

SNAPSHOT OF STATUS OF YOUNG CHILDREN*
SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS, VIRGINIA
Population, 2006 = 1,067,739

READY CHILDREN

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA																					
Number of children by age (Census, 2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q 0-4 = 79,298 (7.4%) q 5-9 = 74,949 (7.0%) q 10-14 = 74,676 (7.0%) q 15-19 = 80,796 (7.6%) 																					
General population, by race (Census, 2005) <i>*Note: Hispanic may be any race and are included in other races, as well as shown separately.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q White: 624,284 (60.9%) q African-American: 319,343 (31.2%) q Native American: 4,135 (0.4%) q Asian: 35,032 (3.4%) q Hawaiian/PI: 1,132 (0.1%) q Other: 12,977 (1.3%) q 2+ races: 28,065 (2.7%) q Hispanic*: 37,369 (3.6%) 																					
Poverty status of children (2000 census) According to the 2000 census, there were 41,137 children (ages 0-17) living below the poverty level in the 5 cities of SHR.	<p>. As of 2005, Kids Count indicated the following poverty rates for children:</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th align="center">Under 17</th> <th align="center">Under 5</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Chesapeake:</td> <td align="center">11%</td> <td align="center">11.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Norfolk:</td> <td align="center">24%</td> <td align="center">28.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Portsmouth:</td> <td align="center">22%</td> <td align="center">28.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Suffolk:</td> <td align="center">15%</td> <td align="center">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Virginia Beach:</td> <td align="center">10%</td> <td align="center">9.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Virginia:</td> <td align="center">N/A</td> <td align="center">13.9%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Under 17	Under 5	Chesapeake:	11%	11.8%	Norfolk:	24%	28.8%	Portsmouth:	22%	28.5%	Suffolk:	15%	N/A	Virginia Beach:	10%	9.2%	Virginia:	N/A	13.9%
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Infant mortality rates (5 year rates) 2005	<p>Chesapeake: 10.4/1000—annual declines to 7.5 by 2006 Norfolk: 11.2/1000—variations across years Portsmouth: 15.0/1000—variations across years Suffolk: 10.1/1000—declines from 13.8 in 2003 Virginia Beach: 7.4/1000—increase to 10.4 in 2006 Virginia: 7.4/1000</p>																					
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READY FAMILIES

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA												
Births to adolescent women (2005—per 1000 teen girls)	<table border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Chesapeake:</td> <td align="center">15/1000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Norfolk:</td> <td align="center">36/1000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Portsmouth:</td> <td align="center">39/1000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Suffolk:</td> <td align="center">20/1000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Virginia Beach:</td> <td align="center">12/1000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Virginia:</td> <td align="center">16/1000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Chesapeake:	15/1000	Norfolk:	36/1000	Portsmouth:	39/1000	Suffolk:	20/1000	Virginia Beach:	12/1000	Virginia:	16/1000
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Births to women with less than a 12 th grade education (2005)	Norfolk: 19% Portsmouth: 20% Suffolk: 14% Virginia Beach: 8% Virginia: 15%
Non-marital births (2006)	Chesapeake: 34% Norfolk: 46% Portsmouth: 52% Suffolk: 37% Virginia Beach: 31% Virginia: 34%
Children 0-5 living with a single mother (2000 census)	South Hampton Roads: 3.86% Virginia: 2.60% National: 2.60%
Parental work status (2000 census)	Among parents of children under 6, families in which all parents are in the labor force: Chesapeake: 10,511 (64.5%) Norfolk: 11,256 (60.9%) Portsmouth: 5,117 (67%) Suffolk: 3,527 (67.3%) Virginia Beach: 21,689 (61.9%)
Levels of educational attainment (2000 census and Kids Count)	Ages 18-24: (SHR) q No high school diploma: 21,896 (18.8%-- includes 5,153 high school dropouts) q High school graduate/GED: 45,255 (38.8%) q Some college, no degree: 39,483 (33.8%) q Associate or BA degree: 9,507 (8.1%) Ages 25+: q Less than 9 th grade: 28,288 (4.5%) q 9 th -12 th , no diploma: 70,537 (11.1%) q High school diploma/GED: 175,043 (27.7%) q Some college, no degree: 168,969 (26.7%) q Associate degree: 41,491 (6.6%) q Bachelor's degree: 97,858 (15.5%) q Graduate/professional degree: 50,544 (8%)
Language other than English spoken at home (children over 5, 2000 census)	Chesapeake: 5.6% Norfolk: 8.9% Portsmouth: 4.6% Suffolk: 4.0% Virginia Beach: 10.3%
Substantiated cases of child abuse (2006)	Chesapeake: 2.6/1000 Norfolk: 7.5/1000 Portsmouth: 3.9/1000 Suffolk: 3.0/1000 Virginia Beach: 8.4/1000 Virginia: 4.0/1000
Juvenile arrests for violent crime (2006)	Regionally, there was an increase from 150 in 2002 to 263 in 2005; although the number of such arrests declined in Chesapeake and Portsmouth between those years.

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA
Children in foster care (rate/1000 in 2006)	Chesapeake: 2/1000 Norfolk: 4/1000 Portsmouth: 9/1000 Suffolk: 2/1000 Virginia Beach: 3/1000 (In 2005, 2006 not available) Virginia: 4/1000
Grandparents responsible for grandchildren (2000)	11,075 in 5 cities combined
Travel time to work	Range from 21.7 to 27.3 minutes
Living in same house in 1995 and 2000 (ages 5+) <i>The SHR population is highly mobile.</i>	Chesapeake: 51.9% Norfolk: 42.7% Portsmouth: 51.4% Suffolk: 53.4% Virginia Beach: 45.8%
Home ownership rate and costs (2006)	Rates ranged from a low of 48% in Norfolk to a high of 76% in Chesapeake, with monthly housing costs with a mortgage ranging from a high of \$1607 in Chesapeake to a low of \$1246 in Portsmouth.
Rental rate (2005)	Over 63,510 renters in SHR pay 30% or greater of household income on rent, with monthly rents ranging from a high of \$1017 in Virginia Beach to a low of \$752 in Norfolk.

READY SERVICES—EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA
Availability in SHR in 2005	q 1,002 registered facilities q Capacity to serve 42,000 children q 52,000 children in families in which all parents work q Lowest percentage of programs serving infants and toddlers
Child care capacity (per 100 children, 0-12)	Chesapeake: 26% Norfolk: 24% Portsmouth: 24% Suffolk: 19% Virginia Beach: 23% Virginia: 26%
Availability by duration of care	q 68% year round care q 91% full week care q Low vacancy rate of 3% for the above; supply greater than demand for part-day programs
Children 3 and over enrolled in school (2000 census)	q Preschool: 19,116 q Kindergarten: 15,969
Children in public pre-kindergarten (VPI) in 2007	Chesapeake: 240 Norfolk: 1,487 Portsmouth: 563 Suffolk: 198 Virginia Beach: 704 SHR: 3,192— Between 2003 and 2007 there was a 108% increase in children served by VPI in Virginia, but only a 51% increase in SHR children served by VPI.
Children in Head Start in SHR in 2004-05	1,501

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA
Cost: of full-time child care <i>Note: all rates are significantly higher than state subsidy reimbursement rate.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q Infants: Monthly costs range from \$388-\$476 in homes and \$515-606 in centers q Preschoolers: Range from \$325-397 in homes and \$411-464 in centers q School age: Range from \$217-325 in homes and \$401-445 in centers.
Children receiving subsidy (2006)	10,831 children received subsidies for child care in SHR— 18.7% of all children receiving subsidies in Virginia that year.
Programs accepting subsidy (74% of programs in SHR accepting subsidy had a waiting list)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q 50% of Centers q 49% of Family Child Care Homes
Education of Child Care Staff: (% with AA degree or higher)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q 36% of Center-based teachers q 73% of Center-based directors q 21% of Family Child Care Providers
Experience of Child Care Staff: (% with 5 or more years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q 36% of Center-based teachers q 51% of Center-based Directors q 59% of Family Child Care Providers
Annual turnover rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q Chesapeake: 22% q Norfolk: 34% q Portsmouth: 19% q Suffolk: 15% q Virginia Beach: 32%
Median hourly compensation of Child Care Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q Center based teachers: \$8.00 q Center-based directors: \$13.00 q Family Child Care Providers: \$4.04
Nationally accredited programs	25, including centers accredited by NAEYE and homes accredited by NAFCC
Unlicensed child care programs (2008)	49.4% of child care programs in SHR are unlicensed

READY SCHOOLS

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA
Number of students enrolled in school (Kids Count)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q Public school: 193,035 (86.6%) q Private school 29,979 (13.4%)
Students with limited English proficiency (2000 census)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q Chesapeake: 2.2% q Norfolk: 1.8% q Portsmouth: 1.2% q Suffolk: .9% q Virginia Beach: 2.4%
Assessment of school readiness (2006, Kids Count) (% identified as needing additional intervention by PALS-K)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q Chesapeake: 13.7% q Norfolk: 19.2% q Portsmouth: 16.5% q Suffolk: 13.1% q Virginia Beach: 13.8% q Virginia: 17.1%
Proficiency, Standards of Learning, 3 rd grade (2006, Kids Count)	<p><i>Note: Proficiency rates in all five cities have improved over the years, however, by 2006...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> q English: Only Chesapeake and Virginia Beach were above state averages. q Math: Only Chesapeake and Virginia Beach were above state averages. q History: Chesapeake, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach were at/above state averages. q Science: Only Chesapeake and Virginia Beach were above state averages.

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA
Retention Rate, K-3 (2006, Kids Count)	q Chesapeake: 3.6% q Norfolk: 7.3% q Portsmouth: 4.9% q Suffolk: 5.6% q Virginia Beach: 2.0% q Virginia: 2.5%
Dropout Rate, 9 th -12th (2006, Kids Count)	q Chesapeake: 2.8% q Norfolk: 2.5% q Portsmouth: 5.3% q Suffolk: 6.8% q Virginia Beach: 1.8% q Virginia: 2.7%
Graduation/completion rate (2006, Kids Count)	q Chesapeake: 83.5% q Norfolk: 43.1% q Portsmouth: 44.9% q Suffolk: 65.6% q Virginia Beach: 70.0% q Virginia: 76.8%
Students receiving free or reduced lunch in 2006 (Kids Count)	q Chesapeake: 25% q Norfolk: 58% q Portsmouth: 52% q Suffolk: 39% q Virginia Beach: 31% q Virginia: 33%
Students receiving special education	q Chesapeake: 15.9% q Norfolk: 13.4% q Portsmouth: 13.4% q Suffolk: 10.1% q Virginia Beach: 12.4% q Virginia: 13.1%
Special education students under 6	q Chesapeake: 3.6% q Norfolk: 2.1% q Portsmouth: 3.3% q Suffolk: 2.0% q Virginia Beach: 2.9% q Virginia: 3.0%

READY SERVICES—FAMILY SUPPORT AND HEALTH

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA
Clients served by home visiting programs (2008)	q Chesapeake: 1,135 q Norfolk: 1,274 q Portsmouth: 750 q Suffolk: 218 q Virginia Beach: 876 q SHR: 4,253
Women receiving early prenatal care (2006)	q Chesapeake: 89.1% q Norfolk: 83.8% q Portsmouth: 74.6% q Suffolk: 89.2% q Virginia Beach: 88.4% q Virginia: 83.5%
Early Intervention (2008)	915 of children under 3 <i>(Less than 2% of children under 3 are served)</i>

CATEGORY	AVAILABLE DATA
% of eligible children enrolled in public health insurance (Medicaid and FAMIS, 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> q Chesapeake: 89% q Norfolk: 87% q Portsmouth: 93% q Suffolk: 87% q Virginia Beach: 81% q Virginia: 98% q Remaining eligible not served: From 7% (Portsmouth) to 19% (Virginia Beach) of those eligible are not yet served
Food Stamps (2006)	82,265 individuals in the 5 cities received food stamps during 2006

SOURCES FOR ABOVE DATA

- q US Census, 2000
- q Kids Count
- q Census, American Community Survey, 2006
- q Virginia’s “Indicators of School Readiness”
- q “Who’s Caring for Our Children,” Child Care Workforce Study in South Hampton Roads, 2005

SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS—A FEW OBSERVATIONS

Assets

- q The region has excellent post-secondary educational institutions, including articulation for degrees relevant to early childhood.
- q There are excellent medical facilities, including a hospital focused on services to children and their families.
- q There are a number of agencies offering services to children and families, including the following reporting to Smart Beginnings the capacity to expand
 - o ACCESS
 - o Advocating 4 Kids
 - o Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters
 - o CINCH
 - o DSS Child care assistance, protective services and services to children at risk for emotional delays
 - o New Parent Support (for military families)
 - o Parent Education Classes for military families
 - o Planning Council
 - o Prevent Child Abuse
 - o First Steps
 - o Infant/Toddler Connection
 - o Norfolk Infant Development
 - o Baby Care
 - o Healthy Families
 - o CASA
 - o First Steps
 - o Mother Baby and Parent Support through VB Health Department
 - o A variety of family health services of VB Health Department
- q Smart Beginnings of South Hampton Roads has been established, offering a source for coordinating planning, service delivery, data collection, resource development, and public awareness efforts
- q The public media has demonstrated interest in young children.
- q The region has low unemployment rates.
- q The percentage of children found to need additional intervention in the PALS-K assessment has declined across the region in recent years.

Challenges/Issues

- q There are areas of concentrated child poverty.
- q There is insufficient child care capacity, particularly for infants and subsidized children
- q Costs for child care are higher than subsidy reimbursement rates and difficult for families to afford.

- q Significant numbers of child care programs do not accept subsidy reimbursement.
- q Significant percentages of child care programs are unlicensed and only a small number of programs are accredited.
- q The educational and compensation levels of child care providers need improvement.
- q There is a need to expand public early education services, such as Early Head Start, Head Start, and VPI.
- q There is a higher percentage of young children living with single mothers than state and national averages.
- q Significant numbers of births are to women with less than 12th grade education; likewise, about 15% of adults in the area do not have a high school diploma.
- q There are substantial numbers of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren.
- q Housing costs in the area are high.
- q There has been an increase in juvenile arrests for violent crime in the region.
- q There remain eligible children not yet enrolled in Medicaid or FAMIS.
- q Rates of infant mortality and low birthweight babies still need improvement.
- q Early intervention services do not appear to be commensurate with the potential number of children that may need services.

ISSUES AFFECTING YOUNG CHILDREN THROUGHOUT SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS THAT WERE RAISED IN FOCUS GROUPS

Background: Between September and December 2007, fifteen focus groups were held with participants representing various perspectives on the needs of young children. Focus group participants included parents, young fathers, middle-income parents, participants in Healthy Families, staff from various initiatives, child care directors and providers, Kindergarten teachers and Principals, military parents, grandparents raising their children, home visitation staff, Early Head Start parents, Resource and Referral staff, Early Intervention Parents and a Pre-K collaboration team. The summaries of the individual meetings are available upon request; the themes that came out in these focus groups are outlined below.

PARENT EDUCATION AND INVOLVEMENT

- Resources for parents who wish to improve their parenting skills lacking.
 - o Limited parenting classes, play groups or support groups.
 - o Information on what is available is not housed in a central place where parents can easily access it.
 - § Lack of programs and information appears particularly pronounced in Suffolk.
 - § Some parents cited the need to go to Chesapeake to access services; while it is richer in resources, the community may be able to maximize these resources more effectively with better communication and partnership between service providers.
 - o Fathers who wanted to be involved in the lives of their children benefitted from support group and services tailored to their needs; more fathers could participate and become more active in their children's lives if successful models were expanded.
 - o Many of the pamphlets and written materials are written at too high of a reading level.

FAMILY SUPPORT

- Participants in Healthy Families extremely positive about impact of the program on their pregnancy and parenting skills.
 - o Wish there was a clear 'next step' in terms of a continuum of services or support.
 - o Mental health cited as the top issues among families in Healthy Families.
 - § Depression serious issue. Challenge to get depression identified and treated; difficult to get on and stay on medication, particularly without good insurance.
 - § Post-partum depression support is particularly fragmented and ineffective.
 - o Felt that more families would take part if the negative stigma was removed.
- Supports for moms seeking to continue their education are limited.
 - o Teens must return to school two weeks after giving birth.
 - o Limited child care for moms (of any age) who wish to continue their education.
- Parent University in Norfolk and Suffolk extremely successful and could be a model to emulate.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- Parents of all income groups cited the lack of quality child care as a significant problem.
 - Waiting lists often were a year or more long.
 - Women, particularly middle-income women, cited that many of their friends had left the workforce because of the lack of quality child care.
- Programs would benefit from higher standards and resources (technical assistance, materials, grants) to improve and sustain program quality.
- There appears to be significant interest – both from programs and providers - to create a quality rating and improvement system.
 - Education for programs and families on what the quality rating system is (and is not) will be important.

FAMILY FRIENDLY WORKPLACES

- Experiences with how family-friendly workplaces are varied significantly; experience was largely determined by individual supervisors.
- The desire for more flexibility and more flexible scheduling was cited numerous times.

CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL (CCR&R)

- CCR&R system has limited capacity due to minimal funding from the state.
 - CCR&Rs from throughout the region are committed to a centralized system approach, but they would need to develop an implementation strategy and increase funding to deploy this vision.
- The number of families seeking care referrals on-line has increased significantly.
 - Parents cited the desire for good information on-line to ask questions and get information on quality early care programs; existing on-line referral capacity may benefit from expansion to respond to this desire of families.
- There is significant unmet need for infant and toddler programs and for care during nontraditional hours.

TRANSITION FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD TO KINDERGARTEN

- Teachers estimate that about 50% of children are ready when they come into kindergarten.
- There is significant room to enhance the partnerships and relationships between early childhood and elementary schools. For example:
 - Schools could share readiness expectations with families a year (or more) before kindergarten enrollment.
 - Early childhood and kindergarten curricula could be exchanged and the teachers could develop strategies to create more synergy and alignment between their curricula.

Developing substantive partnerships between early childhood programs and schools could help increase children's readiness for success in school.