

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN VIRGINIA

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

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

During State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018, there were **55,255** children reported as possible victims of abuse or neglect. They were participants in **36,857** completed reports that were accepted by Virginia's city and county departments of social services. There were **1,954** 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 (22.0%); Law Enforcement/Legal/Courts (17.8%); relatives/parents (12.80%); other categories (12.0%); Mental Health (10.8%); anonymous (10.6%); medical community (9.2%); social services staff (4.2%); and child care providers (.8%).

What were the outcomes of these reports?

There were **6,485** 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 **9,723** 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 **39,047** 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, at least one allegation was substantiated for:

- **56.4%** of the maltreatment was due to physical neglect.
- **27.6%** of the maltreatment was due to physical abuse.
- **9.7%** of the maltreatment was due to sexual abuse.
- **3.0%** of the maltreatment was due to mental abuse/neglect.
- **2.2%** of the maltreatment was due to medical neglect.

Who were the children in *founded* investigations?

AGE**

- **32.8%** of all victims were children younger than 4
- **42.4%** of all victims were children aged 4-11
- **22.0%** of all victims were children aged 12-17

**The age of 2.8% of the victims was unknown.

RACE***

- **68.5%** of all victims were white
- **31.3%** of all victims were black
- **1.4%** of all victims were Asian

***The race of 6.8% of the victims was American Indian, Native Hawaiian, or unknown. This category allows for multiple responses per child and thus may exceed 100%.

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How many children died as a result of child abuse or neglect in SFY 2018?

- As of 10-30-2018, there were 117 investigations of child deaths due to suspected abuse or neglect that involved 118 children.
- Twenty-eight children died as a result of abuse or neglect.
- Ninety-eight (83%) of these children were age 3 years or younger.
- Thirty-seven cases are pending as of 10-30-2018.

Child Fatalities- SFY 2014 to SFY 2018¹

Fiscal Year	Founded Fatalities	Unfounded Fatalities	Other (pending or appealed)	Total
2018	28	53	37	118
2017	47*	71*	5*	123*
2016	46	80	3	129
2015	52	74	5	131
2014	47	74	3	124

Completed reports- SFY 2014 to SFY 2018

Fiscal Year	Founded Investigations	Unfounded Investigations	Family Assessments	Total Completed CPS Reports
2018	4,154	6,836	25,867	36,857
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

Children in completed reports- SFY 2014 to SFY 2018

Fiscal Year	Founded	Unfounded	Family Assessment	Total
2018	6,485	9,723	39,047	55,255
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	9,608	33,736	50,136

Ages of children in founded investigations- SFY 2014 to SFY 2018

Fiscal Year	Younger than 4 years of age	Ages 4 to 11	Ages 12-17	Unknown
2018	33%	42%	22%	3%
2017	32%	42%	22%	4%
2016	34%	43%	21%	3%
2015	32%	43%	21%	4%
2014	30%	43%	22%	5%

¹ Data collected from Local Departments of Social Services as of 10-30-2018; *previous years updated.
 Source: Virginia Department of Social Services as of 10-30-2018 and Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports (VCWOR) Retrieved October 2018, Version 4.56