

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN VIRGINIA

Fact Sheet

(July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

How many children were reported as victims of abuse or neglect in Virginia?

During State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017, there were **55,258** children reported as possible victims of abuse or neglect in **36,894** completed reports which were accepted by Virginia's city and county departments of social services. There were **1,543** reports of substance-exposed newborns.

Who reported suspicions of abuse or neglect to departments of social services?

The following individuals or entities reported suspected child abuse or neglect to departments of social services: Educators (21.6%); Law Enforcement/Legal/Courts (17.5%); relatives/parents (14.0%); anonymous (11.2%); Mental Health (10.6%); other categories (9.3%); medical community (9.1%); social services staff (5.9%); and child care providers (.7%).

What were the outcomes of these reports?

There were **6,947** children in founded investigations. "Founded" means that a review of the facts gathered during an investigation met the "preponderance of the evidence" standard.

There were **9,796** children involved in unfounded investigations. "Unfounded" means that a review of the facts gathered during an investigation did not meet the "preponderance of the evidence" standard.

There were **38,515** children involved in reports that yielded family assessments. That means that Family Services Specialists engaged these families through the process of assessing their strengths and needs and developing and operationalizing a safety plan with each, as well as by ensuring the provision of supportive services, as appropriate.

What were the types of maltreatment in founded investigations?

In some reports, more than one type of maltreatment may have occurred. Of all the instances of maltreatment in completed founded investigations:

- **56.6%** of the maltreatment was due to physical neglect, a failure to provide food, clothing, shelter or supervision to the child to the extent that the child's health was endangered.
- **28.0%** of the maltreatment was due to physical abuse.
- **8.8%** of the maltreatment was due to sexual abuse.
- **3.3%** of the maltreatment was due to mental abuse/neglect.
- **2.0%** of the maltreatment was due to medical neglect.

Who were the children in founded investigations?

AGE**

- **32.4%** of all victims were children younger than 4
- **41.9%** of all victims were children aged 4 -11
- **21.8%** of all victims were children aged 12-17

**The age of 3.9% of the victims was unknown.

RACE***

- **67.6%** of all victims were white
- **33.1%** of all victims were black
- **1.1%** of all victims were Asian

***The race of .8% of the victims was American Indian, Native Hawaiian or unknown. This category allows for multiple responses per child and thus, may exceed 100%.

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services as of 12-4-2017 and Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports (VCWOR) Retrieved December 2017

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How many children died *as a result* of child abuse/neglect in SFY 2017?

- There were 120 investigations of child deaths due to suspected abuse or neglect that involved 120 children. (One investigation involved two children)
- Thirty-eight children died *as a result* of abuse or neglect.
- 101 (85%) of these children were age 3 years or younger.
- Seventeen cases are pending as of 12-12-2017.

Child Fatalities SFY 2013 to SFY 2017¹

Fiscal Year	Founded Fatalities	Unfounded Fatalities	Other (pending or appealed)	Total
2017	38	51	31	120
2016	46	80	3	129
2015	52	74	5	131
2014	47	74	3	124
2013	36	70	0	106

Completed reports SFY 2013 to SFY 2017

Fiscal Year	Founded Investigations	Unfounded Investigations	Family Assessments	Total Completed CPS Reports
2017	4,230	6,817	25,847	36,894
2016	4,113	6,482	23,282	33,877
2015	4,173	6,733	22,114	33,020
2014	4,312	6,728	21,867	32,907
2013	3,863	6,251	23,747	33,861

Children in completed reports SFY 2013 to SFY 2017

Fiscal Year	Founded	Unfounded	Family Assessment	Total
2017	6,947	9,796	38,515	55,258
2016	6,459	9,255	35,613	51,327
2015	6,592	9,467	33,809	49,868
2014	6,792	8,608	33,736	50,136
2013	6,205	8,848	36,293	51,346

Ages of children in founded investigations from SFY 2013 to SFY 2017

Fiscal Year	Younger than 4 yrs of age	Ages 4 to 11	Ages 12-17	Unknown
2017	32%	42%	22%	4%
2016	34%	43%	21%	3%
2015	32%	43%	21%	4%
2014	30%	43%	22%	5%
2013	30%	43%	23%	4%

¹ Data collected from Local Departments of Social Services as of 12-4-2017; previous years updated.

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services as of 12-4-2017 and Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports (VCWOR) Retrieved December 2017



2018 Virginia Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention

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1-800-552-7096 Virginia Child Abuse Hotline (language line available)

800-Children (800-244-5373) Parent Helpline or Text 804-349-5595