


2011

2011 Life in Hampton Roads Survey Results*

Social Science Research Center, Old Dominion University

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2011 Life in Hampton Roads Survey Results*

Demographics	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
Chesapeake	18.6%
Hampton	7.7%
Newport News	9.4%
Norfolk	29.1%
Portsmouth	6.3%
Suffolk	7.1%
Virginia Beach	21.9%
White	60.2%
Black or African-American	33.8%
Hispanic or Latino	0.7%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.6%
Asian	0.6%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.1%
Multiracial	2.1%
Other	1.3%
Refused	0.5%
Male	49.4%
Female	50.6%
Some grade school	0.2%
Some high school	6.6%
High school diploma/GED	18.0%
Completed trade/professional school	3.7%
Some college	24.4%
Associate's degree	12.7%
Bachelor's degree	20.2%
Graduate degree	12.4%
Other	1.6%
Refused	0.2%
Average age (years)	44.2
Single, not living with partner	23.4%
Single, living with partner	6.8%
Married	49.7%
Divorced/separated	14.1%
Widowed	5.7%
Refused	0.2%

1 - 2011 Life in Hampton Roads Survey - The Social Science Research Center at ODU

* Results reported here include all survey respondents including "cell-only" respondents. The numbers reported in documents comparing 2010 to 2011 results will vary slightly as the "cell-only" respondents were removed from the 2011 analysis since cell phone numbers were not called in 2010.

Demographics	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
Employed Full-time Part-time Not employed Looking for work Not looking for work Retired Refused	49.3% 14.3% 10.7% 6.1% 19.4% 0.1%
What was your family household income last year? Less than \$10,000 More than \$10,000 to \$20,000 More than \$20,000 to \$30,000 More than \$30,000 to \$40,000 More than \$40,000 to \$50,000 More than \$50,000 to \$60,000 More than \$60,000 to \$70,000 More than \$70,000 to \$80,000 More than \$80,000 to \$90,000 More than \$90,000 to \$100,000 More than \$100,000 Don't know Refused	6.6% 12.0% 7.1% 9.6% 7.2% 9.5% 5.3% 6.5% 5.9% 4.5% 15.7% 4.9% 5.1%
In the past two years, has your income... Increased Decreased Remained the same Don't know Refused	38.0% 20.2% 40.6% 0.6% 0.6%

Media/News	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
Is there at least one telephone inside your home that is currently working, and is NOT a cell phone? ¹ Yes No	14.8% 85.2%
Do you have a working cell phone? Yes No Refused	84.1% 15.3% 0.4%
Does anyone in your household have a working cell phone? ² Yes No Refused	3.9% 11.4% 0.6%
How accurate are <u>local TV newscasts</u> for news? 1-Very inaccurate 2 3 4 5-Very accurate Don't know Refused	0.9% 3.2% 22.4% 46.5% 22.9% 4.0% 0.1%
How accurate are <u>local radio newscasts</u> for news? 1-Very inaccurate 2 3 4 5-Very accurate Don't know Refused	1.2% 4.2% 25.3% 35.9% 17.6% 15.6% 0.1%

¹ This question was asked only of respondents in the cell phone sample. N=87

² This question was asked of those respondents who said that they themselves did not have a working cell phone. N=643

Media/News	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
How accurate are <u>local newspapers</u> for news? 1-Very inaccurate 2 3 4 5-Very accurate Don't know Refused	2.4% 6.7% 20.1% 33.6% 26.6% 10.5% 0.1%
How accurate are <u>local on-line only newspapers</u> for news? 1-Very inaccurate 2 3 4 5-Very accurate Don't know Refused	3.7% 5.5% 19.2% 22.7% 16.2% 32.6% 0.1%
How accurate are <u>local blogs</u> for news? 1-Very inaccurate 2 3 4 5-Very accurate Don't know Refused	7.6% 10.6% 16.5% 11.6% 5.6% 48.0% 0.1%

Arts/Culture/Travel	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
Have you attended an exhibition (museum or gallery), concert, or other performance in the past year in Hampton Roads? Yes No	59.6% 40.4%

Arts/Culture/Travel	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
What type of event did you attend? ³ Theatre (including community theater) Exhibitions at a museum or gallery Concerts Other	39.8% 33.3% 75.4% 8.4%
Where did you travel during the past year? ⁴ Virginia, North Carolina, Washington DC Elsewhere in the United States Elsewhere in North America (including the Caribbean, Canada and Mexico) International (Europe, Asia, South America, etc) Other Nowhere	75.2% 67.4% 11.8% 16.9% 0.4% 12.7%
What type of transportation did you use during your travels? ⁵ Air Train Car/Truck Cruise Ship Other	45.7% 5.3% 86.0% 9.0% 5.6%

³ This question only asked of the 426 respondents who indicated that they attended an event in the past year. Percentages do not add to 100 because respondents were allowed to choose more than one response.

⁴ Percentages based on the 641 respondents who indicated that they traveled during the past year. Percentages do not add to 100 because respondents were allowed to choose more than one response.

⁵ Percentages based on the 641 respondents who indicated that they traveled during the past year. Percentages do not add to 100 because respondents were allowed to choose more than one response.

Quality of Life	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
How would you rate the overall quality of life in Hampton Roads? Excellent Good Fair Poor Don't know Refused	7.8% 43.6% 43.3% 4.8% 0.5% 0.0%
How would you rate quality of life in your neighborhood? Excellent Good Fair Poor Don't know	38.0% 43.5% 14.0% 4.4% 0.2%
Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: I am satisfied with my life. Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree	44.5% 44.3% 5.6% 3.9% 1.8%
Do you plan to still live in Hampton Roads five years from now? Yes No Don't know	71.7% 22.9% 5.4%

Transportation	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
In the past week, have you used public transportation (including buses or taxis) in Hampton Roads? Yes No	7.9% 92.1%
Would you be more likely to use public transportation once light rail becomes available? Yes No Maybe Don't know Refused	27.6% 45.0% 27.2% 0.2% 0.1%
Where would you like to see the light rail extended? ⁶ Virginia Beach Chesapeake Portsmouth Hampton Newport News Suffolk Naval base Norfolk International Airport Other Don't want light rail extended Don't know Refused	65.6% 38.9% 34.9% 40.5% 40.7% 30.4% 41.6% 45.1% 4.2% 13.2% 1.1% 0.7%
How likely do you think it is that light rail will contribute to local economic development? Very likely Somewhat likely Not very likely Not at all likely Don't know	32.7% 41.5% 16.0% 9.1% 0.6%

⁶ This question only asked of the 617 respondents who indicated that they would like to see light rail extended. Percentages do not add to 100 because respondents were allowed to choose more than one response.

Transportation	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
<p>Traffic congestion in Hampton Roads during the morning peak (6-9 a.m.) is a major problem for me.</p> <p>Strongly agree</p> <p>Agree</p> <p>Neither agree nor disagree</p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Strongly disagree</p> <p>Don't know</p> <p>Refused</p>	<p>40.9%</p> <p>25.2%</p> <p>8.2%</p> <p>17.8%</p> <p>5.1%</p> <p>2.6%</p> <p>0.1%</p>
<p>Traffic congestion in Hampton Roads during the evening peak (3-6 p.m.) is a major problem for me.</p> <p>Strongly agree</p> <p>Agree</p> <p>Neither agree nor disagree</p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Strongly disagree</p> <p>Don't know</p>	<p>47.7%</p> <p>25.7%</p> <p>5.6%</p> <p>14.6%</p> <p>4.9%</p> <p>1.5%</p>

Transportation	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
How often have you traveled through a tunnel in Hampton Roads during the last month? Not at all Once or twice in the past month 3-4 times in the past month 5-6 times in the past month More than once a week Not sure Don't know	14.6% 20.5% 21.8% 13.5% 29.2% 0.3% 0.0%
How often do you experience delays at this/these tunnels? ⁷ Never Once or twice in the past month 3-4 times in the past month 5-6 times in the past month More than once a week Not sure Don't know	17.6% 30.6% 18.0% 6.4% 23.5% 3.8% 0.2%
To bypass delays at tunnels in Hampton Roads, would you be willing to pay a toll of \$3 to use an express lane which would be free of delays the majority of the time? ⁸ Yes No Maybe Don't know	31.6% 48.3% 19.6% 0.5%
Average one-way commute, in minutes, to work or school.	29.4
Within the past month did you avoid visiting a business in a neighboring city due to traffic congestion? Yes No Don't know	46.9% 53.1% 0.1%

⁷ This question was asked of the 598 respondents who indicated that they traveled through a tunnel at least one time in the past month.

⁸ This question was asked of those 598 respondents who indicated that they had traveled through a tunnel in the past month.

Transportation	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
Have you purchased a car in the past two years?	
Yes	41.3%
No	58.7%
Did the cost of gasoline influence the kind of car you purchased? ⁹	
Yes	56.4%
No	43.6%

Local and State Government/Political Issues	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
How much of the time do you think you can trust local government to do what is right?	
Always	0.7%
Just about always	7.0%
Most of time	35.8%
Only some of the time	40.4%
Almost never	10.5%
Never	3.5%
Don't know	1.1%
Refused	0.9%
Do you think your local government uses public resources wisely or do you think there is a fair amount of waste?	
Uses wisely	19.3%
Fair amount of waste	75.3%
Don't know	4.2%
Refused	1.1%

⁹ This question was asked of those 283 respondents who indicated that they had purchased a car in the past two years.

Local and State Government/Political Issues	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
Do you think your state government uses public resources wisely or do you think there is a fair amount of waste? Uses wisely Fair amount of waste Don't know Refused	21.7% 73.3% 4.1% 0.9%
Are you registered to vote? Yes No	88.4% 11.6%
When there is a local election do you ¹⁰ ... Always vote Almost always vote Vote most of the time Hardly ever vote Never vote Don't know Refused	45.1% 16.9% 20.8% 11.0% 4.9% 1.1% 0.2%
When there is a national or presidential election do you... Always vote Almost always vote Vote most of the time Hardly ever vote Never vote Don't know	85.3% 8.5% 3.2% 1.3% 1.4% 0.4%
Do you generally feel closer to the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, or do you consider yourself to be an Independent or something else? Republican Democratic Independent Something else (specify) Don't know Refused	26.4% 33.3% 31.0% 7.3% 0.8% 1.3%

¹⁰ This question only asked of those 674 respondents who indicated that they were registered to vote.

* Results reported here include all survey respondents including "cell-only" respondents. The numbers reported in documents comparing 2010 to 2011 results will vary slightly as the "cell-only" respondents were removed from the 2011 analysis since cell phone numbers were not called in 2010.

Local and State Government/Political Issues	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
When it comes to politics do you usually think of yourself as... Extremely liberal Liberal Slightly liberal Moderate, middle of the road Slightly conservative Conservative Extremely conservative Don't know/haven't thought much about this Refused	2.4% 15.8% 9.5% 33.9% 11.7% 20.5% 2.9% 3.1% 0.3%
People like me don't have any say about what the government does. Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree Don't know Refused	13.8% 21.0% 6.3% 39.3% 18.1% 0.3% 1.2%
The Tea Party is the kind of grass roots movement that we need to reform the political system in the United States. Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree Don't know Refused	7.1% 25.7% 15.4% 27.6% 19.7% 4.2% 0.3%
Gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to legally marry in Virginia. Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree Don't know Refused	12.6% 35.4% 12.1% 17.8% 20.6% 0.8% 0.6%

* Results reported here include all survey respondents including "cell-only" respondents. The numbers reported in documents comparing 2010 to 2011 results will vary slightly as the "cell-only" respondents were removed from the 2011 analysis since cell phone numbers were not called in 2010.

Local and State Government/Political Issues	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
How would you rate economic conditions in the United States today? Excellent Good Fair Poor Don't know Refused	1.5% 7.4% 38.5% 52.3% 0.2% 0.1%
How would you rate economic conditions in Hampton Roads today? Excellent Good Fair Poor Don't know Refused	1.4% 19.2% 53.4% 25.1% 0.8% 0.0%
What do you think is the biggest problem facing Hampton Roads today? Crime Drugs Affordable housing High taxes Lack of jobs/ unemployment Government spending Traffic congestion Roads/bridge maintenance Inefficient or wasteful government Other Don't know Refused	8.9% 6.5% 7.7% 5.5% 30.2% 4.4% 16.6% 4.6% 9.2% 5.6% 0.9% 0.1%

Local and State Government/Political Issues	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
Which of the following would be the most attractive improvement to the quality of life in Hampton Roads?	
Greater variety of jobs	46.6%
Expansion of light rail	5.6%
More affordable housing	18.8%
Revitalization of downtown areas	7.5%
Green living	5.7%
Increased or improved arts and cultural opportunities	5.3%
Other	9.0%
Don't know	1.1%
Refused	0.3%

Environment	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
On a scale of one to five where one means global warming is a serious environmental problem and five means global warming is an environmental hoax, where would you place yourself?	
1 – Global warming is a serious environmental problem	34.4%
2	20.1%
3	21.3%
4	11.0%
5 – Global warming is an environmental hoax	12.5%
Don't know	0.5%
Refused	0.1%
Are you concerned that rising sea levels here in Hampton Roads will affect you personally?	
Yes	41.4%
No	57.1%
Don't know	1.6%

Environment	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
Are you concerned about rising sea levels in the rest of the world? Yes No Don't know	73.4% 25.9% 0.7%
If you were forced to evacuate your home due to mandatory hurricane evacuation orders from your city's emergency officials, where would you most likely go? Emergency shelter A relative's house outside of the Hampton Roads area A friend's house outside of the Hampton Roads area Hotel/motel outside of the Hampton Roads area Campground outside the Hampton Roads area Other No idea/ Not sure	11.7% 37.9% 12.0% 24.7% 1.9% 8.6% 3.1%
If you were evacuated, what type of transportation would you most likely use to leave the area? Drive in my own vehicle alone Drive in my own vehicle with others Ride with others in their vehicle Use public transportation Other I have no transportation Don't know	10.8% 71.0% 11.9% 1.5% 4.6% 0.2% 0.0%

Health/Education	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
Do you have a child or children attending local public schools at the elementary, middle, or high school level? Yes No Refused	26.7% 73.2% 0.1%
How would you rate the overall quality of your local public school system? Excellent Good Fair Poor Don't know Refused	20.0% 44.4% 22.7% 10.6% 2.1% 0.1%
How would you describe the class size for your child or children who are currently attending public school? ¹¹ Just right Too many children Too few children Don't know	59.7% 39.6% 0.0% 0.7%
Would you say your own health in general is... Excellent Good Fair Poor Refused	27.3% 54.1% 16.5% 2.0% 0.0%

¹¹ This question was asked only of those 207 respondents who indicated that they had a child or children attending public school.

Health/Education	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
Where do you usually go or who do you usually see when you are feeling unwell or need medical care? General practitioner or family doctor Emergency room at a public hospital Urgent care center Pharmacist for health advice or medication only Other Don't know	65.7% 8.2% 11.3% 3.8% 10.9% 0.1%
Are you covered by a health insurance plan, such as one provided by an employer, a government plan like Medicare or Medicaid, or some other plan that pays for your medical care? Yes, I'm covered No, I am not covered	86.4% 13.6%
Have you seen a dentist for professional care in the past year? Yes No Don't know	65.7% 33.4% 0.8%
What is your biggest barrier to obtaining dental care? ¹² Don't have dental insurance Costs too high even with dental insurance Anxiety or fear of dental care Lack of transportation to make appointments Inability to take time off of work for dental appointments Difficulty in finding a dentist who will treat me Language Barriers Other Don't know Refused	26.6% 26.3% 8.4% 1.0% 6.4% 4.3% 0.0% 25.8% 0.9% 0.3%

¹² This question was asked only of the 184 respondents who indicated that they had not seen a dentist in the past year.

Housing	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
Do you or your family own your home or apartment, pay rent or have some other arrangement? Own or in the process of buying Rent Other arrangement Refused	 62.5% 33.0% 4.4% 0.1%
How long have you lived in your current apartment or house? Less than one year Average years (more than one year) Refused	 12.7% 11.45 years 0.0%
On the whole, how satisfied are you with your apartment or house as a place to live? Very satisfied Somewhat satisfied Neither satisfied or dissatisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Very dissatisfied Refused	 56.5% 28.9% 7.0% 4.6% 3.0% 0.0%
Do you live in a gated community? Yes No Don't know Refused	 3.8% 96.1% 0.1% 0.0%
Do you believe that home values in Hampton Roads are: Undervalued Overvalued Correctly priced Don't know Refused	 23.1% 49.0% 23.8% 4.0% 0.1%

Housing	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
Do you want to sell your current home but are delaying because of the decline in home values and weakened real estate market? ¹³ Yes, delaying because of declining home values Delaying, but for other reasons No, do not want to sell my house House is currently for sale/ on the market Don't know Refused	16.3% 2.1% 78.4% 0.3% 2.7% 0.1%
Are you a full-time caregiver to an elderly parent(s)? Yes No Refused	7.5% 92.5% 0.0%

Spirituality/Well-Being	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
How often do you attend public religious/spiritual services (in small or larger groups)? More than once a day Once a day A few times a week Once a week A few times a month Once a month Less than once a month Never Don't know Refused	0.2% 1.1% 14.2% 21.8% 9.6% 9.7% 19.0% 22.3% 0.9% 1.1%

¹³ This question was asked only of those 551 respondents who indicated that they owned or were in the process of buying their home.

Spirituality/Well-Being	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
To what denomination or group is your congregation or local faith community affiliated? Baptist Catholic Jewish Methodist/United Methodist Presbyterian Episcopal Muslim/Moslem Jehovah's Witness Buddhist African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Lutheran UCC/Reformed Pentecostal Independent Seventh Day Adventist Mormon Agnostic Atheist Other None Don't know Refused	29.1% 12.2% 1.0% 6.3% 3.1% 2.0% 0.2% 0.2% 0.1% 0.2% 1.8% 0.1% 1.8% 0.4% 0.0% 0.3% 1.4% 1.0% 29.4% 7.4% 0.4% 1.7%
How politically active do you think your church is? ¹⁴ Very politically active Somewhat politically active Not at all politically active Don't know Refused	18.8% 39.4% 30.4% 10.2% 1.1%

¹⁴ This question was asked of the 579 respondents who indicated that they attend religious or spiritual services with some frequency.

Neighborhood/Crime	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
How much of a problem is crime in your neighborhood? Not a problem Somewhat of a problem Very serious problem Don't know	57.3% 36.4% 5.8% 0.5%
How afraid are you that you or a member of your household will be a victim of serious crime? Very afraid Somewhat afraid A little afraid Not afraid at all Don't know	2.6% 12.5% 31.9% 52.9% 0.1%
In the past 12 months, have you or a member of your household been a victim of a serious crime? Yes No	4.4% 95.6%
The police are not doing a good job of preventing crime in this area. Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree Don't know Refused	5.5% 8.2% 19.8% 47.7% 18.5% 0.1% 0.1%

Military	Survey Respondents (weighted sample)
Are you or anyone in your household active duty military? Yes, myself Yes, my spouse/partner Yes, both myself and partner Yes, other No Refused	6.0% 4.2% 0.1% 2.7% 86.9% 0.0%