

# The Status of Families in Spartanburg County

An Evaluation of Goal 4 of 10

spartanburg   
community indicators  
 project

Inspiring dialogue, strategy and change.

# The Status of Families in Spartanburg County

An Evaluation of Goal 4 of 10

## Spartanburg Community Indicators Project

*A collaboration of:*

**The Spartanburg County Foundation  
United Way of the Piedmont  
Spartanburg County Government  
The University of South Carolina Upstate**

*Data collected and prepared by:*

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Metropolitan Studies Institute at The University of South Carolina Upstate, © 2009**

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## A Letter to the Community

As collaborators in the Spartanburg Community Indicators Project; The Spartanburg County Foundation, United Way of the Piedmont, Spartanburg County Government, and the University of South Carolina Upstate are pleased to provide you an in-depth assessment of Indicator Goal 4. Produced by the Metropolitan Studies Institute of The University of South Carolina Upstate, this document builds upon previous Community Indicator reports by providing a quantitative, comprehensive examination of Indicator Goal 4: "Our families will be stable and nurturing."

The information contained in this report is informed by the many subject matter experts in our community who influence the achievement of the goal. Please take the opportunity to review this information and consider its observations relative to creating stable and nurturing families within our County. In the coming months, community discussions focused on the findings of this report will be initiated. At these meetings you will be asked to not only contribute your commentary but also to help engage the appropriate action in response to the data and discussion.

This report could not have been accomplished without support from all of the community partners, funders, and experts in our community who commit the time and effort to advance understanding of the issues that affect our County. We would also like to thank Dr. Kathleen Brady at the Metropolitan Studies Institute of The University of South Carolina Upstate for her work to produce this report. This document represents more than just data. It represents a fundamental advancement in our Community Indicator effort. Valid, objective data underpinning discussion of issues in our community profits us all. A report for each Indicator goal will be produced by the MSI so that our community remains fully informed of the measures that reflect upon our progress. These reports are provided for the community in an effort to inspire dialogue, strategy and change.

Sincerely,



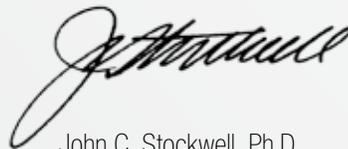
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## Strategic Spartanburg Goals

- Goal 1:** Our children will excel academically through the provision of quality education.
- Goal 2:** Our citizens will obtain the degrees and training to equip them to compete in a knowledge-based workforce.
- Goal 3:** Our senior population will be able to live independently in so far as possible with necessary support from their communities.
- Goal 4:** Our families will be stable and nurturing.
- Goal 5:** Our citizens will be healthy.
- Goal 6:** Our citizens will have access to living wage jobs.
- Goal 7:** Our communities will be viable.
- Goal 8:** Our communities will be increasingly safe.
- Goal 9:** Our citizens will have opportunities for civic engagement that promotes well-being and higher quality of life.
- Goal 10:** Our citizens will manage our natural resources in a way that will support current and future generations.

## The University of South Carolina Upstate

The University of South Carolina Upstate defines itself as a “metropolitan university.” It is a member of the international Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities; and, similar to the missions of its fellow members, The University of South Carolina Upstate regards its relationship to Spartanburg and Greenville and to the Upstate’s I-85 corridor communities as of fundamental importance to its purposes and future. Our recent establishment of “The Metropolitan Studies Institute” as a regional research enterprise is a direct expression of that relationship.

As one of the fastest growing universities in South Carolina over the past 10 years reflecting the growth of the Upstate, and enrolling the second largest number of South Carolina students among the State’s 10 comprehensive universities, The University of South Carolina Upstate aims to be regarded as one of the leading metropolitan universities in the Southeast.

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## The Metropolitan Studies Institute at The University of South Carolina Upstate

The mission of The University of South Carolina Upstate’s Metropolitan Studies Institute (MSI) is to support research efforts between The University of South Carolina Upstate and the community, enhancing relationships, promoting the reciprocal flow of information and ideas, assisting community and economic development, and increasing the strategic use of the University’s scholarship and outreach capabilities. The MSI engages in selected community-based research and assessment projects, notable among them the Spartanburg Community Indicators Project, and partners with community agencies to undertake program evaluations, needs assessments, feasibility studies, and data management projects.

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Spartanburg Community Indicators Project

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## Executive Summary

In 2005, The Spartanburg County Foundation and United Way of the Piedmont released *Community Indicators VI: Strategic Spartanburg*. The sixth edition was a culmination of many hours of discussion and research, which has resulted in a community-wide project focused on the quality of life for all citizens in our community. Transitioning the data collection and assessment component of the Community Indicators Project to the Metropolitan Studies Institute has allowed for a more comprehensive assessment of the status of each goal, via examination of a wider variety of indicators.

Originally, the Community Indicators Project identified seven indicators relative to Goal 4, “Our families will be stable and nurturing.” In the current iteration, indicators for Goal 4 have been added and broadened to provide a more comprehensive evaluation of the status of families in Spartanburg County and now include nine indicators. Indicators have been included or excluded based on their assessed strength, accessibility, or validity of the information they provide. Each of these indicators is thought by subject matter experts, local professionals representing organizations and agencies whose missions are driven by these indicators, to be a useful and valid reflection of Goal 4, providing assessment of families in Spartanburg County in as comprehensive fashion as possible. This report is the second in the Health and Wellness cluster of the Community Indicators goals for 2009.

For comparison purposes, data from communities with similar population demographics are supplied where possible. Data were obtained from Greenville County, Richland County, and Charleston County in South Carolina, and, in some cases, from Mecklenburg County in North Carolina. South Carolina state data and national data are provided where possible and as appropriate.

The definitions of “family” and “household” used by the U.S. Bureau of the Census Survey and reported in this documents are:

- **Household:** all the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence.
- **Family:** a group of two or more people who reside together and who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Results of indicator analyses demonstrate that families in Spartanburg County do not fare well on most measures when compared to peer counties and state and national averages. Family violence, abuse and neglect, poverty, and adolescent pregnancy disproportionately affect families residing in Spartanburg County. Implications are significant for the greater community economically and socially, and generally, trend data are predictive of persistent challenges. However, local agencies, organizations and subject matter experts report a number of initiatives in place to address these challenges.

## Strengths and Challenges

**Upon examination of the data for each indicator and other data relevant to the status of families in Spartanburg County, there are a number of positive findings. Primary among these are:**

- Spartanburg County was higher than the state average for median family income in 2006.
- Spartanburg has a lower rate than the state average for families with incomes below the poverty level.
- Spartanburg has a lower percentage of individuals below the poverty line than both the U.S. and S.C.
- The percentage of children under 18 living in poverty in Spartanburg County decreased markedly in 2006, falling below the S.C. average and southeast average.
- Data suggest that there has been a tenuous decreasing trend in adolescent pregnancy in Spartanburg County over the last two decades.
- Local agencies are working to reduce the incidence of adolescent pregnancy in Spartanburg County.

**Assessment of the indicators also results in a number of negative findings. These are:**

- Spartanburg County ranks lowest among peer counties for median family income.
- The median household income for Spartanburg County was lower than the state average and lower than all peer counties.
- Spartanburg County has the lowest median household income and per capita income of all comparison counties, lower in fact than the S.C. and U.S. averages.
- Spartanburg ranks lowest among all peer counties, as well as the state and national averages, for high school and college completion.
- The percentage of children under 18 living in poverty was higher in Spartanburg County than in peer counties in 2004 and 2005.
- 45.1% of all children in Spartanburg are enrolled in Medicaid; the approximate total Medicaid expenditure for these children in 2007 was \$55.1 million.
- Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades in Spartanburg County.
- Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families in Spartanburg County. In 2000, 31.3% of all children in the county lived in single-parent families.
- The percentage of Spartanburg County children in single parent families has grown dramatically each decade since 1970 for total residents and for whites, blacks, and other races.
- 38.2% of all assaults in Spartanburg County in 2007 were domestic assaults, constituting the second highest rate among counties in S.C.
- There was a 5.5% increase from 2004 to 2007 in domestic assaults as a proportion of all assaults in Spartanburg County.
- There were 392 substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect in Spartanburg County in 2007 involving 663 children.
- In 2007 there were 257 substantiated cases of abuse or neglect of vulnerable adults in Spartanburg County.
- Teen child-bearing costs Spartanburg County taxpayers approximately \$10.7 million annually.
- Spartanburg has the highest incidence rate of teen pregnancies and the highest cost to taxpayers of all peer counties.
- The adolescent pregnancy rate decreased from 2004 to 2005 in all peer counties except Spartanburg.
- There is no research-based evidence that the sex education curriculum of Spartanburg County school districts is effective in delaying initiation of sexual activity or preventing teen pregnancy.
- Child care is an increasing concern for employers in the Upstate.

## Economic Status

### Family Income

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has set 2008 poverty guidelines as reflected in Table 1.

Table 1. 2008 HHS Poverty Guidelines			
Persons in Family or Household	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$10,400	\$13,000	\$11,960
2	\$14,000	\$17,500	\$16,100
3	\$17,600	\$22,000	\$20,240
4	\$21,200	\$26,500	\$24,380
5	\$24,800	\$31,000	\$28,520
6	\$28,400	\$35,500	\$32,660
7	\$32,000	\$40,000	\$36,800
8	\$35,600	\$44,500	\$40,940
<b>For each additional person add:</b>	\$3,600	\$4,500	\$4,140

In 2006, S.C. ranked 42nd among the states for median family income, \$8,192 below the national median (see Table 2). The median family income for Spartanburg County was higher than the state median but lower than that of any peer county. When considering median household income, S.C. ranked at 41st place, \$7,351 lower than the national median. The median household income for Spartanburg County was lower than the state median and lower than all peer counties.

In 2006, 9.9% of families in Spartanburg County had incomes below the poverty level. This was slightly higher than the U.S. average of 9.8%, but lower than the S.C. average of 11.9%.

The data in Table 2 demonstrate that Spartanburg County has the lowest median household income and per capita income of all comparison counties, lower in fact than the S.C. and U.S. averages. However, a higher percentage of families fall below the poverty level in Greenville, Charleston, and S.C. on average. A higher percentage of individuals fall below the poverty level in Greenville, Richland, and Charleston. Also, a higher percentage of individuals fall below the poverty line in both the U.S. and S.C. on average than in Spartanburg County. In terms of inventing variables, Spartanburg County also has the highest median population age of all peer counties and the state and national median. Educationally, Spartanburg ranks lowest among all peer counties, as well as the state and nation, for high school and college completion.

**Table 2. Demographics of Comparable Cities (2006)**

	<b>Spartanburg</b>	<b>Greenville</b>	<b>Richland</b>	<b>Charleston</b>	<b>Mecklenburg</b>	<b>S.C.</b>	<b>U.S.</b>
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.46	2.48	2.36	2.33	2.41	<b>2.52</b>	<b>2.61</b>
<b>% High School Graduates</b>	79.3	81.6	87.4	86.3	87.8	<b>81.3</b>	<b>84.1</b>
<b>% Holding Bachelor's Degree</b>	19.2	27.1	35.5	36.1	38.1	<b>22.7</b>	<b>27.0</b>
<b>% Foreign Born</b>	5.0	7.4	4.6	4.8	12.7	<b>4.1</b>	<b>12.5</b>
<b>% In Labor Force, age 16+</b>	64.8	66.2	68.3	64.1	73.9	<b>63.1</b>	<b>65.0</b>
<b>Median Household Income*</b>	\$39,694	\$41,850	\$45,370	\$43,857	\$51,945	<b>\$41,100</b>	<b>\$48,451</b>
<b>Median Family Income</b>	\$51,392	\$52,232	\$56,232	\$56,353	\$64,185	<b>\$50,334</b>	<b>\$58,526</b>
<b>Per Capita Income*</b>	\$21,610	\$23,926	\$23,730	\$28,551	\$30,556	<b>\$21,875</b>	<b>\$25,267</b>
<b>Families Below Poverty Level</b>	9.9	10.8	9.8	12.9	8.4	<b>11.9</b>	<b>9.8</b>
<b>Individuals Below Poverty Level</b>	12.7	13.6	13.5	18.1	11.3	<b>15.7</b>	<b>13.3</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	37.3	36.9	34.4	36.0	35.0	<b>36.4</b>	<b>36.4</b>
<b>White</b>	75.7	76.2	48.6	63.7	60.1	<b>67.3</b>	<b>73.9</b>
<b>Black or African American</b>	20.4	18.0	45.7	31.9	30.1	<b>28.6</b>	<b>12.4</b>
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	4.5	6.2	3.3	3.3	9.8	<b>3.4</b>	<b>14.8</b>

*\* in 2006 inflation adjusted dollars*

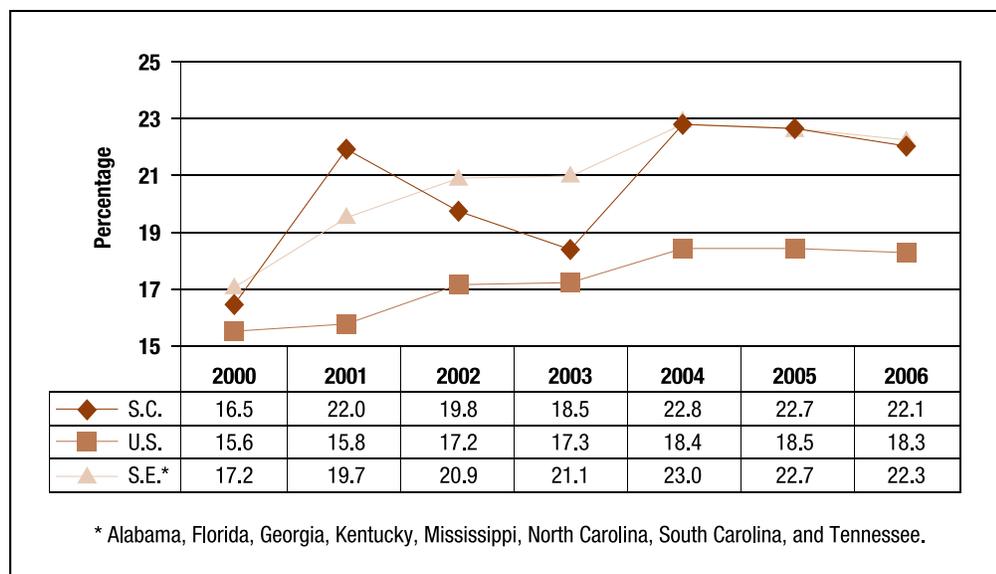
## Economic Status *(cont.)*

### Children Living in Poverty

The children living in poverty indicator represents the percentage of children age 17 and under living in families with incomes that fall below the federal poverty level. Children who live in poverty experience significant obstacles to education and health and are characterized by other predictors of persistent poverty.

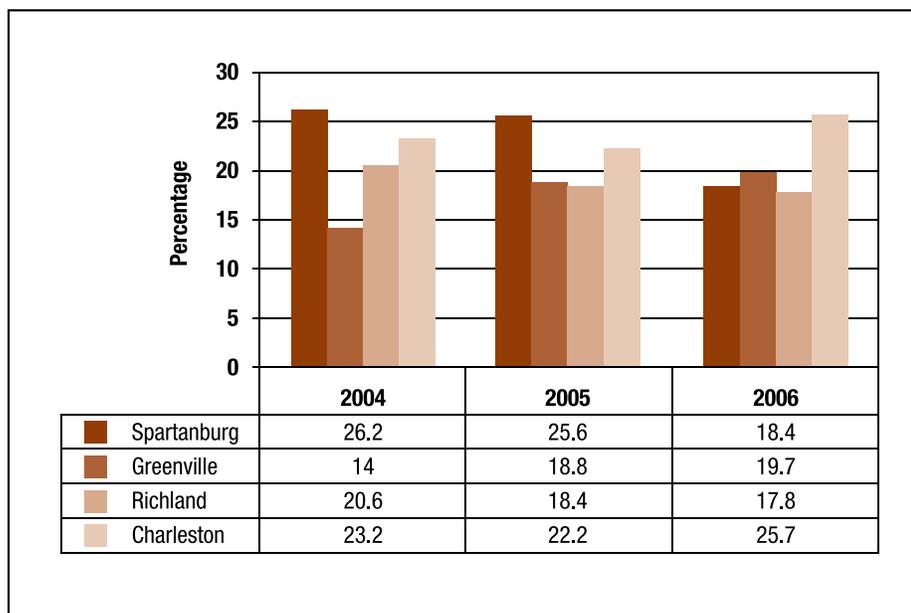
Children in S.C. experience poverty at rates higher than the national average and, generally, at rates somewhat lower than the southeast region (see Figure 1.).

**Figure 1. Children Under 18 Living in Poverty**



The percentage of children under 18 living in poverty was higher in Spartanburg County than in peer counties in 2004 and 2005 but dropped significantly in 2006 (see Figure 2). The rate of children living in poverty in Spartanburg County remains above the national rate but did fall below the S.C. rate and southeast rate in 2006 (Figure 1).

**Figure 2. Percentage of Children Under 18 Living in Poverty by Peer County**



Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is the federal economic assistance program commonly known as “welfare.” The program provides cash assistance to indigent families with dependent children for a maximum of 60 months of lifetime benefits. The requirements established in 1997 that 1) clients attempt to find employment, 2) unmarried minor parents have to live with a responsible adult or guardian, and 3) paternity of children must be established in order to receive benefits, have led to massive drops in the number of people receiving cash benefits; however, there has been no apparent corresponding reduction in the national poverty rate.

The U.S. Food Stamp Program provides food vouchers to people with low to no income and is distributed by the individual state using Electronic Benefit Transfer cards. The number of Americans receiving food stamps is projected to reach 28 million in 2009, the highest level since the program began. Recipients must have near-poverty incomes to qualify for benefits averaging \$100 a month per family member.

**As of March 2008, the Spartanburg County Department of Social Services reported the following numbers of current active cases:**

- Food Stamps (FS) only.....9,698
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)..... 193
- FS and TANF Combined .....632

## Economic Status *(cont.)*

### Children Living in Poverty *(cont.)*

A strong indicator of economic circumstances for children is Medicaid enrollment. For several years, the state of South Carolina has emphasized enrolling eligible children in Medicaid. In late 1997, S.C. implemented its version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Partners for Healthy Children (PHC), and aggressively pursued outreach enrollment for PHC and Medicaid. As a result, enrollment of S.C. children ages birth through 18 has increased by 112.1% from June 1997 to June 2007; thus, Medicaid and PHC in 2007 were serving 49.0% of all children in that age range. The total Medicaid expenditure in S.C. for services provided to children ages birth through 18 for state fiscal year 2007 was \$990 million, at an average statewide expenditure of \$2,110 per child enrolled. In Spartanburg County, enrollment of children ages birth through 18 in PHC and Medicaid increased by 166.3% from June 1997 to June 2007, to serve 45.1% of all children in that age range. The approximate total Medicaid expenditure for these children in 2007 was \$55.1 million.

In June 2007, the total number of S.C. children, birth through 18, enrolled in Medicaid was 502,308. Of that number, 28,716 were in Spartanburg County. Disaggregated data for age and race follow in Table 3.

	<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Children under 1</b>	1,121	788	260	176	2,345
<b>Children 1–5</b>	4,184	2,783	1,121	859	8,947
<b>Children 6–14</b>	5,752	4,363	781	1,244	12,140
<b>Children 15–18</b>	2,432	2,228	168	456	5,284
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,489</b>	<b>10,162</b>	<b>2,330</b>	<b>2,735</b>	<b>28,716</b>

*American Community Survey*

No county level data are routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2002-04 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 was 7.9%; for children under age 6 it was 5%; and for those 6-17 it was 9%. For children in families with incomes under 200% of the poverty level in S.C. the rate was 11.2%, and for those above 200% of the poverty level it was 4.1%. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance.

Other accepted indicators of economic circumstances for children include secure parental employment and food security. National data for these indicators are available; however, disaggregated data for Spartanburg County and peer counties must be inferred from other measures at this time.

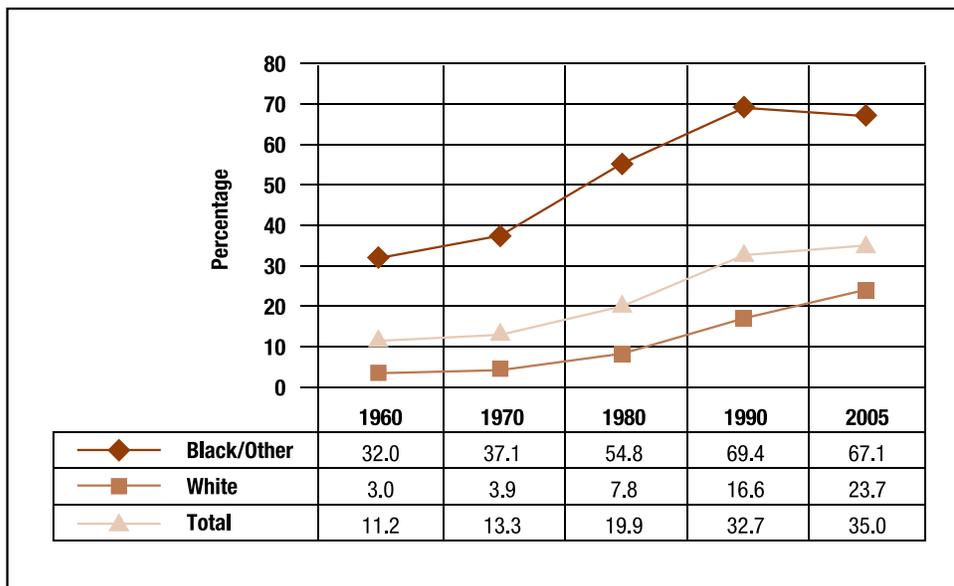
Nationally, in 2006, 78% of children had at least one parent working full-time year-round. This percentage has been fairly stable in the past decade, peaking at 80% in 2000. Children living in poverty are less likely to have a parent with year-round, full-time employment (33% in 2006) than children living at or above the poverty threshold (88% in 2006). Nationally, in 2006, approximately 17% of children (12.6 million) lived in households that were food-insecure at times. The percentage was about the same in 2005, but lower than the 19% recorded in 2004.

## Single Parent Families

Nationally in 2006, there were 51 births for every 1,000 unmarried women ages 15-44, up from 48 per 1,000 in 2005. The birth rate for unmarried women has risen rapidly since 2002, although the rate was fairly stable from the mid-1990s until 2002. In 2006, 38% of all births were to unmarried women, up from 37% in 2005. Between 1980 and 2006, the percentage of births to unmarried women rose sharply for women in all age groups. Among teenagers, the rate rose from 62% to 92% for ages 15-17 and from 40% to 81% for ages 18-19. The percentage tripled for births to unmarried women in their twenties, from 19% to 58% for women ages 20-24 and from 9% to 31% for women ages 25-29. The percentage of births to unmarried women in their thirties more than doubled from 8% to 18%.

In Spartanburg County, births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2005, 35% (1,193) of all babies born in Spartanburg County, were born to single mothers. Of those babies born to single mothers in Spartanburg County in 2005, 23.7% were born to white mothers and 67.1% were born to black and other race mothers.

**Figure 3. Births to Single Mothers, Spartanburg County**

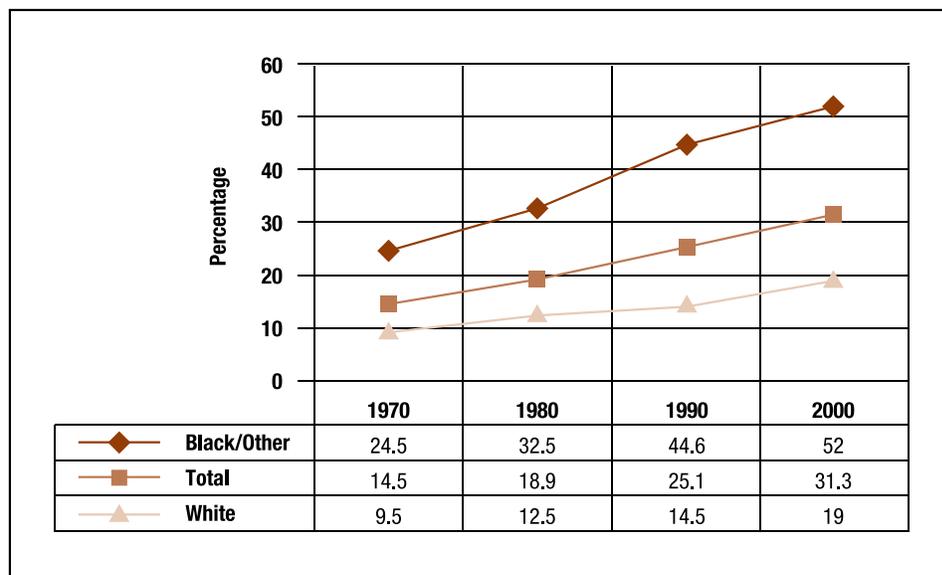


## Single Parent Families *(cont.)*

The national percentage of children under age 18 living with two married parents fell from 77% in 1980 to 68% in 2007. In 2007, 23% of children lived with only their mothers, 3% lived with only their fathers, 3% lived with two unmarried parents and 4% lived with neither of their parents.

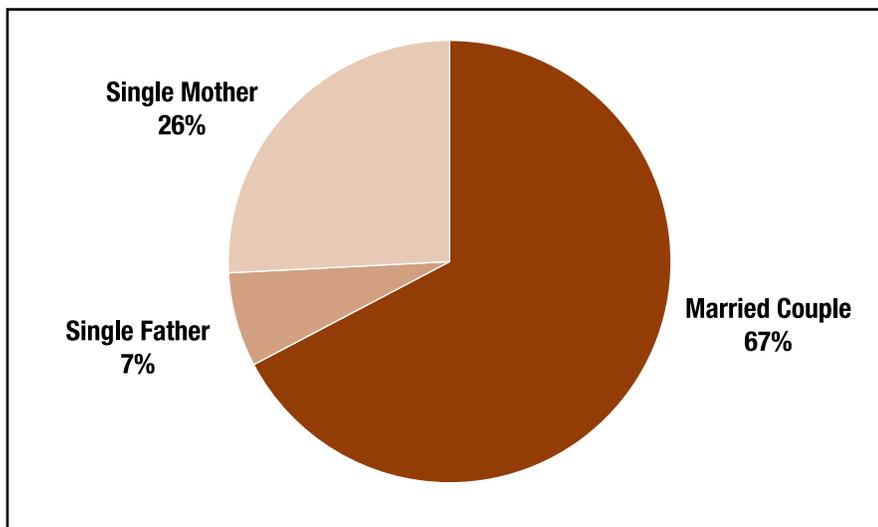
Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families in Spartanburg County. In 2000, 273,880 children lived with only one parent. This was 31.3% of all children in the county. Figure 4 shows that the percentage of Spartanburg County children in single parent families has grown dramatically each decade since 1970 for total residents and for whites and blacks / other races.

**Figure 4. Children Under 18 in Single Parent Families, Spartanburg**



In Spartanburg County in 2006, of the 73,932 family households, 33,722 included children under 18. Of these households, 67% were headed by married couples, slightly under the national average in 2007. There were 2,319 single father families (6.87% of family households with children) in Spartanburg County in 2006 and 8,669 single mother families (25.70% of family households with children) in Spartanburg County.

**Figure 5. Households With Children, Spartanburg County, 2006**

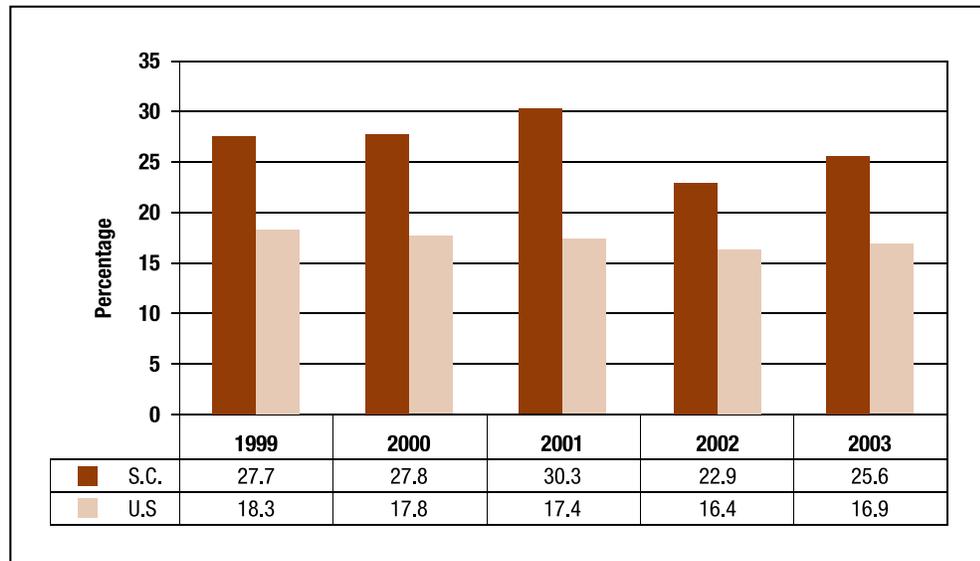


## Domestic Violence

Domestic violence affects people across all economic boundaries, age groups, races, religions and educational backgrounds. In addition to the toll domestic violence takes on victims and families, communities are affected as well. Domestic violence impacts health care, law enforcement, and criminal justice resources and affects workplace productivity. Because most cases of domestic violence go unreported, the incidence is thought to be significantly higher than reports indicate.

FBI crime statistics for 2005 show that S.C. has the highest rate of violent crime in the U.S. and is sixth in the country for women murdered by men. Trend data show that the state consistently exhibits higher rates than the U.S. for homicides committed by a family member (see Figure 6).

**Figure 6. Homicides Committed by a Family Member**  
(Percentage of All Homicides)



In 2007, law enforcement officers in Spartanburg City and County responded to 1,395 criminal domestic violence incidents and seven domestic-related homicides. According to the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), 38.2% of all assaults in Spartanburg County in 2007 were domestic assaults, including aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. This constituted the second highest rate among counties in S.C.

These data are very similar to data from 2004. In that year, 1,633 domestic assaults in Spartanburg were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 32.7% of all assaults in the county. Domestic assaults involving spouse abuse accounted for 59.5% of domestic assaults or 19.5% of all assaults. Thus, there was a 5.5% increase from 2004 to 2007 in domestic assaults as a proportion of all assaults in Spartanburg County.

SAFE Homes – Rape Crisis Coalition, an agency that serves Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union Counties, sheltered 553 victims of domestic violence and provided other services to 4,530 adult and 2,231 child victims. As a group, local domestic violence programs in S.C. sheltered 3,960 victims and provided other services to 20,273 victims in 2007.

## Child Abuse and Neglect

Child abuse and neglect includes physical, sexual, and psychological abuse and neglect and is associated with a number of negative outcomes for children. In 2006, there were 12 substantiated child abuse / neglect reports per 1,000 children nationally, ages 0-17. Common comorbidities from abuse and neglect include health and physical effects, impaired intellectual and cognitive development, and emotional, psychological and behavioral consequences. Child abuse / neglect results in high monetary costs to the community, as well as to the victim and the family. These costs are both direct (those associated with the immediate needs of abused and neglected children) and indirect (those associated with longer term and secondary effects). Although child abuse / neglect often goes unrecognized and its cost is often difficult to link to specific incidents, Prevent Child Abuse America has estimated the total annual cost of child abuse and neglect in the U.S. to be as high as \$94 billion (see Table 4).

**Table 4. The Estimated Costs of Child Abuse / Neglect, National**

Source of Costs	Estimated Annual Cost
<b>Direct Costs</b>	
Hospitalization	\$6,205,395,000
Chronic Health Problems	\$2,987,957,000
Mental Health Care System	\$425,110,000
Child Welfare System	\$14,400,000,000
Law Enforcement	\$24,710,000
Judicial System	\$341,175,000
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$24,384,347,000</b>
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	
Special Education	\$223,608,000
Mental Health and Health Care	\$4,627,636,000
Juvenile Delinquency	\$8,805,291,000
Lost Productivity to Society (Unemployment)	\$656,000,000
Adult Criminality	\$55,380,000,000
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b>\$69,692,535,000</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$94,076,882,000</b>

*Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2008*

## Child Abuse and Neglect *(cont.)*

In fiscal year 2006-2007 the S.C. Department of Social Services (DSS) investigated 17,973 reports of child abuse and neglect statewide. Of those reports, 635 were in Spartanburg County. DSS determined that 392 reports in Spartanburg County were substantiated for:

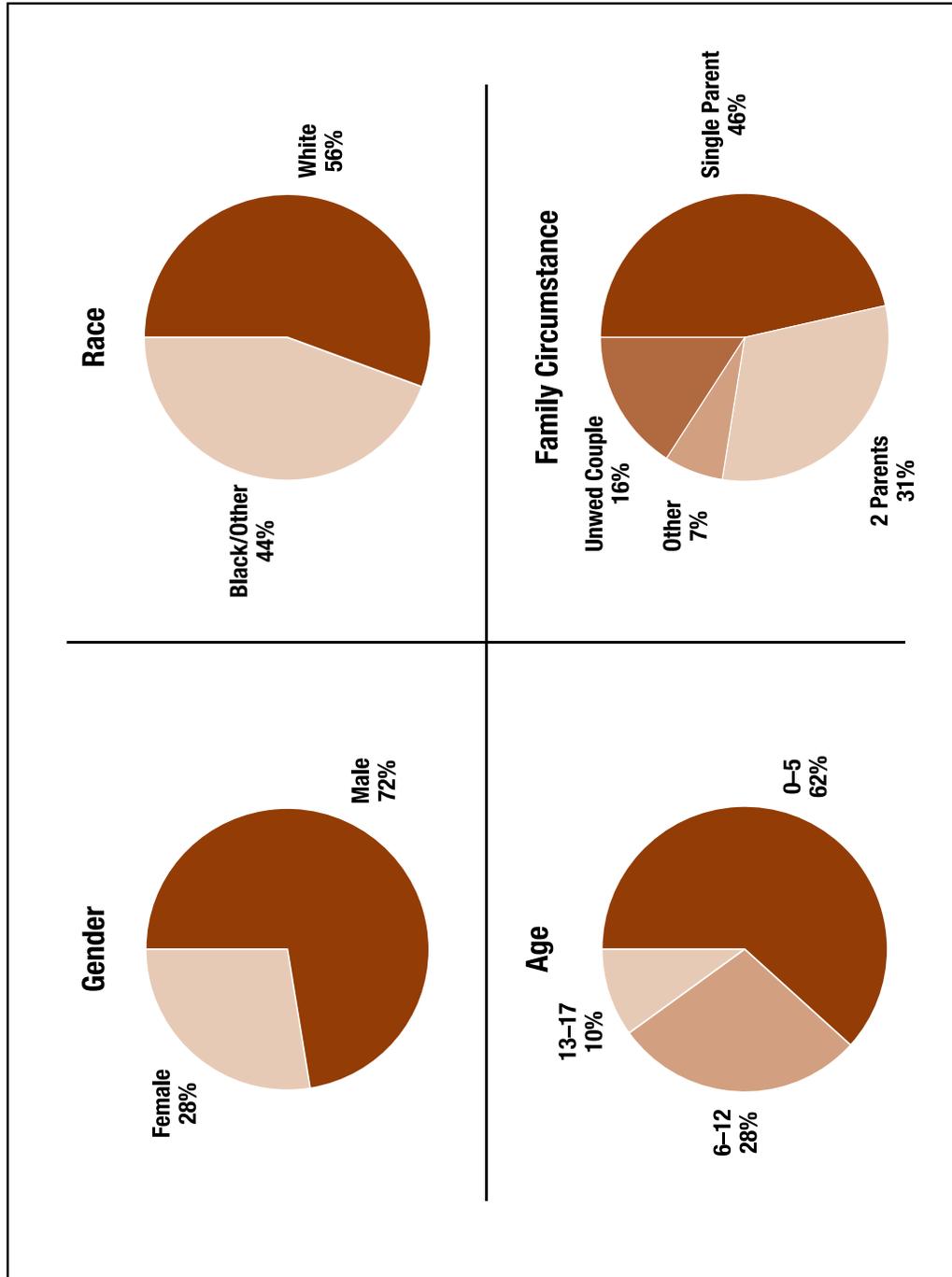
- Physical abuse ..... 10.1%
- Sexual abuse ..... 4.4%
- Mental injury ..... 0.5%
- Physical neglect ..... 62.1%
- Educational neglect ..... 3.4%
- Medical neglect ..... 1.7%
- Threat of harm ..... 17.0%
- Other abuse ..... 0.7%

In the substantiated Spartanburg cases, 663 children were victims (11,604 statewide), constituting 1.0% of children in the county. This closely approximates the 1.1% rate of child abuse and neglect for S.C. Many additional cases of child abuse are not handled by DSS, however. Cases where child abuse is perpetrated by a non-family member are handled by law enforcement agencies. Obtaining data that accurately reflect these additional cases presents a challenge given the various jurisdictional authorities and non-uniform reporting. Further complicating matters are DSS cases which are also investigated by law enforcement authorities when criminal charges are filed: unduplicated counts become a challenge in these cases.

Frequently, substantiated cases of abuse and neglect result in placement of children in the foster care system. As of June 2007, 258 children in Spartanburg County lived in foster care. There were 105 licensed foster homes in Spartanburg County as of March 2008. The median age at first placement was 6 years. Of these children, most were age 14 and older, most were white, most were female, and most were under a plan to return to a parent or guardian. (DSS refers parents to Evidence Based Parenting Education programs provided by REACH Upstate as a condition of obtaining custody of their children after they have been removed from the home.) In 2007 there were 29 DSS adoptions finalized in Spartanburg County.

It should be noted that DSS also investigates neglect and abuse cases of elderly or disabled individuals through the Adult Protective Services division. In 2007 there were 257 adult protective services cases in Spartanburg County.

Figure 7. Demographics of Victims of Child Abuse / Neglect, Spartanburg, 2006-2007



## Adolescent Pregnancy

A host of research findings indicate that teenage childbearing is correlated with numerous social issues including compromised child health and well-being, low birth weight and perinatal death, low educational attainment and workforce readiness, absentee fathers, poverty and child poverty, and increased dependence on social welfare systems. For example, children born of unmarried teenage mothers who did not finish high school are nine times more likely to be poor than children born to mothers without these risk factors. Daughters of teen mothers are more likely to become teen parents themselves, and sons of teen mothers are more likely to be incarcerated. Three of every 10 teenage girls in the U.S. become pregnant by age 20.

Nationally, the overall cost to taxpayers of teen child-bearing in 2004 was estimated to be at least \$9.1 billion. The preponderance of these costs are those associated with poorer outcomes for the children of teen parents and include lost tax revenue, incarceration of sons of teen parents, child welfare (foster care and other services) and health care.

The 119,000 teen births in S.C. between 1991 and 2004 cost taxpayers \$2.7 billion. The cost to taxpayers in S.C. for each birth to a teen mother was \$1,371 in 2004. In that year, there were 518 births to teen mothers in Spartanburg. Teen child-bearing costs Spartanburg County taxpayers approximately \$10,714,800 annually, with most costs associated with negative consequences for the children of teen mothers (e.g. public health care, child welfare, incarceration, lost tax revenue due to decreased earnings and spending).

The U.S. teen birth rate declined by 30% between 1991 and 2002, and the S.C. birth rate to young women age 15–19 declined 27% between 1991 and 2000. The South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy reports that, had the teen birth rate in S.C. not declined by 27% between 1991 and 2002, there would have been in excess of 19,000 additional children born to teen mothers during that time period. In 2002, there would have been over 7,300 more children under age six in poverty and over 5,900 additional children under age six living with a single mother.

Although teen birth rates, both nationally and in S.C., have decreased steadily over the last 15 years, in 2005, pregnancy rates for 15 to 17 year-olds in Spartanburg were 25% higher than the state average and 10% above the state average for 18 and 19 year-olds. Spartanburg also evidenced an increase of one percent from 2003 to 2004. Of peer counties, Spartanburg has the highest incidence rate of teen pregnancies in 2005 and the highest cost to taxpayers in 2004. Further, the adolescent pregnancy rate decreased from 2004 to 2005 in all peer counties except Spartanburg (see Table 5).

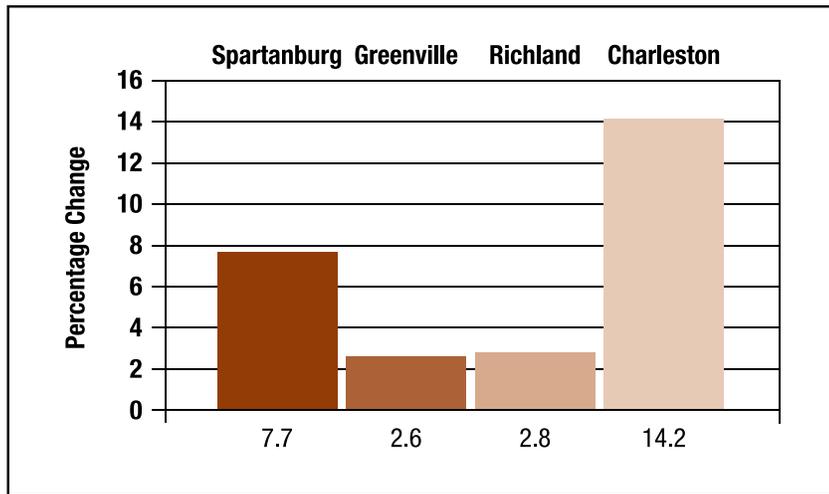
**Table 5. Adolescent Pregnancy Data by County (age 10-19)**

	<b>Total pregnancies 2005</b>	<b>Incidence per 1,000 2005</b>	<b>Cost to County Taxpayers 2004</b>
<b>Spartanburg</b>	641	36.1	\$10,714,800
<b>Greenville</b>	709	26.5	\$12,991,350
<b>Richland</b>	701	27.9	\$643,000
<b>Charleston</b>	705	32.1	\$10,303,050

*S.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy*

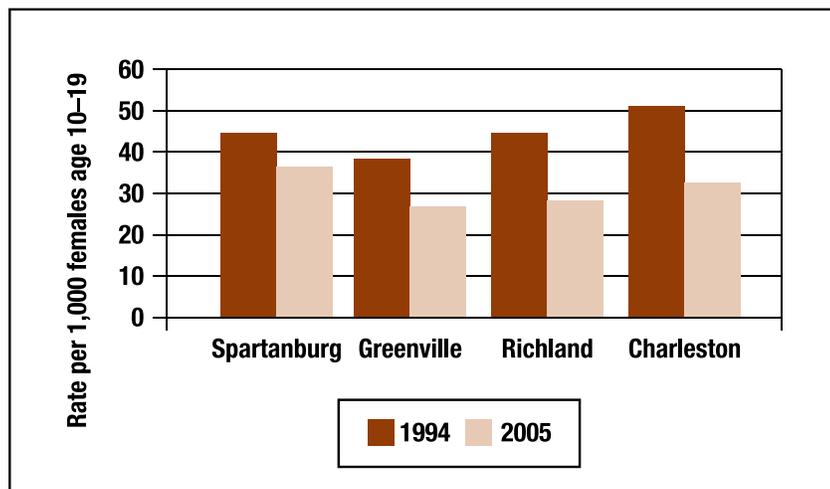
However, Spartanburg showed the second highest composite decrease in adolescent pregnancy rate from 2002 to 2005 among peer counties (see Figure 8).

**Figure 8. Decrease in Adolescent Pregnancy Incidence Rate, 2002-2005**



When considering the incidence of adolescent pregnancy since 1994, however, Spartanburg evidences the least decline among peer counties (see Figure 9).

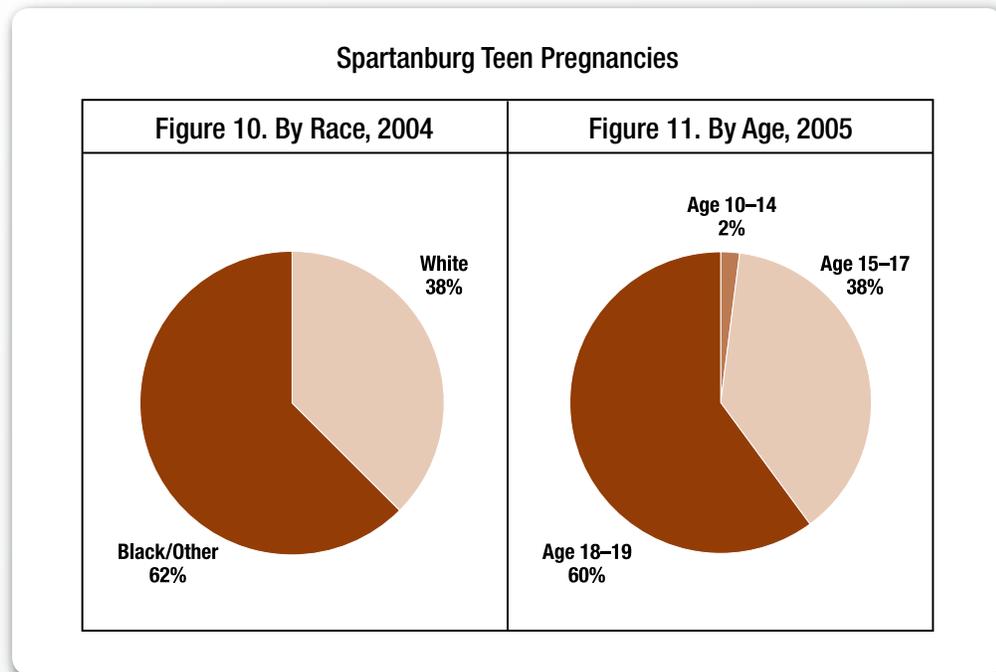
**Figure 9. Change in Adolescent Pregnancy Incidence Rate by County**



## Adolescent Pregnancy (cont.)

Taken together, these data suggest that there is a tenuous decreasing trend in adolescent pregnancy in Spartanburg.

When considered by race and age demographic, adolescent pregnancy is significantly higher among African American girls and among 18 to 19 year-olds, as opposed to white girls and younger girls. This is true for all peer counties. Spartanburg County age and race demographics are reflected in Figures 10 and 11.



The Spartanburg Joint Funders, including United Way of the Piedmont, The Spartanburg County Foundation, the Mary Black Foundation, and the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System Foundation, have identified the need to reduce the incidence of adolescent pregnancy in Spartanburg County. In the Strategic Spartanburg: Community Indicators IV Community Improvement Plan, the goal was set to reduce adolescent pregnancies in the County from 614 in 2003 to 484 or less in 2010 and to 224 or less in 2020. A 2007 study of Spartanburg youth by the S.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy found that:

- 89% believe that comprehensive sex education in schools is important
- 85% believe that schools should make referrals for family planning
- The perception is that there are no clear, consistent messages being delivered to young people about sexuality
- Only 15% currently receive sexual health information from their parents, but 66% believe they should
- There is the general belief that sex does not necessarily need to be related to a committed relationship
- There is more concern about sexually transmitted infections than pregnancy
- Sex and pregnancy are accepted norms

Although there is no research evidence that abstinence-only-until-marriage sex education is effective in delaying initiation of sexual activity or preventing teen pregnancy, it is the chosen curriculum of Spartanburg County school districts. Research has shown, however, that comprehensive health education programs that include both abstinence education and information on contraception are effective on both counts.

## Childcare

In order to work and support their families, most parents have to rely on non-family childcare options. In Spartanburg County in 2006, 63% of the population 16 years and older was in the labor force. In 67% of families with children under 6 years of age both parents (or the single parent) were in the labor force. In 72% of families with children ages 6 to 17, both parents (or the single parent) were in the labor force.

**In 2007 there were 10,126 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities in Spartanburg County. Of these spaces:**

- 71% were in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children
- 4% were in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children
- 1% were in licensed group childcare homes serving 7-12 children
- 24% were in registered or licensed church programs

In Spartanburg County in 2002, the average weekly charge per child for childcare centers was \$80.11 and for in-home childcare was \$73.94. Worker pay in these centers averaged \$6 to \$8 per hour. In most centers, workers had no more than a high school diploma.

In 2007, the United Way of Greenville County, through their Future Investment for Children Taskforce, surveyed over 100 Upstate employers to help them “understand the role childcare has within the workforce and whether or not investing in dependent care and / or childcare options for the employee would help the individual business bottom line.” Results from 145 usable surveys indicated that:

- Larger organizations were more likely to offer childcare benefits
- 26% of employers are aware of employee concerns regarding childcare
- The high cost of childcare, lack of available quality childcare and limited hours of care were the top three concerns, respectively
- Childcare is an increasing concern for employers in the Upstate
- Employers repeatedly recognized the importance of quality childcare

In order to assist recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to move from welfare to work, a child care subsidy is available once the parent obtains employment. National data indicate, however, that the overwhelming majority (71%) of “welfare leavers” do not use these subsidies. Forgoing these subsidies is actually contraindicated for economic independence as using the subsidies increases the odds of being employed 148% six to eight months after leaving the welfare roles.

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*Teen Pregnancy Prevention: Voices of Youth and Adults in Spartanburg County.*  
Columbia, S.C.: South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

### American Community Survey

[www.census.gov/acs/www/SBasics/what/what1.htm](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/SBasics/what/what1.htm)

### Child Welfare Information Gateway

[www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/foundation](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/foundation)

### The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

[www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org)

### *Preventing Teen Pregnancy: Why It Matters* (2005).

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### SAFE Homes – Rape Crisis Coalition, Spartanburg S.C.

### S.C. Indicators Project. University of South Carolina Institute for Public Service and Policy Research

[www.ipspr.sc.edu/scip/socwelfare](http://www.ipspr.sc.edu/scip/socwelfare)

### S.C. Kids Count

[www.sckidscount.org](http://www.sckidscount.org)

### Spartanburg County's 2006-2020 Community Improvement Plan

Summary of Results From 2007 Upstate SC Employer Family-Friendly Benefit Survey United Way of Greenville County.

Summary of Results From 2007 Upstate SC Employer Family-Friendly Benefit Survey United Way of Greenville County.

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# Appendices

## Goal 4 Indicators

Because Spartanburg is a dynamic community, the issues that impact the growth, health and quality of life for its citizens are in flux. Since the 2005 iteration of the Community Indicators VI report was presented to the community, it has become necessary or beneficial to change a number of the indicators for various goals. The subject matter experts who have advised on these changes are professionals who work in human service agencies and other organizations whose missions are driven by these indicators. The rationale for the revised indicators for Goal 4 is provided below. A number of indicators were expanded to provide a more comprehensive picture of the status of families in Spartanburg County. In the current iteration, demographic data by race and gender were included where appropriate, and peer county data were provided for comparison for most indicators.

Indicators for Goal 4	
Community Indicators VI	Current Iteration
Teen Pregnancy Rate	Maintained under "Adolescent Pregnancy"
Children in Single Parent Families	Maintained under "Single Parent Families"
Children Under 18 Living in Poverty	Maintained under "Economic Status"
Medicaid Eligibility	Maintained under "Economic Status"
Food Stamp Recipients	Maintained under "Economic Status"
Domestic Violence	Maintained
Child Abuse and Neglect	Maintained
	Added: Child Care
	Added: Family Income under "Economic Status"

## **Recommendations from *Teen Pregnancy Prevention: Voices of Youth and Adults in Spartanburg County (Executive Summary)*, 2007, page 5**

### **The Joint Funders and community leaders must:**

1. Review in detail and plan for implementation of the *Healthy Teen Spartanburg Report* recommendations. As part of this, the Campaign suggests that project leaders will conduct a series of small group meetings with key individuals in the faith community, SRHS, DHEC, District VII administration and Board members, representatives of the Comprehensive Health Education (CHE) Committee, and business and community leaders. Many individuals participated in the study, and sharing project results with them can be used to gain ongoing support, knowledge and understanding.
2. The project needs to be given a name and a home, and a director needs to be hired. The Campaign has presented "Healthy Teen Spartanburg" as one possibility.
3. Create a group of individuals representing youth serving organizations currently active in teen pregnancy prevention and committed to use of research-proven approaches. Building on collaboration and current strengths can provide a foundation for initial and ongoing long term planning and programming. Participants be [sic] public advocates for teen pregnancy and must be committed to CHE, and the need to refer sexually active teens for contraception.
4. The Joint Funders should develop an RFP that will be used to solicit proposals from organizations currently working with youth who are willing to utilize research-proven programs. Initial organizations should include the REACH Upstate, Boys and Girls Club of the Upstate, SRHS (Olds Model for secondary prevention), and the Tobias Center Teen Clinic. These programs would participate in the collaborative group identified in priority 3.
5. Focus intensively on implementing research-proven, age-appropriate CHE in School District VII. This will require data collection using a survey like the YRBS. Sexual data must be collected and used to plan appropriate programs and subsequently measure the impact of the programs. Initial programming should include middle and high school youth and students and young adults involved in Madden Center programs.
6. The S.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy can provide training, education, and technical assistance to all parties involved. Specific programs recommended for initial implementation are:
  - a) parent-education programs
  - b) faith-based programs
  - c) peer-norms data collection and programming
  - d) consultation in developing and administering mini-grants along with technical assistance and evaluation
7. Develop and implement a media campaign to increase public awareness and understanding of the issue of, and need to address, teen pregnancy in Spartanburg County.
8. Identify research-proven incentive programs that can be used to encourage youth participation in teen pregnancy prevention programs.
9. Commit long-term, sustained funding sufficient to institutionalize the recommendations outlined in this proposal. Patience, commitment, and perseverance can improve the life trajectory of the teens in Spartanburg County.

## Acknowledgments

The collaborators of the Spartanburg Community Indicators Project would like to thank the numerous representatives of non-profit and governmental agencies in Spartanburg County for their invaluable suggestions, feedback, and help in the collection of data included in this report:

Sincerely,



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Spartanburg Community Indicators Project is a collaboration of The Spartanburg County Foundation, United Way of the Piedmont, Spartanburg County Government, and The University of South Carolina Upstate. It reports on progress of key issues that are the clearest indicators of quality of life in the County of Spartanburg, South Carolina. Its goal is to report on data and community initiatives to inspire dialogue and strategy that leads to change within the community.

[www.StrategicSpartanburg.org](http://www.StrategicSpartanburg.org)