



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN VIRGINIA SFY 2023 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

Summary

During State Fiscal Year (SFY) **2023**, there were **33,679** reports of child abuse or neglect **completed** by Virginia's 120 city and county departments of social services. There were **52,480** children involved as possible victims in those completed reports. Of these reports, **854** reports involved a substance-exposed infant, and **1,447 completed** reports occurred in an Out-of-Family setting. There were **26** Human Trafficking Assessments conducted.

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

There were **52,480** children in **33,679 completed** reports. Of those:

- **4,368 (8.0%)** children were involved in **2,913** founded investigations. "Founded" means that a review of the facts gathered during an investigation met the "preponderance of the evidence" standard.
- **8,033 (15.0%)** children were involved in **5,876** unfounded investigations. "Unfounded" means that a review of the facts gathered during an investigation did not meet the "preponderance of the evidence" standard.
- **40,079 (76.0%)** children were involved in **24,890** 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 **26** children involved in **26** Human Trafficking Assessments. The involved children and youth were predominantly female (96%), white (42%) and between 12-17 years of age (88%). 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 2020 to SFY 2023

Fiscal Year	Founded Investigations	Unfounded Investigations	Family Assessments	Total Completed CPS Reports
2023	2,913	5,876	24,890	33,679
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

II. Reporters of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect

In SFY 2023, there were **97,914** persons who reported suspected child abuse or neglect to local and state departments of social services.

Categories of Reporters- SFY 2020 to SFY 2023

Category	SFY2020	SFY2021	SFY2022	SFY2023
Educators	20.6%	14.8%	24.3%	25.9%
Law enforcement/legal/courts	18.6%	21.8%	18.6%	17.7%
Relatives/parents	13.4%	13.9%	9.8%	11.0%
Anonymous	11.2%	12.1%	9.9%	10.2%
Mental Health	10.9%	11.9%	11.1%	10.9%
Other	10.6%	9.3%	9.8%	10.5%
Medical Community	7.8%	8.9%	7.2%	6.9%
Social Services staff	4.2%	4.8%	3.8%	3.7%
Child Care Providers	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%

III. Types of Maltreatment Allegations

Type Of Maltreatment*	All Accepted Reports	Family Assessments	Investigations	Founded Investigations
Medical Neglect	1,317	987	308	115
Mental Abuse/Neglect	4518	3,798	651	216
Physical Abuse	13,471	9,445	3,672	1,248
Physical Neglect	30,245	22,902	6,679	2,886
Sexual Abuse	2,818	0	2,381	609

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

IV. Out of Family (OOF) Reports

In SFY 2023 there were **1,447** 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)	48	127	175
Licensed Daycare (includes Homes; centers; voluntary registered)	62	281	343
Foster Home (includes local and state approved)	13	120	133
Group Home/Residential (includes institutional)	19	92	111
School- Private (includes private spec. Ed)	6	36	42
School- Public	58	464	522
Other (includes summer camp; other org.)	27	93	120

*Note: Total does not include any pending reports

V. Children

In SFY23, there were **54,191** children in **33,679** completed reports.

Fiscal Year	Founded	Unfounded	Family Assessment	Total
2023	4,368	8,033	40,079	52,480
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

How old were the children in accepted reports?

Age	Founded	Unfounded	Family Assessment	Total
Under 2 years	798	915	4,932	6,645
2- 3 years	501	914	4,158	5,573
4- 11	1,705	3,587	18,878	24,170
12-17	1,169	2,469	11,398	15,036
Unknown	195	148	713	1,056

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=54,191)	Children in <u>All Completed Investigations</u> (n=25,202)	Children in <u>All Completed Family Assessments</u> (n=40,079)	Children in <u>Virginal</u> (n=~1,866,978)
White	65.5%	67.0%	65.4%	68.0%
Black	30.0%	28.1%	30.3%	20.0%
Asian	2.0%	2.1%	2.0%	7.3%
American Indian, Native Hawaiian	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Unknown	8.8%	9.5%	8.6%	3.4% (more than 2 races)

*** 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</i> Investigations (n=8,702)	Children in <u>All Completed Investigations</u> (n=25,202)	All Children in Virginia ¹ (n= ~ 1,866,978)
White	69.0%	67.0%	68.0%
Black	31.0%	28.1%	20.0%
Asian	1.4%	2.1%	7.3%
American Indian, Native Hawaiian	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%

¹ Source: [United States Census Bureau Quick Facts](#) (estimates)

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services as of 11-1-2023 and Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports (VCWOR) Retrieved November 1, 2023, Version 5.15.

Unknown	7.5%	9.5%	3.4% (more than 2 races)
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*** This category allows for multiple responses per child and thus may exceed 100%.

VI. Child Deaths Reported in SFY 2023

- There were **173** 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 nine reports from SFY2022.
- As of **11/1/2023**, **24** children died from abuse or neglect.
- Seventy-three (73) investigations were pending the final disposition as of **11/1/2023**.

Child Fatalities- SFY 2020 to SFY 2023²

Fiscal Year	Founded Fatalities	Unfounded Fatalities	Other (pending or appealed)	Total
2023	24	76	73	173
2022	54*	103*	7*	164*
2021	61*	108*	2*	171
2020	43*	93	3*	139

² Data collected from Local Departments of Social Services as of 11-1-2023; *indicates updated from previous year.
Source: Virginia Department of Social Services as of 11-1-2023 and Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports (VCWOR) Retrieved November 1, 2023, Version 5.15.