**For Immediate Release** 

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***Celebrating Excellence:***

**Top Ten Ranking Virginia Hospitals Recognized for Stellar Paternity Establishment Rates**

Richmond, Va.—The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) in conjunction with the Virginia Office of Vital Records (OVR) and the Virginia Paternity Establishment Program (VPEP) has announced the top ten Virginia hospitals recognized for excellent performances in paternity establishment rates for 2023. These hospitals, located throughout the Commonwealth, continue to set the industry standard by recording paternity establishment rates greater than 78 percent.

VDSS’ Division of Child Support Enforcement sponsors VPEP, which is operated by Veritas-HHS. VPEP is a program which offers unmarried parents the opportunity to establish paternity of their newborns by voluntarily acknowledging fatherhood during their hospital stay. VPEP also supports paternity establishment should unmarried parents decide later that they would like to add the dad to the birth certificate. The Commonwealth has a total of 53 birthing hospitals serving parents statewide that promote paternity establishment.

“The benefits of establishing paternity are vast and vary from increasing a child’s self-esteem to establishing a child’s health history,” stated Yesenia Peiker, VPEP Project Manager. “It is imperative that we continually advocate the idea that paternity establishment is about the child, not about the parents. A child, who has an established bond with his or her father, has greater access to emotional support and social and economic opportunities.”

The hospital with the highest paternity establishment rate in 2023 is Fauquier Hospital in Warrenton, Virginia. At 89.87 %, their paternity establishment rates exceed the projected state-mandated levels of more than 80% for the year.

“I am very proud of our accomplishments at Fauquier Health,” said Pam Laird, Lead Birth Registrar at Fauquier Hospital. “I love my job, and I strive to meet the needs of our patients every day.”

The Commonwealth’s current paternity establishment rate averages are 78%, which is up 1% from 2023. The paternity establishment rates are on an upward trend. This is a valuable fact considering that statistics show more unmarried mothers are giving birth, due in part to changing social patterns, social beliefs and changing economic conditions.

The top ten ranked hospitals for 2023 are shown below:

**2023 Virginia Births by Facility Hospital Voluntary Paternity Establishment Rates (as reported by OVR)**

|  |  |
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| **Hospital** | **2023 Paternity Rate** |
| 1. FAUQUIER HOSPITAL, INC. | 89.87% |
| 2. SENTARA MARTHA JEFFERSON HOSPITAL | 89.22% |
| 3. NOVANT HEALTH SYSTEMS UVA CULPEPER HOSPITAL | 87.46% |
| 4. STONESPRINGS HOSPITAL CENTER | 85.95% |
| 5. BON SECOURS ST. FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER | 84.50% |
| 6. WINCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER, INC. | 84.40% |
| 7. INOVA LOUDOUN HOSPITAL, LANSDOWNE | 84.23% |
| 8. SPOTSYLVANIA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER | 83.30% |
| 9. BALLAD JOHNSTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL INC. | 82.41% |
| 10. MARY IMMACULATE HOSPITAL | 82.15% |

The top ranked hospitals for 2023 based on hospital size and census are shown below:

**2023 Virginia Births by Facility Hospital Voluntary Paternity Establishment Rates (as reported by OVR) Ranked by Hospital Census**

**1-199 Births**

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| --- | --- |
| **Hospital** | **2023 Paternity Rate** |
| 1. FAUQUIER HOSPITAL, INC. | 89.97% |
| 1. SENTARA MARTHA JEFFERSON\_HOSPITAL | 89.22% |
| 1. STONESPRINGS HOSPITAL CENTER | 85.95% |
| 1. LEWIS-GALE HOSPITAL-MONTGOMERY | 81.29% |
| 1. VCU HEALTH - COMMUNITY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL | 80.34% |
| 1. WYTHE COUNTY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL | 79.31% |
| 1. TWIN COUNTY REGIONAL HOSPITAL | 78.08% |
| 1. BALLAD NORTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL INC. | 77.86% |
| 1. SENTARA HALIFAX REGIONAL HOSPITAL | 76.62% |
| 1. SENTARA CAREPLEX HOSPITAL | 74.29% |

**200-399 Births**

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| **Hospital** | **2023 Paternity Rate** |
| 1. NOVANT HEALTH SYSTEMS UVA CULPEPER HOSPITAL | 87.46% |
| 1. BALLAD JOHNSTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL INC. | 82.41% |
| 1. SENTARA WILLIAMSBURG REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER | 81.57% |
| 1. STAFFORD HOSPITAL CENTER | 79.35% |
| 1. CARILION NEW RIVER VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER | 77.08% |
| 1. RESTON HOSPITAL CENTER | 75.46% |
| 1. RIVERSIDE SHORE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL | 73.58% |
| 1. CJW MEDICAL CENTER - JAHNKE ROAD | 69.39% |
| 1. NAVAL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER | 69.15% |

**400-699 Births**

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| **Hospital** | **2023 Paternity Rate** |
| 1. INOVA LOUDOUN HOSPITAL, LANSDOWNE | 84.23% |
| 1. SPOTSYLVANIA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER | 83.30% |
| 1. MARY IMMACULATE HOSPITAL | 82.15% |
| 1. SENTARA PRINCESS ANNE HOSPITAL | 81.93% |
| 1. INOVA FAIR OAKS HOSPITAL | 81.79% |
| 1. CJW MEDICAL CENTER – JOHNSTON WILLIS DRIVE | 81.41% |
| 1. AUGUSTA HEALTH | 81.14% |
| 1. LEWIS GALE MEDICAL CENTER | 80.72% |
| 1. SENTARA RMH MEDICAL CENTER | 80.33% |
| 1. SOVAH HEALTH DANVILLE | 78.50% |

**700-999 Births**

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| **Hospital** | **2023 Paternity Rate** |
| 1. BON SECOURS ST. FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER | 84.50% |
| 1. WINCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER, INC. | 84.40% |
| 1. MARY WASHINGTON HOSPITAL | 81.82% |
| 1. PRINCE WILLIAM MEDICAL CENTER | 79.97% |
| 1. SENTARA NORTHERN VIRGINIA MEDICAL CENTER | 79.83% |
| 1. VIRGINIA HOSPITAL CENTER | 79.82% |
| 1. INOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL | 79.41% |
| 1. VIRGINIA BAPTIST HOSPITAL | 78.80% |
| 1. UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA MEDICAL CENTER | 73.67% |

**1000-1299 Births**

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| **Hospital** | **2023 Paternity Rates** |
| 1. SENTARA LEIGH HOSPITAL | 79.45% |
| 1. RIVERSIDE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER | 71.54% |

**1300+ Births**

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| **Hospital** | **2023 Paternity Rate** |
| 1. INOVA FAIRFAX HOSPITAL | 82.06% |
| 1. CHESAPEAKE REGIONAL HEALTHCARE | 79.23% |
| 1. HENRICO DOCTORS’ – FOREST HOSPITAL | 79.19% |
| 1. CARILION ROANOKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL | 77.89% |
| 1. VCU MEDICAL CENTER – MCVH | 76.29% |
| 1. SENTARA NORFOLK GENERAL HOSPITAL | 68.36% |

To find out more information about the Virginia Paternity Establishment Program, please visit [www.vapaternity.com](http://www.vapaternity.com)

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