



**CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD  
SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**

**FACTS ABOUT CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE  
COUNTY DATA BOOK**

**2007 EDITION  
(JANUARY 1, 2006 – DECEMBER 31, 2006 DATA)**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>OVERVIEW</b>	3
<b>COMPARATIVE STATISTICS OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE REVIEW</b>	5
<b>CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE REVIEWED</b>	
Children Reviewed by County	6
Children Reviewed by Case Management by County	10
<b>CHILDREN ENTERING AND RE-ENTERING FOSTER CARE</b>	
Children Entering and Re-Entering by County	14
<b>CHILDREN LEAVING FOSTER CARE</b>	
Children Leaving by County	18
Children Adopted by County	22
<b>CHILDREN REMAINING IN FOSTER CARE</b>	
Children Remaining by County	26
<b>AREAS OF CONCERN</b>	
Summary of Reviews	30
Areas of Concern by County	31

## OVERVIEW

*Facts About Children in Foster Care* is intended to provide annual data about children in foster care for every county in South Carolina. It covers: **Demographics** -- how many children there are in foster care, their characteristics and whether their prevalence is increasing or decreasing; **Progress Measures** -- length of time in care, number of placements, achieving permanency, and recidivism rates; and **Areas of Concern** -- legal and program shortcomings identified at monthly citizen reviews. Information is collected from local volunteer citizen review boards that review the cases of all children who have been in foster care at least four months; each case is then reviewed every six months thereafter until the child turns 18 or leaves foster care. Inquiries about this report and requests for copies of this and other counties' reports should be made to: Lisa Vosburgh, Data and Research Manager, or Denise Barker, Executive Director, South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board, 1205 Pendleton Street, Edgar Brown Building, Columbia, SC 29201. Telephone: (803)734-0480; E-Mail: [lvosburgh@oepp.sc.gov](mailto:lvosburgh@oepp.sc.gov), or on the web at <http://www.govoepp.state.sc.us/fcrb/>.

The 2007 *Facts About Children in Foster Care* edition includes comparative statistics about children reported by the South Carolina Department of Social Services, who remain in foster care at least four consecutive months and were reviewed by the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board at least once in 2006. It also includes demographics on those children who entered foster care late in the year and were not reviewed until 2007, but does not yet incorporate them into progress measures or areas of concern.

## COMPARATIVE STATISTICS OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

It is estimated that at the end of 2006, there were over one million (U.S. Bureau of Census) children under that age of 18 in South Carolina. Of these, 4,976 children were in out of home placements for at least four consecutive months and were reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2006. Children in out of home placements represent an increasing portion of the population of all children under the age of 18 in the state, up an average of 2.4% since 2002. Children reviewed by the Review Board constituted .48% of all children in the state in 2006, up slightly from .47% in 2002. Since 2002, the number of children entering foster care has increased 26%, while the number of children leaving foster care has only increased by 2%. The number of children remaining in foster care has also increased steadily since 2002.

The tables on the following pages provide demographic data and compare the status of children in foster care statewide by county in four major categories: Children Reviewed, Children Entering Foster Care, Children Leaving Foster Care, and Children Remaining in Foster Care.

## CHILDREN REVIEWED

**8,467** reviews were held for 4,976 children in 2006. Data tables included in this report compare demographics of children reviewed statewide with county data. Data are based in information reported by the Department of Social Services and collected at the child's last review board meeting held in 2006.

## **CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE**

**1,914** children entered foster care and were reviewed by local review boards in 2006. Of the children entering foster care in 2006, 53% of these children entered due to physical neglect, while 25% entered care due to abuse. The remaining children entered care due to abandonment, voluntary placement, dependency, or juvenile offenses. 474 of the 1,914 (24%) children who entered foster care in 2006 had previously been in foster care.

## **CHILDREN LEAVING FOSTER CARE**

**1,679** During 2006, 1,679 children who were reviewed by local review boards left foster care. Permanency for a child means placement with a “forever family”. A child achieves legal permanency upon leaving the foster care system either by returning home to their natural parent or by being adopted. The largest percent of children (38%) were returned to a birth parent, followed by 25% who were adopted. Twenty-two percent (22%) of the children who left care were emancipated or turned 18, and 15% were placed with relatives.

Data tables included provide comparative demographic data and departure reasons for children leaving foster care. The data represented in these tables was provided by the Department of Social Services and collected at the last review board meeting held prior to the child leaving foster care.

## **CHILDREN REMAINING IN FOSTER CARE**

**2,884** children entered foster care prior to January 1, 2006 and remained active in the foster care system as of January 1, 2007. Data is based on information submitted by the Department of Social Services and collected at the child’s last review board meeting in 2006.

## **SUMMARY OF REVIEWS AND AREAS OF CONCERN**

**4,976** children in foster care were reviewed by local review boards in 2006.

### **PARTICIPATION BY INTERESTED PARTIES AT LOCAL REVIEWS:**

Interested parties are invited by the Department of Social Services and include parents, foster parents, guardian ad litem, foster children, and others who may be involved with a child’s placement in foster care. Those who attend reviews provide the local boards with important information used to make recommendations. Statewide **11,138** individuals attended review board meetings in 2006.

### **AREAS OF CONCERN:**

The monthly review process allows local review boards to identify systemic concerns that are barriers to permanence for children in foster care. These systemic deficiencies, or Areas of Concern, are defined as violations of law or policy. Statewide, **4,564** Legal and **6,604** Program Areas of Concern were cited in 2006.

# Comparative County Statistics for 2006

	Children Reviewed		Children Entering		Children Leaving		Children Remaining	
	n	% *	n	% *	n	% *	n	% *
	4,976	100%	1,914	100%	1,679	100%	2,884	100%
<b>Statewide Totals</b>								
<b>By County</b>								
Abbeville	24	0.48%	8	0.42%	5	0.30%	14	0.49%
Aiken	138	2.77%	81	4.23%	66	3.93%	62	2.15%
Allendale	6	0.12%	6	0.31%	1	0.06%	5	0.17%
Anderson	336	6.75%	139	7.26%	120	7.15%	185	6.41%
Bamberg	23	0.46%	5	0.26%	4	0.24%	16	0.55%
Barnwell	58	1.17%	17	0.89%	21	1.25%	33	1.14%
Beaufort	67	1.35%	33	1.72%	21	1.25%	38	1.32%
Berkeley	259	5.20%	104	5.43%	116	6.91%	144	4.99%
Calhoun	12	0.24%	3	0.16%	4	0.24%	10	0.35%
Charleston	516	10.37%	129	6.74%	115	6.85%	356	12.34%
Cherokee	76	1.53%	26	1.36%	20	1.19%	48	1.66%
Chester	44	0.88%	18	0.94%	22	1.31%	19	0.66%
Chesterfield	46	0.92%	16	0.84%	17	1.01%	21	0.73%
Clarendon	68	1.37%	45	2.35%	26	1.55%	20	0.69%
Colleton	70	1.41%	23	1.20%	36	2.14%	32	1.11%
Darlington	78	1.57%	39	2.04%	36	2.14%	31	1.07%
Dillon	67	1.35%	36	1.88%	18	1.07%	36	1.25%
Dorchester	71	1.43%	29	1.52%	30	1.79%	43	1.49%
Edgefield	20	0.40%	9	0.47%	12	0.71%	6	0.21%
Fairfield	14	0.28%	8	0.42%	5	0.30%	11	0.38%
Florence	93	1.87%	39	2.04%	26	1.55%	62	2.15%
Georgetown	41	0.82%	15	0.78%	13	0.77%	25	0.87%
Greenville	479	9.63%	172	8.99%	144	8.58%	289	10.02%
Greenwood	36	0.72%	6	0.31%	18	1.07%	18	0.62%
Hampton	11	0.22%	5	0.26%	2	0.12%	6	0.21%
Horry	242	4.86%	112	5.85%	86	5.12%	149	5.17%
Jasper	17	0.34%	12	0.63%	4	0.24%	12	0.42%
Kershaw	47	0.94%	21	1.10%	11	0.66%	27	0.94%
Lancaster	71	1.43%	26	1.36%	20	1.19%	36	1.25%
Laurens	67	1.35%	7	0.37%	16	0.95%	47	1.63%
Lee	34	0.68%	19	0.99%	19	1.13%	12	0.42%
Lexington	172	3.46%	69	3.61%	48	2.86%	116	4.02%
Marion	105	2.11%	61	3.19%	38	2.26%	51	1.77%
Marlboro	52	1.05%	33	1.72%	25	1.49%	23	0.80%
McCormick	9	0.18%	4	0.21%	1	0.06%	3	0.10%
Newberry	30	0.60%	12	0.63%	6	0.36%	23	0.80%
Oconee	145	2.91%	46	2.40%	68	4.05%	75	2.60%
Orangeburg	94	1.89%	21	1.10%	41	2.44%	54	1.87%
Pickens	101	2.03%	29	1.52%	31	1.85%	59	2.05%
Richland	402	8.08%	144	7.52%	115	6.85%	252	8.74%
Saluda	10	0.20%	6	0.31%	3	0.18%	3	0.10%
Spartanburg	335	6.73%	128	6.69%	101	6.02%	186	6.45%
Sumter	124	2.49%	45	2.35%	53	3.16%	69	2.39%
Union	14	0.28%	6	0.31%	4	0.24%	9	0.31%
Williamsburg	52	1.05%	16	0.84%	16	0.95%	34	1.18%
York	200	4.02%	86	4.49%	75	4.47%	114	3.95%

\* Percent of Statewide Total

# Children Reviewed in 2006

	Abbeville	Aiken	Allendale	Anderson	Bamberg	Barnwell	Baufort	Berkeley	Calhoun	Charleston	Cherokee	Chester
<b>All Children</b>	24	138	6	336	23	58	67	259	12	516	76	44
<b>Case Management (percent)</b>												
Adoption	17%	17%	50%	17%	13%	10%	9%	18%	0%	13%	8%	20%
County	54%	57%	50%	67%	70%	60%	75%	69%	75%	60%	68%	61%
Managed Treatment Services	29%	26%	0%	16%	17%	29%	16%	12%	25%	28%	24%	18%
<b>Race (percent)</b>												
Caucasian	42%	43%	0%	70%	13%	41%	31%	50%	17%	26%	72%	55%
African American	38%	51%	100%	24%	87%	52%	49%	43%	83%	67%	24%	39%
Hispanic	17%	1%	0%	1%	0%	2%	8%	1%	0%	3%	0%	0%
Other Minorities	3%	5%	0%	5%	0%	5%	12%	6%	0%	4%	4%	6%
<b>Gender (percent)</b>												
Male	58%	56%	0%	44%	43%	52%	52%	59%	25%	53%	54%	57%
Female	42%	44%	100%	56%	57%	48%	48%	41%	75%	47%	46%	43%
<b>Age at Last Review (percent)</b>												
0-5	13%	22%	17%	36%	13%	43%	36%	33%	25%	30%	30%	34%
6-9	29%	16%	33%	19%	13%	14%	25%	18%	0%	14%	16%	16%
10-15	50%	32%	33%	29%	30%	24%	18%	26%	33%	25%	33%	41%
16+	8%	30%	17%	17%	43%	19%	21%	23%	42%	31%	21%	9%
<b>Placement Type (percent)</b>												
Foster Care Placement	62%	70%	67%	73%	65%	62%	78%	78%	67%	58%	78%	68%
Therapeutic Placement	38%	30%	33%	27%	35%	38%	22%	22%	33%	42%	22%	32%
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>4,976</b>											
<b>Adoption</b>	<b>15%</b>											
<b>County</b>	<b>62%</b>											
<b>Managed Treatment Services</b>	<b>23%</b>											
<b>Caucasian</b>	<b>44%</b>											
<b>African American</b>	<b>47%</b>											
<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>2%</b>											
<b>Other Minorities</b>	<b>7%</b>											
<b>Male</b>	<b>51%</b>											
<b>Female</b>	<b>49%</b>											
<b>0-5</b>	<b>30%</b>											
<b>6-9</b>	<b>16%</b>											
<b>10-15</b>	<b>29%</b>											
<b>16+</b>	<b>25%</b>											
<b>Foster Care Placement</b>	<b>69%</b>											
<b>Therapeutic Placement</b>	<b>31%</b>											























































