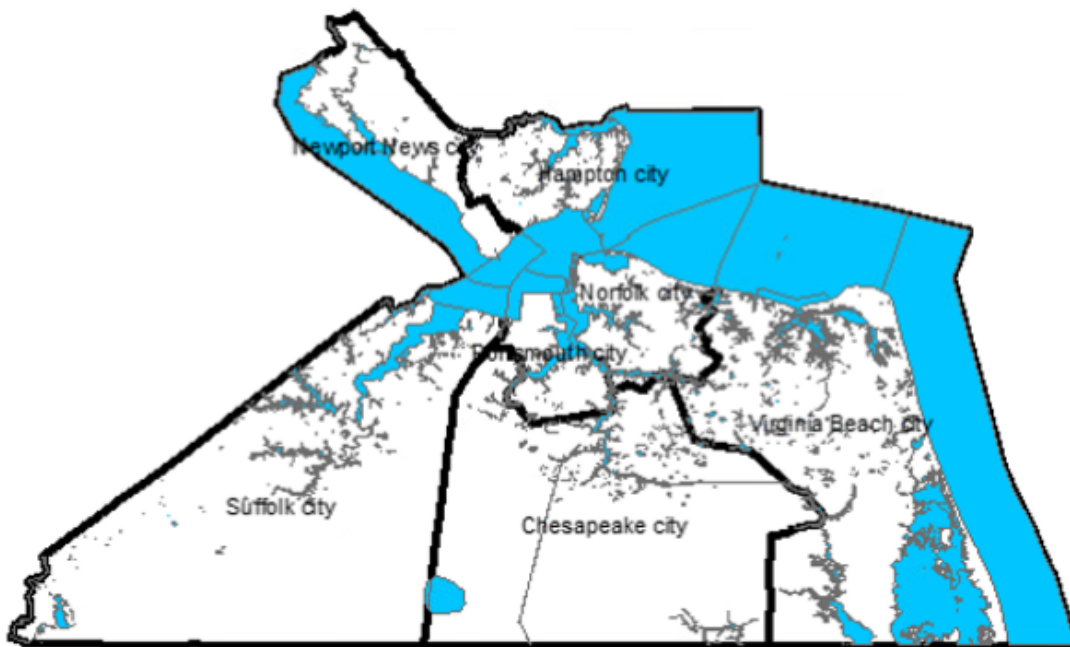

LIFE IN HAMPTON ROADS 2020

The 11th Annual Life in Hampton Roads Survey Report



Report compiled by Dr. Tancy Vandecar-Burdin, Dr. Randy Gainey, Dr. Jesse Richman, Dr. Josh Behr, Dr. Wie Yusuf, Dr. Nicole Hutton Shannon, Steve Parker, Wendi Wilson-John, James Valliere, & Brittany Haslem

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

For any questions concerning the data or report for the 2020 Life in Hampton Roads Survey, please contact Dr. Tancy Vandecar-Burdin (SSRC Director) at tvandeca@odu.edu

Contents

- Executive Summary 1
- Survey Methodology and Sample Demographics..... 4
 - Survey Methodology 4
 - Sample Demographic Coverage..... 6
- Quality of Life 11
 - Quality of Life in the Region 11
 - Quality of Life Perceptions Vary by City 13
 - Demographic Differences 15
- Employment and the Economy 19
 - Employment and COVID-19 19
 - Perceptions of the Economy 23
- Handling of Covid-19 26
 - National Response 26
 - State Response 27
 - Local Response 29
 - Media Information and Attention 30
 - More Restrictions? 30
- Covid-19 Detailed analysis: party, city of residence, and other factors 31
 - Trump pandemic response 31
 - State closing and opening orders 33
 - Local response 37
 - The media 38
 - More restrictions needed? 41
- Health and Health Concerns..... 43
 - General Health and Personal Concerns Regarding COVID-19 43
 - Perceptions and Self-Reported Behaviors Related to Risk-Reduction..... 45
 - To Test or Not to Test? 47
 - General Health & COVID: City Differences 49
 - Concern of Contracting the Coronavirus and being Hospitalized or Spreading the Virus 50
- COVID-19 and Education 52
 - Perceptions of School Closures and Potential Reopening 52

How Did the Public Schools Perform During the Closure?	57
Potential Lasting Difficulties for Some Students.....	58
Additional Analyses of Attitudes Surrounding School Closures/Opening	59
Hurricane Evacuation & Sheltering During COVID-19	65
Perceptions of Police	69
Experiences with Police	71
Protests in Hampton Roads and Police Response	74
Perceptions of & Experiences with Police Vary by City	75
Presidential Poll Results.....	79

Executive Summary

The Social Science Research Center (SSRC) at Old Dominion University is pleased to present the results from the 11th annual Life in Hampton Roads (LIHR) survey. The purpose of the survey was to gain insight into residents' perceptions of the quality of life in Hampton Roads. It is important to note that the methodology for this year's survey differs from previous Life in Hampton Roads surveys. The first ten years of the survey were conducted using a random sample of Hampton Roads residents via telephone. However, this year state and university COVID-19 restrictions did not allow for staffing of the SSRC call center during the survey period. Therefore, on-line survey panels were used to solicit respondents to complete a web-based survey. Given the pandemic conditions in Hampton Roads and the rest of the world, many of this year's questions focused on residents' experiences with and responses to COVID-19 conditions.

Despite the pandemic and stay-at-home restrictions, more than two-thirds of respondents rated the quality of life in the region as excellent or good (67.4%). About one in four rated Hampton Roads' quality of life as fair (25.8%) and 4.1% rated it as poor. Consistent with previous years, respondents rated the quality of life in their city and their neighborhood more highly than they did for the region as a whole. Seventy-one percent rated the quality of life in their city as good or excellent and 23.6% rated their city as fair. Only 4.2% rated their city's quality of life as poor. Neighborhood ratings of quality of life were the highest, with 78.8% rating their neighborhood as excellent or good. Only 18% rated their neighborhood quality of life as fair and a mere 2.4% rated it as poor.

- The impacts of the pandemic could be seen in responses to employment and the economy. About half of those responding to this year's survey (50.3%) were employed full-time while another 10.6% were employed part-time. Of those who reported working part-time or not working but looking for work, half indicated that they had been laid off, had hours reduced or been furloughed because of COVID-19 conditions. All respondents were asked if anyone else in their household had been laid off, furloughed or had hours reduced because of COVID-19 conditions. Almost one-third (32.2%) indicated yes.

- Hampton Roads residents had mixed perceptions of the economy but showed some optimism about their own financial situation. Less than half (48.2%) of those surveyed rated the economic conditions in Hampton Roads as excellent (5.5%) or good (42.7%). Respondents showed some optimism for the future, with 37% indicating that they think they and their family will be better off financially a year from now. Just under half (45.2%) think they will be the same and only 8.7% think they will be worse off. Residents are perhaps hopeful that the personal financial impacts of COVID-19 will be short-lived.
- There was no consensus among respondents about the best direction for public policy regarding restrictions due to COVID-19. However, the lean seemed to be toward more restrictions. Respondents were asked: “Thinking about restrictions on public activity because of the coronavirus outbreak in your area, do you think there should be” more or fewer restrictions. The modal response (42%) was that there should be “MORE restrictions right now” with only slightly more than half as many (23%) selecting the option that there should be “FEWER restrictions right now.” About 35% felt that there should be “about the same number of restrictions right now.”
- Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, about three-quarters of Hampton Roads residents felt that their health in general was good (55.8%) or excellent (19.6%). Only 2.7% rated their health as poor while one in five rated their health as fair (20.8%). Even though residents reported generally good health, they still expressed health-related concerns given COVID-19 conditions. More than two-thirds were at least somewhat concerned about spreading the virus to others without knowing it (67.8%). More than 60% were very concerned (28.3%) or somewhat concerned (35.5%) that they would get the coronavirus and require hospitalization. At the time of the survey, only 8% of respondents knew someone personally who had died as a result of the virus.
- All respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with statements about school closures including: “The decision to close the local public schools in March because of COVID-19 was the right decision.” More than 81% of respondents either strongly agreed (54.9%) or

agreed (26.5%) with this statement. Only 8% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the March school closings.

- Survey respondents were less certain on whether public schools should resume in-person classes in the fall. Just over 40% agreed or strongly agreed that in-person classes should resume while more than one in four respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed (27.3%). However, almost one-third (32.4%) neither agreed nor disagreed, which perhaps shows uncertainty about how the public schools should proceed.
- This year's survey data offers evidence of shifting risk perceptions and possibly changes in hurricane evacuation and sheltering behavior under the consideration of potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus. For example, if a major hurricane is forecast to hit Hampton Roads during this hurricane season, over half (55%) of survey respondents report they would not consider evacuating (29%) or were unsure about evacuating (26%).
- About two-thirds of respondents reported being very satisfied (31.6%) or somewhat satisfied (35.3%) with the local police. About one-quarter of respondents reported being either somewhat dissatisfied (13.7%) or very dissatisfied (11.8%), and 7.7% indicated that they did not know. However, perceptions vary significantly by race. Whites are much more likely than Blacks or other racial groups to be very satisfied with local police. Almost half of white respondents (49.4%) indicate that they are very satisfied compared to only 12.8% of Blacks and 23.8% of those in other racial groups. Close to half of Black respondents (46.5%) reported that they were somewhat or very dissatisfied with local police.

This year's report also includes breakdowns for many questions by race, gender, political party, and/or city of residence. In some cases, there are significant differences among these groups.

Survey Methodology and Sample Demographics

Survey Methodology

The Social Science Research Center (SSRC) at Old Dominion University recently completed data collection for the 11th annual Life in Hampton Roads (LIHR) survey. The purpose of the survey is to gain insight into residents' perceptions of the quality of life in Hampton Roads and the COVID-19 pandemic as well as other topics of local interest such as perceptions of police, employment, and other issues. Questions were generated through email invitations to faculty throughout the University community. Questions of interest were submitted, and the overall pool of questions was narrowed down by SSRC staff and former SSRC faculty directors. Several new questions, particularly those focused on residents' experiences and perceptions of COVID-19, were included along with several questions from previous Life in Hampton Roads surveys. Funding for the 2020 survey was provided by the Social Science Research Center. The SSRC would like to thank the College of Arts and Letters and the ODU Office of Research for their continued support of this survey.

A total of 1,105 on-line surveys were completed between June 26 and July 13, 2020 (during Phase 2 and Phase 3 of Virginia's re-opening). Of these, 1,100 were from residents of the seven Hampton Roads cities included in the Life in Hampton Roads survey and these constituted the final dataset.

It is important to note that the methodology for this year's survey differs from previous Life in Hampton Roads surveys. The first ten years of the survey were conducted using a random sample of Hampton Roads residents via telephone. However, this year state and university COVID-19 restrictions did not allow for staffing of the SSRC call center during the survey period. Therefore, two different panels were used to solicit respondents to complete a web-based survey. The first panel was obtained from Qualtrics which partners with over 20 online sample providers to supply a network of diverse respondents (for more information, please see <https://www.qualtrics.com/research-services/online-sample/>). Qualtrics panel participants are recruited from various sources, including website intercept

recruitment, member referrals, targeted email lists, gaming sites, customer loyalty web portals, permission-based networks, and social media. The second panel was a proprietary SSRC panel which consisted of Hampton Roads residents who had previously participated in a Life in Hampton Roads telephone survey between 2014 and 2019, provided their email address at the end of the interview, and agreed to be contacted for future web-based surveys.

This change in methodology limits to at least some degree the ability to compare this year's survey results with results from previous years or to confidently generalize the results to the Hampton Roads population as a whole. Because the online panels used for this survey (with the partial exception of the SSRC panel) are opt-in rather than randomly sampled, we have not calculated random sampling-based confidence intervals for this year's survey. Nonetheless, we note that an increasing number of surveys have moved online in recent years, and that in many instances, useful data has been developed despite the challenges of online survey research. Furthermore, given the low response rates often achieved from random samples, much public opinion survey research has arguably been in an "opt-in non-probability-sample" space for some time.

As with most other samples (given non-response issues), on-line panels have issues with coverage as some demographic groups are more or less likely to have access to and regularly use the internet, and some groups are more likely to respond to requests to complete a survey. As with most survey research, the primary response to this challenge involves the use of survey weights to place more weight on responses from individuals who belong to demographic groups less likely to respond relative to their prevalence in the population. Weighting was conducted using iterative adjustment of survey weights, a process known as "raking" in the survey literature. In addition to standard demographic variables, we also weighted on availability of broadband internet in the household.

It is important to note that in all years of the Life in Hampton Roads survey, there was a tendency for samples to over-represent women and whites. In previous years, and particularly with land-line based

telephone, the sample also tended to overrepresent older individuals. With a switch to online panels, we saw this tendency reverse, with a modest tendency for younger individuals to make up a larger share of the respondents than they represent in the overall population. In order to better represent the overall Hampton Roads population, a weight variable was computed, and the data files were weighted to correct for discrepancies in age, race, gender, and internet usage between the survey sample and the population of each Hampton Roads city. Data were also weighted on city of residence in order to maintain the representativeness of the sample with regard to the population distribution in Hampton Roads.

Sample Demographic Coverage

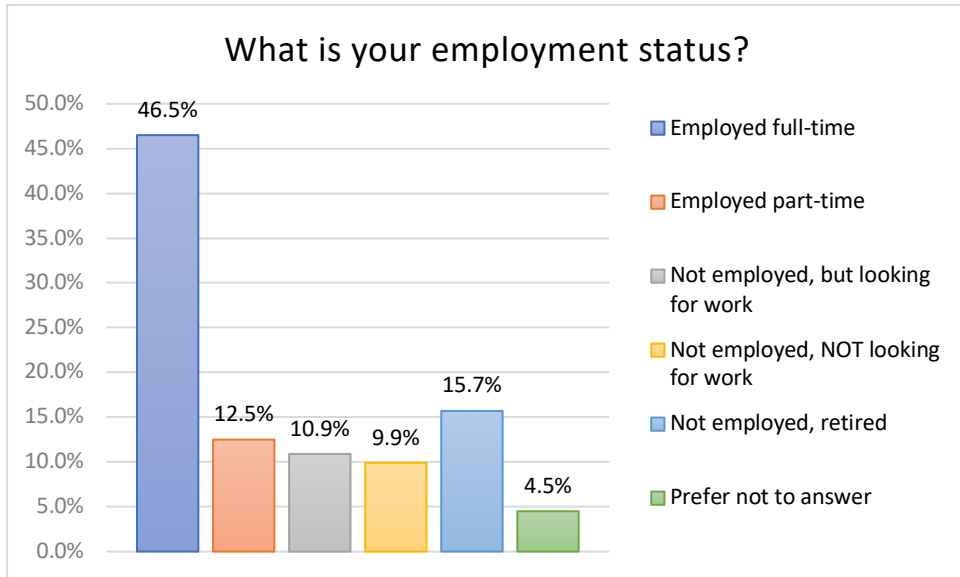
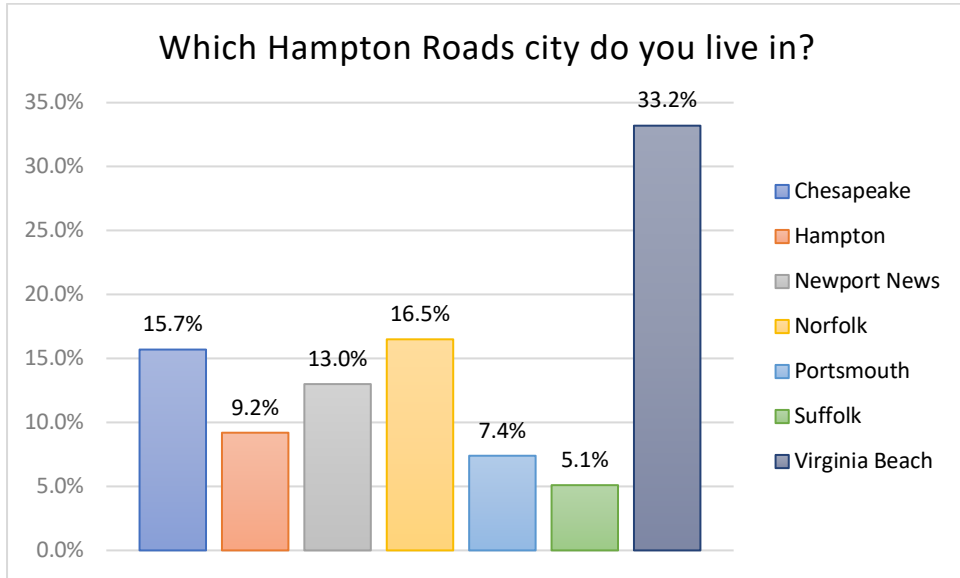
Unlike nearly all other data presented in the 2020 LIHR survey report, demographic data described here is presented unweighted in order to give curious readers a sense of the demographic coverage achieved by the survey. Of the 1,100 citizens interviewed, 59.9 percent were white, 28.7 percent Black or African-American, 9.6 percent considered themselves to be another race/ethnicity; including 0.6 percent American Indian or Alaskan Native, 0.5 percent Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 3.0 percent Asian, and 5.4 percent indicated they were multiracial. In a separate question, 7.5 percent of respondents indicated that they were of Hispanic/Latino origin. More than 40 percent (43.2%) of the respondents received a high school diploma or GED, completed trade or professional school, or attended some college. An additional 40.2 percent of respondents completed an undergraduate or graduate degree. Almost half of respondents were married (44.8%) and 14.2 percent were divorced, separated, or widowed. Slightly less than one-third of those surveyed were single and not living with a partner (30.5%) while just over 10 percent reported being single and living with a partner (10.4%).

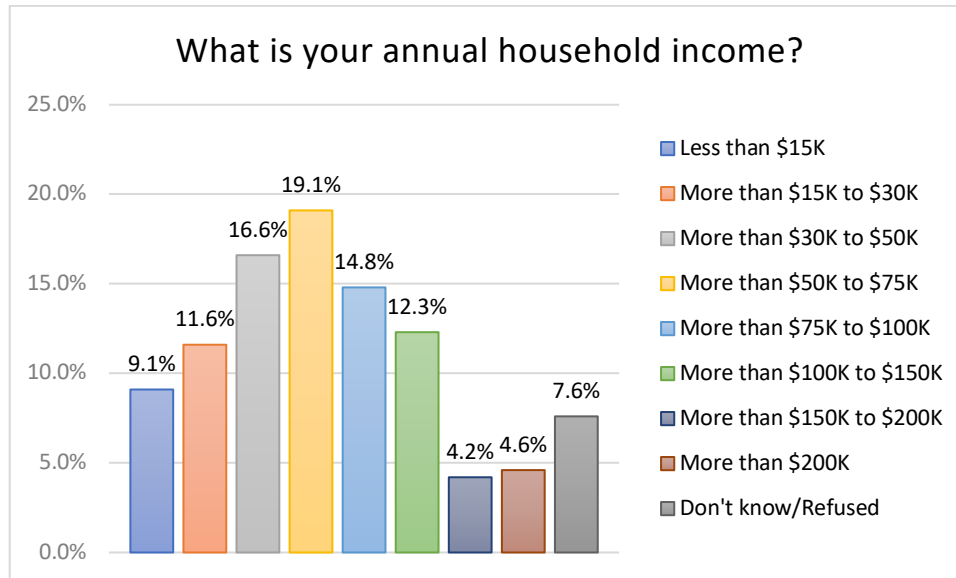
Race or Ethnicity	Percentage
White	59.9%
Black or African-American	28.7%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.6%
Asian	3.0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.5%

Race or Ethnicity	Percentage
Multiracial	5.4%
Other	0.1%
Don't Know/Refused	1.7%
Hispanic/Latino Origin	7.5%
Gender	Percentage
Male	33.9%
Female	65.3%
Highest level of school completed	Percentage
Some grade school	0.6%
Some high school	3.6%
High school diploma/GED	19.1%
Completed trade/professional school	3.6%
Some college	20.5%
Associate's degree	11.7%
Bachelor's degree	22.9%
Graduate degree	17.3%
Other	0.1%
Don't Know/Refused	0.5%
Age	Age in years
Average age (years)	42.8
Marital Status	Percentage
Single, not living with partner	30.5%
Single, living with partner	10.4%
Married	44.8%
Divorced/separated	10.3%
Widowed	3.9%
Don't Know/Refused	0.0%

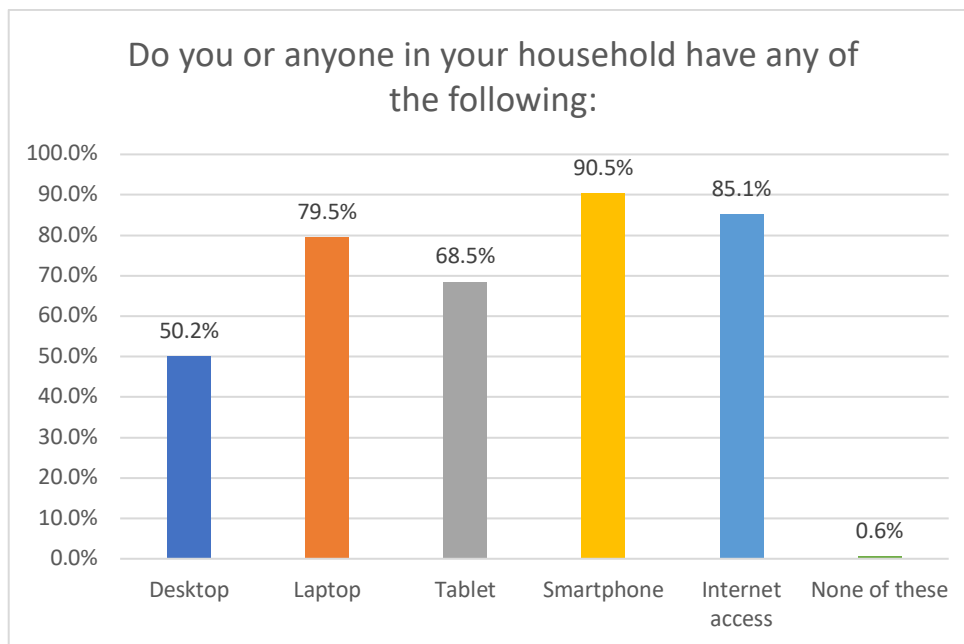
Consistent with population estimates from the census, the majority of respondents lived in three of the seven major cities, Virginia Beach (33.2%), Norfolk (16.5%) and Chesapeake (15.7%). The majority of survey participants were employed (59.0%), 12.5 percent worked part-time while 46.5 percent reported that they worked full-time. Of the remaining respondents, 15.7 percent were retired, 10.9 percent were unemployed but looking for work, and 9.9 percent were not employed and not looking for work. A small percentage (20.7%) of participants reported their family household income for last year as

\$30,000 or less, 35.7 percent reported earning more than \$30,000 to \$75,000, while 35.9 percent earned more than \$75,000.

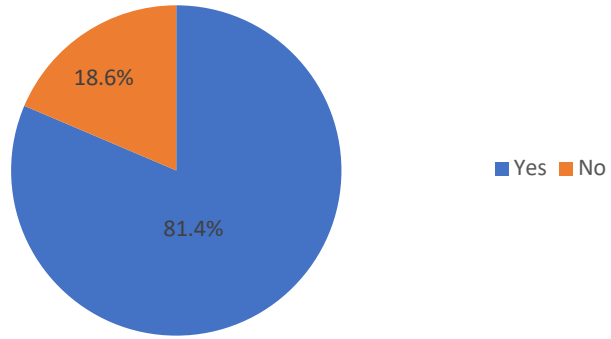




Respondents were also asked if they or anyone in their household had certain types of technology as well as access to the internet. Ninety percent of respondents reported having a smartphone and 80 percent have a laptop. Nearly 70 percent reported having a tablet or other computing device (68.5%) and half of the respondents have a desktop computer. Eighty-five percent reportedly have access to the internet and of those who have access to the internet, 81.4 percent have broadband internet access.



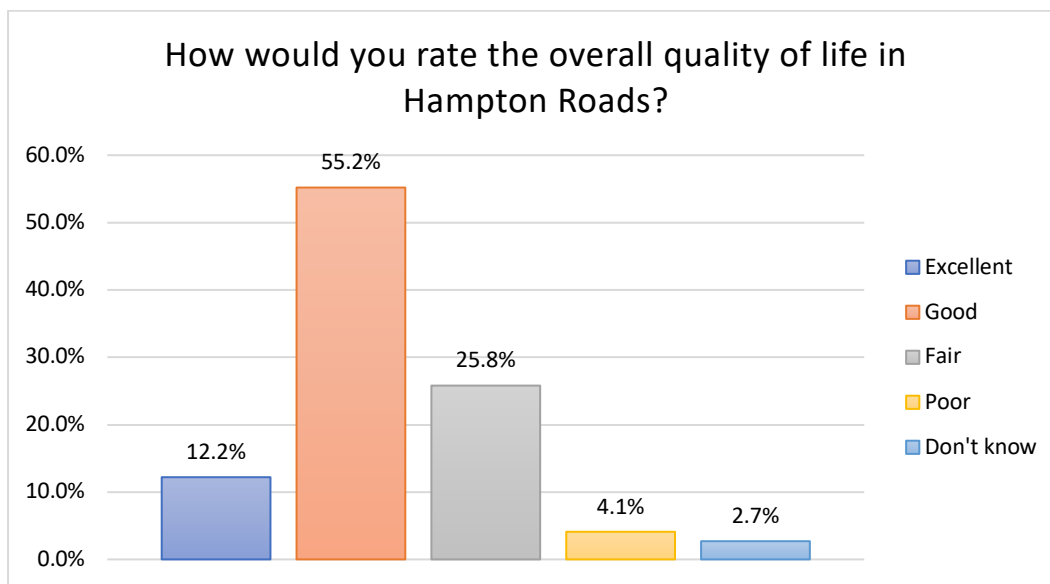
Is your internet access broadband internet?



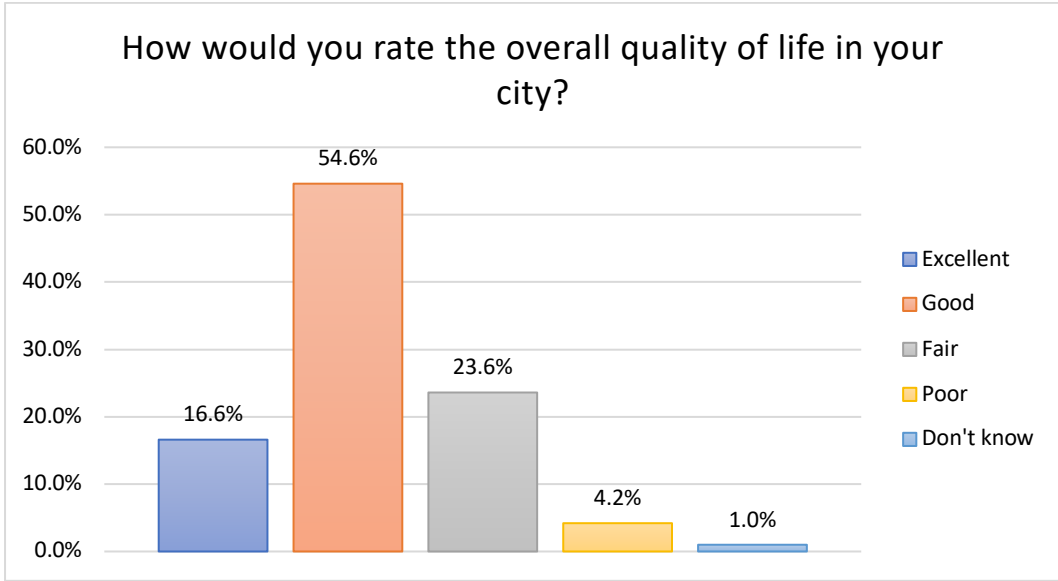
Quality of Life

Quality of Life in the Region

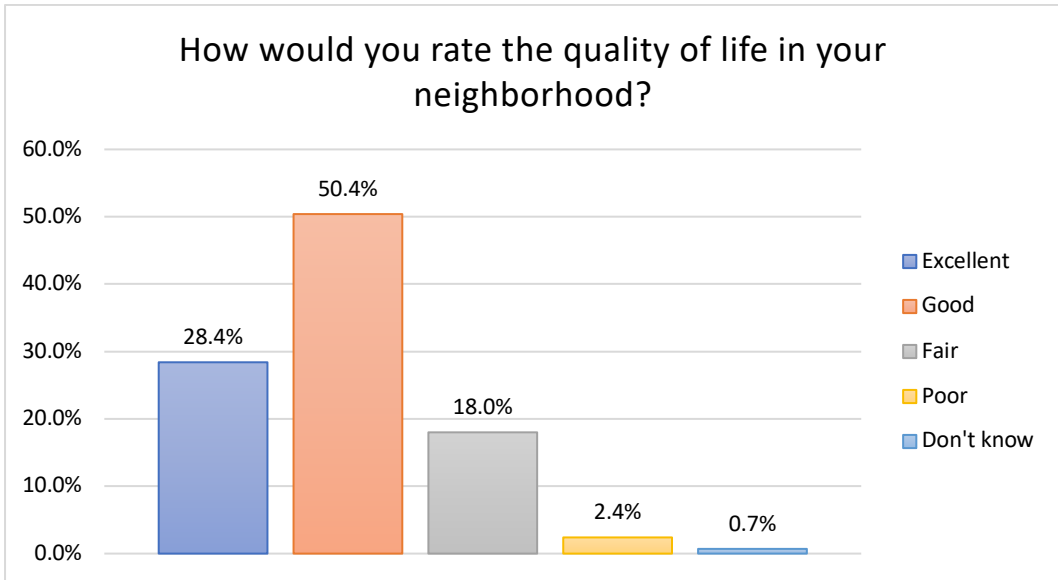
Despite the pandemic and stay-at-home restrictions, more than two-thirds of respondents rated the quality of life in the region as excellent or good (67.4%). About one in four rated Hampton Roads' quality of life as fair (25.8%) and 4.1% rated it as poor.



Consistent with previous years, respondents rated the quality of life in their city and their neighborhood more highly than they did for the region as a whole. Seventy-one percent rated the quality of life in their city as good or excellent and 23.6% rated their city as fair. Only 4.2% rated their city's quality of life as poor.



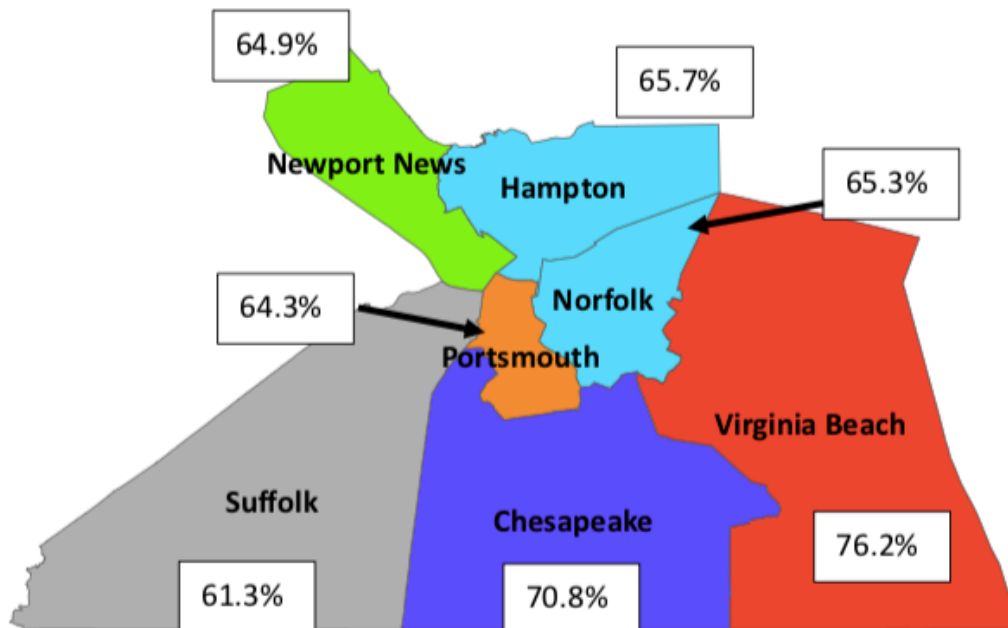
Neighborhood ratings of quality of life were the highest, with 78.8% rating their neighborhood as excellent or good. Only 18% rated their neighborhood quality of life as fair and a mere 2.4% rated it as poor.



Quality of Life Perceptions Vary by City

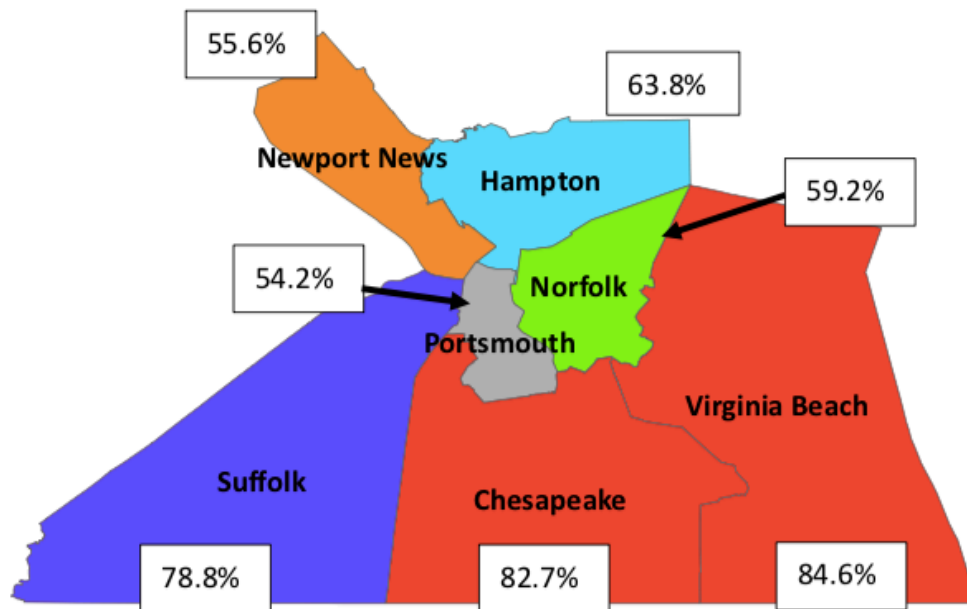
The ratings varied based on the city where respondents live. Regarding overall life in the region, residents of Virginia Beach (76.2%) and Chesapeake (70.8%) were most likely to rate the quality of life as excellent or good. Fewer than two-thirds of residents in the other cities rated regional quality of life as excellent or good.

% of City Residents Rating the Quality of Life in the Hampton Roads Area as Good or Excellent



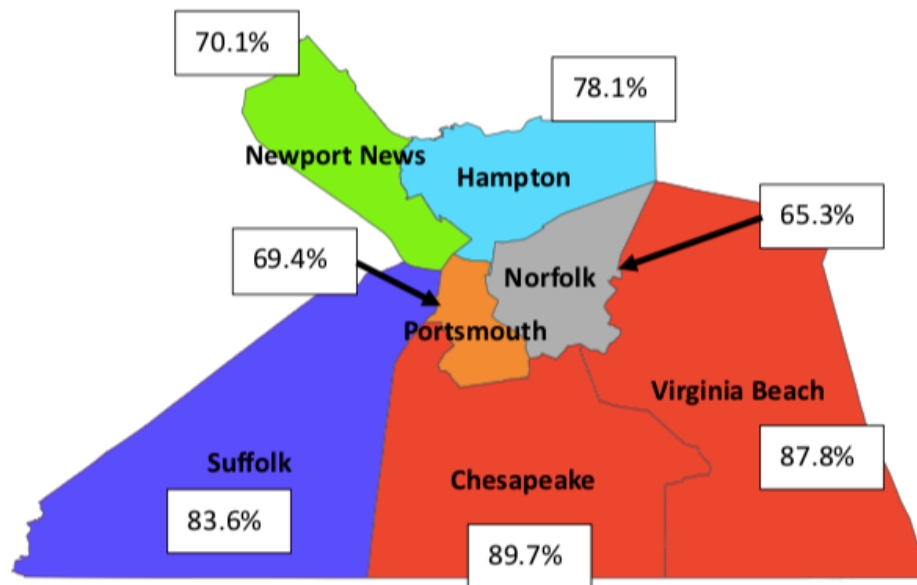
The differences are more pronounced, however, when looking at ratings of one's neighborhood and city. More than four in five residents in Virginia Beach (84.6%) and Chesapeake (82.7%) rated their city as excellent or good compared to only about 55% in Newport News (55.6%) and Portsmouth (54.2%). More than three-quarters of Suffolk residents rated their city's quality of life as excellent or good (78.8%).

**% of City Residents Rating the Quality of Life
in their City as Good or Excellent**



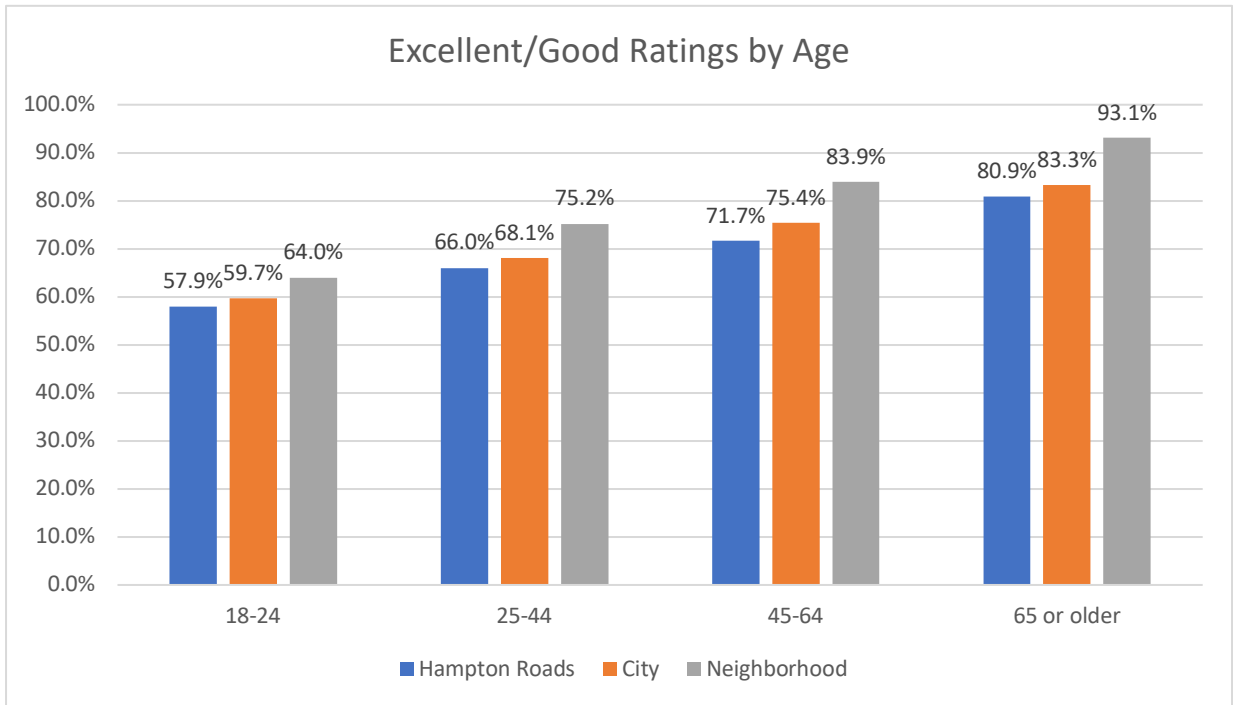
Almost 90% of Chesapeake residents rated their neighborhood quality of life as excellent or good as did 87.8% of residents in Virginia Beach. About seven in 10 residents in Newport News (70.1%) and Portsmouth (69.4%) rated the neighborhoods as excellent or good and fewer than two-thirds of Norfolk (65.3%) residents rated their neighborhood highly.

% of City Residents Rating the Quality of Life in their Neighborhood as Good or Excellent

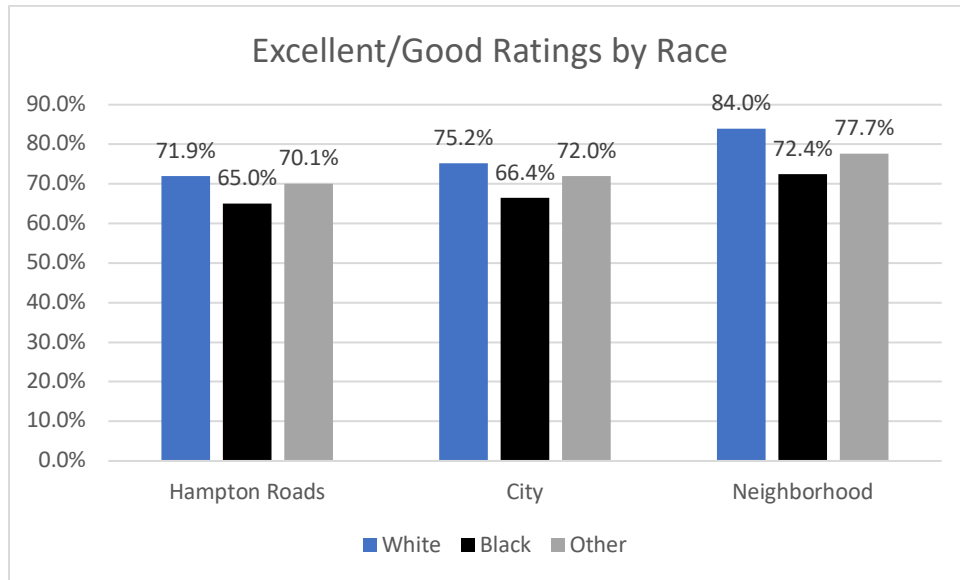


Demographic Differences

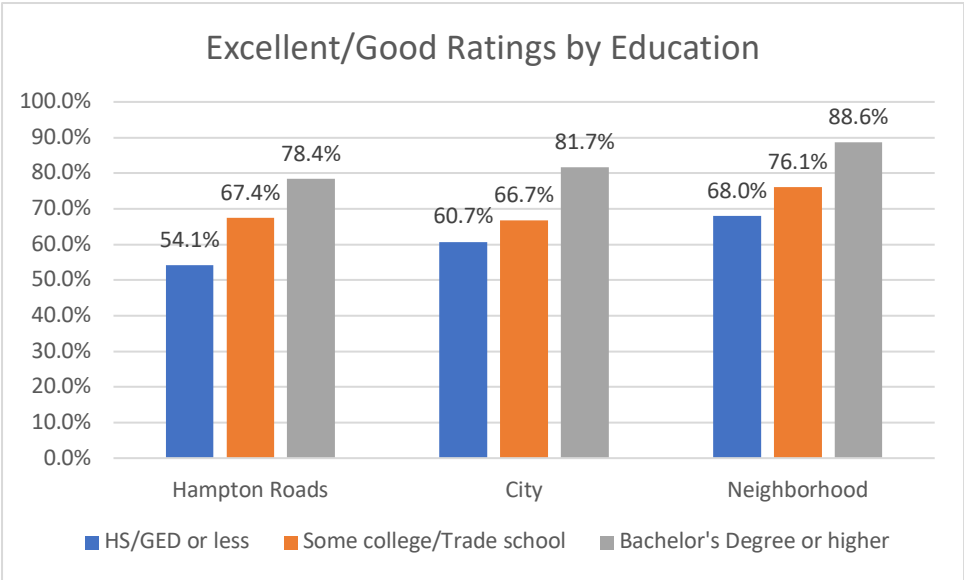
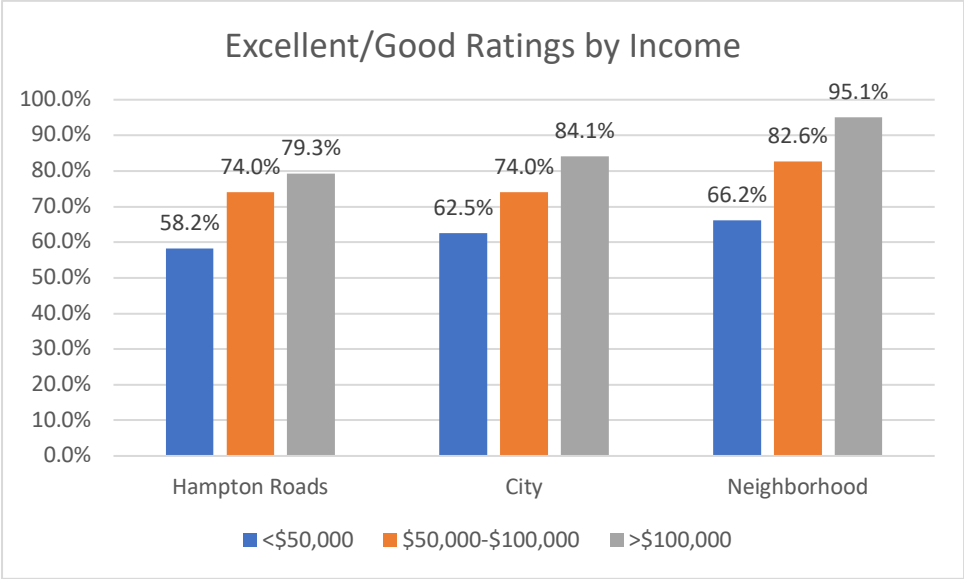
The quality of life ratings varied across certain demographic characteristics of the respondents. While there were not significant differences between males and females, the ratings of region, city and neighborhood were significantly different across age groups with higher ratings increasing with age. Those in the youngest age group (18-24) were less likely to rate the quality of life anywhere (region, city, neighborhood) as excellent or good compared to those in the oldest age groups. For example, only 64% of 18- to 24-year-olds rated the quality of life in their neighborhood as excellent or good compared to 93.1% of those ages 65 and older (almost a 30% difference). Those respondents who were 65 and older rated quality of life in the region, their neighborhood, and their city higher than all other age groups.



Ratings also differed significantly by race for one’s city and neighborhood. About two-thirds (66.4%) of Black respondents rated the quality of life in their city as excellent or good compared to three-quarters of whites (75.2%) and 72% of those in other racial groups. While 84% of whites rated the quality of life in their neighborhood as excellent or good, only 72.4% of Blacks did so as did 77.7% of other racial groups. And while not significant for the region as a whole, Blacks still rated the quality of life in Hampton Roads lower than whites and other racial groups.



Finally, quality of life ratings varied significantly by education and household income. The results for income show that respondents living in households making less than \$50,000 per year were much less likely to rate the quality of life for the region, their city and their neighborhood as excellent or good compared to respondents living in households making more than \$100,000 per year. The largest difference (about 30%) can be seen in neighborhood quality of life ratings with about two-thirds (66.2%) of respondents making less than \$50,000 rating their neighborhood quality of life as excellent or good compared to 95.1% of those making more than \$100,000. The results and trends for education were similar with respondents with a bachelor's degree rating quality of life higher than those with a high school education/GED or less.

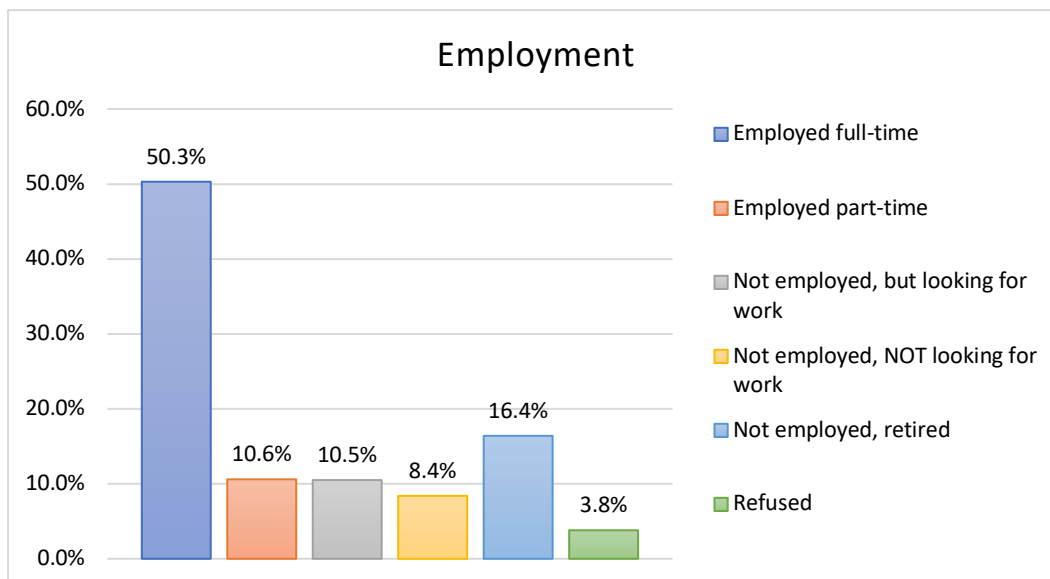


Employment and the Economy

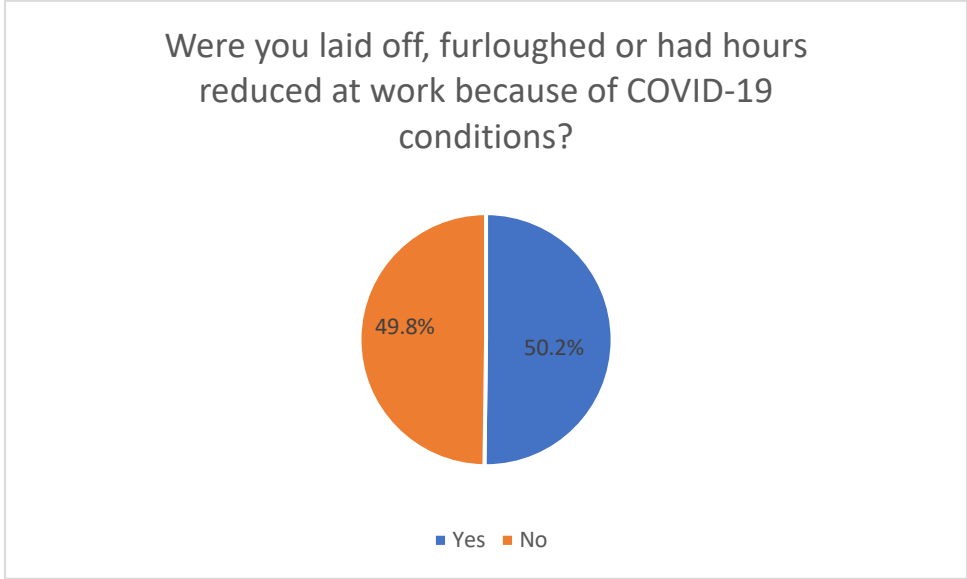
This year's survey included general questions about employment and economy as well as the impact of COVID-19 on work conditions. These data provide insight into how residents in Hampton Roads perceive the economy and how work conditions may have changed as a result. This year's survey also included some general questions about diversity in the workplace.

Employment and COVID-19

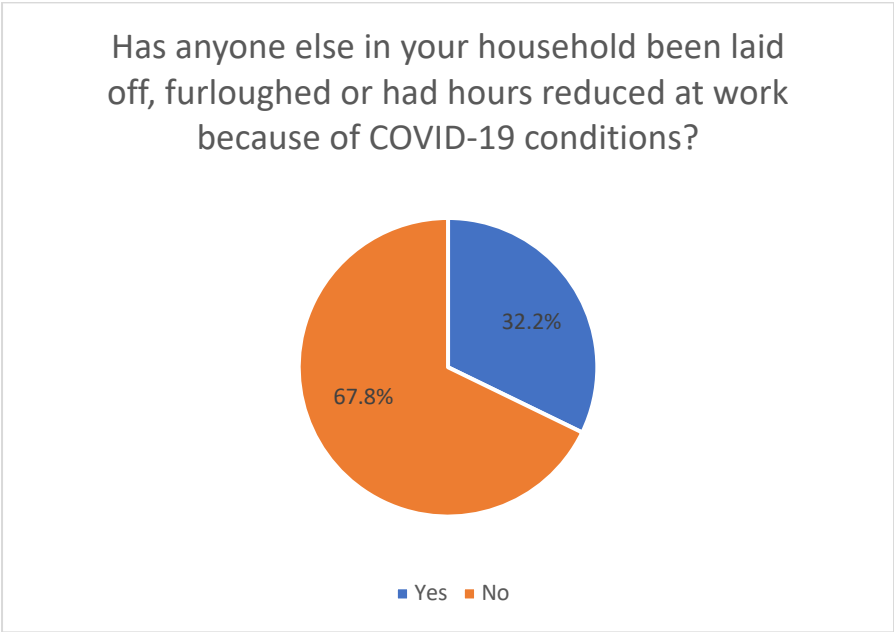
As can be seen from the graph below, about half of those responding to this year's survey were employed full-time while another 10.6% were employed part-time. Just over 16% were retired. About 10% were not employed but looking for work while 8.4% were not employed and not looking for work.



Of those who reported working part-time or not working but looking for work, half indicated that they had been laid off, had hours reduced or been furloughed because of COVID-19 conditions.

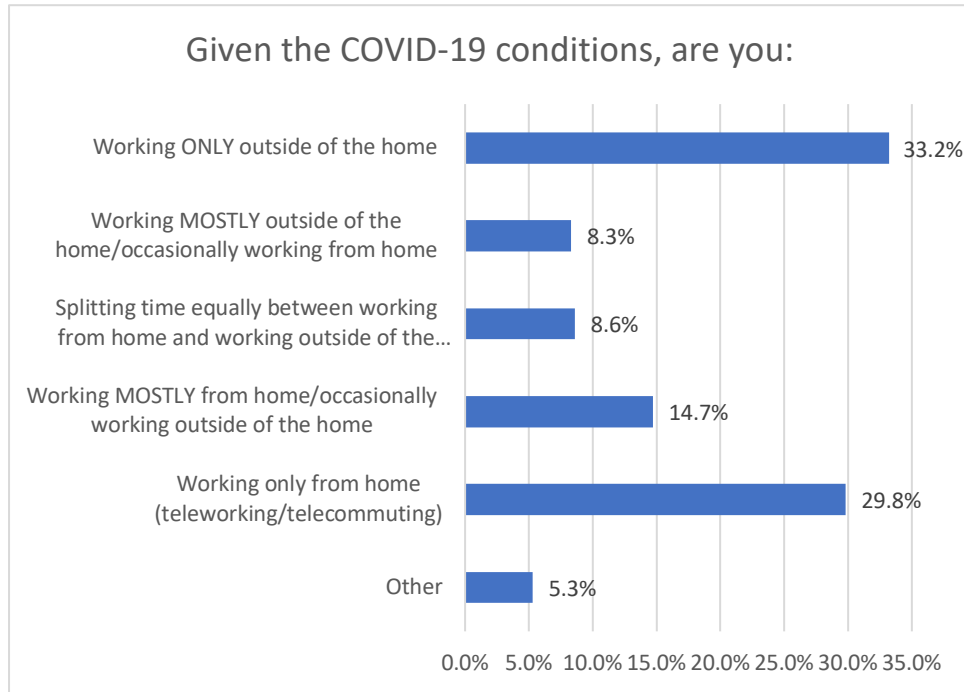


Additionally, all respondents were asked if anyone else in their household had been laid off, furloughed or had hours reduced because of COVID-19 conditions. Almost one-third (32.2%) indicated yes. The survey responses show the extent of the impact of COVID-19 on the working conditions of Hampton Roads residents.

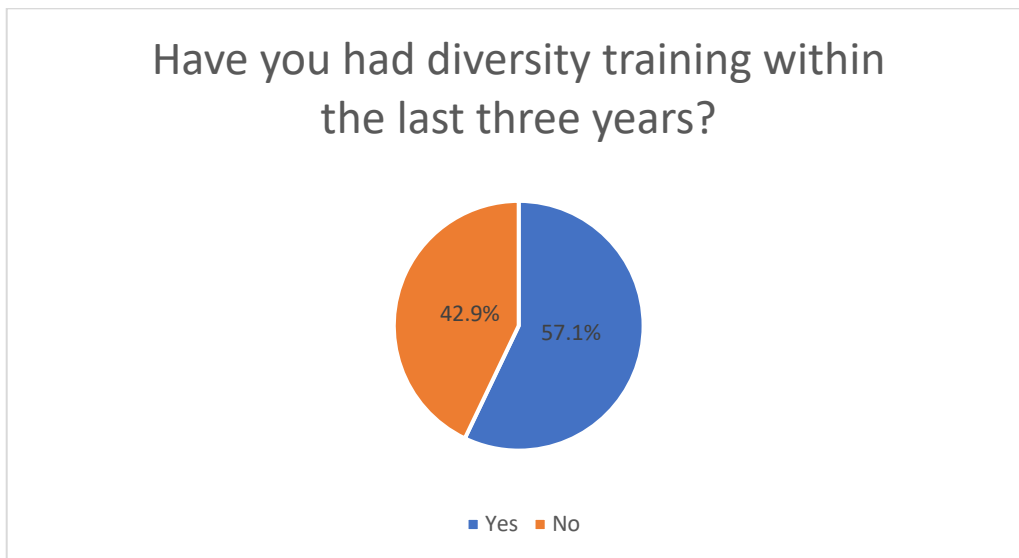


Respondents who reported working full- or part-time were asked about their work location given COVID-19 conditions. One-third of respondents indicated that they were working only outside of the home (33.2%), while 29.8% reported that they were working only from home

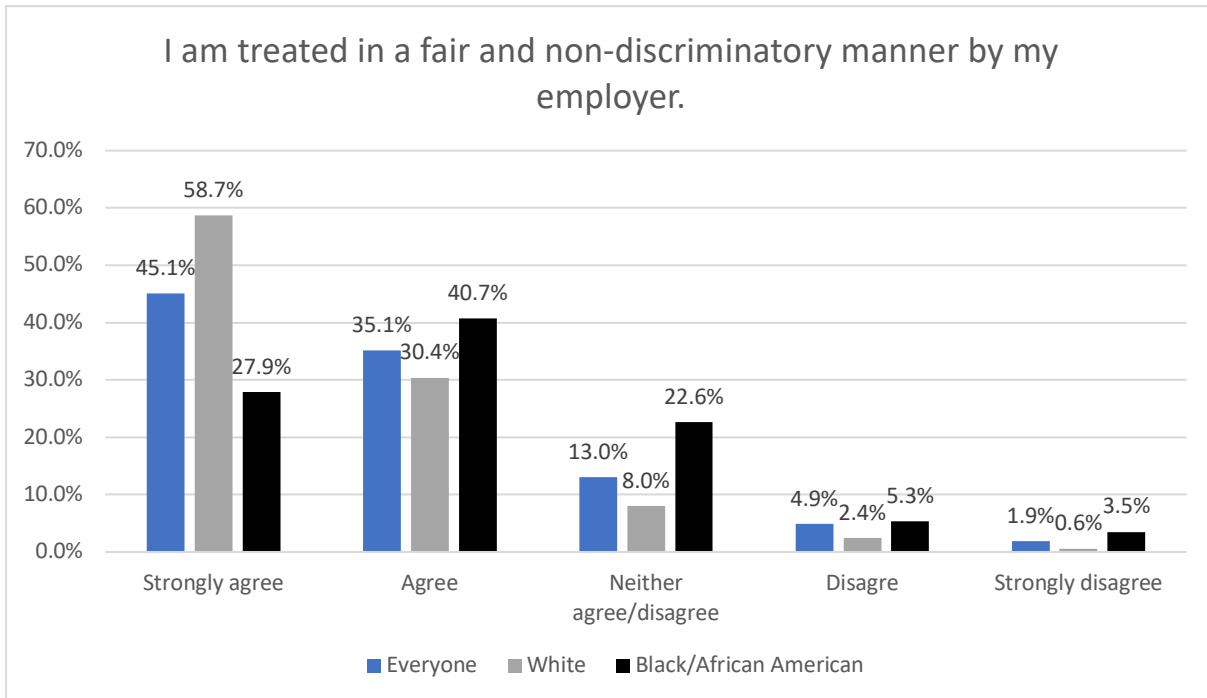
(telecommuting/teleworking) and another 14.7% reported that they were working mostly from home and only occasionally outside of the home. Another 8.6% indicated that they were splitting time equally between working from and outside of the home.



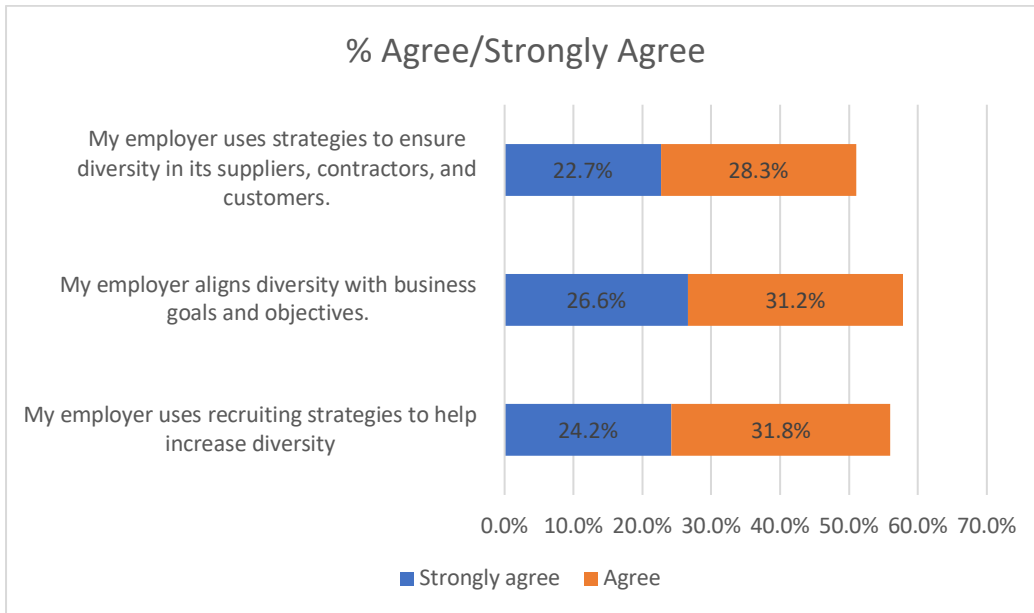
This year’s survey included questions about diversity in the workplace. Nearly 43% of respondents who work full or part-time indicated that they have not had diversity training within the past three years.



While 80% of all respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they are treated in a fair, non-discriminatory manner by their employer, there were significant differences between white and Black respondents. Over 89% of white respondents indicated that they were treated fairly while only 68.6% of Black respondents felt the same. There is a 30 percentage-point difference between white and Black respondents who strongly agree that they are treated fairly (58.7% compared to 27.9%).

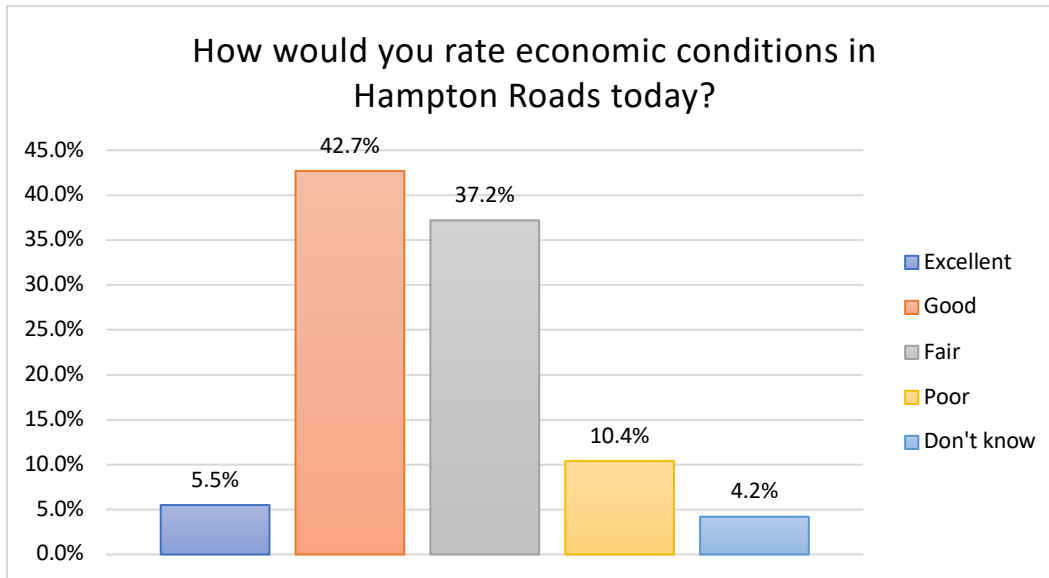


Respondents who were employed also answered questions about their employer’s diversity practices. About half (51%) agreed that their employer uses strategies to ensure diversity in its suppliers, contractors and customers, while 57.8% agreed that their employer aligns diversity with business goals and objectives. Fifty-six percent agreed that their employer uses recruiting strategies to help increase diversity. These items did have about one-third of respondents indicate “neither agree nor disagree,” which may reflect that respondents were not sure if their employers engaged in these strategies.

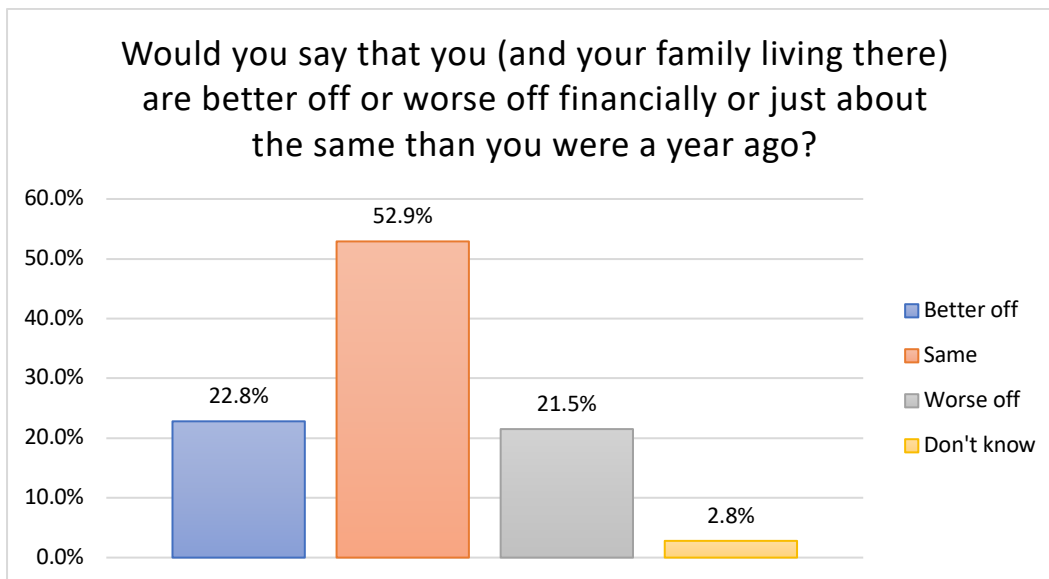


Perceptions of the Economy

Hampton Roads residents had mixed perceptions of the economy but showed some optimism about their own financial situation. Less than half (48.2%) of those surveyed rated the economic conditions in Hampton Roads as excellent (5.5%) or good (42.7%). More than one-third (37.2%) rated economic conditions as fair and 10.4% rated them as poor. Interestingly, despite the impacts of COVID-19, these ratings are not that much different than in past years of the survey. Last year, 49.9% of respondents rated economic conditions as good or excellent. This year's ratings are actually higher than in 2018 (45.3% rating excellent or good).

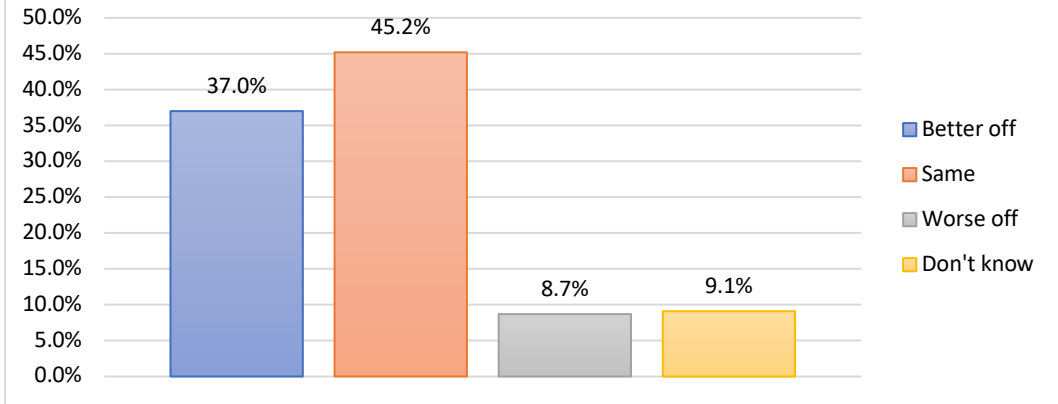


When asked if they and their family were better or worse off financially compared to a year ago, 22.8% reported that they were better off and 52.9% reported that they were about the same. About one in five (21.5%) indicated that they and their family were worse off financially.



Respondents showed some optimism for the future, with 37% indicating that they think they and their family will be better off financially a year from now. Just under half (45.2%) think they will be the same and only 8.7% think they will be worse off. Residents are perhaps hopeful that the personal financial impacts of COVID-19 will be short-lived.

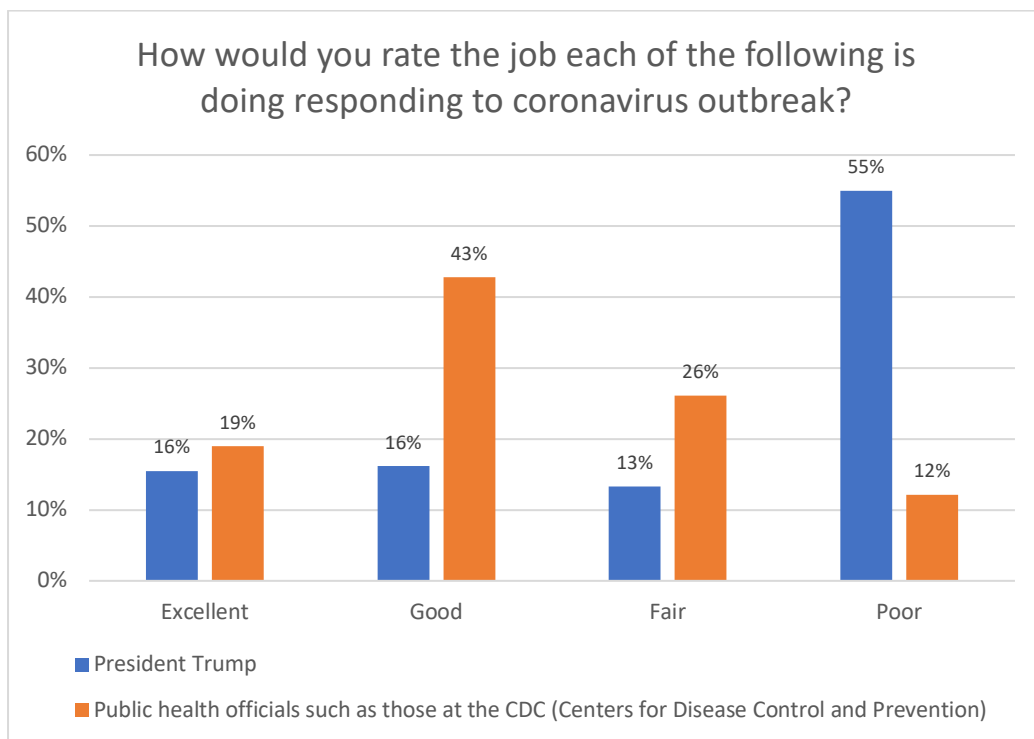
Do you think that a year from now you (and your family living there) will be better off financially, worse off, or just about the same as now?



Handling of Covid-19

National Response

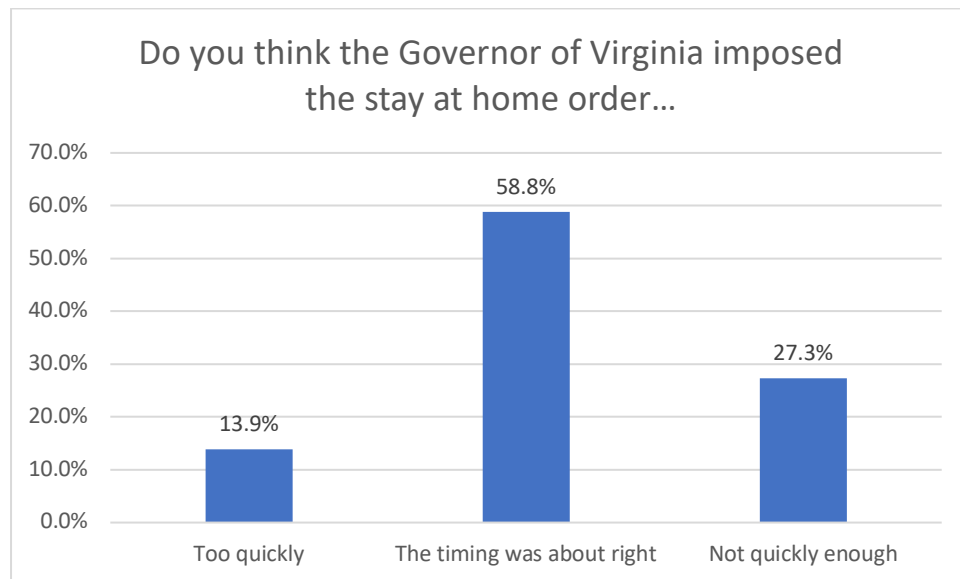
Opinion about the national government’s response to the pandemic was split, with public health officials receiving relatively positive ratings and President Trump receiving decidedly negative ratings. When respondents were asked to rate the job being done by “public health officials such as those at the CDC,” a majority (62%¹) gave an “excellent” (19%) or “good” (43%) rating. About one in four (26%) gave public health officials a “fair” rating, and 12% gave a “poor” rating. Only about one-third gave President Trump an “excellent” or “good” rating (16% for each category). By contrast, 55% gave the president a “poor” rating on the question: “How would you rate the job each of the following is doing responding to the coronavirus outbreak?”



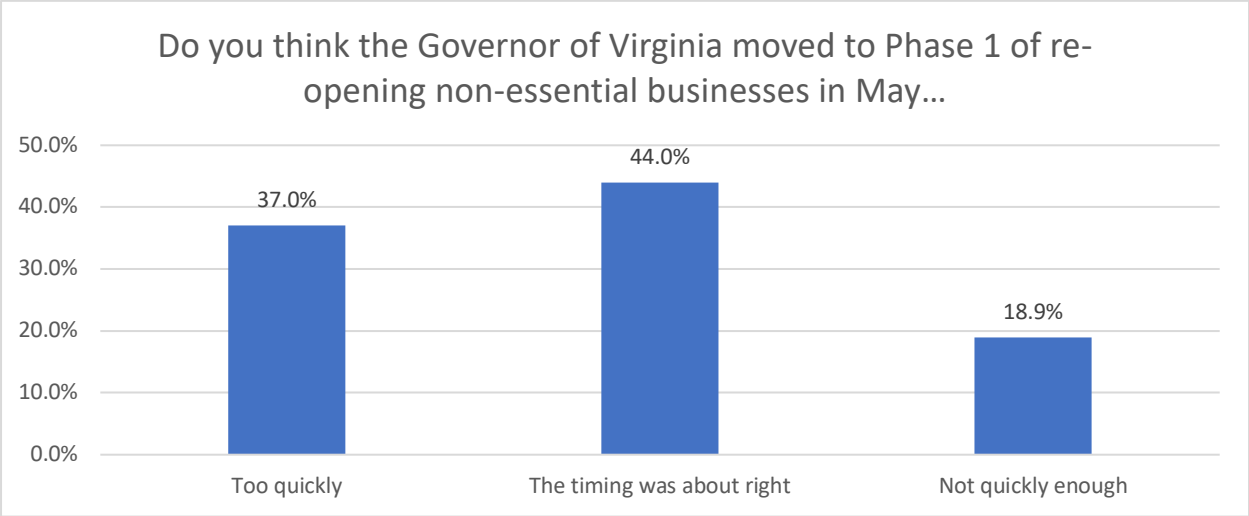
¹ Given the amount of data presented in some of the charts/graphs in this section, some of the percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number to improve readability.

State Response

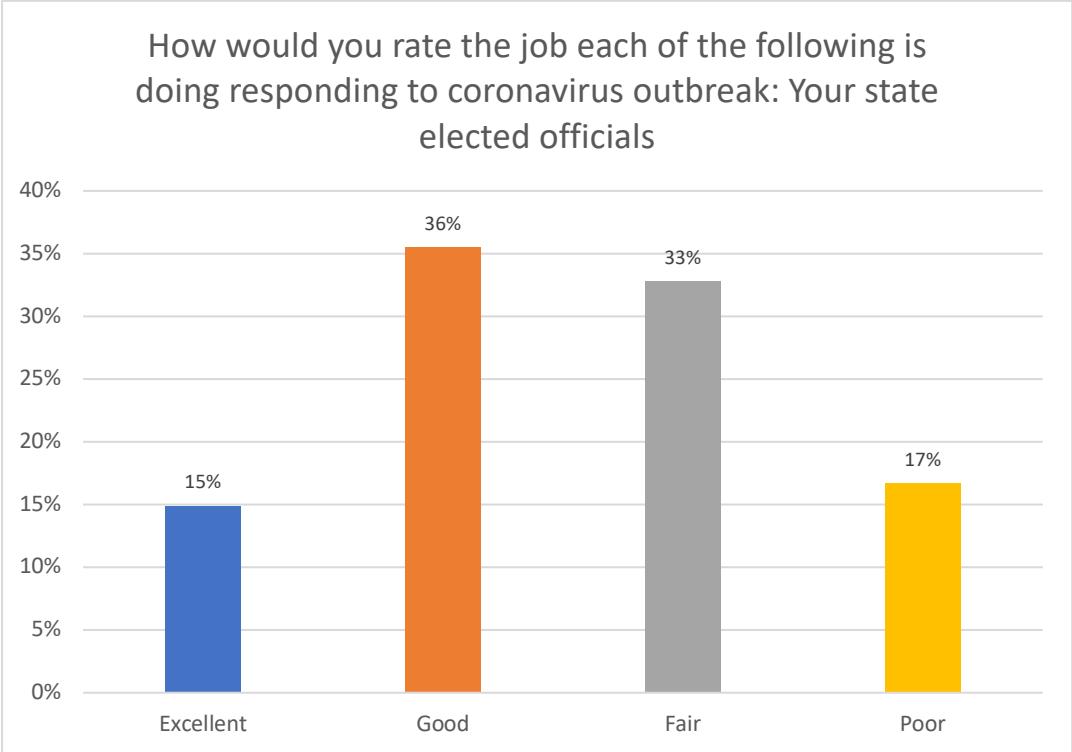
One controversial issue in many states has been governors' decisions to impose and lift stay-at-home orders. Respondents were asked whether they believed the governor of Virginia had imposed the stay-at-home order too quickly, not quickly enough or with timing that was just about right. Very few respondents (14%) thought the governor imposed the order too quickly. Roughly twice as many (27%) thought that the order was not imposed quickly enough. A majority (59%) thought that "the timing was about right."



Opinion was slightly more divided but again leaning toward more caution about the decision to "move to Phase 1 of reopening nonessential businesses in May," with slightly less than one-fifth of respondents (19%) expressing the view that the move was not done "quickly enough," whereas 37% indicated that it was done "too quickly." Additionally, 44% indicated that the opening "timing was about right."



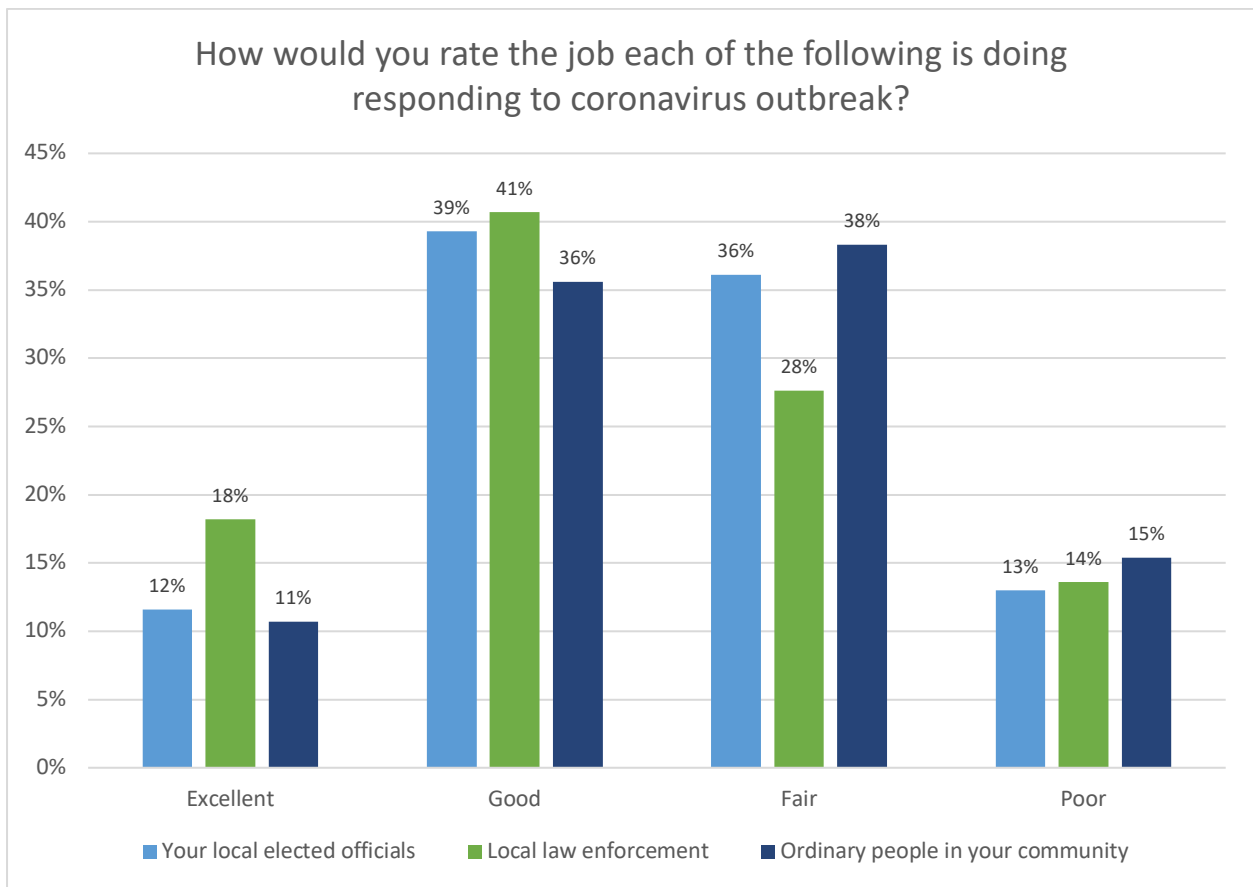
Overall, state elected officials received mixed grades on the question: “How would you rate the job each of the following is doing responding to the coronavirus outbreak?” About 15% of respondents gave “state elected officials” an excellent rating, and nearly 17% gave them a poor rating. Most respondents were in the middle, with 35.5% giving a “good” rating and nearly 33% giving a “fair” rating. Just over half of respondents (50.5%) gave state elected officials an “excellent” or “good” rating.



Local Response

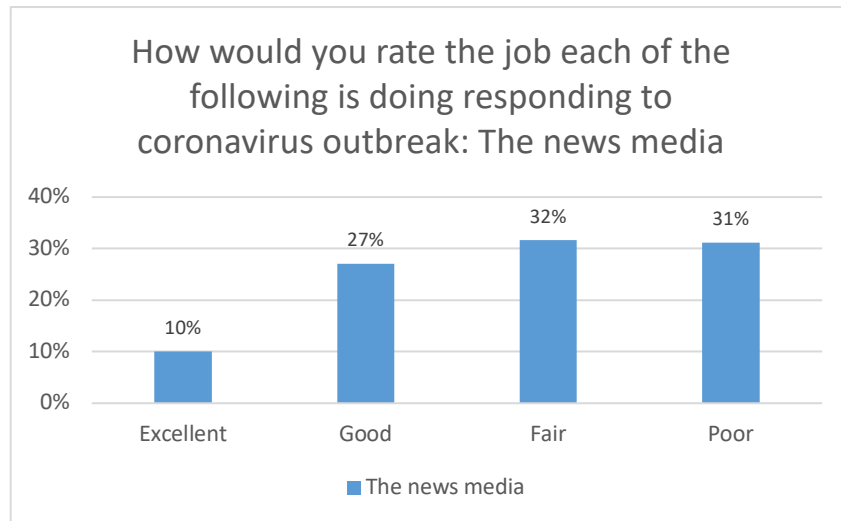
Local elected officials received mixed ratings similar to state elected officials. “Excellent” and “good” ratings totaled 51% (12% “excellent” and 39% “good”), while 36% gave a “fair” rating and 13% gave a “poor” rating. The coronavirus response by “local law enforcement” received similar ratings, with 18% giving an “excellent” rating, 41% a “good” rating, 28% a “fair” rating, and 14% a “poor” rating.

Respondents were somewhat less positive about “ordinary people in your local community,” with only 47% giving an “excellent” (11%) or “good” (36%) rating and 15% giving a “poor” rating.



Media Information and Attention

Respondents gave low marks to the news media. Just 10% gave an “excellent” rating, whereas 31% gave a “poor” rating, and 32% gave a “fair” rating. With 27% giving the media a “good” rating, just over a third (37%) gave the media a positive rating.



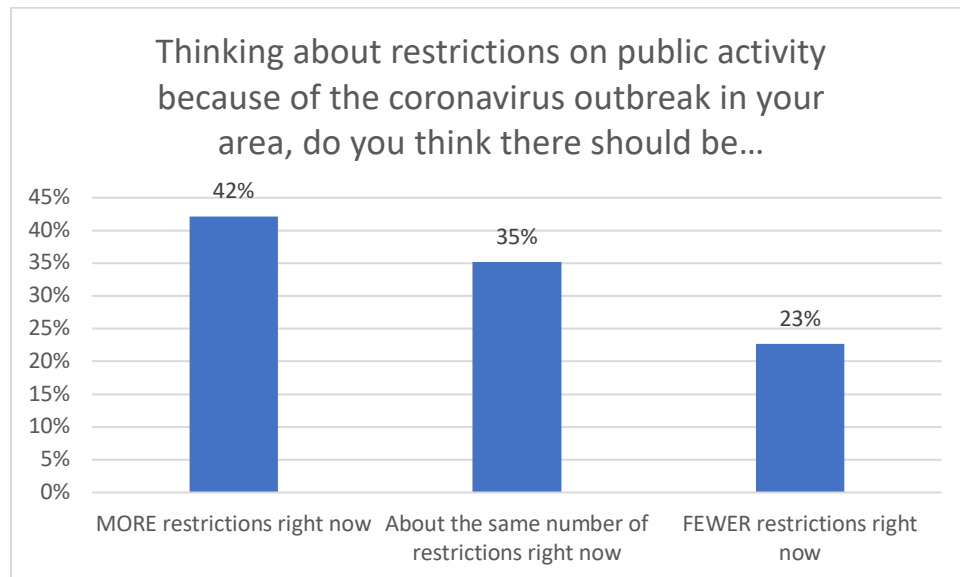
Perhaps related to the low ratings for the media, a majority of respondents (56%) indicated that when they “get news and information about the coronavirus outbreak” they generally found it “difficult to determine what is true and what is not,” while 44% indicated that they found it “easy to determine what is true and what is not.”

Respondents were equally divided concerning the question of how much emphasis should be placed on the coronavirus outbreak. When asked “All in all, do you think the coronavirus outbreak has been “made too big a deal or too small a deal,” 31% selected the response that it has been “made a BIGGER deal than it really is,” a slightly larger number (35%) indicated that it has been “made a SMALLER deal than it really is,” and the remaining 33% took the view that it has been “approached about right.”

More Restrictions?

There was no consensus among respondents about the best direction for public policy in their area, but the lean seemed to be toward more restrictions. Respondents were asked: “Thinking about restrictions on public activity because of the coronavirus outbreak IN YOUR AREA, do you think there

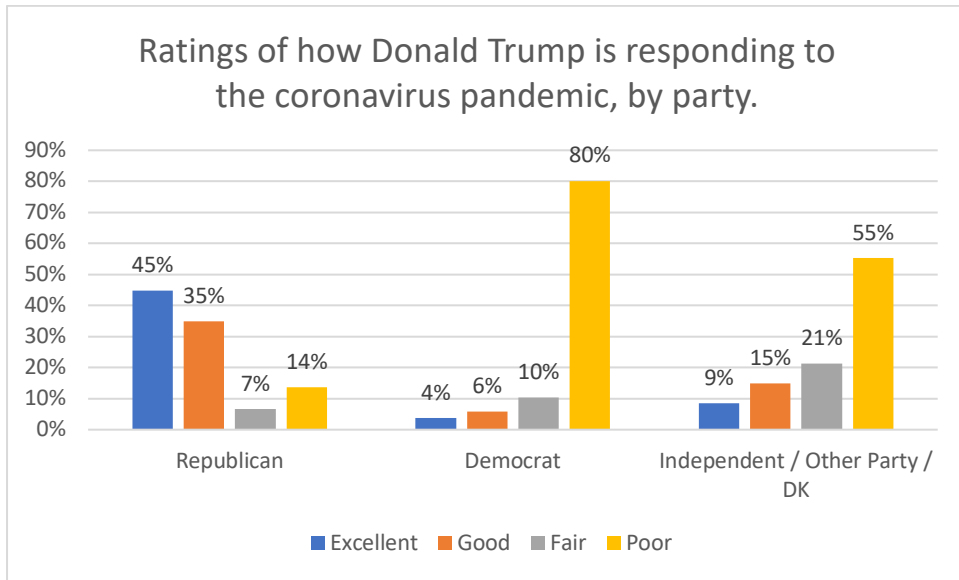
should be” more or fewer restrictions. The modal response (42%) was that there should be “MORE restrictions right now” with only slightly more than half as many (23%) selecting the option that there should be “FEWER restrictions right now.” About 35% felt that there should be “about the same number of restrictions right now.”



Covid-19 Detailed analysis: party, city of residence, and other factors

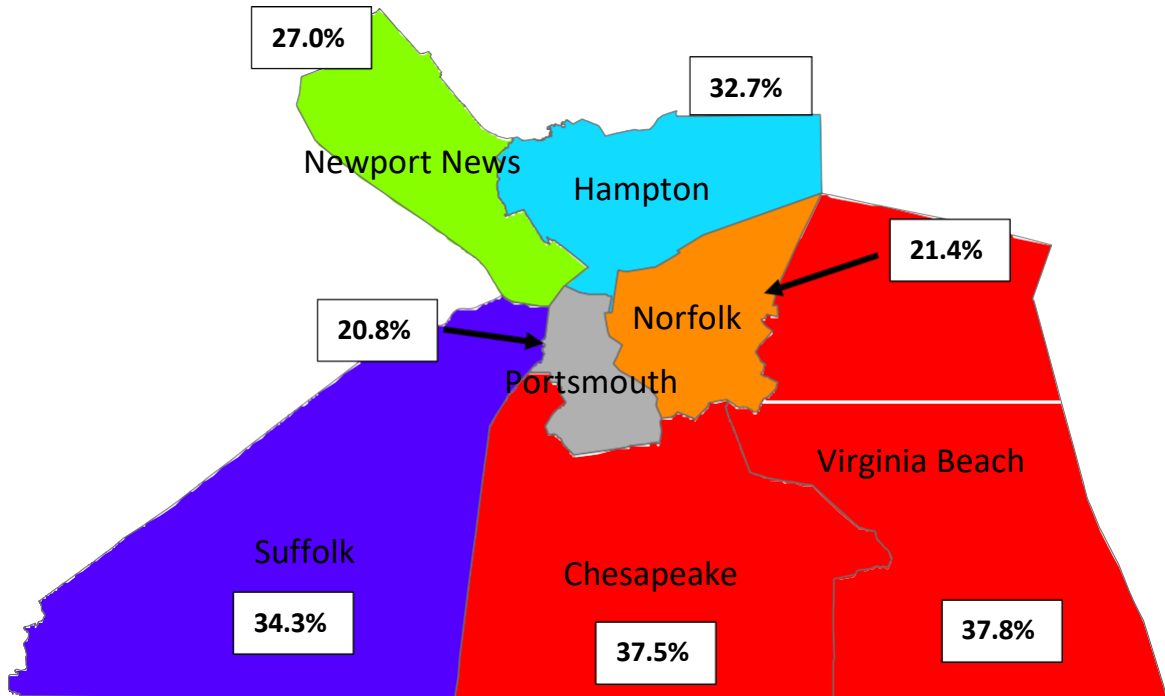
Trump pandemic response

While Trump received low marks overall on his coronavirus pandemic response, views were very polarized by party. Eighty percent of Republican respondents gave Trump an “excellent” or “good” rating, while 80% of Democratic respondents gave Trump a “poor” rating. Respondents who did not indicate an affiliation with either of the major parties also gave Trump quite negative marks, with 55% giving a “poor” rating.



Ratings of President Trump’s response to the coronavirus also varied by city, with low percentages of residents rating him as excellent or good in Norfolk and Portsmouth (21.4% and 20.8%, respectively) to higher ratings of 37.5% in Chesapeake and 37.8% in Virginia Beach.

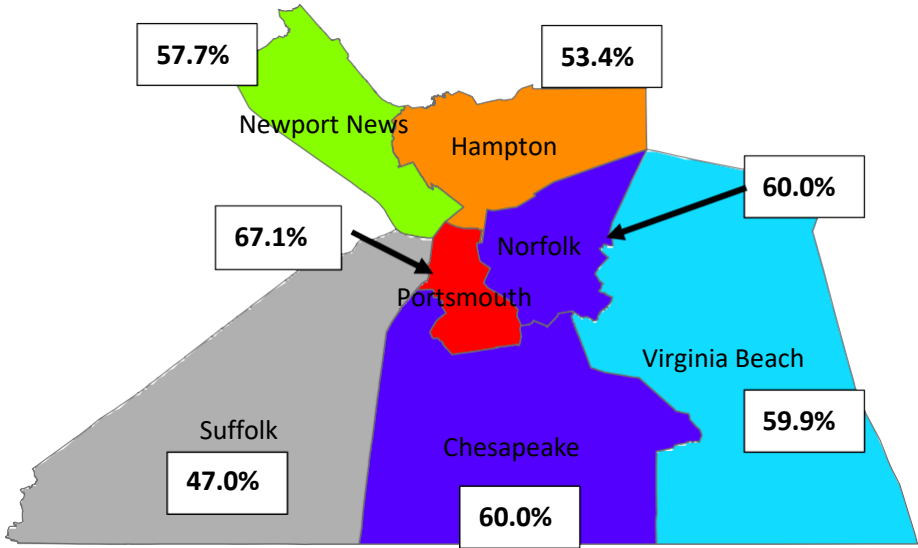
% of City Residents Rating President Trumps Response to the Coronavirus Outbreak as Excellent or Good



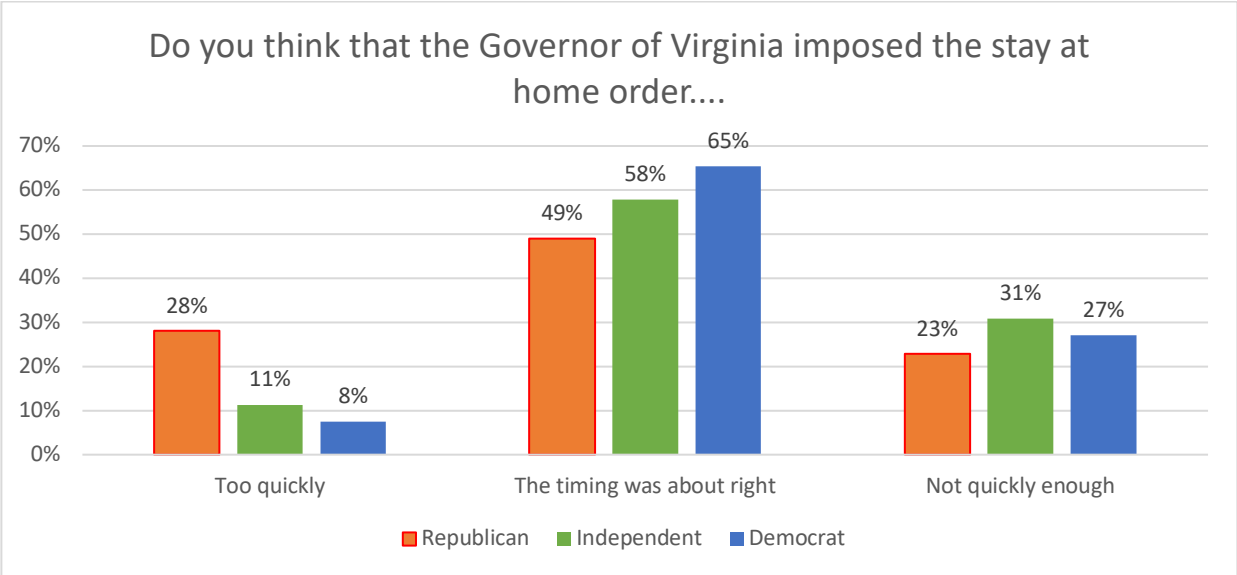
State closing and opening orders

The residents of individual Hampton Roads cities reacted somewhat differently to the question of the timing of the state stay-at-home order. With the exception of Suffolk (47.0%) a majority of respondents in each city believed that the timing of the governor’s stay-at-home order was about right. Other cities ranged from 53.5% in Hampton to 67.1% in Portsmouth. Respondents from Suffolk were also the most likely to assert that the order was imposed too quickly (21%), and respondents from Virginia Beach were the least likely to assert that it was not imposed quickly enough (22%). The difference between Virginia Beach and the rest of the cities is statistically significant. Suffolk was the most polarized, with the smallest portion (only 47%) responding that the timing was right, and larger portions indicating that the governor took action either too quickly or too slowly.

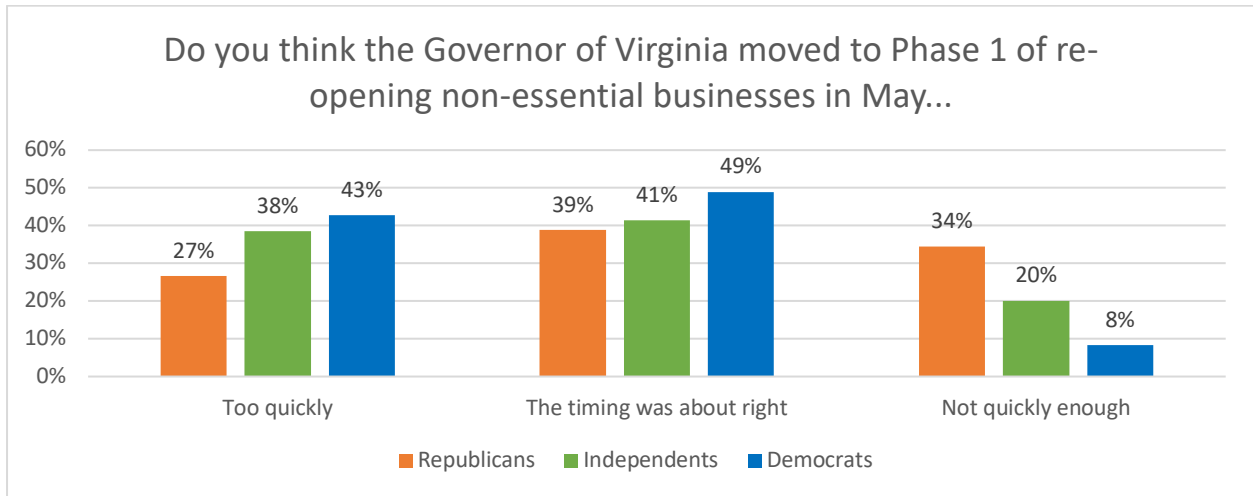
% of City Residents Indicating that the Timing of the Governor's Imposed Stay at Home Order Was About Right



Views of the stay-at-home decision also divided on party lines. Democrats were the most likely to believe that the order timing was about right, while Republicans were the most likely to believe that the order was imposed too quickly, and independents were the most likely to believe it was not imposed quickly enough.

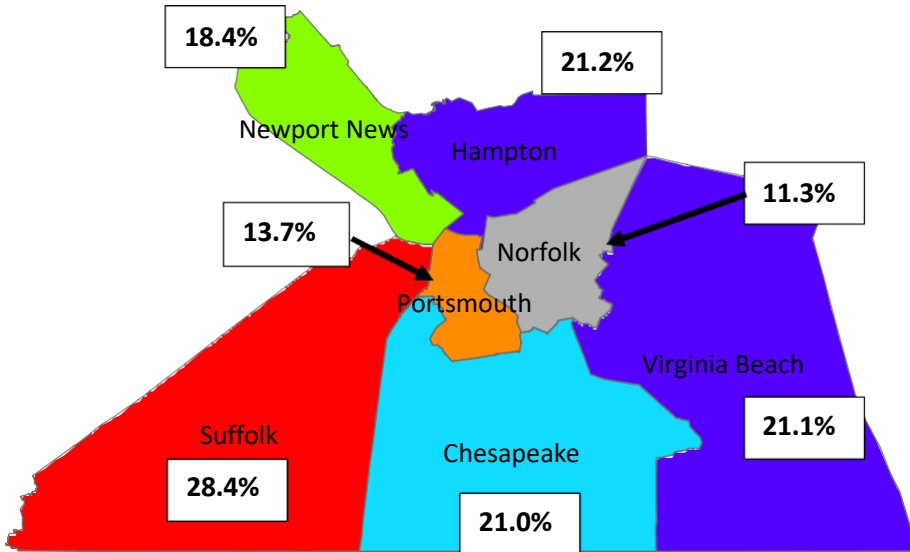


Similar divisions emerged concerning the reopening of nonessential businesses. Here too, there were substantial divisions on party lines. Republicans were the most likely to think that the action was not taken quickly enough, and Democrats were the most likely to think that the timing was either too quick or about right.

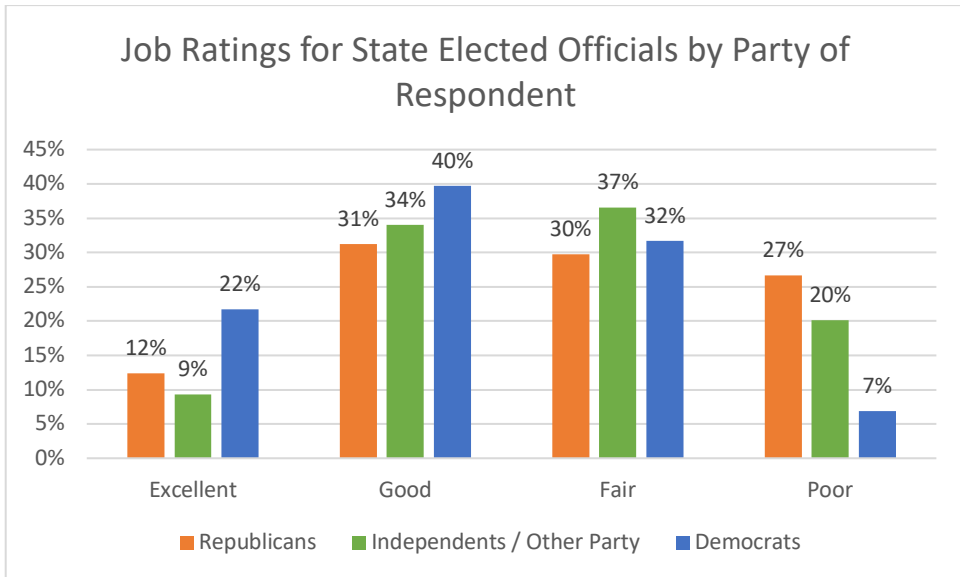


There was less variation across cities in terms of the governor's decision to reopen businesses, with a large proportion in each city believing that the timing was about right. This response ranged from 41.9% in Newport News to 46.4% in Norfolk. There were differences by city in concerns that the governor's decision was not quick enough. Respondents from Norfolk and Portsmouth were the least likely to believe that the opening process was not quick enough, and respondents from Suffolk were the most likely to assert that the opening did not proceed quickly enough.

% of City Residents Responding that the Governor's Decision to Reopen Businesses Was Not Quick Enough



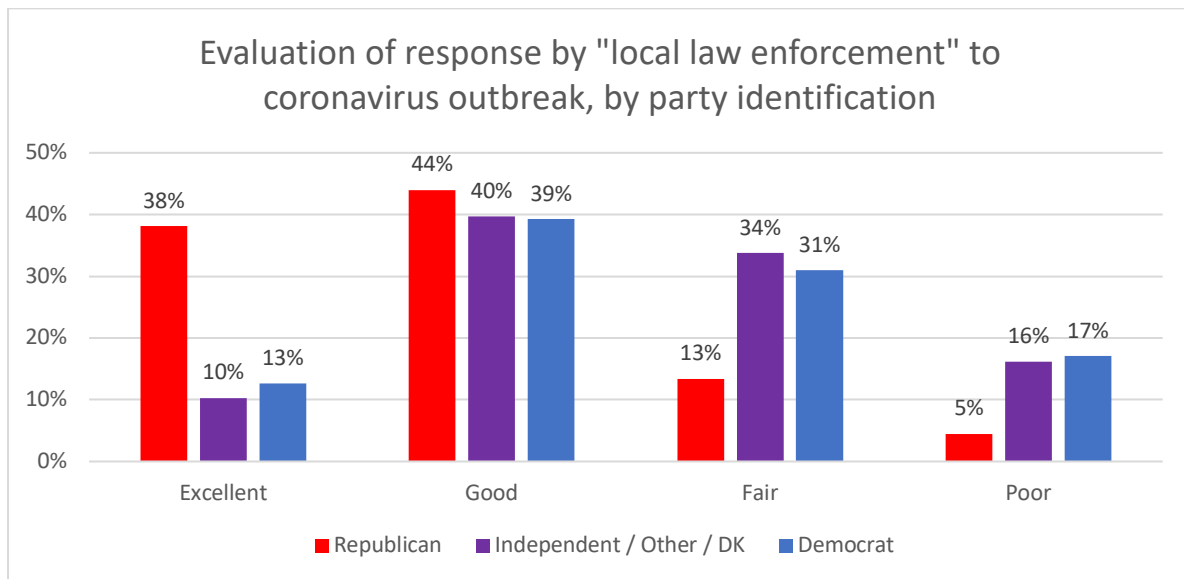
On the overall pandemic response job performance question, state elected officials received higher marks from Democrats than from other groups. Republicans and independents, on the other hand, were more likely to give negative evaluations of fair or poor.



Local response

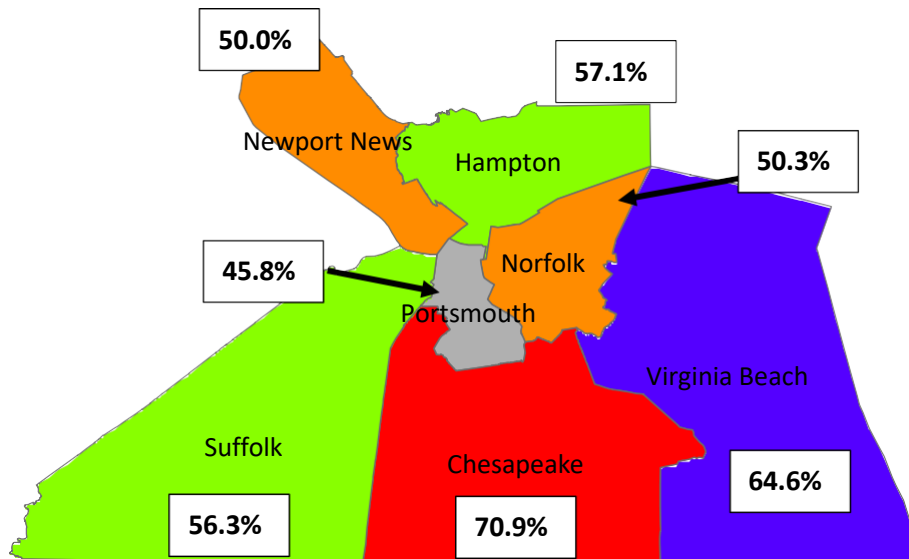
Ratings of the local government response did not vary significantly by city. Respondents from Suffolk and Hampton gave the highest frequency of “poor” ratings, and respondents from Norfolk and Suffolk gave the highest frequencies of “excellent” ratings.

Response to local city leadership also did not vary systematically by party, but evaluation of the job being done by “local law enforcement” in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was divided sharply by party. While 38% of Republicans gave an “excellent” rating, only 10% of independents and 13% of Democrats gave excellent ratings. This likely reflects broader polarization of attitudes toward police on party lines that are reflected on a variety of other questions in the survey.



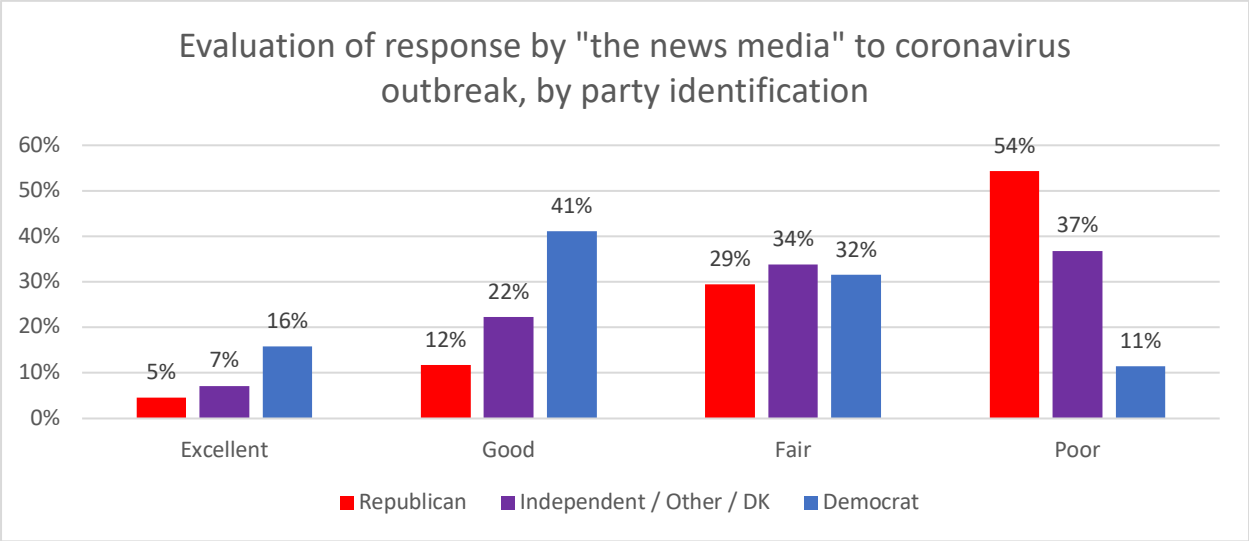
Ratings of local law enforcement also vary significantly across the cities of Hampton Roads, and the differences are quite dramatic. Less than half viewed the response to the coronavirus as either excellent or good in Portsmouth (45.8%), and it was as high as 64.6% in Virginia Beach and 70.9% in Chesapeake.

% of City Residents Rating the Response of Local
Law Enforcement to the Coronavirus Outbreak as
Excellent or Good

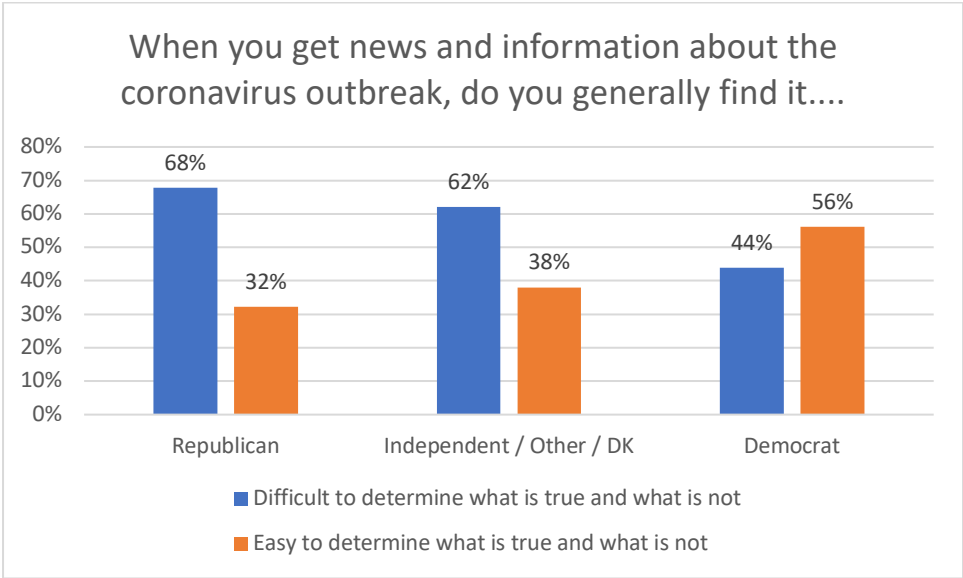


The media

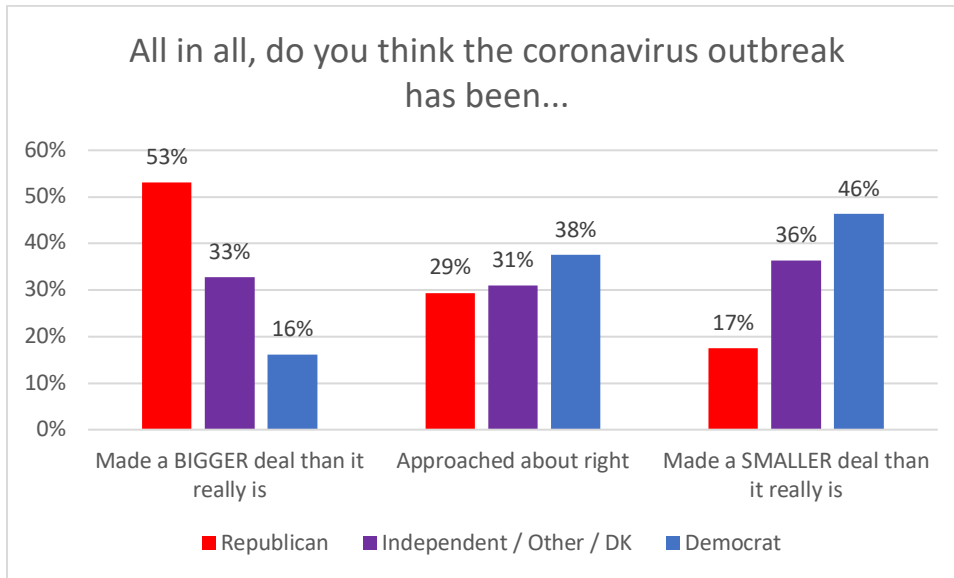
As is typically the case in national surveys, views of the media were sharply divided on party lines, with Republican respondents much more likely to give the media negative marks, and Democratic respondents more likely to give the media a positive evaluation. Fifty-four percent of Republicans gave the media a “poor” rating, while only 11% of Democrats gave this rating. Conversely, 57% of Democrats gave a good or excellent rating, compared with only 17% of Republicans.



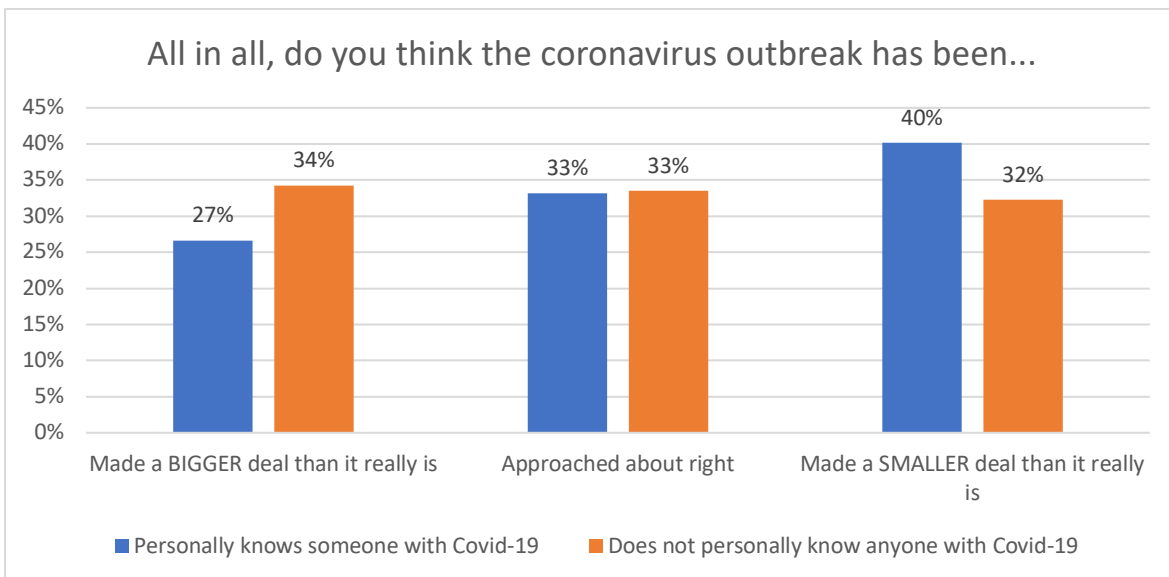
Republicans were also much more likely to report that it was difficult for them to determine what was true than Democrats, though even among Democrats, 44% indicated that they had difficulty.



Respondents were equally divided concerning the question of what sort of emphasis should be placed on the coronavirus outbreak. As one might expect, views on this question were strongly associated with party identification and views of the media. Those who thought that the media had done a poor job of covering the pandemic tended to think it had placed too much emphasis on it. And a majority of Republicans indicated that the pandemic had been made too much of, while a plurality of Democrats thought that it had been “made a smaller deal than it really is.”



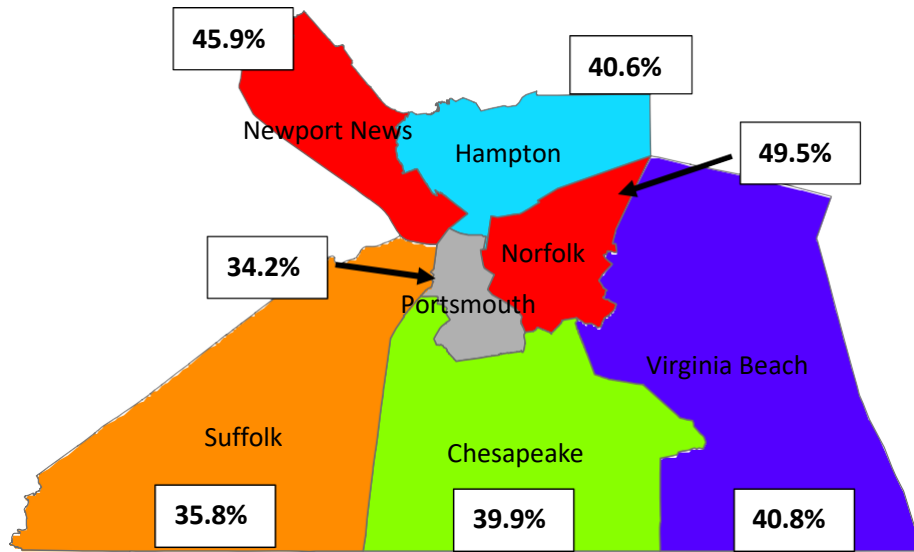
Personally knowing someone who has contracted COVID-19 had a modest impact on views concerning the response to the pandemic, although those who know someone who has had the virus were modestly more likely to think that the pandemic has been made a smaller deal than it really is.



More restrictions needed?

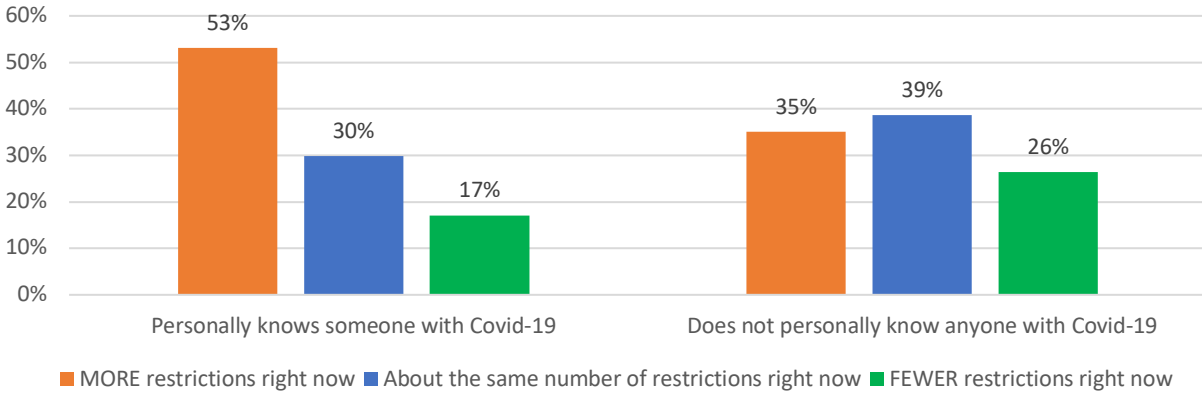
Respondents from Newport News (45.9%) and Norfolk (49.5%) were the most likely to indicate that they thought there should be more restrictions, while respondents from Portsmouth (34.2%) and Suffolk (35.8%) were least likely to indicate that there should be more restrictions.

% of City Residents Indicating that There Should be More Restrictions Right Now Due to the Coronavirus



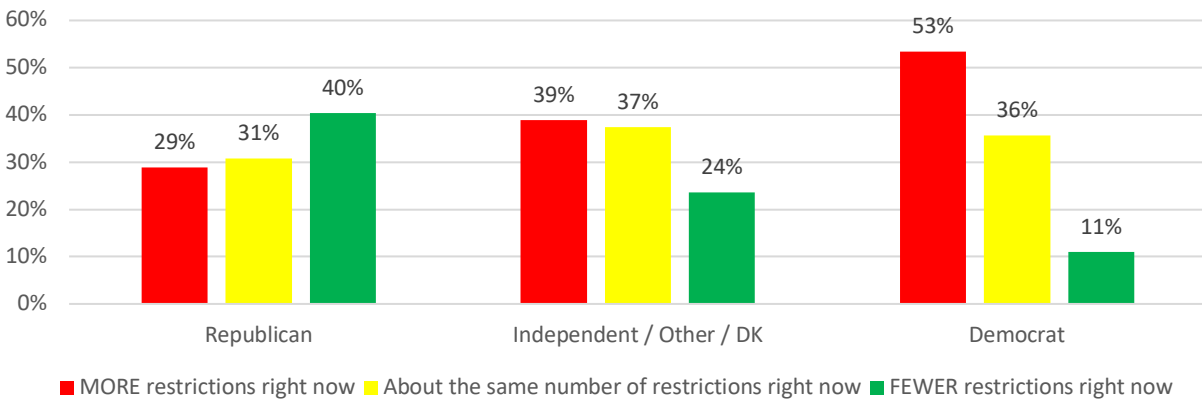
Those who personally knew someone who had COVID-19 were much more likely to support more restrictions: 53% wanted more restrictions, compared to 35% of those who did not personally know anyone with COVID-19.

Thinking about restrictions on public activity because of the coronavirus outbreak IN YOUR AREA, do you think there should be...



Views concerning restrictions were also sharply polarized on party lines, with Republicans much more likely to want fewer restrictions than Democrats. A plurality of Republicans wanted fewer restrictions, while a majority of Democrats preferred to see more restrictions.

Thinking about restrictions on public activity because of the coronavirus outbreak IN YOUR AREA, do you think there should be...

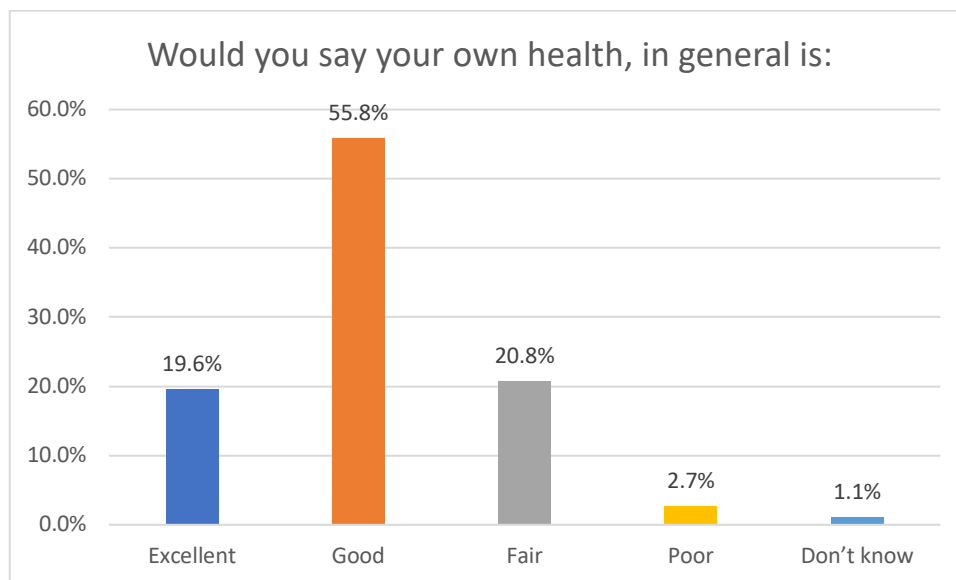


Health and Health Concerns

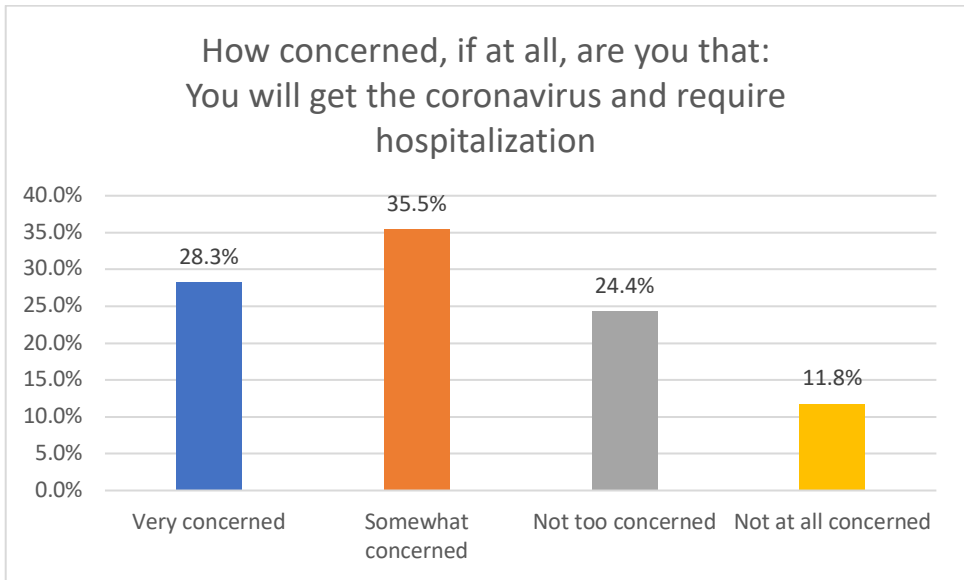
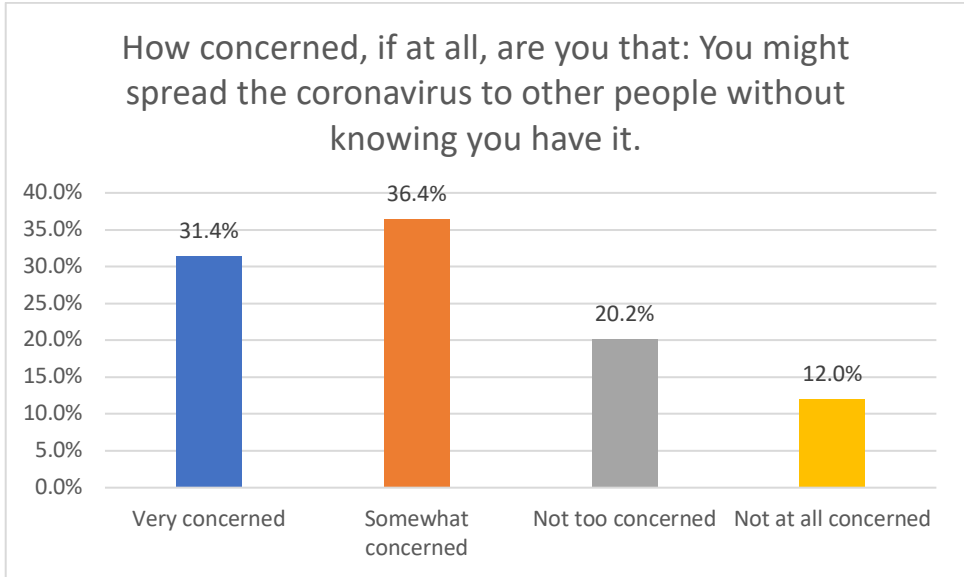
The 2020 survey included several questions about health-related concerns and behaviors of residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. Responses provide insight into the experiences and concerns of Hampton Roads citizens around a variety of health-related topics.

General Health and Personal Concerns Regarding COVID-19

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, about three-quarters of Hampton Roads residents felt that their health in general was good (55.8%) or excellent (19.6%). Only 2.7% rated their health as poor while one in five rated their health as fair (20.8%).

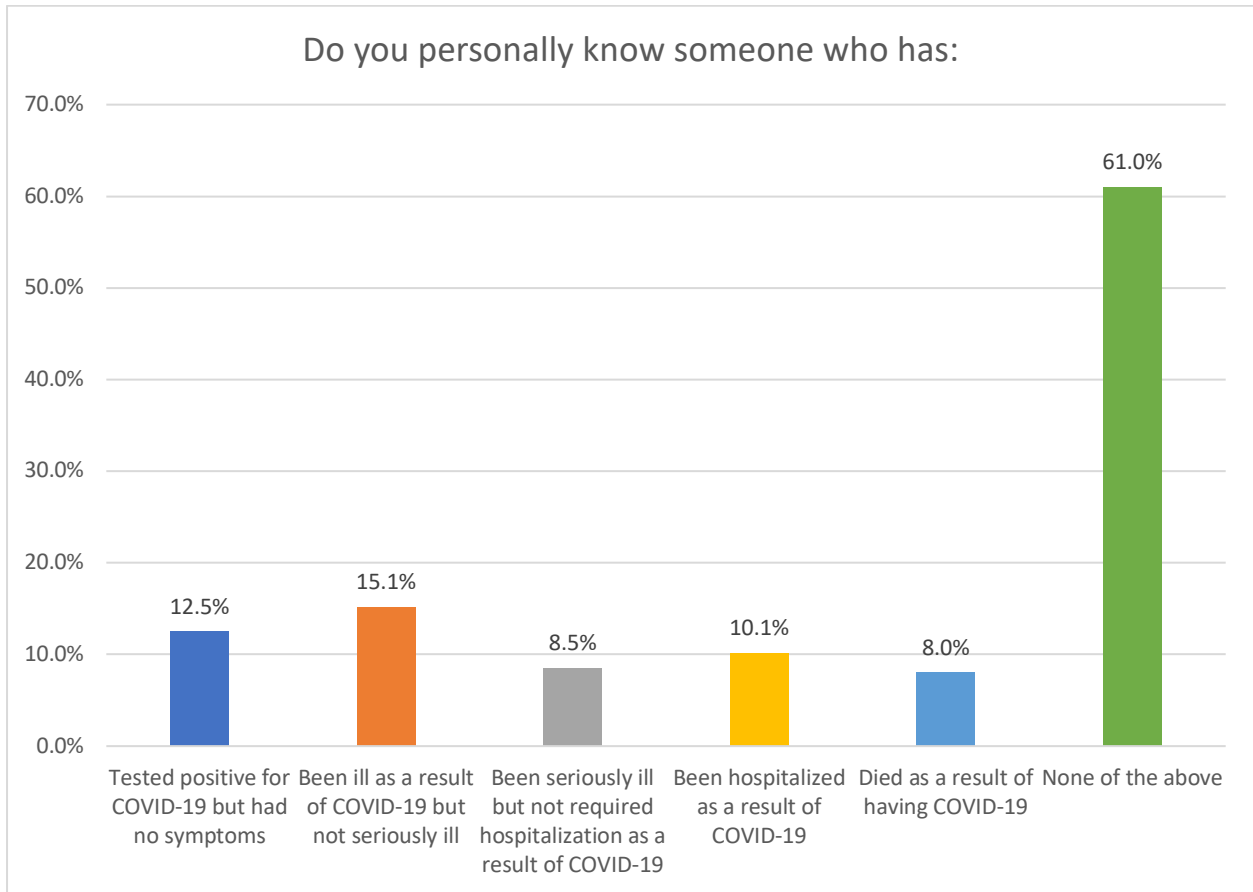


Even though residents reported generally good health, they still expressed health-related concerns given COVID-19 conditions. More than two-thirds were at least somewhat concerned about spreading the virus to others without knowing it (67.8%). More than 60% were very concerned (28.3%) or somewhat concerned (35.5%) that they would get the coronavirus and require hospitalization.



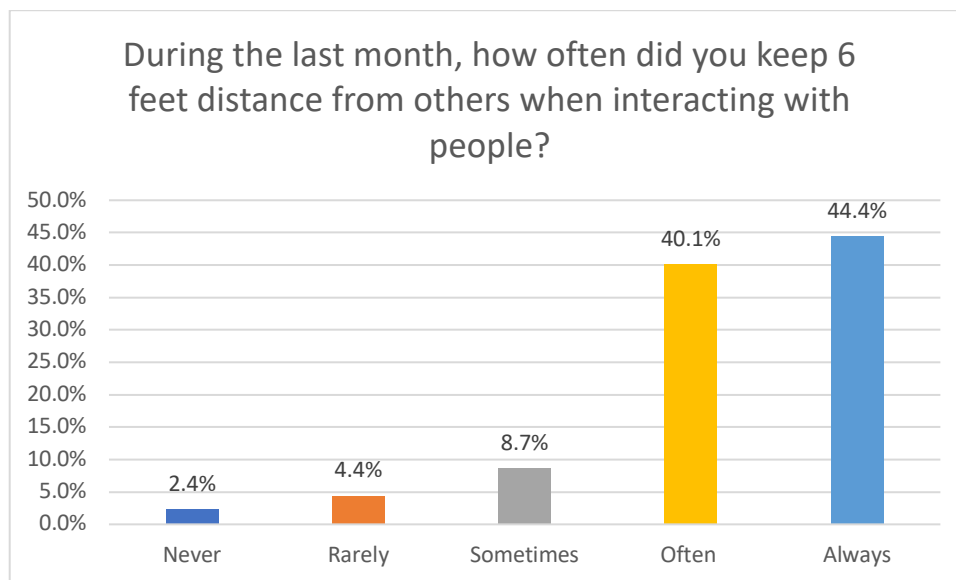
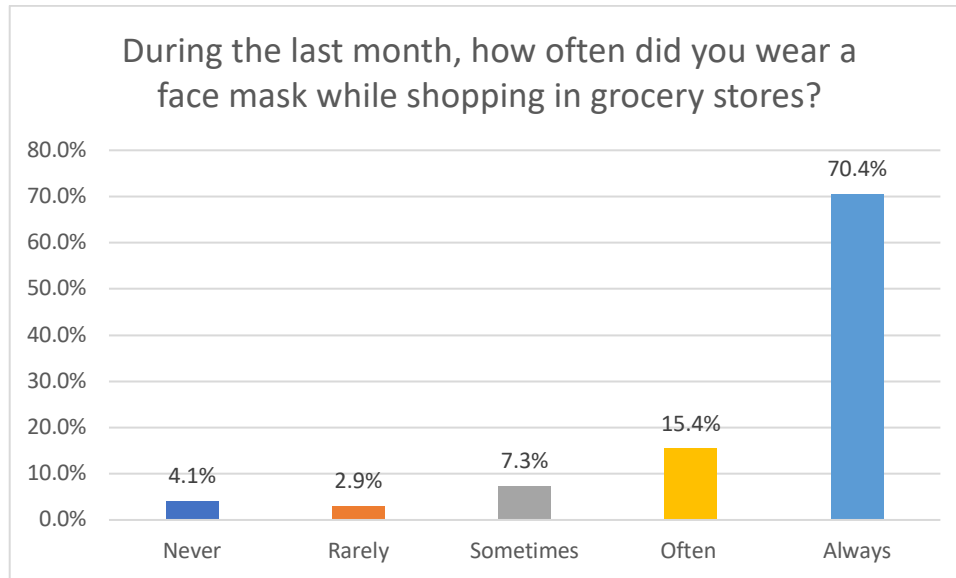
Respondents reported the above concerns despite the fact that many did not personally know someone who had tested positive, been ill or been hospitalized because of the virus (61%). Just over 12% of respondents knew someone who had tested positive but did not have symptoms and 15.1% knew someone who had been ill but not seriously because of the virus. About 8% knew someone who had been seriously ill but did not require hospitalization and 10.1% knew someone who had been hospitalized

because of COVID-19. Only 8% of respondents knew someone personally who had died as a result of the virus.



Perceptions and Self-Reported Behaviors Related to Risk-Reduction

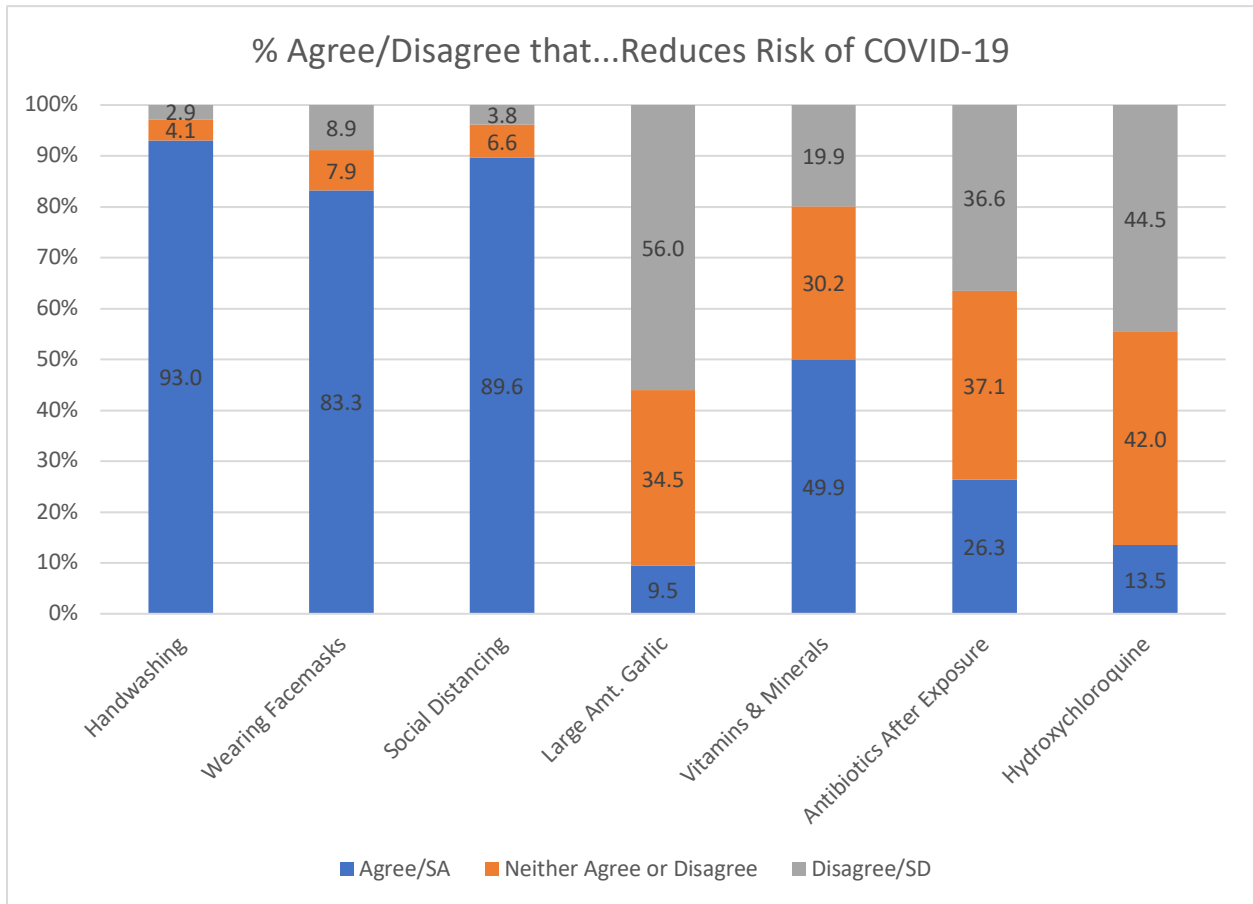
Respondents were asked a series of questions about their use of masks and social distancing as well as their opinions on what factors may reduce their risk of COVID-19. Just under 90% of respondents reported wearing a face mask while shopping in grocery stores either “always” (70.4%) or “often” (15.4%) in the past month. Almost 85% reported keeping 6 feet apart when interacting with others in the past month – although the percentage of “always” responses was lower than that of wearing masks while grocery shopping (44.4% compared to 70.4%).



The vast majority of Hampton Roads residents responding to the survey agreed that frequent hand washing (93%), wearing a mask (83.3%) and social distancing (89.6%) can significantly reduce the risk of COVID-19. These are ways that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have recommended to protect oneself and others from the virus.

Respondents had mixed levels of agreement on other types of behaviors and their ability to significantly reduce the risk of COVID-19. Nearly half felt that taking vitamins and minerals could significantly reduce the risk (49.9%) and more than half (56%) disagreed that consuming large quantities

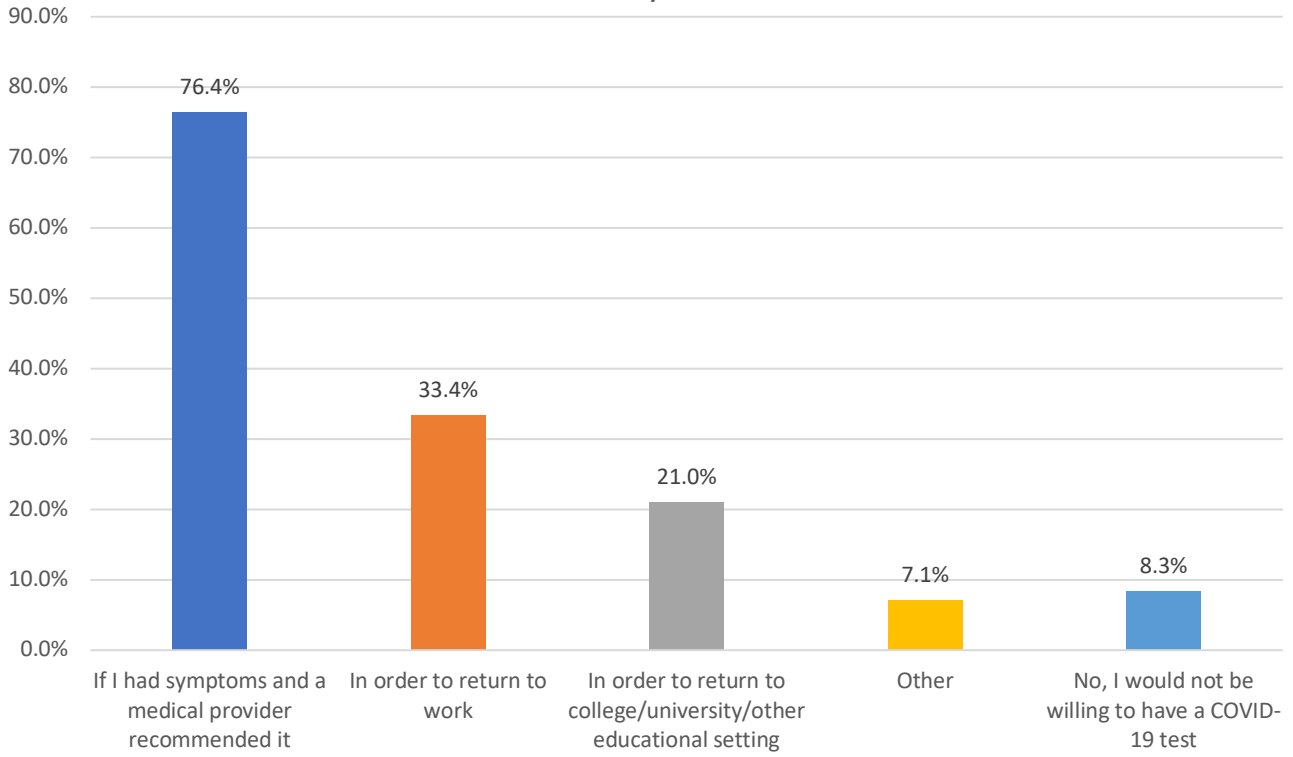
of garlic could reduce the risk. There was even more diversity and ambivalence over the utility of strategies that have not been endorsed by the CDC. Indeed, 30% or more were unsure (neither agreed or disagreed) that taking vitamins and minerals (30.2%), consuming large quantities of garlic (34.5%), taking antibiotics immediately after exposure to the virus (37.1%) and taking hydroxychloroquine (42%) could significantly reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19.



To Test or Not to Test?

Respondents were asked under what conditions they would be willing to have a COVID-19 nasal swab test to see if they had been infected. About three-quarters (76.4%) indicated they would have the test if they had symptoms and a medical provider recommended it. About one-third (33.4%) would have the test in order to return to work while 21% said they would be tested in order to return to a college/university or other educational setting. Only 8.3% said they would not be willing to have a test.

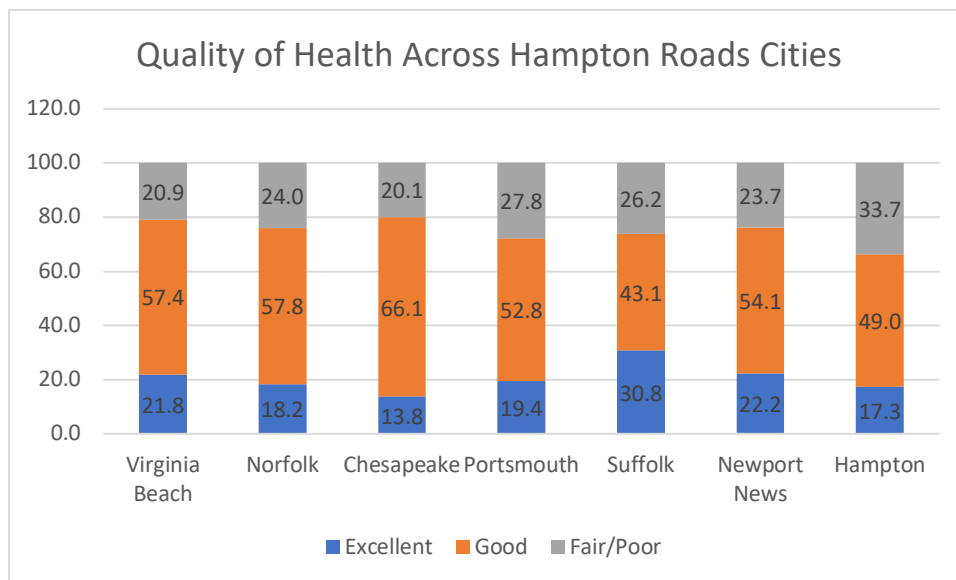
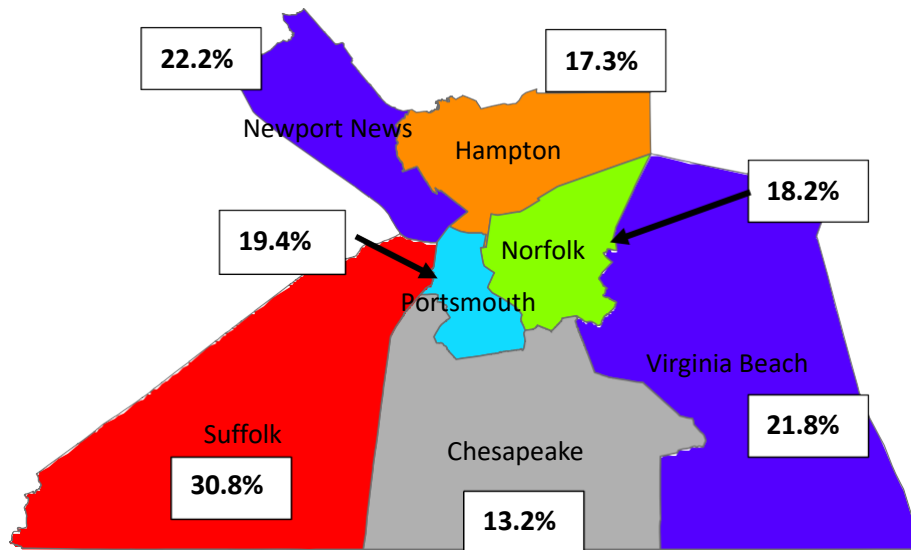
Under what circumstances would you be willing to have a COVID-19 nasal swab test to see if you have been infected?



General Health & COVID: City Differences

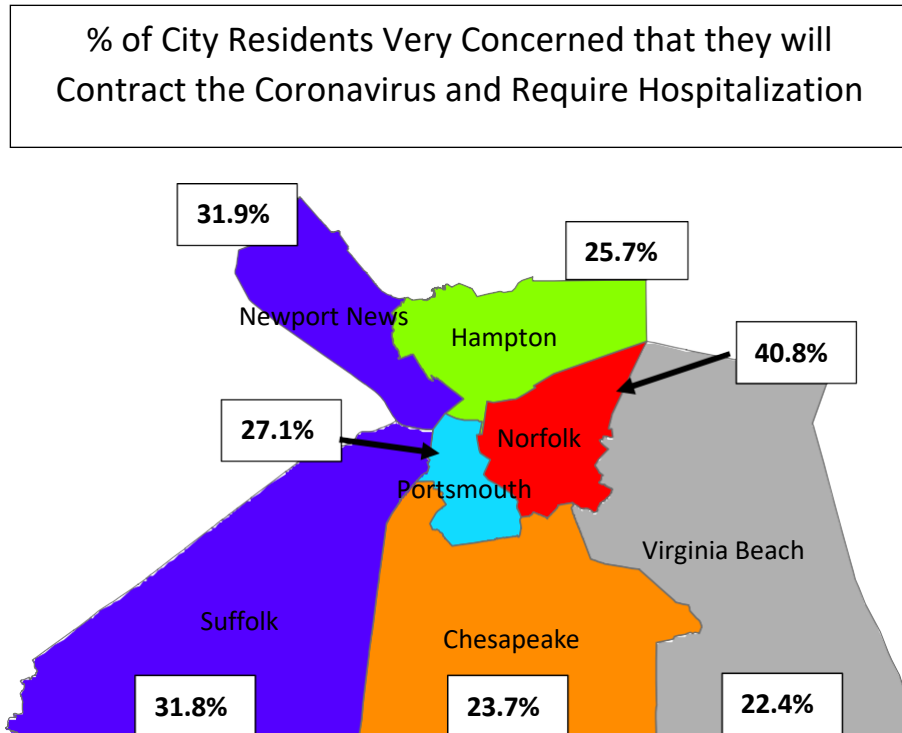
Respondents' self-reported general health varied significantly across the seven cities, with Suffolk residents most likely to rate their health as excellent (30.8%), followed by Newport News and Virginia Beach (both at about 22%).

% of City Residents Describing Their Own General Health as Excellent



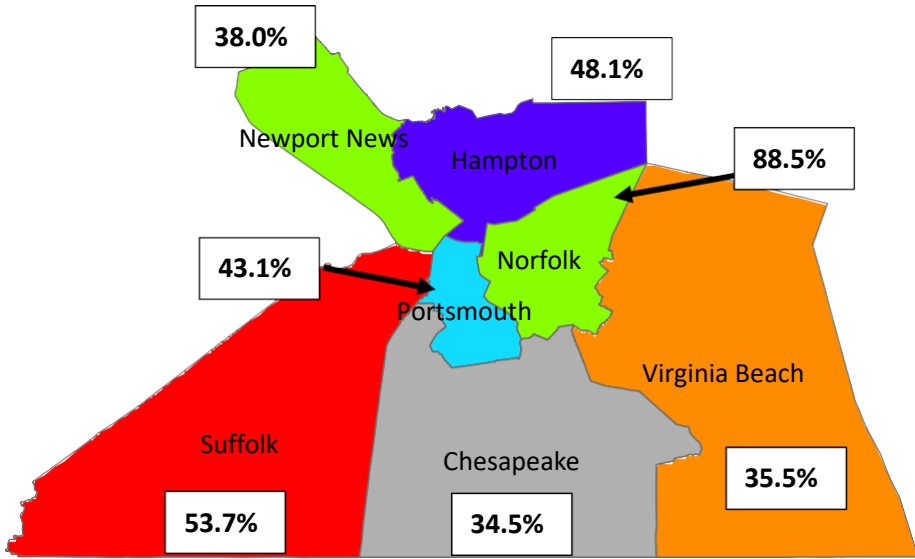
Concern of Contracting the Coronavirus and being Hospitalized or Spreading the Virus

Self-reports of concern of contracting the virus and needing to be hospitalized differed significantly across the seven cities of Hampton Roads, with over 40% of residents in Norfolk responding that they were very concerned. Suffolk and Newport News were relatively high at 31.8 and 31.9%, respectively.



Respondents were asked if they personally knew someone who: tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms, been ill as the result of COVID-19 but not seriously ill, been seriously ill but did not require hospitalization, been hospitalized for COVID-19 or died as a result of having COVID-19. As presented earlier, positive responses to these items ranged from 8 to 15.1% precluding detailed demographic comparisons of each. However, we created a variable that measured whether respondents had known someone personally who had suffered any of these consequences. Responses to this measure varied significantly across the cities of Hampton Roads with a high of 88.5% in Norfolk to a low of 34.5% in Chesapeake.

% of City Residents Personally Knowing
Someone Affected by COVID-19

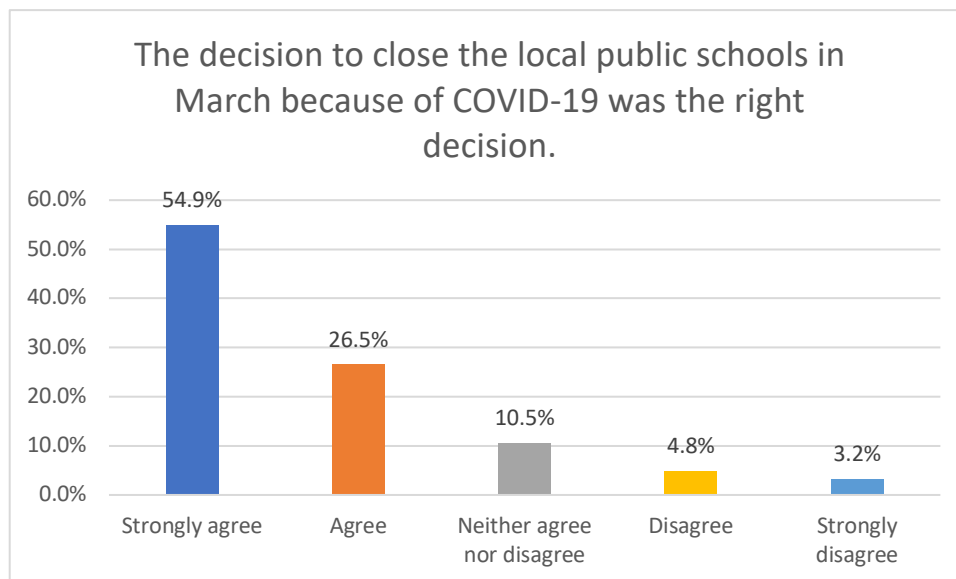


COVID-19 and Education

The 2020 Life in Hampton Roads survey included several questions concerning response by state officials and public schools to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as opinions for reopening plans in the fall. These questions provide insight into the experiences and concerns of Hampton Roads citizens.

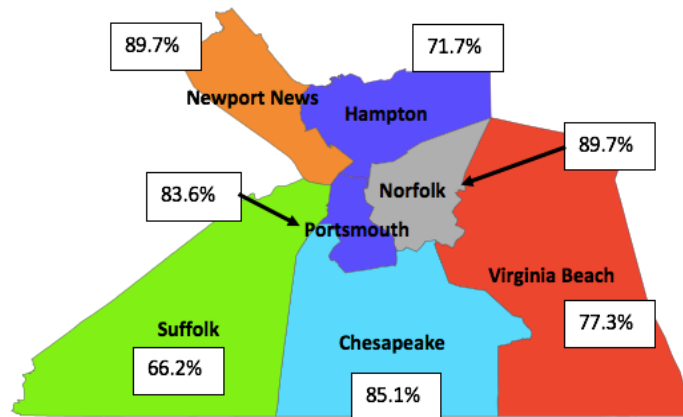
Perceptions of School Closures and Potential Reopening

All respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with a series of statements, including “The decision to close the local public schools in March because of COVID-19 was the right decision.” More than 81% of respondents either strongly agreed (54.9%) or agreed (26.5%) with this statement. Only 8% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the March school closings.

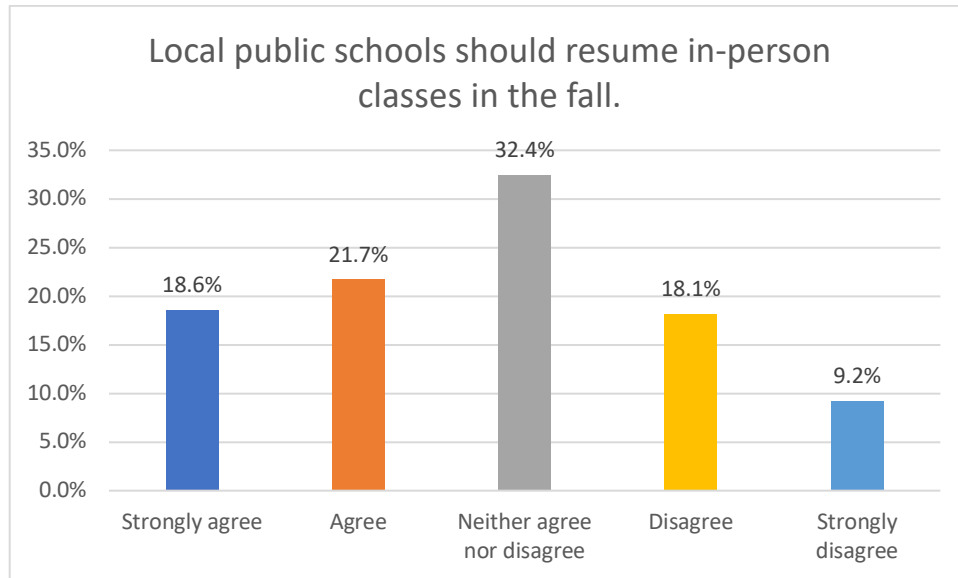


While a clear majority of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the decision to close the local public schools, and this was true across the cities of Hampton Roads, there were statistically significant differences ($p < .001$). Suffolk residents were least likely to agree or strongly agree (66.2%) followed by Hampton (71.7%) and Virginia Beach (77.3%). More than 80% of the residents in the other cities agreed or strongly agreed (Portsmouth 83.6%, Chesapeake 85.1% and 89.7% in both Norfolk and Newport News).

% Agreeing that Closing Local Public Schools in March 2020 was the Right Decision

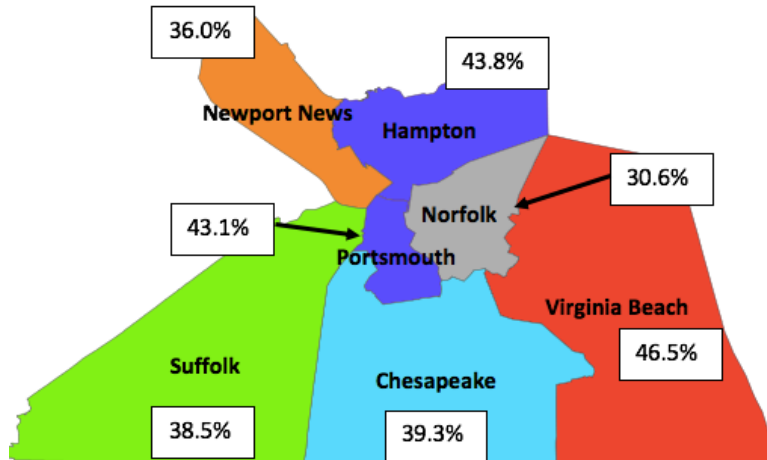


Survey respondents were less certain on whether public schools should resume in-person classes in the fall. Just over 40% agreed or strongly agreed that in-person classes should resume while more than one in four respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed (27.3%). However, almost one-third (32.4%) neither agreed nor disagreed, which perhaps shows uncertainty about how the public schools should proceed.

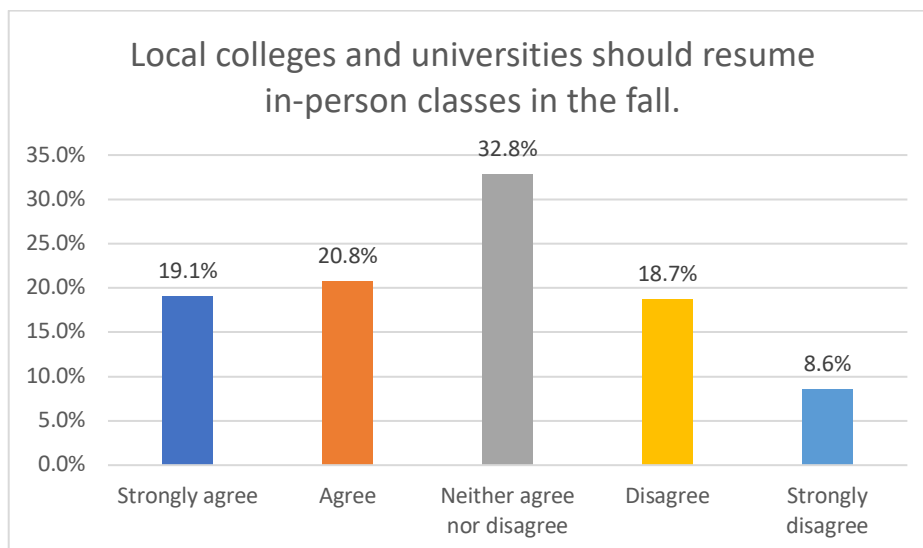


There was also significant variation among the cities in beliefs about resuming in-person classes in public schools ($p < .05$). More than 40% of residents in Portsmouth (43.1%), Hampton (43.8%) and Virginia Beach (46.5%) agreed that in-person classes should resume, while fewer respondents in Norfolk (30.6%), Newport News (36.0%), Suffolk (38.5%) and Chesapeake (39.3%) agreed with resuming in-person classes in the fall.

% Agreeing that Local Public Schools Should Resume In-person Classes

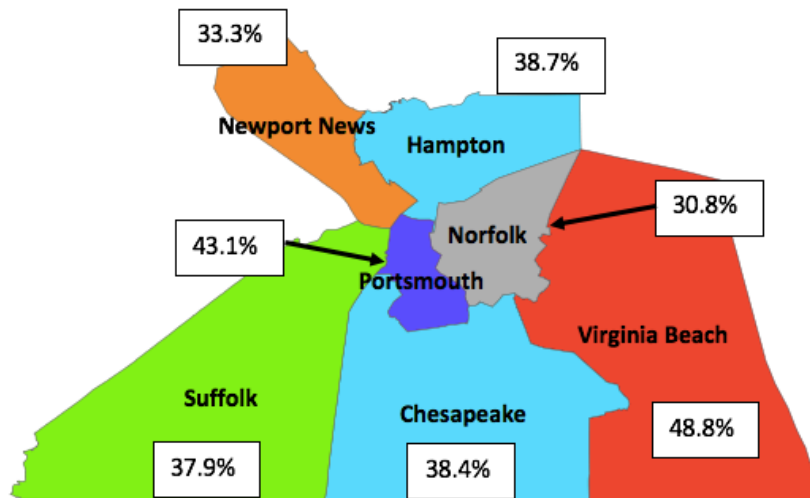


Responses were very similar regarding how local colleges and universities should operate in the fall. Almost 40% agreed or strongly agreed that in-person classes should resume, while 27.3% disagreed or strongly disagreed. Again, almost one-third (32.8%) neither agreed nor disagreed with colleges resuming in-person classes.



There were also statistically significant differences among the cities of Hampton Roads in beliefs about colleges and universities opening for in-person classes in the fall ($p < .01$). Virginia Beach residents were by far the most likely to agree or strongly agree that colleges should resume in the fall (48.8%), followed by residents in Portsmouth (43.1%). Less than 40% of residents of Hampton (38.7%), Chesapeake (38.4%) and Suffolk (37.9%) agreed with resuming in-person classes, while residents of Norfolk and Newport News were least likely to favor reopening for in-person classes (30.8% and 33.3%, respectively).

% Agreeing that Local Colleges/Universities Should Resume In-person Classes

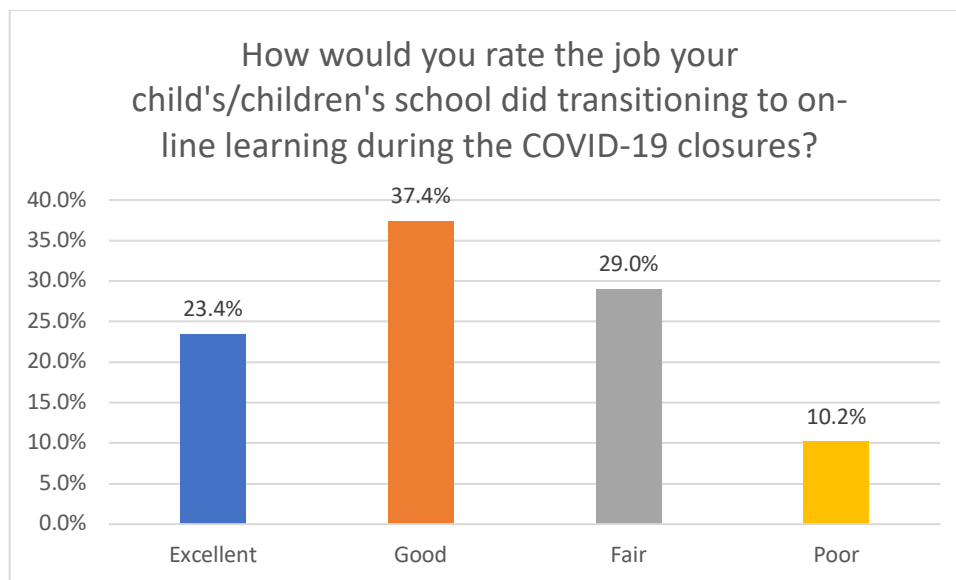


About 29% of respondents indicated that they or someone in their household were planning to take classes at a college or university in the fall prior to COVID-19. More than 17% indicated that those plans have changed, while 28.2% were unsure how their college plans may be affected. Open-ended responses for those who indicated that their plans had changed show that many are now planning to take classes online. Others expressed concerns about their health/safety with attending in-person classes. Some

indicated that they are no longer going to college or have postponed starting classes. Others indicated that their classes had been canceled or were no longer offered. Finally, a few respondents indicated that other demands, like caring for children, made it such that they were not planning to take classes.

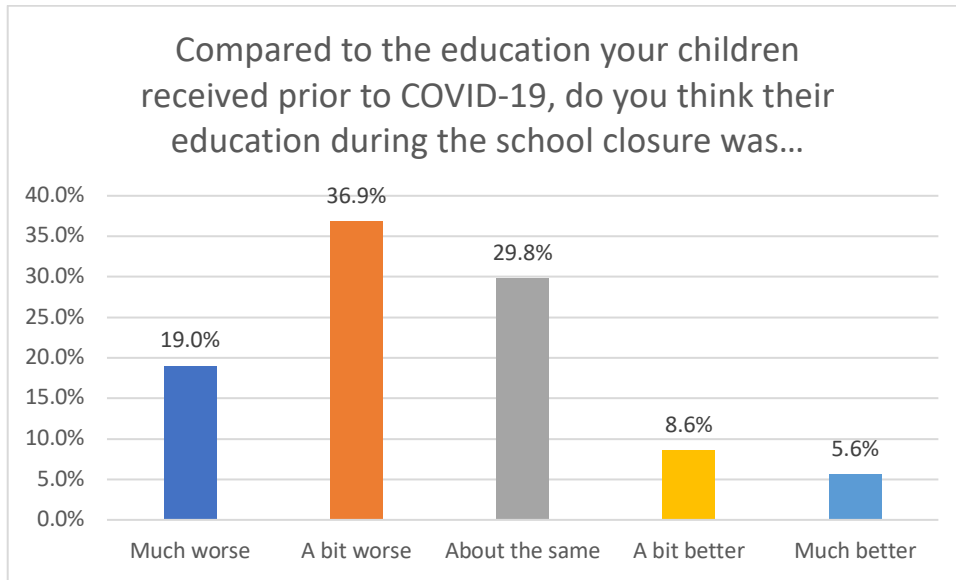
How Did the Public Schools Perform During the Closure?

About 29% of respondents had school-aged children (n=319) and about 79% of those had a child/children attending the public schools prior to the COVID closure (n=253). Respondents with children who attended public school were asked to rate the job their child's school did transitioning to online learning. Almost 61% rated the schools as doing either an excellent or good job. About 10% rated their child's school as doing a "poor" job and 29% rated the school as doing a "fair" job.



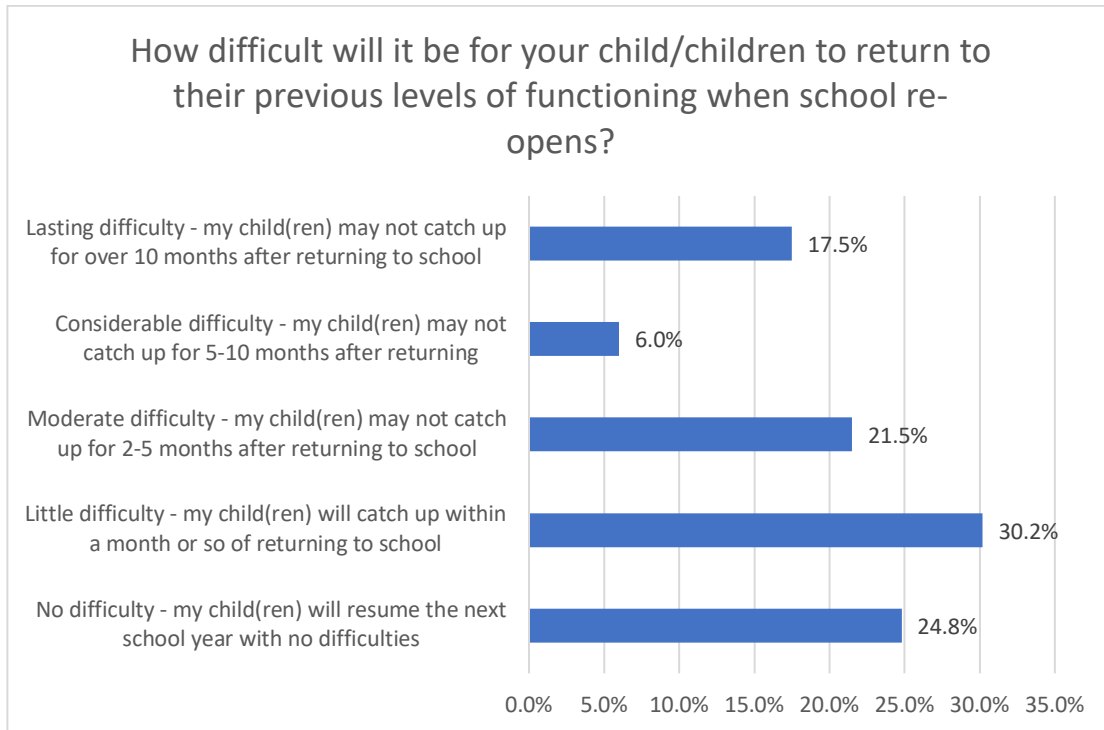
Even though the majority of parents felt the schools did a good or excellent job transitioning to online learning, the results show that many parents felt that the quality of their child's education suffered. All respondents with school-aged children were asked to compare the quality of the education received during the school closure to the education received prior to the COVID pandemic. About 30% felt that the education their child received during the closure was about the same. More than half felt their child's education was much worse (19%) or a bit worse (36.9%) during the closure. About 14% felt their child received education that was a bit better or much better than prior to the closure. The vast majority of

respondents with school-aged children (95.7%) indicated that their child had a computer or tablet for schoolwork.



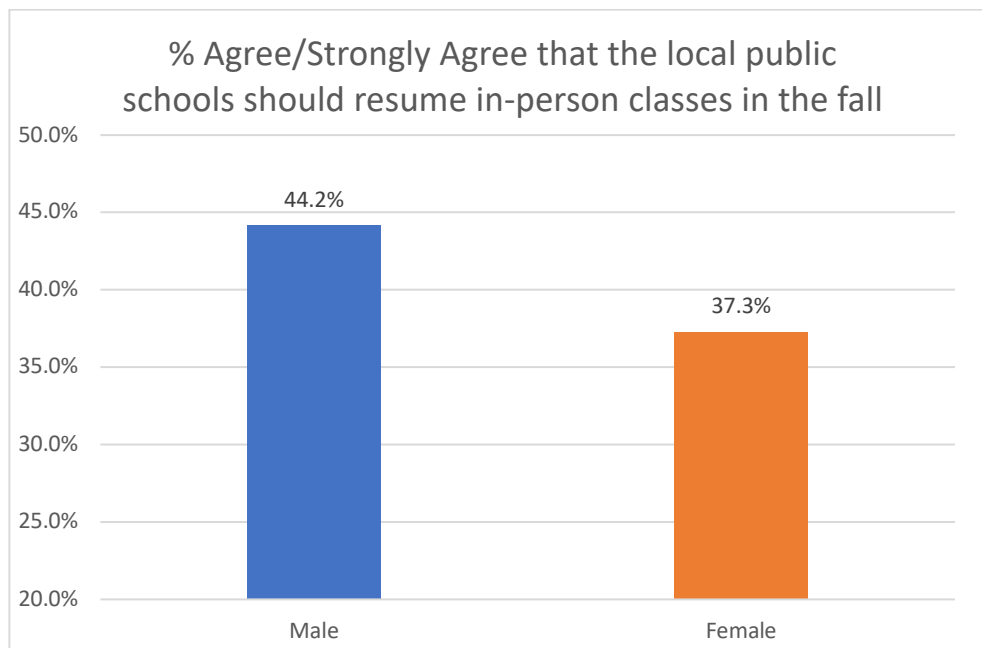
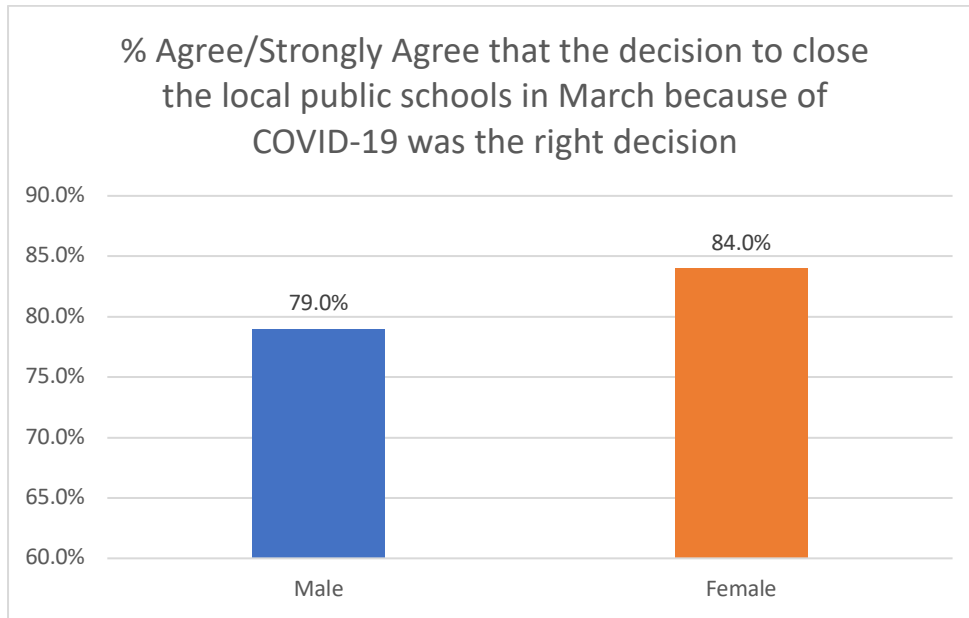
Potential Lasting Difficulties for Some Students

The closure of schools and transition to online learning raised concerns about the impacts on students with disabilities. About 17% of respondents with school-aged children indicated that they had a child with a disability. Those parents were asked how difficult it would be for their child to return to their previous levels of functioning when school reopens. More than one in five (23.5%) felt that their child would have “considerable” or “lasting” difficulty and that it may take 5-10 months or more for their child to catch up. Another 21.5% felt that their child would have “moderate” difficulty and would need 2-5 months to catch up. About 25% of parents with a child with a disability felt that their child would have no difficulties when restarting school.



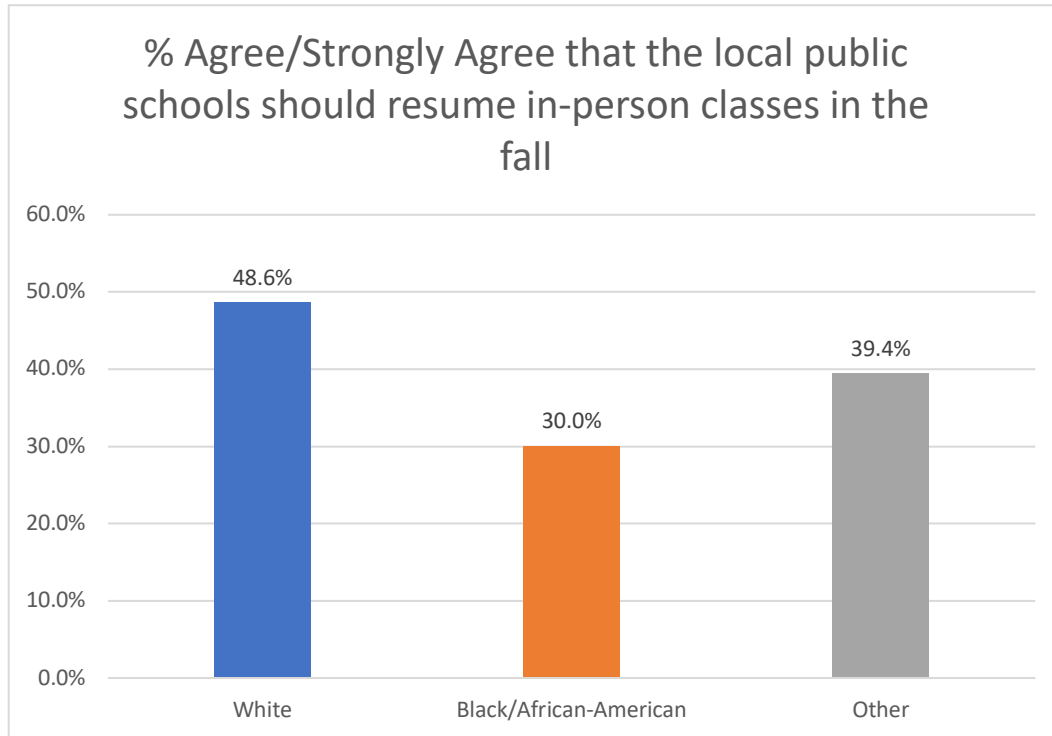
Additional Analyses of Attitudes Surrounding School Closures/Opening

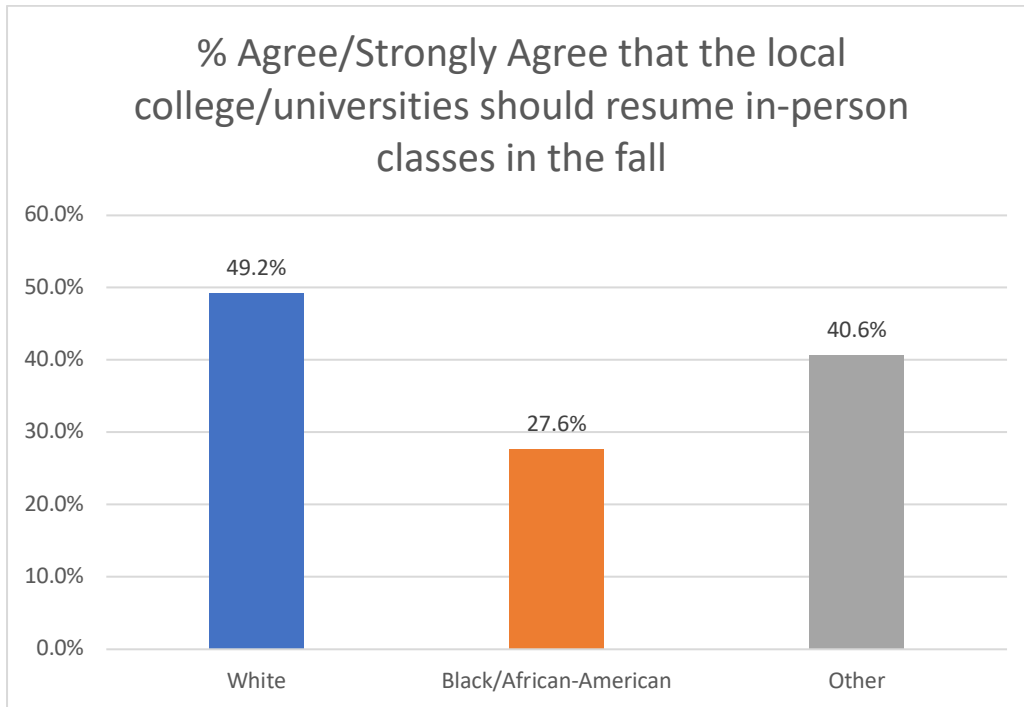
Not only was there variation in attitudes toward closing public schools and resuming classes in person across cities of Hampton Roads, there were also significant differences across several demographic characteristics of the residents. For example, females (84%) were significantly more likely than males (79%) to agree or strongly agree with the decision to close public schools last spring, and they are less likely than males to agree or strongly agree with resuming in-person classes in the fall (37.3% versus 44.2%). There were no significant differences in support of reopening in-person classes in the local colleges and universities between males and females.



Although there were no racial/ethnic differences in attitudes toward closing public schools, there were differences in attitudes toward resuming in-person classes in both the local public schools as well as colleges and universities. Nearly half of white respondents (48.6%) agreed with resuming in-person classes in the public schools compared to only 30% of Black/African American respondents and 39.4% of those in other racial groups. There were also strong differences between white respondents and

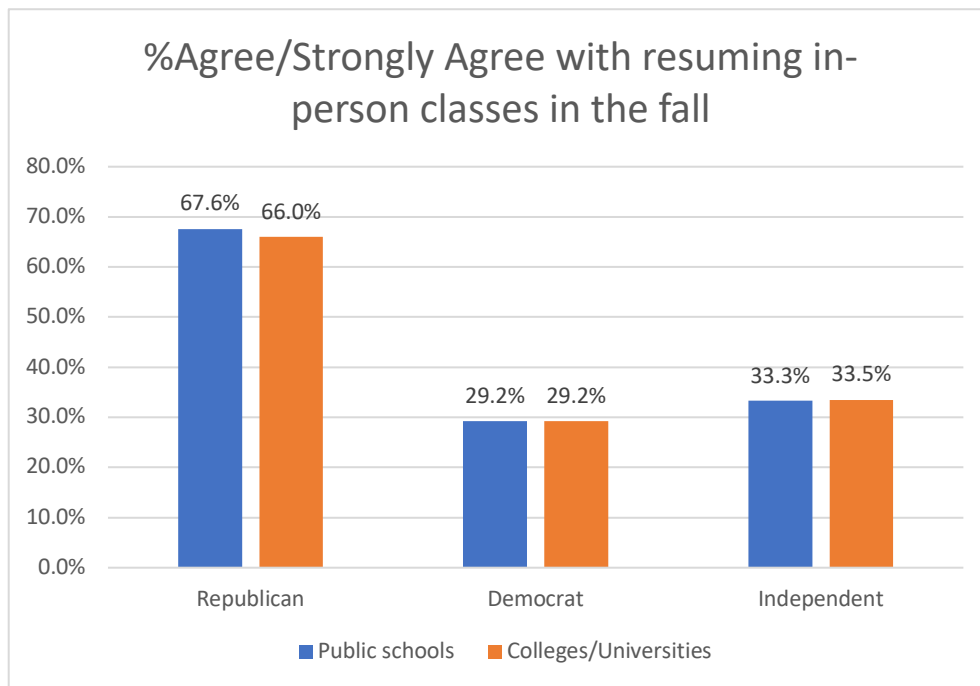
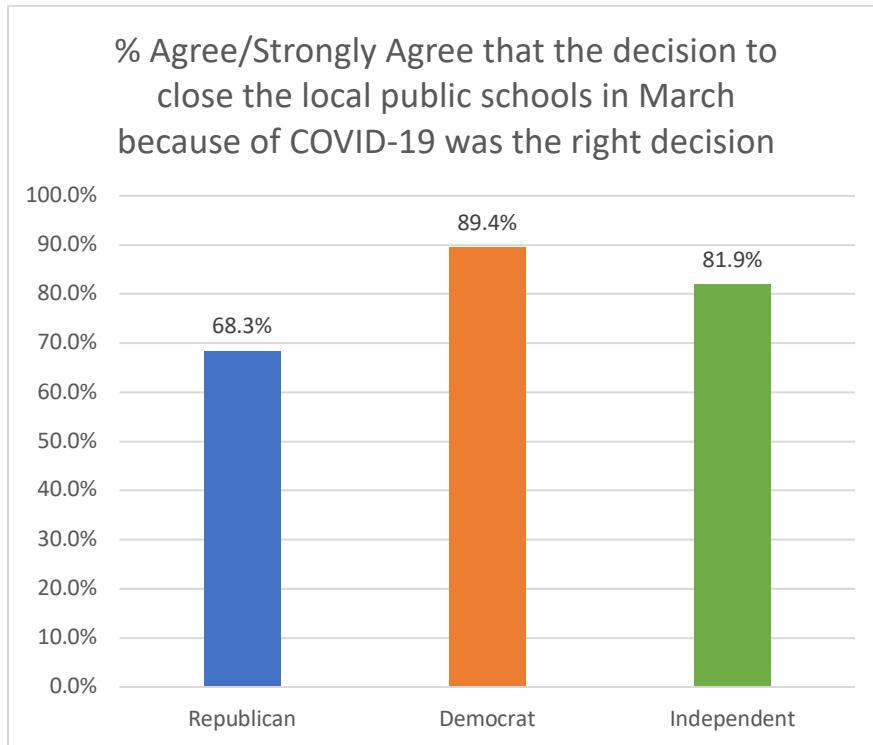
racial/ethnic minorities in favoring resuming in-person classes in the local colleges and universities (49.2% for whites, 40.6% for other racial groups and only 27.6% among African Americans).





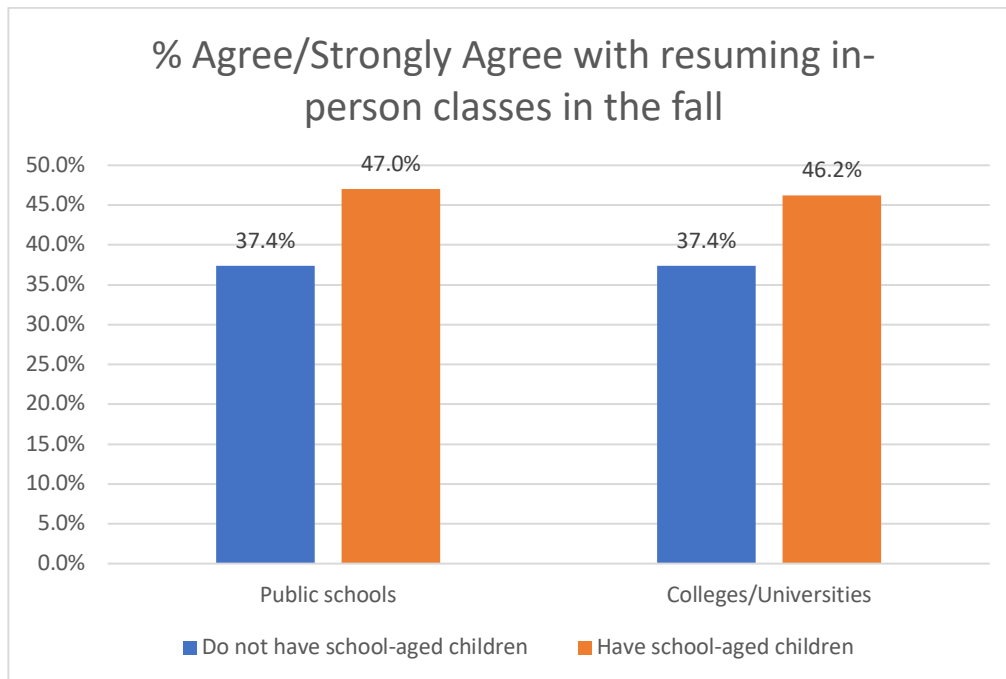
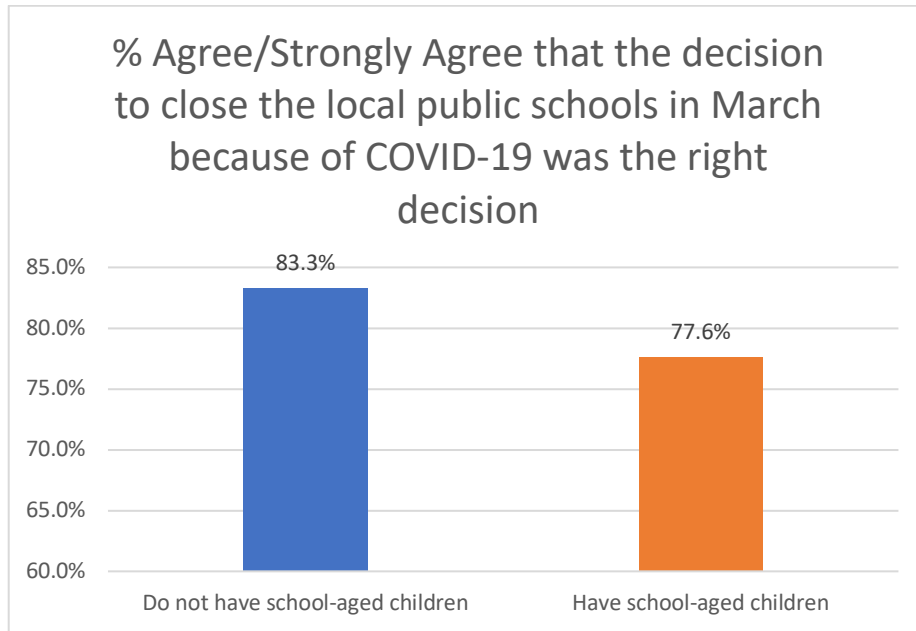
There was no evidence of significant differences across age and little evidence that they varied by levels of education. There was a linear effect suggesting that approval of resuming in-person classes in college and universities increased with levels of education. Among those with a high-school degree/GED or less education, 32.9% favored resuming in-person classes in local colleges and universities while 41.5% among those with some college and 42.1% of those with university degrees were in favor of resuming in-person classes in the fall.

Political affiliation and income were relatively strongly and consistently linked to these measures of school closure and reopening. Republicans were least likely to favor public school closure (68.3%) relative to independents (81.9%) and Democrats (89.4%) and were far more likely to favor resuming in-person classes in the local public schools (67.7%) and colleges/universities (66%) compared to independents (33.3% and 33.5%, respectively) and Democrats (29.2% for both public schools and colleges/universities).



A final comparison was made between Hampton Roads residents with school-age children and those without school-aged children. Parents with school-age children were slightly (6%) but significantly less likely to favor public school closure this past spring (77.6% versus 83.3%). In turn, they were more

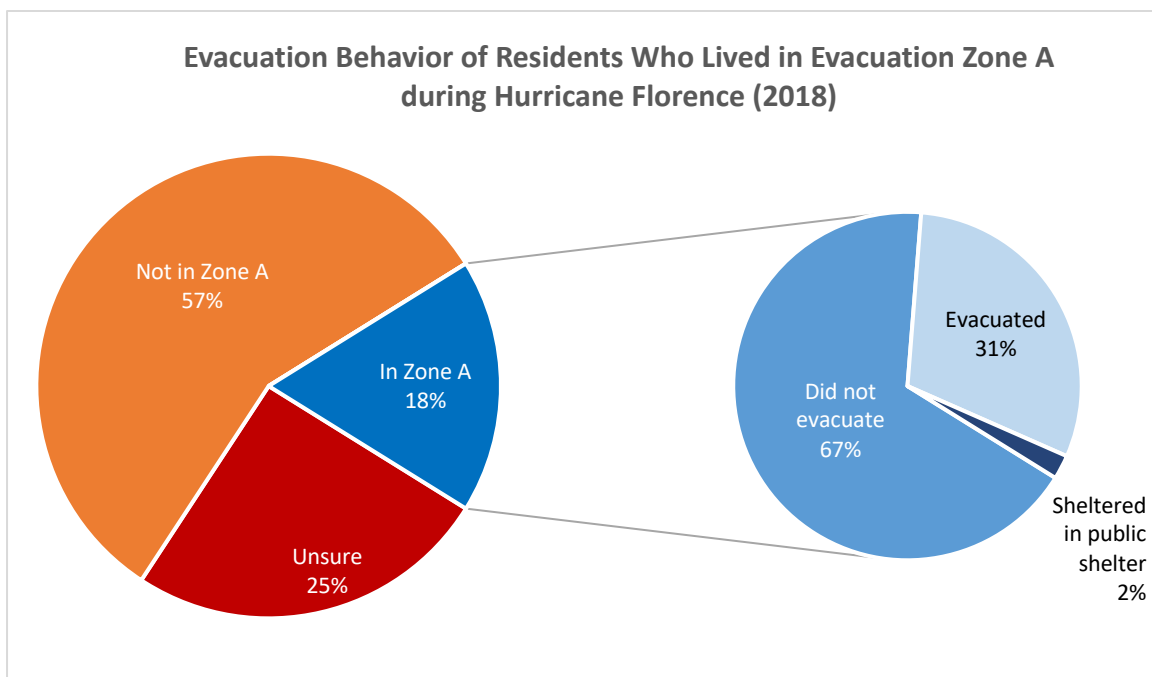
likely to favor resuming in-person classes in public schools (47% versus 37.4%) and colleges/universities (46.2% versus 37.4%) – approximately a 9-10% difference.



Hurricane Evacuation & Sheltering During COVID-19

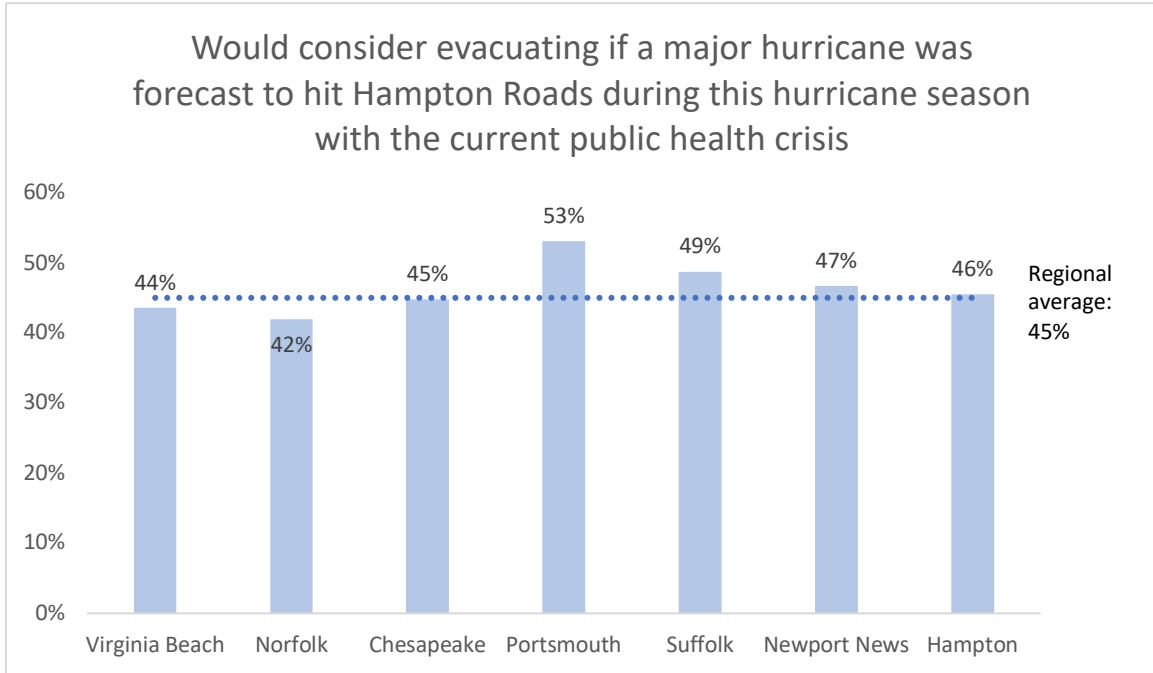
The 2020 Life in Hampton Roads (LIHR) survey includes several questions concerning how residents plan to prepare for and respond to hurricanes during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey results are particularly relevant given Hampton Roads' recent experience with Hurricane Isaias as we enter into what is forecast to be an extremely active hurricane season. People generally make decisions on how to prepare for and respond to hurricanes based on the track and category of the storm, and in preparation may consider sheltering in their home, sheltering at a local shelter or evacuating from areas perceived to be at greater risk.

To give context, prior to the current hurricane season, 18% of survey respondents lived in Evacuation Zone A during Hurricane Florence in 2018. Of those respondents, despite a mandatory evacuation order, roughly 66% did not evacuate, 30% evacuated and 4% went to a public shelter.

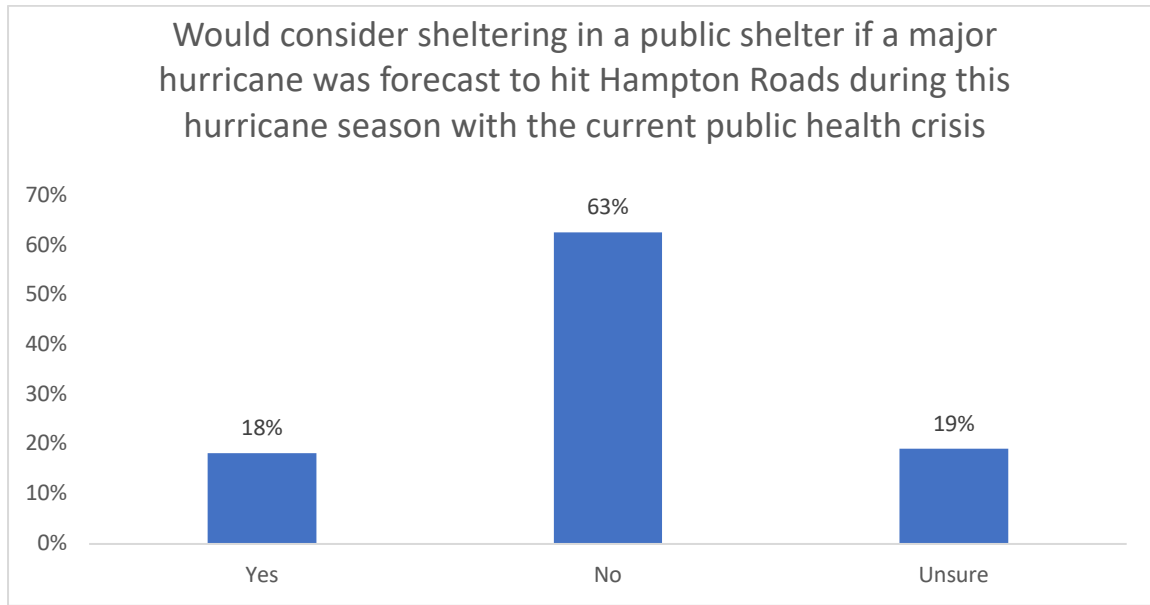


This year's survey data offers evidence of shifting risk perceptions and possibly changes in hurricane evacuation and sheltering behavior under the consideration of potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

For example, if a major hurricane is forecast to hit Hampton Roads during this hurricane season, over half (55%) of survey respondents report they would not consider evacuating (29%) or were unsure about evacuating (26%).



In addition, a sizable majority would not consider (63%) or were unsure if they would go to a public shelter (19%). Among those residents who say they would not seek shelter, 70% cite concerns about potential exposure to COVID-19.



Further, researchers find that, for some, the impact of COVID-19 contributes to a lack of resources to evacuate. For example, among those residents who say they would not evacuate, 30% cite not having enough cash or credit on hand to cover expenses associated with evacuation (e.g., food, fuel and shelter). Of those residents who would not evacuate partly due to lack of cash or credit, 17% also reported having been laid off, furloughed or had work hours reduced because of COVID-19 conditions, and 46% reported others in their household had been laid off, furloughed or had work hours reduced because of COVID-19.

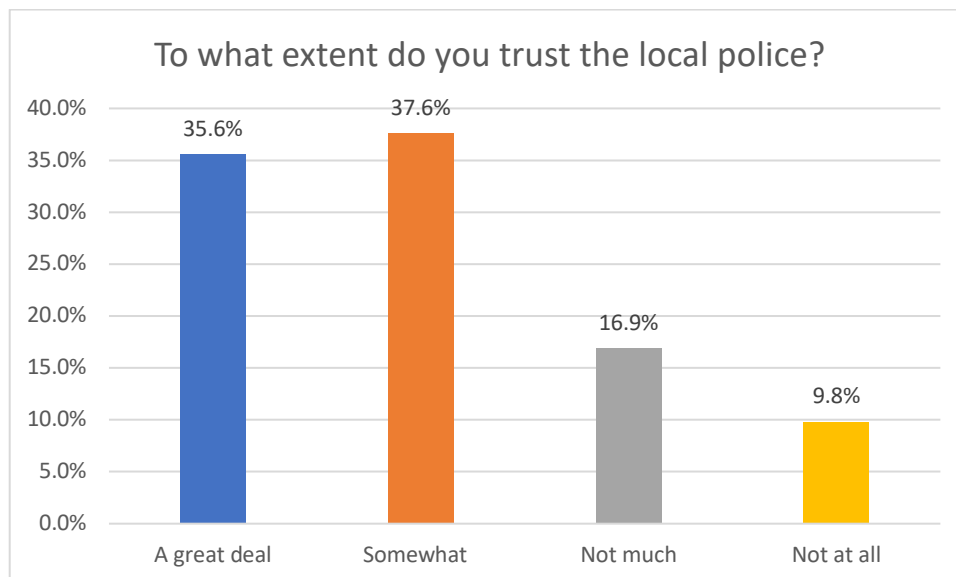
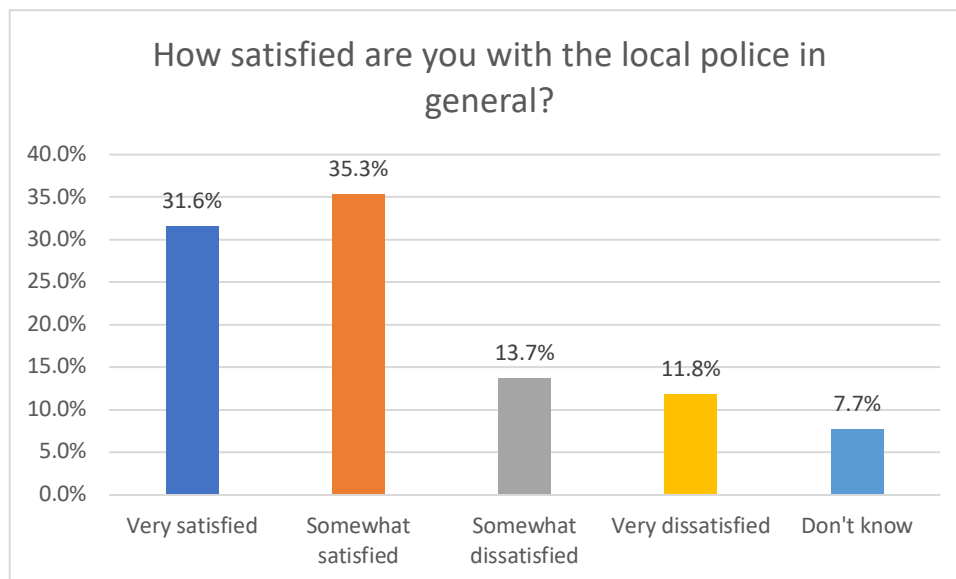
Furthermore, of those respondents who do not plan to evacuate because of resource constraints, only 19% would consider going to a public shelter. This finding points to potential disparities in ability of low-to-modest income households across our region to evacuate. Importantly, responses to this year's survey can be contrasted to illustrate differences to pre-COVID-19 responses. For example, survey data can be used to compare how vulnerable residents (living in Evacuation Zone A) responded during Hurricane Florence in 2018 and how they plan to respond to a hurricane in 2020. That is, of those respondents who lived in Evacuation Zone A and evacuated during Hurricane Florence, 72% would consider evacuating in the 2020 hurricane season during COVID-19 and 50% would consider evacuating to a public shelter.

In contrast, among those who evacuated to a public shelter in 2018, only 39% would consider evacuating and 61% would consider going to a public shelter during the current hurricane season. Of those who did not evacuate during Hurricane Florence, less than half (44%) would consider a similar response (not evacuating) in 2020, and only 11% would consider going to a public shelter. The implications stemming from these potential shifts in behavior witnessed in the current survey are significant. With fewer residents expected in public shelters and fewer residents planning to evacuate, there may be more people remaining in areas at risk of flooding during a severe storm.

Perceptions of Police

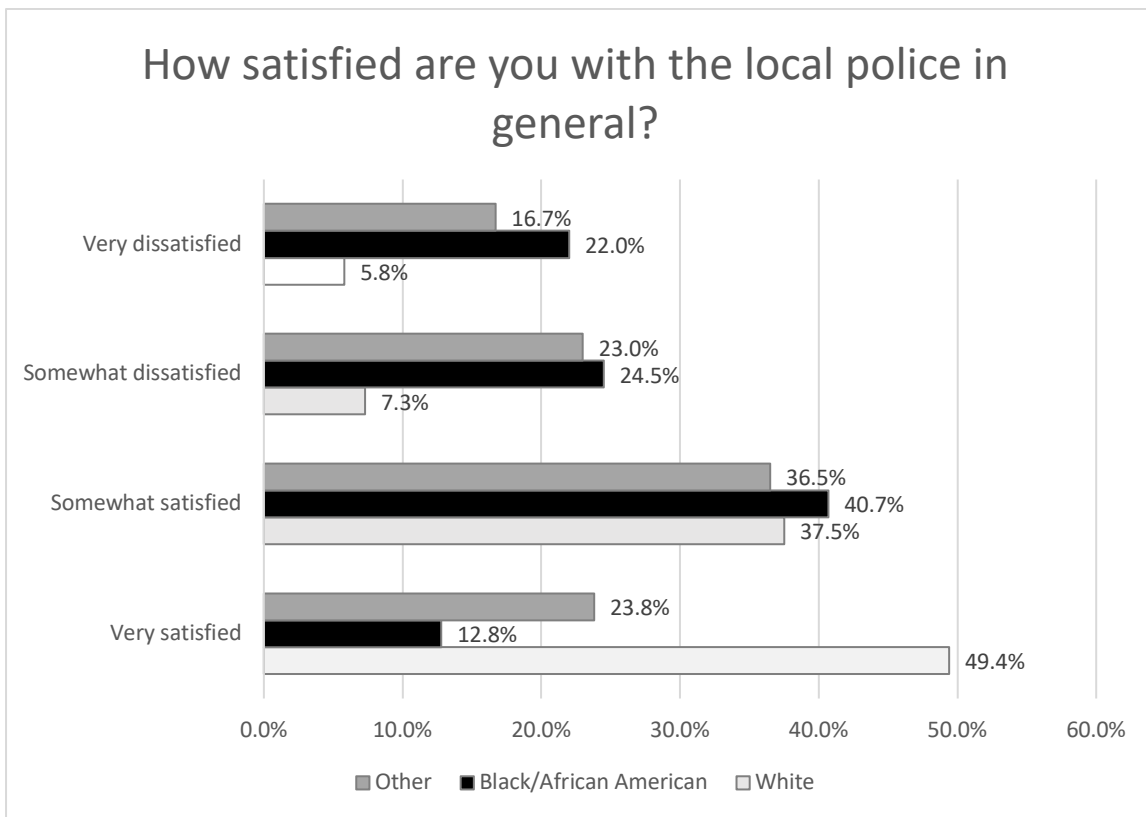
Hampton Roads residents were asked a variety of questions about the police. About two-thirds of respondents reported being very satisfied (31.6%) or somewhat satisfied (35.3%) with the local police.

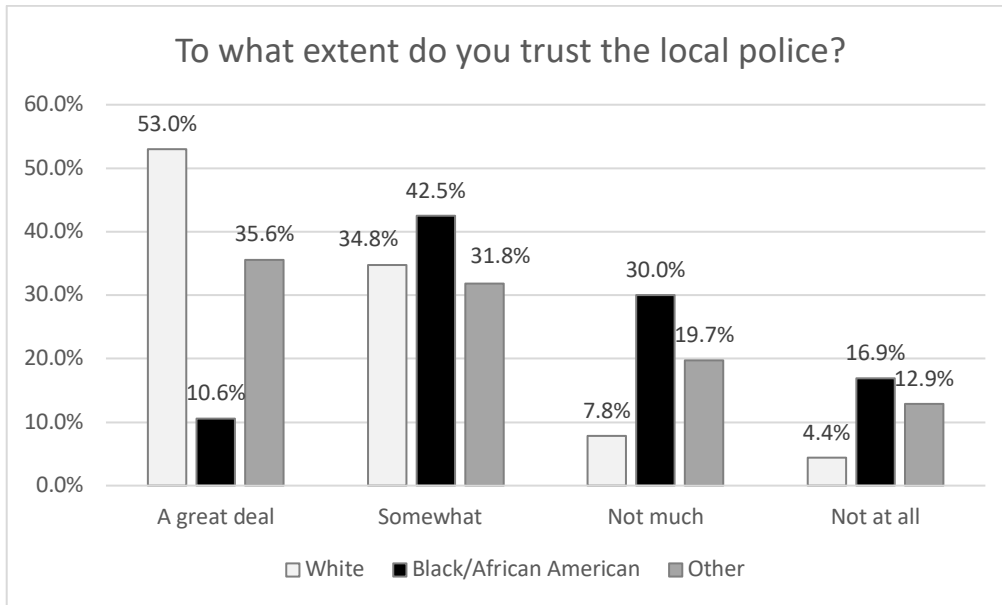
About one-quarter of respondents reported being either somewhat dissatisfied (13.7%) or very dissatisfied (11.8%), and 7.7% indicated that they did not know. Almost three-quarters of respondents indicated that they trust the local police at least somewhat (37.6%) or a great deal (35.6%). About 17% said they trust the police “not much,” and 9.8% trust them “not at all.”



When looking at attitudes toward the police, there are significant differences by race. Whites are much more likely than Blacks or other racial groups to be very satisfied with local police. Almost half of white respondents (49.4%) indicate that they are very satisfied compared to only 12.8% of Blacks and 23.8% of those in other racial groups. Close to half of Black respondents (46.5%) reported that they were somewhat or very dissatisfied with local police.

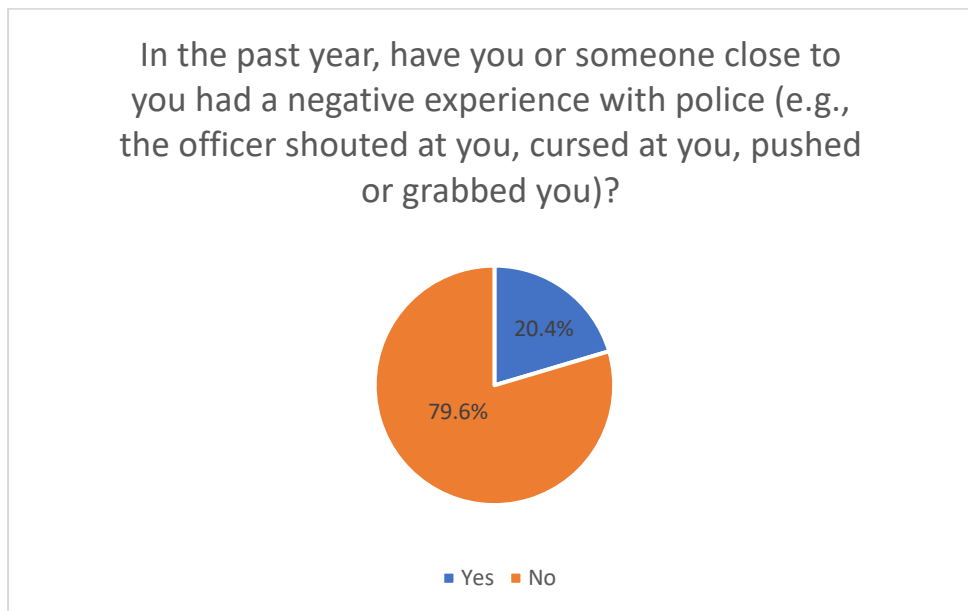
Similar patterns are seen with regard to trust in the local police. More than half of whites (53%) reported trusting the police “a great deal” compared to only 35.6% of other racial groups and 10.6% of Black respondents. Only 4.4% of whites reported trusting police “not at all” compared to 16.9% of Black respondents and 12.9% of other racial groups.



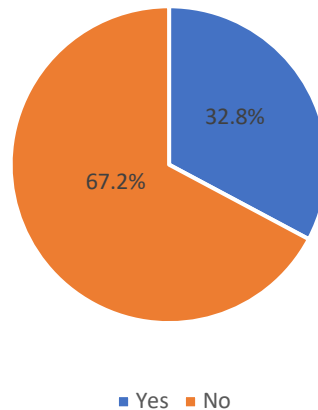


Experiences with Police

About one in five respondents (20.4%) indicated that they or someone close to them had a negative experience with police (e.g., the officer shouted at them, cursed at them, pushed or grabbed them) within the past year. Close to one-third of respondents (32.8%) have heard of someone in their local community who had a negative experience with police in the past year.

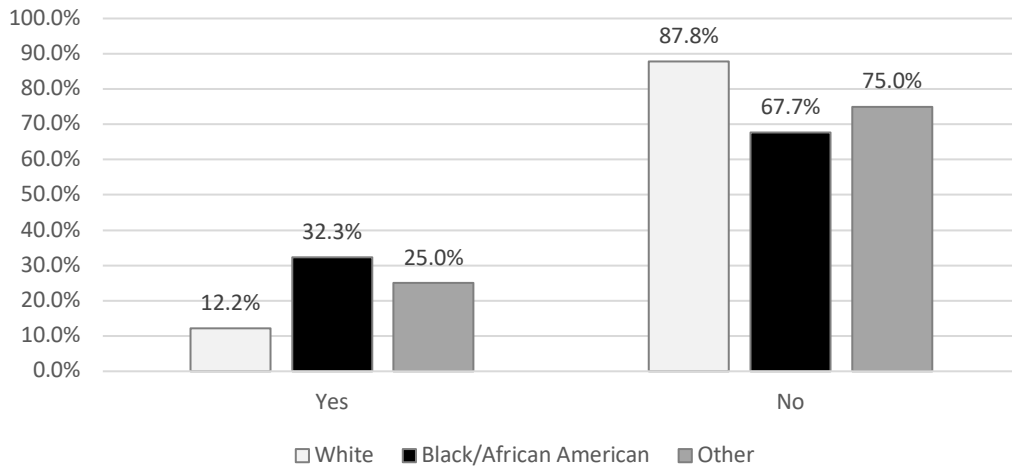


In the past year, have you heard of someone in your local community who had a negative experience with police (e.g., the officer shouted at them, cursed at them, pushed or grabbed them)?

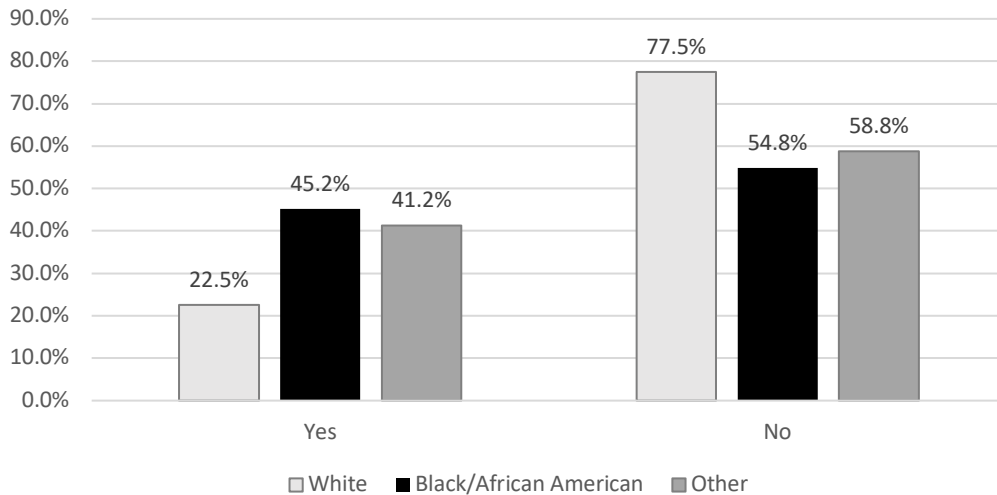


Reports of negative experiences with police also varied significantly by race. Almost one-third (32.3%) of Black respondents reported that they or someone close to them had a negative experience with police in the past year, as did 25% of those in other racial groups. Only 12.2% of white respondents reported a negative experience with police. Similarly, more than four in 10 Black respondents (45.2%) and those from other racial groups (41.2%) reported hearing about someone from their local community having a negative experience within the past year compared to only 22.5% of white respondents.

In the past year, have you or someone close to you had a negative experience with police (e.g., the officer shouted at you, cursed at you, pushed or grabbed you)?

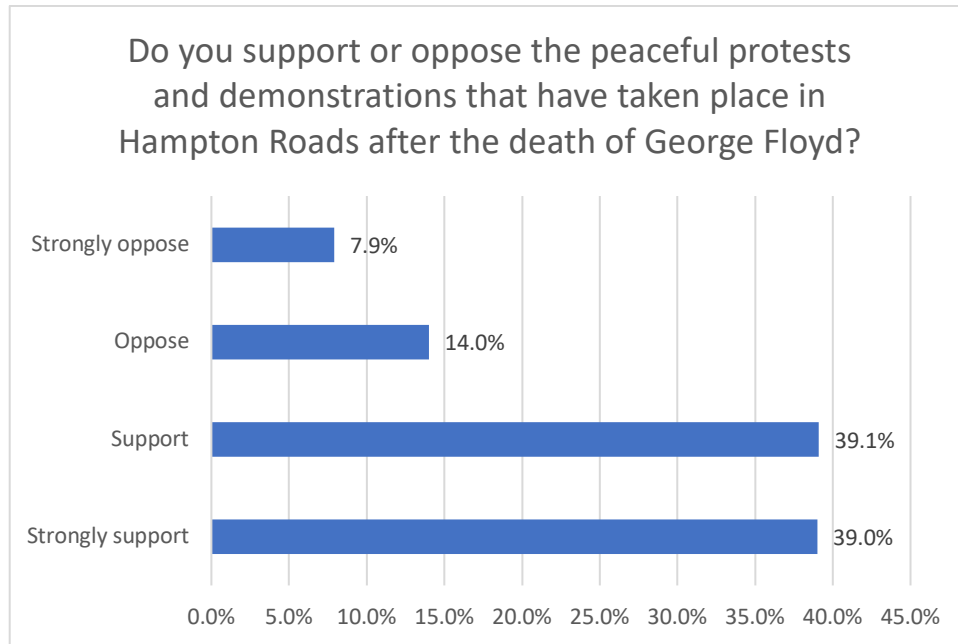


In the past year, have you heard of someone in your local community who had a negative experience with police (e.g., the officer shouted at them, cursed at them, pushed or grabbed them)?

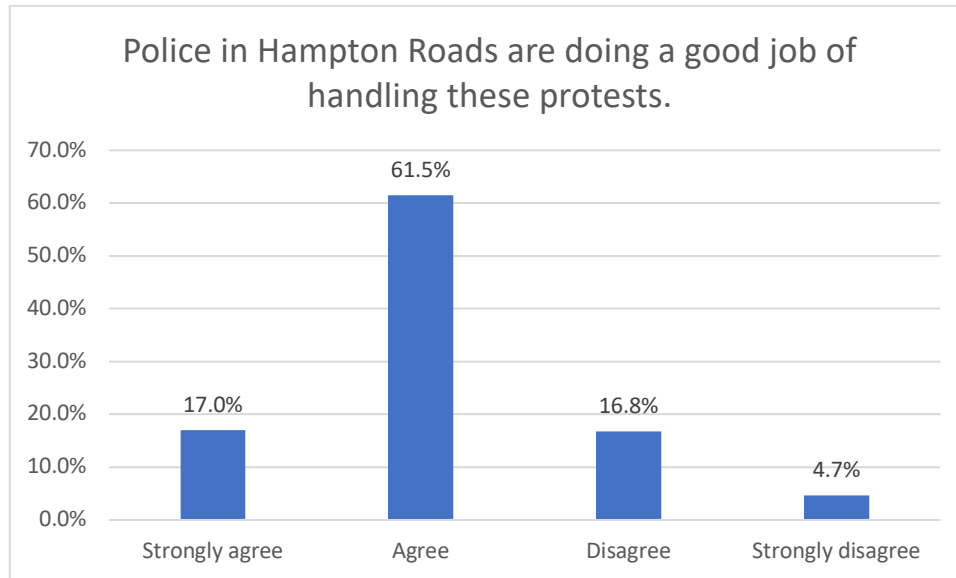


Protests in Hampton Roads and Police Response

Data collection for the survey started about a month after the death of George Floyd while in police custody – which resulted in nationwide and local protests. Respondents were asked specifically about local protests and the police response to them. Respondents showed general support for the local peaceful protests, with 78.1% indicating they support (39.1%) or strongly support (39%) the local demonstrations.



Similarly, more than three-quarters of respondents agreed that police in Hampton Roads are doing a good job of handling the protests (78.5%). Less than 5% strongly disagreed that police are doing a good job.

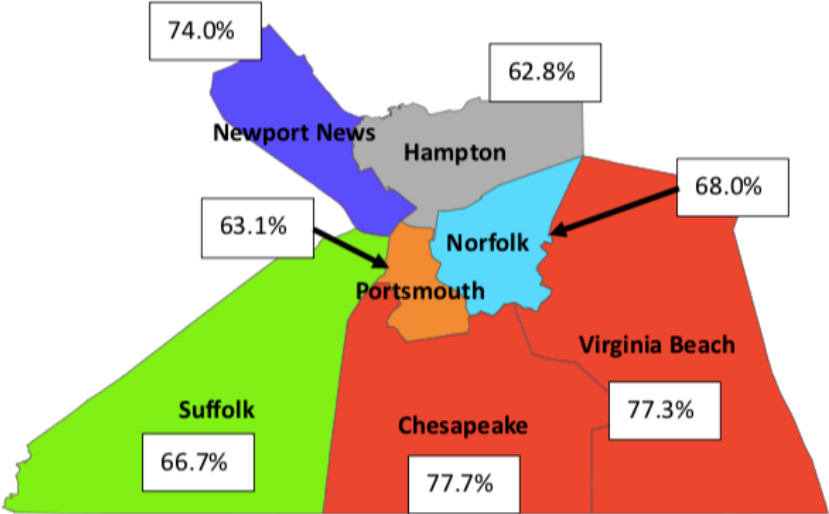


Perceptions of & Experiences with Police Vary by City

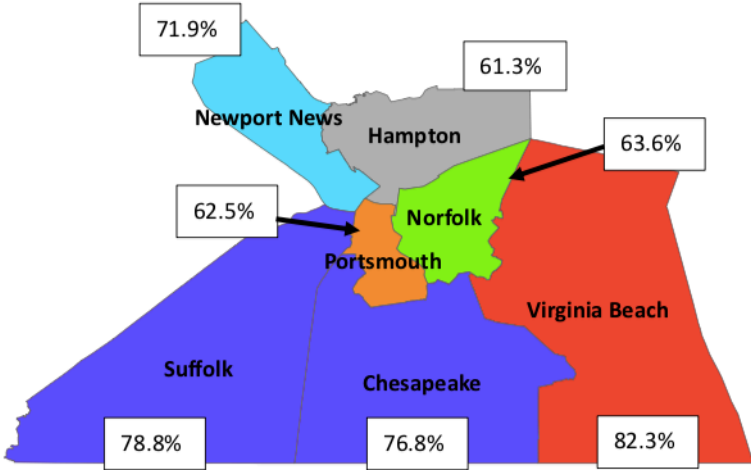
Trust and satisfaction with the police varied significantly based on where respondents lived.

Satisfaction with police ran from a high of around 77% in both Chesapeake and Virginia Beach to a low of about 63% in both Hampton and Portsmouth. There were even larger disparities across cities in trust of the police. Fewer than two-thirds of respondents in Hampton (61.3%), Portsmouth (62.5%) and Norfolk (63.6%) indicated that they trust the police at least “somewhat.” This is contrasted with about three-quarters of Chesapeake and Suffolk respondents and 82.3% of Virginia Beach respondents indicating that they trust the police.

% of City Residents Reporting being Satisfied or Very Satisfied with the Local Police

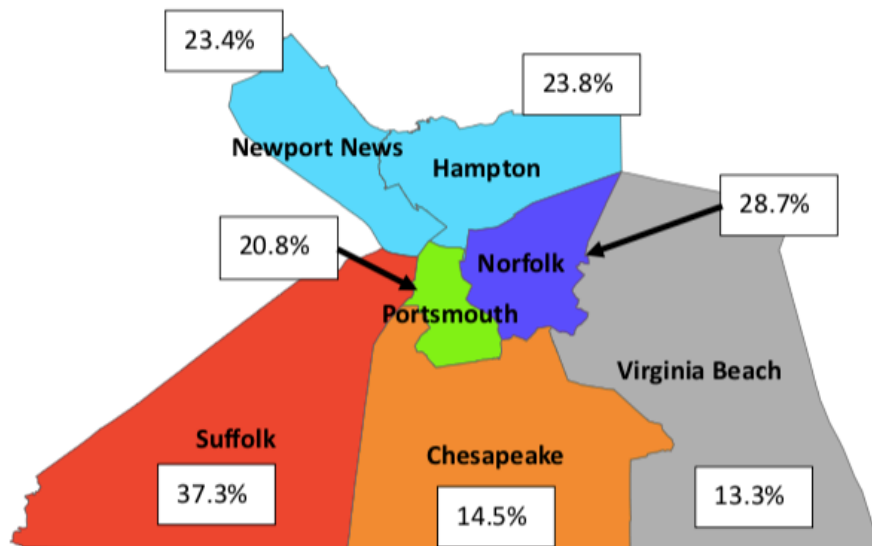


% of City Residents Responding that they Trust the Local Police Somewhat or a Great Deal

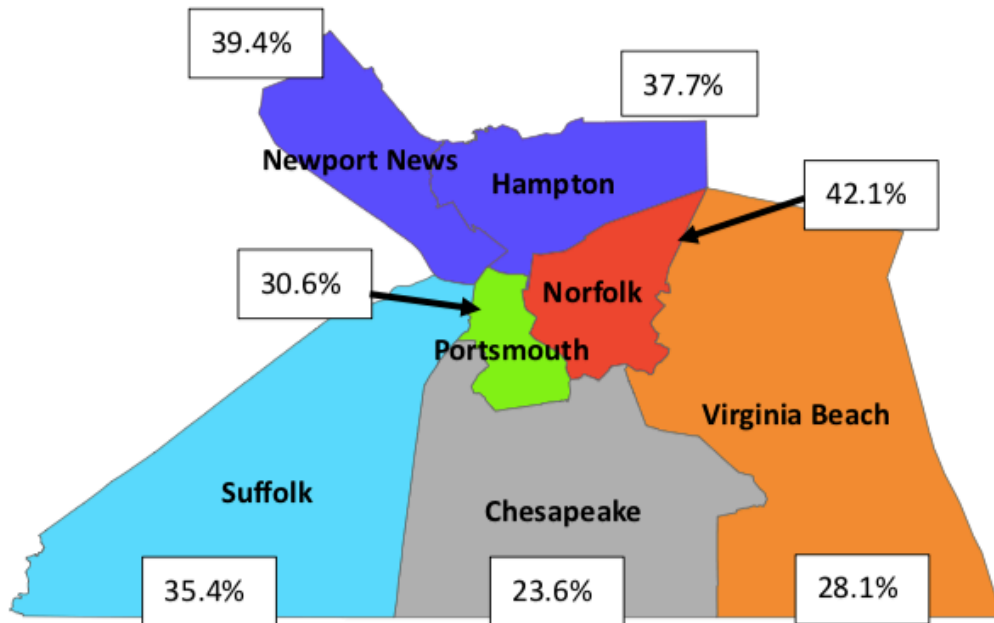


There were also significant differences among cities in terms of negative experiences with police. Only 13.3% of respondents living in Virginia Beach reported that they or someone close to them had a negative experience with the police in the past year. Reports of negative experiences were twice as high in Suffolk (37.3%) and Norfolk (28.7%). More than one in five respondents from Hampton (23.8%) and Newport News (23.4%) reported negative experiences with the police. About 42% of respondents living in Norfolk had heard of someone in their local community having a negative experience with police in the past year as did 39.4% of those living in Newport News. Chesapeake (23.6%) and Virginia Beach (28.1%) again had the lowest percentage of respondents who had heard of someone in their local community having a negative experience with police.

% Having (or someone close to them having) a Negative Experience with the Police in the Past Year

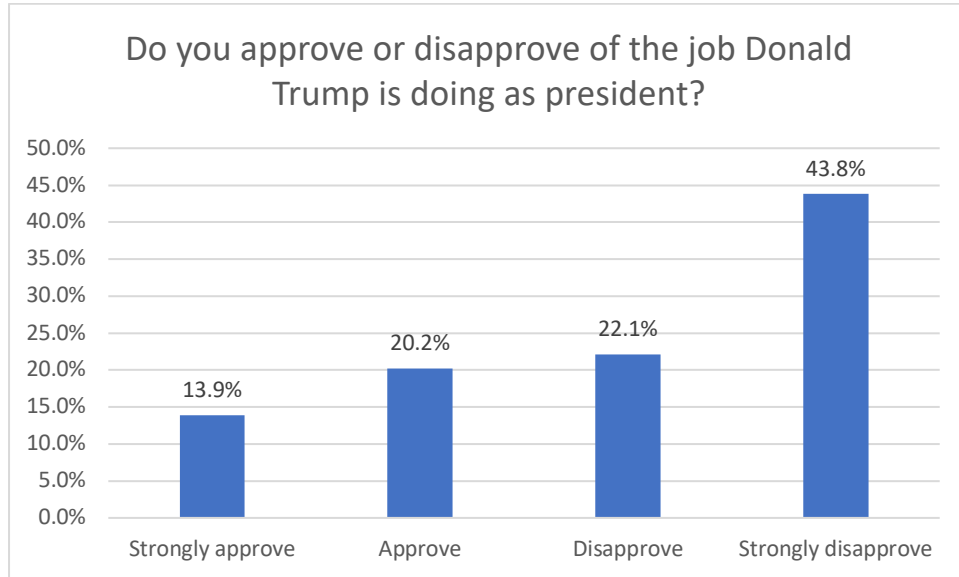


% Hearing of Someone in their Local Community who had a Negative Experience with the Police in the Past Year

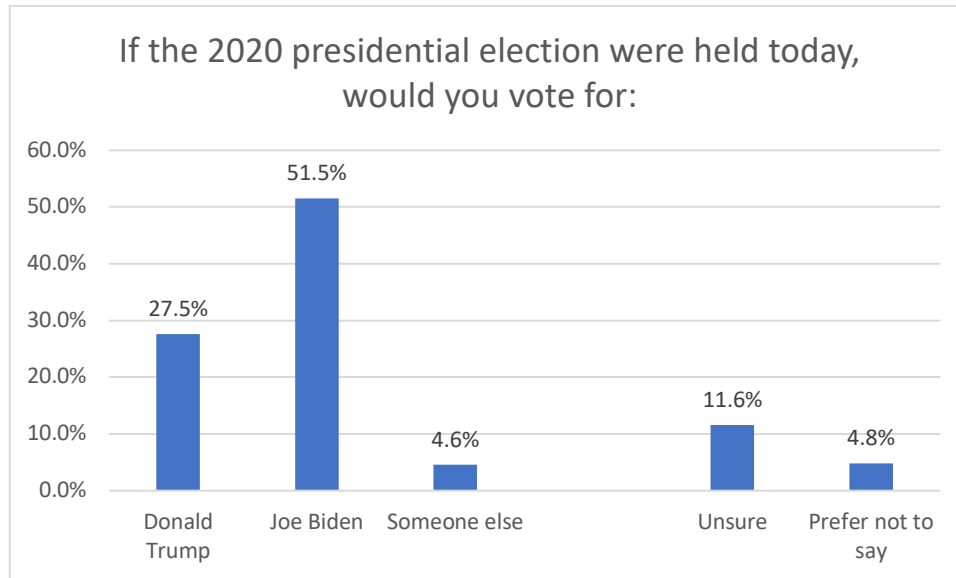


Presidential Poll Results

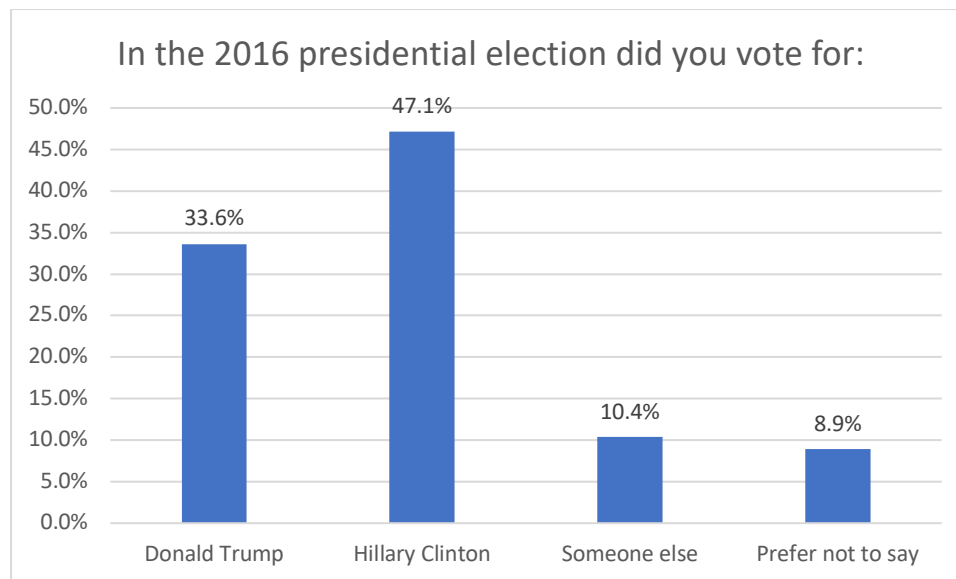
Respondents were asked: “Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as president?” Roughly one-third (34.1%) approved, with 13.9% strongly approving. Nearly two-thirds (65.9%) disapproved, with 43.8% disapproving strongly.



The survey also asked respondents from the seven cities how they would vote if the presidential election were held today. Excluding those who said they would not vote, 51.5% indicated that they would vote for Joe Biden, while 27.5% indicated that they would vote for Trump. Another 21% of respondents indicated that they would support a different candidate, were unsure about who they would support or preferred not to say.

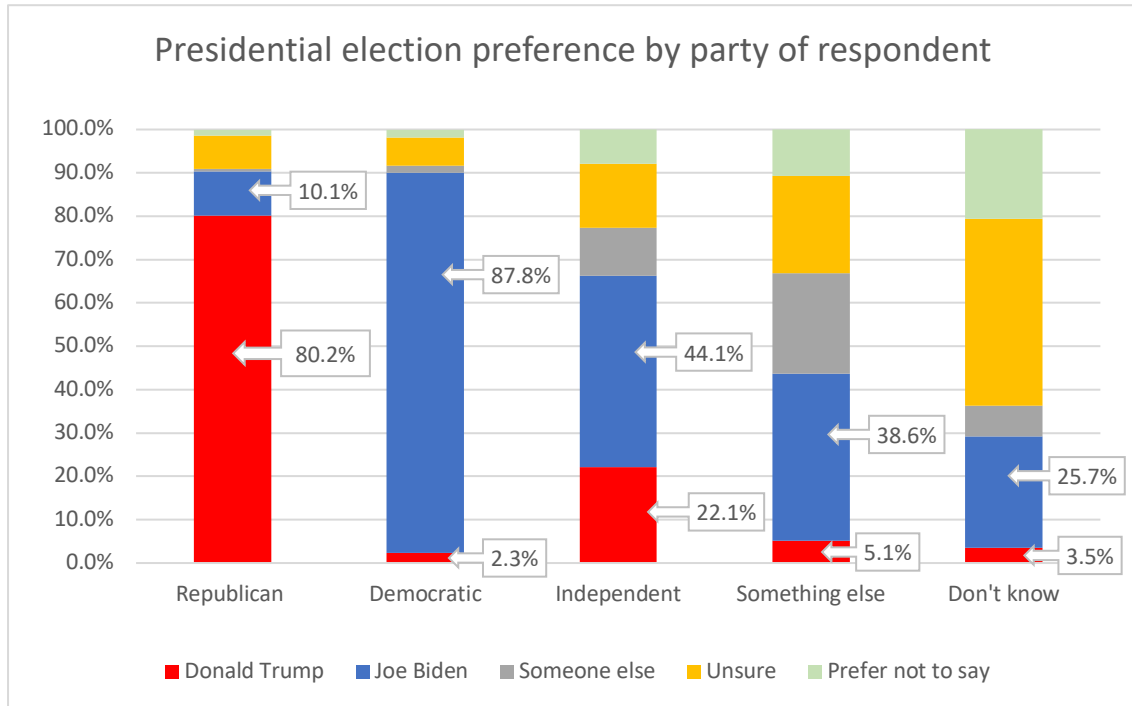


When respondents were asked to recall how they had voted in 2016, a similar pattern of responses emerged among those who voted, but with slightly stronger support for Trump. Among those who said they voted, 47.1% indicated they voted for Hillary Clinton, while 33.6% indicated that they supported Trump.



Among respondents who said that they identified as Republicans, support for Trump was fairly high, with 80.2% indicating that they would vote for him if the election were held today. Among Democrats, 87.8% indicated that they would vote for Biden. Independents and other non-major-party-

affiliated respondents leaned toward Biden by at least a two-to-one margin, though many were unsure. Biden also performed substantially better among Republicans (10.1%) compared to Trump among Democrats (2.3%).



A similar pattern emerged when comparing support from 2016 and 2020. More than 90% of respondents who said they voted for Clinton in 2016 indicated that they would vote for Biden in 2020, whereas only 80.2% of respondents who said they voted for Trump in 2016 indicated that they planned to vote for him in 2020. While any extrapolation from a regional poll to inferences about Virginia statewide election state-of-play is fraught, the overall picture in these results is of a president who is not very popular in Hampton Roads, and indeed a president who appears to be less popular today than he was four years ago with survey respondents.

Follow-up questions about the 2020 Life in Hampton Roads survey should be addressed to:

Tancy Vandecar-Burdin, PhD
 Director
 The Social Science Research Center
 Old Dominion University
 757-683-3802 (office)
tvandeca@odu.edu