

VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN 2005

Virginia's Children At a Glance

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| State Population (2003) ¹ | 7,386,330 |
| State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) ² | 1,798,767 |
| State Poverty Rate (2003) ³ | 9.0% |
| Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) ⁴ | 11.6% |
| Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵ | 10.4% |
| Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶ | 13.5% |

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 40,552 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Virginia, a rate of 22.8 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 7,571 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Virginia, a rate of 4.3 per 1,000 children, representing a 23% decrease from 2000. Of these children, 59.1% were neglected, 27.1% were physically abused, and 13.2% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, 22 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Virginia.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 7,109 children in Virginia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 6,866 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 19.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 25.3% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 43.7% white children, 47.9% black children, 3.9% Hispanic children, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 4.3% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Virginia.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,307 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 53.8% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 424 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Virginia, a 14.3% decrease from 495 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 7,109 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 1,489 or 20.9% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 64,320 Virginia grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 7,109 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 3.4% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Virginia children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 48.4% were white, 44.7% were black, 1.2% were Hispanic, none were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.7% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Virginia increased from 67,427 in March 2002 to 70,199 in March 2003, an increase of 4.1%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 31,119, a 3.0% increase from March 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Virginia was 48% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, Virginia spent \$273,366,679 in TANF funds, including 47.2% on cash assistance and 52.8% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2002, Virginia collected and distributed \$436,704,128 in child support funds, an increase of 8.3% from 2001.²¹

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Virginia was \$821 per month, or 100% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.²²

C H I L D C A R E A N D H E A D S T A R T

- In 2001, Virginia served an estimated monthly average of 15,900 children with subsidized child care, a decrease from 2000, when 17,300 children were served, and in 1999, when 27,100 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 39% of Virginia's median income, or \$27,060, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, Virginia had 2,962 children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 13,768 Virginia children were served by Head Start, the same as in 2002.²⁶

H E A L T H A N D S U B S T A N C E A B U S E

- In 2001, 333,422 Virginia children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 53.9% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, Virginia had 83,716 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 23.2% increase from 2002, when 67,974 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, nine babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Virginia. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 9,030, reflecting a rate of 37.6 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 14,780 adults and adolescents, as well as 179 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Virginia.³⁰
- In 2001, 43 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.19 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 54,000 children ages 12–17, and 490,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³²

V U L N E R A B L E Y O U T H

- In 2003, 5% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 4% decrease from 2000.³³
- In 2002, 12% of young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁴

J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E A N D D E L I N Q U E N C Y P R E V E N T I O N

- In 2001, 20 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Virginia, compared with 25 in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 27,931 children under age 18 were arrested in Virginia, a 15% decrease from 32,989 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 652 were for violent crimes and 545 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 2,811 children in juvenile correction facilities in Virginia.³⁷

F U N D I N G C H I L D W E L F A R E S E R V I C E S F O R V I R G I N I A ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Virginia spent \$335,031,670 for child welfare services. Child welfare services refer to all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁸ Of this amount, 65% was from federal funds, 23% was from state funds, and 11% was from local funds.³⁹

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- In 2002, of the \$335,031,670 spent for child welfare, 21% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 14% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 27% was from TANF. The remaining funds (35%) came from state and local sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 7,109 children in out-of-home care in Virginia on September 30, 2002, only 3,908 or 55% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

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.⁴²
- 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.⁴³
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children and that 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.⁴⁴

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