

Located in the middle of Virginia's Atlantic coast, the Eastern region's ten counties occupy 2,386 square miles and include the counties of the Northern Neck, Chesapeake Bay, and Eastern Shore. The region is rich in history and scenic attractions. With large stretches of shoreline on the Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, Eastern Virginia's many beaches and state parks attract both visitors and retirees.



Population Trends, 2000-2010

2010 Census for Eastern Virginia

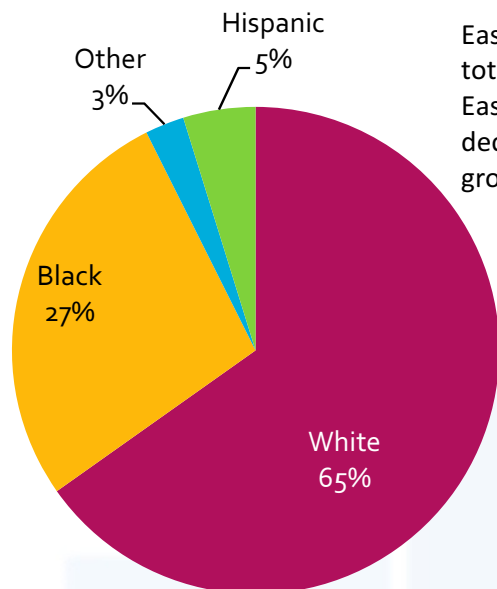
Total Population	140,972
Growth Rate	0.4%
Population Density (persons/square mile)	59

Eastern Virginia is one of the least densely populated areas in the state, second only to Southside Virginia. The Eastern region contains 6% of

Virginia's land mass and has the smallest population of any region, less than 2% of the state's total population. The region experienced negligible growth between 2000 and 2010, gaining only 500 persons.

Race and Ethnicity in Eastern Virginia

Eastern Virginia's white population comprised 65% of its total population between 2000 and 2010. While the Eastern region lost 11% of its black population in the past decade, Hispanic and Asian populations saw significant growth:

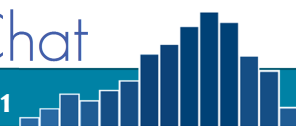


- Between 2000 and 2010, the Hispanic population grew in all localities.
- While the Asian population grew in all localities except King and Queen, Asians remain less than 1% of the population in Eastern Virginia.
- Accomack had the highest concentration of Hispanics: 9% of its population.

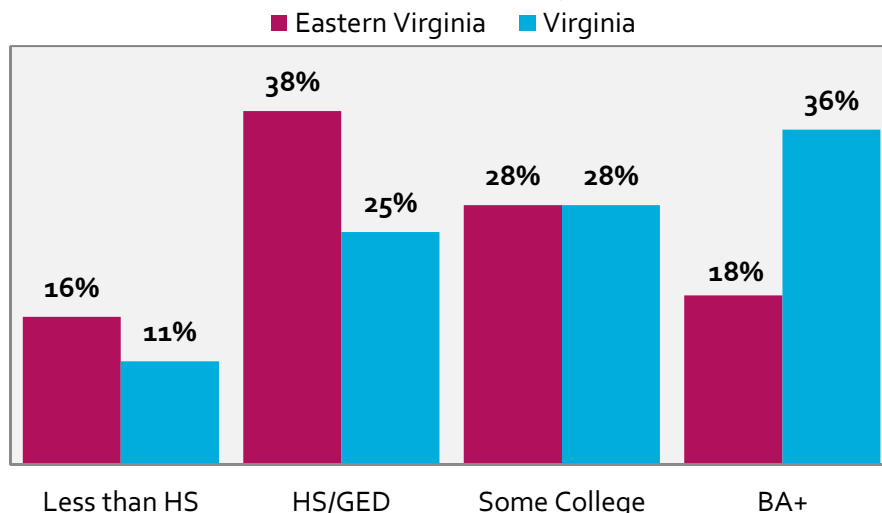
Experiencing Natural Decrease

Nationwide, 1 in 4 counties have had more deaths than births in the last decade, a phenomenon called natural decrease. **In Eastern Virginia, 7 of its 10 localities experienced natural decrease.**

- Through migration, many localities continued to grow in spite of experiencing more deaths than births.
- Three localities—Accomack, Lancaster, and Northampton—experienced population loss.
- King William was the only locality in Eastern Virginia to experience both more births than deaths and relatively high levels of migration. These fueled its 21% growth in population.



Educational Attainment, Adults 25-64



Educational attainment among Eastern Virginia's working age population (adults ages 25-64), differs from the distribution of educational attainment at the state level. Compared to the state, Eastern Virginia has

- A higher percentage of adults who did not complete high school.
- A lower percentage of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher. Of the eight regions, Eastern Virginia has the second lowest percentage of adults with a college degree.

Labor Force Participation

Labor force statistics for Eastern Virginia show

- **Unemployment was 7.5% in 2009**, equal to Virginia's unemployment rate (7.5%) and less than the national average (9.7%).
 - **Accomack** had the lowest unemployment rate (6.6%) while **Lancaster** had the highest (9.5%).
- A larger proportion of persons are employed in agriculture (4%) and construction (12%) industries in Eastern Virginia than in the state and at the national level.

Income and Poverty

- More than a quarter of Eastern Virginia's households earn less than \$25,000 per year.
- Twelve percent of households fall below the poverty line in Eastern Virginia, higher than the statewide poverty rate of 10%.
- Eight percent of households receive food stamps.

Twenty-six percent of Eastern Virginia households do not have adequate income to meet their regular expenditures, such as housing, food, and transportation, without help from government programs, family and friends, or local organizations.

Sources: Data on population trends and race/ethnicity are from the 2000 and 2010 Census. Data on 2009 unemployment rate are from Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment statistics. Data on income adequacy are from a Cooper Center study. All other data are from the 2007-2009 American Community Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For more information, please contact
Rebecca Tippett

rebecca.tippett@virginia.edu or (434) 982-5861