

# Please Preserve Funding for the South Carolina Child Abuse Medical Response Program



## South Carolina Child Abuse Statistics:

- 21,000 reports of suspected child abuse are made each year in SC
- 1 out of 3 reports made to SC DSS are indicated for abuse
- Types of abuse: Neglect – 68%, Threat of Harm-18%, Physical abuse – 10%, Sexual abuse – 3%, and Other-1%

- The South Carolina Child Abuse Medical Response Program was formed in 2003 by the SC Children's Hospital Collaborative and the SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers to address the critical shortage of forensic medical services for children who are suspected victims of child abuse.
- When the program began, only 21% of the need for forensic medical evaluations was being met in SC. By the end of 2007, the program was meeting 47% of the need – on a shoestring budget of \$1.4 million per year from SC DHHS. { 1,909 evaluations in 2003, 4,404 evaluations in 2007}
- The program has significantly improved the quantity and quality of pediatric forensic medical services to children through centers of excellence established by the state's four children's hospitals. The program is administered by the USC Department of Pediatrics and funded with a combination of funds that includes recurring state appropriations.
- Recent budget cuts have resulted in a 20% reduction in services.
- For more information about the program, go to [www.sccamrs.org](http://www.sccamrs.org)



The *South Carolina Children's Hospital Collaborative* is a non-profit association of the four children's hospitals in South Carolina. The Collaborative works closely with the *South Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics* on children's health issues. Our member hospitals include:

- Greenville Hospital System Children's Hospital – Greenville
- Palmetto Health Children's Hospital – Columbia
- MUSC Children's Hospital – Charleston
- McLeod Children's Hospital – Florence

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[www.scchildrenshospitals.org](http://www.scchildrenshospitals.org)