

Housing is an essential prerequisite for personal independence and meaningful community engagement. Access to safe and affordable housing in communities of opportunity has implications that affect one's health, employment, and level of integration in his or her community, and much more. Historically, many Virginians with disabilities lived in institutions, segregated from the rest of society. However, the Commonwealth has taken steps to increase home- and community-based living options in response to shifting public opinion and a U.S. Department of Justice investigation. The investigation found in 2011 that Virginia was violating the Americans with Disabilities Act by not serving people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate to meet their needs.

HOUSING TRENDS

QUALITY

Available data suggests Virginia has made progress toward community integration, although opportunities for improvement remain. Virginia has met or exceeded its annual goals for transitioning people with disabilities to independent living, and a majority of Virginians with developmental disabilities who receive publicly-funded housing assistance are being served in smaller settings. However, many people with disabilities are still not living in their place of choice.

QUALITY INDICATOR	1 YEAR TREND	4 YEAR TREND	8 YEAR TREND
<i>Independent Living</i>	↑	↑	N/A
<i>Choice of Housing</i>	↑	↑	N/A
<i>Smaller Housing Size</i>	↑	↑	↑

SATISFACTION

Data on satisfaction with housing is limited. Most, though not all, Virginians with developmental disabilities who received at least one public service have consistently reported that they liked their current home.

SATISFACTION INDICATOR	1 YEAR TREND	4 YEAR TREND	8 YEAR TREND
<i>Likes Current Home</i>	↑	↑	N/A

HOUSING TRENDS

ACCESSIBILITY

Virginia has met or exceeded its annual goals for creating rental assistance resources for people with developmental disabilities. However, the average cost of an apartment still remains out of reach for many people with disabilities, who often rely on Social Security income to pay for their housing and other needs.

ACCESSIBILITY INDICATOR	1 YEAR TREND	4 YEAR TREND	8 YEAR TREND
<i>Financial Rental Assistance Resources</i>	↑	↑	N/A
<i>Cost of 1-Bedroom Apartment Statewide</i>	N/A	↑	↑
<i>Cost of Efficiency Apartment Statewide</i>	N/A	↑	↑

When interpreting this trend summary, it is important to note that all trends are based on the most recent data available at the time of trend report development. As a result, some indicator trends may be based on data that is older or newer than other indicator data. Data and years for which data was available are shown on the indicator summary pages in the trend report. Additionally, the trend arrows are based on the percentage change over time. Please note that changes less than one percent are deemed “about the same” and indicated with “↔.” This threshold does not indicate statistical significance, so it is possible that fluctuations greater or less than one percent were due to random chance. Trend arrows are color-coded according to their relation to the value category. If the trend direction promotes quality, satisfaction, or accessibility, the trend arrow is green. If the trend direction does not promote quality, satisfaction, or accessibility, the trend arrow is red. More information on how the trend summary was determined is included in the Data Sources & Limitations section. For information on the data sources for each indicator, please see the indicator summary pages or the Data Sources & Limitations section within the full trend report.

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities hopes this report helps policymakers, advocates, and the general public easily track performance over time and identify areas for improvement across the disability services system.

For the full report, please visit the Board’s website: www.vaboard.org