



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN VIRGINIA SFY 2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)

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

During State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021, there were **30,223** approved reports of child abuse or neglect completed by Virginia’s city and county departments of social services. There were **52,263** children involved as possible victims in those completed reports. There were **1,320** reports of substance-exposed infants. There were **15** Human Trafficking Assessments conducted.

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

In SFY 2021, **76,632** persons reported suspected child abuse or neglect to local and state departments of social services. They included: law enforcement/legal/courts (**21.8%**); educators (**14.8%**); relatives/parents (**13.9%**); anonymous (**12.1%**); mental health professionals (**11.9%**); other categories (**9.3%**); medical community (**8.9%**); social services staff (**4.8%**); and child care providers (**.7%**).

Categories of Reporters- SFY 2018 to SFY 2021

Category	SFY 2018	SFY2019	SFY2020	SFY2021*
Educators	22.0%	23.4%	20.6%	14.8%
Law enforcement/legal/courts	17.8%	17.7%	18.6%	21.8%
Relatives/parents	12.8%	12.3%	13.4%	13.9%
Anonymous	10.6%	11.4%	11.2%	12.1%
Mental Health	10.8%	10.8%	10.9%	11.9%
Other	12.0%	9.6%	10.6%	9.3%
Medical Community	9.2%	8.9%	7.8%	8.9%
Social Services staff	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%	4.8%
Child Care Providers	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%	0.7%

**In SFY 2021, the sources of reports continued to be influenced by the COVID19 pandemic (i.e. virtual classrooms) as seen by a decline of almost 6% of calls by educators, and a 3.2% increase by law enforcement from SFY 2020.*

What were the outcomes and the number of children involved in these reports?

There were **52,263** children in **30,223** accepted reports. Of those:

- **5,261 (10.1%)** children were involved in **3,047** founded investigations. “Founded” means that a review of the facts gathered during an investigation met the “preponderance of the evidence” standard.

- **7,801 (14.9%)** children were involved in **5,094** unfounded investigations. “Unfounded” means that a review of the facts gathered during an investigation did not meet the “preponderance of the evidence” standard.
- **38,107 (72.9%)** children were involved in **22,082** valid reports that received a family assessment. A family assessment is an alternative response that includes engaging with the family to assess the strengths and needs of the children and families. There is no determination of “founded” or “unfounded” in a family assessment.

There were **23** children involved in **15** Human Trafficking Assessments. The involved children and youth were predominantly female (78%), white (61%) and between 12-17 years of age (74%). A Human Trafficking Assessment is required when a report alleges a child is a victim of human trafficking, including sex trafficking or labor trafficking, and does not meet the validity criteria for an investigation or family assessment.

Completed Reports- SFY 2018 to SFY 2021

Fiscal Year	Founded Investigations	Unfounded Investigations	Family Assessments	Total Completed CPS Reports
2021	3,047	5,094	22,082	30,223
2020	3,789	6,265	23,826	33,380
2019	4,211	9,961	26,187	37,359
2018	4,154	6,836	25,867	36,857

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, at least one allegation was substantiated for:

- **59.0 %** of the maltreatment was due to physical neglect.
- **23.4 %** of the maltreatment was due to physical abuse.
- **11.4%** of the maltreatment was due to sexual abuse.
- **4.14 %** of the maltreatment was due to mental abuse/neglect.
- **1.93 %** of the maltreatment was due to medical neglect.

Children in Completed Reports- SFY 2018 to SFY 2021

Fiscal Year	Founded	Unfounded	Family Assessment	Total
2021	5,261	7,801	38,107	51,169
2020	5,792	7,777	38,985	52,554
2019	6,413	8,874	42,947	58,234
2018	6,485	9,723	39,047	55,255

How old were the children in *founded* investigations?

AGE**

- **19.6 %** of all victims were children less than 2 years of age
- **19.7 %** of all victims were children aged 2 to 4 years
- **34.6 %** of all victims were children aged 5 to 11 years
- **24.1 %** of all victims were children aged 12 to 17 years

***The age of 2.0% of the victims was unknown.*

What was the race of children in investigations and family assessments as compared to all completed CPS reports?

<i>Race ***</i>	<i>Children in All Completed CPS Reports (n=51,169)</i>	<i>Children in All Completed Investigations (n=13,062)</i>	<i>Children in All Completed Family Assessments (n=38,107)</i>	<i>Children in Virginia¹ (n=1,866,420)</i>
<i>White</i>	69.1 %	17.8 %	50.2 %	1,255,019 (67.2%)
<i>Black</i>	30.7 %	7.6 %	22.5 %	440,964(23.6%)
<i>Asian</i>	1.9 %	.5 %	1.3 %	112,814 (6.0%)
<i>American Indian, Native Hawaiian</i>	.6 %	.1 %	.4 %	13,288 (0.7%)
<i>Unknown</i>	7.5 %	1.9 %	5.4 %	44,335 (2.4%)

**** This category allows for multiple responses per child and thus may exceed 100%.*

What was the race of children in investigations with a *founded* disposition compared to *all* investigations?

<i>Race***</i>	<i>Children in Founded Investigations (n=5,261)</i>	<i>Children in All Investigations (n= 13,062)</i>	<i>All Children in Virginia¹ (n= 1,866,420)</i>
<i>White</i>	69.7 %	70.1 %	67.2%
<i>Black</i>	31.1%	29.9 %	23.6%
<i>Asian</i>	1.2 %	2.0 %	6.0%
<i>American Indian, Native Hawaiian</i>	.7 %	.6 %	0.7%
<i>Unknown</i>	5.8 %	7.5 %	2.4%

**** This category allows for multiple responses per child and thus may exceed 100%.*

How many valid reports with allegations of abuse or neglect involving a child death were reported in SFY 2021?

- There were 170 valid reports of a suspected child abuse or neglect death that were responded to by a local department of social services. This is an increase of 31 reports from SFY2020.
- As of 12/15/2021, 55 children died from abuse or neglect.
- Twenty-two (22) investigations were pending the final disposition as of 12/15/2021.

Child Fatalities- SFY 2018 to SFY 2021²

Fiscal Year	Founded Fatalities	Unfounded Fatalities	Other (pending or appealed)	Total
2021	55	93	22	170
2020	42*	93*	4*	139*
2019	51	89	4	144
2018	43	74	1	118

¹ Source: Virginia Department of Health

² Data collected from Local Departments of Social Services as of 12-15-2021; *indicates previous year updated.

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services as of 12-9-2021 and Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports (VCWOR) Retrieved December 2021, Version 4.91.

