



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

Board Chair: Vicki Hinson

Executive Director: Lora P. Bryson

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Total children in county under age 6: 4817

Children under age 6 living in poverty: 17%

Lancaster County Highlights

- Two-thirds of Lancaster County's funds are provided by local Foundation Grants and Federal Grants.
- 120 children were impacted by the School Transition Program – Countdown to Kindergarten.


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

Lancaster County First Steps Partnership leads the efforts of our community to see that all children, from 0-5 years of age, are ready to enter kindergarten and be successful in school and in life. We present this Annual Report to document our ongoing commitment to early childhood in Lancaster County during the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

The year in review is marked by our continued efforts to strengthen the quality of early care and education through grants both public and private. Lancaster First Steps provided: educational opportunities for child care providers and technical assistance; programs to enhance parenting knowledge and skills; support for both parents and students during the transition to kindergarten; the expansion of high quality 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten opportunities in public and private settings; assistance to families accessing needed health services and information to educate local citizens about the importance of high quality early care and education. Through the implementation of these initiatives significant strides were made in building collaborative efforts, engaging more citizens of the community, and heightening the awareness of the needs of young children.

Successes are attributable to many individuals, but recognition is especially important to the many funders of services beyond our SCFS state allocation. The additional funds provide hundreds of young children and families services and programs that truly improve the quality of life in our community. You are encouraged to read the program results of these strategies for an understanding of the impact on our youngest citizens.



We are also humbly reminded that all efforts and successes are made possible by our community's support. Thank you to the Board of Directors, committee members, community volunteers, non-profit partners, public agencies, child care community members, parents, community leaders and organizations, and interested citizens for all that you do on behalf of young children. We look forward to your continued support and participation to ensure that all children will enter school ready to succeed.

Sincerely,

Vicki Hinson
Chairman

Lora P. Bryson
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.

2007-08 County Partnership Programs by Strategy

FAMILY STRENGTHENING

Raising A Thinking Child

Program Description: Lancaster County First Steps provided Lancaster County parents with an effective Parenting curriculum that will improve their parenting skills and competency. Early Reading First grant funds were used to implement the Raising A Thinking Child initiative.

Program Results:

- *A total of 64 parents were trained in the Raising A Thinking Child curriculum.*
- *10 group meetings were held for parents.*
- *30 group meeting hours were recorded.*
- *87 children were impacted by the Make Parenting a Pleasure program.*
- *Increased parental exposure to a best practice parenting curriculum: 6 Raising A Thinking Child sessions were held. 1 session each was held at 2 of the counties elementary schools.*
- *This program focused on meeting the needs of at-risk families without turning away any interested parents.*

Story Time Express and Born To Read

Program Description: Implement a Story Time Express/Born to Read program. Story Time Express (STE) provides 28 story kits (kits contain books, flannel board activities, finger plays, songs and other related activities and puppet) rotated monthly to 28 local child care providers to enrich children's literacy experiences. The Born to Read program provides volunteers that visit Mothers in the hospital with their newborn babies to provide a gift package that introduces Mothers to the value of reading to their babies and siblings. Mothers receiving the gift packet from the Born to Read Program also received literacy kits. These kits provide a diverse selection of educational materials and programs to stimulate children's interest in reading, and enhance the learning relationship between child care teachers and children.

Program Results:

- *7,638 children are being reached by this program, an average of 764 per month.*
- *981 adults being reached by this program, an average of 98 per month.*
- *Library lent 28 Story Kits to centers.*
- *Library lent 2,110 books to child care centers.*
- *5,931 reading hours were recorded by parents.*
- *16 surveys completed by child care center staff indicate 1 staff person satisfied with the STE program and 15 extremely satisfied.*
- *21 Born to Read volunteers visited 468 mothers and their newborn babies during the year.*
- *471 books were given to mothers and their newborns babies during the year.*

Parent Child Home Program (PCHP)

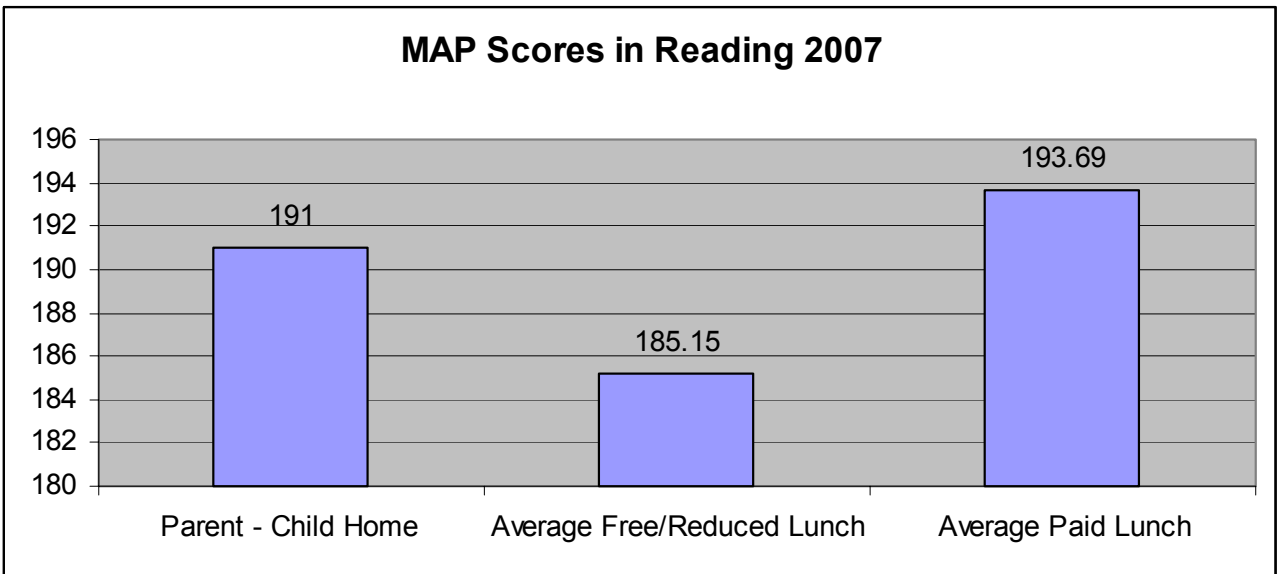
- **Program Description:** Implement the Nationally recognized PCHP (Parent Child Home Program). The home visitation program builds upon the successful components of existing organizations', increases the number of parents engaged in home visitation services and enhances the best practices curricula with additional best practice parenting information. Trained home visitor visits families twice a week bringing a new book or toy each week.

Each visit lasts thirty minutes. The PCHP program serves families of two and three year old children who are referred by schools, human service agencies, and other programs. All families were targeted for participation on the basis of compounded school readiness risk factors.

Program Results:

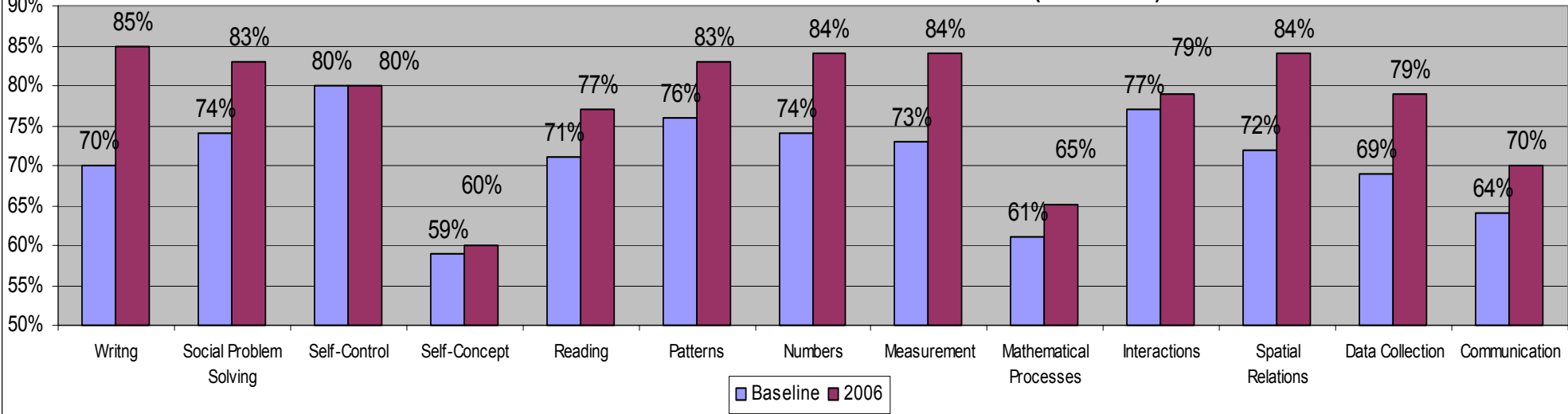
- *2,751 home visits were made. An average of 46 adults and 48 children per month.*
- *81.82% of families received more than 8 visits per month: 6.06% received 8 visits per month, 1.52% received 7 visits per month, 1.52% received 6 visits per month, 3.03% received 5 visits per month, 3.03% received 4 visits per month, and 3.04% received less than 4 visits per month..*
- *Average KIPS pre-assessment score 2.67 and average post- assessment score 3.8 a difference of 1.13.*
- *Average adult ACIRI pre-assessment score 1.79 and average post-assessment score 2.42 a difference of .63.*
- *Average child ACIRI pre-assessment score 1.52 and average post-assessment score 2.19 a difference of .67.*
- *813 books were provided for the families.*
- *30 families graduated from the program.*
- *Increased the capacity of parents to be their child's best and most important teacher by expanding home visitation services*
- *Increased parents' knowledge of good developmental books and toys.Indicator:94% of families responding to a survey listed good developmental books and toys*
- *Increased the number of PCHP graduates testing ready for kindergarten. Indicator: 91% of PCHP graduates tested ready.*
- *Increased school readiness through parent/child verbal interaction of reading and conversational play. Indicator: Parents reported spending an increased time reading and playing with their children (5 or more hours per week). Changes were also observed by Home Visitor. 19 graduates are attending the Head Start Program.*
- *National program recommends 23 weeks of home visits during the year, but Lancaster County's PCHP visits families 37 weeks each year.*
- *90% of parents report being extremely satisfied with the program*

The very first wave of children served in the Parent Child Home Program will reach the 3rd grade this next academic year and will participate in PACT testing in the spring. Their performance level can then be compared with other children, especially from low-income families. However, there is some data available to indicate that participation in Parent – Child Home Program services has a positive impact on pre-literacy skill development. All children in the second grade receive MAP testing in reading, a standardized instrument that is highly correlated with PACT English Language Arts. The chart below provides that average MAP score for all second grade students who previously participated in the Parent – Child Home Program. This cohort is compared to second grade students designated free/reduced lunch and those with paid lunch status.



In addition, the South Carolina Readiness Assessment is used to monitor school readiness and contains thirteen sub-scores. Only two years of data have been released to date – 2004 and 2006. Lancaster County data reveal an increase in all thirteen sub-scores, with an average of 7% increase per scale comparing 2004 and 2006. In 2004, overall 71% of children tested ready for school. Two years later, the percentage of children testing ready increased to 78%. Although the Parent – Child Home Program cannot take full credit for this improvement, it is likely that advances in school readiness may be in part due to participation in program services.

SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL READINESS ASSESSMENT (BASELINE)



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Program Description: To provide books in the homes of children ages birth to five years of age. First Steps provides 1200 homes of children in Lancaster County with books. Developmentally appropriate books arrive monthly to the child's home until he/she reaches five years of age. Children are enrolled in the program on a first come, first serve basis. Children targeted for this who at-risk also participate in this program. Funds allocated will serve 1,200 children. Businesses are being contacted to enhance/expand the service capacity of this program. First Steps pays the Dolly Parton Imagination Library for the mailing of the appropriate books each month. The long-term goal is to provide books in the homes each month for all age appropriate children in Lancaster County. Corporate donations, fund raisers, and individual contributions fund this program. Businesses display brochures to market and promote this program to their employees.

Program Results:

- *14,022 books were distributed to children.*
- *On average, 1,169 children receive a book per month.*
- *All other FS programs funded programs enroll all eligible children.*
- *Increased the literacy materials provided in each home served by this program.*
- *A random survey reported that 96% of participants are extremely satisfied with the program.*
- *Postmasters have been trained to assist in implementing this program.*

HEALTHY START

Public Health Based Services

Program Description: Lancaster County First Steps provided child care facilities with on-site technical assistance in the area of health and safety. First Steps used a grant from J. Marion Sims Foundation to contract with the Lancaster County Department of Health and Environmental Control to hire a nurse that provided services to 15 child care centers. A full time registered nurse visited 15 child care centers bi-weekly which increased availability of health resources to the child care community. The nurse focused health and safety improvement efforts on the infant and toddler areas of each center. Other health and safety concerns were also addressed with each center.

Program Results:

- *134 child care staff was directly impacted twice a month by the nurse visits.*
- *847 children were directly impacted bi-weekly by the nurse visits.*
- *6 group training sessions were held.*
- *7 centers received Infant Care training (1hour educational credit) 30 providers received training on hand washing, which was taught to children, and received a video from ETV/DHEC "Wash Hands."*
- *Activities were performed at each visit including: Classroom, playground/outdoor, dining/food preparation, drop-off/pick-up, and director/consultation. An average of 177 in attendance during activities.*
- *40 children's books on health and safety were given to participants in this program.*
- *2 families received referrals for speech services.*

QUALITY CHILD CARE

Child Care Quality Enhancements

Program Description: A researched based professional high quality childcare technical assistance program implemented with masters level early education specialist teaching child care staff best practices. On-site technical assistance and quality learning materials are provided to each center. Certified technical assistants worked closely with child care staff on the appropriate use of resource materials. On-site technical assistance and quality learning materials were provided by 3 certified technical assistants to child care providers in targeted pre-school classrooms. The program promoted and built strong relationships between technical assistants and caregivers/teachers and ultimately between caregivers/teachers and children.

Program Results:

- *715 children were impacted by the technical assistant program.*
- *93 caregivers were impacted by the technical assistance program.*
- *Pre-ECERS Scores averaged 3.23 and Pre-ITERS scores averaged 3.29. Post-assessments will be conducted with 12 months of the pre-assessments.*
- *Individualized research based training and technical assistance program impacted 10 child care centers in Lancaster County.*
- *The 10 selected child care participating centers received a pre- and post- ECERS assessment.*
- *Each centers received \$1,800 of materials to support the training sessions and technical assistance.*
- *300.25 hours of technical assistance were provided to centers throughout Lancaster County.*
- *Increased networking opportunities among center staff.*
- *163 books given to child care centers.*

Child Care Training and Professional Development

Program Description: Lancaster County First Steps will educate child care providers on appropriate early childhood education, health and safety topics. Training Topics included: Facility Security, Directors Orientation, Temperaments, Signing with your Baby, Brain Development, ECERS, Play is a Child's Work, Serving Safe Food to Children, Center Handbooks, All Aboard to Rock, Move & Learn, Nutrition for Directors, Playground Safety, In the "Center" of Things, Characteristics of Social Emotional Development, and Behavior. This program increased appropriate education opportunities for 36 center/home/faith based centers in Lancaster County.

Program Results:

- *On average 119 child care providers were trained each month in the areas of curriculum, growth and development, health and safety and program administration.*
- *1,464 children were directly impacted by the training sessions for child care providers.*
- *27 training sessions were held offering a total of 28 registered training hours for each of the child care providers.*
- *Increased access to appropriate early childhood education materials within the child care environment: 25 books were distributed to centers through the training program.*

EARLY EDUCATION

Head Start Programming-Southside Child Development Center

Program Description: Provide 10 Pre-K Early Childhood Education slots for at-risk children. First Steps contracts with Lancaster County School District, Southside Child Development Program to provide early education services to three-, four-, and five- year- old children.

Program Results:

- *The Open Court curriculum is implemented in the classroom.*
- *100% parents reported being extremely satisfied with this program.*
- *83% of the children have developed phonemic awareness and are able to read several words, the names of their peers, the days of the week, and the months of the year as well as key words in their favorite books and the name of colors.*
- *Children are more interested in reading. Ex: The children have developed a strong interest in reading by being exposed to literature and informal activities that involve children in conscious recognition and use of sound pattern thru the use of nursery rhyme books, poetry books, and storybooks with patterned rhymes; recorded music, song books and books of finger play.*
- *Pre-reading skills were improved for example emergent reading skills developed as the children learned to match shapes, patterns, letters and words. They understand rhyming words, what sounds the letters can make and that print goes from left to right.*
- *Children are excited about learning as they show excitement upon arrival at the center. Children learn thru play and varied methods of fun teaching in literacy, math, science and art.*
- *Gross motor skills are improved for children as they developed through planned movement activities such as moving to music; running, jumping and hopping.*
- *All participating students were targeted for participation on the basis of compounded school readiness risk factors (Dial-3 screening score in the bottom 25%, free and reduced lunch status, mother's education, etc.)*
- *All 10 children enrolled receive the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Books.*
- *Twenty six volunteers assist in the classroom during the year.*
- *Eighteen home visits for 1 ½ hours per visit.*
- *480 books were lent and 28 books were given through the program*

SCHOOL TRANSITION

Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK)

Program Description: Ensure an educationally beneficial school transition by serving 112 at-risk children in the Countdown to Kindergarten program. Countdown to Kindergarten is a school transition strategy, designed to successfully bridge at-risk students into the K-12 school environment. This program consists of three components: 1) Public Awareness, 2) Kindergarten Home Visitation, and 3) Countdown Celebration. During the home visits, children and families are introduced to actual materials used in kindergarten classrooms and are given a kindergarten transition toolkit (books, puzzles, clay, blocks, floor mats, etc) to keep. The final visit is a “field trip” to the school where the child will attend class in the Fall.

Program Results:

- 112 identified children completed the Countdown program during summer 2008.
- 100% percent of the children received all eight visits.
- 97% percent of the children were placed in their Countdown home visitor's kindergarten class.
- 68.87% percent of the children qualified for free lunch.
- 12.26% percent of the children qualified for reduced lunch.
- Countdown to Kindergarten parent survey resulted in improvements in parent-child interactions, including:
 1. 13% report increasing conversation with the participating child @ least 5 or more times a week
 2. 20% report increasing the time played with toys, games and sports @ least 5 or more time a week
 3. 29% report increasing the time read to/listen to child read from a book @ least 5 or more times a week
 4. 25% report increasing talked about letters, words or numbers with participant/child @ least 5 or more times a week
 5. 25% report increasing praising participant/child for accomplishments or doing things that you want him/her to do.
 6. 15% report increasing singing songs or dancing with the child/participant
 7. 23% report decreasing the overall hours per day participant/child watches TV, played video games or played on the computer.
 8. 14% report a decrease from more than 5 hours per day participant/child watches TV, played video games or played on the computer.

Financial Summary

Expenditures By Funding Source	
State Appropriation (<i>Fund 10</i>)	\$262,066
E.I.A. Appropriation (<i>Fund 55</i>)	\$21,910
Lottery Appropriation (<i>Fund 35</i>)	\$0
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>)	\$0
State Private (<i>Fund 15</i>)	\$16,435
Local Private (<i>Fund 20</i>)	\$40,960
Federal (<i>Fund 30</i>)	\$232,963
In-Kind (<i>Fund 25</i>)	\$136,720
TOTAL:	\$711,054

Expenditures By Program / Strategy Name	
Other Family Literacy/Learning	\$17,984
Parent-Child Home	\$127,995
Library Based Program	\$22,320
Imagination Library	\$63,806
Head Start Program	\$58,553
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$27,002
Childcare Quality Enhancement	\$49,807
Childcare Training & Professional Dev.	\$72,611
Public Health Based Services	\$17,796
Indirect Programmatic Functions	\$207,501
Administrative Functions	\$45,679
TOTAL:	\$711,054

NOTABLE DONORS

<i>DONOR'S NAME</i>	AMOUNT
Literary Review Club	\$50
Burbee Place Daycare	\$300
Perception Builders	\$2,500
Lancaster County Partners for Youth	\$1,000
Palmetto Tri-County	\$500
Target	\$3,000
Peppercinni's	\$142
Comporium	\$5,000
J. Marion Sims Foundation (Grant)	\$58,627
Pamela Trimnal	\$115
Tender Hearts Academy	\$275
Fundraisers	\$11,121
Lancaster County School District (Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant)	\$124,678
Lancaster County Partners for Youth (Early Reading First Grant)	\$68,783
Federal Cash Management (ELOA Grant)	\$68,180
Individual Donations	\$1,005
TOTAL:	\$348,276

Local Match Percentage for FY 2008: 248.8%
(at least 15% Legislative requirement)

Lancaster County First Steps Board Membership

Board Member	Category
Alford, Jane	Non- Profit Organization
Allen, Karl	Family Education, Training, and Support Provider
Adams, Kathy	Legislative Appointment
Bailey, Bobby	Non- Profit Organization
Band, Richard	Lancaster County Library(Appointed)
Barry, Mary	Legislative Appointment
Belk, Shirnetha – Legislative Liaison	Family Education, Training, and Support Provider
Blackwell, Jan	Healthcare Provider
Bundy, John – Vice-Chairman	Parent of Pre-school Children
Burbee, Mark	Childcare Provider
Chapman, Janice	Lancaster County DSS(Appointed)
Coats, Terri	Early Childhood Educator
Ethridge, Tami - Secretary	Childcare Provider
Funderburk, Blondean	Legislative Appointment
Garris, Cindy	Business Community
Hart, Andy	Faith Community
Hinson, Vicki - Chairman	Lancaster County DHEC(Appointed)
Jones, Clara	Family Education, Training, and Support Provider
Kimbrell, Mike	Healthcare Provider
Kirchner, Kit	Business Community
Mackey, Aisha	Pre-K Through Primary Educator
McKenzie, Dr. Paul	Family Education, Training, and Support Provider
Moore, Dr. Gene	Lancaster County School District
Pettit, Denise	Transportation
Percival, Dr. Julie	Pre-K Through Primary Educator
Phillips, Jeffrey - Treasurer	Early Childhood Educator
Plyler, Lonnie	Transportation
Shepard, Ed	Lancaster County DSS(Appointed)
Staten, Tara M.	Business Community
Trimnal, Pamela	Parent of Pre-school Children
Truesdale, Deborah	Head Start(Appointed)
Wallace, Allison	Childcare Provider
West, Kim	Parent of Pre-school Children
White, Hugh	Transportation
Wright, Tomeiko	Early Childhood Educator

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.

SUCCESS STORIES

A Step Above Testimony from Lancaster County First Steps

Hello, My name is Brenda Legg. I am Director/Owner of A Step Above Child Development Center in Lancaster, SC. We opened A Step Above 3 ½ years ago. Our mission is to provide a clean, safe, and Christian environment that will prepare children to be successful.

I came into contact with First Steps two years ago, when I attended a First Steps Meeting. At that meeting, I was thoroughly impressed with the staff and their efforts in Lancaster County. Starting out in business, I tried to provide eight classrooms with as much materials as funds would allow. Thought I had done a pretty good job, but with building a new building and limited funds, I realized I wanted to do more. First Steps came to visit. They told me that they could help provide materials that I was lacking in. I partnered with them through the Technical Assistance Program. Lori was knowledgeable and always willing to help with any questions that I or my staff had.

Through the quality enhancement program, they helped set up our four/five year old classroom into centers and defined areas of learning. The great thing about this help is that it ignited a fire in all of my teachers, making them want to do better. We have watched each classroom change into great learning environments. Many of our four year olds graduated this year and entered kindergarten reading. When I go to the elementary schools to check on my former students, I get compliments on how great the children are doing. I give credit to First Steps and great teachers who have been given the materials that they need to do their jobs.

We have also been very pleased to be able to work with the nursing program. It is great having Amy Jones come periodically to visit our center. She has worked with my teachers and students in proper sanitation methods. The children love her. A little boy asked me one day, “when is the doctor coming back?”

We appreciate all that Lora Bryson and her staff are doing to improve the early care and education for young children and their families in Lancaster. Remember that children are a third of our population and all of our future.

Brenda Legg
Owner/Director
A Step Above Child Development Center

“I love First Steps. The staff is great! They have done so much for my centers. My rooms are first class, top of the line and the kids love them. (So do their Moms) The classes are a great help. My staff is so tired after working. They make the classes fun and a great get-together. We really need First Steps.” ...Cathy Davis, Davis Child Care, Lancaster, SC.

“First Steps, I really appreciate the supplies and materials you have given us. Our children love them; our babies love their new baby room. They are learning to stack blocks, cups and play different things. I also appreciate the training workshops we have here locally. I think what you all are doing is great. Thanks!” ...Pat Griffin, Director Barnes Child Care, Lancaster, SC

“I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You for EVERYTHING!! You give us the opportunity to give children the right start in life because it’s those early years that count. The training courses for staff are wonderful and very helpful. I, myself, have learned so much from the education you provide. Thank You!” Kerrie Kail, Davis Child Care, Lancaster, SC

2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

Lancaster County

Total Children Under Six: 4,767

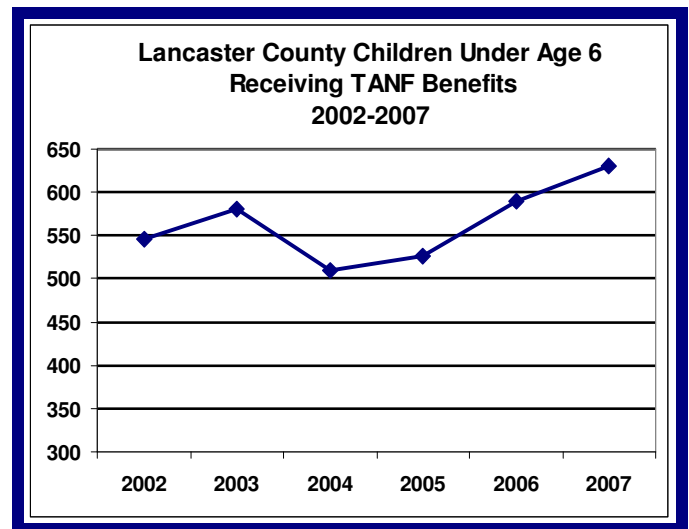
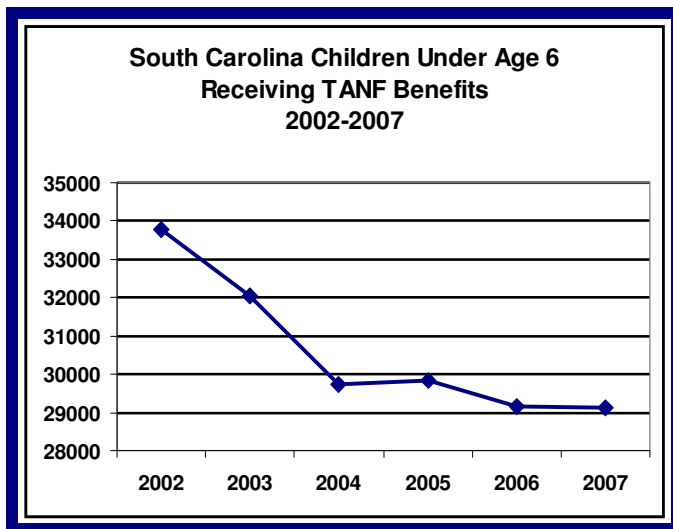
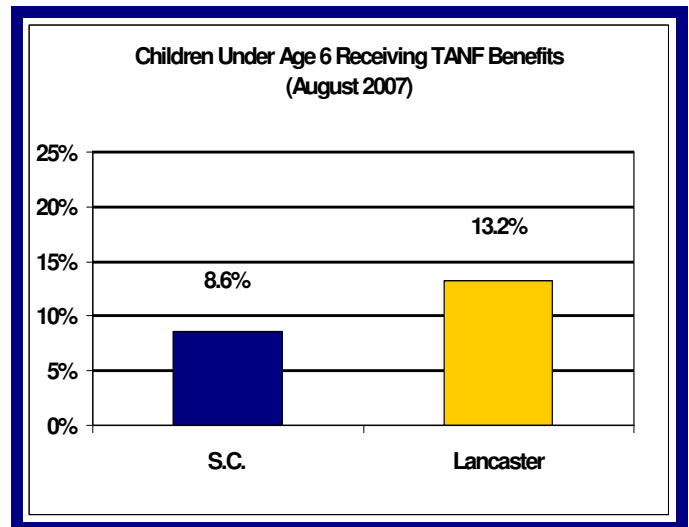
CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4% Lancaster County (2007): 13.2%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 8 Lancaster 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.

630 of Lancaster County’s 4,767 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

Lancaster County

Total Children Under Six: 4,767

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

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2%

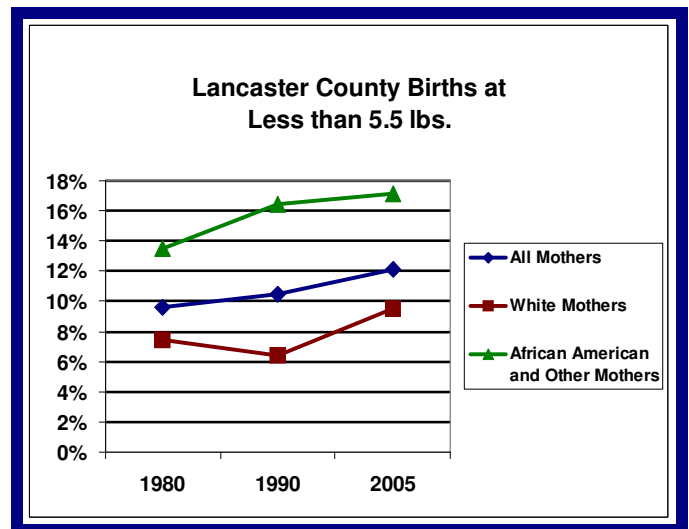
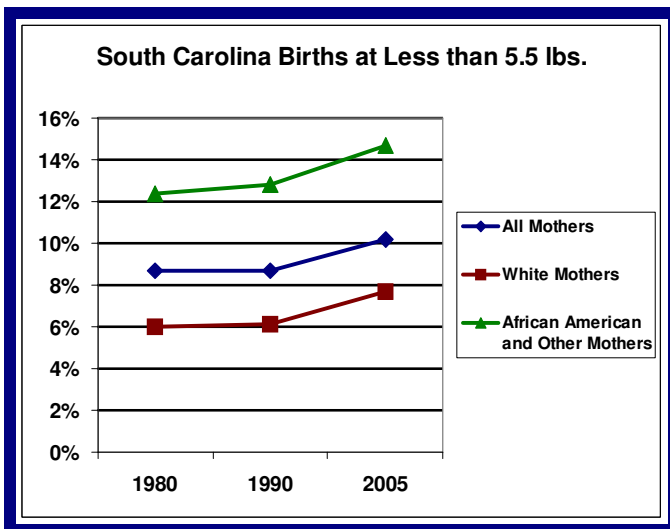
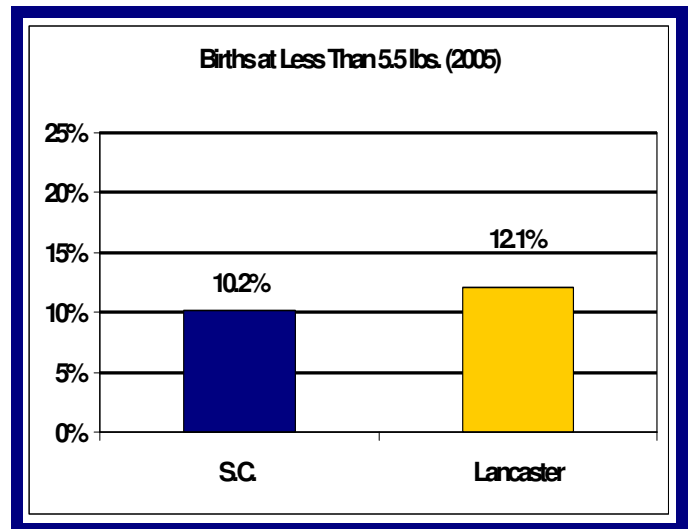
Lancaster County (2005): 12.1%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 8 Lancaster 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.

92 of the 759 children born in Lancaster County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile Lancaster County

Total Children Under Six: 4,767

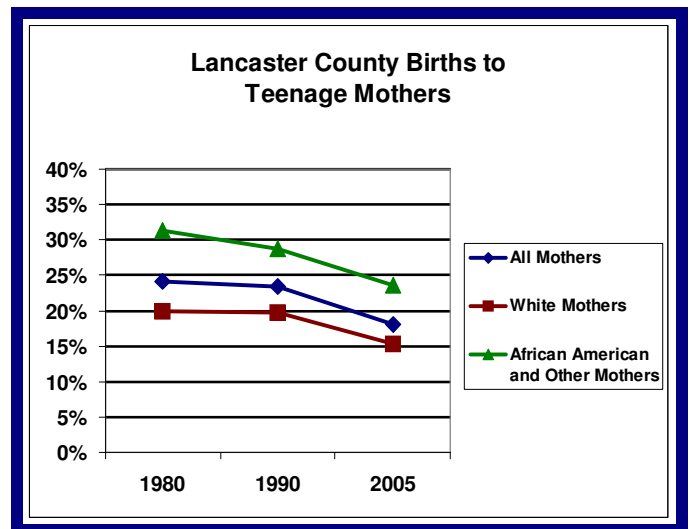
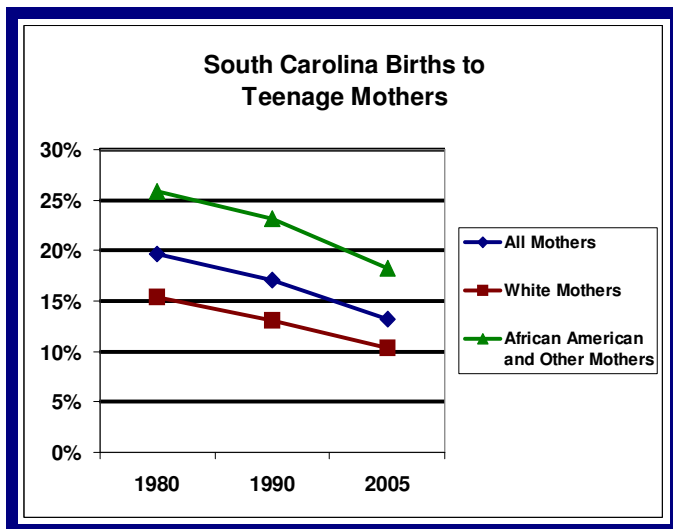
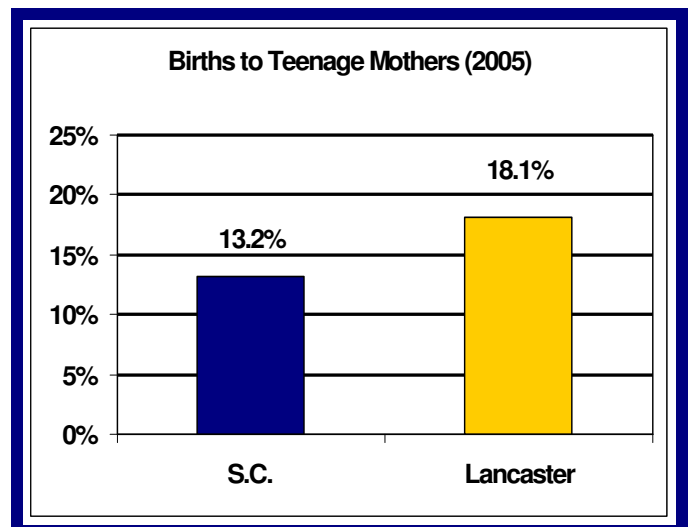
BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

Statewide Average (2005): 13.2% Lancaster County (2005): 18.1%

Fast Fact: Nearly 1 in 5 Lancaster 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.

137 of the 759 children born in Lancaster County during 2005 had teenage mothers.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile Lancaster County

Total Children Under Six: 4,767

BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Statewide Average (2005): 23.7%

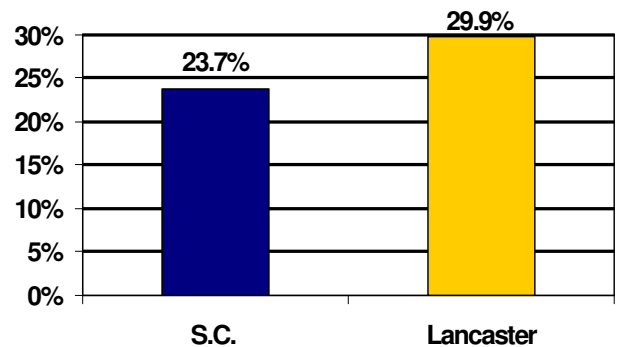
Lancaster County (2005): 29.9%

Fast Fact: Nearly 1 in 3 children in Lancaster 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.

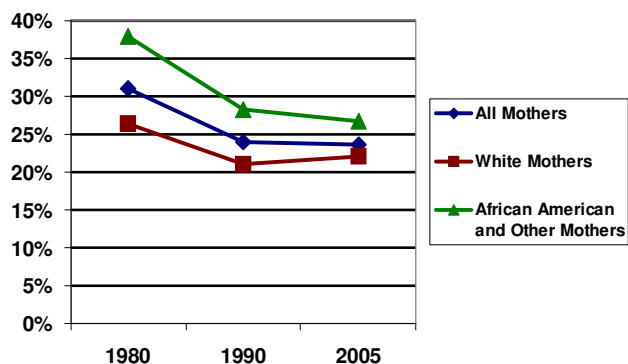
Research suggests that a mother’s own educational attainment is closely linked to the subsequent academic performance of her children.

227 of the 759 children born in Lancaster 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



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

