

COLLETON COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.

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Executive Director: Mary T. Jones

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Total children in county under age 6
3,138

Total Children in county under 6
living in poverty %: 30%

Colleton County Highlights

- Increased child care providers ECERS scores by 74%
- Served 15 children through Parents As Teachers
- 86% of the Center of Excellence staff completed ECD 101

Colleton County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

In Colleton County there are over 3,138 children under the age of 6, which is 8.1% of the total population. Thirty percent (30%) of these children live in poverty. In addition, 19.5% of births in the county were to mothers under the age of 20. As of June 2009, Colleton County's unemployment rate is 14.8%. The following statistics continue to rise in Colleton County:

- 58.1% of all births in the county were to single mothers;
- 29.9% of children born in the county were to mothers with less than a 12th grade education;
- 61% of single parents with children under the age six are employed; and
- 56.2% of children under the age of six have both parents employed.

Colleton County First Steps Partnership continues its efforts to ensure that our children arrive to school ready to learn. In 2008-09 Colleton County First Steps served over 176 adults and 225 children through programs such as Parents as Teachers, Child Care Scholarships, Child Care Quality Enhancement and Training, Imagination Library, and a Lending Library. In addition, Colleton County First Steps partnered with Colleton County School District to offer quality 4K classrooms.

Sincerely,
Mary Jones, Executive Director
Colleton First Steps Partnership

First Steps to School Readiness Strategy Areas

The First Steps initiative approaches children's school readiness needs in five ways:

Family Strengthening: A parent is a child's first and best teacher. First Steps works to help parents become the best parents they can be. First Steps also helps parents further their own education.

Healthy Start: Children's development and ability to learn are profoundly impacted by their health in the earliest years. First Steps works to help families understand children's health needs through education and screenings while also working to help them access needed health services.

Quality Child Care: Quality child care provides immediate and long-term learning benefits for children. First Steps works to expand the availability of quality child-care to families and to enhance the level of quality in existing child-care environments.

Early Education: Research shows that children who participate in high-quality preschool classes are more likely to start school ready to learn, as well as be more successful later in life. First Steps works to expand high-quality 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten opportunities in public and private settings.

School Transition: The transition into kindergarten is a critical time that sets the tone for children's perspectives about the school years, as well their parents' perspectives. Making a strong initial connection between school and home -- and supporting both parents and students during this transition time -- has been shown to impact students' later school success and parents' later involvement during the school years.

2008-09 County Partnership Programs by Strategy

FAMILY STRENGTHENING

Parents As Parents

Program Description: Parents As Teachers (PAT) is a national program whose goals are 1) to increase parent's knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices, 2) provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues, 3) prevent child abuse and neglect, and 4) increase children's school readiness and school success.

Colleton County First Step's funds three part-time parent educators to serve a max of 30 families. This program consists of five components: home visits, group meetings, screenings, resource network, and assessments. Family assessments include: Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (KIPS), the Adult-Child Interactive Reading Inventory (ACIRI), Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), and Ages and Stages Questionnaire-Social Emotional (ASQ-SE). A Knowledge Path to Early Literacy Kit was created to enhance emergent literacy.

Program Results:

- 10 families to include 13 adults and 15 children were served in the PAT program
- Results from KIPS assessment indicated parents increased their scores by 23%
- Results from ACRI assessments indicated parents increase their scores by 7%
- A total of 191 visits was completed with these families
- 316.5 hours for visits
- Families also received other services such as: monthly books from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, child care scholarships, and books from the lending library and age appropriate educational activity backpacks were loaned to parents

QUALITY CHILD CARE

Quality Enhancement

Program Description: The Child Care Quality Enhancement Program consists of three components: a pre-and post-assessment (Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-ECERS-R) of the classroom environment, on-site technical assistance, funding for age-appropriate classroom materials. Four centers in the program. CCFS coordinates with the ABC Child Care Program and DSS Child Care Licensing and Regulatory to improve the quality of these child care providers. All providers have access to the lending library to check out materials such as books, manipulatives, curriculum, materials and books.

Colleton County First Steps (CCFS) has one Center of Excellence who's goal is to become accredited with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Program Results:

- Centers increased their ECERS-R scores by 74%
- 24 child care staff received quality technical assistance
- 4% staff turnover rate for all centers

Center of Excellence Program Results:

- 50 children were served through this program
- Post - ECERS-R score increased by 59%
- 0% staff turnover rate
- 100% participation in TEACH program
- 86% of staff completed ECD 101

Child Care Quality Training

Program Description: Colleton County First Steps provided training that was available to every childcare provider in the county. Flyers were mailed to all providers with time and dates of workshops. Training topics include curriculum, administration, health, and safety. All workshops were registered or certified with the Center for Child Care Career Development.

Program Results:

- 69 childcare staff attended training
- 11 workshop were offered to child care providers
- 34 hours of training was completed by childcare providers

Child Care Scholarships

Program Description: Provided two (2) full-time scholarships for children who met one or more risk factors determine by the Office of First Steps. Parents who received scholarships also participated in Parents As Teacher program. Scholarships were distributed to child care providers who participated in the Quality Enhancement program. This allowed the CCFS to provide comprehensive early education learning experiences to at-risk children in enrolled in quality child care programs.

EARLY EDUCATION

Full-Day 4K

Program Description: Extended two half-day 4K classes to full-day for 40 children who reached four (4) years of age on or before September 1, in accordance with program/state requirements. Priority must be given to children identified as “at risk”. This year the school district attended the Anderson 5 program (based on SC state standards and the activities are developmentally appropriate), which supplements the High-Scope curriculum.

Program Results:

- 36 children were documented to have met the SC Curriculum Standards for 4K
- Teachers are trained in the High/Scope Curriculum and Work Sampling System through the State Department of Education.
- 100% parent participation in 2 conferences and 2 home visits
- 100% of parents reported satisfaction with the classroom

SCHOOL TRANSITION

Countdown to Kindergarten

Program Description: Countdown to Kindergarten is a school transition strategy designed to successfully bridge our most at-risk students into the K-12 school environment and to increase parent involvement the early grades where children’s learning is foundational for life success.

Program Results:

- 20 children were served in the program
- 100% received 6 home visits

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Expenditures By Funding Source	
State Appropriation (Fund 10)	\$117,771
E.I.A. Appropriation (Fund 55)	\$16,331
Lottery Appropriation (Fund 35)	\$0
C.D.E.P.P. Appropriation (Fund 60)	\$0
C.O.E. Appropriation (Fund 65)	\$0
N.F.P. Appropriation (Fund 70)	\$0
State Private (Fund 15)	\$700
Local Private (Fund 20)	\$1,193
Federal (Fund 30)	\$13,782
Carry Over (Fund 11)	\$3,242
In-Kind (Fund 25)	\$66,403
TOTAL:	\$273,423

Expenditures By Program / Strategy Name	
Parents As Teachers	\$42,886
Dolly Parton Imagination Library	\$1,282
Extended 4K Classrooms	\$124,303
Countdown To Kindergarten	\$1,335.33
Quality Enhancement	\$33,193
Quality Child Care Training	\$7,125
Tuition Assistant	\$6,855
Indirect Programmatic Functions	\$38,096
Administrative Functions	\$18,348
TOTAL:	\$273,423

Local Match Percentage for FY 2009: 81%

COLLETON COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Roxie Bishop, Pre-kindergarten through primary educator;
 LaTosha Gibson, Non-profit Organization
 Reverend Eric Campbell, Faith Community
 Suzanne Gant, Business Community
 Keshia Edwards, Early Education
 Phyliss Murdaugh, Legislative Appointee - House
 Juliet Green, Department of Social Services
 Shiela Keaise, County Library

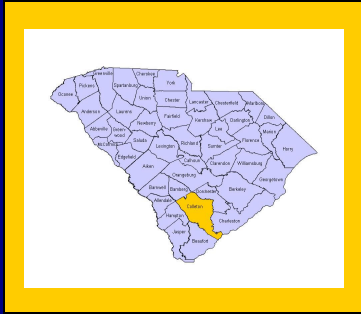
COUNTY DATA SNAPSHOT

In FY09, First Steps County Partnerships statewide made it a priority to become increasingly data-driven. County Partnerships successfully began using powerful new components of the First Steps data system, and County Partnerships also utilized data in new ways to drive their FY09 program plans. In addition to enhanced program data tracking, County Partnerships are also focusing on the best available data about children and families to best understand their communities' needs. At the end of FY08 and the beginning of FY09, County Partnerships began an extensive analysis of this data, including data about the risk factors known to impact children's potential school success, such as low birth weight, teen mothers, and families living in poverty. A county-level risk data report is included in the subsequent pages of this report.

The SC General Assembly created in 1999 the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Initiative as a "comprehensive, results-oriented initiative for improving early childhood development by providing, through county partnerships, public and private funds and support for high quality early childhood development and education services for children by providing support for their families' efforts toward enabling their children to reach school ready to learn" ...here's what happened next:

First Steps Strategy Areas	Notable Moments
Family Strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided over 800 home visits since 2000
Quality Child Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30 childcare stall completed ECD 101 and enrolled in TEACH
Early Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Served over 116 children

:



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

Colleton County

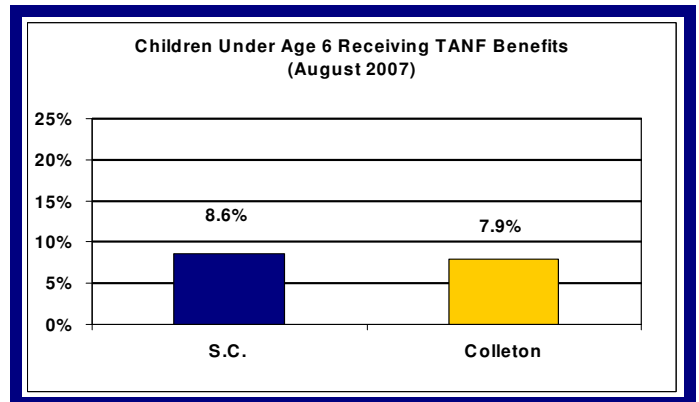
Total Children Under Six: 3,101

CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4% Colleton County (2007): 7.9%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 12 Colleton County children has an annual family income equivalent to \$10,325 (or less) for a family of four. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 45% of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Children in deep poverty often face a wide variety of school readiness obstacles, ranging from inadequate prenatal care and nutrition to low maternal education.
- 245 of Colleton County’s 3,101 children under age 6 received federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits during 2007, indicating a family income at or below 50% of the federal poverty definition.

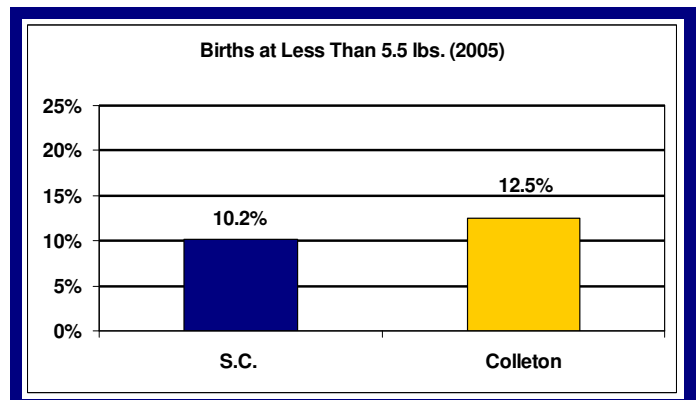


CHILDREN AT LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (Less Than 5.5 lbs.)

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2% Colleton County (2005): 12.5%

Fast Fact: 1 in 8 Colleton County children is born at a weight less than 5.5 lbs. A recent statewide analysis suggests that at least one-third of these children (36%-52% depending on weight category) will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Babies born at low weights are often prone to developmental delays associated with early academic failure.
- Many have received inadequate prenatal care and suffer from significant health complications.
- 68 of the 543 children born in Colleton County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.



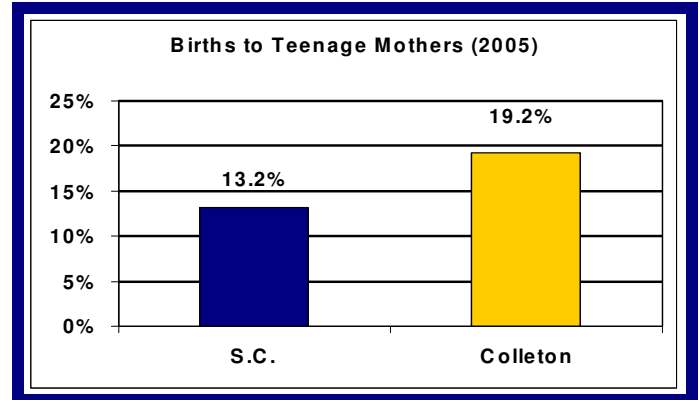
BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

Statewide Average (2005): 13.2%

Colleton County (2005): 19.2%

Fast Fact: Nearly 1 in 5 Colleton County births is to a mother under 20 years of age. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 43% of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Teenage parents often lack the maturity and knowledge required to optimally fulfill important parental responsibilities, are less likely to advance their own educational attainment and often fail to advance beyond low-income status.
- 105 of the 543 children born in Colleton County during 2005 had teenage mothers.



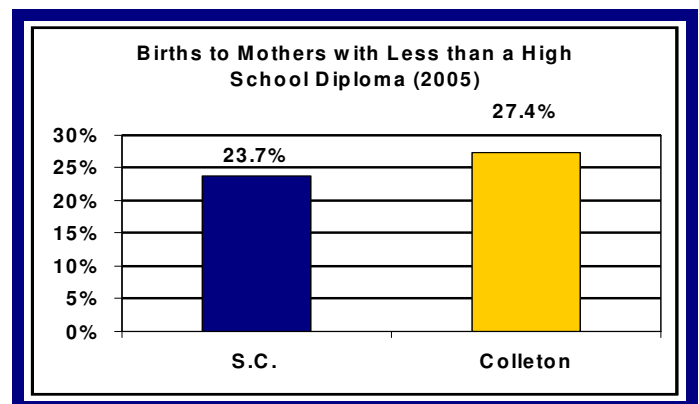
BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Statewide Average (2005): 23.7%

Colleton County (2005): 27.4%

Fast Fact: Just over 1 in 4 children in Colleton County is born to a mother possessing less than a high school diploma. A recent statewide analysis suggests that roughly half (48%) of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Research suggests that a mother’s own educational attainment is closely linked to the subsequent academic performance of her children.
- 149 of the 543 children born in Colleton County during 2005 had mothers with less than a high school diploma.



All data provided by the SC Budget and Control Board’s Office of Research and Statistics