

Facts About Children in Foster Care ■ Lancaster County

2007 Edition (January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006 Data)

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 leaves 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, Columbia, SC 29201. Phone: (803)734-0480; E-Mail: 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 statewide for at least four consecutive months and reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board January 1, 2006 through 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 with county data in four major categories: Children Reviewed, Children Entering Foster Care, Children Leaving Foster Care, and Children Remaining in Foster Care.

CHILDREN REVIEWED

127 reviews were held in Lancaster County for 71 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.

