Child Maltreatment

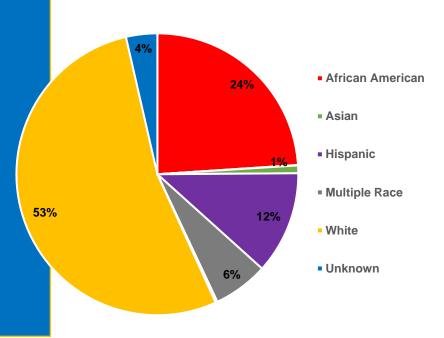
In 2020, Virginia had **85,194** total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, **36,543** were referred for investigation.

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.

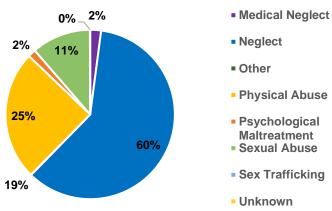
Of the **5,658** children, **5,315** were first time victims.ⁱⁱⁱ

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 722 of the 5,658 cases.^{iv}

Child Victims by Race or Ethinicity, 2020



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.
- **52%** of Virginia's child victims in 2020 were female while **48%** were male. vii

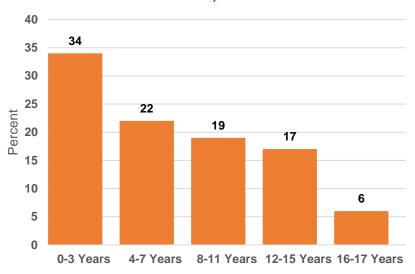
viii

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2020, Virginia reported 15 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.^{ix}
- Virginia reported 15 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.x



Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2017



- Child fatalities decreased in 2020 from **49** in 2019 to **39** in 2020.xi
- Virginia reported 3 total child victims of sex trafficking.xii
- •1,647 victims received post-response services while 2,025 non-victims received post-response services as well.xiii

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 30th, 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.xv

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^{xvi}

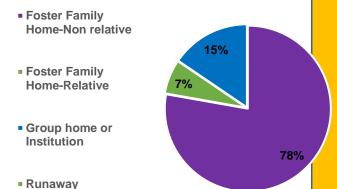
10.4%
Decrease since 2019 in children aging out of foster care

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.xvii

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of 20.0 months in care. xviii
- The average length of stay in Virginia for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 29.9 months.xix
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 8.8 years old.xx
- The average age of adopted children was 7.1 years old.xxi



Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?



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). ***ii

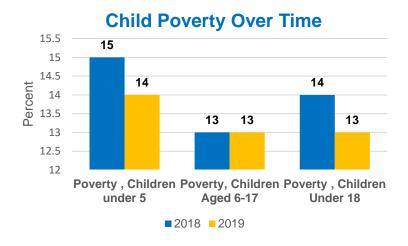
720 children were staying in group homes while the number children that were classified as runaways was not reported.**xiii

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.**xv

Child Poverty

Virginia had **404,000** children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing **22%** of all children.^{xxvi}



XXVII

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

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

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. **xxi*

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

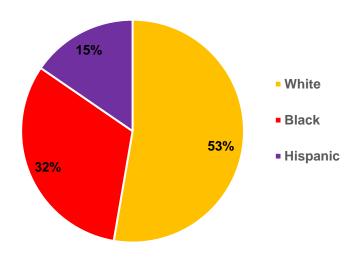
Virginia had **8,132** low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to **8.4%** of infants born in Virginia in 2019.xxxiv

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%.*******

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. **xxvi*

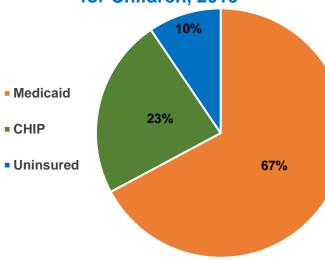
570 infants under 1 died in Virginia in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of **5.9** per 1,000. **xxxvii

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2019



xxxviii

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2019



4.9% of Virginia's children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents **97,000** children. Virginia is a Medicaid expansion state.**

688,878 children in Virginia were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents a **1.1%** increase from 2019. xl

239,439 children in Virginia were in the state Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents an **1.4%** decrease from 2019. xii



13.6%

decline since
2017 of children
living in juvenile
correction
facilities

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.^{xiii}
- **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.xiiii

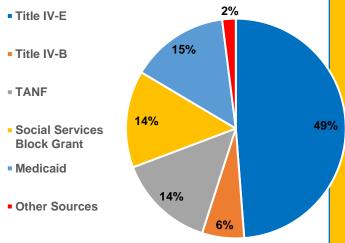
Teens & Youth

- **23,000** (5%) of Virginia's youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.xliv
- 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.xlv
- 126 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Virginia in 2020.xlvi

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. XIVII





The breakdown of the \$269,696,663.99 in federal funding received in Virginia in 2018 (See Pie Chart).xlviii

- \$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.xlix
- Virginia's sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was \$57,142,550.



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- * U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2022). Child Maltreatment 2020. Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-11 Screened-in Infants with Prenatal Substance Exposure Who Have a Plan of Safe Care, 2020. Retrieved January 24, 2022 from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cm2020.pdf
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