

## Life in Hampton Roads Survey Press Release #3

### Health and Education

This report examines regional and sub-regional measures of health and education perceptions from the 2017 Life In Hampton Roads survey (LIHR 2017) conducted by the Old Dominion University Social Science Research Center. Data from prior years is also provided when available to show comparisons in responses over time. Responses were weighted by city population, race, age, gender, and phone usage (cell versus land-line) to be representative of the Hampton Roads region. For additional information on survey methodology, and analyses of other issues, please see the SSRC website at [www.odu.edu/ssrc](http://www.odu.edu/ssrc).

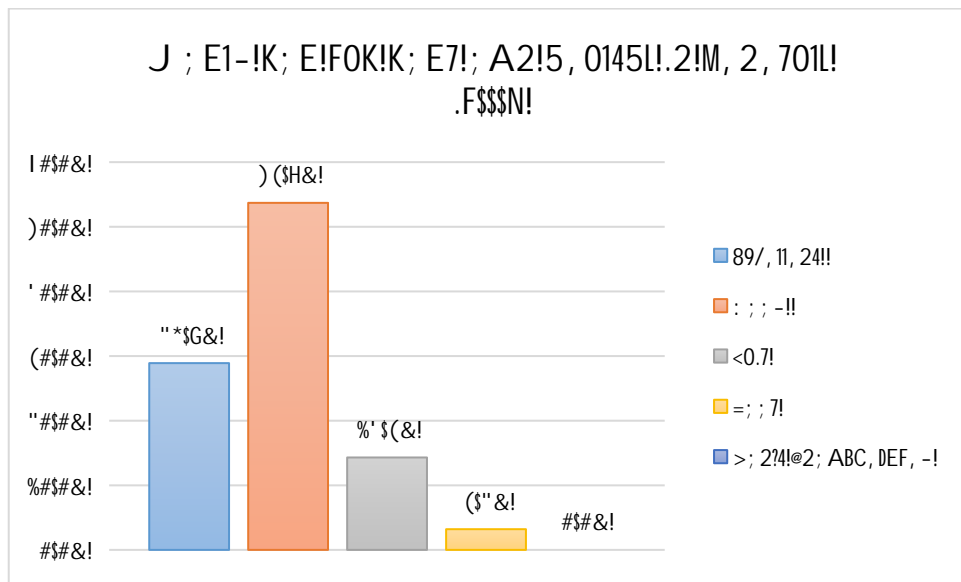
The health and education of Hampton Roads residents are vital to ensuring that the community thrives. The 2017 Life in Hampton Roads survey asked 908 residents of the Hampton Roads area about their general health, certain health conditions, their child's health and opinions about local public school systems.

### Medical and Health Care

The majority of respondents rated medical and health care good in Hampton Roads (43.4 percent). While 20.1 percent of respondents believed medical and health care was fair (10.1 percent), 11.1 percent

## General Health

Less than half (28.9 percent) of Hampton Roads residents rated their own general health as excellent, the lowest it has been since 2013. The majority of the respondents reported themselves to be in good health (53.7 percent). Almost 15 percent (14.3 percent) of survey respondents said they are in fair health. There was a slight increase in respondents reporting that they have poor general health. The 2017 survey indicated 3.2 percent of people were in poor health, while the 2016 survey reported 2.5 percent for poor general health.



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Among the region's cities, Virginia Beach (85.8 percent) and Hampton (84.7 percent) residents

## Health Care Visits

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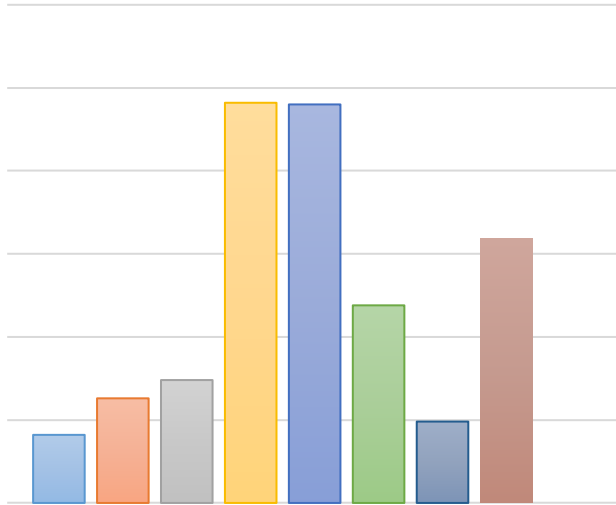
### **Child's Health Conditions**

The 2017 Life in Hampton Roads survey asked respondents, “Has a doctor or health professional in the past five years told you that your oldest school-aged child has any of the following health conditions?” The conditions listed included autism spectrum disorder or autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, visually impaired, intellectual disability, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, congenital heart disease and psoriasis. Over three-fourths (77 percent) of our respondents stated that their child has not been diagnosed with any of these conditions within the past five years. Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder was mentioned most often among the conditions previously listed (14.1 percent). The second leading response reported for Hampton Roads children was autism (7.4 percent). Very few respondents indicated that their oldest child was diagnosed with being visually impaired, or having an intellectual disability, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, congenital heart disease, or psoriasis (3.9 percent, 1.6 percent, 0.4 percent, 0.4 percent, 0.4

## **TV & Computer Games**

In the 2017 Life in Hampton Roads study, respondents were asked, “Over the past 30 days, how many hours per week did you sit and watch TV or videos or play computer/video games outside of school or work?” While some respondents indicated that they do not watch television or play computer/video games (4.2





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### Public School System

We wanted to inquire if parents were choosing public school, private school or home schooling for their children. Most (71.7 percent) of our respondents did not have children, or had children that were over 18 years old and not in school. About one-quarter of respondents indicated that they have children enrolled in public school (24.8 percent). Only 3.7 percent of respondents indicated that they have children who are enrolled in private school. Home school was the least frequent type of school with a mere 1.3 percent.

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When asked to rate the quality of schools within their children's school zone, most parents responded with excellent (32.9 percent) or good (33.3 percent). Some respondents felt that the quality of

Hampton Roads appears to be a relatively healthy community with over 80 percent of respondents rating their own health as excellent or good, with the highest of ratings among respondents living in Virginia Beach. Despite the general good health reported by Hampton Roads respondents, high blood pressure seemed to be the most reported condition amongst residents. Over three quarters of Hampton Roads children also tend to be generally healthy (in regards to a list of conditions we inquired about) according to parental reports. Across the board, whether respondents had children or not, schools were mainly rated excellent or good. While a majority of respondents (71.7 percent) did not have school age children, of those who did, the ratings of their children's school were mainly good or excellent (79.9 percent). Over half of respondents reported that they watched TV, videos or played computer/video games outside of school or work for