



Virginia Department of Health

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What VDH Programs Serve Foster Youth?

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs (CYSHCN) Program serves all children, including foster care children, with the following programs working in partnership with eligible families, service providers and communities:

- Care Connection for Children
- Child Development Services
- Virginia Bleeding Disorders Program
- Genetics and Newborn Screening Services
- Virginia Sickle Cell Awareness Program
- Pediatric Comprehensive Sickle Cell Clinic Network

Reproductive Health Team Programs:

- Positive Youth Development Programs (Sexual Risk Avoidance Grant)
- Pregnancy Support/Home Visiting Programs (Resource Mothers)
- Virginia LARC Initiative (TANF grant)
- Family Planning Program (Title X Grant)

Home Visiting Prenatal and Postnatal support to at risk mothers to ensure healthy birth outcomes, positive development and prevention of child abuse and neglect through the following programs:

- 34 Healthy Families sites
- 11 Parents As Teachers sites
- 3 Nurse Family Partnerships sites
- 3 Healthy Start Loving Steps sites

FACTS ABOUT VIRGINIA YOUTH

Of the 103,073 infants born in VA in 2015:

- 9.2% were preterm births
- 7.7% were low birth weight infants
- 3.1% had late/no prenatal care
- 6.1% had a mother who smoked during pregnancy

There were 605 infant deaths in 2015

There were 6,141 teen pregnancies in 2015 (aged 15-19)

Contact Information

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Overview of VDH Programs and Services that Impact Foster Care Youth

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- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs (CYSHCN) program administers the following networks and services:
 - Care Connection for Children-statewide network of six regional centers of excellence that provide care coordination services to reduce barriers that families face when trying to access care.
 - Child Development Services-statewide network of five regional centers that provide multidisciplinary assessments, diagnoses and short-term care coordination of children suspected of having behavioral or developmental disorders (e.g., autism, ADD/ADHD, learning disabilities, anxiety, PTSD, mood disorders).
 - Virginia Bleeding Disorders Program-supports a statewide network of four regional comprehensive hemophilia treatment centers to promote coordinated, family-centered, culturally competent, multidisciplinary system of care for clients of all ages with inherited bleeding disorders and their families.
 - Genetics and Newborn Screening Services- prevents intellectual disability, permanent disability, or death through early identification and treatment of infants who are affected by selected inherited disorders; promotes early detection of and intervention for infants with congenital hearing loss to maximize linguistic and communicative competence and literacy development; promotes early detection of and intervention for newborns with critical congenital heart disease to maximize positive health outcomes and help prevent disability and death early in life.
 - Virginia Sickle Cell Awareness Program-statewide program for the education and screening of individuals for sickle cell disease, sickle cell trait and other genetically related hemoglobinopathies.
 - Pediatric Comprehensive Sickle Cell Clinic Network-supports a statewide network of five regional comprehensive sickle cell clinics that provide comprehensive medical and support services that are collaborative, family centered, culturally competent, community based and outcome oriented for newborns identified from newborn screening, children, and youth living with sickle cell disease.

The programs promote the optimal health and development of individuals living in the Commonwealth with special health care needs by working in partnership with families,

service providers, and communities. CYSHCN programs are not specific for children in foster care but they are able to access services if they meet program eligibility criteria.

- The Reproductive Health Team programs do not track information about the number of foster youth served by the following programs.
 - Positive Youth Development Programs (Sexual Risk Avoidance Grant): Evidence-based programs designed to increase protective factors in order to promote healthy behaviors and reduce sexual risk taking
 - Pregnancy Support/Home Visiting Programs (Resource Mothers): Evidence-based programs designed to support pregnant and parenting teens through educational, social, and practical support to teens and their families
 - Virginia LARC Initiative (TANF grant): No-cost hormonal IUDs and implants to low-income women throughout the Commonwealth
 - Family Planning Program (Title X Grant): Comprehensive family planning services to all people throughout the Commonwealth, regardless of ability to pay
- Home visiting in Virginia's goal and mission is to provide prenatal and postnatal support to at risk mothers to ensure healthy birth outcomes, positive development and prevention of child abuse and neglect. These objectives are achieved through various home visiting models. In Virginia, there are 34 Healthy Families sites, 11 Parents As Teachers sites, 3 Nurse Family Partnerships sites and 3 Healthy Start Loving Steps sites. While each home visiting model does not directly affect foster care youth, home visiting services are proven strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect therefore reducing out of home placements. In a few cases teen parents in foster care have benefited from home visiting services to aid in their knowledge of development and positive parent/child interactions to increase bonding and attachment that fosters positive parenting behaviors.

Each model provides the following:

- Healthy Families
 - Serves overburdened families who are at-risk for child abuse and neglect and other adverse childhood experiences; families are determined eligible for services once they are screened and/or assessed for the presence of factors that could contribute to increased risk for child maltreatment or other poor childhood outcomes, (e.g., social isolation, substance abuse, mental illness, parental history of abuse in childhood, etc.); home visiting services must be initiated either prenatally or within three months after the birth of the baby

- Uses evidenced based model and curriculum (Healthy Families America model and Parents As Teachers curriculum) to serve families.
- Parents As Teachers
 - Serves Families with an expectant mother or parents of children up to kindergarten entry (usually 5 years)
 - Increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices; provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues; prevent child abuse and neglect; increase children's school readiness and school success
 - Uses evidenced based model and curriculum (Parents As Teachers) to serve families.
- Nurse Family Partnership
 - Improve pregnancy outcomes by promoting health-related behaviors; improving child health, development and safety by promoting competent care-giving; enhancing parent life-course development by promoting pregnancy planning, educational achievement, and employment
 - Uses an evidenced based nursing home visiting model to serve families.
- Healthy Start/Loving Steps
 - To reduce infant mortality and perinatal health disparities by delivering high-quality, effective prevention strategies to individuals, families and communities.
 - Strives to primarily serve African American and Hispanic families who are at highest risk for life stressors and loss during pregnancy and parenting.
 - Uses an evidenced based curriculum, Growing Great Kids, to serve families.