Children's Defense Fund

Children in Virginia

January 2012

1,845,121 children live in Virginia:
- 1,060,958 are White, non-Hispanic
- 404,488 are Black
- 194,835 are Hispanic
- 100,690 are Asian/Pacific Islander
- 6,329 are American Indian/Alaska Native
- 102,045 are two or more races

In Virginia:
A child is abused or neglected every 1 hour.
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 12 hours.

Virginia Ranks:*
29th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi
26th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is New Hampshire; worst is the District of Columbia
19th among states in per pupil expenditures.
The District of Columbia is best; Utah is the worst state
[*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children in the country]

Child Poverty in Virginia

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	264,601 (14.5%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	114,051 (6.2%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	74,264
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	$320

Child Health in Virginia

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	157,488 (8.4%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	173,515
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty ($46,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	603,166
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	55.0%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	84.7%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	30.4%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	30.5%

Child Hunger in Virginia

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	344,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	63%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	755,481
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	58,107
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	156,085

Early Childhood Development in Virginia	
Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	66.6%
Number of children served by Head Start	17,184
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	24,000
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	$6,650
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	7.5%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	24.4%
Education in Virginia	
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	$10,928
Percent of public school fourth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	60.9%
unable to do math at grade level	54.1%
Percent of public school eighth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	64.2%
unable to do math at grade level	60.3%
Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	15,192
Child Welfare in Virginia	
Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	6,449
Number of children in foster care	5,326
Number of children adopted from foster care	653
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	63,933
Youth at Risk in Virginia	
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	3.3%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	78.4%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	23.2%
Number of juvenile arrests	31,261
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	2,114
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.06
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in homicides	32
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in suicides	23

This fact sheet contains the most recent data as of January 26, 2012.
For data sources and methodological notes, please visit: www.childrensdefense.org/cits.

For more information on the state of America's children contact:
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