Social Science Research Center, Old Dominion University

# Life in Hampton Roads Report The Fourth Annual Life in Hampton Roads Survey 

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## Executive Summary

This document presents the results from the ODU Social Science Research Center's fourth annual Life in Hampton Roads survey. The survey was designed to examine social and economic indicators of the quality of life in Hampton roads, particularly with respect to transportation and traffic, local and state government, education, heath, emergency preparedness, the economy, and crime. Questions were obtained from University faculty as well as from previous years' Life in Hampton Roads surveys. The survey was conducted via telephone with 812 residents of the seven cities of Hampton Roads.

Respondent's perceptions of the overall quality of life in Hampton Roads have changed over the past three years in which the SSRC conducted the survey. In 2011, 59.2\% of respondents rated life in Hampton Roads as excellent or good, which increased to $68.4 \%$ in 2012, but decreased in 2013 to $63.7 \%$. However, when ratings of economic conditions in Hampton Roads are compared, 2013 was the most optimistic year: over three quarters of respondents in 2011 rated economic conditions as fair or poor, ( $75.6 \%$ ) and $62.2 \%$ did so in 2012 , while only $58.8 \%$ of respondents gave this rating in 2013. This optimism about economic conditions was also evident in ratings of the economic conditions of the United States as a whole: $80.4 \%$ responded 'fair' or 'poor' in 2013, compared with $84.2 \%$ in 2012, and $90.0 \%$ in 2011.

Traffic issues continue to be a key issue in Hampton Roads. Although there has been a relatively steady increase in those reporting that they had used public transportation in the past week ( $7.3 \%$ in 2011, $7.6 \%$ in 2012, and $10.2 \%$ in 2013), average commute time had increased to 24.8 minutes from 23.9 minutes in 2012. More respondents indicated that they had avoided visiting a business in a neighboring city due to traffic concerns in 2013 than in the previous years ( $44.5 \%$ in 2013, compared to $40.3 \%$ in 2012, and $43.5 \%$ in 2011). Respondents to the 2013 survey were asked about their level of concern with traffic congestion in Hampton Roads, with about half (50.4\%) of respondents reporting that they were extremely concerned or very concerned. The majority of the sample stated that they were aware of impending toll projects on exisiting roads or bridges in the area ( $60.3 \%$ ), but half of all respondents went on to state that they would be less likely to use bridges and tunnels that have a toll on them (50.6\%). Less
than a quarter or respondents (23.4\%) supported expanding the midtown tunnel by contracting with a private party to set tolls to pay for tunnel expansion.

## Project Highlights

- Interest in expanding the light rail throughout Hampton Roads has stayed relatively steady across 2012 and 2013, although fewer respondents selected multiple destinations when asked where they wanted to see light rail expanded.
- More respondents reported concern that rising sea levels in Hampton Roads will affect residents personally between 2012 and 2013; however, concern about global effects of rising sea levels has not changed.
- Respondents rated the schools their children attend more favorably in 2013 than in 2012.
- Perceptions of local governments declined, as fewer respondents in 2013 felt that their local government uses resources wisely.
- More respondents reported having seen a doctor in the past year in 2013 than in 2012, with over three quarters of those who had seen a doctor in 2013 stating that they received a yearly checkup.


## Analysis of 2013 Life in Hampton Roads Survey

The Life in Hampton Roads Survey is a region-wide quality of life survey initiated by Old Dominion University's Social Science Research Center (SSRC) in 2010. The survey provides extensive regional social and economic indicators of the quality of life in Hampton Roads, with in depth foci each year that particularly illuminate issues and attitudes in key areas including transportation and traffic, local and state government, education, health, emergency preparedness, the economy, and crime.

The Social Science Research Center (SSRC) at Old Dominion University recently conducted the fourth annual Life in Hampton Roads telephone survey. The principal goal of the survey was to gauge relative satisfaction regarding life in Hampton Roads. Additional goals were to determine the attitudes and perceptions of citizens regarding local topics such as transportation and traffic, local and state government, education, and crime, and other key issues. In order to generate questions for the Life in Hampton Roads (LIHR) survey, faculty members were invited to submit questions of interest for consideration to be included in the survey. This allowed faculty to obtain pilot data from a local sample related to their research topics of interest. Fourth year funding for the survey was provided by the ODU Office of Research. The initial email invitation generated approximately 100 new questions, which were narrowed down by SSRC staff and the Associate Dean of Research for the College of Arts and Letters. Questions that presented definitional issues for respondents or were not specifically relevant to life in Hampton Roads, as well as questions that dealt with sensitive information and/or were unsuitable for a telephone survey were eliminated. New questions were included along with several questions from the first, second, and third Life in Hampton Roads surveys conducted in the summers of 2010, 2011 and 2012. Once this process was completed, the survey consisted of about 60 questions which asked respondents about quality of life, transportation, local government, political issues, environmental issues, health and education, housing, neighborhood issues and crime, military life, and basic demographic information.

The survey was programmed by SSRC staff using a computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system and telephone interviewers were recruited and trained. A random digit dial (RDD)
telephone sample was requested from Marketing Systems Group to be comprised of telephone numbers with Hampton Roads exchanges. A cellphone sample was also utilized based on switch points within the Hampton Roads area. Calls were conducted from May 28, 2013 to July 12, 2013, Monday through Friday during peak evening hours ( $4: 30 \mathrm{pm}-8: 30 \mathrm{pm}$ ), excluding University holidays.

A total of 812 completed interviews were obtained; however, this sample was over-representative of women, whites, and older respondents. The results were then weighted with the goal of adjusting the sample distribution by certain characteristics to be in line with a known population distribution. The data was weighted under the assumption that if the sample were representative of the population from which it was drawn, the distribution of the sample would match the distribution of the population. Any discrepancies were therefore taken as evidence of under or over-sampling. In general, weighting was implemented to increase the underrepresented group in the sample by applying a numeric weight estimated from the discrepancies between the sample and the population distributions. For more specific information about the weighting procedure, please see the Appendix. A weight variable was computed and the data file was weighted to correct for discrepancies in age, race, gender, and locality of residence between the survey sample and the general Hampton Roads population. The sample was also weighted based on estimates of state-level telephone usage (landline versus cellphone). Frequencies were generated for both the weighted and unweighted samples using SPSS statistical software version 20. All results presented in this report come from the weighted sample in order to present results which are more representative of the Hampton Roads population. While some tables and graphs are presented below, there are additional tables and graphs in the Appendix.

## Demographics

Of the 812 citizens interviewed, $55.9 \%$ were white, $34.6 \%$ Black or African-American, 4.6\% considered themselves to be another race/ethnicity, and $4.6 \%$ indicated they were multiracial. Just under half of the respondents received a high school diploma, completed trade or professional school, or attended some college (44.4\%). An additional $38.2 \%$ of respondents completed an undergraduate or
graduate degree. Almost half of respondents were married (48.3\%) and 16\% were divorced, separated, or widowed. Just over one-quarter of those surveyed were single and not living with a partner ( $27 \%$ ) while a small portion of single people reported living with a partner (8.1\%).

| Race or Ethnicity | Percentage |
| :--- | :---: |
| White | $55.9 \%$ |
| Black or African- | $34.6 \%$ |
| American | $1.6 \%$ |
| Hispanic or Latino | $0.3 \%$ |
| American Indian or | $0.5 \%$ |
| Alaskan Native |  |
| Asian | $0.7 \%$ |
| Native Hawaiian or | $4.6 \%$ |
| Pacific Islander | $1.5 \%$ |
| Multiracial | $0.4 \%$ |
| Other | Percentage |
| Refused | $49.0 \%$ |
| Gender | $50.8 \%$ |
| Male | Percentage |
| Female | $0.5 \%$ |
| Highest level of school | $1.2 \%$ |
| completed | $18.8 \%$ |
| Some grade school | $3.9 \%$ |
| Some high school | $21.7 \%$ |
| High school | $15.2 \%$ |
| diploma/GED | $26.5 \%$ |
| Completed |  |
| trade/professional school | $11.7 \%$ |
| Some college | $0.5 \%$ |
| Associate's degree | $0.0 \%$ |
| Bachelor's degree | Age in years |
| Graduate degree | 44.8 |
| Other |  |
| Refused | Age |
| Average age (years) |  |


| Marital Status | Percentage |
| :--- | :---: |
| Single, not living with |  |
| partner | $27.0 \%$ |
| Single, living with partner | $8.1 \%$ |
| Married | $48.3 \%$ |
| Divorced/separated | $9.3 \%$ |
| Widowed | $6.7 \%$ |
| Refused | $0.7 \%$ |

The majority of respondents lived in Virginia Beach (31.0\%), Norfolk (17.6\%), and Chesapeake (15.7\%). The majority of survey participants were employed ( $67.3 \%$ ), $13.7 \%$ worked part-time while $53.6 \%$ reported that they worked full-time. Of the remaining respondents, $18.6 \%$ were retired, $9.1 \%$ were unemployed but looking for work, and $4.5 \%$ were not employed and not looking for work. Nearly twenty percent ( $19.2 \%$ ) of participants in the survey reported their family household income for last year as $\$ 30,000$ or less, $44.8 \%$ reported earning more than $\$ 30,000$ but less than $\$ 75,000$, while $27.5 \%$ earned more than $\$ 75,000$. Respondents were also asked to identify their type of household phone usage. The majority of respondents indicated that their household was cellphone only or cellphone mostly ( $31.8 \%$ and $27.3 \%$, respectively). Another $24.0 \%$ of respondents indicated that their household used landline and cellphones equally, while only $5.5 \%$ indicated that their household was landline only.




## Economic Outlook and Politics

Questions were asked concerning views about the local government and other political issues.
About $34.6 \%$ of respondents reported generally feeling closer to the Democratic Party while $22.4 \%$ felt closer to the Republican Party. An additional $40.0 \%$ considered themselves political independents or aligned with some other party ( $33.1 \%$ and $7.0 \%$, respectively). More than one-quarter of respondents thought of themselves as extremely liberal, liberal, or slightly liberal (27.5\%), 30.5\% thought of themselves as moderate, middle of the road, and $36.8 \%$ thought of themselves as extremely conservative, conservative, or slightly conservative. Over ninety percent of survey respondents said they were registered to vote ( $91.3 \%$ ) while $8.4 \%$ said they were not registered to vote at the time the survey was conducted.




Survey participants were also asked to rate current economic conditions. More than one-third of respondents ( $40.3 \%$ ) felt that economic conditions are excellent or good in Hampton Roads while only $19.2 \%$ believe national economic conditions to be excellent or good. However, the majority of respondents ( $58.8 \%$ ) felt that the economic conditions were actually either fair or poor in Hampton Roads as well as $80.4 \%$ believing the same about the United States as a whole. Of further note, when it came to evaluating the effective use of public resources by local government, the majority of respondents generally felt that their local government wastes a fair amount of resources rather than use them wisely (71.2\%).


Do you think your local 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


## Neighborhood and Crime

Questions regarding neighborhood and crime found that $86.1 \%$ strongly agreed or agreed that they were satisfied with the police in general. Additionally, $81.7 \%$ of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that local police were doing a good job working with local residents to solve neighborhood problems. Only $5.2 \%$ of respondents stated that in the past 12 months they or a member of their household had been a victim of a serious crime. In general, $85.5 \%$ of respondents rated the quality of life in their neighborhoods as excellent or good.





## Environmental Issues

Another section of the survey included questions to determine how people in Hampton Roads felt about environmental issues. When respondents were asked whether or not they were concerned that sea level rise in Hampton Roads will affect them personally, $40.4 \%$ answered yes. More respondents indicated that they were concerned with sea level rise in the rest of the world (62.4\%). When asked if recurrent flooding was a problem in their neighborhood, $23 \%$ said that flooding was a problem and $77 \%$ said that flooding was not a problem. Over half of the respondents indicated that they believe flooding has increased in Hampton Road over the past thirty years (54.3\%), while 31.3\% believed flooding in Hampton Roads has stayed the same, and only $4.4 \%$ believed that flooding has decreased. Only $28.8 \%$ of respondents thought it was very likely or somewhat likely that their house would be damaged by flooding in the next twenty-five years. Conversely, $68.5 \%$ thought it was not very likely or not at all likely that their house would be damaged by flooding in the next twenty-five years. About one-third of respondents indicated they had flood insurance (33.5\%), while $61.2 \%$ did not have flood insurance. Among respondents who said they had flood insurance $58.7 \%$ indicated that their insurance was a FEMA approved policy separate from their regular homeowner's policy.


## Education

A series of questions was included concerning education in Hampton Roads. Firstly, respondents were asked if they had school aged children attending public school, private school, or were homeschooled $(26.1 \%, 3.2 \%$, and $0.9 \%$ respectively). Those respondents who indicated None of the above presumably did not have school aged children (69.8\%). Those respondents who said that they did have children were then asked a series of follow-up questions concerning their satisfaction with the education system. When asked to rate the quality of the school system that their child(ren) attended, 89.5\% of respondents said the schools were either excellent or good while $10.0 \%$ said they were fair or poor. Additionally, $98.5 \%$ of respondents with school aged children said that they felt their child was very safe or somewhat safe in their school. Only $1.3 \%$ of respondents said they felt their child(ren) were not very safe and no respondent felt that their child was not at all safe. The majority of respondents also indicated that they did not have a child with a disability who received special education services in school $(87.7 \%)$. Of the $12.3 \%$ of respondents with school aged children who do receive special education services, $84.1 \%$ said that they were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the services their child(ren) received. Those who stated they did not have children attending public schools were also asked to rate the quality of their local public school system. More than half of the respondents without children
attending public schools rated the quality of their local public school system as excellent or good (54.2\%),
while $33.5 \%$ rated their local public school system fair or poor.



Do you have a child with a disability who is receiving special education services in school?



## Military

Respondents were also asked questions concerning their individual involvement, or their household involvement, in the military services. Most respondents (88.8\%) were not active duty military, nor was anyone in their household active duty military. A combined percentage of $11.1 \%$ of respondents were involved with the military: $5.3 \%$ were, themselves, active duty military, $3.8 \%$ said their spouse or partner was active duty military, $0.2 \%$ said that both they and their spouse/partner were active duty military, and $1.8 \%$ indicated their active duty military involvement as something other. The majority of the active duty military household members were affiliated with the Navy (82.8\%), while the Army constituted $8.2 \%$ of active duty, $2.4 \%$ indicated they were active duty Air Force, $6.4 \%$ indicated they were active duty Marine Corps, and only $1.4 \%$ said they or another household member were active duty Coast Guard.



## Transportation

Every day people traverse the eleven bridges and five bridge-tunnels in the Hampton Roads area, commuting for work, family, and activities for children or cultural events. The average one-way commute to work or school was 24.8 minutes for survey respondents. Survey questions dealing with transportation found that only $10.2 \%$ of people reported using public transportation in the week prior to
their being surveyed, including buses and taxis. When asked about light rail use, $22.8 \%$ of respondents indicated that they had used the light rail in the past six months. In the past six months, of those respondents who had ridden the light rail, only $0.7 \%$ said they rode the system more than once a week. Fewer than $10.0 \%$ of respondents $(9.7 \%)$ said they had only ridden the light rail $2-5$ times in the past six months. When asked the reasons for using the light rail system, most respondents said that they were curious to ride (47.4\%). An additional $46.5 \%$ said they used the light rail system to get to recreation or cultural events in Norfolk and only $4.6 \%$ said they used it for their regular commute to work or school.

More than seventy percent of respondents (72.9\%) thought that light rail has very likely or somewhat likely contributed to local economic development. When asked where respondents would like to see the light rail extended, $10.5 \%$ stated they did not want the light rail extended at all. The top three destinations that those surveyed wanted to see the light rail reach were Virginia Beach Oceanfront ( $54.5 \%$ ), Virginia Beach Town Center (35.9\%), and the Naval Base (37.5\%) as seen in the table below.

Respondents were asked to think about the midtown and downtown tunnels and indicate whether they supported tunnel expansion. Roughly one-quarter of respondents supported contracting with a private company to set tolls ( $23.4 \%$ ), 19.7\% opposed tunnel expansion, and $47.4 \%$ supported paying for tunnel expansion in some other way. When asked what the highest priority spending areas should be if additional funds became available for transportation infrastructure in the future, $67.5 \%$ stated that repairing existing roads, bridges, and tunnels should be the highest priority. Other responses selected were constructing or expanding roads, bridges, and tunnels (48.4\%), expanding mass transit services such as light rail ( $40.1 \%$ ), expanding bicycle routes and improving bike safety ( $7.5 \%$ ), and other (5.6\%).


How often have you used the light rail system in the past six months?


■ Never
■ Once

- 2-5 times

■ Once a month

- A few times a month

■ More than once a week




Turning to general issues of transportation in the Hampton Roads area, when respondents were asked how concerned they were with traffic congestion in Hampton Roads, about half of respondents said they were extremely or very concerned ( $50.4 \%$ ), $33.1 \%$ said they were somewhat concerned, while $16.5 \%$ said they were either not very concerned or not at all concerned with traffic congestion. Over $40 \%$ of those surveyed reported that they had avoided visiting a business in a neighboring city due to traffic congestion in the past month (44.5\%).


# Within the past month, did you avoid visiting a business in a neighboring city due to concerns about traffic congestion? 



Respondents were also asked to predict for the future of Hampton Roads whether improved roads, highways, and bridges would contribute to the region's economic growth; $88.6 \%$ felt that this infrastructure was extremely important or very important to the region's economic growth, $9.2 \%$ felt it was somewhat important, while $2.0 \%$ thought that better roads, highways, and bridges were not very or not at all important.

Respondents were asked if they were aware of any impending toll projects on the existing bridges and tunnels in the Hampton Roads area; the majority indicated they were aware of such projects ( $60.3 \%$ ). However, $50.6 \%$ of respondents went on to say that they would be less likely to use bridges and tunnels with tolls on them as opposed to those without tolls. Roughly $40 \%$ of respondents said that implemented tolls would not affect their decision to use bridges or tunnel in Hampton Roads (40.4\%). Regarding how to pay for expansion of exisiting bridges and tunnels, respondents were asked whether they support contracting with a private company to set tolls at the downtown and midtown tunnels to pay for tunnel expansion (23.4\%), paying for expansion in some other way (47.4\%), or oppose tunnel expansion (19.7\%). Almost ten percent (9.5\%) of respondents selected don't know. Respondents who indicated that they did not want private contractors to place tolls to expand the downtown and midtown tunnels were
asked to specify another way to fund these projects. These individuals were heavily opposed to the use of tolls due to the increased traffic congestion caused by collecting tolls. Having private companies control the price of the toll was another concern. The most commonly recommended solution was to increase taxes to cover the cost of expansion. More specifically, respondents were willing to pay more in gas taxes, but a few also mentioned increasing the amount of property tax and/or sales tax collected. Another general suggestion was that the local and federal government should handle the process of funding by using bonds and/or grants. Reworking the budget was also recommended by several individuals, although these respondents did not specify state, local, or federal budget. Some of these tips included borrowing money from the state lottery, ceasing to fund ineffective government-sponsored programs, and reducing the salaries of high paid government employees.




## Health and Medical

Respondents were asked whether they thought their own health was excellent, good, fair, or poor.
Less than one-third (31.7\%) of the respondents indicated they were in excellent health, with 54.1\%
reported good health, $12.4 \%$ fair health, and $1.7 \%$ poor health. In addition to being asked to rate their
own level of health, respondents were asked about their use of medical services during the last 12 months. The majority of respondents ( $85.1 \%$ ) indicated that they had seen a doctor for medical care at some point during the previous year. Those who had seen a doctor in the past year were asked what kind of treatment(s) they received. Most of the respondents (77.4\%) had seen a doctor for an annual check-up followed by $25.4 \%$ for general illness and $25.2 \%$ for treatment of a chronic condition, such as allergies, diabetes or high blood pressure. The remaining reasons for seeking medical treatment were: $18.1 \%$ emergency care, $16.1 \%$ immunizations, $8.4 \%$ family planning/pregnancy, $6.0 \%$ for mental healthcare and $6.9 \%$ for other. Over three-quarters of respondents indicated that they receive the majority of their health care at a doctor's office ( $75.5 \%$ ), $5.6 \%$ at an urgent care center, $4.4 \%$ at an emergency room/emergency department, $3.5 \%$ at a public/community health center, and $9.5 \%$ at either a holistic health center or somewhere else. When asked about seeking professional dental care, $73.3 \%$ of respondents had seen a dentist during the past year.


Have you seen a doctor for medical care in the past year?
$14.8 \%$




Respondents were asked whether or not they regularly spend time, outside of their professional employment, providing care to an individual with special health care needs. The majority of respondents (87.7\%) did not provide care for an individual with special health care needs, while $12.3 \%$ did provide such care. Those who said they did provide care to an individual with special health care needs were asked how many hours per week they spend providing care to that person. The majority of respondents indicated that they spend more than twenty hours per week or one to five hours per week ( $42.3 \%$ and $29.9 \%$, respectively). Almost half of the respondents stated that the person for whom they provide care was 65 or older ( $46.9 \%$ ). Less than $30 \%$ provided care to someone under $18(28.9 \%)$ or between 18 and $64(24.3 \%)$. When asked about how providing care affects their time on the job, about half ( $49.9 \%$ ) of respondents were not employed who were providing care for an individual with special health care needs, while others reported arriving late and/or leaving early on the job ( $24.9 \%$ ), $21.2 \%$ had to take sick time, $18.7 \%$ took vacation time, and $10.1 \%$ decreased hours from full-time to part-time.

## Civic Engagement and Overall Quality of Life

When respondents were asked whether or not they had attended an exhibition, concert, or other performance in the past year in Hampton Roads, $49.8 \%$ said they had attended and $50.2 \%$ said they had not attended. Of those who indicated that they did attend an exhibition, concert, or other performance, $73.6 \%$ attended a concert, $35 \%$ attended a theatre or other performance, $31.1 \%$ attended an exhibition at a museum or gallery, and $22.1 \%$ attended something else. Respondents were asked to identify what type of volunteer work they regularly do. Over half of the respondents said they do church-related volunteer work ( $52.7 \%$ ), while $23.8 \%$ volunteer with professional groups, and $21 \%$ volunteer with educational groups. Nearly seventy percent of respondents said that they planned on living in Hampton Roads five years from now (68\%).

The majority of those interviewed (63.7\%) reported that the overall quality of life in Hampton Roads was excellent or good while $35.8 \%$ found it to be fair or poor. In addition to rating the overall quality of life in Hampton Roads, participants were asked to provide a few words as to why they choose their rating. The respondents (63.7\%) who rated the quality of life as good or excellent also mentioned several common themes, such as low crime rates and unemployment. Individuals also reported that the area was favorable due to its balance between urban and rural lifestyles, fair weather, and friendly people. Another common theme was that there were plenty of job opportunities and a low cost of living in Hampton Roads. Others reported that the military presence in the area provided cultural and economic benefits. The availability of quality schools and health care facilities was also frequently cited.

Furthermore, access to recreational resources, such as beaches, shopping centers, parks, and zoos were commonly mentioned as reasons for ranking Hampton Roads highly.

Individuals who rated the quality of life in Hampton Roads as fair or poor often mentioned similar topics as their counterparts that provided a good or excellent rating, but had a very different outlook on the topic. For instance, some common reasons for giving fair and poor ratings were that there are high levels of crime and poverty. Respondents indicated there is a lack of employment opportunities,
inadequate schools, and a higher cost of living throughout Hampton Roads. Several individuals acknowledged that crime and poverty were higher in some cities than others. Norfolk and Portsmouth were mentioned most frequently as areas of concern, followed by Hampton and Newport News. Transportation issues, such as poor road quality and traffic congestion, were also frequently indicated as reasons for rating the quality of life in Hampton Roads as fair or poor.

When respondents were asked about their overall quality of life in their city, $64 \%$ said their overall quality of life was excellent or good and $35.6 \%$ said fair or poor. When respondents were asked how much difference they believe they can make personally in solving problems in their community the majority indicated that they can make a little difference, some difference, or a great deal of difference ( $29 . \%, 39.8 \%$, and $11 \%$, respectively). Less than $20 \%$ of respondents believed they could make no difference at all (19.5\%).

When asked how long have they had lived in their current apartment or house, $89 \%$ stated more than one year and $11 \%$ stated less than one year. The majority of respondents (71.4\%) said they own or are in the process of buying their home while $25.5 \%$ rent their home.






## Quality of Work Life

Respondents were asked how often the demands of work interfered with their home and family life in the past 12 months. Almost one-third said never ( $31.3 \%$ ), $18.5 \%$ indicated less than monthly, $18 \%$ said weekly, $17.2 \%$ said monthly, and $13.9 \%$ reported daily. The majority of respondents (93\%) indicated that they had not been discriminated against in their workplace in the last 12 months.

Additionally, $97.5 \%$ of respondents said they had not been sexually harassed in their workplace in the last 12 months. Of those who experienced discrimination in the workplace, $31.3 \%$ said the discrimination was racial, $28.7 \%$ reported gender, $28.1 \%$ reported age, $15.3 \%$ reported sexual orientation, $4.1 \%$ reported disability, and 3.5\% reported religious discrimination. The majority of respondents ( $87.7 \%$ ) said they had
never witnessed incidents of workplace violence in the past 12 months, while $5.8 \%$ witnessed workplace violence less than monthly, $4.8 \%$ witnessed monthly, and $1.1 \%$ witnessed weekly incidents of violence.





## Additional Charts and Tables

The following charts reflect questions that were asked in the 2013 Life in Hampton Roads survey but were not referred to in the text of the report.


## Cross-Year Comparison of the Life in Hampton Roads Survey Results:

 2010-2013The Social Science Research Center (SSRC) at Old Dominion University recently completed data collection for the fourth annual Life in Hampton Roads telephone survey. The purpose of the survey was to gain insight into residents' perceptions of the quality of life in Hampton Roads. The survey also attempted to determine the attitudes and perceptions of citizens regarding topics of local interest such as transportation and traffic, local and state government, crime, and other issues. Funding for the 2013 survey was provided by the ODU Office of Research. 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 the Associate Dean of Research for the College of Arts and Letters. New questions were included along with several questions from the first, second, and third Life in Hampton Roads surveys conducted in 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively. The 2010 survey consisted of 106 questions, the 2011 survey consisted of 76 questions, in 2012 , 77 questions were asked of respondents, and in 201360 questions were asked; topics included media and news consumption, arts, culture, and travel, quality of life, transportation, local government and political issues, environmental issues, health and education, housing, health and well-being, neighborhood issues and crime, military life, and basic demographic information. In addition to basic demographic questions, a total of 14 questions are comparable across the four years of data. This report examines the data for all four years and compares the percentage of responses for various questions across the 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 samples ${ }^{1}$.

A total of 812 interviews were completed in 2013. In 2012, a total of 762 interviews were completed with Hampton Roads residents, in 2011, a total of 730 completed interviews were obtained; 681 completed surveys were obtained in the 2010 effort. It is important to note, however; that all three samples overrepresented women, whites, and older individuals. A weight variable was computed

[^0]separately for each year, and the data files were weighted to correct for discrepancies in age, race, and gender between the survey sample and the general Hampton Roads population. The 2011, 2012, and 2013 samples were also weighted based on estimates of the population based on telephone usage (landline versus cellphone). The 2012 and 2013 samples were weighted on city of residence in addition to demographic variables in order to maintain the representativeness of the sample with regard to population distribution in Hampton Roads' cities. For information on margin of error and weighting, please see Appendix A. Frequencies were generated for both the weighted and unweighted samples for 2010 data, 2011 data, 2012 data, and the 2013 data using PASW statistical software.

All results used in this report come from the weighted samples, in order to present results which are more representative of the Hampton Roads population. It is important to note that since cell phone numbers were not included in the 2010 sample, the data reported here for 2011 reflects only those respondents who indicated that they had a working phone in their home that was not a cell phone. All cell-only respondents were removed from the 2011 data used in this report before weights were applied. The removal of cell phone-only respondents from the 2011 sample was done only in order to compare data between 2010 and 2011. Removing respondents who are reachable only via cell phone has the effect of underrepresenting minority respondents, males, and younger respondents. The samples collected in 2012 and 2013 contain respondents who were reached both via landline and via cell phone. Cell-only respondents are included in the sample reported here for 2012 and 2013.

## Limitations of Comparisons

The comparisons made in this report reflect absolute percentage change across years for responses to a given question. Statistical significance was not assessed for the comparisons presented here. Further, the fact that cell phone respondents are absent from the 2010 sample, partially included in the 2011 sample, and fully included in the 2012 and 2013 samples complicates comparisons with respect to the demographic makeup of cell phone samples.

## Demographics

Data for the 2013 sample indicated the highest percentage of Norfolk residents for all four years ( $17.6 \%$ ), whereas Norfolk residents accounted for $16.3 \%$ of the sample in 2012, $14.9 \%$ in 2011, and $11.5 \%$ in 2010. There were slightly fewer white respondents represented in the 2013 sample ( $55.9 \%$ ) than in 2012 ( $56.3 \%$ ), and 2011 ( $63.2 \%$ ), though more than in 2010 ( $53.0 \%$ ). A larger percentage of respondents reported their race as Black or African-American in 2013 (34.6\%) than in 2012 (30.0\%), or 2011 (30.3). The percentage of those who reported their race as Other in 2013 (1.5\%) was half that of 2012 (3.0\%), but was slightly higher than 2011 (1.2\%), and somewhat lower than 2010 (2.3\%). The 2013 sample was $49.0 \%$ male, and $50.8 \%$ female. The 2012 sample was $45.9 \%$ male and $54.1 \%$ female, whereas the 2011 sample was $44.4 \%$ male and $55.6 \%$ female, compared with $48.0 \%$ male and $52.0 \%$ female in 2010. The average age of respondents was somewhat higher in 2013 (44.8 years) than the average age in 2012 (43.0 years).

| Hampton Roads City | $\mathbf{2 0 1 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Chesapeake | $\mathbf{1 7 . 7 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 7 . 7 \%}$ | $16.2 \%$ | $15.7 \%$ |
| Hampton | $9.3 \%$ | $9.5 \%$ | $10.1 \%$ | $9.9 \%$ |
| Newport News | $14.7 \%$ | $11.3 \%$ | $12.3 \%$ | $13.1 \%$ |
| Norfolk | $11.5 \%$ | $14.9 \%$ | $16.3 \%$ | $17.6 \%$ |
| Portsmouth | $10.2 \%$ | $8.9 \%$ | $9.4 \%$ | $6.6 \%$ |
| Suffolk | $6.2 \%$ | $8.3 \%$ | $5.6 \%$ | $6.0 \%$ |
| Virginia Beach | $30.4 \%$ | $29.3 \%$ | $30.1 \%$ | $31.0 \%$ |
| Race of Respondent | $\mathbf{2 0 1 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | 2013 |
| White | $53.0 \%$ | $63.2 \%$ | $56.3 \%$ | $55.9 \%$ |
| Black or African-American | $35.2 \%$ | $30.3 \%$ | $30.0 \%$ | $34.6 \%$ |
| Hispanic or Latino | $3.9 \%$ | $1.0 \%$ | $2.9 \%$ | $1.6 \%$ |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | $0.5 \%$ | $0.6 \%$ | $0.5 \%$ | $0.3 \%$ |
| Asian | $0.9 \%$ | $0.9 \%$ | $1.4 \%$ | $0.5 \%$ |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | $0.2 \%$ | $0.2 \%$ | $1.1 \%$ | $0.7 \%$ |
| Multiracial | $3.3 \%$ | $1.9 \%$ | $3.9 \%$ | $4.6 \%$ |
| Other | $2.3 \%$ | $1.2 \%$ | $3.0 \%$ | $1.5 \%$ |
| Refused | $0.7 \%$ | $0.7 \%$ | $0.9 \%$ | $0.4 \%$ |
| Gender | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| Male | $48.0 \%$ | $44.4 \%$ | $45.9 \%$ | $49.0 \%$ |
| Female | $52.0 \%$ | $55.6 \%$ | $54.1 \%$ | $50.8 \%$ |


| Average Age | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Average age (years) | 43.4 | 49.9 | 43.0 | 44.8 |
| Education Level | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| Some grade school | $0.7 \%$ | $0.4 \%$ | $0.1 \%$ | $0.5 \%$ |
| Some high school | $2.2 \%$ | $4.2 \%$ | $2.7 \%$ | $1.2 \%$ |
| High school diploma/GED | $18.5 \%$ | $17.8 \%$ | $20.4 \%$ | $18.8 \%$ |
| Completed trade/professional school | $5.4 \%$ | $5.3 \%$ | $3.4 \%$ | $3.9 \%$ |
| Some college | $28.2 \%$ | $22.3 \%$ | $23.7 \%$ | $21.7 \%$ |
| Associate's degree | $11.3 \%$ | $12.1 \%$ | $11.0 \%$ | $15.2 \%$ |
| Bachelor's degree | $18.7 \%$ | $20.6 \%$ | $21.8 \%$ | $26.5 \%$ |
| Graduate degree | $12.7 \%$ | $14.8 \%$ | $15.9 \%$ | $11.7 \%$ |
| Other | $2.0 \%$ | $2.3 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ | $0.5 \%$ |
| Refused | $0.3 \%$ | $0.3 \%$ | $0.2 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |

Almost 2\% more respondents reported that they had less than a high school diploma in 2011 ( $4.6 \%$ ) than in $2010(2.9 \%)$ and in $2012(2.8 \%)$. In 2013, only $1.7 \%$ of respondents reported having less than a high school diploma. Five percent fewer reported some college or an Associate's degree in 2011 (34.4\%), compared to $2010(39.5 \%)$ and 2012 ( $34.7 \%$ ), although this increased $2 \%$ in 2013 (36.9\%). There was a 5\% increase in the percentage of respondents who reported having Bachelor's degrees between 2012 (21.8\%) and 2013 (26.5\%). The number of respondents reporting Bachelor's degrees has increased across all four years ( $18.7 \%$ in 2010, compared to $20.6 \%$ in $2011,21.8 \%$ in 2012 , and $26.5 \%$ in 2013), although those who reported having a Graduate degree ( $12.7 \%$ in 2010 compared to $14.8 \%$ in 2011, and $15.9 \%$ in 2012) decreased by $4.2 \%$ in 2013 (11.7\%). It is important to reiterate that the underrepresentation of young respondents, minority respondents, and males is an effect of the removal of cell phone-only respondents from the 2011 data for purposes of comparison to 2010. The demographics, however, are similar to the 2010 data and reflect the comparable methodology across the four surveys.

Fewer respondents reported their marital status as married in subsequent years as compared to 2010 ( $56.2 \%$ in 2010 compared to $54.9 \%$ in 2011, $49.0 \%$ in 2012, and $48.3 \%$ in 2013). The percentage of respondents who said that they were, single, not living with a partner was highest in 2012, but fell slightly in 2013 ( $23.8 \%$ in 2010 compared to $20.7 \%$ in 2011, $27.7 \%$ in 2012, and $27.0 \%$ in 2013). There was a
decrease in the percentage of respondents whose status was divorced ( $9.0 \%$ in 2010 compared to $10.8 \%$ in $2011,11.2 \%$ in 2012, and $9.3 \%$ in 2013), and those who indicated that they were cohabiting with a partner increased ( $5.4 \%$ in 2010 compared to $6.0 \%$ in 2011, $6.5 \%$ in 2012, and $8.1 \%$ in 2013). In 2010, $17.8 \%$ of respondents indicated that someone in their household was active duty military, $10.1 \%$ did so in 2011, compared to $10.9 \%$ in 2012 and $11.1 \%$ in 2013 .

Slightly more respondents were employed in 2013 (67.3\%) than in all previous years, and there was very little change in the percentage of those who indicated that they were not employed between 2011 and 2012 ( $21.6 \%$ in 2010, compared to $17.4 \%$ in 2011 and $17.5 \%$ in 2012), although in 2013 fewer respondents indicated that they were unemployed (13.6\%). There was a ten percent increase in of respondents who indicated that they were retired between 2010 and $2011(12.8 \% \text { compared to } 23.2 \%)^{2}$, and then a decrease of $7.9 \%$ between 2011 and 2012 in the percentage of retired respondents ( $15.3 \%$ in 2012). Between 2012 and 2013, the percentage of retired respondents increased $3.3 \%$ to $18.6 \%$. Income levels of respondents changed somewhat between 2011 and 2012. The percentage of respondents indicating that their total family household income was less than $\$ 30,000$ made up $21.2 \%$ of the sample in 2011 and $17.5 \%$ in 2010, and only accounted for $14.3 \%$ of the 2012 sample; this percentage increased to $19.2 \%$ in 2013. The percentage of respondents who indicated that their incomes were in the $\$ 30,000$ to \$50,000 was highest in 2013 ( $22.0 \%$ ), and in 2010 ( $18.1 \%$ ) compared to 2011 ( $14.5 \%$ ) and 2012 (14.3\%). Further, the percentage of respondents who indicated that their incomes were above $\$ 100,000$ increased from 2010 ( $15.6 \%$ ), 2011 ( $20.8 \%$ ) and 2102 ( $23.2 \%$ ), but fell to $16.5 \%$ in 2013. Income categories were revised in 2013 to the following categories: 'Less than $\$ 15,000$ ' ( $5.7 \%$ ), 'More than $\$ 15,000$ to $\$ 30,000$ ' ( $13.5 \%$ ), 'More than $\$ 30,000$ to $\$ 50,000$ ' $22.0 \%$ ), 'More than $\$ 50,000$ to $\$ 75,000$ ' $22.8 \%$ ), 'More than $\$ 75,000$ to $\$ 100,000$ ' $(11.0 \%)$, 'More than $\$ 100,000$ to $\$ 150,000$ ' $(11.4 \%)$, 'More than $\$ 150,000$ to $\$ 200,000$ ' (3.3\%), 'More than $\$ 200,000^{\prime}(1.8 \%)$.

[^1]| Marital Status | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Single, not living with partner | 23.8\% | 20.7\% | 27.7\% | 27.0\% |
| Single, living with partner | 5.4\% | 6.0\% | 6.5\% | 8.1\% |
| Married | 56.2\% | 54.9\% | 49.0\% | 48.3\% |
| Divorced/separated | 9.0\% | 10.8\% | 11.2\% | 9.3\% |
| Widowed | 5.3\% | 7.3\% | 5.4\% | 6.7\% |
| Refused | 0.4\% | 0.3\% | 0.1\% | 0.7\% |
| Employment Status | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| Employed[1] | 65.6\% | 59.3\% | 67.0\% | 67.3\% |
| Full-time |  | 46.7\% | 53.3\% | 53.6\% |
| Part-time |  | 12.6\% | 13.7\% | 13.7\% |
| Not employed | 21.6\% | 17.4\% | 17.5\% | 13.6\% |
| Looking for work |  | 10.4\% | 8.3\% | 9.1\% |
| Not looking for work |  | 7.0\% | 9.2\% | 4.5\% |
| Retired | 12.8\% | 23.2\% | 15.3\% | 18.6\% |
| Refused | 0.1\% | 0.2\% | 0.2\% | 0.5\% |
| What was your family household income last year? | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | $2013{ }^{3}$ |
| Less than \$10,000 to \$30,000 | 17.5\% | 21.2\% | 14.3\% | 19.2\% |
| More than \$30,000 to \$50,000 | 18.1\% | 14.5\% | 14.3\% | 22.0\% |
| More than \$50,000 to \$100,000 | 32.9\% | 32.2\% | 40.4\% | 33.8\% |
| More than \$100,000 | 15.6\% | 20.8\% | 23.2\% | 16.5\% |
| Don't know | 7.4\% | 4.6\% | 4.1\% | 2.9\% |
| Refused | 8.5\% | 6.9\% | 3.9\% | 5.6\% |

[^2]

## Public Transportation in Hampton Roads

There was a $2.6 \%$ increase in the percentage of respondents who said that they had used public transportation (including buses or taxis) in Hampton Roads in the past week between 2012 and 2013 ( $10.2 \%$ in 2013, compared to $7.6 \%$ in 2012). Previous years show a relatively steady increase in those reporting use of public transportation (6.3\% in 2010 to $7.3 \%$ in 2011, and $7.6 \%$ in 2012, 10.2\% in 2013). When asked where they would like to see the light rail extended, more respondents in 2011 said Virginia Beach ( $69.0 \%$ compared to $62.9 \%$ in 2010). In the 2012 and 2013 surveys, the Virginia Beach option was broken into Virginia Beach Town Center and Virginia Beach Oceanfront, and there were declines in these numbers between 2012 and 2013. Only $54.5 \%$ indicated they wanted light rail expanded to the Oceanfront in 2013, compared with $58.0 \%$ in 2012; those who indicated Town Center declined from $75.3 \%$ in 2012 to $35.9 \%$ in 2013. Overall, 2012 saw the most desire among respondents for expansion of the light rail system. This may be due to the fact that the light rail had been operating for a year and many
residents had either seen the trains or had the opportunity to ride. The Naval base ( $37.5 \%$ in 2013, $55.7 \%$ in $2012,39.1 \%$ in 2011, and $35.8 \%$ in 2010) was the most popular choice for light rail expansion in 2013, after the Virginia Beach options. There was a marked increase in the percentage of respondents who stated that they do not want the light rail extended in the first two years of the survey; from $6.3 \%$ in 2010 to $11.0 \%$ in 2011, although this percentage was unchanged in 2012 (11.0\%), and decreased slightly in 2013 (10.5\%). The average commute for respondents in 2013 had increased by approximately one minute to 24.8 minutes, in 2012 it was 23.9 minutes, but in 2011 the average commute was 27 minutes, which was a slight increase over the 2010 average of 25.1 minutes. A higher percentage of respondents said that they avoided visiting a business in a neighboring city due to concerns about traffic in 2013 compared to the two previous years ( $44.5 \%$ in 2013 compared to $40.3 \%$ in 2012, $43.5 \%$ in 2011 and $46.5 \%$ in 2010).


| Where would you like to see the light rail extended? | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Virginia Beach | $62.9 \%$ | $69.0 \%$ | -- | -- |
| Va Beach Oceanfront | -- | -- | $58.0 \%$ | $54.5 \%$ |
| Va Beach Town Center | -- | -- | $75.3 \%$ | $35.9 \%$ |
| Chesapeake | $40.4 \%$ | $36.1 \%$ | $48.9 \%$ | $27.0 \%$ |
| Portsmouth | $31.6 \%$ | $32.7 \%$ | $43.9 \%$ | $21.5 \%$ |
| Hampton | $37.2 \%$ | $37.8 \%$ | $47.2 \%$ | $27.9 \%$ |
| Newport News | $37.6 \%$ | $39.0 \%$ | $46.0 \%$ | $24.3 \%$ |
| Suffolk | $27.8 \%$ | $29.9 \%$ | $35.5 \%$ | $19.4 \%$ |
| Naval base | $35.8 \%$ | $39.1 \%$ | $55.7 \%$ | $37.5 \%$ |
| Norfolk International Airport | $46.9 \%$ | $43.2 \%$ | $55.2 \%$ | $34.0 \%$ |
| Other | $12.0 \%$ | $3.1 \%$ | $12.2 \%$ | $10.2 \%$ |
| Don't want light rail extended | $6.3 \%$ | $11.0 \%$ | $11.0 \%$ | $10.5 \%$ |
| Don't know | $1.3 \%$ | $1.5 \%$ | $3.8 \%$ | $4.2 \%$ |
| Refused | $0.9 \%$ | $1.0 \%$ | $0.2 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |


| Commute | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Average one-way commute, in minutes, to work <br> or school. | 25.1 | 27.0 | 23.9 | 24.8 |

Within the past month did you avoid visiting a business in a neighboring city due to traffic congestion?


## Quality of Life and Economic Conditions in Hampton Roads

Respondents' perceptions of the overall quality of life in Hampton Roads changed a great deal across the four years in which the survey was conducted. In 2010, $80.5 \%$ of respondents rated the overall quality of life in Hampton Roads as excellent or good, while in 2011, only $59.2 \%$ did so. In 2012 there was an increase in the percentage rating life as good or excellent to $68.4 \%$, but this fell to $63.7 \%$ in 2013 . Respondents were asked in 2013 and 2012 to provide a reason as to why they rated the quality of life in Hampton Roads as they did. The results show the different perspectives of life in the region by different respondents, and are remarkably similar across surveys. Those respondents who responded good or excellent often cited the variety of things to do in the area such as cultural and recreational events, with many citing the ocean and area parks. Other common responses were that the quality of life in Hampton Roads is better compared to other areas of the country; that there are adequate employment and job opportunities, particularly when the military presence and tourism in the area is taken into account; and that the area is relatively safe. Those who rated the quality of life as fair or poor often cited unemployment or lack of jobs, issues with crime or the police, lack of regional planning, and traffic congestion.

When asked to rate economic conditions in Hampton Roads, respondents to the 2013 survey were most optimistic compared to previous years; $58.8 \%$ rated conditions as fair or poor. In 2012, $62.2 \%$ said fair or poor compared with $75.6 \%$ in 2011 and $66.5 \%$ in 2010. This optimism about economic conditions was also evident in ratings of the economic conditions of the United States as a whole: $80.4 \%$ responded fair or poor in 2013, compared with $84.2 \%$ in $2012,90.0 \%$ in 2011, and $86.6 \%$ in 2010. The percentage of respondents who said that they were registered to vote was relatively unchanged from 2010 to 2011; $91.4 \%$ in 2011 compared with $92.2 \%$ in 2010 , however in 2012 only $87.4 \%$ said they were registered. There was an increase in registered voters in 2013, with $91.3 \%$ of respondents responding that they were registered to vote in 2013.





Respondents reported living in their current residences for longer periods on average in 2013. Eleven percent of respondents reported less than one year of residence in 2013, compared with $10.8 \%$ of respondents reporting less than one year of residence in 2012 compared to $6.9 \%$ in 2011 and $10.6 \%$ in 2010. The average number of years in their residence for those who reported living in their current residence for more than one year was 13.1 years in 2013, 11.0 years in 2012, 13.6 years in 2011, and 11.6 years in 2010.

| How long have you lived in your current apartment or house? | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Less than one year | 10.6\% | 6.9\% | 10.8\% | 11.0\% |
| Average years (more than one year) | $\begin{gathered} 11.6 \\ \text { years } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 13.6 \\ \text { years } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 11.0 \\ \text { years } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 13.1 \\ \text { years } \end{gathered}$ |
| Don't know | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% |
| Refused | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |

The majority of respondents in both 2010 ( $82.6 \%$ ) and 2011 ( $81.0 \%$ ) reported their general health as excellent or good, and there was an increase in that percentage to $84.5 \%$ in 2012, and a further increase to $85.8 \%$ in 2013.


## Education

Twenty-six percent of respondents had a child or children attending public school in Hampton Roads in 2013 (26.1\%), slightly higher than in 2012 (25.5\%), as compared to $28.8 \%$ in 2011, and $34.0 \%$ in 2010. Respondents were asked to rate the overall quality of the local public school systems whether or not they had children attending in 2010 and 2011. However, the data presented here for those two years are only for those respondents who indicated that they did have children attending public schools to maintain comparability with the 2012 data. The overall ratings were favorable for both 2010 and 2011. Those rating the public school system as excellent or good accounted for $67.7 \%$ of the sample in 2011 and $62.5 \%$ in 2010. In 2012 and 2013, those respondents with children attending either public or private schools in Hampton Roads were asked to rate the quality of the schools their children attend. Of those parents who had children in public or private schools in 2013, 89.5\% rated schools in Hampton Roads as
excellent or good, and $10.0 \%$ rated them as fair or poor. This is an increase in favorable ratings over 2012, when $82.1 \%$ rated schools in Hampton Roads as excellent or good, and $16.4 \%$ said fair or poor.



## Crime

Those Hampton Roads residents who responded to the survey overwhelmingly reported that they and those in their households have not been the victim of a serious crime in the past 12 months in all four years; 2013 (94.8\%), 2012 (94.0\%), 2011 (95.5\%), and 2010 ( $93.5 \%$ ).


## 2011-2013 Comparison of Government Use of Resources

The table below shows responses from 2011 through 2013 regarding trust in government. A greater percentage of respondents in 2012 felt that local government uses public resources wisely than those in 2011 ( $30.2 \%$ compared to $19.3 \%$ in 2011). The percentage of respondents who felt that local government uses resources wisely fell in 2013 to $21.8 \%$.


## Cross-Year Comparison of Life in Hampton Roads Survey Results: 20122013

The Social Science Research Center (SSRC) at Old Dominion University recently completed data collection for the fourth annual Life in Hampton Roads telephone survey. The purpose of the survey was to gain insight into residents' perceptions of the quality of life in Hampton Roads. The survey also attempted to determine the attitudes and perceptions of citizens regarding topics of local interest such as transportation and traffic, local and state government, crime, and other issues. Funding for the 2013 survey was provided by the ODU Office of Research. 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 the Associate Dean of Research for the College of Arts and Letters. New questions were included along with several questions from the first, second, and third Life in Hampton Roads surveys conducted in 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively. The 2010 survey consisted of 106 questions, the 2011 survey consisted of 76 questions, in 2012, 77 questions were asked of respondents, and in 201360 questions were asked; topics included media and news consumption, arts, culture, and travel, quality of life, transportation, local government and political issues, environmental issues, health and education, housing, health and well-being, neighborhood issues and crime, military life, and basic demographic information. In addition to basic demographic questions, a total of 14 questions are comparable across the three years of data. This report examines the data for all three years and compares the percentage of responses for various questions across the 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 samples ${ }^{4}$.

A total of 812 interviews were completed in 2013, and in 2012, a total of 762 interviews were completed with Hampton Roads residents. It is important to note, however; that both samples overrepresented women, whites, and older individuals. A weight variable was computed separately for each year, and the data files were weighted to correct for discrepancies in age, race, and gender between

[^3]the survey sample and the general Hampton Roads population. The 2012 and 2013 samples were also weighted based on estimates of the population based on telephone usage (landline versus cellphone). The 2012 and 2013 samples were weighted on city of residence in addition to demographic variables in order to maintain the representativeness of the sample with regard to population distribution in Hampton Roads' cities. For information on margin of error and weighting, please see Appendix A. Frequencies were generated for both the weighted and unweighted samples for 2012 data, and the 2013 data using PASW statistical software version 20.

All results used in this report come from the weighted samples, in order to present results which are more representative of the Hampton Roads population. The samples collected in 2012 and 2013 contain respondents who were reached both via landline and via cell phone. Cell-only respondents are included in the sample reported here for 2012 and 2013.

## Limitations of Comparisons

The comparisons made in this report reflect absolute percentage change across years for responses to a given question. Statistical significance was not assessed for the comparisons presented here.

## Demographics

Data for the 2013 sample indicated a higher percentage of Norfolk residents over 2012 (17.6\% in $2013,16.3 \%$ in 2012). There were a slightly higher percentage of white respondents in 2012 (56.3\%) than in 2013 (55.9\%); however, a larger percentage of respondents reported their race as Black or AfricanAmerican in 2013 (34.6\%) than in 2012 (30.0\%). The percentage of those reporting their race as other decreased from three percent in 2012 to one point five percent in 2013. The 2013 sample was $49.0 \%$ male and $50.8 \%$ female, whereas the 2012 sample was $45.9 \%$ male and $54.1 \%$ female. The average age of respondents was somewhat higher in 2013 ( 44.8 years) than in 2012 ( 43.0 years).

The percentage of respondents who indicated that they had less than a high school diploma fell from $2.8 \%$ in 2012 to $1.7 \%$ in 2013, and there was a $5 \%$ increase in those who reported having bachelor's
degrees between 2012 (21.8\%) and 2013 (26.5\%). Fewer respondents reported having a Graduate degree in $2013(11.7 \%)$ than in $2012(15.9 \%)$.

A larger percentage of respondents reported their marital status as single, living with partner in 2013 ( $8.1 \%$ ) than in 2012 ( $6.5 \%$ ). Slightly fewer respondents reported being married in 2013 ( $48.3 \%$ ) than in 2012 (49.0\%) and there were fewer respondents reporting that they were divorced in 2013 (9.3\%) than in 2012 (11.2\%). More respondents reported being widowed in 2013 (6.7\%) than in 2012 (5.4\%).

| Hampton Roads City | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | 2013 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Chesapeake | $16.2 \%$ | $15.7 \%$ |
| Hampton | $10.1 \%$ | $9.9 \%$ |
| Newport News | $16.3 \%$ | $13.1 \%$ |
| Norfolk | $9.4 \%$ | $6.6 \%$ |
| Portsmouth | $5.6 \%$ | $6.0 \%$ |
| Suffolk | $30.1 \%$ | $31.0 \%$ |
| Virginia Beach | 2012 | 2013 |
| Race of Respondent | $56.3 \%$ | $55.9 \%$ |
| White | $30.0 \%$ | $34.6 \%$ |
| Black or African-American | $2.9 \%$ | $1.6 \%$ |
| Hispanic or Latino | $0.5 \%$ | $0.3 \%$ |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | $1.4 \%$ | $0.5 \%$ |
| Asian | $1.1 \%$ | $0.7 \%$ |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | $3.9 \%$ | $4.6 \%$ |
| Multiracial | $3.0 \%$ | $1.5 \%$ |
| Other | $0.9 \%$ | $0.4 \%$ |
| Refused | 2012 | 2013 |
| Gender | $45.9 \%$ | $49.0 \%$ |
| Male | $54.1 \%$ | $50.8 \%$ |
| Female | 2012 | 2013 |
| Average Age | 43.0 | 44.8 |
| Average age (years) | 2012 | 2013 |
| Education Level | $0.1 \%$ | $0.5 \%$ |
| Some grade school | $2.7 \%$ | $1.2 \%$ |
| Some high school | $20.4 \%$ | $18.8 \%$ |
| High school diploma/GED | $3.4 \%$ | $3.9 \%$ |
| Completed trade/professional school | $23.7 \%$ | $21.7 \%$ |
| Some college | $11.0 \%$ | $15.2 \%$ |
| Associate's degree | $21.8 \%$ | $26.5 \%$ |
| Bachelor's degree | $15.9 \%$ | $11.7 \%$ |
| Graduate degree | $0.8 \%$ | $0.5 \%$ |
| Other | $0.2 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |
| Refused |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Respondents' employment situations did not change much over the past year, as almost the same percentage of respondents indicated that they were employed full time (53.6\% in 2013, compared to $53.3 \%$ in 2012). The percentage of respondents reporting that they were part-time employees did not change from 2012 to 2013 ( $13.7 \%$ both years), although the percentage of respondents indicating that they were not employed, but looking for work increased to $9.1 \%$ in 2013 from $8.3 \%$ in 2012. Those respondents who were unemployed and no longer looking for work made up a smaller percentage of the sample in 2013 (4.5\%) than in 2012 (9.2\%) and those who reported being retired increased from $15.3 \%$ in 2012 to $18.6 \%$ in 2013.

| Marital Status | 2012 | 2013 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Single, not living with partner | 27.7\% | 27.0\% |
| Single, living with partner | 6.5\% | 8.1\% |
| Married | 49.0\% | 48.3\% |
| Divorced/separated | 11.2\% | 9.3\% |
| Widowed | 5.4\% | 6.7\% |
| Refused | 0.1\% | 0.7\% |
| Employment Status | 2012 | 2013 |
| Employed full-time | 53.3\% | 53.6\% |
| Employed part-time | 13.7\% | 13.7\% |
| Not employed, looking for work | 8.3\% | 9.1\% |
| Not employed, not looking for work | 9.2\% | 4.5\% |
| Not employed, retired | 15.3\% | 18.6\% |
| Refused | 0.2\% | 0.5\% |
| What was your family household income last year? | 2012 | 2013 |
| Less than \$10,000 to \$30,000 | 14.3\% | 19.2\% |
| More than \$30,000 to \$50,000 | 14.3\% | 22.0\% |
| More than \$50,000 to \$100,000 | 40.4\% | 33.8\% |
| More than \$100,000 | 23.2\% | 16.5\% |
| Don't know | 4.1\% | 2.9\% |
| Refused | 3.9\% | 5.6\% |

Household income categories were changed in the 2013 survey, so the percentages presented for 2012 represent collapsed categories for that year so that they can be compared to data from 2013. There was an increase in those reporting household incomes of less than \$30,000 from 14.3\% in 2012 to $19.2 \%$
in 2013, as well as in those reporting incomes between $\$ 30,000$ and $\$ 50,000(14.3 \%$ in 2012 compared to $22.0 \%$ in 2013). Those reporting incomes between $\$ 50,000$ and $\$ 100,000$ decreased slightly from $40.4 \%$ in 2012 to $33.8 \%$ in 2013. Respondents reporting incomes of over $\$ 100,000$ also decreased, from $23.2 \%$ in 2012 to $16.5 \%$ in 2013.

## Quality of Life

Respondents rated the overall quality of life in Hampton Roads more highly in 2012 than in 2013; $68.4 \%$ rated life in the region as excellent or good in 2012, while only $63.7 \%$ did so in 2013 . When asked if they still plan to live in Hampton Roads five years from now, $72.4 \%$ said yes in 2012, but only $68.0 \%$ did so in 2013. Respondents were similarly satisfied with the quality of life in their neighborhoods between 2012 and 2013; 85.3\% rated the quality of life in their neighborhood as excellent or good in 2012, and $85.5 \%$ did so in 2013.



## Transportation

Respondents' reported use of public transportation in the past week increased $2.6 \%$ from 2012 ( $7.6 \%$ ) to 2013 ( $10.2 \%$ ), although more than three-quarters of respondents never used the light rail system in the past six months in 2013 ( $77.1 \%$ ) compared to only $10.0 \%$ who had never ridden the light rail in 2012. Almost half of respondents in both years reported using the light rail system to get to recreational or cultural events in Norfolk ( $38.0 \%$ in 2012 and $46.5 \%$ in 2013), or simply out of curiosity about the relatively new light rail system (43.8\% in 2012, and $47.4 \%$ in 2013).

When asked where they would like to see the light rail extended, slightly fewer respondents indicated that they did not want to see the light rail extended in 2013 (10.5\%) than in 2012 (11.0\%). The three most selected extension destinations in 2012 were Virginia Beach Town Center (58.0\%), the

Virginia Beach Oceanfront (75.3\%), and the Norfolk Naval Base (55.7\%). In 2013, these three destinations were also the most selected, although respondents indicated these in slightly lower percentages: Virginia Beach Town Center (35.9\%), the Virginia Beach Oceanfront (54.5\%), Norfolk Naval Base (37.5\%).




| Where would you like to see the light rail extended? | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Virginia Beach | -- | -- |
| Virginia Beach Town Center | $58.0 \%$ | $35.9 \%$ |
| Virginia Beach Oceanfront | $75.3 \%$ | $54.5 \%$ |
| Chesapeake | $48.9 \%$ | $27.0 \%$ |
| Portsmouth | $43.9 \%$ | $21.5 \%$ |
| Hampton | $47.2 \%$ | $27.9 \%$ |
| Newport News | $46.0 \%$ | $24.3 \%$ |
| Suffolk | $35.5 \%$ | $19.4 \%$ |
| Naval base | $55.7 \%$ | $37.5 \%$ |
| Norfolk International Airport | $55.2 \%$ | $34.0 \%$ |
| Other | $12.2 \%$ | $10.2 \%$ |
| Don't want light rail extended | $11.0 \%$ | $10.5 \%$ |
| Don't know | $3.8 \%$ | $4.2 \%$ |
| Refused | $0.2 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |

Respondents reported a slightly higher average commute time in 2013 (24.8 minutes) than in 2012 (23.9 minutes), although approximately four percent fewer respondents (4.1\%) reported that they were not very or not at all concerned with traffic congestion in Hampton Roads ( $12.4 \%$ in 2012, compared with $16.5 \%$ in 2013). A larger percentage of respondents reported that they had avoided visiting a business in a neighboring city due to traffic congestion in 2013 (44.5\%) than in 2012 (40.3\%).

| Commute | 2012 | 2013 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Average one-way commute, in minutes, to work or school. | 23.9 | 24.8 |




When asked how important improved roads, highways, and bridges are to the region's future economic growth, there was a five percent increase in the percentage of respondents who said extremely important or very important from 2012 (83.1\%) to 2013 ( $88.6 \%$ ). A slightly smaller majority stated that they were aware of impending toll road projects in Hampton Roads in 2013 (60.3\%) than in 2012 ( $67.8 \%$ ). In 2013, half of the respondents ( $50.6 \%$ ) indicated that they would be less likely to use a bridge tunnel when there was a toll on it ( $45.4 \%$ in 2012), and $40.4 \%$ stated that tolls would not affect their decision in 2013 compared to $49.2 \%$ in 2012.




## Local Government/Political and Environmental Issues

More respondents reported that they were registered to vote in 2013 (91.3\%) than in 2012
(87.4\%), although trust in local government had fallen somewhat. Respondents in 2013, when asked if they think their local government uses resources wisely or if there is a fair amount of waste said that they thought there was a fair amount of waste more often than in 2012 ( $71.2 \%$ in 2013, compared to $58.9 \%$ in 2012). When ratings of economic conditions in Hampton Roads are compared, 2013 was the more optimistic year: over $60 \%$ of respondents in 2012 rated economic conditions as fair or poor, (62.2\%) while only $58.8 \%$ of respondents gave this rating in 2013. This optimism about economic conditions was also evident in ratings of the economic conditions of the United States as a whole: $80.4 \%$ responded 'fair' or 'poor' in 2013, compared with $84.2 \%$ in 2012.






More respondents reported concern that rising sea levels in Hampton Roads will affect residents personally between 2012 (37.4\%) and 2013 (40.4\%); however, concern about global effects of rising sea levels has not changed from 2012 (62.2\%) to 2013 (62.4\%).



## Education

Slightly more respondents reported that their children attend private school in 2012 (4.0\%) than in 2013 (3.2\%), and just over one-quarter of respondents in 2012 (25.5\%) and 2013 (26.1\%) indicated that their children attend public school. Seventy percent of respondents in 2012 (69.6\%) and in 2013 (69.8\%) reported 'none of the above' when asked if they had school aged children attending public, private, or home school. Respondents rated the overall quality of the schools their children attend as excellent or good in higher numbers in 2013 ( $89.5 \%$ ) than in $2012(82.1 \%)$. The safety of the schools respondents' children attend was also rated more highly in 2013 than in 2012, with $98.5 \%$ of respondents in 2013 stating that their children are very safe or somewhat safe at school, compared to $95.9 \%$ in 2012.




Of those who had a child with a disability who was receiving special education services in school ( $12.3 \%$ in 2013, and $11.1 \%$ in 2012), more than three-quarters were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with those services in 2013 (84.1\%) compared to 2012 (82.2\%).



## Health

Respondents' ratings of their general health were slightly better in 2013 than in 2012; those responding with excellent or good increased from 2012 (84.5\%) to 2013 (85.8\%). More respondents reported seeing a doctor in the past year in 2013 ( $85.1 \%$ ) than in 2012 ( $80.2 \%$ ). Over $70 \%$ of those who had seen a doctor in either 2012 or 2013 reported that they had received a yearly checkup ( $72.4 \%$ in 2012, and $77.4 \%$ in 2013. Slightly fewer respondents indicated that they had seen a dentist in 2013 (73.3\%) than in 2012 (75.0\%).



| You said that you have seen a doctor in the past year. What <br> treatment or treatments did you receive? Select all that apply. | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ |
| :--- | :---: |
| 2013 |  |
| Annual/regular check-up | $\mathbf{7 2 . 4 \%}$ |
| Immunizations | $\mathbf{7 7 . 4 \%}$ |
| Family planning/Pregnancy | $6.0 \%$ |
| General illness (cold, flu, etc.) | $\mathbf{1 6 . 1 \%}$ |
| Emergency care/Injury | $21.1 \%$ |
| Treatment of a chronic condition | $\mathbf{2 5 . 4 \%}$ |
| Mental health care | $25.1 \%$ |
| Other (specify) | $3.2 \%$ |
| Don't know | $\mathbf{2 5 . 1 \%}$ |
| Refused | $\mathbf{1 4 . 9 \%}$ |



## Housing/ Crime

Hampton Roads residents reported living in their current residence slightly longer in 2013, at 13.1 years, than in 2012 (11.0 years), and a slightly higher percentage of respondents reported that they and those in their household had not been the victim of a serious crime in 2013 (94.8\%) than in 2012 (94.0\%).

Satisfaction with the job local police are doing with residents to solve neighborhood problems was improved; in 2013, 81.7\% said that they were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied, whereas in 2012, only $78.8 \%$ did so.

| How long have you lived in your current apartment or house? | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Less than one year | $10.8 \%$ | $11.0 \%$ |
| Average years (more than one year) | 11.0 | 13.1 |
|  | years | years |
| Don't know | $0.1 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |

In the past 12 months, have you or a member of your household been the victim of a serious crime?



## Military Affiliation

The percentage of respondents who indicated that they or someone in their household was active duty military was very similar in 2012 (10.9\%) and 2013 (11.1\%). Of those who had an active duty household member, $88.1 \%$ were Navy in 2012 and $82.8 \%$ were Navy in 2013.



Comparison Data Tables 2012-2013

| Demographics | Survey <br> (weighted sample) | 2012 <br> Survey Respondents <br> (weighted sample) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Chesapeake | $16.2 \%$ | $15.7 \%$ |
| Hampton | $10.1 \%$ | $9.9 \%$ |
| Newport News | $12.3 \%$ | $13.1 \%$ |
| Norfolk | $16.3 \%$ | $17.6 \%$ |
| Portsmouth | $9.4 \%$ | $6.6 \%$ |
| Suffolk | $5.6 \%$ | $6.0 \%$ |
| Virginia Beach | $30.1 \%$ | $31.0 \%$ |
| White | $56.3 \%$ | $55.9 \%$ |
| Black or African-American | $30.0 \%$ | $34.6 \%$ |
| Hispanic or Latino | $2.9 \%$ | $1.6 \%$ |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | $0.5 \%$ | $0.3 \%$ |
| Asian | $1.4 \%$ | $0.5 \%$ |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | $1.1 \%$ | $0.7 \%$ |
| Multiracial | $3.9 \%$ | $4.6 \%$ |
| Other | $3.0 \%$ | $1.5 \%$ |
| Refused | $0.9 \%$ | $0.4 \%$ |
| Male | $45.9 \%$ | $49.0 \%$ |
| Female | $54.1 \%$ | $50.8 \%$ |
| Some grade school | $0.1 \%$ | $0.5 \%$ |
| Some high school | $2.7 \%$ | $1.2 \%$ |
| High school diploma/GED | $20.4 \%$ | $18.8 \%$ |
| Completed trade/professional school | $3.4 \%$ | $3.9 \%$ |
| Some college | $23.7 \%$ | $21.7 \%$ |
| Associate's degree | $11.0 \%$ | $15.2 \%$ |
| Bachelor's degree | $21.8 \%$ | $26.5 \%$ |
| Graduate degree | $15.9 \%$ | $11.7 \%$ |
| Other | $0.8 \%$ | $0.5 \%$ |
| Refused | $0.2 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |
| Average age (years) | 43.0 | 44.8 |
| Single, not living with partner | $27.7 \%$ | $27.0 \%$ |
| Single, living with partner | $6.5 \%$ | $8.1 \%$ |
| Married | $49.0 \%$ | $48.3 \%$ |
| Divorced/separated | $11.2 \%$ | $9.3 \%$ |
| Widowed | $5.4 \%$ | $6.7 \%$ |
| Refused | $0.1 \%$ | $0.7 \%$ |
| Employed Full-time | $53.3 \%$ | $53.6 \%$ |
| Employed Part-time | $13.7 \%$ | $13.7 \%$ |
| Not employed, looking for work | $8.3 \%$ | $9.1 \%$ |
| Not employed, not looking for work | $15.3 \%$ | $4.5 \%$ |
| Not employed, retired | $0.2 \%$ | $18.6 \%$ |
| Refused |  | $0.5 \%$ |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |


| Demographics | 2012 <br> Survey Respondents <br> (weighted sample) | Survey Respondents <br> (weighted sample) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| What was your family household income last |  |  |
| year? ${ }^{5}$ |  |  |
| Less than $\$ 10,000$ to $\$ 30,000^{\text {More than } \$ 30,000 \text { to } \$ 50,000}$ | $14.3 \%$ | $19.2 \%$ |
| More than $\$ 50,000$ to $\$ 100,000$ | $14.3 \%$ | $22.0 \%$ |
| More than $\$ 100,000$ | $40.4 \%$ | $33.8 \%$ |
| Don't know | $23.2 \%$ | $16.5 \%$ |
| Refused | $4.1 \%$ | $2.9 \%$ |
|  | $3.9 \%$ | $5.6 \%$ |


| Quality of Life | 2012 <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (weighted sample) | $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (weighted sample) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| How would you rate the overall quality of life in Hampton Roads? |  |  |
| Excellent | $12.0 \%$ | $5.7 \%$ |
| Good | $56.4 \%$ | $58.0 \%$ |
| Fair | $28.0 \%$ | $32.1 \%$ |
| Poor | $3.6 \%$ | $3.7 \%$ |
| Don't know | $0.0 \%$ | $0.5 \%$ |
| How would you rate quality of life in your neighborhood? |  |  |
| Excellent | $42.4 \%$ | $38.1 \%$ |
| Good | $42.9 \%$ | $47.4 \%$ |
| Fair | $12.3 \%$ | $13.4 \%$ |
| Poor | $2.0 \%$ | $1.1 \%$ |
| Do you plan to still live in Hampton Roads five years from now? |  |  |
| Yes | $72.4 \%$ | $68.0 \%$ |
| No | $18.2 \%$ | $24.3 \%$ |
| Don't know | $9.1 \%$ | $7.8 \%$ |
| Refused | $0.3 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |

[^4]| Transportation | 2012 <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (weighted sample) | 2013 <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (weighted sample) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| In the past week, have you used public transportation (including buses |  |  |
| or taxis) in Hampton Roads? | $7.6 \%$ | $10.2 \%$ |
| Yes | $92.0 \%$ | $89.6 \%$ |
| No | $0.4 \%$ | $0.2 \%$ |
| Public transportation is not available |  |  |
| How often have you used the light rail system in the past six months? | $10.0 \%$ | $77.1 \%$ |
| Never | $30.4 \%$ | $10.1 \%$ |
| Once | $35.7 \%$ | $9.7 \%$ |
| 2-5 times | $4.4 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ |
| Once a month | $16.9 \%$ | $1.5 \%$ |
| A few times a month | $2.3 \%$ | $0.7 \%$ |
| More than once a week | $0.3 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |
| Don't know |  |  |
|  | $15.4 \%$ | $4.6 \%$ |
| What are the reasons that you have used the light rail system ${ }^{6} ?$ |  |  |
| Use it for my regular commute to work/school | $38.0 \%$ | $46.5 \%$ |
| To get to recreational or cultural events in Norfolk | $43.8 \%$ | $47.4 \%$ |
| Was curious to ride/novelty/for fun | $22.6 \%$ | $18.8 \%$ |
| Other (specify) |  |  |

[^5]| Transportation | 2012 <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (weighted sample) | 2013 <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (weighted sample) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Where would you like to see the light rail extended? ${ }^{7}$ <br> Virginia Beach Town Center <br> Virginia Beach Oceanfront <br> Chesapeake <br> Portsmouth <br> Hampton <br> Newport News <br> Suffolk <br> Naval base <br> Norfolk International Airport <br> Other <br> Don't want light rail extended <br> Don't know <br> Refused | $\begin{array}{r} 58.0 \% \\ 75.3 \% \\ 48.9 \% \\ 43.9 \% \\ 47.2 \% \\ 46.0 \% \\ 35.5 \% \\ 55.7 \% \\ 55.2 \% \\ 12.2 \% \\ 11.0 \% \\ 3.8 \% \\ 0.2 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 35.9 \% \\ & 54.5 \% \\ & 27.0 \% \\ & 21.5 \% \\ & 27.9 \% \\ & 24.3 \% \\ & 19.4 \% \\ & 37.5 \% \\ & 34.0 \% \\ & 10.2 \% \\ & 10.5 \% \\ & 4.2 \% \\ & 0.0 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| How likely do you think it is that light rail is contributing to local economic development? <br> Very likely <br> Somewhat likely <br> Not very likely <br> Not at all likely <br> Don't know <br> Refused | $\begin{array}{r} 30.0 \% \\ 40.0 \% \\ 13.9 \% \\ 10.1 \% \\ 5.8 \% \\ 0.3 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 27.0 \% \\ 45.9 \% \\ 14.1 \% \\ 8.1 \% \\ 4.9 \% \\ 0.0 \% \end{gathered}$ |
| How long is your average one-way commute, in minutes, to work or school? | 23.9 | 24.8 |
| Within the past month did you avoid visiting a business in a neighboring city due to traffic congestion? <br> Yes <br> No <br> Don't know <br> Refused | $\begin{array}{r} 40.3 \% \\ 59.4 \% \\ 0.2 \% \\ 0.1 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 44.5 \% \\ 55.2 \% \\ 0.3 \% \\ 0.0 \% \end{gathered}$ |

[^6]| Transportation | 2012 Survey Respondents (weighted sample) | 2013 <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (weighted sample) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Are you extremely concerned, very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned with traffic congestion in Hampton Roads? <br> Extremely concerned <br> Very concerned <br> Somewhat concerned <br> Not very concerned <br> Not at all concerned <br> Don't know | $\begin{array}{r} 13.8 \% \\ 37.5 \% \\ 35.8 \% \\ 7.2 \% \\ 5.2 \% \\ 0.5 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 15.4 \% \\ 35.0 \% \\ 33.1 \% \\ 11.2 \% \\ 5.3 \% \\ 0.0 \% \end{gathered}$ |
| In your opinion, how important are improved roads, highways, and bridges to the region's future economic growth? Would say they are... <br> Extremely important <br> Very important <br> Somewhat important <br> Not very important <br> Not at all important <br> Don't know | $\begin{array}{r} 45.7 \% \\ 37.4 \% \\ 13.6 \% \\ 2.6 \% \\ 0.4 \% \\ 0.3 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 49.5 \% \\ 39.1 \% \\ 9.2 \% \\ 0.9 \% \\ 1.1 \% \\ 0.2 \% \end{gathered}$ |
| Are you aware of any impending toll road projects in the Hampton Roads area? <br> Yes <br> No | $\begin{aligned} & 67.8 \% \\ & 32.2 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 60.3 \% \\ & 38.8 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| Would you be more of less likely to use a bridge tunnel when there is a toll on it, or would the toll not affect your decision to use a bridge tunnel? <br> More likely <br> Less likely <br> Would not affect my decision <br> Don't know <br> Refused | $\begin{gathered} 3.5 \% \\ 45.4 \% \\ 49.2 \% \\ 1.6 \% \\ 0.4 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.3 \% \\ 50.6 \% \\ 40.4 \% \\ 1.6 \% \\ 0.1 \% \end{gathered}$ |


| Local and State Government/Political Issues | $2012$ <br> Survey Respondents (weighted sample) | 2013 <br> Survey Respondents (weighted sample) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Do you think your local government uses public resources wisely or do you think there is a fair amount of waste? <br> Uses wisely <br> Fair amount of waste <br> Don't know <br> Refused | $\begin{array}{r} 30.2 \% \\ 58.9 \% \\ 10.1 \% \\ 0.8 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 21.8 \% \\ 71.2 \% \\ 6.5 \% \\ 0.5 \% \end{gathered}$ |
| Are you registered to vote? Yes <br> No Don't know Refused | $\begin{array}{r} 87.4 \% \\ 12.2 \% \\ 0.4 \% \\ 0.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 91.3 \% \\ & 8.4 \% \\ & 0.1 \% \\ & 0.2 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| Do you generally feel closer to the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, or do you consider yourself to be an Independent or something else? <br> Republican <br> Democratic <br> Independent <br> Something else (specify) <br> Don't know/haven't thought much about this <br> Refused | $\begin{array}{r} 21.7 \% \\ 34.1 \% \\ 31.8 \% \\ 6.8 \% \\ 4.6 \% \\ 1.1 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 22.4 \% \\ 34.6 \% \\ 33.1 \% \\ 7.0 \% \\ 2.2 \% \\ 0.7 \% \end{gathered}$ |
| How would you rate economic conditions in the United States today? <br> Excellent <br> Good <br> Fair <br> Poor <br> Don't know <br> Refused | $\begin{array}{r} 2.5 \% \\ 12.4 \% \\ 48.4 \% \\ 35.8 \% \\ 0.1 \% \\ 0.9 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.5 \% \\ 17.7 \% \\ 53.9 \% \\ 26.5 \% \\ 0.5 \% \\ 0.0 \% \end{gathered}$ |
| How would you rate economic conditions in Hampton Roads today? <br> Excellent <br> Good <br> Fair <br> Poor <br> Don't know <br> Refused | $\begin{array}{r} 2.5 \% \\ 34.4 \% \\ 49.5 \% \\ 12.7 \% \\ 0.0 \% \\ 0.9 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.8 \% \\ 37.5 \% \\ 45.2 \% \\ 13.6 \% \\ 0.9 \% \\ 0.0 \% \end{gathered}$ |


| Environment | 2012 <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (weighted sample) | 2013 <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (weighted sample) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Are you concerned that rising sea levels here in Hampton |  |  |
| Roads will affect you personally? | $37.4 \%$ | $40.4 \%$ |
| Yes | $59.6 \%$ | $56.8 \%$ |
| No | $3.0 \%$ | $2.9 \%$ |
| Don't know |  |  |
| Are you concerned about rising sea levels in the rest of the |  |  |
| world? | $62.2 \%$ | $62.4 \%$ |
| Yes | $36.1 \%$ | $1.3 \%$ |
| No | $1.7 \%$ |  |
| Don't know |  |  |


| Education | 2012 <br> Survey Respondents <br> (weighted sample) | 2013 <br> Survey Respondents <br> (weighted sample) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Do you have school aged children attending any of the |  |  |
| following? |  |  |
| Public school | $25.5 \%$ | $26.1 \%$ |
| Private school | $4.0 \%$ | $3.2 \%$ |
| Home school | $1.0 \%$ | $0.9 \%$ |
| None of the above | $69.6 \%$ | $69.8 \%$ |
| Refused | $0.0 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |
| How would you rate the quality of the school(s) your |  |  |
| child(ren) attend ${ }^{8}$ ? Would you say they are... |  |  |
| Excellent | $40.2 \%$ | $45.3 \%$ |
| Good | $41.9 \%$ | $44.2 \%$ |
| Fair | $11.3 \%$ | $9.1 \%$ |
| Poor | $1.5 \%$ | $0.9 \%$ |
| Don't know/Refused |  | $0.6 \%$ |
|  |  |  |
| How safe do you feel your child(ren) are at school ${ }^{8}$ ? Would |  |  |
| you say... | $62.6 \%$ | $55.2 \%$ |
| Very safe | $33.3 \%$ | $43.3 \%$ |
| Somewhat safe | $4.1 \%$ | $1.3 \%$ |
| Not very safe | $0.0 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |
| Not at all safe | $0.0 \%$ | $0.2 \%$ |
| Refused |  |  |

[^7]| Education | 2012 <br> Survey Respondents <br> (weighted sample) | 2013 <br> Survey Respondents <br> (weighted sample) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Do you have a child with a disability who is receiving |  |  |
| special education services in school ${ }^{9}$ ? |  |  |
| Yes | $11.1 \%$ | $12.3 \%$ |
| No | $88.9 \%$ | $87.7 \%$ |
| How satisfied are you with those services ${ }^{10}$ ? |  |  |
| Very satisfied | $49.7 \%$ | $56.1 \%$ |
| Somewhat satisfied | $32.5 \%$ | $28.0 \%$ |
| Somewhat dissatisfied | $5.8 \%$ | $9.6 \%$ |
| Very dissatisfied | $12.1 \%$ | $6.3 \%$ |


| Health | 2012 <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (weighted sample) | 2013 <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (weighted sample) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Would you say your own health in general is... |  |  |
| Excellent | $36.2 \%$ | $31.7 \%$ |
| Good | $48.3 \%$ | $54.1 \%$ |
| Fair | $13.4 \%$ | $12.4 \%$ |
| Poor | $1.9 \%$ | $1.7 \%$ |
| Refused | $0.1 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |
| Have you seen a doctor for medical care in the past year? |  |  |
| Yes | $80.2 \%$ | $85.1 \%$ |
| No | $19.6 \%$ | $14.8 \%$ |
| Don't know | $0.1 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |
| Refused | $0.1 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |

[^8]| Health | 2012 <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (weighted sample) | 2013 <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (weighted sample) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| You said that you have seen a doctor in the past year. What |  |  |
| treatment or treatments did you receive? You may select all that |  |  |
| apply'. |  | $77.4 \%$ |
| Annual/regular check-up | $72.4 \%$ | $16.1 \%$ |
| Immunizations | $16.0 \%$ | $8.4 \%$ |
| Family planning/pregnancy | $6.1 \%$ | $25.4 \%$ |
| General illness (cold, flu, etc.) | $21.1 \%$ | $18.1 \%$ |
| Emergency care/injury | $15.1 \%$ | $25.2 \%$ |
| Treatment of a chronic condition (allergies, diabetes, | $25.2 \%$ |  |
| high blood pressure, including long-term treatments such as |  | $6.0 \%$ |
| dialysis | $3.1 \%$ | $6.9 \%$ |
| Mental health care | $14.9 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |
| Other (specify) | $0.2 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |
| Don't know | $0.3 \%$ |  |
| Refused | $75.0 \%$ | $73.3 \%$ |
| Have you seen a dentist for professional care in the past year? | $24.9 \%$ | $26.6 \%$ |
| Yes | $0.1 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |
| No | $0.0 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |
| Don't know |  |  |
| Refused |  |  |
|  |  |  |


| Housing | 2012 <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (weighted sample) | 2013 <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (weighted sample) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| How long have you lived in your current apartment or house? | $10.8 \%$ | $11.0 \%$ |
| Less than one year | 11.0 years | 13.1 years |
| Average years (more than one year) | $0.1 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |
| Don't know |  |  |

[^9]| Neighborhood/Crime | 2012 <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (unweighted <br> sample) | 2013 <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (weighted sample) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| In the past 12 months, have you or a member of your household |  |  |
| been a victim of a serious crime? | $6.0 \%$ | $5.2 \%$ |
| Yes | $94.0 \%$ | $94.8 \%$ |
| No |  |  |
| How satisfied are you with the job the local police are doing |  |  |
| working together with local residents to solve neighborhood |  | $28.7 \%$ |
| problems? | $28.9 \%$ | $53.0 \%$ |
| Very satisfied | $49.9 \%$ | $9.0 \%$ |
| Somewhat satisfied | $8.7 \%$ | $4.6 \%$ |
| Somewhat dissatisfied | $6.1 \%$ | $4.8 \%$ |
| Very dissatisfied | $5.2 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |
| Don't know | $1.2 \%$ |  |
| Refused |  |  |


| Military | 2012 <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (weighted sample) | 2013 <br> Survey <br> Respondents <br> (weighted sample) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Are you or anyone in your household active duty military? |  |  |
| Yes, myself | $4.4 \%$ | $5.3 \%$ |
| Yes, my spouse/partner | $3.1 \%$ | $3.8 \%$ |
| Yes, both myself and partner | $0.4 \%$ | $0.2 \%$ |
| Yes, other | $3.0 \%$ | $1.8 \%$ |
| No | $89.1 \%$ | $88.8 \%$ |
| Refused | $0.0 \%$ | $0.1 \%$ |
| Which branches are you/they affiliated with ${ }^{12}$ ? Check all that apply. |  |  |
| Army | $13.2 \%$ | $8.2 \%$ |
| Navy | $88.1 \%$ | $82.8 \%$ |
| Air Force | $0.7 \%$ | $2.4 \%$ |
| Marines | $0.0 \%$ | $6.4 \%$ |
| Coast Guard | $0.9 \%$ | $1.4 \%$ |

[^10]
## APPENDIX A: Survey Margin of Error

The table below shows the margin of error for response items that received a specific percentage of overall responses in the weighted and un-weighted samples. The maximum margin of error for the unweighted sample is 3.5 percent, and the maximum margin of error for the weighted sample is 5.3 percent. The margins of error are slightly larger for the weighted sample because this sample puts more weight on respondents from groups that were underrepresented (e.g. respondents with only a cell phone). Because these groups responded less frequently to the survey, putting more weight on those who did respond increases overall uncertainty, even as it controls for the effects of response bias and sample design.

The table can be used to calculate the approximate margin of error for specific responses in the survey. For example, 44.5 percent of respondents in the weighted sample said yes to the question "Within the past month did you avoid visiting a business in a neighboring city due to traffic congestion." The margin of error listed for 40 percent in the weighted sample is 5.1 percent. Thus, we estimate that if the SSRC had contacted every adult living in Hampton Roads, we would have found that somewhere between 39.4 and 49.6 percent avoided visiting a business in another city due to traffic congestion.

| Margin of Error Guide |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Percentage giving <br> specific response | Un-weighted Sample Margin of <br> Error (95 percent confidence level) | Weighted <br> Sample Margin <br> of Error (95 <br> percent <br> confidence <br> level) |
| $95 \%$ | $1.5 \%$ | $2.3 \%$ |
| 90 | 2.1 | 3.1 |
| 85 | 2.5 | 3.7 |
| 80 | 2.8 | 4.1 |
| 75 | 3.0 | 4.5 |
| 70 | 3.2 | 4.7 |
| 60 | 3.4 | 5.1 |
| 50 | 3.4 | 5.2 |
| 40 | 3.4 | 5.1 |


| Percentage giving <br> specific response | Un-weighted Sample Margin of <br> Error (95 percent confidence level) | Weighted <br> Sample Margin <br> of Error (95 <br> percent <br> confidence <br> level) |
| :---: | :---: | :--- |
| 30 | 3.2 | 4.7 |
| 25 | 3.0 | 4.5 |
| 20 | 2.8 | 4.1 |
| 15 | 2.5 | 3.7 |
| 10 | 2.1 | 3.1 |
| 5 | 1.5 | 2.3 |


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ All changes reported here reflect only absolute change in percentage of respondents reporting a given response. Statistical significance of these changes was not assessed for this report.

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ The employment question was worded differently in 2011 and 2012. Percentages reflected here represent the total percentage of people who indicated that they were employed, unemployed, and retired in 2011 and 2012.

[^2]:    ${ }^{3}$ Income categories were changed in the 2013 survey. Categories in this table have been merged to ensure comparability over time.

[^3]:    ${ }^{4}$ All changes reported here reflect only absolute change in percentage of respondents reporting a given response. Statistical significance of these changes was not assessed for this report.

[^4]:    ${ }^{5}$ Income categories were changed in the 2013 survey. Categories in this table have been merged to ensure comparability over time.

[^5]:    ${ }^{6}$ This question was asked only of the 178 respondents who indicated that they had used the light rail system in the past 6 months.

[^6]:    ${ }^{7}$ Percentages do not sum to 100 because respondents were allowed to choose more than one response.

[^7]:    ${ }^{8}$ This question was asked of only those 238 respondents who indicated that they had children enrolled in either public or private schools.

[^8]:    ${ }^{9}$ This question was asked of only those 238 respondents who indicated that they had children enrolled in public or private schools.
    ${ }^{10}$ This question was asked of only those 28 respondents who indicated that they have a child with a disability who is receiving special education services in school.

[^9]:    ${ }^{11}$ This question was asked only of those 725 respondents who said that they had seen a doctor for medical care in the past year. Percentages do not sum to $100 \%$ because respondents were allowed to choose more than one response.

[^10]:    ${ }^{12}$ This question was asked only of those 81 respondents who indicated that they or another person in their household are active duty military. Percentages do not sum to $100 \%$ because respondents were allowed to choose more than one response.

