

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Virginia



November 2008

1,826,179 children live in Virginia:
 4,563 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
 55,807 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
 85,299 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
 165,220 are Hispanic
 410,319 are Black, non-Hispanic
 1,104,971 are White, non-Hispanic

In Virginia:

A child is born into poverty every 36 minutes.
 A child is abused or neglected every 1 hour.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 11 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 5 days.

Virginia Ranks:*

22nd among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 24th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
 Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
 35th among states in its infant mortality rate.
 Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia

[*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children in the country]

Child Poverty in Virginia

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| Number of poor children (and percent poor) | 233,841 (13.0%) |
| Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty) | 97,487 (5.4%) |
| Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) | 62,469 |
| Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three | \$389 |

Child Health in Virginia

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| Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured) | 194,000 (10.0%) |
| Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) | 144,163 |
| CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four) | |
| Number of children enrolled in Medicaid | 459,391 |
| Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment | 55.4% |
| Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures | 23.8% |
| Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized | 24.5% |

Child Hunger in Virginia

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| Number of children who receive food stamps | 235,793 |
| Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps | 62% |
| Number of children in the School Lunch Program | 749,702 |
| Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program | 45,750 |
| Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) | 143,271 |

Early Childhood Development in Virginia

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| Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force | 64.8% |
| Number of children served by Head Start | 13,518 |
| Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG | 27,900 |
| Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center | \$7,176 |
| Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs | 8.5% |
| Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs | 25.5% |

Education in Virginia

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| Amount spent per pupil in the public schools | \$8,886 |
| Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level | 62% |
| Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math | 58% |

Child Welfare in Virginia

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| Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect | 6,828 |
| Number of children in foster care | 7,843 |
| Number of children adopted from foster care | 551 |
| Number of grandparents raising grandchildren | 61,333 |

Youth at Risk in Virginia

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| Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates | 4.8% |
| Averaged freshman high school graduation rate | 74.5% |
| Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed | 11.5% |
| Number of juvenile arrests | 34,797 |
| Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities | 2,310 |
| Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil | 2.4:1 |
| Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 54 homicides; 22 suicides; 1 accident; and 2 undetermined | 79 |

Compiled from the most up-to-date data available as of November 2008.

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

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