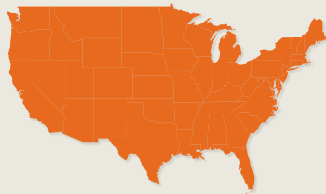




2018 VIRGINIA PROFILE

TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

The transition from adolescence to adulthood is a pivotal developmental stage as young people learn the skills needed to be healthy and productive adults. This process can be complicated for youth with foster care experience. Here's what we know about the experiences of these youth in Virginia.



171,162 or 25%

of United States' foster care population is ages 14+



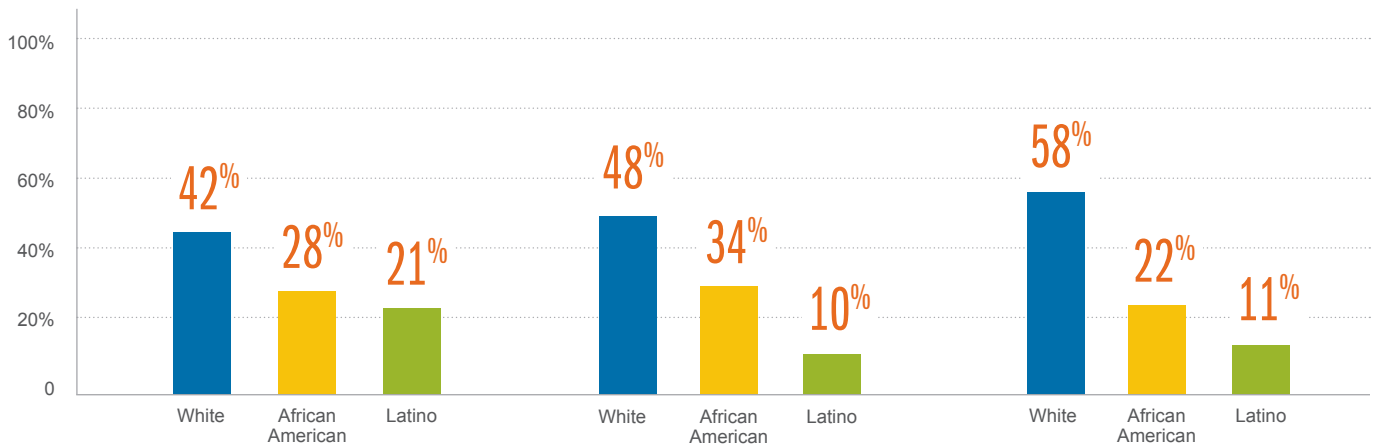
2,704 or 35%

of Virginia's foster care population is ages 14+

United States Foster Care Population

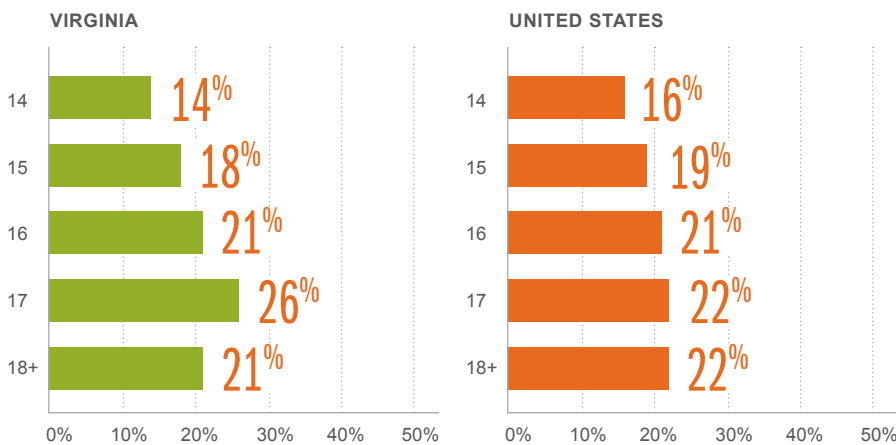
Virginia Foster Care Population

Virginia General Population

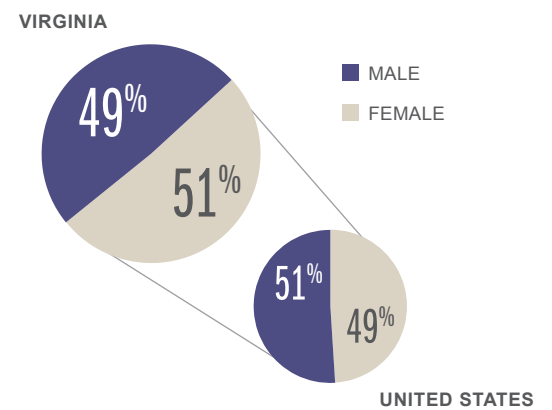


Above charts are based on the three largest racial and ethnic groups in this state for foster care. For additional data, please visit the KIDS COUNT Data Center, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>.

Youth in Foster Care by Age



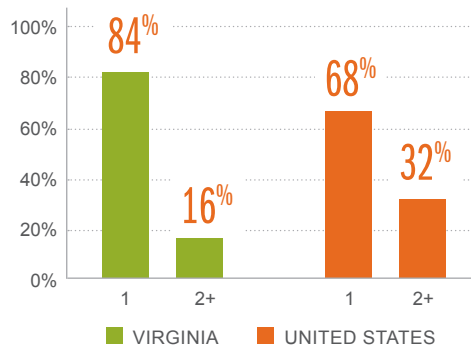
Youth in Foster Care by Sex*



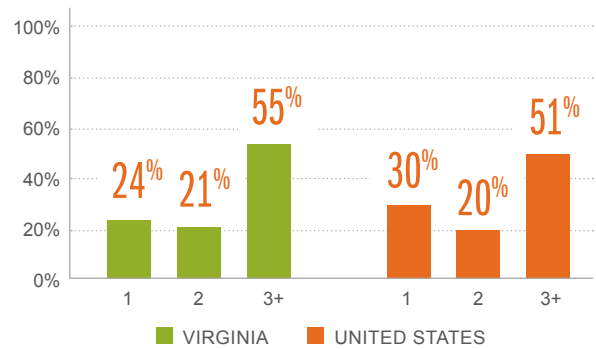
* Sex is based on gender at birth.

In addition to the trauma of abuse or neglect that resulted in being removed from their homes and placed in the foster care system, experiences while in foster care — including frequent moves — can lead to worse outcomes for youth. Looking at these indicators helps us understand how youth with foster care experience in Virginia are faring and provides insight into the changes needed to improve the lives of these young people.

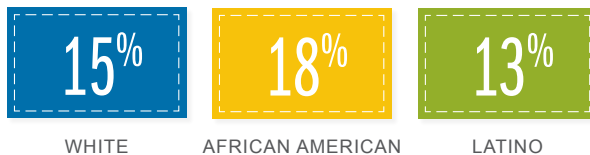
Episodes in the Foster Care System



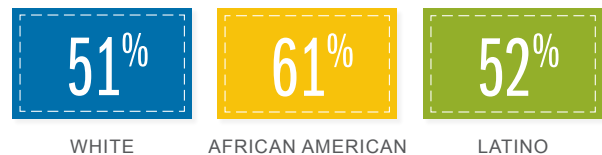
Number of Placements During Most Recent Foster Care Episode



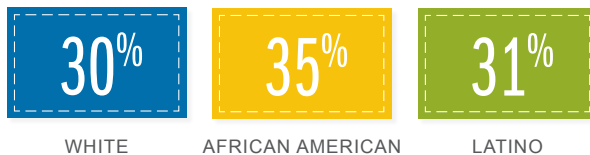
VIRGINIA 2+ Foster Care Episodes



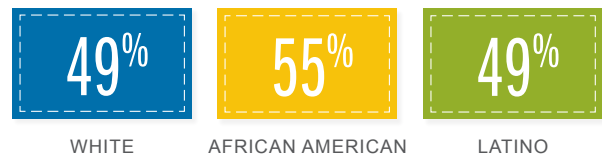
VIRGINIA 3+ Foster Care Placements



UNITED STATES 2+ Foster Care Episodes



UNITED STATES 3+ Foster Care Placements



The percentage of young people in each racial and ethnic group who have experienced multiple foster care episodes and placements.

Time in Foster Care by Exit Outcome or Type

| | VIRGINIA | UNITED STATES |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|
| PERMANENCY | 16 months | 13 months |
| EMANCIPATION | 24 months | 34 months |
| OTHER | 16 months | 17 months |

Placement Type

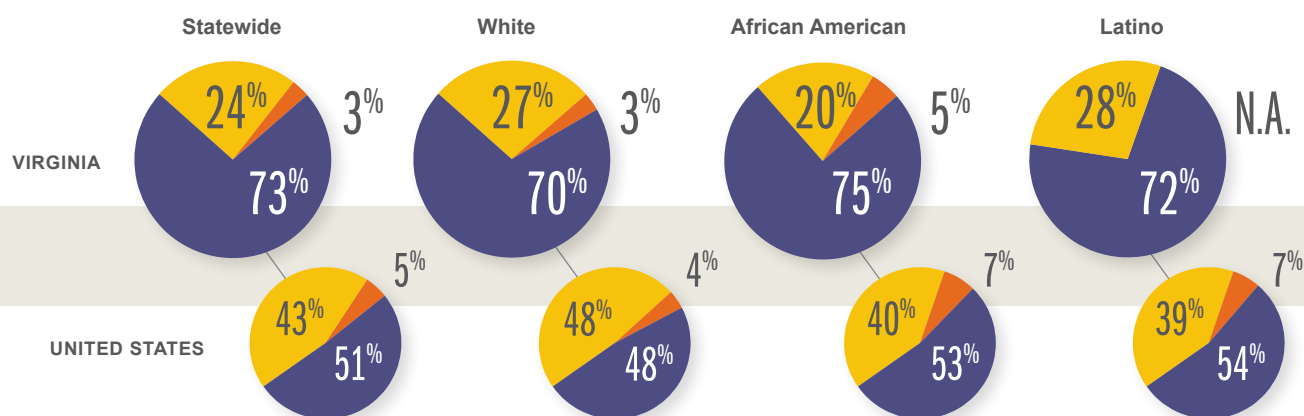
■ VIRGINIA ■ UNITED STATES



Reasons for Leaving Foster Care

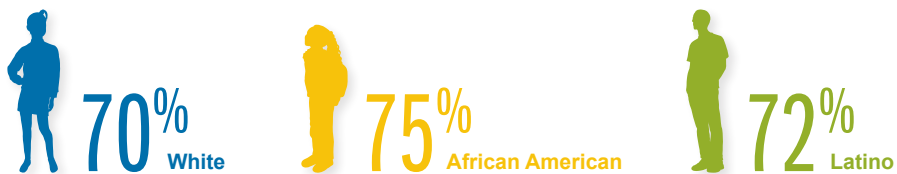
Lingering in foster care, experiencing unstable placement settings while in foster care and leaving foster care without a permanent, legal connection to family are important indicators of how youth in Virginia are faring.

■ PERMANENCE ■ EMANCIPATION/ AGE-OUT (NON-PERMANENCY) ■ OTHER



Due to rounding some charts may not equal 100%

Percentage of Youth Who Emancipated by Race – Virginia



Number of Young People in Care on Their 18th and 19th Birthdays

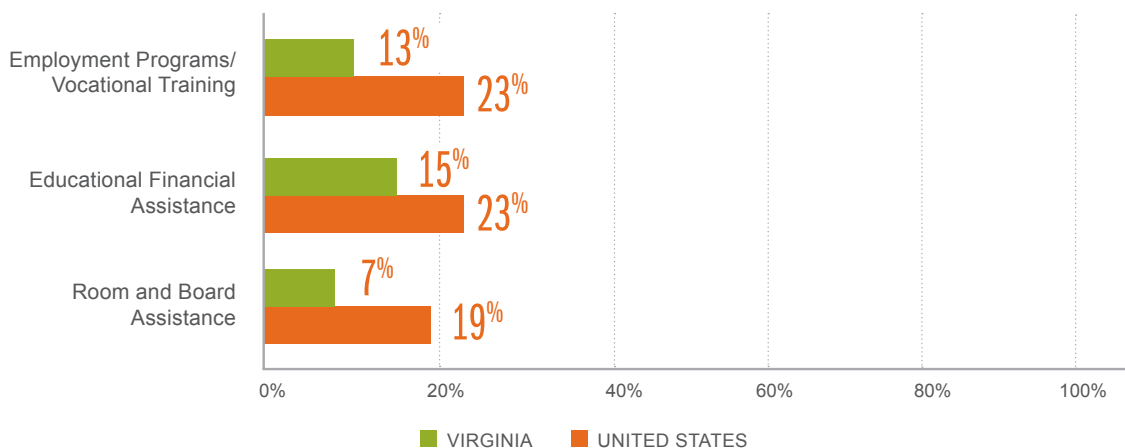
| | 18TH | 19TH |  | 18TH | 19TH | |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|---|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| VIRGINIA | 489 | 15 | | UNITED STATES | 24,797 | 6,489 |

Percentage Still in Care on Their 19th Birthday

| | WHITE | AFRICAN AMERICAN | LATINO |  | WHITE | AFRICAN AMERICAN | LATINO | |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|---|----------------------|------------------|------------|------------|
| VIRGINIA | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | | UNITED STATES | 17% | 29% | 37% |

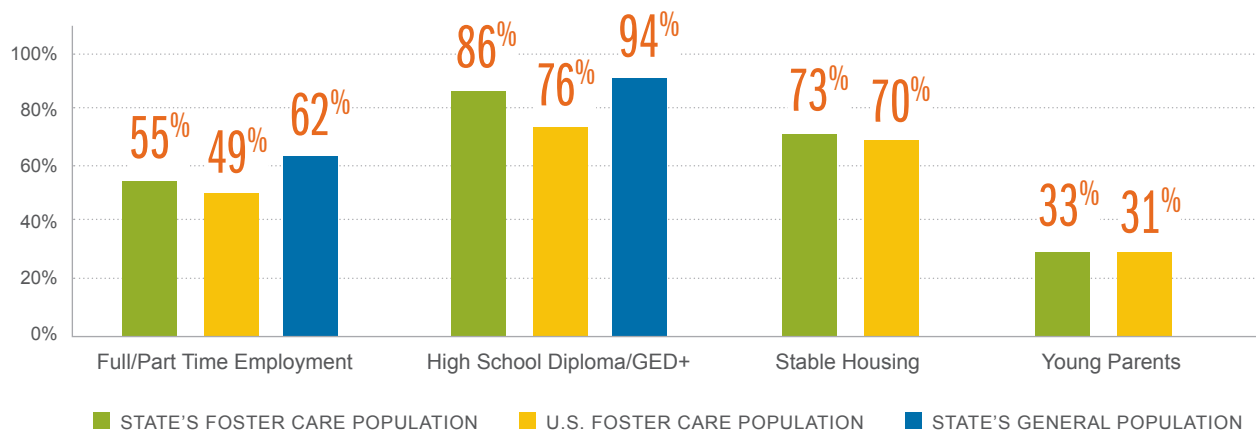
Services

Transition services, such as vocational training and housing assistance, are designed to help young people with foster care experience transition to adulthood. Participation in federally funded transition services provides a window into how well young people are being equipped for employment, education and housing.



Young Adult Outcomes by Age 21

Research shows that young adults who experienced foster care have worse outcomes than their peers in the general population across a variety of spectrums — from education to employment to housing to early parenthood. Examining data on these outcomes in Virginia is important as we strive to improve the practices, programs and policies that help ensure these young people have the relationships, resources and opportunities they need for well-being and success.



FOSTERING FUTURE S

A guide for professionals who work with youth currently or formerly in foster care

WHAT IS FOSTERING FUTURE S?

Fostering Futures is a foster care program available to youth in foster care after age 18. This voluntary program enables the youth's local department of social services (LDSS) to provide financial assistance, support and services to youth until they turn 21 years old, to help them successfully transition to independence.

YOUTH MAY BE ELIGIBLE:

If, on or after July 1, 2016, the youth:

- › Turned 18 in foster care and has not yet turned 21, they are eligible
- › Turned 18 while under supervision or in the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) but had been in foster care when they entered, they are eligible upon release (between the ages of 18-21)

FUNDS CAN BE USED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- › Room and board at vocational school/college, or
- › Foster home maintenance payments (if the youth is remaining in their foster home, the Department may continue to make payments to the foster parents just as they had been doing before the youth turned 18), or
- › Payment or rent for an independent living arrangement, as agreed upon in their plan;
- › Assistance with the costs of vocational training, college tuition, work uniforms, tools, computers, books, and related items;
 - › Groceries, transportation, and clothing;
 - › Child care, case management, and other supports, as needed, to help the youth be successful;



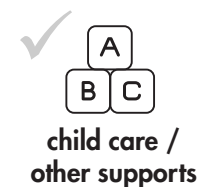
housing support



education / job training



independent living needs



child care / other supports



WHAT IF THE YOUTH CHANGES THEIR MIND?

- › If they did not want to apply near their 18th birthday and later want to, they are eligible to any time before they turn 21
- › If they participated at some point but have exited the program, they may apply for re-entry any time before they turn 21
- › If they are in the program and decide it is not for them, they may leave at any time

YOUTH EXPECTATIONS

- › Commitment to go to school, vocational training, or work in order to maintain eligibility, unless a medical condition prevents participation at any such time
- › Willingness to continue to work with their foster care worker
- › Participation in the development of a transition plan and efforts to achieve their goals
- › Completion of the Voluntary Continuing Services and Support Agreement (VCSSA)
- › Attendance at court hearing(s), administrative review(s), and case planning meetings

HOW DO YOUTH APPLY TO FOSTERING FUTURES?

- › Youth may apply for fostering futures anytime between 18 and 21 years of age
- › Before turning 18, youth should talk with their foster care worker and create a transition plan which can include Fostering Futures
- › If the youth is between the ages of 18 and 21 and they have left foster care, they should contact their LDSS (where they were in care) and speak with their former worker or another agency representative about Fostering Futures

YOUTH CHOICE, YOUTH VOICE

- › Youth have the right to say what will happen to them. Participation in the Fostering Futures program is completely voluntary and depends upon the youth's agreement and commitment. As an adult, they have the right to make decisions on their own.
- › The youth's plan should reflect their input on personal goals, strengths, interests, and needs. Their planning team should include their support system and the professionals who are key to their success.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- › Be a part of the youth's planning team
- › Advocate for them as your role allows
- › Continue to support the youth and stay connected whether or not they choose Fostering Futures right now
- › Encourage, empower, and empathize



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

DFS Division of
Family Services

FosterMyFuture.com

Youth who leave foster care through adoption or KinGAP between the ages of 16 and 18 may also be eligible for some extended services and assistance. Please contact the youth's local Department of Social Services for more information. The Fostering Futures Guidance Manual is available on our website: www.dss.virginia.gov

