

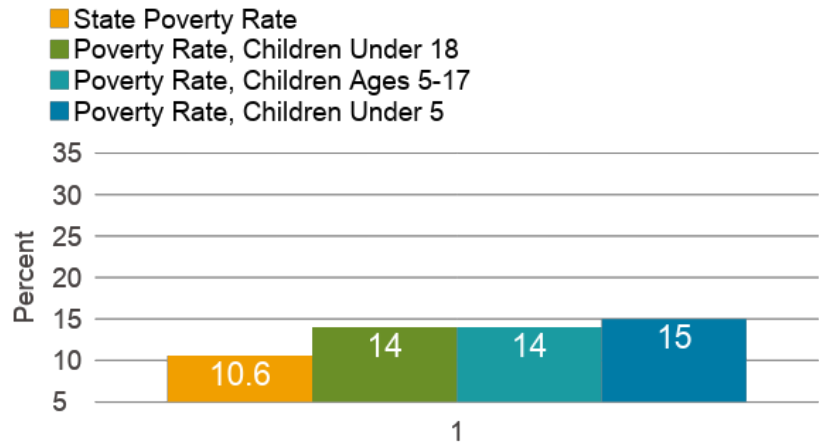
VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 8,517,685 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,882,408

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,842 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Virginia, 26% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 801 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Virginia in 2017, an increase of 21.7% from 627 in 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 4,795 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 1,826 or 38.1% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 66,406 grandparents in Virginia had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 290 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹

Poverty Rates



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2017, Virginia had 76,747 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 32,754 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
 - In 2017, there were 6,277 victims of abuse or neglect in Virginia, a rate of 3.4 per 1,000 children, an increase of 7.1% from 2013. Of these children, 65.3% were neglected, 30.4% were physically abused, and 11.1% were sexually abused.⁹
 - The number of child victims has increased 7.1% in comparison to the number of victims in 2013.¹⁰
 - In 2017, there were 41 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Virginia.¹¹



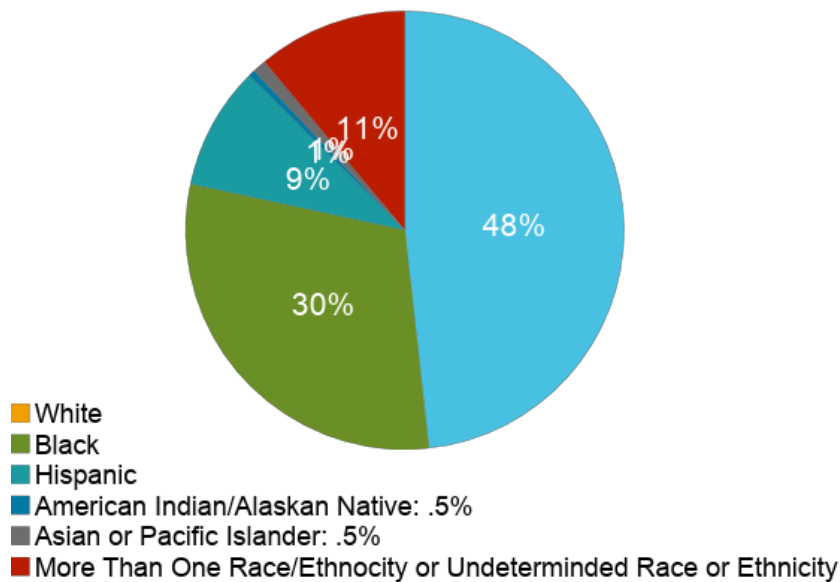
- 4,795 children in Virginia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 4,890 children in 2016. Of the children living apart from their families in 2016, there were 1,587 aged 5 or younger, and 984 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 1.9% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2016.¹³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, Virginia had a monthly average of 18,500 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 21,700 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 24,800 were recipients in 2015.²⁸
- In 2017, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Virginia, a family of three could make no more than \$50,400 at application, which is equivalent to 63% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2017, Virginia had 9,611 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2017, Head Start served 14,264 children in Virginia, a decrease of 1.1% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Virginia made 15,597 home visits to 3,597 participants in 1,562 households.⁶⁴

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

Children in Out-of-Home Care 2015



- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Virginia decreased from 35,291 in 2017 to 34,421 in 2018, a 2.5% change. There was a 24,736-monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 23.4% from 2017.²⁰
- In Virginia in 2017, 580,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.²¹
- \$157,762,831 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in Virginia, including 43.4% on basic assistance, 13.7% on child care, 2.7% on transportation, and 0.0% on non-assistance.²²

- \$42,104,267 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Virginia, serving 113,952 participants.²³
- In 2016, Virginia distributed \$602,399,240 in child support funds, an increase of 0.7% from 2013.²⁴
- 566,000 children in Virginia lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.²⁵
- In December of 2018, the unemployment rate in Virginia was 2.8. ²⁶
- 10.6% of households in Virginia were food insecure on average in 2016, meaning that the family experienced difficulty providing enough food due to lack of resources at some point during the year.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 671,493 children in Virginia were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 2.9% from 2016.³²
- In 2017, Virginia had 202,974 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 4.9% from 2016, when 192,831 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2017, Virginia had 107,345 uninsured children.³⁴
- 8,263 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Virginia in 2016.³⁵
- 595 infants under age 1 died in Virginia in 2016.³⁶
- In 2017, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Virginia was 5.9 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 28.1 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 16 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2017, there were 22,631 adults and adolescents and 191 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Virginia.³⁸
- In 2017, an estimated 12,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 372,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Virginia.³⁹

- In 2017, approximately 11,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2017, approximately 15,000 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 \$546,523,496.⁶⁴

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 536 children in Virginia aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.⁴²
- 85.7% of high school students in Virginia graduated on time at the end of the 2014-15 year.⁴³
- 26,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Virginia were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 87,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- 34.4% of young adults in Virginia ages 25 to 34 had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2016.⁴⁶
- In 2017, there were no reports of children in Virginia aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 58 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 87 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Virginia in 2017, compared to 78 in 2016.⁴⁸
- 16,417 children younger than 18 were arrested in Virginia in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 709 of the arrests in 2017.⁴⁹
- 1,227 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Virginia in 2015.⁵⁰

CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

*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

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

- In 2016, Virginia's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$40,947,938. The most utilized service in Virginia was Protective Services for Children totaling \$10,138,831.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Virginia spent \$673,096,671 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$255,191,084 was from federal funds and \$417,905,587 was from state and local funds.⁶¹

- In 2016, of the \$255,191,084 in federal funds received for child welfare, 43.6% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4.1% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 15.2% was from Medicaid, 16.4% came from Social Services Block Grant, 18.1% was from TANF, and 2.6% came from other federal sources.⁶²

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- Virginia received \$111,318,465 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$42,275,419 for maintenance payments and \$6,318,580 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶³

1 "At A Glance" statistics are from 2018.

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3 Ibid.

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5 Ibid

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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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safety issues, academic degrees held, education and training received, and factors contributing to turnover. To address this, CWLA is calling for

Congress to authorize the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct an updated study on the child welfare workforce. It would make recommendations regarding caseloads and workloads, education levels, and training requirements. In addition, the study would examine data reporting and collection and make recommendations on how states might improve these efforts.

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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.

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