

Nationwide:

- ▲ In 2009, 46 percent of children under age six (11.7 million children) lived in poor or low-income families; 42 percent of children under age 18 (31.3 million children) lived in poor or low-income families. More than one-quarter of these children have at least one parent who works full-time, year-round; the majority (72 percent) have at least one parent who works part-time or part-year.ⁱ
- ▲ The percentage of children living in low-income and poor families has been *on the rise* – increasing from 37 percent in 2000 to 42 percent in 2009, after having declined during the 1990s.ⁱⁱ
- ▲ One in 5 children/adolescents has a diagnosable mental health disorder, and 67 to 70 percent of children in the juvenile justice system have diagnosable mental health disorders; however, most (70 to 80 percent) do not receive treatment for these problems.ⁱⁱⁱ
- ▲ Between 83 and 91 percent 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.^{iv}

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.^v The quality of the care received varies greatly.
- ▲ In Virginia:
 - In 2009, 13.3 percent of births were to mothers with less than a 12th-grade education;
 - In 2009, 31 percent of children ages 0 to 17 lived in low-income households, 14 percent lived in poverty, and 7% lived in extreme poverty;
 - In 2009, there were nearly 6,000 founded cases of child abuse and neglect; and
 - In 2007-08, 9% of adolescents ages 12-17 engaged in binge drinking.^{vi}

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).^{vii}

Richmond:

- ▲ In 2009, there were 3.2 founded cases of child abuse or neglect per 1,000 children (approximately 132 cases).^{viii}
- ▲ In 2009: ^{ix}
 - the live birth rate to teenage mothers ages 15 to 17 was 46.4 per 1,000;
 - 64.5% of live births were to single mothers; and
 - 26.5% of live births were to mothers with less than a 12th-grade education.
- ▲ In 2010, the on-time high-school graduation rate was 72%.^x
- ▲ In 2009, 34.7 percent of children (ages 0-17) were living at or below the poverty level.^{xi}
- ▲ During the 2010/11 academic year, 72 percent of school-age children were approved for free or reduced-price lunches.^{xii}

ChildSavers-Memorial Child Guidance Clinic:

- ▲ Since the program's inception in November 2004, our Trauma Response program has helped more than 2,200 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 hours of therapy sessions.
- ▲ In a typical month, our USDA Food Program helps 155 or more in-home child care providers offer nutritious meals and snacks to the hundreds of children in their care. For many children, these meals and snacks are the most nutritious they receive.
- ▲ During our 2010/11 program year (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011), our Child Development Services staff performed 83 workshops and training sessions for Richmond-area child care providers (total attendance: 1,164). We also completed 1,115 assessment and mentoring visits to child care providers' places of employment.
- ▲ We serve more than 19,000 individuals (children and their families and caregivers) per year, directly and indirectly, through all of our programs.

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.^{xiii}

ⁱ “Basic Facts About Low-Income Children, 2009: Children Under Age 6” and “Basic Facts About Low-Income Children, 2009: Children Under Age 18,” October 2010. Fact sheets available for downloading at the National Center for Children in Poverty website, http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_972.html and http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_975.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*; 24% of children under age 6, and 21% of children under age 19, lived in poor families in 2009 (up from 22% and 18% respectively during the previous year). The federal poverty level in 2010 for a family of four was \$22,050 – unchanged since 2009.

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ “Adolescent Mental Health in the United States: Facts for Policymakers,” June 2009. Fact sheet available for downloading at the NCCP website, http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_878.html. See also iv. below.

^{iv} 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

^v For 65.1 percent (391,255 out of 600,588) 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: 2007-2009” (Data Set: 2007-2009 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates) at http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-qr_name=ACS_2009_3YR_G00_DP3YR3&-geo_id=04000US51&-ds_name=ACS_2009_3YR_G00_&-lang=en&-redoLog=false.

^{vi} Data derived from the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s KIDS COUNT Data Center, statewide data profile, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/stateprofile.aspx?state=VA&group=All&loc=48&dt=1%2c3%2c2%2c4>. “Low-income” refers to households at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, which is considered just sufficient to meet basic needs; “poverty” and “extreme poverty” levels are 100% and below 100% of federal poverty levels, and are insufficient to meet basic needs.

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

^{viii} Data derived from the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s KIDS COUNT Data Center, data profile for the City of Richmond, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/stateprofile.aspx?state=VA&group=All&loc=6917&dt=1%2c3%2c2%2c4>. Note throughout this section that the risk factor rates for Richmond are in every case higher than the statewide rates – often significantly higher.

^{ix} Ibid.

^x Ibid.

^{xi} Ibid.

^{xii} Ibid.

^{xiii} “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