

Nationwide:

- ▲ Forty-four (44) percent of children under age 6 live in poor or low-income families – a total of 16.6 million children. Forty-one (41) percent of children under age 18 live in poor or low-income families – a total of nearly 44 million. More than half of these children have at least one parent employed full-time, year-round.ⁱ
- ▲ Between 2000 and 2008, the number of children under age 18 living in poverty (i.e., in poor vs. low-income families) increased by 15%; the number of children under age 6 living in poverty increased by 30%.ⁱⁱ
- ▲ One in 5 children/adolescents has a diagnosable mental health disorder, and 67-70% of children in the juvenile justice system have diagnosable mental health disorders; however, most (70%) do not receive treatment for these problems.ⁱⁱⁱ
- ▲ 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.^{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 2008, 14% of births were to mothers with less than a 12th-grade education;
 - In 2008, 13.4% percent of children lived in poverty;
 - In 2008, there were more than 6,000 founded cases of child abuse and neglect; and
 - In 2006-07, 10% 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 2008, there were 4.2 founded cases of child abuse or neglect per 1,000 children (approximately 190 cases).^{viii}
- ▲ In 2008:^{ix}
 - the live birth rate to teenage mothers was 42 per 1,000;
 - 64% of live births were to single mothers; and
 - 26% of live births were to mothers with less than a 12th-grade education.
- ▲ In 2009, the on-time high-school graduation rate was 68.7%.^x
- ▲ Thirty-six (36) percent of children (ages 0-17) were living at or below the poverty level in 2008.^{xi}
- ▲ Seventy-five (75) percent of school-age children were approved for free or reduced-price lunches in 2009.^{xii}

ChildSavers-Memorial Child Guidance Clinic:

- ▲ Since the program's inception in November 2004, our Trauma Response program has helped more than 1,900 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. For many children, these meals and snacks are the most nutritious they receive.
- ▲ 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 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.^{xvii}

ⁱ “Basic Facts About Low-Income Children: Children Under Age 6 ” and “Basic Facts About Low-Income Children: Under Age 18,” November 2009. Fact sheets available for downloading at the National Center for Children in Poverty website, http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_896.html and http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_892.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*; 22% of children under age 6, and 18% of children under age 19, live in poor families. The federal poverty level in 2009 for a family of four was \$22,050.

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.

^{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 64.8 percent (378,574 out of 584,106) 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: 2006-2008” (Data Set: 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates) at http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=04000US51&-qr_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_DP3YR3&-ds_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_&-lang=en&-sse=on.

^{vi} Data derived from the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s KIDS COUNT Data Center, statewide data profile, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/StateLanding.aspx?state=VA>.

^{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=Grantee&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