



Child poverty has increased dramatically in Virginia's Congressional District 6 since the recession began. An additional 3,587 children in this district now live below the Federal Poverty Level – a 17.5% increase.

## *CHILDREN IN VIRGINIA'S CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6 WHO LIVE IN POVERTY*

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There are an estimated 145,596 children under age 18 living in Virginia's Congressional District 6. Of these, over sixteen percent live in poverty.<sup>i</sup> That's 24,116 children in your district who are exposed to the devastating physical, social, and emotional effects of poverty. In addition to the daily risks of food insecurity, poor nutrition, and inadequate living conditions, research shows that child poverty can have prolonged harmful effects. Children who spend significant time in poverty are 1) more likely to get sick, develop chronic health problems, and be absent from school, 2) less likely to succeed in school and more likely to drop out, 3) more likely to have low-paying jobs as adults, and 4) more likely to become involved with the justice system.

The recession took a heavy toll, pushing more than 9,500 additional District 6 children into poverty. Research shows that many newly-impooverished families will remain poor for years after the recovery begins, exposing many more children to the consequences of prolonged poverty.

What's bad for Virginia's children is costly for the United States as a whole – its economy, society, and citizens. Economists have conservatively estimated that childhood poverty costs the US about \$500 billion dollars per year, or the equivalent of nearly four percent of GDP.<sup>iii</sup>

### *Congressional District 6 by the number:<sup>iii</sup> key statistics*

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- Total population of children under age 18: 145,596
- Total population of children under age 5: 39,137
- Percent of children living in poverty: 16.6%
- Percent of children under 5 living in poverty: 19.9%
- District 6 pre-recession child poverty rate: 14.1%. Current rate: up 2.5 percentage points to 16.6%
- Number of children without health insurance coverage: 5,046

### *Congressional District 6 by the map: largest localities*

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- Augusta (child population – 15,352)
  - Over 2,100 children (14.1%) live in poverty
- Rockingham (child population – 17,860)
  - Over 2,300 children (13.2%) live in poverty
- City of Lynchburg (child population – 14,947)
  - Nearly 3,700 children (25.2%) live in poverty
- City of Roanoke (child population – 21,053)
  - Over 6,100 children (29.6%) live in poverty

**CHILD POVERTY RATES ACROSS VIRGINIA IN 2011**

	<i>Child Poverty Rate</i>	<i>Number Of Poor Children</i>
<i>STATE OF VIRGINIA</i>	<i>15.6%</i>	<i>284,561<sup>iv</sup></i>
<b>Congressional District 1</b>	<b>10.8%</b>	<b>21,204</b>
Congressional District 2	14.5%	21,325
Congressional District 3	32.5%	46,765
Congressional District 4	16.2%	28,577
Congressional District 5	23.6%	32,515
Congressional District 6	16.6%	24,116
Congressional District 7	12.9%	22,914
Congressional District 8	13.2%	18,960
Congressional District 9	25.1%	30,385
Congressional District 10	8.1%	19,189
Congressional District 11	6.1%	12,465

**About Voices for Virginia's Children**

*Voices for Virginia's Children is a statewide, privately funded, nonpartisan awareness and advocacy organization that builds support for practical public policies to improve the lives of children. A recognized leader in child advocacy, Voices mobilizes support for initiatives by conducting research, developing policies, building coalitions, and helping people articulate their support for children*

**About KIDS COUNT**

*KIDS COUNT, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the United States. By providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local, state, and national discussion concerning ways to secure better futures for all children.*

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<sup>i</sup> Below the Federal Poverty Level; i.e., approximate annual income in 2011 of \$22,350 for a family of four.

<sup>ii</sup> Holzer, H., J., Schanzenbach, D.W., Duncan, G.J., & Ludwig, J. (2008). The economic costs of childhood poverty in the United States. *Journal of Children and Poverty*, 14, 41-61.

<sup>iii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey

<sup>iv</sup> State of Virginia poverty numbers come from U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates and the Congressional figures come from U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey – 1 year estimates. The Congressional estimates do not sum to the State of Virginia number of poor children because they are estimates from different sources.