

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN VIRGINIA SFY 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019)

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

During State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019, there were **58,234** children reported as possible victims of abuse or neglect. They were participants in **37,359** completed reports that were accepted by Virginia's city and county departments of social services. There were **1,577** reports of substance-exposed newborns.

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

91,284 persons reported suspected child abuse or neglect to departments of social services. They included: educators (23.4%); law enforcement/legal/courts (17.7%); relatives/parents (12.3%); anonymous (11.4%); mental health professionals (10.8%); other categories (9.6%); medical community (8.9%); social services staff (4.2%); and child care providers (.9%).

What were the outcomes of these reports?

There were **6,413** 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 **8,874** 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 **42,947** children involved in valid reports that received a family assessment. A family assessment is an alternative response which includes engaging with the family to assess the strengths and needs of the children and families. No determination of "founded" or "unfounded" is made in a family assessment.*

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:

- **56.6%** of the maltreatment was due to physical neglect.
- **28.0%** of the maltreatment was due to physical abuse.
- **10.0%** of the maltreatment was due to sexual abuse.
- **3.0%** of the maltreatment was due to mental abuse/neglect.
- **2.4%** of the maltreatment was due to medical neglect.

Who were the children in *founded* investigations?

AGE**

- **32.0%** of all victims were children younger than 4
- **42.2%** of all victims were children aged 4-11
- **22.7%** of all victims were children aged 12-17

**The age of 3.3% of the victims was unknown.

RACE***

- **67.7%** of all victims were white
- **32.5%** of all victims were black
- **1.6%** of all victims were Asian

***The race of 6.5% 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 2019?

- As of 12-06-2019, there were 142 valid reports of a child death due to suspected abuse or neglect.
- Thirty-seven (37) children died as a result of abuse or neglect.
- Forty-three (43) cases are pending as of 12-06-2019.

Child Fatalities- SFY 2015 to SFY 2019¹

Fiscal Year	Founded Fatalities	Unfounded Fatalities	Other (pending or appealed)	Total
2019	37	62	43	142
2018	43*	74*	1*	118
2017	47	71	5	123
2016	46	80	3	129
2015	52	74	5	131

Completed Reports- SFY 2015 to SFY 2019

Fiscal Year	Founded Investigations	Unfounded Investigations	Family Assessments	Total Completed CPS Reports
2019	4,211	9,961	26,187	37,359
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

Children in Completed Reports- SFY 2015 to SFY 2019

Fiscal Year	Founded	Unfounded	Family Assessment	Total
2019	6,413	8,874	42,947	58,234
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

Ages of Children in Founded Investigations- SFY 2015 to SFY 2019

Fiscal Year	Younger than 4 years of age	Ages 4 to 11	Ages 12-17	Unknown
2019	32.0%	42.2%	22.7%	3.3%
2018	33%	42%	22%	3%
2017	32%	42%	22%	4%
2016	34%	43%	21%	3%
2015	32%	43%	21%	4%

¹ Data collected from Local Departments of Social Services as of 12-06-2019; *previous year updated.
Source: Virginia Department of Social Services as of 10-1-2019 and Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports (VCWOR)
Retrieved November 2019, Version 4.68