

VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN 2009

Virginia's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	7,712,091
Population, Children Under 18 ²	1,826,179
State Poverty Rate ³	8.6%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	13.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	12.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	11.9%

*All statistics are for 2007.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Virginia had 56,360 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 29,141 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2006, 6,828 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Virginia, a rate of 3.8 per 1,000 children, representing a 5.5% increase from 2005. Of these children, 4,204 were neglected, 1,904 were physically abused, and 950 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2006, 20 children in Virginia died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2006, 7,843 children in Virginia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,022 children in 2005. In 2006, 24.9% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 26.9% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Virginia children in out-of-home care in 2006, 45.7% were white, 40.6% black, 7.1% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.6% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,044 children exiting out-of-home care in Virginia in 2006, 28% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2006, 551 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Virginia, an 8% increase from 510 in 2005.¹³
- Of the 7,843 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 1,804 or 23.0% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2007, approximately 61,333 Virginia grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 7,843 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 5.7% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Virginia children in kinship care in 2006, 53.5% were white, 35.6% were black, 5.6% were Hispanic, and 5.3% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Virginia decreased from 66,532 in March 2007 to 62,469 in March 2008, a decrease of 6.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 28,302, a 5.4% decrease from March 2007.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Virginia was at 29.2% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹



- In 2006, Virginia spent \$290,932,612 in TANF funds, including 46.7% on basic assistance, 2.42% on child care, and 50.9% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2007, Virginia spent \$56,448,273 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 143,271 participants.²¹
- In 2007, Virginia collected and distributed \$559,994,892 in child support funds, a 3.7% increase from 2006.²²
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Virginia was \$941 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$18.09 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Virginia had a monthly average of 27,900 children served by subsidized child care; 29,300 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 27,200 in 2004.²⁴
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Virginia, a family of three could make no more than \$25,755-42,925, which is equivalent to 40-66% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2008, Virginia had 7,184 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 13,518 Virginia children, a 0.7% decrease from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 489,500 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Virginia—56.1% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2005, 15,025 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Virginia on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2005, of the 15,025 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 29 received Targeted Case Management services, and 453 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2007, Virginia had 82,731 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 5.1% increase from 2006, when 78,745 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2007, Virginia had 187,000 uninsured children, representing 10.2% of its child population.³²
- In 2005, 8,573 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Virginia a rank of 39 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2005, 781 infants under age 1 died in Virginia, giving it a rank of 40 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2005, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Virginia was 16 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 62. This reflects a total rate of 34 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2006, 16,802 adults and adolescents, as well as 177 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Virginia.³⁶



- In 2006, an estimated 47,000 children ages 12–17, and 470,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Virginia.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 979 children aged out of out-of-home care in Virginia.³⁸
- In 2007, 22,000 Virginia teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2007, 7% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2006, 12% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2006, approximately 27,000 children ages 12–17 in Virginia needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2006, approximately 30,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2005, 57 Virginia children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.67 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, 36 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Virginia, a 13% increase from 32 in 2004.⁴⁵
- In 2007, 39,666 children younger than 18 were arrested in Virginia, a 14.0% increase from 34,797 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 1,142 were for violent crimes and 689 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 2,310 children in juvenile correction facilities in Virginia.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Virginia spent \$273,774,844 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 52% was from federal funds, 27% from state funds, and 20.3% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$143,614,180 in federal funds received for child welfare, 64% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 7% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 22% from the Social Services Block Grant, 4% from TANF, and 2% from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 7,843 children in out-of-home care in Virginia in 2006, only 3,596, or 45.8%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰



VIRGINIA'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well being for children.⁵¹
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.⁵²
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; these high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁵³
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Virginia was \$25,734; the median income for a family of four in Virginia was \$71,697.⁵⁴

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