



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN VIRGINIA SFY 2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

Summary

During State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024, there were **33,847** reports of child abuse or neglect **completed**¹ by Virginia's 120 city and county departments of social services. There were **53,440** children involved as possible victims in those completed reports. Of these reports, **854** reports involved a substance-exposed infant, and **1,585 completed** reports occurred in an Out-of-Family setting. There were **10** Human Trafficking Assessments conducted.

I. Children and Responses by Child Protective Services (CPS)

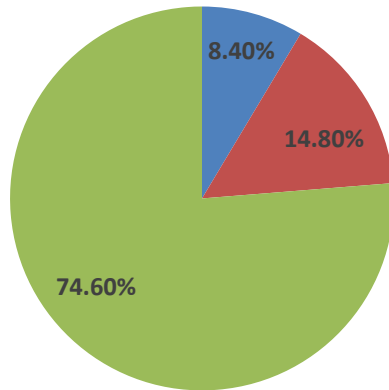
There were **53,440** children in **33,847 completed** reports. Of those:

- **4,474 (8.4%)** children were involved in **2,905** founded investigations. "Founded" means that a review of the facts gathered during an investigation met the "preponderance of the evidence" standard.
- **7,896 (14.8%)** children were involved in **5,859** unfounded investigations. "Unfounded" means that a review of the facts gathered during an investigation did not meet the "preponderance of the evidence" standard.
- The majority of all children, **39,841 (74.6%)**, were involved in **25,083** valid reports that received a family assessment. A family assessment is an alternative response that includes engaging with the family to assess the strengths and needs of the children and families. There is no determination of "founded" or "unfounded" in a family assessment.

Additionally, there were **15** children involved in **10** Human Trafficking Assessments. The involved children and youth were predominantly female (86%), white (33%) and between 12-17 years of age (47%). A Human Trafficking Assessment is required when a report alleges a child is a victim of human trafficking, including sex trafficking or labor trafficking, and does not meet the validity criteria for an investigation or family assessment.

¹ "Completed" reports have supervisory approval. Completed does not include "other" or pending" reports.

Children in Completed Reports

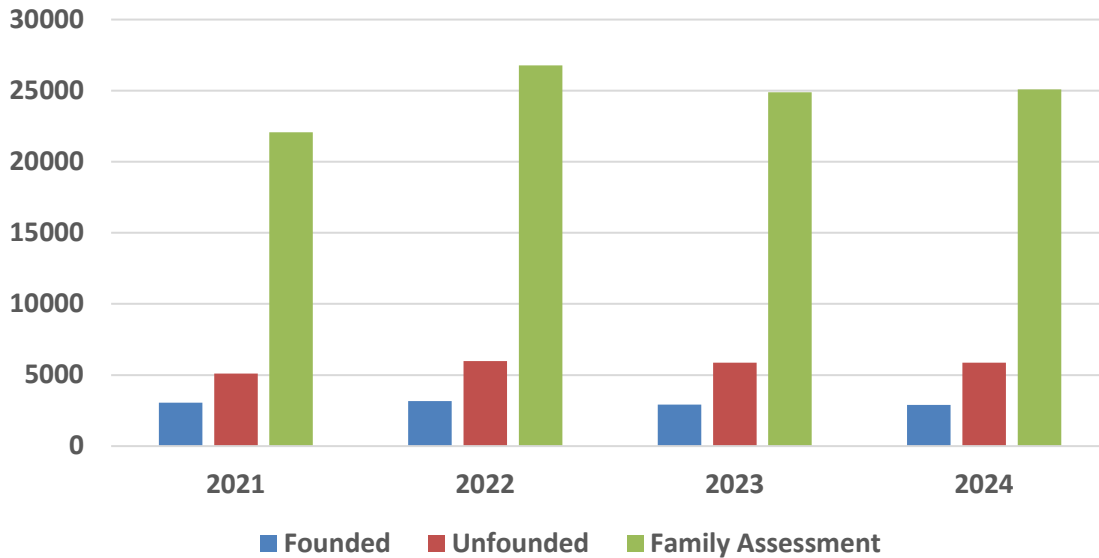


■ Founded
 ■ Unfounded
 ■ Family Assessment

Completed Reports- SFY 2021 to SFY 2023

Fiscal Year	Founded Investigations	Unfounded Investigations	Family Assessments	Total Completed CPS Reports
2024	2,905	5,859	25,083	33,847
2023	2,913	5,876	24,890	33,679
2022	3,161	5,991	26,765	35,917
2021	3,047	5,094	22,082	30,223

Completed Reports



■ Founded
 ■ Unfounded
 ■ Family Assessment

II. Reporters of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect

In SFY 2024, there were **100,898** persons who reported suspected child abuse or neglect to local and state departments of social services.

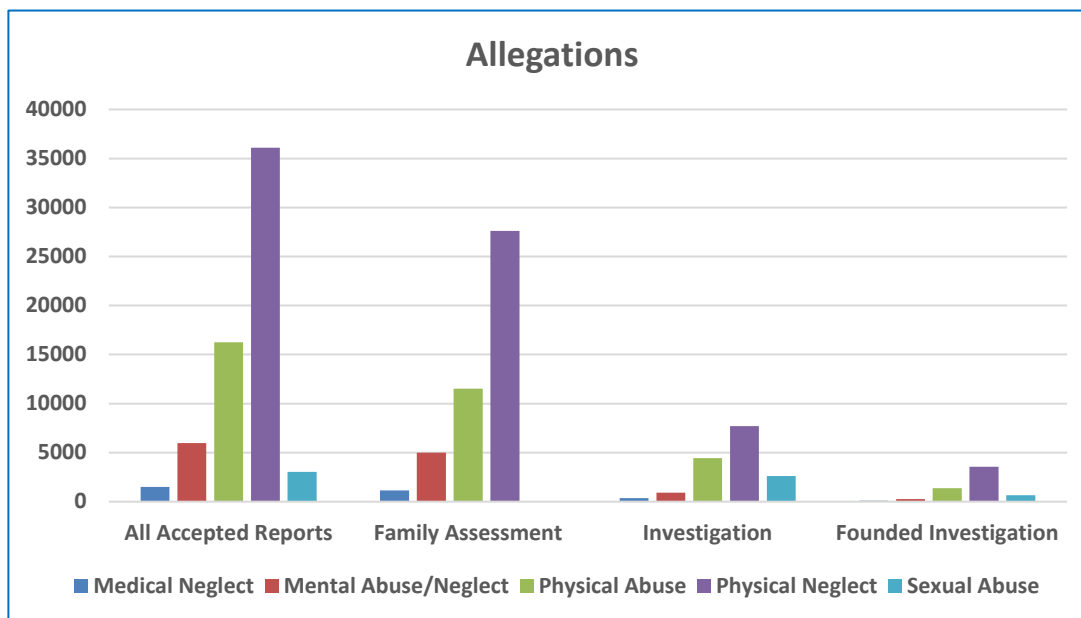
Categories of Reporters- SFY 2021 to SFY 2024

Category	SFY2021	SFY2022	SFY2023	SFY 2024
Educators	14.8%	24.3%	25.9%	25.9%
Law enforcement/legal/courts	21.8%	18.6%	17.7%	17.5%
Relatives/parents	13.9%	9.8%	11.0%	10.5%
Anonymous	12.1%	9.9%	10.2%	11.6%
Mental Health	11.9%	11.1%	10.9%	10.6%
Other (includes friends/neighbors)	9.3%	9.8%	10.5%	10.0%
Medical Community	8.9%	7.2%	6.9%	7.0%
Social Services staff	4.8%	3.8%	3.7%	3.6%
Child Care Providers	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	.8%

III. Types of Maltreatment Allegations

Type Of Maltreatment*	All Accepted Reports	Family Assessments	Investigations	Founded Investigations
Medical Neglect	1,516	1,136	354	107
Mental Abuse/Neglect	5,967	4,997	914	272
Physical Abuse	16,253	11,518	4,434	1,382
Physical Neglect	36,108	27,627	7,708	3,559
Sexual Abuse	3,042	0	2,627	649

* Note: In some reports, more than one type of maltreatment may have occurred.

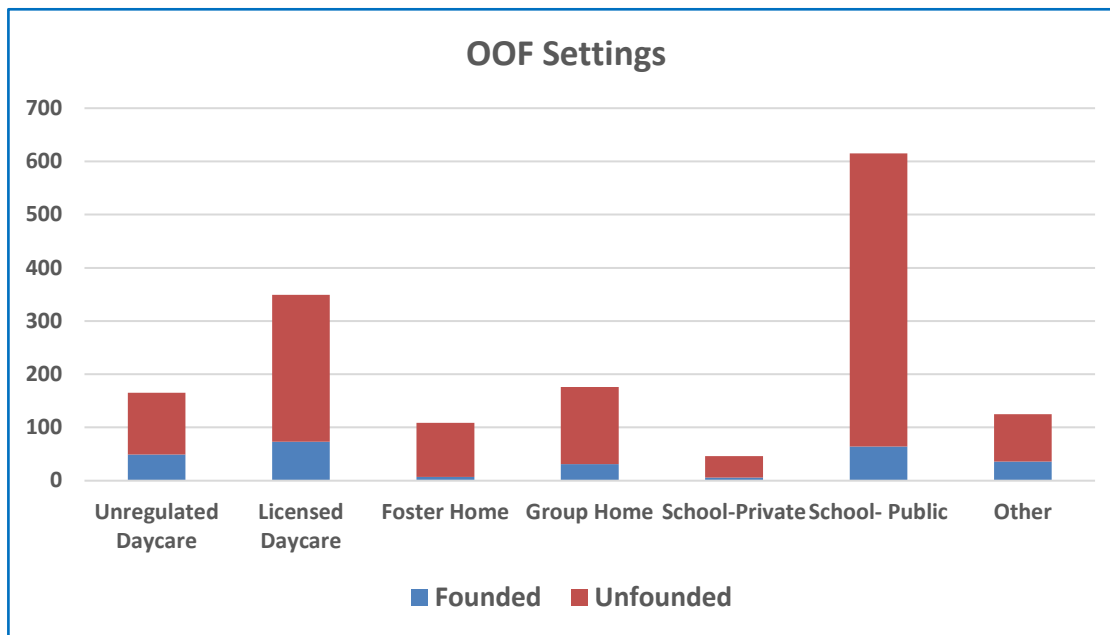


IV. Out of Family (OOF) Reports

In SFY 2024 there were 1,585 Out of Family (OOF) reports of child abuse or neglect completed statewide. An OOF investigation involves a caretaker who is not typically related to the child but who has the care and responsibility for the child in a professional capacity. Some settings are regulated or licensed, others are not. All valid OOF reports are responded to with an investigation.

OOF Setting	Founded	Unfounded	Total*
Unregulated Daycare (includes babysitter; religiously exempt)	49	116	165
Licensed Daycare (includes Homes; centers; voluntary registered)	73	276	349
Foster Home (includes local and state approved)	7	102	109
Group Home/Residential (includes institutional)	31	145	176
School- Private (includes private spec. Ed)	6	40	46
School- Public	64	551	615
Other (includes summer camp; other org.)	36	89	125

*Note: Total does not include any pending reports



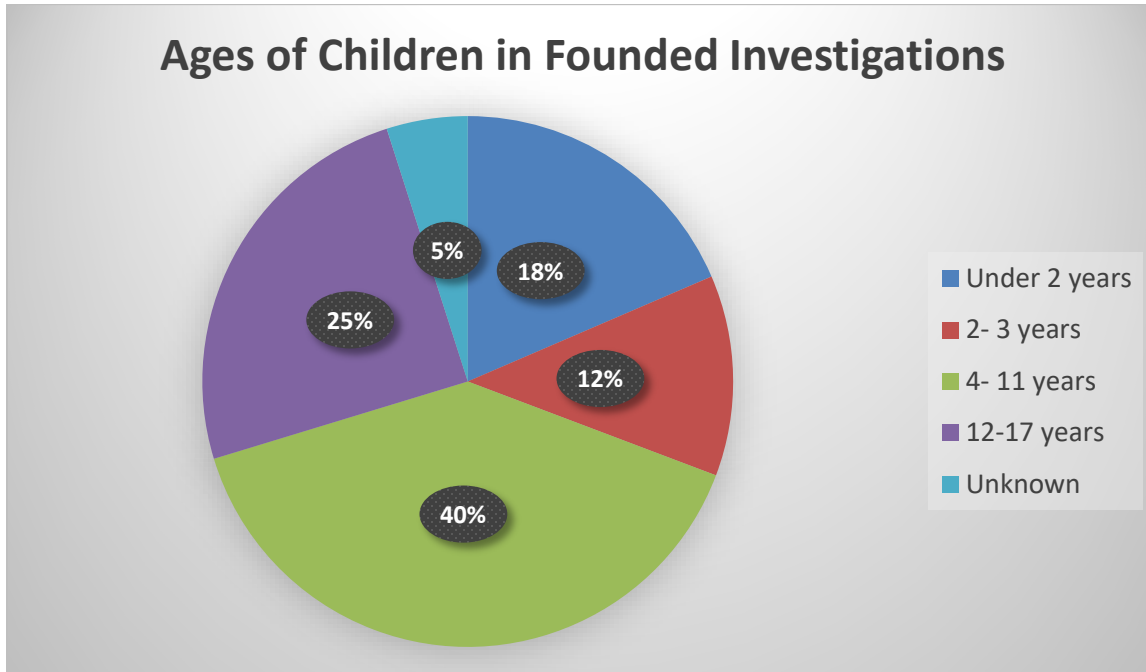
V. Children

Children in Completed Reports SFY2021 to SFY 2024

Fiscal Year	Founded	Unfounded	Family Assessment	Total
2024	4,474	7,896	39,841	53,440
2023	4,368	8,033	40,079	52,480
2022	4,911	8,179	39,804	52,894
2021	5,261	7,801	38,107	51,169

How old were the children in completed reports?

Age	Founded	Unfounded	Family Assessment	Total
Under 2 years	829	926	4,861	6,616
2- 3 years	547	883	4,160	5,590
4- 11 years	1,769	3,527	18,928	24,224
12-17 years	1,108	2,331	11,107	14,546
Unknown	221	229	785	1,235



What was the race of children in investigations/ family assessments/ all completed CPS reports/all children in Virginia?

Race***	Children in <u>All Completed CPS Reports</u> (n=53,440)	Children in <u>All Completed Investigations</u> (n=12, 626)	Children in <u>All Completed Family Assessments</u> (n=39,841)	Children in <u>Virginia</u> ² (n=~1,866,978)
White	64.1%	64.0%	36.8%	68.0%
Black	31.3%	29.3%	31.6%	20.0%
Asian	1.9%	1.8%	1.9%	7.3%
American Indian, Native Hawaiian	.7%	.4%	.7%	0.7%
Unknown	9.4%	9.9%	9.2%	3.4% (more than 2 races)

*** This category allows for multiple responses per child and thus may exceed 100%.

² Source: [United States Census Bureau Quick Facts](#) (estimates)

What was the race of children in investigations with a *founded* disposition compared to *all* investigations?

Race***	Children in <i>Founded</i> Investigations (n=4,474)	Children in All Completed <u>Investigations</u> (n=12,626)	All Children in Virginia (n= ~ 1,866,978)
White	66.8%	64.0%	68.0%
Black	32.10%	29.3%	20.0%
Asian	1.0%	1.8%	7.3%
American Indian, Native Hawaiian	0.5%	.4%	0.7%
Unknown	7.7%	9.9%	3.4% (more than 2 races)

*** This category allows for multiple responses per child and thus may exceed 100%.

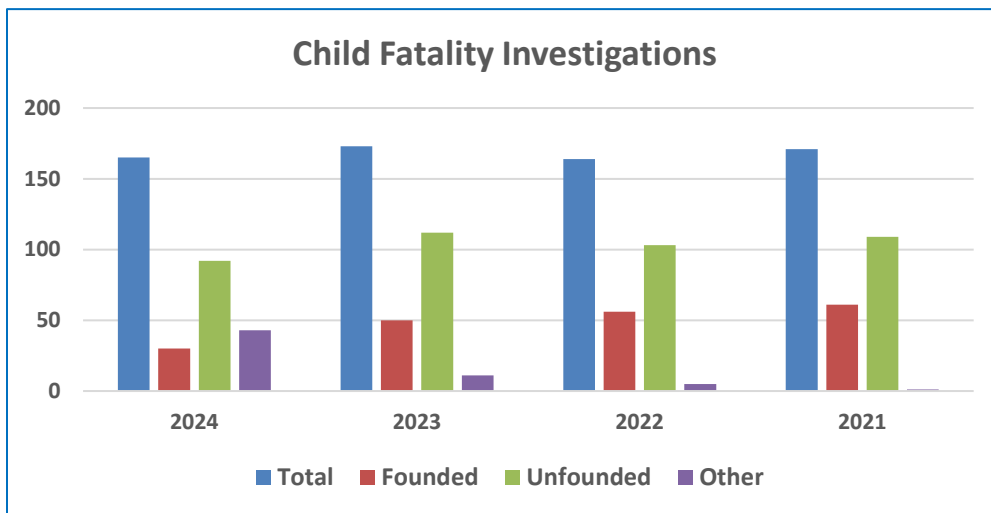
VI. Child Deaths Reported in SFY 2024

- There were **165** valid reports of a suspected child abuse or neglect death that were responded to by a local department of social services. This is a decrease of eight reports from SFY2023.
- As of **12/3/2024**, **30** children died from abuse or neglect.
- Forty-three (43) investigations were pending the final disposition as of **12/3/2024**.

Child Fatalities- SFY 2020 to SFY 2024³

Fiscal Year	Founded Fatalities	Unfounded Fatalities	Other (pending or appealed)	Total
2024	30	92	43	165
2023	50*	112*	11*	173
2022	56*	103	5*	164
2021	61	109*	1*	171

*updated 12/3/2024



³ Data collected from local departments of social services as of 12/3/2024.