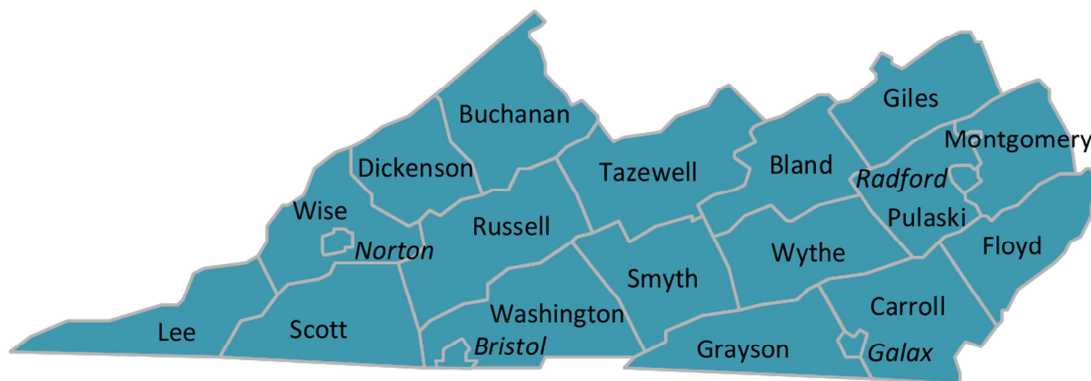


Sharing borders with West Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina, Southwest Virginia occupies 7,451 square miles at the far western edge of Virginia. With Lee as the westernmost point and Montgomery and Floyd in the east, its four cities and seventeen counties include many national forests and nearly a quarter of Virginia's state parks.



Population Trends, 2000-2010

2010 Census for Southwest	
Total Population	579,982
Growth Rate	2.7%
Population Density (persons/square mile)	78

Southwest has nearly one-fifth of Virginia's land mass but only 7% of its total population. The region grew very little between 2000 and 2010,

gaining only 16,000 persons. This growth accounts for less than 2% of Virginia's total population growth since 2000.

Experiencing Natural Decrease

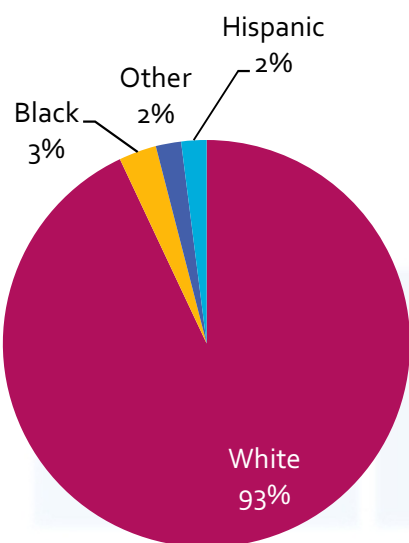
Nationwide, 1 in 4 counties have had more deaths than births in the last decade, a phenomenon known as natural decrease. **In Southwest, 17 of its 21 localities experienced natural decrease.**

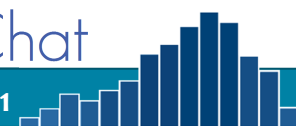
- As a region, Southwest Virginia had 3,500 more deaths than births in the last decade.
- Floyd, Montgomery, Radford, and Wise were the only localities with more births than deaths for 2000 to 2010.
- Through migration, some localities continued to grow in spite of having more deaths than births.
- Eight localities experienced population loss.

Race and Ethnicity in Southwest Virginia

Southwest Virginia has the least racial and ethnic diversity of all of Virginia's eight regions. In Southwest, 93% of the population is white compared to 65% statewide. The 2010 Census data show signs of growing diversity:

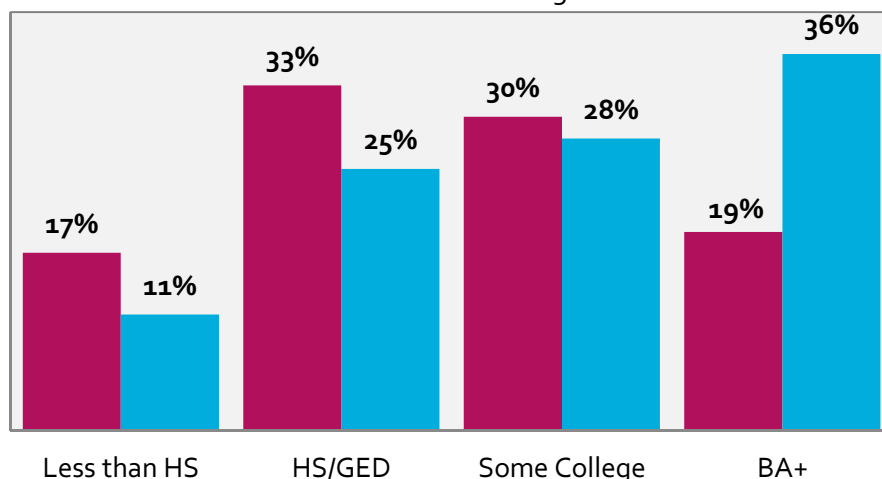
- Between 2000 and 2010, the total Hispanic population grew in all localities except Buchanan County.
- Galax City has one of the highest concentrations of Hispanics in the state: 14% of its population.
- Montgomery County's Asian population grew by nearly 1,800 people in the last decade.





Educational Attainment, Adults 25-64

■ Southwest ■ Virginia



Educational attainment among Southwest's working age population (adults ages 25-64) is distinct from patterns at the state level. Compared to Virginia as a whole, Southwest has

- A higher percentage of adults without a high school diploma.
- A lower percentage of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher.

Labor Force Participation

Labor force statistics in Southwest Virginia show

- **Thirty-two percent of adults 25-64 are out of the labor force**, meaning they are not working or looking for work. This is much higher than statewide (20%) and national (22%) levels of out-of-labor force adults.
- **Unemployment was 8.8% in 2009**, higher than Virginia's unemployment rate (7.5%) but lower than the national average (9.7%).
 - **Norton** had the lowest unemployment rate (6.6%) while **Smyth** had the highest (11.4%).

Income and Poverty

- More than one-third of Southwest Virginia's households earn less than \$25,000 per year.
- Nineteen percent of households fall below the poverty line in Southwest Virginia, compared to 10% statewide.
- Fourteen percent of households receive food stamps.

Thirty-two percent of Southwest 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 Tippet

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