



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

Board Chair: David A. Lyon
Executive Director: Kashaka Z. Kikelomo

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Total children in county under age 6: 15,346

Children under age 6 living in poverty: 6.5%

York County Highlights

- 75 children served in the “Countdown to Kindergarten” program
- 305 Childcare professionals attended our Annual Early Childhood Educational Conference
- 39 Families received childcare assistance scholarships

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

“Is it good for Children?”

York County has launched a campaign asking the community to put children at the top of its priority list. Several business leaders have begun to implement the idea into their daily decision-making processes by first asking the question and following up by implementing programs and policies which support children and their families.

At York County First Steps we applaud the efforts of these leaders and the driving force behind this campaign. As early education advocates and practitioners, we fully understand the importance of helping all children get an early start on a quality education.

Our focus has been on doing what’s good for children by working collaboratively with partner agencies, parents, and providers to improve the quality and availability of services for children and their families throughout York County. We partner with each school district to expand the Parents as Teachers and Family Resource Center programs. In addition, we provide technical assistance and grants to childcare centers, make available childcare scholarships to families and prepare children to enter kindergarten with help from the United Way of York County. We are committed to “Getting Children Ready for School.”

We will continue to urge others to ask the question “Is it good for Children?”

Thank you,
Kashaka Z. Kikelomo
Executive Director



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.

“Getting Children Ready for School”



2007-08 County Partnership Programs by Strategy

FAMILY STRENGTHENING

Parents as Teachers

Program Description: York County First Steps (YCFS) has formed collaborative relationships with each of the four school districts within the county, (Clover, Fort Mill, Rock Hill and York), to support the Parents as Teachers program offered through the Family Resource Centers in each district. The PAT model is used to provide in-home parent education designed to assist parents in preparing their children for school success.

Program Result:

- 80 families received weekly Parents as Teachers visits to enhance the ability of parents to serve as their children's "first teachers."

HEALTHY START

Health and Human Services Coordination

Program Description: The York County Partnership Board contracts with the Early Learning Partnership to provide healthcare access and human service coordination for at-risk families with children birth to five years old, at each of the Family Resource Centers in the four York County school districts. This strategy is carried out through collaboration between the Clover, Fort Mill, Rock Hill and York School Districts and Rock Hill Pediatrics. Healthcare, counseling services, parenting and family literacy programs, translation assistance, transportation, and social services support are all made available to eligible families.

Program Results:

- 475 adults and 549 children received medical, social, educational or emergency assistance at one of the four Family Resource Centers.
- 80 families used transportation assistance to get to the Family Resource Center, social services or medical appointments.

QUALITY CHILD CARE

Childcare Quality Enhancement/Childcare Staff Training/Childcare Scholarships

Program Description: To improve the quality of childcare services throughout the county, York County First Steps Partnership Board provides technical assistance through two highly skilled and professional Early Childhood Specialists (ECS). The ECS staff offers on-site training and conducts pre- and post-ECERS-R assessments, quarterly trainings, age-appropriate learning materials and an annual county-wide conference for child care providers to improve their knowledge and skills in the area of early education.

YCFS Partnership Board also makes available vouchers for partial payment of child care to qualifying families of children ages five and under.

Program Results:

- 12 childcare centers received \$3,500 in age appropriate materials and supplies.
- 12 ITERS/ECERS assessments were performed.
- 305 childcare providers attended the Annual York County Early Education Conference.
- 130 Childcare center staff attended one of four quarterly conferences for training.
- 38 families received a scholarship for child care services at an ABC accredited facility

SCHOOL TRANSITION

Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK)

Program Description: York County First Steps expanded its collaborative partnership with the four county school districts, (Rock Hill, Fort Mill, York and Clover), to include an educationally beneficial school transition program for 100 students deemed “not ready” for entering kindergarten in Fall 2006. The Countdown to Kindergarten program was implemented during the 8-week period between June and July. Weekly home visits by certified educators helped to prepare students and parents alike for success.

Program Results:

- 75 children identified as “not ready” to enter kindergarten received 8 weeks of intensive home instruction.
- 125 Parents and students from York County attended the CTK Celebration at EdVenture Children’s Museum in Columbia.

Financial Summary

Expenditures by Funding Source			
State Appropriation.	\$530,372	N.F.P. Appropriation	\$0
E.I.A. Appropriation	\$ 36,202	State Private	\$0
Lottery Appropriation	\$0	Local Private	\$0
C.D.E.P.P. Appropriation	\$0	Federal	\$0
C.O.E. Appropriation	\$0	In-Kind	\$0
TOTAL: \$566,574			

Expenditures by Program/Strategy Name	
Parents As Teachers (SD1)	\$25,750
Parents As Teachers (SD2)	\$25,647
Parents As Teachers (SD3)	\$28,171
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Countdown to Kindergarten	\$3,972
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Scholarship Initiatives	\$51,214
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Indirect Programmatic Functions	\$69,466
GRAND TOTAL \$566,574	

Local Match Percentage for FY 2008: 86.84%

YORK COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. David Lyon, Appointee – York County Library
Ms. Pam McIntyre, Family Education, Training and Support
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Mr. Robert Bridges, Appointee – Legislative
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Ms. Mary Ann Wilson, Parent

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.

Your 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile will be inserted by OFS after this section. For your reference, a PDF of this risk profile was sent to you along with your Annual Report Template



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2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

York County

Total Children Under Six: 15,346

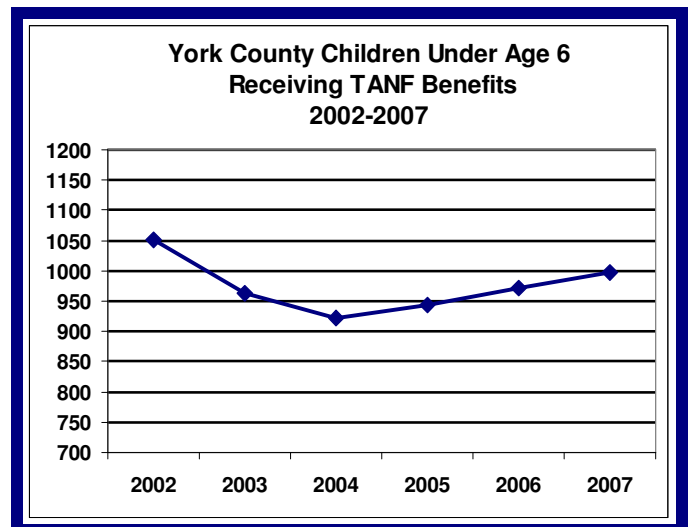
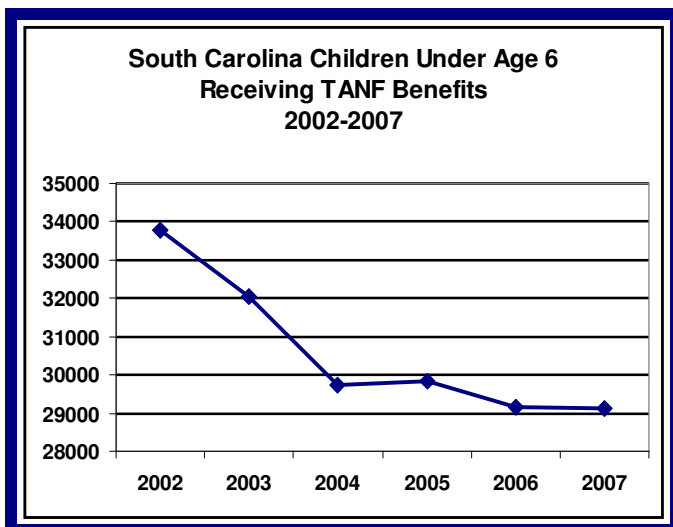
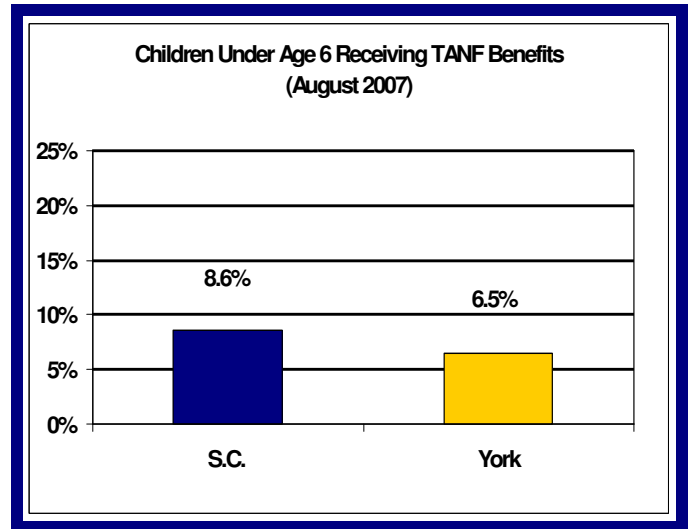
CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4% York County (2007): 6.5%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 15 York 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.

998 of York County’s 15,346 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

York County

Total Children Under Six: 15,346

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

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2%

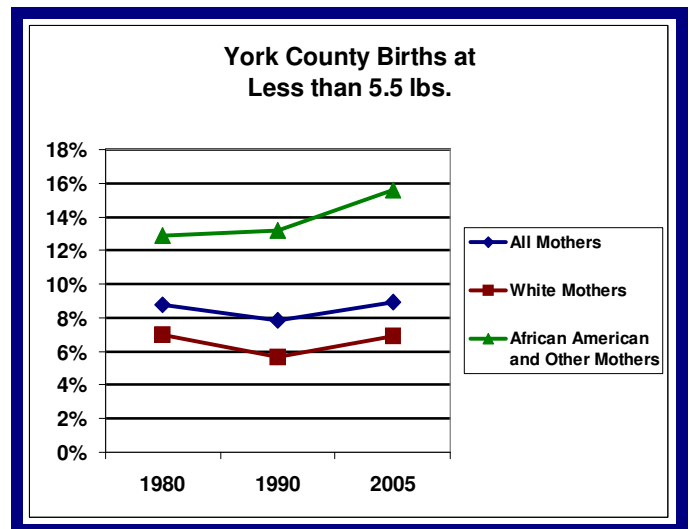
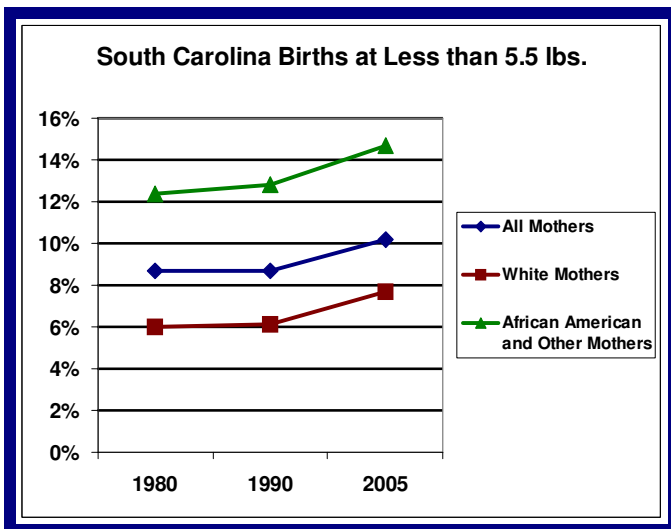
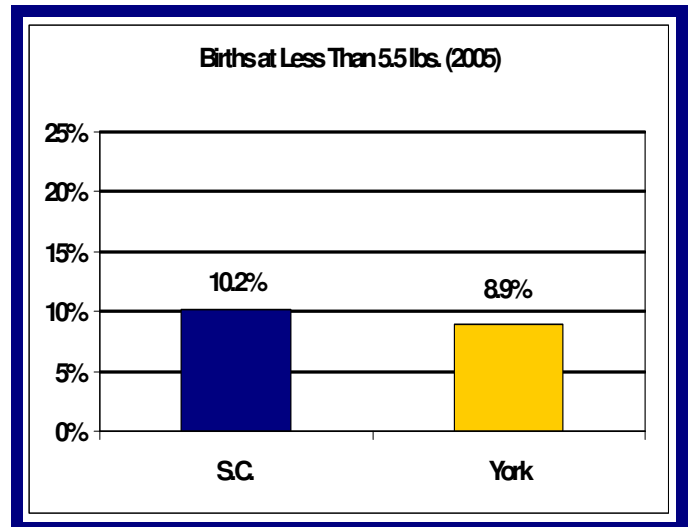
York County (2005): 8.9%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 11 York 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.

241 of the 2,701 children born in York County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

York County

Total Children Under Six: 15,346

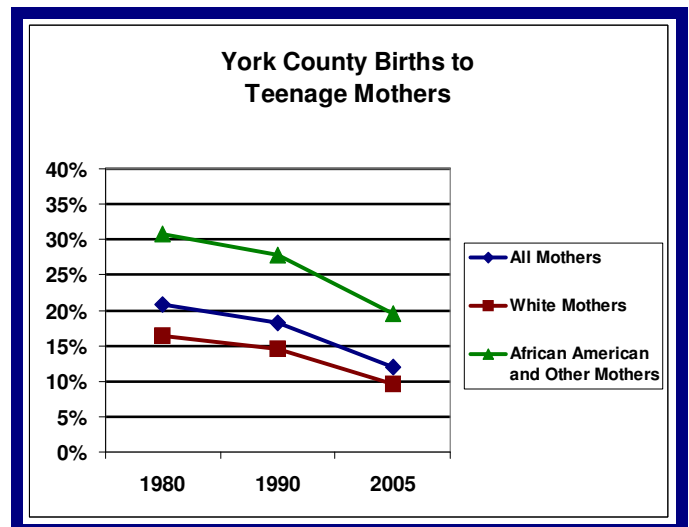
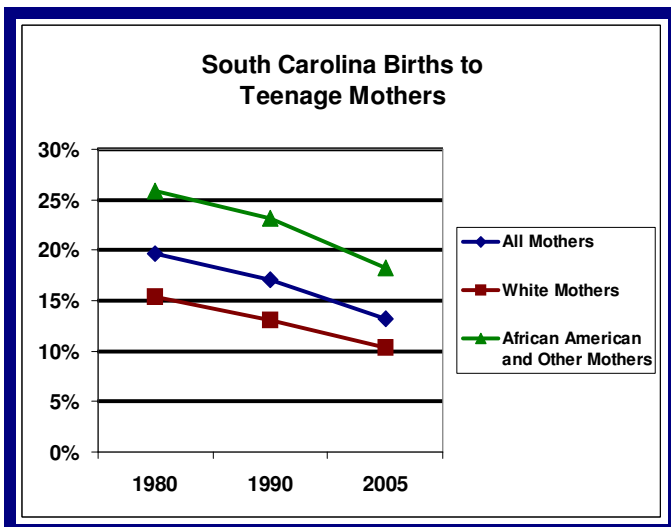
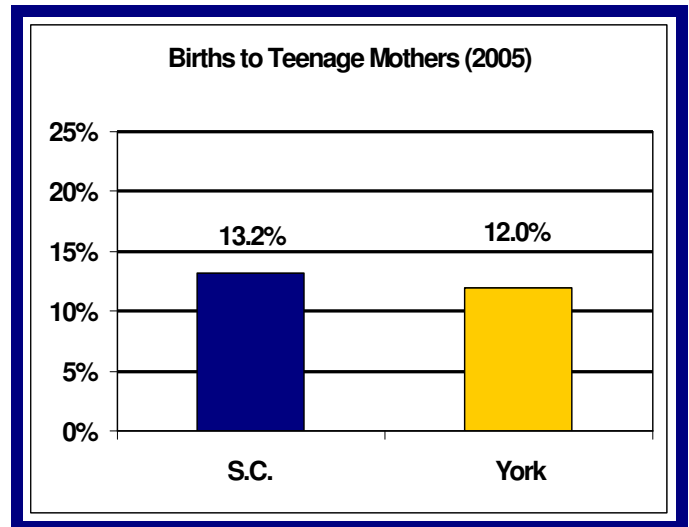
BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

Statewide Average (2005): 13.2% York County (2005): 12.0%

Fast Fact: Nearly 1 in 8 York 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.

325 of the 2,701 children born in York County during 2005 had teenage mothers.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

York County

Total Children Under Six: 15,346

BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

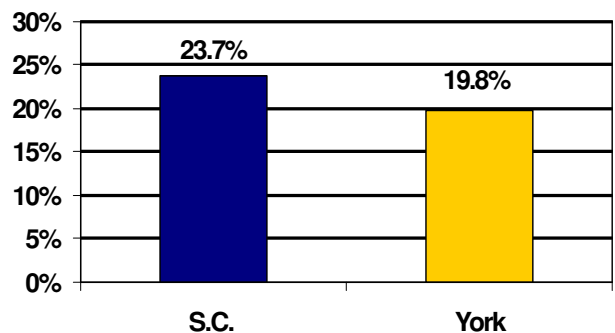
Statewide Average (2005): 23.7% York Sumter County (2005): 19.8%

Fast Fact: Nearly 1 in 5 children in York 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.

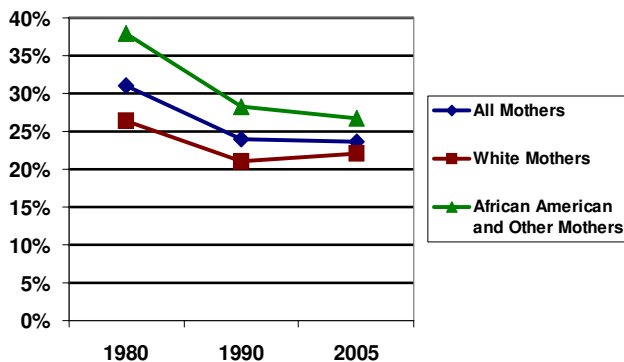
Research suggests that a mother’s own educational attainment is closely linked to the subsequent academic performance of her children.

534 of the 2,701 children born in York 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



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

