

Total Action for Progress

2019 Needs Assessment



April 2019

Total Action for Progress
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Table of Contents

Background...page 3

Methodology...page 5

About TAP...page 6

Survey and Interviews Report...page 10

Focus Area Reports

- Demographics...page 29
- Education...page 44
- Income...page 57
- Local Economy...page 61
- Health and Nutrition...page 65
- Community...page 71

Findings...page 79

Appendices

A. Demographics

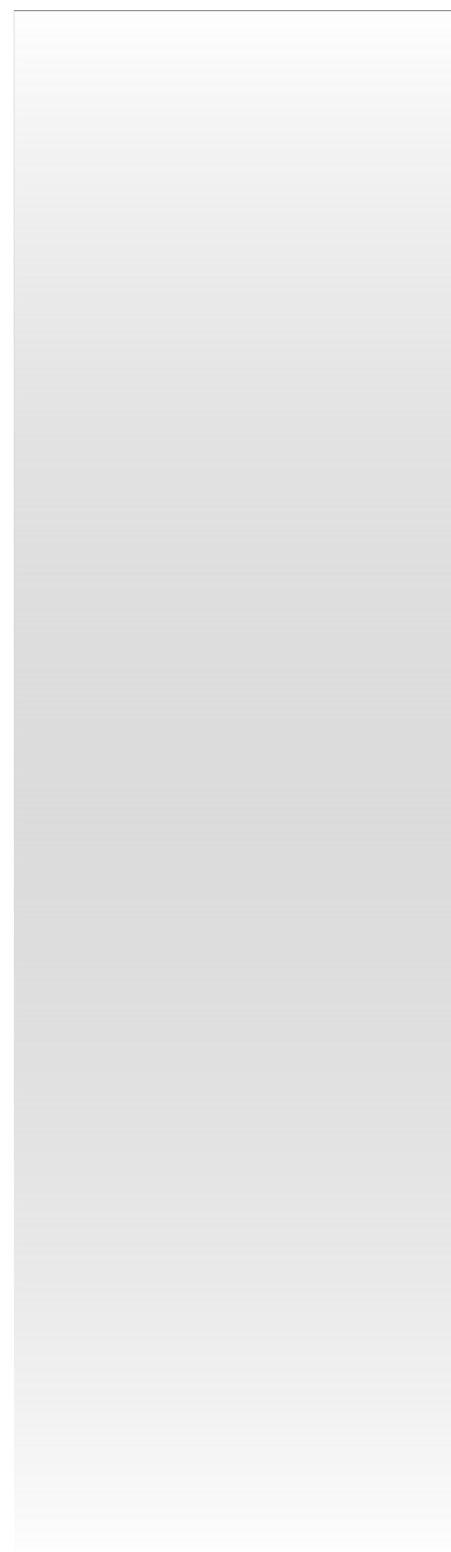
B. Education

C. Income

D. Local Economy

E. Health

F. Community



Background

We start each day focused on our mission:

TAP helps individuals and families achieve economic and personal independence through education, employment, affordable housing, and safe and healthy environments.

Thank you to the Needs Assessment Committee:

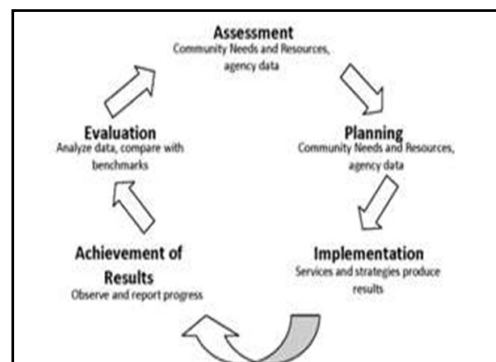
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As a community action agency that is eligible for Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funding, TAP is required to conduct a comprehensive community assessment that takes into account the community needs as well as the partners and resources available in a community to meet these needs.

The federal standards that outline the requirements for the community needs assessment dictate the following be recognized as essential to meet the minimum requirements of the standard:

- ◆ A community assessment must be conducted every three years
- ◆ The community assessment includes current data specific to poverty and its prevalence in TAP's service area as related to:
 - ◆ Gender
 - ◆ Age
 - ◆ Race/ethnicity
- ◆ Both qualitative and quantitative data will be collected and analyzed
- ◆ Key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the needs of the communities shall be reported
- ◆ The governing board formally accepts the completed community assessment

The agency will use the assessment for continuous improvement of programs and services based on the ROMA cycle.



Current Federal Definition of Poverty Does Not Take into Account the Following:

Additional “Income”

- Taxes and other mandatory expenditures that are deducted
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Food stamps/SNAP
- Rental subsidies

Expenses now considered unavoidable and necessary:

- Transportation costs
- Child care expenses
- Out-of-pocket medical expenses and prescription drug payments
- Housing

What is Poverty?

The current poverty line is calculated by the following formula:

$$\text{Poverty line} = 3 \times \text{Subsistence food budget}$$

This formula was first calculated in 1963 and was based on 1955 data. It is now updated annually using the Consumer Price Index.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issues poverty guidelines every year in January (although, in 2019 the guidelines were not finalized until February after the government shutdown ended).

2019 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES	
PERSONS IN FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD	POVERTY GUIDELINE
Add \$4,420 for each additional person.	
1	\$12,490
2	\$16,910
3	\$21,330

These poverty thresholds are used to determine financial eligibility for certain federal programs. The only programs at TAP that uses these poverty guidelines is Head Start and Early Head Start.

A number of other programs use a percentage of the Median Family Income (MFI). The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) also sets income limits annually that determine eligibility for housing programs. HUD bases its income limits on the standard that shelter should cost no more than one-third of one's income. The following table displays the income limits for the Roanoke metropolitan area.

FY18 Income Limit Category (based on AMI \$57,200)	Number of Persons in Family			
	1	2	3	4
Extremely Low (30%) Income Limits	\$12,140	\$16,460	\$20,780	\$25,100
Very Low (50%) Income Limits	\$20,050	\$22,900	\$25,750	\$28,600
Low (80%) Income Limits	\$32,050	\$36,600	\$41,200	\$45,750

The lack of a consistent definition of poverty (that often establishes eligibility for programs) as well as the fact these income levels do not consider essential life expenses, contribute to the challenging complexity of providing pathways for individuals so they may achieve self-sufficiency.

Methodology

Secondary Data Sources

- Blue Ridge Continuum of Care
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Children's Trust Fund of Virginia
- Council of Community Service, Blue Ridge Continuum of Care 2018 Annual Point-In-Time Report
- Criminal Justice Information Services Division, Virginia State Police
- Department of Urban Studies and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Statistics of Income October 2017
- Kids Count Data
- Map the Meal Gap
- National Association of Colleges and Employers
- U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS)
- U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center, Demographics Research Group, 2017 Virginia Population Projections
- Vera Institute of Justice

The assessment was conducted between December 2018 through March 2019 to gain insight into the most pressing needs in TAP's service areas.

Primary Data

TAP designed and distributed two surveys; a general survey and a partner survey. The general survey asked respondents to identify the top three most pressing issues in: Employment, Education, Housing, Nutrition, Use of Income, and Transportation; then asked them to choose from these topics which have the greatest impact on residents gaining access to opportunities. Respondents were also asked if civic engagement is lacking in the area where they currently reside. The survey ended with an open-ended question to allow respondents to include any services lacking in their area. The partner survey asked the same questions, only choices were not given, it was all open-ended questions.

Both surveys were put on TAP's website and promoted through social media forums such as Facebook and Instagram. The general survey was distributed to all Board and Council members in TAP's service areas and all TAP employees. In addition to surveys, TAP conducted a number of interviews and discussions with partners and local residents.

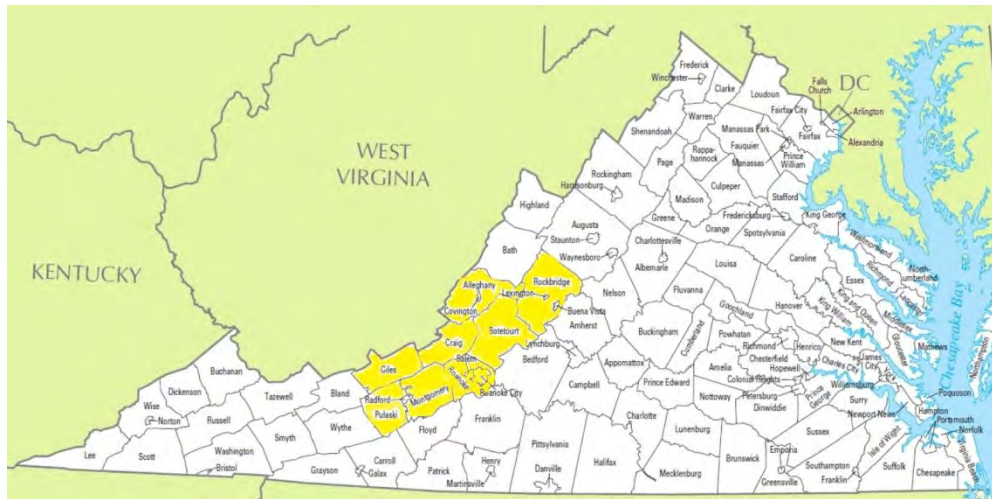
Secondary Data

Various data sources, listed to the left, were used to gather further information on TAP's service areas. From secondary data, information pertaining to demographics, poverty, education, income, the local economy, health and nutrition, housing and crime was gathered and analyzed.

About TAP

Service Area

The TAP service area in southwest Virginia includes one metropolitan statistical area (MSA), Roanoke, as well as five non-metropolitan localities: the counties of Alleghany and Rockbridge and the cities of Covington, Lexington, and Buena Vista.

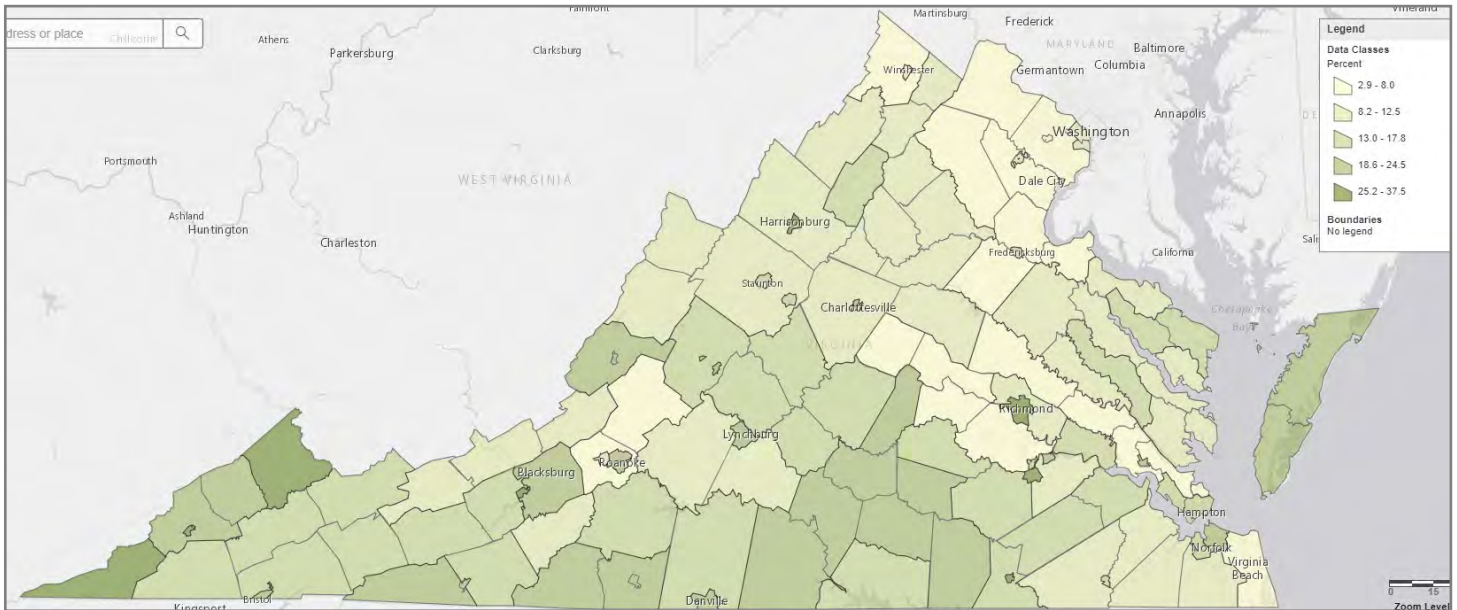


The Roanoke MSA is where TAP provides the most services. The MSA includes the cities of Roanoke and Salem, and the counties of Roanoke, Botetourt, and Craig. (Note, the MSA also includes Franklin County, but is not served by TAP.) The City of Roanoke serves as the employment center and is the location of most of the major employers. The area is served by Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport, and a major north-south transportation corridor, Interstate 81, crosses the north portion of Roanoke County and southern Botetourt County.

The five localities that are outside of a metro area, Alleghany and Rockbridge counties and the cities of Lexington, Buena Vista, and Covington, receive multiple services from TAP. Alleghany County and Covington, which is encompassed by the county, are nearly two hours from a metro area. Covington serves as the employment center. The predominant industry is paper manufacturing. Rockbridge County is the eleventh-largest county in Virginia with just under 600 square miles, of which over 20% is national forest or state-maintained land. The county includes two independent cities, Lexington and Buena Vista. The area is about an hour or more from the closest metro areas. The top employers in the area include manufacturing, with manufacturing companies in Buena Vista and Rockbridge, and the education sector, including two universities in Lexington: Washington and Lee University and Virginia Military Institute.

Poverty in TAP's Service Area

In Virginia, high poverty areas are primarily located in higher-populated urban areas as well as the rural areas of central, south, and southwest Virginia. Out of 133 counties and cities in Virginia, Radford has the highest rate of poverty (37.5%); and, Falls Church the lowest (2.9%).



Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S1701)

The poverty rate within TAP's service area ranges from a high of 21.6% in Roanoke City to a low of 7.7% in Botetourt County. One of the big challenges TAP faces in serving the low-income populations is geography. The barriers to self-sufficiency can be vastly different for individuals in an urban area located within a met-

Rank	County/City	% in Poverty
16	Roanoke city	21.6
21	Lexington city	21.4
27	Buena Vista city	20.8
32	Covington city	19.9
34	Alleghany County	19.3
53	Rockbridge County	15.6
100	Bath County	9.3
101	Craig County	9.3
106	Salem city	8.9
112	Roanoke County	8.0
116	Botetourt County	7.7

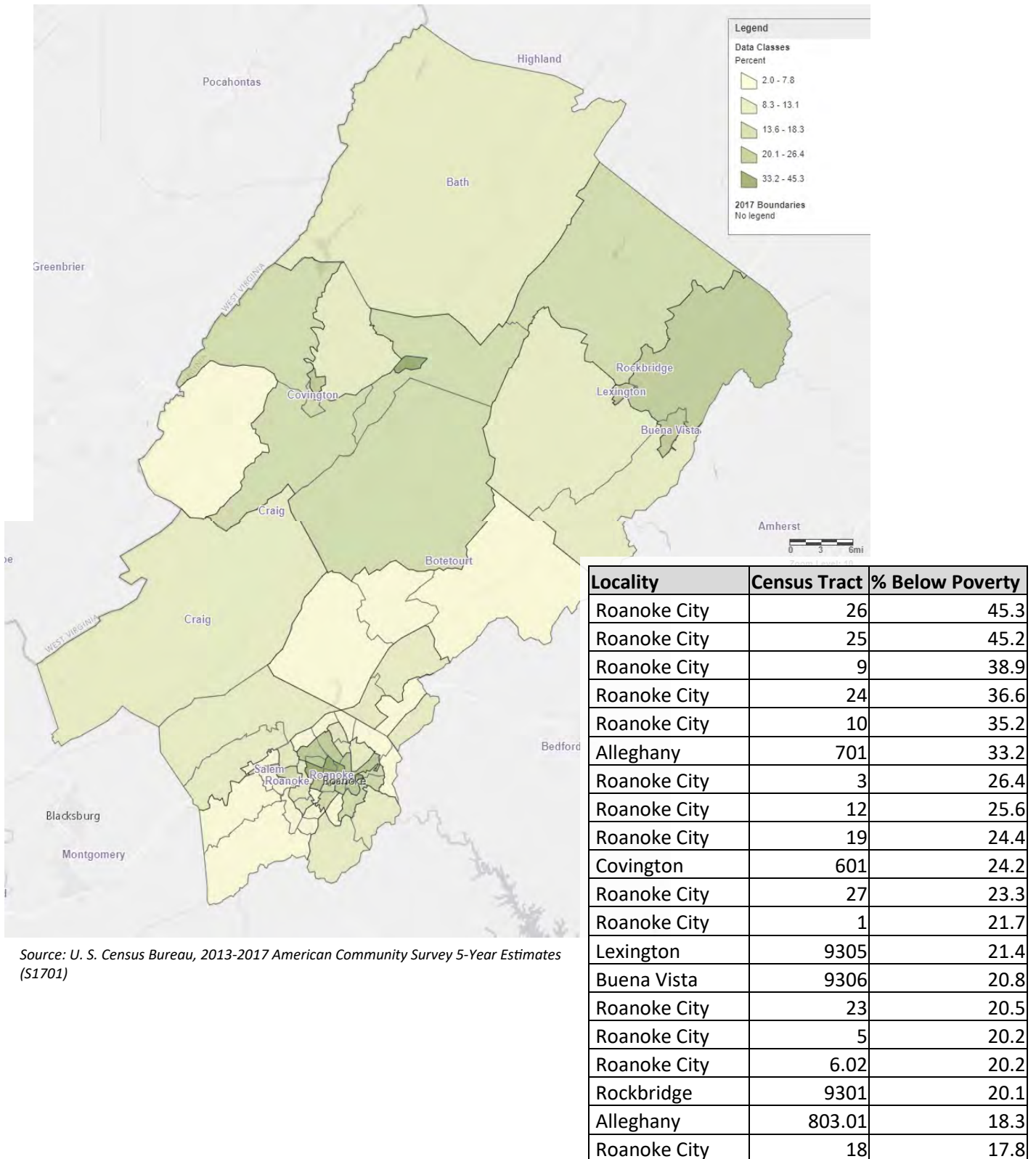
Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S1701)

ropolitan area versus a rural community located in a metropolitan area, and more difference for those in areas that are an hour or more from a metropolitan area.

Providing the services for these individuals is also challenging. Staff may have to take significant time to travel to outlying areas because the cost to have full-time staff and/or dedicated office space in these areas may be prohibitive. Therefore the types and level of services provided are not always equivalent to those offered in Roanoke City.

Another challenge is justifying to funders that need exists in other areas, not just urban. Often eligibility to serve an area may be based on county/city-level statistics. However, poverty, particularly in rural areas, can exist in pockets and can only be identified

when one drills down to the census tract level or even individual and family level. In fact, there are 11 census tracts that have a greater poverty rate than the rate of Roanoke City overall (21.6%), including nine tracts in Roanoke City, one in Alleghany, and one in Covington.



Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S1701)

TAP Strategic Plan

In 2017, TAP completed a new strategic plan. The following are the goals and strategies that were established and will be focused on through 2022:

- Prioritize a Client-Centered Focus
 - Modify service delivery to ensure focus on whole family
 - Create goals for each service area
 - Establish specific written goals for each service area that assist clients with self-sufficiency
- Ensure TAP Can Do Its Best Work by Getting More and Different Income Sources
 - Create a fundraising plan that brings in more open gifts so TAP can use them however is best
 - Identify individuals (for example: volunteers, former clients) who can help with fundraising efforts
 - Locate additional money sources that support and are directly related to our existing programs
- Invest in Partnerships to Make TAP and the Community Stronger
 - Examine current partnerships to see what is working and what can be improved
 - Look for more opportunities to work with additional organizations throughout the community
 - Figure out additional needs in the community and see how we can work with others to address them
 - Investigate what it will take to expand case management services
- Strengthen the Organization Internally
 - Make sure we have the right people on the Board
 - Create a plan for how to keep and train staff and make sure there is a positive work environment
 - Maintain and strengthen TAP's finances and continue to be responsible with managing money
 - Focus on telling the great stories of all that TAP does

Survey, Interviews, and Focus Group Report

Needs Assessment Survey

A survey was developed to identify what barriers contribute to limiting individuals and families from becoming self-sufficient in our 11 localities. The survey was available online as well as distributed to individuals in the community via partners and staff. The survey was completed by 144 people and the results follow:

Location of Respondents

Alleghany: 11	Bath: 1	Botetourt: 1
Buena Vista: 4	Covington: 11	Craig: 7
Lexington: 0	Roanoke City: 86	Roanoke County: 19
Rockbridge: 1	Salem: 2	

Age of Respondents

17 or younger: 2	18 to 24: 13	25 to 34: 40
35 to 54: 44	55 to 65: 34	Over 65: 11

Description of Respondents

Local resident: 54	TAP employee: 42
TAP Board/Policy Council: 12	TAP client: 7
Partner Organization: 21	Local government or school employee: 5
Local business: 2	

Question 1—If employment is an issue, why? (respondents could select more than one)

- Lack of skills/education to obtain a job: 50
- Unable to find jobs in area: 35
- Don't know where to look for jobs: 7
- Employers/jobs are leaving area: 27
- Lack of good paying jobs with benefits: 68
- Long commute to jobs: 13
- High cost or lack of child care available during work hours: 44

- Don't know how to fill out applications, write a résumé, or do an interview: 10
- High cost or lack of transportation to get to work: 23
- Unable to maintain job – seasonal employment, frequent industry layoffs: 11
- Don't know how to start own business: 5

Question 2—If education is an issue, why? (respondents could select more than one)

- Not enough GED or Adult Basic Education classes offered: 24
- No dropout prevention/truancy intervention: 18
- Need computer and/or internet access at home: 36
- High cost or lack of transportation to attend school: 25
- High cost or lack of child care for parent to attend school: 37
- Don't know how to apply for financial aid: 24
- Lack of preschools that prepare children for kindergarten: 18
- Lack of school after-care for school-aged children: 23
- Not enough English as a second language classes: 6

Question 3—If housing is an issue, why? (respondents could select more than one)

- High cost of rent/house payments: 55
- Lack of money for down payment or security deposit: 40
- Housing needs repairs to be safe, i.e. roof, foundation: 31
- Housing needs weatherization for more affordable utility bills, i.e. insulation, storm windows: 21
- Houses in area are not affordable: 23
- Not enough temporary emergency housing: 23
- Can't buy or rent because of bad credit: 34
- Don't know how to go about buying a home: 13
- Don't understand tenant rights: 4
- Not enough handicap accessible housing: 5
- Senior citizen housing or nursing homes not available or not affordable: 15

Question 4—If health and nutrition is an issue, why? (respondents could select more than one)

- Food resources are not available, i.e. senior citizens meals, Meals on Wheels, garden plots, food pantries, etc.: 15
- Food resources (food pantries, meal programs) are not convenient: 22
- Lack of transportation to get to grocery store, food pantry or other food resource: 40
- Hours the grocery store or food pantry are open are inconvenient: 8
- SNAP allotments have run out: 15
- Don't have time to prepare meals: 23

- Not eligible, or don't know if eligible, for SNAP: 26
- Lack of education in nutrition: how to prepare meals, proper eating habits, money management for healthy diet, how to read labels: 44
- Lack of kitchen appliances i.e. stove top, oven, refrigerator: 3
- No doctor or dentist near me: 4
- Going to the doctor is too expensive: 43

Question 5—If finances is an issue, why? (respondents could select more than one)

- Lack of knowledge of possible resources i.e. SNAP, medical coverage, veteran's benefits: 37
- Don't know how to create and use a budget: 57
- Have a difficult time preparing/filing taxes: 9
- No knowledge of Earned Income Tax Credit: 10
- No knowledge on how to address credit issues, including the danger of using "predatory lenders" like title loans and paycheck loans: 55
- Have a difficult time with money management, i.e. credit card debt, checking account management: 74
- Don't know how to get/enforce child support: 12

Question 6—If transportation is an issue, why? (respondents could select more than one)

- Lack of knowledge about how to buy a car/vehicle: 6
- Don't have money to buy or make down payment for a car: 50
- Don't have money to maintain cars/vehicles i.e. gas, inspections, insurance: 48
- Public transportation doesn't have convenient hours: 56
- No public transportation options in my area: 30
- Don't have adequate credit to buy a car/vehicle: 27
- Don't have money to pay for car repairs: 27
- Lack of help learning to drive and get a license, i.e. someone to teach how, car to practice learning with, car to take the test: 11
- Can't afford to pay fines and/or release suspended license: 20

Question 7—If community engagement is an issue, why? (respondents could select more than one)

- Lack of knowledge for leadership development: 47
- Lack of citizenship classes: 23
- No knowledge on how to join neighborhood associations, community boards, advisory groups or similar organizations: 51
- Don't understand local government process for providing input, i.e. when and how meetings are advertised, what I need to be prepared to do at a meeting, how do I run for office: 67

Respondents were asked two open-ended questions. The following is a listing of their responses. The responses are presented as written, no editing.

Are any services lacking?

- Access for dental care for adults on Medicaid
- Access to affordable mental health and substance use services
- All services are lacking in eagle rock
- Education needs to teach and implement trauma informed practices by all schools especially teachers etc.
- Expanded hours to cover all three working shifts for employment
- Higher Education, Employment, Preschools
- Housing: lack of timely, available financial assistance with eminent foreclosure/eviction, lack of low-income housing options, lack of assistance with timely re-housing (e.g. for individuals who have lost housing and are living with friend or relative), lack of assistance with housing (down payment/moving) for people in unsafe homes
- Lack of supports for parents of children with autism and related disorders, lack of support groups for caregivers of relative children
- Lack of safe, affordable childcare for individuals above Head Start's guideline
- Lack of funds to pay for substance abuse xment
- Lack of grocery stores in NW Roanoke
- I think all areas are lacking but transportation and employment are key areas. Transportation is expensive and public transport has limited hours. If someone works night shift they can't ride the bus home. Also, the bus does not go past city limits so warehouse jobs are usually out of the question. I think bigger corporations should offer shuttles to employees to ensure productivity on top of raising wages. Also, mental and physical health should be addressed. Clearly, all the areas are connected.
- Lack of assistance available for working class people who have an unexpected expense due to things such as medical or vehicle problems
- Lack of programs for individuals with average income over 24 wishing to improve education or job skills to be able to advance
- There seems to be programs for homeless, veterans, ex-offenders and low income individuals, but not for working class, pay check to pay check individuals, to help them improve their station in life to avoid being one unexpected life event away from eviction, foreclosure or repo of vehicle.
- Lack of Department of Recreation for youth and families
- No community center in county
- Low income housing, employment and public transportation are issues that really need to be

addressed

- Many lack the basics to get and keep a job - job skills for a job with a livable wage and benefits, reliable transportation, quality child care, time management. Health Care is only available to the very low income or to those with good jobs/benefits, and then it is still un-affordable. Preventative health care and good nutrition are needed to keep people healthy so they are able to work and to enjoy life, also to prevent unplanned pregnancies that will keep them from job training/education and employment.
- Medical services
- More nutritional venues such as Juice Bars with drive thru capability; Reduce the number of dilapidated housing in neighborhoods; make those landlords or homeowners more accountable for these properties; offer more free homeowner check up like they do with the smoke alarms.
- My field deals with fathers incarcerated so there services begin upon release.
- Need help fixing house
- Weatherising house
- Not that I know of
- Parenting classes, local classes on budgeting and financial management
- Public transit options for those who can't afford to buy or maintain a car
- Public transportation for second and third shifts and on weekends. On Sunday there is NO public transportation. And of course a way to get rid of the slumlords
- Quality and affordable childcare for 0-3
- The services that are lack is diversity. Diversity in housing, jobs and opportunities. We just don't have enough people places or things to do to make the community enjoyable to live in. My only reason for being here is that my children and grand kid live here.
- There are no good paying jobs around here
- There are not enough day cares for before and after school children that is affordable, as well as health care for the working person to live and try to maintain bills, food and clothing as well as pay for health care.
- Transportation for people without license or to renew; no public transportation
- Transportation through Valley Metro, RADAR and local cab service expensive and not available at all times and locations that are needed to get folks around the Valley
- Transportation
- Employment opportunities with better salaries
- Access to credit
- We've given people a hand up but no hope
- How do you get people off drugs
- No coordination of services in area making use of a single point of entry for I and R
- Serious lack of interest in working. Having children compounds the program with children, work times, needing training, difficult to obtain and keep up. Great drive to start at the top. Little drive to

start at the bottom. Difficult to make a wage you can live on.

- Family taking care of family
- More education on rights of employees, renters, civic engagement
- Bus transportation - hours; rent assistance people can't wait till they are evicted to get help
- Yes, fathers
- Public transportation; public assistance
- Public transportation
- Childcare, budgeting
- Cooling; heating; childcare; budget
- Government shut down
- Opportunities for young adults (18+) who are aging out of foster care (housing and help with transportation, etc)

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

- Access for mental health services for individuals with no insurance
- Eagle Rock has no available services to help with housing no food pantry no type of help available
- We need activities for our middle school youth before and after school as well as i our high school youth. Teaching them trade skills as well as tutoring and relationship skills to decrease dating violence as well as domestic violence.
- Tax rate is low and county is 56% National Forest so limited tax base. Thus local government funds are extremely low for county services. Jobs are almost nonexistent within the county so Child Care Center provides way for families to be employed out of the community. TAP programs are extremely helpful for low income families.
- The opiod crisis is affecting every segment of the population, and all of us need to recognize how it compounds problems for those who already lack the resources for independence and self-support.
- Housing prices for rentals are out of proportion. Cuts to HUD budgets caused doubling of client responsibility on rent. This basically eliminated any gains. There is no other way to supplement this.
- What are some of the location developmental plans that are planned for the future of our local communities
- Salaries are stagnant while everything else keep being more expensive every day
- Current Educational and employment trends are not a reality for rural Virginia residents, educators or employers. Community leaders do not understand why it is necessary to correct current problems in order to secure future growth: we are stuck.
- I don't know whether this is helpful or not, but I think effort/motivation is another factor affecting low-income individuals. Perhaps I'm ignorant, but I know there are so many services available and people choose not to take advantage because of the effort required/expectations of them.
- Thank you for doing great things for our area

- Some of the low-income citizen's homes need repair or need rebuilding. They don't have the money to move or repair their home. There is no place to turn for help. They have been turned down by the weatherization program because the damages were too much and were placed on a waiting list for the emergency home repair for two years. Then they were told that there was NO funding to help. This is just sad.
- It's ridiculous that Roanoke doesn't have Sunday bus service. How are people supposed to get to work?
- Roanoke needs more good paying blue collar jobs. Not everyone has the education or access to education or desire to go into the health industry ie. Carilion. Everything else is service industry and retail which does not pay a living wage.
- Jobs are under paid making it hard for people to get an higher education, health care, healthy food, housing and even a job because you don't make enough to pay for child care.
- There needs to be a better way of informing hose needing services mentioned in this survey. As it is now, clients go from place to place seeking information, often becoming discouraged and just giving up
- When a person learns they can depend on others to solve their problems, they lose motivation and self worth
- The community needs more help with emergency housing
- Yall are awesome
- You all are great
- Live life happy
- "Slum lords", run down housing with high rent makes it hard to afford housing; areas like melrose no access to fresh food after certain hours difficult to get to store
- More training and education is needed for industry and business employment

Top Survey Responses

The following is a list of needs that scored among the top three percent of responses by all within the entire service area:

Category	Total	Need
Finances	74	Have a difficult time with money management, i.e. credit card debt, checking account management
Employment	68	Lack of good paying jobs with benefits
Engagement	67	Don't understand local government process for providing input, i.e. when and how meetings are advertised, what I need to be prepared to do at a meeting, how do I run for office
Finances	57	Don't know how to create and use a budget
Transportation	56	Public transportation doesn't have convenient hours
Housing	55	High cost of rent/house payments
Finances	55	No knowledge on how to address credit issues, including the danger of using "predatory lenders" like title loans and paycheck loans
Engagement	51	No knowledge on how to join neighborhood associations, community boards, advisory groups or similar organizations
Employment	50	Lack of skills/education to obtain a job
Transportation	50	Don't have money to buy or make down payment for a car
Transportation	48	Don't have money to maintain cars/vehicles i.e. gas, inspections, insurance
Engagement	47	Lack of knowledge for leadership development
Employment	44	High cost or lack of child care available during work hours
Health-Nutrition	44	Lack of education in area of nutrition - don't know how to cook, don't know how to eat healthy

The following is a list of needs that scored among the top three percent of responses for Allegheny-Covington:

Category	All-Cov	Need
Employment	14	Lack of good paying jobs with benefits
Transportation	12	Don't have money to buy or make down payment for a car
Engagement	12	No knowledge on how to join neighborhood associations, community boards, advisory groups or similar organizations
Engagement	12	Don't understand local government process for providing input, i.e. when and how meetings are advertised, what I need to be prepared to do at a meeting, how do I run for office
Finances	11	Have a difficult time with money management, i.e. credit card debt, checking account management
Finances	10	Don't know how to create and use a budget
Engagement	10	Lack of knowledge for leadership development
Employment	9	Unable to find jobs in area
Finances	9	No knowledge on how to address credit issues, including the danger of using "predatory lenders" like title loans and paycheck loans
Employment	8	Lack of skills/education to obtain a job
Employment	8	Employers/jobs are leaving area
Nutrition/Health	8	Going to the doctor is too expensive

The following is a list of needs that scored among the top three percent of responses for Roanoke City:

Category	Roanoke City	Needs
Employment	67	Long commute to jobs
Finances	44	Have a difficult time with money management, i.e. credit card debt, checking account management
Transportation	38	Public transportation doesn't have convenient hours
Employment	37	Lack of good paying jobs with benefits
Finances	37	Don't know how to create and use a budget
Finances	37	No knowledge on how to address credit issues, including the danger of using "predatory lenders" like title loans and paycheck loans
Housing	35	High cost of rent/house payments
Engagement	35	Don't understand local government process for providing input, i.e. when and how meetings are advertised, what I need to be prepared to do at a
Transportation	33	Don't have money to maintain cars/vehicles i.e. gas, inspections, insurance
Employment	29	Lack of skills/education to obtain a job
Transportation	29	Don't have money to buy or make down payment for a car
Employment	28	High cost or lack of child care available during work hours
Engagement	27	No knowledge on how to join neighborhood associations, community boards, advisory groups or similar organizations

Interviews and Other Valuable Input

In addition to soliciting input from individuals in the community, informal interviews were arranged with individuals and groups from partner organizations as well as the community at large. Also, information gathered from relevant documents as well as news reports were considered as input to reflect needs and current activities in the community.

- The Alleghany District of the Virginia Health Department completed a Alleghany/Covington Community Health Project in 2018, and in 2019 engaged the community to develop and implement a strategic plan. The top three priorities identified to move forward with are:
 1. Knowledge of Resources
 2. Substance Use
 3. Early literacy

It is likely the implementation of actions to accomplish the top three priorities will be taken on by the group working on Bridges Out of Poverty.

- A potential new issue was identified since the opening of a large truck stop outside of Covington. The community is proactively raising awareness throughout the community about human

trafficking. This may be a need to keep an eye on, particularly because federal funding from the Office on Violence Against Women and other Justice programs prioritizes programs addressing human trafficking.

- The Virginia Department of Health, while working on their community assessment, requested to meet with a focus group of TAP clients in Covington. This was arranged, and key points brought up during the discussion follows:
 - Since free clinic in Covington closed, very difficult to get medical services; closest is Rockbridge
 - Need more outreach so people have better understanding and know about how to get services like flu shot, etc.
 - Doctors are problem with opioids—lots of people prescribed opioids when they get workman’s comp/injured on job and get hooked
 - Would like more full-time job that also have benefits—most are part-time, and hard to find one that has benefits, unless you work at the paper mill
 - If transportation provided as well as training (like welding, etc.) clients in Covington would be very interested in getting a job in Botetourt
 - There was a stark difference in the interpretation of questions and type of responses regarding availability of healthy food and exercise between urban groups and rural groups
 - When asked if healthy food was available, all agreed that hunting and fishing were plentiful, and if a hunter is fortunate to get more than one deer, they gladly share with other families for free. Regarding fresh fruit and vegetables, they stated if they didn’t grow it, it was likely a neighbor did.
 - Regarding availability of walking trails, there was discussion of walking in woods
- TAP’s Alleghany Board of Commissioners wanted to meet and share some needs and concerns they were aware of in the community
 - Wrap-around services for families of those with drug addiction
 - Central point of entry/central information of all services and where to go
 - Human trafficking concern
- Meeting with Executive Director of Botetourt free clinic
 - Services are very limited, most people have to go to Clifton Forge/Covington
 - Seen increase in grandparents caring for grandchildren—may or may not have custody

- Need for help with tax preparation; formal tax return needed for applying to drug companies for assistance
- Lead Point of Contact for Craig County Community Center and Library
 - No internet/broadband available to homes county-wide; some professionals use library Wi-Fi for work
 - Some ideas for use of community center
 - Interested in entrepreneurship classes; want to work in Craig—don't want to leave
 - Potentially other job training classes
 - Interested in developing tourism industry; improving tourist center and staffing
 - Recognize importance of preschool and child care
- Botetourt Chamber and Department of Economic Development
 - Child care is needed, particularly over in Buchanan area—people cannot work who want to work
 - Need more housing; jobs are coming to Botetourt and will need to provide affordable housing; some apartments/condos in pipeline
 - Recognize importance of broadband and internet in rural areas—for farm-related businesses and for education. A broadband taskforce is working towards this for both Botetourt and Craig.
 - Tech center, like welding classes, could be expanded to night classes for adults
- **Chronic absenteeism is 'huge problem' for Roanoke schools**, By Jenna Zibton - Anchor WSLs, Posted: 7:07 AM, February 26, 2019 (<https://www.wsls.com/education/chronic-absenteeism-a-huge-problem-for-roanoke-schools>)
 - 16% of students are missing 10% or more of school year
 - There are specific people at each school focused on attendance issues like more time for the assistant principals dealing with absenteeism or social workers helping families that have truant students
 - Parent education is key because if kindergartners are allowed to stay home, they develop bad habits at a young age, and it only gets worse as they get older. Also, it is a generational problem—many of the students who are missing class now had parents who dropped out or missed a lot of class themselves.
 - Student mental health plays a role, whether it be depression or anxiety, in kids that are

truant

- **Workforce development center upgrades in Roanoke**, By Jeff Sturgeon, Roanoke Times, Apr 23, 2018 (https://www.roanoke.com/business/news/workforce-development-center-upgrades-in-roanoke/article_4c87e559-a58e-5131-bb32-444c7fe51848.html)
 - Moved from a location near downtown to 3601 Thirlane Road N.W., a former commercial center that was repurposed years ago as office space. It is near Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport off Hershberger Road.
 - All backgrounds of experience are welcome, he said, including older adults making a late-life career change, people reentering the labor force, high school dropouts and people with criminal records. The mission of the center is “to prepare job seekers for in-demand occupations to help the region’s businesses succeed.”
 - Visitors to the center will find representatives of the Virginia Employment Commission, Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, ResCare Workforce Services, Region 5 Adult Education, Virginia Western Community College, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, Total Action for Progress, and the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board
- **24 arrested on drug, gun charges as a result of Operation Buzz Kill, Authorities are still looking for five people**, By Samantha Smith - Digital Content Producer, WSLs, Posted: 5:04 PM, January 25, 2019 (<https://www.wsls.com/news/virginia/highlands/24-arrested-on-drug-illegal-gun-charges-as-a-result-of-operation-buzz-kill>)
 - Operation Buzz Kill was carried out on Thursday by the Alleghany Highlands Drug Task Force -- 29 people were charged as a result on 129 charges resulting from grand jury indictments
 - The Alleghany Highlands Drug Task Force comprises officers from the Covington Division of Police, the Alleghany, Bath and Craig county sheriff's offices and Virginia State Police. The Clifton Forge Police Department helped with this operation.
- **Manufacturer to invest \$12 million for new facility in Covington, create 31 jobs**, By Alison Graham, Roanoke Times, Jun 4, 2018 (https://www.roanoke.com/business/news/manufacturer-to-invest-million-for-new-facility-in-covington-create/article_c405ccc8-6e60-5765-be0b-4340963c5dd4.html)
 - SchaeferRolls Inc. will invest \$12 million to build a 40,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in Covington and create 31 new jobs
 - SchaeferRolls produces polymer-based roll covers for machinery used in paper, packaging, automotive and other industries. The company has operated in Farmington, New

Hampshire, since 2008 and was founded in 1946 in Renningen, Germany.

- The company will build its new facility on a 5.4-acre site in the Rail over River Industrial Park, just off Edgemont Drive and south of Interstate 64; it should be at full employment within 36 months. Positions will include engineers, mechanics, grinder operator and machinists.
- **Alleghany Highlands holds community discussion on the opioid crisis**, By Irisha Jones - Reporter WSLs, March 06, 2018 (<https://www.wsls.com/news/virginia/highlands/alleghany-highlands-holds-community-discussion-on-the-opioid-crisis>)
 - "The mortality rate is higher per capita than it is statewide. It's 12.8 as mortality rate whereas the statewide is 5.5," said Matina Kazameas of the Alleghany Highland Community Services
- **WestRock to invest \$248 million in Alleghany Highland plants over 5 years**, By Amy Friedenberger, Roanoke Times, Sep 25, 2018 (https://www.roanoke.com/business/news/westrock-to-invest-million-in-alleghany-highland-plants-over-years/article_7d75a0c3-0958-50ec-be7a-6f0b705db137.html)
 - WestRock Co., the largest employer in the Alleghany Highlands, will invest \$248 million in its manufacturing operations in Covington and Alleghany County
 - The new equipment will go to the plants in Covington and Low Moor, which together employ about 1,100 people with annual wages and salaries of more than \$134 million. The Covington paper mill dates to 1899 and the Low Moor facility was built in the 1980's.
 - The project will be aided by a \$2 million performance-based grant from the Virginia Jobs Investment Partnership program, as well as money from the Virginia Jobs Investment Partnership for retraining of 50 employees. It is also eligible for tax incentives associated with the Alleghany Highlands Enterprise Zone.
 - The \$248 million will be invested over the next five years. Mark Lukacs, senior vice president of consumer paperboard operations at WestRock, said the company has invested \$590 million since 2011. Most recently, it installed a green energy boiler in 2014 that cost \$290 million.
- **Virginia's rural co-ops learning lessons with community solar**, Elizabeth McGowan, Energy News, August 16, 2018 (<https://energynews.us/2018/08/16/southeast/virginias-rural-co-ops-learning-lessons-with-community-solar/>)
 - Students enrolled in the brand new renewable energy class at rural Virginia's Bath County High School this year don't have to travel far for hands-on learning. They just have to look

up—at the 252-kilowatt solar array on the school’s rooftop.

- That the school has invested in solar at all is a tribute to the innovation of go-getter Mike Keyser, the CEO of a distribution electric cooperative that serves some 13,000 electric meters in Bath, Alleghany, and Rockbridge Counties (BARC) near the West Virginia border
- Last summer, 3,314 solar panels were affixed to the high school and two elementary schools. At 1.1 MW, it’s heralded as Virginia’s largest school solar project and has provided more than half of the schools’ annual energy needs since going live last October.
- **Governor Northam Announces 44 New Jobs in Rockbridge County, Dynovis, Inc. to grow its engineering and manufacturing operations**, Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2019/march/headline-839050-en.html>)
 - Governor Ralph Northam today announced that Dynovis, Inc., a Virginia-based manufacturer providing inspired solutions and product expertise to the aerospace and defense industries, will invest \$592,000 to establish a new manufacturing operation in Rockbridge County
 - The company will renovate a formerly vacant, 75,000-square-foot facility and invest in new equipment to significantly increase its production capabilities. The project will create 44 new jobs.
- **Survey: Pay more important than benefits for younger workers**, By Rebecca J. Barnabi, Mar 12, 2019 (https://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/news/local/survey-pay-more-important-than-benefits-for-younger-workers/article_c2d301dc-15bc-5682-bc82-673a7e7c0efb.html)
 - Wage and Benefit Survey was the first of its kind in about ten years to report wage and benefit information of private organizations, businesses and nonprofit organizations in Waynesboro, Staunton, Augusta County, Harrisonburg, Buena Vista, Lexington, and Highland, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham and Shenandoah counties
 - The survey was a collaboration of the Greater Augusta Regional Chamber of Commerce, Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber, Highland County Chamber of Commerce, Lexington-Rockbridge Chamber of Commerce, Luray-Page County Chamber of Commerce, Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce and the Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge
 - “New employees are most sensitive to pay, not benefits packages,” said David Zorn, an economist with Mangum Economics, the company that conducted the survey
 - One of a rural area’s challenges is providing child care. Zorn said that according to the survey’s results, daycare is extremely scarce in the Valley, and daycare outside regular

business hours is not available.

- Child care is a challenge for parents who work shift work, or work during non-regular business hours. Such a challenge limits job options for younger mothers entering the local work force. New employees often get off-hour shifts, which will limit their child care options, and new residents in the Valley often have moved away from family who might provide child care options, especially outside regular business hours.
- Links to the survey's results are available at https://www.augustava.com/workforce-development?fbclid=IwAR3fv4T9UnPZKFSalqAgk3DhJ-Is0K-aHP1KfyWtf4MpjlObRhs3_O99YPY
- **Virginia governor awards innovation grants to 10 high school divisions**, Written by Patience Wait, Jul 13, 2018, EDSCOOP
 - Ten school divisions around the Commonwealth of Virginia each have received \$50,000 grants awarded by Gov. Ralph Northam to develop and implement innovative programs that emphasize personalized learning and performance assessments that measure student achievements
 - Rockbridge County High School will implement its Solutions STEM Academy, providing students career paths in 21st century agriculture, energy, and power and environmental technology
- **A long time coming, County nets its first economic development project since 2003**, February 28, 2017, Virginia Business (<http://www.virginiabusiness.com/news/article/a-long-time-coming>)
 - With a little help from local, regional and state partners, Bath County last year secured its first new economic development project since 2003
 - Speyside Bourbon Cooperage will build a stave mill in an industrial park in Millboro, bringing 30 new jobs
 - The company will hire and train workers for the new mill, which should be operational by fall
 - Cauthorn noted that creating 30 new jobs in Bath is no small feat. Bath is a remote county with a population of about 8,400 along the West Virginia line, which is perhaps best known as the home of the 251-year-old Omni Homestead Resort. The county's annual median household income is about \$33,500, slightly more than half the state's median income of \$65,000.
 - "These jobs are going to be good-paying jobs. Some of the higher positions like timber buyers will be very-good-paying jobs," Cauthorn said. "And you can take that payroll and

multiply it by seven to see what the overall economic impact will be. Truckers are going to be bringing wood in here—they'll be buying things like fuel and food. This is a big boost to the local economy."

- As part of its \$5 million investment, Speyside has agreed to source 80% of its local timber needs from Virginia landowners
- **Amid an opioid crisis, meth pours into the valley**, By Henri Gendreau, Roanoke Times, Oct 7, 2018 (https://www.roanoke.com/news/crime/amid-an-opioid-crisis-meth-pours-into-the-valley/article_4945cd2f-aea8-50a4-b8c2-c6c8ce6eb1f5.html)
 - Amid the wave of opioid addiction, methamphetamine has flooded the Roanoke and New River valleys
 - An analysis of drug data—from Botetourt and Bedford counties, to Roanoke and Radford—shows that within the last two years meth usurped heroin in the region as a drug of choice second only to marijuana. As of mid-August, Roanoke police had found more meth than they did all of last year.
 - Five years ago, Roanoke police recorded 38 seizures of meth, compared to 212 heroin seizures, according to the newspaper's analysis of drug data violation records provided by the department. From 2015 to 2017, the number of meth seizures tripled, from 99 to 309, while heroin increased from 214 to 312. As of mid-August, Roanoke police logged 332 meth and 259 heroin seizures.
 - But the influx of meth complicates already meager treatment options. Meth use can manifest as psychosis, with withdrawal characterized by "a burden of mostly mental and emotional symptoms," said Dr. John Burton, chairman of emergency medicine at Carilion. The drug has become ubiquitous at a time when many state and federal treatment grants still are earmarked for opioid-related disorders.
 - Authorities say, the recent uptick is fueled by cheap crystal methamphetamine from Mexico
 - From 2015 to 2017, Bedford, Botetourt and Roanoke counties saw meth seizures increase and their number overtake those of heroin. Vinton didn't see any meth in 2015 but logged 17 seizures last year and 56 through August. Salem has not seen such an upswing. Craig County Sheriff Trevor Craddock said deputies have seen an increase in meth. Data from the office don't always specify drug type.
 - "In a lot of rural communities, you're still seeing the meth is the primary issue," Alley said. "We have called it a crisis for us since 2010. It has impacted everything that we deal with on a daily basis."

- “We are getting large amounts of funding that’s coming into the state of Virginia from the federal government specifically to address the opioid crisis,” she said, noting such money was funneling to many state agencies, including law enforcement
- All the while, the “meth is rolling right now,” in the words of Salem Commonwealth’s Attorney Tom Bowers. Just two weeks ago, federal authorities charged more than two dozen people with conspiracy to traffic meth from California to Southwest Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia. The feds called the probe Operation California Dreamin’.
- “Meth has been the drug of choice even throughout the opioid epidemic in Southwest Virginia,” U.S. Attorney Thomas Cullen said in an interview. “It never left, and it never ... was supplanted by opioids.”
- It’s not just meth. Recently, Crowder, the state police agent, was talking with an assistant U.S. attorney supervising some of the agency’s drug cases. Surrounded by hundreds of pages of reports, the attorney was overwhelmed. “He says, ‘I’ve come to figuring out that I just didn’t realize how much of a drug problem there is here in Roanoke.’” The city is known among drug dealers as a place with many consumers, Crowder said. But he thinks it’s also becoming a hub for distribution. “If you can distribute to four, five, six counties from here you’re making good money,” he said, suggesting that the drug flow won’t stop anytime soon. There’s “no light at the end of the tunnel,” he said.
- **50 new jobs announced in Botetourt County**, By: WFXR Staff, Posted: Feb 26, 2019 04:15 PM EST (<https://www.virginiafirst.com/news/local-news/50-new-jobs-announced-in-botetourt-county/1812424789>)
 - Pratt Industries has announced they will invest \$20 million and finish a 16,000 square foot shell building for the manufacturing and converting of sustainable corrugated boxes and displays in Botetourt County
 - The company plans to hire 50 people at an average wage of \$47,900 plus benefits
- **Botetourt County fighting for broadband access**, by Cynthia Beasley Tuesday, March 12th 2019 (<https://wset.com/news/local/botetourt-county-fighting-for-broadband-access>)
 - Botetourt County said about 30% of their residents do not have broadband access. Michelle Crook thinks that percentage is actually higher
 - Crook is on the school board and the newly formed broadband commission. The commission formed last year and their goal is for everyone in the county to have broadband access by 2022.

- **Eldor auto parts plant in Botetourt goes into production with 120 new jobs, plans to grow**, By Alison Graham, Roanoke Times, Oct 4, 2018 (https://www.roanoke.com/news/local/botetourt_county/eldor-auto-parts-plant-in-botetourt-goes-into-production-with/article_627799f3-0be3-5cf0-9432-147ceb13f2ef.html)
 - Eldor Corp. opened the doors to its new \$75 million manufacturing facility Thursday to give media, customers and suppliers a peek into its process
 - Eldor began production last week on its ignition systems, electronic control units and hybrid and electric vehicle systems that will be shipped to its customers around the world
 - The Italian company announced plans to locate its first North American plant in Botetourt County in March 2016. It marked the biggest economic news in the county's history and the largest expansion of new manufacturing jobs in the Roanoke Valley since before the Great Recession a decade ago.
 - The company has hired about 120 people with plans to grow to 350 in the next four to five years
 - The Roanoke Regional Partnership estimates Eldor will have an economic impact of \$246.5 million and will help create 500 secondary jobs across Botetourt County and the Roanoke region
- **Roanoke council gives green light to land bank, Richfield development**, By Matt Chittum, Roanoke Times, March 2019 (https://www.roanoke.com/news/local/roanoke/roanoke-council-gives-green-light-to-land-bank-richfield-development/article_e4f10d58-46fc-5840-805e-395de3ea32ac.html)
 - Roanoke is about to become just the third Virginia locality to use a land bank to facilitate revitalization of tax delinquent properties into affordable housing
 - The Roanoke City Council on Monday approved contracting with Total Action for Progress to serve as the city's land bank partner. The vote was 6-0 with Councilman Bill Bestpitch absent.
 - Under the land bank process, properties the city has seized for unpaid taxes can be turned over to TAP, which will clear liens against them and renovate them for affordable rental housing or home-ownership opportunities. At the same time, the process would remove blight from city neighborhoods.

- **General Electric to close Salem manufacturing plant, eliminating 265 jobs, 42% are eligible to retire**, By Rachel Lucas - Weekend Anchor/Reporter, Heather Butterworth - Digital Content Producer, Shayne Dwyer - Reporter, WSLs, June 08, 2018 (<https://www.wsls.com/news/virginia/roanoke/general-electric-to-close-salem-manufacturing-plant>)
 - General Electric is closing its manufacturing plant in Salem, the company announced Friday morning
 - Of the 265 employees who will lose their jobs, 42% are eligible for retirement. They will receive severance packages. This would likely take place over the course of the next 12-24 months.

Demographic Report

Population by Age and Gender (See Appendix, Tables A1-A11)

Over the last six years, the population in TAP's service has essentially remained stable. In general, the population is older than Virginia overall and is growing smaller. The exception has been Roanoke City and County that have grown only slightly.

Key highlights from analysis of census data include:

- The total population in Alleghany between 2012 and 2017 decreased by 5%. During this same time period, those aged between five to 19 years decreased by 12%. The female population over the last six years decreased by 5.3% and the male population decreased by 4.7%. In 2017, 40% of the population was represented by those aged 35 to 64 years.
- Between 2012 and 2017, the total population in Bath decreased 5%. Over the last six years, the population under five decreased dramatically by over 63%; however, the margin of error is high given the small population sample, therefore the number of those under five in 2017 could range from 42 to 210.
- Between 2012 and 2017, the population of 20- to 24-year-olds in Botetourt increased by 20%. In 2017, 27% of the population was represented by those 24 years and younger.
- Between 2012 and 2017, the total population in Buena Vista decreased by nearly 3%; however, the population of 20- to 24-year-olds increased substantially by 70%. The male population decreased 4.5% and the female population decreased by 1.3% during this time period. In 2017, 37% of the population was 24 years or younger.
- Between 2012 and 2017, the total population in Covington decreased by nearly 4%; the male population decreased by 3% and the female population decreased slightly over 4%. In 2017, 31% of the population was 24 years or younger.
- Over the last six years, the total population in Craig decreased slightly over 1%; however, the population of 20- to 24-year-olds in Craig increased by 55.5%. In 2017, the margin of error for this age group is +/- 100, meaning the population could range between 150 to 350. From 2012 to 2017, the female population decreased by 3.4%; however, the male population increased 1.5%.
- Over the last six years, the total population in Lexington increased nearly 2%; however, the male population decreased by 10% and the female population increased by 22%. In 2017, 63% of the population was represented by those 24 years and younger.
- The total population in Roanoke City between 2012 to 2017 increased nearly 3%. During this six-

year period, the population of 65 to 84 years increased almost 14%. The male population also increased by 4% and the female population increased slightly over 2%. In 2017, 30% of the population was 24 years and younger; 39% of the population represented the age group of 35 to 64 years old.

- The population under five years old in Roanoke County from 2012 to 2017 increased over 12%. During this six-year period, the population of 85 years and older increased by nearly 10%. In 2017, 41% of the total population was between 35 to 64 years old and nearly 29% of the population was 24 years and younger.
- Over the last six years in Rockbridge, the population of 20- to 24-year-olds decreased by 11% and the population of five to 19 years old decreased by over 8%. In 2017, nearly 41% of the population was between 35 to 64 years old.
- Between 2012 and 2017, the total population in Salem increased nearly 3%. During this time period, the population of 85 years and older increased over 59%. The female population increased nearly 4% during this time. In 2017, the age group of five to 19 years old represented nearly 19% of the total population.

Poverty Rate—All Ages (See Appendix, Tables A23-A34)

As discussed in an earlier section, five of the localities within TAP's service are among the top 35 highest poverty rates in Virginia. Key highlights from analysis of census data include:

- Between 2012 and 2017, Alleghany's poverty rate increased by 9%
- The poverty rate of all ages in Bath decreased by 12% over the last six years. During this time period, with the exception of 2016, the rate remained lower than both the U.S. and Virginia.
- The poverty rate in Botetourt decreased nearly 16% over the last six years and is lower than the U.S. and Virginia
- In 2012, the poverty rate in Buena Vista was 19 and decreased to 14 in 2017. This resulted in a decrease of 26% between 2012 and 2017; however, during this six-year period, the rate was consistently higher than both the United States and Virginia.
- On average, the poverty rate for all ages in Covington from 2012 to 2017 was 16.5%, resulting in a higher average rate than both the United States and Virginia during the six-year period
- Between 2012 and 2017, the poverty rate in Craig decreased by 13%. Although during the six-year period, the rate was slightly higher than Virginia, it remained lower than the United States.
- Over the last six years, the poverty rate in Lexington increased by 2%. During this time period, the

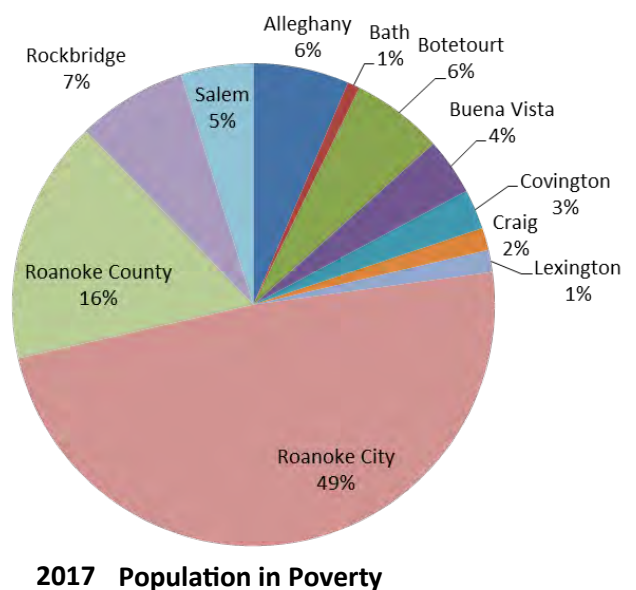
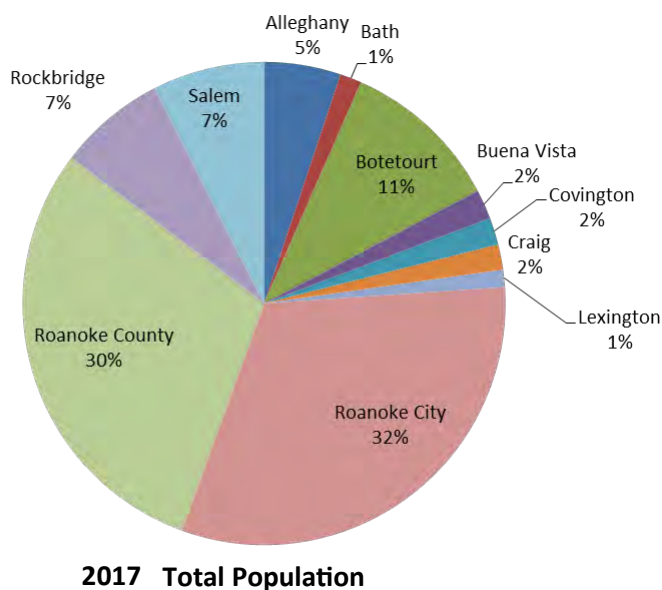
poverty rate each year was substantially higher than Virginia and the United States. However, the poverty rate may be skewed by the fact there are two colleges in Lexington.

- From 2012 to 2017, Roanoke City had a 4% decrease in the poverty rate. Although there has been a decrease during this six-year period, on average, 21% of the population was considered to be in poverty. During this time, Roanoke City had nearly 1.5 times the poverty rate as the U.S.
- Between 2012 and 2017, the poverty rate in Roanoke County remained relatively flat, with a slight decrease of 1.4%. Over the six-year period, the poverty rate for all ages has remained lower than both the United States and Virginia.
- The poverty rate for all ages in Rockbridge over the last six years decreased by 1.4%, averaging about 13% over the six-year period
- The poverty rate in Salem from 2012 to 2017 on average was slightly over 10% and decreased by 9% over the last six years

Share of Population vs Share of Poverty (See Appendix, Tables A23-A34)

To gain a better understanding of the distribution of poverty within TAP's service area, a comparison of the share of population versus the share of poverty can be explored.

Of particular note, while Roanoke City only accounts for 32% of the overall population, it is nearly half of the population in poverty. Also, the less-populated areas of Alleghany, Buena Vista, and Covington have a slightly greater shares when looked at from the population that is in poverty.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Poverty and Children (See Appendix, Tables A46-A56)

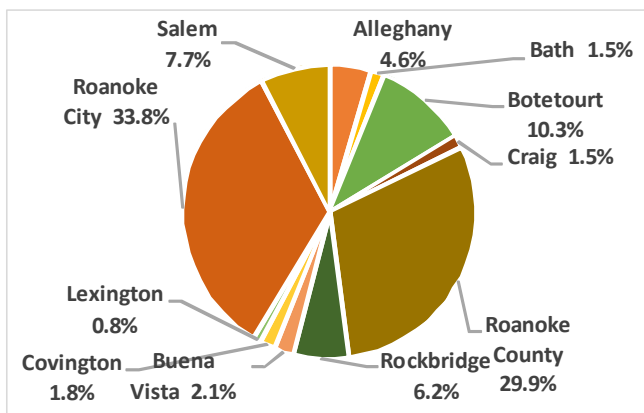
Breaking the cycle of generational poverty can be affected by intervening and improving the lives of children and exposing them to new opportunities and paths. Key highlights from analysis of census data include:

- Between 2012 and 2017, the number of children in Alleghany who lived in poverty increased from 530 to 743, an increase of 40%. The increase is substantially higher than both the United States (-3%) and Virginia (3%).
- The data indicate the children living in poverty in Bath from 2012 to 2017 decreased by 73%
- Between 2012 and 2017, the number of children in poverty in Botetourt increased by 5%. In 2017, 10% of the population under 18 was in poverty.
- Between 2012 and 2017, the number of children in poverty in Buena Vista increased nearly 4%. This increase is slightly higher than the 3% increase in Virginia during this time.
- The number of children in poverty between 2012 and 2017 in Covington decreased 9.5%; lower than both Virginia and the United States at this time
- From 2012 to 2017, the number of children in poverty in Craig decreased substantially by nearly 60%. The number of children in poverty started decreasing in 2016 and by 2017, 7.5% of the population under 18 was in poverty. The trend is Craig does not follow Virginia or the United States, where both experienced increases in children in poverty.
- Between 2012 and 2017, the number of children in poverty in Lexington dramatically decreased by almost 52%. However, on average during this time period, nearly 19% of the population under 18 was in poverty.
- In Roanoke City, the population of children living in poverty between 2012 and 2017 increased by more than 6%. On average during this six-year period, nearly 34% of the estimated population under 18 was in poverty, which was higher than both Virginia's and the United States' average.
- Over the last six years, the estimated population under 18 living in poverty in Roanoke County increased each year. From 2012 to 2017, this population increased by 42%, substantially higher than the United States (-3.1%) and Virginia (3%).
- Rockbridge has seen a high increase in the number of children in poverty from 2012 to 2017. Over 42% of children were in poverty during this six-year period. In 2017, nearly 24% of the population 18 and under was in poverty in Rockbridge whereas 15% of the child population in Virginia was in poverty.
- The number of children living in poverty in Salem decreased nearly 10%

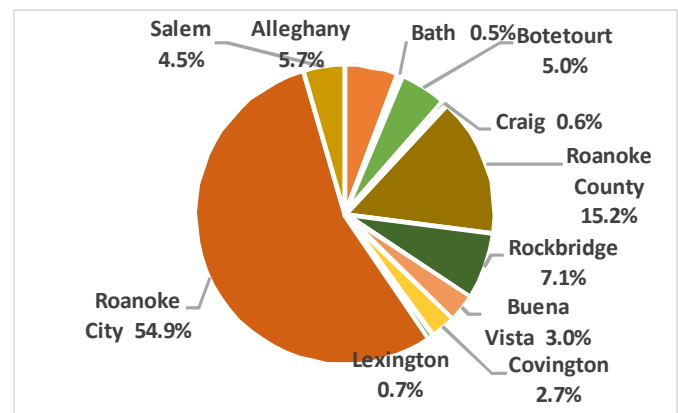
Share of Population of Children vs Share of Children in Poverty (See Appendix, Tables A46-A56)

Once again, within TAP's service area, the comparison of the share of population versus the share of poverty will be explored, this time for children under 18.

Note these graphs have even more differences than the total population. Of particular note, while Roanoke City only accounts for 34% of the overall population of children, it is over half of the population in poverty. Also, the less populated areas of Alleghany, Buena Vista, Covington, and Rockbridge have a slightly greater share when looked at from the population of children that are in poverty.



2017 Population of Children Under 18



2017 Population of Children Under 18
Living in Poverty

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S1701)

Children in Foster Care (See Appendix, Tables A125-A135)

It is important to understand the population of children that are in foster care as these children are eligible for programs that TAP offers, and adults that were brought up in foster care often face more barriers and have a higher rate of entering poverty. Key highlights from analysis of data include:

- While a low number of children in Alleghany are in foster care, the number has increased over the past three years. This number should continue to be monitored to see if the trend continues. Also, this county has limited resources, so recommend ensuring all are aware of TAP services.
- While a low number of children are in foster care in Buena Vista, the number has increased. This number should continue to be monitored to see if the trend continues. Also, Buena Vista has limited resources, so recommend ensuring all are aware of TAP services.
- While a low number of children are in foster care in Craig, the number has increased over the past

three years. This number should continue to be monitored to see if the trend continues. Also, this county has limited resources, so recommend ensuring all are aware of TAP services.

- Roanoke City accounts for about 5% of the children in foster care in Virginia, as well as accounting for the largest and most diverse share of foster children in TAP's service area
- Roanoke County has the second-highest number of children in foster care. Based on these numbers, nearly one-third of the foster children are under the age of five. Therefore, it is recommended that TAP review the resources provided to the county.
- The number of foster children in Rockbridge is relatively high considering the overall population is low. Because this is a small, rural county, further investigation is recommended due to the limited resources available in the county.
- There was a considerable jump in the number of children in Salem that were in foster care in 2018. Other sources should be utilized to understand the underlying cause of the increase and if the trend is expected to continue.

Population and Poverty by Race (See Appendix, Tables A57-A67)

In general, most of TAP's service area is predominantly white. The most diversity is in Roanoke City.

The total population in Roanoke City increased by nearly 3% over the period 2012 to 2017, while the number of people estimated to be living in poverty has increased more than 5% over the same six-year period. One of the largest contributors to the faster increase in the population in poverty comes from the increase of those in the Hispanic population. This population grew by nearly 88% over the six-year period; however, the total population of Hispanics only increased by 17%. Also, a great racial and ethnic disparity is noted of those living in poverty in 2017: 31% of African-Americans, 33% of Asians, and 30% of Hispanics, versus 16% of the white population.

Other highlights from the analysis of census data include:

- In Botetourt, the U.S. Census estimates that poverty has increased overall by 15%, but most of that can be attributed to races other than white and the small Hispanic population. Effort should be made to ensure these smaller populations have access to services they may need and be eligible to receive.
- The population in Roanoke County increased minimally of the six-year period; however, the number of people in poverty increased 29%. According to the census estimates, the number of white people in poverty increased by over 53%, while poverty for the African-American population decreased by 34%.

Foreign Born (See Appendix, Tables A101-A111)

Those who are foreign-born can often face many challenges with becoming self-sufficient. The following are highlights from the analysis of census data:

- In Allegheny between 2012 and 2017, those not a U.S. citizen and those who are naturalized citizens decreased by 31% and 45% respectively
- Bath's U.S.-born population over the last six years decreased by 7% while the foreign-born population increased by 37%
- The foreign-born population in Botetourt between 2012 and 2017 increased by nearly 60%
- In Buena Vista, the population born in the U.S. decreased by 2.3% over the last six years and those foreign-born also decreased by 7.5%
- The foreign-born population in Covington increased by nearly 170% between 2012 and 2017. Of that population, those who became naturalized citizens also increased, by about the same percentage.
- Over the last six years in Craig, the foreign-born population decreased while those who are U.S. citizens remained relatively flat
- In Lexington, the population of those who are born in the U.S. increased by 4.5% while those who are foreign-born decreased by 29%
- Over the last six years, those living in Roanoke City and born in the United States has remained relatively flat while naturalized citizenship increased by 38%
- Over the last six years, those living in Roanoke County who are naturalized citizens increased by 24%
- In Rockbridge between 2012 and 2017, those born in Puerto Rico, U.S. Island areas or born abroad to American parent(s) increased by 47%
- From 2012 to 2017, foreign-born residents decreased by 55% in Salem

Refugees—Roanoke City (See Appendix, Tables F46-F48)

Roanoke is one of the national locations designated by the federal government as a resettlement area for refugees. The following are highlights from analysis of data:

- Between 2013 and 2018, the number of refugee resettlements in Roanoke decreased by 35%. During this six-year period, 60% of the refugees came from the following five countries: Iraq, Somalia, Bhutan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan. In 2018, there were 66 refugees

from Afghanistan, almost four times as many than in 2014.

- The refugee resettlement in Roanoke City for school-aged children, ages five to 18, increased by 48.3% over the last six years. Nearly 43% of this population are from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan.
- From 2015 to 2018, the total number of refugees, preschool-aged four and under, increased from three to 43 children. Refugees from Afghanistan account for 60.5% of this population.

Poverty by Language Spoken at Home (See Appendix, Tables A35a-A45b)

For individuals that do not speak English, life can prove challenging, particularly in an area that is overwhelmingly populated by English speakers. As previously described, because Roanoke is one of that national locations for refugee resettlement, Roanoke City has the highest percentage of non-English-speaking individuals in poverty. The following are highlights of analysis of census data:

- The total adult population in Botetourt in poverty increased by 20% between 2012 and 2017. The large increase came from a jump of 14% in English-speaking adults, and even larger increases in non-English speakers. Spanish and other Indo-European speaking adults account for nearly 6% of all adults in poverty in 2017.
- Lexington has the most varieties of languages spoken by adults in poverty; however, this may be due to the large population of college students that may be from other countries. Nearly 8% are non-English speakers. The most common foreign language is Spanish followed by Asian languages and other Pacific Island languages.
- While the number of adults in poverty in Roanoke City has increased by 5% between 2012 and 2017, the portion of those who speak English has gone from nearly 90% in 2012 to 85% in 2017. This shift has occurred because of the increase in non-English-speaking adults in poverty, primarily those who speak Spanish.
- While the adult population in poverty increased by 25%, those who speak English who live in poverty increased by 50%. In 2017, those who live in poverty and speak English accounted for 95% of all in poverty in Roanoke County.
- The total adult population in Rockbridge in poverty increased by 26% between 2012 and 2017. While those in poverty who speak English increased by 23% over the same period, there was a substantial increase of adults in poverty who speak Indo-European languages other than Spanish, going from 0% overall to 3% of all in poverty in 2017.
- While the total adult population in poverty decreased by nearly one-third in Salem, the portion that speaks Indo-European languages other than Spanish increased by more than 200%. This

portion of adults who speak Indo-European languages other than Spanish and live in poverty accounted for 10% of those adults living in poverty in 2017.

Trends in Marriage (See Appendix, Tables A79-A89)

One of the trends to look at is individuals who are widowed. Because women often live longer than men, there is a higher likelihood of elderly women in poverty. An analysis of census data follows:

- Between 2012 and 2017, the percentage of those 15 and over in Alleghany that had never married increased by 21% while the percentage of those who were married decreased by 13%
- In Bath, the number of males either separated or widowed increased substantially. Although between 2012 and 2017, the number of males and females married decreased, and in 2017, nearly 56% of the population 15 years and older were married.
- The number of men 15 years and older in Botetourt who had never been married between 2012 and 2017 increased almost 33% and the number of women increased by 45%
- Between 2012 and 2017 the number of men and women in Buena Vista who were married increased by 21%. The share of population 15 and over who were married increased from 41% in 2012 to 51% in 2017.
- The number of divorced males in Covington between 2012 and 2017 decreased nearly 24% and the number of females divorced during this six-year period decreased 17%. In TAP's service area, Covington had the largest share of widowed women at an average of about 18% of the female population in each of the six years (2012-2017).
- In Craig, the number of males 15 years and older divorced increased nearly 61% between 2012 and 2017 and the number of females divorced increased by 36%. In 2017, over 50% of both men and women 15 years and older accounted for those who were now married excluding those who were separated.
- In 2017, nearly 42% of males and 35% of females 15 and older in Roanoke City were never married while 38% of males and 33% of females were married but separated
- Between 2012 and 2017 in Roanoke County, the number of females never married increased by 21%. During this six-year period, the number of men and women who were married increased by 8%.
- In Rockbridge, between 2012 and 2017, the population of men and women 15 and over increased by 2% while the number of men and women who had never been married increased by 3%
- In 2017, the number of women in Salem who had never been married increased by 8% over the

previous six years. The number of women who were widowed increased by 25% over the same period.

Household Size and Householder Trends (See Appendix, Tables A68-A78)

Research and data have identified that a household headed by a female who has children is more likely to live in poverty. There has also be a trend towards more single fathers raising children. The following are highlights of analysis of census data:

- In Alleghany, the average household size decreased by 5% and the average family size decreased by nearly 3%. During this six-year period, the number of households with married couples decreased by nearly 15%. In 2017, female householders with no husband present and with children living with her represented 24% of the total family households with children.
- From 2012 to 2017, the average family size in Bath increased nearly 10%. During this six-year period, male householders with no wife present but have children, increased by 88%; whereas, female householders with no husband but have children decreased by 46%.
- Between 2012 and 2017 in Botetourt, the percentage of female householders with children but no husband present increased by nearly 50%. In 2017, of all householders with children, almost 20% were led by the mother with no husband present.
- Over the last six years, the number of households in Buena Vista decreased by 5% and the number of married couple families increased by 17%
- Covington had one of the largest average family sizes at about three people per family. In 2017, about 25% of all households had children and nearly 20% of households were adults 65 or older.
- In Craig, from 2012 to 2017, the number of people 65 years and older living alone increased by 74% and the number of householders living alone also increased by nearly 65%
- The average family size in Lexington between 2012 and 2017 decreased 2.2% and the average household size decreased by 8%. During this six-year period, those 65 years and older living alone increased nearly 69%.
- In 2017, 30% of the total households in Roanoke City were married couple families. However, between 2012 and 2017, the number of married couple families decreased by 7%. During the six-year period, there was a significant increase in male householders with own children, no wife present, by 69.5%. The average family size over the last six years increased by 9% and is the highest family size at an average of over 3.3 individuals per family.
- In 2017, 56% of the total households represented married couple families. The average family size in Roanoke County decrease by nearly 2% between 2012 and 2017. The male householder with no

wife present decreased dramatically during this time period by 44% while the female householder with no husband increased by 10%.

- In 2017 in Rockbridge, nearly 55% of the total households were of married couples and 32% of those married couples had children. Of all households with children, 15% were headed by women with no husband present.
- In 2017, of all households with children in Salem, 34% were headed by a woman with no husband present; nearly 10% were headed by men with no wife present

Grandparent-Headed Households (See Appendix, Tables A90-A100)

Both TAP staff and partner organizations have seen an increase in the number of grandparents that have taken on a considerable responsibility—whether with official custody or not—of raising their grandchildren. An analysis of census data follows:

- In Alleghany between 2012 and 2017, the number of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren decreased by 10%; however, in 2017, 65% of grandparents living with their grandchildren were responsible for them
- In 2017 in Bath, the number of grandparents living with their own grandchildren was two times greater than in 2012. In 2017, over 74% of grandparents were responsible for their grandchildren
- Between 2012 and 2017, the number of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren in Botetourt increased by nearly 57%. In 2017, 63% of the grandparents were responsible for their grandchildren; of that population, 43% was responsible for five or more years.
- Over the last six years in Buena Vista, the number of grandparents living with their grandchildren under the age of 18 decreased by 25%; however, the number of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren increased 22% during this time. In 2017, the number of grandparents responsible for grandchildren represented 84%.
- From 2012 to 2017, the number of grandparents living with their grandchildren under the age of 18 in Covington decreased by 2%. During this time, the number of grandparents responsible for grandchildren decreased by nearly 22%.
- In Craig, the number of grandparents living with their own grandchildren under 18 years old between 2012 and 2017 decreased by nearly 52%. During this time period, the number of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren decreased by nearly 64%.
- The number of grandparents living with their own grandchildren in Lexington over the last six years dramatically decreased by 60%. During this time, the number of grandparents responsible for grandchildren increased slightly over 26%.

- In Roanoke City, the number of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren from 2012 to 2017 decreased by 10%. However, in 2017, nearly 49% of grandparents were responsible for their grandchildren; 46% of that population were responsible for five or more years.
- The number of grandparents living with their own grandchildren under 18 years in Roanoke County increased by 48% between 2012 and 2017. Grandparents responsible for their grandchildren increased by over 46%. In 2017, nearly 45% of grandparents were responsible for their grandchildren; 55% was responsible for their grandchildren five or more years.
- Between 2012 and 2017 in Rockbridge, the number of grandparents living with and responsible for their grandchildren increased nearly 39%. In 2017, the number of grandparents responsible for grandchildren was 47.5%.
- Over the last six years in Salem, the number of grandparents living with their own grandchildren under 18 years old increased by 38%. The number of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren in 2017, was two times higher than in 2012. In 2017, 47% of grandparents were responsible for their grandchildren.

Population Migration (See Appendix, Tables A112-A122)

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) publishes migration data based on year-to-year address changes reported on individual income tax returns. Migration patterns are presented by state and by county for the entire United States and are available for inflows—the number of new residents who moved to a state or county and where they migrated from—and outflows—the number of residents leaving a state or county and where they went. The following are highlights from the analysis of IRS data:

- While over 95% of Alleghany residents remained in the county, there were slightly more people who moved to Alleghany (about 5%) than left the county (over 4%)
- While nearly 94% of residents remained in Bath County, more people moved out of the county (over 6%) than those who moved into the county (about 5%)
- The percentage of people that left Botetourt was only 0.3% more than people who moved in to the county. Also, there was almost an equal percentage of people who moved from a locality in the Roanoke metro area into Botetourt as those who moved from the county to another locality in the metro area.
- Buena Vista had the second-lowest percentage of people who remained in the city in 2016, just under 89%. Buena Vista had the largest difference between those leaving the city versus coming to Buena Vista, with nearly 11% leaving and 8% moving to the city.
- The percentage of people leaving and moving to Covington was separated by about half a point;

8% left Covington in 2016, and 7.5% moved to the city. Alleghany County was the location that most people either moved from or to—each about 4%.

- Nearly 95% of the residents in Craig remained in Craig in 2016. There was a greater percentage of people moving into Craig (nearly 7%) than those who left the county (about 5%). Most of those who moved in to Craig came from counties in Virginia, with a small percentage moving to Craig from another state.
- Lexington had the lowest percentage of residents that remained in the city in 2016 at 86%. This could be attributed to the fact that the city is location to two universities: Washington & Lee and Virginia Military Institute.
- Roanoke City has a slightly higher percentage of people leaving the city, 10%, compared to 9% of people moving to the city in 2016. While 4% of those who leave Roanoke City move to a location within the metro area, nearly the same percentage moved outside of the state.
- Roanoke County has the most churn of all of the counties in TAP's service area, with just over 90% of residents remaining in the county. The percentage of people moving into the county was about the same as the percentage leaving.
- Rockbridge County had a larger percentage of people moving in to the county, 7%, versus only 6% of people leaving the county. A majority of people moving to Rockbridge are coming from other counties in Virginia that are not adjacent to Rockbridge or from outside the state.
- Salem had an equal percentage of people migrating in and out of the city, about 11%

Population Projections (See Appendix, Tables A12-A22)

The Demographics Research Group at the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service is responsible for providing the Virginia population projections that are the official numbers for the commonwealth and are shared with policymakers around the state for planning purposes. Of particular note, most rural Virginia counties are likely to experience slower growth or more population decline than in the past. The divide between urban and rural Virginia is projected to become increasingly sharp, with Virginia's urban population being younger, growing faster, and becoming more racially diverse than most communities in rural Virginia. The following are highlights from analysis of the data:

- The data indicate the population in Alleghany between 2015 and 2020 is not projected to grow much. Between 2020 and 2040, the population is projected to decrease over 17%. This is dramatically different than Virginia during this same period, with a population projection increase of nearly 17%.
- The population in Bath between 2015 and 2020 projects a slight decrease. Between 2020 and

2040, the population is projected to decrease nearly 12%. This is dramatically different than Virginia during this same period, with a population projection increase of nearly 17%.

- Between 2015 and 2020, the total population projections are expected to slightly increase in Botetourt; however, during this time, Virginia's population projection is expected to increase over 4%. Between 2020 and 2040, the population in Botetourt is projected to increase nearly 10%.
- The population projections for Buena Vista do not follow the trends for Virginia. The population is projected to dramatically decrease by nearly 29% between 2015 and 2020. It is also projected to decrease between 2020 and 2040 by nearly 12%.
- Between 2015 and 2020, Covington is projected to have a population increase of 8%, almost two times higher than Virginia's projection of 4.3% population increase. However, between 2020 and 2040, the population projections remain relatively flat.
- The population in Craig between 2015 and 2020 is projected to increase by less than 1%. Virginia is projected to have an increase of 4% during this time period. Between 2020 and 2040, the population is projected to remain relatively flat in the county.
- The population projections in Lexington between 2015 and 2020 are expected to increase 7%, higher than Virginia's projection of 4.3%. Between 2020 and 2040, the population is projected to increase over 6% in Lexington.
- The population for Roanoke City between 2015 and 2020 is projected to increase by 2%. Between 2020 and 2040, the population is projected to increase over 3% whereas Virginia is expected to see an increase of nearly 17% in its total population growth.
- Between 2015 and 2020, the population in Roanoke County is projected to have minimal growth whereas Virginia's population is projected to increase by 4%. For the years 2020 to 2040, Roanoke County's population is projected to grow more than 8% which is lower than Virginia's projected growth increase of nearly 17%.
- Between 2015 and 2020, the population in Rockbridge is projected to decrease slightly by less than 2% whereas the population in Virginia is projected to increase. Between 2020 and 2040, Rockbridge's population is projected to increase over 5%.
- Between 2015 and 2020, the projected population in Salem is expected to increase by 2%. However, between 2020 and 2040 the projections show minimal growth for Salem while Virginia's population projections during this same period indicate an increase of nearly 17%.

Point-In-Time Homelessness (See Appendix, Tables A123-A124)

- In 2018, 96.5% of those considered homeless were staying in emergency shelters. During this year, 71% of the total homeless population was of adults 24 years and older; 18% were children. Between 2017 and 2018, the total number of persons who were homeless increased by 19%; the number of homeless children increased by nearly 29%. During this same time, the number of adults in the 18 to 24 age group decreased by 14%.
- Between 2017 and 2018, the number of veterans experiencing homelessness increased by nearly 19%

Education Report

“The quality of life for a child and the contributions the child makes to society as an adult can be traced back to the first few years of life. From birth until about 5 years old a child undergoes tremendous growth and change. If this period of life includes support for growth in cognition, language, motor skills, adaptive skills and social-emotional functioning, the child is more likely to succeed in school and later contribute to society.”

Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return, Arthur J. Rolnick, Senior Vice President and Director of Research, 1985-2010, and Rob Grunewald, Economist; Minneapolis Federal Reserve; Published March 1, 2003 (<https://www.minneapolisfed.org/publications/fedgazette/early-childhood-development-economic-development-with-a-high-public-return>)

Preschool and Kindergarten Enrollment (See Appendix, Tables B80-B90)

Preschool and Kindergarten Enrollment (See Appendix, Tables B80-B90)

It is important to understand the trends of both preschool and kindergarten enrollment to have an understanding of the actual number of Head Start-aged children because the census data are based on estimates and can have very large margins of error that can skew the data. The following are highlights of the data analysis:

Roanoke City and Roanoke County have both experienced steady preschool enrollment over the last six years, while the kindergarten enrollment has decreased. Even though the overall number of children in Roanoke City enrolled in preschool has stayed relatively level, there have been some significant changes in a number of schools.

Monterey and Virginia Heights appear to have eliminated or minimized their programs. Round Hill enrollment has increased from serving 52 children to over 110. Enrollment of kindergarteners during this time period is down by nearly 9%.

Only four schools increased in both percentage and absolute number of students enrolled in kindergarten: Fairview, Garden City, Preston Park, and Virginia Heights. Wasena had the greatest drop in percentage enrolled, decreasing by over 45%, while the following two schools dropped the most in absolute numbers, going down by at least 20 students each: Fallon Park and Roundhill.

In Roanoke County, while there were some small fluctuations in preschool enrollment at individual schools, there was an increase in enrollment at some schools.

At Burlington Elementary, there was a greater than 80% increase in enrollment, or gain of 13 students, and a decrease of 31%, or drop of 11 students, at Herman L. Horn Elementary.

The kindergarten enrollment dropped by 9% equal to a loss of about 90 students. While most school experienced decreases in enrollment, only

five schools had increases in enrollment: Burlington, Clearbrook, Glen Cove, Green Valley, and Mountain View.

Alleghany's total number of children enrolled in preschool has increased by over 80% in the past six years while the total number of children enrolled in kindergarten has decreased by 43%. The downturn in kindergarten enrollment reflects the overall decrease in population growth in the county, in general.

The preschool enrollment in Bath has increased nearly 13% over the past six years from a total of 31 to 35 children and kindergarten enrollment has decreased by 17%.

Botetourt County schools are constrained both by space for preschool classrooms as well as funding to support these classes, and kindergarten enrollment has slightly decreased by almost 2% over the last six years.

Buena Vista's number of children enrolled in kindergarten had started to trend down in 2015, but enrollment went back up in 2017. For preschoolers, the number enrolled has been trending down over the past six years, and it appears that the public schools are only serving a little more than one-quarter of the population of age to attend preschool.

While it appears that Covington has the space to provide nearly all preschool-aged children services, it is unclear if they cannot serve them all due to funding and/or space. Over the last six years in Covington, the number of children enrolled in kindergarten increased by 32%.

Craig County has only a limited number of children enrolled in preschool, and it is believed these are limited to special needs children. Due to financial constraints, the public school system cannot provide additional preschool services. Craig County has experienced a decline in kindergarten-aged children, but that appears to have leveled somewhat in the past three years.

Lexington has limited ability to provide preschool services to children; however, they have experienced a doubling of the number of children enrolled in kindergarten, followed by a sharp

Virginia Receives \$9.9 Million Federal Preschool Development Grant to Unify and Strengthen Early Childhood Education Birth Through Five

In January, Virginia was awarded a grant that will be used by VDOE and its partners to support statewide initiatives that bolster Virginia's early childhood system. These initiatives include producing a statewide needs assessment and strategic plan, aligning early learning standards, and developing kindergarten-readiness tools for teachers and families.

Ten innovative communities, the Roanoke Valley being one, will receive funding that will allow Virginia to evaluate 1,000 publicly funded infant, toddler, and pre-K classrooms, to better understand the quality landscape.

This effort will be unique in that it will work to involve all infant, toddler, and preschool classrooms in publicly funded early childhood programs, including family day homes, child care, Head Start and schools.

Furthermore, the communities will conduct focus groups and surveys to gather insights from the families of Virginia's youngest learners. These evaluations will help determine which improvement supports are most helpful and how to best inform families about early childhood options. Best practices and models can then be scaled statewide and sustained using existing funds more effectively.

Local communities will serve as leaders for the state, helping to identify what steps and practices are needed to unify and strengthen the birth-to-five early childhood system.

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2019/january/headline-837533-en.html>

drop. The fluctuations in the population of children could be associated with the fact that Lexington is a small city that serves two universities.

Only three of the four elementary schools in Rockbridge offer preschool. It appears that they are only able to accommodate about one-third of the children that may be of-age to enroll. Both preschool and kindergarten enrollment have experienced declines in enrollment over the past six years. The preschool enrollment at Fairfield has dropped significantly—from 52 to 18. The elementary school that experienced the greatest decrease in enrollment was Natural Bridge, dropping from 56 to 37.

Only one of the four elementary schools in Salem offer preschool. Over the last six years, kindergarten enrollment has slightly decreased by 1.5%; however, kindergarten in South Salem during this time increased slightly over 26%.

VPI (See Appendix, Table B79)

The Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) is a Virginia Department of Education program that allocates state funds to school systems to provide preschool programs for four-year-olds who are not being served by Head Start. VPI aims to reduce disparities in kindergarten readiness among this age group.

With the exception of Rockbridge, TAP's service area had increases in the number of four-year-olds served by the Virginia Initiative Program between 2012 and 2017. In Alleghany, this number slightly increased by 2%. Botetourt and Buena Vista experienced a higher increase in the number of four-year-olds served, 13% and 11% respectively. In Covington, the number of four-year-olds in 2017 was almost two times higher than in 2012. Over the last six years, Roanoke City's four-year-olds served increased by 10.5% and Roanoke County increased by 21%. Salem has data for 2016 and 2017 and has served 18 children. Rockbridge remained relatively flat over the last six years, averaging 30 children served per year.

Fall PALS Scores (See Appendix, Table B113)

A majority of localities in the TAP service area score near or below the percentage reported for all of Virginia. However, there are three localities that consistently score significantly below Virginia's percentage: Covington, Craig, and Roanoke City. Also of note, Botetourt appears to be trending toward a higher percentage of children who are not kindergarten-ready.

SOL results for Roanoke and New River valleys mirror statewide drop

Writing and reading pass rates dropped in the Roanoke and New River valleys on Virginia's Standards of Learning tests, reflecting a statewide trend.

Pass rates across Virginia were down between one and two percentage points in all five key subjects on the 2017-18 test scores, according to results released Wednesday by the Virginia Department of Education.

Andrew Adkins, Roanoke Times, Aug 22, 2018 (https://www.roanoke.com/news/education/sol-results-for-roanoke-and-new-river-valleys-mirror-statewide/article_ac3200ac-7a57-5e4f-8233-35435bc0a1dd.html)

Repeating Grades K-3 (See Appendix, Table B114)

While the percentage of children that repeat a grade in the first portion of elementary school is low and dropping for Virginia overall, most of the locations in the TAP service area have a higher percentage of children that must repeat a grade—some significantly higher. Particular attention should be directed towards Lexington, Craig, Covington, Botetourt, Alleghany, and Roanoke City and County.

SOL Pass Rates for All Students (See Appendix, Tables B67-B78)

The Virginia Department of Education assessment program measures student learning and achievement in English (reading and writing), math, history, and science through Standards of Learning tests. When compared to the state, three of TAP's service areas had higher SOL pass rates in 2017 than Virginia. Botetourt, Roanoke County, and Salem had higher SOL pass rates in all subjects, Alleghany, Covington, and Craig scored lower in all subjects compared to Virginia. The following is an analysis of the information for each locality:

- Over the last six years in Alleghany, English reading SOL pass rates for all students increased by 10%; however, for African-Americans, the pass rate decreased by nearly 13%. Also during this time period, the English writing pass rate for African-Americans decreased by 28%.
- In Bath between 2012 and 2017, the history and social sciences pass rate for all students decreased by 7%. The pass rate in the subject for females decreased by 8%. During this six-year period, the pass rate for math increased by 25% for all students.
- The math SOL pass rate for all students in Botetourt between 2012 and 2017 increased nearly 9%; the pass rate for African-Americans increased 16%
- Over the last six years in Buena Vista, the SOL pass rates for all students increased across every subject. Although the pass rates for math are low, it increased every year during this time period

by over 42%, and math pass rates for African-Americans increased by over 150%.

- From 2012 to 2017 in Covington, the SOL pass rate for all students in math increased by 22%. Over the six-year period, English writing increased by 10% for all students; however, the pass rate for African-Americans decreased nearly 27%.
- Over the last six years in Craig, the science SOL pass rate for all students decreased nearly 9%; the pass rate for females decreased 19.5%
- The English writing SOL pass rate for all students in Lexington between 2012 and 2017 dramatically decreased by 22%. The history and social sciences pass rate decreased by 9%; African-Americans pass rate decreased nearly 37%.
- In Roanoke City between 2012 and 2017, the SOL pass rate for all students in reading and math, each increased by over 10%. However, during this time period, the pass rates for all students in history and social sciences decreased by 5%.
- Between 2012 and 2017 in Roanoke County, the pass rates for all students in science decreased by 2%. During this six-year period, the science SOL pass rate for African-Americans decreased nearly 9%.
- In Rockbridge over the last six years, SOL pass rates for all students in every subject increased. The pass rate for math increased nearly 20% and the English reading increased almost 16%.
- The English writing SOL pass rate for males in Salem from 2012 to 2017 decreased by 10% whereas the pass rate for females increased slightly over 1%. During this six-year period, the SOL pass rates for all subjects, except math and science, decreased.

Suspension/ Expulsions (See Appendix, Tables B91-B100)

The most disciplinary common action among all school districts was short-term suspension, followed by a limited number of districts using in-school suspension. Short-term suspension refers to students who cannot return to school for up to 10 days; long-term suspension refers to students who cannot return for no less than 10 days but no more than 365 days. Expulsion is when a student cannot ever attend school in that district. The data report suspensions and expulsions offenses including those related to weapons; against student; against staff; against person; related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD); related to property; related to behavior; technology; and other. The following are highlights from analysis of the data:

- Short-term suspensions in Alleghany public schools increased nearly 10% between 2013 and 2017. In 2016, the number of students receiving in-school suspensions began increasing.

- Between 2013 and 2017 the number of short-term suspensions in Bath County public schools decreased by 18%
- In-school suspension for Botetourt public schools increased almost four times between 2013 and 2017. During this same period, short-term out-of-school suspensions decreased by nearly 29%.
- The most common disciplinary action for Buena Vista public school students from 2013 to 2017 was short-term out-of-school suspension and increased by 42%
- Short-term out-of-school suspensions nearly doubled for Covington public school students from 2013 to 2017
- The most common disciplinary action for Craig County public school students from 2013 to 2017 was short-term out-of-school suspension. Over this time period, the number of students with this suspension increased by 31%.
- Short-term out-of-school suspension was the most common disciplinary action for Roanoke City public school students between 2013 and 2017. Over this time period, the number of students with this suspension decreased by 2%. In-school suspensions during this time period more than doubled.
- Short-term out-of-school suspension was the most common disciplinary action for Roanoke County public school students from 2013 to 2017. Over this time period, the number of students with this suspension increased by 40%. In 2017, there was a rise in students receiving in-school suspension.

Truancy for All Students (See Appendix, Table B101)

Unexcused school absences are considered truancy. Once a student reaches a certain number of unexcused absences, they are considered a chronic truant. The compiled reports during 2012 to 2016 reported the number of students with at least six unexcused absences during the school year. The compiled report for the 2017-2018 school year reported the number of students with at least seven unexcused absences during the school year.

Over the last six years, most of TAP's service area decreased in truancy counts; however, truancy in Alleghany, Buena Vista, and Rockbridge increased. Buena Vista experienced the highest increase of 25 students followed by Alleghany and Rockbridge, each increasing by 14 students. Roanoke City truancy counts decreased by 94% during this time, resulting in 3,256 fewer students being truant.

Graduation and Dropout Rate (See Appendix, Tables B1-B22)

The Virginia Department of Education publishes annual reports regarding the outcomes of students who enter high school at the same time, during ninth grade, and are expected to graduate together. The on-

time graduation rate is the percent of students within a cohort who graduated with a Board of Education diploma within four years of entering high school. The dropout rate is the percentage of students within a cohort who permanently left school within the four years. It also includes students whose whereabouts are unknown.

- The on-time high school graduation rate in Virginia increased nearly 4% between the years of 2012 and 2017. During this time period, TAP's service area, with the exception of Bath County and Buena Vista, also increased in on-time graduation rates.
- On-time graduation rates in Roanoke City have risen by 17% over the last six years. Notably, the African-American on-time graduation rate increased by 19% and male on-time graduation rate increased by 20%, closing the gap between males and females.
- Although Virginia experienced an increase in on-time graduation rate, the dropout rate increased almost 14% during the last six years. Like Virginia, Bath, Buena Vista, Craig, and Salem also reported increases in dropout rates.
- Overall, Roanoke City's dropout rates drastically decreased by 31% from 2012 to 2017; however, males were two times more likely to dropout than females
- Alleghany's dropout rate also dramatically decreased by nearly 41%, with a rate averaging less than 6% over the last six years; however, African-Americans averaged over an 8% dropout rate
- Botetourt and Rockbridge also follow the trend of decreasing dropouts. Over the last six years, there have been on average nine dropouts per year in Botetourt and dropouts decreased over 19% in Rockbridge.
- Unlike most of TAP's other service area, during this time, Salem experienced a significant increase of 45% in dropouts

Certificates (See Appendix, Tables B57-B66)

The High School Industry Credentialing program was developed to encourage students to work toward obtaining a state license or industry credential while pursuing a high school diploma. Many of the high-demand, high-growth jobs in the area require certification or licensure versus a two-year or four-year degree.

- In 2017, high school students in Alleghany earned 2.5 times more credentials achieved than in 2013
- Over the last five years, the number of industry certificates achieved by Botetourt high school students increased by more than five times
- Over the last five years, students earning more than one credential increased by 50% in Buena Vista

- Covington high school students obtaining an industry certificate in 2016-17 was more than seven times higher than in 2012-13
- In 2017, the number of Roanoke City high school students with an industry certificate was nearly four times higher than in 2013. Another large increase was for Workplace Readiness Skills Assessments passed, this was two times higher in 2017 than in 2013.
- Industry certifications achieved by Rockbridge students was nearly 6.5 times higher than in 2017 than in 2013
- Between 2013 and 2017, the number of Salem high school students with an industry certification increased by nearly 7%

Plans After High School (See Appendix, Tables B23-B34)

The Virginia Department of Education annually collects public high school graduate and completer data. Graduates are considered any student who receives a Standard Diploma, Advanced Studies Diploma, Specialized Diploma, Modified Standard Diploma, or General Achievement Diploma. Completers are students who receive a Certificate of Program Completion, GED Certificate, or ISAEP. These students report their intended plans after graduation as one of the following: attend four-year college, attend two-year college, military, employment, no plan, or other.

In the graduating class of 2017-2018, nearly 78% of the total graduating population planned to attend college, either two-or four-year, in Virginia. Botetourt, Buena Vista, Roanoke County, Rockbridge, and Salem had a higher percentage of their graduating population plan to attend four-year colleges, on par with Virginia. However, the data indicate Alleghany, Bath, Covington, Craig, and Roanoke City students reported a higher percentage that planned to attend two-year colleges. Buena Vista, Covington, and Roanoke City appear to have a higher percentage of their population planning to enter the workforce after graduation than the other listed localities.

The following are highlights of data analysis:

- Although the total number of graduates in Alleghany is small, the majority who graduated in 2018, or 58%, reported plans to attend a two-year college. The largest percentage of Virginia's population, 49%, reported plans to attend a four-year college. On average each of the past six years, 53 students in Alleghany planned to attend a four-year college.
- The total number of graduates in Bath County is small; however, the data indicate between 2013 and 2018, the number of students planning to attend college after graduation decreased significantly. In 2017-2018, 68% of the graduates planned on either attending a two-year or four-year college.

- In Botetourt between 2013 and 2018, students planning to attend a two-year college decreased by 27% and those who reported plans to attend a four-year college slightly decreased by 1.2%. In 2018, 17.5% of the graduating population planned to enter the workforce, which is higher than Virginia where 11% of the population planned to enter the workforce.
- Although Buena Vista's graduating class is small, between 2013 and 2018, the number of students planning to attend a four-year college increased by 33% and plans to enter the workforce also increased, from seven to 19 students. In 2018, plans to attend a two-year college accounted for 28.6% of all graduates, which mirrored the share for those in Virginia at 28.6%.
- Between 2013 and 2018, the number of graduates in Covington with plans to enter the workforce increased over 28%. In 2018, this group accounted for 28.6% of all graduates, greater than Virginia, which was 11.4%.
- Between 2013 and 2018 in Craig, students planning on entering the workforce increased by 16% and those planning to attend a four-year college increased by 34%
- Between the graduating classes of 2013 and 2018 in Roanoke City, the number of students without any plans after graduation increased by 50%; however, in 2017-2018, those with no plans accounted for less than 6% of total graduates. During this same time period, the number of students who planned to enter the workforce increased by nearly 23% in Roanoke City which is higher than Virginia at 17.5%. In Roanoke City there was also an increase of nearly 30% of those planning on attending a four-year college whereas plans to attend a two-year college decreased nearly 24%.
- Between the graduating classes of 2013 and 2018, students planning on entering the workforce after graduation increased by nearly 42% in Roanoke County, much higher than the 17.5 % in Virginia
- In Rockbridge between 2013 and 2018, the number of students planning to attend a four-year college increased by 34%. In 2017-2018, 121 students, or 51% of the total graduates, planned on attending a four-year college, an increase of 22% from 2016-2017.
- For the graduating class of 2017-2018 in Salem, nearly 56% of the total graduates reported they were planning to attend a four-year college. Students planning on attending a four-year college between 2013 and 2018 increased by 15%, which is higher than Virginia's increase of nearly eight% during the same time period.

Educational Attainment (See Appendix, Tables B35-B45)

Educational attainment refers to the highest level of education that an individual has completed. This

is distinct from the level of schooling that an individual is attending. The U.S. Census provides estimates for educational attainment for adults 25 years and older. The following are highlights from analysis of the census data:

- Between 2012 and 2017 in Alleghany, the estimated population of 25 years and older with a 9th to 12th grade education without a diploma decreased by 16%. Over the last six years, on average, 37.5% of the estimated population had a high school diploma.
- In 2017, nearly 42% of the population 25 years and older in Bath was estimated to have a high school diploma as the highest level attained. Between 2012 and 2017, the number of those with some college and no degree increased by 11%.
- Over the last six years, high school graduates averaged slightly over 34% of the population the population 25 years and older in Botetourt. Those with some college and no degree increased by 3% and the population with a bachelor's degree increased nearly 24%.
- Between 2012 and 2017, the population 25 years and older in Buena Vista with some college and no degree increased by 23%, and those with an associate's degree also decreased by 23%.
- Between 2012 and 2017, the data indicate a significant increase in the population 25 years and older in Covington that have a graduate or professional degree. During the six-year period, the number of those with less than a 9th grade education decreased by nearly 50%.
- In Craig over the last six years, the population with a college degree increased. During this six-year period, the population 25 years and older estimated to have an associate's degree increased by nearly 25%, bachelor's increased by 51%, and those with a graduate or professional degree increased by nearly 17%.
- Over the last six years, the population in Lexington with some college and no degree increased by 20%, and the population with less than a 9th grade education increased over 4%. Since 2012, the population with an associate's degree has steadily increased.
- Between 2012 and 2017, the estimated population 25 years and older in Roanoke City with less than a 9th grade education decreased by nearly 12%. During the six-year period, the population that obtained an associate's degree increased over 26%; however, over this time period, an average of 21.6% of the population had some college but no degree.
- Over the last six years, on average, an estimated 22% of Roanoke County's population of 25 years and older had a bachelor's degree, and increased by nearly 11% during this time period. The number of high school graduates remained flat during this time period.
- In Rockbridge between 2012 and 2017, those with a college degree increased. Over the six-year period, the population with an associate's degree increased by 47%. In 2017, 7% of the population had an associate's degree and 17% had some college but no degree.

- From 2012 to 2017, the estimated population of those 25 years and older in Salem with an associate's degree increased by 30%; however, on average, this accounts for less than 10% of the estimated population. Those with some college and no degree increased by 4% over the six-year period, which represents nearly 21% of the population 25 years and older during this time.

Poverty and Educational Attainment (See Appendix, Tables B46-B56)

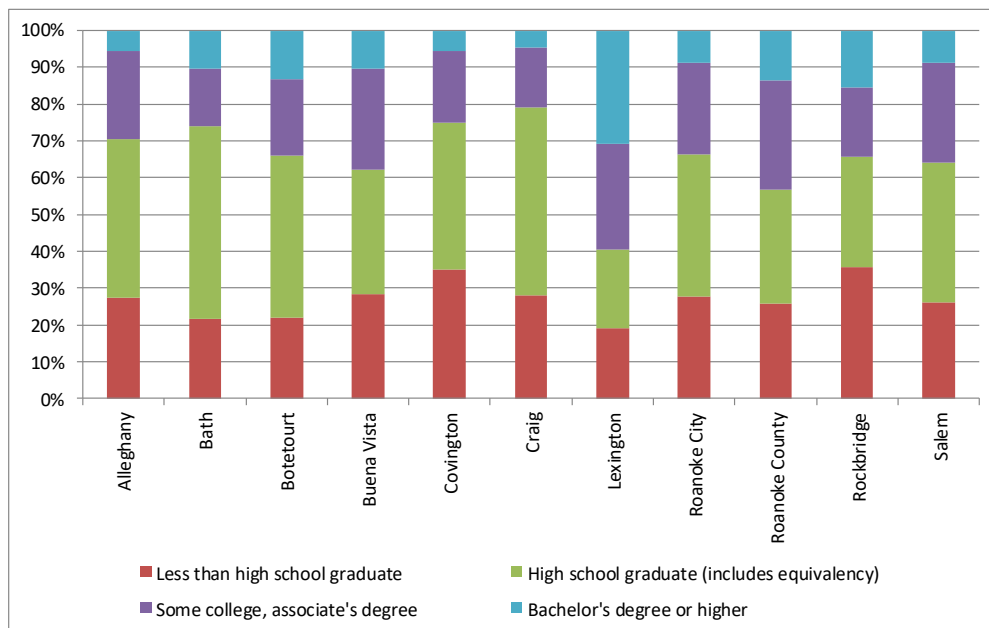
Arguments have been made in scholarly articles that those in poverty are less likely to have a higher level of educational attainment; and, conversely, the higher the level of educational attainment, the less likely one is to be in poverty. The following are highlights of census data:

- Alleghany's educational attainment for the population of those in poverty 25 years and older increased over the last six years. Those with bachelor's degrees increased by 92.5% between 2012 and 2017. In 2017, nearly 28% of this population had less than a high school education.
- In 2017 in Bath, over 52% of the population 25 years and older living in poverty had a high school education but nearly 22% had less than a high school education. Between 2012 and 2017, the number of high school graduates decreased by 9%.
- In Botetourt, the number of people in poverty with a bachelor's degree increased substantially from 53 people in 2012 to 216 people in 2017, or over 300%, over the last six years. The number of people with a high school education also increased during this time, by 39%.
- The population in poverty with at least a high school education in Buena Vista between 2012 and 2017 decreased by 36%. However, during this six-year period, those with some college increased nearly 34%.
- Over the last six years in Covington, the population of 25 years and older in poverty with a bachelor's degree increased by 35%; however in 2017, bachelor's degree represented 5.5% of the population
- Over the last six years, the number of Craig's population 25 years and older in poverty without a high school education increased over 600%. In 2017, almost 28% of those in poverty had less than a high school education.
- Over the last six years in Lexington, the population in poverty with less than a high school education decreased by nearly 48%. In 2017, the population with either some college or a bachelor's degree, represented 59% of the population.
- In Roanoke City between 2012 and 2017, the population 25 years and older in poverty increased by 6% while those in poverty with a high school diploma increased by 16%. During this six-year period, those who had experienced some college increased by 12%, and those with a bachelor's degree increased by nearly 9%. However, in 2017, nearly 28% of this population had less than a high school

education.

- From 2012 to 2017 in Roanoke County, the population of 25 years and older in poverty increased by 24% while those in poverty without a high school education increased significantly, over 34%. During this period, the population with some college increased by nearly 30%.
- In Rockbridge between 2012 and 2017, those with less than a high school education in the population 25 years and older in poverty increased over 12%. In 2017, this group represented 36% of the population in poverty 25 and older.
- In 2017, almost 38% of Salem's population of 25 and older in poverty were high school graduates and nearly 9% had a bachelor's degree

Educational Attainment of Those in Poverty, 2017



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2013-2017, Poverty in the Last 12 Months (S1701)

Veteran Educational Attainment (See Appendix, Tables B102-B112)

Highlights from analysis of census longitudinal data examining educational attainment of veterans follows:

- Over the last six years in Alleghany, the number of veterans with some college or an associate's degree decreased slightly over 19%. In 2017, 41% of the total veteran population had a high school education; however, 11% of the population has less than a high school education.
- In Bath between 2012 and 2017, the number of veterans with a high school education decreased

nearly 23%, and those with some college or an associate's degree slightly increased by 2%

- From 2012 to 2017, the number of veterans in Botetourt with less than a high school education decreased by 35%. In 2017, nearly 59% of the veteran population had some college degree or an associate's degree or higher.
- In Buena Vista between 2012 and 2017, veterans with less than a high school education decreased by 60%. In 2017, 58% of the veteran population had some college or a degree
- The number of veterans in Covington with less than a high school education between 2012 and 2017 increased substantially. However, in 2017, 45.6% of the veteran population had a high school education.
- From 2012 to 2017, the number of veterans in Craig with less than a high school education increased by nearly 22% and high school graduates decreased by 54%. In 2017, nearly 55% of the veteran population had a high school education or less.
- In Lexington in 2012, over 70% of the veteran population had a bachelor's degree or higher; however, in 2017, 35.6% of the veteran population had a bachelor's degree or higher. In 2017, the number of veterans with less than a high school education was almost two times higher than in 2012.
- In 2017, 37% of the veteran population in Roanoke City had some college or an associate's degree. Nearly 41% of veterans in 2017 had a high school education or less
- The number of veterans in Roanoke County with a high school education decreased by 23% over the last six years. Veterans with some college or an associate's degree decreased by nearly 19%. However, in 2017, 36.5% of the veteran population had some college or an associate's degree.
- In Rockbridge, the veteran population with a high school education between 2012 and 2017 decreased by 30.5%. In 2017, 46% of the total veteran population had a high school education or less.
- From 2012 to 2017 in Salem, the number of veterans with some college or an associate's degree increased 41.5%. During this six-year period, veterans with less than a high school education increased slightly over 13%.

Income Report

Household Income (See Appendix, Tables C6-C19)

Only Botetourt County and Roanoke County have a median household income greater than the U.S. median household income. Craig County had the highest percentage of households in the ranges of \$75,000 to \$99,999 and \$100,000 to \$149,999—higher than any locality in TAP's service area as well as above the U.S. and Virginia percentages. In fact, Craig County was six percentage points higher in the \$100,000 to \$149,999 income range than the U.S. percentage of 14%.

None of the localities had median household incomes greater than or equal to Virginia's or the nation's. In fact, Rockbridge had the highest, and was still nearly \$4,000 below the U.S. median and about \$15,000 below Virginia's. Of note, Bath County had the highest percentage of households with incomes between \$35,000 to \$49,999 (25%) and the lowest percentage of households with incomes less than \$5,000 (below 1%).

Tax Returns by Income Bracket (See Appendix, Tables C21-C23)

Compared to Virginia's percentage of returns under \$25,000, which was 33%, only Botetourt County had a smaller percentage at 31%. All other localities had a higher percentage of returns in the low range; in fact Buena Vista, Covington, and Roanoke City each had 46% of returns with AGI under \$25,000. Botetourt County also stood out in the percentage of returns in the ranges between \$75,000 to \$200,000; Virginia returns in this range were 25% and Botetourt was three percentage points higher at 28%.

While most of the localities had a similar percentage of elderly returns when compared to Virginia in the AGI ranges from \$25,000 to \$75,000, of considerable note is the vastly higher percentage than Virginia of the elderly returns for AGI ranges below \$25,000. The percentage of elderly Virginians, in general, with returns with an AGI of under \$25,000 is 26%. All but one locality in TAP's service area had percentages ranging from 28% to over 40%. In fact, 43% of Buena Vista returns and 40% of Covington returns for elderly had AGIs of under \$25,000.

In Virginia, the percentage of returns for those identifying as self-employed in the income ranges between \$25,000 and \$75,000 was 27%. All localities in TAP's service area had percentages higher than this for the same income ranges; all were at least 30% or more. Most interesting, some of the areas with the lowest median household incomes had the highest percentages of self-employed in this AGI ranges: Buena Vista had 46% and Covington, had 44%.

VITA—Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (See Appendix, Table C24)

The VITA program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$55,000 or less, persons with disabilities, and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

Alleghany, Bath, and Covington had the highest number of returns prepared by VITA. Surprisingly, Buena Vista and Craig had no VITA-prepared returns and Rockbridge only had a total of 20 returns. There appears to be a large opportunity to expand tax services, particularly to localities where no VITA-prepared returns were completed, as well as in Roanoke City, where only half the number of returns were prepared compared to Alleghany County—and there is a significantly larger population in Roanoke City.

EITC—Earned Income Tax Credit (See Appendix, Table C25)

The EITC is a benefit for working people with low to moderate income. To qualify, you must meet certain requirements and file a tax return, even if you do not owe any tax or are not required to file. EITC reduces the amount of tax you owe and may give you a refund.

Roanoke City accounted for nearly half of the returns with EITC in all of TAP's service area. It is likely that awareness of the EITC is lower outside of the metro area, and that increased awareness of the EITC in rural areas could benefit the people living there.

Necessary Wages and Typical Expenses (See Appendix, Tables C1-C3)

There is a large disparity that exists between poverty rate, minimum wage, and what can be considered a living wage. Many use the MIT living wage as a target for goal setting.

- The poverty wage is based on the estimated cost of nutritious meals in 1958, with the amount updated annually and adjusted for inflation
- The living wage is defined as the wage needed to cover basic family expenses (basic needs budget) plus all relevant taxes
- The basic needs budget and living wage are calculated as follows: Basic needs budget = Food cost + childcare cost + (insurance premiums + health care costs) + housing cost + transportation cost + other necessities cost. Living wage = Basic needs budget + (basic needs budget*tax rate)

Based on the estimated hourly rate needed for one adult and one child, the adult in Alleghany, Bath, or Covington would need to make an annual salary equivalent to nearly \$50,000.

Similarly, for an adult who lives in Botetourt, Craig, Roanoke City, Roanoke County, or Salem and has one child, would need to make an annual salary equivalent to nearly \$53,000. And, in Buena Vista, Lexington, or Rockbridge, based on the estimated hourly rate needed for one adult and one child, the adult would need to make an annual salary equivalent to about \$51,000.

2017 Living Wage for Alleghany, Bath, and Covington			
Hourly Wages	1 Adult	1 Adult 1 Child	1 Adult 2 Children
Living Wage	\$10.52	\$23.85	\$27.55
Poverty Wage	\$5.00	\$7.00	\$9.00
Minimum Wage - Virginia	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25

Typical Annual Expenses	1 Adult	1 Adult 1 Child	1 Adult 2 Children
Food	\$2,986	\$4,394	\$6,613
Child Care	\$0	\$8,375	\$11,982
Medical	\$2,500	\$7,881	\$7,600
Housing	\$5,820	\$7,596	\$7,596
Transportation	\$4,236	\$8,754	\$9,189
Other	\$2,656	\$4,294	\$4,736
Required annual income after taxes	\$18,198	\$41,294	\$47,717
Annual taxes	\$3,678	\$8,311	\$9,581
Required annual income before taxes	\$21,876	\$49,606	\$57,298

Source: Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

TANF—Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (See Appendix, Table C4)

With the exception of Lexington, the number of TANF recipients dropped tremendously between 2010 and 2016. The largest drop in number of recipients occurred in Roanoke City, which dropped by 1,266 or nearly 50%. Alleghany had the largest percentage drop at 56%.

SNAP—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (See Appendix, Table C5)

The number of SNAP recipients dropped drastically across all localities in TAP's service area. The smallest drop occurred in Craig, going down 9%, and the largest drop occurred in Bath with the number of recipients going down by 36%. Many years there were no SNAP recipients in Salem. Consideration should be given to explore if outreach is necessary in Salem so all that may be eligible for SNAP are accessing it.

Child Care Subsidies (See Appendix, Table C26)

There has been a 44% decrease in the number of children receiving child care subsidies in the TAP service area between 2014 and 2017. Some localities have experienced significant decreases; Buena Vista the most, with a drop of nearly 90%, and Rockbridge dropped by 85%. Further investigation should occur to identify if this was because of decrease in overall funding, a result of refusal for applicant to declare both parents, or other reasons. It is also noted that Craig County recipients increased from 19 to 34 over the four-year period, which equates to a 79% increase.

Local Economy Report

About QCEW Data

Establishments

An establishment is commonly understood as a single economic unit, such as a farm, a mine, a factory, or a store, that produces goods or services. Establishments are typically at one physical location and engaged in one, or predominantly one, type of economic activity for which a single industrial classification may be applied. A firm, or a company, is a business and may consist of one or more establishments, where each establishment may participate in different predominant economic activity.

Employment

The QCEW employment counts only filled jobs, whether full-or part-time, temporary or permanent, by place of work. The quarterly reports include the establishment's monthly employment levels for the pay periods that include the twelfth of the month.

Note that major exclusions from UI coverage include self-employed workers, most agricultural workers on small farms, all members of the Armed Forces, elected officials in most states, most employees of railroads, some domestic workers, most student workers at schools, and employees of certain small nonprofit organizations.

Wages

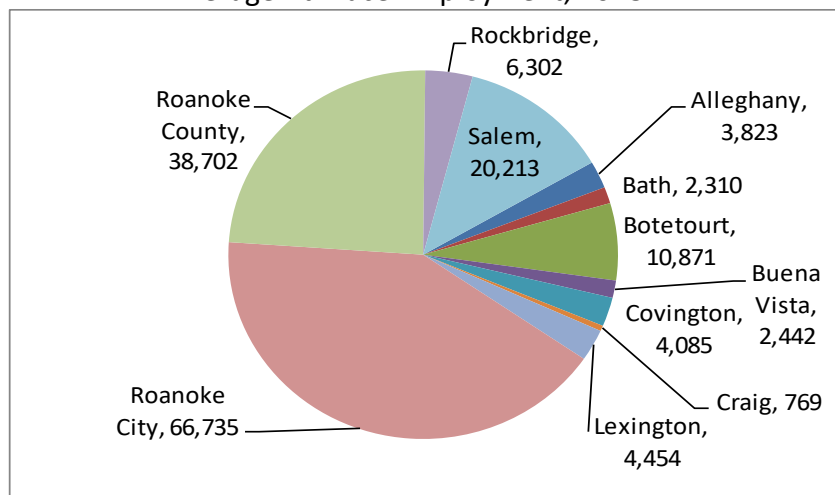
The wage data from the QCEW include bonuses, stock options, severance pay, profit distributions, cash value of meals and lodging, tips and other gratuities.

Employment, Wages, and Establishments (See Appendix, Tables D15-D44)

The employment, wage, and establishments data are collected from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). The data are based on information reported by businesses for the Unemployment Insurance (UI) programs of the United States. Employment covered by these UI programs represents about 97% of all wage and salary civilian employment in the country.

In the TAP service area, we find that, when compared to employment, the share of establishments by locality has a slightly different distribution. Roanoke City accounts for only 42% of establishments versus 49% of employment, therefore it is likely that there are a significant number of employers that employ more people than other localities. On the other hand, Botetourt and Roanoke Counties appear to have a greater share of establishments versus employment, meaning they have more smaller employers.

Average At-Place Employment, 2018



Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2nd Quarter of Each Year

Nearly half of the jobs in the Roanoke metro area are located in Roanoke City, and over 90% are in the combined area of Roanoke City, Roanoke County, and Salem. The largest industry in the metro is health

care and social assistance, accounting for nearly 20% of jobs, followed by retail, manufacturing, and accommodation and food services—each employing about 9% share of total employment.

Regarding average weekly wage, Craig has the lowest, which, if converted to a full-time income, equates to about \$32,000. In the other locations, the equivalent full-time incomes range from \$40,000 to about \$50,000.

The industries with the largest share of establishments in localities outside of the Roanoke metro area are other services (14%, and include a variety of personal services), health care and social assistance (13%), retail trade (12%), and accommodation and Food Services (10%).

Rockbridge County and Lexington combine for nearly 50% of the employment among the localities outside of the metro area. Covington and Alleghany combine for another 34% of employment.

For employers located in counties and cities in TAP's service area that are outside of the Roanoke metro area, Covington has the highest average weekly wage and, when converted to the equivalent of a full-time income, is just over \$62,000—the highest wage of any locality in TAP's service area. With the exception of Lexington, the other localities have much lower average weekly wages, all under the equivalent full-time salary of \$35,000.

Unemployment and Labor Force (See Appendix, Tables D1-D3)

Unemployment and labor force data are provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. These estimates are key indicators of local economic conditions.

The unemployment rate across all localities within TAP's service area has dropped significantly since reaching highs in 2009 through 2011. The low unemployment rates of 2018 reflect that most people who are looking for work are employed, and there may be limited availability of applicants to fill job openings, particularly as businesses expand.

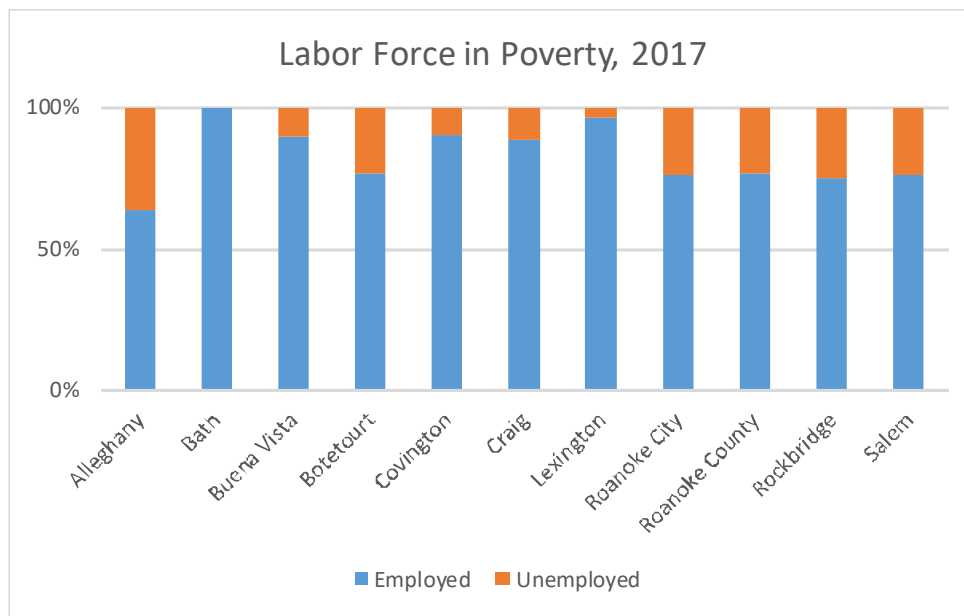
Employment and Poverty (See Appendix, Tables D4-D14)

According to a January 2018 brief entitled *Employment and Poverty* by Ann Stevens, deputy director of the Center for Poverty Research at UC, Davis (published in Econofact), of the 40.6 million Americans living in poverty in 2016, 56.1% were working-age adults, aged 18 to 64. Additional important points include the following:

- Among the poor aged 18 to 64, 40.8% worked for some part of the year, and many of those not working reported barriers to paid work or engagement in other productive activities in 2014

- The poverty rate among those who work for more than half of the year is much lower than for the population as a whole. The working poverty rate was 5.6%, compared to a total poverty rate of 13.5% in 2015. This means that an estimated 8.6 million people were working poor or had income below official poverty thresholds despite working (or looking for work) for more than half the year.
- Among families with children, the working poverty rate is substantially higher. In 2015 the working poverty rate was 11.1% for households with children under age 18. For single-female headed families with children, the working poverty rate was 24.8%.

Highlights from analysis of census data follows:



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2013-2017, Poverty in the Last 12 Months (S1701)

- Between 2012 and 2017, the number of men in Alleghany who were unemployed and in poverty increased over 42%. Although those in poverty and unemployed represented 36.4% of the poverty workforce population in 2017, men represented 43% of those unemployed.
- The small population in Bath means that the margin of error is high; however, the data indicate that the majority of the labor force in poverty is employed. In 2017, females represented 68% of the employed population.
- The number of those in poverty and unemployed from 2012 to 2017 in Botetourt decreased by over 40%. In 2017, nearly 77% of the labor force 16 years and older in poverty was employed.
- In Buena Vista, the labor force 16 years and older in poverty and employed decreased nearly 18%

over the last six years. Of the unemployed population during this time period, the number of females increased by 9%.

- In Covington the number of those unemployed in the labor force and in poverty decreased nearly 52%. In 2017, 90% of the population 16 years and older in the labor force was employed.
- Over the last six years in Craig, those in the workforce in poverty decreased by 22.5%
- In 2017, less than 4% of those in Lexington's labor force and in poverty were unemployed. However, between 2012 and 2017, the number of men employed decreased by 66%.
- In Roanoke City, the number of men unemployed and in poverty between 2012 and 2017 increased by 16.5%, while the number of females during this time decreased slightly over 7%. In 2017, 76% of the labor force over 16 years in poverty was employed while nearly 24% were not.
- The population of those unemployed in poverty in Roanoke County over the last six years increased substantially by 59.5%. In 2017, 47% of the unemployed population was represented by men whereas in 2012, 16% of the unemployed population was men.
- From 2012 to 2017 in Rockbridge, the labor force population 16 years and older employed increased over slightly 73% and those unemployed increased slightly over 61%. During this six-year time period, the number of females employed increased by over 100%; however, the number of males unemployed increased 83%.
- In Salem between 2012 and 2017, the population of those in poverty and employed decreased over 36%. Although during this time period the number of unemployed remained relatively flat and the number of females unemployed increased by 59%.

Health & Nutrition Report

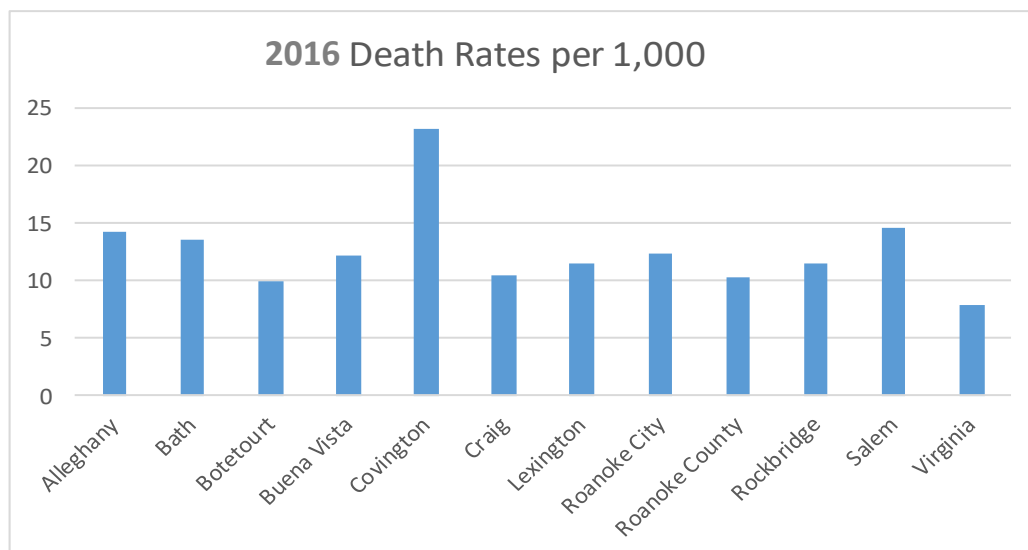
Births and Deaths (See Appendix, Tables E1-E13)

Between 2012 and 2016, the birth rate in Virginia slightly decreased by 5%; however, the data indicate TAP's service areas during this five-year period were much different than Virginia's trend. The birth rates in Botetourt and Rockbridge increased over 23%, whereas Lexington and Salem experienced a drastic decrease in births. The following are highlights from the analysis of health department data:

- The number of births in Alleghany between 2012 and 2016 decreased over 2%. During this five-year period, the number of deaths slightly decreased by less than 1%. On average, 96 more people die each year in Alleghany than were born.
- The total number of births in Bath between 2012 and 2016 slightly decreased and the number of deaths during this time saw little change. Also, deaths occurred at a greater rate than births—ranging from 49% to 81%.
- Between 2012 and 2016, the total number of births in Botetourt increased nearly 25%. In 2016, whites represented nearly 99% of the births that year with 276 births. During the five-year period, deaths increased by 7%, and deaths continue to occur at a higher rate than births.
- In Buena Vista between 2012 and 2016, the data indicate the number of births decreased by 27%. In 2016, whites represented 94% of the total births with 66 births that year. During the five-year period, the number of deaths decreased by 9%. Buena Vista is one of the few localities in TAP's service area where the number of births was greater than the number of deaths.
- The number of births in Covington between 2012 and 2016 increased by almost 12%. The number of African-American births during this time period increased over 42%. During the five-year period, the number of deaths increased substantially by nearly 78%. In 2015 the number of deaths increased to 130 and in 2016 it increased to 128; the majority of these deaths were whites. Of note, Covington has a significantly higher rate of births than deaths, ranging from 584% more births than deaths in 2016, to 1,350% in 2014.
- The number of births and deaths between 2012 and 2016 are only from caucasians due to Craig being predominantly white. During this time period, the number of births increased by 8% and the deaths decreased by 11.5%; however, deaths exceed births.
- The total number of births in Lexington between 2012 and 2016 dramatically decreased by 67%. This decrease is primarily due to the significantly lower number of births in 2016, which was only 27. For years 2012 to 2015, the number of births averaged 86. The number of deaths between the same five-year period increased by over 14%; deaths in the African-American population increased

30% during this time period.

- The number of births in Roanoke City decreased by 9% from 2012 to 2016, and the number of deaths increased over 5%. Although the number of births was greater than deaths, the difference grew closer in 2016.
- Between 2012 and 2016, the total number of births in Roanoke County increased by nearly 12% while deaths decreased nearly 4%. However, the absolute number of deaths was greater than the number of births. If the overall population continues to grow, it will be from people moving in to the county. During this five-year period, on average the birth of whites occurred 11.5 times more than the birth of African-Americans.
- Between 2012 and 2016, the total number of births in Rockbridge increased by 25%. Both births of whites and African-Americans increased during this same time period by at least 25%. During the five-year period, deaths increased over 1%. Deaths occurred at a higher rate than births, ranging from 17% more deaths than births in 2016 to 87% in 2015.
- The total number of births in Salem decreased dramatically by nearly 39% from 2012 to 2016. In 2015, the total births were 355; however, between 2015 and 2016 births declined by nearly 48%. Deaths increased by 21% over the five-year period, and if the number of deaths continues on this trend, the population will either begin to drop or growth will be reliant on people moving in to Salem.



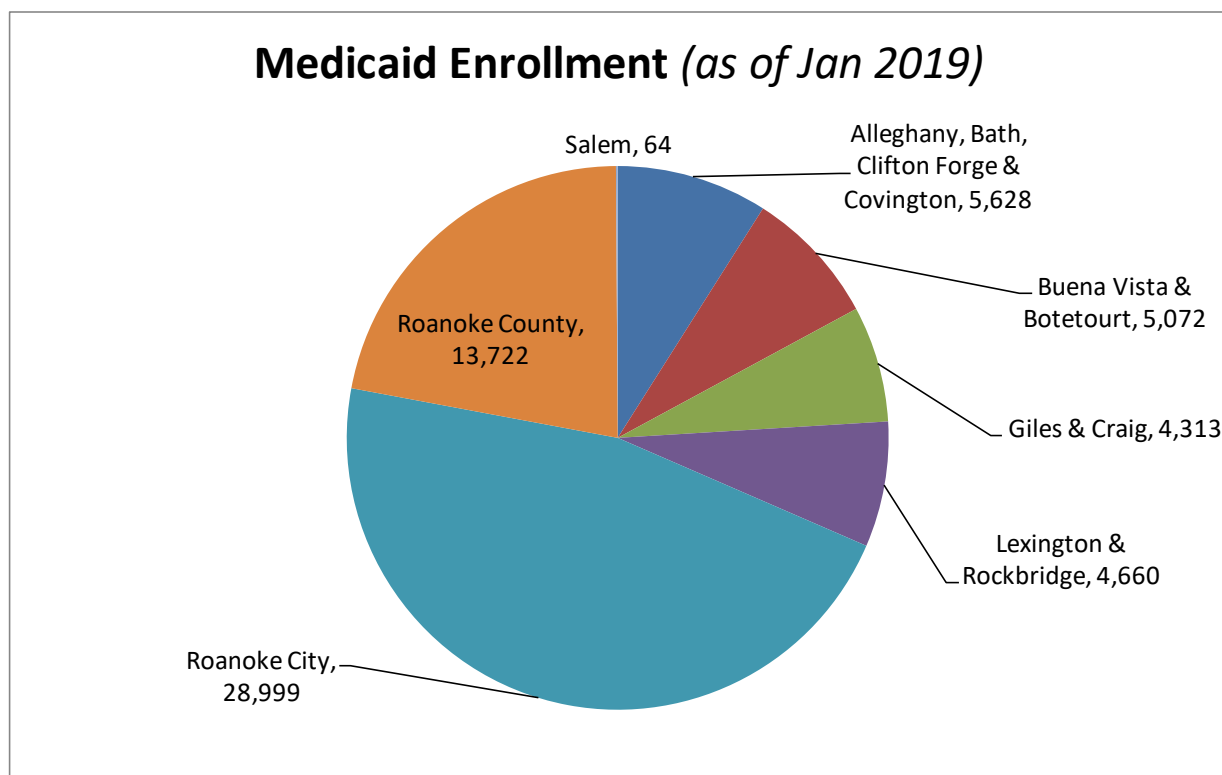
Source: Virginia Department of Health, <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/HealthStats/stats.htm>

Claimed Individual Responsibility (See Appendix, Table C22)

The individual shared responsibility provision in the Affordable Care Act calls for all taxpayers and their dependents to have qualifying health care coverage for each month of the year, qualify for a health coverage exemption, or make an Individual Shared Responsibility Payment when filing a federal income tax return. As expected, those with AGI below \$10,000 did not make payments as they would likely qualify for Medicare/Medicaid. It should be noted, with concern, the large number of returns in the range of \$10,000 to \$50,000 that made the payment, as this means these individuals and dependents did not have any health insurance coverage and are unlikely to see the doctor a regular basis.

Medicaid Enrollment (See Appendix, Table E22)

Roanoke City accounts for nearly half all Medicaid recipients in TAP's service area. The number of recipients in Salem seems low, accounting for less than 1% overall. Consideration should be given to explore if outreach is necessary in Salem so all that may be eligible for Medicaid are accessing it, particularly children.



Source: Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services

Prenatal Care Beginning in the First Trimester (See Appendix, Table E14)

Only three localities improved in the percentage of women who received prenatal care in the first trimester between 2010 and 2016—Bath (5%), Alleghany (8%), and Lexington (12%). Even though Lexington improved the most, it was still 8% below the rate of Virginia overall in 2016. The City of Roanoke dropped the most over the period, decreasing in rate of prenatal care by 20% and remained at 6% below Virginia's rate in 2016.

Teen Birth Rate (See Appendix, Tables E15-E17)

With the exception of Roanoke City, there are few and infrequent teens younger than 15 giving birth within the service area. Between 2010 and 2016, the rate of teen births in Roanoke City exceeded that of Virginia by as much as four times, except in 2011 when there were no births.

Nearly all localities experienced a reduction in birth rates by teens between 15 and 17 from 2010 to 2016. Roanoke City had the highest rate of births by teens between 15 and 17—nearly three times that of Virginia—but it has been decreasing over time.

The birth rate for teens 18 and 19 increased in both Alleghany and Covington between 2010 and 2016; in fact, the rate more than doubled in Covington. All other localities experienced decreases, including Roanoke City; however, Roanoke City's 2016 birth rate was over 200% greater than Virginia's rate. All of the outlying rural areas that are outside of the Roanoke metro area had birth rates that range from just below double the state's rate to three times the rate.

Infant Mortality (See Appendix, Table E18)

Infant mortality, particularly in areas of smaller populations, varies greatly year to year. Roanoke City and Roanoke County, the most populated localities in the service area, both had increases in infant mortality while the rate for Virginia decreased. In 2016, the rate in Roanoke City was five times that of Virginia, and Roanoke County's rate was almost double.

Low Birthweight (See Appendix, Table E19)

The percentage of babies born with a low birthweight in Virginia remained relatively stable between 2010 and 2016. The largest increase in percentage occurred in Buena Vista, which also was over 40% greater than Virginia's in 2016. The percentage of low birthweight babies in Roanoke City decreased over time; however, the percentage is still more than 10% more than that in Virginia.

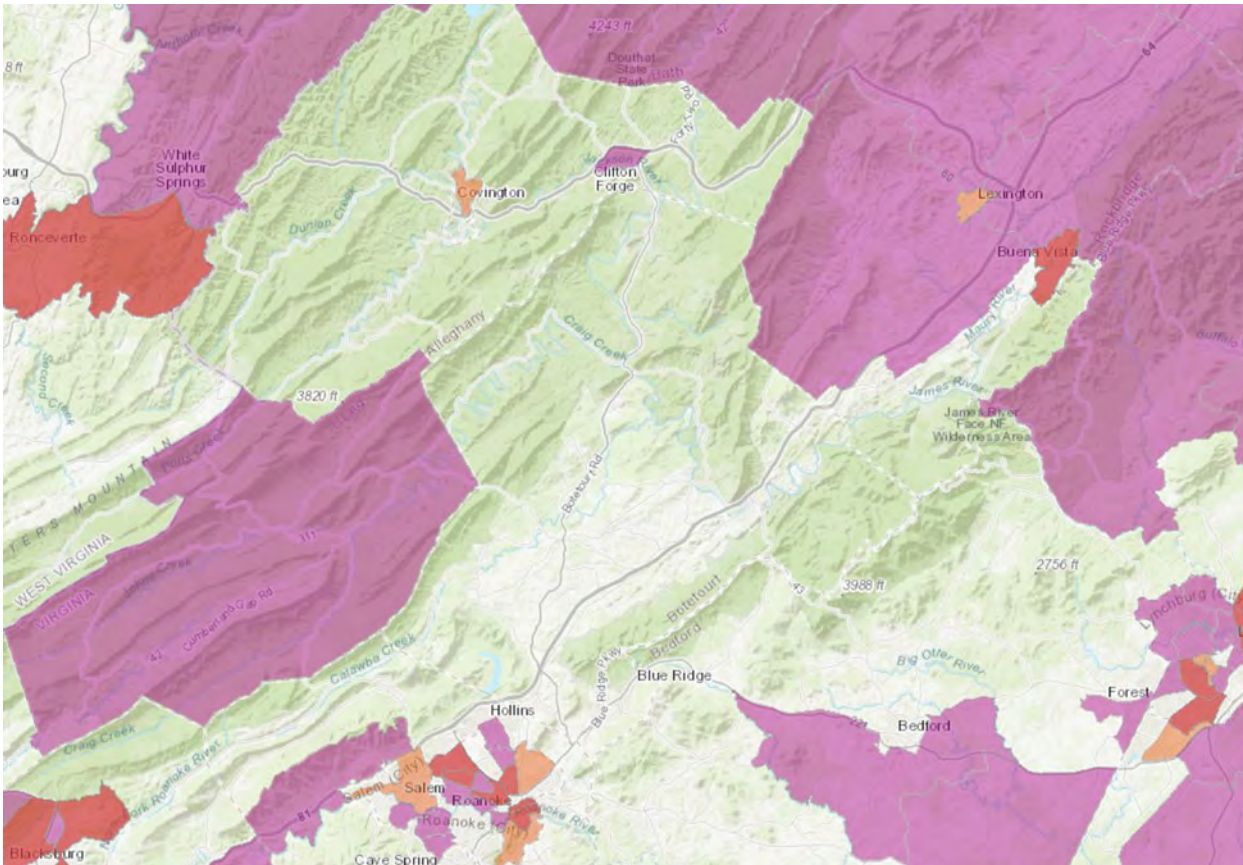
Babies Born Under Medicaid (See Appendix, Table E20)

While the percentage of babies born under Medicaid increased by 2% in Virginia between 2010 and 2016, the percentage in Alleghany more than doubled. Also, the percentage of babies born under Medicaid is more than 60% greater than those in Virginia overall. While the percentage in Roanoke City decreased by about 11%, the percentage is over 70% higher than that of Virginia. Buena Vista's percentage is nearly 80% greater than the percentage of the state.

Food Desert

This map from the USDA website shows TAP's entire service area. The locations in purple indicate where more than 100 households have no access to a vehicle and are more than half a mile from the nearest supermarket. The light orange represents low-income areas with a significant share of residents located more than one mile from the nearest supermarket in urban areas, or 20 miles in a rural area. The highest need areas in fuchsia represent low-income areas with lack of vehicle and the nearest supermarket is either one mile or more away.

Food Deserts in TAP's Service Area



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Access Research Atlas

Food Insecurity (See Appendix, Table E21)

For the most part, the rates of child food insecurity have remained stable or decreased between 2010 and 2016. Only Roanoke City experienced a significant increase —growing by more than 44%. A majority of localities have a greater rate of child food insecurity than Virginia, with Buena Vista having more than 70% of children experiencing food insecurity; Covington, 51%; and Roanoke City 47%.

Community Report

Housing by Year Built (See Appendix, Tables F49a-F49b)

Covington has the largest percentage (50%) of homes built before 1949, and 95% built before 1990. Roanoke County had the smallest percentage of homes built before 1950. Botetourt County has the largest percentage of homes built after 2000 at 26%. Roanoke County has the largest number of home built after 2000, at 5,236.

Home Heating Fuel Source (See Appendix, Tables F50a-F50b)

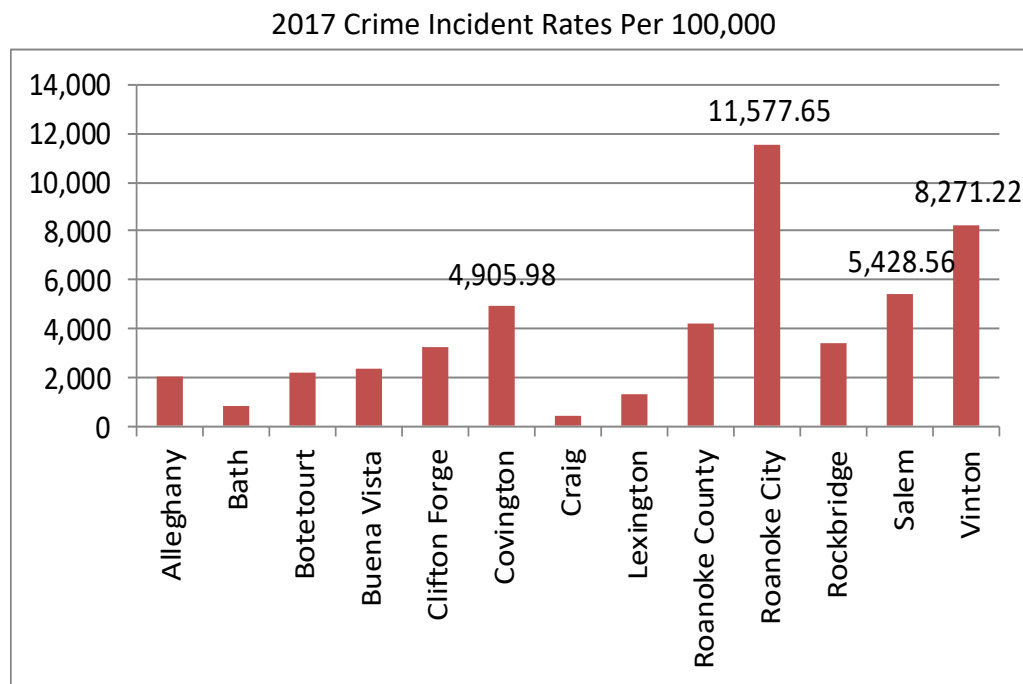
Bath County has the lowest percentage, 24%, of homes heated by standard utilities—electricity and gas. Craig and Rockbridge have less than 50% of the homes heated by utilities. Craig has the largest percentage of homes heated by wood; Botetourt and Rockbridge each have over 1,000 homes heated by wood.

Home Plumbing, Kitchen & Telephone Availability (See Appendix, Tables F51a-F51b)

More than 500 homes in Roanoke City do not have complete plumbing or lack a complete kitchen. Approximately 5% of homes in Bath County do not have complete plumbing or lack a complete kitchen.

Crime (See Appendix, Tables F52-F66)

Crime incident rates are decreasing or level in all areas TAP serves except for Botetourt, Roanoke County, Rockbridge and Salem. The incident rate in Roanoke County has grown by nearly 63% over the past five years. Roanoke City leads all areas in incident rates. In 2017, Roanoke City was 30% higher than Vinton, which ranks second overall, and was 96% higher than Craig County, which has the lowest incident rate.



Source: Virginia State Police, Uniform Reporting Service, Crime in Virginia 2013-2017

- In comparison to other localities in TAP's service area, Alleghany County had a moderate amount of crime reported in the past five years and has dropped by more than 12%. The decrease in incidents can be attributed to significant drops in larceny, burglary, vandalism, and simple assault. Of particular concern is the rise in drug-related incidents. The 2017 drug incident rate in Alleghany is nearly twice as high as the incident rate of Virginia at-large.
- Bath County has one of the lowest crime incident rates in TAP's service area. The number of incidents has decreased by 30% in the past five years. The number of drug incidents in Bath accounts for more than half of all crime incidents in 2017 and increased by 21% over the five-year period, but the incident rate is about the same as that of Virginia at-large.
- While the number of crime incidents in Botetourt has risen slightly, compared to other localities in the service area crime is still moderate. The categories of incidents with the highest number of reports are drugs and simple assault; however, both are about the same or less than the incident rate of these crimes for Virginia at-large.
- While the number of crime incidents in Buena Vista has risen by 14% over the past five years, compared to other localities in the service area crime is still moderate. Drugs and narcotics had that highest number of incidents and grew by nearly 90% between 2013 and 2017, and the incident rate is 40% greater than that of Virginia at-large.
- While the number of crime incidents in Clifton Forge has gone down by 9% over the past five years,

compared to other localities in the service area crime remains moderate. In 2017, larceny was the crime with the highest number of incidents, representing more than a third of all crimes in the city. Unlike many of the other localities, crimes relating to drugs and narcotics are not high, only representing about 6% of crime in 2017.

- Covington has the third-highest incident rate of all crimes in 2017 among the localities in TAP's service area. The crime with the greatest number of incidents is simple assault, followed by vandalism and larceny. Of the three top crimes, vandalism is the one that has increased over the past five years; increasing by nearly 41%.
- There has been some variance in the total number of crime incidents in Craig County over the past five years, overall trending down significantly. Drugs and narcotics has the highest number of incidents and has increased by 100% between 2013 and 2017; however, the incident rate is substantially lower than that of Virginia by more than 200%.
- Lexington is among the localities with the lowest incident rates of crime in TAP's service area, and it has one of the greatest decreases over the five years at over 38%. A third of the crime incidents is identified as larceny. Of note, drugs and narcotics has the second highest number of incidents, accounting for less than 25% in 2017, and decreased by nearly 44% over the previous five years.
- Roanoke City has both the highest number of incidents of crime as well as the highest incident rate of all the localities in TAP's service area. The crimes with the largest share of incidents in 2017 are simple assault and larceny at 35% and 32% respectively. The fastest-growing crimes are murder, that grew by 100% over the past five years, and prostitution, that grew by 74%.
- While Roanoke County's incidents of crime increased by nearly 19% over the past five years, the county has a moderate level of crime compared to other localities in the service area. The greatest number of incidents was related to drugs and narcotics, accounting for 32% of crimes in 2017, and increased by 116% between 2013 and 2017.
- In Rockbridge County, drugs-and narcotics-related crimes accounted for 56% of all crime in the county in 2017, and the number of drug crimes increased by over 85% over the five-year period. In fact, the incident rate of drug crimes in Rockbridge is more the 60% higher than Virginia overall and is the second highest in TAP's service area.
- Salem's top three crimes in terms of number of incidents are larceny, simple assault, and drugs. Of those three, the fastest growing is drugs and narcotics, growing by 46% over the last five years. The incident rate for drugs is higher in Salem than in Virginia overall. Also, of the localities in TAP's service area, Salem has the highest incident rates for vehicle theft, simple assault, and kidnapping.
- The town of Vinton has its own police department, thus the reports of crime incidents are included for consideration. While the overall number of incidents has gone down over the five-year period,

“Overall prison admissions rates have stopped rising, but county-by-county data reveals that rather than true statewide stagnation, some counties have an increasing prison incarceration rate that is offset by declining rates in other counties. ...

Virginia has only experienced a 4 percent growth in prison admissions since 2000, but admissions from rural areas and smaller cities have increased substantially (56 percent and 34 percent, respectively) at the same time that admissions in urban areas have been decreasing. These disparate dynamics create an apparent plateau in prison admissions when examined at the state level.”

The New Dynamics of Mass Incarceration, Jacob Kang-Brown, Oliver Hinds, Jasmine Heiss, and Olive Lu. Vera Institute of Justice, June 2018

(https://storage.googleapis.com/vera-web-assets/downloads/Publications/the-new-dynamics-of-mass-incarceration/legacy_downloads/the-new-dynamics-of-mass-incarceration-report.pdf)

there are some significant areas to highlight. Vinton has the highest incident rate for drugs and narcotics; more than double the rate of Roanoke City and five times the rate of Virginia. Vinton also has the highest rates for fraud, forgery, and larceny.

Incarcerated (See Appendix, Tables F16-F25)

The Incarceration Trends dataset was assembled using information collected by the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), supplemented with data from state departments of correction when federal data is not available. These data were obtained through the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ) and Census of Jails (COJ). Total jail population is the average daily population and excludes federal jails and inmates in local jails held for federal authorities, such as U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Marshals Service. The following are highlights from analysis of the data:

- From 2011 to 2015, the number of incarcerated residents (per 100,000) increased by 20% in Bath
- From 2011 to 2015, the number of incarcerated residents (per 100,000) slightly decreased by 1.5% in Botetourt
- From 2011 to 2015 in Buena Vista, the number of incarcerated residents (per 100,000) increased by nearly 180% and was more than double Virginia’s rate in 2015
- Between 2011 and 2015, the number of incarcerated residents (per 100,000) increased by 7.5% in Roanoke City. During this period, on average the incarceration rate in Roanoke City residents was almost two times higher than the average in Virginia.
- Between 2011 and 2015, the number of incarcerated residents (per 100,000) decreased by nearly 26% in Roanoke County
- The data for 2014 and 2015 in Salem are not available; however, from 2011 to 2013, the number of incarcerated decreased and was about half the rate statewide.

Emergency Protective Orders (See Appendix, Tables F26-F35)

- Between 2012 and 2017, the rate of emergency protective orders in Bath remained relatively flat
- In Botetourt between 2012 and 2017, the rate of emergency protective orders decreased by 8.5%
- Between 2012 and 2017 in Buena Vista, the rate of emergency protective orders decreased by 3%, which is more than the 2% decrease in Virginia during that time, and the rate in 2017 was nearly double the rate statewide
- From 2012 to 2017, the rate of emergency protective orders in Covington decreased by 2.4%, following the trend in Virginia; however, the rate remained double the rate statewide
- From 2012 to 2017, the rate of emergency protective orders in Craig decreased by nearly 40%
- Between 2012 and 2017, the rate of emergency protective orders in Lexington increased by 76%, whereas the rate in Virginia decreased by 2.4%; however, the rate of issuing protective orders in Lexington remains substantially below that of Virginia
- Between 2012 and 2017, the rate of emergency protective orders increased slightly over 22% in Roanoke City while the rate in Virginia during this time decreased slightly over 2%
- Between 2012 and 2017, the rate of emergency protective orders in Roanoke County decreased by 19%; the rate in Virginia decreased by 2.4%
- The rate of emergency protective orders in Rockbridge remained relatively flat between 2012 and 2017; however, Virginia's rate decreased slightly over 2%
- The rate of emergency protective orders in Virginia between 2012 and 2017 decreased by 2.4%; however, the rate in Salem significantly increased by 30%

Arrests for Violation of Protective Orders (See Appendix, Tables F36-F45)

Violations of protective orders are a felony in Virginia. The following are highlights from analysis of the data:

- The rate of arrests in Bath for violating a protective order increased each year between 2012 and 2014 and began to decrease in 2015
- The rate of arrests in Botetourt between 2012 and 2015 increased 53%
- From 2012 to 2015, the rate of arrests for violating a protective order increased by 28% in Buena Vista
- The rate of arrests made in Covington for violation of a protective order increased each year between 2012 and 2014; however, in 2015 the rate decreased

- The rate of arrests for violation of a protective order in Craig between 2012 and 2015 decreased by 72%
- The rate of arrests in Lexington for violation of a protective order between 2012 to 2015 increased substantially
- In Roanoke City between 2012 and 2015, the rate of arrests for violation of a protective order increased by 6%. For each year statewide data are available, the arrest rates in Roanoke City were more than double the rate for Virginia.
- The rate of arrests made for violating a protective order in Roanoke County increased nearly 16% during 2012 to 2015
- Between 2012 and 2015, the rate of arrests for violation of a protective order in Rockbridge decreased by 55%. However, the rate of arrests in Rockbridge ranged from two to four times the statewide rate.
- The rate of arrests in Salem for violation of a protective order increased nearly 33% between 2012 and 2015

Child Protective Services Referrals (See Appendix, Table F4-F15)

Local departments of social services are responsible for receiving reports of abuse and neglect; conducting investigations to determine the validity of the CPS reports; and providing services that enhance child safety and prevent further abuse and neglect to families and children. Each report is evaluated to determine whether the report information meets the legal definition of child abuse or neglect; whether CPS has the authority and responsibility to conduct a family assessment or an investigation to determine the child's immediate safety needs; and to determine if the family needs services. The following are highlights from the analysis of the data from social services:

- In Alleghany between 2012 and 2017, the number of child abuse referrals decreased by 5% and the number of accepted referrals remained relatively flat. The number of founded referrals increased by 293%.
- Between 2012 and 2016, the number of referrals in Bath increased by 296%. On average, 61% of the investigated referrals were founded each year during this six-year period.
- The number of child abuse referrals in Botetourt increased by 176% over the last six years; however the number of accepted referrals decreased by 17.5%
- Between 2012 and 2017 in Buena Vista, the number of child abuse referrals increased slightly over 18%. The number of referrals accepted increased by 31%; however the founded referrals decreased

by 44%, from nine to five.

- In Covington between 2012 and 2017, the number of child abuse referrals increased by nearly 89%, and the number of referrals accepted increased by 93%. Of the 130 counts investigated over the six-year period, less than 1% were founded; however in 2015 and 2016, over 80% of the investigated referrals were founded.
- The number of referrals between 2012 and 2017 in Craig increased by 15%, and the number of accepted referrals increased by nearly 9%. The majority of referrals resulted in family assessment; the number of those investigated ranged from one to 29.
- In Lexington between 2012 and 2017, the number of child abuse referrals increased by 15%; however, the number of referrals accepted decreased by 6.5%. Throughout this six-year period, nine referrals were investigated and five were founded, meaning the reviews of the facts gathered met the standard evidence for to support the claims of the referral.
- Over the last six years in Roanoke City, the number of child abuse referrals increased by nearly 68%; the number of founded referrals increased by 135.5%
- In Roanoke County between 2012 and 2017, the number of child abuse referrals increased by 42%; the number of accepted referrals increased by 15%
- The number of child abuse referrals in Rockbridge substantially increased by 146% between 2012 and 2017. During this six-year period, the number of accepted referrals was nearly three times higher in 2017 than in 2012.
- In Salem, the number of child abuse referrals decreased by 52% between 2012 and 2017

Fair Market Rent (See Appendix, Table F2)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development establishes fair market rents for Section 8 housing. It is worth noting that the fair market rent is relatively lower than actual rents of private rentals, but can be helpful in contextually understanding the living wage tables (see Tables C1-C3).

Child Care Rates (See Appendix, Table F1)

Every year, the Virginia Department of Social Services conducts a child care rate study to determine the allocations for subsidies. Note that the rate decreases as the child gets older. This chart provides real data that can be used to better understand the relevancy of the living wage tables (see Tables C1-C3).

Starting Salaries for College and University Graduates (See Appendix, Table F3)

The National Association of Colleges and Employers conducts a survey of recent college and university graduates to understand the average salaries the graduates are making. The average is about \$50,000, and ranges from a low of \$42,000 to a high of \$73,000.

Findings—Alleghany & Covington

Top Five Needs

1. Lack of good paying jobs with benefits in the area (*Community—Employment*)
2. No knowledge on how to join neighborhood associations, community boards, advisory groups or similar organizations (*Individual—Engagement*)
3. Have a difficult time with money management, i.e. credit card debt, checking account management, saving money to buy car/pay for maintenance (*Individual—Finances*)
4. Children don't have affordable access to high-quality preschool for kindergarten readiness (*Community—Education*)
5. Lack of program funding for rural area (non-urban) that is outside of coal mining target area (*Agency—Program Funding*)

In addition to the above needs, it is important to recognize additional identified needs.

The Alleghany District of the Virginia Health Department completed a Alleghany/Covington Community Health Project in 2018 and in 2019 engaged the community to develop a strategy to implement based on needs identified. The top three priorities identified are:

- Knowledge of Resources and Services Available
- Substance Use
- Early literacy

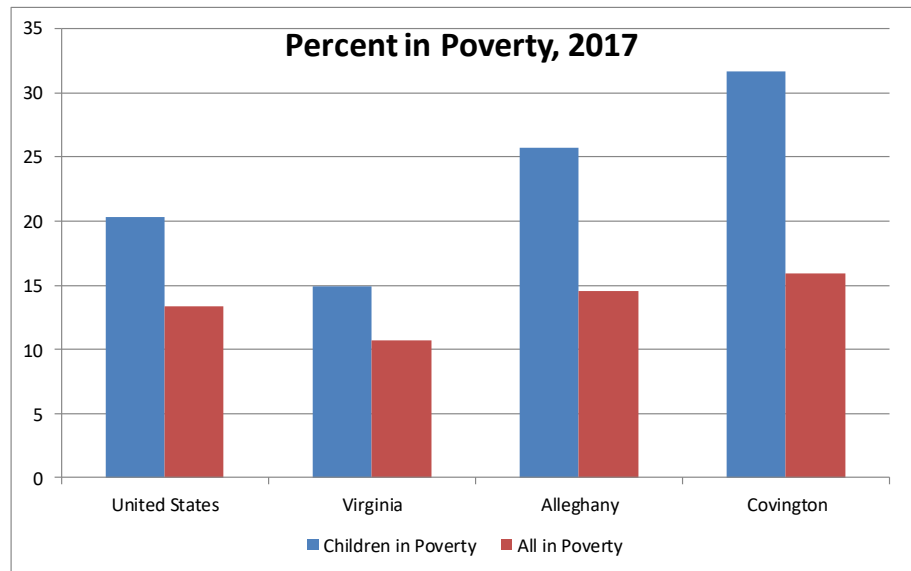
TAP's Alleghany Board of Commissioners identified the following needs and concerns they were aware of in the community:

- Wrap-around services for families of those with drug addiction
- Central point of entry/central information of all services and where to go
- Human trafficking concern

Covington is ranked 32 and Alleghany is ranked 34 in poverty out of 133 localities in Virginia.

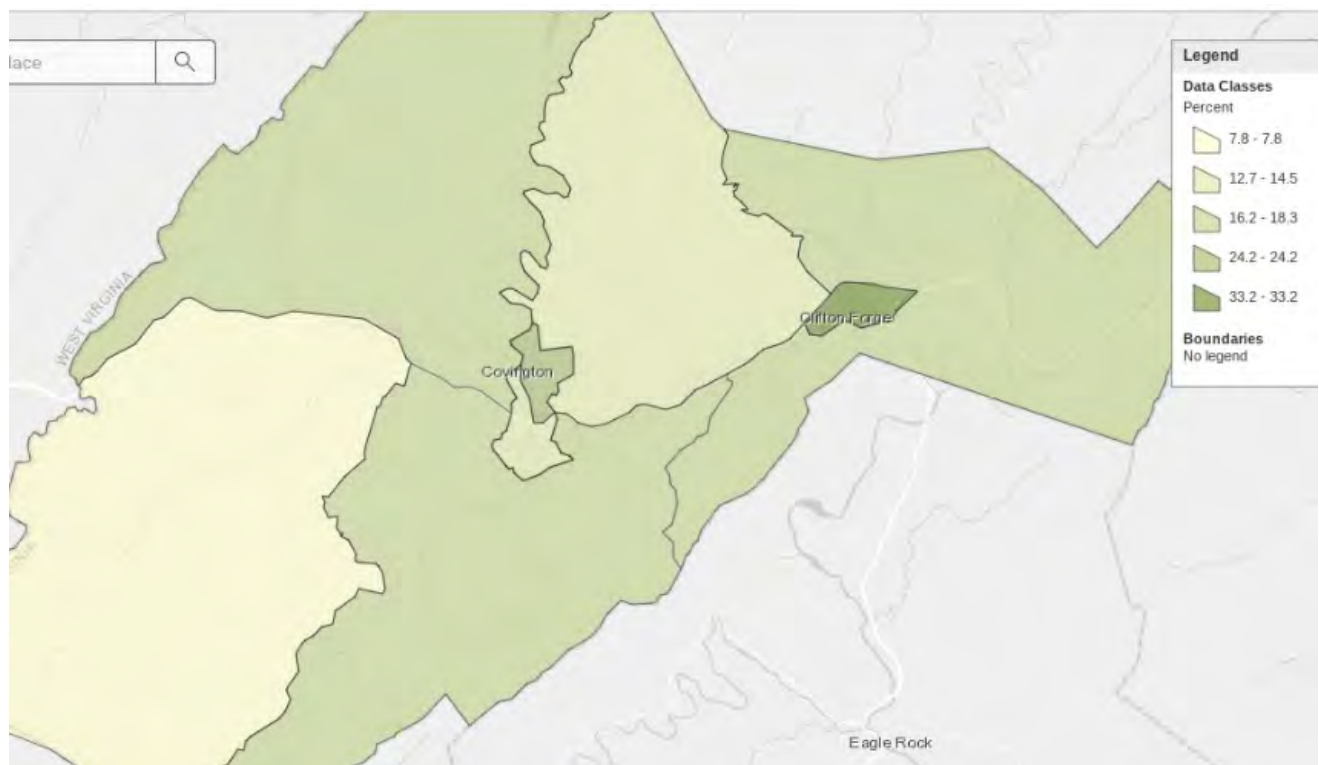
While the poverty rate of the total population in Alleghany and Covington is high, the rate of children under 18 who live in poverty is even higher.

The percentage of children who live in poverty in the U.S. and Virginia runs about five to ten points more than the total population in poverty. However, in Alleghany, the percentage of children in poverty is more than ten points above the percentage of the total population; and in Covington, more than 15 points over.



Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S1701)

Another way to consider poverty is the distribution across the Alleghany-Covington area is looking at rates by census tract. The highest rate of poverty is in Clifton Forge where a third of the population is in poverty, followed by one of the census tracts in Covington.



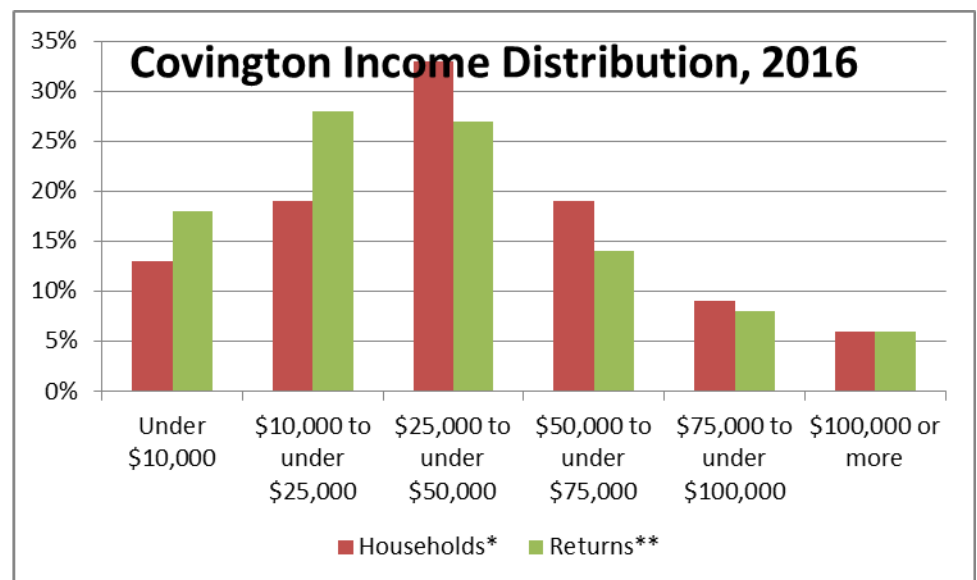
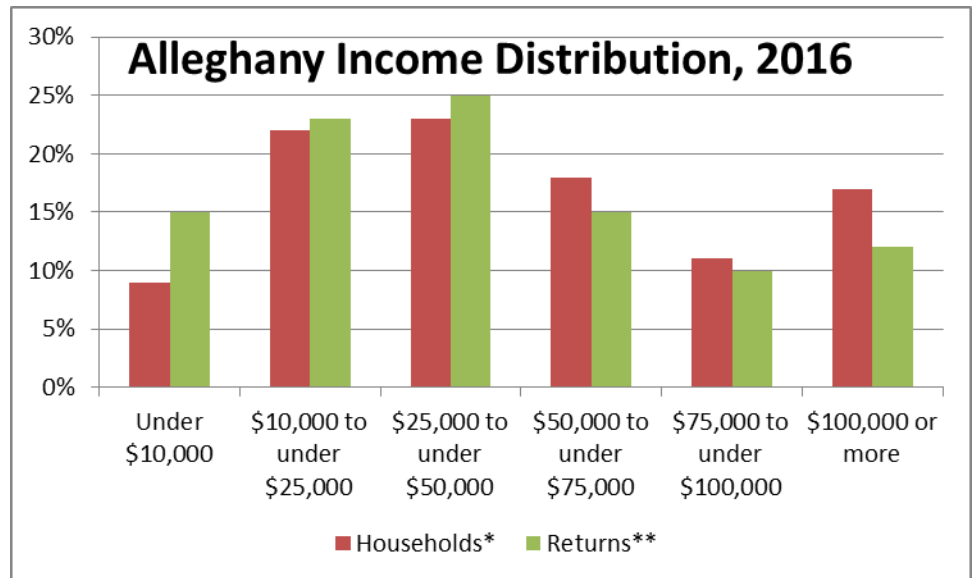
Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S1701)

Knowing the poverty rate in Allegheny and Covington ranges from about 10% to over 30%, taking a look at household income may provide additional information. The census data on household income are estimates, and in areas with small populations, can have large margins of error. By also reviewing IRS data that are actual information provided on tax returns, the comparison of the estimates to actuals can give an indication of whether or not the census data is a good indicator to use.

For Allegheny, the number of Under \$10,000 is higher than the census estimates. This could be because of teens that work part-time only in summer or throughout the year, or there could be a greater number of individuals in this income bracket. The other point to note is more than 50% of households and tax returns are in the Under \$50,000 level. Nearly half of those would be considered poverty-level, so poverty could be more extensive than census estimates provide.

Somewhat skewing the median household income in Allegheny is that the higher end of the income spectrum, \$100,000 or more, is a larger percentage than \$75,000 to Under \$100,000 (e.g. does not follow a bell curve).

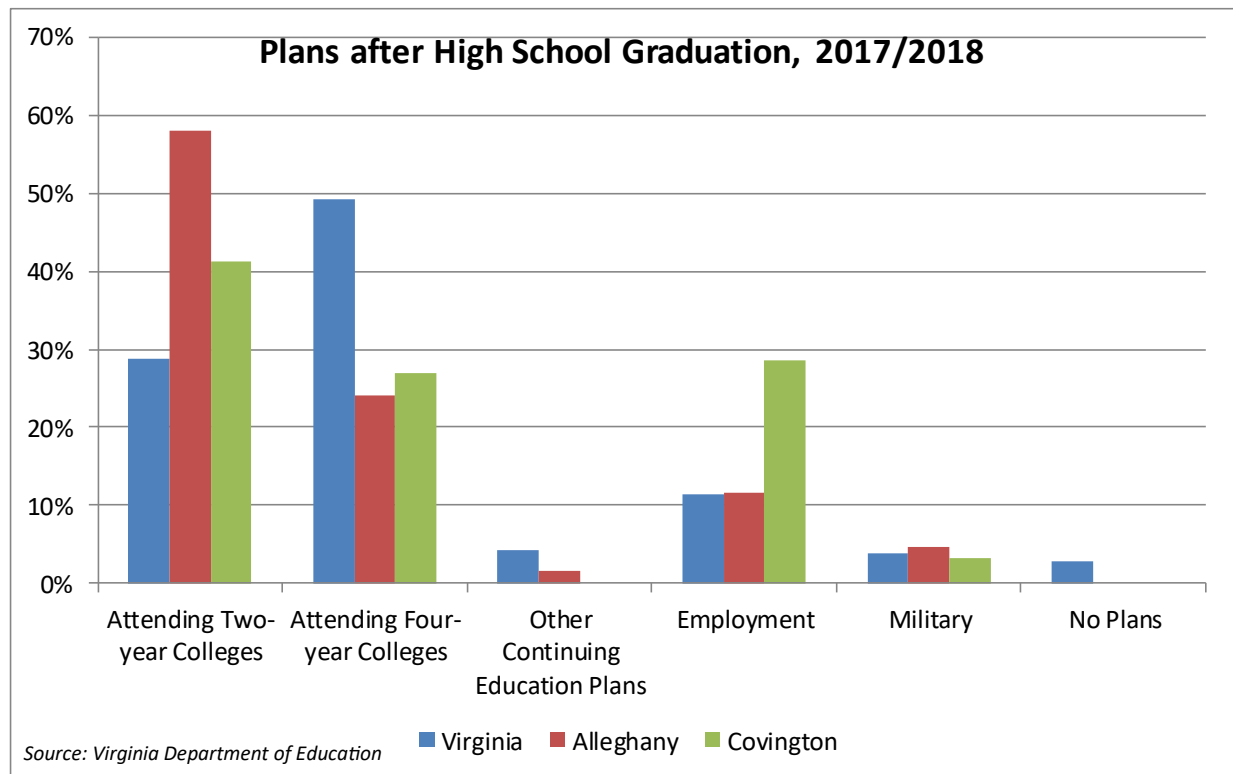
In Covington, more than 60% of households and tax returns fall in the Under \$50,000 level. The much higher percentage of tax returns in the \$10,000 to Under \$25,000 category possibly indicates a higher-than-estimated percentage of the population in poverty.



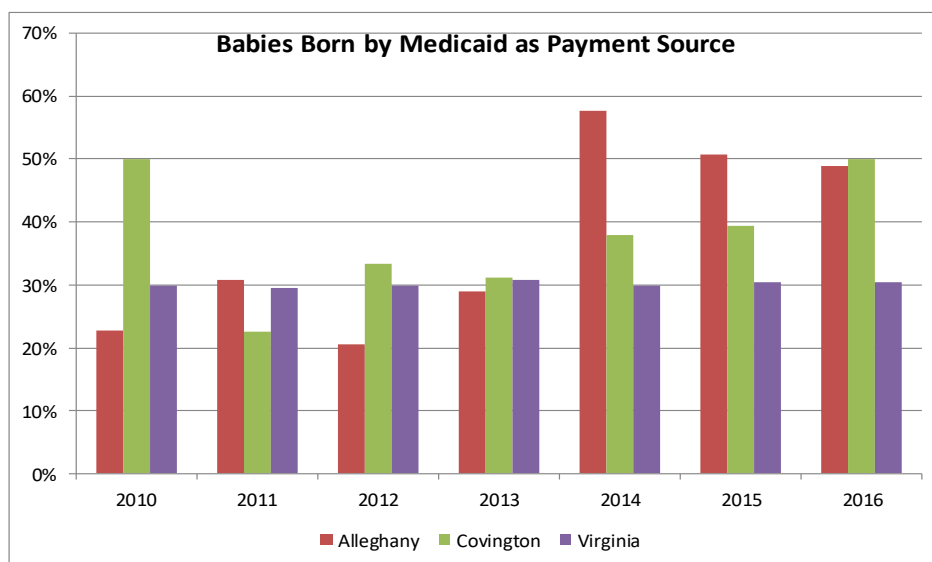
Sources: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S2503) **U.S. Internal Revenue Service, SOI Tax Stats - County Data

There is a demonstrated correlation between wages and level of educational attainment. Every year, the Virginia Department of Education collects data from graduates about what they plan to do after graduation. In Allegheny, a majority of graduates plan to go to community college, and Covington has a high percentage of students that intend to go straight into employment with only a high school diploma.

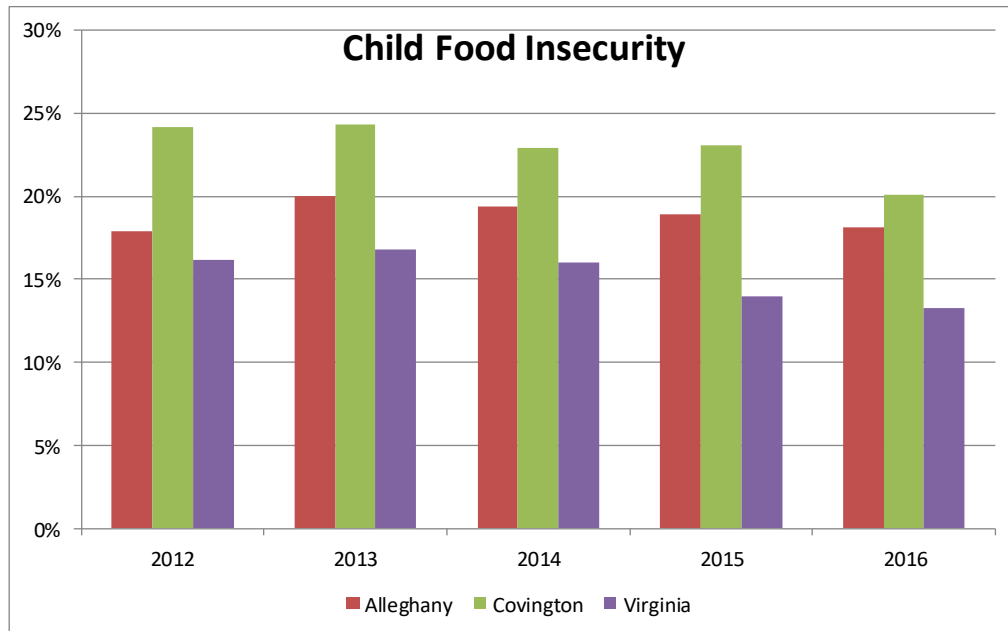
Another indicator to look at is the number of babies born by Medicaid as Payment Source.



While the percentage of babies born under Medicaid was fairly on par with the percentage throughout Virginia, the rates jumped up in 2014. In 2016, both Covington and Allegheny's rates were over 60% higher than Virginia's.



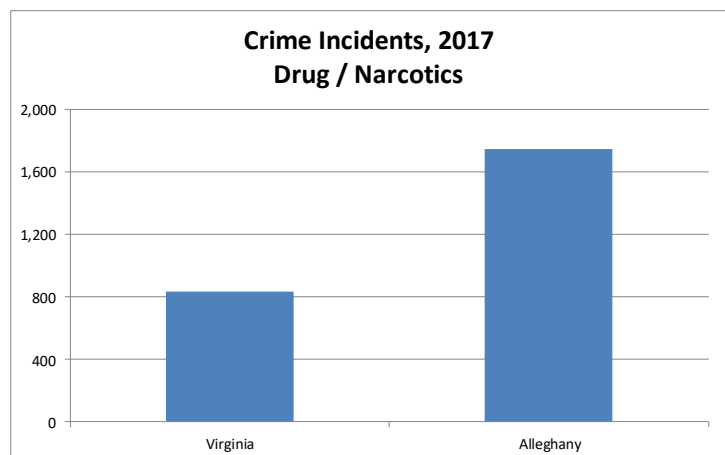
While food deserts are often used to demonstrate poor health and nutrition conditions, child food insecurity can be considered as a potential indicator of poverty. The Allegheny-Covington area had one of the highest levels of food insecurity in the area TAP serves.



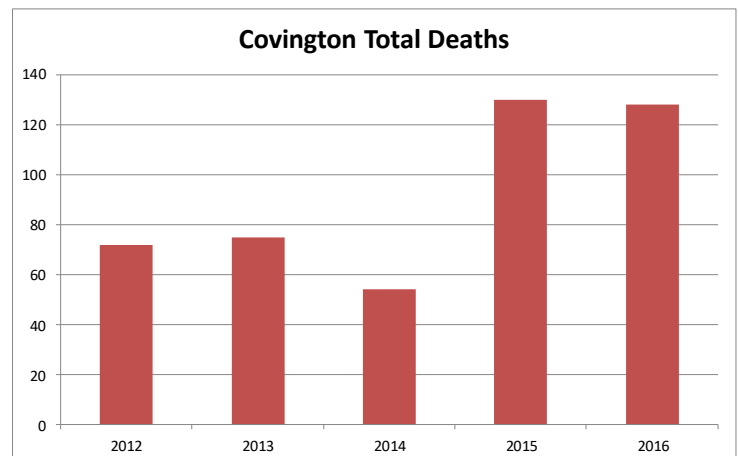
Source: Map the Meal Gap: Food Insecurity and Child Food Insecurity Estimates at the County Level. Feeding America. (via KIDS COUNT)

Two last indicators worth noting regard crime incident rate and death rates. In 2017, the crime incident rate for drugs and narcotics in Allegheny was more than double the rate of Virginia.

Somewhat related to the high incidence of drug- and-narcotics related offenses, there was a sharp jump in the number of deaths in Covington in 2015 and 2016. After discussing with members of the Allegheny Commission, it is believed the rise could be attributed to bad fentanyl entering the area during that timeframe.



Source: Virginia State Police, Uniform Reporting Service, Crime in Virginia



Source: Virginia Department of Health

In addition to the secondary data listed above, the results of a survey TAP created and distributed across the 11 service localities were considered in developing the top needs of the locality:

1. Finances—Have a difficult time with money management, i.e. credit card debt, checking account management
2. Employment—Lack of good paying jobs with benefits
3. Engagement—Don't understand local government process for providing input, i.e. when and how meetings are advertised, what I need to be prepared to do at a meeting, how do I run for office
4. Finances—Don't know how to create and use a budget
5. Transportation—Public transportation doesn't have convenient hours
6. Housing—High cost of rent/house payments
7. Finances—No knowledge on how to address credit issues, including the danger of using "predatory lenders" like title loans and paycheck loans
8. Engagement—No knowledge on how to join neighborhood associations, community boards, advisory groups or similar organizations
9. Employment—Lack of skills/education to obtain a job
10. Transportation—Don't have money to maintain cars/vehicles i.e. gas, inspections, insurance

Since there were enough respondents in the Alleghany-Covington area, the top five identified needs for just those respondents were considered as well. Those responses follow:

1. Employment—Lack of good paying jobs with benefits
2. Transportation—Don't have money to buy or make down payment for a car
3. Engagement—No knowledge on how to join neighborhood associations, community boards, advisory groups or similar organizations
4. Engagement—Don't understand local government process for providing input, i.e. when and how meetings are advertised, what I need to be prepared to do at a meeting, how do I run for office
5. Finances—Have a difficult time with money management, i.e. credit card debt, checking account management

Findings—Bath County

Top Three Needs

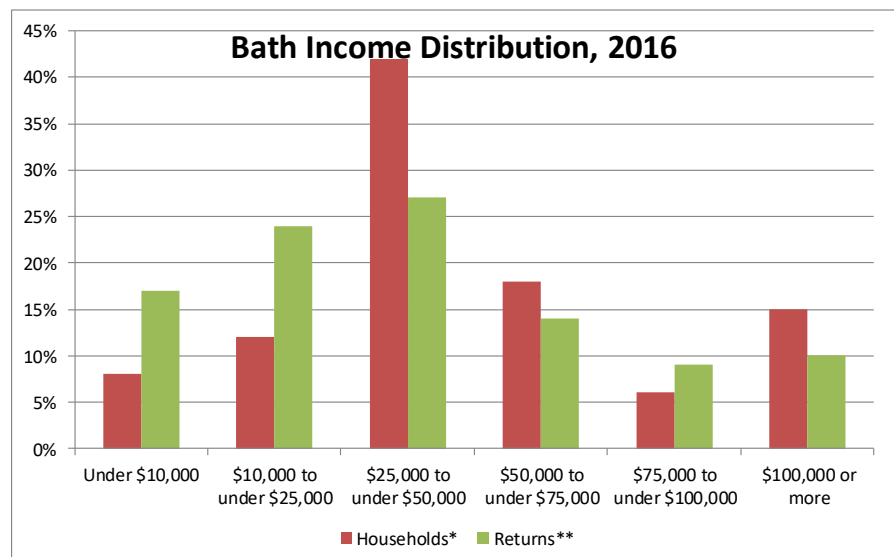
1. Low percentage of high school students planning to go to four-year college, potentially limiting income potential (*Community-Education*)
2. Limited number and lack of diversity of jobs in the county; most are associated with hospitality (*Community-Employment*)
3. Lack of program funding for rural area (non-urban) that is outside of coal mining target area (*Agency-Program Funding*)

The census data on household income are estimates, and in areas with small populations, can have large margins of error. By also reviewing IRS data that are actual information provided on tax returns, the comparison of the estimates to actuals can give an indication of whether or not the census data is a good indicator to use.

For Bath, the number of Under \$10,000 is higher than the census estimates. This could be because of teens that work part-time only in summer or throughout the year, or it there could be a greater number of individuals in this

income bracket. The other point to note is the differences between household income versus AGI on income tax returns for both in the \$10,000 to under \$25,000 bracket and the \$25,000 to under \$50,000.

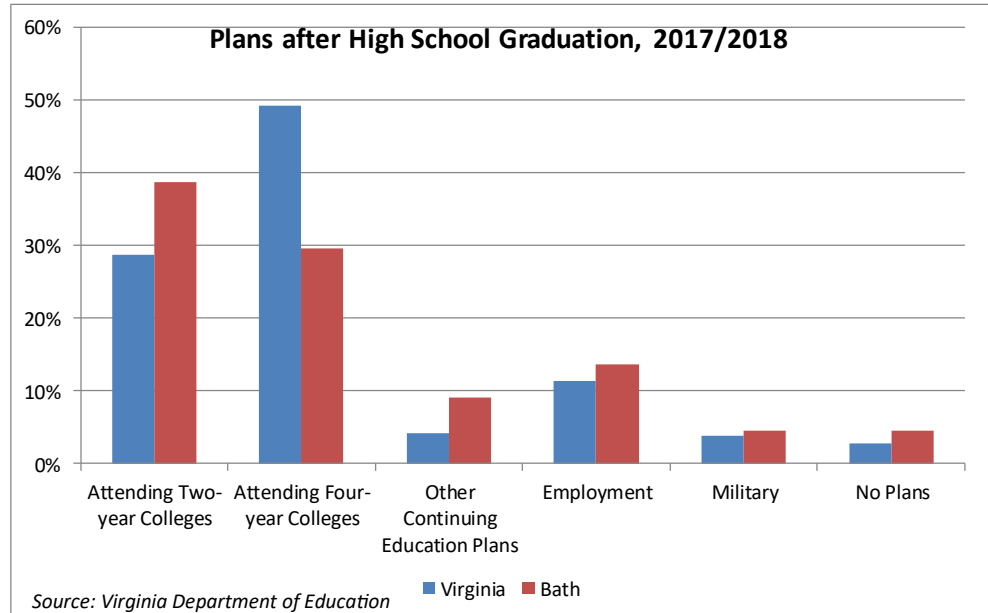
Based on the IRS showing nearly 40% of returns are Under \$25,000, the poverty level could be higher in Bath County.



Sources: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S2503) **U.S. Internal Revenue Service, SOI Tax Stats - County Data

There is a demonstrated correlation between wages and their level of educational attainment. Every year, the Virginia Department of Education collects data from graduates about what they plan to do after graduation.

Nearly 40% of graduates in Bath plan to go to a two-year college or go straight to employment.



Bath is interested in providing more opportunities to their high school students. The 2018 school year will offer a brand new renewable energy class. Last summer, 3,314 solar panels were affixed to the high school and two elementary schools. At 1.1 MW, it's heralded as Virginia's largest school solar project and has provided more than half of the schools' annual energy needs since going live last October. That the school system has invested in solar at all is a tribute to the innovation of go-getter Mike Keyser, the CEO of a distribution electric cooperative that serves some 13,000 electric meters in Bath, Alleghany, and Rockbridge Counties (BARC) near the West Virginia border.

In addition to the secondary data listed above, the results of a survey TAP created and distributed across the 11 service localities were considered in developing the top needs of the locality.

1. Finances—Have a difficult time with money management, i.e. credit card debt, checking account management
2. Employment—Lack of good paying jobs with benefits
3. Engagement—Don't understand local government process for providing input, i.e. when and how meetings are advertised, what I need to be prepared to do at a meeting, how do I run for office
4. Finances—Don't know how to create and use a budget
5. Transportation—Public transportation doesn't have convenient hours

6. Housing—High cost of rent/house payments
7. Finances—No knowledge on how to address credit issues, including the danger of using “predatory lenders” like title loans and paycheck loans
8. Engagement—No knowledge on how to join neighborhood associations, community boards, advisory groups or similar organizations
9. Employment—Lack of skills/education to obtain a job
10. Transportation—Don’t have money to maintain cars/vehicles i.e. gas, inspections, insurance

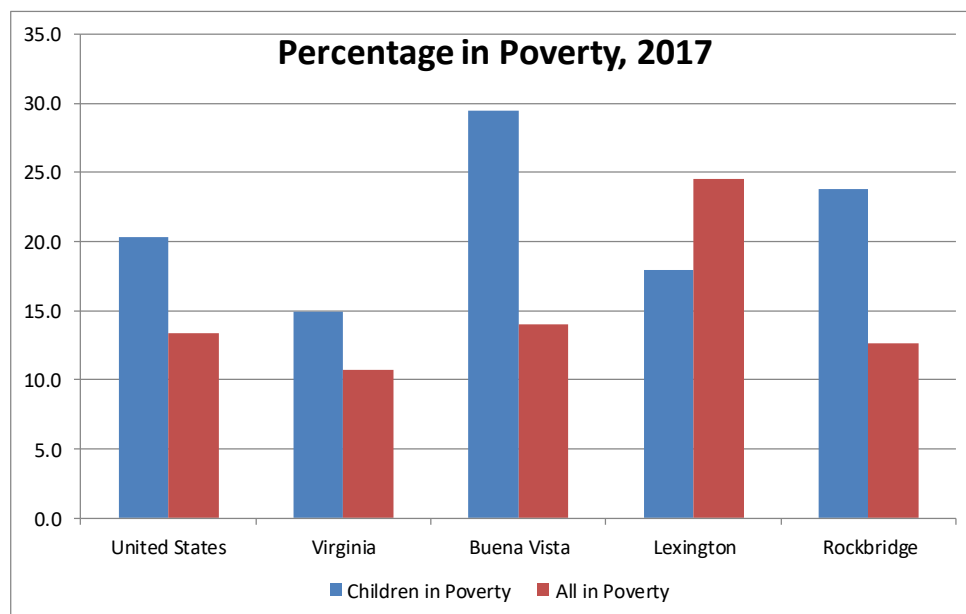
Findings—Rockbridge, Lexington, & Buena Vista

Top Three Needs

1. Lack of access to services (*Community-Employment*)
2. Lack of child care available, particularly for second and third shift, so parent may work (*Community—Employment*)
3. Lack of program funding for rural area (non-urban) that is outside of coal mining target area (*Agency-Program Funding*)

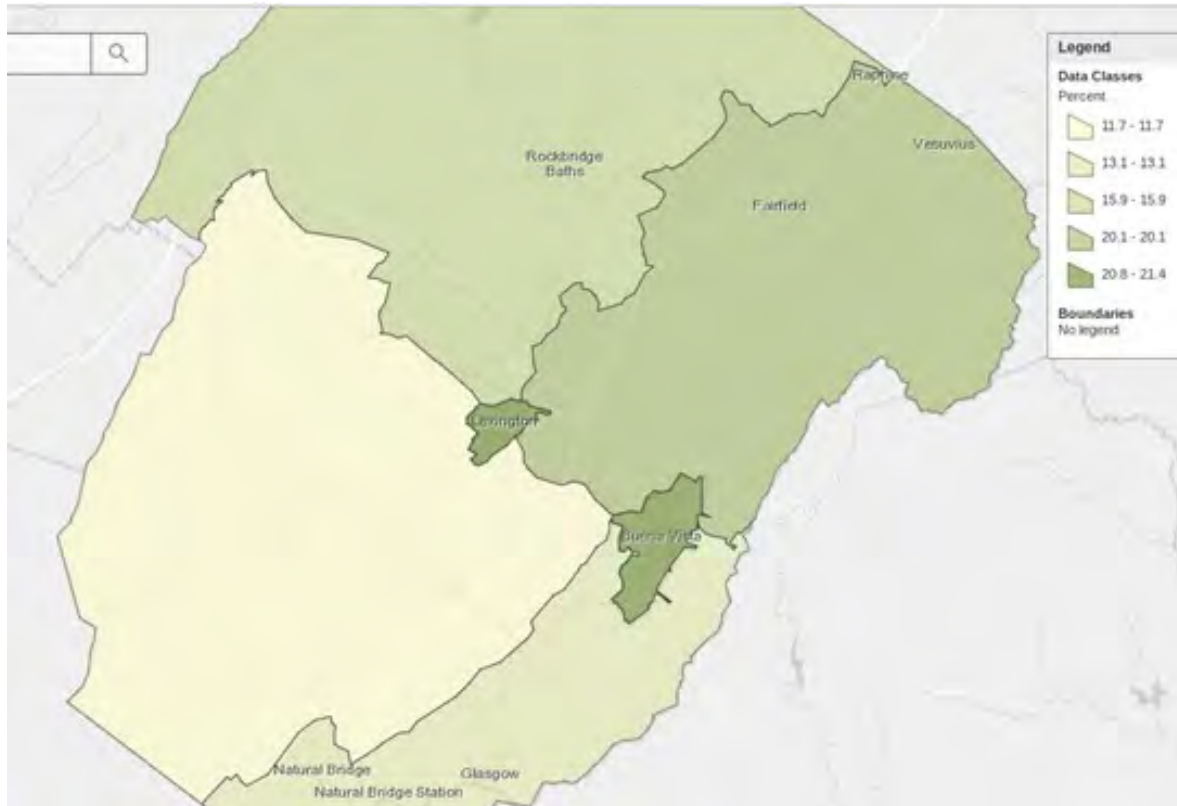
Both Buena Vista and Lexington have the highest poverty rates in this area surrounded by Rockbridge County.

The percentage of children who live in poverty in the U.S. and Virginia runs about five to ten points more than the total population in poverty. However, in Buena Vista, the percentage of children in poverty is more than 15 points above the percentage of the total population; and in Rockbridge, about ten points over. Because Lexington has two universities and has a large population of 18-22 year olds, the percentage of adults in poverty is greater than the percentage of children in poverty.



Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S1701)

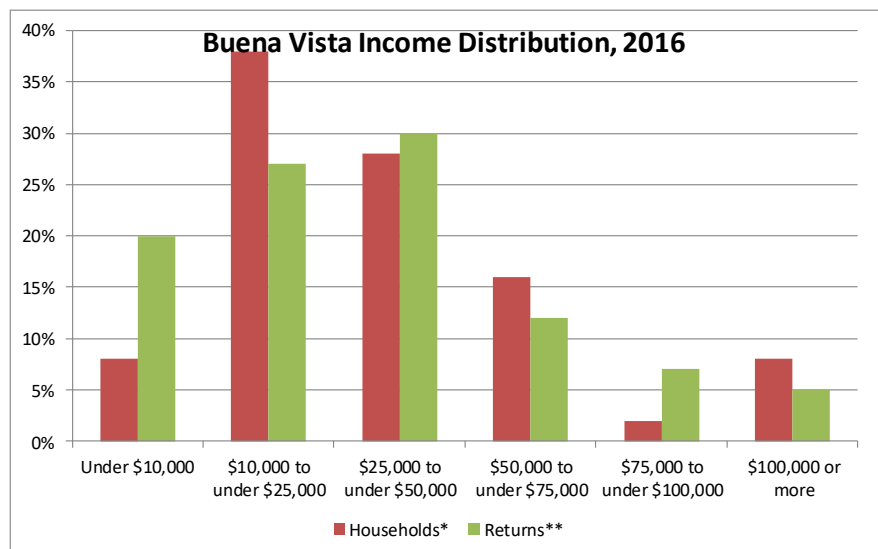
Another way to consider poverty is the distribution across the Buena Vista-Lexington-Rockbridge area is looking at rates by census tract. Both Lexington and Buena Vista have poverty rates over 20%, but Lexington's rate may be reported lower than actual because of the large number of students at Washington & Lee and Virginia Military Institute who may not work at all or work only part-time, making it appear they are living in poverty. The northeast census tract of Rockbridge has a poverty rate of about 20%.



Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S1701)

Taking a look at household income may provide additional insight to the level of poverty in each locality.

The census data on household income are estimates, and in areas with small populations, can have large margins of error. By reviewing IRS data that are actual information provided on tax returns, the comparison of the estimates to actuals can give an indication of whether or not the census data are a good indicator to use.



Sources: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S2503) **U.S. Internal Revenue Service, SOI Tax Stats - County Data

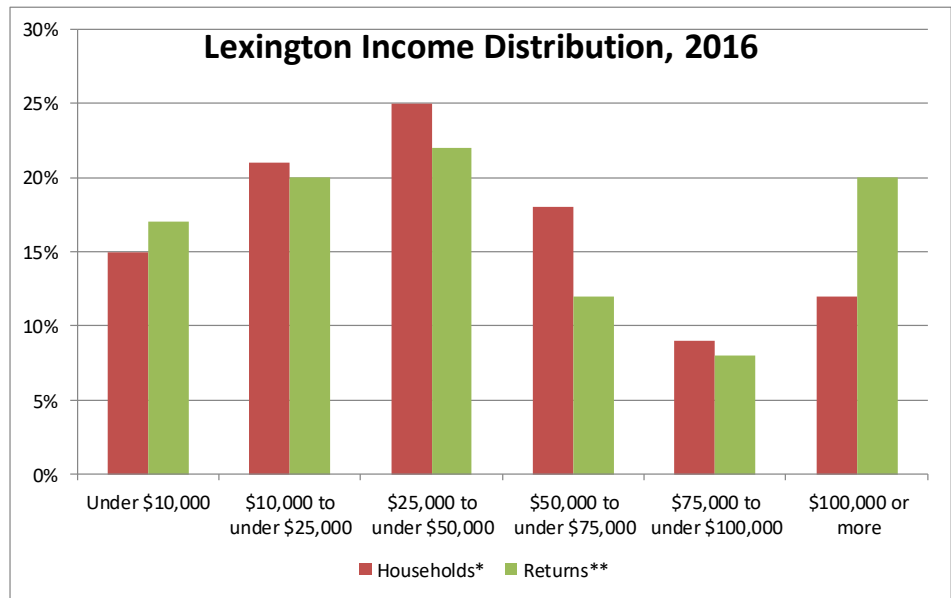
In Buena Vista, the number of Under \$10,000 is higher than the census estimates by over ten percentage points. The other point to note is nearly 50% of households and tax returns are in the income bracket for Under \$25,000, so it does appear that Buena Vista does have significant poverty.

In Lexington, it is likely that the high estimate of households and tax returns in the two brackets that are Under \$25,000 are because of part-time work by the college students. However, there should be some additional research done to assess the actual need of low-income families in the city.

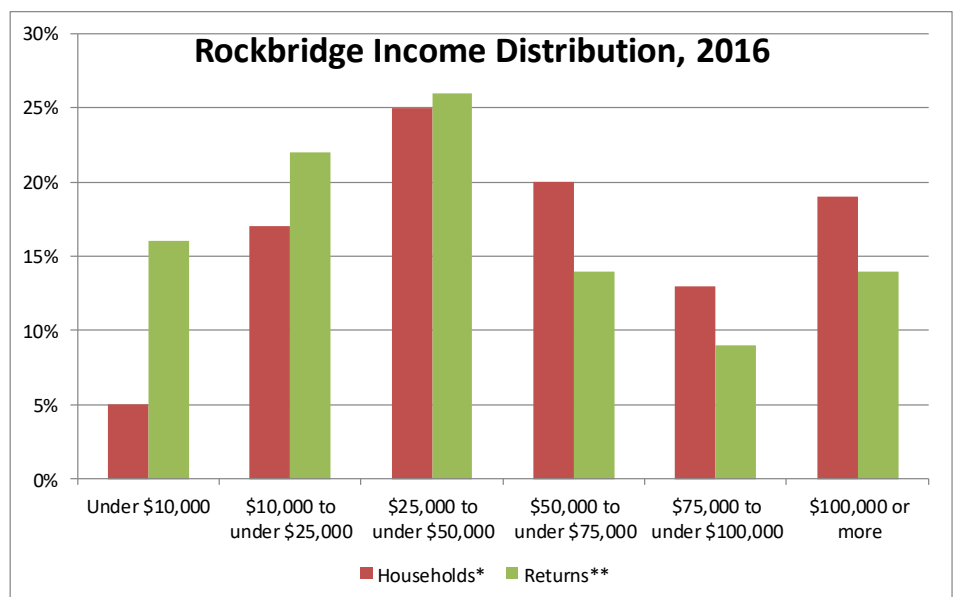
In Rockbridge, the number of returns in the Under \$10,000 bracket is significantly greater than the estimated number of

households. This is particularly concerning because the number of returns in the \$10,000 to Under \$25,000 bracket is five percentage points higher, while the number of returns in the three highest income brackets is much lower than estimated households in these income levels. Therefore more households may be living in poverty or only slightly higher than the census numbers estimate.

The number of returns that were prepared by VITA in these localities was the lowest in all of TAP's service area: Buena Vista (0), Lexington (0), and Rockbridge (20). Additional VITA assistance could benefit low-income workers in the county.

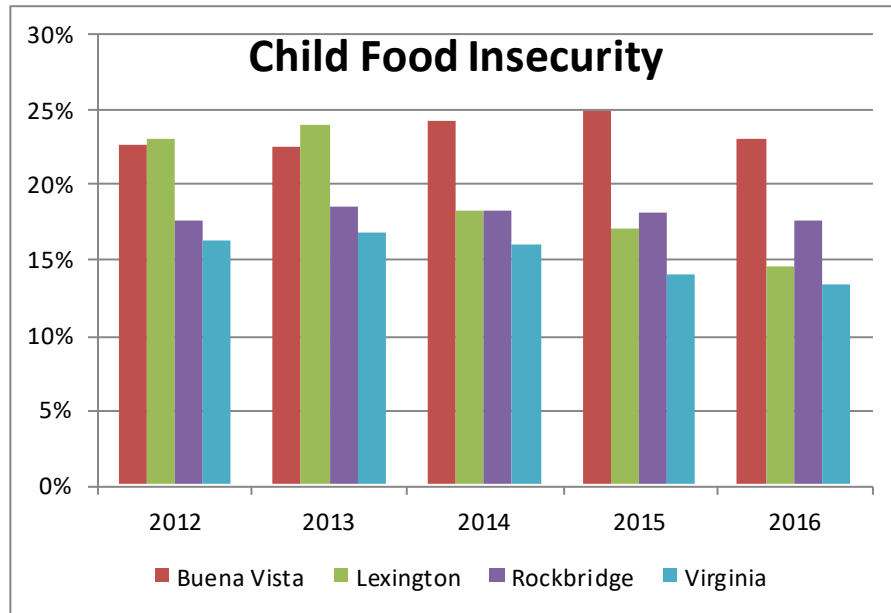


Sources: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S2503) **U.S. Internal Revenue Service, SOI Tax Stats - County Data



Sources: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S2503) **U.S. Internal Revenue Service, SOI Tax Stats - County Data

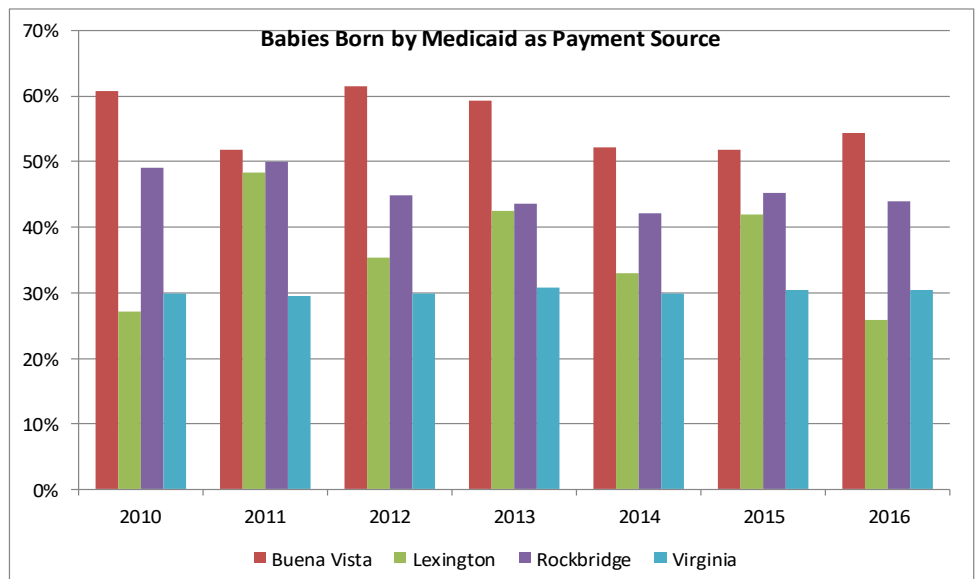
While food deserts are often used to demonstrate poor health and nutrition conditions, child food insecurity can be considered an indicator of poverty. Buena Vista has increased in the percentage of children who are food insecure while the other areas have decreased.



Source: *Map the Meal Gap: Food Insecurity and Child Food Insecurity Estimates at the County Level. Feeding America. (via KIDS COUNT)*

Another indicator to look at is the number of babies born by Medicaid as Payment Source.

While the percentage of babies born under Medicaid has been decreasing over time, in general, the rate in Buena Vista remains nearly double the rate for Virginia.



Source: *Virginia Department of Health (via KIDS COUNT)*

In addition to the secondary data listed above, the results of a survey TAP created and distributed across the 11 same localities were considered in developing the top needs of the locality.

1. Finances—Have a difficult time with money management, i.e. credit card debt, checking account management
2. Employment—Lack of good paying jobs with benefits
3. Engagement—Don't understand local government process for providing input, i.e. when and how meetings are advertised, what I need to be prepared to do at a meeting, how do I run for office
4. Finances—Don't know how to create and use a budget
5. Transportation—Public transportation doesn't have convenient hours
6. Housing—High cost of rent/house payments
7. Finances—No knowledge on how to address credit issues, including the danger of using "predatory lenders" like title loans and paycheck loans
8. Engagement—No knowledge on how to join neighborhood associations, community boards, advisory groups or similar organizations
9. Employment—Lack of skills/education to obtain a job
10. Transportation—Don't have money to maintain cars/vehicles i.e. gas, inspections, insurance

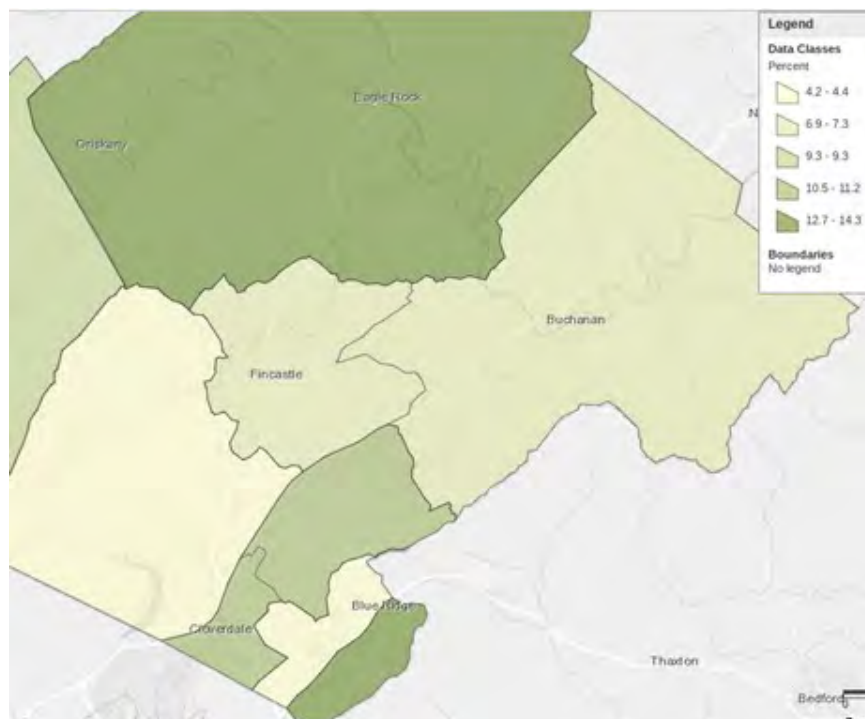
Findings—Botetourt County

Top Three Needs

1. Lack of access to services in northern portion of the county (*Community / Agency*)
2. Lack of financial services including tax assistance (*Community—Financial*)
3. Increasing demand for affordable and available housing (*Community—Housing*)

Botetourt frequently is overlooked when it comes to programs. The county as a whole has a very low poverty rate. However, looking at the poverty rate by census tract reveals a different story.

The census tract to the north that includes Eagle Rock and Iron Gate has a poverty rate over 20%, as does the southern-most tract of the county. These pockets of poverty should be given more consideration, at minimum with outreach, so they may at least know what services are available.



Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S1701)

In addition to the secondary data listed above, the results of a survey TAP created and distributed across the 11 service localities were considered in developing the top needs of the locality.

1. Finances—Have a difficult time with money management, i.e. credit card debt, checking account management
2. Employment—Lack of good paying jobs with benefits
3. Engagement—Don't understand local government process for providing input, i.e. when and how meetings are advertised, what I need to be prepared to do at a meeting, how do I run for office
4. Finances—Don't know how to create and use a budget
5. Transportation—Public transportation doesn't have convenient hours
6. Housing—High cost of rent/house payments
7. Finances—No knowledge on how to address credit issues, including the danger of using "predatory lenders" like title loans and paycheck loans
8. Engagement—No knowledge on how to join neighborhood associations, community boards, advisory groups or similar organizations
9. Employment—Lack of skills/education to obtain a job
10. Transportation—Don't have money to maintain cars/vehicles i.e. gas, inspections, insurance

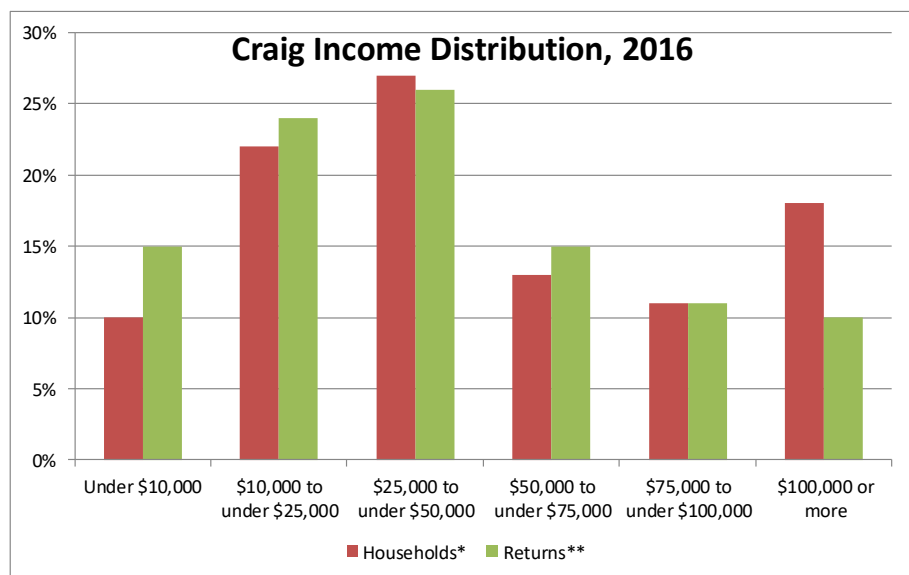
Findings—Craig County

Top Four Needs

1. Lack of knowledge of how to start a business (*Individual-Employment*)
2. Need to improve Fall PALS kindergarten scores and reduce number of children repeating kindergarten through 3rd grade (*Individual—Education*)
3. Low number of graduates going on to four-year college or other continuing education (*Individual—Education*)
4. Lack of financial services, particularly tax preparation assistance (*Community-Finances*)

The census data on household income are estimates, and in areas with small populations, can have large margins of error. By also reviewing IRS data that are actual information provided on tax returns, the comparison of the estimates to actuals can give an indication of whether or not the census data is a good indicator to use.

For Craig, the number of Under \$10,000 is higher than the census estimates. This could be because of teens that work part-time only in summer or throughout the year, or it there could be a greater number of individuals in this income bracket. The other point to note is more than 60% of households and tax returns are in the Under \$50,000 brackets. Nearly half of those would be considered poverty-level, so poverty could be more extensive than census estimates provide.

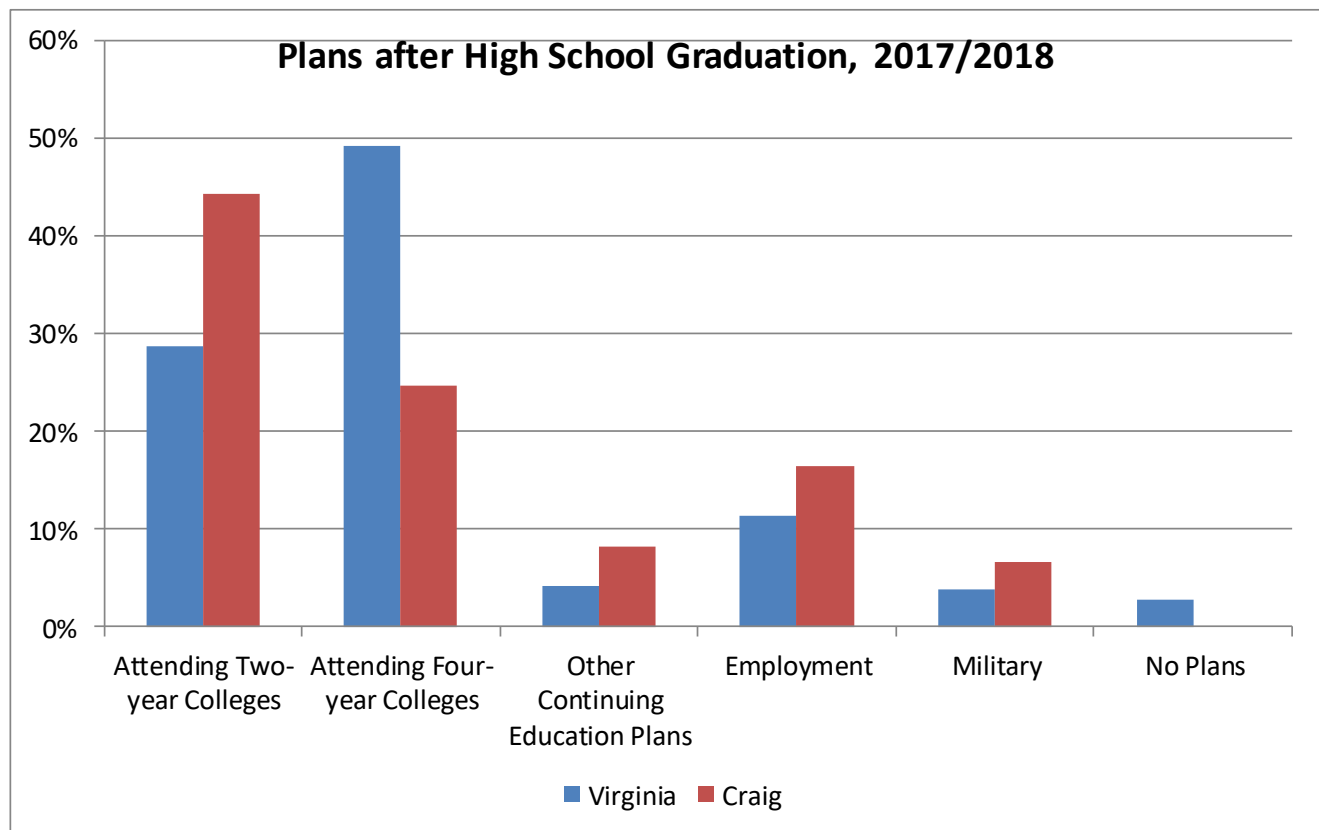


Sources: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S2503)

**U.S. Internal Revenue Service, SOI Tax Stats - County Data

There were no tax returns that were prepared by VITA in Craig. Additional VITA assistance could benefit low-income workers in the county.

There is a demonstrated correlation between wages and level of educational attainment. Every year, the Virginia Department of Education collects data from graduates about what they plan to do after graduation. In Craig, over 40% of graduates plan to go to community college.



Source: Virginia Department of Education

In addition to the secondary data listed above, the results of a survey TAP created and distributed across the 11 service localities were considered in developing the top needs of the locality.

1. Finances—Have a difficult time with money management, i.e. credit card debt, checking account management
2. Employment—Lack of good paying jobs with benefits
3. Engagement—Don't understand local government process for providing input, i.e. when and how meetings are advertised, what I need to be prepared to do at a meeting, how do I run for office
4. Finances—Don't know how to create and use a budget
5. Transportation—Public transportation doesn't have convenient hours

6. Housing—High cost of rent/house payments
7. Finances—No knowledge on how to address credit issues, including the danger of using “predatory lenders” like title loans and paycheck loans
8. Engagement—No knowledge on how to join neighborhood associations, community boards, advisory groups or similar organizations
9. Employment—Lack of skills/education to obtain a job
10. Transportation—Don’t have money to maintain cars/vehicles i.e. gas, inspections, insurance

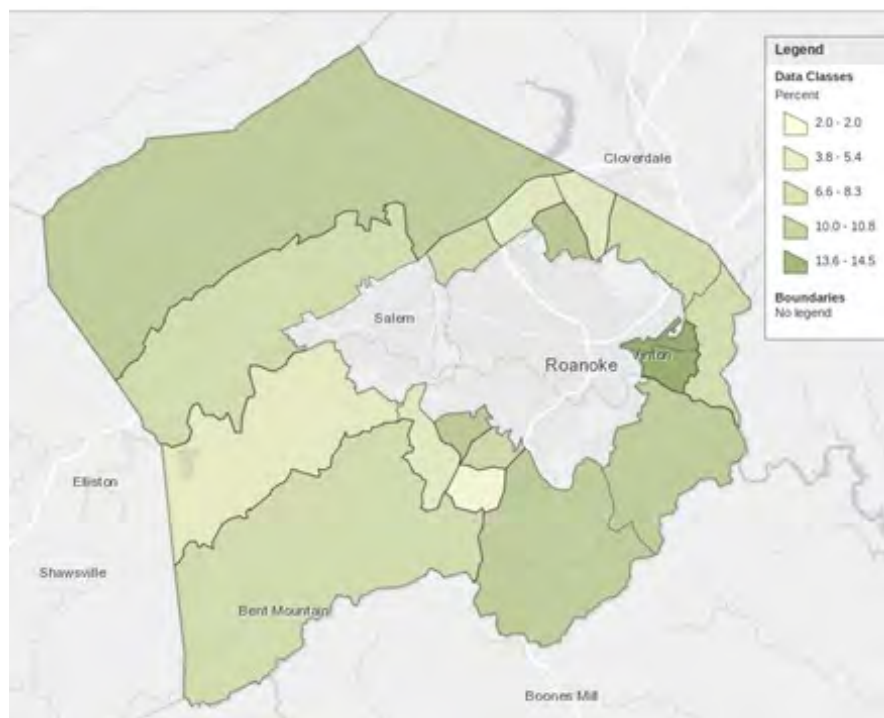
Findings—Roanoke County

Top Three Needs

1. Significant increase in crime in the Vinton area (*Community—Crime*)
2. Lack of affordable child care for working parents (*Community—Employment*)
3. Lack of financial services for low-income individuals including tax preparation assistance (*Community—Finances*)

Roanoke County frequently is overlooked when it comes to programs. The county as a whole has a very low poverty rate. However, looking at the poverty rate by census tract reveals a different story.

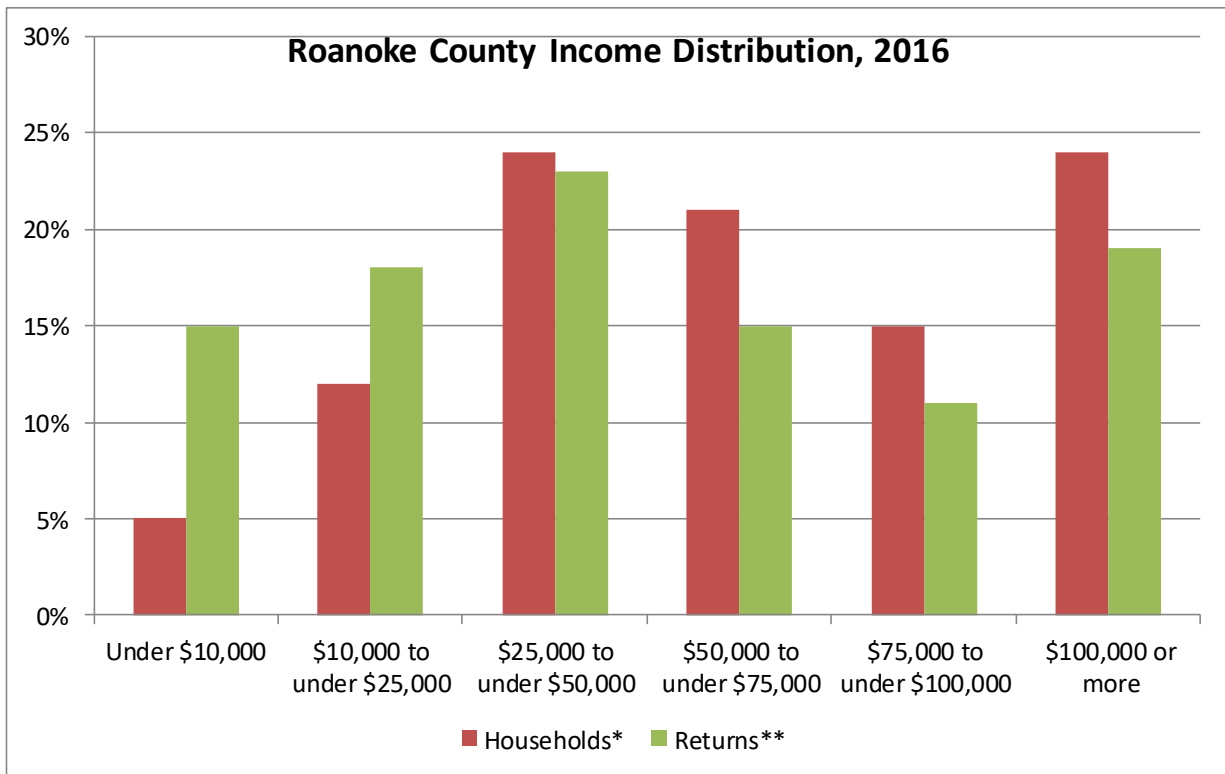
The census tracts in the areas around Vinton in the eastern part of the county have an over 20% rate of poverty. There are a few other tracts, including in the Catawba valley, where the poverty rate is approaching 20%.



Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S1701)

The census data on household income are estimates, and in areas with small populations, can have large margins of error. By also reviewing IRS data that are actual information provided on tax returns, the comparison of the estimates to actuals can give an indication of whether or not the census data is a good indicator to use.

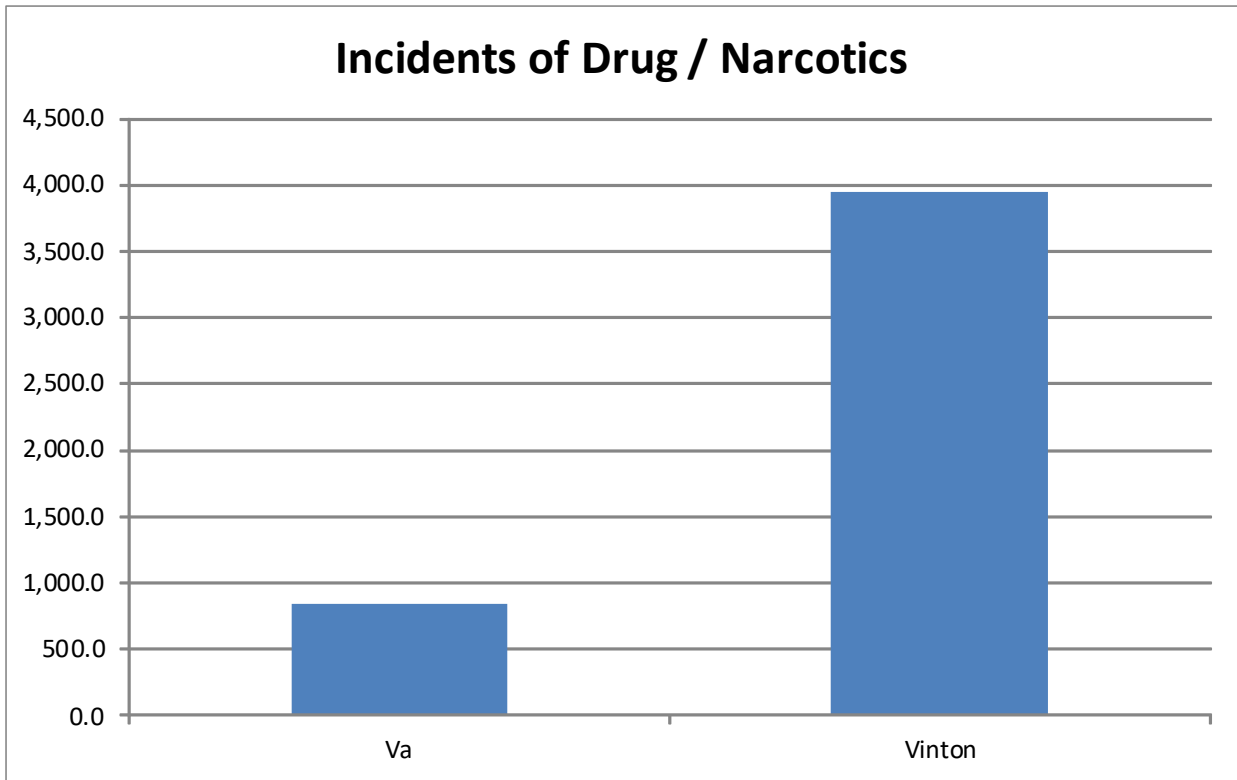
For Roanoke County, the percentage of returns Under \$10,000 is double the percentage of households based on census estimates. This could be because of teens that work part-time only in summer or throughout the year, or it there could be a greater number of individuals in this income bracket.



Sources: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S2503) **U.S. Internal Revenue Service, SOI Tax Stats - County Data

The number of returns that were prepared by VITA in Roanoke County, only 90, was significantly lower considering the county has the second-largest total population. Even with a low poverty level, additional VITA assistance could benefit low-income workers in the county.

The last point to note is the significant amount of crime in Vinton. Overall incidence of crime in Vinton is second to only Roanoke City. The number of incidents of Drug and Narcotics crimes is more than five times the rate of Virginia, and more than double the rate in Roanoke City.



Source: Virginia State Police, Uniform Reporting Service, Crime in Virginia

In addition to the secondary data listed above, the results of a survey TAP created and distributed across the 11 service localities were considered in developing the top needs of the locality.

1. Finances—Have a difficult time with money management, i.e. credit card debt, checking account management
2. Employment—Lack of good paying jobs with benefits
3. Engagement—Don't understand local government process for providing input, i.e. when and how meetings are advertised, what I need to be prepared to do at a meeting, how do I run for office
4. Finances—Don't know how to create and use a budget
5. Transportation—Public transportation doesn't have convenient hours
6. Housing—High cost of rent/house payments
7. Finances—No knowledge on how to address credit issues, including the danger of using "predatory

lenders” like title loans and paycheck loans

8. Engagement—No knowledge on how to join neighborhood associations, community boards, advisory groups or similar organizations
9. Employment—Lack of skills/education to obtain a job
10. Transportation—Don’t have money to maintain cars/vehicles i.e. gas, inspections, insurance

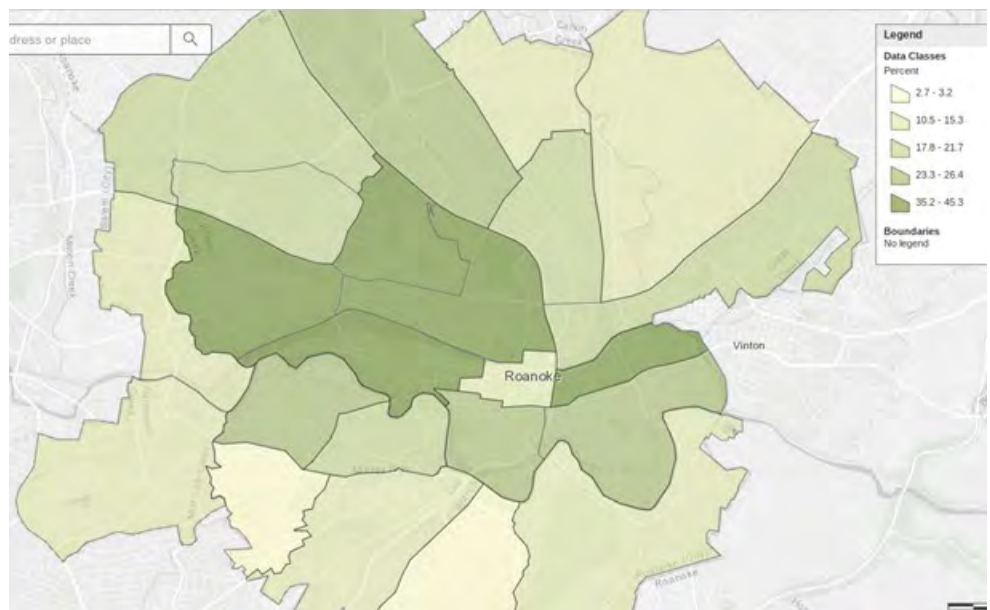
Findings—Roanoke City

Top Five Needs

1. Limited public transportation services; lack of evening and Sunday routes (*Community—Transportation*)
2. Lack of affordable child care for working parents as well as care for third shift (*Community—Employment*)
3. Lack of financial services including money management, budget, improving credit, alternative to predatory lenders (*Community—Finances*)
4. Lack of knowledge of how to become more engaged in community: participating in neighborhood organizations, participate in public hearings, or run for office (*Individual—Engagement*)
5. Substantial increase in crime, particularly murder and drugs and narcotics (*Community—Crime*)

Roanoke City has the highest poverty rate in TAP's service area, and is ranked 16th in the state out of 133 localities.

In fact, eight of the top ten highest-poverty census tracts in the service area are in Roanoke City. The top two census tracts have poverty rates over 45%, and the rest of the top five—all in Roanoke City—are over 35%.



Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S1701)

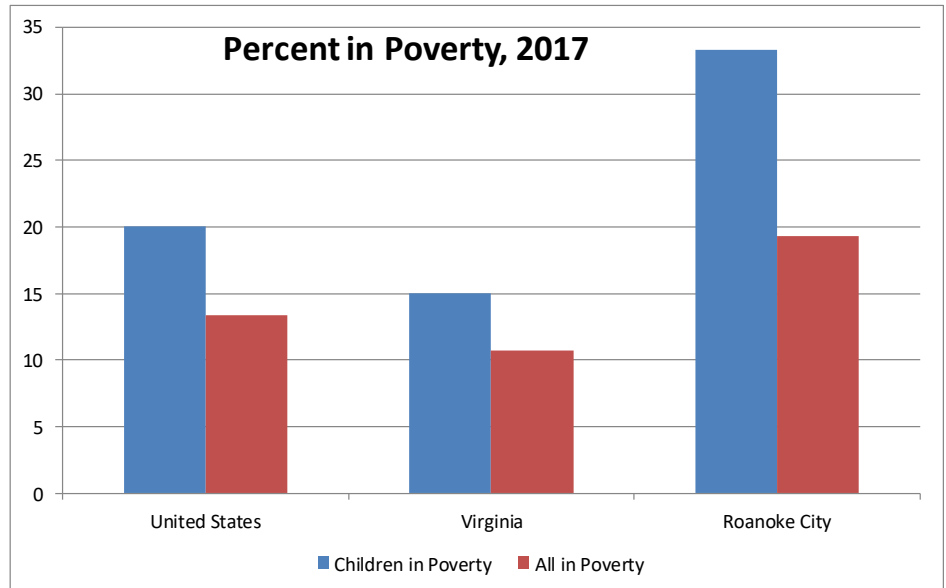
While the poverty rate of the total population in Roanoke City is high, the rate of children under 18 who live in poverty is even higher.

The percentage of children who live in poverty in the U.S. and Virginia runs about five to ten points more than the total population in poverty. However, in Roanoke City, the percentage of children in poverty is more than ten points above the percentage of the total population.

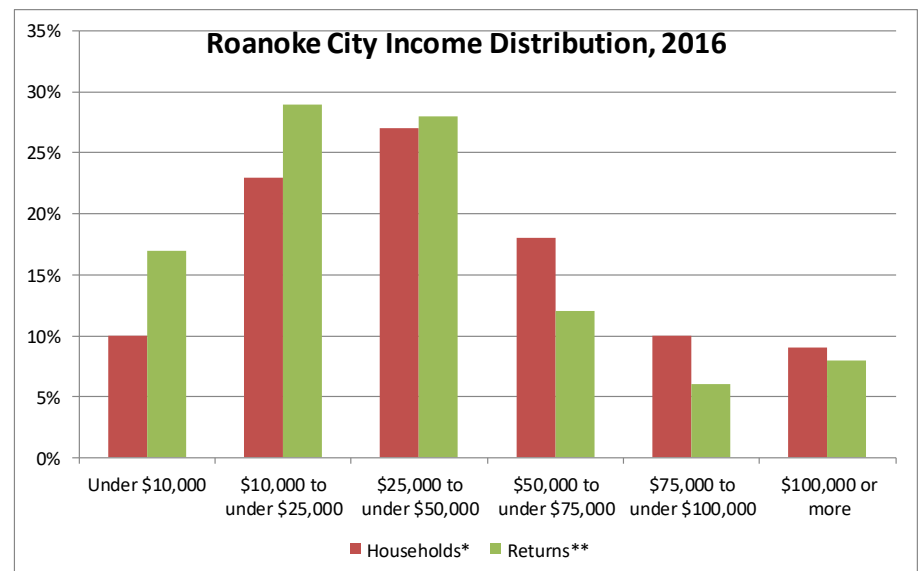
Taking a different look at potential poverty, like comparing the census estimates by income bracket to actual IRS tax returns by income bracket, can reveal additional information.

The number of returns Under \$10,000 is higher than the number of households estimated by the census. This could be because of teens that work part-time only in summer or throughout the year, or there could be a greater number of individuals in this income bracket.

Regardless, nearly 50% of households and tax returns are in the two brackets under the \$25,000 level.

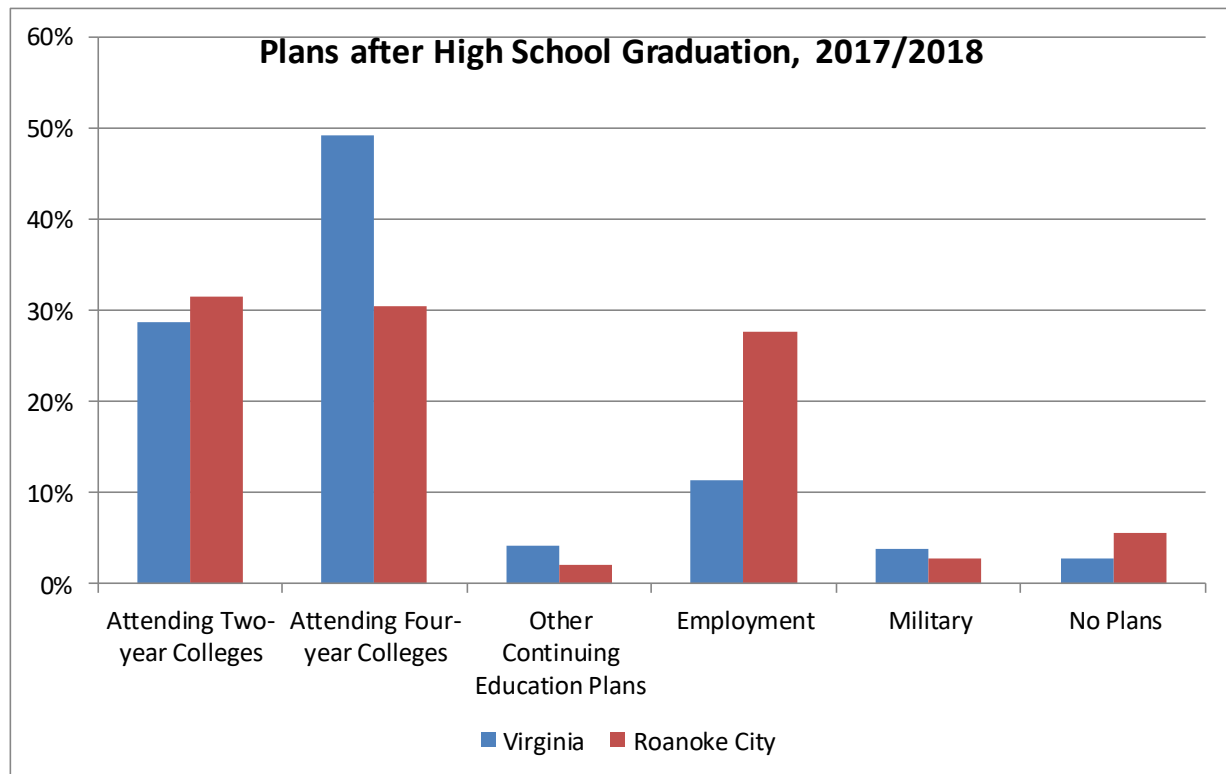


Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S1701)



Sources: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S2503) **U.S. Internal Revenue Service, SOI Tax Stats - County Data

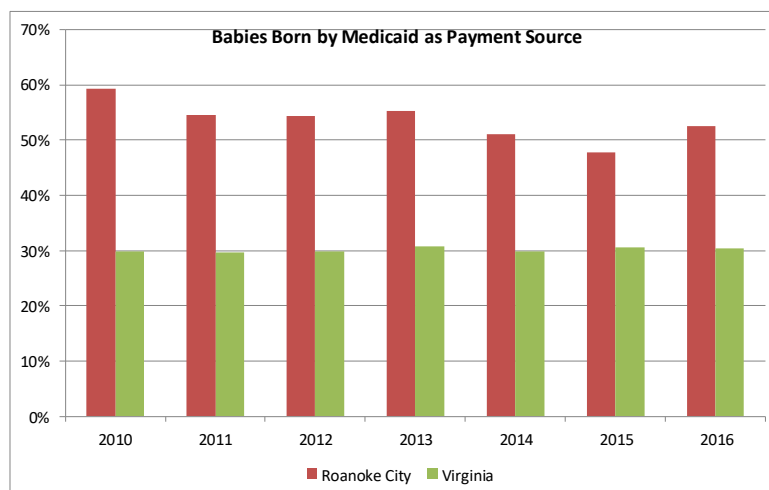
There is a demonstrated correlation between wages and level of educational attainment. Every year, the Virginia Department of Education collects data from graduates about what they plan to do after graduation. In Roanoke City, a little more than one-fourth of graduates plan to go straight to employment, forgoing additional education.



Source: Virginia Department of Education

Another indicator to look at is the number of babies born by Medicaid as Payment Source.

While the percentage of babies born under Medicaid has been decreasing over time, in 2016, Roanoke City's rate was nearly 75% greater than Virginia's.



Source: Virginia Department of Health (via KIDS COUNT)

Crime in Roanoke City is the highest in TAP's service area. With few exceptions, the city also leads all localities in most crimes.

The incidence of murder has increased over time and rate of incidents in more than three times the rate throughout Virginia.

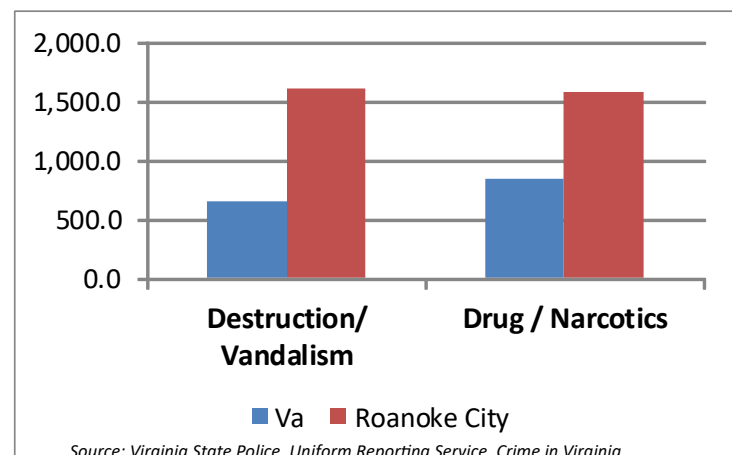
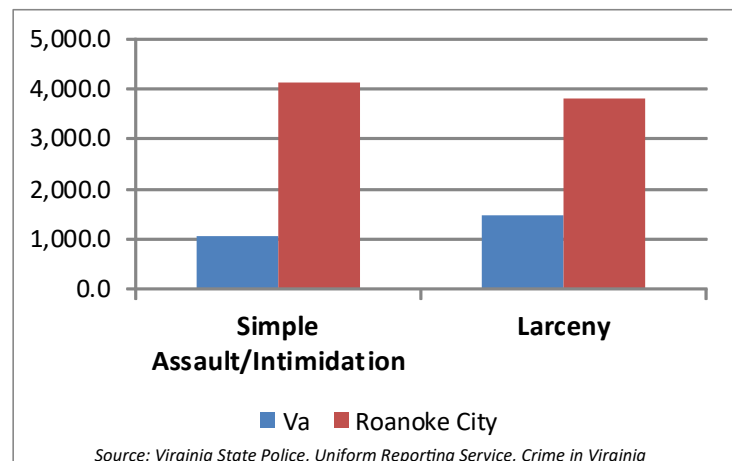
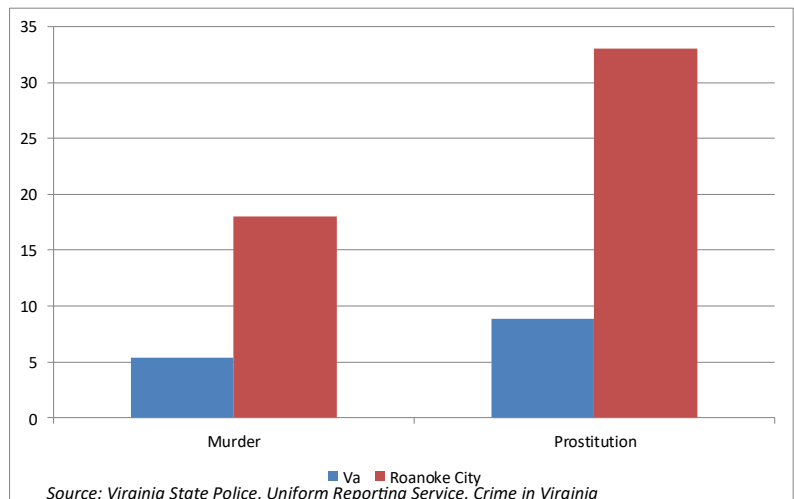
While not as frequently reported publicly in the news, prostitution has been increasing as well. The rate of incidents is three times the rate in Virginia.

There are four other crimes that have the highest rates of incidence in the city.

Simple assault/intimidation has the highest rate and is about four times the rate in Virginia. Larceny has the second-highest rate and is more than three times the rate of Virginia.

The third highest is destruction/vandalism, which is also nearly three times the rate in Virginia. The fourth-highest crime in number of incidents is drug/narcotics.

While the City's rate is second in the area behind Vinton, the rate is nearly double Virginia's rate.



In addition to the secondary data listed above, the results of a survey TAP created and distributed across the 11 service localities were considered in developing the top needs of the locality.

1. Finances—Have a difficult time with money management, i.e. credit card debt, checking account management
2. Employment—Lack of good paying jobs with benefits
3. Engagement—Don't understand local government process for providing input, i.e. when and how meetings are advertised, what I need to be prepared to do at a meeting, how do I run for office
4. Finances—Don't know how to create and use a budget
5. Transportation—Public transportation doesn't have convenient hours
6. Housing—High cost of rent/house payments
7. Finances—No knowledge on how to address credit issues, including the danger of using "predatory lenders" like title loans and paycheck loans
8. Engagement—No knowledge on how to join neighborhood associations, community boards, advisory groups or similar organizations
9. Employment—Lack of skills/education to obtain a job
10. Transportation—Don't have money to maintain cars/vehicles i.e. gas, inspections, insurance

There were enough respondents in Roanoke City, the top five identified needs for just those respondents were considered as well. A survey was developed to identify what barriers contribute to limiting individuals and families from becoming self sufficient in our 11 localities.

1. Employment—Long commute to jobs
2. Finances—Have a difficult time with money management, i.e. credit card debt, checking account management
3. Transportation—Public transportation doesn't have convenient hours
4. Employment—Lack of good paying jobs with benefits
5. Finances—Don't know how to create and use a budget

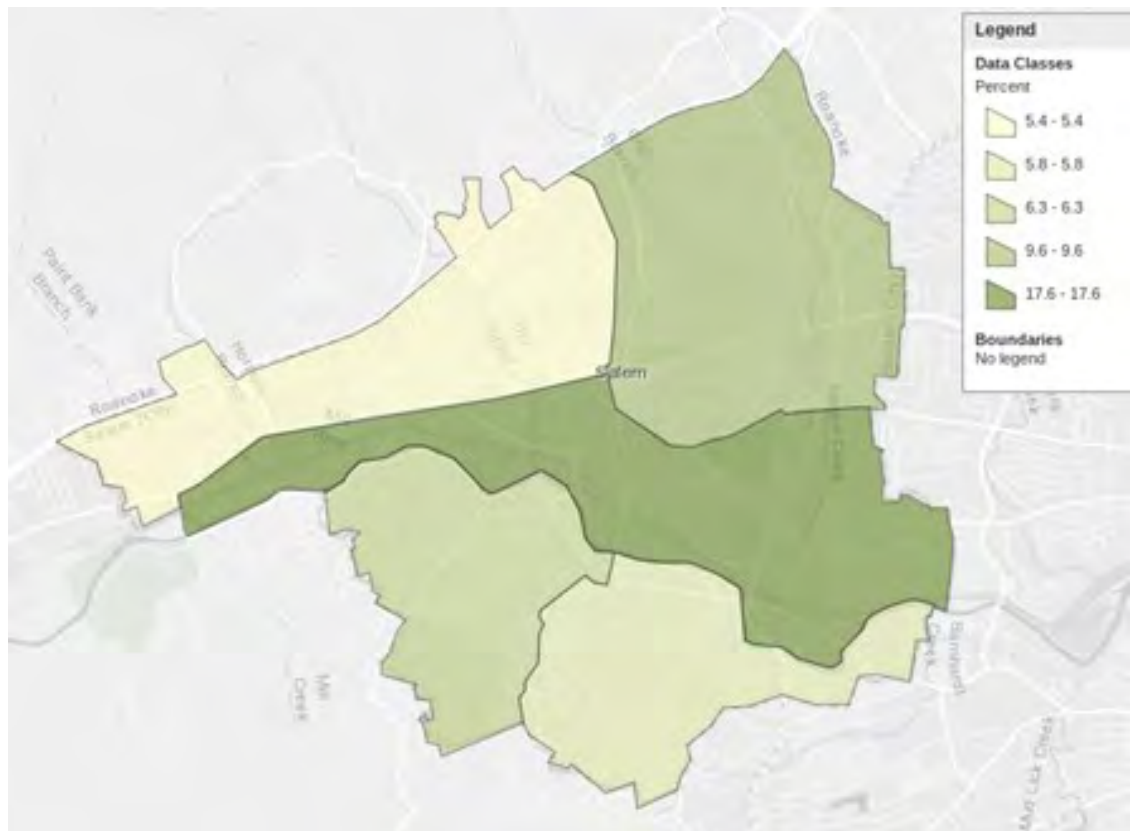
Findings—Salem

Top Three Needs

1. Lack of child care for working parents (*Community—Employment*)
2. Lack of public transportation (*Community—Transportation*)
3. Lack of financial services including tax preparation assistance (*Community—Finances*)

Salem is frequently overlooked when it comes to programs. The city as a whole has a very low poverty rate. However, looking at the poverty rate by census tract reveals a different story.

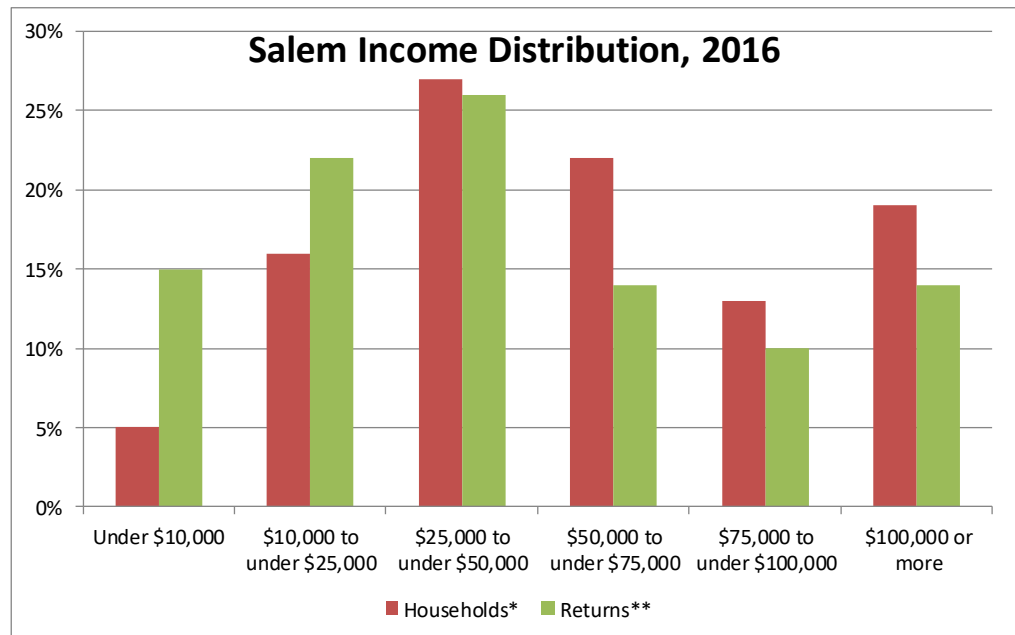
The poverty level of the census tract in the middle of Salem is over 17%, which is greater than the poverty rate of Virginia.



Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S1701)

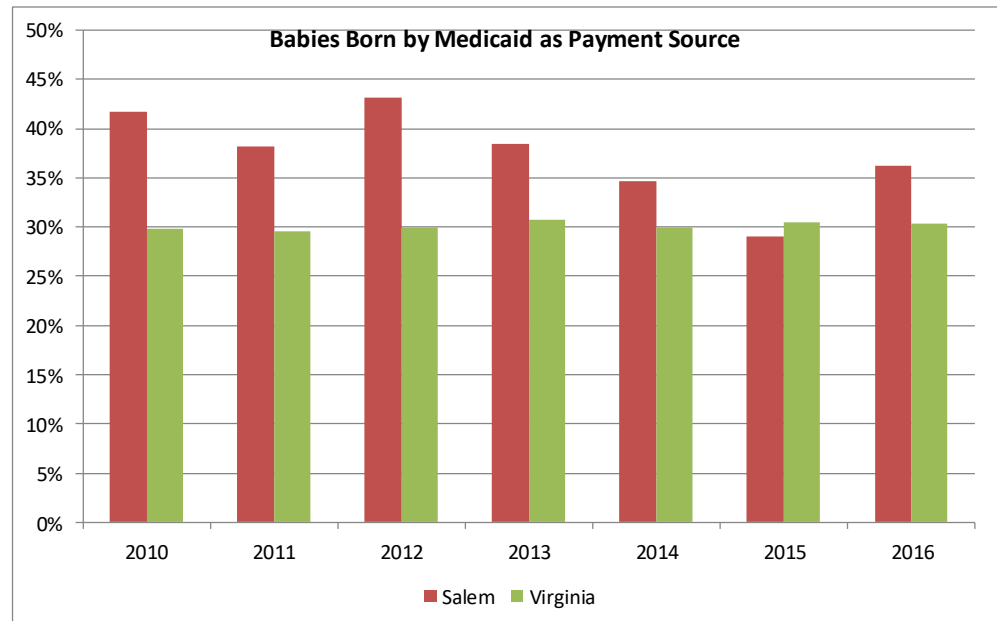
The census data on household income are estimates, and in areas with small populations, can have large margins of error. By also reviewing IRS data that are actual information provided on tax returns, the comparison of the estimates to actuals can give an indication of whether or not the census data is a good indicator to use.

For Salem, the percentage of returns Under \$10,000 is double the percentage of households based on census estimates. This could be because of teens that work part-time only in summer or throughout the year, or there could be a greater number of individuals in this income bracket.



Sources: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S2503) **U.S. Internal Revenue Service, SOI Tax Stats - County Data

Throughout this seven-year period, with the exception of 2015, Salem had a higher percentage of babies born by Medicaid as a Payment Source than in Virginia. While the percentage could continue a downward trend, this data could suggest the potential need for a variety of services in Salem where TAP provides minimal services.



Source: Virginia Department of Health (via KIDS COUNT)

Finally, the number of returns that were prepared by VITA in Salem in 2016 was only 40. Even with a low poverty level, additional VITA assistance could benefit low-income workers in the county.

In addition to the secondary data listed above, the results of a survey TAP created and distributed across the 11 localities of the services were considered in developing the top needs of the locality.

1. Finances—Have a difficult time with money management, i.e. credit card debt, checking account management
2. Employment—Lack of good paying jobs with benefits
3. Engagement—Don't understand local government process for providing input, i.e. when and how meetings are advertised, what I need to be prepared to do at a meeting, how do I run for office
4. Finances—Don't know how to create and use a budget
5. Transportation—Public transportation doesn't have convenient hours
6. Housing—High cost of rent/house payments
7. Finances—No knowledge on how to address credit issues, including the danger of using “predatory lenders” like title loans and paycheck loans
8. Engagement—No knowledge on how to join neighborhood associations, community boards, advisory groups or similar organizations
9. Employment—Lack of skills/education to obtain a job
10. Transportation—Don't have money to maintain cars/vehicles i.e. gas, inspections, insurance