

Nationwide:

- ▲ Forty-two (42) percent of children under age 6 live in poor or low-income families – a total of 10.6 million children. Thirty-nine (39) percent of children under age 18 live in poor or low-income families – a total of 28.8 million. More than half of these children have at least one parent employed full-time, year-round.ⁱ
- ▲ Between 2000 and 2007, the number of children under age 18 living in poverty increased by 15%; the number of children under age 6 living in poverty increased by 24%.ⁱⁱ
- ▲ One in 10 children/adolescents suffers from mental health problems or emotional disturbances serious enough to cause some level of functional impairment; however, most of these (75-80%) do not receive treatment for these problems.ⁱⁱⁱ
- ▲ Fewer than 10 percent of the 80,000 public schools in the United States offer comprehensive mental health services.^{iv}
- ▲ Children suffering from Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder are 10 times more likely to drop out of high school than other children.^v
- ▲ Between 83% and 91% of children living in high-crime neighborhoods experience traumatizing events. These children have a much higher incidence later in life of suffering from learning difficulties, exhibiting ongoing behavioral problems and poor social/emotional competence, and of developing suicidal tendencies and/or substance abuse problems, than do children who have not experienced trauma.^{vi}

Virginia:

- ▲ In nearly two-thirds of Virginia families with children younger than 6, the children are routinely cared for by someone other than their working parents.^{vii} The quality of the care received varies greatly.
- ▲ On an average day in Virginia:
 - 41 babies are born to mothers with less than a 12th-grade education; 7 of these babies are born to mothers aged 17 or younger;^{viii}
 - 13% percent of children live in poverty;^{ix}
 - 18 children are abused or neglected;^x
 - 25 high school students drop out of school.^{xi}These children are at relatively high risk of suffering from developmental delays and mental, emotional, and/or behavioral health problems.
- ▲ For every \$1 invested in school-aged children (ages 6 to 18), only 9.6¢ is invested in preschool children (ages 3 to 5) and only 4.3¢ is invested in infants or toddlers (ages birth to 2).^{xii}

Richmond:

- ▲ In 2007, there were 5.2 founded cases of child abuse or neglect per 1,000 children (approximately 227 cases).^{xiii}
- ▲ In 2007:^{xiv}
 - the live birth rate to teenage mothers was 43 per 1,000;
 - 64% of live births were to single mothers;
 - 20% of live births were to mothers with less than a 12th-grade education.
- ▲ In 2007, the high-school graduation rate was 54.1 percent.^{xv}
- ▲ Thirty (32) percent of children (ages 0-17) were living at or below the poverty level in 2007.^{xvi}
- ▲ 71% of school-age children were approved for free or reduced-price lunches in 2007.^{xvi}

ChildSavers:

- ▲ Since the program's inception in November 2004, our Trauma Response program has helped more than 1,400 children cope with violent or traumatic events.
- ▲ Our Guidance Clinic team provides works with up to 500 children and their families each year through more than 5,000 therapy sessions.
- ▲ In a typical month, our USDA Food Program helps 150 or more in-home child care providers offer nutritious meals and snacks to the hundreds of children in their care.
- ▲ During our 2008/09 program year, our Child Development Services staff performed 75 workshops and training sessions for Richmond-area child care providers (total attendance: 1,051).
- ▲ We completed 906 referrals for parents seeking quality child care in 2008/09.
- ▲ We serve an estimated 19,000 individuals (children and their families and caregivers) per year, directly and indirectly, through all of our programs.
- ▲ More than 95 percent of our Guidance Clinic, Trauma Response, and Child Development Services clients report satisfaction with our services.
- ▲ A considerable body of research supports the common-sense contention that preventive and early intervention services such as those we provide are highly effective and save money in the long run. However, services of this sort are chronically underfunded compared to the more intensive services necessary to correct the more serious problems that frequently arise later in life, such as substance abuse, criminal behavior, etc.^{xvii}

ⁱ "Basic Facts About Low-Income Children: Birth to Age 6," October 2008. Fact sheet available for download at the National Center for Children in Poverty website. http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_847.html. The term "low-income" applies to families with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, which is just sufficient to provide basic needs. The term "poor" applies to families with incomes up to 100 percent of the federal poverty level, which is insufficient to meet basic needs; 21% of children under age 6, and 18% of children under age 18, live in poor families. The federal poverty level in 2008 for a family of four living in the 48 contiguous states was \$21,200 (see <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/08poverty.shtml>).

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ “Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General.” Rockville, MD: U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1999. See also Masi, Rachel and Janice L. Cooper, “Children’s Mental Health: Facts for Policymakers.” National Center for Children in Poverty, November 2006.

http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_687.html

^{iv} Goodman, Robin F., Ph.D. “Children Trapped by Gaps in Treatment of Mental Health Illness.” New York University Child Study Center,

http://www.aboutourkids.org/articles/children_trapped_gaps_in_treatment_mental_illness

^v Ibid.

^{vi} Cooper, Janice L. “Facts About Trauma for Policymakers: Children’s Mental Health.” National Center for Children in Poverty, July 2007. http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_746.html

^{vii} For 64.8 percent (373,863 out of 577,283) of Virginia families, all parents are in the workforce – meaning that, in single-parent families, the only parent works, and in two-parent families, both parents work. Most of these families must rely on some form of child care for their young children. Caregivers may include relatives, friends, home-based paid caregivers, or center-based paid caregivers. See “Selected Economic Characteristics: 2007” (Data Set: 2007 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates) at

http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTTable?_bm=y&-qr_name=ACS_2007_1YR_G00_DP3&-geo_id=04000US51&-ds_name=ACS_2007_1YR_G00_&-lang=en&-redoLog=false.

^{viii} Voices for Virginia’s Children 2005 Annual Report.

http://www.vakids.org/pubs/Archives/Voices/annual_report_2005.pdf

^{ix} KIDS COUNT Data Center, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Rankings.aspx?ind=43>. Data from 2007. Note that “poverty” refers to living below the federal poverty level, which – as described in footnote #1 above – is actually insufficient to meet basic needs.

^x Voices for Virginia’s Children 2005 Annual Report.

^{xi} Ibid.

^{xii} Voices for Virginia’s Children, “Early Learning Left Out: Investments by Child Age on Education and Development,” April 2005.

^{xiii} CLIKS: Community-Level Information on Kids (a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation). See “Profile for Richmond City” at

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/stateprofile.aspx?state=VA&group=Grantee&loc=6917&dt=1%2c3%2c2%2c4>. The Virginia statewide rate for 2007 was 3.4 founded cases per 1,000 children; Richmond’s rate is therefore significantly higher.

^{xiv} Ibid. Again, Richmond’s figures are significantly higher: the rate of live births to teenage mothers throughout Virginia in 2007 was 17 per 1,000; 35% of all babies were born to single mothers; and 10% of babies were born to mothers with less than a 12th-grade education.

^{xv} Ibid. Note that graduation rates are calculated by determining the percentage of youths entering grade 9 who receive a high school diploma or equivalent 4 years later, and thus the remaining 45.9% includes those who dropped out as well as those who were held back to repeat a grade. The statewide graduation rate in 2007 was 76.9%.

^{xvi} Ibid. Again, the child poverty level in Richmond was far higher than the 13% Virginia statewide child poverty level for 2007.

^{xvi} Ibid. Again, note that the Richmond figure was far higher than the 2007 Virginia statewide figure of 33%.

^{xvii} “Mental Health; A Report of the Surgeon General.” See also Cooper, Janice L., “Towards Better Behavioral Health for Children, Youth and their Families: Financing that Supports Knowledge.” National Center for Children in Poverty, January 2008. http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_804.pdf