Paternity means fatherhood. Establishing paternity is the process of determining a legal father of the child.

**UNMARRIED BIRTHS IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Paternity Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>24,876</td>
<td>46.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>24,941</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>24,922</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UNMARRIED BIRTHS BY FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL IN S.C.**

- **46.9%** below poverty level
- **28.3%** 100-199% of poverty level
- **24.8%** 200% or greater

**UNMARRIED BIRTHS BY EDUCATION LEVEL**

- 6.2% Bachelor's Degree
- 35.8% Some College or Associate
- 20.4% Less than high school degree
- 35.6% High school or equivalent

**UNMARRIED BIRTHS BY AGE IN S.C.**

- 12% 15-19 year olds
- 79.7% 20-34 year olds
- 8.3% 35-50 year olds

**UNMARRIED BIRTH RATE BY RACE IN S.C.**

- White: 28.4%
- Black: 31.4%
- Hispanic: 12.5%
- Asian: 58.6%

**PATERNITY AFFECTS EVERY CHILD THAT IS BORN TO UNMARRIED PARENTS:**

- If paternity is established there is a legal relationship between father and child, and child is afforded all the same benefits/rights as being born to a married couple.

- Research shows that when fathers are involved with their children they have:
  - Less criminal involvement
  - Less behavioral problems and acting out
  - Less drug usage
  - Improved school successes and a greater likelihood to graduate from high school

**CHILDREN WHO GROW UP WITH INVOLVED FATHERS ARE:**

- **39%** More likely to earn mostly A's in school
- **45%** Less likely to repeat a grade
- **60%** Less likely to be suspended or expelled from school
- **2X** More likely to go to college and find stable employment after high school
- **75%** Less likely to have a teen birth
- **58%** Less likely to spend time in jail

**Demographics data available from Town Charts & Kids Count South Carolina**