How Virginia Keeps Children Safe

2025 Safety Score Card

Child Protective Services (CPS) received 102,986 referrals for potential child safety concerns in 2025. Of those referrals, 38% were found **VALID** for a CPS response, compared to 50% nationally. Of these valid referrals, CPS measures the following metrics for a safety status.

What's Being Measured

- **Timeliness of Safety Assessments**
- **Timeliness of First Contact**
- **In-Home Services**
- **High/Very-High Risk Levels**
- **Repeat Referrals**
- **Child Fatalities With Previous Referrals**

Safety Assessments Completed Timely

60%

Repeat Referrals

48%

Child Fatality Referrals With Prior CPS History

72%

High/Very-High Risk Referrals

25%

In-Home Services Case Open for High-Risk Referrals

31%

Child Fatality Referrals With High Risk Level

24%

Average Timeliness of First Contact:



What This Means

- **Not all child safety inquiries are valid concerns** — Only about 1 in 3 reports are seen as valid concerns for CPS to step in, which is lower than the national average.
- **We recognize the need to improve timeliness**, as less than half of our safety assessments were completed on time, and we are actively working to close this gap.
- **We are deeply concerned that many children who experience harm had prior CPS involvement**, and we are committed to strengthening how we respond to repeat referrals and known risk factors.
- **While we reach most families quickly after a report**, we acknowledge that only a small portion of high-risk cases received in-home services, and we are reviewing ways to better support families with the greatest need.



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