

**ADDITIONAL TALKING POINT ON  
SOUTH CAROLINA'S IMPROVED CHILD SAFETY**

South Carolina is now the first state in the nation to adopt a rigorous and potentially life-saving child safety standard that goes beyond what the federal government requires or even tracks. Specifically, on October 1, 2011, DSS set a goal to reduce the number of children who experience maltreatment within six months of an unfounded investigation of abuse or neglect from 918 to no more than 664 (254 less) by September 30, 2012. DSS exceeded this goal, with 310 fewer incidences of abuse and neglect within six months of an unfounded investigation.