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Children in Virginia's **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 9** who Live in Poverty

There are an estimated 126,334 children under age 18 living in Virginia's Congressional District 9. Of these, nearly **24 percent** live in povertyⁱ. That's **29,815 children** *in your district* who are exposed to the devastating physical, social, and emotional effects of poverty. In addition to the daily risks of food insecurity, poor nutrition, and inadequate living conditions, research shows that child poverty can have prolonged harmful effects. Children who spend significant time in poverty are 1) more likely to get sick, develop chronic health problems, and be absent from school, 2) less likely to succeed in school and more likely to drop out, 3) more likely to have low-paying jobs as adults, and 4) more likely to become involved with the justice system.

The recession has taken a heavy toll, pushing nearly 4,000 additional District 9 children into poverty. Research shows that many newly-impooverished families will remain poor for years after the recovery begins, exposing many more children to the consequences of prolonged poverty.

What's bad for Virginia's children is costly for the United States as a whole – its economy, society, and citizens. Economists have conservatively estimated that childhood poverty costs the US about \$500 billion dollars per year, or the equivalent of nearly four percent of GDPⁱⁱ.

Congressional District 9 by the numbersⁱⁱⁱ: key statistics

- Total population of children age 17 and under: 126,334
- Total population of children under age 5: 32,467
- Percent of children living in poverty: **23.6%**
- Percent of children under 5 living in poverty: **26.1%**
- District 9 pre-recession child poverty rate: 21.3%. Current rate: up 2.3 percentage points to 23.6%
- Number of children without health insurance coverage: 5,811

Congressional District 9 by the map: largest localities

- Montgomery County (child population – 14,558)
 - Over 1,800 children (12.7%) live in poverty

Child poverty has increased dramatically in Virginia's Congressional District 9 since the recession began. An additional 3,976 children in this District now live below the Federal Poverty Level – a 15% increase.

Child Poverty Rates across Virginia in 2009

	Child Poverty Rate	Number of Poor Children
<i>STATE OF VIRGINIA</i>	13.9	256,434
Congressional District 1	9.7	18,589
Congressional District 2	11.7	17,539
Congressional District 3	30.1	49,161
Congressional District 4	13.8	24,704
Congressional District 5	21.9	30,217
Congressional District 6	17.1	25,176
Congressional District 7	8.4	14,800
Congressional District 8	11.6	15,645
Congressional District 9	23.6	29,815
Congressional District 10	6.0	13,685
Congressional District 11	5.8	12,063

About Voices for Virginia’s Children

Voices for Virginia’s Children is a statewide, privately funded, nonpartisan awareness and advocacy organization that builds support for practical public policies to improve the lives of children. A recognized leader in child advocacy, Voices mobilizes support for initiatives by conducting research, developing policies, building coalitions, and helping people articulate their support for children.

About KIDS COUNT

KIDS COUNT, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the United States. By providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local, state, and national discussion concerning ways to secure better futures for all children.

With funding from First Focus, Voices for Virginia's Children is the Virginia leader for Children in Focus, a multi-state effort to raise the profile of children's issues and make kids the priority!

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ⁱ Below the Federal Poverty Level; i.e., approximate annual income of \$21,954 for a family of four.

ⁱⁱ Holzer, H., J., Schanzenbach, D.W., Duncan, G.J., & Ludwig, J. (2008). The economic costs of childhood poverty in the United States. *Journal of Children and Poverty, 14*, 41-61.

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey