

2023- 2024

UPDATE TO THE 2022 5-YEAR
COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT



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Green = New Material or Data since the last Community Assessment

Red = Will be updated on the 5-Year Assessment

Purple = Sources

Executive Summary

A review of the material contained within the Community Assessment demonstrates the need for continued and expanded services for families with children living in poverty in Western Tidewater. High levels of poverty, including the very young, a continued lack of kindergarten preparedness, continued population growth in Suffolk and Isle of Wight, a lack of public transportation, teenage pregnancy, a continued need for quality jobs, low education attainment in the community, a lack of affordable housing, continued critical health issues such as obesity and diabetes, and one-parent households are several of the many reasons why Early Head Start and Head Start services are so critical in Western Tidewater.

Center-based childcare, enhanced opportunities for early intervention with an at-risk population, home visitor intervention, a parent-mentoring program, fatherhood initiatives, and transportation services are some of the greatest existing needs. Parents have also expressed the need for connections with food banks, local health departments, housing authorities, job search resources, clothing donations, and the use of public transportation.

There is a foundation of collaborative effort among the many agencies serving the target population with little if any duplication in services.



“We nurture and educate children and their families.”

2024 Update to the 5-Year Community Assessment:

Trends 2023-2024

The following trends have been updated and showed significant change since the 5-Year Community Assessment in 2022.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- All localities saw a population growth in 2023. Suffolk and Isle of Wight have seen a steady growth in population over the last 9 years while this is the first time in 9 years that Franklin has seen a significant increase.
- Suffolk continues to have the highest number of Hispanics.
- In 2023, Virginia saw a decrease in population of children under age five. Franklin and Suffolk saw a decrease in children under age five while Southampton and Isle of Wight saw an increase. Suffolk has the highest number of children under age five.
- The number of homeless persons decreased from 98 in 2022 to 69 in 2023 in Western Tidewater. The number of children living in homelessness decreased by 3 in Western Tidewater to 26 children.
- Franklin continues to have the highest percentage of children under 5 living below the poverty level.

ECONOMICS

- All localities saw an increase in household income. This is the first year in several years that Franklin has seen a significant increase. Isle of Wight and Suffolk's median household income is higher than the Virginia average.
- Isle of Wight has the highest median household income followed by Suffolk. Franklin continues to have the lowest household income.
- Franklin is almost 6 times the state average for percentage of households with cash public assistance income. All Western Tidewater localities are above the state average, with the exception of Isle of Wight and Suffolk which is below the state average. Both Isle of Wight and Suffolk saw a decrease in percentage of households with cash public assistance.
- Both Isle of Wight and Suffolk saw a decrease in percentage of households with cash public assistance. Franklin is almost 6x the state average.
- In 2021, Franklin, Southampton, and Suffolk all saw increases in the number of children receiving child care subsidies.
- Households living below the poverty level increased by nearly 1%. This decreased by approx. 2% in Isle of Wight.
- Franklin has the highest % of population with families with children living in poverty at almost 8%.

- All Western Tidewater except Isle of Wight communities are above the state average in households that are asset limited, income constrained, and employed (ALICE).

CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING

- All localities are above the state average in childhood poverty.
- The trend in Western Tidewater is that less low-income children are going without health insurance as compared to eight years ago, except recently in Isle of Wight County. All localities are below the state average.
- All children enrolled at the Children's Center by the end of FY 2022-2023 were enrolled in health insurance, including Medicaid and private insurance.

HEALTH

- Opening in early 2026, a new state of the art Smithfield Riverside Hospital will open in the Benn's Church area of Smithfield.
- In 2020, Franklin and Southampton remain above the state average for low-birth-weight babies. Suffolk and Franklin saw an increase in % of low-birth-weight babies. No update has been made.
- Franklin and Suffolk are above the state average for teen pregnancy rate. Franklin is more than two times the state average. Franklin has a significantly higher birth rate for female teens ages 15-17 at 13.5%.
- In 2020, there was an increase in each locality for prenatal care beginning in the first trimester. This number has not been updated.
- In 2020, Franklin saw a significant increase in infant mortality. The percentage increased for all localities. Virginia's percentage dropped slightly. This number has not been updated.

2023 Snapshot of babies in Virginia:

287,996 babies born in VA

9.6% of babies born preterm

30.6% of babies live in poverty

20.3% of babies who are black

16.6% of babies who are Hispanic

49.6% of babies who are white

COMMUNITY EDUCATION:

- No updates in this area.

NUTRITION

- Students who receive free and reduced lunch in 23-24 increased across all localities. Franklin students qualify for 100% free and reduced lunch under the USDA Community Eligibility Provision.
- In 2020, the number of children who received SNAP increased across all localities.
- Child food insecurity rates decreased in 2021 in all localities.
- Food environment index did not change much from 2022 to 2023.

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

- As of December 1, 2023, it is estimated that 52 children in Western Tidewater have a disability and are eligible for Early Head Start or Head Start.

- Suffolk has the largest estimated number of children 0-5 with a disability enrolled in a preschool. Franklin has the highest % of children living in poverty with a disability.
- In 2022-2023, the number of public school children in grades Pre-K-12 receiving special education services had little change. Suffolk remains the district with the highest number of special education children.

EMPLOYMENT

- The size of labor force increased across localities in 2023.
- Unemployment rates decreased across all areas in 2021.
- Isle of Wight, Southampton, and Franklin are above the state average for percentage of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force. The trend for all areas has been higher.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

- 2019-2020 % of kindergarteners whose PALS scores were below K readiness levels decreased in Franklin and Isle of Wight but increased in Suffolk and Southampton.
- In 2022, children 3 and up to kindergarten enrolled in a preschool increased across localities. Suffolk has 1,700 children and over 7% enrolled in preschool.
- During the 2022-2023 school year, Isle of Wight is the locality with the highest percentage of students in third grade passing the Standards of Learning English exam. Franklin is the locality with the lowest reading SOL scores.
- In 2022-2023, Isle of Wight remains the locality with the highest % for passing the Math SOL. Franklin continues to have the lowest % of passing scores. All localities improved math SOL scores except for Southampton which remained the same.

TRANSPORTATION & TECHNOLOGY

- Transportation trends were updated. Refer to that section.

RESOURCES

- In 2022-2023, the Children's Center has 10 preschool and 9 infant/toddler Mixed Delivery Grant slots in community-based childcare classrooms that are free to families who qualify. In Suffolk, there are 5 MDG preschool slots and 5 MDG infant/toddler slots. In Franklin, there are 5 MDG preschool slots and 4 MDG infant/toddler slots.
- The Children's Center currently has 210 Head Start slots and 280 Early Head Start slots throughout Western Tidewater.
- Virginia Quality is an evidence-based practice that was implemented in Virginia in 2008 and sponsored by Early Childhood Western Tidewater that is being replaced by a state classroom observation rating system called VQB5. The Virginia Quality (VQ) rating process ended on June 30, 2022 to assist with the transition to VQB5. VQ quality ratings will remain valid until VQB5 quality ratings are published in Fall 2024.

Area Description & Geographic Data

Area Description

The community served by the Western Tidewater Head Start programs consists of two predominately rural counties and two independent cities. High levels of poverty, low birth weight infants, and infant mortality characterize the 1,358 square mile area.

The City of Franklin is located in Southeastern Virginia. It consists of eight square miles. Franklin is bordered by Isle of Wight County, and Southampton County. The City of Franklin is predominately urban, with a population density of 1,045 persons per square mile. The city has a central downtown business district and a number of adjacent residential neighborhoods, and strip style shopping centers. The city is divided into six council wards. Citizens in each of the six wards elect a council representative to serve a four-year term. The city is led by an elected mayor and an appointed city manager.

Isle of Wight County is located in Southeastern Virginia. It consists of 363 square miles. Isle of Wight County is bordered by the cities of Suffolk, and Newport News (the county's northern border with Newport News is separated by the James River, which is over 5 miles wide, with one bridge crossing) and the Virginia counties of Southampton, and Surry. Isle of Wight County is predominately rural with a population density of 112 persons per square mile. Many of the county's residents live in or near the towns of Smithfield and Windsor or adjacent to the City of Franklin in the southern most edge of the county. The county is divided into five election districts. Citizens in each district elect a supervisor to serve a four-year term. The elected Board of Supervisors elects a board chair.

Southampton County is located in Southeastern Virginia. It consists of 602 square miles. Southampton County is bordered by the cities of Franklin and Suffolk and by the Virginia counties of Isle of Wight, Surry, Sussex, and Greenville, and by Hertford and Northampton counties in North Carolina. Southampton County is predominately rural, with a population density of 30 persons per square mile. It has seven communities located throughout the county where many of the county's residents live. These villages also serve as supply centers for the county's agricultural production. The county is divided into seven election wards. Citizens in each ward elect a supervisor to serve a four-year term. The elected Board of Supervisors elects a board chair.

The City of Suffolk is centrally located in the Hampton Roads region of Southeastern Virginia. Suffolk has the distinction of being "Virginia's Largest City" covering approximately 429 square miles. It is bordered by a variety of cities and counties including Isle of Wight County, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Southampton County and Gates County, North Carolina. The Suffolk community is primarily a rural one, with pockets of residential, commercial, and industrial development an "inner city" core, and a growth region in the northern end of the city. The city has a population density of 200 persons per square mile. The city is divided into seven council wards. Citizens in each of the seven wards elect a council representative to serve a four-year term. The city is led by an elected mayor and an appointed city manager.

Demographics

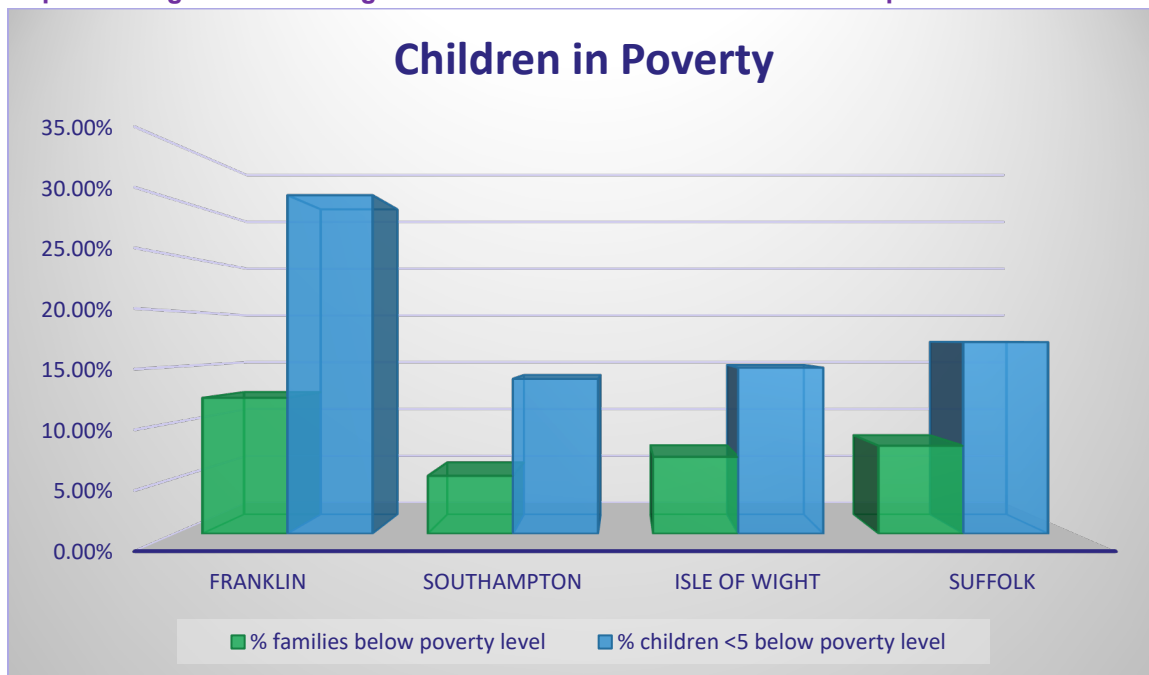
The Children's Center updated its estimation of Early Head Start and Head Start eligibility for Western Tidewater during 2023 (last updated Feb. 2023):

Children eligible for Early Head Start and Head Start in Western Tidewater

Locality	Estimated # of children living in poverty	Families that are below Federal Poverty Level	Percentage of Young Children <5 Living Below Poverty Level
Franklin	599	12.2%↑	30.4%↑
Southampton	570	5.2%↓	13.9%↑
Isle of Wight	737	6.9%↓	14.9%↓
Suffolk	3,008	7.8%↓	17.2%↑

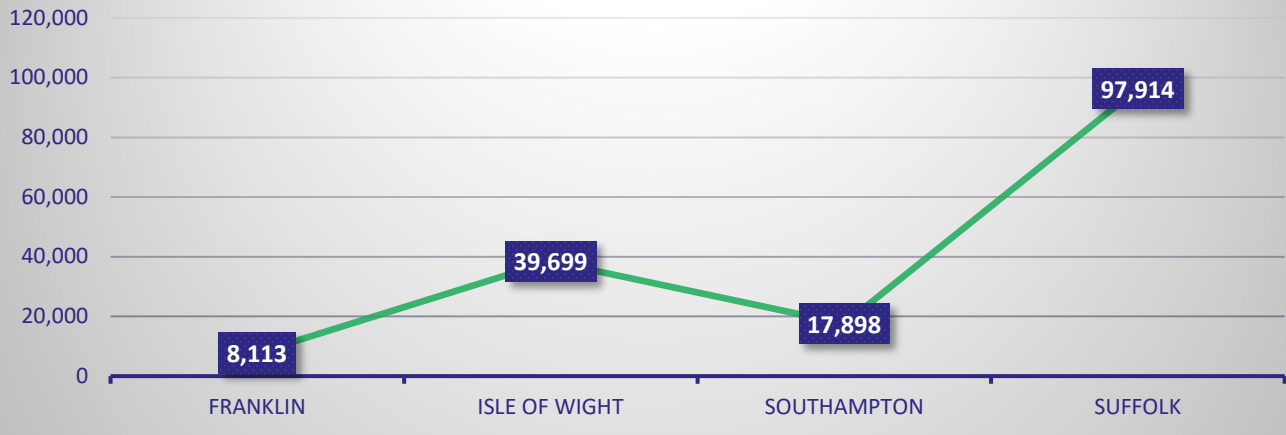
Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

<https://www.ghrconnects.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=532&periodId=4523&localeId=2917>



Population Figures

Population Figures for Western Tidewater



All localities saw a population growth in 2023. Suffolk and Isle of Wight have seen a steady growth in population over the last 9 years while this is the first time in 9 years that Franklin has seen a significant increase.

Population Figures for Western Tidewater and Virginia

Locality	2018#	2019#	2020#	2021#	2022#	2023#
Virginia	8,492,022	8,554,008	8,597,973	8,599,585	8,716,223	8,715,522
Franklin	8,355	8,210	8,012	7,970	7,756	8,113
Isle of Wight	37,129	37,155	37,505	37,605	38,422	39,699
Southampton	17,993	17,696	17,486	17,564	17,597	17,898
Suffolk	91,570	92,443	93,011	93,999	96,322	97,914

*Estimate U.S. Census

** Estimate Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

Population Change 2020-2023 (by percentage)

Virginia	0.97%
Franklin	-0.82%
Isle of Wight	2.75%
Southampton	-0.54%
Suffolk	3.81%

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

Suffolk continues to have the highest concentration of Hispanics.

Population Figures By Race and Ethnicity (2021 by percentage)

Population Group	Virginia	Franklin	Isle of Wight	Southampton	Suffolk
White	65.03%	37.28%	71.94%	62.09%	50.97%
Black	19.48%	57.88%	22.73%	33.90%	41.88%
Asian	7.08%	0.98%	0.96%	0.54%	1.88%
Hispanic	10.37%	2.97%	3.94%	2.20%	5.40%
American Indian	0.41%	0.41%	0.49%	0.50%	0.36%

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

Population Figures By Race and Ethnicity (2022 by percentage)

Population Group	Virginia	Franklin	Isle of Wight	Southampton	Suffolk
White	64.94%	37.34%	71.95%	62.03%	50.73%
Black	19.49%	57.37%	22.54%	33.81%	42.12%
Asian	7.05%	0.98%	1.00%	0.57%	1.92%
Hispanic	10.47%	3.11%	3.95%	2.42%	5.32%
American Indian	0.41%	0.44%	0.51%	0.54%	0.36%

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

Population Figures By Race and Ethnicity (2023 by percentage)

Population Group	Virginia	Franklin	Isle of Wight	Southampton	Suffolk
White	58.85%	36.05%	69.10%	62.26%	46.63%
Black	18.66%	55.16%	22.32%	29.85%	41.73%
Asian	7.39%	1.48%	1.09%	0.58%	2.14%
Hispanic	11.55%	2.83%	3.71%	2.32%	5.38%
American Indian	0.51%	0.38%	0.62%	0.55%	0.43%

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

<https://www.ghrconnects.org/index.php?module=demographicdata&controller=index&action=index&id=41669>

With the exception of Southampton County, the percentage of female population in Western Tidewater is above the state average. Southampton County is the only area which has more males than females.

Percentage of Population That is Female

Locality	Female Population 2017	% of Pop.	Female Population 2018	% of Pop.	Female Population 2019	% of Pop.	Female Population 2020	% of Pop.	Female Population 2021	% of Pop.
Franklin	4,662	54.77	4,560	54.58	4,475	54.51	4,372	54.57	4,367	54.79
Isle of Wight	18,859	51.33	19,064	51.35	18,986	51.10	19,155	51.07	19,181	51.01
Southampton	8,647	47.69	8,585	47.71	8,458	47.80	8,356	47.79	8,400	47.83
Suffolk	46,720	51.69	47,149	51.49	47,776	51.68	47,993	51.60	48,514	51.61
Virginia	4,307,952	50.81	4,313,609	50.80	4,346,672	50.81	4,367,505	50.80	4,367,376	50.79

Source: U.S. Census *Estimated, Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

In 2023, Virginia saw a decrease in population of children under age five. Franklin and Suffolk saw a decrease in children under age five while Southampton and Isle of Wight saw an increase.

Population Under Age 5

Locality	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Franklin	665	539	487	453	634	592
Isle of Wight	1,729	1,967	2,000	2,008	2,051	2,081
Southampton	845	818	746	673	738	866
Suffolk	5,809	6,134	6,342	6,342	6,211	6,155
Virginia	512,228	511,502	511,906	508,576	509,192	504,913

Source: U.S. Census, Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

The Virginia Employment Commission projects growth in the under age 5 population for all areas of Western Tidewater, especially Isle of Wight and Suffolk.

Projected Population Under Age 5 (updated 2018)

Locality	2020	2030	2040
Franklin	595	611	607
Isle of Wight	1,809	2,007	2,145
Southampton	819	816	838
Suffolk	6,377	7,484	8,252

Source: Virginia Employment Commission

According to data from the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, Suffolk and Isle of Wight will experience rapid population growth over the next 25 years.

Projected Population All Ages (updated June 2017)

Locality	2025	2035	2045
Franklin	8,510	8,517	8,464
Isle of Wight	39,549	43,400	46,922
Southampton	18,789	19,230	19,534
Suffolk	104,400	120,487	135,619

Source: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

Following the trend at the state level, all localities saw an increase in the total number of Hispanic children from 2017 to 2019 (with the exception of Franklin).

Number of Hispanic Children ages birth-17

Locality	2017	2014-2018	2015-2019
Franklin	0	0	0
Isle of Wight	339	354	367
Southampton	117	124	170
Suffolk	1,279	1,342	1,381
Virginia	242,147	249,917	266,554

Source: Kids Count

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/9275-child-population-by-race-after-2009?loc=48&loct=5#detailed/5/6812-6945/false/1983,1692,871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133/187,172,9,3,4199,107/18348>

There are **over 7,300** children in foster care in Virginia. According to the latest available statistics, the number of Early Head Start and Head Start eligible children in foster care in Western Tidewater is minimal.

Children in Foster Care (% by age group*)

Locality	Age Group	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Franklin	Less than 1 year	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	1-5 years	0.0	33.3	33.3	54.5	12.5
Isle of Wight	Less than 1 year	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	6.3
	1-5 years	33.3	37.5	0.0	0.0	31.3
Southampton	Less than 1 year	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	0.0
	1-5 years	12.5	10.0	0.0	0.0	25.0
Suffolk	Less than 1 year	4.2	4.2	0.0	3.4	11.5
	1-5 years	4.2	16.7	6.3	13.8	26.9

Source: Kids Count *The percentage is the number of children in foster care in that age group of the total number of children in foster care in that locality.

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/9186-children-in-foster-care-by-age?loc=48&loct=5#detailed/5/6812-6945/false/1961,1699,1624,1567,1528,1501,1335,1334,1333,1332/1818,1815,1817,1814,1816/18209,18210>

Number of Children Enrolled in Public Schools in Foster Care

Locality	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Franklin	1	2	3	0
Isle of Wight	18	9	7	0
Southampton	0	1	5	0
Suffolk	12	20	16	0

Source: Virginia Department of Education

The number of homeless people and homeless children in Western Tidewater has increased significantly since 2021. (no update)

Number of Homeless Persons in Western Tidewater

Locality	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Western Tidewater	60	63	80	60	98	69

Source: Southeastern Virginia Homeless Coalition

<https://www.hamptonroadsendshomelessness.org/homeless-data.html>

Children Experiencing Homelessness in Western Tidewater

Locality	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Western Tidewater	20	23	33	11	29	26

Source: Southeastern Virginia Homeless Coalition

Children Enrolled in Public School Considered Homeless

School District	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Franklin	37	34	10
Isle of Wight	NA	15	0
Southampton	NA	NA	0
Suffolk	61	52	0

Source: Virginia Department of Education

Household Composition

The data for household composition changed in the U.S. census Community Survey in 2018. In 2018, all Western Tidewater localities were below the state average for average household size.

Household Size (2016)

Locality	1 person	2 person	3 person	4+ person
Franklin	33.4%	29.4%	18.1%	19.1%
Isle of Wight	22.3%	39.6%	18.8%	19.3%
Southampton	23.0%	37.0%	18.2%	21.8%
Suffolk	21.7%	35.4%	18.4%	24.5%
Virginia	26.8%	34.1%	16.7%	22.5%
United States	27.7%	33.7%	15.7%	22.9%

Source: U.S. Census

Average Household Size

Locality	2018	2021
Franklin	2.29	2.40
Isle of Wight	2.52	2.50
Southampton	2.51	2.53
Suffolk	2.67	2.71
Virginia	2.61	2.54
United States	2.63	2.53

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

<https://www.ghrconnects.org/demographicdata?id=281263>

All localities in Western Tidewater are above the state average for percentage of households with a female householder with no husband present. Franklin is more than double the state average. All localities increased in the percentage of female-led households from 2018 to 2020.

Percentage of Households with a Female Householder with no Husband Present

Locality	Total Households	Female-led Households	Percentage of Female-led Households
Franklin 2017	3,470	889	25.6
Franklin 2018	3,526	847	24.0
Franklin 2020	3,264	1,570	44.7

Isle of Wight 2017	14,157	1,546	10.9
Isle of Wight 2018	14,304	1,725	12.1
Isle of Wight 2020	14,895	3619	26.8
Southampton 2017	6,664	993	14.9
Southampton 2018	6,522	985	15.1
Southampton 2020	6,329	1849	27.9
Suffolk 2017	32,331	5,431	16.8
Suffolk 2018	33,198	5,351	16.1
Suffolk 2019	34,307	5,389	26.9
Virginia 2015	3,062,783	376,722	12.3
Virginia 2016	3,090,178	377,002	12.2
Virginia 2017	3,105,636	374,420	12.1
Virginia 2018	3,128,415	370,505	11.8

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

Language Spoken in the Home

Although 7.0 percent of Virginia residents five and over spoke Spanish as their primary language in 2019, Western Tidewater is far below the state average in that area. Suffolk (2.2%) and Isle of Wight (1.9%) were the closest to the state average.

Language Spoken at Home (5 and over), by percentage

Locality	English	Spanish
Franklin 2012	98.1	0.6
Franklin 2013	97.7	0.6
Franklin 2014	97.5	0.6
Franklin 2016	97.8	0.6
Franklin 2017	97.5	0.6
Franklin 2018	97.8	0.7
Franklin 2019	98.1	0.9
Isle of Wight 2012	96.0	2.1
Isle of Wight 2013	96.1	1.9
Isle of Wight 2014	96.4	1.9
Isle of Wight 2016	96.1	1.9
Isle of Wight 2017	96.5	1.9
Isle of Wight 2018	96.1	2.1
Isle of Wight 2019	96.2	1.9
Southampton 2012	98.2	1.0
Southampton 2013	98.0	1.1
Southampton 2014	98.4	0.8
Southampton 2016	98.0	1.1
Southampton 2017	98.4	0.8

Southampton 2018	98.2	0.7
Southampton 2019	98.9	0.3
Suffolk 2012	95.6	1.8
Suffolk 2013	95.5	2.0
Suffolk 2014	95.6	2.2
Suffolk 2016	95.7	1.9
Suffolk 2017	95.8	2.0
Suffolk 2018	95.6	2.1
Suffolk 2019	95.4	2.2
Virginia 2012	85.3	6.6
Virginia 2013	85.1	6.7
Virginia 2014	84.8	6.7
Virginia 2016	85.0	6.7
Virginia 2017	84.6	6.7
Virginia 2018	84.3	6.9
Virginia 2019	84.1	7.0

Source: U.S. Census, Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

ECONOMIC DATA

Poverty & Median Household Income

According to statistics from Kids Count and the Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard, there continues to be a large gap between the races in median household income. In the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2021, the average white household earned more than \$39,000 per year than the average black household. Southampton County is significantly lower than the other areas in Western Tidewater for median household income.

Median Household Income By Race and Ethnicity (U.S. Dollars)

Location	Race	2017	2018	2019	2021
Virginia	White	73,248	76,180	79,388	113,034
	Black	47,112	49,110	50,875	73,626
	Hispanic	63,097	65,576	67,549	101,890

Location	Race	2017	2018	2019	2021
Franklin	White	55,498	59,060	64,008	84,554
	Black	27,352	32,934	35,526	50,622
	Hispanic	23,125	24,107	137,500	80,586

Location	Race	2017	2018	2019	2021
Isle of Wight	White	76,156	78,025	82,453	93,033
	Black	45,355	44,954	49,722	48,828
	Hispanic	54,861	92,568	75,915	48,929

Location	Race	2017	2018	2019	2021
Southampton	White	67,010	66,143	71,232	75,823
	Black	38,905	34,624	36,493	41,095
	Hispanic	24,722	24,737	54,688	37,813

Location	Race	2017	2018	2019	2021
Suffolk	White	77,866	78,243	85,145	93,165
	Black	46,052	46,290	50,685	59,228
	Hispanic	68,789	65,318	87,013	85,399

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

https://www.ghrconnects.org/?module=demographicdata&controller=index&action=index&id=3001§ionId=936#sectionPiece_73

There is a large disparity between communities when it comes to overall median household income. In 2021, the City of Franklin was over \$34,000 lower than the state average in median household income. All Western Tidewater localities were under the state average for median household income, with the exception of Isle of Wight. The City of Suffolk has almost reached the state average.

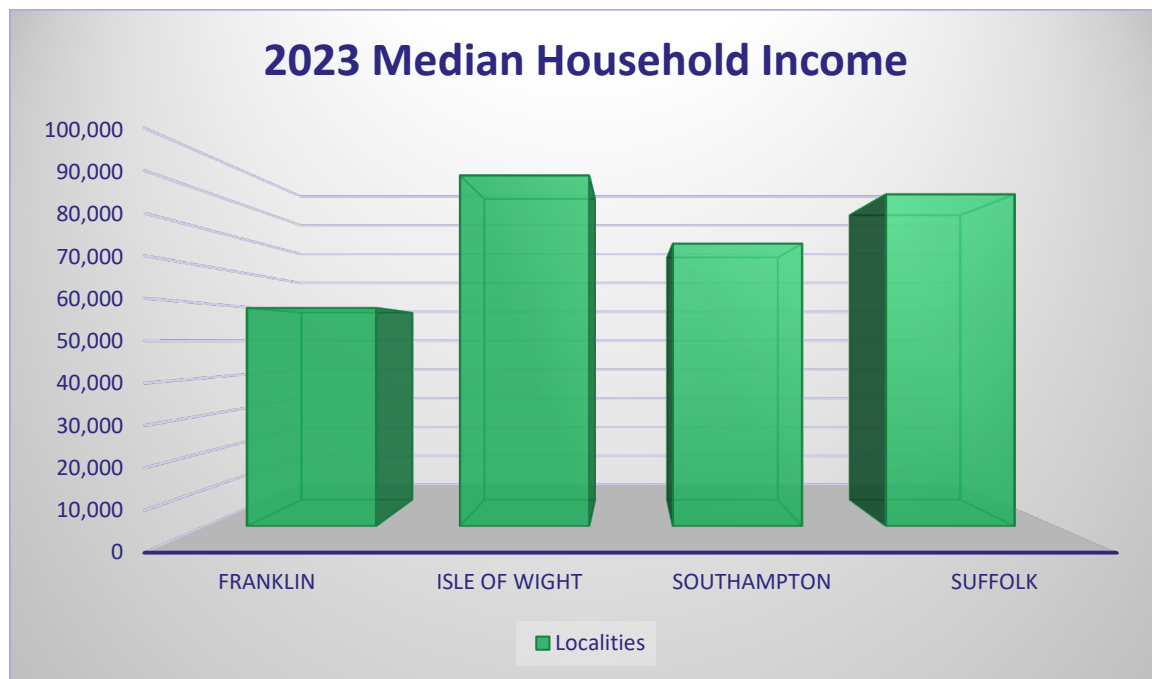
All localities saw an increase in household income. This is the first year in several years that Franklin has seen a significant increase. Isle of Wight and Suffolk's median household income is higher than the Virginia average.

Median Household Income

Locality	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023
Franklin	40,368	44,158	44,641	44,021	58,796
Isle of Wight	69,606	73,490	79,189	85,680	94,386
Southampton	52,626	57,063	60,437	68,970	76,077
Suffolk	65,386	71,115	79,019	87,356	89,307
Virginia	71,167	73,579	79,124	84,251	87,219

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

https://www.ghrconnects.org/?module=demographicdata&controller=index&action=index&id=2979§ionId=936#sectionPiece_72



Household Survival Budgets have been established for each municipality in Virginia by the United Way. This bare minimum budget does not allow for savings. Affording only a very modest living in each community, this budget is still significantly more than the Federal Poverty Level.

Household Survival Budget, Franklin

	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Housing	\$806
Child Care	\$1,204
Food	\$561
Transportation	\$644
Health Care	\$634
Miscellaneous	\$450
Taxes	\$647
Monthly Total	\$4,946
Hourly Wage	\$29.68

Source: 2017 United Way ALICE Report for Virginia

Household Survival Budget, Isle of Wight

	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Housing	\$1,107
Child Care	\$1,204
Food	\$561
Transportation	\$644
Health Care	\$634
Miscellaneous	\$492
Taxes	\$767
Monthly Total	\$5,409
Hourly Wage	\$32.45

Source: 2017 United Way ALICE Report for Virginia

Household Survival Budget, Southampton

	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Housing	\$806
Child Care	\$1,204
Food	\$561
Transportation	\$644
Health Care	\$634
Miscellaneous	\$450
Taxes	\$647
Monthly Total	\$4,946
Hourly Wage	\$29.68

Source: 2017 United Way ALICE Report for Virginia

Household Survival Budget, Suffolk

	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Housing	\$1,107
Child Care	\$1,204
Food	\$561

Transportation	\$644
Health Care	\$634
Miscellaneous	\$492
Taxes	\$767
Monthly Total	\$5,409
Hourly Wage	\$32.45

Source: 2017 United Way ALICE Report for Virginia

The Cost of Living Index for Western Tidewater is lower than the national average.

Cost of Living Index*

Locality	March 2012	March 2016	March 2019	March 2022
Franklin	84.8	84.5	82.2	85.45
Isle of Wight County	88.0	87.7	NA	NA
Southampton	86.9	86.2	NA	84.24
Smithfield			96.4	87.23
Suffolk	97.1	96.8	96.0	87.42
Virginia				

Source: www.city-data.com.

* Cost of Living Index of 100 is the national average. Numbers below 100 indicate lower cost of living.

According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, in 2017, for every 100 poor families with children in Virginia, only 19 received TANF cash assistance, down from 33 in 2001. During that time, Virginia cut its spending on basic assistance, work activities, and child care, while the number of families with children below 50 percent of the poverty line nearly doubled.

Franklin is almost 6 times the state average for percentage of households with cash public assistance income. All Western Tidewater localities are above the state average, with the exception of Isle of Wight and Suffolk which is below the state average. Both Isle of Wight and Suffolk saw a decrease in percentage of households with cash public assistance.

Households with Cash Public Assistance Income (TANF) (Percentage)*

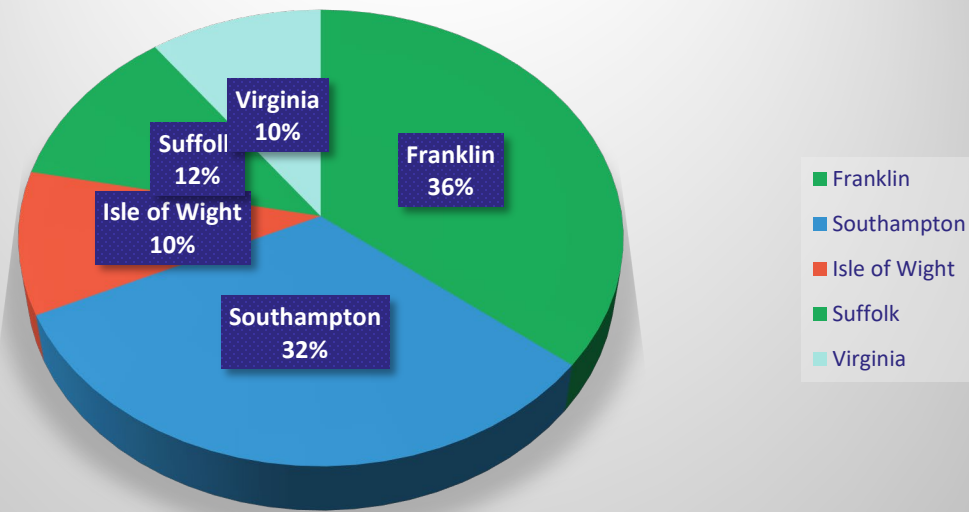
Locality	2014-2018	2015-2019	2017-2021
Franklin	8.6	6.7	12.7
Southampton	6.2	6.1	7.8
Isle of Wight	4.1	1.9	1.6
Suffolk	3.7	2.2	1.3
Virginia	1.9	1.9	2.2

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

<https://www.ghrconnects.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=277&localeId=3001>

* This indicator shows the percentage of households receiving general assistance and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). It does not include Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

HOUSEHOLDS WITH TANF



Money available for child care subsidies through the Virginia Department of Social Services has become harder to come by. Every Western Tidewater locality has seen a sharp drop in the amount of children receiving childcare subsidies beginning in 2015. This trend continued in 2018. In 2021, Franklin, Southampton, and Suffolk all saw increases in the number of children receiving child care subsidies. In 2021, data has not been updated for the state of Virginia.

Children Enrolled in Subsidized Child Care

Locality	2017	2018	2019	2021
Franklin	45	41	78	39
Isle of Wight	31	24	21	23
Southampton	14	10	18	10
Suffolk	181	160	255	138
Virginia	20,595	19,347	23,722	N/A

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

<https://www.ghrconnects.org/?module=indicators&controller=index&action=view&comparisonId=&indicatorId=1085&localeTypeId=2&localeId=3001>

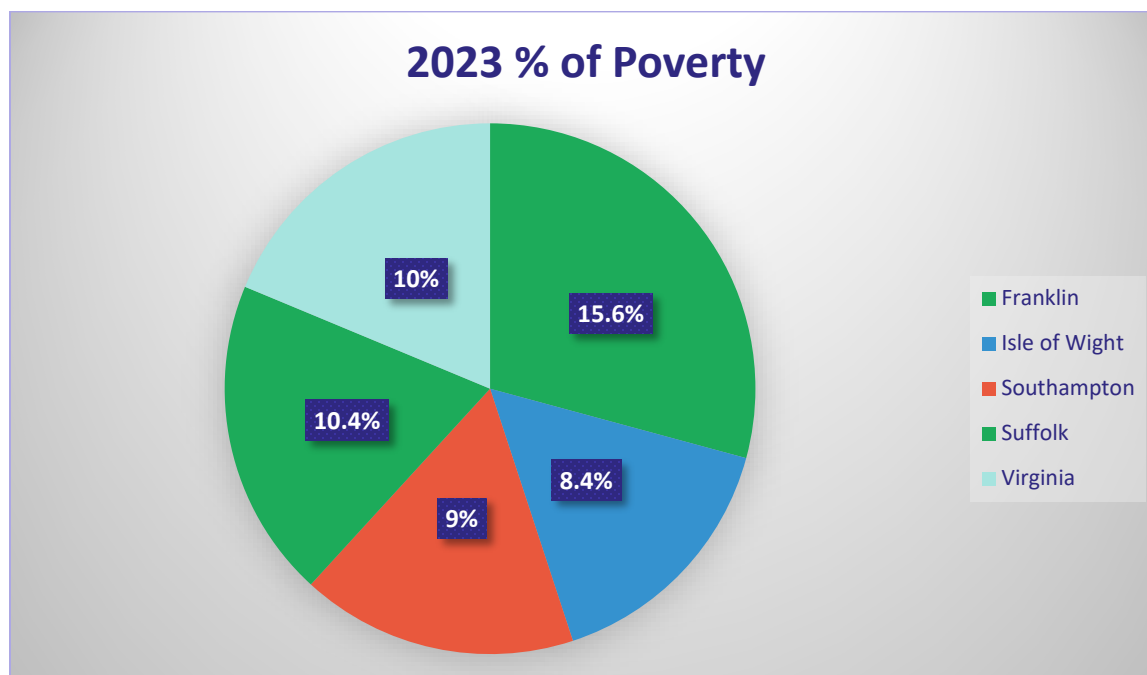
Poverty remains the same in Southampton and Suffolk. The state average went down, making Suffolk and Franklin above the state average.

Households Living Below Poverty Level

Locality	2017	2018	2021	2023
Franklin	21%	18%	14.7%	15.6%
Isle of Wight	9%	9%	10.5%	8.4%
Southampton	15%	15%	9%	9%
Suffolk	11%	11%	10.4%	10.4%
Virginia	11%	11%	10.6%	10%

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

<https://www.ghrconnects.org/?module=indicators&controller=index&action=view&comparisonId=&indicatorId=347&localeId=3001>



All localities are above the state average for percentage of families with children in poverty status. All localities improved in this area except for Franklin.

Number of Families with Children by Poverty Status and Percentage

Locality	Number 2018	% of pop 2018	Number 2019	% of pop 2019	Number 2021	% of Pop 2021	Number 2023	% of Pop 2023
Franklin	235	10.35	146	6.55	137	6.34	173	7.72
Isle of Wight	783	7.16	681	6.21	647	5.81	605	5.17
Southampton	447	9.64	408	8.90	310	6.82	247	5.03
Suffolk	1,918	7.66	1,609	6.36	1,302	5.06	1,548	5.54
Virginia	131,813	6.07	128,525	5.87	115,425	5.24	112,715	5.01

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

<https://www.ghrconnects.org/?module=demographicdata&controller=index&action=index&id=3001§ionId=936>

ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Restrained, and Employed)

The United Ways of Virginia conducted a 2017 study on ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). With the cost of living higher than what most people earn, ALICE families have income above the Federal Poverty Level, but not high enough to afford a basic household budget that includes housing, child care, food, transportation, and health. ALICE households live in every county and city in Virginia – urban, suburban, and rural – and they include women and men, young and old, and all races and ethnicities.

All Western Tidewater except Isle of Wight communities are above the state average in households that are asset limited, income constrained, and employed (ALICE).

Households that are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE)*

Locality	2016	2018	2019
Franklin	54%	37.1%	54%
Isle of Wight	41%	25.6%	41%
Southampton	47%	32%	47%
Suffolk	42%	30.2%	42%
Virginia	41%	29%	41%

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

<https://www.ghrconnects.org/indicators/index/dashboard?alias=ALICE>

* ALICE households represent men and women of all ages and races who are working but unable to afford the basic necessities of housing, food, child care, health care, and transportation due to the lack of jobs that can support basic necessities and increases in the basic cost of living.

Another way to look at the impact of ALICE is to add poverty numbers. This shows, for example, that 49 percent of families in Franklin are ALICE or in poverty.

Households that are ALICE + Poverty

Locality	2015	2018	2021
Franklin	57%	37%	49%
Isle of Wight	36%	26%	35%
Southampton	49%	32%	43%
Suffolk	47%	30%	35%

Source: 2018 United Way ALICE Report for Western Tidewater, Virginia

Within counties, there are communities that are better or worse for ALICE + poverty than the overall county. For example, in Isle of Wight County, 91 percent of households in Camptown are ALICE + poverty, well above the 36 percent for the entire county.

Isle of Wight County Communities Households that are ALICE + Poverty

Locality	2015	2018
Benns Church	48%	46%
Camptown	91%	62%
Carrollton	17%	23%
Carrsville	62%	35%
Rushmere	66%	54%
Smithfield	39%	36%
Windsor	49%	50%

Source: United Way ALICE Report for Virginia

Southampton County Communities Households that are ALICE + Poverty

Locality	2015	2018
Boykins	48%	47%
Courtland	70%	56%
Ivor	60%	49%
Newsoms	48%	55%
Sedley	46%	31%
Southampton Meadows	88%	74%

Source: United Way ALICE Report for Virginia

Each Western Tidewater location has been given an index on the three areas of the Economic Viability Dashboard. Franklin ranks lowest in affordable housing. Southampton ranks lowest in job opportunities. Suffolk ranks lowest in community resources.

SocioNeeds Index

The **2020 SocioNeeds Index**, created by [Conduent Healthy Communities Institute](#), is a measure of socioeconomic need that is correlated with poor health outcomes.

All zip codes, counties, and county equivalents in the United States are given an Index Value from 0 (low need) to 100 (high need). Factors range from poverty to education level. Those with the highest values are estimated to have the highest socioeconomic need which is correlated with preventable hospitalizations and premature death.

SocioNeeds Index (2020)

Zip Code	Locality	Index
23844	Southampton-Drewryville	75.8
23828	Southampton-Branchville	73.6
23851	Franklin	73.1
23827	Southampton-Boykins	70.2
23315	Isle of Wight-Carrsville	65.7
23874	Southampton-Newsoms	64.1
23434	Suffolk	61.9
23829	Southampton-Capron	60.5
23487	Isle of Wight-Windsor	58.0
23866	Southampton-Ivor	53.0
23898	Isle of Wight-Zuni	52.2
23437	Suffolk	49.2
23878	Southampton-Sedley	46.3
23837	Southampton-Courtland	46.2
23438	Suffolk	42.9
23430	Isle of Wight-Smithfield	38.2
23432	Suffolk	28.0
23314	Isle of Wight-Carrollton	19.3
23435	Suffolk	11.6
23433	Suffolk	7.1
23436	Suffolk	4.2

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING

In a study of characteristics that indicate the well-being of children in the community, Western Tidewater had mixed indicators as compared to Virginia.

With the exception of Isle of Wight, the Western Tidewater area was above the state average for poverty in children ages birth through 17 in 2019. Suffolk, Southampton, and Franklin all saw improvements in childhood poverty in 2019 compared to 2018. Suffolk had its lowest percentage since 2008. Franklin had its lowest percentage since 2008.

Despite improvement, Franklin still remains well above the state average. However, this is the first year that Franklin has NOT been more than double the state average.

Children ages 0-17 in poverty, by percentage

Locality	2017	2018	2019
Virginia	14.0	13.8	13.9
Franklin	35.1	34.1	22.7
Southampton	20.5	20.2	13.5
Isle of Wight	11.2	12.1	18.1
Suffolk	16.6	16.1	16.1

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

The actual number of children ages birth through 17 in poverty dropped in Franklin in 2019.

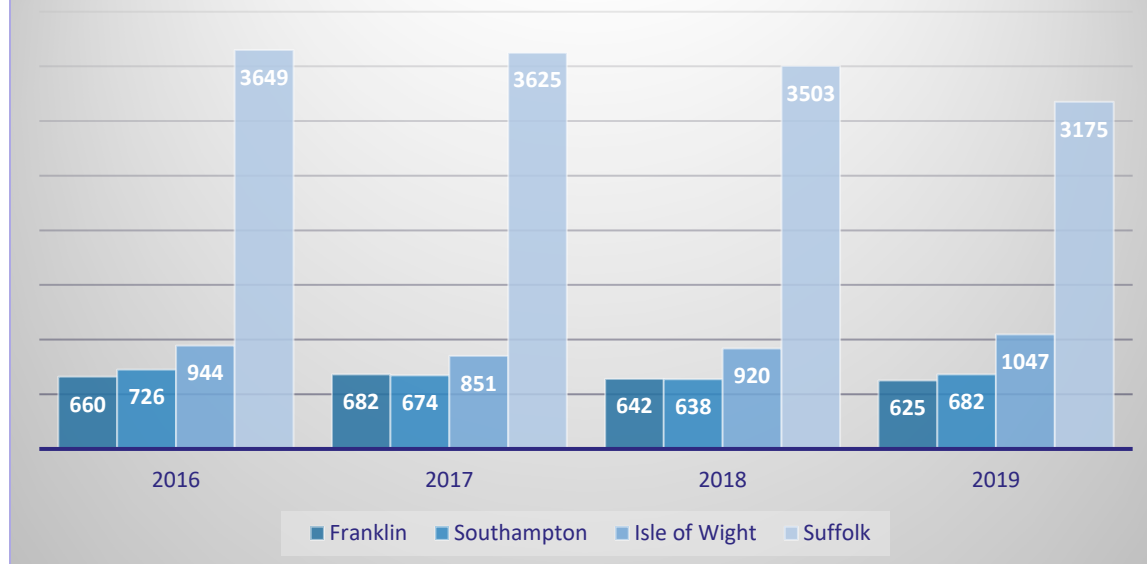
Children ages 0-17 in poverty, total

Locality	2017	2018	2019
Franklin	682	642	625
Southampton	674	638	682
Isle of Wight	851	920	1,047
Suffolk	3,625	3,503	3,175

Source: Kids Count

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/5879-child-poverty-1-year-estimates#detailed/5/6856/false/1729,37,871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133/any/12494,12493>

Children in Poverty Totals: 2016-2019



Children ages 0-17 in poverty (below 200%), by percentage

Locality	2013-2017	2014-2018	2015-2019
Virginia	33.2	32.4	31.5
Franklin	62.7	62.9	69.9
Southampton	38.9	38.1	37.1
Isle of Wight	32.7	32.8	31.1
Suffolk	33.3	32.8	33.6

Source: Kids Count

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/9181-child-poverty-below-200?loc=48&loct=2#detailed/5/6856,6875,6928,6932/false/1983,1692,1691,1607,1572,1522/any/18203>

Suffolk is above the state average for children ages birth through 17 in deep poverty. Isle of Wight is the only locality in Western Tidewater that saw improvement in this category between 2014 and 2019.

Children ages 0-17 in deep poverty (below 50%), by percentage

Locality	2013-2017	2014-2018	2015-2019
Virginia	46.5	47.5	47.6
Franklin	11.5	13.8	23
Southampton	30.6	35.5	41.4
Isle of Wight	47	49.5	47.1
Suffolk	43.8	47	52.6

Source: Kids Count, Voices for Virginia's Children

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/9183-of-children-in-poverty-living-in-deep-poverty?loc=48&loct=5#detailed/5/6856,6875,6928,6932/false/1983,1692,1691,1607,1573,1522/any/18207>

Following the state, Southampton and Suffolk had a drop in this area.

Young Children living in poverty (under 5), by percentage

Locality	2014-2018	2015-2019	2017-2021
Franklin	19.1	26.2	30.4
Southampton	19.6	12.3	13.9
Isle of Wight	14.7	16.2	14.9
Suffolk	16.8	15.8	17.2
Virginia	15.7	15	14

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

<https://www.ghrconnects.org/?module=indicators&controller=index&action=view&localeFilterId=132227&comparisonId=&indicatorId=532&localeId=3001>

Almost two-thirds of the children in Franklin Public Schools are economically disadvantaged, according to the Virginia Department of Education. All area districts (except Suffolk and Franklin) saw a gain in this category from 2018 to 2019. All Western Tidewater localities (except Isle of Wight) are above the state average.

Percentage of Economically Disadvantaged Public School Children

Locality	Fall of 2017	Fall of 2018	Fall of 2019	Fall of 2020
Franklin	65.8%	63.0%	65.5%	72.4%
Southampton	54.8%	46.6%	47.5%	33.7%
Isle of Wight	34.3%	28.0%	33.6%	27%
Suffolk	48.7%	48.7%	47.7%	42.83%
Virginia	41.1%	NA	39.9%	41%

Source: Virginia Department of Education, Suffolk City Public Schools

https://www.spsk12.net/our_district/about/reports-data/enrollment-demographics

According to the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, a more telling statistic about children's well-being is economic insecurity. Economic insecurity is the number of children living in poverty plus the number of children in near poverty. In the state of Virginia, the economic insecurity rate for children is 32 percent. For the Western Tidewater region, the economic insecurity rate for children is above 40 percent.

Child Abuse and Neglect and Spousal Abuse

The incidence of child abuse and neglect in Western Tidewater was below the state average in all localities in 2017. **Note:** Because Virginia has a state-supervised, locally administered social services system, it is difficult to compare numbers across localities due to variable social service staffing and practice and community standards. Drawing conclusions based on rates of child abuse and neglect is problematic because a low number may be indicative of a real difference in level of abuse in different communities or may merely reflect differences in reporting patterns, investigation procedures, or standards. For this reason, users are strongly discouraged from using these data to compare one locality's number to another.

Child Abuse or Neglect (founded number per 1,000 children)

Locality	2015	2016	2017
Virginia	2.2	2.5	2.6
Franklin	2.2	6.1	1.0
Southampton	1.5	0.3	0.3
Isle of Wight	1.3	1.7	1.8
Suffolk	0.7	0.5	0.6

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services and Kids Count

Child abuse and neglect: Completed cases and children in founded reports and family assessments*

Locality	2018 Family Assessment	2018 Founded	2019 Family Assessment	2019 Founded	2020 Family Assessment	2020 Founded
Franklin	48	17	80	4	45	10
Southampton	47	5	48	3	40	2
Isle of Wight	213	12	227	20	109	5
Suffolk	379	28	540	65	241	34

Source: Kids Count

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/10614-the-number-of-completed-cases-and-children-in-founded-reports-and-family-assessments-in-virginia?loc=48&loct=5#detailed/5/6856,6875,6928,6932/false/2071,1961,1699/6812,6814/6815/20369>

*Note: When a case of suspected child abuse or neglect is reported, the local Department of Social Services decides whether to conduct a family assessment or an investigation. Investigations are either founded or unfounded.

Franklin and Suffolk are above the state average for violent crime rate.

Violent Crime Rate (per 100,000 population)

Locality	2012-2014	2014-2016
Virginia	194.2	207.0
Franklin	379.1	310.4
Southampton	138.1	125.2
Isle of Wight	143.9	144.3
Suffolk	302.7	276.5

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

Uninsured Children

Southampton and Isle of Wight were above the state average for percentage of children under the age of 19 without health insurance in 2018. Franklin saw improvement in this area.

Percentage of Children Under 19 without Health Insurance

Locality	2015	2016	2017	2018
Franklin	4.6	3.9	3.8	3.5
Isle of Wight	5.2	4.8	5.3	5.8
Southampton	6.2	5.6	6.1	6.0
Suffolk	4.0	4.7	4.4	5.0
Virginia	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.0

Source: Kids Count, The Virginia Atlas of Community Health, Greater Hampton Roads Community Indicators Dashboard

Percentage of Children With Medicaid/CHIP

Locality	2011-2015	2012-2016
Franklin	40%	38%
Isle of Wight	25%	26%
Southampton	33%	31%
Suffolk	29%	29%

Source: Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families

The trend in Western Tidewater is that less low-income children are going without health insurance as compared to eight years ago, except recently in Isle of Wight County. All localities are below the state average.

Percentage of Low-income Children Under 19 Without Health Insurance

Locality	2015	2016	2017	2018
Franklin	4.0	3.3	3.4	3.1
Isle of Wight	7.3	7.1	7.3	8.4
Southampton	7.2	6.9	7.3	6.8
Suffolk	5.1	6.5	5.6	6.4
Virginia	7.8	7.7	7.9	7.7

Source: Kids Count

Number of Low-income Children Under 19 Without Health Insurance

Locality	2015	2016	2017	2018
Franklin	55	39	39	36
Isle of Wight	181	172	169	195
Southampton	114	109	107	95
Suffolk	430	528	437	490

Source: Kids Count

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6176-low-income-children-under-19-without-health-insurance?loc=48&loct=5#detailed/5/6856,6875,6928,6932/false/37,871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133,38/any/12883,12884>

COMMUNITY EDUCATION LEVEL

All area localities lag behind the state average for percentage of residents over 25 with a bachelors or graduate degree. Franklin and Southampton are substantially behind the state average for residents with a bachelor's degree or graduate degree.

Educational Achievement, residents over 25

Locality	Attainment	2017	2018	2019	2020
Virginia	Less than 9 th grade	4.5	4.3	4.1	3.9
	HS grad or equiv	24.3	24.1	24	23.9
	Assoc Degree	7.5	7.6	7.8	7.9
	Bachelor's Degree	21.5	21.7	22	22.4
	Graduate Degree	16.1	16.4	16.8	17.2
Franklin	Less than 9 th grade	6.7	4.3	3.1	3.5
	HS grad or equiv	27.4	30.6	29.1	31.6
	Assoc Degree	9.1	10.0	14.8	12.6
	Bachelor's Degree	15.3	13.3	12	13.3
	Graduate Degree	10.0	7.9	7.1	5.7
Isle of Wight	Less than 9 th grade	4.6	4.1	3.6	2.9
	HS grad or equiv	27.9	27.0	27.9	21
	Assoc Degree	9.4	10.1	10.5	10.2
	Bachelor's Degree	16.1	16.2	15.7	16.7
	Graduate Degree	10.8	12.0	11.3	11.3
Southampton	Less than 9 th grade	5.9	5.5	5.5	4.8
	HS grad or equiv	31.9	30.4	29.8	30.2
	Assoc Degree	7.7	9.0	10.2	9.7
	Bachelor's Degree	12.5	12.0	12	13.2

	Graduate Degree	6.6	5.8	6.4	6.1
Suffolk	Less than 9 th grade	3.6	3.7	3.2	3.4
	HS grad or equiv	28.0	28.1	27.1	26
	Assoc Degree	9.5	8.7	8.9	9.1
	Bachelor's Degree	16.3	16.5	17.4	17.6
	Graduate Degree	11.0	11.6	12.1	12.1

Source: US Census

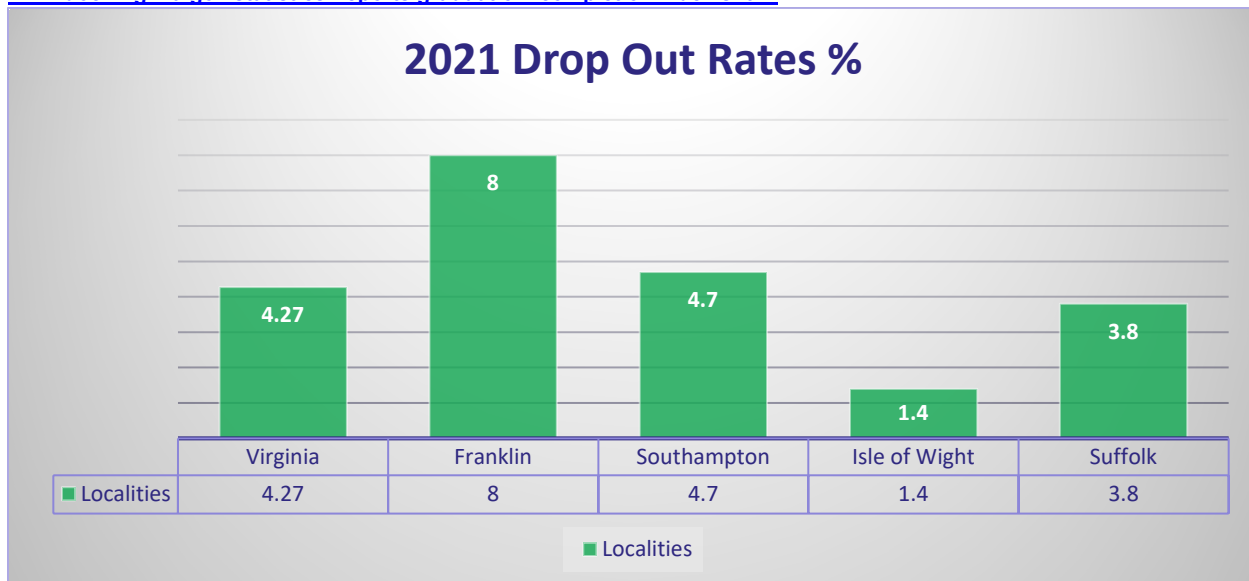
Franklin and Southampton are the only school districts above the state average in four-year dropout rates. 2020-2021 was the first year Franklin and Isle of Wight have been below the state definition of being identifiable.

Four Year Dropout Rates (percentage)

Locality	Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020	Class of 2021
Virginia	5.50	5.56	5.1	4.27
Franklin	5.90	1.30		8
Southampton	7.90	6.80		4.7
Isle of Wight	2.50	4.40		1.4
Suffolk	7.10	4.30		3.8

Source: Virginia Department of Education

www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/graduation_completion/index.shtml



Dropout Totals Grades 7-12

Locality	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Virginia	8,086	7,541	7,239	-	4,149
Franklin	14	10	6	-	<
Southampton	17	18	25	-	10
Isle of Wight	28	14	32	-	<
Suffolk	102	132	78	-	41

Source: Virginia Department of Education and Kids Count Virginia

*< indicates a group below the state definition for personally identifiable results. 2019-2020 numbers are not available.

As for students who graduate on time, Isle of Wight County and Southampton were ahead of the state average in 2020 and 2021. Suffolk slightly dropped in this area.

Percent of students who earned a diploma in four years

Locality	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Virginia	91.6	91.6	91.5	92.5	92.99
Franklin	92.6	96.1	96.1	90	92
Southampton	86.8	90.4	90.4	93.4	93.5
Isle of Wight	95.5	92.8	92.8	92.5	97.1
Suffolk	86.7	90.3	90.3	87.4	87

Source: Kids Count and the Virginia Department of Education

Adult Illiteracy

According to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, the latest statistics on adult illiteracy (2003), all localities in Western Tidewater were above the state average except Isle of Wight.

Adult Illiteracy by Percentage, 2003

Location	Percentage
Franklin	17.4%
Isle of Wight	11.4%
Southampton	17.5%
Suffolk	18.4%
Virginia	12.0%

Source: Patchwork Nation

According to a study completed by the U.S. Department of Education's National Institute of Literacy in 2013, at least 14% (32 million) adults in the United States are unable to read. This was the last national study on adult literacy.

HEALTH PROFILE

According to the conclusion of the Virginia Health Equity Report by the Virginia Department of Health, the report demonstrates the existence of significant disparities/inequities in opportunities for all Virginians to be healthy. Poverty and limited educational attainment are clearly associated with poorer health outcomes across all populations. Significantly higher rates of poverty and lower rates of educational attainment are seen among African Americans, American Indians, and Hispanics.

African American and American Indian children were two to three times more likely to live in poverty in 2009. **This fact continues today.** Moreover, Blacks were just as likely to live in low poverty census tracts as they were to live in high poverty census tracts. In fact, they were about four times more likely to live in high poverty census tracts than other racial and ethnic groups.

Rural populations in Virginia experienced similar levels of reduced opportunities to be healthy. Poverty was seen to extend across multiple areas of rural Virginia. In addition, overall opportunities to be healthy, as defined by the distribution of the Health Opportunities Index across populations, were strongly patterned by income, race/ethnicity and place of residence (i.e. rural).

According to a study conducted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Health Institute, parts of Western Tidewater are in the bottom half of the state for health outcomes and health factors. According to data, the City of Franklin continues to be ranked among the least healthy counties in Virginia. Isle of Wight and Suffolk have seen improvements.

Health Outcomes, county/city rankings

Locality	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Franklin	124	127	130	131	128
Isle of Wight County	40	35	24	33	38
Southampton County	61	69	76	64	76
Suffolk	68	59	42	49	45

Source: County Health Rankings

www.countyhealthrankings.org

Note: Counties/Cities were ranked 1 through 133 with lower numbers being more favorable.

Health Factors, county/city rankings

Locality	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Franklin	124	124	119	124	113
Isle of Wight County	33	36	44	40	50
Southampton County	78	88	79	85	85

Suffolk	58	55	66	63	45
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Source: County Health Rankings

www.countyhealthrankings.org

Note: Counties/Cities were ranked 1 through 134 with lower numbers being more favorable.

The County Health Ranking report also rated counties/cities in Virginia for other health factors including tobacco use, diet and exercise, alcohol use, access to health care, quality of health care, community safety, and environmental quality.

County/City Rankings for various health factors (2019)

Locality	Length of Life	Quality of Life	Health Behaviors	Clinical Care	Soc & Econ Factors	Phys Environ	Preventable Hospital Stays
Franklin	130	126	123	57	120	124	N/A
Isle of Wight	21	30	61	43	30	117	N/A
Southampton	61	84	97	97	59	72	N/A
Suffolk	35	56	66	50	65	105	N/A

Source: County Health Rankings

Note: Counties/Cities were ranked 1 through 133 with lower numbers being more favorable.

County/City Rankings for various health factors (2020)

Locality	Length of Life	Quality of Life	Health Behaviors	Clinical Care	Soc & Econ Factors	Phys Environ	Preventable Hospital Stays
Franklin	131	123	132	50	119	113	N/A
Isle of Wight	28	40	60	33	29	123	N/A
Southampton	53	78	108	91	59	119	N/A
Suffolk	32	73	62	41	61	104	N/A

Source: County Health Rankings

Note: Counties/Cities were ranked 1 through 133 with lower numbers being more favorable.

County/City Rankings for various health factors (2021)

Locality	Length of Life	Quality of Life	Health Behaviors	Clinical Care	Soc & Econ Factors	Phys Environ	Preventable Hospital Stays
Franklin	129	119	125	47	112	95	N/A
Isle of Wight	27	47	85	35	39	125	N/A
Southampton	55	87	107	115	58	48	N/A
Suffolk	44	56	85	52	39	104	N/A

Source: County Health Rankings

www.countyhealthrankings.org

Note: Counties/Cities were ranked 1 through 133 with lower numbers being more favorable.

Air quality conditions have seen improvement since 2016. Air quality has significantly improved between 2020 and 2021.

Air Pollution – Particulate Matter*

Locality	2018	2019	2020	2021
Franklin	8.2	8.8	8.8	7.5
Isle of Wight	8.6	9.0	9.0	7.7
Southampton	8.5	9.1	9.1	7.8
Suffolk	8.7	9.1	9.1	7.7
Virginia	8.7	8.9	8.9	7.7

Source: County Health Rankings

www.countyhealthrankings.org

* The average daily measure of fine particulate matter in micrograms per cubic meter

In 2015, water quality in Western Tidewater varied between localities. Franklin and Suffolk were below the state average in drinking water violations while Southampton and Isle of Wight were well above the state average.

Drinking Water Violations*

Locality	2018	2019	2020	2021
Franklin	No	No	No	No
Isle of Wight	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Southampton	No	Yes	Yes	No
Suffolk	No	No	No	No

Source: County Health Rankings

* Indicator of the presence of health-related drinking water violations.

Barriers to Healthy Communities

In fall 2008, the Suffolk Partnership for a Healthy Community (now called Healthy Suffolk) identified several barriers for the City of Suffolk becoming a healthy community, including:

- teen pregnancy prevention
- single parenthood
- lack of mentoring programs
- lack of access to healthcare
- lack of transportation
- lack of funding
- more green space and access to facilities offering physical fitness programs

Even though this data is over 10 years old, many of these barriers can still be applied to all of Western Tidewater.

According to the Obici Healthcare Foundation 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment, all areas of Western Tidewater are above the state average in percentage of population in fair/poor overall health.

Percentage in Fair/Poor Overall Health

Locality	2017
Franklin/Southampton	17.4
Isle of Wight	16.0
North Suffolk	15.9
South Suffolk	20.0
Suffolk City	18.5
Virginia	15.2

Source: Obici Healthcare Foundation 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment

According to the Obici Healthcare Foundation 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment, all areas of Western Tidewater are above the national average in percentage of population with multiple chronic conditions.

Percentage with Multiple Chronic Conditions

Locality	2017
Franklin/Southampton	70.0
Isle of Wight	63.3
North Suffolk	67.0
South Suffolk	66.1
Suffolk City	66.4
United States	56.8

Source: Obici Healthcare Foundation 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment

Western Tidewater Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Data

According to Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data for Western Tidewater:

- In 2013, 19% of those surveyed said that their health was fair or poor
- In 2013, 16.9% of those surveyed said they were a current smoker
- In 2012-2013, 12.2% of those surveyed said they were binge drinkers
- In 2012, 14.5% surveyed said they had been diagnosed with diabetes
- In 2013, 63.7% said they were overweight or obese

More than two-thirds of residents in Isle of Wight and Suffolk have access to a park or recreational facility. Franklin has seen a significant drop in access to exercise over the last three years.

Access to Exercise Opportunities* (percentage)

Franklin	82.5%	62.9	45.3
Isle of Wight	66.7%	70.4	71.0
Southampton	19.8%	31.1	31.0
Suffolk	77.2%	76.4	76.2

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

* This indicator measures the percentage of individuals who live reasonably close to a park or recreational facility.

Access to Healthcare

Access to primary care providers increases the likelihood that community members will have routine checkups and screenings. There has been a consistent decline in primary provider rate in Franklin since 2010 and a stable primary provider rate in other localities (Southampton has had a consistently low provider rate since 2010).

Primary Care Provider Rate (per 100,000)

Locality	2015	2016	2017	2018
Franklin	118	132	122	125
Isle of Wight	50	46	47	43
Southampton	22	22	23	23
Suffolk	98	97	91	87

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

Franklin has seen a steady increase since 2013 of number of non-physician providers per 100,000 population. Franklin and Isle of Wight have improved.

Non-Physician Primary Care Provider Rate (per 100,000)

Locality	2017	2018	2019	2020
Franklin	108	98	125	138
Isle of Wight	25	22	22	24
Southampton	N/A	11	23	23
Suffolk	90	101	104	102

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

All of Western Tidewater, except Isle of Wight, was above the national average in percentage of those who had cost preventing them from getting a prescription in the past year.

Cost prevented Getting a Prescription in the Past Year (Percentage)

Locality	2017
Franklin/Southampton	19.4
Isle of Wight	6.3
North Suffolk	16.9
South Suffolk	15.8
Suffolk City	16.3
United States	15.3

Source: Obici Healthcare Foundation 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment

Hospitals and Medical Clinics

Southampton Memorial Hospital is the only 24-hour staffed in-patient medical facility that serves the Franklin and Southampton areas. SMH no longer provides obstetric services as of April 30, 2017. It was announced in October of 2019 that Bon Secours was purchasing the hospital.

Suffolk now has three facilities. Sentara Obici Memorial Hospital is in the downtown area of Suffolk. Obici opened a new wing in June 2010, which gave the facility 168 beds.

Sentara BelleHarbour, in the northern end of Suffolk, is available for emergency services and outpatient care. In March of 2019, Sentara BelleHarbour unveiled a \$33.5 million, 100,000-plus square-foot expansion and renovation to include an ambulatory surgery center, new observation beds for overnight stays, and a 24-hour emergency department. There is also a new helipad for Nightingale service and new office spaces for medical practices. In January of 2020, Sentara announced a \$13 million expansion of the emergency room at Sentara Obici Memorial Hospital. The expansion is expected to take 22 months, increasing the ER capacity to 73,000 patients per year when completed.

Bon Secours Health Care Center at Harbour View also serves northern Suffolk with major outpatient services and also houses specialist and primary care physicians.

Sentara St. Luke's opened in Carrollton in Isle of Wight County in 2010. This facility has outpatient and urgent care. In the extreme northern sections of Isle of Wight, the closest hospital is the Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News. Maryview Hospital in Portsmouth also serves the northeastern sections of Suffolk.

In December of 2019, the Virginia Health Department approved Bon Secours Maryview Medical Center's certificate of public need application to establish a new hospital in North Suffolk. The new hospital will be a short-stay, surgically-focused facility on the Bon Secours HarbourView campus in North Suffolk. The hospital will be a 75,000-square foot building. It was announced in July 2020 that Bon Secours had applied to the Virginia Department of Health to add an additional 36 acute care beds to this facility.

There are a number of physicians in the area who specialize in either family practice or pediatrics. The exact number of specialists is difficult to measure since many of the doctors in the area have regional practices where they maintain an office in the community, but they may only be in one county or city for one or two days a week.

Located in Suffolk, the Western Tidewater Free Clinic is available to residents in Western Tidewater. The mission of Western Tidewater Free Clinic is to provide high-quality, non-emergency health care to the residents of Western Tidewater who cannot otherwise afford it.

The clinic serves individuals between the ages of 19 and 64 with no medical insurance who live at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

The clinic, which opened in 2007, provides general and specialty medical care, prescription medicines, care coordination/case management, and lab and diagnostic testing. The Free Clinic moved in 2009 and expanded its services to include a dental clinic. The clinic has served the medical needs of 5,300 unique patients totaling 150,000 clinical visits at no charge to these patients.

Much of the region depends on volunteers to deliver emergency medical services.

A new medical clinic run by Southeastern Virginia Health System opened in Franklin in June of 2016. The Franklin Community Health Center serves the Franklin area with healthcare regardless of insurance status.

A MedExpress Urgent Care Center opened in Franklin in 2017. Unfortunately that center closed in 2020.

In the area of preventable hospital stays, Franklin is well above the state and national average. Only Isle of Wight is below the state average.

Opening early 2026, a new Smithfield Riverside Hospital will be state-of-the-art providing residents with high-quality, affordable medical care. Riverside Smithfield Hospital will provide local residents with greater, more convenient access to high-quality, affordable medical care. It also will support employment of hundreds of professional and support staff. The 50-bed acute care facility will be built on land owned by Riverside Health System near the intersection of Routes US-258 and VA-10.

Preventable Hospital Stays (Discharges per 1,000 Medicare enrollees)

Locality	2014	2015
Franklin	58.0	67.9
Isle of Wight	38.7	39.7
Southampton	47.2	60.9
Suffolk	45.9	43.7
Virginia	43.6	42.8
United States	49.9	49.4

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

Healthy Births

The time that prenatal care begins, the weight of the newborn, the number of births to teenagers, and the number of births to single mothers are indicative of the community's state of healthy births.

All areas except Isle of Wight are above the state average in low-birth-weight babies. All areas, except Franklin, saw a decrease from 2019 to 2020.

Low Birth-Weight Babies by percentage per 100 live births

Locality	2017	2018	2019	2020
Virginia	8.4%	8.2%	8.4%	8.3
Isle of Wight	9.6%	9.1%	8.8%	8
Southampton	9.6%	10.6%	13.1%	12.5
Franklin	11.7%	14.4%	12%	16.3
Suffolk	10.3%	9.1%	9.4%	9.6

Source: Kids Count and Greater Hampton Roads Community Indicators Dashboard

Franklin and Southampton are above the state average for infants born preterm in 2017. No update has been made.

Infants Born Preterm (Percentage)

Locality	2015	2016	2017
Virginia	9.2	9.5	9.5
Isle of Wight	9.8	8.9	4.0
Southampton	11.0	11.1	15.2
Franklin	10.5	16.3	11.7
Suffolk	11.6	11.2	11.3

Source: Virginia Department of Health

www.vdh.virginia.gov/data/maternal-child-health

All areas are below the state average for maternal smoking in 2017.

Maternal Smoking (Percent)

Locality	2015	2016	2017
Virginia	6.1	6.1	5.6
Isle of Wight	3.4	3.2	4.5
Southampton	1.7	4.9	2.4
Franklin	6.0	7.1	3.7
Suffolk	1.6	2.0	3.1

Source: Virginia Department of Health

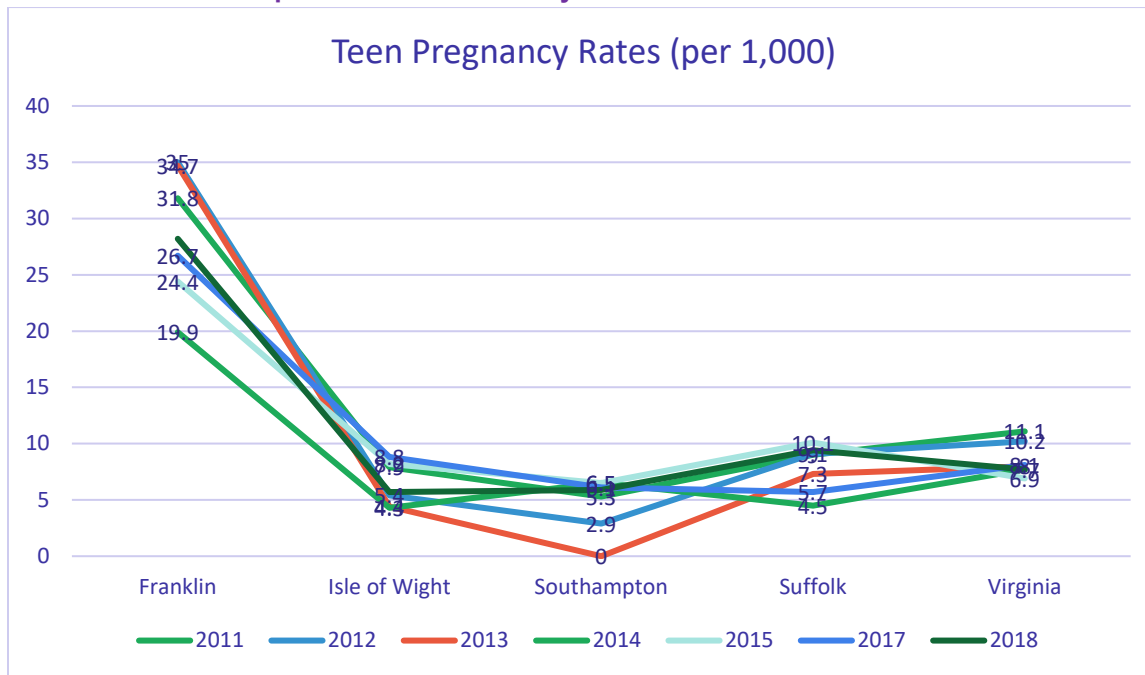
www.vdh.virginia.gov/data/maternal-child-health

Franklin and Suffolk are above the state average for teen pregnancy rate. Franklin is more than two times the state average. All localities saw an increase.

Teen Pregnancy Rate per 1,000 Female Teens (Ages 15-17)

Locality	2017	2018	2019	2020
Franklin	26.7	28.2	19.7	20.3
Isle of Wight	8.8	5.7	1.5	2.8
Southampton	6.1	5.9	0	3.3
Suffolk	5.7	9.4	6.7	10.9
Virginia	8.1	7.7	7.2	7.0

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard



Over the last two years of data, all localities saw a decrease in teen birth rate (ages 15-17) except for Suffolk. Franklin's rate is still nearly four times higher than the state average.

Teen Birth Rate per 1,000 Female Teens (Ages 15-17)

Locality	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Franklin	18.3	6.4	20.0	28.2	13.2	13.5
Isle of Wight	6.9	4.3	7.3	5.7	1.5	1.4
Southampton	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	0.0	3.3
Suffolk	6.7	4.4	2.3	5.5	3.9	9.3
Virginia	6.9	6.2	5.8	5.7	4.7	NA

Source: Kids Count

Franklin was above the state average for percentage of births to mothers with less than a 12th grade education.

Births to mothers with less than 12th grade education

Locality	2017	2018	2019
Franklin	16.6%	13.7%	9.6%
Isle of Wight	4.5%	4.6%	5.4%
Southampton	5.6%	6.5%	4.9%
Suffolk	6.1%	5.8%	7.4%
Virginia	9.2%	8.8%	8.4%

Source: Kids Count

After making big strides in the improvement in prenatal care beginning in the first trimester. In 2018, all localities saw a drop in percentage of prenatal care beginning in the first trimester. In 2020, all localities saw an increase in prenatal care except for Suffolk.

Prenatal Care Beginning in the First Trimester

Locality	2017	2018	2019	2020
Virginia	79.7%	78.4%	78.3%	79.4%
Isle of Wight	86.4%	78.3%	76.5%	80.6%
Southampton	82.4%	73.2%	71.3%	83.7%
Franklin	72.4%	66.5%	71.1%	76.6%
Suffolk	83.1%	76.9%	79.7%	76.2%

Definition: Percent of women seeing a health care provider during the first thirteen weeks of pregnancy. Locality refers to the mother's reported residence.

Source: Kids Count

Births With Late or No Prenatal Care (Percentage)

Locality	2015	2016	2017
Franklin	7.5	14.3	7.4
Isle of Wight	3.7	6.3	4.0
Southampton	7.6	4.3	1.6
Suffolk	4.8	4.7	3.6
Virginia	3.1	3.7	4.2

Source: Virginia Department of Health

In 2020, Franklin saw a significant increase in infant mortality. The percentage increased for all localities. Virginia's percentage dropped slightly.

Infant Mortality Rate Per 1,000 Births

Locality	2017	2018	2019	2020
Franklin	12.3	12.4	6.0	14.2
Isle of Wight	2.7	8.5	0.0	5.5
Southampton	8.0	0.0	8.2	9.6
Suffolk	6.1	7.7	8.0	8.6
Virginia	5.9	5.6	5.9	5.8

Source: Kids Count

Number of Infant Deaths

Locality	2017	2018	2019	2020
Isle of Wight	1	*	*	*
Southampton	1	*	*	*
Franklin	2	*	*	*
Suffolk	7	*	*	10

Source: Virginia Department of Health

*Below 10

Franklin and Southampton are significantly above the state average in percentage of births to single mothers. Franklin has the highest number at 65.2%. All Western Tidewater localities saw this number increase except Southampton in 2020.

Births to Single Mothers

Locality	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Virginia	34.0%	34.6%	33.8%	35%	35.8%
Isle of Wight	36.1%	34.4%	33.1%	34.3%	31.9%
Southampton	50.0%	41.6%	39.8%	52.5%	42.3%
Franklin	70.4%	63.2%	58.1%	61.4%	65.2%
Suffolk	37.2%	39.9%	36.6%	38.1%	38.9%

Source: Kids Count and Greater Hampton Roads Community Indicators Dashboard

Other health indicators include the lead levels of tested children in the community and asthma hospitalizations.

High Lead Level cases, children under 3 (* note 2016 statistics are for children <72 months)

Locality	2015 Pop. <36 mos.	2015 cases	*2016 Pop. <72 mos.	*2016 cases
Franklin	380	0	751	1
Isle of Wight	1,067	0	2,296	2
Southampton	566	0	1,158	0
Suffolk	3,446	4	7,283	8
Virginia	303,439	164	611,895	793

Source: Virginia Department of Health

Age-Adjusted Hospitalization Rate Due to Pediatric Asthma (per 10,000 population under 18 years)

Locality	2015-2017	2016-2018	2017-2019	2018-2020
Franklin	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Isle of Wight	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Southampton	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Suffolk	N/A	1.7	2.8	N/A
Virginia	5.5	5.0	7.0	3.6

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

Children with Asthma (Percentage)

Locality	2017
Franklin/Southampton	NA
Isle of Wight	18.5
North Suffolk	5.1
South Suffolk	15.1
Suffolk City	10.7
United States	9.3

Source: Obici Healthcare Foundation 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment

Mental Health

Franklin and Suffolk are above the state average for hospitalization rate due to pediatric mental health. Isle of Wight and Southampton are both below the state average.

Age-Adjusted Hospitalization Rate Due to Pediatric Mental Health (per 10,000 population under 18 years)

Locality	2015-2017	2016-2018	2017-2019	2018-2020
Franklin	46.5	45.1	62.8	36.2
Isle of Wight	25.6	24.4	33.2	18
Southampton	16.2	19.5	28.6	17.9
Suffolk	40.4	39.0	54.5	31.4
Virginia	29.5	32.1	48.1	29

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

Hospitalization Rate due to Mental Health (18+) (per 10,000 population)

Locality	2015-2017	2016-2018	2017-2019	2018-2020
Franklin	95.8	87.2	142	101.7
Isle of Wight	48.8	45.8	66.5	56.3
Southampton	36.6	31.9	41	27.3
Suffolk	59.9	60.8	88.9	56.3
Virginia	53.3	52.9	78.3	47.5

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

Depression among the Medicare population is below the state and national average in all localities.

Depression among Medicare Population (Percentage)

Locality	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Franklin	12.2%	14.9%	13%	12%	12%	14%
Isle of Wight	14.4%	15.1%	14%	14%	15%	15%
Southampton	14.6%	15.6%	12%	11%	12%	13%
Suffolk	15.0%	16.5%	15%	14%	15%	16%
Virginia	16.6%	17.3%	16%	15%	15%	16%
United States	17.9%	18.4%	16%	16%	16%	16%

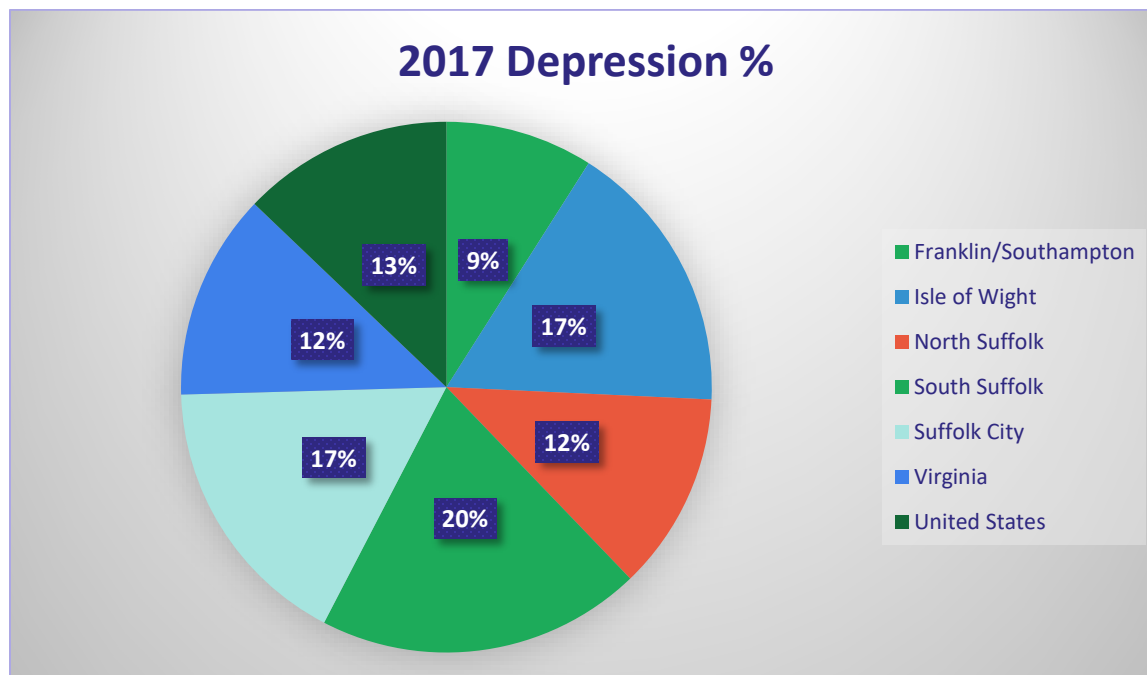
Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Indicators Dashboard

Overall percentage of diagnosis with depression is below the state average in Franklin/Southampton and North Suffolk.

Diagnosed with Depression (Percentage)

Locality	2017
Franklin/Southampton	9.1
Isle of Wight	16.9
North Suffolk	12.2
South Suffolk	20.0
Suffolk City	17.1
Virginia	12.7
United States	13.0

Source: Obici Healthcare Foundation 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment



The percentage of adults in Western Tidewater who are under frequent mental distress increased in every locality except Franklin from 2017 to 2018.

Poor Mental Health Days* (Percentage of Adults)

Location	2018	2019	2020
Western Tidewater	32.0%	35.2%	31.3%
Virginia	34.9%	36.2%	35.8%

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Indicators Dashboard

* This indicator shows the percentage of adults who stated that their mental health was not good one or more days in the past month. The Western Tidewater Health District includes Franklin City, Suffolk City, Isle of Wight County, and Southampton County.

The mental health status of people living in Western Tidewater shows that 35.8% of adults in 2020 stated their mental health was not good one or more days in the past month. Western Tidewater is still below the state average. The number of mental health providers has increased throughout Western Tidewater with the exception of Isle of Wight.

Mental Health Provider Rate (Per 100,000 population)

Locality	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Franklin	110	162	163	166	183
Isle of Wight	25	27	30	40	38
Southampton	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Suffolk	75	99	102	121	144

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Indicators Dashboard

* This indicator shows the mental health provider rate in providers per 100,000 population.

Mental health providers include psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, counselors, and advanced practice nurses specializing in mental health care.

Oral Health

The dentist rate per population in Western Tidewater has generally increased each year.

Dentist Rate (Per 100,000 population)

Locality	2018	2019	2020	2021
Franklin	75	75	77	73
Isle of Wight	27	27	27	26
Southampton	11	11	11	11
Suffolk	44	45	47	52

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Indicators Dashboard

The percentage of children ages 2-17 who saw a dentist in the past year (2017) was above the state average in Isle of Wight and below in all other localities.

Children (2-17) who Had a Dental Visit the Past Year (Percentage)

Locality	2017
Franklin/Southampton	NA

Isle of Wight	92.0
North Suffolk	86.6
South Suffolk	80.0
Suffolk City	82.9
Virginia	NA
United States	87.0

Source: Obici Healthcare Foundation 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment

Chronic Diseases

Chronic diseases in adults are an indicator of future health problems for children.

All locations are above the state average for age-adjusted hospitalization rate due to diabetes. Franklin is more than double the state average.

Age-Adjusted Hospitalization Rate due to Diabetes (adjusted rate per 10,000)

Locality	2014-2016	2015-2017	2016-2018	2017-2019	2018-2020
Franklin	49.1	49.2	46.6	60	63.4
Isle of Wight	19.5	20.4	20.3	23.1	19.7
Southampton	15.1	17.5	18.9	27.7	26.6
Suffolk	19.6	20.7	23.0	36.5	27.9
Virginia	17.1	17.1	18.3	22	20.7

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

Percentage of those diagnosed with diabetes is double the state average in Franklin/Southampton and above the state and national average in all locations.

Diagnosed with Diabetes/High Blood Sugar (Percentage)

Locality	2017
Franklin/Southampton	22.6
Isle of Wight	17.6
North Suffolk	18.0
South Suffolk	16.6
Suffolk City	17.1
Virginia	10.4
United States	13.3

Source: Obici Healthcare Foundation 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment

Franklin is above the state average for age-adjusted hospitalization rate due to asthma. All areas have improved since 2019.

Age-Adjusted Hospitalization Rate due to Asthma (adjusted rate per 10,000)

Locality	2015-2017	2016-2018	2017-2019	2018-2020
Franklin	15.2	10.9	13.4	4.9

Isle of Wight	2.8	2.1	3	3.7
Southampton	2.5	2.1	3.1*	2.4
Suffolk	5.1	3.9	6.4	3.7
Virginia	5.1	4.0	5.9	3.3

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

*means that a value may be statistically unstable and should be interpreted with caution.

All Western Tidewater localities are above the state average for age-adjusted hospitalization rate due to heart failure. Franklin is **over triple** the state average and Suffolk is well above the state average.

Age-Adjusted Hospitalization Rate due to Heart Failure (adjusted rate per 10,000)

Locality	2015-2017	2016-2018	2017-2019	2018-2020
Franklin	93.0	107.6	188.2	132.7
Isle of Wight	40.4	41.7	64.1	43.4
Southampton	37.4	42.2	66.8	47.4
Suffolk	53.3	55.3	85.4	56.1
Virginia	35.1	36.5	57.6	36.7

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

All areas are above the state average for age-adjusted hospitalization rate due to hypertension. Franklin is more than double the state average.

Age-Adjusted Hospitalization Rate due to Hypertension (adjusted rate per 10,000)

Locality	2015-2017	2016-2018	2017-2019	2018-2020
Franklin	9.8	13.3	29.2	20.8
Isle of Wight	4.3	5.0	6.9	4.0
Southampton	3.5	5.3	8.6	7.0
Suffolk	5.0	5.1	7.3	5.2
Virginia	4.3	4.6	7.4	4.6

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

The percentage of adults who have been told they have high blood pressure is nearly double the state average in Franklin/Southampton, and above the state and national average in all areas of Western Tidewater.

Percentage who have been told they have hypertension

Locality	2017
Franklin/Southampton	65.6
Isle of Wight	42.5
North Suffolk	43.6
South Suffolk	46.7

Suffolk City	45.5
Virginia	33.2
United States	37.0

Source: Obici Healthcare Foundation 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment

Incidence of Drug and Alcohol Abuse

All Western Tidewater localities, except Isle of Wight, are below the state average for adults who drink excessively. All localities in WT were higher in 2018 than 2017. All localities are trending up.

Adults Who Drink Excessively, percentage

Locality	2015	2016	2017	2018
Franklin	12.6%	13.2%	13.8%	16.3%
Isle of Wight	16.9%	17.2%	18.1%	21%
Southampton	14.7%	14.9%	15.7%	18.6%
Suffolk	15.7%	16.8%	17.0%	17%
Virginia	NA	17.4%	17.4%	17.7%

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Indicators Dashboard

The incidence of smokers in Western Tidewater is above the state average in all locations except Isle of Wight. All areas increased in 2018, except Suffolk.

Adults age 18+ who are smokers, percentage

Locality	2015	2016	2017	2018
Franklin	20.0%	18.9%	19.7%	22.4%
Isle of Wight	15.2%	15.0%	15.2%	18.7%
Southampton	17.1%	17.8%	17.1%	21.7%
Suffolk	16.2%	19.1%	19.9%	18.5%
Virginia	19.5%	15.3%	16.4%	15.1%

Source: The Virginia Atlas of Community Health and Greater Hampton Roads Community Indicators Dashboard

Death because of opioid abuse has become a trending topic across the United States. The only Western Tidewater locality with a trend upward in this area was Southampton, however Southampton's rate decreased in 2018.

Death Rate Due to Prescription Opioid Overdose (Per 100,000 population)

Locality	2015	2016	2017	2018
Franklin	11.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Isle of Wight	2.8	10.9	8.2	5.4
Southampton	0.0	0.0	11.1	5.7
Suffolk	4.5	4.5	3.4	4.4

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Indicators Dashboard

All localities have increased in emergency department visits due to opioids.

Emergency Department Visit Rate due to Opioids (Per 100,000 population)

Locality	2018	2020	2021	2022
Franklin	15.8	28.3	17.5	25
Isle of Wight	9.8	13.2	24	28
Southampton	15.8	28.3	17.5	25
Suffolk	11.1	26.4	22.2	23.3

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Indicators Dashboard

Sexual Transmitted Infections

All localities were above the state average in 2022 for HIV/AIDS prevalence rate.

HIV/AIDS Prevalence Rate (rate per 100,000)

Locality	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Franklin	342.5	361.9	361.9	361.9	377.3
Isle of Wight	232.5	208.4	224.6	216.5	216.4
Southampton	253.5	244.5	227.5	244.5	244.4
Suffolk	319.2	337.8	343.3	355.3	331.6
Virginia	294.0	301.7	311.6	306.2	312.1

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Indicators Dashboard

All localities were above the state average in 2020 for Chlamydia incidence rate. Franklin is more than double the state average.

Chlamydia Incidence Rate (rate per 100,000)

Locality	2017	2018	2019	2020
Franklin	1,259.8	1,431.0	1,117.1	903.7
Isle of Wight	391.2	454.1	471.6	490.4
Southampton	416.9	445.1	572.9	470.8
Suffolk	714.8	719.2	912	703.5
Virginia	489.8	515.9	555.9	469.4

Source: Virginia Department of Health and Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

All localities were above the state average in 2018 for gonorrhea incidence rate. Franklin is more than double the state average.

Gonorrhea Incidence Rate (rate per 100,000)

Locality	2017	2018	2019	2020
Franklin	403.6	366.9	464.4	464.4
Isle of Wight	128.6	120.4	207.5	207.5
Southampton	152.1	123.9	238.2	238.2
Suffolk	215.0	223.9	334.4	334.4
Virginia	143.8	141.1	175.1	175.1

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

All Western Tidewater localities except Southampton were above the state average in 2017 for early syphilis incidence rate. Suffolk and Franklin are almost double the state average.

Early Syphilis Incidence Rate (rate per 100,000)

Locality	2015	2016	2017
Franklin	0	35.3	24.5
Isle of Wight	16.5	27.5	5.5
Southampton	N/A	N/A	0.0
Suffolk	20.4	18.1	21.2
Virginia	10.6	12.0	13.2

Source: Virginia Department of Health

Community Health Assessment for Franklin and Southampton County

The Franklin-Southampton Community Partnership was developed in early 2017 with the initial work focused on conducting an examination of the health status of the community to identify key health problems and assets in the community.

The partnership conducted an anonymous community-wide survey for Franklin and Southampton County. Over 400 surveys were completed with the following results:

Greatest Community Strengths – 24 hour police, fire, and rescue services, safe neighborhoods, affordable housing (Franklin), and good schools (Southampton).

Areas of Improvement – youth programs and activities outside of school, drug and/or alcohol abuse, low income/poverty, and chronic disease.

Obici Healthcare Foundation 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment Report

In November 2017, the Obici Healthcare Foundation released the 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment Report. The report cited the following areas of opportunity in the Western Tidewater Community:

Access to Healthcare Services

- Primary Care Physician Ratio

-
- Access to the Internet for Personal Use
 - Emergency Room Utilization

Cancer

- Cancer is a leading cause of death
- Cancer Deaths
- Cancer Prevalence
- Cervical Cancer Screening (ages 21-65)

Diabetes

- Diabetes Deaths
- Diabetes Prevalence
- Prevalence of Borderline/Pre-Diabetes

Heart Disease & Stroke

- Cardiovascular disease is a leading cause of death
- Stroke Deaths
- High Blood Pressure Prevalence
- High Blood Cholesterol Presence
- Overall Cardiovascular Risk

Infant Health & Family Planning

- Low-weight Births
- Infant Mortality
- Teen Births

Injury & Violence

- Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths

Kidney Disease

- Kidney Disease Deaths
- Kidney Disease Prevalence

Mental Health

- Seeking Professional Help

Nutrition, Physical Activity & Weight

- Overweight and Obesity
- Sugar-Sweetened Beverages
- Low Food Access
- Overweight Adults
- Access to Recreation/Fitness Facilities

Oral Health

Potentially Disabling Conditions

- Multiple Chronic Conditions
- Arthritis/Rheumatism Prevalence (Age 50+)
- Caregiver

Respiratory Diseases

- Asthma Prevalence
- COPD Prevalence
- Flu Vaccination (Age 65+)
- Pneumonia Vaccination (Age 65+)

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

- Gonorrhea Incidence
- Chlamydia Incidence

Substance Abuse

- South Help for Alcohol/Drug Issues

NUTRITION

Students approved for Free or Reduced Price School Lunch

Locality	2018	2019	23-24
Franklin*	100%	100%	100%
Southampton	49.5%	44.6%	75.76%
Isle of Wight	32.1%	34.7%	46.97%
Suffolk	49.7%	49.7%	68.25

Source: Virginia Department of Education

**Franklin students qualify for Free and Reduced-Price lunch under the USDA Community Eligibility Provision*

Access to Low-Cost Food

Western Tidewater has access to the following low-cost food and feeding sites:

- The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia has a summer feeding site at the Suffolk Boys & Girls Club at JFK Middle School. The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia also serves Suffolk, Franklin, Isle of Wight, and Southampton in various locations and with a mobile pantry.
- The Salvation Army of Suffolk runs a soup kitchen on Thursdays and Saturdays and has a supply of canned goods.
- Franklin Cooperative Ministries has a food pantry.
- Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia has a home-delivered meals program.
- Cover 3 Foundation runs a kid's meals and snack program in Franklin, Suffolk, and Southampton County. This program exists to provide nutritious snacks and meals to all children in after-school programs, summer feeding sites and while school is out.
- The Hope Center, located in Franklin and run by Kingdom Life Church, has free food distribution on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- The Suffolk Library participated in the Summer Feed program in 2018 and fed 30-40 children per day.

WIC Program

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides Federal grants to States for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for

low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

SNAP Program

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. Franklin, Isle of Wight, and Southampton were below the state average for the percentage of all SNAP participants who are children.

Children Who are SNAP Participants (percentage*)

Locality	2018 %	2018 #	2019 %	2019 #	2020 %	2020 #
Franklin	42.4	1,331	42.9	1,110	42.5	1,286
Isle of Wight	41.1	1,877	40.2	1,465	39.2	1,638
Southampton	40.2	1,337	42.4	1,182	40.3	1,222
Suffolk	44.1	6,621	44.3	5,572	43.2	6,142
Virginia	43.9	436,744	43.9	369,505	42.3	399,253

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Indicators Dashboard and Kids Count

* The percent represents the number of children who receive SNAP of the total number of individuals (all ages) in that locality who receive SNAP.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods or uncertain ability to acquire these foods in socially acceptable ways. Children exposed to food insecurity are of particular concern given the implications scarce food resources pose to a child's health and development. Children who are food insecure are more likely to be hospitalized and may be at higher risk for developing obesity and asthma. Children who experience food insecurity may also be at higher risk for behavioral and social issues including fighting, hyperactivity, anxiety and bullying.

In 2021, all areas of Western Tidewater were above the state average in child food insecurity rate. All localities have seen improvement in this area.

Child Food Insecurity Rate

Locality	2018	2019	2020	2021
Virginia	12.5%	11.5%	9.7%	8.8%
Franklin	17.6%	19.7%	28.9%	26.9%
Southampton	14.5%	13.2%	12.9%	10.6%
Isle of Wight	13.4%	13 %	11.9%	9.5%
Suffolk	13.4%	13.3%	15.5%	12.7%

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Indicators Dashboard

* This indicator shows the percentage of children (under 18 years of age) living in households that experienced food insecurity at some point during the year.

Children With Low Access to a Grocery Store*

Locality	2010	2015
Franklin	13.2%	13.4%
Southampton	3.3%	3.2%
Isle of Wight	3.8%	3.8%
Suffolk	5.3%	5.8%

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Indicators Dashboard

* This indicator shows the percentage of children living more than one mile from a supermarket or large grocery store if in an urban area, or more than 10 miles from a supermarket or large grocery store if in a rural area.

Food Environment Index*

Locality	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Franklin	4.0	4.4	4.4	5.4	6.0	5.4
Southampton	6.8	6.9	7.1	7.6	8.7	8.8
Isle of Wight	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.8	8.7	8.7
Suffolk	7.6	7.7	7.7	8.4	9.0	8.9

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Indicators Dashboard

* The food environment index combines two measures of food access: the percentage of the population that is low-income and has low access to a grocery store, and the percentage of the population that did not have access to a reliable source of food during the past year (food insecurity). The index ranges from 0 (worst) to 10 (best) and equally weights the two measures.

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The Western Tidewater's Early Intervention program is run through the Infant and Toddler Connection of Western Tidewater. The Coordinator for this program is an employee of the Children's Center.

Overall, Western Tidewater has increased the percentage of children served with EI services every year for the past seven years, until 2014. The overall percentage went from 2.38 percent of population in 2007 to 3.91 percent in 2013 to 3.60 percent in 2014. It should be noted that Western Tidewater's percentage of children served was above the state average for 2014 (2.85 percent)*.

Agencies that provide services to disabled and developmentally delayed children are listed under the Community Resources section.

As of December 1, 2023, it is estimated that 52 children in Western Tidewater have a disability and are eligible for Early Head Start or Head Start.

Children With Disabilities

Locality	2015-2019	2016-2020	2017-2021	2018-2022
Franklin	2.6%	7.5%	8.7%	6.9%
Southampton	3.8%	5.8%	6.5%	5.5%
Isle of Wight	7.6%	8.0%	8.4%	6.4%
Suffolk	4.0%	4.0%	5.5%	5.0%

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

**This indicator shows the percentage of children less than 18 years old that are limited in any activities because of physical, mental, or emotional problems.*

Numerator = Total estimate of children under 18 with disability.

Denominator = Total population estimate of children.

Estimate of Children With Disabilities and Eligible for Early Head Start or Head Start in 2022-2023

Locality	Estimated Children 0-5 with a disability and enrolled in a preschool	Children living below 100% poverty level	Estimated Eligible
Franklin	9	28.6%	<2
Southampton	33	10.8%	3
Isle of Wight	70	15.4%	11
Suffolk	158	13.4%	20
TOTAL	270	--	52

Estimates were taken from data provided Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard and local school systems.

All of the Western Tidewater localities were below the state average in percentage of children receiving special education services in **2020**.

Percentage of Students Receiving Special Education Services

Locality	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Franklin	12.2	10.8	11.7	11.7	11.8	11.8
Isle of Wight	12.3	11.6	12.4	12.0	12.9	12.9
Southampton	11.4	12.3	12.4	13.1	12.9	12.0
Suffolk	12.0	11.7	12.0	12.7	13.0	13.0
Virginia	12.9	12.6	12.9	13.2	13.5	13.5

Source: Kids Count

Number of Public School Children in Grades Pre-K-12 Receiving Special Education Services

Locality	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Franklin	111	118	107	106
Isle of Wight	640	718	738	779
Southampton	273	266	269	296
Suffolk	1,666	1,621	1,659	1,691

Source: Virginia Department of Education

Number of children receiving special education services across Western Tidewater have fluctuated since 2019.

EMPLOYMENT AND THE ECONOMY

A mixture of agriculture and industry drives Western Tidewater's economy. The region produces crops such as corn, peanuts, cotton, soybeans, and wheat. Woodlands cover much of Western Tidewater.

Franklin

Agriculture is the chief industry of Franklin and Southampton County, with manufacturing a close second, and growing steadily. Southampton is the Commonwealth's leading county in both cotton and peanut production. Another important asset to the county's agricultural economy is hog-raising. Manufactured products include meat products, smoked and cured meats, lumber, chemical and concrete products, plastics and peanut products. Although Franklin lies in 2 predominantly agricultural areas, manufacturing provides the largest employment for the City's residents. Franklin began as a transportation 2nd trade center after construction of the Seaboard Railroad in 1837; however, the City's growth was retarded until 1887 when the Camp lumber mill was established. At the present time the City serves as a major retail, wholesale, service trades and marketing center for the surrounding area and as a manufacturing center for native forest products. Franklin's major industrial presence is International Paper (purchased Union Camp in 1999) which is located in Isle of White County. This company produces lumber, Kraft paper, pulp and chemical by-products. Other major industries include Hercules Inc. located in Southampton County, producers of Pamak (tall oil fatty acids) rosin, and other chemical processing materials; Franklin Equipment Co. located in Isle of Wight County, manufacturers of the Franklin Logger; Birdsong Peanut Co.; Money Mailer, LLC, a direct-mail coupon distributor and Southampton Memorial Hospital which is the City's largest employer.. Industrial sites are available in a City owned Industrial Park adjacent to 4 lane Rt. 58. The people of Franklin welcome new industry. Cotton mills, furniture factories, lumber products, hosiery mills and firms engaged in food processing – to mention a few would find Franklin accessible to both raw materials and a ready market. (franklinva.com)

Isle of Wight County

The economy of Isle of Wight County, VA employs 18.8k people. The largest industries in Isle of Wight County, VA are Manufacturing (3,055 people), Health Care & Social Assistance (2,244 people), and Retail Trade (1,687 people), and the highest paying industries are Information (\$103,194), Utilities (\$100,761), and Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services (\$66,000). (datausa.io)

Major employers include: Smithfield Meats Corporation, Isle of Wight County School Board, Keurig Dr. Pepper, Isle of Wight County, and International Paper. Isle of Wight is 3rd in the state for having an economic impact in agriculture and forestry at \$2.72 billion impact and 5,100 jobs in these areas. ([Rural Economy - Isle of Wight Department of Economic Development \(insidetheisle.com\)](#))

Southampton County

From 2020 to 2021, employment in Southampton County, VA grew at a rate of 1.75%, from 7.67k employees to 7.8k employees.

The most common job groups, by number of people living in Southampton County, VA, are Management Occupations (847 people), Production Occupations (626 people), and Office & Administrative Support Occupations (623 people).

The City of Franklin and Southampton County offer a business climate with a wide range of existing companies, skilled employees, educational opportunities, low tax rates, excellent transportation corridors and a charming small town feel. A rich economic heritage in manufacturing, forestry and agriculture set Franklin Southampton apart. Franklin Southampton Economic Development, Inc. focuses on business attraction, retention of existing industry including small business development, entrepreneurship and tourism.

The largest industries in Southampton County, VA are Health Care & Social Assistance (1,264 people), Public Administration (861 people), and Manufacturing (827 people), and the highest paying industries are Utilities (\$71,643), Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services (\$70,945), and Manufacturing (\$60,542).

(datausa.io)

Suffolk

The economy of Suffolk, VA employs 43.9k people. The largest industries in Suffolk, VA are Health Care & Social Assistance (7,375 people), Manufacturing (5,195 people), and Retail Trade (4,437 people), and the highest paying industries are Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services (\$87,500), Utilities (\$81,333), and Public Administration (\$70,603). From 2020 to 2021, employment in Suffolk, VA grew at a rate of 0.665%, from 43.6k employees to 43.9k employees.

The most common job groups, by number of people living in Suffolk, VA, are Office & Administrative Support Occupations (5,041 people), Management Occupations (4,846 people), and Sales & Related Occupations (4,138 people). This chart illustrates the share breakdown of the primary jobs held by residents of Suffolk, VA.

(datausa.io)

Top Employer: Amazon Warehousing & Distribution: With approximately 5,000 employees, Amazon plays a crucial role in the area¹.

- **Suffolk Public Schools: The education sector employs around 2,300 people¹.**
 - **Naval Information Forces ModSim and Technology: This defense-related organization has about 2,250 employees¹.**
 - **Sentara Health System: A prominent healthcare provider, Sentara employs around 1,503 people¹.**
 - **Target Warehousing & Distribution: Target contributes to the local workforce with approximately 1,500 employees¹.**
 - **City of Suffolk: The municipal government provides jobs for about 1,479 people¹.**
 - **QVC Warehousing & Distribution: QVC, known for its home shopping network, employs around 700 people¹.**
 - **Towne Bank: A local banking institution with approximately 600 employees¹.**
- (Google.com)

Size of Labor Force

Locality	May 2019	May 2020	October 2021	December 2022	October 2023
Franklin	3,589	3,518	3,681	3,459	3,501
Isle of Wight	19,539	18,784	18,703	19,741	20,139
Southampton	9,059	8,662	9,367	8,956	9,021
Suffolk	44,879	43,824	43,040	45,684	46,793

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard

Area Employment History

2009

Smithfield Foods and its subsidiaries, one of the area's largest employers, experienced layoffs during the 2009 economic downturn but still employs 4,500. International Paper, which at one time was the area's largest employer, decided in October 2009 to shut down its operations at the Franklin mill (located in southern Isle of Wight County). Layoffs began in December 2009 and continued through September 2010. This shutdown directly affected 1,100 employees at the mill (820 in the Children's Center service area), and also affected residual contracting jobs and local businesses in the area, for an estimated job loss of 3,000.

2011

In July 2011, International Paper announced a partial reopening of the mill by July 2012. This conversion to the product known as "fluff" paper created an estimated 250 jobs for the area.

It was announced in January 2011 that the USJFCOM/JWFC Training Analysis & Simulation Center, Suffolk's largest employer (2,200) would close by the end of 2011. With the closure in August 2011, about half of the 2,200 jobs were lost, far less than originally expected, and most of the job loss was to contractors. Northrop Grumman, JFCOM's top contractor with four of its 25 largest contracts, told 293 Suffolk-based employees in April that they faced possible job losses when contracts with JFCOM expired.

2012

ST Tissue, a company that uses recycled paper to make napkins and paper towels, opened at the International Paper complex in October 2012.

The City of Suffolk reported that 1,957 jobs had been created within the city limits during 2012. Those included in the expansion were Trans-Ocean, Suffolk Iron Works, Sumitomo, Western Branch Metals, and Dana Holding Corporation, Continental Terminals, and Massimo Zanetti Beverage.

It was announced in June 2012 that nearly 1,000 new employees of four military commands would be moving into buildings vacated by JFCOM in North Suffolk. The estimated annual payroll for this group is \$88.9 million. The commands were set to be in place by June 25, 2013.

2013

Smithfield Foods was sold to Shuanghui Foods in China in 2013. There has been no reduction in workforce.

Enviva, a company that produces wood pellets for fuel, opened a plant in Southampton County in 2013 with 70 employees.

Green Mountain Coffee opened a processing facility in Isle of Wight County with 800 employees. GMC is now the second largest employer in Isle of Wight County.

In the fall of 2013, Franklin Lumber LLC restarted the former International Paper sawmill and added 72 jobs.

In June 2013, Lockheed Martin of Suffolk laid off 59 employees due to a loss of contract.

Southampton County announced in August 2013 that Hampton Farms, a peanut roasting company, will open a peanut butter process facility in the county at a former International Paper facility just outside Franklin. The company will hire 60 employees.

2014

In the fall of 2014, it was announced that Friant and Associates, a furniture manufacturing company, was moving to the CenterPoint Intermodal Center in Suffolk, and would create 166 new jobs.

2015

In the spring of 2015, the Target warehouse, located in Suffolk, announced a \$50 million expansion, which was expected to add 600 jobs.

In November of 2015, the City of Suffolk announced that Canada Metal Pacific Ltd., a manufacturer of die castings and machining technologies for the marine, energy, telecommunications, transportation, and forestry industries, would locate in Suffolk and hire 50 employees in the next five years. Massimo Zanetti Beverage USA also announced an expansion in November 2015.

2016

In February 2016, the City of Suffolk announced Emser Tile would invest \$16.25 million to establish an East Coast distribution center at CenterPoint Intermodal Center. This will create 98 new jobs. This facility opened in August of 2017. Also at CenterPoint, Peet's Coffee announced in December 2016 its plans to invest \$58 million in a new roaster. The 175,000-square-foot roaster is expected to create 135 new jobs, with an annual salary in the \$50,000 range.

2017

ST Tissue, which restarted one of the former paper machines at International Paper in 2012, began to expand its operations in 2017 by investing \$35 million to refurbish and start a second paper machine. The expansion is expected to create 50 new jobs to bring the company to 150 employees.

In February 2017, the City of Suffolk announced that the Ace Hardware Distribution Center will expand its facility by 138,000 square feet and create five to 10 jobs.

2018

In 2018, Enviva employed 100-plus employees. In late 2018, the company announced it would expand its operation by \$75.7 million through 2020.

In May 2018, Farm Fresh closed all of its Western Tidewater stores, including Franklin, Suffolk, and Smithfield. Kroger took over stores in Suffolk and Smithfield.

In October 2018 it was announced that Belmont Peanuts was creating a new \$2.5 million facility and warehouse in Southampton County to process and store peanuts. The expansion was expected to create 15 new jobs.

It was announced that Hampton Farms in Southampton County will expand its peanut butter processing facility, a \$5.7 million investment that will create 14 new jobs.

2019

It was announced in February 2019 that Smithfield Foods will lease a 20,000-square-foot space in North Suffolk's Bridgeway Technology Center II. This will bring 170 new jobs to Suffolk.

It was announced in March 2019 that Wanchese Fish Company in Suffolk was adding a \$2.8 million expansion that would include 70 new jobs.

Repair Tech announced a move from Isle of Wight County to the Franklin Industrial Park. The move will be a \$1 million land purchase and facility to expand the business.

Isle of Wight County announced in June 2019 that M&M Milling, a toll processor specializing in grinding, blending and sizing of agricultural materials, has established its first East Coast location in Isle of Wight

County. The company, who will locate in the former Franklin Equipment building in the Camptown area, will employ at least 15 people and purchase hundreds of thousands of bushels of shelled corn from local farmers each year as part of its production processes.

Blue Bell Ice Cream opened a distribution center in North Suffolk. The 14,000 square-foot facility employs 18.

Hubbard Peanut Company of Sedley announced in November an expansion into Franklin in the old Farm Fresh building. The \$1.6 million expansion will include 10 new jobs and a one third increase in the purchase of Virginia-grown peanuts.

It was announced in December 2019 that Bon Bon Farms will invest \$8.5 million and create 162 new jobs in their new operations in Boykins. The company will renovate and operate out of the former Asheboro Elastics Corporation, which ceased operations in June 2019. The company will produce hemp plugs and CBD oil and related products.

2020

In January, it was announced that GMAX Industries Inc., a manufacturer and sourcing agent of medical disposable products for the healthcare industry, will invest \$10.5 million to establish a manufacturing and distribution operation at Pretlow Industrial Park in the City of Franklin. The facility will centralize the company's operations in-house, creating 40 new jobs.

Olive oil manufacturer Acesur will take over the former Flexa Furniture manufacturing facility in Suffolk Industrial Park. This will be an \$11 million investment and create 29 new jobs.

Amazon purchased 87 acres of land in Suffolk and built a state-of-the-art distribution warehouse in 2021 which employs 1,000 workers at \$15 per hour.

Virginia Port Logistics Park is a 932-acre industrial development located in proximity to the thriving Port of Virginia. Since acquiring the development in mid-2019, Equus Capital Partners has completed the following leases: 350,000 SF Build-to-Suit for Massimo Zanetti Beverage USA (September 2021); 348,500 SF Spec Building, Leased by XPO, December 2021 Scheduled Completion; 307,200 SF Spec Building - Lease, June 2022 Scheduled Completion; 278,670 SF Build-to-Suit Lease, August 2022 Scheduled Completion Freestanding facilities of 150-250-500K SF+ - also designed to tenant specifications.

The City of Franklin runs a 40,000 square foot Business Center, which hosts start-up businesses and small industry.

Expected to be completed in 2026 is Smithfield Riverside Hospital, a 50-bed acute care facility will be built on land owned by Riverside Health System near the intersection of Routes US-258 and VA-10. This facility will have an emergency department, offer diagnostic imaging services, 10 intensive care unit beds, and 4 operating rooms. This comes after Smithfield's Benn's Grant project, a housing community that is home to 536 families.

2023

Riverside Hospital System announced a new 50-bed hospital that would come to the Smithfield Benn's Church area by 2025.

Area Unemployment History

With the economic downturn of late 2008 through 2012, unemployment increased dramatically for the area. In localities like Franklin, Isle of Wight, and Southampton, the unemployment rate nearly doubled between 2008 and 2009. With the closing of International Paper in late 2010, unemployed figures for the region rose again. Franklin's unemployment rate in 2010 climbed to nearly triple what it was in 2007. Unemployment eased off slightly in the first six months of 2011 and remained stable in most localities except Franklin. Franklin's unemployment rate rose a percentage point from July 2011 to July 2012. Unemployment dropped in all localities from July 2012 to May 2013. However, all Western Tidewater localities were above the state average in May 2013.

Unemployment dropped in all localities between May 2015 and May 2016, following the state and national trend. Franklin, Isle of Wight, and Suffolk were still above the state average.

In March 2017, all Western Tidewater localities were above the state average (Southampton was the same as the state average). All but Franklin were below the national average.

In March 2018, all areas except Isle of Wight were above the state average. All areas saw a drop in unemployment between March 2017 and March 2018.

In April 2019, all areas had seen an improvement in unemployment since the previous year.

Unemployment Rate

Locality	March 2017	March 2018	April 2019	Nov 2020	Nov 2021
Franklin	5.6	4.9	3.5	7.5	4.6
Isle of Wight	4.0	3.3	2.6	3.8	2.5
Southampton	3.8	3.5	2.4	3.9	2.3
Suffolk	4.2	3.6	2.7	5.1	3.2
Virginia	3.8	3.3	2.5	4.6	2.7
United States	4.6	4.1	3.3	6.4	3.9

Source: Virginia Employment Commission and Virginia Labor Market Information

With the closure of many businesses during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, unemployment skyrocketed across the United States, Virginia, and Western Tidewater. While unemployment skyrocketed in April 2020, by May 2020, unemployment began to ease off. Only Franklin was above the state average in May 2020. Unemployment rates decreased across all areas in 2021.

Franklin and Southampton lag behind the other Western Tidewater localities in average weekly wage per employee. All areas saw an increase in average weekly wage between 2018 and 2019.

Average Weekly Wage

Locality	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021
Franklin	\$585	\$610	\$610	\$639	\$721
Isle of Wight	\$796	\$824	\$849	\$864	\$865
Southampton	\$667	\$691	\$718	\$731	\$815
Suffolk	\$907	\$922	\$944	\$1,004	\$1,047

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Principle Source of Income by percent, 2018

Locality	Management	Service	Sales & Office	Natural Resources, Construction, Maint. & Repair	Production, Transport, Moving
Franklin	23.1	26.0	24.2	11.1	15.6
Isle of Wight	40.2	15.3	18.8	13.2	12.4
Southampton	28.5	19.2	21.2	14.7	16.5
Suffolk	39.5	17.4	20.0	8.9	14.2
Virginia	43.8	16.6	20.6	8.4	10.6

Source: U.S. Census

The Western Tidewater area is similar to the state of Virginia as to division of labor. Southampton has the lowest percentage of wage and salary workers. Southampton has the highest percentage of government employees. Isle of Wight has the most self-employed.

Class of Worker by percent, 2018

Locality	Private Wage & Salary	Government	Self-Employed	Unpaid Family Workers
Franklin	74.4	23.7	1.9	0
Isle of Wight	74.7	20.1	5.1	0
Southampton	67.1	27.8	4.4	0.6
Suffolk	72.0	23.7	4.1	0.2
Virginia	74.9	20.0	4.9	0.2

Source: U.S. Census

Isle of Wight, Southampton, and Franklin are above the state average for percentage of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force. The trend for all areas has been higher.

Children under 6 with all parents in the labor force (percent)

Locality	2017	2014-2018	2015-2019
Franklin	66.2	88.0	94.8
Isle of Wight	72.4	74.0	76.0
Southampton	69.2	70.7	73.0
Suffolk	64.4	64.6	66.7
Virginia	66.6	67.0	67.6

Source: Kids Count

Cash Match

Local grantors have also lowered amounts they are able to give because of the significant drop in the stock market since 2008. Franklin-Southampton United Way contributions dropped from \$10,000 in 2016-2017 to \$6,000 in 2021-2022. For the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the United Way of South Hampton Roads increased its allocation to the Children's Center. That allocation dropped slightly for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.

The Franklin-Southampton United Way kept its allocation at \$6,000 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, but dropped it to \$5,000 for FY 2020-2021 and went back to \$6,000 for FY 2021-2022. In 2022-2023, Franklin-Southampton United Way granted the Children's Center \$5,000 while United Way of South Hampton Roads granted \$47,500 in 2022.

EDUCATION: PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Background

As a result of the concern that children were not entering kindergarten ready to learn, the Franklin City Council appointed members to form an Early Childhood Commission. With a grant from the Virginia Early Childhood Education Foundation, the Commission evolved into Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater and now includes Franklin, Southampton County, and Isle of Wight County. The purpose of Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater is to build community impact to prepare all children in the community for kindergarten. The Children's Center has leadership representation on the Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater Board of Directors. The Smart Beginnings system will transform to be known as Ready Regions, a statewide effort to improve the access and quality of early childhood education.

In addition, Suffolk has had an Early Childhood Development Commission for several years, with members appointed by the Suffolk City Council. The Children's Center has leadership representation on the Suffolk ECDC.

The state of the community's support of children in becoming ready for school may be measured by the following statistical data:

- PALS-K Scores
- Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP). VKRP is now a statewide assessment used in the public schools. This measure is also being used in all of the Pre-K classrooms at the Children's Center.
 - All classrooms at the Children's Center are using the STREAMin3 curriculum.
- Percentage of public school children retained, grades K-3
- Percentage of the number of mother's without a diploma
- The number of students served in the Virginia Pre-School Initiative
- Third-grade SOL passing rates
- Fifth grade SOL passing rates (math)
- Percent of high school dropouts
- Percent of public school students promoted
- Percentage of public school students promoted grades K-3

Based on 2019-2020 data, the percentage of children in Isle of Wight and Suffolk passing the PALS K assessment were above the state average, children in Franklin and Southampton were below the state average.

Percentage of Kindergartners Whose PALS-K Scores Were Below Kindergarten Readiness Levels

Locality	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Franklin	17.0%	17.0%	18.0%	15.9%
Isle of Wight	10.0%	14.0%	18.0%	13.0%
Southampton	15.0%	20.0%	15.0%	19.2%
Suffolk	7.0%	10.0%	12.0%	14.3%
Virginia	14.6%	16.0%	17.0%	15.7%

Source: Kids Count

Percentages of kindergarteners who PALS scores were BELOW kindergarten readiness levels in 2019-2020 were above the state average in Franklin and Southampton, however Franklin's % dropped from 18% to 15.9% passing rates from 2018 to 2020. Isle of Wight children continue to be the most ready for kindergarten according to their higher PALS scores.

Percentage of Public School Children Retained, Grades K-3

Locality	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Franklin	*	*	*	0.60	0.0
Isle of Wight	2.02	0.65	*	0.70	1.00
Southampton	*	*	2.10	2.10	1.00
Suffolk	4.37	3.84	3.50	3.30	3.10
Virginia	1.75	1.56	1.40	1.40	1.30

Source: Kids Count

*Data is suppressed by Virginia Department of Education due to number of students at 10 or below

Suffolk is more than double the state average for % of children retained in grades K-3 in 2020.

Virginia Pre-School Initiative, number of students served (age 4)

Locality	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019-2020
Franklin	72	73	67	63	57
Isle of Wight	119	108	109	113	111
Southampton	119	127	116	139	145
Suffolk	475	445	493	503	513

Source: Kids Count and Virginia Department of Education

The number of children age 3 and up to kindergarten who attend a pre-school is listed below. All localities except for Isle of Wight are above the state average for % of children in the area age 3 and up who attend a preschool.

Children enrolled in Preschool (3 years old and up to kindergarten)

Locality	2018 Number	2018 By % of Pop. Of Children	2021 Number	2021 %	2022 Number	2022 %
Franklin	151	6.6%	154	9.1%	126	7.7%
Isle of Wight	493	5.8%	281	3.3%	368	4.3%
Southampton	174	4.6%	226	6.3%	235	6.8%
Suffolk	1,526	6.5%	1400	6.2%	1,700	7.3%
Virginia	125,877	5.9%	100,705	4.8%	110,892	5.3%

Source: US Census – TABLE S1401

During the 2022-2023 school year, Isle of Wight is the locality with the highest percentage of students in third grade passing the Standards of Learning English exam. Franklin is the locality with the lowest reading SOL scores.

Percent Passing Standards of Learning (SOL-English-3rd grade: Reading)

Locality	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020*	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Franklin	41%	42%	NA	32%	31%	48%
Isle of Wight	77%	72%	NA	69%	73%	78%
Southampton	74%	74%	NA	68%	58%	69%
Suffolk	71%	71%	NA	59%	63%	72%

Source: Virginia Department of Education

*SOL's were not completed in 2019-2020 due to COVID-19

In 2022-2023, Isle of Wight remains the locality with the highest % for passing the Math SOL. Franklin continues to have the lowest % of passing scores. All localities improved math SOL scores except for Southampton which remained the same.

Percent Passing Standards of Learning (SOL-Math-5th grade)

Locality	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020*	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Franklin	86%	83%	NA	19%	29%	35%
Isle of Wight	76%	81%	NA	55%	72%	77%
Southampton	75%	81%	NA	51%	64%	64%
Suffolk	79%	85%	NA	40%	62%	69%

Source: Virginia Department of Education

*SOL's were not completed in 2019-2020 due to COVID-19

Percent Passing Standards of Learning (State)

Virginia	2020-2021: ALL STUDENTS	2021-2022: ALL STUDENTS	2020-2021: ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED	2021-2022: ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED	2022-2023 ALL STUDENTS	2022-2023 ECON DISADV
English: Reading	69%	73%	54%	59%	73%	59%
English: Writing	69%	65%	53%	49%	65%	49%
Mathematics	54%	66%	37%	52%	69%	55%

Source: Virginia Department of Education

Public Schools Early Childhood Education and Disability Services

Each of the public school districts of Southampton, Isle of Wight County, Suffolk and Franklin offer early childhood programs for age four and up.

Isle of Wight County Schools offers the Learning Center program. The Learning Center is a high-quality preschool program for four-year-olds currently housed at four elementary schools in the county: Carrollton, Carrsville, Hardy and Windsor. The program is supported by Isle of Wight County Schools, Isle of Wight Department of Social Services, Isle of Wight Health Department and the Virginia Preschool Initiative. The goal of the Learning Center is to provide a healthy learning environment that addresses the needs of preschoolers to prepare them for success in kindergarten. The program addresses their physical, academic, social, and emotional needs. The Learning Center operates on a six-hour day schedule and follows the Isle of Wight County School calendar. Transportation is provided by the school division.

Virginia Preschool Initiative

The Virginia Preschool Initiative provides resources to schools and community-based organizations in order to provide quality preschool programs for at-risk four-year olds not served by Head Start. Southampton, Suffolk and Franklin all offer similar programs with varying names such as Early Start and Bright Start.

The Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) is a program that aims to provide quality early childhood education for at-risk four-year-olds who are not served by the federal Head Start program. Here are the key points about VPI:

Purpose: The VPI distributes state funds to schools and community-based organizations to establish high-quality preschool programs.

Eligibility: Children eligible for VPI are typically three or four years old and face risk factors related to family income and other circumstances.

Components of VPI Programs:

Quality Education: VPI programs focus on providing a quality preschool education.

Health Services: Health-related services are part of the program.

Family Engagement: VPI encourages family involvement.

Comprehensive Services: This includes health, mental health, and nutrition services.

Transportation: VPI programs plan for transportation to ensure access.

Local Plans: Localities seeking state funding must develop written local plans that address the above components.

Advancing Effective Interactions and Instruction (AEII) Initiative: This helps school leaders make informed decisions about VPI classrooms.

Guidelines for Prevention of Suspension and Expulsion: VPI programs aim to create a positive learning environment.

Allocation of VPI Slots: The allocation of VPI slots is based on student enrollment.

TRANSPORTATION

Public Transportation is provided in Southampton County, Isle of Wight County, and Franklin for all ages by Senior Services of Southeast Virginia at \$1 per ride. Limited taxi service is available in the towns of Smithfield and Windsor, as well as Suffolk and Franklin.

Hampton Roads Transit discontinued bus service to Suffolk at the end of December 2011. The City of Suffolk contracted with Virginia Regional Transit to take over two routes formerly served by HRT. Fares for adult service are \$1.50 for each boarding or \$3 for an all-day pass. **Children under 5 are free.** These routes connect the downtown area to locations including grocery stores, Wal-Mart, Sentara Obici Hospital, and Lakeview Medical Center.

During the early months of 2012, VRT conducted a ridership study to recommend a transit plan for the city. In August of 2012, VRT added a bus route in the downtown area and modified two other routes based on the study. In August 2013, VRT added a new route for passengers to reach the Holland Road corridor, including Paul D. Camp Community College and the CenterPoint Industrial Park. The route also serves the Saratoga neighborhood, Suffolk Industrial Park, and Suffolk Station Apartments. VRT added two more lines in August 2014 – one to the Harbour View section of Northern Suffolk, and a connector line from Northern Suffolk to the Chesapeake Square area that connects with HRT service into Southampton Roads.

Those that are unable to access bus services must rely on available taxi services, or upon friends, relatives and/or neighbors. When HRT discontinued service in Suffolk, Handi Ride, an expanded bus service a mile outside of the fixed route system for those with disabilities, was also discontinued.

A regional transportation collaborative, Western Tidewater Community Transportation Cooperative, was formed in the fall of 2012 to discuss ideas and make improvements in the area's public transportation. The group has discussed implementing a voucher program for low-income riders and using volunteer drivers. In 2014, the group implemented a reimbursement system for volunteer drivers who made trips to Sentara Obici Hospital and the Western Tidewater Free Clinic.

In the fall of 2017, the cooperative received donations of two vehicles to be used at Sentara Obici Hospital for late night discharges, and a new route along U.S. 460 in Isle of Wight County and Suffolk for passenger trips to the Western Tidewater Free Clinic and Sentara Obici Hospital. The U.S. 460 route began in late January 2018 **and discontinued in June 2019 due to lack of funding.**

As of **2019**, the group had yet to solve the problem of connecting Southampton, Franklin, and Isle of Wight to Suffolk and points east. **The cooperative disbanded in late 2019.**

Many residents in Western Tidewater commute to work. The following is a list of trends and the top places to which residents are commuting:

Transportation Trends – Updated in 2023:

Suffolk - The employment landscape for Suffolk residents has changed drastically since 2011. Chesapeake is now the top city that residents commute to. However, more distant locations including Fairfax County, Hampton, Henrico County, and James City County are now in the top 10 for Suffolk.

- The average one-way commute in Suffolk takes 28.4 minutes. That's longer than the US average of 26.4 minutes.

How people in Suffolk get to work:

- Driving Alone: Approximately 85.5% of workers drive their own cars to work.
- Carpooling: About 8.7% of commuters carpool with others.
- Working from Home: Around 3.4% of workers have the flexibility to work from home.
- Mass Transit: A small percentage (0.2%) of commuters use mass transit options.
- 1.44% of households do not own a car.

Franklin – People in Franklin have a shorter commuter time than the normal US worker. The average commute time in Franklin is 25.9 minutes. Additionally, 1.51% of the workforce have “super commutes” in excess of 90 minutes.

- The average one-way commute in Franklin is 24.3 minutes.

How people in Franklin get to work:

- Driving Alone: Approximately 87.8% of commuters drive their own cars to work.
- Carpooling: About 6.4% of workers carpool with others.
- Working from Home: Around 3.4% of individuals work from home.
- Mass Transit: A small percentage (0.3%) use mass transit for their daily commute.
- 3.62% of households do not own a car.

Isle of Wight – Using averages, employees in Isle of Wight County, VA have a longer commute time (29 minutes) than the normal US worker (25.5 minutes). Additionally, 1.76% of the workforce in Isle of Wight County, VA have "super commutes" in excess of 90 minutes.

- The average commute in Isle of Wight County takes 29 minutes.
- As of 2019, 203 households, approximately 1.15%, in Isle of Wight County do not own a car.

How people in Isle of Wight County get to work:

- 88.9% drive their own car alone
- 5.73% carpool with others
- 3.94% work from home
- 0.64% walk to work
- 0.25% take public transit

Southampton – People working in Southampton County have a longer commute time than the normal US worker. 3.2% of the workforce in Southampton County have a super commute in excess of 90 minutes.

- The average one-way commute in Southampton 29.6 minutes.

How people in Southampton get to work:

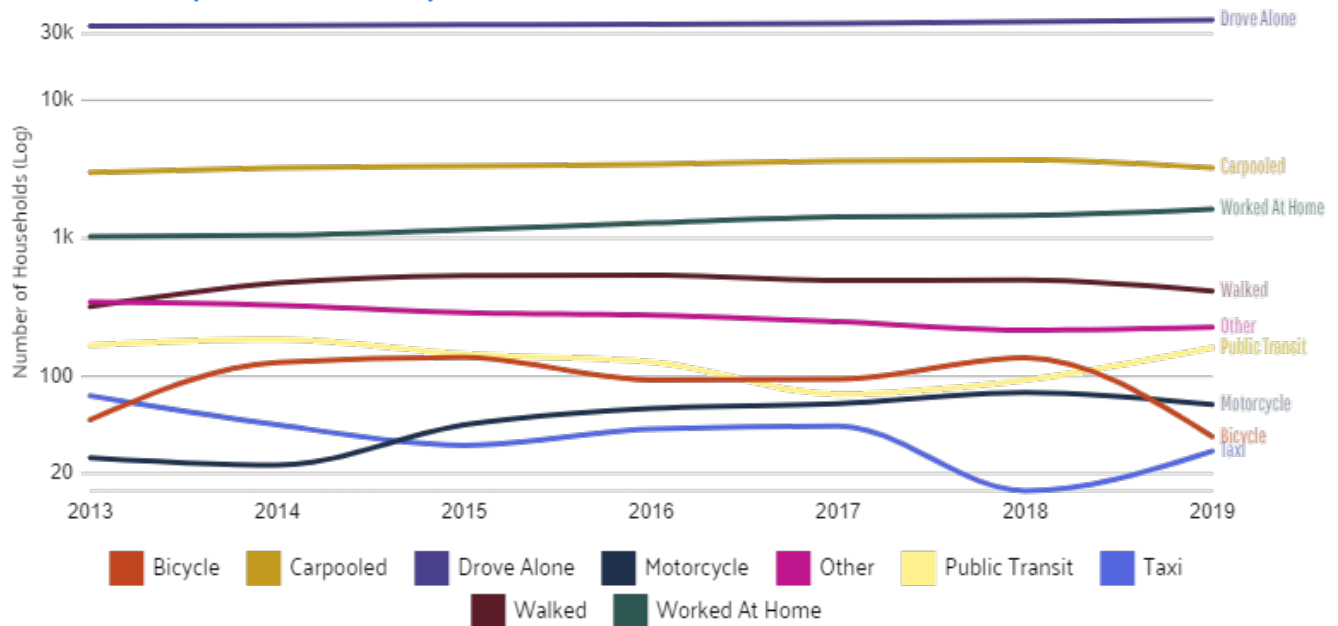
- **Driving Alone:** Most residents in Southampton County commute by driving alone. They use their personal vehicles to get to work.
- **Public Transportation:** While public transportation isn't as common as in larger cities like New York or Washington, D.C., some people in Southampton County do use buses or other forms of public transit.
- **Working from Home:** In rural areas like Southampton County, working from home is also a notable option. Many people in farming communities find it convenient to work remotely.
- **Walking:** In some areas, especially where distances are short, walking to work is feasible. This is often the case in smaller towns and close-knit neighborhoods.
- **Other Modes:** There might be unique cases where people use unconventional methods of transportation, such as snowmobiles or specialized vehicles, especially in more remote regions.
- 2.4% of households do not own a car

**data from Bestplaces.net and Google

2019 Car Ownership in the City of Suffolk:



Commuter Transportation in the City of Suffolk:

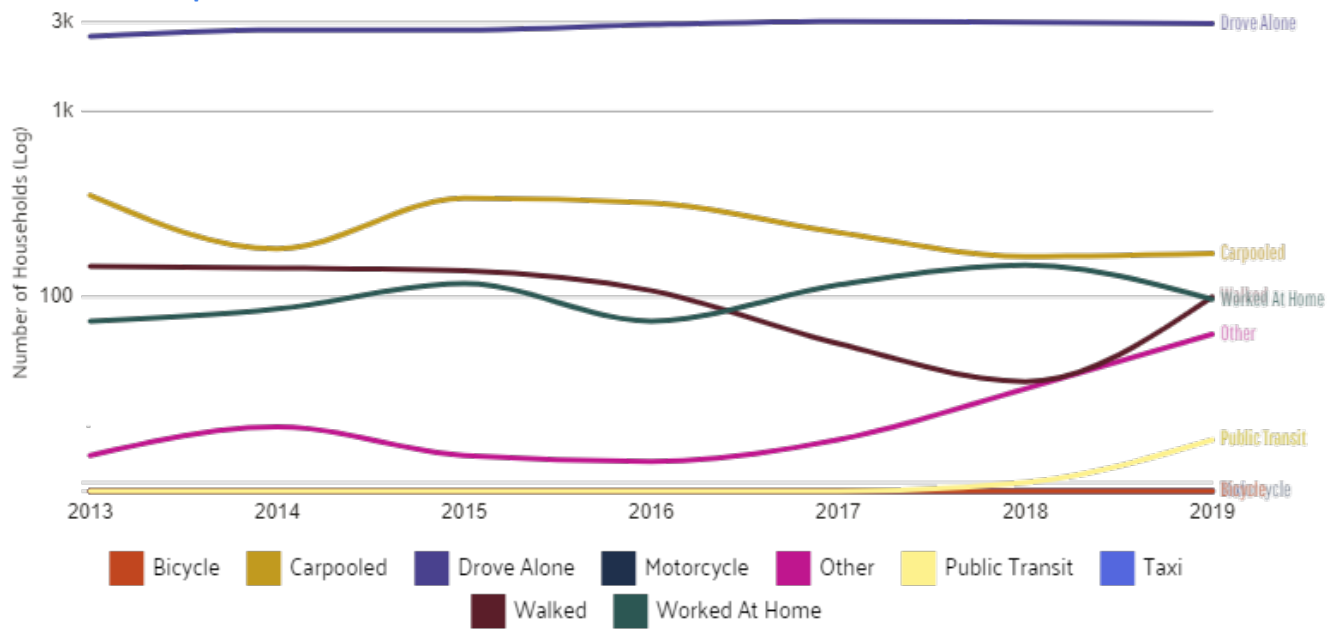


Source: U.S. Census; quail.datausa.io

2019 Car Ownership in Franklin:



Commuter Transportation in Franklin:

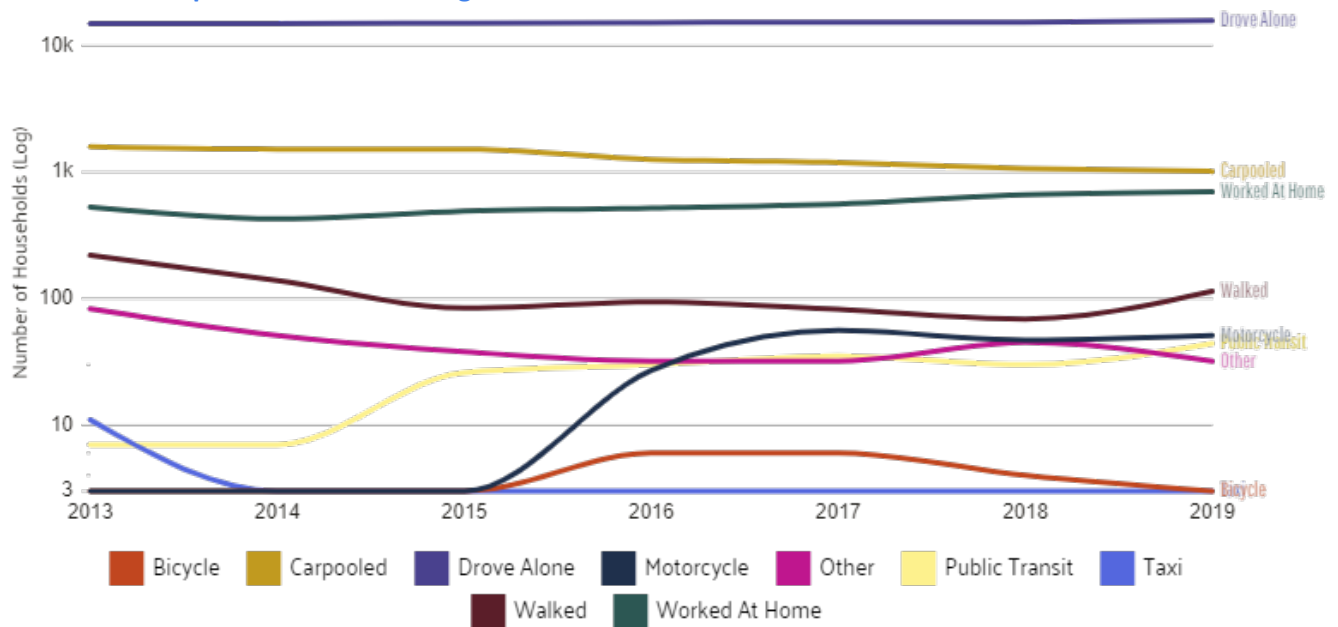


Source: U.S. Census; quail.datausa.io

2019 Car Ownership in Isle of Wight:



Commuter Transportation in Isle of Wight:

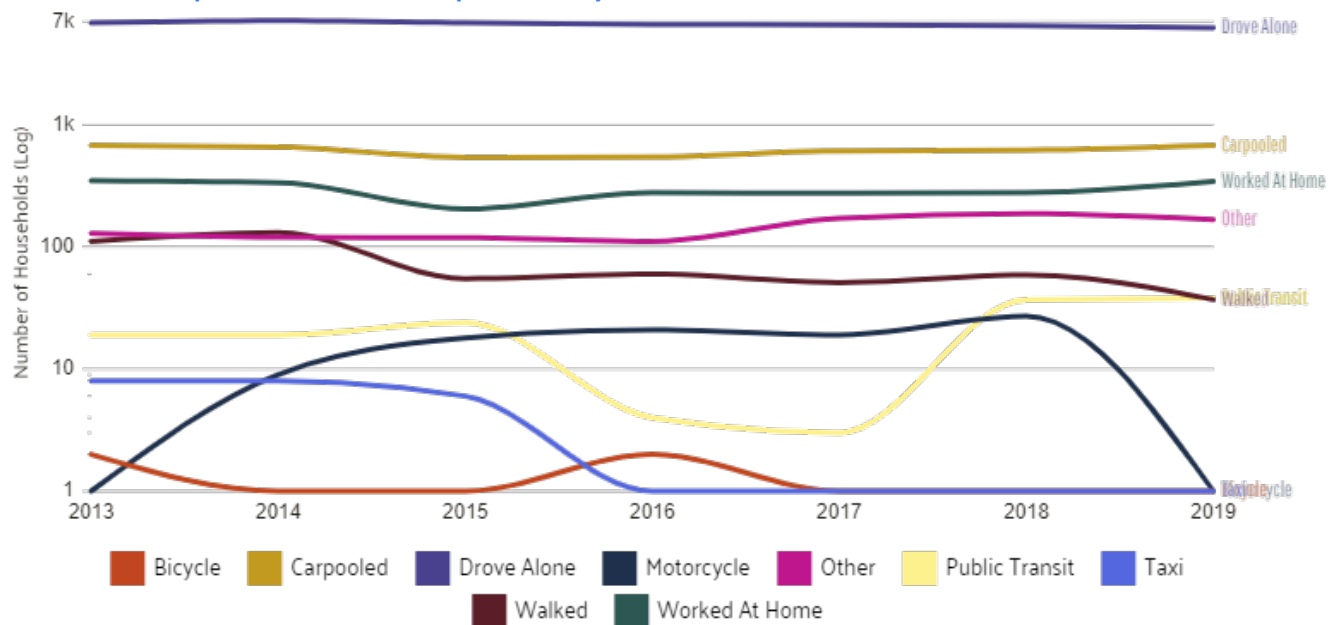


Source: U.S. Census; quail.datausa.io

2019 Car Ownership in Southampton County:



Commuter Transportation in Southampton County:



Source: U.S. Census; quail.datausa.io

Western Tidewater's use of public transportation to commute to work is very low compared to the state average.

Using Public Transportation to Commute to Work (percentage)*

Locality	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Franklin	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.1%
Isle of Wight	0.2%	0.25%	0.1%	0%	0%
Southampton	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.8%	0.8%
Suffolk	0.2%	0.3%	0.6%	0.8%	0.6%
Virginia	4.4%	4.35%	4%	3.4%	1.9%

Source: US Census – Table S0801

* Excludes taxi service

HOUSING

Franklin is the only locality that is below the state and national average for housing units that are occupied by homeowners. Franklin is nearly 14 percent below the state average.

Home Ownership*

Locality	2013-2017	2014-2018	2019
Franklin	44.7%	45.6%	51.6%
Isle of Wight	71.2%	68.9%	75.8%
Southampton	62.9%	62.8%	74.8%
Suffolk	62.9%	63.5%	68.7%
Virginia	59.3%	59.3%	66.1%
United States	56.0%	56.1%	64.1%

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Dashboard; US Census Bureau; Data USA

* This indicator shows the percentage of all housing units that are occupied by homeowners.

Median home values continued to grow in Virginia, United States, Southampton, Isle of Wight and Suffolk. Franklin showed a decline in 2019.

Median Home Values in dollars

Locality	2017	2018	2019
Franklin	186,100	168,300	164,100
Isle of Wight	249,100	262,300	266,800
Southampton	172,800	169,500	178,500
Suffolk	238,200	246,600	254,400
Virginia	255,800	264,900	288,800
United States	193,500	204,900	229,700

Source: U.S. Census

In 2019, all areas were below the state average.

Median Gross Rent in dollars

Locality	2017	2018	2019
Franklin	847	876	860
Isle of Wight	1,018	1,036	1045
Southampton	724	759	829
Suffolk	1,083	1,135	1201
Virginia	1,166	1,202	1234

Source: U.S. Census

All localities except Isle of Wight are above the state average for gross rent as a percentage of household income (those above 35 percent or more*).

Gross Rent As a Percentage of Household Income (35 percent or more)

Locality	2017	2018	2019
Franklin	45.2%	44.7%	46.7%
Isle of Wight	34.2%	33.6%	34.6%
Southampton	41.4%	36.0%	38.6%
Suffolk	42.7%	43.9%	42%
Virginia	39.5%	39.2%	38.5%

Source: U.S. Census

*Note: 35% or below of household income for rent or mortgage is a rule of thumb for the banking industry.

Franklin also ranks highest in percentage of homeowners who pay more than 30 percent of their income for a mortgage.

Percent of Homeowners who Pay more than 30% of Income

Locality	2015
Franklin	36%
Isle of Wight	26%
Southampton	25%
Suffolk	33%

Source: 2017 United Way ALICE Report for Virginia

Housing Built Before 1950* (percentage)

Locality	2011-2015	2012-2016	2013-2017	2014-2018	2019 before 1939
Franklin	19.3%	16.4%	14.7%	18.1%	11.4%
Isle of Wight	9.9%	9.2%	10.1%	10.1%	7.3%
Southampton	18.2%	17.3%	16.2%	16.2%	13.5%
Suffolk	13.0%	12.8%	12.7%	12.1%	8.5%
Virginia		12.3%	12.2%	12.0%	7.4%

Source: Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard and US Census

* Houses built prior to 1950 that have not undergone substantial updates may contain hazardous materials. Lead based paint, which was banned in the United States in 1977, is a known toxin that causes nervous system damage, stunted growth and delayed development and is especially toxic to children under the age of six.

As for substandard housing, Southampton and Suffolk were above the state average for housing lacking complete plumbing facilities in 2018.

Percentage of Housing Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities

Locality	2015	2017	2018	2019
Franklin	0.7%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Isle of Wight	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Southampton	0.9%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Suffolk	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%
Virginia	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%

Source: U.S. Census

Western Tidewater has limited amount of public and private subsidized housing. These include:

Franklin

The Franklin Redevelopment and Housing Authority works with landlords and other property owners to administer Housing Choice Vouchers for up to 362 families. Homes are privately owned and located in the Franklin and Southampton surrounding area(s). FRHA provides partial rental assistance to tenants and regular Housing Quality Standards inspections. In January 2020, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Authority gave the Franklin RHA an unsatisfactory rating. According to HUD's Feb. 26 report, the rating is attributed to "policies and procedures which are ineffective or lacking, thus resulting in frequent findings and a general failure to comply with HUD Multifamily requirements." Specifically, it states the FRHA had a backlog of over 600 unresolved requests for maintenance in January, but only three people on staff in its maintenance department to address these concerns.

There are four public housing developments with 162 units in the City of Franklin. They are:

- Berkeley Court on Cameron Street with 75 apartments and a community learning Center.
- Oldtown Terrace on Bruce Street with 35 apartments and a small community center.
- Pretlow Gardens on Pretlow Street with 40 apartments and a small community room which is used by the residents' council for their meetings.
- The Terrace at Bruce Street with a 12 unit market rate development on Bruce Street offering newly renovated 2 and 3 bedroom units.

Other Section 8 housing in Franklin includes:

- Dorchester Square Apartments on Dorchester Street
- Holland Trace Apartments on South Street

Isle of Wight

The housing for low-income families in Isle of Wight County is privately owned. Eligibility is based on family income. There are several low income housing units. They are:

-
- Wood's Edge Apartments on Wrenn Road in the Town of Smithfield with 60 units
 - Windsor Court Apartments on Hwy. 258 in the Town of Windsor with 64 units
 - Jersey Park Apartments on Wrenn Road in the Town of Smithfield with 80 units
 - Springdale Apartments on Carrsville Highway for those 62 and older.

Southampton

The housing for low-income families in Southampton County is privately owned. Eligibility is based on family income. They are:

- Steven Woods I, II, and III on Oak Trail in the Town of Courtland with 60 units
- Broadside Square on Main Street in the Town of Boykins
- The Neighbors Place on Thomas Woods Trail in Zuni

Suffolk

The housing for low-income families in Suffolk is both government and privately owned and operated. Eligibility is based on family income. Section 8 vouchers are available. There are a number of public housing projects that have 466 units available, and they are as follows:

- Parker Riddick Village on Stacey Drive in the downtown area with 93 units
- Colander-Bishop Meadows Apartments on Brook Avenue in the downtown area with 80 units
- Hoffler Apartments on East Washington Street in the downtown area with 80 units
- Chorey Park Apartments on West Constance Road in the downtown area with 100 units
- Cypress Manor Apartments on Davis Boulevard in the downtown area with 113 units
- Heron's Landing (located in Chesapeake, but takes Suffolk residents who are homeless) on 2133 S. Military Highway with 60 units.
- Finney Avenue Residence on Finney Avenue with 13 units.

Private Section 8 housing includes:

- Wilson Pines Apartments on E. Washington Street with 104 units
- Heritage Acres on Nansemond Parkway with 76 units
- William H. Plummer Plaza in Northern Suffolk
- Reggie's Place
- Magnolia Gardens
- Gabriel's Place
- Bettie S. Davis Village
- Barrett House
- Chuckatuck Square Apartments with 42 units

Average Residential Electric Costs per KWH (cents)

Locality	Rate
Boykins	11.04
Branchville	11.04
Capron	11.25
Franklin	10.63
Ivor	11.25
Newsoms	11.25
Smithfield	11.04
Suffolk	11.04
Windsor	11.04

Source: Electricity Local

TECHNOLOGY

The use of computers and the internet has become an essential part of learning and communication. The Children's Center is using technology to communicate with parents, particularly starting with the COVID-19 outbreak beginning in March of 2020.

Those living in Franklin have the highest percentage of homes without a computer. The lowest percentage is in Suffolk and is below the state average.

Percentage of Households with NO computer

Locality	2019
Franklin	18.4%
Isle of Wight	8.9%
Southampton	13.6%
Suffolk	8.6%
Virginia	8.9%

Source: U.S. Census

Those living in Suffolk also have the highest percentage of households with a broadband internet subscription. Franklin has the lowest percentage in Western Tidewater and is nearly 15 percent below the state average. All Western Tidewater localities are below the state and national average.

Percentage of Households with a broadband internet subscription

Locality	2014-2018	2019
Franklin	67.2%	72.9%
Isle of Wight	75.1%	78.1%
Southampton	71.1%	74.3%
Suffolk	78.3%	81.1%
Virginia	82.0%	83.9%

Source: U.S. Census

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

There are a number of resources available to families in Western Tidewater. These resources provide an invaluable service to the community. In many cases, the funding for these services falls short of meeting the actual level of need in the community. Some of the more significant resources are listed below.

Blackwater Regional Library

The Blackwater Regional Library has locations in Franklin, Courtland, Smithfield, Windsor, and Carrolton. Each branch has reading programs for children birth through age 5.

Boys & Girls Club of Southeast Virginia

The Boys & Girls Club of Southeast Virginia has locations in Franklin and Suffolk. Programs include character and leadership development, education and career development, health and life skills, the arts, sports, fitness, and recreation. These programs are for children ages six through 18.

Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk (CAPS)

The Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk has served over 900 (as of June 2015) individuals since it began in August of 2012. When CAPS receives requests for assistance, the staff assesses the situation, discusses financial issues, talks with the individual about long-term solutions, prays with the individual and assists financially if appropriate. CAPS partners with local help agencies, creating a network that ensures individuals are served in the best way possible. In addition to providing crisis assistance, CAPS started the Night Stay Program as a rotating shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness during winter months. Churches come together to host homeless guests and provide food, shelter and safety during the coldest months of the year. CAPS works with these individuals to help them find long-term housing and financial stability.

The Children's Center

The Children's Center provides early intervention, pediatric rehabilitation, Early Head Start, Head Start, social-emotional development, and child care services in Western Tidewater. The Early Intervention program is available to any child-aged birth to 3 with an identified delay or disability. Early Intervention services include screenings and evaluations, service coordination and home visits, early childhood education, respite care, parent training and support, therapy services, and transportation. All services are either free or offered on a sliding fee scale basis. No child is denied services because of the inability to pay. **In 2022-2023, the Children's Center served 1,604 children.**

The Children's Center is a licensed rehabilitation agency for children aged birth to twenty-one years of age. Pediatric rehabilitation services include occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy. Services are offered on a fee-for-service basis, with insurance reimbursement. Reduced fee services may be available for children enrolled in the early intervention program, the Early Head Start or in the Head Start programs, and for families without insurance coverage.

Early Head Start services are provided to low income pregnant women and low-income families with children under age three. The program serves all of Western Tidewater and is funded for 280 participants. Services include prenatal education and support, early childhood education, transportation, and developmental and health screening and monitoring. The program also focuses heavily on parent education to support parenting skills and promote family self-sufficiency. This program include home-based and center-based services.

Community-based childcare is offered at licensed facilities in Franklin and in Suffolk. Care is available for children aged six weeks to school age. Children of all levels of ability are included in mainstreamed classroom settings. The Children's Center works with local departments of social services and community contributors, foundations, and the United Way to seek funding and scholarships for economically disadvantaged children. Diversity is evidenced in all programs with respect to level of ability and disability, levels of family income and race. **In 2022-2023, the Children's Center has 10 preschool and 9 infant/toddler Mixed Delivery Grant slots in community-based childcare classrooms that are free to families who qualify. In Suffolk, there are 5 MDG preschool slots and 5 MDG infant/toddler slots. In Franklin, there are 5 MDG preschool slots and 4 MDG infant/toddler slots.**

Head Start services for three-to-five year olds are available in Western Tidewater through the Children's Center beginning September 2012. The Children's Center ensures seamless services for children transitioning from the Early Head Start program to Head Start classrooms. **The Center currently has 210 Head Start slots throughout Western Tidewater.**

The Children's Center is also active in the community, helping to meet identified needs as they arise. The Center partners with the community by serving as an education facility for community college and university student interns, hosting interagency training events, providing opportunities for non-violent offenders to complete community service, and utilizing the department of corrections trustees for special projects. The center provides meeting space for various community support groups and civic organizations.

Community Service Organizations and Clubs

Community volunteers from various organizations assist in making a difference in the lives of children in need. Volunteers are active in community projects, as well as assisting with individual needs such as

providing eyeglasses and hearing aids, or resources for food and clothing. These include Rotary clubs and Ruritan clubs.

Cover 3 Foundation

Based in Franklin, Cover 3 Foundation provides feeding programs for children in Western Tidewater. The Foundation also makes donations to local health departments, social services, churches and other non-profits.

Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater

There are a number of services available through this organization to help support women through an unplanned pregnancy. The goal of the program is to provide support services that will enable women to choose to carry the pregnancy to full term. These services include parenting and life skills classes. These classes include workshops on prenatal care, nutrition for mother and child, physical care of infants, and budgeting. Program participants, by attending classes and watching videos, can earn points toward infant care items such as clothing, diapers etc. Even after the birth, the center provides follow up services, infant care items, referral and support. All services are free of charge. There are centers located in Virginia Beach, Portsmouth, Norfolk, and Suffolk. The Suffolk Center serves Isle of Wight, Franklin and Southampton County.

Edmarc, Inc.

Edmarc Hospice for Children is a non-profit agency that exists to meet the needs of terminally ill children and their families. They provide respite and in home hospice care services for terminally ill children, and grief counseling and support for their families. Services include sibling activities, parent groups, and bereavement services, and they are provided at no charge to the family. Edmarc is one of approximately ten free standing hospices in the nation devoted exclusively to the needs of terminally ill children.

Eastern Virginia Medical School Strelitz Diabetes Center

The EVMS Strelitz Diabetes Center in Norfolk, Virginia, is comprised of a renowned international team of endocrinology experts – clinical providers, scientists and educators – working to find the cure for diabetes and to prevent the debilitating complications of neuropathy and cardiovascular disease. We are committed to improving quality of life for patients with diabetes and other metabolic disorders by developing innovative methods for treatment and diagnosis. The Center opened a clinic in Suffolk in 2015, which is located in the Sentara Obici Hospital Professional Center.

For Kids

For Kids is an organization that provides emergency shelter for children and their families as well as permanent housing solutions for the economical disadvantaged. A new, centrally located Suffolk

Regional Services Center will improve access to services for families while increasing community support and volunteerism for ForKids' vital work in the region. The redesigned Suffolk Center will provide trauma-informed spaces for case management, counseling, and tutoring and a home-base for our mobile services team that serves the families of Suffolk, Franklin and Southampton and Isle of Wight counties.

Franklin Cooperative Ministry

Franklin Cooperative Ministry is a human service organization that provides short term assistance to the economic disadvantaged by helping provide fuel, rent, food, and clothing.

Franklin Housing and Redevelopment

Franklin Housing and Redevelopment provides GED preparation, money management classes, and job training skills to residents.

Genieve Shelter

The Genieve Shelter serves families and individuals attempting to escape domestic violence. The Genieve Shelter is a private, non-profit organization committed to providing a strong, comprehensive safety net for families in our Virginia community. The Genieve Shelter serves the cities of Suffolk and Franklin, the Town of Smithfield, and the counties of Isle of Wight, Southampton, and Surry. Clients are welcomed by a caring and compassionate staff offering a supportive safe environment. The services are free.

Genieve Shelter provides a 24 hour hotline, individual and group counseling, court accompaniment, case management, emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, children's services, and mentoring.

Graz'n Acres Therapeutic Riding Program

Graz'n Acres TRC is a 501c3 non-profit organization providing therapeutic equine assisted activities for children and adults with physical, intellectual, emotional, and learning disabilities, as well as at risk youth. All lessons are developed and tailored for each individual participant based on his or her diagnosis and specific goals. The goals may include improving fine and gross motor skills, socialization, memory skills, behavior and much more. Our specially trained horses and the environment provide a therapeutic benefit not found in other settings.

The center offers an evening lesson program which includes therapeutic riding and driving participants, morning school programs with Special Education Departments of Southampton County and Franklin City public schools, Step by Step, Inc. of Suffolk, and an At-Risk Youth Program with the Alternative Education Program of Southampton County Public Schools.

Graz'n Acres serves Isle of Wight and Southampton counties and the cities of Franklin and Suffolk.

Healthy Families

This home visiting program offers parent education and support to first time mothers who deliver at Sentara Obici Hospital in Suffolk. Families must live in Suffolk or Isle of Wight County and services are offered for parents of children birth to 5 years.

Healthy Suffolk

Healthy Suffolk (previously known as the Suffolk Partnership for a Healthy Community) is a 15+ year old non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that works to advance wellness and livability for Suffolk, with many accomplishments to date, including the establishment of the Western Tidewater Free Clinic, a gardening program throughout the community, and highly successful active living initiatives. Healthy Suffolk seeks to create a culture of wellness and livability in Suffolk. Healthy Suffolk works to implement policy change at the city and community level by serving as a convener, advocate and promoter of wellness and livability.

Here We Grow Suffolk

Here We Grow Suffolk is dedicated to fostering healthy pregnancies and healthy babies for parents scheduled to deliver at Sentara Obici Hospital. *Here We Grow Suffolk* is a collaborative undertaking between Sentara Obici Hospital and the Western Tidewater Health Department to support a healthy, thriving pregnancy and baby. Its aims are:

- Increase access to knowledge and services for pregnant women and parenting families
- Improve family and community support for healthy birth outcomes
- Optimize the potential for early childhood development
- Job Training

The Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare (VIEW) is a program providing employment, education, and training opportunities to TANF clients. VIEW is based on the conviction that all citizens deserve the opportunity to progress to self-sufficiency.

The *Virginia Independence Program*, part of the state's initiative to emphasize personal responsibility and increase employment among public assistance recipients offers a number of services at each locality. Services can include job skills training, work experience, job readiness training, childcare assistance, transportation, and other work related expenses.

The Hampton Roads Workforce Development Council, formerly "*Opportunity Inc.*", is responsible for developing policy and overseeing local workforce development initiatives in partnership with the local

elected officials. Opportunity Inc. seeks to meet business community needs for trained and qualified workers; increase per capita income; promote greater corporate competitiveness and improve regional prosperity through initiatives that strengthen the regional workforce.

Kingdom Impact Ministries Hope Center

Located in Franklin, the Hope Center provides free food distribution twice a week and free clothes distribution once a month. The Hope Center also provides job skills training and adult education.

Local Industry and Foundations

Various local industry and foundations demonstrate their interest and support for low-income families through their generous contributions to local projects, grant for quality enhancements, as well as providing child care subsidies. Obici Healthcare Foundation, Hampton Roads Community Foundation, Beazley Foundation, Franklin-Southampton Charities, Suffolk Foundation, and Camp Foundations, in particular, have assisted the Early Head Start and Head Start programs.

Newborn & Family Screening and Referral Program

Sentara Obici Hospital has partnered with the Western Tidewater Health District and the Children's Center to provide access to programs and professionals with the knowledge and tools to foster healthy pregnancies and healthy babies. The program began in 2011 with funding from Smart Beginnings South Hampton Roads and the Obici Healthcare Foundation. Over 2,500 families with newborns were screened over a two-year period.

Nurse-Family Partnership

The first Nurse-Family Partnership implementing agency in Virginia was launched in 2012 through the Western Tidewater Health District serving first-time families in Franklin, Isle of Wight County, Southampton County and Suffolk. As the lead administering agency for the federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting program the Virginia Department of Health is committed to evidenced-based home visitation services that will support healthy development of children and families.

Nurse-Family Partnership Nurse Home Visitors work with low-income young women who are pregnant with their first child, helping these vulnerable young clients achieve healthier pregnancies and births, stronger child development, and a path toward economic self-sufficiency.

Parent Mentoring

The Richmond-based organization called Parent-to-Parent of Virginia is a nationwide program, with offices in a number of states. They provide numerous services, including pairing parents and other caregivers of children with special needs with an appropriate mentor. In addition, they try to identify

parent support organizations, and encourage the establishment of such organizations where none exist. Finally, they provide technical assistance to local support groups and mentors.

This program can provide much needed assistance in training parents, and enhancing parent involvement in Head Start and Early Head Start or other school programs.

Parks and Recreation

The area Parks and Recreation departments provide a variety of community services, which include public swimming pools, playgrounds, and other recreation activities.

Public Schools

Adult Literacy: The public school systems provide adult education services. Each locality offers basic adult education classes, which are tailored to individuals with an education level below the eighth grade. GED classes are also offered. Classes are offered both during the day and at night.

Teen-age Pregnant Mothers: The school districts all provide education for teen-age pregnant mothers. During the third trimester this service is available through the use of home-bound teachers.

Suffolk Public Schools has two Parent Resource Centers located at Elephant's Fork Elementary School and Florence Bowser Elementary School. Staff also coordinates activities and workshops that are held in various schools and community locations.

Southampton County Schools has a Parent Resource Center at its Fresh Start Center in Hunterdale.

Ra'Gene B. Myrick Foundation

The Ra'Gene B. Myrick Foundation supports the needs of medically and physically challenged children ages birth to 21. The objective of the Ra'Gene B. Myrick Foundation is to provide information on resources to assist families with obtaining equipment and/or services and if necessary provide equipment and/or services that would not otherwise be affordable nor obtainable through insurance. The Foundation covers families in Western Tidewater.

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army provides services that meet the basic needs of daily life for those without the resources to do so themselves. Programs provide food, shelter, clothing, financial assistance to pay utilities, and other necessities based on need.

The Salvation Army has a local branch in Suffolk, which serves all of Western Tidewater.

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia

Senior Services develops and operates coordinated programs that assist seniors 60 and older, their families and caregivers, and serves as a resource center for adults with disabilities. Services include the I-Ride Program, which is available to anyone for \$1 per ride.

The Hayden Village Center is expected to open in the fall of 2019 and will include 28 studio style and one bedroom loft style apartments for seniors. The building will also include benefits counseling, intergenerational programs, nutrition education, and a wellness center for seniors.

Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater

Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater is a multi-jurisdictional collaboration comprised of three localities: City of Franklin, Southampton County and Isle of Wight County. SBWT places a high priority on identifying and supporting programs that promote excellence in helping children and families.

Project Update:

Virginia Quality is an evidence based practice that was implemented in Virginia in 2008 that is being replaced by a state classroom observation system called VQB5. The Virginia Quality (VQ) rating process ended on June 30, 2022 to assist with the transition to VQB5. VQ quality ratings will remain valid until VQB5 quality ratings are published in Fall 2024.

Social Services

The Child Care Subsidy Program provides financial assistance to eligible families to help pay for the cost of child care so they can work or attend education or training programs. The Child Care Subsidy Program services are child-centered and family-focused and support the broader objective of strengthening families' goals of economic self-sufficiency and quality early childhood programs for their children. Participating families may select any legally operating child day care facility eligible to participate in the program.

Southampton Memorial Hospital

Located in Franklin, the hospital provides a Healthy Woman program, a free community resource designed to empower women with the knowledge and confidence to make informed healthcare and well-being decisions for themselves and their loved ones. Participants are invited to monthly health seminars and events, and receive regular email communication.

Suffolk Early Childhood Development Commission

The Suffolk Early Childhood Development Commission strives to be the vital link in the Suffolk community concerning Early Childhood related issues. Suffolk ECDC participates in outreach efforts including speaking to civic and community organizations, encouraging public awareness of family and

childcare issues, and increasing involvement in family and child care issues. ECDC also sponsors training and workshops for childcare providers and parents.

Suffolk Public Library System

The Suffolk Public Library System has branches in Downtown Suffolk, Northern Suffolk, and Chuckatuck. The libraries in Suffolk have summer children's reading programs, a fall storytime program, and children's movie nights.

The Up Center

The Up Center, formerly Child & Family Services of Eastern Virginia, has offices in Franklin and Suffolk. The Up Center provides support to first time parents by appointment. Programs include foster care and adoption, youth counseling, parenting support, mental health counseling, job training, financial counseling, and services for those with disabilities.

United Way

The United Way provides a limited number of childcare subsidies and scholarships for needy children. Additionally, the United Way provides quality enhancement grants to improve the services provided for children in the community. The United Way of Southampton Roads and the Franklin-Southampton County Area United Way have provided local funds for Early Head Start and Head Start match. The two local United Ways have also been involved with Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater.

Virginia Cooperative Extension

The Virginia Cooperative Extension Offices in Isle of Wight, Southampton, and Suffolk provide community training opportunities for parents and professionals as well as recreation opportunities for children such as the 4-H Program.

Virginia Department of Health

Women Infant Child (WIC) is a federally funded program offered by the health department to provide well-balanced meals to pregnant women, breast-feeding mothers, with children less than six months old, and children less than five years of age. Families must meet financial criteria, attend nutrition classes, and demonstrate compliance with scheduled appointments to receive vouchers for milk, juice and food.

Western Tidewater Community Services Board (WTCSB)

Administrative offices are located at several sites in Suffolk. The agency serves the cities of Franklin and Suffolk and the counties of Isle of Wight and Southampton. Families are eligible for case management services if they have a child at risk of mental retardation or mental health needs. Services include coordinating services for the child and the family and providing on-going support to

determine what services are needed. The case manager monitors school placement, home environment and residential placement (if applicable).

The WTCSB provides case management services for children enrolled in Medicaid who require early intervention services. There are also *Medical Waiver Services* available to families enrolled in early intervention that include: Nursing Services, Assistive Technology, Environmental Modification, Therapeutic Consultation, Day Support, Respite Care, Residential Support and Personal Assistance Services. The waiting list for these slots is very lengthy and match money is required. These services were initially created for the “severely retarded” population to down-size institutional placements, and to keep individuals in the community that were at risk of being institutionalized. The individual must be eligible for Medicaid, and a mental retardation diagnosis is required.

Family Support Funds are available to families of children with disabilities when they need assistance purchasing specialized equipment for the child, assistance paying a respite provider, or sending a child to camp. A co-payment is required for these services.

Counseling is available to adults with mental health issues such as emotional disorders that impair functioning in personal relationships, living arrangements, or employment issues. Also less intensive services may be available for marital and family difficulties, coping skills, depression, anxiety, and confusion. Individual, group and family counseling may be available as well as crisis intervention, case management, and diagnosis and evaluation.

24-Hour Emergency Services are available for short-term crisis intervention counseling, intensive psychotherapy, hospital evaluation and screening, telephone crisis counseling, consultation and referral. Once the crisis period has passed, referrals for ongoing mental health, substance abuse or community support are arranged as needed.

Adult Substance Abuse Services are available for substance abusers through diagnosis and evaluation, individual, group, and family counseling, crisis intervention, case management and residential treatment. Services are designed to allow the consumer to cope with identified problems without the use of drugs or alcohol, or other mood altering substances. The twelve-step recovery process is utilized in developing objectives. Offices are located in Franklin and in Smithfield.

Prevention Services are designed to keep people mentally well. Services are proactive, involving interaction with people, communities and systems to promote their strengths and potential. Parenting education and support are two of the many programs that are available. Other services include conflict mediation training, student assistance services, community based youth programs, prevention information and resources, educational presentations and community planning and collaboration.

Western Tidewater Free Clinic

Based in Suffolk, the Western Tidewater Free Clinic **provides high-quality, non-emergency health care to the residents of Western Tidewater who cannot otherwise afford it.** The clinic serves individuals over the age of 19 with **no health or dental insurance and are not eligible for Medicaid, Medicare, or VA benefits, and** who live at or **below 250% of the federal poverty level.**

Western Tidewater Health Department

The Western Tidewater Health Department, which has locations in Franklin, Suffolk, Isle of Wight County, and Southampton County, has several programs to support families:

Maternal- Child Health: The department offers full prenatal obstetrical and well child services. Case management services are available for high risk pregnant women and infants. A resource mothers program is offered to pregnant teens to improve pregnancy outcome and ensure the teen remains in school. Healthy Families Programs are offered for Suffolk and Isle of Wight to provide intensive support services to overburdened families with newborn children.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program: The health department administers this federal supplemental food program for financially eligible pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children up to age five.

Family Planning: Family Planning services are offered for men and women at each department.

Health Education: The district is active in health education activities including community screenings, referral and counseling.

Most charges for services are based on a sliding-fee scale.

YMCA

Western Tidewater is served by YMCA branches in Franklin, Suffolk, and Smithfield.

The Luter Family YMCA in Smithfield provides summer camp, school-aged child care, and fitness programs.

The James L. Camp, Jr. YMCA in Franklin, part of the YMCA of South Hampton Roads, provides after school childcare, summer camp, and fitness programs.

The Suffolk Family YMCA, also part of the YMCA of South Hampton Roads, provides summer camp, childcare, and fitness programs. All YMCAs have open door financial assistance programs. \

CHILD DAY CARE CAPACITY

State Regulated Daycare Facilities 2023-2024

The following lists identify the licensed or regulated child day care programs in each locality that serve children ages birth through 5. The centers that are highlighted serve Head Start children.

City of Franklin

<p>Gingerbread House Day Care Center 305 Crescent Drive Franklin, VA 23851 Ages: 1 month through 10 years 11 mos. Licensed: 81</p>	<p>Barbara S. Mease Children's Center at the Jones House 507 Third Avenue Franklin, VA 23851 Ages: 1 month through 3 years Licensed: 26 *currently being used for parent activities</p>
<p>Texie Camp Marks Children's Center 700 Campbell Avenue Franklin, VA 23851 Ages: 1 month through 12 years 11 months Licensed: 99</p>	<p>Rock Church of Franklin 130 Lakeview Road Franklin, VA 23851 Ages: 2 years through 5 years 11 months Licensed: 27</p>
<p>Unique Little Hands II 179 Commerce Park Road Franklin, VA 23851 Ages : 1 year 4 months to 12 years 11 months Licensed: 52</p>	

Isle of Wight County

<p>Carrollton Elementary School-Age Child Care 14440 New Towne Haven Lane Carrollton, VA 23314 Ages: four through 9 years 11 months Licensed: 100</p>	<p>Hardy Elementary School-Age Child Care 9311 Hardy Circle Smithfield, VA 23430 Ages: four through 12 years 11 months Licensed: 75</p>
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L'il Folks Learning Center, Inc. 15012 Omera Drive Carrollton, VA 23314 Ages: 24 mos. through 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 167	Main Street Baptist Church Learning Center 517 W. Main Street Smithfield, VA 23430 Ages: 2 through 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 75
Luter Family YMCA Summer Day Camp 259 James Street Smithfield, VA 23430 Ages: 5 years through 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 250	Windsor Elementary School-Age Childcare 2008 Courthouse Highway Windsor, VA 23487 Ages: 5 through 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 50
Quality Time At Waterford 201 Wimbledon Lane Smithfield, VA 23430 Ages: 1 month through 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 145	Children's Center Smithfield Head Start Center 236 Washington Street Smithfield, VA 23430 Ages: 3 through 5 years 11 mos. Licensed: 35
The Children's Center At Smithfield 240 James Street Smithfield, VA 23430 Ages: 1 month through 6 years 11 months Licensed: 24	Isle Of Wight Academy Preschool & Day Care 17111 Courthouse Highway Isle of Wight, VA 23397 Ages: 30 months through 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 75
Kids Come 1st, Inc. 1605 S. Church Street Smithfield, VA 23430 Ages: 1 month through 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 90	Benn's United Methodist Church 14571 Benn's Church Blvd. Smithfield, VA 23430 Ages: 2 years 6 months through 4 years 11 months Licensed: 40
Lighthouse Preschool LLC 15154 Carrollton Blvd. Suite B Carrollton, VA 23314 Ages: 1 month through 12 years 11 months Licensed: 67	Smithfield Baptist Church 100 Wainwright Drive Smithfield, VA 23430 Ages: 2 years 6 months through 5 years 11 months Licensed: 104

Trinity United Methodist Church 201 Cedar Street Smithfield, VA 23430 Ages: 2 years through 5 years 11 months Licensed: 40	The Children's Center at Hardy Elementary 9311 Hardy Circle Smithfield, VA 23430 Ages: 3 to 5 Licensed: 20
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Southampton County

The Children's Center Courtland Head Start 22015 Aurora Street Courtland, VA 23837 Ages: 1 month through 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 120	Southampton Academy Enrichment Program 26495 Old Plank Road Courtland, VA 23837 Ages: 3 years through 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 75
Grace Memorial United Methodist Church 31036 Peachtree Avenue Sedley, VA 23878 Ages: 1 year 6 months through 12 years 11 months Licensed: 60	High Street United Methodist Church 31164 Camp Parkway Courtland, VA 23837 Ages: 1 month through 12 years 11 months Licensed: 87

City of Suffolk

Apple Tree Learning Center #1003 410 North Broad Street Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 1 month through 3 years 11 mos. Licensed: 39	AlphaBest at Florence Bowser Elementary School 1000 Bennett's Creek Road Suffolk, VA 23435 Ages: 4 years through 12 years 11 months Licensed: 100
AlphaBest at Kilby Shores Elementary School 111 Kilby Shores Drive Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 4 years 11 months through 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 100	AlphaBest at Nansemond Parkway Elementary School 3012 Nansemond Parkway Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 4 years through 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 100
AlphaBest at Northern Shores Elementary School 6701 Respass Beach Road Suffolk, VA 23435	Children's Harbor – Suffolk 1020 Champion's Way Suffolk, VA 23435 Ages: 1 month through 12 years 11 mos.

Ages: 4 years through 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 100	Licensed: 178
The Children's Center at Pruden 4169 Pruden Blvd. Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 1 month to 3 years 11 mos. Licensed: 24 *currently being used for parent activities	Believers Church 6801 Bridgeway Drive Suffolk, VA 23435 Ages: 1 month through 12 years 11 months Licensed: 254
Quality Time Child Care Center 2008 Meade Parkway Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 1 month through 5 years 11 mos. Licensed: 145	Unique Little Hands 3000 Godwin Boulevard Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 12 months – 12 years 11 months Licensed: 67
The Children's Center Suffolk Head Start Center 860 Davis Boulevard Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 2 years through 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 200	Suffolk Family YMCA School Age Child Care at Suffolk Family YMCA 2769 Godwin Boulevard Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 3 years 11 months through 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 200
Growing Up at Obici 2802 Godwin Blvd. Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 1 month through 12 years Licensed: 120	Main Street Daycare 202 North Main Street Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 1 month through 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 150
Nansemond Suffolk Academy Enrichment Programs 3373 Pruden Boulevard Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 2 years through 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 200	AlphaBest at Oakland Elementary School 5505 Godwin Boulevard Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 5 years through 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 100
AlphaBest at Creekside Elementary School 1000 Bennett's Creek Park Road Suffolk, VA 23435 Ages: 4 years to 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 100	AlphaBest at Hillpoint Elementary School 1101 Hillpoint Road Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 4 years to 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 100
Kids Kingdom Child Development Center	Suffolk Children's Center

234 Meadow View Boulevard #250 Suffolk, VA 23435 Ages: 1 month – 12 years 11 months Licensed: 57	300 Executive Court Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 1 month to 12 years 11 months Licensed: 146
Triple T Sports Center 619 E. Constance Road Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 3 years through 12 years 11 mos. Licensed: 88	AlphaBest at Pioneer Elementary School 150 Pioneer Road Suffolk, VA 23437 Ages: 4 years through 12 years 11 months Licensed: 100
Montessori Academy of VA – Suffolk 5805 Harbourview Boulevard Suffolk, VA 23435 Ages: 1 year 4 months – 11 years 11 months Licensed: 170	Suffolk Christian Academy Extended Care 3488 Godwin Boulevard Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 2 years 6 months – 12 years 11 months Licensed: 75
Apple Tree Learning Center #1002 601 West Washington Street Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 2 years – 12 years, 11 months Licensed: 112	Ebenezer United Methodist Church 1589 Steeple Drive Suffolk, VA 23433 Ages: 2 years 6 months through 10 years 11 months Licensed: 40
Antioch Christian Center Church 4201 Crowdy Boulevard Suffolk, VA 23435 Ages: 6 months through 12 years 11 months Licensed: 86	Little Grove Baptist Church 6320 Old Towne Point Road Suffolk, VA 23435 Ages: 2 years 6 months through 12 years 11 months Licensed: 72
Nansemond Suffolk Academy Enrichment Programs at Harbour View 6019 Harbour View Blvd. Suffolk, VA 23435 Ages: 2 years through 12 years 11 months Licensed: 100	New Life Suffolk Church 538 E. Constance Road Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: Birth through 12 years 11 months Licensed: 35
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church 1885 Bridge Road Suffolk, VA 23433	Early Resultz Daycare & Learning Center 3215 Bridge Road Suffolk, VA 23435

Ages: 2 years 6 months through 4 years 11 months Licensed: 70	Ages: 1 month through 12 years 11 months Licensed: 51
CrossPointe Church 2460 Pruden Boulevard Suffolk, VA 23424 Ages: 2 years 6 months through 12 years 11 months Licensed: 50	The Children's Center at Booker T. Washington Elementary 204 Walnut Street Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 3 years to 5 years Capacity: 20
Christ First Church 116 Romans Road Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 1 month to 12 years 11 months Licensed: 125	AlphaBest at Mack Benn, Jr. Elementary School 1253 Nansemond Parkway Suffolk, VA 23434 Ages: 4 years to 12 years 11 months Licensed: 100

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services – www.dss.state.va.us

2022-2023

Western Tidewater Early Head Start Snapshot

Enrollment

Funded Enrollment	280
Center-based – 5 days per week	220
Home-based	60
Locally Designed Option	0
Pregnant Women	0
Total Classrooms Operated	21

Source: Children's Center PIR

Cumulative Enrollment

Under 1 year	59
1 year old	62
2 years old	103
3 years old	0
Pregnant Women	31
TOTAL	255

Source: Children's Center PIR

Cumulative Enrollment by Type of Eligibility

Income below 100% of federal poverty line	129
Receipt of public assistance	60
Status as a foster child	5
Status as homeless	16
Over income	22
Family incomes between 100% and 130% of federal poverty line	23

Source: Children's Center PIR

Cumulative Enrollment by Race

Black or African American	186
White	50
Biracial/Multi-racial	8
American Indian	1
Other	0

Source: Children's Center PIR

Cumulative Enrollment by Ethnicity-Hispanic

Black or African American	4
White	1
Biracial/Multi-racial	4
American Indian	1
Other	0
Unspecified	0

Source: Children's Center PIR

Transportation

Number of children for whom transportation is provided	57
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Source: Children's Center PIR

Health Insurance (at end of enrollment)

Number of children with health insurance	224
Number enrolled in Medicaid	201
Number enrolled in private health insurance	23
Number of children with no health insurance	0

Source: Children's Center PIR

2022-2023

Western Tidewater Head Start Snapshot

Enrollment

Funded Enrollment	210
Center-based – greater than 1,020 hours	162
Center-based – fewer than 1,020 hours	48
Locally Designed Option	0
Total Classrooms Operated	12

Source: Children's Center PIR

Cumulative Enrollment

2 years old	12
3 years old	143
4 years old	68
5 years and older	0
TOTAL	223

Source: Children's Center PIR

Cumulative Enrollment by Type of Eligibility

Income below 100% of federal poverty line	119
Receipt of public assistance	50
Status as a foster child	1
Status as homeless	9
Over income	18
Family incomes between 100% and 130% of federal poverty line	26

Source: Children's Center PIR

Cumulative Enrollment by Race

Black or African American	174
White	20
Biracial/Mult-racial	16
Asian	1
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1
Other	0

Source: Children's Center PIR

Cumulative Enrollment by Ethnicity-Hispanic

Black or African American	4
White	2
Biracial/Multi-racial	5
American Indian	0
Other	0
Unspecified	0

Source: Children's Center PIR

Transportation

Number of children for whom transportation is provided	80
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Source: Children's Center PIR

Health Insurance (at end of enrollment)

Number of children with health insurance	222
Number enrolled in Medicaid	201
Number enrolled in private health insurance	21
Number of children with no health insurance	1

Source: Children's Center PIR

Head Start and Early Head Start Waiting List

As of March 6, 2024, the Early Head Start waitlist is 167 and the Head Start waitlist is 144.

The Selection Criteria Ranking Scale is the tool the Center uses to determine which participants have the highest need for services. At the application appointment, families are asked a series of questions and each answer is assigned points. Participants with the highest points are offered the open Early Head Start/Head Start slots first. The Ranking Scale is reviewed annually with the Policy Council and all updates and suggestions must be approved by the Board of Directors and Policy Council.

EARLY HEAD START/HEAD START PLANNING

Community Assessment Process

The Early Head Start and Head Start Community Assessment is reviewed every year and updated with new data every five years.

For 2021-2022, the Community Assessment process included a 5-year review and compilation of information provided by a number of agencies and organizations, and the Children's Center Board of Directors. In most cases, actual statistics have been reported. Statistics were taken from the Greater Hampton Roads Community Dashboard, Kids Count website, U.S. Census Bureau, the Virginia Department of Social Services website, the Virginia Department of Education, Planning Council, Southeastern Virginia Homeless Coalition, Virginia Atlas of Community Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Virginia Employment Commission, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, County Health Rankings, Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Labor Market Information, Suffolk News-Herald, and Tidewater News.

The 2023-2024 Community Assessment updates have been made to demographics, homelessness statistics, kindergarten readiness, birth outcomes, head start enrollment, and community resources as information was available.

The Board of Directors and Policy Council review the community assessment and its annual updates.

The Children's Center continually consults with a wide range of community partners, in some cases as often as once a month, through the Head Start Policy Council, Children's Center Board of Directors, Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater, Suffolk Early Childhood Development Commission, the United Way of South Hampton Roads, and the Franklin-Southampton United Way. Community partners include local governments and elected officials, school systems, other non-profits, healthcare employees, and the business community.

Early Head Start/Head Start Program Planning & Monitoring

The Children's Center makes decisions about the Early Head Start program through parent and community input, EHS Policy Council, Board of Directors and EHS Management Team, including the following items:

- **Selection Criteria** – The Children's Center maintains a waiting list based on point factors assigned due to child/family needs that determine which families are prioritized for services. Children and families are ranked based on their individual ranking scale points. Modifications to the scale are determined by the Early Head Start Policy Council, based on input from the community needs assessment. Selection criteria is reviewed each year, and more often at the request of the EHS Policy Council.
- **Program Options** – Each year, the Children's Center reviews the current family needs and program services offered to determine the best program options and settings. For example, a change was made in the program in 2008 to increase combination-option and center-based care at the request of parents who needed more center-based options for work and continued education. The Early Head Start Policy Council approves any changes to the program models offered.
- **Staffing** – The Children's Center EHS Management Team recommends teaching staffing patterns based on the number of children enrolled in each program model. Policy Council participates through the development of grant applications as well as the approval of all program staff hired.
- **Facility Availability** –When the Children's Center was awarded the Head Start grant in 2012, new buildings were added to the program, including existing Head Start facilities in Suffolk, Smithfield, Franklin, and Courtland. Decisions were made by the Board of Directors to renovate facilities in Courtland and Smithfield, and to eventually close the Franklin facility in 2013 when sequestration reduced the Center's funding by \$250,000. After the pandemic, the center at Pruden and the center at 507 W. Third Ave. in Franklin were changed from classrooms to house offices and home-based family events. In 2023, an expansion was completed in Suffolk and the Center opened 6 new classrooms in the new wing as well as a new playground.

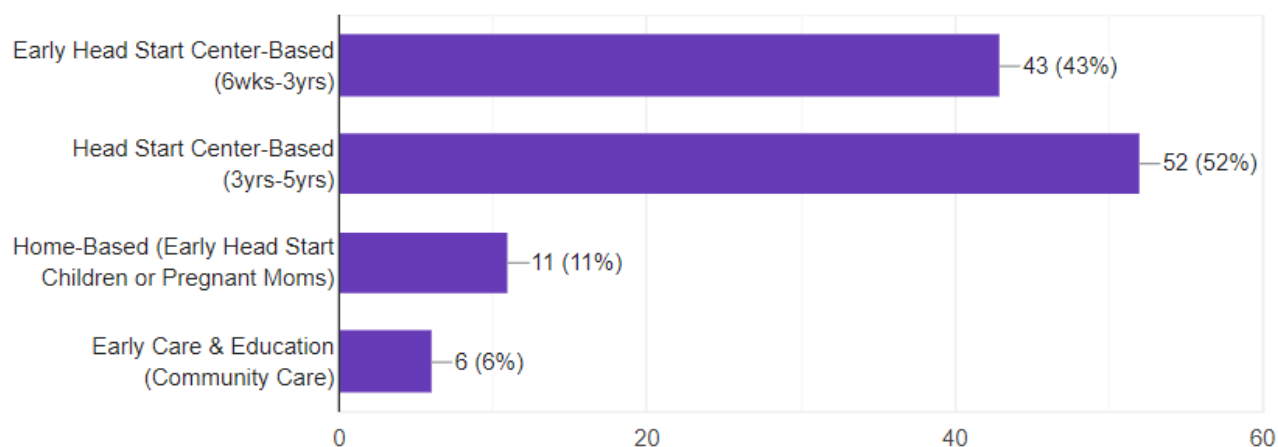
2023 Parent Satisfaction & Needs Survey

In the Fall of 2023, parents were offered an opportunity to complete a satisfaction and needs survey online. The following are the responses:

Which program(s) option at the Children's Center is your child(ren) attending? (Check all that apply)

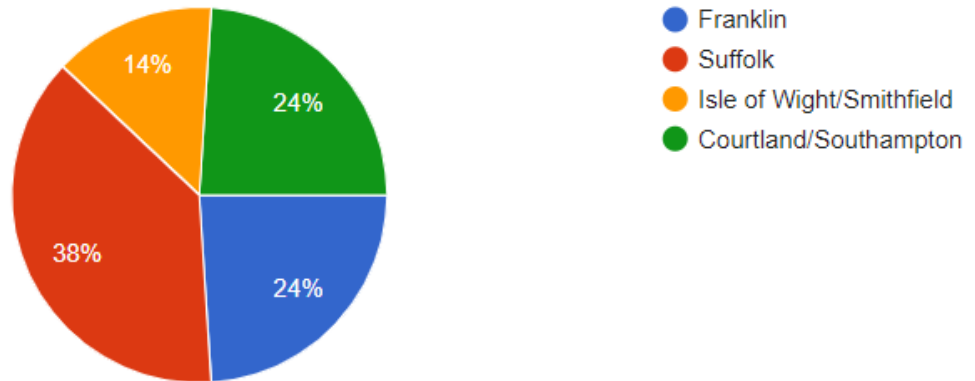


100 responses



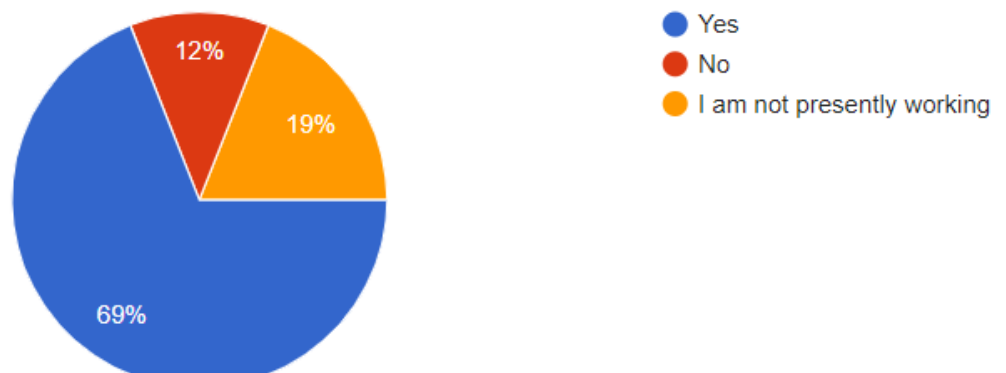
Where does your family live?

100 responses



Does the Children's Center offer program options that meet the needs of working parents?

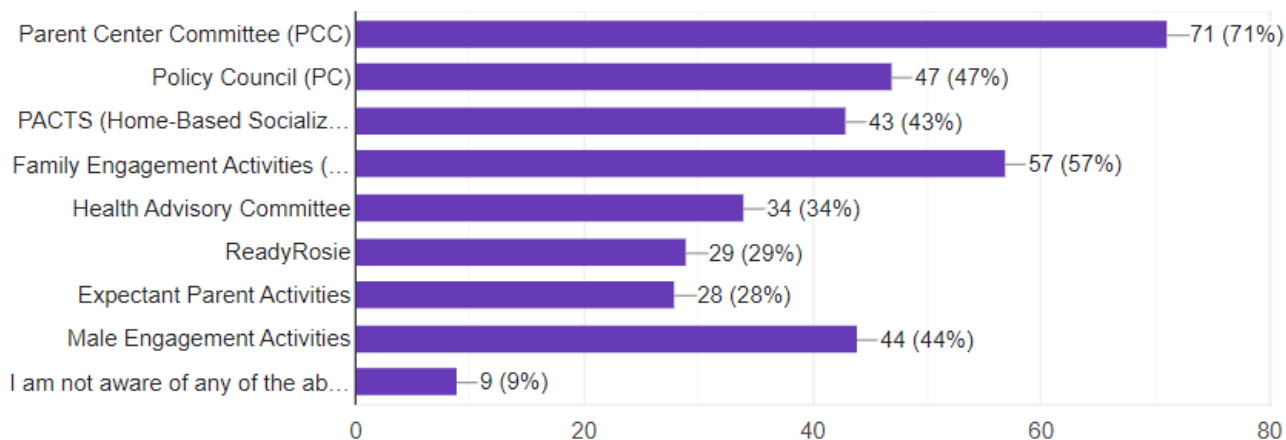
100 responses



The Children's Center makes Family Engagement Activities available. Please check **all** of the opportunities below that you are aware of.



100 responses

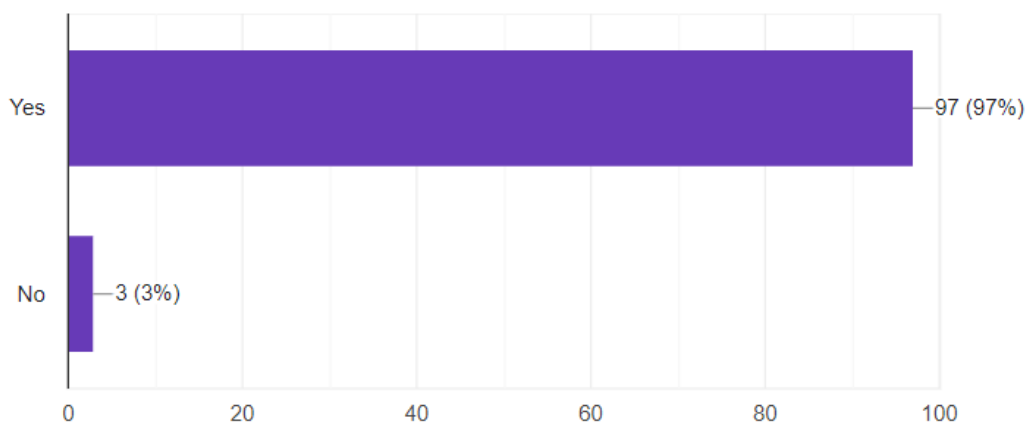


I receive timely communication/information from the Children's Center in my primary language?



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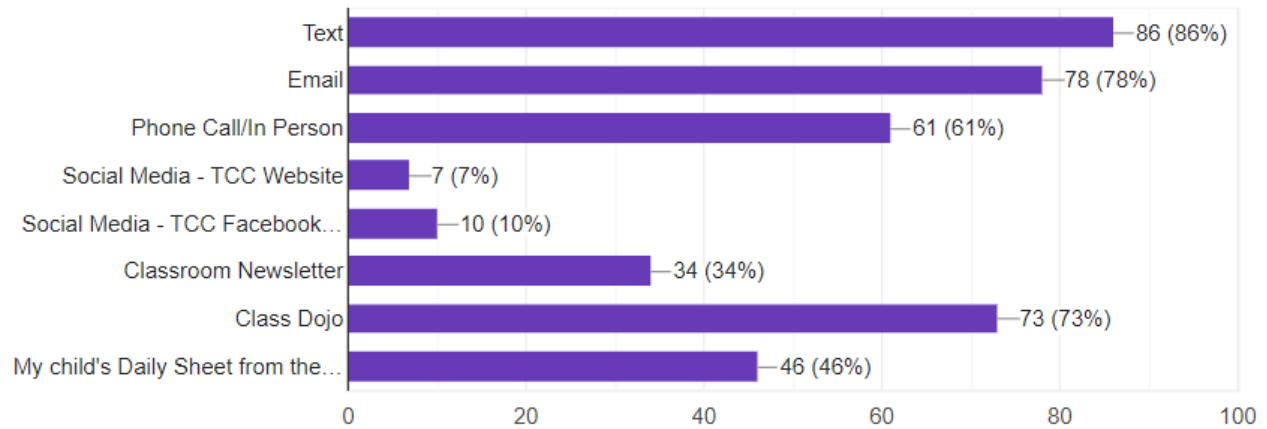
100 responses



Please let us know how you PREFER to receive communication/information from the Children's Center. (Please check ALL that apply)

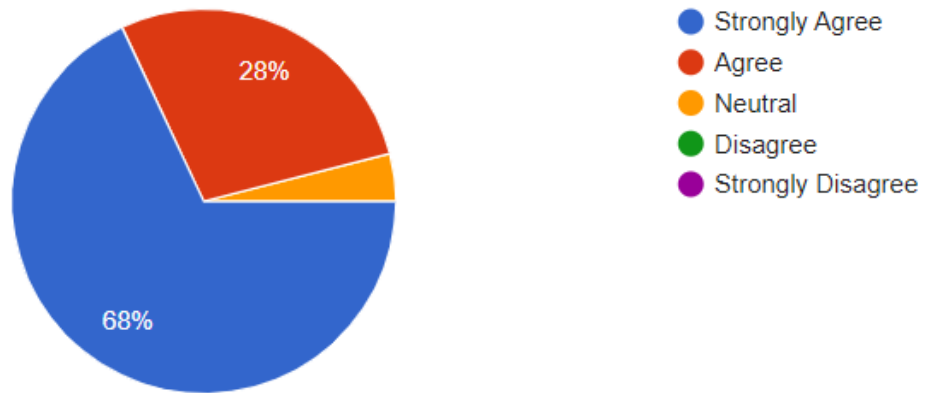


100 responses



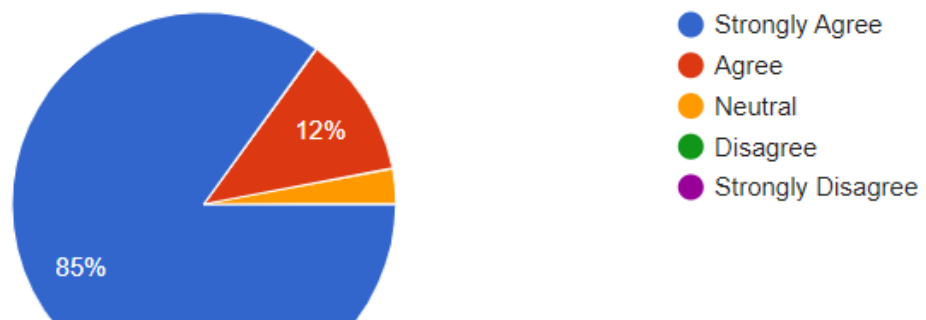
The staff of the Children's Center have helped me feel supported and more confident in meeting my child's social-emotional and behavioral needs

100 responses



I understand that my child's regular classroom attendance is important for his or her school readiness.

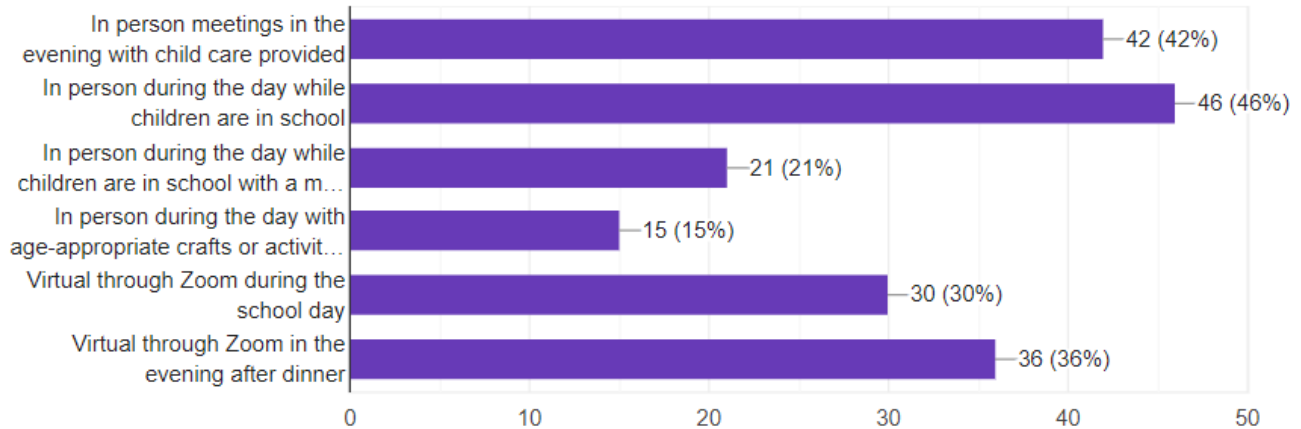
100 responses



Which options best serve your family for participation in TCC Family Engagement Activities? (Check all that apply)



100 responses



The Children's Center staff help me find and use community resources through referrals and resource information sharing.

100 responses

