



Marlboro County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report*

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Patricia Henegan
Executive Director:
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**Total children in county under
age 6: 2,134**

**Children under age 6 living in
poverty: 14.7%**

Marlboro County Highlights

- 24 Children received child care scholarships.
- MCFS parent Emma Nell Bethea stated that "First Steps has truly been a blessing in the development of my grandchild.
- 49 families received over 525 visits in PAT program

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Marlboro County First Steps Partnership had a successful campaign in FY 08. The partnership gladly continued successful work for the families of young children in Marlboro County. One of the best programs MCFS had in FY 08 was that of the childcare scholarship program. MCFS was able to give 21 children a chance to attend quality childcare centers and family home daycares. They received half-scholarship childcare vouchers. We were also pleased to provide PAT parenting services for some families in Marlboro County. Marlboro County First Steps did over 500 visits for 49 families. 80 percent of the families received Keys to Interactive Parenting assessments. Marlboro also enjoyed its collaborations with other First Steps partnerships in the Pee Dee Region to provide board development training and childcare trainings as well. We have a strong relationship with the School District of Marlboro County as well. We worked together to put on group meetings for the families in our parenting programs. We also use their facilities for trainings as well. Marlboro County First Steps will continue to strive for excellence in providing services for the families of our youngest learners in the community.

Randall Johnson
Executive Director
Marlboro County First Steps

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.

2007-08 County Partnership Programs by Strategy

FAMILY STRENGTHENING.

Marlboro County First Steps Parents As Teachers

Program description: – Increase the capacity of parents to be their child's best and most important teacher by expanding home visitation services, increasing parent involvement with their children, enhancing the learning environment in the home and increasing the family's awareness of community resources through the Parents As Teachers parenting program.

Program results:

- Served Forty-nine (49) Families totaling 57 children received home visits.
- Five (5) families exited the program before the end of the fiscal year
- 80% of the families received KIPS visits that averaged 3.41 for pre and 4.63 on post.
- Forty-four (44) families received (532) visits.
- There were 22 health, 3 dental, 2 hearing and 5 vision screenings.
- 90% of families eligible for ACIRI visits were completed.

Other Family Literacy/Learning – MCFS Family Resource Center/Lending Library

Program description Research states that the key to a child succeeding in school is the development of proficient reading skills; therefore, the most important thing a parent can do to develop these skills is to read with their child as much as possible. Therefore, the MCFS Family Resource Center/Lending Library will provide parents the opportunity to check out materials that will enhance the learning skills of their young children. Based on the Marlboro County needs and resources assessments, it is important to empower parents with materials and other resources that will help strengthen their relationship with their children in reference to literacy

Program Results:

- Served 95 adults & 82 children
- Marlboro County First Steps literacy lending library made available literacy bags and books to be checked out by parents with children ages 2 – 7. Over 95 parents checked out materials.
- Staff did 68 total reading hours in early childhood facilities and community functions
- One hundred four (104) literacy kits were lent over the course of the year.
- 249 books were given to children throughout the community

QUALITY CHILD CARE.

Center Staff Training & Development

Program description: To ensure that child care providers of Marlboro County receive quality child care training at a reasonable cost. Training will address identified areas of interest and need that child care providers have identified as needed areas. In order to ensure that the training is affordable, Marlboro County First Steps has maintained an active and visible partnership with Darlington, Kershaw, Lee and Williamsburg County First Steps to provide training via video-conferencing from the South Carolina Technical College System and with a strong collaboration with Northeastern Technical College and Florence-Darlington Technical *College*.

Program results:

- Twenty-nine (29) adults received quality childcare training during FY 08.
- Provided quality child care trainings for county providers. Based on post training surveys, providers enjoyed the fact that the more quality trainings were offered at the local level.
- Provided 20.5 hours of training for providers in various genres. Including unique CPR, First aid and blood borne pathogen certification training.
- Fourteen (14) Marlboro County early childhood providers attended the 2nd Annual Pee Dee Regional First Steps Early Education Conference collaborating with other Pee Dee counties.

Childcare Scholarships

Program description: This program provided financial assistance to qualified parents to aide with the cost of child care. The Department of Social Services (DSS) administered this program following the guidelines of the ABC Voucher Program. This program was open to all families in Marlboro County who met the eligibility requirements. Marlboro County First Steps distributed the applications on a first come first serve bases. The applications were sent to ABC to process. Clients were notified whether their application was approved, denied or incomplete. The slots were filled by the approved applicants in the order in which their application was processed. All slots were filled.

Program results:

- Twenty-four (24) childcare scholarships have been awarded to children to attend full day child care.
- Twenty-one (21) scholarship recipients attended a quality child care facility or family home daycare, which are all working with Marlboro County First Steps.
- Parents participated in summer reading day in the park where they read with and to their kids.
- Ninety-four (94) books were given to the participated in the Childcare scholarship program.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<u>Expenditures</u> By Funding Source	
State Appropriation (<i>Fund 10</i>)	\$193,371
E.I.A. Appropriation (<i>Fund 55</i>)	\$12,362
Lottery Appropriation (<i>Fund 35</i>)	\$
C.D.E.P.P. Appropriation (<i>Fund 60</i>)	\$
C.O.E. Appropriation (<i>Fund 65</i>)	\$
N.F.P. Appropriation (<i>Fund 70</i>)	\$
State Private (<i>Fund 15</i>)	\$5,795
Local Private (<i>Fund 20</i>)	\$
Federal (<i>Fund 30</i>)	\$
In-Kind (<i>Fund 25</i>)	\$37,927
TOTAL:	\$249,455

<u>Expenditures</u> By Program / Strategy Name	
Parents As Teachers 2011	\$103,505
Other Family Literacy 2042	\$6,526
Childcare Quality Enhancement 6012	\$13, 451
Childcare Training & Development 6052	\$14,623
Scholarship Initiative 7031	\$30,000
PSARAS rural initiative	\$4,073
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
Indirect Programmatic Functions	\$59,055
Administrative Functions	\$18,222
TOTAL:	\$249,455

COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MARLBORO COUNTY FIRST STEPS BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Board Member's Name	Addresses
1. Mrs. Brenda McRae	Faith Community
2. Colonel Justin Blum	Family Education, Training, & Support
3. Cora David	Legislative Appointee
4. Hazel Ellison	Agency Designees
5. Faye Green	Child Care & Early Childhood Development/Education Provider
6. Patricia Henegan	Legislative Appointee
7. Claudette Hooker	Early Childhood Education
8. Tammy Elliott	Parent of Pre School Child
9. Jannise Jones	Agency Designee
10. Shirley Jones	Transportation
11. Jennifer Liles	Early Childhood Education
12. Teresa Curtis-Barnes	Healthcare Provider
13. James Myers	Pre-K Through Primary Educator
14. Samuel D. Bass	Agency Designee
15. Pam Burns	Agency Designee
16. Sharon Rowe	Agency Designees
17. Margaret Victor	Pre-K Through Primary Educator
18. Helena Thomas	Non-Profit Organization Provides Services to Families/Children:
19. Brenda Foster	Healthcare Provider
21. Tama Westbury	Faith Community

MARLBORO COUNTY DATA SNAPSHOT

In FY08, 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.

2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

Marlboro County

Total Children Under Six: 2,134

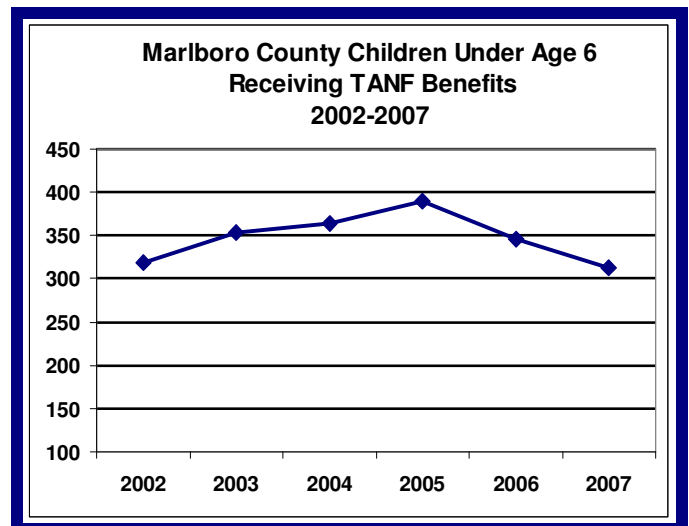
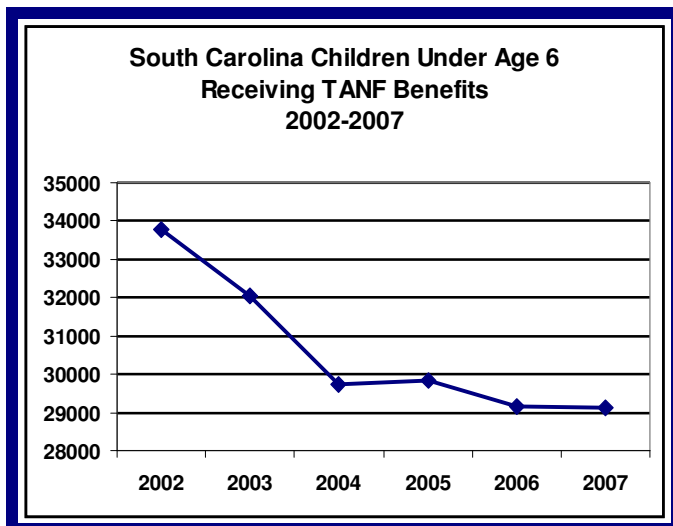
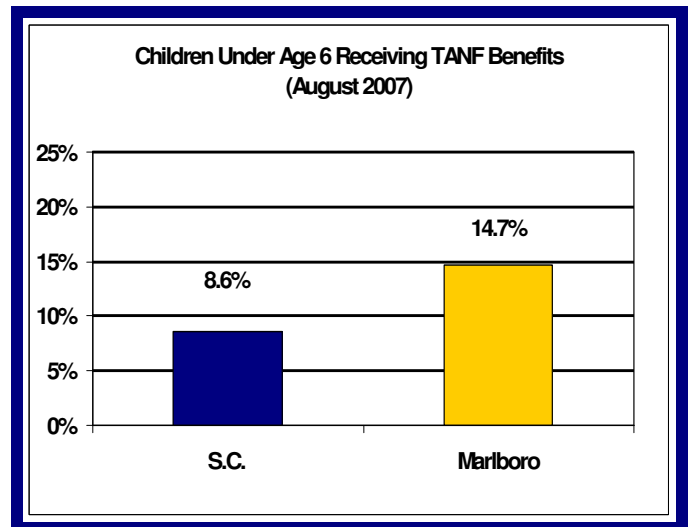
CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4% Marlboro County (2007): 14.7%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 7 Marlboro 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.

313 of Marlboro County's 2,134 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.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

Marlboro County

Total Children Under Six: 2,134

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

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2%

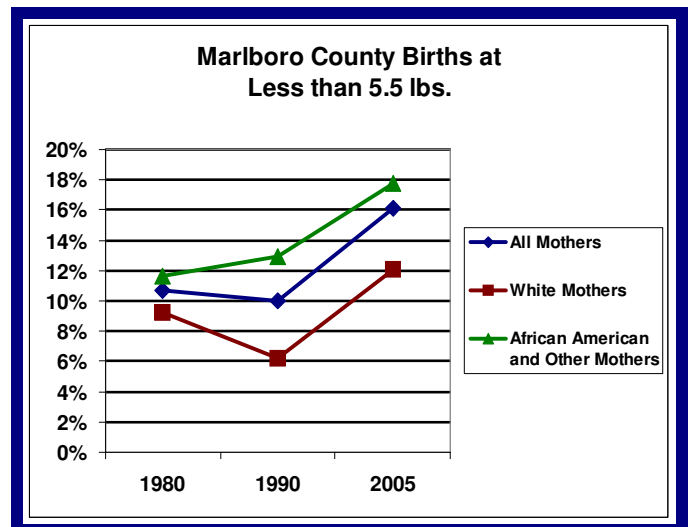
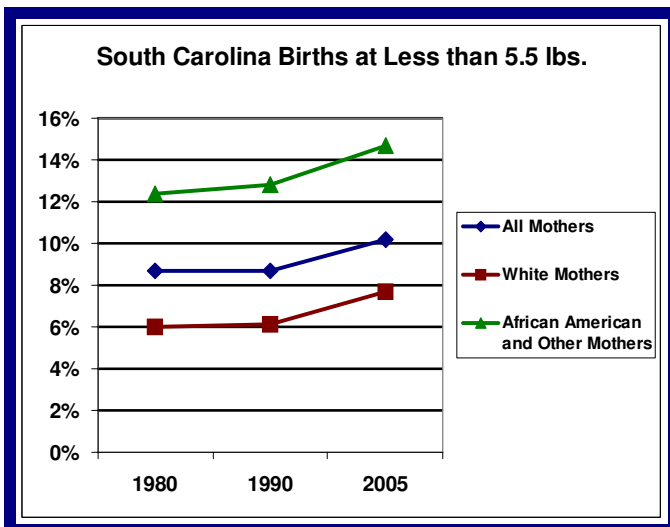
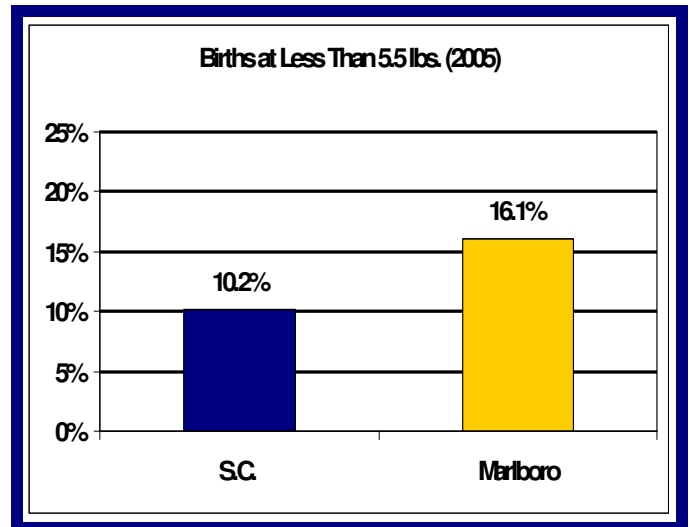
Marlboro County (2005): 16.1%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 6 Marlboro 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.

59 of the 366 children born in Marlboro County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

Marlboro County

Total Children Under Six: 2,134

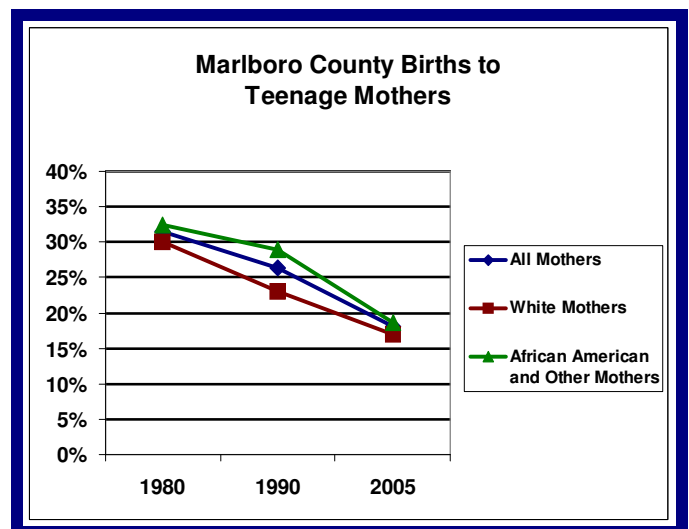
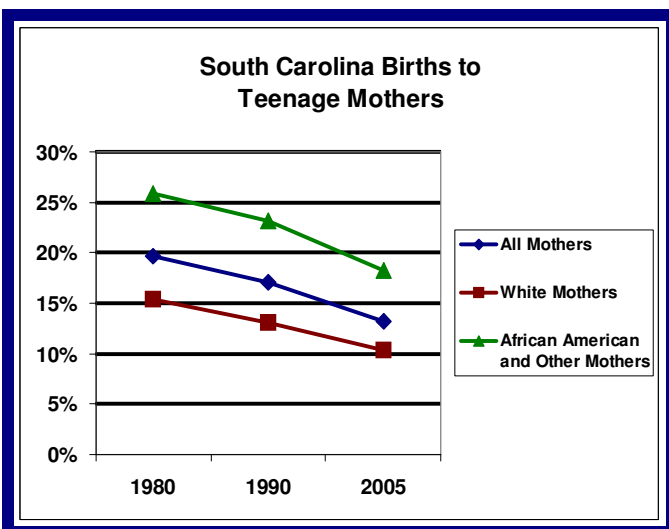
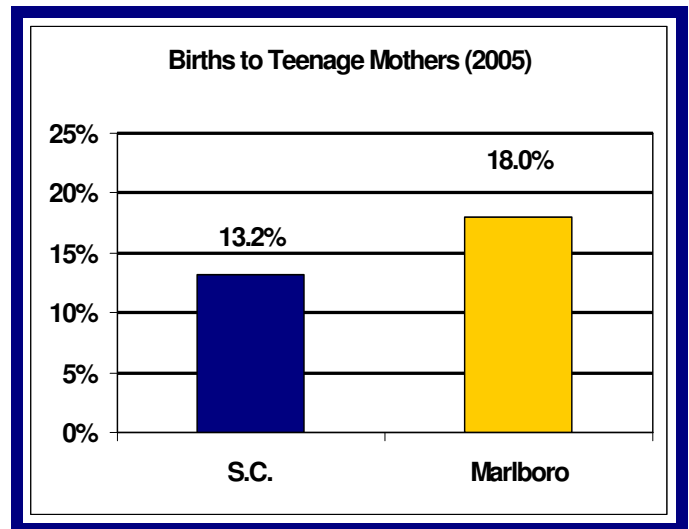
BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

Statewide Average (2005): 13.2% Marlboro County (2005): 18.0%

Fast Fact: Nearly 1 in 5 Marlboro 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.

66 of the 366 children born in Marlboro County during 2005 had teenage mothers.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile Marlboro County

Total Children Under Six: 2,134

BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Statewide Average (2005): 23.7%

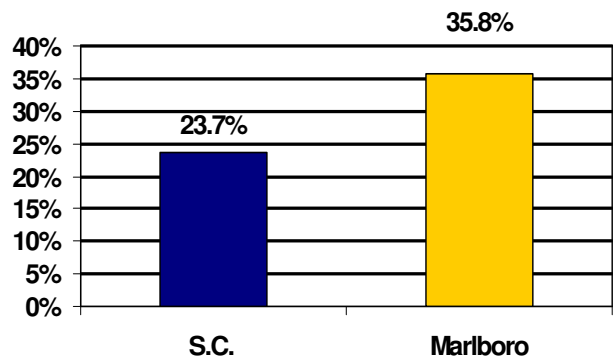
Marlboro County (2005): 35.8%

Fast Fact: 1 in 3 children in Marlboro 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.

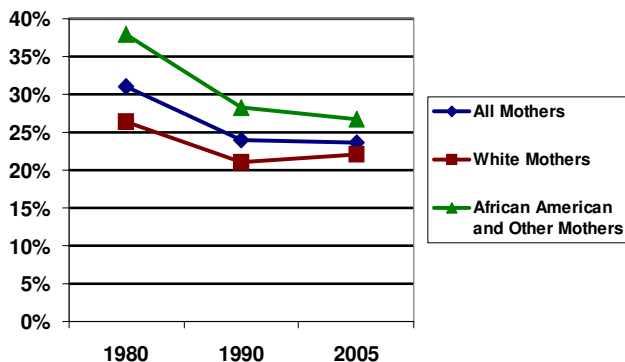
Research suggests that a mother’s own educational attainment is closely linked to the subsequent academic performance of her children.

131 of the 366 children born in Marlboro County during 2005 had mothers with less than a high school diploma.

Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Diploma (2005)



SC Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Diploma



Marlboro County Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Diploma

