

VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN 2007

Virginia's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	7,567,465
Population, Children Under 18 ²	1,824,568
State Poverty Rate ³	9.2
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	13.3
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	12.0
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	15.6

All statistics are for 2005.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, Virginia had 52,736 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 28,105 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2004, 6,959 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Virginia, a rate of 3.9 per 1,000 children, and representing a 7.3% increase from 2003. Of these children, 61.8% were neglected, 24.6% were physically abused, and 15.8% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2004, 28 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Virginia.⁹
- On September 30, 2004, 6,869 children in Virginia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,046 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 21.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 25.2% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 45.0% were white, 43.0% were black, 5.6% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.3% were children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,772 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 53.8% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2004, 525 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Virginia, a 7.2% increase from 487 in 2003.¹³
- Of the 6,869 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 1,611 or 23.5% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 56,458 Virginia grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 6,869 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 4.3% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Virginia children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 45.3% were white, 40.9% were black, 4.7% were Hispanic, and 9.1% were of other races.¹⁷

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CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Virginia decreased from 28,126 in March 2005 to 26,259 in March 2006, a decrease of 7.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 9,240, a 6.8% decrease from March 2005.¹⁸
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Virginia was at 33.2% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2004, Virginia spent \$278,532,242 in TANF funds, including 40.2% on basic assistance, and 59.8% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2005, Virginia collected and distributed \$518,975,573 in child support funds, an increase of 4.8% from 2004.²¹
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Virginia was \$852 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$16.39 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²²

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, Virginia had an estimated monthly average of 29,300 children served by subsidized child care; 27,200 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 25,800 in 2003.²³
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Virginia, a family of three could make no more than \$32,180, which is equivalent to 54% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2006, Virginia had 9,462 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2005, Head Start served 13,696 Virginia children, a 0.5% decrease from 2004.²⁶

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 393,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Virginia, representing 54.0% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2001, 14,334 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Virginia, representing 3.8% of all children in Medicaid.²⁸
- In 2001, Virginia spent \$71,981,745 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$5,022 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.²⁹
- Virginia reported spending \$7,747.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.³⁰
- Virginia reported spending \$1,724,610.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.³¹
- In 2005, Virginia had 124,055 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 23.6% increase from 2004, when 99,569 children were enrolled.³²

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- In 2003, 8,297 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Virginia a ranking of 39 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2003, 779 infants younger than 1 year died in Virginia, giving the state a ranking of 40 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15–17 in Virginia was 17.5 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 61.8. This reflects a total rate of 35.2 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2004, 15,565 adults and adolescents, as well as 175 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Virginia.³⁶
- In 2004, an estimated 49,000 children age 12–17, and 302,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Virginia.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 586 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Virginia.³⁸
- In 2004, 26,000 Virginia teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2004, 8% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴⁰
- In 2004, approximately 28,000 children age 12–17 in Virginia needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2004, approximately 32,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2003, 47 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.35 per 100,000 children.⁴³

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, 24 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Virginia, compared with 21 in 2002.⁴⁴
- In 2005, 32,980 children younger than 18 were arrested in Virginia, a 2.7% decrease from 33,881 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 1,061 were for violent crimes and 650 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁵
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 2,376 children in juvenile correction facilities in Virginia.⁴⁶

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Virginia spent \$277,983,054 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.⁴⁷ Of this amount, 57% was from federal funds, 25% was from state funds, and 18% was from local funds.⁴⁸

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- In 2004, of the \$157,875,462 in federal funds received for child welfare, 67% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 22% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 3% was from TANF, and 1% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 6,869 children in out-of-home care in Virginia on September 30, 2004, only 3,829, or 55.7%, 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 demonstrated clearly 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 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 was \$71,697.⁵⁴

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