

Child Maltreatment Data Profile

Lexington County

RANK ↓8	Children under 18 years of age (2024)
	Lexington County 70,033 South Carolina 1,135,421

INTAKES¹
Rate per 1,000 children

60

INCREASED

South Carolina 59.6

Percent of intakes investigated

54.1%

INCREASED

South Carolina 53.7%

Percent of investigations substantiated²

14.5%

INCREASED

South Carolina 19.3%

Percent of intakes referred to Family Centered Community Support Services³

18.8%

DECREASED

South Carolina 18.8%

Percent of intakes where no action was taken

27.1%

INCREASED

South Carolina 27.6%

SUBSTANTIATED INVESTIGATIONS
Rate per 1,000 families

8.3

WORSENERD

South Carolina 14.2
County Ranking ↓10

All children in founded investigations
Rate per 1,000

7.2

WORSENERD

South Carolina 10.9
County Ranking ↓9

Children ages 0-6
Rate per 1,000

11.4

IMPROVED

South Carolina 17.4
County Ranking ↑8

Children ages 7-12
Rate per 1,000

6.9

WORSENERD

South Carolina 9.8
County Ranking ↓12

Children ages 13-17
Rate per 1,000

4.7

WORSENERD

South Carolina 7.0
County Ranking ↓13

ALL TYPES OF ABUSE⁴
Rate per 1,000

1.78

WORSENERD

South Carolina 2.18
County Ranking ↓15

Physical abuse⁵
Rate per 1,000

1.27

WORSENERD

South Carolina 1.63
County Ranking ↓11

Sexual abuse⁶
Rate per 1,000

0.23

WORSENERD

South Carolina 0.32
County Ranking ↓15

Emotional abuse
Rate per 1,000

0.29

WORSENERD

South Carolina 0.22
County Ranking ↓32

Human trafficking⁷
Rate per 1,000

0.06

IMPROVED

South Carolina 0.04
County Ranking ↓33

ALL TYPES OF NEGLECT⁸
Rate per 1,000

3.94

IMPROVED

South Carolina 6.38
County Ranking ↔7

Physical neglect
Rate per 1,000

2.97

IMPROVED

South Carolina 5.08
County Ranking ↑4

Medical neglect
Rate per 1,000

0.10

WORSENERD

South Carolina 0.24
County Ranking ↓22

Educational neglect
Rate per 1,000

0.66

WORSENERD

South Carolina 14.61
County Ranking ↓26

Substantial risk for injury⁹
Rate per 1,000

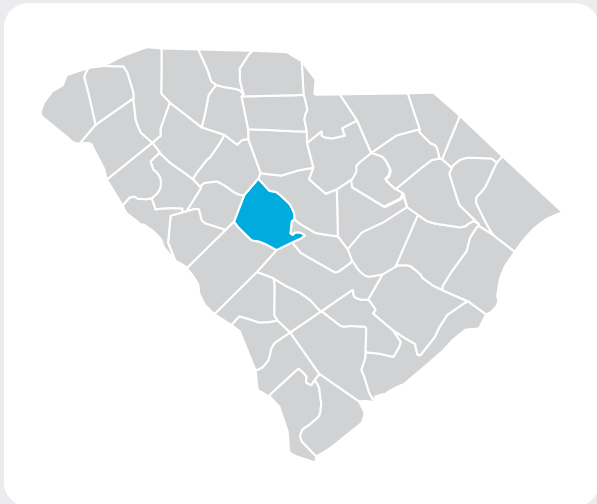
2.33

WORSENERD

South Carolina 3.97
County Ranking ↓16

Lower county rankings (e.g. #1) indicates better outcomes. There are 46 counties in South Carolina.

Lexington County



South Carolina County Rankings

All 46 counties are ranked from first (1) to last (46). In addition to the overall ranking, each county has a domain and indicator ranking.

1 Allendale	17 Florence	33 Kershaw
2 York	18 Fairfield	34 Newberry
3 Calhoun	19 Berkeley	35 Orangeburg
4 Aiken	20 Chesterfield	36 Jasper
5 McCormick	21 Sumter	37 Colleton
6 Pickens	22 Anderson	38 Chester
7 Abbeville	23 Greenville	39 Union
8 Lexington	24 Cherokee	40 Marlboro
9 Beaufort	25 Dillon	41 Marion
10 Dorchester	26 Greenwood	42 Williamsburg
11 Barnwell	27 Horry	43 Oconee
12 Spartanburg	28 Lancaster	44 Clarendon
13 Hampton	29 Charleston	45 Darlington
14 Richland	30 Lee	46 Laurens
15 Bamberg	31 Edgefield	
16 Saluda	32 Georgetown	

Why is this important?

Children’s Trust of South Carolina produces the child maltreatment profiles for each county in South Carolina. They are a resource for policymakers, researchers and organizations to understand the scope and nature of child maltreatment.

Child maltreatment is abuse and neglect that occurs to children under 18 years of age. It includes all types of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse in addition to all forms of neglect, negligence, and exploitation of children. This information can help community and state leaders develop strategies and policies to prevention maltreatment, protect child and support families in needs. They can also help allocate resources more effectively and tailor interventions to address specific issues. Child maltreatment is preventable when there are protective and promotive factors that support families. It takes all of us working together to prevent child abuse and neglect. It is possible to build protective and promotive factors that benefit children, families, and communities in general, and to prevent child maltreatment.

How can this data be used?

Raise awareness about these statistics in your workplace, organization, and community.

Collaborate with your community to make data-driven decisions using this profile, including when developing a plan for action to prevent and address child maltreatment.

Advocate by using this profile for grant writing, policy statements, and presentations to key policy stakeholders in your community.

Where does the data come from?

County-level child maltreatment data comes from the South Carolina Department of Social Services (S.C. DSS). Data is released annually by the South Carolina DSS and can be found at <https://dss.sc.gov/about/data-and-resources/child-welfare-data/child-protective-services-data/>. Child maltreatment is likely to be underreported, suggesting that the true prevalence of child maltreatment is much higher.

1. Intake - Report to DSS of possible abuse or neglect. **2. Founded Investigation** - Maltreatment of children was founded (substantiated) based on investigation. **3. Family Centered Community Support Services** - Intake staff determined (1) there wasn't a safety threat to the child but (2) the family might benefit from some voluntary services to address potential risk factors. **4. All Abuse** - Includes excessive corporal punishment, emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and human trafficking. **5. Physical Abuse** - Includes physical abuse and excessive corporal punishment. **6. Sexual Abuse** - Does not include sex trafficking which is included in human trafficking. **7. Human Trafficking** - Includes sex trafficking and labor trafficking. **8. All Neglect** - All Neglect Includes abandonment, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, educational neglect, medical neglect, and physical neglect. **9. Substantial risk for injury** - According to S.C. DSS, this category is separate from evidence of neglect or abuse and is not included in the rate for either neglect or abuse.