

South Carolinians are in great danger of not being financial stable and secure throughout their lifetimes. They need lifelong learning opportunities to help them improve their financial management skills and quality of life.

- Threats to financial security
 - Over 1.62 million bankruptcy filings in 2003 (American Bankruptcy Institute, 2003) Almost 98% of these were filed by consumers. In S.C., there were 16,212 bankruptcy filings in 2003.
 - Personal savings rate has continued to be at very low levels over the last decade.
 - Indebtedness is at an all time high. The average credit card debt for households with credit card debt hovers around \$8,000. This is really alarming since many households do not have any credit card debt. It is estimated that those who do have credit card debt is closer to \$12,000.
 - Many people have refinanced their mortgages and spent down the equity in their homes. The average equity is just 56%.
 - The cost of health care and long-term care continues to increase at rapid rates.
 - The leading economic indicator of family hardship is not unemployment: it is not having health insurance. Two-thirds of working poor have no health insurance.
- Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1964)
 - 78 million baby boomers in 2000, ranging in age from 38-56 years of age
 - 1/5th of Boomers are financially at-risk
 - Earned less than \$30,000/year
 - \$18,149 average yearly wage
 - 36% had high school diploma - 30% some college
 - 18% had not finished H.S.- 16% completed college
 - 70% plan to work in retirement years
 - 33% fear growing old
- Older Americans
 - 35 million 65+ in U.S.; 485,300 in S.C. (2000 census)
 - Seniors are the fastest-growing group of debtors in the U.S.
 - Bankruptcy filings among seniors has jumped 244% from 1991 - 2002
 - Community care options differ greatly between urban & rural areas; end of life issues and concerns are increasing
 - 28% of 70+ live alone with no living children
 - 30% of caregivers are working (spouses or children)
 - Families provide 80% of eldercare
 - Women - 74% of primary caregivers
 - Average caregiver - 63 years old
 - American businesses lose \$11-29 billion annually due to care responsibilities
 - Caregivers lose an average of \$656,139 in total lifetime wealth due to care obligations
- Grandparents raising grandchildren
 - 11% of grandparents care for grandchildren for at least 6 months
 - 77% are female grandparents
 - Factors increasing chance for raising grandchildren

- poverty level
- being African-American
- divorce
- drug abuse
- incarceration of child's mother

End Notes:

Baby Boomers Envision Their Retirement. (2001). Washington, D.C.: AARP.

Belden, Russonella, and Stewart, & Research Strategy/Management. (2001 July). In the middle: A report on multicultural boomers coping with family and aging issues. Washington, D.C.: AARP.

Met Life Juggling Act Study. (1999). NY: National Center on Women and Aging, Brandies University.

Minkler, M. (2001). Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children. Issue brief prepared for U.S. Administration on Aging.

Montgomery, R.J.V. and Kosloski, K.D. (1999). Family Caregiving: Change, Continuity and Diversity. In P. Lawton and R. Rubenstein (Eds.) *Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias: Strategies in Care and Research*. New York, N.Y.: Springer Publishing Company.

National Family Caregivers Association. (n.d.) Family Caregiving Statistics. (from <http://www.nfcacares.org/>)

The Texas Baby Boomer Survey. (2000). Austin, TX: Texas Department on Aging

Rix, S.E. (2001). The Role of Older Workers in Caring for Older People in the Future. *Generations* 25(1):29-34.

Stone, R.I. (2001). Research on Frontline Workers in Long-term Care. *Generations* 25 (1): 49-57.

1997 State Performance Reports - Profile of State Older American Act Programs. (2000) Washington, D.C.: Administration on Aging. <http://www.aoa.dhhs.gov/prof/Statistics/profile/2000/profile2000.pdf>

Wiener, J.M. and Stevenson, D.G. (1998). Long Term Care for the Elderly: Profile of Thirteen States. Occasional Paper Number 12. Washington, D.C., The Urban Institute

Youth need experiential learning opportunities in all life skills, not just in agriculture-related programs. In the financial realm,

- American teens aged 12-19 spent \$175 billion in 2003, an average of \$103 per week. This is a 5% increase over spending in 2002 (Teenage Research Unlimited)
- Of the 4,000 students who took the Jump\$tart personal finance survey in 2002, 68.1% received failing scores. (Jump\$tart Coalition, 2002)
- Between 1990 and 1999 there was a 51% increase in annual bankruptcy filings among adults 25 years of age and younger. (National Endowment for Financial Education®)
- Research shows that an individual who attended high school in a state that possessed a personal finance education mandate (and was thus exposed to personal finance in school) achieved roughly one-year's worth of additional net worth when compared to individuals who did not attend school in states with mandates (Stanford University, National Bureau of Economic Research, June 1997)
- High school graduates stand to earn over \$1 million in adulthood, without adjusting for inflation (NEFE, 2001)
- Only 21% of students between the ages of 16 and 22 say they have taken a personal finance course through school. (Youth and Money Survey, 1999)
- Ninety-four percent of youth cite their parents as their primary source of financial education. (Youth and Money Survey, 1999)
- Thirty percent of youth report that their parents rarely or never discuss saving and investing with them and 47% say their parents rarely or never discuss household budgeting with them. (Youth and Money Survey, 1999)
- Sixty-one percent of parents say that parents and schools should share the responsibility for teaching children about financial education. (Parents, Youth and Money Survey, 2001)
- Research has shown that as little as 10 hours of personal financial education positively affects students spending and savings habits. (National Endowment for Financial Education®)

Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation and guidance. Family life is different in numerous ways from previous generations, and many families now face exceptional challenges without adequate opportunities to learn how to build strong families.

According to the 2003 South Carolina Kids Count (<http://www.sckidscount.org/kc03.asp?COUNTYID=47>), the data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in South Carolina. The 31.3% of children in single-parent families, 18.8% in poverty, 34.8% not graduating from school, 37.1% of high school students using alcohol and 20.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in the report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.

Births to Teen Mothers: In 2001, 2,807 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. They were 5% of all babies born in the state; 3.5% of all White and 7.9% of all African-American and Other babies were born to teen mothers under the age of 18. Of the babies born to these teens in 2001, 91.3% were born to single mothers, including babies whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers.

In 2001, 8,080 babies were born to mothers younger than age 20. These babies were 14.5% of all born in the state; 11.1% of all White and 20.5% of all African-American and Other babies were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of the babies born to these mothers in 2001, 82.8% were born to single mothers, including paternity acknowledged babies.

Education of Mothers Giving Birth: Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parents. In 2001, 11,703 babies, 21.1% of all babies, were born to mothers of all ages who had not completed the 12th grade. In 2001, 19.3% of White and 24.3% of African-American and Other babies were born to mothers who had completed less than the 12th grade. This is a substantial improvement from 44.6% in 1970. In addition, during 2001, 34.8% had completed 12 grades (30.5% of Whites and 42.4% of African Americans and Others) and 44.1% had more than a high school degree (50.2% of Whites and 33.3% of African American and Others).

Births to Single Mothers: Births to single mothers have increased steadily over four decades. In 2001, 14,775 babies, 26.5% of all babies, were recorded as born to single mothers. A decade earlier in 1990, the percentage was 28.7% and in 1960 it was 12.3%. In 2001, 12.5% of White children and 51.5% of African-American and Other children were born to single mothers. These numbers, however, do not include paternity acknowledgement births.

Thus, to these numbers should be added an additional group of 7,556 babies, 13.6% of all born in 2001, whose fathers formally acknowledged paternity but had not married the mothers. When the paternity-acknowledged babies are added, the total number born to single mothers in 2001 was 22,331, constituting 40.1% of all babies, 23.9% of White babies, and 68.9% of African-American and Others.

Divorce Rate: In 2001, 40,128 marriage licenses were issued, while 14,657 divorce decrees involving 11,712 children were filed. In 1970, only 6741 children were in families involved in divorce.

Single-Parent Family: Increasing numbers of children live in single-parent families. In 2000, 273,880 children lived with only one parent. This was 31.3% of all children, up from 25.1% in 1990, 18.9% in 1980, and 14.5% in 1970. In 2000, 19% of White and 52% of African-American and Other children lived in single-parent families. Also in 2000, 75,251 or 29% of children under age 6 lived in single parent families: 15.7% of White and 53.4% of African American and Other pre-schoolers.

Parents Working and Child Care: Increasingly, parents must divide their time between children and employers. In order to meet family financial needs, most parents must work and thus have less time for family life. In 2000, 66.1% of mothers with children under 6 and 73.1% with children 6 - 17 were in the labor force. This has increased substantially from 1960 when 36.8% of mothers with children under 6 were in the labor force. Most fathers also work. 62.6% of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable daycare while they are at work.

Overall, there are 144,795 spaces* in state-regulated childcare facilities in the state, 92.2% of these are in licensed programs and 7.8% are in registered programs. Of the spaces, 83.5% are in licensed childcare centers serving more than 12 children, 6.8% are in registered or licensed family childcare homes serving six or fewer children, 2.4% are in licensed group childcare homes serving 7 - 12 children, and 7.4% are in registered or licensed church programs.

The homes and centers are severely constrained by the limited ability of parents to pay. In the state, the average weekly charge is \$80.4 for centers and \$68.41 for homes. Consequently, center wages are low: 25.2% of centers with pre-school staff and 36.3% of centers with assistant pre-school staff report paying these staff under \$6 per hour. Paying \$6-\$8 per hour are 57.7% of centers with pre-school staff and 51.4% of centers with assistants. Low wages attract workers with limited education. In 46.7% of centers, most pre-school staff and in 51.4% of centers most assistants have only a high school degree. In 47.5% of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. In childcare homes, 57% of lead providers have no more education than a high school degree or GED; 15.7% have less than a high school degree.

Family Violence: In 2000, 34,773 domestic assaults were recorded by law enforcement officials. These domestic assaults comprised 30.4% of all assaults, which include aggravated assaults, simple assaults, and intimidation. Overall, 56% of all domestic assaults involve spouse abuse which constitutes 17% of all assaults. Since most family violence is not reported, the true incidence of family disruption is much more widespread than even the large number of reported cases would indicate.

Separation from Parents: Some children do not live with their natural parents. In 2000, 7.1% of all children did not live with their natural parents. Approximately 49737 or 4.9% of all children lived with relatives, 15,928 or 1.6% lived with non-relatives, 1,295 or 0.1% were householders or spouses, and 4,839 or 0.5% were in institutional facilities.

Abuse and Neglect: In 2000 - 01, there were 19,250 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Through its investigations, the Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 6,651 of the investigations were indicated for abuse or neglect: 15.1% for physical abuse, 6.4% for sexual abuse, 0.6% for mental injury, 30.2% for physical neglect, 4.8% for educational neglect, 3% for medical neglect, 38.6% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 1.4% for other types of abuse.

In the indicated cases of abuse and neglect, DSS determined there were 11,128 children who were victims of abuse or neglect. Of these, 49.6% were male, 50.4% were female; 52.3% were White, 47.7% were African-American and Other. By age, 37.1% were ages 0 - 5, 40.7% were ages 6 - 12, and 22.2% were ages 13 - 17. In the indicated cases, 31.1% of the children lived in two-parent families, 46.5% in single parent families, 15.9% with unmarried couples, and 6.6% in other circumstances.

Adult/Child Ratio: A measure of potential adult attention for children from family and community is the ratio of adults to children and youth. In 2000 there were 2.97 adults for every person below age 18. This was up substantially from 1960, when there were only 1.4 adults for every person under the age 18. This indicates that today there are more adults potentially available to provide attention and care for each child than in the past.

Low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Poverty: In 1999, 187,275 children and youth under the age of 18 lived in 87,631 families with incomes below poverty, comprising 18.8% of all children and youth: 9.5% of Whites and 32.5% of African-Americans and Others. A rough estimate of child poverty in 2001 calculated by the Census Bureau was 23.0%.

Poverty has always been a serious problem. While the rate among children under age 18 in 1989 was 21%, it was 21.2% in 1979 and 28.7% in 1969.

Children and the elderly are the age groups most seriously affected by poverty. In 1999, 20.2% of children 0 - 5 (10.1% White, 35.8% African-American and Other), and 17.7% of children 6 - 17 (8.6% White, 30.7% African-American and Other), lived in poverty; 13.9% of persons 65 years and older lived in poverty. Historically, the poverty rate among the elderly was much higher. During the last three decades, federal policy actions have substantially improved the economic status of older persons but have not done so for children.

Single-parent families are most likely to be poor. In 1999, 40.2% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, but only 7.5% of children in married-couple families were poor. Children in single-parent families made up 68% of all the state's children living in poverty.

In 2002, the poverty level was \$15,020 for a family of three and \$18,100 for a family of four. The poverty threshold is often criticized as an arbitrary number. People can still be poor but may be just above the poverty level. Federal programs utilize varying thresholds. For example, in 1999 there were 426,484 children ages 0-17 who were less than 200 percent of poverty; thus an additional 239,209 children were above the poverty

level but could still be considered poor or near-poor with incomes below \$30,040 and \$36,200 respectively for 3 and 4 person families.

Income: The mean income of families with children in 1999 was \$52,011. In 1989, it was \$46,153, and 1979, it was \$41,959, adjusted for inflation (i.e., in 1999 dollars). The mean income of single-parent families with children was \$24,322 for single parents in 1999, as compared with \$64,607 in married-couple families with children. From 1999 to 2000, South Carolina real dollar per capita income (eliminating inflation) increased by 1.3%.

Inadequate Healthcare: No county level data is routinely collected regarding the number of children and youth with inadequate healthcare. According to estimates for 2000-02 by the Bureau of the Census through the annual Current Population Survey, the statewide average rate of uninsured children and youth under age 18 in families with incomes under 200% of poverty in South Carolina was 16.6%, and 9.9% above 200% of poverty. If these rates are applied to the state, there are 70,893 children in the state below 200% of poverty with no health insurance, and 57,871 children above 200% of poverty with no health insurance, for a total of 128,764 uninsured children in South Carolina. The number lacking basic accessible primary care is at least double the number lacking insurance. Those lacking primary care are often dependent on health services at school. The ratio of students to nurses recommended nationally is 750:1. In the state, this would suggest the need for 870 nurses, compared with 539.2 currently working in the schools.