Child Maltreatment

In 2020, Virginia had 85,194 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 36,543 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 5,658 child victims of abuse or neglect in Virginia in 2020, at a rate of 3.0 children per 1,000. This translates to a 4.8% decrease since 2016.²

Of the 5,658 children, 5,315 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 722 of the 5,658 cases.⁴

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

- 72% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. 28% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁶

- 52% of Virginia’s child victims in 2020 were female while 48% were male.⁷

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2020, Virginia reported 15 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁹

- Virginia reported 15 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.⁰
• Child fatalities decreased in 2020 from 49 in 2019 to 39 in 2020.\textsuperscript{xii}

• Virginia reported 3 total child victims of sex trafficking.\textsuperscript{xiii}

• 1,647 victims received post-response services while 2,025 non-victims received post-response services as well.\textsuperscript{xiv}

Foster Care and Adoptions

• 7,451 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
• 4,773 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2020.
• 2,505 children entered care during the 2020 FY while 2,687 exited during the same year.
• 844 of Virginia’s children were adopted while 1,967 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xxv}

There was a 3.1\% decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also increased 9.8\% from 2019\textsuperscript{xxvi}

544 children in Virginia aged out and exited foster care in 2020. This is a decrease from 607 in 2019 and represents an 10.4\% decrease.\textsuperscript{xxvii}

• Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of 20.0 months in care.\textsuperscript{xxviii}
• The average length of stay in Virginia for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 29.9 months.\textsuperscript{xix}
• The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 8.8 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
• The average age of adopted children was 7.1 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Data from 2019 shows that 3,609 children in foster care in Virginia were living with non-relatives, while 311 stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart). xxii

720 children were staying in group homes while the number children that were classified as runaways was not reported. xxiii

3% of households in Virginia in 2020 had a grandparent living with a grandchild. xxiv

The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 10.3 months. xxv

Child Poverty
Virginia had 404,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 22% of all children. xxvi

28% of Virginia’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden. xxvii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF grew from 32,540 in 2019 to 32,954 in 2020. This represents a 1.3% increase. xxviii

The state spent $40,039,415 on WIC in 2021, serving 120,826 people. This represents a 5.9% decrease in total participants and a 5.0% increase in spending. xxix

799,620 people in Virginia were food insecure in 2019, including 214,270 children who struggled with hunger. xxxii

44.9% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Virginia in 2019 had children. xxxiii
Health

Virginia had 8,132 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 8.4% of infants born in Virginia in 2019.\(^\text{xxxiv}\)

Virginia had a total of 9,625 preterm births in 2019, meaning completed less than 37 weeks of gestation. 8.7% of all white babies were born premature while 13.7% of all black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 9.9%.\(^\text{xxxv}\)

There were 3,625 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Virginia in 2019, representing a rate of 14 in every 1,000 teen girls.\(^\text{xxxvi}\)

570 infants under 1 died in Virginia in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.9 per 1,000.\(^\text{xxxvii}\)

### Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2019

- Medicaid: 10%
- CHIP: 23%
- Uninsured: 67%

4.9% of Virginia’s children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents 97,000 children. Virginia is a Medicaid expansion state.\(^\text{xxxix}\)

688,878 children in Virginia were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents a 1.1% increase from 2019.\(^\text{x}\)

239,439 children in Virginia were in the state Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents an 1.4% decrease from 2019.\(^\text{xii}\)
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 15,992 total arrests for children under 18 in Virginia in 2019.
- 497 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 2,783 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 1,852 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 918 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Virginia in 2019. This is a decrease from 1,062 kids in 2017, representing a 13.6% decline.

Teens & Youth
- 23,000 (5%) of Virginia’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- In 2020, there were 20 reports of children in Virginia aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 66 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 126 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Virginia in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding
Virginia spent $700,282,865.99 on child welfare services in 2018. Child welfare services are all of the direct and administrative services that state agencies provide to children and families. $269,696,663.99 were allocated from the federal government and $429,702,777.00 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- Title IV-E
- Title IV-B
- TANF
- Social Services Block Grant
- Medicaid
- Other Sources

The breakdown of the $269,696,663.99 in federal funding received in Virginia in 2018 (See Pie Chart):
- $72,271,247.49 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $57,546,692.88 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Virginia’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $57,142,550.


Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid.


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xxxii Ibid.


xi Ibid


