

**SNAPSHOT OF STATUS OF YOUNG CHILDREN
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
Population, 2006 = 229,112**

READY CHILDREN

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA
Number of children by age (Census, 2006) <i>By 2005, children under 4 were the largest group under 17, at 34% of the total.</i>	☐ 0-4 = 19,145 (8% of population) ☐ 5-9 = 15,821 (7%) ☐ 10-14 = 15,039 (7%) ☐ 15-19 = 19,326 (8%)
General population, by race (Census, 2005) <i>Between 2001 and 2005 among children 17 and under, there were slight increases in the percentage of whites, Asian-Americans, and Hispanic-Americans, with slight declines in the percentages of African-Americans and Native Americans. *Note: Hispanic may be any race and are included in other races, as well as shown separately.</i>	☐ White: 96,938 (47.0%) ☐ African-American: 92,354 (44.8%) ☐ Native American: 772 (0.4%) ☐ Asian: 5,762 (2.8%) ☐ Hawaiian/PI: 183 (0.1%) ☐ Other: 3,532 (1.7%) ☐ 2+ races: 6,631 (3.2%) ☐ Hispanic*: 7,692 (3.7%)
Poverty status of children (2000 census) <i>Note: economic vulnerability of all children in Norfolk under 18. Poverty rates for children 0-17 have remained above 20% each year between 2002 and 2004.</i>	Below poverty: ☐ Under 5: 4,683 (28.8%) ☐ Age 5: 818 (26.9%) ☐ Ages 6-11: 5,730 (30.5%) ☐ Ages 12-14: 2,323 (26.2%) ☐ Age 15: 633 (26.1%) ☐ Ages 16-17: 1,415 (24.9%)
Poverty status of children by family group and age (2000 census) <i>Note: The most economically vulnerable group is young children living with a single mother; with young children living with single fathers also struggling to a somewhat lesser degree, and children living with married couples being the least likely to fall below poverty.</i>	In 2000 there were 54,676 families with children under 18. Of these, 15,272 (27.9%) lived below poverty, falling into the categories shown below: Married couple families: 2,403 (8.4%) ☐ Under age 5: 822 (9.0%) ☐ Age 5: 127 (7.9%) ☐ Ages 6-17: 1,454 (8.2%) Single-mother families: 12,052 (52.8%) ☐ Under age 5: 3,527 (57.3%) ☐ Age 5: 641 (53.4%) ☐ Ages 6-17: 7,884 (51.0%) Single father families: 817 (23.8%) ☐ Under age 5: 334 (36.9%) ☐ Age 5: 50 (22.4%) ☐ Ages 6-17: 433 (18.8%)
Children living in high poverty neighborhoods (2000)	22,141 (39.3% of children under 18)
Infant mortality rates (2006)	11.1/1,000 5 year average of 11.2/1000
Low birth weight rates (2005)	2005: 420 (10.3%) 2006, 10.6%
Elevated lead levels (2004)	46 children of 2,708 tested (testing rate = 117/1000, as compared with state rate of 113/1000)
Children 5-15 with one or more disabilities	2,757 (8.2%)

READY FAMILIES

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA
Births to adolescent women (2005)	535 (36/1,000)

Births to women with less than a 12 th grade education (2004)	726 (18%) In 2005, this rate increased to 19%, while the statewide rate was 15%
Non-marital births (2006)	46% Virginia: 34%
Children 0-5 living with a single mother	5.5%
Parental work status (2000 census)	60.9% of the 11,256 families with children under six have all parents in the labor force.
Levels of educational attainment (2000)	Ages 18-24: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Teen high school dropouts: 1,549 (9.6%) □ No high school diploma: 6,314 (14.7 %) □ High school graduate/GED: 18,124 (42.3%) □ Some college, no degree: 15,540 (36.3%) □ Associate or BA degree: 2,707 (6.3%) Ages 25+: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Less than 9th grade: 7,840 (5.8%) □ 9th-12th, no diploma: 21,398 (15.8%) □ High school diploma/GED: 39,992 (29.6%) □ Some college, no degree: 32,907 (24.3%) □ Associate degree: 6,616 (4.9%) □ Bachelor's degree: 16,107 (11.9%) □ Graduate/professional degree: 10,398 (7.7%)
Language other than English spoken at home	8.9% (for children over 5 in 2000)
Substantiated cases of child abuse (2004/05)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ 261 substantiated reports □ 391 victims (6.5/1000) □ The rate increased to 7.5/1000 in 2006.
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	Significant increase from 11 in 2002 to 55 in 2006.
Children in foster care (2006)	4/1000 <i>The trend across several years has been 5/1000</i>
Grandparents responsible for grandchildren (2000)	2,825
Travel time to work	21.7 minutes
Living in same house in 1995 and 2000 (ages 5+)	42.7%
Home ownership rate (2006)	48%/monthly costs = \$1,335
Rental rate (2006)	52%/monthly costs = \$752

Also needed: Data on primary programs and services supporting parents with young children (parent education, home visitation, family support, literacy programs, recreation programs)

Norfolk data

READY SERVICES—EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA												
Availability in SHR in 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q 1,002 registered facilities q Capacity to serve 42,000 children q 52,000 children in families in which all parents work q Lowest percentage of programs serving infants and toddlers 												
Availability by duration of care in Norfolk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q 91% of programs offer full week care q 63% of programs offer year-round care q Low vacancy rate of 3% for the above; supply greater than demand for part-day programs 												
Child care capacity (2007)	24% (per 100 children, ages 0-12)												
Young children enrolled in school (2000 census)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q Preschool: 3,932 q Kindergarten: 3,532 												
Children in public pre-kindergarten (VPI) in 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q 1,488 of 3,327 4-year olds q <i>By 2007, 1,487 were served.</i> 												
Children in Head Start in SHR in 2004-05	1,501 (In 2008, 28% were from Norfolk.)												
Cost: of full-time child care in Norfolk <i>Note: all rates are significantly higher than state subsidy reimbursement rate.</i>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;"></th> <th style="text-align: center;">FCCH</th> <th style="text-align: center;">CENTERS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>q Infants:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$381/month</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$563/month</td> </tr> <tr> <td>q Preschoolers:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$338/month</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$415/month</td> </tr> <tr> <td>q School age:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$217/month</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$411/month</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		FCCH	CENTERS	q Infants:	\$381/month	\$563/month	q Preschoolers:	\$338/month	\$415/month	q School age:	\$217/month	\$411/month
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Children receiving child care subsidy (2004-2007)	2004: 3,944, with 30 children on waiting list 2005: 4,272; 2006: 3,989; 2007, 3,885												
Programs accepting subsidy <i>(74% of programs in SHR accepting subsidy had a waiting list)</i>	59% of Centers and Family Child Care Homes												
Education of Child Care Staff: (% with AA degree or higher)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q Center-based teachers: 41% q Center-based directors: 66% q Family Child Care Providers: 10% 												
Experience of Child Care Staff: (% with 5 or more years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q Center-based teachers: 33% q Center-based Directors: 49% q Family Child Care Providers: 58% 												
Annual turnover rate	34%												
Hourly Compensation of Child Care Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q Center based teachers: \$7.50 q Center-based directors: \$12.75 q Family Child Care Providers: \$2.51 												
Nationally accredited programs	4 centers; 1 FCCH												
Unlicensed child care programs	60.36% of child care programs operating in January, 2008 were unlicensed												

READY SCHOOLS

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA
Number of students enrolled in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q Public school: 39,281(87.7%) q Private school: 5,501 (12.3%)
Students with limited English proficiency (2000)	1.8%
Assessment of school readiness (2006, Kids Count)	19.2% identified as needing additional intervention
Standards of Learning, 3 rd grade (2006) <i>Note: All lower than state averages.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q English: 77% q Math: 87% q History: 93% q Science: 86%
K-3 grade retention rate (2006)	7.3% (Virginia: 2.5%)
Graduation/completion rate (2006)	43.1% (Virginia (76.8%)

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA
Students receiving special education	About 13% each year (Virginia: 13.1%)
Special education students under 6	2.1% Virginia: 3.0%
Students receiving free lunch in 2006	17,147 (46.31%)
Students receiving reduced lunch in 2006	4,192 (11.32%)

Additional data needed:

- q *Early intervention to children >3.*
- q *Class size in kindergarten*
- q *ECE to kindergarten transition activities*

READY SERVICES—FAMILY SUPPORT AND HEALTH

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA
Women receiving early prenatal care (2005)	3,414 (83.3%) 2006: 83.8% (Virginia: 83.5%)
Clients served by home visiting programs	1,274
Early Intervention (2004)	q < age 1: 16 q Age 1: 82 q Age 2: 126 <i>(About 2% of children under 3 are served)</i>
Eligible children enrolled in public health insurance (Medicaid and FAMIS, 2005)	q Medicaid: 20,643 q FAMIS: 2,552 q Remaining eligible not served: 3,372 (13%)
Food Stamps (2006)	31,375 individuals (About 14% of population, the 2000 census reported 19% of population below poverty)

Norfolk data

SOURCES FOR ABOVE DATA

- q US Census, 2000
- q Kids Count
- q Census, American Community Survey, 2005 and 2006
- q Virginia's "Indicators of School Readiness"
- q "Who's Caring for Our Children," Child Care Workforce Study in South Hampton Roads, 2005
- q Local interviews and focus groups

ISSUES/GAPS EMERGING FROM REVIEW OF NORFOLK DATA, INTERVIEWS AND FOCUS GROUPS

General observations:

- q Children ages 0-4 constitute 8% of the population—a significant proportion.
- q 60.9% of families that have children under six have both parents working and may need child care.
- q The highest rates of poverty are among children in single-mother families; however, over 25% of all children under 18 in Norfolk live below the poverty line.
- q With 39.3% of children living in high poverty neighborhoods, it may be effective and efficient to focus some efforts on those particular neighborhoods.
- q Given the fact that children of parents not completing high school are five times more likely to drop out of school than children of parents completing high school, Norfolk should continue working to entice back into education/training the 21.6% of adults over 25 without a high school diploma.

Visible assets on which to build include, but are not limited to...

- q There has been steady improvement on the PALS-K; however, the percentage of children needing additional intervention is still higher than statewide averages.
- q There has been steady and dramatic expansion in the number of children enrolled in VPI. (which may have contributed to the improved PALS-K assessments.) Continued expansion may be one strategy for addressing the concern mentioned above. In addition, placing such classes in community settings may also serve as a tool for improving quality in child care programs.
- q Rates for early prenatal care have steadily improved, reaching a level slightly higher than statewide averages.
- q Levels of enrollment in Medicaid and FAMIS have improved, but are still lower than state averages. A focused effort to expand such enrollment can also be linked to expanding the number of children with a medical home, on-time immunization rates, and screening for developmental and dental concerns.
- q Levels of lead testing have surpassed those across the state. *(Again, such testing could be linked with the efforts mentioned above.)*

Significant challenges include the following:

- q Norfolk has high rates of child poverty, as well as significant numbers of children living in high poverty neighborhoods. While these are troubling statistics, Norfolk may be able to mount highly targeted efforts in identified neighborhoods. In many of these neighborhoods there will be informal networks of respected individuals, with whom child advocates should form partnerships. In addition, there are innovative models of neighborhood service delivery, including providing technical assistance and mentoring support to family, friend and neighbor caregivers; ensuring the availability of Even Start and/or Early Start in such neighborhoods; and partnering with neighborhood churches to reach young children and their families.
- q In spite of the high rates of early prenatal care, there are a number of concerns related to birth outcomes, as shown below. Given the complexity of factors contributing to birth outcomes, the formation of an Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition could be beneficial in exploring and targeting a variety of issues related to these concerns. The birth indicators of concern include
 - o Low birthweight babies
 - o Infant mortality rates
 - o Births to teens
 - o Non-marital births
 - o Births to mothers with less than 12th grade education
- q Although proficiency rates on 3rd grade Standards of Learning have improved, they are still lower than state averages on all areas except History. Likewise, graduation/completion rates are significantly lower than statewide averages and significant numbers of adults without a high school diploma.
- q Child care quality is an issue, with high turnover rates among child care staff; and, among Family Child Care Home providers, particularly low rates of education and compensation.
- q Abuse/neglect rates exceed state average, and there are increasing numbers of juveniles arrest for violent crime.

Specific comments related to gaps/issues:

- q Availability of child care and early education:
 - o The number of spaces for full-day, full year early care and education in SHR is insufficient for the demand. The most pressing need is to expand the availability of infant/toddler child care.

- Registered child care capacity in Norfolk was 24% per 100 children, ages 0-12, in 2007.
 - Focus groups indicate a need for child care for teen parents, in order to encourage these moms to remain in school.
 - There is a waiting list for VPI. There should be an exploration into ways both to expand the number of children receiving public pre-K and to offer such classes in child care settings, using this as a vehicle to further improve quality.
 - If there is no Early Head Start program serving the Norfolk area, there should be an application to the Federal government to offer such services.
- q Cost of child care:
- The cost of child care in Norfolk significantly exceeds the subsidy reimbursement rate offered by the state, and is burdensome for most private-pay parents. Perhaps one result of this fact is that only 59% of child care programs in Norfolk accept child care subsidy in payment for their services. Therefore, it will be important to
 - § First, create a local fund to supplement the subsidy reimbursement rate and entice additional providers to accept subsidy, thus increasing access to care (and hopefully, higher quality care.)
 - § Advocate with the state to increase subsidy reimbursement rates and to require a higher level of quality for children receiving child care subsidies, in order to avoid having children already disadvantaged by low income become further disadvantaged by poor quality child care.
 - In 2004, there were 30 children on a waiting list for child care subsidy. A task force should explore ways to reduce the number of children/families waiting for child care subsidies, as well as to identify/address the difficulties faced by low-income working families not qualifying for child care subsidies, but for whom child care costs are prohibitive.
- q Quality of care:
- A minority of child care teachers and family child care providers have Associates Degrees or higher.
 - Less than half of child care providers have more than 5 years experience.
 - The annual turnover rate of child care staff in Norfolk is 34%.
 - Compensation for those working in child care is low, particularly for family child care providers.
 - There are only 4 accredited early childhood education programs in Norfolk. An effort providing technical assistance and incentives for programs to pursue either accreditation and/or to participate in a pilot Quality Rating Improvement System would be important.
 - *All of the above facts underscore the importance of developing incentives and support designed to increase both the educational levels and compensation rates of those providing early care and education.*
- q School readiness:
- In 2003, 22.7% of students entering kindergarten in Norfolk were assessed as needing additional intervention. By 2006, that number had dropped to 19.2%, which is a genuine sign of progress. If there are not already focused efforts to both reduce that number (by identifying/serving children at ages 3 and 4 most likely to fall in that group) and to provide remediation to any arriving at school poorly prepared, a task group should bring recommendations for such approaches.
 - While the promotion rate in grades K-3 has risen in Norfolk in recent years, slightly over 7% of students are still retained during those years—a significant cost to the state, and troubling in terms of student progress.
 - Graduation rates are significantly lower than those across the state.
 - 23% of students were less than proficient in English/Reading at 3rd grade-- students are falling behind in the essential skills of language use.
- q Family support:
- Given the correlation between a mother's educational level and a child's educational success, the fact that 726 babies in 2004 were born to women with less than high school diplomas should be a focus of efforts. Could these women be targeted at the time of birth and offered a route to return to school?
 - What services are needed to support the 2,825 grandparents responsible for their grandchildren?
 - Housing costs are high in Norfolk (\$1,335/month per unit with mortgage and \$752 gross rent—with 20,927 renters expending \geq 30% of their household income on rent.) About 52% of the population rents their homes. This may also contribute to the fact that over 40% of the population moved between 1995 and 2000. Does Norfolk have a strong IDA program or something similar to support increased home ownership?

- Even without data available on the extent of parenting support services in the area, it would be advisable for a task force to explore ways to provide effective and on-going information and support to parents, as a way of ensuring both effective parenting skills, knowledge of child development, and understanding of available services in the community.
- q Health:
 - Only 83.3% of pregnant women receive early prenatal care. How might this rate be increased?
 - There are significant numbers of births to adolescents, which provides two challenges:
 - § How might that birth rate be decreased?
 - § How can high quality care be provided to these infants, simultaneously allowing these teens to remain in school and offering a nurturing start in life to their infants? (In other words, what is a comprehensive approach to serving this population?)
 - The low birth weight of babies in Norfolk is higher than the rate in the state. Likewise, infant mortality rates in Norfolk were also significantly higher than those in the state. Factors contributing to these statistics should be explored and addressed.
 - Only about 2% of children under 3 were served with early intervention, while in the 5-15 age group, 8.2% of children had one or more disabilities. These facts would support efforts to expand the availability of such services.
 - 3,372 children eligible for either Medicaid or FAMIS are not yet enrolled in either—and health providers note that children without insurance do not receive the services they need.
 - It appears that less than those eligible receive food stamps.