

NEWBERRY COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.

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**David Jenkins**

**Executive Director:**

**Patricia H. Caldwell**

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**Total children in county under age 6: 2, 957**

**Children under age 6 living in poverty: 11.9%**

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**Newberry County Highlights**

- **CTK:** 30 families served, 97% received 8 home visits; 50% had home visitor as kindergarten teacher.
- **Library:** 580 children in 40 classes received 4,359 age-appropriate books.
- “The Parenting Program really helped me because they believed and I believed that I could make it.”

# Newberry County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report*

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE**

In Newberry County, the percentage of children under the age of 6 living in poverty is more than 3% higher than the SC average. With this in mind, the Partnership implemented the following programs in addition to those highlighted:

- Parenting/Family Literacy Program produced these results: 37 families served with 75% of families meeting duration requirements for home visits; average KIPS pre-score was 3.0 and post-score, 3.71; average ACIRI pre-score was adult 2.1 , post-score, 2.75; average child pre-score, 2.17, and post-score 2.8. 10 adult clients received their GED or High School Diploma.
- The Nutrition Program offered innovative, interactive learning opportunities to promote physical activity and healthy eating habits for preschoolers, parents, and teachers and served 558 families.
- The Quality Enhancement Program served 7 centers, providing ECERS pre- and post-assessments and T/A visits each month, resulting in an average pre-score of 2.28 and an average post-ECERS score of 4.2 and a matched difference of 1.88. The Training strategy made available 15 certified DSS training hours for 100% of the directors/caregivers in the county as well as 5 hours in program administration.

It is with great pride that we highlight our accomplishments.

Sincerely yours,  
Patricia H. Caldwell  
Executive Director  
Newberry County 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.**

#### **Newberry Family Literacy Program (2011)**

**Program description:** The Newberry Parenting/Family Literacy Program has been serving the county as a true Comprehensive Family Literacy program for the past four years. The core components of our comprehensive family literacy program include early childhood education, adult education, parenting education, interactive literacy activities between parents and children and home instruction integrated with intensity and flexibility to help families achieve their goals. The majority of services are provided in a centralized location. Parents can attend school; seek better employment; receive quality child care for their children; and interact with their children while gaining knowledge on how to monitor and enhance their children's development. According to the 2000 census and National Literacy Survey, 29 percent of Newberry County's adult population is low

literate. Thirty-four percent is below the low literate level. The targeted population is at-risk families who are below poverty level according to the Department of Social Services. They do not possess a high school diploma or GED and/or have limited English proficiency. They must be parenting, or expecting a child, birth--five years old. Our expecting parents are served with parenting sessions until they deliver. When their child is born, we enroll them for full services in all the core components. We use eligibility and screening forms to rank parents as they register to become a part of our program. The homeless families are referred by the school district's Department of Student Services and local Department of Social Services and are also referred by Newberry County Memorial Hospital and school counselors.

**Program results:**

- 13 currently enrolled
- Strategy Average Pre-Score: 28.6 for last year--PPVT
- Overall Average: 49.6 Post-Score for last year--PPVT
- 10 students had a goal of receiving their high school diploma or GED and 10 achieved their goal--5 of 10 are currently enrolled in local technical college and working and 3 are working with plans to start in January 2009. One is helping take care of her mother. Mother's cancer is out of remission.

## **HEALTHY START.**

### **Nutrition Program (Public) 9031**

**Program description:** The Clemson University Extension Service's EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program), in partnership with Newberry County First Steps, will offer fun, innovative interactive learning opportunities about the importance of physical activity and healthy eating habits for preschool-age children, their parents and their teachers. The goal is to provide life skills that will enable preschoolers to be healthy and ready for school.

**Program results:**

- Adults: 85; Children: 420; Total Projected Families/Cases: 505
- Objective 1: Increase the amount of nutrition education and physical activity in the classroom.
  - Outcome Measure(s):
  - Child care providers and teachers complete evaluations at the end of Nutrition Education Child Care Training/workshop/ program.
  - Results to Date: 10 Color Me Healthy sites, 17 child care providers/ teachers/directors agreed to offer nutrition education and physical activity in the classroom once a week after being trained in the Color Me Healthy curriculum. They used Color Me Healthy lesson plans impacting 124 preschool children. Note: A pre-K teacher at Gallman Elementary School shared nutrition activities conducted in the classroom such as a graph of the children's fruit and vegetable intake using the Color Me Healthy Poster to monitor if they were eating a rainbow of colors. Each child made an individual graph of his or her fruit and vegetable rainbow intake. It was

noted that blue and purple fruits/vegetables were the lowest consumed. The class wrote a letter to the School Nutrition Director to request more blue and purple fruits and vegetables be offered with school meals. Each child in the classroom signed his or her name. The class displayed a classroom cookbook of recipes.

- 46 child care providers from 10 different centers participated in 2 hours of nutrition education child care training, impacting 310 preschool-age children. 100% child care providers reported on the evaluation one thing they saw demonstrated in the child care training that they will try in their classroom to teach children to eat healthier:
- Objective 2: Improve fruit and vegetable recognition by colors, shapes and texture.
  - Outcome Measure(s): Children will be asked to identify various fruits and vegetables through color recognition, picture identification, five senses, size and shape.
  - Results to Date: During the nutrition visit(s) at 13 child care centers/schools, impacting 243 preschool-age children, a variety of interactive games and activities were used to reinforce knowledge about fruits and vegetables.
- Objective 3: Increase willingness to try new foods
  - Outcome Measure(s): Parents and teachers were asked to complete a survey at the beginning of the school year and/or at the end of the school year. Children participated in a nutrition learning activity and prepared and/or sampled new food.
  - Results to Date: 243 children participated in a nutrition learning activity. 100% were willing to prepare and try new food that was presented in the classroom.

## **QUALITY CHILD CARE.**

### **Child Care Quality Enhancement (6012)**

**Program description:** This initiative is designed to improve the quality of care and education in participating centers by providing appropriate classroom equipment and materials as well as technical assistance to create stimulating learning environments and increase the knowledge and skills of child care directors/caregivers. The First Steps Program Assistant, who is a SC Certified Trainer, conducts pre- and post-ECERS/ITERS assessments and provides T/A twice a month to address deficient areas. She collaborates with directors/caregivers to set goals and develop a plan of action. Participating child care centers will receive supplies based on their compliance with program criteria and needs documented in their assessments. The goal is to increase the number of child care centers moving from one level of licensure to the next with the ultimate goal of becoming nationally accredited. First Steps also provides 15 hours of DSS training for

caregivers/directors, targeting areas that need improvement. At least 5 hours in program administration are provided in Directors' Forums.

**Program results:**

- 8 child care facilities, serving a total of 354 children 0-5 years, partnered with First Steps and received 192.5 hours of technical assistance.
- 8 child care facilities received a total of \$10,964 in child-sized furnishings and learning materials.
- 7 centers (one of the initial 8 centers closed) received pre- and post-ECERS assessments for a designated classroom per center.
- Average ECERS scores for those 7 centers were as follows: average ECERS pre-score: 2.28; average ECERS post-score: 4.2; matched ECERS difference (pre- to post-): 1.88
- One center moved from Licensed to ABC Enhanced level.
- Fifteen (15) hours of DSS training were made available to all caregivers and directors in the county in two cycles during the year.
- All centers have improved in terms of having age-appropriate furnishings, basic numbers of materials, and room arrangements that promote developmental learning.

**Center Staff Training and Development (6052)**

**Program description:** In response to overwhelming research on the importance of brain growth and development in children birth to five years, and the impact of high quality child care programs on success in kindergarten, school, and later life, this strategy focuses on raising the quality of child care in centers through teacher training. Newberry County First Steps will continue to provide, at minimal cost to all caregivers and directors in the county, two cycles of 15 hours each of DSS certified training. Topics chosen meet First Steps' requirements and/or address deficiencies as noted in technical assist visits and ECERS/ITERS assessments. At least 5 hours in program administration will be provided in Directors' Forums.

**Program results:**

- 80 unduplicated adults from QE and non-QE facilities and outside the county received training.
- A total of 449 caregivers and directors attended all training sessions.
- A total of 34.5 hours of certified and 15.5 hours of registered training were offered
- Training topics addressed areas identified in ECERS assessments.
- Participating centers had an average improvement score between pre- and post-ECERS assessments of 1.88.

**EARLY EDUCATION.**

**Newberry County First Steps Library Outreach Program (2091)**

**Program description:** The Newberry County First Steps Library Outreach Program is designed to produce literacy activities for three- and four-year olds enrolled in a certified preschool program. These programs include daycare, private preschools, faith-based preschools and public schools. Currently there are 40 classes, accounting for approximately 580 students participating in the program. Each class receives visits twice a month from the outreach librarian. A large variety of children's books are read during these classroom visits. Each month a title is chosen as "Book of the Month." The "Book of the Month" is read at both visits and, during the second visit of the month, each child is given his/her own personal copy to take home. Children are also taught proper care and handling of books.

Through the storytelling/reading sessions every two weeks, teachers will be trained in storytelling techniques that they will incorporate into their own storytelling/reading times.

**Program results:**

- A total of 602 children were served during the 2007-2008 fiscal year.
- Early learning reading techniques were modeled for sixty teachers and assistants.
- Using a pre- and post-survey of parents, 12% increased their reading time with their child from less than 30 minutes a week to more than 30 minutes a week.
- 13% of the children increased the number of times they ask for books to be read to them from less than 3 times a week to more than 3 times a week.
- 10% of the children increased the number of times they look at books alone from less than 3 times a week to more than 3 times a week.
- 14% of parents surveyed increased the number of times they discuss books read with their child from less than 3 times a week to more than 3 times a week.
- 100% of teachers surveyed reported that the students in their classes benefited from this program.
- 100% of teachers surveyed reported that this program helped their students develop a greater interest in books.
- 100% of teachers surveyed reported that this program helped their students gain knowledge in turning pages and handling books.
- 97% of teachers surveyed strongly agreed that this program helped their students increase their comprehension of books read to them.
- 97% of teachers surveyed strongly agreed that this program helped increase attention span of students in their classes.
- 5,311 books were distributed to three- and four-year old children to take home to keep.
- 291 books were given to child care centers to enhance their libraries.

## **SCHOOL TRANSITION.**

### **Countdown to Kindergarten (4062)**

**Program description:** This program is designed to increase the successful transition of the most at-risk children into kindergarten. Kindergarten teachers made eight home visits during the summer to help children with school readiness skills and also to work with parents on preparing for the upcoming school year. Children and families are introduced to actual materials used in kindergarten and are given a Kindergarten Transition Toolkit (books, puzzles, clay, blocks, floor mats, etc.) to keep. At the end of the Countdown program, families take a “field trip” to the school where the child will attend class in the fall.

**Program results:**

- 30 families served
- 97% of all CTK students received seven or more visits.
- 46% increase of children visited library
- 50% of children had their home visitor as their kindergarten teacher.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<u>Expenditures By Funding Source</u>	
State Appropriation ( <i>Fund 10</i> )	\$193,734
E.I.A. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 55</i> )	\$ 18,277
Lottery Appropriation ( <i>Fund 35</i> )	\$
C.D.E.P.P. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 60</i> )	\$
C.O.E. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 65</i> )	\$
.F.P. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 70</i> )	\$
State Private ( <i>Fund 15</i> )	\$ 0
Local Private ( <i>Fund 20</i> )	\$ 3,155
Federal ( <i>Fund 30</i> )	\$ 10,057
In-Kind ( <i>Fund 25</i> )	\$ 65,825
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$291,049</b>

<u>Expenditures By Program / Strategy Name</u>	
Parents As Teachers (Public)	\$ 49,831
Library-Based Programs (Public)	\$ 47,402
Family Literacy Model (Public)	\$ 18,969
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$ 9,295
Child Care Quality Enhancement (In-House)	\$ 25,087
Child Care Training & Professional Development (In-House)	\$ 10,544
Resource and Referral Services (Private)	\$ 9,057
Nutrition	\$ 66,867

Indirect Programmatic Functions	<b>\$ 34,351</b>
Administrative Functions	\$ 19,645
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$291,049</b>

### NOTABLE DONORS

<i><b>DONOR'S NAME</b></i>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Interfaith Resource and Referral	\$ 7,500
Newberry Adult Learning Center	\$ 660
Newberry County Cultural Arts	\$ 515
School District of Newberry	\$ 5,490
St. Luke's Episcopal Church	\$ 100
St. Mark's Catholic Church	\$ 8,931
Greenville Technical College	\$ 2,000
Interest Income	\$ 2,192
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$27,388</b>

*Local Match Percentage for FY 2008: 41.25%*

## COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. David Jenkins, chair, supervisor of early education  
Ms. Elizabeth Bozard, vice-chair, Newberry County Health Department  
Ms. Charlene Caldwell, child care provider  
Ms. Gwen Clark, legislative appointee  
Ms. Rita Crump-Saddler, parent educator  
Ms. Rebecca Curry, parent of a child served by First Steps  
Ms. Dianne Dillingham, healthcare provider  
Rev. Eric Fink, faith community  
Rev. Anderson C. Gray, faith community  
Mr. David Green, family education, training and support provider  
Ms. Jessie Hill, child care provider  
Ms. Jackie Holmes, early childhood educator  
Ms. Jodi Hudnall, legislative appointee  
Ms. Lynette Lever, healthcare provider  
Ms. Mary Singley, Head Start appointee  
Ms. Cynthia Smith, early childhood educator  
Ms. Tucky Taylor, county library appointee  
Ms. Betty Thompson, pre-k/primary educator  
Patricia Turner, legislative appointee  
Marlyne Walker, legislative appointee



Sarah Williams, Newberry County Department of Social Services  
Frances Wright, early childhood educator

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## **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**

### **Family Strengthening**

“The parenting program really helped me because they believed and I believed that I could make it and they had a lot of confidence in me. I have learned a lot of things from this program and it could help other girls that are in my situation. You can get a lot of information from the directors of this program and the speakers that come to talk to you about other subjects. I want to go to Piedmont Technical College for 2 years and then transfer to another college. I want to major in education when I first go and then go back and major in business/accounting. Going to school is something that I want to accomplish and with the help of the parenting program I can do that with no problems because they motivate you to do well in school and to become good parents for your child.”

--Shakayla Wise

“What this program has done for me? When I was 14 in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, I had gotten pregnant. I thought then my mother was going to struggle by taking care of my child, my brother, and I. Since she was a single parent and all, but I was wrong. Once the school found out, they signed me to a parenting program for teen parents. This program helped me with my child. They also helped me find child care; they helped me develop better parenting skills since I was so young of age. Over the years my child has learned a lot by participating in this program and I really appreciate them for their time. So once you become a teen parent, there's no need to think your life is over because there's always help somewhere and if you can make it, you can.”

--Ashley Johnson

# 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

# Newberry County

Total Children Under Six: 2,957

## CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

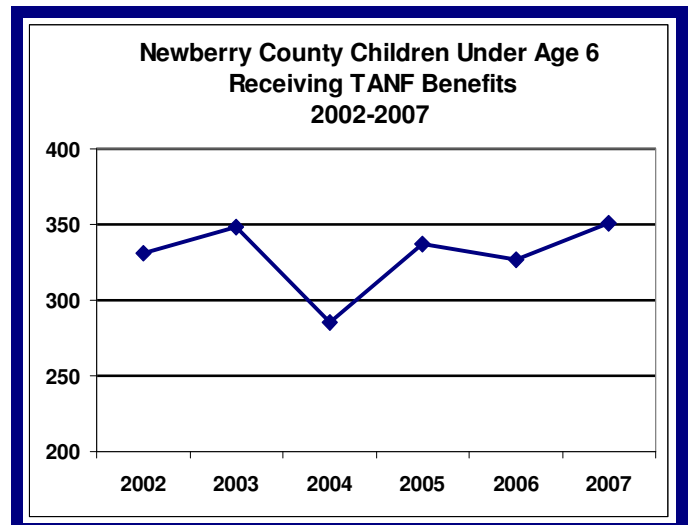
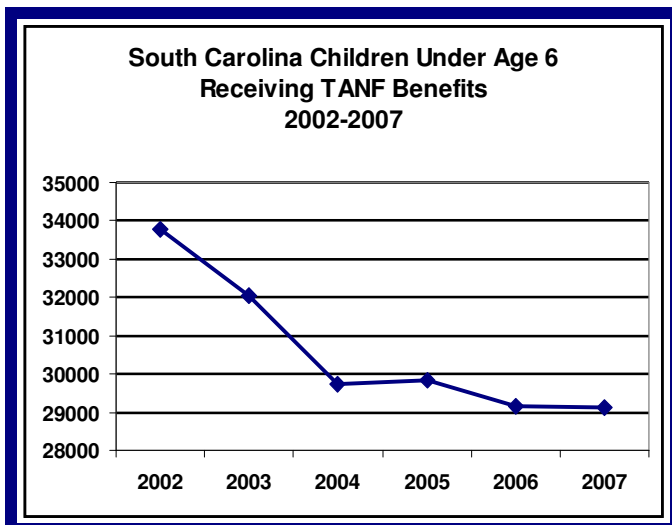
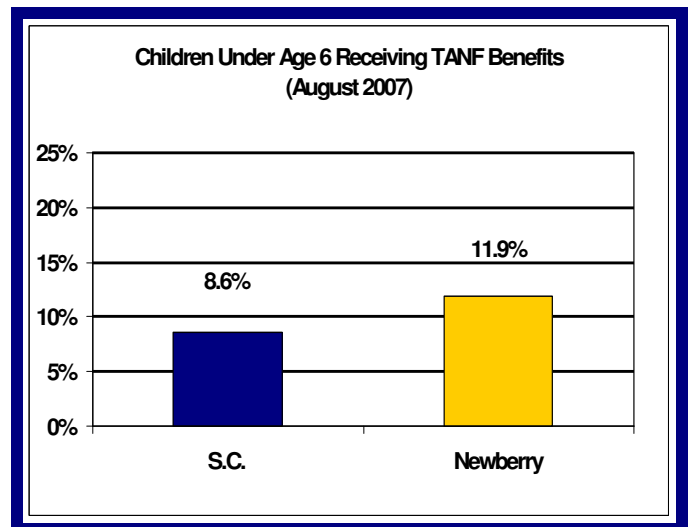
Statewide Average (2007): 8.4%

Newberry County (2007): 11.9%

***Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 9 Newberry 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.

351 of Newberry County's 2,957 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

# Newberry County

Total Children Under Six: 2,957

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

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2%

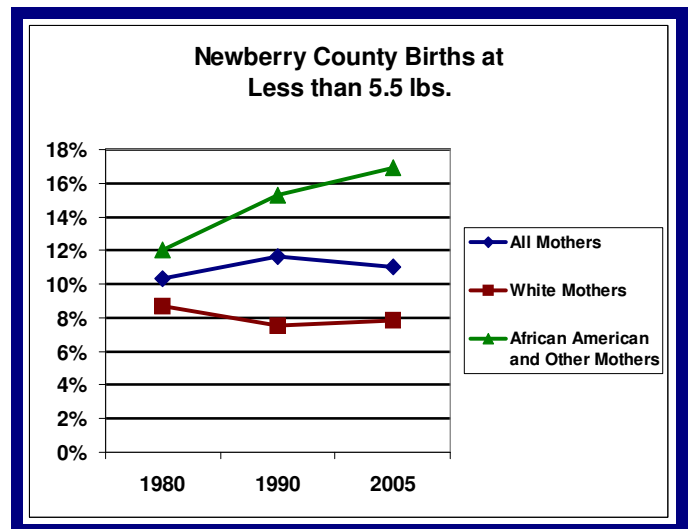
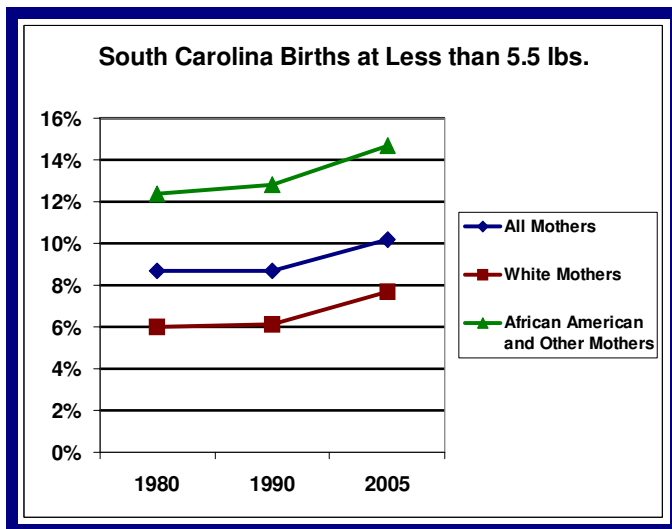
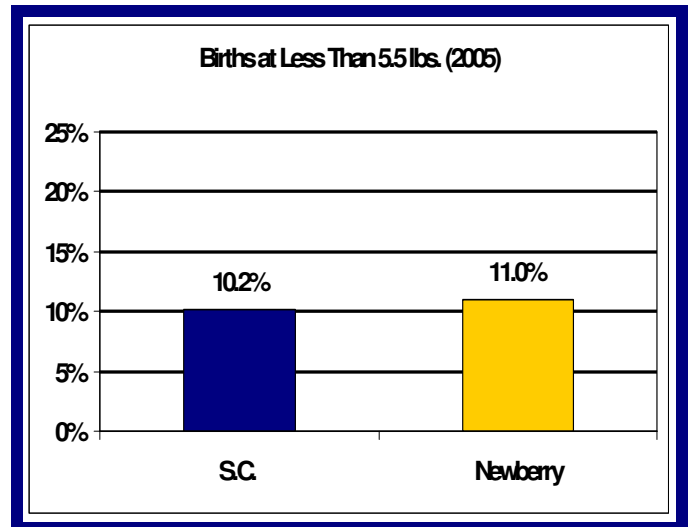
Newberry County (2005): 11.0%

**Fast Fact:** 1 in 10 Newberry 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.

57 of the 516 children born in Newberry County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.



# 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

# Newberry County

Total Children Under Six: 2,957

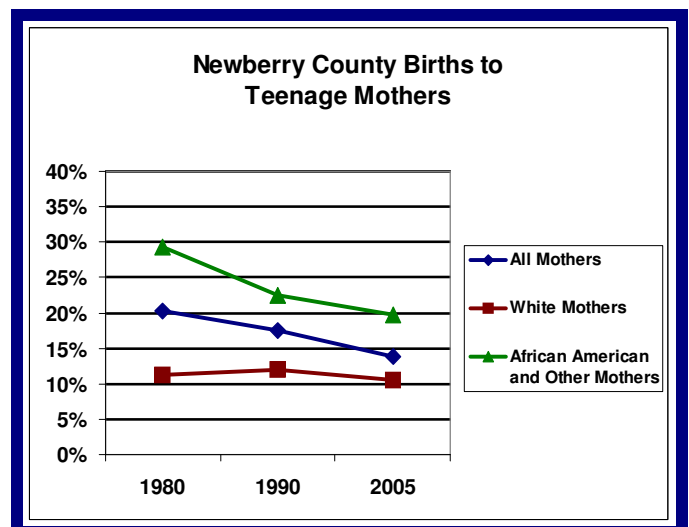
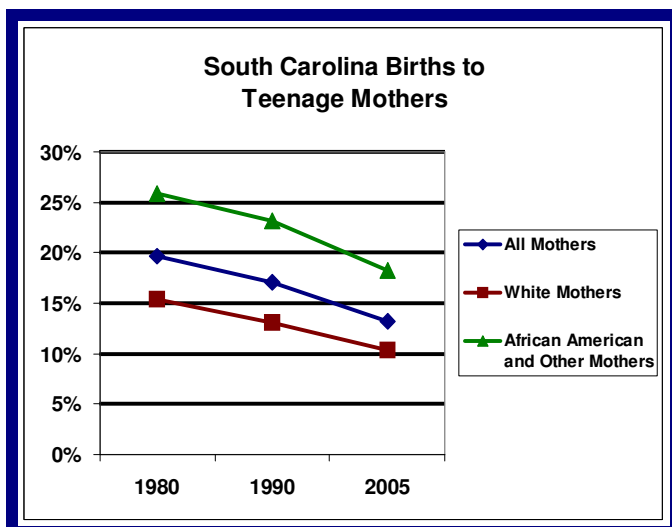
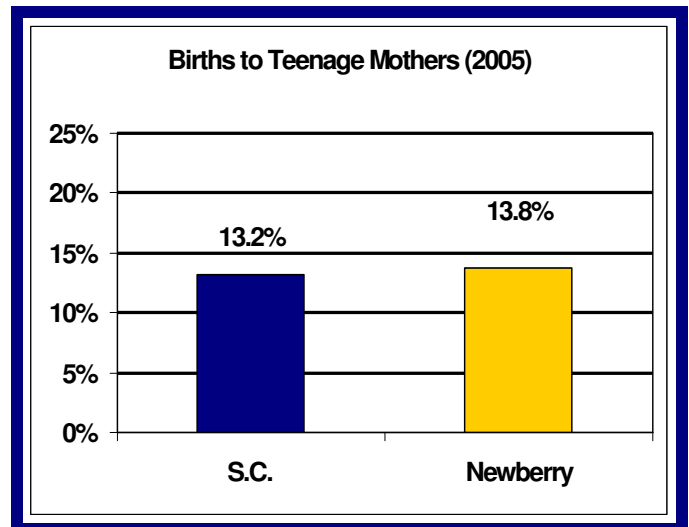
## BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

Statewide Average (2005): 13.2%      Newberry County (2005): 13.8%

**Fast Fact:** Nearly 1 in 7 Newberry 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.

71 of the 516 children born in Newberry County during 2005 had teenage mothers.



# 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

# Newberry County

Total Children Under Six: 2,957

## BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Statewide Average (2005): 23.7%

Newberry County (2005): 31.4%

**Fast Fact:** Nearly 1 in 3 children in Newberry 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.

162 of the 516 children born in Newberry County during 2005 had mothers with less than a high school diploma.

