

Hampton Roads Community Action Program

Community Needs Assessment Report 2016



April 7, 2017

General Statement:

The Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) conducts a need assessment annually to determine conditions through surveying those individuals who live in the community and also by analyzing data from other sources (US Census Bureau). The agency then takes the data gathered from the surveys and other sources to align its programs and strategic plan and ensure the effective and efficient use of resources. HRCAP is revising its Community Needs Assessment methodology in order to meet and exceed CSBG Organizational Standards in assessing the conditions in the community. This revised process will include expanding the number and location of residents receiving our survey; conducting community forums and other events to elicit greater qualitative responses to the questions of need in the community; conducting key-informant surveys of agency staff and the staff of other organizations/agencies in the community to expand the perspective on the needs of the community, resources available and the efficacy of agency programs; and expanding and deepening the analysis of data gathered to better determine the conditions and causes of poverty in the communities we serve. This revision of our Community Needs Assessment Process will enable the agency to deliver a more comprehensive Community Needs Assessment Report to the HRCAP Board of Directors in March of 2018.

Period of Survey:

September of 2015 through February of 2016 (6 months)

Method of Conducting Survey:

Needs Assessment Surveys for the initial sample of respondents were distributed in 2015 and 2016 to agency clients and local residents at several points of contact (Clark Center, Head Start and Children's Services interviews, Fair Housing monthly meetings, Conns Gym, etc). Supplemental Survey Conducted in late 2016 and early 2017.

Statistics:

Statistical tables are available.

Survey Instrument:

The current Needs Assessment Survey was redesigned for 2015 to improve the quality of responses.

Main Survey Results:

The sampling of 384 agency clients and community residents conducted between September of 2015 and February of 2016 has yielded the following results:

1. What city/county do you live in? Over seventy-one (71.51) percent answered Newport News, 22.38 percent answered Hampton, and 6.11 percent listed another location (Poquoson, Yorktown, etc.).

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2. Check any of the following that are needs for you or your family (results show percentage of respondents who indicated need. Top five needs in **Bold Underlined**. Top Need in **Red Bold Underlined**. Top needs met by agency in **Bold Green**.):

<u>37.68% - Medical Healthcare</u>	15.94% - Housing Loans
<u>49.28% - Dental Healthcare</u>	11.32% - Housing Repairs
<u>30.43% - Vision Healthcare</u>	<u>40.94% - Employment</u>
24.64% - Prescriptions	<u>22.10% - Education</u>
6.88% - Mental Healthcare	<u>21.38% - Childcare</u>
1.45% - Hospice	3.99% - Elder Care
15.94% - Clothing	11.23% - Legal Services
19.20% - Food	<u>27.54% - Utilities</u>
18.12% - Job Transportation	5.80% - Counseling
10.14% - Medical Transportation	3.62% - Domestic Violence Services
<u>29.35% - Housing</u>	15.22% - Income Tax Preparation
6.16% - Disability Assistance	5.07% - Senior Service

3. List any additional needs you or your family have that were not listed above: Respondents provided a few new answers including: Credit counseling/household budgeting, help with rent, tutoring, transportation to classes, business planning, and financial literacy classes.

4. How Many Children do you have living in your household? Average of 2.52.

5. Are you a single parent? Yes – 41.87 percent. No – 24.77 percent. Not Applicable – 33.36 percent

6. What are your barriers to childcare services? (Check All That Apply)

<u>63.98% - No Barriers</u>	8.05% - Location of Childcare Providers
<u>26.44% - Cost</u>	9.96% - No Transportation
8.81% - Hours Not Sufficient	1.92% - Not Enough Childcare Providers
5.36% - Children Have Special Needs	6.90% - Quality of Childcare Providers

7. How many household members do NOT currently have health insurance? Fifty-four (54) respondents replied one (1). Twenty-six (26) respondents replied two (2). Eight (8) respondents replied three (3). Six (6) respondents replied four (4). No respondents replied five, six or seven and two replied eight (8) or more. 290 did not respond.

8. Of those with NO health insurance, how many are under 18? Thirty (30). Over 65? Twenty-four (24).

9. What are your barriers to healthcare? (Check All That Apply)

48.44% - No Barriers

34.26% - Cost

26.99% - No Insurance

7.96% - No Transportation to Doctor

1.38% - No Doctor in My Area

2.08% - No Childcare During Appointment

10. Were you able to receive dental care in the last year?

49.35% - YES 50.65% - NO

11. Why did you not receive dental care in the last year? (Check All That Apply)

70.88% - No Insurance

50.55% - Cost

9.89% - My Choice

6.04% - Fear

8.79% - No Transportation

4.40% - No Childcare During Appointment

12. What is your Employment Status?

37.03% - Full-time

12.03% - Full-time with benefits

4.75% - Retired

17.41% - Part-time

0.32% - Part-time with benefits

32.28% - Unemployed/Job Searching

8.86% - Unemployed/Not Searching

13. Does your job provide benefits?

12.35% - YES

42.09% - NO

45.56% - Not Applicable

14. What are your barriers to employment? (Check All That Apply)

40.22% - No Barriers

10.51% - No Jobs in My Field

14.13% - No Transportation

26.09% - Pay Too Low To Support Family

13.41% - No Childcare During Work

10.14% - Physical Disability

13.77% - Lack of Training or Experience

2.54% - Mental Disability

15. Do you have reliable Transportation?

75.93% - YES

24.07% - NO

16. What are your barriers to reliable transportation? (Check All That Apply)

51.12% - No Barriers

27.99% - No Car/Can't Afford Car

2.99% - No Public Transportation

25% - Price of Gas

7.46% - No Private Transportation

0.37% - No Routes Near Home

1.12% - No Routes Near Work

17. Are your housing conditions adequate?

82.95% - YES

17.05% - NO

18. Which of the Following best describes your current housing?

4.24% - Home You Own
 9.09% - Home With Mortgage
 23.53% - Unsubsidized Rental Unit
47.08% - Subsidized Rental Unit/Public Housing
 13.64% - With Family/Friends
 0.00% - Shelter
 2.42% - Homeless

19. What are your major housing concerns? (Check all that apply)

24.16% - Rent too high
 13.09% - House needs major repairs
34.23% - Utilities too high
 16.78% - Can't afford house payments
17.11% - Can't find house in price range
34.90% - No Concern

20. Check if you HAVE a:

44.69% - Phone 83.13% - Cell Phone 43.13% - Computer 45% - Internet Access

21. Have you ever received services from the Hampton Roads Community Action Program(Office of Human Affairs)?

23.36% - YES 76.64% - NO

22. Demographic Data:

Gender: 18.37% - Male 81.63% - Female

Age	Marital Status	Race/Ethnicity	Number in Household	Household Income
>20 - 3.44%	Single - 59.69%	Black/African American - 84.91%	1 - 19.30%	No Income - 11.19%
20-24 - 15.00%	Married - 21.54%	White/Caucasian - 8.81%	2 - 18.04%	Less than \$6,000 - 24.75%
25-39 - 41.25%	Divorced - 10.46%	Hispanic - 0.94%	3 - 27.22%	\$6,000 to 10,000 - 10.51%
40-59 - 32.19%	Widowed - 1.23%	Asian - 0.63%	4 - 19.62%	\$10,001 to \$17,000 - 11.19%
60-64 - 4.38%	Separated - 7.08%	American Indian - 1.57%	5 - 10.76%	\$17,001 to \$25,000 - 13.90%
65-79 - 3.44%		Alaska Native - 0%	6 - 2.22%	\$25,001 to \$35,000 - 15.25%
Over 80 0.31%		Bi-Racial/Multi-Racial - 3.14%	7 - 2.22%	\$35,001 to \$45,000 - 6.10%
			8+ - 0.63%	Over \$45,000 - 7.12%

24. Check The Highest Level of Education You Have Completed.

3.13% - Some Grade School Some

3.13% - Completed Grade School

15.31% - Some High School

32.50% - Completed High

School/GED

7.19% - Some Technical School

13.44% - Completed Technical School

21.88% - Some College

9.69% - Completed College/Associate
Degree

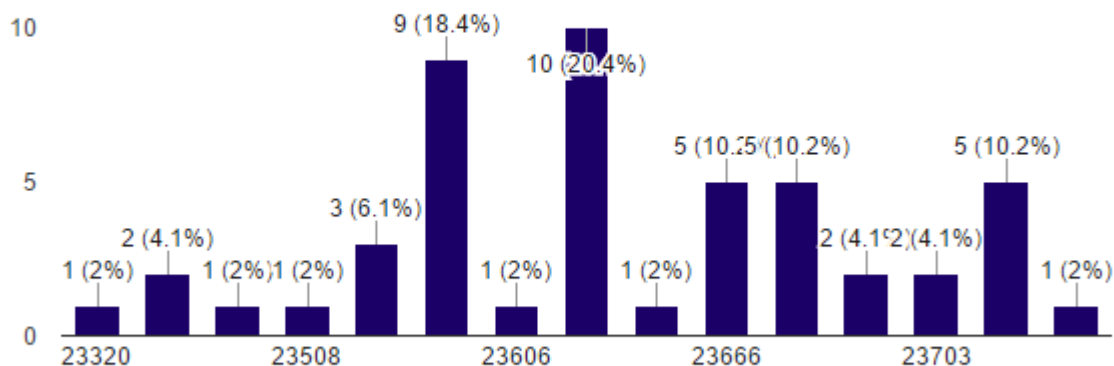
5.94% - Completed College/Bachelor
Degree

5.10% - Master's Degree

0.00% - Doctorate Degree

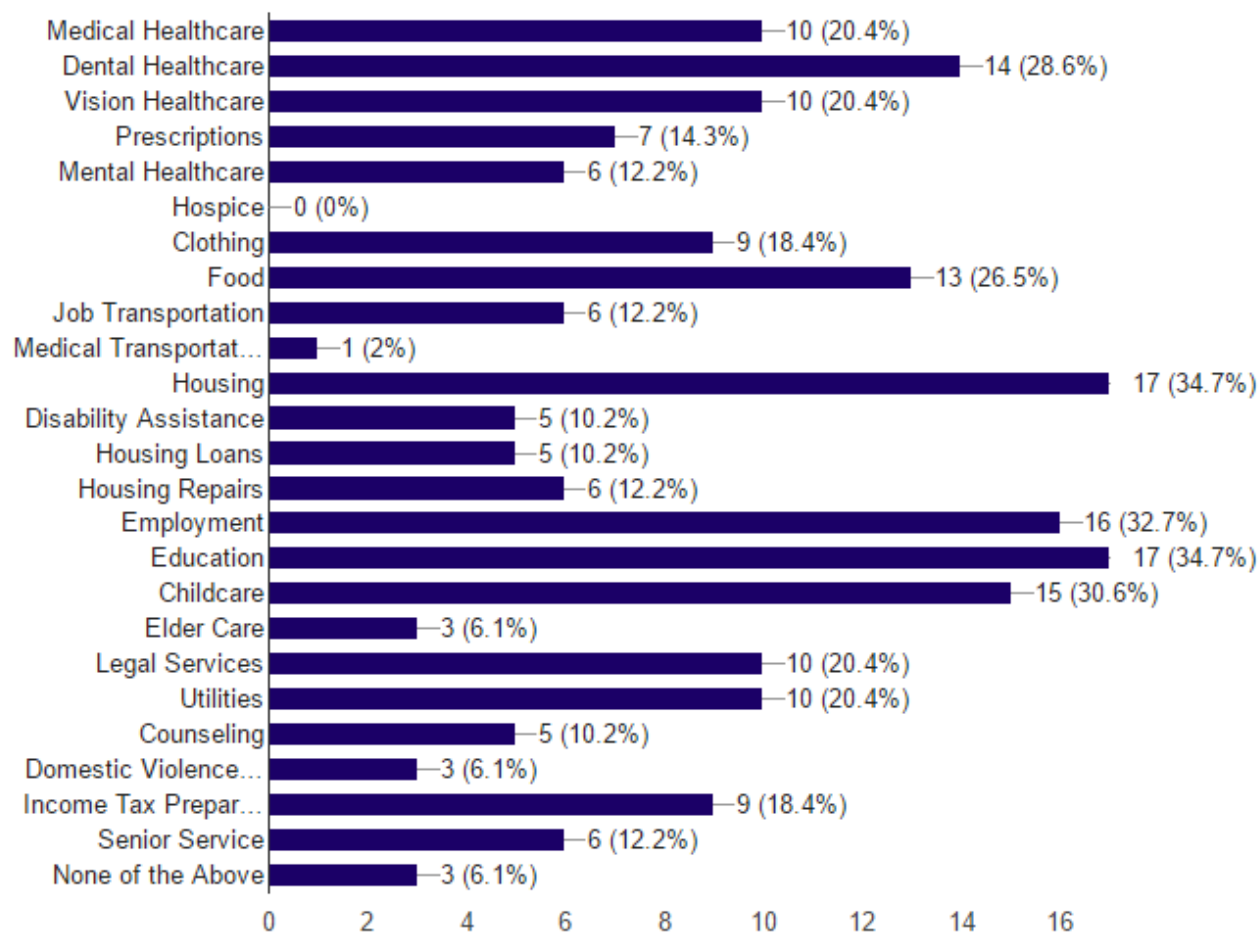
Supplemental Survey Results

What is the zip code of your home address? (49 responses)



Check any of the following that would be beneficial for you or your family:

(49 responses)



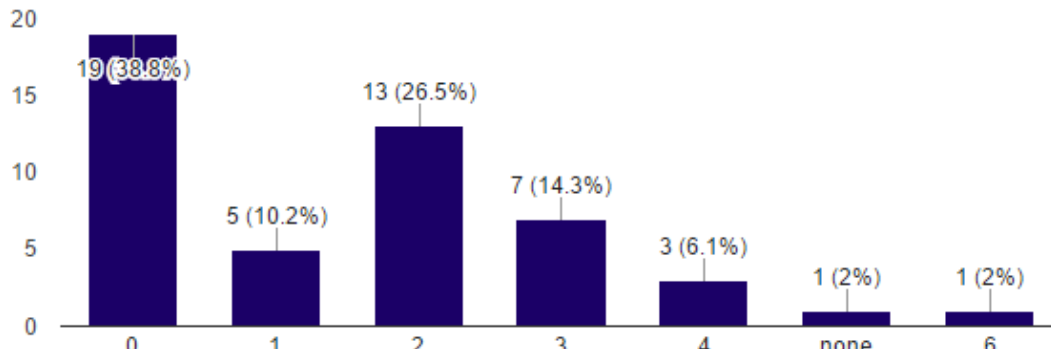
Please list any additional programs/services you or your family would find beneficial that were not listed above:

(2 responses)

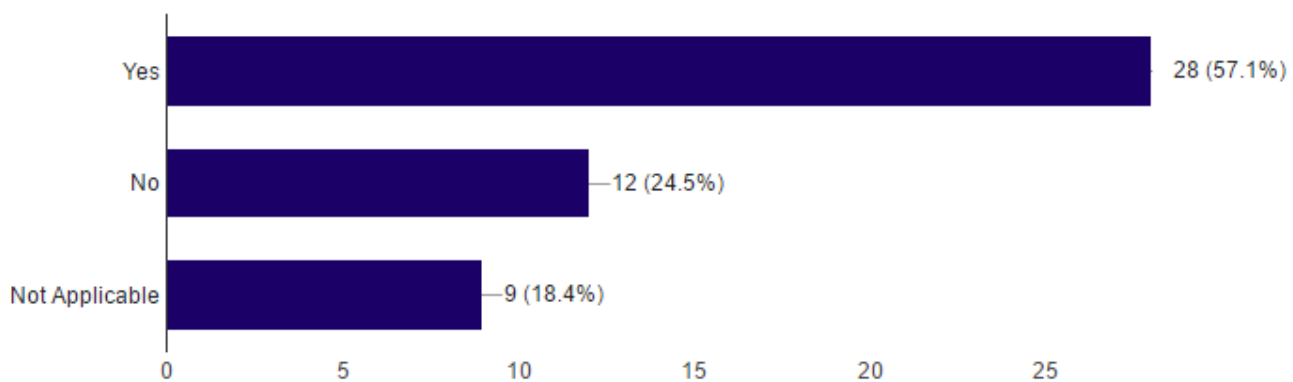
Help with court fines

How many children do you have LIVING IN your household? (If none respond 0)

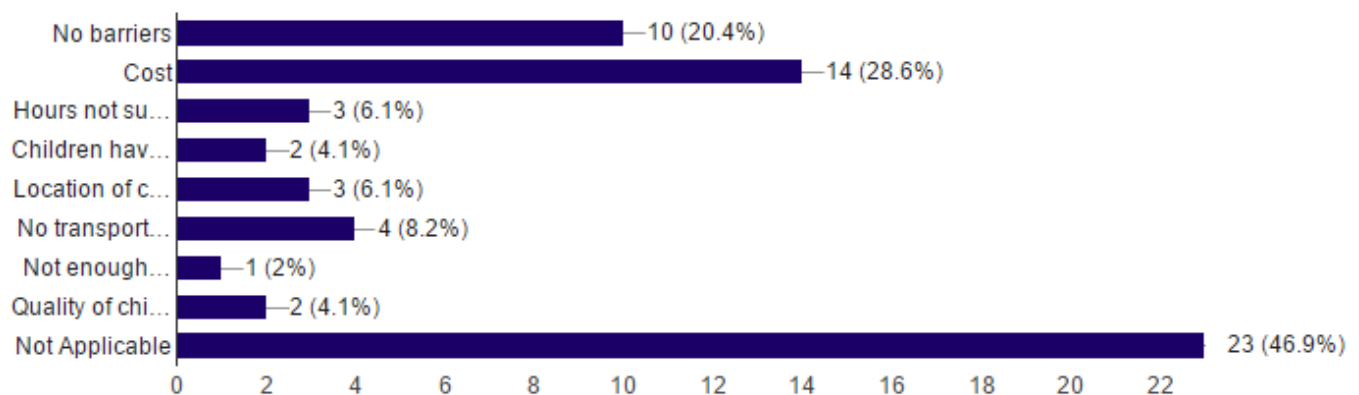
(49 responses)



Are you a single parent? (49 responses)

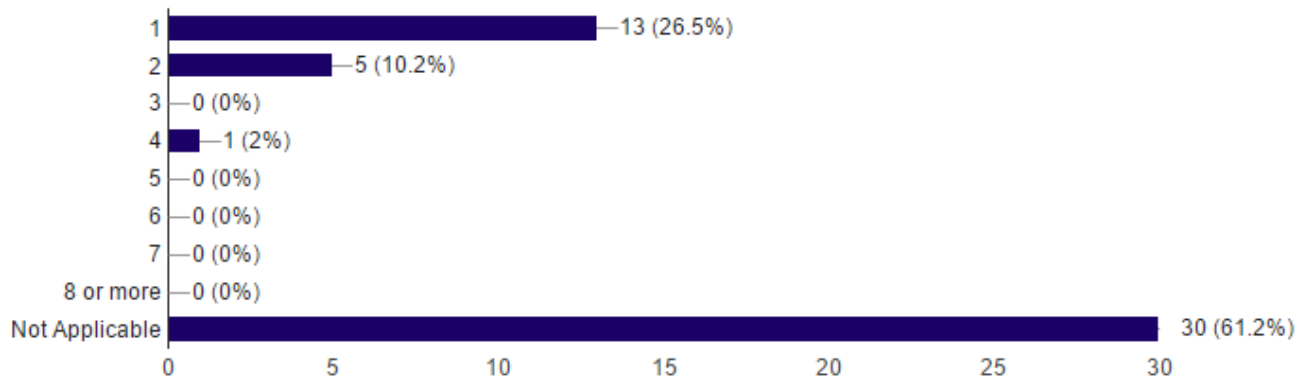


What are your barriers to childcare services? (check all that apply) (49 responses)

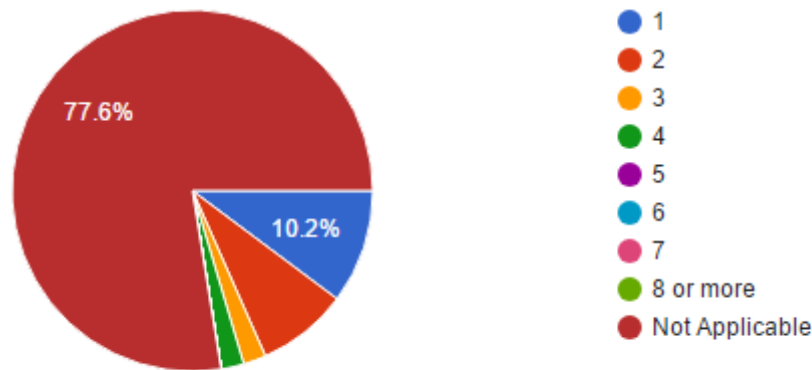


How many household members do NOT currently have health insurance?
 (Including Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, Private Insurance)

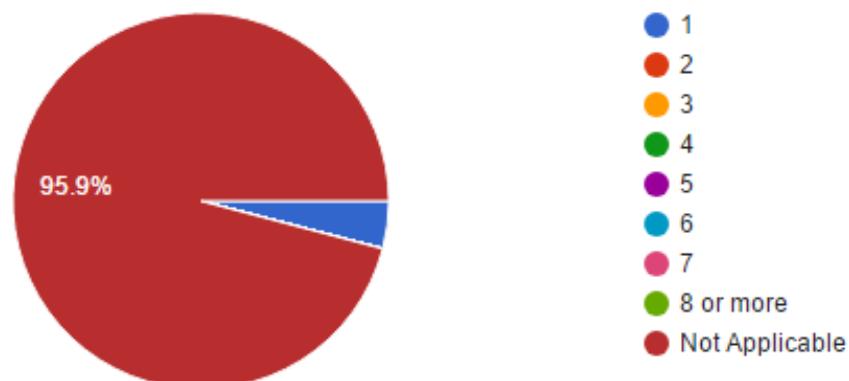
(49 responses)



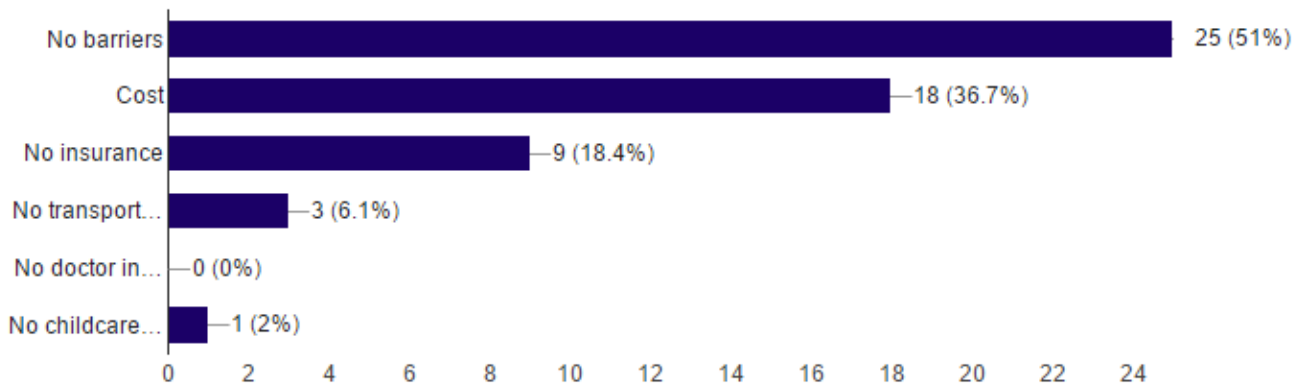
Of those with NO health insurance, how many are under 18? (49 responses)



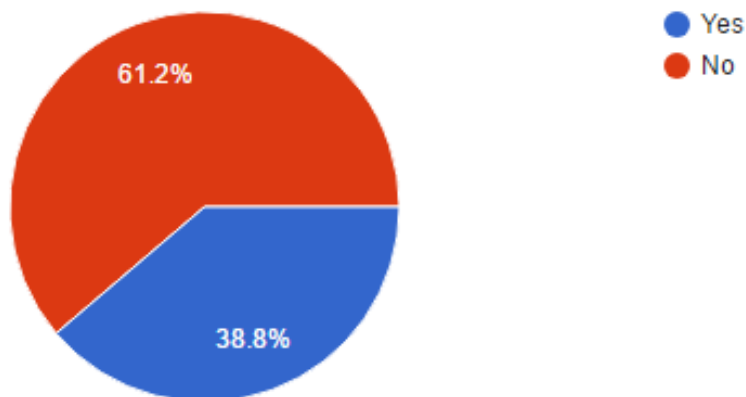
Of those with NO health insurance, how many are over 65? (49 responses)



What are your barriers to health care? (check all that apply) (49 responses)

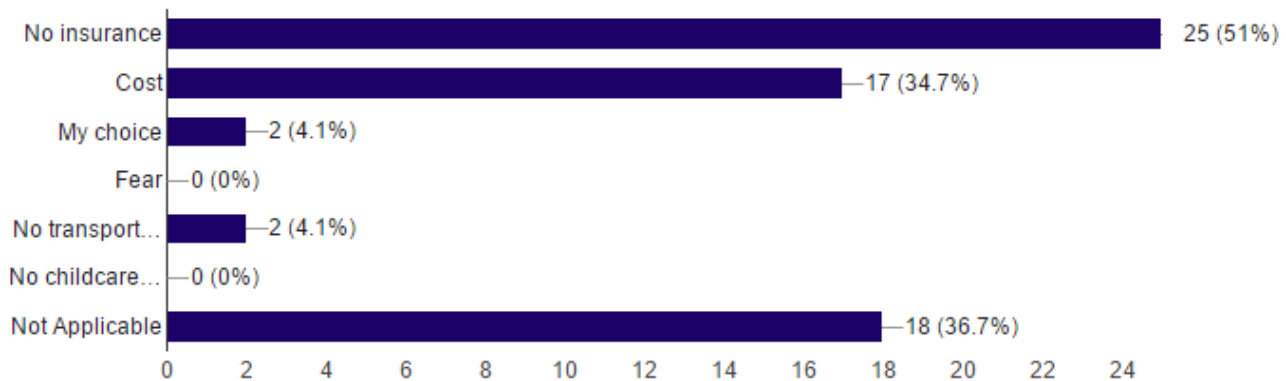


Were you able to receive dental care in the last year? (49 responses)

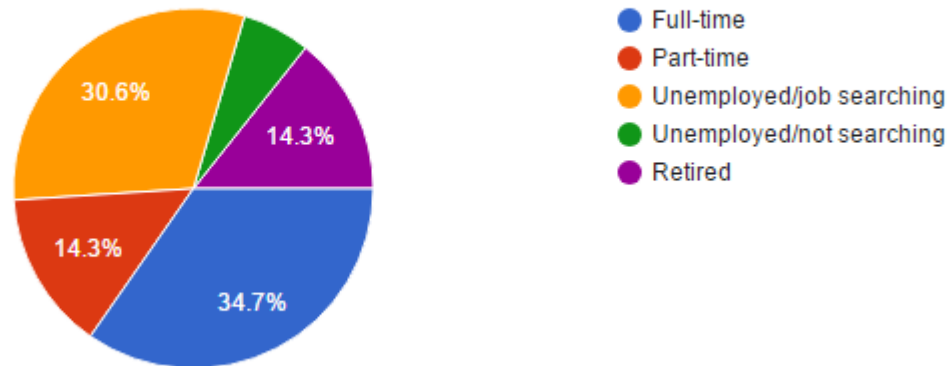


Why did you not receive dental care in the last year? (Check all that apply)

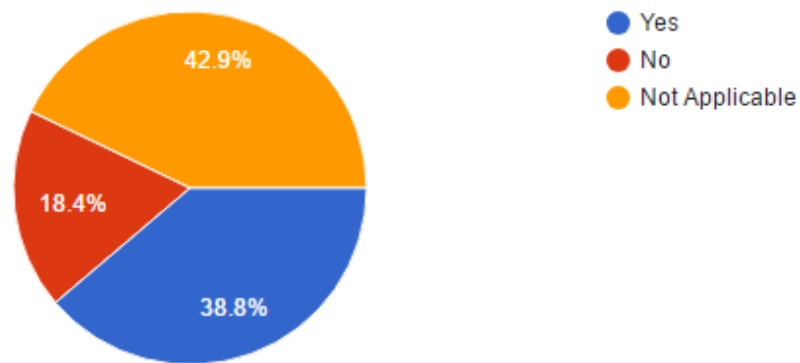
(49 responses)



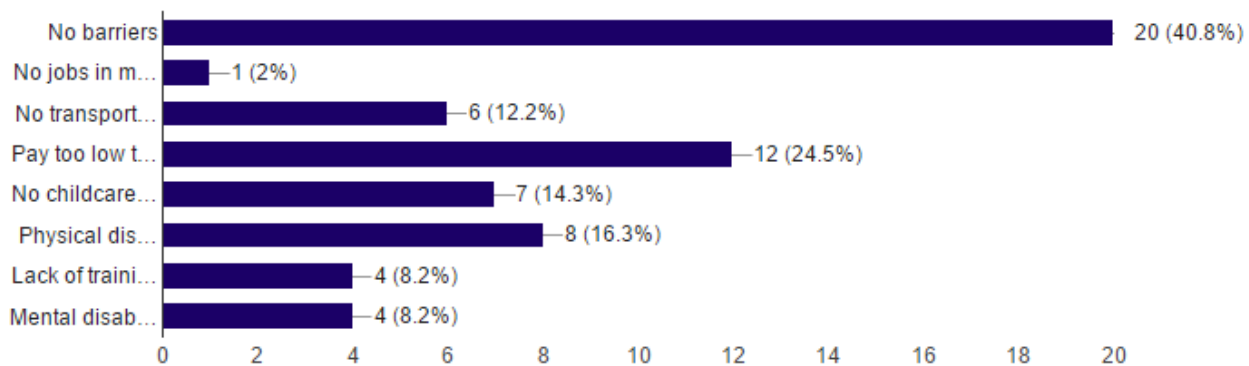
What is your employment status? (49 responses)



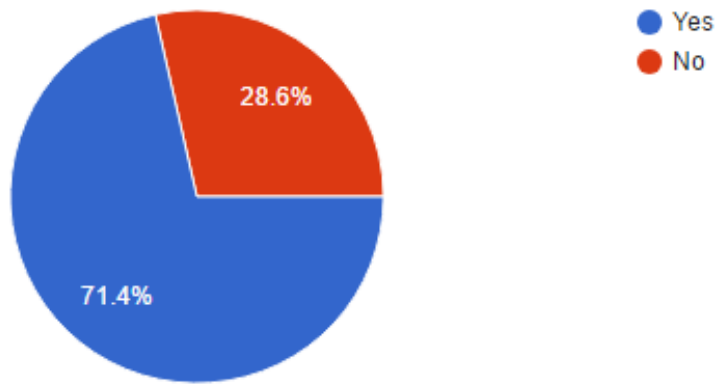
Does your job provide benefits? (49 responses)



What are your barriers to employment? (check all that apply) (49 responses)

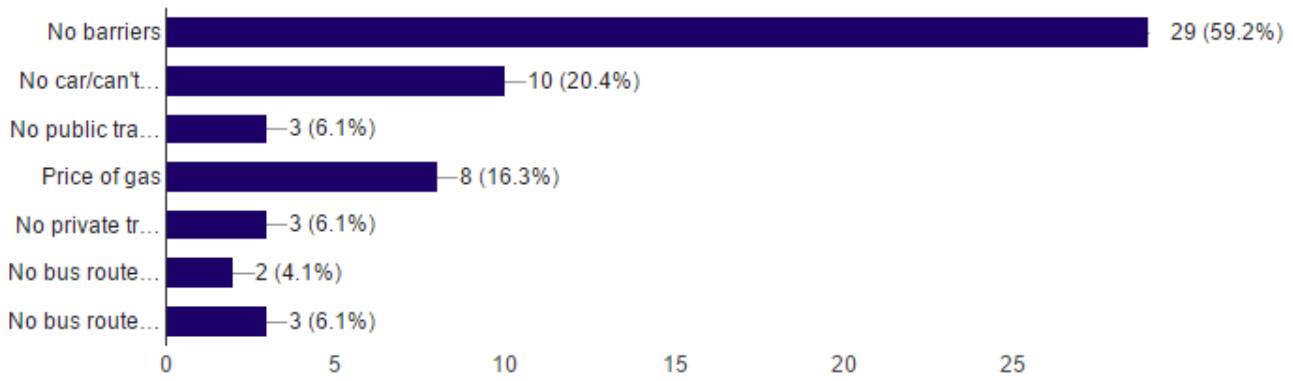


Do you have reliable transportation (49 responses)

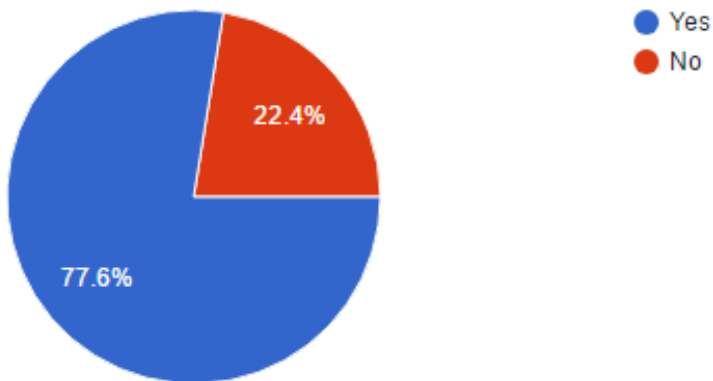


What are your barriers to reliable transportation? (check all that apply)

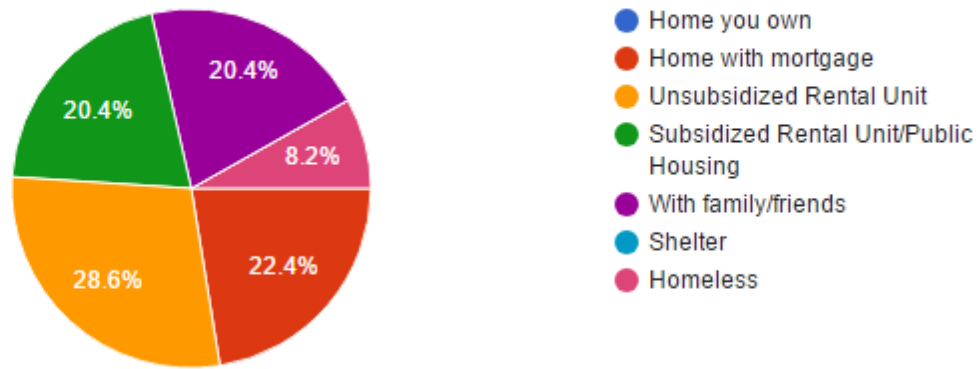
(49 responses)



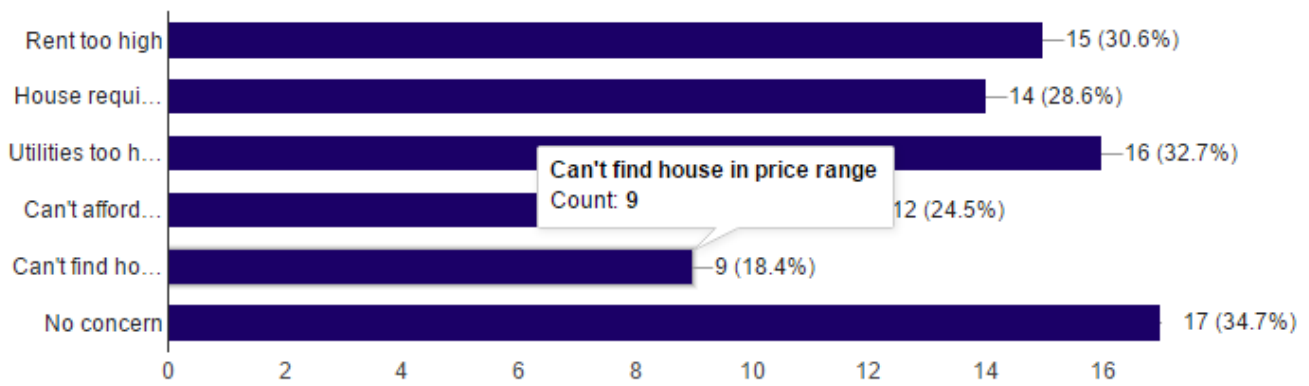
Are your housing conditions adequate and safe? (49 responses)



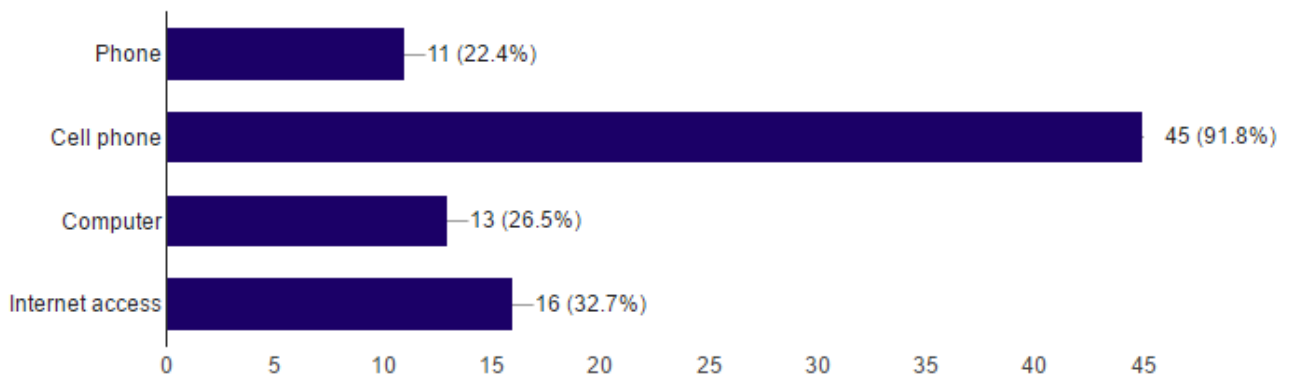
Which of the following best describes your current housing? (49 responses)



What are your major housing concerns? (check all that apply) (49 responses)

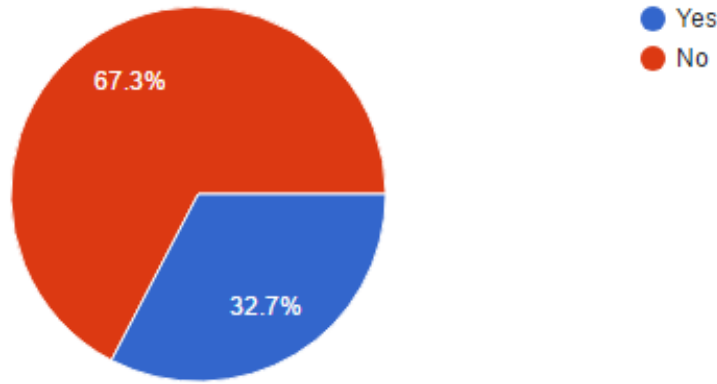


Check if you HAVE a: (49 responses)



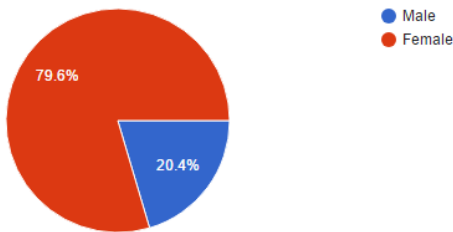
Have you ever received services from HRCAP (or the Office of Human Affairs)?

(49 responses)

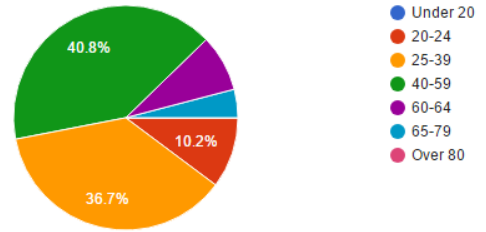


Supplemental Survey Demographic Data

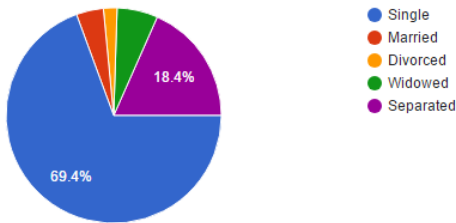
Gender (49 responses)



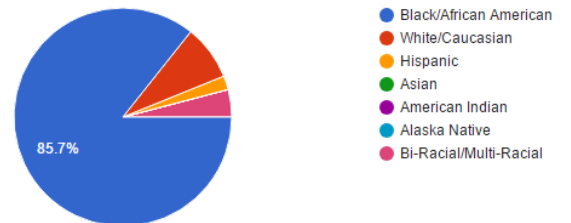
Age (49 responses)



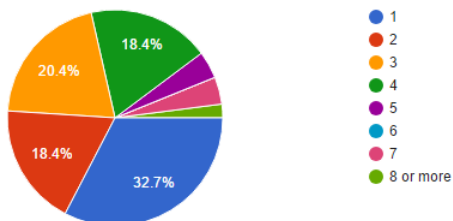
Marital Status (49 responses)



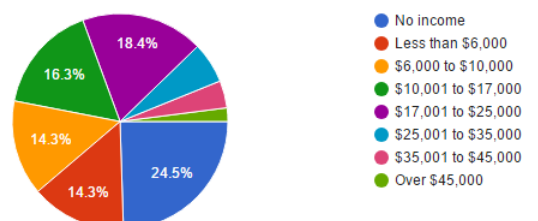
Race/Ethnicity (49 responses)



Number in Household (49 responses)



Household income (49 responses)

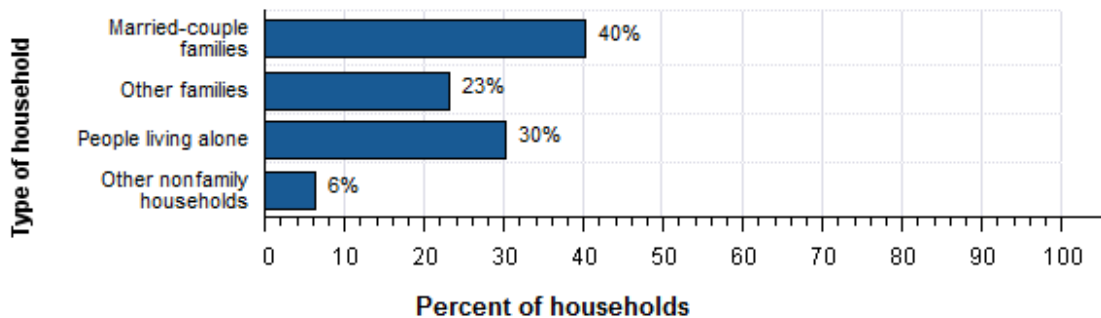


Selected Census Data:

Newport News: Based on US Census Bureau 2010 Census data, the population of the City of Newport News was 180,719.

HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES: American Community Survey (ACS) Estimates for 2011-2015 indicate that there were 69,073 households in Newport News city and that the average household size was 2.49 people. Families made up 61.9 percent of the households in the city. This figure includes both married-couple families (38.4 percent) and single parent families (23.5 percent). Nonfamily households made up 38.1 percent of all households. Most of the nonfamily households were people living alone, but some were composed of people living in households in which no one was related to the householder. The chart below based on ACS data for 2007-2009, shows similar results, indicating that there has been no significant shift in the composition of household type in the city in the last decade.

The Types of Households in Newport News city, Virginia in 2007-2009



Source: American Community Survey, 2007-2009

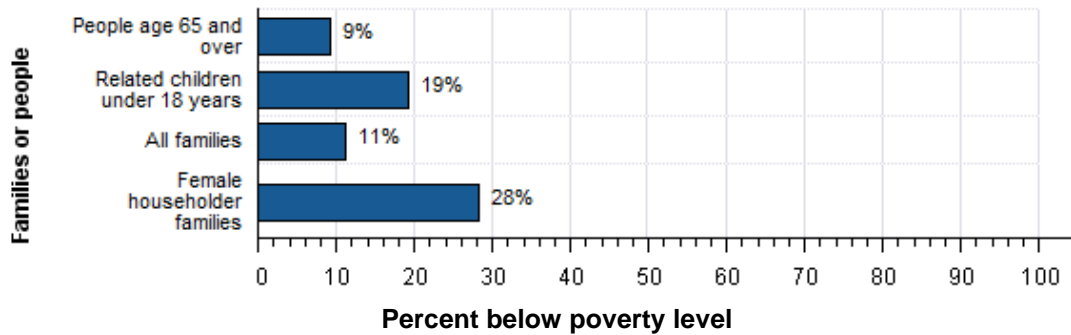
EDUCATION: Estimates for 2011-2015 show that 89 percent of Newport News residents 25 years and older had at least graduated from high school and 24 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Eleven percent had not completed either high school or elementary school. The average annual total school enrollment in Newport News was 51,135 in 2011-2015. Preschool enrollment was 3,407, kindergarten 2,805, elementary 18,278 and high school enrollment was 8,650. College or graduate school enrollment was 17,995.

INCOME: For 2011-2015 the annual median income of households in Newport News city was \$50,077. Over eighty (80.7) percent of the households received earnings and 21.5 percent received retirement income other than Social Security (25.8 percent of the households also received Social Security). The mean income from Social Security was \$16,561. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

POVERTY AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS: During the 2011-2015 ACS time frame, 15.7 percent of Newport News residents were in poverty. Over 23 percent (23.8%) of related children under 18 were living below the poverty level, compared with 7.7 percent of people 65 years old and over. Over 12.7 percent of all

families and 29.9 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level. The chart below, based on ACS data for 2007-2009, indicates that there has been a slight increase in poverty rates in the city in the last decade, except among those 65 and older, which has declined 1.3 percentage points.

Poverty Rates in Newport News city, Virginia in 2007-2009



Source: American Community Survey, 2007-2009

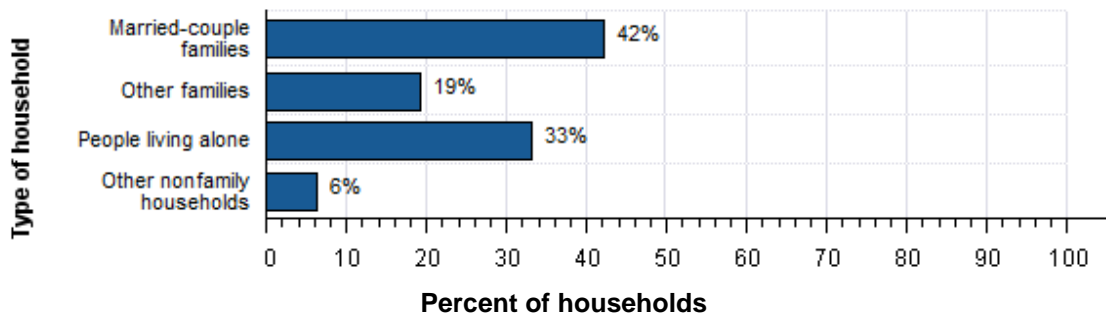
In Newport News during the 2011-2015 time frame, an estimated 2,154 households received cash public assistance (most likely in the form of TANF) and 10,636 received SNAP/food stamp benefits.

HOUSING COSTS: For the 2011-2015 time frame, the median monthly housing costs for mortgaged owners was \$1,446, for non-mortgaged owners was \$505, and for renters was \$964. Thirty-four (34.5) percent of home owners with mortgages, 13.1 percent of home owners without mortgages, and 52.6 percent of renters in Newport News spent 30 percent or more of household income on housing.

Hampton: Based on US Census Bureau 2010 Census data, the population of the City of Hampton was 137,436.

HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES: In 2011-2015 there were 51,699 households in Hampton city. The average household size was 2.56 people. Families made up 62.1 percent of the households in Hampton city. This figure includes both married-couple families (39.7 percent) and single parent families (22.5 percent). Nonfamily households made up 37.9 percent of all households in Hampton city. Most of the nonfamily households were people living alone, but some were composed of people living in households in which no one was related to the householder. The chart below, based on ACS data for 2007-2009, shows similar results, indicating that there have been no significant changes in the composition of household type in the city.

The Types of Households in Hampton city, Virginia in 2007-2009



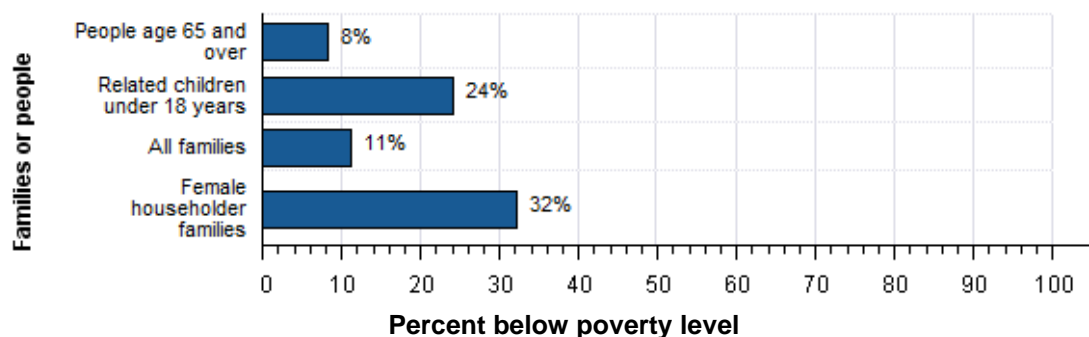
Source: American Community Survey, 2007-2009

EDUCATION: In 2011-2015, 89.9 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 23.2 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Slightly more than ten percent had not completed either high school or elementary school. The average annual total school enrollment in Hampton city was 38,449 for 2011-2015. Preschool enrollment was 2,426, kindergarten 1,666, elementary 12,968 and high school enrollment was 6,657. College or graduate school enrollment was 14,732.

INCOME: The median income of households in Hampton city was \$49,190. Just under eighty percent (78.2%) of the households received earnings and 26.3 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Over Twenty-eight (28.7%) percent of the households received Social Security. The mean income from Social Security was \$16,393. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

POVERTY AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS: During the 2011-2015 ACS time frame, 15.3 percent of people were in poverty. Over 23.9 percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 7.9 percent of people 65 years old and over. Twelve percent of all families and 29.7 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level. The chart below, based on ACS data for 2007-2009, shows similar results, indicating that there has been no significant shift in poverty rates in the city during the last decade.

Poverty Rates in Hampton city, Virginia in 2007-2009



Source: American Community Survey, 2007-2009

In Hampton during the 2011-2015 time frame, an estimated 1,697 households received cash public assistance (most likely in the form of TANF) and 6,975 received SNAP/food stamp benefits.

HOUSING COSTS: The median monthly housing costs for mortgaged owners was \$1,448, non-mortgaged owners \$469, and renters \$1,009. Just over thirty-six percent (36.3%) of owners with mortgages, 14.4 percent of owners without mortgages, and 60.5 percent of renters in Hampton city spent 30 percent or more of their household income on housing.

Children in Poverty

The following chart shows five year data on the number and percent of children living in poverty in cities where HRCAP provides Head Start and Early Head Start services. In four out of the five cities, child poverty rates have been over 20 percent for each of the last five years.

Children (Ages 0-17) Living In Poverty

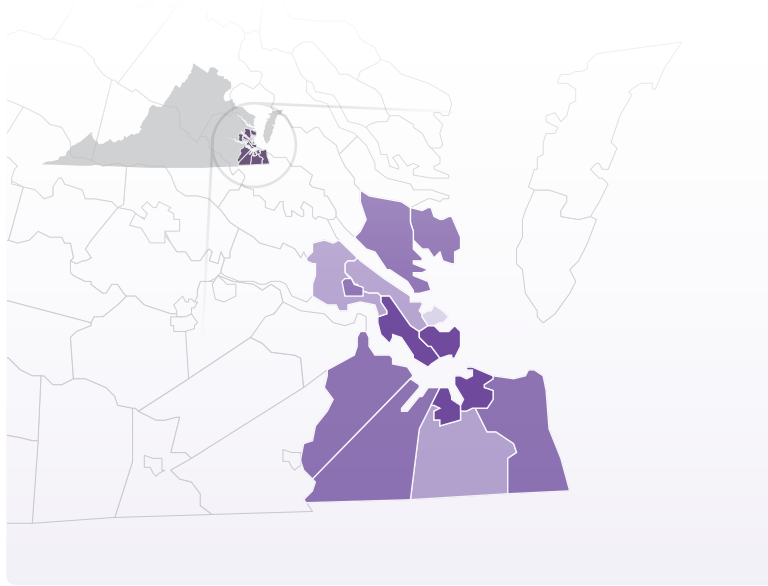
Year(s): 5 selected | Data Type: All

Data Provided by: Voices for Virginia's Children

Location	Data Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Chesapeake	Number	7,653	8,034	7,060	7,915	7,831
	Percent	13.5%	14.4%	12.6%	14.0%	13.9%
Hampton	Number	7,163	7,560	6,544	6,323	6,804
	Percent	23.7%	25.3%	22.3%	21.6%	23.5%
Newport News	Number	9,700	10,744	11,435	10,904	10,750
	Percent	22.7%	25.3%	27.1%	25.8%	25.7%
Norfolk	Number	13,951	13,799	16,150	15,559	14,367
	Percent	28.0%	27.6%	33.0%	31.7%	29.6%
Portsmouth	Number	6,231	6,818	7,318	6,214	6,738
	Percent	28.1%	30.4%	33.2%	28.3%	30.5%

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED

1-14% 15-30% 31-44% 45-59% 60-75%



Children living below 200% of poverty level are economically disadvantaged and live in families that struggle to meet basic needs:
Food, Housing, Utilities, Child Care and Transportation

2 IN 5

children are economically disadvantaged
IN THE HAMPTON ROADS REGION

THAT'S

148,912 children who are economically disadvantaged

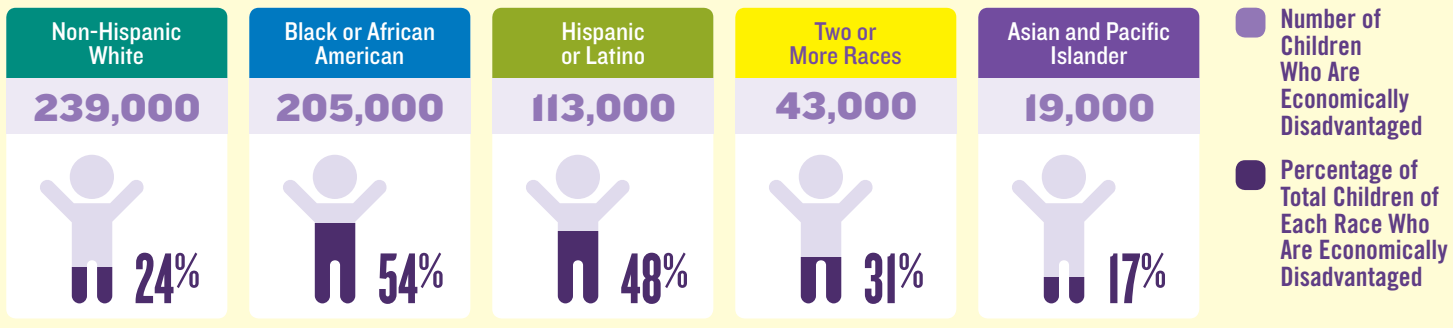
ENOUGH TO FILL

2,978 SCHOOL BUSES

ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN IN VIRGINIA

1 IN 3 CHILDREN ARE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED

Children of every race and ethnic group face hardship across Virginia. One in four White children live in families that struggle to meet basic needs. For Black and Hispanic/Latino children, one in two live in families that struggle to meet basic needs. Over time, a variety of federal, state, and local policy choices have had disproportionate impacts on families living in certain regions or belonging to certain racial and ethnic groups. Those effects are still felt today. To improve economic opportunity, we must recognize children have different starting points, which may require different policy solutions.



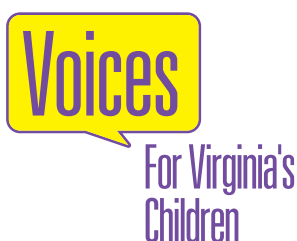
EVERY CHILD IN VIRGINIA SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO THRIVE

A multi-pronged policy platform is needed to improve the economic opportunity of Virginia's children.

Access to Affordable Healthcare	High-Quality Early Learning Opportunities	Two-Generation Supports	Support in Schools	Support For Children in Foster Care	Continued Transformation of the Juvenile Justice System

DEMOGRAPHIC		ECONOMIC WELL-BEING				EDUCATION		HEALTH		SAFETY
Locale	Total Population Under 18	Number of Children in Poverty (Below 100% FPL*)	Percentage of Children in Poverty	Number of Children Economically Disadvantaged (Below 200% FPL*)	Percentage of Children Economically Disadvantaged	Pass Rate of Third Graders on SOL Reading Test	On-Time High School Graduation Rate	Low-Income Children w/o Health Insurance (Below 200% FPL*)	Births to Mothers with Less Than 12th Grade Education	Rate of Children Entering Foster Care (per 1,000)
Chesapeake	56,957	8,243	15%	17,202	31%	76%	93%	1,387	5%	0.4
Gloucester	7,677	647	8%	2,376	31%	78%	91%	254	5%	2.4
Hampton	30,258	7,152	24%	14,922	51%	71%	91%	994	5%	1.5
Isle of Wight	7,682	1,496	20%	2,634	35%	83%	93%	230	4%	0.5
James City	14,644	1,529	11%	3,783	26%	N/A	N/A	500	6%	0.3
Mathews	1,512	169	11%	506	34%	68%	96%	79	8%	0
Newport News	42,782	10,075	24%	21,324	51%	66%	92%	1,457	7%	1
Norfolk	49,893	14,874	30%	28,330	58%	64%	85%	1,786	11%	1.2
Poquoson	2,765	126	5%	327	12%	86%	92%	60	4%	N/A
Portsmouth	22,626	6,663	30%	11,999	54%	69%	89%	553	12%	1.9
Suffolk	21,791	3,835	18%	8,196	38%	69%	87%	612	8%	0.5
Virginia Beach	103,435	12,674	12%	33,145	33%	83%	91%	3,150	4%	1.1
Williamsburg	1,601	306	20%	665	44%	83%	91%	69	9%	0.6
York	16,374	1,325	8%	3,503	22%	88%	96%	465	2%	0
Regional Total	379,997	69,114	18%	148,912	39%	-	-	11,596	-	0.88
State Total	1,864,668	280,144	16%	621,843	34%	76%	91%	62,032	9%	1.5

*FPL stands for Federal Poverty Level. The federal poverty definition consists of a series of thresholds based on family size and composition. In 2015, a 200% poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$48,500.



We champion public policies that improve the lives of Virginia's children.

Voices is the home to the KIDS COUNT Data Center, which is generously funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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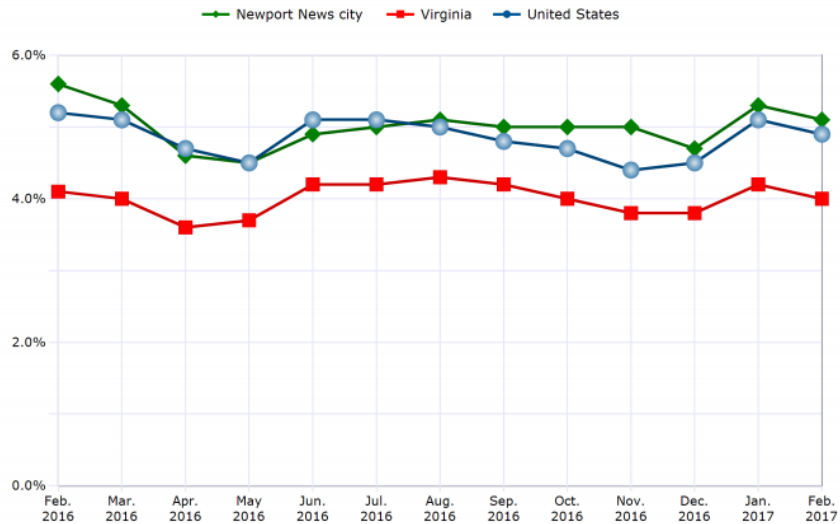
To learn more or get involved, visit www.vakids.org.

Sources:
Kids Count Data Center; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014 & 2015; Virginia Department of Education 2015 & 2016; Virginia Department of Health 2014; Virginia Department of Social Services 2015 & 2016; Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice Resource Guide 2016

Virginia Employment Commission Data

The following chart shows unemployment trends in the city of Newport News for 2016. Although the rate has remained just above or equal to the national unemployment level for much of the year, it has remained above state levels throughout.

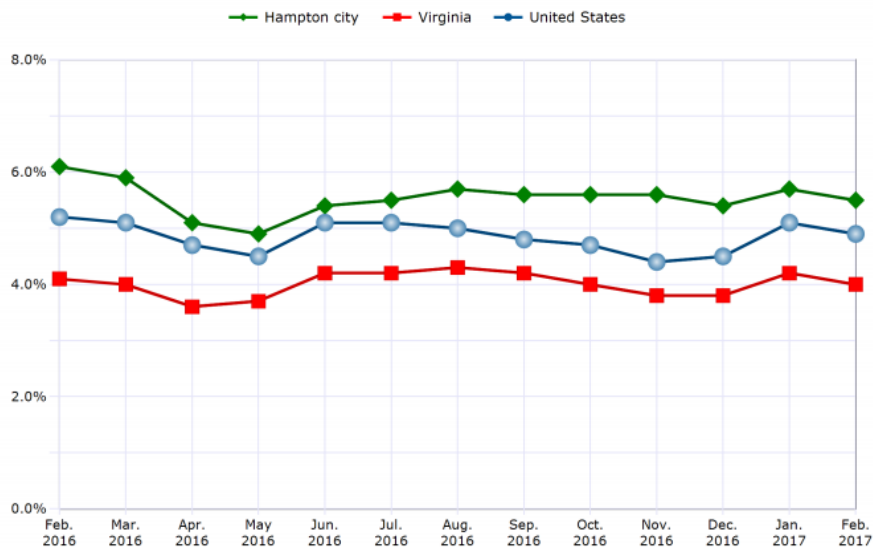
Newport News Unemployment Rate February 2016 to February 2017



Source: Virginia Employment Commission

The following chart shows unemployment trends in the city of Hampton for the 2016. As national unemployment rates stabilized at under 6 percent for most of 2016, Hampton rates remained above both national and state levels for the entire year.

Hampton Unemployment Rate February 2016 to February 2017



Source: Virginia Employment Commission

Head Start:

The Hampton Roads Community Action Program' largest component, the Head Start Program, conducts an in-depth community assessment every three years. Updated annually with an addendum, this assessment provides information that will be analyzed by the Head Start Management Team, HRCAP Board of Directors and Head Start Policy Council to determine future plans and changes in the Program that will be reflected in the training plans, continuous quality improvement plans, and other programmatic plans that guide Head Start.

The Head Start assessment obtained the following results from parent surveys, Family Partnership Agreements and parent interviews:

Family Strengths:

- Extended family support
- Children's school success
- Head of household working and attending school
- Access to computers and internet

Family Needs:

- Day Care/Full Day services
- Training and career opportunities
- Affordable housing/homeownership
- Education: GED, College, English as a Second Language
- Financial assistance
- Affordable health care
- Transportation
- Single parent support
- To live in a safe healthy environment
- Effective parenting skills
- Positive male role models

The Head Start assessment obtained the following results from institutions serving young children and families (Department of Social Services, Healthy Start and Institute for Family Centered Services):

Family Strengths:

- Accesses community resources
- Realization of the importance of education
- Maintaining households (3 or more children) below poverty levels while working and attending classes
- Extended family support
- Computer skills and access
- Comprehensive and continuous prenatal care

Family Needs:

- Affordable housing
- Financial assistance
- Day care
- Job skills/training
- Safe living environment for the family
- Transportation
- Affordable health care
- Parenting techniques
- Understanding child development and age-appropriate immunizations
- Problem solving skills
- Family planning services
- Crisis Intervention

Based on opinions from both sides (parents of Preschool Children and the Institutions/Organizations that serve them), we can conclude for the most part, that Head Start/Early Head Start families and these institutions are experiencing the same challenges and successes.

Analysis of Survey Results and Data:

The results of this survey show that there is still great need in this area for services and programs offered by the Hampton Roads Community Action Program. Some of the changes in income range of survey respondents for these initial results may simply reflect the small size of the respondent sample. The number of individuals reporting income levels below \$6,000 increased to 35.42 percent in 2009, 31.72 percent in 2010 and 42.15 percent in 2011. That percentage dropped to 32.78 in 2012, possibly due to the rebounding of the economy. The 9.89 percent figure for the 2013 survey is due to the small sample size, and the fact that a majority of respondents were those in attendance at the VHDA First Time Home Buyers Class. Individuals planning to purchase housing generally have higher incomes. The 2015 figure of 35.94 percent seems more in line with historic trends for residents taking the survey. The next highest income level (\$6,000 to \$10,000) dropped from an average of 20 percent for 2005 and 2006 to 8.33 percent for 2009, 9.37 percent for 2010, 7.62 percent for 2011, 6.35 percent in 2012, to 10.51 percent in 2015, suggesting that many in the community continue living on even more severely reduced incomes than they were in previous years. These employment numbers may reflect an increase in the number of unemployed or underemployed people who take our survey, but it also certainly points to fluctuations in the local economy and the need for more employment opportunities for the people struggling to make ends meet in the lower income neighborhoods on the peninsula.

Changes to the survey instrument in 2010 make a straight forward comparison to answers from previous year's surveys more challenging. A broader range of question revealed a need for Dental Healthcare (cited as a need by 51.41 percent of respondents in 2013, 49.32 percent in 2014, and 49.28 percent in 2015) that pre 2009 needs assessment instruments did not measure. The need for Dental Healthcare has remained fairly high over the last 4 years, and although HRCAP does not provide healthcare services, we can refer clients to organizations and agencies that can meet their dental needs. Medical and vision care were also noted by respondents on these newer surveys. Other needs cited were traditionally noted by HRCAP's previous needs assessments and include employment, housing, childcare and utility assistance.

There does not seem to be many barriers to receiving assistance for most of the people surveyed. The most common barriers noted were an inability to afford fees associated with some programs, a lack of qualification on the part of the respondent and a lack of knowledge as where to receive assistance. Cost was also cited as the main barrier to childcare services, health care services and dental care services. Lack of insurance remains a major barrier to health and dental care.

Over 32 percent of respondents indicated that they were unemployed and searching for work. Another 8.86 percent are unemployed and not looking for work, for a total unemployment rate (among respondents) of 41.14. This number is in line with information collected in previous surveys (the 2011 and 2012 survey results of 37.88 and 46.15 percent respectively). Data from previous years demonstrates the persistence of the local economic difficulties and the chronic employment problems faced by people living in the low-income neighborhoods served by HRCAP. The larger sample of local residents

in the 2014 survey provided a much clearer picture of the economic situation in our community. Barriers to employment cited included low pay, lack of training and lack of transportation.

On the issue of Housing, just over 13 percent of respondents indicated that they owned their own home (or were paying on a mortgage). Additionally, 71 percent of respondents indicated that they live in a rental unit, 13 percent live with family or friends and 3 percent are homeless. The major housing concerns for respondents included high utility costs, high rent and a lack of homes in their price range.

Survey data collected to date indicates that conditions continue to be challenging for the low-income residents served by the Hampton Roads Community Action Program, and that the agency remains an important bulwark against the crushing effects of poverty in the community.