



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

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Total children in county under age 6: 34,120

Children under age 6 living in poverty: 4.2%

Greenville County Highlights

- Nationally recognized Perry Preschool Model piloted in Greenville County.
- 421 Families served through Parents As Teachers program

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We can't do it alone: Fostering Community Collaborations

As any community assesses the needs of its youngest citizens, it is easy to become overwhelmed. In these tight financial times, even minimal budget cuts can impact the most worthwhile of projects and programs. Cultural, geographic, and financial challenges seem insurmountable to any agency trying to go it alone.

Greenville County First Steps understands that the synergy created through a collaborative spirit strengthens each individual organization, and makes it possible for large-scale impact with minimal costs. Greenville County First Steps is proud of our partnerships and the collective impact we are having in our community.

With the support of educators (Greenville County Schools, private centers, community agencies), local funders (the United Way of Greenville County and local foundations), government agencies (DSS, CCCCD, DHEC), our Faith community (neighborhood churches), and health care providers (Greenville Hospital System and St. Francis), First Steps works to support our youngest generation and their parents as they take those critical early steps to success.

Projects like Parents As Teachers and Child Care Outreach would not be possible without the input, involvement, and support provided by our local partners. In 2008, nearly 30% of our operating budget came from local collaborations. First Steps, working with DHEC and Greenville Hospital System as partner agencies, received a \$1.5 million 3-year grant to support Nurse Family Partnership, a 3-year effort to ensure quality pre-natal and infant care is provided to our families of need. We are excited to have strong collaborative partners working with our local First Steps board to achieve impact in Greenville county.

Derek Lewis
Executive Director
Greenville First Steps



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.

2007-08 County Partnership Programs by Strategy

FAMILY STRENGTHENING.

Play and Learn

Program description: A project partnership between First Steps of Greenville County and local faith communities. We reach children (newborn-4) and their caregivers, with an emphasis on serving families facing chronic economic struggle. The cornerstone of the program is a weekly meeting hosted by the faith community and facilitated by volunteers from the congregation, trained and passionate in the area of early childhood development. We use books – engaging families through wonderful stories – to keep us all centered on early learning. Themes from the books are discussed in fun ways during the sessions and the books are then given to the children to take home. The meetings take place during mealtime to further develop a family setting and sense of community.

Program results:

- In 2008, 75 families were served through 5 area churches. Churches represented include: Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church (Greenville), Mt. Grove Baptist Church (Greenville), New Beginning Methodist Church (Fountain Inn), and New Life in Christ Interdenominational Church, and Shady Grove Baptist Church (Pelzer)
- In a recent Play and Learn survey, 90% of parents strongly agree/agree with statement: “The program has given me new ideas to help educate this child during the week.” Additionally, 90% of survey responses strongly agree/agree with statement: “The adults in this group give each other a strong support network.”

QUALITY CHILD CARE.**Child Care Quality Enhancement**

Program description: Greenville County First Steps provides intense on-site consulting to childcare providers. Our work includes a pre- and post-assessment (through a state-approved assessor). We provide weekly service to each program. Typically 5-8 hours/week of support is provided to each center served. Typically 2-4 hours/week of support is provided to each home-based child care provider served. In order to qualify for technical assistance, centers must have 30% or more of children on Free/Reduced lunch, must have a qualified and well-trained center director, and must commit to sending all teachers to college-level Early Childhood education classes.

Program results:

- Technical assistance was provided for 15 classrooms and 6 family home providers.
- Centers’ score average 5.64 on ECERS post-assessments

Child Care Quality Training

Program description: First Steps is committed to ensuring that caregivers receive the best opportunities for continuing education and are exposed to best practices. Child Care Quality Training initiatives include providing financial incentives (in the form of bonus checks) to staff at centers we serve who successfully complete ECD101 and ECD 102. We also provide financial support and trainers for continuing education courses. Additionally, quality enhancement programs like Creative Curriculum and There’s No Place Like Home provide enhancements to centers and home providers.

Program results:

- 40 Child Care providers completed Creative Curriculum training and have implemented components of the program in their respective centers.

EARLY EDUCATION.

Parents as Teachers (PAT)-Greenville County School District

Program description: Parents as Teachers provides parent and family education and enrichment through bi-weekly home visitation. Most PAT providers are Greenville County School District employees with extensive experience in learning styles and needs of young children and their parents. National research has found that PAT is generally most successful when allied with another long-term education intervention (such as a parent in a GED program, a child enrolled in a 3K or 4K classroom, or a family enrolled in a Family Literacy program). To be faithful to this model, Greenville County First Steps requires all families involved with PAT to be engaged in multiple long-term interventions. Results have shown that parents are more engaged, better aware of child's needs, and have a stronger commitment to bettering the child's home environment while simultaneously bettering the parent's condition (through returning to school, work, or participating in a GED or ESOL program).

Program results:

- 421 children served - representing 413 families
- Average KIPS Pre Score: 2.73 Average KIPS Post score: 3.45 Matched KIPS difference: .72
- Average ACIRI child Pre Score: 1.27 Average ACIRI Post score: 1.88 Matched ACIRI child difference: .61
- PAT is successfully engaging parents in deliberate attention to their child's learning and well-being. Additionally, dual intervention is providing incentives and encouragement to parents to seek other service providers to help with the needs of their family.

Riley Family Resource Center, Pelzer, S.C.

Program description: Several years ago, the United Way, Greenville County School district and Greenville County First Steps worked with local community leaders to address the need for localized resources for some of our more rural communities. Before this time, families were expected to drive into Greenville in order to receive services. The community centers (including the Riley Center, located just outside of Pelzer, S.C.) were opened to provide child care, family, and community resources within smaller towns and communities. These centers are supported through the partner agencies.

Parents as Teachers (PAT) Foothills Family Resource Center, Slater, S.C.

Program description: Parents as Teachers provides parent and family education and enrichment through bi-weekly home visitation. Using the Greenville County School system model, a PAT employee provides direct services to families in the Slater community (a rural area in northern Greenville County).

SCHOOL TRANSITION.

Countdown to Kindergarten

Program description: Countdown to Kindergarten provides rising K5 children with a “jump start” through weekly home based interactions with their K5 teacher during the summer months before the child officially begins school. Children and their parents are given resources (including books, puzzles, manipulatives, songs and stories). Teachers visit families 7 times during the summer, each time providing a new lesson/activity/game. Teachers leave materials with parents, and return the next week for additional activities, and to reinforce skills and activities already taught. At the conclusion of the final home visit, the family accompanies the teacher on a tour of the school and experiences elements of a typical day in the classroom with other Countdown to Kindergarten families. This program provides a unique opportunity for parents (and their children) to develop a comfortable and trusting relationship with their K5 teacher before the school year begins.

Program results:

- 60 children from two Title 1 schools (Welcome Elementary and Cherrydale Elementary) participated in the summer program.
- 95% of families participating in this program attended the meet the teacher night at their child’s school -- the school average for non-Countdown participants is 50%

Perry Preschool Model (3K/4K classroom)

Program description: The Perry Preschool model is the foundational study for much of what happens in early childhood. We implemented a pilot of the Perry model in FY08. We are expanding this model into FY09, converting our current 4K programs to what we are labeling “3K/4K Parent Engagement Program,” a variation on Perry. Three- and 4-year-old classes are established with children going to class from 8 a.m. till noon, with the teachers visiting with the caregiver and child once a week.

As a result, behavioral problems dissipate, as the connection between teacher/caregiver/child strengthens. We have been so pleased with the results of our 2 FY08 classes that we have expanded to 4 classes for FY09.

Program results:

- 38 children participated in FY08
- For parent engagement, we track how often parents keep their weekly home visit appointments. We also track frequency of involvement with group based meetings. Our goal is that home visits will be kept over 75% of the time (in line with this year). Our goal is that parents will engage 3 times each year in group based meetings.

Financial Summary

| Expenditures By Funding Source | |
|---|--------------------|
| State Appropriation (<i>Fund 10</i>) | \$1,153,325 |
| E.I.A. Appropriation (<i>Fund 55</i>) | \$132,226 |
| Lottery Appropriation (<i>Fund 35</i>) | \$17,840 |
| C.D.E.P.P. Appropriation (<i>Fund 60</i>) | \$0 |
| C.O.E. Appropriation (<i>Fund 65</i>) | \$0 |
| N.F.P. Appropriation (<i>Fund 70</i>) | \$500 |
| State Private (<i>Fund 15</i>) | \$71,708 |
| Local Private (<i>Fund 20</i>) | \$187,637 |
| Federal (<i>Fund 30</i>) | \$0 |
| In-Kind (<i>Fund 25</i>) | \$124,309 |
| TOTAL: | \$1,730,756 |

| Expenditures by Program/Strategy Name | |
|---|--------------------|
| Parents As Teachers (School District) | \$689,593 |
| Parents As Teachers (Foothills Family Resource) | \$58,306 |
| Play and Learn | \$ 125,372 |
| 4K/3K Perry Preschool Model | \$199,872 |
| Countdown to Kindergarten | \$27,489 |
| Child Care Quality Enhancement | \$346,878 |
| Child Care Training/Professional Development | \$45,000 |
| Scholarships | \$15,000 |
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| | |
| Indirect Programmatic Functions | \$136,895 |
| Administrative Functions | \$86,351 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$1,730,756 |

NOTABLE DONORS

| <i>DONOR'S NAME</i> | AMOUNT |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| United Way of Greenville County | \$151,022 |
| Bi Lo Charities | \$9,600 |
| Private Donors | \$27,015 |
| TOTAL: | \$160,622 |

In- Kind Support

| <i>DONOR'S NAME</i> | AMOUNT |
|--|------------------|
| Greenville County Schools (rent, support staff, resources for Parents As Teachers) | \$54,750 |
| Foothills Family Resource Center (rent, support staff, utilities to support Parents As Teachers) | \$16,730 |
| Faith Community (churches support Play and Learn program by providing facility and facility operational costs) | \$11,000 |
| St. Anthony School (Early/Late stay, cook, rent, facility maintenance) | \$31,829 |
| Greenville Technical College (rent, facility usage for Child Care Outreach workers housed on campus) | \$10,000 |
| TOTAL: | \$124,309 |

Local Match Percentage for FY 2008: 28%
(at least 15% Legislative requirement)

COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gary Ray, Board Chair DSS-retired
Jane Watkins, Vice-chair, 1st Baptist retired
Lieshe Grady, Secretary, YWCA

Karen Allen, Greenville Library
Scarlet Black, Cherrydale Elementary
Linda Brees, SAFE Kids upstate
Kenia Brockman, parent/program participant
Dr. Lorraine DeJong, Furman professor
Lillie Hall, DHEC
Phyllis Martin, YWCA
Dr. Amanda Merchant, M.D.
Kevin Mertens, Investment Manager
Noelle Patrick, SC ABC program
Midge Simpson, Sonshine Learning Center
Cynthia Sosebee, Headstart
Karen Sparkman, Greenville County Schools
Lissette Treanor, Greenville Technical College
Dr. Daniel Varat

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.

2008 School Readiness Risk Profile Greenville County

Total Children Under Six: 34,120

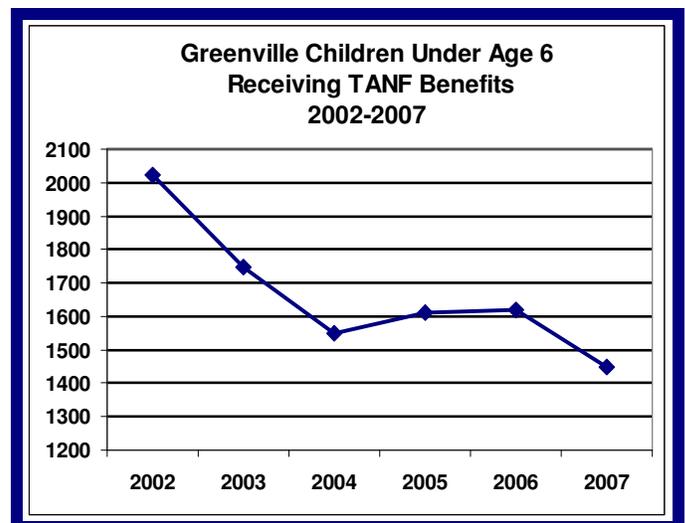
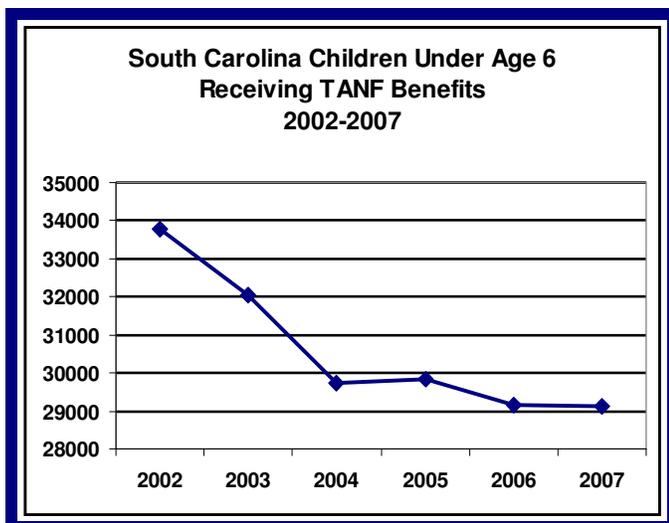
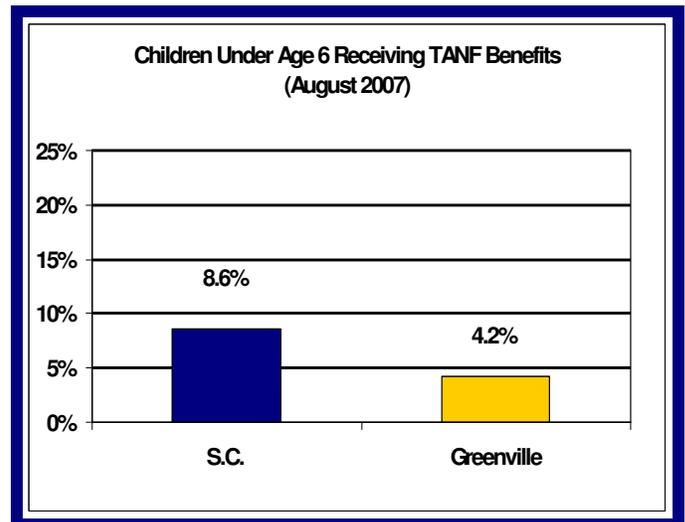
CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4% Greenville County (2007): 4.2%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 24 Greenville 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.

1,448 of Greenville County’s 34,120 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 Greenville County

Total Children Under Six: 34,120

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

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2%

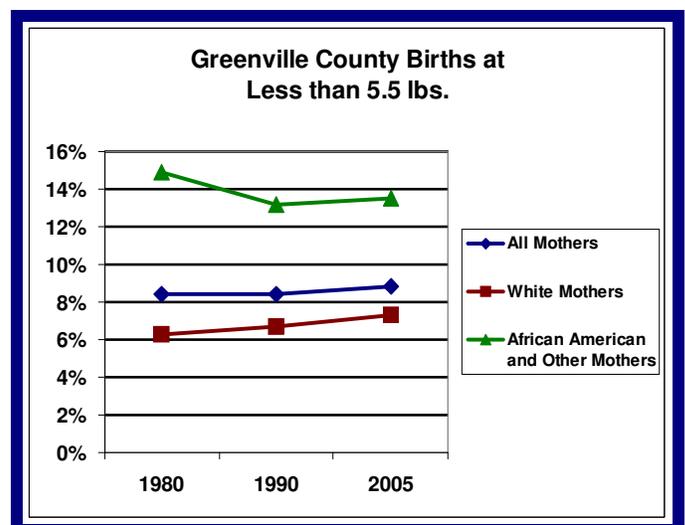
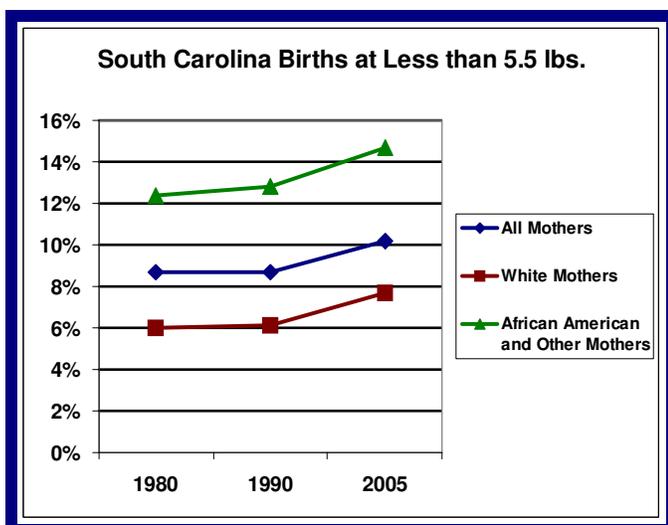
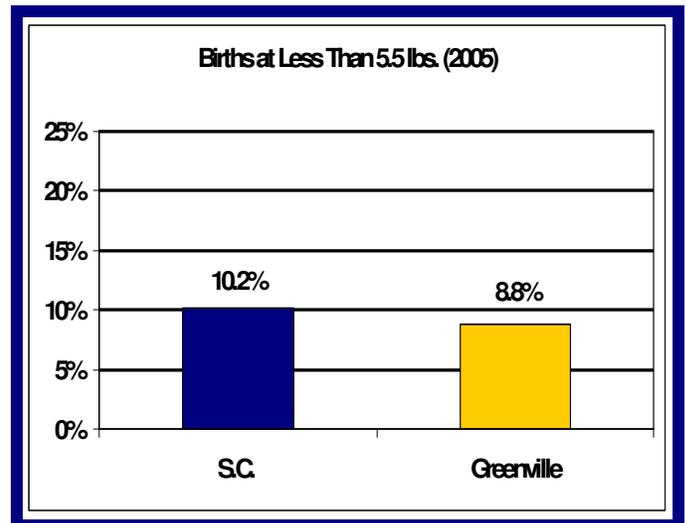
Greenville County (2005): 8.8%

Fast Fact: 1 in 11 Greenville 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.

520 of the 5,876 children born in Greenville County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile Greenville County

Total Children Under Six: 34,120

BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

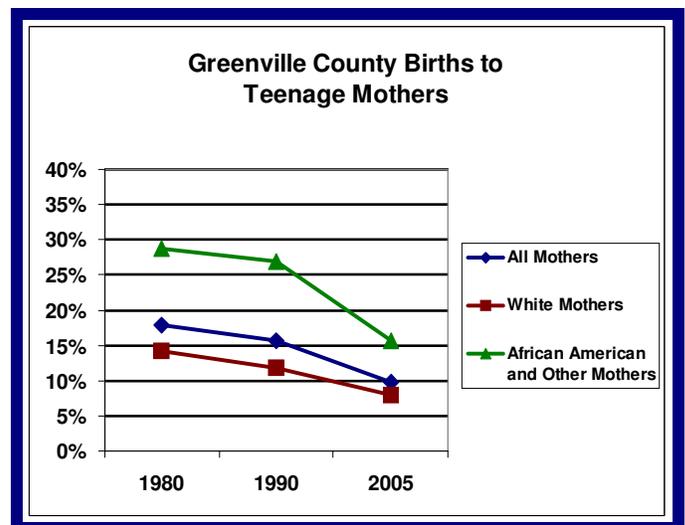
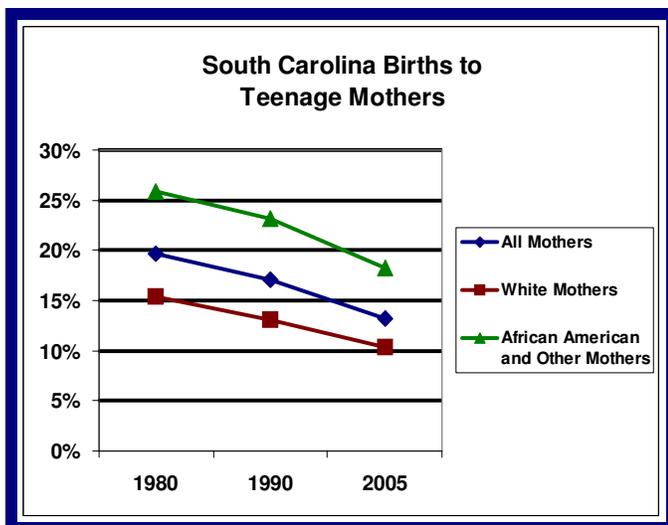
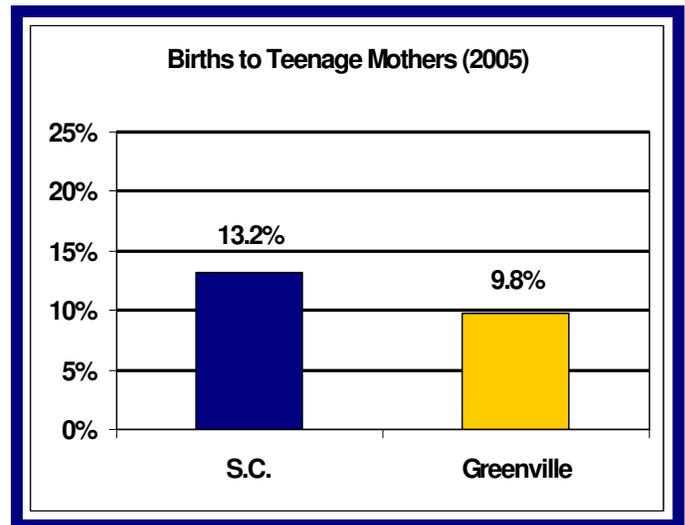
Statewide Average (2005): 13.2%

Greenville County (2005): 9.8%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 10 Greenville 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.

575 of the 5,876 children born in Greenville County during 2005 had teenage mothers.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile Greenville County

Total Children Under Six: 34,120

BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Statewide Average (2005): 23.7% Greenville County (2005): 24.9%

Fast Fact: 1 in 4 children in Greenville 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.

1,465 of the 5,876 children born in Greenville County during 2005 had mothers with less than a high school diploma.

