

# VIRGINIA ADOPTION FACTS

TODAY 1,400 VIRGINIA CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE ARE AWAITING ADOPTION



1 OUT OF 5 KIDS

ages out of foster care at age 18 or older in Virginia (21.2%)

Virginia ranks worst in the country for the percent of children who age out of foster care without being adopted. For Virginia's children, this means hope for a permanent family grows dimmer with each birthday.

Rank = 50th/50



16.2 MONTHS

average wait time for Virginia's children before being adopted

Virginia ranks third to last in the average time it takes to be adopted—between termination of parental rights and finalized adoption. This means Virginia children wait longer than most to find their forever families.

Rank = 48th/50

1,400 VIRGINIA CHILDREN ARE WAITING FOR ADOPTION



45% are over age 10

25% have had 4+ foster care replacements

These are children who have already suffered the trauma of abuse, neglect, and abandonment. They need the support of a permanent family to heal and grow. They want the security of a family who will be theirs for life. They deserve the love only a family can provide.

VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN DESERVE BETTER THAN LAST PLACE.

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Sources: [Virginia] Virginia Department of Social Services, Adoption Report, "Foster Care Demographic Report for Children with a Goal of Adoption" (4/1/2016); Council on Virginia's Future, [vaperforms.virginia.gov/indicators/healthfamily/fosterCare.php](http://vaperforms.virginia.gov/indicators/healthfamily/fosterCare.php) (4/2016); [When Teens Aren't Adopted] Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative (Chapin Hall Center for Children 2005, Casey Family Programs 1998, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago 2005); [U.S.] AFCARS Report. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, Children's Bureau (FY14 as of 7/2015).



## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TEENS AREN'T ADOPTED?

Teens who age out of foster care without being adopted face an uncertain future, and are up against grim statistics.

25% will be involved in the justice system within 2 years

20% will be homeless after age 18

42% will drop out of high school

71% of girls will become pregnant by age 21

## VIRGINIA'S WAITING CHILDREN

- 54% are boys
- 46% are girls
- 54% are White
- 33% are African-American
- 8% are Hispanic
- 11% are multi-racial
- 33% are under age 5
- 45% are age 10 or older
- 30% are age 13 or older

## U.S. WAITING CHILDREN

- 415,129 U.S. children are in foster care
- 107,918 are waiting to be adopted
- Waiting children enter foster care at an average age of 5
- 37% are under age 5
- 32% are over age 10
- 19% are over age 13
- Waiting children have spent an average of 32 months in foster care
- More than 29% have been in foster care for more than 3 years