



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

Board Chair:
Marelyn Murdaugh
Executive Director:
Leslie Blevins
Contact Information:
308 First Street West
Hampton, SC 29924
Phone: 803-943-7127
Fax: 803-943-7187
E-mail:
lblevins@scfirststeps.org

**Total children in county under
age 6: 1,619**

**Children under age 6 living in
poverty: 8.1%**

Hampton County Highlights

- *Child care training improved the quality of care for 150 children*
- *First Steps support to child care center owners and directors, "helped my dream come true so I can help the children of Hampton County"*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Hampton County First Steps served approximately 213 "at-risk" children and their parents, both directly and in-directly in FY'08. Thirty-six (36) families utilized Parents As Teachers in an effort to improve parent's understanding of child development, including the parent's role in their child's education process. Two full day Pre-K classes are offered to increase the number of children exposed to a 4K school setting. This will influence students' later school successes and parents' later involvement during the school years. Facility Quality Enhancement was used to raise the quality of childcare services provided to 150 children ages 0-5 at five DSS licensed centers; of which, one center became ABC enhanced during FY 08. Twenty-one children received ABC scholarships to attend an enhanced childcare center. Seven childcare training sessions were offered to heighten the quality of services provided to children and their families. As the Executive Director, I am most proud of having Hampton County First Steps receive the Center of Excellence grant at Lawtonville CDM. With this funding, 14 children considered the most "at-risk" and their families received services at no cost. Quality childcare service is provided at Lawtonville CDM for these children. Center staff were offered training in Creative Curriculum, E-Lap, Lap-3, and offered TEACH scholarships to enrich their education. Parenting support provided 13 families (15 children) with 155 home visits by two certified parent educators. All of the children served through COE received health and dental screenings, as well.

Sincerely,
Leslie Blevins
Executive Director
Hampton 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.

Parents As Teachers/2012

Program description:

Hampton County First Steps used the Parents As Teachers Curriculum “Born To Learn” for ages 0 – 3, and the PAT Curriculum for ages 3 – 5. Families received at least two home visits per month (more if necessary). Every month a PAT group meeting was held to discuss health education, literacy skills, and other parenting topics. The Ages and Stages Developmental age-appropriate screenings were used, as well as the PAT health/dental/vision screenings. The HCFS Executive Director supervised the program, monitoring home visits and group meetings.

Program results:

- 26 families (36 children) participated with the Parents As Teachers home visitation program.
- 117 home visits were made in FY 08.
- A certified parent educator spent 110 hours in homes using the PAT curriculum.
- 42% of the families attended group meetings.
- 88% of the families had one or more priority risks factors
- 432 books were given to families through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
- The strategy’s target population included single and teen parents, parents with low-income levels, parents who have low birth weight children, parents with no high school diploma, etc.

QUALITY CHILD CARE.

Facility Quality Enhancement/6012

Program description:

The Facility Quality Enhancement program provided training and education to volunteer childcare facilities in Hampton County. Five (5) childcare facilities participated. Technical assistance was provided to classrooms needing the most improvement in each of the facilities. Each facility received at least two (2) visits per month, with additional visits as needed. Technical assistance included staff/child interactions, health and safety issues, selection of equipment and supplies, room arrangement, etc. Funds were provided by HCFS for purchases of needed equipment and supplies in classrooms and/or playgrounds. Prior to any purchases, pre- ITERS or ECERS assessments were conducted. A plan-of-action was determined between HCFS and the facility. Purchases were then provided for the most needed areas of improvement. The facilities were expected to carry out their responsibility for improvement according to the plan. Post- ITERS or ECERS assessments were periodically conducted to note progress

Program results:

- Five childcare centers serving 150 children ages 0-5 were served in FY'08.
- 121 visits allowed 158 hours of Technical Assistance in five childcare centers.
- One childcare facility became ABC enhanced with the help of First Steps.
- 100% of childcare centers that responded to the yearly satisfaction survey (100% return rate) either agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with the services provided by HCFS.
- HCFS targets facilities that have an interest, willingness to cooperate, meet standards set by HCFS and make improvements to enhance assessment scores. Visits and/or phone calls are periodically made to all Hampton County facilities to identify any additional interest in the program.

Centers of Excellence/7032

Program description:

Center of Excellence is designed to offer low-income and /or high risk children and their families parenting support and quality childcare services at no cost.

Program results:

- 14 children received a scholarship to attend COE site.
- 13 families (15 children) participated with the Parents As Teachers home visitation program.
- 155 home visits were made in FY 08.
- 92% of the families attended group meetings.
- 69% of the families had one or more priority risks factors.
- 168 books were given to families through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
- The strategy's target population included children in foster care, single and teen parents, parents with low-income levels, parents who have low birth weight children, parents with no high school diploma, etc.

Center Staff Training and Development /6050

Program description:

The Childcare Staff Training and Development strategy provided DSS trainings for the childcare facilities that participate in the FQE program. Providers from all Hampton County facilities were given the opportunity to attend the trainings. The trainings included areas of Curriculum, Growth and Development, and all others needed for the DSS credits. However, other topics were included based on the ITERS/ECERS assessment results and any suggestions made by providers. Bi-monthly meetings were provided as a networking and support system for the childcare facility directors. All trainings were conducted by South Carolina certified trainers and occurred in Hampton County to address long distance transportation issues. The HCFS program assistant planned and coordinated all aspects of the training sessions and quarterly director's meetings. The HCFS Executive Director supervised this program.

Program results:

- 150 children age 0-5 was impacted by trainings offered to childcare centers.
- 100% of the trainers were certified through Center for Child Care Career Development.
- Seven training sessions were offered to childcare providers, offering 16 hours of DSS training credits.
- 69 adults attended the certified trainings offered by First Steps.
- The third annual Lowcountry Early Childhood Conference was offered to all providers.
- Overall, respondents were highly satisfied with the information provided at the trainings and agree the information will be useful in working with children.

EARLY EDUCATION.

S.C. Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP)/3140

Program description: CDEPP offers state-paid tuition of 4-year-old kindergarten classes to eligible students living in the 37 trial and plaintiff school districts involved in the school funding equity lawsuit, *Abbeville et al. vs. South Carolina*. First Steps oversees CDEPP 4K classes offered in non-public school environments. To qualify for state-paid tuition, a student's family must qualify for TANF or free/reduced-price lunch, be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2007, and live in an eligible school district.

Program results:

- Five children received quality full day 4K.
- 100% of classroom teachers had completed training in the Creative Curriculum, Work Sampling System, and SC Early Childhood Credential (ECD 101).
- 100% of participants were enrolled based on school readiness factors.
- Two licensed, ABC enhanced childcare facilities offered the CDEPP 4K classes.
- The second year 4-K classroom scored a 6.13 on the Environment Rating Scale.
- 100 % of parents participated in parent conferences.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Expenditures By Funding Source	
State Appropriation (<i>Fund 10</i>)	\$147,146
E.I.A. Appropriation (<i>Fund 55</i>)	\$29,000
Lottery Appropriation (<i>Fund 35</i>)	\$400
C.D.E.P.P. Appropriation (<i>Fund 60</i>)	\$29,675
C.O.E. Appropriation (<i>Fund 65</i>)	\$112,156
N.F.P. Appropriation (<i>Fund 70</i>)	\$
State Private (<i>Fund 15</i>)	\$8,067
Local Private (<i>Fund 20</i>)	\$3,935
Federal (<i>Fund 30</i>)	\$250
In-Kind (<i>Fund 25</i>)	\$38,740
TOTAL:	\$369,369

Expenditures By Program / Strategy Name	
Parents As Teachers	\$73,698
Imagination Library	\$1,389
Full Day 4K	\$29,432
Childcare Quality Enhancement	\$80,769
Childcare Professional Development	\$17,765
Scholarship Initiatives	\$83,374
Psaras Rural Initiative	\$9,995
Public Health-Based Services	\$9,262
Indirect Programmatic Functions	\$26,731
Administrative Functions	\$36,953
TOTAL:	\$369,368

NOTABLE DONORS

<i>DONOR'S NAME</i>	AMOUNT
Donors who contributed under \$100 each	\$340.00
Hampton Rotary Club	\$1000.00
United Way of Bamberg Colleton & Hampton	\$725.00
	\$
TOTAL:	\$2,065.00

Local Match Percentage for FY 2008: 35.08%
(at least 15% Legislative requirement)

COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Name – FY'08	Category
Mary Blake exited 3-08 Brenda Brooks	Family Ed. Parenting
Chrissy Bolton exited 11-07 Debra Scott	Pre-K Education
Rev. William Borum exited 7-08 Alice Wright	Faith Community
Rose Choice	Appointed Hampton School Dist #2
Virginia Douglas	Early Childhood Education
Glenda Dunbar	Legislative Appointee
Mary Ennis	Legislative Appointee
Bettye Evans exited 7-08 Kandi Hewlett	Childcare Provider
Cynthia Gordon	Appointed by Hampton County Library
Terrie Hill	Early Childcare Education
Terrie McCrary exited 7-08 Tammy Washington	Appointed Hampton County Health Department
Jerry Mikell Hattie Askew	Business Community
Marelyn Murdaugh	Appointed Hampton School Dist #1
Suesan Richardson exited 12-07 Lynette Harley Tracy Preston	Parent served by First Steps
Gloria Sarge exited 7-08	Appointed Low Country Head Start
Hazel Smith exited 2-08 Rebecca Richardson	Non-Profit serving families/Children
Bernie Zurenda exited 8-07 Bridget Gray-Peeples	Appointed Hampton DSS
Kakela Robinson	Transportation Provider

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.

Testimonials

“Since my daughter has begun the parenting program with Hampton County First Steps, she has made remarkable improvements. My daughter is now 25 months old and she is reading short books, reciting the alphabets, counting numbers from 1 to 10, and drawing (scribble). I admire her parent educator, Tonya Mitchell, because I feel she goes beyond her job description”.

Chekita Rice-Parent

“The Mellon Patch has accomplished so much with the help and support of Hampton County First Steps. We have since become part of the program Advocates for Better Care and are receiving childcare scholarship from HCFS. The technical assistance that HCFS provides has encouraged my staff to provide higher quality care in our facility. Technical Assistance offers mentoring, monitoring, staff training, room arrangement, and the purchasing of equipment and materials. We also attend the DSS training classes HCFS provides at a low or no cost to all of the childcare centers in Hampton. HCFS is a great asset to the staff, children, and parents at the center. We look forward to the visits from the staff of HCFS, because we know they have something positive to share. Hampton County First Steps has helped my dream come true, so I can help the children of Hampton County.”

Kandice Hewlett-Owner of The Mellon Patch

2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

Hampton County

Total Children Under Six: 1,619

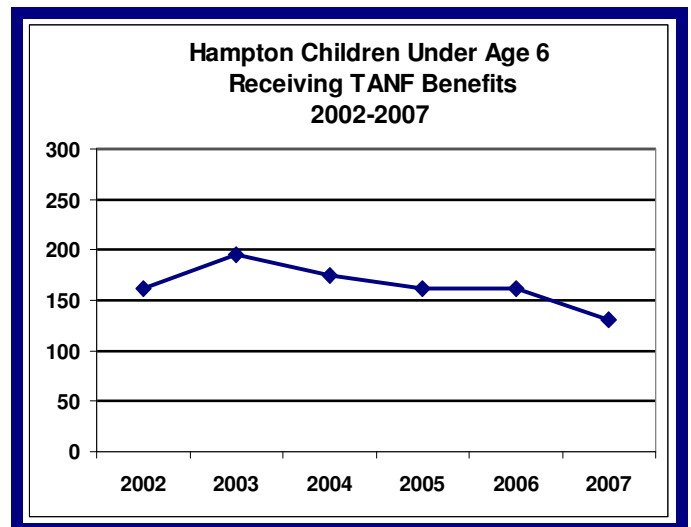
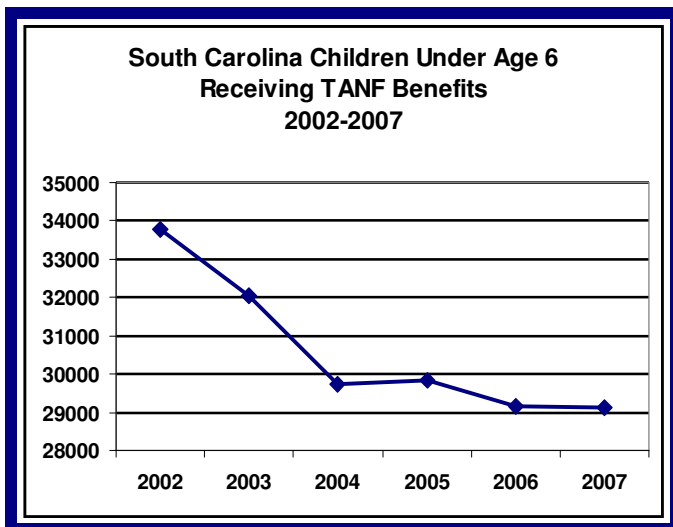
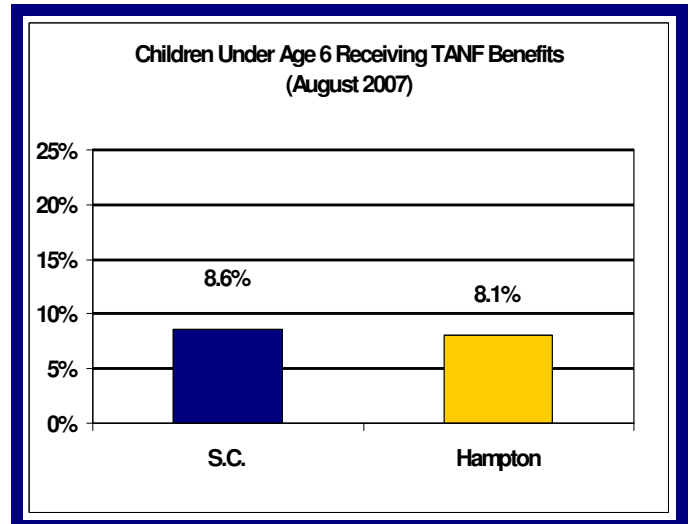
CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4% Hampton County (2007): 8.1%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 12 Hampton 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.

131 of Hampton County’s 1,619 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

Hampton County

Total Children Under Six: 1,619

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

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2%

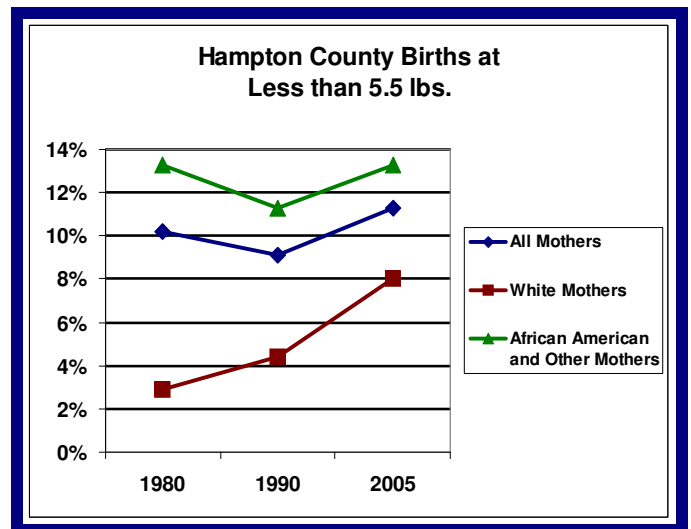
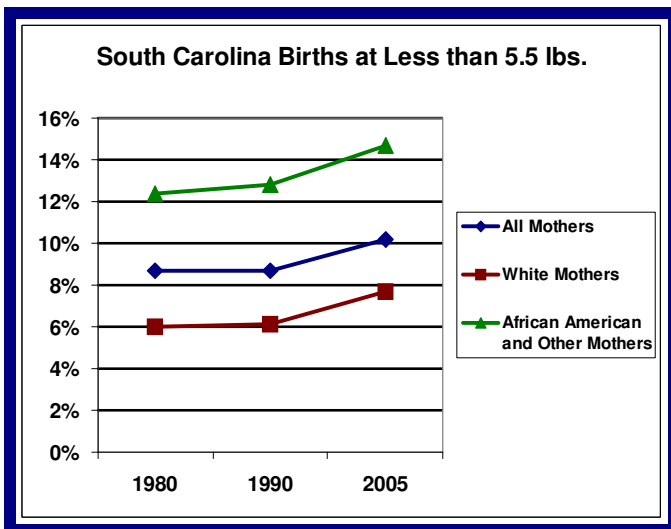
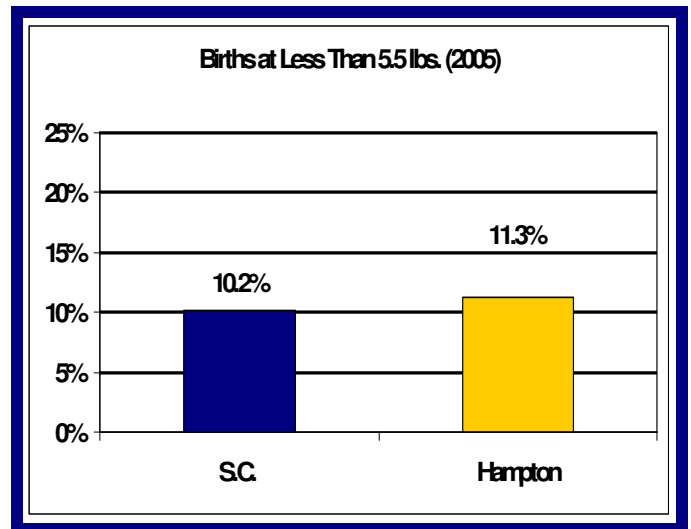
Hampton County (2005): 11.3%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 9 Hampton 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.

33 of the 293 children born in Hampton County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile Hampton County

Total Children Under Six: 1,619

BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

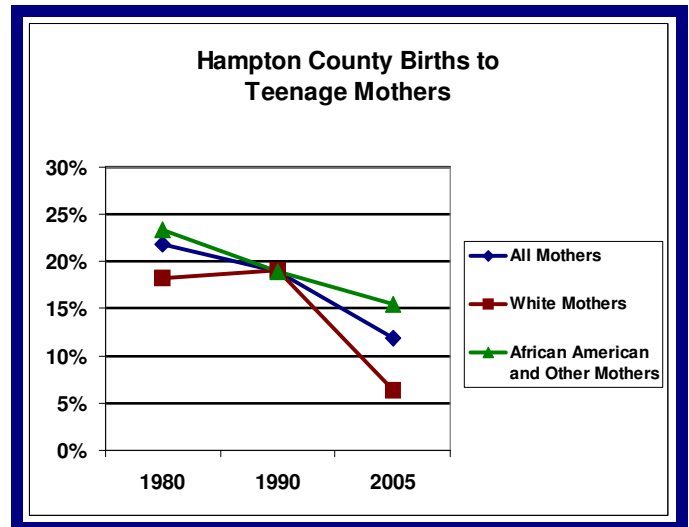
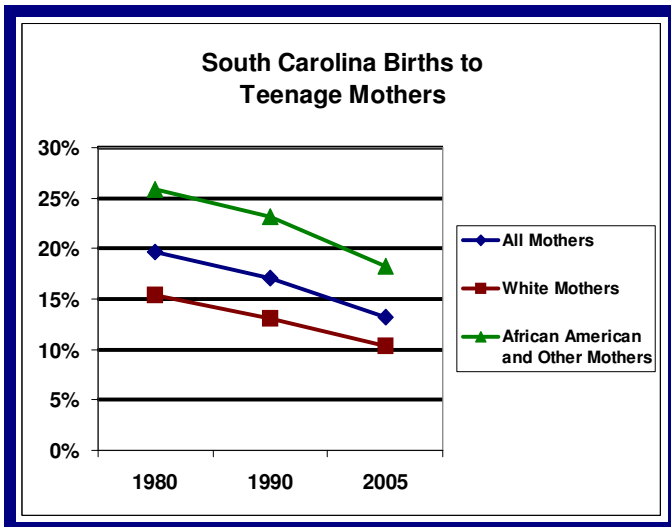
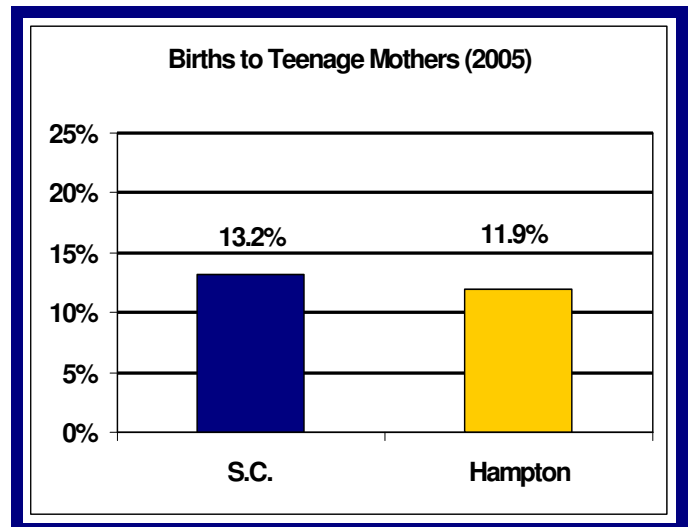
Statewide Average (2005): 13.2%

Hampton County (2005): 11.9%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 9 Hampton 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.

35 of the 293 children born in Hampton County during 2005 had teenage mothers.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile Hampton County

Total Children Under Six: 1,619

BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Statewide Average (2005): 23.7% Hampton County (2005): 25.0%

Fast Fact: 1 in 4 children in Hampton 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.

73 of the 293 children born in Hampton County during 2005 had mothers with less than a high school diploma.

