

Virginia trails nation in mental health access for children

Increasing access and coordination of quality mental health care for children leads to better outcomes

THE ONSET OF MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS CAN START EARLY IN CHILDHOOD



Age 6 IS THE MEDIAN AGE OF

onset for anxiety disorders



of all lifetime cases of mental illness

BEGIN BY **Age 14**

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS ARE PREVALENT ACROSS VIRGINIA



1 IN 5

KIDS LIVE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION IN VIRGINIA

75,000

YOUTH (AGE 12-17)

report suffering from at least one major depressive episode in the past year

MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS AFFECT MANY CHILDREN IN VIRGINIA, BUT ACCESS AND TREATMENT IS LIMITED

VIRGINIA IS RANKED

49th

FOR THE RATE

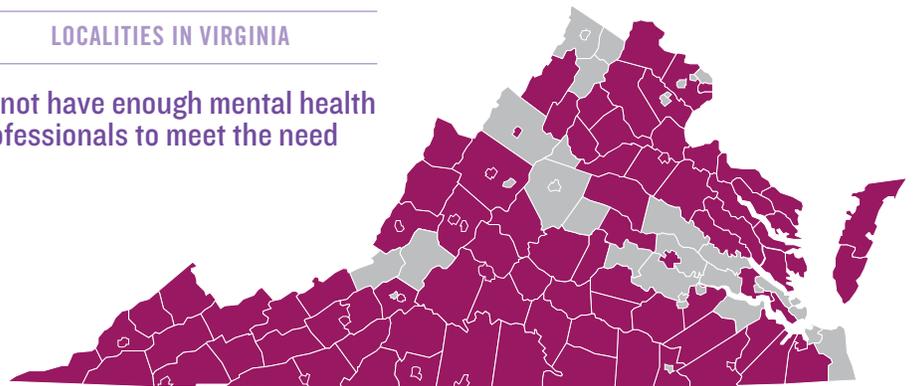
of youth with major depression who did not receive mental health services in the nation

That means 3 out of 4 youth in Virginia with depression and who are most at risk of suicidal thoughts, difficulty in school, and difficulty in relationships with others do not get the treatment needed to support them.

100 of 133

LOCALITIES IN VIRGINIA

do not have enough mental health professionals to meet the need



* All sources available at vakids.org/kids-count-data/virginia-data

Children's Mental Health Budget Priorities

STEP-VA: Continue implementation of STEP-VA, the plan for improving statewide community-based mental health services for all ages

- Over the past several years, Virginia has made significant improvements in the quality and accountability of community mental health services through legislative efforts. However, Virginia's overall behavioral health system remains underfunded, fragmented, and uncoordinated.
- STEP-VA is a roadmap for how Virginia will transform its behavioral health system. It aims to ensure that every community has the capacity to provide integrated behavioral health services to people of all ages, including children.
- In 2017, Gov. McAuliffe and the General Assembly signaled their commitment to STEP-VA by providing \$4.9 million in general fund dollars to implement same-day access to mental health services at 18 of the 40 community services boards (CSBs).
- The governor's and General Assembly's funding support of STEP-VA is a first step in translating the vision of a reformed behavioral health system into reality.
- **Please support a budget package that implements the next phase of STEP-VA by fully funding same-day access and primary-care-screening services at all 40 CSBs.**

Alternative Transportation for Children in Crisis: Improve transportation of children in mental health crisis by supporting a non-law-enforcement transportation model.

- In Virginia, children experiencing a mental health crisis are often transported to a mental health facility by law enforcement under a temporary detention order (TDO). During their transport, these children are frequently handcuffed in the back of a police car. This criminalization of children's crises often results in traumatization and stigmatization.
- A recent alternative transportation pilot project in Southwest Virginia demonstrated that adults in mental health crisis can be safely transported to the hospital without the use of law enforcement. The pilot produced positive patient outcomes and provided relief to law enforcement.
- **Please support a budget package that builds on the success of the Southwest Virginia pilot through statewide implementation of an alternative transportation model for children and adults.**