



Children in the States

VIRGINIA

September 2015

Child Population

1,869,115 children lived in Virginia in 2014; 45 percent were children of color.

- 55 percent were White
- 13 percent were Hispanic
- 20 percent were Black
- 6 percent were Asian
- 5 percent were two or more races
- <1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander

Child Poverty

Nearly 1 in 6 (15.8 percent) of Virginia's children were poor in 2014, a total of 291,260 children.¹

- Virginia ranked 14th in child poverty among states.²
- More than 1 in 14 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. More than 1 in 6 children under age 6 were poor; nearly half of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in Virginia are disproportionately poor.

- Nearly 1 in 3 Black children, more than 1 in 5 Hispanic children, and nearly 1 in 6 American Indian/Native Alaskan children were poor in 2014, compared to nearly 1 in 10 White children.

Child Hunger and Homelessness

Child poverty in Virginia leads to unacceptable child homelessness and hunger.

- More than 18,000 Virginia public school students were homeless in 2012-2013.
- In 2014, nearly 3 full-time minimum-wage jobs were necessary to be able to afford a fair market rent two-bedroom apartment in Virginia and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- Nearly 17 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. Nearly 30 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Virginia ranked 5th of 50 states in child food security and 23rd in percent of children overweight and obese.
- Nearly 22 percent of Virginia children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- Nearly 84 percent of Virginia children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Virginia 22nd of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

Although the majority of Virginia's children have access to health coverage, that does not guarantee enrollment in coverage or access to care, which can jeopardize their education and their future.

- In 2013, 88.8 percent of eligible children participated in Medicaid or FAMIS, Virginia's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 648,173 Virginia children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Medicaid, and 196,911 in FAMIS.
- More than 101,000 Virginia children ages 0-17 (5.4 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 16th lowest rate of uninsured children among states.

¹ A family of four was poor if it was living on less than \$23,834 a year, \$1,986 a month, \$458 a week and \$65 a day, and extremely poor if living on less than \$11,917 a year, \$993 a month, \$229 a week and \$33 a day.

² The state ranked 1st is the best for children for that outcome and the state ranked 50th is the worst for children.

- In 2012, 67,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for Medicaid or FAMIS but not enrolled.

Early Childhood and Education

Lack of early childhood investments deprives children of critical supports in the early years and reduces school readiness.

- In 2013, the average annual cost of center-based child care for an infant was \$10,028 – 3.3 percent less than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college in Virginia.
- Virginia had 7,786 children on a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 46 percent of Virginia's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 34 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enroll
- Virginia's state-funded preschool program met 6 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2013-2014.

Virginia's schools fail to educate all children, closing off a crucial pathway out of poverty.

- In 2013, 57 percent of Virginia's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 53 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
 - 77 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 78 percent could not compute.
 - 75 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 68 percent could not compute.
- 84 percent of Virginia public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Virginia 16th among states. 71 percent of Black students and 92 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 85 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 10 percent of Virginia public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Virginia 29th among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 21 percent and 8 percent, respectively.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Virginia, 5,863 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 3.1 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 4,315 Virginia children in foster care.

Too many Virginia children are involved in the juvenile justice system.

- 29,225 children were arrested in Virginia in 2012 – a rate of 3,525 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 1,686 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 62 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 6 percent were Hispanic, and 29 percent were White.
- 9 Virginia children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Virginia spent 2.8 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

Virginia ranked 5th out of 41 ranked states in preventing child and teen gun deaths.

- A total of 42 children and teens were killed by guns in Virginia in 2013 – a rate of 2.0 out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits