



# VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN 2010

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

### Virginia's Children At a Glance\*

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	7,769,089
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	1,818,336
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	10.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	14.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	12.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	16.2%

\*All statistics are for 2008.

- In 2007, Virginia had 58,060 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 30,196 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2007, 6,413 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Virginia, a rate of 3.5 per 1,000 children, representing a 6.1% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 3,645 were neglected, 1,388 were physically abused, and 867 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2007, 31 children in Virginia died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2007, 7,765 children in Virginia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,843 children in 2006. In 2007, 1,914 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 2,141 were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of Virginia children in out-of-home care in 2007, 44.6% were white, 40.9% black, 7.2% Hispanic, <.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.2% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

## ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,417 children exiting out-of-home care in Virginia in 2007, 28.9% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2007, 654 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Virginia, a 18.7% increase from 551 in 2006.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 7,765 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 1,817 or 23.4% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2008, approximately 66,057 Virginia grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 7,765 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 6.8% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Virginia children in kinship care in 2007, 54.0% were white, 34.7% were black, 6.0% were Hispanic, 0.0% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.3% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Virginia increased from 62,469 in March 2008 to 70,911 in March 2009, an increase of 13.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 31,623, a 11.7% increase from March 2008.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Virginia was at 29.2% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2007, Virginia spent \$255,136,401 in TANF funds, including 33.5% on basic assistance, 3.0% on child care, 0.0% on transportation, and 63% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2008, Virginia spent \$62,538,023 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 150,820 participants.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2008, Virginia collected and distributed \$593,317,150 in child support funds, an increase of 6.0% from 2007.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Virginia was \$946 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$18.20 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>23</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Virginia had a monthly average of 24,400 children served by subsidized child care; 27,900 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 29,300 in 2005.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Virginia, a family of three could make no more than \$44,000, which is equivalent to 67% of the state's median income.<sup>25</sup>
- As of early 2009, Virginia had 8,157 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 13,518 Virginia children, a 0.7% decrease from 2001.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 471,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Virginia—54.6% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2007, 15,978 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Virginia on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2007, of the 15,978 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 39 received Targeted Case Management services, and 496 received Rehabilitative Services.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2008, Virginia had 107,329 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 29.7% increase from 2007, when 82,731 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2008, Virginia had 129,000 uninsured children, representing 6.9% of its child population.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2006, 8,914 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Virginia a rank of 25 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2006, 765 infants under age 1 died in Virginia, giving it a rank of 29 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>34</sup>
- In 2006, the birthrate for teens 15–17 in Virginia was 17 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 62. This reflects a total rate of 35 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2007, 17,431 adults and adolescents, as well as 177 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Virginia.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2007, an estimated 47,000 children ages 12–17, and 327,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Virginia.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 1,013 children aged out of out-of-home care in Virginia.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2008, 19,000 Virginia teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2008, 29,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2007, 100,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 26,000 children ages 12–17 in Virginia needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 29,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2006, 46 Virginia children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.15 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 31 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Virginia, a 13.9% decrease from 36 in 2005.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2008, 40,940 children younger than 18 were arrested in Virginia, a 3.2% increase from 39,666 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 1,105 were for violent crimes and 558 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>46</sup>
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 2,310 children in juvenile correction facilities in Virginia.<sup>47</sup>

## **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.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$143,614,180 in federal funds received for child welfare, 64% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 22% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 4% was from TANF, and 2% came from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 7,765 children in out-of-home care in Virginia in 2007, only 3,877, or 49.9%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>

## **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.<sup>51</sup>
- 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 that child and family.<sup>52</sup>
- 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.<sup>53</sup>
- 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 \$69,616.<sup>54</sup>

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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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