

**SNAPSHOT OF STATUS OF YOUNG CHILDREN
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA
Population, 2006 = 435,619**

READY CHILDREN

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA
Number of children by age (Census, 2006) <i>Trends show that there has been a numerical decline in children 5-9 and 10-14 between 200-2005, with increases in the number of children 0-4.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ 0-4 = 31,601 (7.5% of population) ☐ 5-9 = 31,856 (7.3%) ☐ 10-14 = 30,299 (7.0%) ☐ 15-19 = 31,196 (7.2%)
General population, by race (Census, 2005) <i>Trends also indicate that there has been a numerical decline in children 0-17 among every ethnic group other than Hispanic during the period from 2001-2005, but little change in the proportionate distribution among the races, other than an increase among children of Hispanic origin. *Note: Hispanic may be any race and are included in other races, as well as shown separately.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ White: 302,603 (70.2%) ☐ African-American: 81,841 (19.0%) ☐ Native American: 1236 (0.3%) ☐ Asian: 22,760 (5.3%) ☐ Hawaiian/PI: 807 (0.2%) ☐ Other: 6,110 (1.4%) ☐ 2+ races: 15,499 (2.7%) ☐ Hispanic*: 20,803 (4.8%)
Poverty status of children (2000 census) <i>Poverty rates for children 0-17 are lower than statewide averages. Those rates tend to be higher among the youngest children and the ages when youngsters may begin dropping out of school.</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">Below poverty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Under 5: 2,762 (9.2%) ☐ Age 5: 690 (11.4 %) ☐ Ages 6-11: 3,634 (8.9%) ☐ Ages 12-14: 1,597 (8.1%) ☐ Age 15: 472 (8.0%) ☐ Ages 16-17: 1,149 (9.1%)
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>	<p>In 2000 there were 114,516 families with children under 18 in Virginia Beach. Of these, 9,814 (8.6%) lived below poverty, falling in the groups shown below:</p> <p>Married couple families: 2,705 (3.1%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Under age 5: 862 (3.7 %) ☐ Age 5: 173 (3.8%) ☐ Ages 6-17: 1,670 (2.9%) <p>Single-mother families: 6,514 (28.8%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Under age 5: 1,679 (35.2%) ☐ Age 5: 509 (41.3%) ☐ Ages 6-17: 4,326 (26.1%) <p>Single father families: 595 (10.0%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Under age 5: 221 (13.3%) ☐ Age 5: 3 (3.3%) ☐ Ages 6-17: 366 (9.1%)
Children living in high poverty neighborhoods (2000)	2,638 (2.3% of children under 18)
Infant mortality rates (2005 and 2006)	<p>2005: 7.8/1,000</p> <p>2006: 10.4</p> <p>The 5-year average was 7.4/1000.</p>
Low birth weight rates (2005 and 2006)	<p>2005: 539 (8.4%) (as compared with state's 8.4%)</p> <p>2006: 8.4% (Virginia = 8.3%)</p>
Elevated lead levels (2004)	<p>5 children of 1,341 tested</p> <p>(testing rate = 35/1000; VA 113/1000)</p> <p>2005: 56/1000 tested, with 0.4% elevated</p>
Children 5-15 with one or more disabilities	5,224 (7.1%)

Virginia Beach data

READY FAMILIES

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA
Births to adolescent women (2005)	462 (14.6/1,000 of births) (12/1000 per teen girls)
Births to women with less than a 12 th grade education (2005)	519 (8%) Virginia: 15%

Non-marital births (2006)	31% (Virginia = 34%)
Children 0-5 living with a single mother (2006)	2.7% (Virginia = 2.6%)
Parental work status (2000 census)	Among parents of children under 6, families in which all parents are in the labor force: 21,689 (61.9%).
Levels of educational attainment (2000) <i>Trends show that graduation rates in Virginia Beach were at 68.9% in 2004, improved to 71.7% in 2005, and dropped to 70.0% in 2006, with these rates being lower than statewide averages each year.</i>	<p>Ages 18-24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Teen high school dropouts: 1,660 (7.1%) □ No high school diploma: 7,435 (17.7%) □ High school diploma/GED: 15,695 (37.3%) □ Some college, no degree: 14,049 (33.4%) □ Associate or BA degree: 4,693 (11.2%) <p>Ages 25+:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Less than 9th grade: 6,517 (2.4%) □ 9th-12th, no diploma: 18,948 (7.1%) □ High school diploma/GED: 69,154 (25.9%) □ Some college, no degree: 76,979 (28.9%) □ Associate degree: 20,080 (7.5%) □ Bachelor's degree: 51,162 (19.2%) □ Graduate/professional degree: 23,787 (8.9%)
Language other than English spoken at home	10.3% (for children over 5 in 2000)
Cases of child abuse (2004/05) <i>Note: these rates have increased steadily and are more than double the state rates.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ 750 substantiated reports □ 1,182 victims (10/1000— as compared with state rate of 3.9) □ In 2006, the rate dropped slightly to 8.4/1000 (Virginia = 4.0/1000)
Juvenile arrests for violent crime	Steady increases from 48 in 2002 to 152 in 2006
Children in foster care (1/1/06)	113 (3.0/1000)
Grandparents responsible for grandchildren (2000)	3,603
Travel time to work	23.9 minutes
Living in same house in 1995 and 2000 (ages 5+)	45.8%
Home ownership rate (2006)	70%/monthly costs = \$1,518
Rental rate (2006)	30%/monthly costs = \$1,017

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

Virginia Beach 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 Virginia Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q 97% of programs offer full week care q 67% of programs offer year-round care q Low vacancy rate of 3% for the above; supply greater than demand for part-day programs
Capacity of regulated child care (per 100 students, ages 0-12)	<p style="text-align: center;">2005: 27% 2007: 23% (Virginia = 26%).</p>
Young children enrolled in school (2000 census)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q Preschool: 8,177 q Kindergarten: 6,627
Children in public pre-kindergarten (VPI) in 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q 704 of 6,534 4-year olds q 502 unfilled slots; 146 on wait list
Children in Head Start in SHR in 2004-05	1,501(In 2008 18% were from Virginia Beach.)
Cost: of full-time child care in Virginia Beach <i>Note: all rates are significantly higher than state subsidy reimbursement rate.</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">FCCH CENTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> q Infants: \$433/month \$563/month q Preschoolers: \$397/month \$464/month q School age: \$281/month \$445/month
Children receiving subsidy (2004-2007)	2004: 3,039, with 918 children on waiting list 2005: 3,264; 2006: 2,772; 2007: 2,626
Programs accepting subsidy <i>(74% of programs in SHR accepting subsidy had a waiting list)</i>	41% of Centers and 43% of Family Child Care Homes
Education of Child Care Staff: (% with AA degree or higher)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q Center-based teachers: 40% q Center-based directors: 82% q Family Child Care Providers: 25%
Experience of Child Care Staff: (% with 5 or more years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q Center-based teachers: 38% q Center-based Directors: 48% q Family Child Care Providers: 69%
Annual turnover rate	32%
Hourly Compensation of Child Care Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q Center based teachers: \$8.32 q Center-based directors: \$14.00 q Family Child Care Providers: \$7.29
Nationally accredited programs	8 centers and 5 FCC Homes
Unlicensed child care programs	33.57% of child care programs were unlicensed (Virginia = 31.63%)

Virginia Beach data

READY SCHOOLS

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA
Number of students enrolled in school, ages 3-grade 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Public school: 82,354 (86.6%) □ Private school: 12,786 (13.4%)
Students with limited English proficiency	2.4%
Students receiving Special Education services	About 12% each year
Assessment of school readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ 2004: 19.8% identified as needing additional intervention □ 2005: 18.6% □ 2006: 13.8%
Promotion rates, K-3	Steady improvement from 96.9% in 2003 to 98.0% in 2006
Standards of Learning, 3 rd grade Proficiency (2006) <i>Note: All above state averages.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ English: 88 □ Math: 91 □ History: 93 □ Science: 93
K-3 retention rate (2006)	2.0 % (Virginia =2.5%)
Graduation/completion rates (2006)	70.0%, as compared to statewide average of 76.8%
Students receiving free lunch in 2006	15,087 (20.59%)
Students receiving reduced lunch in 2006	7,473 (10.2%)

Additional data needed:

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

READY SERVICES – HEALTH

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA
Women receiving early prenatal care (2005 and 2006)	2005: 5,673 (88.9%) 2006: 88.4% (Virginia = 83.5%)
Clients served by home visiting programs (2008)	876
Early Intervention (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ < age 1: 33 □ Age 1: 89 □ Age 2: 109 <i>(About 1% of children under 3 are served)</i>
Eligible children enrolled in public health insurance, 2005(Medicaid and FAMIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Medicaid: 13,493 □ FAMIS: 3,658 □ Remaining eligible not served: 4,126 (19%) (Virginia's rate = 98%)
Food Stamps (2006)	16,382 individuals (About 3.8% of population, while the 2000 census reported 6.8% of population below poverty)

SOURCES FOR ABOVE DATA

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

Virginia Beach data

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

General observations:

- q Children ages 0-4 constitute 7.5% of the population—a significant proportion higher than any other age group up to age 19.
- q 61.9% 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, this group clearly has difficulty making ends meet. *Note: living expenses are high in Virginia Beach, and child care expenses are generally higher here than in other cities in the area, making it particularly difficult for low-income working families.*
- 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, Virginia Beach should continue working to entice back into education/training the 9.5% of adults over 25 without a high school diploma, particularly those women with less than a 12th grade education who give birth (8% of births in 2003-2005.)
- q According to the 2000 census over 10% of children in Virginia Beach lived in homes where languages other than English were spoken at home.
- q Focus group participants expressed awareness that there is a general lack of understanding among both parent and providers as to the importance of “play time” for young children.

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

- q The rates of students needing additional intervention before school (as measured on the PALS-K) are much lower than statewide averages.
- q Virginia Beach has SOL proficiency rates higher than state averages and other cities in area.
- q Indicators related to birth outcomes are more favorable than among other cities in the area, including:
 - o High rates of prenatal care
 - o Low rates of teen births
 - o Low rates of births to mothers with less than 12th grade education
 - o Rates for infant mortality and low birthweight babies (equivalent to state averages)
- q Child poverty rates are lower than state averages, and the per capita income is equivalent to state averages.
- q 90% of population has a high school diploma or higher.
- q There are 12 nationally accredited child care programs in VA Beach—perhaps these programs could be given incentives to mentor other programs in seeking accreditation or other measures of improving quality.
- q There are higher rates of compensation for child care providers than other cities in region.
- q Virginia Beach has a greater percentage than other cities in region of degreed center-based teachers and directors, as well as teachers and FCCH providers with 5 or more years of experience

Significant challenges include the following:

- q The number of children served by VPI has remained flat across the years.
- q The percentage of eligible children enrolled in Medicaid or FAMIS is lower than state averages, as is the percentage of children tested for lead. Efforts to improve both of these could be joined, and might also include such additions as developmental and dental assessments, enrollments of children in medical homes, and immunizations offered to those not up-to-date.
- q Rates of substantiated cases of child abuse/neglect are significantly higher than state averages. Factors contributing to this should be explored and address.
- q Virginia Beach has seen increasing numbers of juveniles arrested for violent crimes.
- q The cost of housing is very high.
- q In spite of the positive child care indicators cited above, Virginia Beach experiences a high turnover rate among child care providers, which reduces consistency of care.

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.
 - o The capacity of regulated child care capacity per children ages 0-12 has risen slightly, but only to 27%, considerably lower than the 61.9% of young children with both parents in the labor force.

- 464 adolescents gave birth in 2005. Focus groups indicate a need for child care for teen parents, in order to encourage these moms to remain in school.
 - In 2003-2007 the VPI program served 704 children each year in Virginia Beach; however, there in FY 2006 there were 502 unfilled slots and 146 on the waiting list. There should be an exploration to explore 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 Virginia Beach area, there should be an application to the Federal government to offer such services.
 - Child care providers expressed their sense of being overwhelmed by the regulations and requirements associated with licensing, feeling that having a mentor would be helpful in increasing their understanding and coping ability. Some felt that it might be helpful to reinstate the Early Childhood Teachers Association.
- q Cost of child care:
- Focus group members expressed the strong conviction that the cost of child care, particularly for infants, is prohibitive for families.
 - The cost of child care in Virginia Beach significantly exceeds the reimbursement rate offered by the state, and is burdensome for most private-pay parents. Perhaps one result of this fact is that only 43% of Family Child Care Homes and 41% of Centers in Virginia Beach 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 be further disadvantaged by poor quality child care.
 - In 2004, there were 918 children on a waiting list for child care subsidy, and the number being served had actually dropped by 2006. 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.
 - Participants in focus groups felt that there were a need for both drop-in and weekend child care.
- q Quality of care:
- Focus group participants felt that parents do not know how to look for quality and/or are frustrated by the fact that quality is either too expensive or not available.
 - Only 40% of child care teachers and 25% of Family Child Care Providers have Associates degrees or higher. Given the research that finds a correlation between the educational levels of providers and outcomes for the children they serve, there should be incentives and supports to encourage providers to continue their education.
 - Only 38% of center-based teachers and 48% of Directors in child care programs have more than 5 years experience. Factors contributing to this fact should be identified and addressed.
 - The annual turnover rate of child care staff in Virginia Beach is 32%--a matter of grave concern in terms of consistency of care for children.
 - Compensation for those working in child care is low, especially as compared with costs of living in Virginia Beach.
 - There are only 8 accredited early childhood education programs in Virginia Beach, which is much greater than other cities in the region, but still a relatively small percentage of programs. An effort providing technical assistance and incentives for programs to pursue either accreditation and/or to participate in a pilot Quality Improvement Rating 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:
- Focus group participants felt there was a need for increased partnership between early childhood programs and the school system, with early childhood programs using effective curriculum materials that aligned well with kindergarten, and with shared professional development opportunities, including an annual school readiness conference.
 - In 2003, 19.8% of students entering kindergarten in Virginia Beach were assessed as needing additional intervention; by 2006, that rate had improved, with only 13.8%

needed additional intervention. It is interesting to note that promotion rates in grades K-3 also improved during those years, underscoring the importance of identifying/serving children at ages 3 and 4 and providing remediation to any arriving at school poorly prepared.

- While SOL proficiency rates were higher in Virginia Beach than in the state and had improved every year between 2003 and 2006, there were still 12% of students less than proficient in English/Reading at 3rd grade-- falling behind in the essential skills of language use. It will be important both to identify and assist young children likely to fall in this group and to provide additional remediation to those students falling behind prior to 3rd grade.
- q Family support:
 - The rates of substantiated child abuse have risen steadily between 2002 and 2006 and were significantly higher in Virginia Beach than in the state. Efforts should be increased to identify and serve families at risk for possible abuse; and a task force should explore factors in the city that may contribute to increased stress, isolation, or other contributors to such abuse.
 - It is also important to note that there has been a steady increase in the number of juveniles arrested for violent crime, from 48 in 2002 to 78, 83, and 103 in subsequent years.
 - Given the correlation between a mother's education and a child's educational success, the fact that 519 babies in 2004 were born to women with less than high school (with the rate remaining steady at 8% in 2003-2005) 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 3,603 grandparents responsible for their grandchildren?
 - Housing costs are high in Virginia Beach (\$1,518/month per unit with mortgage and \$1,017 gross rent—with 23,491 renters expending \geq 30% of their household income on rent.) Focus group participants also felt that there was an insufficient supply of base housing. These facts may also contribute to the fact that 45.8% of the population moved between 1995 and 2000. Does Virginia Beach have a strong IDA program or something similar to support increased home ownership?
 - A total of 876 clients receive home visiting services in Virginia Beach. Participants expressed their appreciation for these services, in spite of some high turnover among workers. However, there was a sense that these services need to be "normalized," as some families view them as an extension of protective services, or a sign of family problems. Even without complete 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.
 - Fathers expressed a desire for "just as much support" as mothers receive.
- q Health:
 - Only 88.9% of women received early prenatal care in 2005. How might this rate be increased?
 - The rate of births to teens has dropped, but remains lower than the statewide average. Nonetheless, 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 Virginia Beach is equivalent to the rate in the state and has actually risen since 2002. Factors contributing to this should be explored and addressed.
 - Only about 1% of children under 3 were served with early intervention, while in the 5-15 age group, 7.1% of children had one or more disabilities. These facts would support efforts to expand the availability of such services.
 - While the testing rate for lead levels has increased steadily in Virginia Beach, it remains less than half the rate for the state. Attention should be given to expanding such testing.
 - 4,126 (19%) 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.

