

South Carolina 2026
Child Well-Being Data Profile
Dorchester County

RANK
↓12

Children under 18 years of age (2024)
Dorchester County 40,253
 South Carolina 1,135,421

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING



Domain Rank **↑17**

Children 0-17 in households with incomes below the poverty level

12.7%

IMPROVED

South Carolina 18.1%
 County Ranking **↔3**
 2024

Children under age 18 whose resident parents are not in the labor force

6.6%

IMPROVED

South Carolina 8.4%
 County Ranking **↑9**
 2020-2024

Owner-occupied housing where household spends at least 30 percent of their income on housing

21.5%

WORSENER

South Carolina 19.2%
 County Ranking **↔33**
 2020-2024

Teens age 16-19 not enrolled in school and not working

10.4%

IMPROVED

South Carolina 7.9%
 County Ranking **↑27**
 2020-2024

EDUCATION



Domain Rank **↓15**

Kindergartners not demonstrating readiness to learn

61.2%

WORSENER

South Carolina 37%
 County Ranking **↑19**
 2024-2025

Third graders testing below state standards in English/Language Arts

44.1%

WORSENER

South Carolina 38.2%
 County Ranking **↓20**
 2024-2025

Eighth graders testing below state standards in math

72.7%

WORSENER

South Carolina 67.6%
 County Ranking **↓18**
 2024-2025

Dropouts for grades 9-12

1.0%

WORSENER

South Carolina 2.1%
 County Ranking **↔6**
 2024-2025

HEALTH



Domain Rank **↓9**

Low-birthweight babies

9.4%

WORSENER

South Carolina 10%
 County Ranking **↑13**
 2023

Infant mortality rate per 1,000

4.5

IMPROVED

South Carolina 7
 County Ranking **↑6**
 2023

Children experiencing food insecurity

14.7%

IMPROVED

South Carolina 17.2%
 County Ranking **↑8**
 2023

Deaths, ages 0-19 rate per 100,000

77.0

WORSENER

South Carolina 75.2
 County Ranking **↓17**
 2023

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY



Domain Rank **↑9**

Children living in single parent families

38.2%

WORSENER

South Carolina 37.9%
 County Ranking **↓17**
 2020-2024

Families where householder lacks a high school diploma

5.8%

IMPROVED

South Carolina 7.6%
 County Ranking **↑5**
 2020-2024

Children living in concentrated areas of poverty

8.5%

WORSENER

South Carolina 24.4%
 County Ranking **↑11**
 2020-2024

Births to teens 15 to 19 years of age rate per 1,000

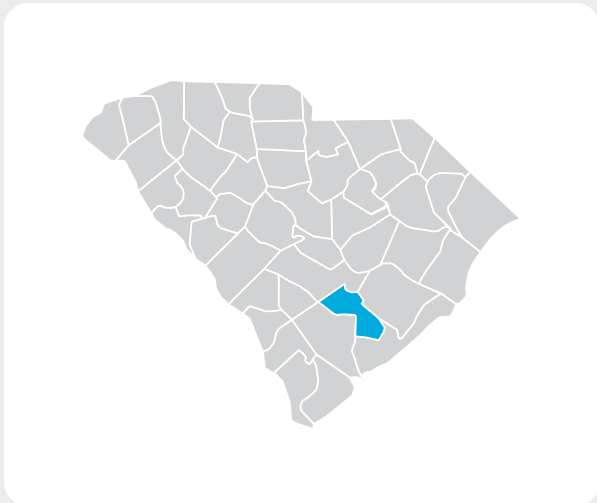
19.1

IMPROVED

South Carolina 17.1
 County Ranking **↓19**
 2023

Lower county rankings (e.g. #1) indicates better outcomes. Worsened/Improved indicates a change in the metric year over year. There are 46 counties in South Carolina. N.D. = Not Disclosed. N.A. = Not Applicable. The most recent data for each indicator can be found at datacenter.aecf.org/SC.

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

Why is this important?

Children’s Trust of South Carolina produces the child well-being profiles for each county in South Carolina. They provide us with a snapshot into the status of children and families in the state.

When children thrive, they meet educational milestones, live in economically stable homes and in supportive communities, and they are more likely to grow into productive, contributing members of our state.

However, as the profiles show, too many children live in environments that may put them at risk for negative outcomes, including child abuse and neglect. This data is available in the [Dorchester County child maltreatment data profile](#).

How to use them?

These child well-being profiles can be used in a wide variety of ways to raise awareness of these statistics in your workplace, organization and community; support community conversations and data-driven decisions; and to strengthen grant writing, policy and presentations.

Where does this data come from?

This work, done in partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF), is modeled after the AECF’s KIDS COUNT state and national profiles.

When county-level data are available, the profiles use the same indicators as KIDS COUNT. When county-level data are not available, the profiles use proxies for the KIDS COUNT indicators.

Questions?

Children’s Trust regularly dedicates time and energy to helping agencies understand data and collaborate with their communities to make meaningful decisions. If you would like to host a conversation about the policy implications of this profile in your community, please contact Sarah Knox at sknox@scchildren.org.

For any questions about data, methodology or other data inquires, please contact research@scchildren.org.