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%

WORSENED

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%

WORSENED

South Carolina 63%
County Ranking ↑19
2024–2025

Third graders testing below state standards in English/ Language Arts

44.1%

WORSENED

South Carolina 38.2%
County Ranking ↓20
2024–2025

Eighth graders testing below state standards in math

72.7%

WORSENED

South Carolina 67.6%
County Ranking ↓18
2024–2025

Dropouts for grades 9-12

1.0%

WORSENED

South Carolina 2.1%
County Ranking ↔6
2024–2025

HEALTH

Domain Rank ↓9

Low-birthweight babies

9.4%

WORSENED

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

WORSENED

South Carolina 75.2
County Ranking ↓17
2023

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Domain Rank ↑9

Children living in single parent families

38.2%

WORSENED

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%

WORSENED

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.

Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

kids count SOUTH CAROLINA

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 us at info@scchildren.org.

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