

VIOLENCE AT HOME

The FACT Report

FALL 2015



Foreword

The Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia (FACT) is pleased to present the 2015 edition of *Violence at Home: The FACT Report* (FACT Report). This is the sixth year of providing this resource to the citizens of the Commonwealth, and we are excited to continue to build upon additional data tools and resources that enhance the work first envisioned in creating this comprehensive listing of family violence indicators across the lifespan.

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 and treating family violence in Virginia. As such, the FACT Report has made the transition from an annual, print publication to a dynamic, online data portal. The same research-based family violence data indicators will be presented online as a series of easy-to-understand data reports that users can customize.

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. Now, by using the online data portal, citizens can create reports showing trends and assets that are most meaningful and fulfilling for their data and information needs.

This is the second edition of the report that offers the online data portal, and we are continuing to assist the field as we transition to this report format. Therefore, along with this report we provide two additional documents: *The FACT Report Roadmap* and *Family Violence Indicator Data Guide*. These documents provide information about the data indicators, family violence data limitations, step-by-step instructions in the use of the data portal and examples of reports that can be generated. Along with these documents, FACT provides technical assistance through the use of online training modules and ad hoc requests for support. Requests for assistance should be directed to: familyandchildrens.trustfund@dss.virginia.gov.

We look forward to increased opportunities for collaboration and data-driven decision making and hope these resources continue to assist the human services field in efforts to eliminate family violence in Virginia.

Acknowledgements

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Executive Summary

When the first *Violence at Home: The FACT Report* was published in 2010, information about the extent of family violence in Virginia was scattered across state agencies, often divided by the age of the victim or the nature of the crime. The *FACT Report* pulled this data into one document in an easy-to-understand format, and in 2014, *FACT* took its work a step further with the creation of a dynamic, online web portal. The portal includes 18 indicators of family violence, spanning 10 years of data for many of these measures, and presents them in an interactive report format. As with the 2014 report, the information contained in this publication will highlight trends and recommendations. The full data tables are found online at: <http://www.fact.virginia.gov/family-violence-indicator-locality-data-tool>.

How to Use the *FACT* Report Data

Having family violence data compiled and available in a central, accessible and easy-to-use format is critical in order to:

- ➔ inform stakeholders about what is happening in their own community;
- ➔ raise community awareness and generate discussions about family violence;
- ➔ identify and monitor family violence trends over time;
- ➔ set benchmarks and develop strategies to target specific family violence indicators;
- ➔ identify “best practice” resources and encourage collaborative efforts to address family violence across service sectors; and
- ➔ develop action plans to most effectively address family violence in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

By going online to the *FACT* web portal <http://www.fact.virginia.gov/family-violence-indicator-locality-data-tool>, users can create customized data reports showing conditions in their locality and compare cities, counties, and regions across the Commonwealth. They may also use it to draw attention to local and state needs, help focus resources where they are needed most, set community goals for improving conditions, or apply for funding as an agency serving multiple localities. Communities have also used indicator data to provide education and increase awareness about the challenges of family violence through opinion pieces and letters to the editor. Others have used it to develop more targeted community or organizational strategies and to advocate for policy and program changes that improve community responses to family violence.

Key Findings

Key findings for the 2015 FACT Report are based upon trends demonstrated in the data collected for the 18 indicators of family violence. These indicators are grounded in findings from studies FACT commissioned by both George Mason University and Virginia Commonwealth University. They identified indicators and risk factors of family violence based on a review of research literature and surveys of family violence workers. If data is not found in this section, that is due to the statewide rate remaining relatively stable over time. These trend charts are intended to help encourage and target discussion in the field of family violence. Specific information about data limitations can be found in the Family Violence Indicator Data Guide. More information about the indicators can be found in the The FACT Report Roadmap.

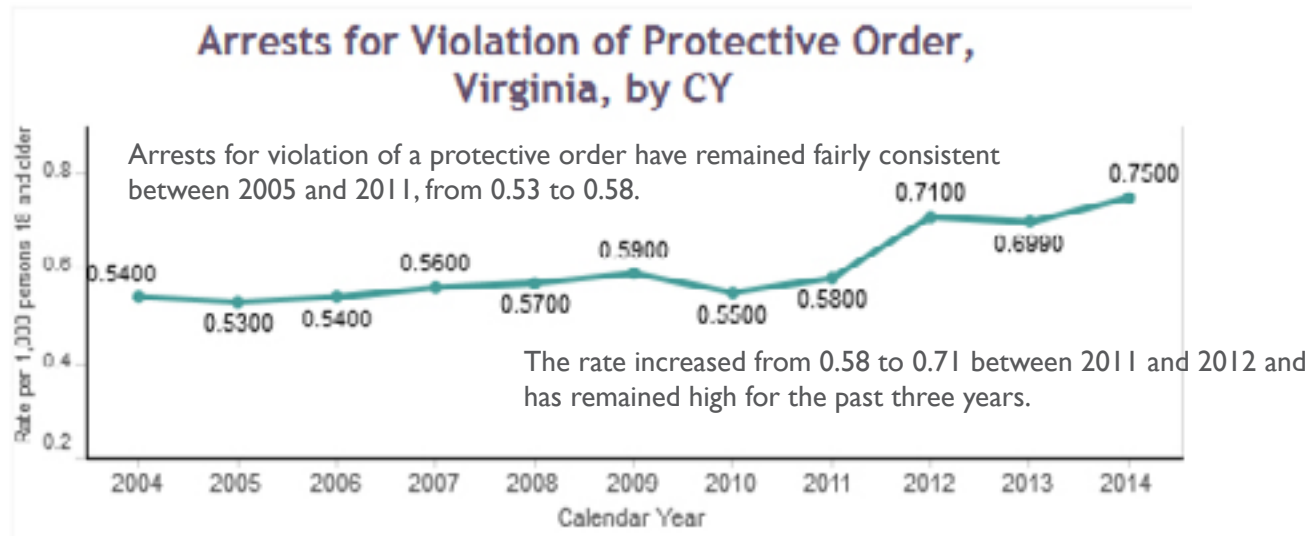
Each indicator is presented as a rate per 1,000 of the population in Virginia – either juveniles, elders or adults, as appropriate. Presenting the data as a rate allows for communities to see trends or make comparisons while accounting for differing population sizes or population growth over time. Indicator rate increases and decreases do not necessarily equate to incidence rate increases and decreases.

Also, changes in incidence over time could be due to—but are not limited to—administrative changes, state or local changes in enforcement, changes in reporting, or actual changes in incidence. Therefore, it is encouraged to use the data available online to help start conversations within your community in order to develop targeted community strategies to improve family violence or to advocate for effective policy or program changes.

This indicator reflects the number of arrests made for violation of an active protective order as recorded in the Central Criminal Records Exchange.



Arrests of adults for violation of protective order has been steadily increasing since 2004, from 0.54 to 0.75 in 2014.

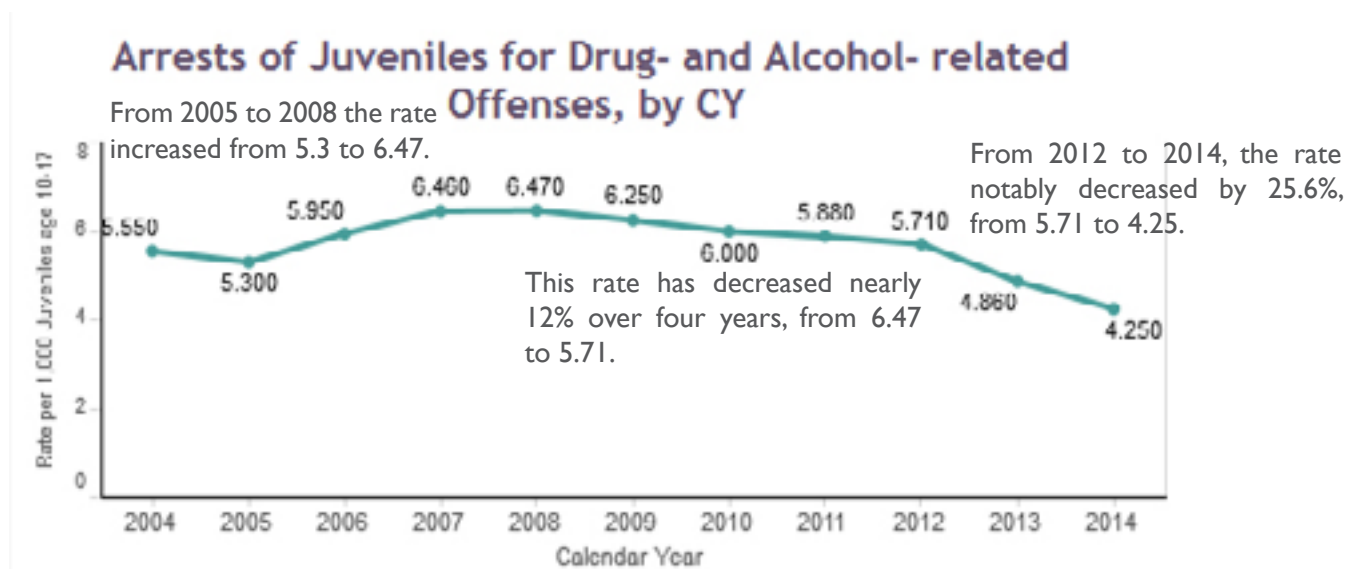


Source: Criminal Justice Information Services Division, Virginia State Police

The FACT Report indicators include four community health indicators strongly associated with the prevalence of family violence: Percentage of the Population Living below the Poverty Line, Percentage of the Labor Force that is Unemployed, Arrests of Juveniles for Drug- and Alcohol-related Offenses, and Arrests of Adults for Drug- and Alcohol-related Offenses. Research shows that these indicators are strongly associated with family violence, but there is no implication that they cause family violence. Further information about the connection between substance abuse and family violence is highlighted in FACT's 2011 Issue Brief - *Recognizing and Addressing the Connection Between Substance Abuse and Family Violence* available online at: <http://www.fact.virginia.gov/issue-briefs/>.

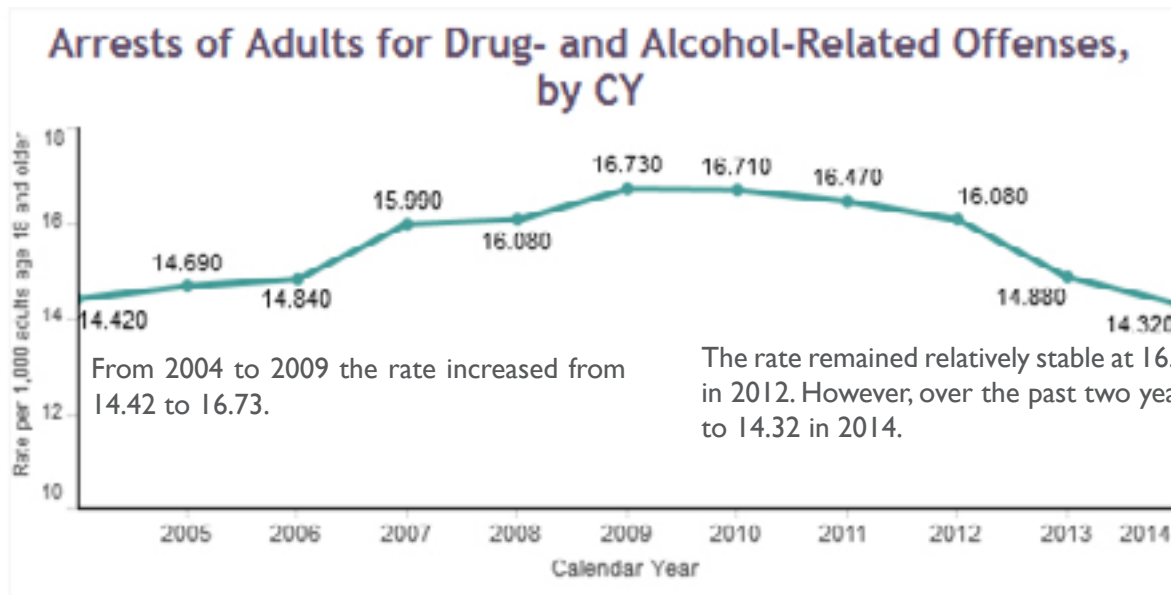
Highlighted in the line graph below are the statewide trends for alcohol- and drug- related arrests showing an overall decrease over the past few years. These indicators reflect the number of arrests of adults and juveniles that law enforcement officials made for drug- and alcohol-related offenses—including arrests for driving under the influence, drunkenness, liquor law violations, drug/narcotic violations, and drug equipment violations.

- After an increase from 2005 to 2008, arrests of juveniles for alcohol- and drug- related charges, as a rate per 1,000 juveniles in the population, have been steadily decreasing with a more significant decrease between 2012 to 2014.



Source: Criminal Justice Research Center, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

➔ 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.

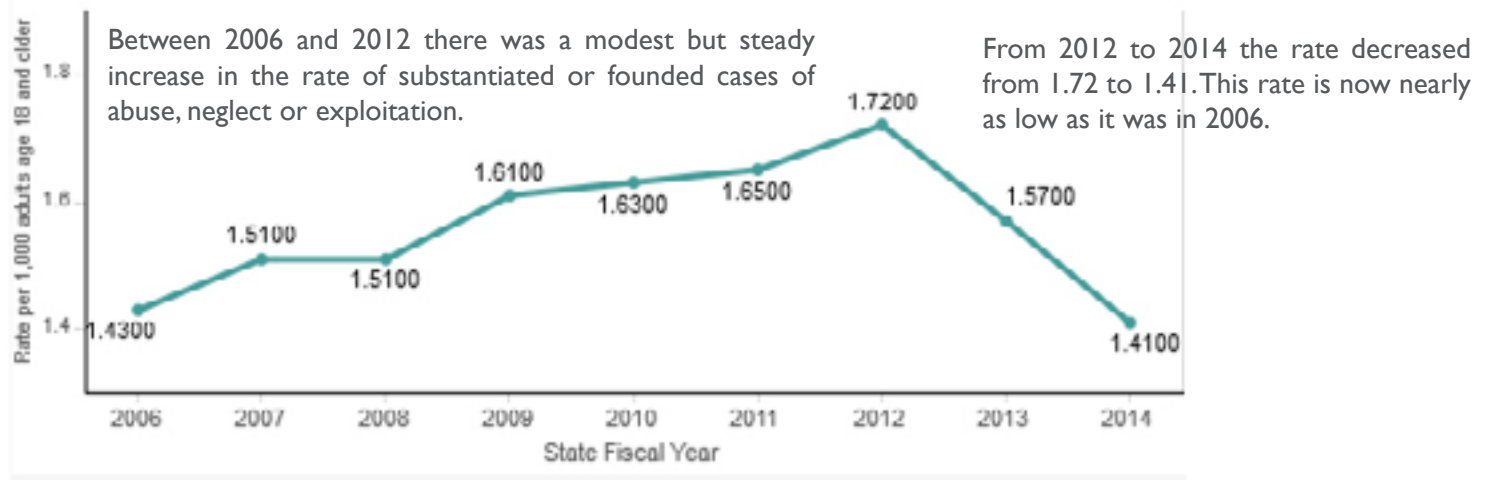


Source: Criminal Justice Research Center, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Between 2006 and 2012, the rate of adult protective service (APS) substantiated reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation increased from 1.43 to 1.72. This upward trend prompted the publication of FACT's 2013 Issue Brief - Older Adults and Family Violence available online at: <http://www.fact.virginia.gov/issue-briefs/>, which focused on identifying and providing strategies to recognize and prevent violence against older and incapacitated adults in the Commonwealth. However, this trend has stabilized and the rate in 2014 was down to 1.41.

- ➔ Following four years of a modest but steady increase in the rate of adult protective service substantiated reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation, the past two years mark a slight decrease from 1.72 in 2012 to 1.41 in 2014.

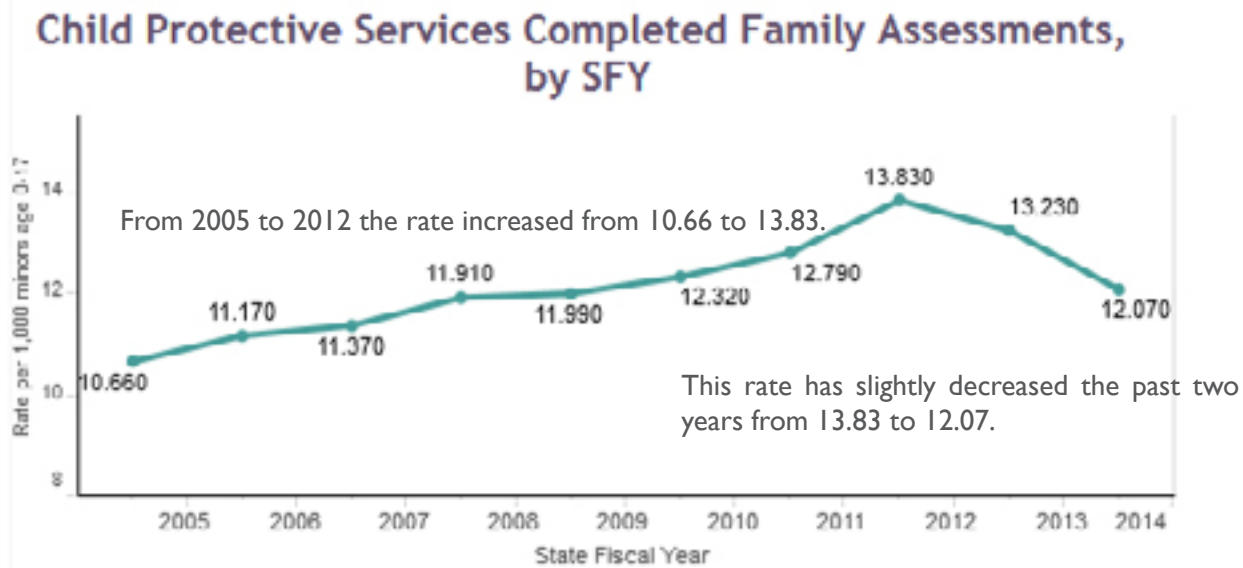
APS Substantiated Reports of Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation of Elders and Incapacitated Adults, by SFY



Source: Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, ASAPS

Virginia Child Protective Services (CPS) has a differential response system that allows for a screened-in referral to go to an investigation track or a family assessment track. Family assessments are the preferred response in child protective services when a child is not in immediate danger and include developing plans to remedy and/or prevent risk of future abuse. Investigations are conducted when there are immediate concerns about child safety, a prior history of child abuse, and/or the reported allegation. A family assessment does not result in a disposition of founded or unfounded, but rather assesses for services needed and upon closure is considered completed. From 2005 to 2012 there had been a steady increase in the rates of completed family assessments. However, since 2012 the rate has decreased from 13.83 to 12.07 in 2014.

➔ After rates of completed family assessments for children increased between 2005 and 2012, they have started to decline from 13.83 in 2012 to 12.07 in 2014.



Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, OASIS

Suggested Next Steps

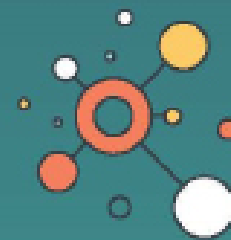
Professionals, Community Members, Advocates...

Analyze



- » Explore the online data tool
- » Produce locality specific reports
- » Identify and monitor trends and set benchmarks

Share



- » Have targeted discussions
- » Coordinate stakeholder meetings
- » Share with local elected officials and decision makers

Connect



- » Raise community awareness
- » Learn more about family violence
- » Apply for community grants with other stakeholders

Data tool online at: <http://www.fact.virginia.gov/family-violence-indicator-locality-data-tool-2/>



Who We Are:

The Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) was created by the General Assembly in 1986 as a public-private partnership to raise funds for the prevention and treatment of family violence. This includes child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. FACT is governed by a Board of Trustees, appointed by the Governor, to raise and distribute funds for family violence prevention and treatment efforts, as well as to promote public awareness of family violence issues across the Commonwealth.

Support FACT:

FACT is primarily funded by direct donations from public and private sources, revenue from the sale of the KIDS FIRST license plates, and voluntary donations on state income tax returns. Since 2003, FACT has raised approximately \$3 million to support local programming efforts to prevent and



treat family violence across the Commonwealth. FACT provides funding to support local projects and programs, including but not limited to programs that offer parenting education classes, shelter services, outreach and counseling services, services for child exposed to domestic violence, services for underserved populations, and hotline services.

Show your support for family violence prevention and treatment efforts by purchasing a KIDS FIRST license plate

Join the Conversation:

Subscribe to a quarterly newsletter online at: <http://www.fact.virginia.gov/newsletter/> in order to stay up-to-date on FACT's latest work.

As FACT strives to serve as the resource clearinghouse on family violence data in Virginia, you can follow us online through social media.





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