INDICATORS OF SCHOOL READINESS

SUPPLEMENT

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Introduction

Indicators of School Readiness

SUPPLEMENT

In April 2002, Governor Mark Warner appointed The Honorable Jane Woods, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, as Chair of the Virginia School Readiness Indicators Initiative, part of a multi-state effort created to fill the gaps in information on young children from birth through school entry. Governor Warner appointed a State Team with representatives from the Governor's Office; the Secretariats of Education and Health and Human Resources; the Virginia Departments of Health, Education, Social Services, and Medical Assistance Services; the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates; and other representatives from programs for young children and their families. Voices for Virginia's Children, a statewide child advocacy organization, staffs the initiative. While the national School Readiness Indicators Initiative made up of seventeen states is jointly funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Virginia's funding is through a $150,000 grant from the Ford Foundation.This grant was awarded in April 1, 2002 and funds a three year initiative to meet the following goals:

1. Create a set of measurable indicators related to and defining school readiness that can be tracked regularly over time at the state and local levels;

2. Encourage the Commonwealth to adopt this indicators-based definition of school readiness, fill in the gaps in data availability, track data over time and report findings to its citizens; and

3. Stimulate policy, program, and other actions to improve the ability of all children to read at grade level by the end of third grade.

In April 2004, Governor Warner released a report from Virginia's State Team entitled *No Time to Waste: Indicators of School Readiness 2004 Data Book*. This report contained locality-specific data for two benchmarks; seven child, family, and community indicators; and seven early childhood support services:

- Phonological awareness literacy screening for kindergarten (PALS-K)
- 3rd grade standards of learning assessments
- Teen births
- Maternal education
- Prentatal care
- Low birth weight
- Children living in poverty
- Child abuse/neglect
- Elevated lead levels
- Child health insurance
- Foster care
- Child care subsidies
- Early intervention
- Preschool special education
- Head start and early head start
- At-risk 4 year olds

The indicators selected for inclusion in the report released by Governor Warner are the ones that the State Team determined to be the most accurate data available that were directly related to school readiness. In the process of determining which indicators to include in their report, the State Team gathered and considered a variety of other data. This *School Readiness Indicators Supplement* makes available the data that were considered but not included in the State Team's report.

Tasked with the challenge of selecting the indicators that best inform about school readiness in Virginia, the State Team learned that while data may be collected in various places in the Commonwealth, accurate data reports may not be readily available. Budget constraints and problems with information technology have significantly impaired state government's capacity to collect, maintain, and report data. In many instances, the only data available are those necessary to fulfill federal requirements, or to meet mandates established in the *Code of Virginia*. Besides the additional data sets presented here, there are also indicators that the State Team identified as important to school readiness but for which data are not currently collected. This supplement will present the data not used in the State Team's report and then include suggestions for the collection of new data to support school readiness.

ADDITIONAL INDICATORS

The following indicators are included in this supplement:

Child Level Indicators
- Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT)
- Immunizations
- Asthma
- Limited English Proficiency

Family Level Indicators
- Adult Literacy
- School Lunch Program
- Single Parent Families
- Child Support
- Domestic Violence
- Foster Care

Community Level Indicators
- Per Capita Income
- Unemployment Rates
- Violent Crime
- Infant Mortality
- K-12 School Truancy
- Child Care Capacity

Other Indicators:
Child, Family, & Community

WHAT WE DO KNOW ABOUT VIRGINIA'S YOUNG CHILDREN
THAT IMPACTS THEIR READINESS FOR SCHOOL

Child Indicators

Many of the data we have on Virginia's young children are health related. This is not surprising since almost all young children have contact with health care providers. The Virginia Department of Health has a long history of collecting data, from Vital Statistics and birth certificate information to other types of information related to infectious diseases and public health issues.

A child's health status is critical to his/her school readiness and school performance. Healthy children have abundant energy, are curious, engaged in learning, and are able to focus their attention on the activities at hand. Children are growing and developing rapidly in the first five years; nutrition is extremely important to their growing bodies and brains. Children are also vulnerable during these early years and it is critically important that they are protected against diseases that can be life-threatening or cause life-long disabilities, such as diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, and chicken-pox.

The first three of the supplementary indicators are related to child health (EPSDT, immunizations, and asthma). They are important indicators of child wellness and supplement the health related indicators in the Governor's report (low birth weight, elevated lead levels and child health insurance enrollments). The final supplementary indicator in this section (Limited English Proficiency or LEP) is related to language skills. The data are for school aged children rather than preschool aged children. We do not have estimates for limited English proficiency for preschool aged children in Virginia, but we can use data for school aged children to identify communities where LEP is a serious concern.

Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, & Treatment (EPSDT)

2002 CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR EPSDT AND THOSE SCREENED/REFERRED/ RECEIVING SERVICES

The Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program (EPSDT) is available to all children enrolled in Medicaid (or FAMIS PLUS). It provides ongoing, regular health care for children, which includes well-child screenings and treatment for any illness or injury and severe problems such as lead poisoning, asthma, obesity, and hearing impairments. Given the potential effects of the well-being of children that follow them into adulthood, it is important that all eligible children are provided this intensive screening and care. Children enrolled in Medicaid are often the ones most at risk for health problems that limit their ability to succeed in school. The cost of their care is often higher than it would have been if EPSDT had caught problems earlier instead of the situation in which the parents have waited until a condition is severe and brought the child to the emergency room instead of to the primary care provider. When parents wait for crises to occur before they obtain care, children often require inpatient services, which is much more expensive and traumatic for the child. Both the cost-benefit of EPSDT as a prevention program and the potential it has for ensuring that children thrive in school and in life contribute to its consideration as a primary strategy for identifying many of the health and social/emotional indicators related to child well-being.

Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, & Treatment (EPSDT) is designed to provide primary health benefits for children with emphasis on preventive care. It has been a part of the federal Medicaid program since its beginning in the late 1960's. Children enrolled in Medicaid are to receive 5 EPSDT screenings between birth and age one, 3 between ages 1 to 2, and 3 between ages 3 and 5. If there are any potential developmental concerns detected during the screenings, the child is to receive necessary diagnostic tests as well as be referred for treatment. Children move in and out of eligibility for Medicaid, thus eligibility is a fluctuating number. The following table provides state level data to adjust the expected number of EPSDT exams to be received in light of the fluctuating number of eligible children. Unfortunately, locality level data are not available. Data show the average period of eligibility (this is the average number of months that a child in a given age group is eligible) and the expected number of screenings given the fluctuations. Data in this table show the number of children in Virginia eligible for EPSDT screenings (by age group) as well as the adjusted number of expected screenings, the actual number of screenings received, and screening ratios. Data also show the number of children in each age group referred for corrective treatment, those receiving dental care, those enrolled in managed care programs, and those screened for lead.

Note that the screening ratio for infants (under one year of age) was .92: 92% of the expected screenings for this group were completed (96,493 were expected and 89,563 were done). Keep in mind that the expected number of EPSDT exams during the first year was five. For one to two year olds, the screening ratio was 100 (70,874 were expected and 81,383 were done). For three to five year olds, 65% of the expected screenings were done (56,144 were expected but only 36,866 were done). Percentages of eligible children who received at least one EPSDT screening in 2002 include only 77% of infants, 61% of one to two year olds, and 55% of three to five year olds.

Since federal funds are available for EPSDT, it is important that the screenings be utilized fully.

Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis & Treatment: 2002 CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR EPSDT AND THOSE SCREENED, REFERRED AND RECEIVING SERVICES

Virginia EPSDT Fiscal Year 2002

AGE	UNDER 1 YEAR	1 - 2 YEAR OLDS	3 - 5 YEAR OLDS	TOTAL
Number Eligible Children	37,135	62,175	71,987	171,297
Number of EPSDT exams in age group expected per child	5	3	3	
Number of years in each age grouping	1	2	3	
Per year number of exams expected	5	1.5	1	
Total months of eligibility for children in age groups	232,693	572,469	677,335	1,482,497
Average length of eligibility per age	0.52	0.76	0.78	
Expected number of screenings per eligible child	2.6	1.14	0.78	
Expected number of screenings for all	96,493	70,874	56,144	223,511
Total screenings received by children	89,563	81,383	36,866	207,812
Screening ratio	0.92	1	0.65	
Total eligibles who should receive at least one initial or periodic screen	37,135	62,171	56,144	155,450
Total eligible who did receive at least one initial or periodic screen	28,885	38,165	31,216	98,266
Percent receiving screen according to schedule	77%	61%	55%	
Total eligibles referred for corrective treatment	1,208	2,585	2,192	5,985
Total eligibles receiving any dental service	19	1,899	16,314	18,232
Total eligibles receiving preventive dental services	4	1,200	13,659	14,863
Total eligibles enrolled in managed care	27,365	54,013	59,587	140,965

Data Source: Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services

Immunizations

2001/02 IMMUNIZATION RATES AND SURVEY RESULTS

In order to be protected against preventable communicable diseases, children need to be immunized according to the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations. According to a 1993 study, immunizations are one of the most cost effective interventions in health care, saving $22 for every $1 invested.[1]

Effective immunization covers a set of diseases, is started shortly after birth, and is updated on a regular basis. It is not sufficient that children are immunized by the time they reach kindergarten; they need to be protected when they are young and most vulnerable, particularly when they are in group care arrangements and exposed to many other children. Children in poverty are the least likely to be up to date in their immunizations.

Immunization rates at the local level are not available, but statewide estimates for Virginia are regularly submitted to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These data show the estimated immunization rates for individual vaccines and selected vaccination series among children 19 – 35 months of age for the U.S. and for Virginia in 2002, as provided in the National Immunization Survey.

In 2001 and 2002, the Virginia Department of Health surveyed public and private kindergartens, day care centers, and Head Start programs to determine whether or not children enrolled were properly immunized. Results are shown in the second table.

These data suggest that rates for kindergarten students (public, private, and combined) dropped from 2001 to 2002, which is of concern. Rates for Head Start students, however, increased slightly from 2001 to 2002. By 60 months (age 5), 94.5% of the combined kindergarten students in 2001 and 93.4% of the combined kindergarten students in 2002 were up to date on the 4:3:1 series (4 DTP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR). In 2002, 85.6% of the combined kindergarten students were up to date on the 4:3:1:3:3 series (4DTP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3Hib, 3HepB) [these data were not collected in 2001].

Although locality specific data on immunizations are not available, immunizations are a very important health factor for young children. Until all young children are properly immunized, the community has not done its duty in protecting the health of young children.

[1] E.J. Hatziandreu et al. "The Costs and Benefits of Childhood Immunization." Arlington, VA: The Battelle Medical, Technology, Assessment and Policy Research Program, 1993.

Immunizations: 2001/02 IMMUNIZATION RATES AND SURVEY RESULTS

Estimated Vaccination Coverage *(National Immunization Survey data)*

Among Children 19 - 35 Months of Age 2002

SERIES	DESCRIPTION	U.S. % COVERED	VIRGINIA % COVERED
3+DPT	3 or more doses of any diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccines including diphtheria and tetanus toxoids, and any acellular pertussis vaccine (DTP/DTaP/DT)	94.90%	93.70%
4+DPT	4 or more doses of any diphtheria and tetanue toxoids and pertussis vaccines including diphtheria and tetanus toxoids, and any acellular pertussis vaccine (DTP/DTaP/DT)	81.80%	81.30%
3+Polio	3 or more doses of any poliovirus vaccine	90.20%	88.40%
1+MMR	1 or more doses of measles-mumps-rubella vaccine; previous reports of vaccination coverage were for measles-containing vaccine (MCV)	91.60%	90.30%
3+Hib	3 or more doses of Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine	93.10%	90.90%
3+HepB	3 or more doses of hapatitis B vaccine	89.90%	83.20%
1+Var	1 or more doses of varicella t or after child's first birthday, unadjusted for history of varicella illness	80.60%	83.00%
3+PCV	3 or more doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine	40.90%	54.40%
4:03:01	4 or more doses of DTP, 3 or more doses of poliovirus vaccine, and 1 or more doses of any MCV	78.50%	77.70%
4:3:1:3	4 or more doses of DTP, 3 or more doses of poliovirus vaccine, 1 or more doses of any MCV, and 3 or more doses of Hib	77.50%	76.60%
4:3:1:3:3	4 of more doses of DTP, 3 or more doses of poliovirus vaccine, 1 or more doses of any MCV, 3 or more doses of Hib, and 3 or more doses of HepB	74.80%	72.00%
4:3:1:3:3:1	4 or more doses of DTP, 3 or more doses of poliovirus vaccine, 1 or more doses of any MCV, 3 or more doses of Hib, 3 or more doses of HepB, and 1 or more doses of varicella	65.50%	64.80%

2001 & 2002 VA Immunization Survey Results Survey

	PUBLIC KDG. 2001	PUBLIC KDG. 2002	PRIVATE KDG. 2001	PRIVATE KDG. 2002	COMBINED KDG. 2001	COMBINED KDG. 2002	DAY CARE 2001	DAY CARE 2002	HEAD START 2001	HEAD START 2002
Sites Surveyed	191	196	51	47	242	243	311	298	59	50
% of Total Sites	17.00%	17.70%	12.90%	12.20%	16.10%	16.30%	18.80%	19.80%	25.60%	20.70%
Children Surveyed	4750	4938	1107	1079	5857	6017	6289	6304	1231	1052
% of Total Children	5.80%	5.90%	11.60%	11.50%	6.40%	6.60%	3.80%	4.10%	15.50%	12.40%
4:3:1 Series										
%UTD @24 mos.	75.60%	74.10%	84.60%	84.30%	77.30%	76.00%	77.20%	78.20%	72.90%	74.00%
%UTD @ 60 mos.	94.30%	93.10%	95.30%	94.90%	94.50%	93.40%	NA	NA	NA	NA
4:3:1:3:3 series										
%UTD @ 24 mos.	68.40%	68.20%	79.00%	78.90%	70.40%	70.20%	71.00%	72.40%	68.70%	67.00%
%UTD @ 60 mos.	NA	85.00%	NA	88.50%	NA	85.60%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Medical Exemptions	NA	16	NA	11	NA	27	NA	6	NA	4
Religious Exemptions	NA	11	NA	8	NA	19	NA	13	NA	1
% Children w/Exempt.	NA	0.55%	NA	1.76%	NA	0.80%	NA	0.30%	NA	0.48%

Data Source: Virginia Department of Health

Asthma

2001 CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 INPATIENT HOSPITALIZATIONS FOR ASTHMA AND RATES PER 100,000

Asthma accounts for 14 million lost school days each year, making it the leading cause of lost school days due to chronic conditions. The estimated annual cost of treating asthma in children under age 18 in the United States is $3.2 billion.[2]

Asthma is a chronic lung condition affecting almost 5 million children in the United States. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, asthma is the third leading cause of hospitalization for children under the age of 15 and it is the first-ranking chronic health condition in children. The estimated annual rate for emergency room visits among children under age five is 137.1 per 10,000 – the highest number for all age groups.

While each child reacts differently to the factors that can trigger asthma attacks, it is clear that poor air quality and exposure to cigarette smoke are two major factors that can be reduced. Secondhand smoke alone is estimated to be causing serious harm to as many as one million asthmatic children.

Asthma can be treated, and with care management the number of asthma attacks can be reduced. In addition, some states have targeted efforts to educate members of households with children to stop smoking. However, without some major changes, a study by Johns Hopkins School of Public Health estimates that the number of children with asthma will more than double by the year 2020.[3]

The data in the following chart include the number of children under the age of six from the 2000 U.S. Census in each locality in Virginia and the number of children under the age of six hospitalized for asthma in 2001(inpatient). The rates are based on the number of children hospitalized per 100,000 in the population. Data are for inpatient admissions (for a minimum of 24 hours) to Virginia hospitals. One child may have had several admissions and each admission is included in these numbers. Resident children who were admitted to hospitals in neighboring states are not included in these data, which can impact the data in border communities. Data on children from other states admitted to Virginia hospitals are also excluded. Data were for children admitted with a primary diagnosis of asthma (ICD codes 493.00-493.99). These data do not reflect admissions for which asthma was a secondary diagnosis. These data also do not reflect children seen in the emergency room, but discharged without hospital admission.

The extent to which asthma affects the school readiness of children in a particular area would depend upon many other factors. Areas with a high rate of asthma might want to do additional investigation into the impact of asthma on the 0-6 population.

[2] U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health: Asthma Control Programs Related to Children and Adolescents: full report on www.edc.gov/nceh/airpollution/asthma/children.htm

[3] John Hopkins School of Public Health, funded by the PEW Environmental Health Commission: full report on http://pweenvirohealth.jhsph.edu.

Asthma: 2001 INPATIENT HOSPITALIZATIONS FOR ASTHMA IN CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 AND RATES PER 100,000

LOCALITY	2000 POPULATION < AGE 6	NUMBER OF INPATIENT HOSPITALIZATIONS FOR ASTHMA	HOSPITALIZATION RATE PER 100,000 CHILDREN < AGE 6
Virginia	557,736	2,435	436.6
Accomack	2,792	3	107.4
Albemarle	6,000	12	200.0
Alexandria	9,262	34	367.1
Alleghany	905	0	0.0
Amelia	870	16	1,839.1
Amherst	2,234	21	940.0
Appomattox	1,047	8	764.1
Arlington	12,144	29	238.8
Augusta	4,521	20	442.4
Bath	279	3	1,075.3
Bedford City	424	3	707.5
Bedford County	4,290	21	489.5
Bland	379	2	527.7
Botetourt	2,107	13	617.0
Bristol	1,114	1	89.8
Brunswick	1,124	8	711.7
Buchanan	1,583	17	1,073.9
Buckingham	926	7	755.9
Buena Vista	461	3	650.8
Campbell	3,678	17	462.2
Caroline	1,690	17	1,005.9
Carroll	1,998	3	150.2
Charles City	472	2	423.7
Charlotte	863	12	1,390.5
Charlottesville	2,368	4	168.9
Chesapeake	17,265	27	156.4
Chesterfield	21,322	137	642.5
Clarke	835	6	718.6
Clifton Forge	282	4	1,418.4
Colonial Heights	1,113	18	1,617.3
Covington	471	5	1,061.6
Craig	356	1	280.9
Culpeper	2,660	8	300.8
Cumberland	689	10	1,451.4
Danville	3,502	35	999.4
Dickenson	1,038	5	481.7
Dinwiddie	1,650	7	424.2
Emporia	436	0	0.0
Essex	635	2	315.0
Fairfax City	1,538	13	845.3
Fairfax County	81,675	213	260.8
Falls Church	690	3	434.8
Fauquier	4,256	11	258.5
Floyd	950	2	210.5
Fluvanna	1,567	4	255.3
Franklin City	538	7	1,301.1
Franklin County	3,147	12	381.3
Frederick	4,657	28	601.2
Fredericksburg	1,332	15	1,126.1
Galax	525	5	952.4
Giles	1,138	0	0.0
Gloucester	2,483	7	281.9
Goochland	1,044	3	287.4
Grayson	1,061	12	1,131.0
Greene	1,372	2	145.8
Greensville	528	11	2,083.3
Halifax	2,714	4	147.4
Hampton	11,272	24	212.9
Hanover	6,872	27	392.9
Harrisonburg	2,281	10	438.4
Henrico	21,575	127	588.6
Henry	3,911	6	153.4
Highland	112	0	0.0
Hopewell	2,020	34	1,683.2
Isle of Wight	2,190	4	182.6
James City	3,307	7	211.7
King and Queen	451	3	665.2
King George	1,510	8	529.8
King William	1,121	12	1,070.5
Lancaster	577	3	519.9
Lee	1,648	12	728.2
Lexington	247	3	1,214.6
Loudoun	19,682	74	376.0
Louisa	1,904	8	420.2
Lunenburg	784	4	510.2
Lynchburg	4,660	39	836.9
Madison	864	0	0.0
Manassas	3,636	16	440.0
Manassas Park	1,235	0	0.0
Martinsville	1,051	12	1,141.8
Mathews	504	1	198.4
Mecklenburg	2,093	10	477.8
Middlesex	452	1	221.2
Montgomery	4,758	5	105.1
Nelson	927	2	215.7
New Kent	927	7	755.1
Newport News	17,107	60	350.7
Norfolk	19,719	55	278.9
Northampton	867	0	0.0
Northumberland	658	1	152.0
Norton	255	3	1,176.5
Nottoway	1,057	13	1,229.9
Orange	1,856	11	592.7
Page	1,599	4	250.2
Patrick	1,359	1	73.6
Petersburg	2,610	60	2,298.9
Pittsylvania	4,194	22	524.6
Poquoson	738	5	677.5
Portsmouth	8,555	30	350.7
Powhatan	1,589	11	692.3
Prince Edward	1,178	23	1,952.5
Prince George	2,402	14	582.8
Prince William	28,789	156	541.9
Pulaski	2,339	12	513.0
Radford	661	1	151.3
Rappahannock	420	2	476.2
Richmond City	14,788	183	1,237.5
Richmond County	430	1	232.6
Roanoke City	7,453	42	563.5
Roanoke County	5,587	20	358.0
Rockbridge	1,351	4	296.1
Rockingham	5,163	9	174.3
Russell	1,955	5	255.8
Salem	1,479	7	473.3
Scott	1,487	1	67.2
Shenandoah	2,379	1	42.0
Smyth	2,158	13	602.4
Southampton	1,070	3	280.4
Spotsylvania	8,430	54	640.6
Stafford	8,810	43	488.1
Staunton	1,493	22	1,473.5
Suffolk	5,586	19	340.1
Surry	477	0	0.0
Sussex	713	6	841.5
Tazewell	2,879	16	555.7
Virginia Beach	37,054	41	110.6
Warren	2,576	5	194.1
Washington	3,147	3	95.3
Waynesboro	1,546	31	2,005.2
Westmoreland	1,046	3	286.8
Williamsburg	370	0	0.0
Winchester	1,722	30	1,742.2
Wise	2,802	22	785.2
Wythe	1,823	6	329.1
York	4,439	9	202.7

Data Source: Virginia Department of Health

Limited English Proficiency

2002 NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN KINDERGARTEN TO 12TH GRADE WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

In 2001, in the United States 19% of all children were living with at least one foreign-born parent. Children with a foreign-born parent are significantly more likely to have a parent with less than a high school diploma, are more likely to be living in poverty, and are more likely to live in central cities than are children with native-born parents.[4]

Schools and early childhood programs must be ready to work together with families to ensure that children with limited English proficiency are able to make a positive transition into their new learning environments. This means that educational programs and supports must be culturally competent in order to not only allow the achievement of full English language literacy, but also to smooth the acclimation into a new culture while maintaining respect to family origins. It is important to link non-English speaking parents to English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and other supports to both help them improve skills needed for their income potential and own growth and development, and also to understand what will be expected of their children in preschool and school and how they can assist them in achieving school success. Without positive strategies to help these children and families, the children will be at high risk of academic failure and dropping out of school.

We do not have estimates for the number of children under the age of six who have limited English proficiency. The data in the following chart show the number of students from kindergarten through twelfth grade enrolled in Virginia public schools in Fall 2002 and receiving Limited English Proficiency (LEP) services. These are students with a native language other than English (e.g., Spanish) who are learning English as a second language.

These data can help localities determine the severity of LEP in their communities. Additional information would be needed to determine the impact this has on school readiness in a particular area.

[4] The Forum on Child and Family Statistics. "America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 2002." Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2002.

Limited English Proficiency: 2002 NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN KINDERGARTEN TO 12TH GRADE WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP)

LOCALITY	SEPTEMBER 2002 MEMBERSHIP K-12	NUMBER WITH LEP	PERCENT WITH LEP
Virginia	1,159,997	49,840	4%
Accomack	5,337	373	7%
Albemarle	12,228	618	5%
Alexandria	10,961	2,412	22%
Alleghany	2,836	6	0%
Amelia	1,726	1	0%
Amherst	4,642	11	0%
Appomattox	2,327	4	0%
Arlington	18,468	4,988	27%
Augusta	10,674	91	1%
Bath	781	0	0%
Bedford City	included in Bedford County		
Bedford County	10,746	24	0%
Bland	904	0	0%
Botetourt	4,712	11	0%
Bristol	2,332	16	1%
Brunswick	2,353	3	0%
Buchanan	3,742	0	0%
Buckingham	2,206	8	0%
Buena Vista	1,096	0	0%
Campbell	8,712	28	0%
Caroline	3,653	16	0%
Carroll	4,061	40	1%
Charles City	908	0	0%
Charlotte	2,188	4	0%
Charlottesville	4,176	151	4%
Chesapeake	38,859	220	1%
Chesterfield	53,187	1,222	2%
Clarke	2,022	16	1%
Colonial Beach	564	0	0%
Colonial Heights	2,774	48	2%
Covington	898	0	0%
Craig	699	0	0%
Culpeper	6,021	72	1%
Cumberland	1,377	22	2%
Danville	7,414	179	2%
Dickenson	2,641	0	0%
Dinwiddie	4,422	35	1%
Emporia	included in Greensvillle		
Essex	1598	0	0%
Fairfax City	included in Fairfax County		
Fairfax County	160,841	20,974	13%
Falls Church	1,814	120	7%
Fauquier	9,988	139	1%
Floyd	2,030	35	2%
Fluvanna	3,286	10	0%
Franklin	1,373	4	0%
Franklin	7,147	48	1%
Frederick	10,951	233	2%
Fredericksburg	2,386	92	4%
Galax	1,315	132	10%
Giles	2,558	4	0%
Gloucester	6,333	0	0%
Goochland	1,997	0	0%
Grayson	2,254	6	0%
Greene	2,654	20	1%
Greensville	2,656	12	0%
Halifax	5,911	15	0%
Hampton	22,991	272	1%
Hanover	17,563	99	1%
Harrisonburg	3,999	1,195	30%
Henrico	43,419	1,363	3%
Henry	8,358	278	3%
Highland	285	0	0%
Hopewell	3,878	30	1%
Isle of Wight	5,021	10	0%
James City	included in Williamsburg		
King and Queen	888	0	0%
King George	3,048	2	0%
King William	1,891	1	0%
Lancaster	1,430	0	0%
Lee	3,771	5	0%
Lexington	468	4	1%
Loudoun	36,921	1,778	5%
Louisa	4,218	10	0%
Lunenburg	1,771	5	0%
Lynchburg	8,943	64	1%
Madison	1,830	4	0%
Manassas	6,518	1,184	18%
Manassas Park	2,275	494	22%
Martinsville	2,694	73	3%
Mathews	1,300	0	0%
Mecklenburg	4,879	28	1%
Middlesex	1,303	0	0%
Montgomery	9,174	144	2%
Nelson	2,012	39	2%
New Kent	2,455	7	0%
Newport News	31,684	223	1%
Norfolk	34,914	82	0%
Northampton	2,079	114	5%
Northumberland	1,471	0	0%
Norton	703	0	0%
Nottoway	2,390	25	1%
Orange	3,983	20	1%
Page	3,565	19	1%
Patrick	2,643	79	3%
Petersburg	5,472	36	1%
Pittsylvania	8,922	107	1%
Poquoson	2,482	3	0%
Portsmouth	15,946	16	0%
Powhatan	3,773	3	0%
Prince Edward	2,713	3	0%
Prince George	5,982	23	0%
Prince William	59,733	5,523	9%
Pulaski	4,977	37	1%
Radford	1,548	17	1%
Rappahannock	1,039	6	1%
Richmond City	24,847	409	2%
Richmond County	1,221	36	3%
Roanoke City	13,171	414	3%
Roanoke County	14,122	156	1%
Rockbridge	3,000	9	0%
Rockingham	10,904	621	6%
Russell	4,156	0	0%
Salem	3,940	21	1%
Scott	3,705	4	0%
Shenandoah	5,681	115	2%
Smyth	5,066	27	1%
Southampton	2,769	2	0%
Spotsylvania	21,203	274	1%
Stafford	23,675	270	1%
Staunton	2,682	11	0%
Suffolk	12,447	15	0%
Surry	1,124	0	0%
Sussex	1,371	4	0%
Tazewell	7,001	2	0%
Virginia Beach	75,888	849	1%
Warren	5,093	36	1%
Washington	7,168	4	0%
Waynesboro	2,937	64	2%
West Point	784	0	0%
Westmoreland	1,929	55	3%
Williamsburg	8,553	53	1%
Winchester	3,539	361	10%
Wise	6,738	18	0%
Wythe	4,301	1	0%
York	11,921	121	1%

Data Source: Virginia Department of Education

Family Indicators

WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS OF VIRGINIA'S FAMILIES?

Children live in families. Fortunate children live in families that are economically stable, nurturing and loving, and able to help them develop to the top of their potential in all areas, including school performance. Less fortunate children live in families challenged and stressed in a variety of ways. Family factors affect children's readiness for school because the home is the child's earliest learning environment and parents are the child's first teachers. What happens in the early years sets the stage for what the child will be able or not able to do upon entering school.

In many ways, children can be at the mercy of their families: healthy babies are usually the result of healthy pregnancies; well adjusted children tend to be the result of good parenting; and successful school performance is usually the result of both hard work and family beliefs about the value of education. In addition, family economic success plays a large role in the opportunities that the child will have and the level of stress the family will experience just meeting basic needs.

Family related indicators in the State Team's report include teen births, maternal education, prenatal care, children living in poverty, and child abuse/neglect. Supplemental family indicators presented here include adult literacy rates, participation in the free/reduced school lunch program, estimates of single parent families, child support payments, and incidents of domestic violence. In various ways, these affect the early environments of children.

Adult Literacy

1990 ADULT LITERACY ESTIMATES AND 2000 INDIVIDUALS WITH LESS THAN 9TH GRADE EDUCATION

Low levels of adult literacy are often associated with many negative factors such as high school drop out rates, high levels of unemployment, low incomes, criminal behaviors, and substance abuse. In addition, the impact of family illiteracy on children's emerging literacy is significant. In the early years, children learn about written language and the use of print through exposure to books and through having books read to them. Families with low literacy levels are less likely to have books, magazines, newspapers, and other printed materials in the home and are less likely to have children's books available. They also are less likely to have library cards or to read to their children. A community with a large number of adults with low literacy levels suggests long standing difficulties with schools.

Adult literacy rates are estimates from the 1990 Census data, calculated from statistical analysis of data collected in the National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS), carried out by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) under contract to the National Center for Education Statistics. Estimates are based upon literacy abilities of the nation's adults as they performed on three scales: Prose, Document, and Quantitative literacy. NALS surveyed a random sample of nearly 25,000 adults aged 16 and over from all over the United States. Performance on the three scales was divided into five levels: Level 1 was the lowest level, signifying very low-level functional literacy skills. The synthetic estimates used regression models to predict literacy levels in communities based on demographic characteristics from the long-form questionnaires in the census (such as age, gender, place of birth, educational attainment, labor force participation, employment and occupational status, income from various sources, languages spoken in the home, marital status, and household composition). Percentages of the population estimated to be at Level 1 proficiency are estimated for each locality.

The second set of data are from the 2000 Census and indicate by locality the number of individuals and the percent of the population 18 and older in that locality with less than a 9th grade education.

Adult Literacy: 1990 ADULT LITERACY ESTIMATES AND 2000 INDIVIDUALS WITH LESS THAN 9TH GRADE EDUCATION

LOCALITY	1990 ESTIMATE LEVEL1 PERCENT (LOW LITERACY)	Individuals with less than a 9th grade education, 2000 Census NUMBER	PERCENT
Virginia	19%	355,996	7%
Accomack	31%	3,348	12%
Albemarle	14%	2,995	5%
Alexandria	20%	7,267	7%
Alleghany	16%	893	9%
Amelia	27%	1,065	13%
Amherst	23%	3,313	14%
Appomattox	24%	1,103	11%
Arlington	17%	10,388	7%
Augusta	15%	3,778	8%
Bath	N/A	438	11%
Bedford City	N/A	462	9%
Bedford County	16%	3,012	7%
Bland	21%	744	13%
Botetourt	14%	1,487	6%
Bristol	23%	1,542	11%
Brunswick	40%	1,951	13%
Buchanan	29%	5,443	26%
Buckingham	35%	1,863	15%
Buena Vista	N/A	680	14%
Campbell	18%	3,558	9%
Caroline	28%	1,330	8%
Carroll	20%	3,726	16%
Charles City	N/A	497	9%
Charlotte	32%	1,502	16%
Charlottesville	19%	1,712	4%
Chesapeake	N/A	5,323	4%
Chesterfield	13%	6,118	3%
Clarke	15%	687	7%
Clifton Forge	N/A	400	12%
Colonial Heights	12%	512	4%
Covington	N/A	445	9%
Craig	N/A	306	8%
Culpeper	20%	2,557	10%
Cumberland	30%	899	13%
Danville	31%	4,095	11%
Dickenson	28%	2,683	21%
Dinwiddie	27%	2,402	13%
Emporia	N/A	798	19%
Essex	29%	745	10%
Fairfax City	13%	849	5%
Fairfax County	13%	31,505	4%
Falls Church	N/A	151	2%
Fauquier	14%	2,375	6%
Floyd	18%	1,620	15%
Fluvanna	20%	1,151	8%
Franklin City	N/A	787	13%
Franklin County	18%	4,099	11%
Frederick	13%	3,315	8%
Fredericksburg	21%	756	5%
Galax	N/A	1,023	19%
Giles	17%	1,305	10%
Gloucester	17%	1,559	6%
Goochland	25%	1,215	9%
Grayson	21%	2,413	17%
Greene	15%	1,021	9%
Greensville	38%	1,607	17%
Halifax	32%	4,007	14%
Hampton	25%	4,025	4%
Hanover	13%	2,316	4%
Harrisonburg	13%	2,303	7%
Henrico	17%	7,624	4%
Henry	24%	6,443	14%
Highland	N/A	212	10%
Hopewell	24%	1,311	8%
Isle of Wight	25%	1,701	8%
James City County	16%	1,044	3%
King and Queen	N/A	651	13%
King George	19%	764	6%
King William	23%	663	7%
Lancaster	29%	881	9%
Lee	27%	3,576	20%
Lexington	N/A	348	6%
Loudoun	10%	3,480	3%
Louisa	25%	1,968	10%
Lunenburg	31%	1,416	14%
Lynchburg	25%	3,455	7%
Madison	22%	988	10%
Manassas	12%	1,839	7%
Manassas Park	N/A	502	7%
Martinsville	32%	1,441	12%
Mathews	20%	366	5%
Mecklenburg	31%	2,774	11%
Middlesex	26%	799	10%
Montgomery	14%	3,360	5%
Nelson	24%	1,402	12%
New Kent	18%	523	5%
Newport News	24%	4,846	4%
Norfolk	28%	8,386	5%
Northampton	37%	1,514	15%
Northumberland	29%	900	9%
Norton	N/A	441	14%
Nottoway	34%	1,520	13%
Orange	19%	1,692	8%
Page	19%	2,656	15%
Patrick	21%	2,458	16%
Petersburg	43%	2,803	11%
Pittsylvania	25%	6,272	13%
Poquoson	10%	273	3%
Portsmouth	33%	5,308	7%
Powhatan	22%	965	6%
Prince Edward	28%	1,322	8%
Prince George	22%	1,300	5%
Prince William	10%	7,956	4%
Pulaski	21%	3,048	11%
Radford	14%	518	4%
Rappahannock	16%	569	11%
Richmond City	34%	10,590	7%
Richmond County	29%	838	12%
Roanoke City	25%	5,082	7%
Roanoke County	13%	3,657	6%
Rockbridge	17%	2,149	13%
Rockingham	13%	5,794	11%
Russell	25%	4,093	17%
Salem	14%	1,082	6%
Scott	24%	3,586	19%
Shenandoah	16%	2,588	10%
Smyth	21%	3,522	14%
Southampton	34%	1,985	15%
Spotsylvania	14%	2,625	4%
Stafford	11%	1,906	3%
Staunton	20%	1,710	9%
Suffolk	32%	3,946	9%
Surry	N/A	552	11%
Sussex	38%	1,508	15%
Tazewell	24%	5,282	15%
Virginia Beach	14%	6,954	2%
Warren	16%	2,219	9%
Washington	18%	4,701	12%
Waynesboro	20%	1,217	8%
Westmoreland	30%	1,698	13%
Williamsburg	16%	202	2%
Winchester	17%	1,741	9%
Wise	25%	5,257	17%
Wythe	19%	2,805	13%
York	13%	960	2%

Data Sources: National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS) & U.S. Census Bureau

Free/Reduced Price School Lunch Program

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF CHILDREN RECEIVING FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL LUNCH IN OCTOBER 2002

The number of children on the federal school lunch program is an indicator of child poverty in a school. It is also a way to provide nutrition for children who might otherwise go without meals. Children with poor nutrition suffer from poor health and are less able to participate in preschool or school programs. Cognitive ability is also harmed by poor nutrition. The school lunch program should partner with the federal school breakfast program since it has been demonstrated that children who eat breakfast can perform better on math tests, are absent from school less often, and have fewer behavior problems. [5]

Lack of breakfast may be caused by a lack of money, but it also can be caused by family schedules that do not allow for anything other than rushing to get a child on an early school bus for a long commute or for the quick pace of life in busy households. Children cannot be expected to concentrate in school without sufficient nutrition. Time should be made in the school schedule to allow breakfast to be served to those who need it. Children whose households earn less than 130% of the federal poverty level are eligible for free meals; children whose households earn up to 185% of the federal poverty level are eligible for reduced price meals.

These data reflect the number and percentage of students in grades K-12 who were approved in October 2002 for reduced price or free school lunches in each locality. These data can be used as a rough estimate of the percent of poor children in each locality.

Note: School Fall Membership Report (September 2002) numbers do not correlate with School Lunch Program October 2002 membership data (some schools do not participate in lunch program).

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federally assisted meal program providing nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to school aged children. The NSLP is administered at the federal level by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Virginia Department of Education School Nutrition Programs administers the NSLP at the state level, operating through agreements with local school divisions. Participating divisions get cash subsidies and donated commodities from USDA for each meal they serve. The lunches must meet federal requirements, and they must offer free or reduced–price lunches to eligible children.

School lunches are an important part of ensuring that children's nutritional needs are being met, but are not the only food assistance program affecting children. The Food Stamp Act of 1977 has provided assistance to low income families for over twenty-five years. Food stamp benefits are now administered through a card similar to a "debit" card, with 100% federal funds. States are being encouraged to increase participation among eligible households. Food stamps are a major source of support to help low income children and their families at risk of poor nutrition purchase food. Food stamps are available to all families with household incomes of less than 185% of poverty. They continue to be available to families who have lost their welfare payments and to families who are among the working poor and are struggling to meet the other costs of living (housing, transportation, child care). In 2003 the Virginia Department of Social Services reported that only 60% of eligible households in Virginia are receiving food stamp benefits. The 40% who are not represent 109,000 households. Virginia was one of five states to receive a grant in June 2003 to increase participation in food stamp and other nutrition programs.

The USDA Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program is specifically designed to safeguard the health of low income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care. Participation in WIC in Virginia declined 2.3% between May 2002 and May 2003. Total participation in Virginia in 2002 was 129,103 people and the average monthly benefit per person was $35.75.[6]

[5] "School Breakfast Scorecard 2001: FRAC's Annual Status Report on the School Breakfast Program." Washington, D.C.: Food Research Action Center, 2001.

[6] USDA Food and Nutrition Service: www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wichome.htm

Free/Reduced Price School Lunch Program: NUMBER AND PERCENT OF CHILDREN RECEIVING FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL LUNCH IN OCTOBER 2002

LOCALITY	OCTOBER 2002 MEMBERSHIP, K-12	NUMBER RECEIVING FREE-REDUCED LUNCH	PERCENT
Virginia	1,136,232	359,301	32%
Accomack	5,451	3,261	60%
Albemarle	12,306	2,268	18%
Alexandria	10,975	5,641	51%
Alleghany	2,946	970	33%
Amelia	1,718	590	34%
Amherst	4,626	1,528	33%
Appomattox	2,365	861	36%
Arlington	17,725	7,313	41%
Augusta	10,835	2,635	24%
Bath	799	236	30%
Bedford City	included in Bedford County		
Bedford County	10,712	2,915	27%
Bland	908	329	36%
Botetourt	4,734	597	13%
Bristol	2,432	1,107	46%
Brunswick	2,476	1,594	64%
Buchanan	3,785	2,610	69%
Buckingham	2,268	1,178	52%
Buena Vista	1,098	371	34%
Campbell	8,959	2,766	31%
Caroline	3,611	1,406	39%
Carroll	4,086	1,910	47%
Charles City	900	436	48%
Charlotte	2,253	1,128	50%
Charlottesville	4,451	2,061	46%
Chesapeake	39,281	9,687	25%
Chesterfield	38,060	7,873	21%
Clarke	2,026	275	14%
Colonial Beach	583	234	40%
Colonial Heights	1,904	394	21%
Covington	898	325	36%
Craig	700	176	25%
Culpeper	4,266	1,363	32%
Cumberland	1,439	849	59%
Danville	7,513	4,416	59%
Dickenson	2,707	1,546	57%
Dinwiddie	4,504	1,545	34%
Emporia	included in Greenville County		
Essex	1,600	743	46%
Fairfax City	included in Fairfax County		
Fairfax County	158,855	29,958	19%
Falls Church	1,821	155	9%
Fauquier	10,125	1,481	15%
Floyd	2,032	683	34%
Fluvanna	3,232	554	17%
Franklin City	1,427	927	65%
Franklin County	7,308	2,671	37%
Frederick	10,965	1,757	16%
Fredericksburg	2,609	1,221	47%
Galax	1,342	589	44%
Giles	2,537	774	31%
Gloucester	4,255	1,129	27%
Goochland	2,059	419	20%
Grayson	2,289	1,189	52%
Greene	2,644	660	25%
Greensville	2,698	1,500	56%
Halifax	6,120	3,374	55%
Hampton	23,687	9,550	40%
Hanover	12,146	1,415	12%
Harrisonburg	4,111	1,795	44%
Henrico	29,530	7,569	26%
Henry	8,495	3,359	40%
Highland	302	119	39%
Hopewell	4,117	2,447	59%
Isle of Wight	5,052	1,607	32%
James City	included in Williamsburg City		
King and Queen	881	529	60%
King George	3,056	676	22%
King William	1,934	480	25%
Lancaster	1,503	752	50%
Lee	3,790	2,291	60%
Lexington	472	74	16%
Loudoun	34,788	3,866	11%
Louisa	4,285	1,465	34%
Lunenburg	1,836	1,122	61%
Lynchburg	9,149	4,216	46%
Madison	1,839	386	21%
Manassas	6,177	1,346	22%
Manassas Park	2,302	720	31%
Martinsville	2,768	1,406	51%
Mathews	1,316	329	25%
Mecklenburg	4,974	2,746	55%
Middlesex	1,357	435	32%
Montgomery	9,214	2,893	31%
Nelson	2,027	732	36%
New Kent	2,460	345	14%
Newport News	31,283	15,818	51%
Norfolk	38,139	22,790	60%
Northampton	2,124	1,381	65%
Northumberland	1,500	701	47%
Norton	721	331	46%
Nottoway	2,583	1,332	52%
Orange	4,148	1,084	26%
Page	3,647	1,264	35%
Patrick	2,626	1,085	41%
Petersburg	5,682	3,990	70%
Pittsylvania	8,985	3,244	36%
Poquoson	2,352	116	5%
Portsmouth	17,162	9,091	53%
Powhatan	3,765	456	12%
Prince Edward	2,713	1,668	61%
Prince George	4,729	1,373	29%
Prince William	69,620	14,859	21%
Pulaski	4,982	1,834	37%
Radford	1,506	353	23%
Rappahannock	1,039	163	16%
Richmond City	26,755	17,503	65%
Richmond County	1,224	414	34%
Roanoke City	13,948	8,030	58%
Roanoke County	14,116	1,777	13%
Rockbridge	3,024	889	29%
Rockingham	11,171	2,887	26%
Russell	4,135	1,962	47%
Salem	3,934	712	18%
Scott	3,723	1,736	47%
Shenandoah	5,739	1,386	24%
Smyth	5,103	2,184	43%
Southampton	2,843	1,161	41%
Spotsylvania	21,099	3,545	17%
Stafford	23,863	3,315	14%
Staunton	2,804	1,104	39%
Suffolk	12,791	5,181	41%
Surry	1,161	635	55%
Sussex	1,393	921	66%
Tazewell	7,115	3,339	47%
Virginia Beach	76,415	23,155	30%
Warren	5,020	1,132	23%
Washington	7,184	2,701	38%
Waynesboro	3,040	1,241	41%
West Point	785	95	12%
Westmoreland	1,998	1,048	52%
Williamsburg	6,100	1,524	25%
Winchester	3,750	1,387	37%
Wise	6,888	3,290	48%
Wythe	4,300	1,644	38%
York	11,719	1,622	14%

Data Source: Virginia Department of Education

Single Parent Families

NUMBER AND PERCENT SINGLE MOTHERS & SINGLE FATHERS AND PERCENTS LIVING IN POVERTY IN 1999

Single parents, generally mothers, have lower socioeconomic status than do most two parent families. Lower income and less time with a parent who is struggling to be breadwinner as well as caregiver are two of the factors leading to increased odds that children from single parent families are likely to have behavior problems and do more poorly in school than their peers with two parents.

Living in a single parent family affects children in several ways. Regardless of the family economic level, very often a single parent has less time and energy to spend on the child than would two parents. Constant care of small children without the help of another adult can be emotionally draining. Economic issues compound this situation. Most single parents are also by necessity the family's breadwinners. Handling the demands of a job while balancing the job of being a full time parent is tough. Add poverty to that mix, and the parent can be overwhelmed. Often the single parent facing the stress of working, raising children, and trying to stretch too little money over too many obligations finds that he/she is simply not able to provide an optimal early learning environment for the young child. Many children in this situation are deprived of the parental attention and the stimulating opportunities that they need. When they do not get what they need, they cannot fully develop the many skills they need to be successful in school. Consequently, some of them may not enter kindergarten ready for the same challenges as their peers.

The data in the following chart show the number and percentage of children under the age of 6 in each locality living with a single parent (mother or father) in 2000 and the percent of those children living in poverty. Note that 24% of children in Virginia are living in single parent families (single mothers or single fathers). Significantly, children in single mother families are much more likely to be in poverty (43% for Virginia) than are those living with a single father (18%).

Single Parent Families: NUMBER AND PERCENT SINGLE MOTHERS & SINGLE FATHERS AND PERCENTS LIVING IN POVERTY IN 1999

LOCALITY	CHILDREN <AGE 6 IN SINGLE MOTHER FAMILIES		CHILDREN <AGE 6 IN SINGLE MOTHER FAMILIES IN POVERTY	CHILDREN <AGE 6 IN SINGLE FATHER FAMILIES		CHILDREN <AGE 6 IN SINGLE FATEHR FAMILIES IN POVERTY
	NUMBER	PERCENT	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	PERCENT
Virginia	104,324	19%	43%	27,546	5%	18%
Accomack	715	26%	58%	185	7%	55%
Albemarle	826	14%	25%	287	5%	9%
Alexandria	1,647	18%	32%	576	6%	16%
Alleghany	121	13%	71%	45	5%	0%
Amelia	106	12%	26%	80	9%	6%
Amherst	565	25%	48%	123	6%	20%
Appomattox	233	22%	44%	37	4%	5%
Arlington	1,491	12%	30%	602	5%	6%
Augusta	487	11%	33%	228	5%	21%
Bath	13	5%	77%	5	2%	0%
Bedford City	121	29%	65%	47	11%	70%
Bedford County	392	9%	40%	124	3%	0%
Bland	32	8%	66%	9	2%	100%
Botetourt	132	6%	16%	63	3%	0%
Bristol	325	29%	57%	56	5%	54%
Brunswick	374	33%	31%	105	9%	23%
Buchanan	248	16%	67%	84	5%	26%
Buckingham	238	26%	40%	53	6%	47%
Buena Vista	100	22%	48%	5	1%	100%
Campbell	652	18%	43%	269	7%	9%
Caroline	288	17%	27%	215	13%	22%
Carroll	231	12%	47%	125	6%	27%
Charles City	109	23%	35%	46	10%	0%
Charlotte	202	23%	48%	19	2%	11%
Charlottesville	934	39%	47%	113	5%	11%
Chesapeake	3,324	19%	43%	636	4%	19%
Chesterfield	2,641	12%	33%	880	4%	9%
Clarke	80	10%	23%	43	5%	0%
Clifton Forge	88	31%	56%	34	12%	62%
Colonial Heights	180	16%	17%	66	6%	8%
Covington	136	29%	43%	39	8%	33%
Craig	51	14%	24%	16	4%	19%
Culpeper	360	14%	38%	215	8%	7%
Cumberland	158	23%	49%	64	9%	67%
Danville	1,795	51%	65%	186	5%	54%
Dickenson	176	17%	55%	95	9%	31%
Dinwiddie	396	24%	34%	106	6%	18%
Emporia	133	31%	42%	40	9%	0%
Essex	141	22%	43%	15	2%	0%
Fairfax City	121	8%	20%	70	5%	0%
Fairfax County	7,424	9%	18%	2,425	3%	15%
Falls Chruch	93	13%	37%	13	2%	100%
Fauquier	496	12%	38%	120	3%	13%
Floyd	106	11%	52%	65	7%	18%
Fluvanna	222	14%	32%	122	8%	5%
Franklin City	252	47%	66%	20	4%	0%
Franklin County	527	17%	43%	250	8%	18%
Frederick	514	11%	25%	276	6%	11%
Fredericksburg	471	35%	33%	129	10%	28%
Galax	55	10%	82%	24	5%	63%
Giles	177	16%	45%	37	3%	14%
Gloucester	327	13%	40%	167	7%	16%
Goochland	117	11%	11%	50	5%	14%
Grayson	56	5%	27%	115	11%	53%
Greene	171	12%	17%	33	2%	9%
Greensville	115	22%	56%	76	14%	17%
Halifax	788	29%	46%	185	7%	18%
Hampton	3,283	29%	43%	597	5%	16%
Hanover	686	10%	28%	215	3%	17%
Harrisonburg	415	18%	64%	98	4%	8%
Henrico	4,595	21%	36%	1,058	5%	7%
Henry	973	25%	43%	249	6%	24%
Highland	9	8%	0%	16	14%	25%
Hopewell	763	38%	62%	188	9%	34%
Isle of Wight	333	15%	49%	167	8%	35%
James City	503	15%	33%	232	7%	11%
King and Queen	58	13%	19%	77	17%	10%

LOCALITY	CHILDREN <AGE 6 IN SINGLE MOTHER FAMILIES		CHILDREN <AGE 6 IN SINGLE MOTHER FAMILIES IN POVERTY	CHILDREN <AGE 6 IN SINGLE FATHER FAMILIES		CHILDREN <AGE 6 IN SINGLE FATEHR FAMILIES IN POVERTY
	NUMBER	PERCENT	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	PERCENT
King George	210	14%	23%	90	6%	8%
King William	211	19%	7%	69	6%	0%
Lancaster	202	35%	42%	16	3%	44%
Lee	313	19%	68%	111	7%	35%
Lexington	73	30%	82%	20	8%	0%
Loudoun	1,294	7%	25%	479	2%	0%
Louisa	372	20%	34%	167	9%	33%
Lunenburg	240	31%	55%	84	11%	25%
Lynchburg	1,782	38%	51%	266	6%	44%
Madison	72	8%	32%	32	4%	41%
Manassas	463	13%	24%	223	6%	8%
Manassas Park	200	16%	35%	125	10%	4%
Martinsville	374	36%	53%	113	11%	58%
Mathews	47	9%	0%	5	1%	0%
Mecklenburg	583	28%	43%	173	8%	21%
Middlesex	76	17%	46%	47	10%	53%
Montgomery	709	15%	61%	187	4%	13%
Nelson	201	22%	39%	46	5%	9%
New Kent	113	12%	17%	50	5%	8%
Newport News	5,410	32%	55%	986	6%	20%
Norfolk	7,356	37%	57%	1,128	6%	34%
Northampton	302	35%	72%	43	5%	40%
Northumberland	148	22%	54%	14	2%	0%
Norton	92	36%	79%	23	9%	65%
Nottoway	215	20%	49%	39	4%	44%
Orange	268	14%	45%	181	10%	5%
Page	263	16%	45%	189	12%	10%
Patrick	200	15%	59%	116	9%	20%
Petersburg	1,277	49%	46%	171	7%	37%
Pittsylvania	789	19%	47%	210	5%	23%
Poquoson	77	10%	49%	30	4%	0%
Portsmouth	3,468	41%	55%	506	6%	20%
Powhatan	135	8%	31%	57	4%	0%
Prince Edward	336	29%	53%	55	5%	0%
Prince George	464	19%	44%	93	4%	0%
Prince William	3,804	13%	27%	1,269	4%	6%
Pulaski	513	22%	58%	73	3%	52%
Radford	190	29%	39%	32	5%	66%
Rappahannock	41	10%	56%	33	8%	0%
Richmond City	7,382	50%	55%	1,090	7%	29%
Richmond County	94	22%	62%	31	7%	26%
Roanoke City	2,961	40%	56%	478	6%	24%
Roanoke County	617	11%	38%	250	4%	30%
Rockbridge	204	15%	29%	28	2%	21%
Rockingham	617	12%	34%	429	8%	16%
Russell	256	13%	59%	82	4%	33%
Salem	259	18%	30%	53	4%	0%
Scott	251	17%	56%	59	4%	34%
Shenandoah	305	13%	30%	193	8%	13%
Smyth	332	15%	49%	165	8%	20%
Southampton	265	25%	56%	39	4%	33%
Spotsylvania	842	10%	31%	362	4%	6%
Stafford	892	10%	23%	326	4%	3%
Staunton	396	27%	36%	102	7%	23%
Suffolk	1,533	27%	50%	218	4%	5%
Surry	165	35%	34%	8	2%	0%
Sussex	251	35%	50%	30	4%	23%
Tazewell	493	17%	45%	93	3%	22%
Virginia Beach	6,007	16%	36%	1,906	5%	12%
Warren	390	15%	31%	250	10%	12%
Washington	386	12%	34%	107	3%	25%
Waynesboro	454	29%	48%	136	9%	3%
Westmoreland	328	31%	52%	38	4%	32%
Williamsburg	184	50%	69%	12	3%	0%
Winchester	394	23%	47%	67	4%	31%
Wise	483	17%	61%	134	5%	31%
Wythe	266	15%	48%	139	8%	20%
York	543	12%	26%	160	4%	14%

NC= number of families in poverty, not shown, was less than 10

Data Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Child Support

NUMBER OF CASES WITH ORDERS, CASES WITH PAYMENTS, AND PERCENT WITH PAYMENT STATE FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

Children in single parent families benefit tremendously when their non-custodial parent contributes to their care and support. Some of the difficulties facing a single parent can be buffered by the presence and the financial support of the other parent. Unfortunately, many times the non-custodial parent is not involved with the child. Child support orders and payments, while perhaps not necessarily directly related to school readiness, are nevertheless an indicator that captures important information about the child's family and the amount of stability it can provide to the young child. These factors are important to a child's readiness for school.

Child support is money collected from non-custodial parents to help provide for the cost of care for their child or children. Children who live with only one parent are four times more likely to be poor than children living with two parents. Child support helps a half million children each year escape from poverty.[7]

If a family is poor and receives child support, the family's income can increase by 26%.[8]

To collect child support, paternity must be established, a support order must be entered, and the money must be transferred. In Virginia, there are child support tables used to determine the amount, based on income, number of children, and other factors. More than half of all non-poor fathers do not pay child support; ninety percent of poor fathers do not pay.[9/10]

The data in the following chart report for the state fiscal year 2003 (SFY 2003) the number of child support cases with orders by locality, the number of cases in which there was a child support payment, and the percentage of cases with a payment. They are for child support cases, not individual children (a case may include more than one child).

[7] E. Sorenson & C. Zibman, "Child support offers some protection against poverty." Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute, March 2000.

[8] V. Turtesky. "Families participating in the state child support program." Washington, D.C.: Center for Law and Social Policy, May 2001.

[9] E. Sorenson & C. Zibman, "A look at poor dads who don't pay child support." Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute, September 2000.

[10] E. Sorenson & C. Zibman, "Poor dads who don't pay child support." Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute, April 2001.

Child Support: NUMBER OF CASES WITH ORDERS, CASES WITH PAYMENTS, AND PERCENT WITH PAYMENT STATE FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

LOCALITY	STATE FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003 CASES WITH ORDERS	CASES WITH PAYMENT	PERCENT WITH PAYMENT
Virginia	299,174	192,643	64%
Accomack	2,491	1,771	71%
Albemarle	1,481	853	58%
Alexandria	3,305	2,002	61%
Alleghany	443	276	62%
Ameila	349	251	72%
Amherst	1,342	834	62%
Appomattox	823	493	60%
Arlington	2,999	1,765	59%
Augusta	1,864	1,320	71%
Bath	107	74	69%
Bedford City	265	134	51%
Bedford County	1,932	1,042	54%
Bland	149	95	64%
Botetourt	515	358	70%
Bristol	1,048	616	59%
Brunswick	1,027	680	66%
Buchanan	952	546	57%
Buckingham	813	446	55%
Buena Vista	304	191	63%
Campbell	2,294	1,319	57%
Caroline	1,092	736	67%
Carroll	765	455	59%
Charles City	289	206	71%
Charlotte	706	424	60%
Charlottesville	3,199	1,822	57%
Chesapeake	11,345	7,339	65%
Chesterfield	6,373	4,146	65%
Clarke	317	223	70%
Clifton Forge	198	128	65%
Colonial Heights	547	355	65%
Covington	407	244	60%
Craig	127	81	64%
Culpeper	1,327	776	58%
Cumberland	513	245	48%
Danville	5,312	3,286	62%
Dickenson	682	385	56%
Dinwiddie	1,084	730	67%
Emporia	639	445	70%
Essex	447	277	62%
Fairfax County	12,852	8,048	63%
Fairfax City	37	29	78%
Falls Church	183	91	50%
Fauquier	1,102	733	67%
Floyd	377	230	61%
Fluvanna	550	347	63%
Franklin City	1,024	693	68%
Franklin County	1,564	990	63%
Frederick	1,707	1,077	63%
Fredericksburg	1,863	1,262	68%
Galax	496	302	61%
Giles	439	280	64%
Gloucester	1,179	774	66%
Goochland	357	224	63%
Grayson	513	279	54%
Greene	420	237	56%
Greensville	520	331	64%
Halifax	2,131	1,429	67%
Hampton	11,163	7,772	70%
Hanover	1,332	919	69%
Harrisonburg	1,408	974	69%
Henrico	9,638	6,433	67%
Henry	3,127	2,088	67%
Highland	38	23	61%
Hopewell	1,887	1,195	63%
Isle of Wright	1,461	1,069	73%
James City	900	576	64%
King and Queen	312	206	66%
King George	579	359	62%
King William	433	321	74%

LOCALITY	STATE FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003 CASES WITH ORDERS	CASES WITH PAYMENT	PERCENT WITH PAYMENT
Lancaster	559	323	58%
Lee	1,373	677	49%
Lexington	151	98	65%
Loudoun	2,627	1,822	69%
Louisa	1,020	603	59%
Lunenburg	668	440	66%
Lynchburg	4,975	2,850	57%
Madison	331	195	59%
Manassas	2,050	1,456	71%
Manassas Park	314	222	71%
Martinsville	1,779	1,142	64%
Mathews	285	178	62%
Mecklenburg	1,847	1,219	66%
Middlesex	350	216	62%
Montgomery	2,051	1,222	60%
Nelson	525	285	54%
New Kent	363	265	73%
Newport News	14,144	9,359	66%
Norfolk	18,523	12,552	68%
Northcumberland	420	240	57%
Northhampton	1,194	758	63%
Norton	250	174	70%
Nottoway	740	470	64%
Orange	975	614	63%
Page	713	489	69%
Patrick	636	411	65%
Petersburg	4,011	2,770	69%
Pittsylvania	2,521	1,664	66%
Poquoson	182	129	71%
Portsmouth	9,757	6,340	65%
Powhatan	399	289	72%
Prince Edward	1,091	638	58%
Prince George	855	636	74%
Prince William	8,706	6,076	70%
Pulaski	1,490	808	54%
Radford	443	265	60%
Rappahannock	102	70	69%
Richmond City	19,649	10,799	55%
Richmond County	289	168	58%
Roanoke City	9,276	5,544	60%
Roanoke County	1,903	1,259	66%
Rockbridge	483	312	65%
Rockingham	1,509	1,083	72%
Russell	1,036	657	63%
Salem	355	279	79%
Scott	782	470	60%
Shenandoah	1,168	883	76%
Smyth	1,297	851	66%
South Boston	28	18	64%
Southampton	967	652	67%
Spotsylvania	2,974	2,108	71%
Stafford	2,634	1,856	70%
Staunton	1,404	874	62%
Suffolk	5,721	3,957	69%
Surry	394	243	62%
Sussex	670	474	71%
Taxwell	1,781	996	56%
Virginia Beach	15,506	11,232	72%
Warrenton	1,435	874	61%
Washington	1,659	1,116	67%
Waynesboro	1,391	890	64%
Westmoreland	900	556	62%
Williamsburg	858	641	75%
Winchester	2,077	1,316	63%
Wise	1,997	1,134	57%
Wythe	1,181	695	59%
York	1,136	813	72%
Central Office	1,253	615	49%
Central Office	7,577	4,653	61%

Data Source: Virginia Department of Social Services

Domestic Violence

JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2002 CALLS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE BY LOCALITY

Domestic violence has adverse effects on children, the severity of which are mitigated by a number of factors, including age and frequency/type of violent acts. General effects in children may be manifested by an increased display of aggressive behavior, increased emotional problems such as depression and/or anxiety, lower levels of social competence, and poorer academic performance. All of these effects compromise a young child's ability to succeed in school.[11]

[11] J. Fantuzzo & W. Mohr, "Prevalence and effects of child exposure to domestic violence." In The Future of Children – Domestic Violence and Children, Volume 9, Number 3, Winter, 1999. Los Altos, CA: The Center for The Future of Children, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

Hotlines are a critical point of contact for victims of domestic violence and other forms of family violence. The data in the following chart data show the number of hotline calls (includes multiple calls from victims) received through VAdata, an electronic web-based data collection system for Virginia's Domestic Violence Programs and Sexual Assault Crisis Centers. VAdata is managed by Virginians Against Domestic Violence (VADV) and in collaboration with: Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault (VAASA), the Virginia Departments of Criminal Justice Services, Health, and Social Services.

These report the July 1, 2002 population estimates from the U.S. Census, the number of phone calls to the Family Violence Hotline between January 1 and December 31 of 2002 by locality, and the rate of calls per 10,000 people. The average rate for Virginia was 46 per 10,000 people.

LOCALITY	POPULATION JULY 1, 2002	NUMBER OF FAMILY VIOLENCE HOTLINE CALLS	RATE OF CALLS PER 10,000 POPULATION
Virginia	7,293,542	46,219	63
Accomack	39,007	2524	647
Albemarle	81,888	108	13
Alexandria	130,804	1564	120
Alleghany	16,960	68	40
Amelia	11,714	18	15
Amherst	31,976	171	53
Appomattox	13,696	23	17
Arlington	189,927	379	20
Ashland included in Hanover County		(28)	
Augusta	67,046	163	24
Bath	5,063	11	22
Bedford City included in Bedford County		(0)	
Bedford County	61,875	1129	182
Bland	6,916	29	42
Botetourt	31,272	10	3
Bristol	17,118	59	34
Brunswick	18,250	105	58
Buchanan	25,994	219	84
Buckingham	15,767	23	15
Buena Vista	6,300	66	105
Campbell	51,471	55	11
Caroline	22,622	109	48
Carroll	29,109	482	166
Charles City	7,239	335	463
Charlotte	12,209	15	12
Charlottesville	43,833	301	69
Chesapeake	206,665	339	16
Chesterfield	271,142	223	8
Clarke	13,290	49	37
Clarksville included in Mecklinburg County		(6)	
Clifton Forge included in Allegheny County		(18)	
Clover included in Halifax County		(4)	
Colonial Heights	17,063	23	13
Covington	6,361	28	44
Craig	5,118	12	23
Culpeper	36,893	353	96

Data Source: Virginia Department of Social Services

Domestic Violence (cont'd): JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2002 CALLS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE BY LOCALITY

LOCALITY	POPULATION JULY 1, 2002	NUMBER OF FAMILY VIOLENCE HOTLINE CALLS	RATE OF CALLS PER 10,000 POPULATION
Cumberland	8,899	16	18
Danville	47,596	321	67
Dickenson	16,216	68	42
Dinwiddie	24,747	18	7
Dumfries included in Fairfax County		(26)	
Elliston included in Montgomery County		(3)	
Emporia	5,734	158	276
Essex	9,993	49	49
Fairfax City included in Fairfax County		(196)	
Fairfax County	1,030,294	924	9
Falls Church included in Fairfax County		(45)	
Farmville included in Prince Edward County		(17)	
Fauquier	59,245	155	26
Floyd	14,248	47	33
Fluvanna	22,207	40	18
Franklin City	8,170	36	44
Franklin County	48,462	182	38
Frederick	62,971	340	54
Fredericksburg	20,076	379	189
Front Royal included in Warren County		(30)	
Galax	6,590	205	311
Giles	17,083	36	21
Gloucester	35,755	166	46
Goochland	17,523	19	11
Goodview included in Roanoke County		(1)	
Grayson	16,612	179	108
Greene	16,269	43	26
Greensville	11,572	104	90
Halifax County	36,973	253	68
Halifax City included in Halifax County		(75)	
Hampton	145,921	432	30
Hanover	92,050	201	22
Harrisonburg	40,909	396	97
Henrico	268,270	185	7
Herndon included in Fairfax County		(15)	
Henry	57,395	157	27
Highland	2,415	5	21
Hopewell	22,525	53	24
Isle of Wight	31,085	23	7
James City	51,418	190	37
King and Queen	6,558	112	171
King George	17,657	72	41
King William	13,822	217	157
Lancaster	11,463	62	54
Lawrenceville included in Brunswick County		(3)	
Lee	23,396	77	33
Leesburg included in Loudoun County		(115)	
Lexington	6,910	104	151
Loudoun	204,054	473	23
Louisa	27,007	44	16
Lunenburg	13,318	33	25
Luray included in Page County		(5)	
Lynchburg	64,616	323	50
Madison	12,947	49	38
Manassas	37,288	184	49
Manassas Park	10,909	7	6
Martinsville	15,263	154	101
Mathews	9,258	29	31
Mecklenburg	32,274	58	18
Middlesex	10,178	19	19
Montgomery	85,368	331	39
Nelson	14,727	32	22
New Kent	14,157	507	358
Newport News	180,272	527	29
Norfolk	239,036	1368	57
Northampton	12,929	453	350
Northumberland	12,431	49	39
Norton	3,972	125	315
Nottoway	15,861	39	25
Onancock included in Accomack County		(3)	
Orange	27,298	95	35
Page	23,310	299	128
Patrick	19,455	173	89
Petersburg	33,115	61	18
Pittsylvania	61,745	49	8
Poquoson	11,686	8	7
Portsmouth	99,790	255	26
Powhatan	23,997	47	20
Prince Edward	19,985	53	27
Prince George	34,135	29	8
Prince William	311,892	676	22
Pulaski	35,028	205	59
Purceville included in Loudoun County		(6)	
Radford	15,670	150	96
Rappahannock	7,206	21	29
Richmond City	197,456	611	31
Richmond County	8,837	85	96
Roanoke City	93,873	446	48
Roanoke County	85,937	77	9
Rockbridge	20,777	317	153
Rockingham	68,648	178	26
Rocky Mount included in Franklin County		(12)	
Russell	28,974	386	133
Salem	24,836	31	12
Scott	23,136	107	46
Scottsburg included in Halifax County		(2)	
Shenandoah	36,315	312	86
Smithfield included in Surry County		(25)	
Smyth	32,827	271	83
Southampton	17,448	8	5
South Boston included in Halifax County		(58)	
Spotsylvania	102,570	377	37
Stafford	104,823	395	38
Stanley included in Page County		(2)	
Staunton	23,635	361	153
Sterling included in Loudoun County		(74)	
Suffolk	69,966	167	24
Surry	7,107	39	55
Sussex	12,221	69	56
Tazewell	44,011	224	51
Triangle included in Prince William County		(8)	
Troutville included in Botebourt County		(2)	
Vienna included in Fairfax County		(8)	
Vinton included in Roanoke County		(4)	
Virginia Beach	433,934	4699	108
Virginilina included in Halifax County		(11)	
Warren	32,910	693	211
Washington	51,331	100	19
Waterford included in Loudoun County		(2)	
Waynesboro	20,134	141	70
Westmoreland	16,676	80	48
Williamsburg	11,693	218	186
Winchester	24,228	536	221
Wise	41,710	212	51
Woodbridge included in Fairfax County		(34)	
Wythe	27,790	492	177
York	59,720	110	18
Yorktown included in York County		(27)	
Locality Unknown		12,535	

Data Source: Virginia Department of Social Services

Community Indicators

WHAT KIND OF COMMITMENT CAN AND DO OUR COMMUNITIES HAVE TO OUR YOUNG CHILDREN?

ARE VIRGINIA COMMUNITIES PLACES WHERE YOUNG CHILDREN ARE HEALTHY, WELL CARED FOR, AND READY FOR SCHOOL?

Children and families live in neighborhoods, but are supported by the resources available to them not only in their individual neighborhoods, but also in the larger communities (cities and counties) in which they live.The resources of a particular city or county are determined partly by the incomes and resources of the individuals living there, but also by the businesses and corporations located there and by the amount of public support they receive from state and federal sources. Most state and federal programs operated on the local level are funded by formulas that take into account the size of the population, the level of poverty in that area, and other factors related to need. All of these affect local revenues, which in turn affect services provided at the local level. Tax revenue and public funding are not the only resources in a community. More affluent areas are able to attract resources in the private sector that help families raise young children ready for school. Unfortunately, these private sector resources are often lacking in less affluent areas.

Community indicators are related to the conditions and resources of the community. The data in this section relate to the social climate of the community and reflect factors that impact the early learning environments of young children, including resources for care outside the child's home. All of these indicators collectively define the “world” in which young children live

The State Team's report includes specific community resources or programs that are provided through federal or state funding (foster care, child care subsidies, early intervention, preschool special education, Head Start and Early Head Start, and At-Risk Four Year Old Programs). The supplemental data include information about other resources and conditions in the localities (per capita income, unemployment rates, violent crimes, infant mortality, K-12 school truancy, and child care capacity).

Per Capita Income

2001 BY LOCALITY

Per capita income is an indicator of the overall economic status of the state and localities. The economic strength of a community determines and is determined by the resources of the families living there. Overall, children in more affluent communities are provided with experiences that support their readiness for school, while children in less affluent communities may not have had the same opportunities.

Per capita income represents the personal income of the residents of a given area divided by the resident population of the area. In computing per capita personal income for States and counties, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis uses the U.S. Census Bureau's annual midyear population estimates. Except for the college student and other seasonal populations, which are measured on April 1, the population for all years is estimated on July 1.

Per capita income consists of income received by persons from all sources – from participation in production, from both government and business transfer payments, and from government interest (which is treated like a transfer payment). Persons consist of individuals, nonprofit institutions that serve individuals, private noninsured welfare funds, and private trust funds. The last three are referred to as "quasi-individuals." Personal income is calculated as the sum of wage and salary disbursements, other labor income, proprietors' income with inventory valuation and capital consumption adjustments, rental income of persons with capital consumption adjustment, personal dividend income, personal interest income, and transfer payments to persona, less personal contributions for social insurance. The latest data are from 2001, released in 2003 and shown in the following chart.

Per capita income can be compared to Self-Sufficiency Standard wages for Virginia in order to assess the number of families who are struggling to make ends meet. The Self-Sufficiency Standard calculates the cost of living in each Virginia locality based on basic needs (food, transportation, housing, child care, health care, and taxes), geography, and family size. Although a single woman with two children could theoretically live on an income of $21,602 in Washington County, Virginia, that same family would need to earn $46,185 to live in Fairfax, Virginia.[12]

The per capita income for Virginia is $32,338.

[12] D. Pearce & J. Brooks. The Self Sufficiency Standard for Virginia. Richmond, VA: Voices for Virginia's Children, July 2002.

Per Capita Income: 2001 BY LOCALITY

LOCALITY	PER CAPITA INCOME
Virginia	$32,338
Accomack	$18,334
Alexandria	$49,553
Amelia	$21,351
Amherst	$19,160
Appomattox	$21,286
Arlington	$51,221
Bath	$24,806
Bland	$17,732
Botetourt	$26,839
Brunswick	$17,282
Buchanan	$21,252
Buckingham	$17,877
Caroline	$24,655
Charles City	$23,142
Charlotte	$19,318
Chesapeake	$27,807
Chesterfield	$34,086
Clarke	$35,725
Craig	$21,976
Culpeper	$29,324
Cumberland	$18,485
Dickenson	$17,329
Essex	$22,086
Fauquier	$39,058
Floyd	$18,740
Fluvanna	$22,785
Franklin	$21,107
Giles	$20,300
Gloucester	$25,547
Goochland	$40,698
Grayson	$18,534
Greene	$20,682
Halifax	$20,140
Hampton	$22,444
Hanover	$31,129
Henrico	$34,534
Highland	$23,677
Isle of Wight	$29,258
King and Queen	$24,167
King George	$31,396
King William	$25,937
Lancaster	$32,318
Lee	$18,572
Loudoun	$40,182
Louisa	$25,788
Lunenburg	$17,323
Madison	$23,099
Mathews	$29,542
Mecklenburg	$21,336
Middlesex	$26,629
Nelson	$21,945
New Kent	$28,310

LOCALITY	PER CAPITA INCOME
Newport News	$23,654
Norfolk	$23,271
Northampton	$22,547
Northumberland	$24,912
Nottoway	$20,787
Orange	$23,847
Page	$21,367
Patrick	$18,271
Portsmouth	$22,173
Powhatan	$25,053
Prince Edward	$16,743
Pulaski	$22,177
Rappahannock	$31,849
Richmond County	$19,320
Richmond City	$32,184
Roanoke City	$27,898
Russell	$19,204
Scott	$17,944
Shenandoah	$24,346
Smyth	$20,276
Stafford	$27,726
Suffolk City	$27,302
Surry	$19,258
Sussex	$20,995
Tazewell	$20,783
Virginia Beach City	$32,076
Warren	$27,268
Westmoreland	$23,535
Wythe	$20,164
Albemarle + Charlottesville	$34,551
Alleghany + Covington	$23,079
Augusta, Staunton + Waynesboro	$25,045
Bedford + Bedford City	$26,852
Campbell + Lynchburg	$24,913
Carroll + Galax	$19,519
Dinwiddie, Colonial Heights + Petersburg	$28,258
Fairfax, Fairfax City + Falls Church	$53,721
Frederick + Winchester	$28,063
Greensville + Emporia	$19,539
Henry + Martinsville	$21,447
James City + Williamsburg	$38,793
Montgomery + Radford	$19,849
Pittsylvania + Danville	$21,280
Prince George + Hopewell	$22,898
Prince William, Manassas + Manassas Park	$31,244
Roanoke + Salem	$33,208
Rockbridge, Buena Vista + Lexington	$22,863
Rockingham + Harrisonburg	$22,945
Southampton + Franklin	$24,056
Spotsylvania + Fredericksburg	$30,894
Washington + Bristol	$24,296
Wise + Norton	$19,377
York + Poquoson	$30,261

Data Source:U.S. Department of Commerce

Unemployment Rates

2002 BY LOCALITY

Unemployment rates offer a snapshot of the economic health of a locality. In tough economic times, when employers tighten their belts, communities are faced with families losing jobs as well as communities losing revenue. As a result, it is often the case that local services also have to be cut back.

Unemployment rates measure the number of people looking for work or waiting to be called back to a job from which they have been laid off. They represent the number of people seeking work and the number of jobs available. They do not include people who have stopped looking for work or those who have never been in the labor force.

High rates of unemployment may represent a mismatch of job skills needed and the available work force, an inability to access jobs because of lack of transportation, or the unavailability or unaffordability of child care. Unemployment rates are an overall measure of the economic well-being of a locality but can sometimes mask difficulties for individuals. Unemployment is a factor in family poverty, which is associated with many negative outcomes for children. Communities with higher rates of unemployment face many economic challenges.

Unemployment rates are published by the Virginia Employment Commission. They are based on the estimated size of the civilian labor force and the number of individuals estimated to be unemployed. The unemployment rate is usually higher for people with less education. In times of economic distress, low-income families suffer the most since a greater proportion of their income goes to buy necessities: child care, food, shelter, transportation, health care, and taxes.

Note that the rates vary considerably across the Commonwealth.

Unemployment Rates: 2002 BY LOCALITY

LOCALITY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBER	UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENT
Virginia	3,735,394	152,154	4.1
Accomack	16,043	734	4.6
Albemarle	38,373	878	2.3
Alexandria	82,601	2,710	3.3
Alleghany	8,636	418	4.8
Amelia	5,579	224	4.0
Amherst	15,420	841	5.5
Appomattox	5,250	430	8.2
Arlington	115,814	3,120	2.7
Augusta	33,224	1,043	3.1
Bath	2,508	118	4.7
Bedford City	2,624	116	4.4
Bedford County	31,824	1,431	4.5
Bland	3,575	162	4.5
Botetourt	17,417	521	3.0
Bristol	7,602	324	4.3
Brunswick	8,201	440	5.4
Buchanan	7,852	621	7.9
Buckingham	6,327	188	3.0
Buena Vista	3,389	143	4.2
Campbell	26,784	1,618	6.0
Caroline	12,060	486	4.0
Carroll	13,152	1,088	8.3
Charles City	3,685	209	5.7
Charlotte	6,220	457	7.3
Charlottesville	21,024	584	2.8
Chesapeake	110,698	3,690	3.3
Chesterfield	148,411	4,470	3.0
Clarke	6,694	173	2.6
Colonial Heights	8,875	385	4.3
Covington	3,112	205	6.6
Craig	2,254	83	3.7
Culpeper	17,499	571	3.3
Cumberland	4,165	120	2.9
Danville	23,669	2,243	9.5
Dickenson	5,773	860	14.9
Dinwiddie	11,676	459	3.9
Emporia	2,581	120	4.6
Essex	4,539	233	5.1
Fairfax City	12,922	165	1.3
Fairfax County	567,270	16,933	3.0
Falls Church	6,308	184	2.9
Fauquier	30,223	792	2.6
Floyd	6,921	247	3.6
Fluvanna	10,029	260	2.6
Franklin City	3,783	158	4.2
Franklin County	24,502	1,445	5.9
Frederick	35,156	969	2.8
Fredericksburg	10,434	630	6.0
Galax	3,094	311	10.1
Giles	8,317	476	5.7
Gloucester	18,621	520	2.8
Goochland	8,943	283	3.2
Grayson	8,128	758	9.3
Greene	8,070	260	3.2
Greensville	5,749	183	3.2
Halifax	19,119	2,133	11.2
Hampton	73,455	3,576	4.9
Hanover	49,962	1,387	2.8
Harrisonburg	21,000	435	2.1
Henrico	150,945	5,214	3.5
Henry	25,981	3,453	13.3
Highland	1,253	32	2.6
Hopewell	10,616	705	6.6
Isle of Wight	16,201	511	3.2
James City	28,453	694	2.4
King and Queen	2,939	141	4.8
King George	8,502	217	2.6
King William	6,550	260	4.0
Lancaster	5,033	337	6.7
Lee	10,030	506	5.0
Lexington	2,852	67	2.3
Loudoun	113,225	4,107	3.6
Louisa	10,580	566	5.3
Lunenburg	4,810	322	6.7
Lynchburg	29,539	1,833	6.2
Madison	10,063	335	3.3
Manassas	20,645	877	4.2
Manassas Park	5,766	131	2.3
Martinsville	6,331	1,017	16.1
Mathews	4,861	167	3.4
Mecklenburg	14,774	1,737	11.8
Middlesex	5,636	104	1.8
Montgomery	39,529	1,074	2.7
Nelson	7,450	221	3.0
New Kent	7,371	256	3.5
Newport News	88,180	4,306	4.9
Norfolk	90,488	5,713	6.3
Northampton	5,069	299	5.9
Northumberland	5,499	333	6.1
Norton	1,445	64	4.4
Nottoway	6,583	237	3.6
Orange	11,309	599	5.3
Page	11,772	811	6.9
Patrick	8,596	1,042	12.1
Petersburg	15,428	1,236	8.0
Pittsylvania	33,911	2,677	7.9
Poquoson	6,360	143	2.2
Portsmouth	46,398	2,646	5.7
Powhatan	11,677	309	2.6
Prince Edward	8,042	394	4.9
Prince George	14,470	490	3.4
Prince William	159,284	5,085	3.2
Pulaski	17,036	1,165	6.8
Radford	6,357	289	4.5
Rappahannock	4,087	98	2.4
Richmond City	98,417	6,110	6.2
Richmond County	3,880	210	5.4
Roanoke City	49,022	2,325	4.7
Roanoke County	50,235	1,190	2.4
Rockbridge	11,084	294	2.7
Rockingham	39,348	1,051	2.7
Russell	13,861	786	5.7
Salem	13,656	426	3.1
Scott	8,985	449	5.0
Shenandoah	18,039	431	2.4
Smyth	15,449	1,445	9.4
Southampton	7,985	279	3.5
Spotsylvania	50,062	1,101	2.2
Stafford	50,441	1,218	2.4
Staunton	10,735	397	3.7
Suffolk	33,060	1,445	4.4
Surry	2,387	145	6.1
Sussex	6,014	277	4.6
Tazewell	20,417	962	4.7
Virginia Beach	216,208	7,672	3.5
Warren	16,094	632	3.9
Washington	24,765	1,585	6.4
Waynesboro	9,244	440	4.8
Westmoreland	7,462	365	4.9
Williamsburg	6,153	401	6.5
Winchester	13,882	459	3.3
Wise	15,126	878	5.8
Wythe	14,656	986	6.7
York	29,678	759	2.6

Data Source: Virginia Employment Commission

Violent Crime

2002 ADULT AND JUVENILE ARRESTS FOR VIOLENT CRIMES

Violent crimes are themselves evidence of community problems. Offenders often are those who have failed in school, dropped out, and resorted to crime. The level of violent crimes in a community has a great effect on the well-being of all citizens, and especially on the well-being of young children.

Unfortunately, many children witness violent events. Children who witness violent crimes are at increased risk for psychiatric problems ranging from post-traumatic stress to behavioral problems such as high levels of aggression. In neighborhoods in which violent crime is frequent, parents cannot allow their children to play outside. When parents are fearful, children become fearful. None of these conditions are conducive to the development of happy, well adjusted children ready to learn in school.

The violent crime rates in the following chart indicate the number of arrests for violent crimes for Virginia and for each locality. Violent crimes include murder, non-negligent manslaughter, aggravated assault, forcible sex offenses, and robbery. All violent crimes involve force or threat of force. Limitations exist within this data set: these data are for arrests and the actual number of convictions may be lower, and one arrest may represent multiple crimes. Also, this data set does not include crimes committed for which no arrest was made. The number for Virginia includes a total of arrests for violent crimes in every locality as well as on university campuses and those reported by separate law enforcement agencies (e.g., airport police, etc.). The numbers for localities exclude violent crimes on university campuses and those reported by separate law enforcement agencies. Rates are based on July 1, 2002 population estimates from the U.S. Census.

Violent Crime: 2002 ADULT AND JUVENILE ARRESTS FOR VIOLENT CRIMES

LOCALITY	JULY 1, 2002 POPULATION	NUMBER OF ARRESTS FOR VIOLENT CRIMES	VIOLENT CRIME RATE PER 10,000 PEOPLE
Virginia	7,293,542	7986	11
Accomack	39,007	49	13
Albemarle	81,888	61	7
Alexandria	130,804	134	10
Alleghany	16,960	20	12
Amelia	11,714	9	8
Amherst	31,976	22	7
Appomattox	13,696	15	11
Arlington	189,927	153	8
Augusta	67,046	31	5
Bath	5,063	0	0
Bedford City	6,225	26	42
Bedford County	61,875	40	6
Bland	6,916	2	3
Botetourt	31,272	17	5
Bristol	17,118	30	18
Brunswick	18,250	13	7
Buchanan	25,994	48	18
Buckingham	15,767	40	25
Buena Vista	6,300	11	17
Campbell	51,471	76	15
Caroline	22,622	40	18
Carroll	29,109	36	12
Charles City	7,239	2	3
Charlotte	12,209	27	22
Charlottesville	43,833	95	22
Chesapeake	206,665	367	18
Chesterfield	271,142	386	14
Clarke	13,290	13	10
Colonial Heights	17,063	41	24
Covington	6,361	11	17
Craig	5,118	19	37
Culpeper	36,893	52	14
Cumberland	8,899	19	21
Danville	47,596	21	4
Dickenson	16,216	9	6
Dinwiddie	24,747	12	5
Emporia	5,734	44	77
Essex	9,993	25	25
Fairfax City	included in Fairfax County		
Fairfax County	1,030,294	127	1
Falls Church	included in Fairfax County		
Fauquier	59,245	53	9
Floyd	14,248	2	1
Fluvanna	22,207	21	9
Franklin City	8,170	17	21
Franklin County	48,462	41	8
Frederick	62,971	29	5
Fredericksburg	20,076	66	33
Galax	6,590	10	15
Giles	17,083	13	8
Gloucester	35,755	35	10
Goochland	17,523	17	10
Grayson	16,612	11	7
Greene	16,269	19	12
Greensville	11,572	12	10
Halifax	36,973	57	15
Hampton	145,921	251	17
Hanover	92,050	68	7
Harrisonburg	40,909	75	18
Henrico	268,270	318	12
Henry	57,395	131	23
Highland	2,415	0	0
Hopewell	22,525	46	20
Isle of Wight	31,085	27	9
James City County	51,418	52	10
King and Queen	6,558	0	0
King George	17,657	24	14
King William	13,822	8	6
Lancaster	11,463	9	8
Lee	23,396	31	13
Lexington	6,910	6	9
Loudoun	204,054	201	10
Louisa	27,007	13	5
Lunenburg	13,318	16	12
Lynchburg	64,616	112	17
Madison	12,947	2	2
Manassas	37,288	51	14
Manassas Park	10,909	4	4
Martinsville	15,263	39	26
Mathews	9,258	4	4
Mecklenburg	32,274	61	19
Middlesex	10,178	1	1
Montgomery	85,368	69	8
Nelson	14,727	10	7
New Kent	14,157	15	11
Newport News	180,272	525	29
Norfolk	239,036	171	7
Northampton	12,929	27	21
Northumberland	12,431	20	16
Norton	3,972	8	20
Nottoway	15,861	22	14
Orange	27,298	18	7
Page	23,310	20	9
Patrick	19,455	28	14
Petersburg	33,115	115	35
Pittsylvania	61,745	56	9
Poquoson	11,686	3	3
Portsmouth	99,790	200	20
Powhatan	23,997	6	3
Prince Edward	19,985	35	18
Prince George	34,135	19	6
Prince William	311,892	293	9
Pulaski	35,028	34	10
Radford	15,670	0	0
Rappahannock	7,206	1	1
Richmond City	197,456	766	39
Richmond County	8,837	7	8
Roanoke City	93,873	1	0
Roanoke County	85,937	67	8
Rockbridge	20,777	8	4
Rockingham	68,648	21	3
Russell	28,974	17	6
Salem	24,836	21	8
Scott	23,136	26	11
Shenandoah	36,315	23	6
Smyth	32,827	37	11
Southampton	17,448	7	4
Spotsylvania	102,570	76	7
Stafford	104,823	103	10
Staunton	23,635	47	20
Suffolk	69,966	100	14
Surry	7,107	27	38
Sussex	12,221	20	16
Tazewell	44,011	60	14
Virginia Beach	433,934	283	7
Warren	32,910	14	4
Washington	51,331	60	12
Waynesboro	20,134	118	59
Westmoreland	16,676	24	14
Williamsburg	11,693	16	14
Winchester	24,228	43	18
Wise	41,710	80	19
Wythe	27,790	28	10
York	59,720	49	8
other		46	

Data Source: Virginia State Police and U.S. Bureau of the Census

Infant Mortality

2001 BY LOCALITY AND 5 YEAR RATE

Infant mortality is an important indicator of the well-being of pregnant women and their young children. It is associated with many issues such as poverty and the problems related to it, lack of prenatal care, access to health care for both women and children, and behavioral issues of the mother. About two-thirds of all deaths of young children occur within the first month of life and are due to birth defects or other health problems of the child or the pregnancy. The most common causes of the deaths after the first month of life are Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), Respiratory Distress Syndrome, and lack of access to health care. SIDS deaths can be reduced significantly by teaching caregivers to place their babies on their backs to sleep; the number of Respiratory Distress Syndrome deaths can be reduced by raising children in a smoke-free environment.[13]

As the following chart shows, in 2002, 725 children in Virginia did not live to see their first birthday. Infant mortality refers to the number of children under 365 days old (under a year of age) who died in 2002 in each locality. The average rates over the last five years have been decreasing due to the availability of newborn intensive care units with the advances in medical procedures and new drug treatments.

Data show the number of infant deaths in each locality in 2002. Because some areas have a low number of births the actual number of infant deaths can be misleading. A better assesment is to examine the five-year rate of infant deaths per 1,000 live births (1998-2002).

[13] Centers for Disease Control and the Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 2002. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2002.

Infant Mortality: 2002 BY LOCALITY AND 5 YEAR RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS

LOCALITY	2002 NUMBER OF INFANT DEATHS	5 YEAR (98-02) RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS
Virginia	725	7.2
Accomack	3	6.7
Albemarle	6	4.8
Alexandria	8	5.3
Alleghany	1	1.1
Amelia	1	7.0
Amherst	1	4.1
Appomattox	0	6.6
Arlington	7	4.0
Augusta	8	7.9
Bath	0	0.0
Bedford City	1	4.1
Bedford County	1	5.5
Bland	0	3.4
Botetourt	6	10.7
Bristol	1	4.0
Brunswick	4	13.2
Buchanan	1	5.4
Buckingham	1	11.0
Buena Vista	1	5.0
Campbell	3	5.3
Caroline	1	10.6
Carroll	3	4.4
Charles City	0	5.2
Charlotte	1	1.3
Charlottesville	6	11.2
Chesapeake	29	10.5
Chesterfield	16	5.8
Clarke	0	5.2
Colonial Heights	3	4.9
Covington	2	7.5
Craig	1	18.7
Culpeper	5	3.9
Cumberland	0	4.1
Danville	8	11.2
Dickenson	2	8.9
Dinwiddie	1	6.6
Emporia	2	11.7
Essex	1	14.1
Fairfax City	0	8.1
Fairfax County	68	4.5
Falls Church	1	4.0
Fauquier	4	4.1
Floyd	0	5.3
Fluvanna	1	5.1
Franklin City	0	7.0
Franklin County	6	7.8
Frederick	3	5.2
Fredericksburg	2	10.1
Galax	0	6.9
Giles	2	9.3
Gloucester	4	9.1
Goochland	0	7.4
Grayson	0	4.8
Greene	2	4.3
Greensville	0	4.0
Halifax	4	5.9
Hampton	20	9.5
Hanover	5	5.4
Harrisonburg	5	7.1
Henrico	35	8.6
Henry	5	7.9
Highland	0	0.0
Hopewell	6	10.2
Isle of Wight	1	5.1
James City	2	4.7
King and Queen	0	9.2
King George	1	8.3
King William	5	9.9
Lancaster	1	3.7
Lee	1	10.8
Lexington	0	3.7
Loudoun	16	3.6
Louisa	1	7.5
Lunenburg	1	7.4
Lynchburg	8	9.5
Madison	0	6.3
Manassas	4	5.5
Manassas Park	0	1.0
Martinsville	1	8.6
Mathews	1	8.3
Mecklenburg	4	10.2
Middlesex	1	5.1
Montgomery	1	4.8
Nelson	1	6.2
New Kent	2	8.2
Newport News	54	13.1
Norfolk	41	11.3
Northampton	3	8.7
Northumberland	0	11.0
Norton	1	8.8
Nottoway	3	14.4
Orange	2	5.6
Page	2	7.5
Patrick	1	6.9
Petersburg	2	12.1
Pittsylvania	3	5.9
Poquoson	2	10.6
Portsmouth	20	12.4
Powhatan	3	6.1
Prince Edward	3	17.9
Prince George	2	7.5
Prince William	24	5.5
Pulaski	1	4.7
Radford	0	7.2
Rappahannock	1	13.4
Richmond City	53	14.7
Richmond County	0	10.0
Roanoke City	15	10.3
Roanoke County	2	4.1
Rockbridge	1	9.1
Rockingham	1	4.2
Russell	1	5.3
Salem	3	9.9
Scott	3	10.4
Shenandoah	0	3.9
Smyth	1	6.3
Southampton	1	7.0
Spotsylvania	8	4.9
Stafford	16	5.8
Staunton	3	6.4
Suffolk	8	9.3
Surry	1	2.9
Sussex	3	11.5
Tazewell	7	10.9
Virginia Beach	45	7.7
Warren	4	5.6
Washington	3	4.2
Waynesboro	3	6.9
Westmoreland	2	14.6
Williamsburg	1	10.0
Winchester	2	7.1
Wise	3	7.4
Wythe	3	8.2
York	4	7.6

Data Source: Virginia Department of Health

K – 12 School Truancy

2001/02 NUMBER OF K – 12 STUDENTS WITH CONFERENCES SCHEDULED AFTER MORE THAN 6 ABSENCES DURING SCHOOL YEAR

Truancy suggests there is a problem with the child or the family. Truancy is most often a decision of an older child to not attend school, although it can also result from a family's lack of attention to the child's school attendance or even a conscious decision to keep the child out of school. Truancy can indicate a number of problems: a youth who is failing in school and disengaging; a youth with problems at home and acting out; a youth who is trying to supplement household income by working instead of coming to school; a youth with serious health problems; a youth who is staying home to care for younger siblings while a parent works; or even a youth who has become a gang member or is engaged in criminal activity. In fact, truancy is a strong predictor of juvenile delinquency.[14]

Truancy can indicate serious problems that need to be investigated by school officials. In many cases, interventions need to be identified (e.g., tutoring or mentoring, ESL classes, child care for siblings, etc.).

Truancy rates in the following chart are calculated from the total number of students in a school division and the number of students in that division with whom a conference was scheduled after the student had accumulated six absences during the school year. Note that a student could have more than one conference during the year.

[14] Manual to Combat Truancy: The Problem of Truancy in America's Communities. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Justice, 1996.

K – 12 School Truancy: 2001/02 NUMBER OF STUDENTS WITH WHOM A CONFERENCE WAS SCHEDULED AFTER THE STUDENT HAD ACCUMULATED SIX ABSENCES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

LOCALITY	MEMBERSHIP K-12 FALL 2001	NUMBER OF CONFERENCES	PERCENT
Virginia	1,145,846	42,730	4%
Accomack	5,280	229	4%
Albemarle	12,112	193	2%
Alexandria	11,076	319	3%
Alleghany	2,945	68	2%
Amelia	1,717	33	2%
Amherst	4,585	108	2%
Appomattox	2,341	222	9%
Arlington	18,508	391	2%
Augusta	10,696	162	2%
Bath	802	79	10%
Bedford City	included in Bedford County		
Bedford County	10,578	509	5%
Bland	887	3	0%
Botetourt	4,716	9	0%
Bristol	2,355	239	10%
Brunswick	2,377	142	6%
Buchanan	3,862	53	1%
Buckingham	2,256	149	7%
Buena Vista	1,121	109	10%
Campbell	8,680	241	3%
Caroline	3,694	98	3%
Carroll	3,993	624	16%
Charles City	925	32	3%
Charlotte	2,214	198	9%
Charlottesville	4,137	118	3%
Chesapeake	37,986	1,300	3%
Chesterfield	52,434	662	1%
Clarke	1,992	4	0%
Colonial Beach	570	61	11%
Colonial Heights	2,758	129	5%
Covington	945	56	6%
Craig	705	1	0%
Culpeper	5,779	197	3%
Cumberland	1,313	43	3%
Danville	7,552	186	2%
Dickenson	2,644	414	16%
Dinwiddie	4,304	70	2%
Emporia	included in Greenville		
Essex	1,600	305	19%
Fairfax City	included in Fairfax County		
Fairfax County	158,835	1,247	1%
Falls Church	1,748	15	1%
Fauquier	9,623	488	5%
Floyd	2,018	202	10%
Fluvanna	3,140	30	1%
Franklin City	1,351	86	6%
Franklin County	7,039	1,033	15%
Frederick	10,722	848	8%
Fredericksburg	2,282	134	6%
Galax	1,275	109	9%
Giles	2,510	77	3%
Gloucester	6,379	150	2%
Goochland	1,976	68	3%
Grayson	2,246	140	6%
Greene	2,635	123	5%
Greensville	2,653	474	18%
Halifax	6,000	102	2%
Hampton	23,060	307	1%
Hanover	17,192	188	1%
Harrisonburg	3,844	139	4%
Henrico	41,996	26	0%
Henry	8,597	503	6%
Highland	310	18	6%
Hopewell	3,957	139	4%
Isle of Wight	4,971	335	7%
James City	included in Williamsburg		
King and Queen	936	0	0%
King George	3,049	329	11%
King William	1,793	196	11%
Lancaster	1,459	0	0%
Lee	3,781	1,041	28%
Lexington	458	2	0%
Loudoun	34,073	820	2%
Louisa	4,162	85	2%
Lunenburg	1,793	120	7%
Lynchburg	9,026	1,810	20%
Madison	1,866	69	4%
Manassas	6,401	278	4%
Manassas Park	2,123	79	4%
Martinsville	2,675	19	1%
Mathews	1,295	10	1%
Mecklenburg	4,837	180	4%
Middlesex	1,317	0	0%
Montgomery	9,117	0	0%
Nelson	2,037	187	9%
New Kent	2,368	65	3%
Newport News	31,607	2,550	8%
Norfolk	35,187	1,198	3%
Northampton	2,140	89	4%
Northumberland	1,519	20	1%
Norton	726	72	10%
Nottoway	2,436	171	7%
Orange	3,969	225	6%
Page	3,527	708	20%
Patrick	2,641	46	2%
Petersburg	5,719	490	9%
Pittsylvania	9,068	137	2%
Poquoson	2,481	217	9%
Portsmouth	16,237	2,360	15%
Powhatan	3,633	87	2%
Prince Edward	2,661	120	5%
Prince George	5,868	406	7%
Prince William	57,184	187	0%
Pulaski	4,959	328	7%
Radford	1,561	14	1%
Rappahannock	1,041	39	4%
Richmond City	25,652	2,089	8%
Richmond County	1,251	199	16%
Roanoke City	13,134	2,311	18%
Roanoke County	13,922	327	2%
Rockbridge	3,010	192	6%
Rockingham	10,727	353	3%
Russell	4,167	72	2%
Salem	4,029	73	2%
Scott	3,635	186	5%
Shenandoah	5,568	753	14%
Smyth	5,111	403	8%
Southampton	2,775	225	8%
Spotsylvania	20,068	1,829	9%
Stafford	22,282	278	1%
Staunton	2,718	201	7%
Suffolk	11,761	559	5%
Surry	1,169	2	0%
Sussex	1,405	64	5%
Tazewell	6,986	69	1%
Virginia Beach	75,925	811	1%
Warren	4,998	484	10%
Washington	7,169	89	1%
Waynesboro	2,972	121	4%
West Point	839	0	0%
Westmoreland	1,986	65	3%
Williamsburg	3,537	763	22%
Winchester	8,407	215	3%
Wise	6,852	348	5%
Wythe	4,321	86	2%
York	11,942	72	1%

Data Source: Virginia Department of Education

Child Care Capacity

MAY 1, 2002 CHILD CARE SLOTS FOR CHILDREN UNDER AGE 12

In 2001, twelve million children in the United States between the ages of birth and six years were in child care. Children from birth to two are more likely to be in a home care situation and children ages three to six are more likely to be in center-based care.[15]

Child care costs often prohibit families from seeking the best care available for their children. The average cost of child care for infants or toddlers in Virginia is more than the average cost for one year's tuition at Virginia's four-year colleges and universities. Availability of care and quality of care are not always synonymous, however, and high cost does not always guarantee high quality.

The data in the following chart on child care slots represent the total capacity in four categories of child care regulated by the Virginia Department of Social Services: licensed child day centers, licensed family day homes, church-exempt facilities (which are not licensed), and licensed short-term day care providers. The rates represent child care slots per 1,000 children under the age of twelve years. They do not include unlicensed and unregulated child care by strangers or relatives. Some localities in the table reflect rates higher than 1,000 slots per 1,000 children. Children from neighboring localities fill the "extra" slots. For example, Williamsburg shows 3,780 child care slots for every 1,000 children. It is probable that children from James City County and York County fill the "extra" Williamsburg slots since they have 103 and 193 slots per 1,000 children respectively. Population data are from the 2000 U.S. Census.

Child care slots do not necessarily equate to full time child care placements for children of working parents (some of the programs are part-day, some are closed during the summer, etc.), nor do the number of slots necessarily equate to quality placements.

Child care quality is largely determined by the quality of the child care workforce. In Virginia as in other states, there are serious challenges to recruiting and retaining qualified child care professionals. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, in 2001, the average annual salary for a child care teacher in Virginia was $16,640, below the current poverty level in the United States for a family of four, which is $18,100. In addition, jobs in child care usually lack benefits (e.g., health insurance, paid vacation and sick leave, pensions and retirement).[16]

While the quality of child care is important in preparing most children for school, it is critical in preparing low-income children for school. Research has shown that early childhood education can make a vital difference in the later success especially of low income children.[17]

[15] Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. America's Children Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2002. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

[16] U.S. Department of Labor: http://stats.bls.gov/oes/2001

[17] The Carolina Abecedarian Project: http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~abc/

Child Care Capacity: MAY 1, 2002 CHILD CARE SLOTS FOR CHILDREN UNDER AGE 12

LOCALITY	2002 POP 0-11	MAY 1, 2002 TOTAL CAPACITY	2002 SLOTS PER 1,000 CHILDREN UNDER AGE 12
Virginia	1,173,912	299,494	255
Accomack	6073	1,120	184
Albemarle	12,837	1,268	99
Alexandria	17,916	5,370	300
Alleghany	2,369	98	41
Amelia	1,807	284	157
Amherst	4,544	1,050	231
Appomattox	2,087	262	126
Arlington	23,198	4,952	213
Augusta	9,570	1,466	153
Bath	607	143	236
Bedford City	951	402	423
Bedford County	8,936	1,161	130
Bland	823	88	107
Botetourt	4,323	446	103
Bristol	2,236	887	397
Brunswick	2,300	379	165
Buchanan	3,216	192	60
Buckingham	1,942	153	79
Buena Vista	953	68	71
Campbell	7,790	1,990	255
Caroline	3,493	539	154
Carroll	3,750	444	118
Charles City	949	253	267
Charlotte	1,881	152	81
Charlottesville	4,795	4,979	1,038
Chesapeake	36,869	9,207	250
Chesterfield	46,548	10,981	236
Clarke	1,892	516	273
Colonial Heights	2,348	986	420
Covington	959	179	187
Craig	720	108	150
Culpeper	5,884	1,819	309
Cumberland	1,344	70	52
Danville	7,094	2,369	334
Dickenson	2,028	144	71
Dinwiddie	3,628	268	74
Emporia	970	214	221
Essex	1,451	387	267
Fairfax City	3,013	2,173	721
Fairfax County	170,825	47,136	276
Falls Church	1,547	1,449	937
Fauquier	9,467	3,224	341
Floyd	1,953	111	57
Fluvanna	3,330	378	114
Franklin City	1,259	316	251
Franklin County	6,754	995	147
Frederick	10,331	1,457	141
Fredericksburg	2,902	1,860	641
Galax	1,059	737	696
Giles	2,522	315	125
Gloucester	5,466	1,066	195
Goochland	2,261	930	411
Grayson	2,168	180	83
Greene	2,934	484	165
Greensville	1,199	40	33
Halifax	5,602	369	66
Hampton	23,218	6,358	274
Hanover	15,036	6,279	418
Harrisonburg	4,285	1,053	246
Henrico	44,796	14,906	333
Henry	7,906	1,372	174
Highland	247	9	36
Hopewell	4,157	952	229
Isle of Wight	4,738	992	209
James City	7,032	738	105
King and Queen	874	169	193
King George	3,114	411	132
King William	2,269	383	169
Lancaster	1,288	43	33
Lee	3,240	310	96
Lexington	500	208	416
Loudoun	43,056	10,484	243
Louisa	4,103	305	74
Lunenburg	1,608	40	25
Lynchburg	9,545	3,805	399
Madison	1,753	378	216
Manassas City	7,962	1,110	139
Manassas Park City	2,375	767	323
Martinsville	2,242	894	399
Mathews	1,095	90	82
Mecklenburg	4,302	470	109
Middlesex	1,117	193	173
Montgomery	9,318	2,828	303
Nelson	1,921	361	188
New Kent	2,110	333	158
Newport News	35,386	8,138	230
Norfolk	40,975	9,402	229
Northampton	1,791	464	259
Northumberland	1,414	209	148
Norton	604	125	207
Nottoway	2,318	253	109
Orange	3,948	874	221
Page	3,350	209	62
Patrick	2,622	221	84
Petersburg	5,444	1,895	348
Pittsylvania	8,722	984	113
Poquoson City	1,639	568	347
Portsmouth	17,411	3,737	215
Powhatan	3,556	821	231
Prince Edward	2,506	469	187
Prince George	5,287	429	81
Prince William	63,170	17,586	278
Pulaski	4,706	675	143
Radford	1,329	499	375
Rappahannock	928	219	236
Richmond City	30,706	16,352	533
Richmond County	943	138	146
Roanoke City	15,263	7,439	487
Roanoke County	11,774	2,690	228
Rockbridge	2,710	261	96
Rockingham	10,578	1,727	163
Russell	3,929	444	113
Salem	3,152	2,064	655
Scott	2,934	326	111
Shenandoah	5,116	787	154
Smyth	4,482	660	147
Southampton	2,322	217	93
Spotsylvania	19,013	2,794	147
Stafford	20,298	4,573	225
Staunton	3,039	1,229	404
Suffolk	12,438	2,169	174
Surry	1,042	140	134
Sussex	1,542	168	109
Tazewell	5,728	701	122
Virginia Beach	77,650	19,429	250
Warren	5,458	1,728	317
Washington	6,562	954	145
Waynesboro	3,249	1,178	363
Westmoreland	2,222	406	183
Williamsburg	667	2,824	4,234
Winchester	3,567	2,223	623
Wise	5,698	543	95
Wythe	3,768	790	210
York	10,076	1,990	197

Data Source: Virginia Department of Social Services

Additional Data That Would Be Useful

Many of the data in the State Team's report and in this supplement are informative, intriguing, at times reassuring, and often disturbing. All contribute in significant ways to our understanding of the school readiness of Virginia's children. They also, however, reveal large gaps in our knowledge. In order to make smart, strategic, effective policy changes, the information gaps need to be addressed.

One example: We do not have good measures of how "ready" our individual children are when they enter kindergarten. There are some proxy measures – ones that could legitimately at least hint at readiness. Two are included as "Benchmarks" in the State Team's report: PALS-K and 3rd Grade SOL assessment scores. PALS-K covers some very important components related to early literacy development and the 3rd Grade SOL assessments cover performance on English, math, history, and science tests in the 3rd grade.

We also have birth data and aggregate data on a lot of factors related to school readiness. What we do not have are reliable data that tell us how many students actually are behind when they enter kindergarten. Recent scientific research strongly suggests that the etiology of school failure for most children lies in the birth to kindergarten entrance years and that, at best, trying to rescue those children who enter school unready is a very expensive, inefficient, and ineffective strategy. If education policy in Virginia is going to change to include significant investment in early childhood education, reliable information on the school readiness of children entering kindergarten will be crucial.

Kindergarten entry assessment is not an easy proposition. The very nature of four and five year olds makes reliable testing difficult. Testing issues around SOL assessments, or even SATs for high school students, are simple compared to assessing kindergarteners. Yet, other states have addressed the problem with some success. Virginia should make it a priority to obtain a meaningful, broad spectrum of information on the school readiness levels of its children at school entry for each locality and the Commonwealth as a whole.

Other data gaps also hamper our knowledge. Information on immunization rates would seem to be one of the most basic and important for gauging the minimally adequate health levels of our children. Immunization data are available through state-level but not local-level reports. Locality specific data should be collected so that solutions can be tailored to address the unique needs of the community.

We know very little beyond census data about families with young children. For example, although ready access to age-appropriate books and parents' reading to children at home are important for fostering early literacy and therefore school readiness, we do not have information on this specific to Virginia. Some states have surveys of parents which provide information about the vital contribution of parents to school readiness. In the same vein, we know that quality child care programs are important to the development of young children, yet information to gauge the quality of child care in Virginia is not available. Some states have star rating systems for child care; Virginia does not.

If improving school readiness is a priority in Virginia, we must acknowledge the data gaps, determine which missing information is most crucial, assess the barriers and costs of obtaining those data, and make the wisest policy improvements to strengthen our data knowledge. At both the state and local levels, improvements must be identified and persistently, creatively, and cooperatively addressed.

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[9] E. Sorenson & C. Zibman, "A look at poor dads who don't pay child support." Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute, September 2000.

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[12] D. Pearce & J. Brooks. The Self Sufficiency Standard for Virginia. Richmond, VA: Voices for Virginia's Children, July 2002.

[13] Centers for Disease Control and the Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 2002.* Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2002.

[14] *Manual to Combat Truancy: The Problem of Truancy in America's Communities.* Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Justice, 1996.

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[16] U.S. Department of Labor: http://stats.bls.gov/oes/2001

[17] The Carolina Abecedarian Project: http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~abc/

DATA SOURCES:

EPSDT:
Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services

Immunizations:
Virginia Department of Health

Asthma:
Virginia Department of Health
also: *http://www.census.gov* (Table P14 SF1)

Limited English Proficiency:
Virginia Department of Education
http://www.pen.k12/va.us/VDOE/Publications/

Adult Literacy:
National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS): *http://www.casas.org*
also: *http://www.census.gov* (American Factfinder Table PCT25)

Free/Reduced Price School Lunch Program:
School Lunch Program: Virginia Department of Education
http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Finance?nutrition/Statistics.html

Single Parent Families:
U.S. Bureau of the Census
http://www.census.gov (Table PCT52 SF3)

Child Support:
Virginia Department of Social Services

Domestic Violence:
Virginia Department of Social Services (VAdata)

Per Capita Income:
U.S. Department of Commerce
http://www.bea.gov

Unemployment Rates:
Virginia Employment Commission
http://www.vec.state.va.us/lbrmkt/lausc/labor.cfm

Violent Crime:
Virginia State Police
http://www.vsp.state.va.us/crimestatistics.htm
also: U.S. Bureau of the Census
Census Table 1 Population Estimates (5) for July 1, 2002

Infant Mortality:
Virginia Department of Health
http://www.vdh.state.va.us
Table 14: Resident 5-year Infant Mortality Rates Per 1,000 Births

K-12 School Truancy:
Virginia Department of Education
http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Publications/

Child Care Capacity:
Virginia Department of Social Services

VIRGINIA - Counties and Independent Cities