



# Comments on Children's Mental Health Services

Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services  
in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

May 22, 2019

Margaret Nimmo Holland, Voices for Virginia's Children

**Voices**

<sup>1</sup> For Virginia's  
Children

# Changes in child population

- Child population has grown from 1,520,670 in 1990 to 1,869,176 in 2017
- Increase of 22%
- Most of this increase is from minority populations such as Hispanic/Latino and Asian populations

Hispanic and Asians are leading the pack in the shifting child population since 1990

Hispanic  
↑ 446

Asian/Pacific Islander  
↑ 218

American Indian/Alaska Native  
↑ 56

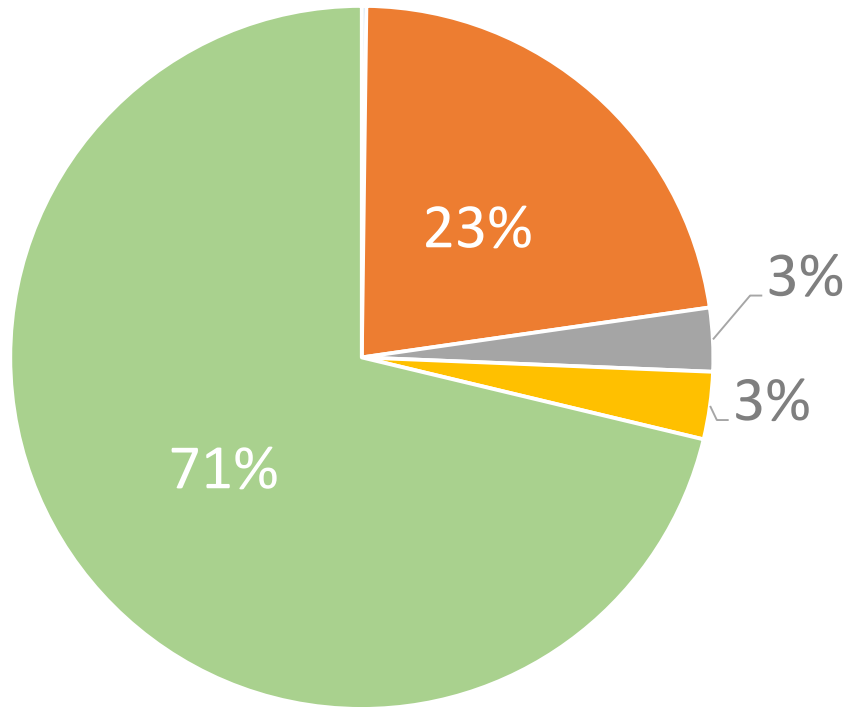
African Americans  
↑ 20

White  
↓ -3

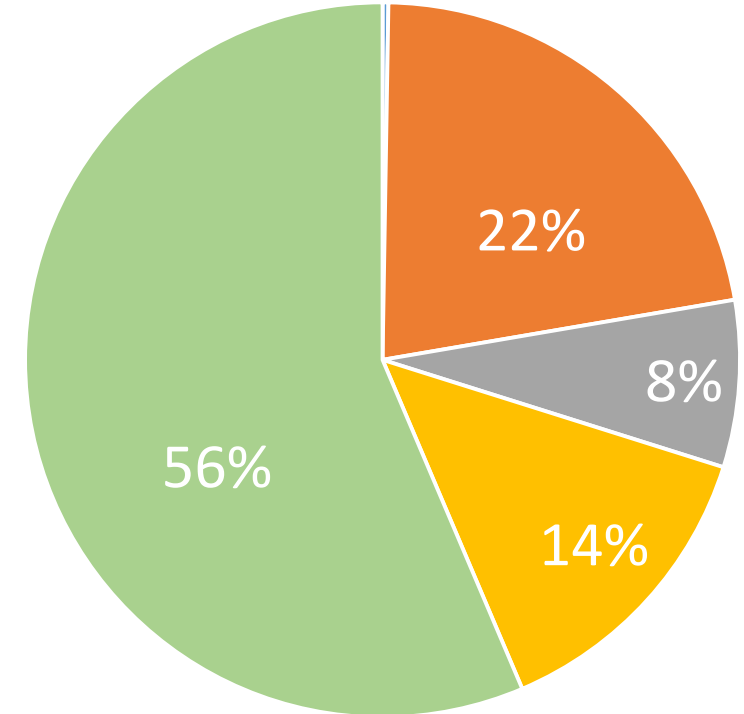
\*Percent change from 1990 to 2017

# Who are Virginia's children?

1990



2017



■ American Indian/Alaska Native

■ African American

■ Asian/Pacific Islander

■ Hispanic

■ White

**Voices**

For Virginia's  
Children

# Considerations for Policy Change

- 1. How does this policy change affect children?** Does it affect different groups of children differently?
- 2. Are the experts in the room contributing to the decision-making?** Families and youth, service providers and administrators of services to children, etc.
- 3. What is our priority as we roll out policy changes?** What are we funding first?
- 4. Do we have the workforce to treat children?** Are we prioritizing the pipeline for children's services? Are the providers going to look like those they serve?

# Considerations for Policy Change

5. **How are the policy changes connected across systems?** What will it look like for the family/child?
6. **How are we holding publicly-funded systems accountable for the policy changes we are making?** Are we collecting data and is it disaggregated? What outcomes are we trying to achieve?