

VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN 2004

Virginia's Children At a Glance

State Population (2002) ¹	7,293,542
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) ²	1,759,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) ³	9.9%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) ⁴	13.8%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2002) ⁵	13.0%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) ⁶	17.9%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 20,950 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Virginia, a rate of 11.9 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2001, 9,873 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Virginia, a rate of 5.6 per 1,000 children, representing a 33% increase from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 3.3 were neglected, 1.6 were physically abused, and 0.7 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2001, 36 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Virginia.⁹
- On September 30, 2001, 6,866 children in Virginia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,380 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 19.3% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 27.8% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2001, 3,112 white children, 3,440 black children, 267 Hispanic children, 12 American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 301 children of other races and ethnicities were in out-of-home care in the state.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,096 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 49% were reunited with their families.¹²
- In 2001, 495 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Virginia, a 79% increase from 276 in 1997.¹³
- Of the 6,866 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 2,379 or 35% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- Of the 6,866 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2001, 4% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- In 2002, more than 52,428 Virginia grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The number of people 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 2002.¹⁷
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in Virginia was 48% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2002, Virginia spent \$264,499,101 in TANF funds, including 38.3% on cash assistance and 61.7% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2001, Virginia collected and distributed \$403,164,627 in child support funds, an increase of 15.9% from 2000.²⁰
- 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.²¹

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

- In 2001, an estimated monthly average of 15,900 of Virginia's children received subsidized child care, a decrease from 17,300 in 2000 and 27,100 in 1999.²²
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 50.06% of the Virginia's median income, or \$27,060, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²³
- In 2001, Virginia had 2,962 children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁴
- Due to the state budget shortfall, Virginia is unable to implement a planned increase in reimbursement rates for child care providers.²⁵
- In 2002, Head Start served 13,772 Virginia children, a 1.2% increase from 2001.²⁶
- In 2000, 79% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in Virginia had at least a high school degree or equivalent.²⁷

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

- In 2000, 380,438 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in Virginia, representing 22.4% of Virginia's total enrollees.²⁸
- In 2002, Virginia had 67,974 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 7.0% decrease from 2001, when 73,102 children were enrolled.²⁹
- In 2001, 158 babies in Virginia were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 9,439—a rate of 39 births per 1,000 girls.³⁰
- As of December 2002, 14,780 adults and adolescents, as well as 179 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Virginia.³¹
- In 2002, 43 Virginia children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.19 per 100,000 children in the population.³²
- In 2001, an estimated 19,000 children ages 12–17, and 74,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³³

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 younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Virginia, a 20% decrease from 25 in 2000.³⁴
- In 2002, 32,989 children younger than 18 were arrested in Virginia, a 30% decrease from 47,321 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 6,927 were for violent crimes and 508 were for possession of a weapon.³⁵
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 3,085 children in juvenile correction facilities in Virginia.³⁶

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 2000, Virginia spent \$123,579,118 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁷ Of this amount, 53% came from federal funds, 27% from state funds, and 20% from local funds.³⁸
- In 2000, of the \$65,897,338 in federal funds received for child welfare, 87% came from the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program, and 13% from the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs.³⁹
- Of the 6,866 children in out-of-home care in Virginia on September 30, 2001, only 3,758, or 54.7%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁰

VIRGINIA'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- The child welfare workforce is facing challenges in every state. A combination of high case-loads, high worker turnover, and low salaries impinges on the delivery of services to achieve safety, permanency, and child well-being.
- In 2000, the national average starting salary for child protective service workers was \$26,900; for direct service workers, \$27,500. The yearly turnover rate for these workers was 15.6% and 19.5%, respectively.⁴¹
- In 2000, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect in Virginia was \$26,983.⁴²
- In 2002, the median income in Virginia for a family of four was \$68,054.⁴³

Additional child welfare statistics, references, and pertinent notes are available on CWLA's National Data Analysis System at <http://ndas.cwla.org>.

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CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Headquarters: 440 First Street NW, Third Floor, Washington DC 20001-2085 • 202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org

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