

How are they faring?

South Australia's 2023 Report Card for children and young people



SA's 4th annual report card reveals how our youngest citizens are faring in ...

Wellbeing

Preparing for adulthood

Education

Health

Safety

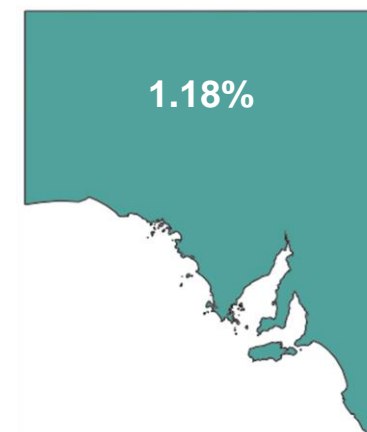
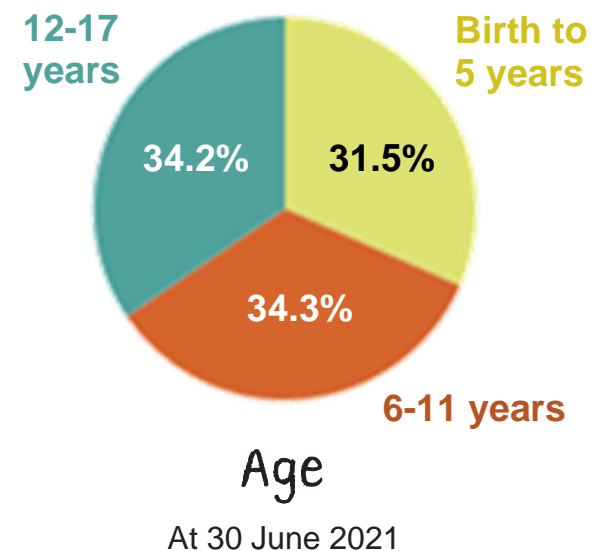
374,400

children and young people aged under 18 years were estimated to be living in SA in 2022

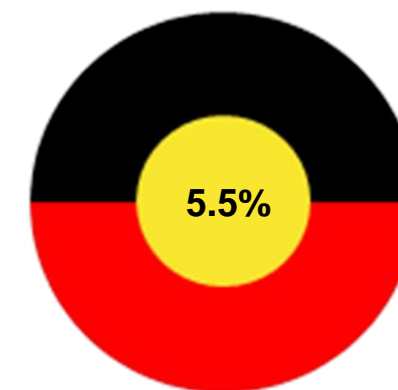
= 21%

of SA's total population

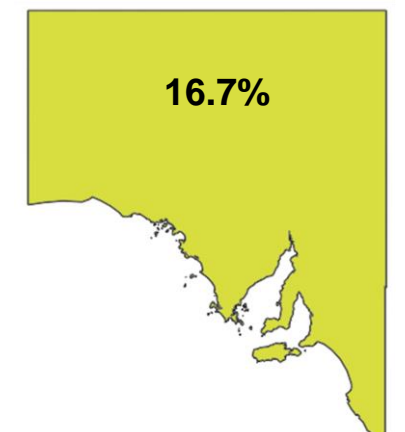
Our children and young people are ...



In out-of-home care
At 30 June 2022



Aboriginal
2021



Living with disability
2017-18

Outcomes at a glance



In summary, most of South Australia's children and young people are faring well and ...

... are in good health:

- 92% of pregnant people **don't** smoke during pregnancy (2021)
- 84% of pregnant people attended their first antenatal visit in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy (2021)
- 94%, 92% and 95% of children aged one, two and five years are **fully immunised**, respectively (2022)
- 79% of children and young people consider themselves to be in good or excellent health (2023)

... are in safe circumstances:

- 35% **reduction** in police cautions or fines for children and young people not being safely restrained in the car (2022-23)
- 84% of children and young people were in **home-based care**, ie relative/kinship carer household (June 2022)
- 30% of youth offenders were **diverted** from the youth justice system (2021-22)

... have a positive sense of wellbeing:

- 89% of children and young people have at least one friend in whom they can confide (2023)
- 85% of children and young people attended at least one cultural venue or event (2021-22)
- 89% of children and young people participated in organised activities outside of school hours (2023)

... are undertaking education:

- 88% of young people were fully engaged in school, work or further education (2022)
- 82% of young people with a disability were partially or fully engaged in school, work or further education (2021)
- 93% of young people completed a senior certificate of education qualification (2021)

... are preparing for adulthood:

- 57% of young people had a driver's licence (2022)
- 74% of 18-19 years old were enrolled to vote (2022)

Areas of concern include ...

- 63% of young people reported ever having at least one potentially unsafe or binge-drinking behaviour (2022)
- 3x the rate of STIs in young people compared to the SA general population (2023)
- 86% of children & young people were reported as **not** meeting vegetable consumption guidelines (2022)
- 57 young people **per 10,000** were homeless (2021)
- 1.5x higher than the national rate of children & young people **in** out-of-home care in (June 2022)
- 3x the substantiation notification (child protection) rate for infants (birth to 12 months), compared to children 1-9 years (2021-22)
- 18% of four-year olds were **not** enrolled in a preschool program in the year before attending fulltime school (2022)
- 39% of children & young people **did not** feel connected to an adult at school (2023)
- 20% increase in the rate of suicide for children & young people between 2014 and 2022
- 24% of 4-6 year olds were vulnerable in one or more of five domains under the AEDC (2021)
- Lower in all NAPLAN results for SA Years 3, 5 and 7 in all three domains; reading, writing and numeracy (2023)
- Lower in all NAPLAN results for SA Year 9 in all three domains; reading, writing and numeracy. (2023)

Some experience poorer outcomes because of ...

... economic and social inequalities; intergenerational disadvantage; social, built environment and transport barriers; being in out-of-home care and/or detention