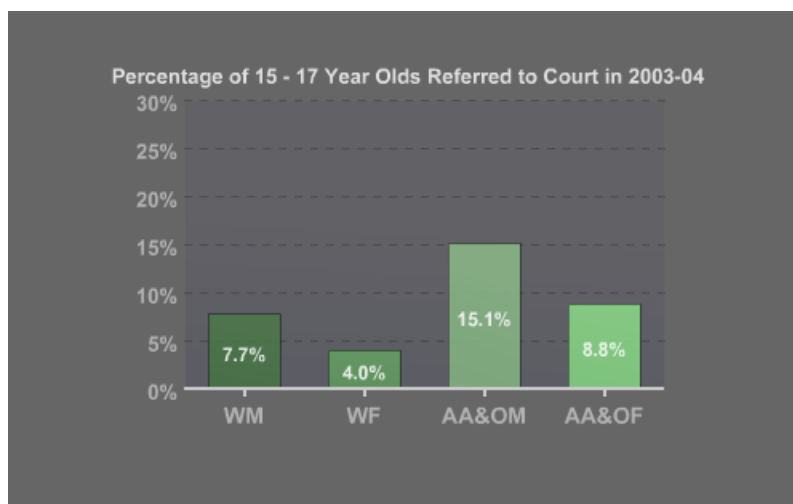
Delinquents are likely to live in families with low income: 33.5% lived in families with income under \$10,000, 37.1% with \$10,000-\$19,999 and 29.4% with \$20,000 or more. Furthermore, only 14.9% of delinquents lived with both natural parents, while 61.7% lived in a single parent household, 20.6% lived with other relatives, and 2.9% in other situations including parent plus step-parent. Delinquency or criminal activity occurs among many

related family members: 48.6% had at least one family member who was delinquent or had some criminal record.

Youth referred to the family courts are likely to have been there before. In 2003-04, 53.7% had at least one prior referral and 19.6% had been referred to court 3 times or more. Many were referred at an early age. For delinquents 15 - 17 years old, 6.9% had been referred by the age of 10, 23.9% by the age of 12, and 50.3% by the age of 14.

During 2003-04, 224 youth ages 15 to 17 were referred to the family courts. In the county, 8.2% of all youth 15 to 17 were referred to court in one year and roughly double that percentage are referred at least once by age 18. Furthermore, the National Youth Survey indicates that typically across the United States the proportion of youth engaging in crime is two or three times the number ever apprehended. In 2003-04, there were 57 juveniles committed from the county to DJJ custody and placed in residential programs.

Figure 11: Percentage of 15 - 17 Year Olds Referred to Court in 2003-04



	White Males	White Females	African-American and Other Males	African-American and Other Females
Greenwood County	7.7%	4.0%	15.1%	8.8%

Not in School or Employed: During 2000, 537 teenagers ages 16-19 were idle, meaning they neither worked any hours nor were enrolled in school, even part-time. Idle teens comprised 14.2% of their age group: 9.5% for White and 21.4% African-American and Other teens. A much larger number, perhaps twice as many, were not engaged full-time in either school or work. The data reflect a serious failure in both school completion and the critical transition from school to jobs, significantly affecting their development as future workers. For an in-depth description of the problems of young adults seeking to enter the labor force, visit our Young Adults website at www.scyoungadults.org for our state and county reports on 18-29 year olds.

Deaths: During 2003-2005, 6 youth ages 15 to 19 died. Historically, automobile accidents have been the major cause, resulting in 4 deaths between 2003 and 2005; homicides killed 0 youth 15 to 19 years old during the three-year period, and 0 youth committed suicide. Alcohol use is often a significant factor in deaths among teenagers.

Summary

Facing the Scope of Problems: Facing the Scope of Problems: The data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Greenwood County. The 34.2% of children in single-parent families, 18.2% in poverty, 28.2% not graduating from school, 36.4% of high school students using alcohol and 15.4% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Emphasizing the Positive: South Carolina Kids Count reports have been developed to describe the problems of children in each of the counties. Fortunately, the majority of children and youth are doing well, and some very well. One simple description is the percentage of children who do not fall into the problem categories reported. For the county, 83.8% of children are born to non-teen mothers ages 20 or older, 47.1% are born to married parents, and 65.8% lived in two-parent families; 81.8% were not poor and 54.4% lived in families with incomes during 1999 above twice the poverty level which in 2007 is \$35,200 for a family of three; 87.0% of babies were born with normal birthweights; 79.8% were assessed as consistently ready for the first grade, 69.6% scored basic or better on PACT for 8th grade math and 70.2% for 8th grade reading, 85.8% passed math and 87.8% passed English/Language Arts of HSAP in the 10th grade, and 70.1% graduated with their class. In a typical month, 63.6% of high school students do not drink alcohol, 84.6% do not use drugs, and 70.6% do not smoke. Unfortunately, the absence of a problem is not always an indicator of success. Some data is available for exemplary performance: for example, 53.0% of 3rd graders and 26.7% of 8th graders scored proficient or advanced on PACT in reading and 31.1% of 3rd graders and 17.3% of 8th graders in math. Unfortunately, data on success is not generally available.

Despite the limitations of success data, we must emphasize the positive in providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. Recent philosophy and publications such as those of the Search Institute (700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN, 55415-1138, tel. 1-800-888-7828, www.search-institute.org), emphasize the critical importance of “developmental assets” to promote and support positive development. One short book from the Search Institute, (*What Kids Need to Succeed*, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. If each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in this report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth, as shown on our website at www.sckidscount.org in the section on state and county reports.

All data contained in this report is the most recent available at the date it goes online. This version of the Kids Count report will be revised as more recent and additional data become available. Please send us your corrections and suggestions for improvement. We welcome your ideas for ways to make the state and county reports more useful and accurate. Please utilize local data sources whenever possible to supplement the profile provided through our report.

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