**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES**

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Family and Children's Trust Fund Releases Annual Family Violence Data Publications

Launch of new data portal allows reports to be accessed online!

Richmond, Va. (February 4, 2015) The Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) released its annual data publications on family violence across generations, highlighting information related to children, families and older adults in Virginia. The 2014 Violence at Home: The FACT Report (FACT Report), which is in its fifth year of publication, emphasizes several data trends among families and seeks to aid human service professionals and members of the general public with gaining a better understanding of the context of family violence in communities across the Commonwealth. Over the years, the FACT Report has been used to inform grant writing efforts, understand community needs and assets, conduct outreach and education, create dialogue among stakeholders, and garner media attention regarding family violence issues.

"Circumstances associated with family violence are extremely complex and take place behind closed doors. With several, high-profile incidents of intimate partner violence and child abuse highlighted by the media this past year, citizens seem to be paying more attention to how family violence impacts all of us," said Hayley Mathews, FACT's Executive Director.

In addition, the FACT released the 2014 Issue Brief – Facing the Facts: Impact of Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence on Children in the Home. This publication highlights national research and effective statewide practices in Virginia related to what happens when a child is exposed to intimate partner violence and seeks to help advocates, professionals, researchers and community members better identify and address the needs of these children.

Both publications are accompanied by a new, online data portal that allows users to access local, regional and statewide family violence data and create dynamic, interactive data reports. The Family Violence Indicator Local Data Tool allows users to define and populate reports by selecting the year and locality/localities they

want displayed. Information about the data indicators, family violence data limitations, step-by-step instructions in the use of the data portal and examples of how reports can be generated are also available online.

 "The prevention of family violence has changed over the years, and we know more about what works and what doesn't work. By using the online data portal and our annual publications, citizens are equipped with information that can show trends and assets that are most meaningful in their own communities," said Mathews.

In fulfilling FACT's mandate to raise awareness of family violence issues across the Commonwealth, FACT continues to be the information and resource clearinghouse for preventing family violence in Virginia.

Useful Statistics:

- Following a modest but steady increase in the rate of adult protective service substantiated reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation since 2006, there was a slight decrease in founded reports from 2012 to 2013.
- Over the last four years, between 2010 and 2013, there has been a steady decrease in substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect by family members.
- Rates of completed family assessments for children have increased steadily between 2005 and 2013.
- After an increase from 2006 to 2009, arrests of adults for alcohol- and drug- related charges, as a rate per 1,000 adults in the population, have been slowly decreasing.
- After an increase from 2005 to 2006, arrests of juveniles for alcohol- and drug- related charges, as a rate per 1,000 juveniles in the population, have been steadily decreasing.

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