



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN VIRGINIA SFY 2022 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)

Summary

During State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022, there were **35,917** reports of child abuse or neglect completed by Virginia's 120 city and county departments of social services. There were **52,894** children involved as possible victims in those completed reports. Of these reports, **1,094** reports involved a substance-exposed infant, and **1,272** reports involved an Out-of-Family caregiver. There were **28** Human Trafficking Assessments conducted.

I. Children and Responses by Child Protective Services (CPS)

There were **52,894** children in **35,917 completed** reports. Of those:

- **4,911 (9.0%)** children were involved in **3,161** founded investigations. "Founded" means that a review of the facts gathered during an investigation met the "preponderance of the evidence" standard.
- **8,179 (15.0%)** children were involved in **5,991** unfounded investigations. "Unfounded" means that a review of the facts gathered during an investigation did not meet the "preponderance of the evidence" standard.
- **39,804 (73.0%)** children were involved in **26,765** 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.

Additionally, there were **31** children involved in **28** Human Trafficking Assessments. The involved children and youth were predominantly female (84%), white (26%) and between 12-17 years of age (77%). 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 2019 to SFY 2022

Fiscal Year	Founded Investigations	Unfounded Investigations	Family Assessments	Total Completed CPS Reports
2022	3,161	5,991	26,765	35,917
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

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services as of 10-26-2022 and Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports (VCWOR)
Retrieved October 26, 2022, Version 5.03.

II. Reporters of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect

In SFY 2022, **91,193** persons reported suspected child abuse or neglect to local and state departments of social services. They included: educators (**24.3%**); law enforcement/legal/courts (**18.6%**); mental health professionals (**11.1%**); anonymous (**9.9%**); relatives/parents (**9.8%**); other categories (**9.8%**); medical community (**7.2%**); social services staff (**3.8%**); and childcare providers (**.7%**).

Categories of Reporters- SFY 2019 to SFY 2022

Category	SFY2019	SFY2020	SFY2021	SFY2022*
Educators	23.4%	20.6%	14.8%	24.3%
Law enforcement/legal/courts	17.7%	18.6%	21.8%	18.6%
Relatives/parents	12.3%	13.4%	13.9%	9.8%
Anonymous	11.4%	11.2%	12.1%	9.9%
Mental Health	10.8%	10.9%	11.9%	11.1%
Other	9.6%	10.6%	9.3%	9.8%
Medical Community	8.9%	7.8%	8.9%	7.2%
Social Services staff	4.2%	4.2%	4.8%	3.8%
Child Care Providers	0.9%	0.7%	0.7%	.7%

*In SFY 2022, the sources of reports reverted back to pre-pandemic percentages for the most part.

III. Types of Maltreatment

Type Of Maltreatment*	All Accepted Reports	Family Assessments	Investigations	Founded Investigations
Medical Neglect	1,507	1,156	319	116
Mental Abuse/Neglect	5,686	4,743	855	319
Physical Abuse	16,360	11,340	4,633	1,636
Physical Neglect	37,275	28,078	8,531	4,009
Sexual Abuse	3,667	-	3,064	809

* Note: In some reports, more than one type of maltreatment may have occurred.

IV. Out of Family (OOF) Reports

In SFY 2022 there were **1,272** Out of Family (OOF) reports of child abuse or neglect completed statewide. An OOF investigation involves a caretaker who is not typically related to the child but who has the care and responsibility for the child in a professional capacity. Some settings are regulated or licensed, others are not.

OOF Setting	Founded	Unfounded	Total*
Unregulated Daycare (includes babysitter; religiously exempt)	45	127	172
Licensed Daycare (includes Homes; centers; voluntary registered)	39	209	248
Foster Home (includes local and state approved)	11	121	132
Group Home/Residential (includes institutional)	20	134	154
School- Private (includes private spec. Ed)	4	36	40
School- Public	48	360	408
Other (includes summer camp; other org.)	31	87	118

*Note: Total does not include any pending reports

V. Children

Fiscal Year	Founded	Unfounded	Family Assessment	Total
2022	4,911	8,179	39,804	52,894
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

How old were the children in accepted reports?

Age	Founded	Unfounded	Family Assessment	Total
Under 2 years	575	589	3,329	4,493
2- 3 years	966	1,373	6,360	8,699
4- 11	1,909	3,448	18,301	23,658
12-17	1,303	2,603	11,702	15,608
Unknown	158	166	742	1,066

What was the race of children in investigations/ family assessments/ all completed CPS reports/all children in Virginia?

Race***	Children in <u>All Completed CPS Reports</u> (n=52,894)	Children in <u>All Completed Investigations</u> (n=13,090)	Children in <u>All Completed Family Assessments</u> (n=39,804)	Children in <u>Virginia</u> (n=1,884,826)
White	68.2%	68.9%	66.0%	51.9% (979,043)
Black	30.9%	29.5%	30.1%	19.9% (374,628)
Asian	2.2%	1.9%	2.2%	6.9% (129,217)
American Indian, Native Hawaiian	.6%	.4%	.6%	5,214 (0.3%)
Unknown	8.5%	8.5%	8.0%	-

*** 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?

Race***	Children in <i>Founded Investigations</i> (n=4,911)	Children in <u>All Completed Investigations</u> (n=13,090)	All Children in Virginia ¹ (n= 1,884,826)
White	68.2%	68.9%	51.9%
Black	31.8%	29.5%	19.9%
Asian	.9%	1.9%	6.9%
American Indian, Native Hawaiian	.3%	.4%	.3%
Unknown	6.8%	8.5%	-

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

¹ Source: [Kids Count- The Annie E. Casey Foundation 2021](#).

VI. Child Deaths Reported in SFY 2022

- There were **162** valid reports of a suspected child abuse or neglect death that were responded to by a local department of social services. This is a decrease of eight reports from SFY2021.
- As of 10/19/2022, **29** children died from abuse or neglect.
- Fifty-five (55) investigations were pending the final disposition as of 10/19/2022.

Child Fatalities- SFY 2019 to SFY 2022²

Fiscal Year	Founded Fatalities	Unfounded Fatalities	Other (pending or appealed)	Total
2022	29	78	55	162
2021	59*	108*	4*	171*
2020	42	93	4	139
2019	51	89	4	144

² Data collected from Local Departments of Social Services as of 10-26-2022; *indicates updated from previous year.
Source: Virginia Department of Social Services as of 10-26-2022 and Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports (VCWOR)
Retrieved October 26, 2022, Version 5.03.