

Bridging Gaps: Strengthening Kinship Families through Public- Private Partnerships



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Kinship Care in Virginia



Kinship care is the full-time care and nurturing of a child by a relative or someone who has a significant relationship with a child not born to them. Kinship care is often looked to when children must be separated from their parents, either voluntarily or by court order.

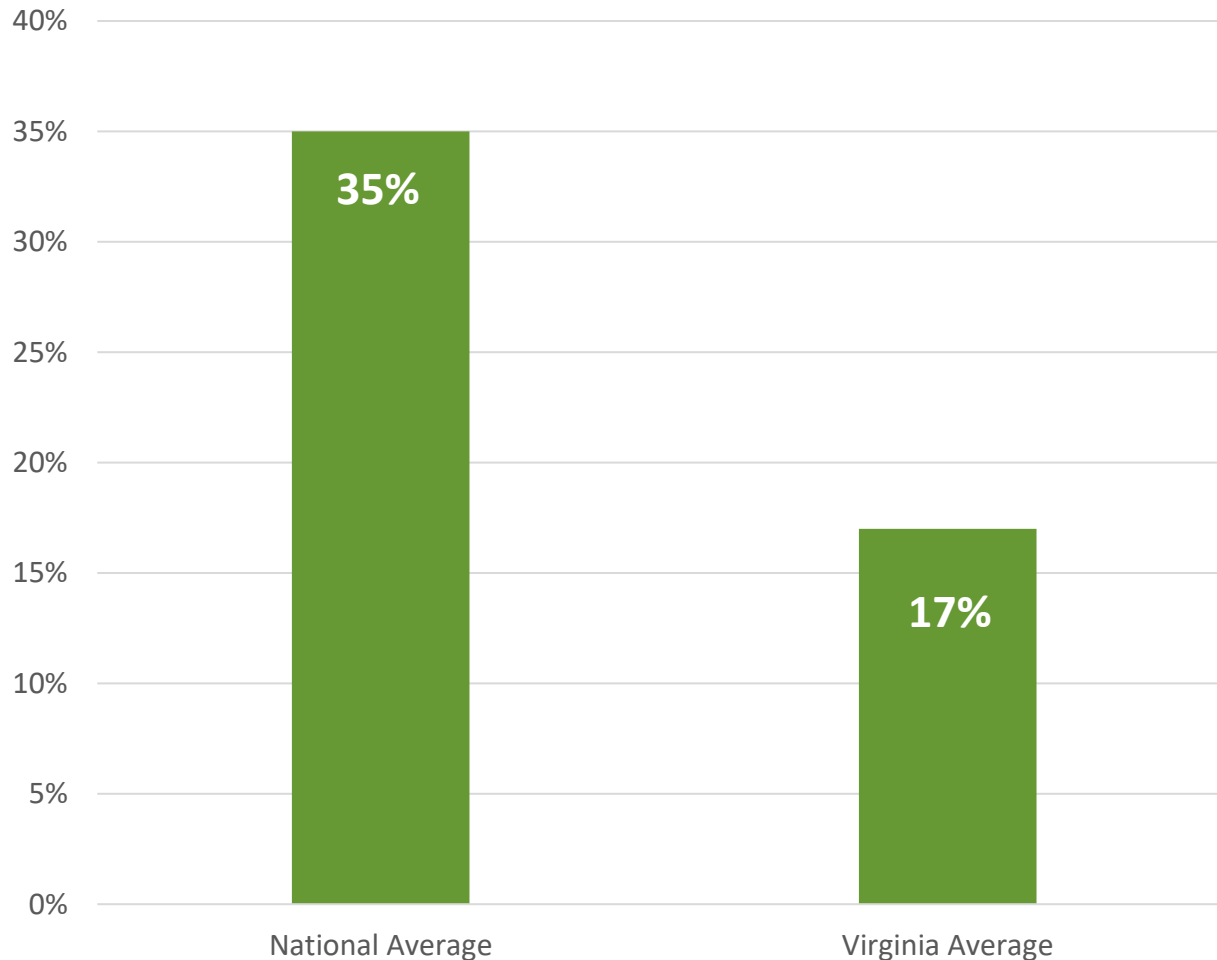


When children are raised by kinship caregivers, they experience:

- Greater continuity of care and family preservation
- A sense of permanency, nurturing, safety, and well-being
- Maintained sense of their family's culture, traditions, values, and goals
- Connections not only to family members, but often to their schools and communities.

Kinship Statistics

National Kinship Placements vs. Virginia Kinship Placements



Approximately **one-third** of children in the foster care system across the U.S. are placed with relatives or close family friends, which is often considered a more stable and supportive environment compared to traditional foster care placements.

As of 2024, Virginia's kinship placement rate for children in foster care is **17%**. This is **significantly lower** than the national average.

Sources:

[Governor of Virginia](#)

[Covenant House](#)

[Virginia Public Reports](#)

[Governor of Virginia](#)



Why Kinship Care?

Stability and Reduced Disruption:



Kinship placements often lead to **more stable environments for youth**, reducing the likelihood of multiple placements, which can be costly due to administrative and support services.



Stability also **reduces the need for expensive interventions** like behavioral or mental health services that are often required in less stable placements.

Improved Long-Term Outcomes:



Higher rates of permanency



Lower rates of juvenile delinquency



Better educational achievements

These positive outcomes **reduce future costs for the state** in areas like the **criminal justice system, public assistance, and healthcare.**

Sources:

[Covenant House](#)
[ChildTrends](#)

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