Notes from the Director

**A Home for Every Family**

It’s getting cold outside, even here in the sunny South. We are mindful that thousands of families struggle to stay warm because the houses they live in are substandard or they have no home at all. Consider these facts:

- According to the 2000 Census, 9,521 occupied housing units in SC lacked complete plumbing. Thousands more have dysfunctional plumbing.
- In South Carolina, fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit tends to be $546/mo. But families with extremely low incomes (earning $15,102 or less, which is 30% of SC’s median income) can only afford $378/mo. An individual working at minimum wage would have to work 80 hours/week to afford the fair market rent for a 2-bedroom unit. (Natl. Low Income Housing Coalition).
- During the last week of January 2005 South Carolina’s six regional homeless coalitions will conduct the annual census of sheltered and unsheltered people who are homeless. Last year, they estimated that 13,000 individuals were homeless.
- 810,000 (1 in 5) South Carolinians have a physical or mental disability; many of them have particular housing challenges.

The USC Institute for Families in Society is committed to discovering effective policies and practices to help every American have a home that is safe, warm, dry, and decent. See the SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center for ideas about solutions to these problems. http://www.scjustice.org/pdfs/Housing.pdf

**FYI**

More than one in four American working families now earn wages so low that they have difficulty surviving financially. For a full discussion, see "Working Hard, Falling Short," a new report released collaboratively in October 2004 by the Annie E. Casey, Ford, and Rockefeller Foundations.

See the following web link for more information: http://www.aecf.org/initiatives/jobsinitiative/workingpoor/working_hard_new.pdf
Fall & Winter 2004 Publications


2 Implementation of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Programme in the South eastern United States (Chapter 4) in Bullying in Schools: How Successful Can Interventions Be? Published by The Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge. Authors: Susan P. Limber, Maury Nation, Allison J. Tracy, Gary B. Melton and Vicki Flerx.

3 An Introduction to the Culture of the Dominican Republic for Disability Service Providers (Chapter 9) in Culture and Disability: Providing Culturally Competent Services. Published by Sage Publications. Authors: Ana López-De Fede and Dulce Haeussler-Fiore.


5 Understanding the Social and Cultural Determinants of Tuberculosis: A South Carolina Study. Authors: Muriel Harris and Ana López-De Fede.

6 SC Medicaid Eligibility Determination and Quality Assurance Process Evaluation. Primary Authors: Ana López-De Fede and Kathy Mayfield Smith, Division of Health and Family Studies, Institute for Families in Society, USC and Dave Murday, Center for Health Services & Policy Research, USC.

7 Family Involvement and Special Education: A Survey of South Carolina’s Caregivers with Children in Special Education. Author: Ana López-De Fede.


Presentations

HIV/AIDS from All Angles was presented at the USC Philomathis Society by Institute Research Associate Muriel Harris, along with USC President Andrew Sorenson, and USC faculty members Walt Hanclosky, Melayne McInnes, Roger Coates.

Two papers by members of the Institute for Families in Society’s Division of Health and Family Studies were presented at the Southern Demographic Association in Hilton Head, SC on October 14, 2004. Presented within the panel on the Demography of Race and Ethnicity, the papers included Racial Residential Distribution and Spatial Access to South Carolina Lakes by John E. Stewart and Racial Inequality in High Risk Delivery among South Carolina Medicaid Recipients by Megumi Omori, Ana López-De Fede, and John E. Stewart.

Achievements/Honors

1 Dr. Andrew Billingsley received the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award at the Columbia Urban League’s 37th annual Equal Opportunity Day Dinner - Wednesday, October 27, 2004.

   The award is named for the late Whitney M. Young, Jr.—civil rights pioneer and former president and CEO of the National Urban League. It is given in honor of an individual or group that advances race relations and improves the quality of life for all citizens.

   Dr. Andrew Billingsley, IFS Senior Scholar in Residence, passed his post-tenure review with notations of excellence in teaching, scholarship and service to the community, state and university.

Highlights

IFS creates Homelessness Survey Tools. “Surveys of People Experiencing Homelessness” has been developed and distributed by IFS in partnership with S.C. homelessness coalition leaders. While the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) designates a winter week when states and local communities are urged to count the homeless population, no coordinated statewide assessment of the number and characteristics of people who are homeless or in precarious (unstable or temporary) housing across S.C. has ever been conducted. This year, the Institute gave support to nonprofits across the state as they prepared for the census week. On January 27, 2004, each of eight coalitions will conduct a count of homeless persons using these survey tools.