

KIDS COUNT 2005

TABLE 1

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO IMPROVE SOUTH CAROLINA'S RANKINGS?

No one is willing to accept the rank of children in South Carolina as 45th in overall child well-being. In order to transform our concern into focused action, we should note that South Carolina can reach improved rankings by reducing the numbers and rates of problems for each of the indicators as follows:

Indicator	Current number & rate of children in SC**			Required reduction in number and rate to improve ranking							
	Rank	#	Rate*	39th		25th		10th		1st	
				#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate
Low Birthweight	48	5,455	10.0	764	1.4	1,145	2.1	1,964	3.6	2,291	4.2
Infant Mortality	47	507	9.3	96	1.2	183	2.3	287	3.6	390	4.9
Child Deaths (1-14)	42	206	27	20	2.0	50	5.0	81	8.0	151	15.0
Teen Deaths (15-19)	41	264	93	23	8.0	65	23.0	99	35.0	167	59.0
Births to Teens (15-19)	39	7,327	53	0	0	1,797	13.0	2,903	21.0	4,562	33.0
High School Dropouts	15	15,000	7	0	0	0	0	2,143	1.0	6,429	3.0
Idle Teens (16-19)	16	17,000	8	0	0	0	0	4,250	2.0	8,500	4.0
Families with children without steady jobs	41	365,000	36	10,139	1.0	40,556	4.0	91,250	9.0	131,806	13.0
Child Poverty	34	188,000	19	0	0	29,684	3.0	69,263	7.0	108,842	11.0
Children in Single-Parent Households***	48	373,000	37	45,730	4.0	91,460	8.0	125,757	11.0	228,649	20.0

*Child and teen deaths are rates per 100,000. Teen births and infant mortality are rates per 1,000. All others are percentages.

**2002 and 2003 data for SC calculated by Casey Foundation is used in order to compare with 2002 and 2003 national data.