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Virginia Hospitals Recognized for Outstanding Efforts in Establishing Paternity

Richmond, Va. — Ten Virginia hospitals are being recognized for exceptional performances with the Virginia Paternity Establishment Program (PEP) by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS).

VDSS' Division of Child Support Enforcement sponsors PEP, which is operated by the Center for the Support of Families. The program offers unmarried parents the opportunity to establish paternity of their newborns by voluntarily acknowledging paternity prior to leaving the hospital. The Commonwealth has a total of 59 medical facilities serving parents statewide.

“Establishing paternity strengthens the bond between a father and his child and gives the child emotional, social and economic opportunities,” said VDSS Commissioner Martin D. Brown. “Virginia’s outstanding birthing hospitals pave the way for a brighter future for these children.”

For the second year in a row, Warren Memorial Hospital (WMH) has ranked as the “Top Hospital” in the Commonwealth with a paternity establishment rate of 81.07 percent, an increase from last year. Kim Shirley, Women's Care Center director at WMH, said “The staff of Women’s Care Center knew it would be hard to beat last year’s record. Our nurses met with parents outside the hospital, sent acknowledgement of paternitys overseas to military fathers, and provided information about acknowledging paternity at community events.”

In 2011, over 40% of all births in Virginia were to unmarried parents. Currently, Virginia’s hospital paternity establishment rate averages 67 percent. “Virginia is fortunate to have committed birth registrars and hospital staff who understand the importance of this program. We want to make a difference in every child’s life by helping unmarried parents understand the importance of adding the father’s name to their child’s birth certificate,” said Lisa Cauthorne, program manager with the Center for the Support of Families, the state’s in-hospital paternity vendor.

The top ten ranked hospitals are shown below:

2011 Virginia Births By Facility Chart Hospital Voluntary Paternity Establishment Rates Sort Alpha		Results						
Ranking	Total Births by Married Parents	2011 Paternity Establishment Rates	Total Births by Married Parents	No Paternity Establishe d by Unmarried Parents	Paternity Establishe d by Unmarried Parents	Total Births by Unmarried Parents	Total Births All Parents	% of Births to Unmarried Parents as Compared to Married Parents
1	Warren Memorial Hospital Valley Health	81.07%	158	46	197	243	401	60.6%
2	Martha Jefferson Hospital	80.11%	1306	74	298	372	1678	22.2%
3	INOVA Loudoun Hospital Center	79.96%	2178	99	395	494	2672	18.5%
4	Sentara Princess Anne Hospital	78.69%	453	52	192	244	697	35.0%
5	Twin County Regional Hospital	78.62%	159	31	114	145	304	47.7%
6	Carilion New River Valley Medical Center	78.52%	781	84	307	391	1172	33.4%
7	Reston Hospital Center	78.34%	2901	81	293	374	3275	11.4%
8	Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital	77.56%	881	105	363	468	1349	34.7%
9	Winchester Medical Center Valley Health	77.23%	1498	191	648	839	2337	35.9%
10	Johnston Memorial Hospital	77.14%	425	80	270	350	775	45.2%

Click [here](#) for a complete list of the rank of Virginia's 59 birthing hospitals.

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