South Carolina 2025-2026

Child Maltreatment Data Profile

Darlington County

RANK ↑38

Children under 18 years of age (2024)

Darlington County	13,894
South Carolina	1,135,421

INTAKES[1]
Rate per 1,000 children

67.4 — INCREASED

South Carolina 61.0

Percent of intakes investigated

61.2% — INCREASED

South Carolina 58.1%

Percent of investigations substantiated[2]

27.1% — DECREASED

South Carolina 18.3%

Percent of intakes referred to Family Centered Community Support Services[3]

16.1% — DECREASED

South Carolina 16.0%

Percent of intakes where no action was taken

22.6% — INCREASED

South Carolina 26.0%

SUBSTANTIATED INVESTIGATIONS
Rate per 1,000 families

21.5 — IMPROVED

South Carolina 14.9
County Ranking ↑44

All children in founded investigations
Rate per 1,000

18.9 — IMPROVED

South Carolina 11.2
County Ranking ↑43

Children ages 0-6
Rate per 1,000

29.1 — IMPROVED

South Carolina 0.6
County Ranking ↑40

Children ages 7-12
Rate per 1,000

16.5 — IMPROVED

South Carolina 0.4
County Ranking ↑41

Children ages 13-17
Rate per 1,000

11.7 — IMPROVED

South Carolina 0.3
County Ranking ↑38

ALL TYPES OF ABUSE[4]
Rate per 1,000

2.73 — IMPROVED

South Carolina 2.11
County Ranking ↑33

Physical abuse[5]
Rate per 1,000

2.52 — IMPROVED

South Carolina 1.21
County Ranking ↓39

Sexual abuse[6]
Rate per 1,000

0.22 — IMPROVED

South Carolina 0.31
County Ranking ↑ 12

Emotional abuse
Rate per 1,000

0 — IMPROVED

South Carolina 0.23
County Ranking ↑1

Human trafficking[7]
Rate per 1,000

0 — UNCHANGED

South Carolina 0.09
County Ranking ↔1

ALL TYPES OF NEGLECT[8]
Rate per 1,000

12.31 — IMPROVED

South Carolina 6.28
County Ranking ↑43

Physical neglect
Rate per 1,000

8.85 — IMPROVED

South Carolina 4.90
County Ranking ↑42

Medical neglect
Rate per 1,000

1.01 — WORSENED

South Carolina 0.30
County Ranking ↓41

Educational neglect
Rate per 1,000

2.23 — IMPROVED

South Carolina 0.92
County Ranking ↑44

Substantial risk for injury[9]
Rate per 1,000

4.68 — IMPROVED

South Carolina 4.54
County Ranking ↑30

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

Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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

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.

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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.