VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN 2017

Virginia's Children at a Glance¹

State Population ²	8,382,993	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ³	14.8%
		Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	14.3%
State Poverty Rate ⁶	11.2%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	16.3%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2015, Virginia had 72,296 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 32,395 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2015, there were 6,112 victims of abuse or neglect in Virginia, a rate of 3.3 per 1,000 children, a a decrease 5.4% from 2014. Of these children, 65.7% were neglected, 30.6% were physically abused, and 10.7% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has increased 2.5% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.¹⁰
- In 2015, there were 54 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Virginia¹¹
- 4,735 children in Virginia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 4,846 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 1,427 aged 5 or younger, and 973 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 2.3% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2011.¹³
- In 2015, of children in out-of-home care in Virginia, 48% were white, 31% were black, 9% were Hispanic, < .5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, < .5% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 10% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity. ¹⁴

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,796 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in Virginia, 30% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 562 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Virginia in 2015, a decrease of 11.1% from 632 in 2014. 16
- Of the 4,735 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 1,708 or 36.1% waiting to be adopted. 17



- In 2015, approximately 66,722 grandparents in Virginia had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren. ¹⁸
- 238 of the children in out-of-home care in 2014 were living with relatives while in care. 19

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Virginia decreased from 51,341 in 2015 to 46,180 in 2016, a 11.2% change. There was a 21,620 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 10.2% from 2015.²⁰
- In Virginia in 2015, 605,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.²¹
- \$240,676,126 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in Virginia, including 30.4% on basic assistance, 7.9% on child care, 2.7% on transportation, and 0.0% on nonassistance.²²
- \$51,404,075 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Virginia, serving 139,632 participants.²³
- In 2014, Virginia distributed \$611,649,574 in child support funds, an increase of 0.8% from 2013.²⁴
- 624,000 children in Virginia lived in households with a high housing burden in 2014, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.²⁵
- In December of 2016, the unemployment rate in Virginia was 4.1.²⁶
- 10.1% of households in Virginia were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, meaning that the family experienced difficulty providing enough food due to lack of resources at some point during the year.²⁷

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, Virginia had a monthly average of 24,800 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 24,300 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 25,000 were recepients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Virginia, a family of three could make no more than at application, which is equivalent to of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, Virginia had 17,516 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2015, Head Start served 14,427 children in Virginia, a decrease of 1.1% from 2014.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Virginia made 15,374 home visits to 2,373 parents and children in 1,449 families, as well as enrolled 1,025 new parents and children to the program.



HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 675,868 children in Virginia were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, an increase of 2.9% from 2014.³²
- In 2015, Virginia had 189,366 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 1.5% from 2014, when 186,513 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2015, Virginia had 90,686 uninsured children.³⁴
- 8,111 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Virginia in 2015.³⁵
- 612 infants under age 1 died in Virginia in 2015.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Virginia was 6.9 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 31.3 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 17 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2015, there were 22,066 adults and adolescents and 191 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Virginia.³⁸
- In 2015, an estimated 5,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 218,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Virginia.³⁹
- In 2014, approximately 16,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year. 40
- In 2014, approximately 17,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Virginia reached \$546,523,496.

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 502 children in Virginia aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015. 42
- 84% of high school students in Virginia graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year. 43
- 25,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Virginia were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.⁴⁴
- 91,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.⁴⁵
- 46.5% of young adults in Virginia ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.
- In 2015, there were less than 10 reports of children in Virginia aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 48 reports
 of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 73 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Virginia in 2015, compared to 66 in 2014.⁴⁸
- 17,151 children younger than 18 were arrested in Virginia in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 603 of the arrests in 2015.⁴⁹
- 1,563 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Virginia in 2013.⁵⁰

CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE⁵¹

- 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 a 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
- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.⁵⁴ Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.⁵⁵
- Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care. ⁵⁶
- According to the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II baseline report, 75% of caseworkers earned a salary between \$30,000 and \$49,999.⁵⁷
- The majority of caseworkers hold a bachelor's degree (52.3%) or a bachelor of social work degree (21.9%). Only 25% of caseworkers hold a master's degree.⁵⁸
- A workload model in Colorado found that approximately 574 additional caseworkers were needed in their state to adequately provide child welfare services, due to estimated time requirements for meaningful services. This number represents a 49% increase that is needed on top of hours already spent on case related tasks.⁵⁹

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

• In 2014, Virginia's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$40,908,881. The most utilized service in Virginia was Protective Services for Children totaling \$9,037,507.60

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN

• In 2014, Virginia spent \$617,208,810 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$211,791,362 was from federal funds and \$405,417,448 was from state and local funds.⁶¹



- In 2014, of the \$211,791,362 in federal funds received for child welfare, 44.2% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4.7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 15.3% was from Medicaid, 18.4% came from Social Services Block Grant, 15.9% was from TANF, and 1.5% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- Virginia received \$50,241,072 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$21,532,734 for maintenance payments and \$28,708,338 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶³

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2016). Child Maltreatment 2014: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-7: Maltreatment Types of Victims, 2014. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf. Note: The percentage difference is a CWLA calculation. Overlap in the percentages of types of abuse is possible as a child may have experienced more than one type of abuse.

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¹¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2016). *Child Maltreatment 2014: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 4-2: Child Fatalities, 2010-2014.* Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf.

¹² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). FY 2005 – FY 2014 Foster Care: Entries, Exits, and in Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year: Numbers of Children In Foster Care on September 30th, by State FY 2005–FY 2014. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children in care 2014.pdf.

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Note: The five and younger number is a CWLA calculation.

¹³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). FY 2005 – FY 2014 Foster Care: Entries, Exits, and in Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year: Numbers of Children In Foster Care on September 30th, by State FY 2005–FY 2014. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children in care 2014.pdf.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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¹⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). FY 2005 – FY 2014 Foster Care: Entries, Exits, and in Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year: Table:



¹ "At A Glance" statistics are from 2014.

² U.S. Census Bureau (2016). ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: 2014 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau (2016). Selected Economic Characteristics, 2014 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/.

⁷ Ibid.

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 Note: Some states allow families, once they begin receiving assistance, to continue receiving assistance up to a higher income level than the initial limit.

 30 Ibid.

Note: A family that is eligible for child care assistance may not necessarily receive it. States may place families on waiting lists, or freeze intake (turning away eligible families without adding them to a waiting list).

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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Note: Examples of direct services include child abuse/neglect investigations, foster care, community-based programs, case management, and all such services required for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Examples of administrative services include management information systems, training programs, eligibility determination processes, and all services that provide the infrastructure supports for the public agency. The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support and demonstration funds for this state. 62 Ibid.

63 Ibid.

