



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Necole Simmonds**

[Necole.Simmonds@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:Necole.Simmonds@dss.virginia.gov)

***Recognition of Excellence:***

**Top Ten Ranking Virginia Hospitals Recognized for Exceptional Paternity Establishment Rates**

May 17, 2016 (Richmond, VA)—The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), in conjunction with the Virginia Paternity Establishment Program (VPEP), recently announced the top ten Virginia hospitals recognized for outstanding performance in paternity establishment for 2015. Each of these hospitals accomplished paternity establishment rates greater than 80 percent.

VDSS' Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) manages VPEP, which is operated by the Center for the Support of Families, Inc. (CSF). VPEP gives unmarried parents the opportunity to establish paternity for their newborns by voluntarily acknowledging fatherhood during the mother's hospital stay.

The Commonwealth has a total of 59 birthing hospitals serving parents throughout Virginia. "We are honored to partner with CSF and applaud Virginia's birthing hospitals for their dedication to establishing paternity for the children of the Commonwealth," said VDSS Commissioner Margaret Ross Schultze. In addition, Craig Burshem, VDSS Deputy Commissioner for Child Support, emphasized the importance of VPEP and noted, "Paternity establishment helps connect children and parents and creates a bond that lasts a lifetime."

The hospital achieving the highest rate in 2015 is INOVA Loudon Hospital in Leesburg, Virginia, which averaged a paternity establishment rate of 87.32%. Cindy Thompson, lead birth registrar, helped her team consistently meet the Commonwealth's benchmark of over 80%.

**2015 Virginia Births by Facility Hospital Voluntary Paternity Establishment**

Ranking	Hospital Name	Total Number of AOPs Accepted	2015 Paternity Establishment Rate
1	INOVA Loudon Hospital Center	475	87.32%
2	Clinch Valley Medical Center	126	86.30%
3	Fauquier Hospital Inc.	210	83.33%
4	Twin County Regional Hospital	104	83.20%
5	UVA Culpeper Regional Hospital	161	82.56%
6	Wythe County Community Hospital	112	82.35%

7	Reston Hospital Center	396	81.82%
8	Sentara Princess Anne Hospital	678	81.79%
9	INOVA Fair Oaks Hospital	543	81.04%
10	Johnston Memorial Hospital	253	80.57%

For a complete listing of Virginia's 59 birthing hospitals and their respective rankings based on Acknowledgement of Paternity (AOP), or to find out more information about the Virginia Paternity Establishment Program, please visit [www.vapaternity.org](http://www.vapaternity.org).