

## 3.1 HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

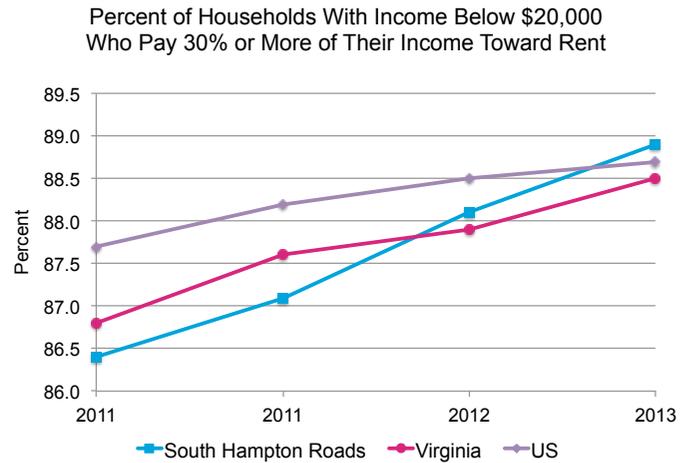
### Why is this important?

A decent, safe and affordable home is a goal for all of our citizens. Extremely low-income households are those earning less than \$20,000 per year. They are especially burdened by high housing costs, which can require them to forego food, medical care and other necessities that lead to negative impacts on their children’s well-being (poorer health, family stress and more behavioral problems).

### How is this region doing?

This data reflects only renter households. In 2013, 89% of Extremely Low-Income households (those earning less than \$20,000) were housing burdened by paying more than 30% of their income toward rent. This represents 30,677 households in South Hampton Roads.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

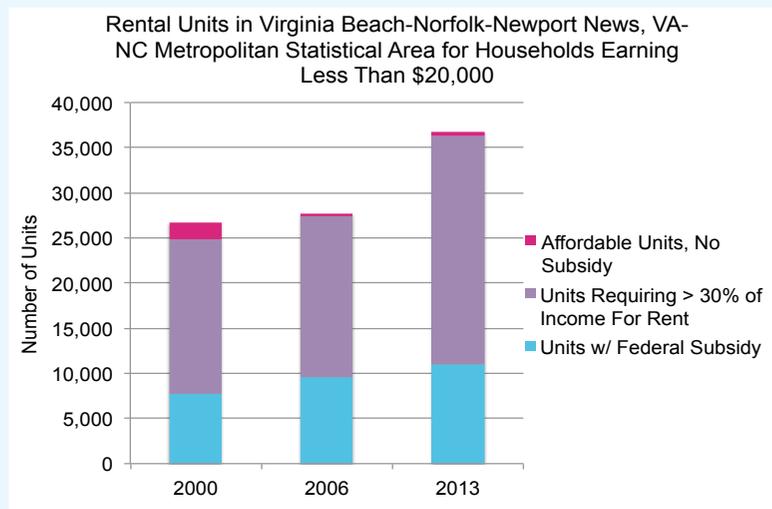


### THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Between 2000 and 2013, the number of adequate, affordable and available rental units in the country and the region have decreased while the number of federal housing subsidies and cost burdened households has increased. <sup>44</sup>

In the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC Metropolitan Statistical Area: <sup>45</sup>

- Fair market rent for a 1-bed room unit = \$920/month
- A worker earning minimum wage (\$7.25) can afford \$377/ month for rent
- A minimum wage earner needs to work 98 hours per week to afford a 1-bedroom



Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC Metropolitan Statistical Area includes Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Newport News, Hampton, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Poquoson, York County, Gloucester County, Isle of Wight County, Mathews County, James City County, Williamsburg, Currituck County (NC), Gates County (NC)

# Neighborhoods .....

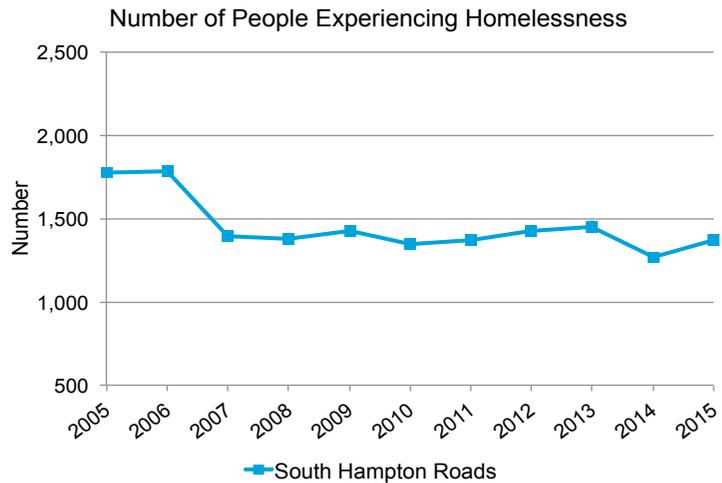
## 3.2 HOMELESSNESS

### Why is this important?

The number of persons experiencing homelessness is a measure of the need for affordable housing for our neediest citizens.

### How is this region doing?

In 2006, the South Hampton Roads opened the nation's first regional Permanent Supportive Housing development for formerly homeless individuals. Other best practice models shown to end homelessness are Rapid Rehousing and Housing First. Between 2006 and 2014, the region saw a 28% decrease in homelessness, which is the lowest number of homeless individuals counted (1,268) in the region in over ten years. In 2015, the number of homeless individuals increased to 1,371.



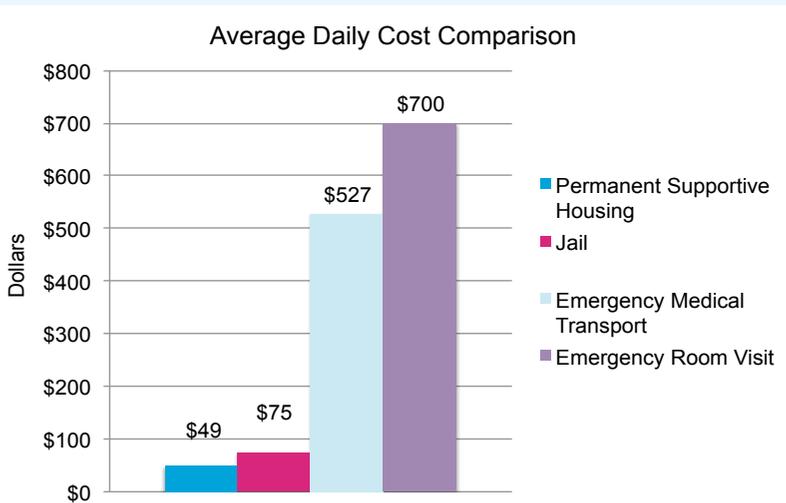
It is important to note that while the Annual Point-In-Time (PIT) count offers a snapshot of homelessness on a single day of the year, it is estimated that the annual number of those experiencing homelessness could be three to six times as high as PIT estimates or even more.<sup>46</sup>

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

### THE COST OF DOING NOTHING

**The Cost:** People experiencing chronic homelessness often become “super users” of costly public services such as emergency rooms, hospitals, jails, detox programs and psychiatric centers. One study estimates these annual costs can add up to \$50,000 per homeless individual.<sup>47</sup>

**A Solution:** The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness cites Permanent Supportive Housing as evidence-based policymaking that can significantly reduce the public cost of chronic homelessness.



In Virginia, Permanent Supportive Housing costs approximately \$49 per day, or \$18,000 annually per individual and includes stable housing as well as wrap-around support services and access to healthcare.<sup>48</sup>

A study by Virginia Supportive Housing and Homeward reports that hospital visits and incarcerations dramatically decrease after a formerly homeless individual is permanently housed.<sup>49</sup>

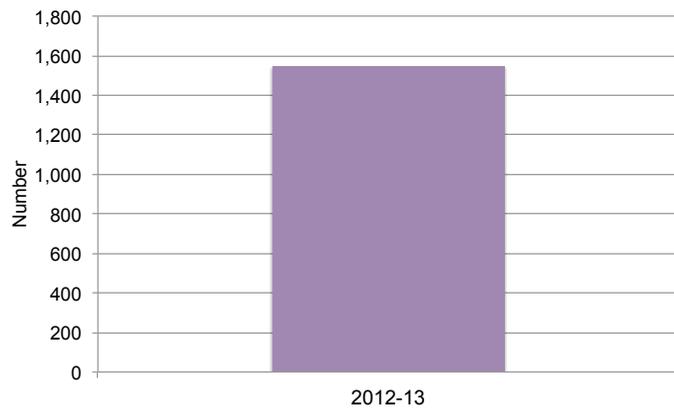
## 3.3 CHILD HOMELESSNESS

### Why is this important?

According to the National Center on Family Homelessness, homeless children are more likely than other students to experience: <sup>50</sup>

- Chronic health issues (obesity, diabetes, asthma)
- Exposure to family violence
- Anxiety/depression
- Foster care
- Developmental delays
- Learning disabilities
- Lower academic performance
- Lower graduation rates

Public School Students Reported as Homeless in South Hampton Roads



### How is this region doing?

The Virginia Department of Education collects data from local school districts on the number of students who experience homelessness during the school year. In 2012-13, 1,548 youth were reported as experiencing homelessness during the year. <sup>51</sup>

Source: Old Dominion University

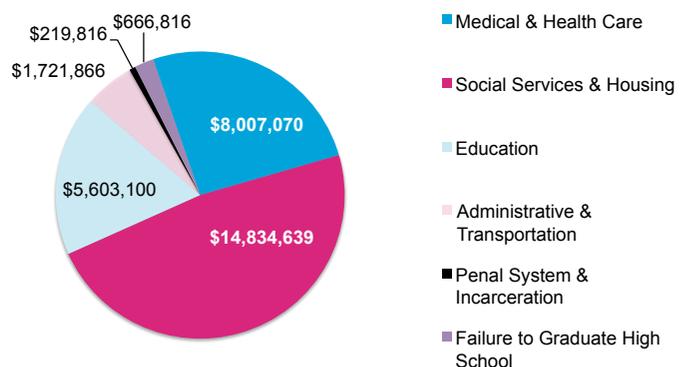
### THE COST OF DOING NOTHING

The estimates below are based on national averages, yet can offer important insight into the social and financial costs incurred when children are homeless in South Hampton Roads. In 2012-13, public schools in South Hampton Roads reported that 1,548 youth experienced homelessness during the school year. Old Dominion University's 2014 State of the Region report estimates that the additional annual costs associated with remedial education, social services, criminal justice, healthcare and housing in the region is over \$31 million. <sup>52</sup>

*“Problems of homelessness are especially challenging when they involve children. Not only are the needs of children different from those of adults, but also a failure to deal with those problems comes back to haunt society for decades to come”*

Dr. James Koch  
ODU Professor Emeritus  
2014 State of the Region<sup>53</sup>

Estimated Annual Added Costs of \$30 Million Associated with Homeless School Children, 2012-13



# Neighborhoods .....

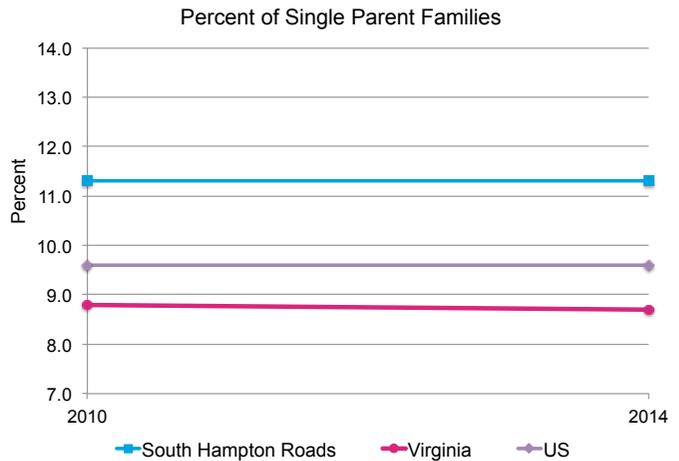
## 3.4 SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES

### Why is this important?

Because single parent families, especially families with a single mother, have limited income sources, they can be more vulnerable to swings in the economy.

### How is this region doing?

The region has a higher percent of single parent families than either the state or the nation. In 2013, this represented over 46,500 families.



*“If you want to avoid poverty and join the middle class in the United States, you need to do three things: complete high school (at a minimum), work full time and marry before you have children. If you do all three, your chances of being poor fall from 12 percent to 2 percent, and your chances of joining the middle class or above rise from 56 to 74 percent.”<sup>54</sup>*

*-National Center for Policy Analysis*

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COSTS OF SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS:

- In 2014, 80% of all single parent families in the U.S. were headed by single mothers<sup>55</sup>
- In 2013, single-mother families in the U.S. had a much lower median income (\$26,000) than did two-parent families (\$80,000).<sup>56</sup>
- Children of single parent households tend to have more problems with health, education and behavioral issues than children in two-parent households.<sup>57</sup>
- Single mothers are much more likely to be uninsured (18%) than women in two-parent households (10%).<sup>58</sup>
- Over 75% of homeless families are headed by single mothers.<sup>59</sup>

## 3.5 ELDERLY LIVING ALONE

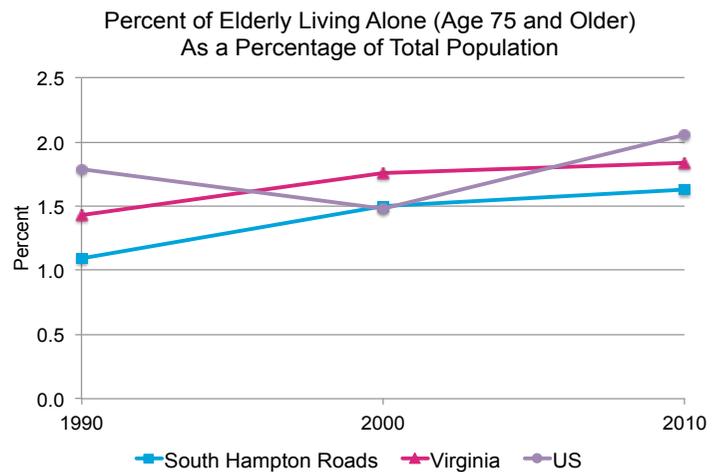
### Why is this important?

For those over age 75, living alone can increase social isolation as well as the risk of not receiving important medical or emergency care.

### How is this region doing?

After age 75, people develop more disabilities and often have less ability to drive. This reflects an increased need for services coupled with decreased mobility. The region had a smaller percent of its over 75 population living alone than the state or the nation in 2010. This represented 18,660 elderly individuals who were living alone.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



## 3.6 SENIORS OVER AGE 65 PAYING MORE THAN 30% OF INCOME TOWARD RENT

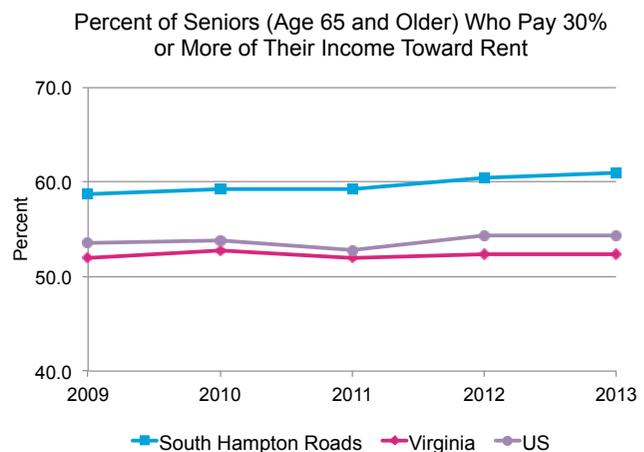
### Why is this important?

Those over age 65 may be on fixed incomes. When rent is more than 30% of income, seniors are at risk for not having enough money to pay for essentials such as food, medicine and other daily needs.

### How is this region doing?

Seniors are especially vulnerable to increases in housing costs because of their fixed incomes. Over 10,000 seniors (61%) were paying over 30% of their income for rent in 2013, compared to over 9,000 in 2009. The rate for the region increased almost two percentage points over the same time period and exceeds that of the state and nation.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



# Neighborhoods .....

## 3.7 VIOLENT CRIME

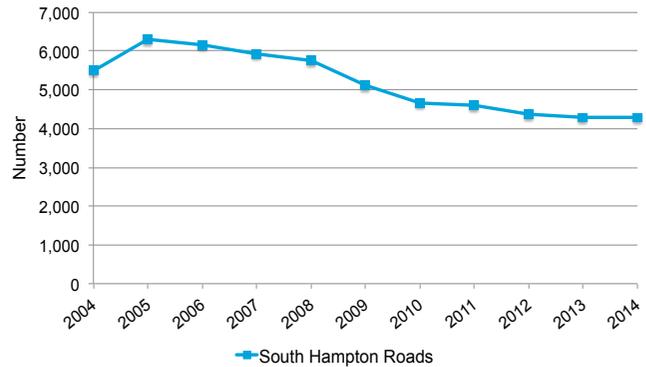
### Why is this important?

The rate of violent crime is a measure of how safe people are in their neighborhoods and communities.

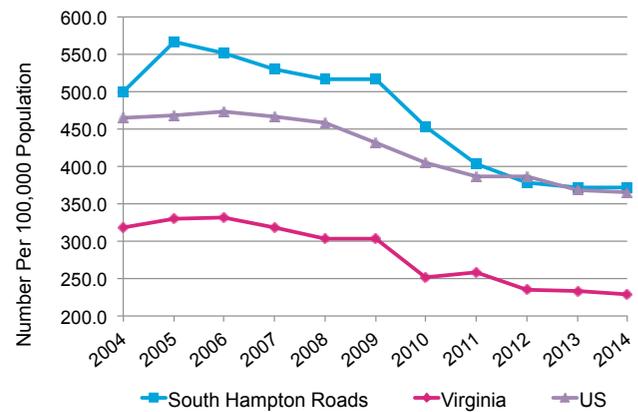
### How is this region doing?

The number of violent crimes in the region has dropped steadily since 2005, paralleling drops statewide and nationally. In 2012, the rate for the region fell below the national rate for the first time since 2001. Between 2005 and 2012, the region's rate dropped faster than the state's rate to reduce the gap between the region and the state's lower rate. In 2014, the region's rate continued to decrease.

Number of Violent Crime Offenses  
(Murder, Rape, Other Forcible Sex Offenses, Robbery,  
and Aggravated Assault)



Violent Crime Rate Per 100,000 Population



Source: Virginia State Police,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

## 3.8 JUVENILE CRIME

### Why is this important?

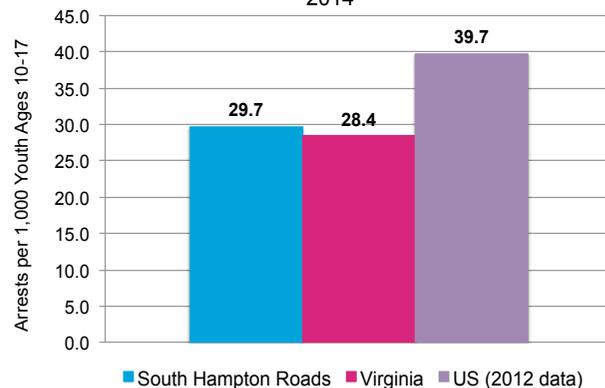
Juvenile crime can harm families, schools and communities. In addition, it can put youth on a path of career criminality into adulthood.

### How is this region doing?

In 2014, there were 117,224 arrests of juveniles between the ages of 10-17 in the region. This is a rate of 29.7 per 1,000 youth. This was higher than the state rate of 28.4 arrests per 1,000 youth, and lower than the national rate of 39.7 youth per 1,000.

Of the 117,224 juvenile arrests, 160 were for violent crimes including murder, forcible sex offenses, robbery and aggravated assault.

Juvenile Arrests per 1,000 Youth Ages 10-17  
2014



Source: Virginia State Police, Federal Bureau of Investigation

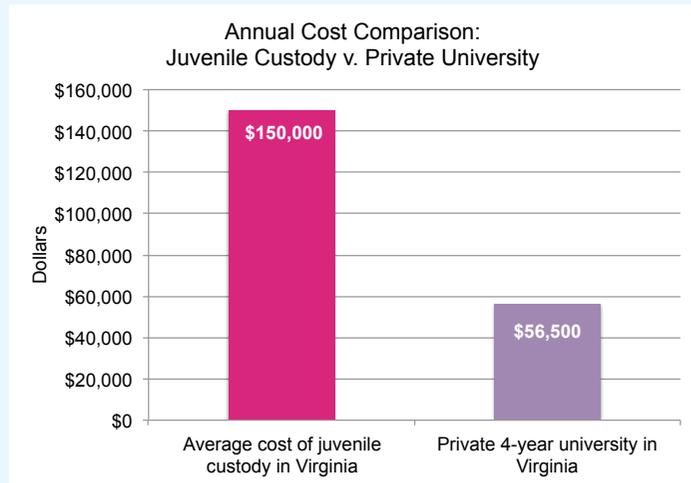
## THE COST OF DOING NOTHING AND EVIDENCE-BASED SOLUTIONS

### Juvenile Justice Reform

In 2014, Virginia spent over \$88 million on Juvenile Correctional Centers. This equates to an average of \$150,000 a year per youth in custody, which is “more than twice the cost of tuition, room and board at one of the private universities in Virginia.”<sup>60</sup>

Further, “75 percent of juvenile offenders released from a residential placement by the commonwealth’s Department of Juvenile Justice in 2011 were re-arrested within three years.”<sup>61</sup>

Research shows that community-based programs such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters and summer job initiatives can reduce truancy and other less serious offenses. Evidence-based family coaching programs show a net savings of between \$9,000 to \$16,000 per youth.<sup>62</sup>

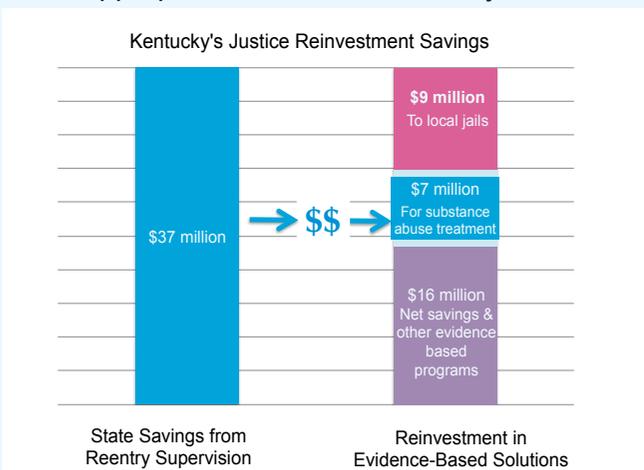


### Early Child Care and Education

National research shows that for \$1 invested in early child care and education, high quality preschool programs save from \$5 to \$11 in criminal justice costs.<sup>63</sup>

### Justice Reinvestment

- Virginia spends nearly \$1 billion annually on corrections. Other states are reducing crime and expenditures through Justice Reinvestment initiatives.<sup>64</sup>
- Between 2011 and 2014, Kentucky saved \$37 million by making changes to drug offender sentencing laws and offender supervision laws. This allowed for reinvesting \$7 million for new substance abuse treatment programs and appropriated \$9 million to local jails.<sup>65</sup>



- In 2013-14, North Carolina provided substance abuse and behavioral health care treatment to those at highest risk of reoffending and prioritized jail space for the most serious offenders. As a result, the prison population decreased by 8%, ten facilities closed and North Carolina saved and reinvested \$48 million to support probation and community-based treatment programs and operating costs.<sup>66</sup>