2024-2025 Community Assessment

York County Head Start

(03CH012257)

York County, Virginia

Information compiled and finalized by County of York's Children & Family Services Division on 12/31/2024

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PURPOSE

The York County Head Start Community Assessment provides updated demographics and other relevant statistical data to identify strengths, needs, resources, and trends that impact the design and development of the York County Head Start program. Information is collected by researching various websites, reviewing local statistics and data, and collecting information on our Head Start families. Information gathered from the Community Assessment will be used to develop short and long-range goals, to help guide management staff in program implementation, to select recruitment locations, and to develop recruitment and selection criteria. The information gathered in the Community Assessment allows management staff and Policy Council members to determine the needs of the Head Start families and how we would best meet those needs.

This Assessment seeks to update the information with current data and explore the implications of the data obtained for the Assessment. Once completed, the assessment and outcomes are presented to the Policy Council for review and approval in the winter. The Community Assessment is reviewed with all York County Head Start staff and community partners, and a copy of the assessment is posted on the County website. Information for the assessment comes from the most current data sources, along with help from our community partners. Resources used for this community assessment and a summary of community implications are included at the end of this assessment report.

Demographics of York County

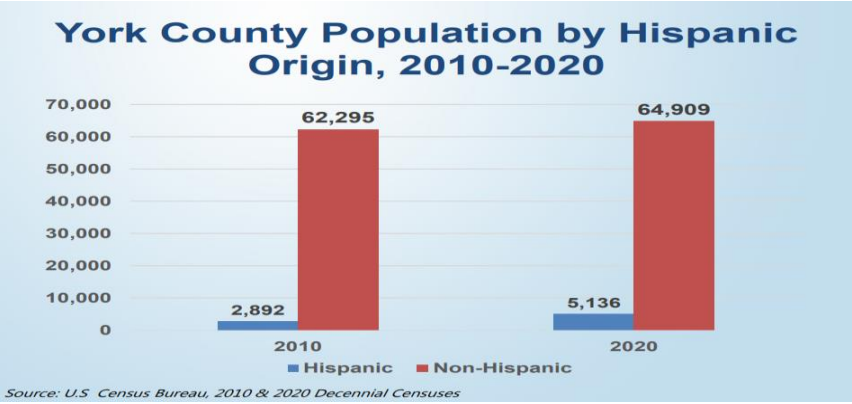
Population

The United States Census Bureau noted that the population estimates for York County, VA, as of July 1, 2023, were 70,952[1]. There was a 1.3% population change between April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023[2].

York County Population Demographics[3]

	York County
Male	49.7%
Female	50.3%
Children under 5 years	4.9%
Persons under 18 years	22.7%
Persons 65 years and over	18.4%
White	73.6%
Black or African American	14.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.5%
Asian	6.6%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	0.2%
Two or more races	4.5%
Hispanic or Latino	8.1%
Families	
Average Persons per Household	2.62
Foreign born persons	8.0%
Language other than English spoken at home	10.8%
Education	
High School Diploma	95.7%
Bachelor's Degree or higher	50%
Health	
With a disability, under age of 65 years	8.2%
Without health insurance, under age of 65 years	6.0%

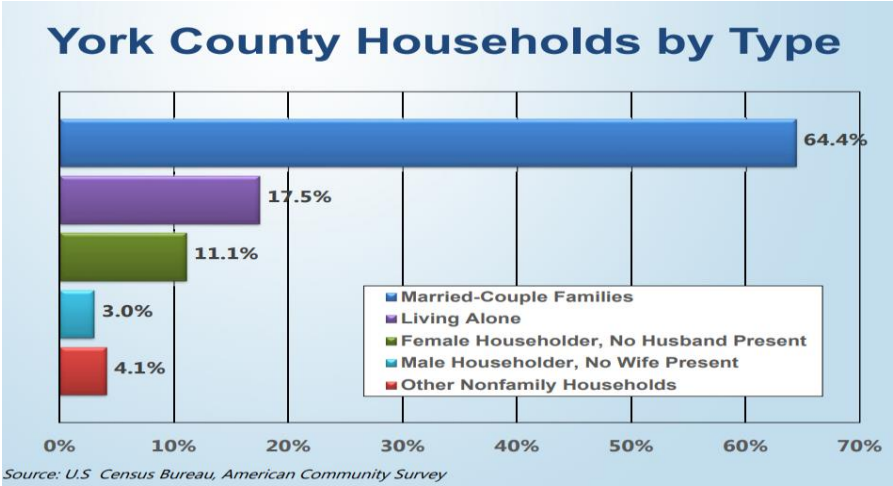
From 2010 to 2020, the locally-born population was 5% lower than the migrated population. York County's Hispanic-origin population has increased by 56.3% from 2010 to 2020.[4]



[1] https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/yorkcountyvirginia
[2] https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/yorkcountyvirginia
[3] https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/yorkcountyvirginia
[4] https://www.yorkcounty.gov/DocumentCenter/View/34281/York-County-Demographics

Households

The highest percentage of York County's households are married-couple families (64.4%).[5]



Employment and Poverty

York County's median household income is $101,531, with 8.5% of the population living in poverty. According to the United States Census Bureau data, 8.3% of persons under 18 years of age are living in poverty.[6] According to Trading Economics, York County's unemployment rate as of October 2024 was at 2.70%.[7] The COVID-19 pandemic brought forth unique circumstances for employment in Virginia. Trading Economics reports that unemployment in April 2020 for York County was as high as 10.80%.[8] While unemployment is relatively low in York County, the downsizing of the U.S. military provides a continuous flow of skilled labor. As a result of the large military presence in the region, Virginia's Hampton Roads has a skilled pool of potential workers that few other metropolitan areas have to offer.[9]

Housing

Housing in Hampton Roads and across the Commonwealth of Virginia is a topic of discussion. Households in Hampton Roads are more likely to be cost-burdened than in any other region in the state. Black and Hispanic households are more likely to be cost-burdened than white households.[10]

York County's median value of owner-occupied homes from 2019-2023 was $411,200.[11] The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Economic Data [12] reports that the median listing price for York County homes was $464,977 as of November 2024. Housing in York County is not affordable to low-income families. [13][14]

Housing	
Housing units, July 1, 2023	28,748
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2019-2023	71.2%

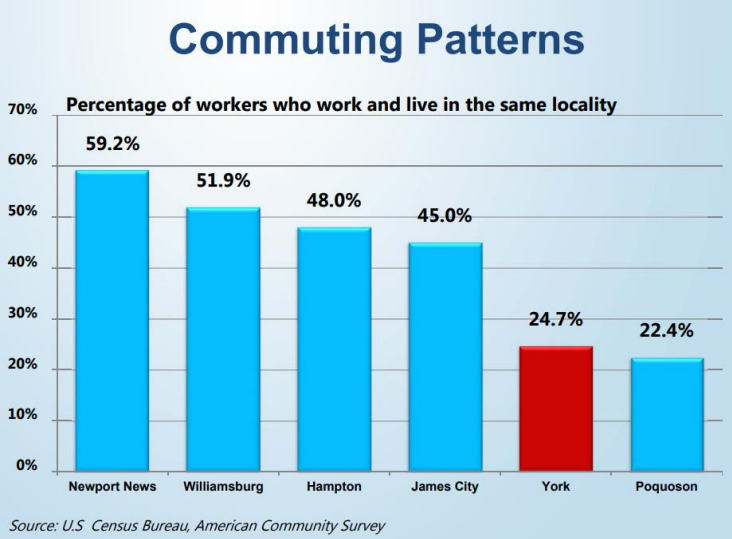
[5] https://www.yorkcounty.gov/DocumentCenter/View/34281/York-County-Demographics
[6] https://data.census.gov/profile/York_County,_Virginia?g=050XX00US51199
[7] https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/unemployment-rate-in-york-county-va-percent-m-nsa-fed-data.html
[8] https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/unemployment-rate-in-york-county-va-percent-m-nsa-fed-data.html
[9] https://www.yorkcounty.gov/3853/Workforce-Development
[10] http://jlarc.virginia.gov/landing-2021-affordable-housing-in-virginia.asp
[11] https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/yorkcountyvirginia/LFE305221#LFE305221
[12] https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/MEDLISPRI51199
[13] https://ceapodu.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Midyear-EFP-June-8-2022-FINAL.pdf
[14] http://jlarc.virginia.gov/landing-2021-affordable-housing-in-virginia.asp

Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2019-2023	$411,200
Median selected monthly owner costs –with a mortgage, 2019-2023	$2,028
Median selected monthly owner costs –without a mortgage, 2019-2023	$680
Median gross rent, 2019-2023	$1777

Preschools / Childcare / Staffing

For many parents, quality child care can be hard to find and even harder to afford, sometimes paying as much, or at times, even more than their mortgage or rent on child care[15]. This issue is affecting families across the board as high-quality childcare can be challenging to find and afford. According to FirstSpark, families can spend up to 20% of their income on childcare[16].

According to the United States Census Bureau's 2021 Estimates Table, most people commute to work between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.[17] The average daily commute for York County residents is 25 minutes.[18] Commuting patterns show that 24.7% of York County residents do not work in York County.[19]



According to Childcare Aware of Virginia, York County has the following childcare programs:

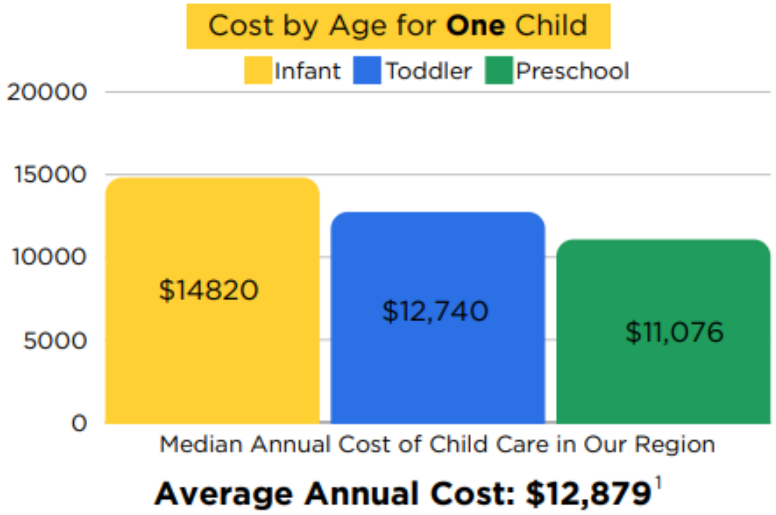
Child Care Centers	9
Preschools	10
Family Child Care Homes	3
School Age Only Programs	14
Total Child Care Programs	36

The Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission stated that of the Virginia children estimated to need child care, an estimated 990,000 have access to either formal or informal child care. This leaves a statewide shortage of at least 140,000 slots. Child care slots for infants and toddlers are especially needed, given the

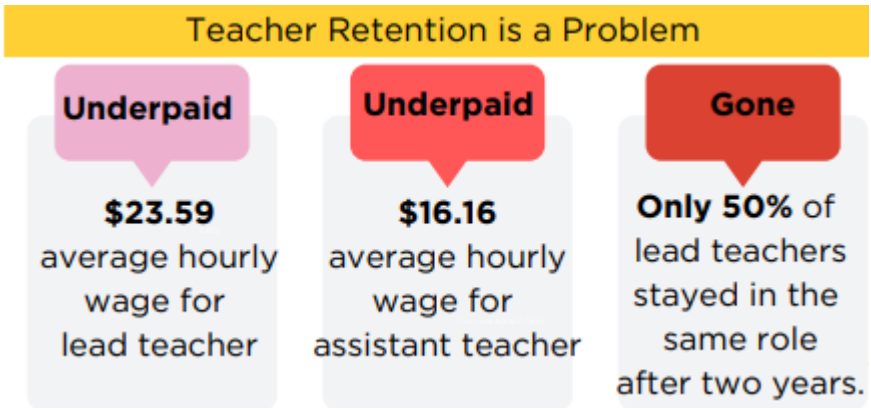
[15] https://www.firstsparkva.org/get-involved/understanding-the-need/
[16] https://www.firstsparkva.org/get-involved/understanding-the-need/
[17] https://data.census.gov/table?g=0500000US51199&tid=ACSDT1Y2021.B08302
[18] https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/yorkcountyvirginia/LFE305221#LFE305221
[19] https://www.yorkcounty.gov/DocumentCenter/View/34281/York-County-Demographics

shortage of at least 33,000 slots in the state. Most regions of the state need 3,000 or more infant-toddler slots to meet demand. [20]

Virginia's lack of affordable childcare services is a major barrier to self-sufficiency. Research literature indicates that without child care, parents may have to reduce their work hours, take lower-level or lower-paying jobs, or drop out of the labor force altogether. This reduces their household income, which can inhibit their ability to achieve or maintain self-sufficiency.



According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are 100,000 fewer childcare workers than before the coronavirus pandemic.[21] An assessment of the challenges within the childcare workforce was completed by FirstSpark. One of the core issues identified was Teacher Retention[22]:



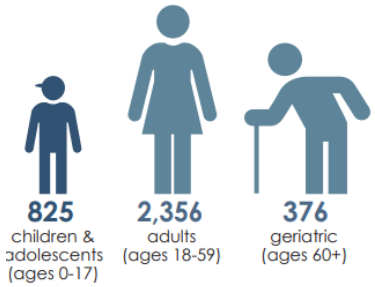
[20] https://jlarc.virginia.gov/landing-2023-virginias-self-sufficiency-programs-and-the-availability-and-affordability-of-child-care.asp
[21] https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/13/us/child-care-worker-shortage.html#:~:text=The%20shortage%20is%20contributing%20to,the%20Bureau%20of%20Labor%20Statistics.
[22] https://www.firstsparkva.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/CHILD-CARE-BUSINESS-1.pdf

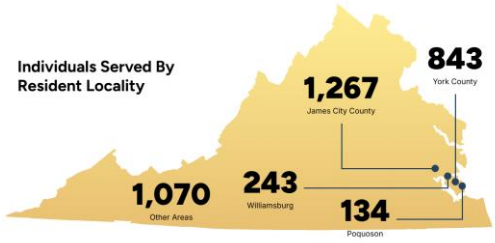
Health Outcomes Overview

2022 Health Outcomes[23]	York County
Childhood Mortality	40
Low Birth Rate	8%
Teen Births	6
Food Environment Index	9.3
Uninsured Children	3%
Adult Obesity	34%
Children in Single Parent Households	20%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	26%

York County scored 9.3 out of 10 on the food environment index, which includes access to healthy foods and food insecurity.[24] Feeding America rated York County at 8.9% Food Insecurity in 2022. The food insecure population was 6,230, with the average meal cost at $4.21 and the annual food budget shortfall at $4,931,000.[25]

Colonial Behavioral Health Reports that 3,557 community members received services in 2024.[26]





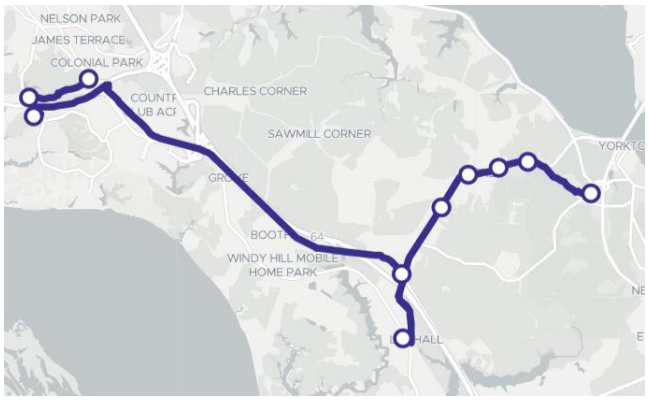
Transportation

York County, along with James City County and Williamsburg, is a Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) member. The HRTPO is the intergovernmental transportation planning agency for the Hampton Roads region. The three localities are also partners in the Williamsburg Area Transport system - a multi-jurisdictional bus system serving residents, visitors, and businesses in the greater Williamsburg area with routes stretching from Toano in northern James City County to Water Country USA

[23] https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/virginia/york?year=2022
[24] https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/virginia/york?year=2022
[25] https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2022/overall/virginia/county/york
[26] https://www.colonialbh.org/media/ilqbuh0j/cbh-fy2024-annual-report.pdf

in York County. In addition, the three localities participated in developing a Transit Vision Plan for Hampton Roads, which sets forth short- and long-term recommendations for improved transit service in the region. Recommendations for the Historic Triangle include commuter or higher speed rail along the CSX corridor between Newport News and the Lightfoot area, as well as express bus service linking the lower Peninsula with the Williamsburg area and along Route 17 from Oyster Point through Yorktown and to the Middle Peninsula. [27]

In 2016, the Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) began providing transportation from the Lackey area to the upper part of York County. [28]



York County School Division

The mission of York County School Division is to ensure that every student is valued, supported, and challenged through learning experiences that prepare them for a successful future.[29] The school division, comprised of 19 schools, provides rigorous and diverse programs that few school systems of similar size can match, such as Elementary Fine Arts and Math, Science and Technology Magnet schools, and the International Baccalaureate program. The York County School Division is also a Virginia Virtual School-approved multi-division online provider.

York County School Division offers three preschool options. Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) is for children with disabilities who require special education. Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) is designed to prepare at-risk children for successful entry into kindergarten. The Integrated Preschool Outreach Program (IPOP) is designed to serve children with and without disabilities in an inclusive preschool classroom and prepare them for success in kindergarten. The school division did not offer the IPOP program for the 2023-2024 school year.[30]

Serving Children with Special Needs

In compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and its federal and state regulations, students with disabilities, ages two to 21 inclusive, have the right to a free and appropriate public education. A student with a disability means a child evaluated, according to state regulations, determined to have disabilities and need special education and related services. [31] Children 3-5 years of age residing in York County are referred to the York County School District for evaluation and special education services.

[27] https://www.yorkcounty.gov/1390/Transportation
[28] https://live.goswift.ly/wata/route/11
[29] https://yorkcountyschools.org/aboutUs/schoolBoard/mission.aspx
[30] https://yorkcountyschools.org/parents/specialEducation/preschool.aspx
[31] https://yorkcountyschools.org/parents/specialEducation/services.aspx

Profile of York County Head Start

For over 38 years, the York County Head Start staff has worked hard to help children and their families build a foundation of success. The Office of Head Start (OHS) awarded funding to York County to provide Head Start services to 87 at-risk preschoolers and their families. 92 children and families were served during the 2023-2024 school year.[32] Demographic data from the Program Information Report for the 2023-2024[33] school year is below.

Population Served

	2023-2024
Total Number of Students	92
3-years old by 9/30	40
4-years old by 9/30	52
2nd year students	27
Dual Language Learners	17
Active Duty Military Families	17

York County is home to a high percentage of military families; therefore, due to military relocations, there have been numerous transitions into and out of the program during the school year. The program has maintained average daily attendance above 85% for the last ten years. York County Head Start has a diverse population. Recently, we have seen an increase in the Bi-racial/Multi-racial and Middle Eastern populations.

Race and ethnicity	2023-2024
a. American Indian or Alaska Native	0
b. Asian	2
c. Black or African American	32
d. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0
e. White	27
f. Bi-racial/Multi-racial	11
g. Other	1
Explain: 9 Hispanic Latino; 1 Middle Eastern	

Primary language of family at home:	
a. English	78
1. Of these, the number of children acquiring/learning another language in addition to English	3
b. Spanish	9
c. Native Central American, South American & Mexican Languages (e.g., Mixteco, Quichean.)	0
d. Caribbean Languages (e.g., Haitian-Creole, Patois)	0
e. Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages (e.g., Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali)	5
f. East Asian Languages (e.g., Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog)	0
g. Native North American/Alaska Native Languages	0
h. Pacific Island Languages (e.g., Palauan, Fijian)	0
i. European & Slavic Languages (e.g., German, French, Italian, Croatian, Yiddish, Portuguese, Russian)	0
j. African Languages (e.g., Swahili, Wolof)	0

[32] https://www.yorkcounty.gov/2024/Annual-Report

[33] ChildPlus PIR 2023-2024

k. American Sign Language	0
l. Other (e.g., American Sign Language)	0
m. Unspecified (language is not known or parents declined identifying the home language)	0

Family Composition

2023-2024 School Year	2023-2024
Two-parent Families	34
Mother only	49
Father only	4
Grandparents	0
Foster Parent	2

Recruitment and Eligibility

Family Service staff recruits income-eligible families and children, with and without disabilities, throughout the County of York. Intake interviews are conducted with each family to assist them with completing the application and obtaining the necessary verification documents. All participants must reside in York County to receive services.

	2023-2024	
Eligibility	# of Children	Percentage
Income Below Poverty Level	20	22%
Income 101 < 130% of Poverty Level	8	9%
Over Income	7	8%
Homeless	4	4%
Receiving Public Assistance	50	54%
Foster Children	3	3%

A memorandum of understanding between York County Public Schools and York County Head Start program was written and implemented by staff from each Division to provide more efficient intake procedures for York County children and families. The collaborative agreement is reviewed annually, and necessary changes are made, which helps to facilitate a central point of entry into York County preschool programs and dual enrollment into both programs when possible.

The Head Start Program and York County Public Schools use a single eligibility application, which helps families with all preschool options. The joint application is located on the County and School Division's Preschool websites. Parents can access both websites to find one application. The application can be completed online or printed and taken to the Children and Family Services or York County School Board office.

The Family Services Staff works toward successful implementation and compliance with all Enrollment Recruitment Selection Eligibility and Attendance (ERSEA) mandates. Staff are provided training opportunities emphasizing enrollment/eligibility requirements and changes to the agency intake procedures. Income documentation is retained to ensure family income classification and goes through two separate reviews and determinations. Verification documentation is also collected on TANF, foster care and

homeless status, age eligibility, and residency verification of applicants/proof of residency forms/declaration.

Over the past years, recruiting income-eligible children for the Griffin-Yeates Center has become increasingly challenging. The majority of the children on the waiting list are above 101% of the poverty guideline, making it increasingly more challenging to serve children at or below the poverty level and in the most need. The number of children with IEPs has increased, and most of these children are over-income, utilizing all of the over-income slots.

Head Start Families Receiving Financial Assistance/Services

Starting in the 2023-2024 program year, the Office of Head Start added receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to interpreting "public assistance" when determining Head Start eligibility. This policy change allows Head Start programs to reach families better, minimize the burden on families seeking public assistance, and coordinate benefit programs so that families eligible for one program can more easily participate in other services they qualify for. [34]

In addition to financial assistance, Head Start parents often require assistance and training resources in completing professional resumes, employment applications, interviewing skills, job readiness, and transportation during their job searches.

Families Receiving Assistance	2023-2024
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	5
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	7
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	17
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	49

Head Start Family Employment for the 2023-2024 School Year

Number of Parents Employed	**114**
Types of Employment	
Full-Time Training	**10**
Full Time	**71**
Part-Time Training	**1**
Part-Time	**30**
Retired or Disabled	**1**
Seasonally Employed	**1**

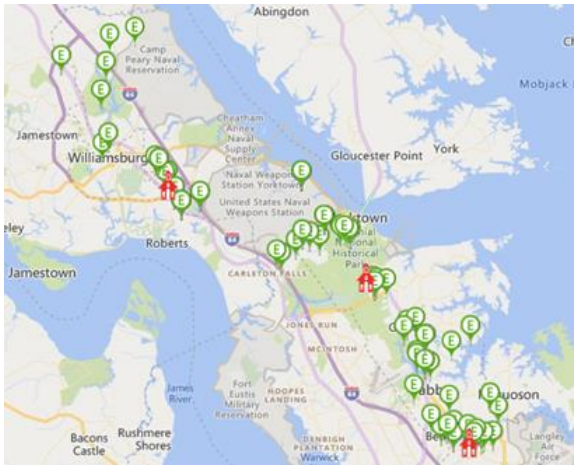
Housing and Location

Head Start families reside in area apartment complexes, mobile home communities, rental homes, and private homes. Many of our families live in military housing. During the 2023-2024 program year, 4 of our families were homeless. York County Head Start has a working relationship with The Natasha House, a shelter for women and their children. The Natasha House provides safety, shelter, nutritional and physical needs, and unconditional support through in-house and outreach programs for emotional wholeness, educational opportunities and lessons, and restorative healing to reach successful independence. [35]

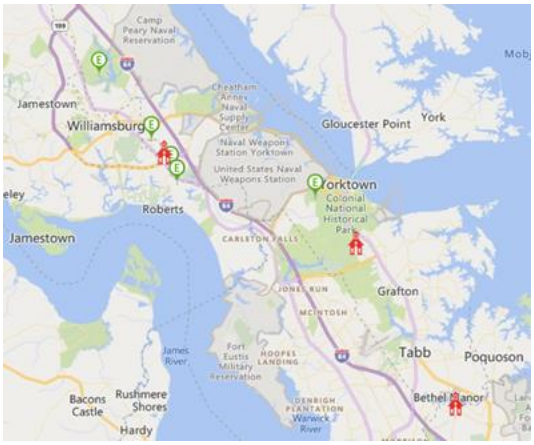
ChildPlus Maps of Enrolled Students at York County Children & Family Services

[34] https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/blog/expanding-head-start-services-snap-recipients
[35] https://www.natashahouse.org/who-we-serve

Head Start Students



After Care Students



York County Children & Family Services offers After Care to Griffin-Yeates Center students only due to the level of family need, site support, and classroom space. Leadership has questioned the need for extended hours at Bethel Manor and Yorktown locations.

Transportation

The American Community Survey for 2022 shows that out of 681 people below the poverty level, 34% carpool to work. York County Head Start provides limited transportation to students attending the Griffin-Yeates Center. Due to the high cost of gas, the Head Start program is spending more to provide transportation to students with transportation needs; routes are limited. Students attending the Bethel Manor and Yorktown centers are parent transport, which is sometimes a challenge for families with only one vehicle. Parents have also indicated that fuel prices can be a challenge for them.

Transportation was provided to 27 Griffin-Yeates/Yorktown students during the 2023-2024 school year. Transportation services were provided to Yorktown students when the Yorktown classroom was displaced due to the HVAC unit being repaired. York County Head Start currently provides transportation for 16 of the 40 students enrolled at the Griffin-Yeates center.

Staffing

Staffing has been a struggle for the 2023-2024 school year due to salary expectations. Currently, York County Head Start has 9 teachers with the following degree credentials:

Masters	1
Bachelors	3
Associates	5

Nutrition

York County Head Start has an established contract with a local nutritionist, who provides a qualified nutritionist or registered dietician who reviews the standard menus and substitutions for children with

allergies, disabilities, or other food restrictions. York County Head Start extended its participation with the Peninsula Food Bank to include a School Produce Market to further address food insecurities.[36]

Head Start families benefit from the School Produce Market, which is designed to use the safe and stable environment of schools to increase their access to fresh, healthy food and produce through a monthly farmer's market style distribution. The Head Start program has also continued to participate in the Food Bank's Backpack Program, which sends children home each week with food for the weekend. The backpacks are filled and distributed each week with the assistance of various volunteers at the Food Bank and volunteers in the Head Start program.

Health Statistics

	2023-2024
Total Number of Children	92
with health insurance	91
with a medical home	92
up-to-date with preventative health care	91
with ADHD	0
with asthma	10
with vision problems	8
with life-threatening allergies	8
underweight	10
overweight	9
obese	12
with a dental home	92
completed dental preventative care	92
referred for evaluation to determine eligibility under IDEA	8

Efforts are made to ensure that each family obtains a "medical home" and that all children are insured. The Health Services Staff and the Family Services Specialists assist families by making necessary appointments, providing transportation, and helping families understand what is required.

The Health Services Specialist tracks all children to ensure they are up-to-date on a schedule of well-child care utilized by the Virginia Medicaid agency's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program. Immunizations are tracked to ensure that all children are current, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations.

Health Services Staff and Family Services Staff assist families in securing dental homes and exams, and staff ensures that all children receive any necessary treatment. The ongoing challenge that we encounter is ensuring children enrolled in the program receive dental screenings within ninety days of their enrollment date. Parents often do not see the value of ongoing dental health for preschool children or have difficulty obtaining dental exams. The difficulty was related to a lack of insurance or funds for co-payments. Many of our children have military medical insurance, and some do not have the dental portion/coverage. It is not easy to find providers that take the insurance if they do have the dental portion.

[36] https://hrfoodbank.org/what-we-do/school-programs/

York County Head Start has partnered with Olde Towne Medical Center to provide dental services. Additionally, we follow up with families to determine their health needs and concerns so we can assist and provide them with the necessary resources.

Another ongoing challenge York County Head Start faces is ensuring each child has the required lead lab tests. Although lead testing is listed on the school physical entrance form, some physicians are not testing the children or putting the results onto the physical form.

When all options have been exhausted, York County Head Start will pay for health and dental services needed for children enrolled in the program. The goal of this program is to educate and better prepare Head Start families so they can adequately manage the health care needs of their children by providing them with resources and education on preventative care.

Mental Health

For the 2023-2024 program year, York County Head Start partnered with Abundant Life Partners to provide behavioral/emotional support for children who need additional support. York County Head Start's Early Childhood Intervention Specialist assisted staff in the implementation of the Conscious Discipline Curriculum. Conscious Discipline is a comprehensive classroom management program and a social-emotional curriculum which is based on current brain research, child development information, and developmentally appropriate practices. [37]

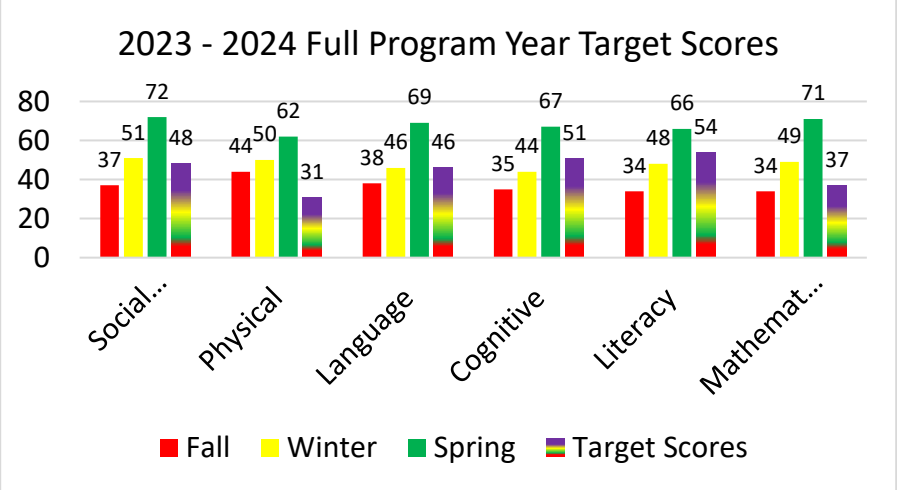
Education

The Education & Disabilities Coordinator tracks all children to ensure they receive the best early educational experience.

Assessments - Various tools assess York County's Head Start children throughout the school year. Within the first 45 days of enrollment, each child is screened using the Brigance Preschool Screen II. The purpose of the Brigance screen is to obtain a broad sampling of the child's skills and behaviors to help evaluate the child's needs in the program. This screen helps identify if a child may need to be referred to the school district for a more comprehensive evaluation to determine the existence of a disability, determine the proper placement with a group of children, and assist the teacher in planning for the individual child. The teacher conducts ongoing observations of each child and collects anecdotal notes and work samples. This information is entered into Teaching Strategies Gold, which is used to assess children on a developmental continuum at three checkpoints throughout the year.

The overall program goal for the 2023-2024 program year was for 85% of children to meet or exceed the widely held expectations for their age, as established by the Teaching Strategies Gold developmental assessment. Children's developmental skills are assessed at three checkpoints each school year (e.g., Fall, Winter, and Spring). Below is an analysis of the average target scores of all children that met or exceeded the widely held expectations for their age for the three checkpoint periods. Based on the outcomes of aggregated data, York County Head Start children exceeded target scores in all areas. Additionally, children made gains in all areas of development from the first checkpoint at the beginning of the school year to the last checkpoint at the end.

[37] https://www.elcslc.org/coalition-initiatives/conscious-discipline-initiative/



Disabilities

The Education & Disabilities Coordinator collaborates with Head Start education staff and the York County School Division to ensure children are receiving all the services needed for educational success. Children enrolled in York County Head Start with disabilities have Individual Education Plans (IEP) for developmental and Speech/Language delays. Children who are identified as needing more extensive services such as occupational and physical therapy may be dually enrolled in the Head Start Program and receive specialized services in self-contained classrooms in the public school system. The education and family services staff have received extensive training in disabilities and how to guide parents concerning their children's rights.

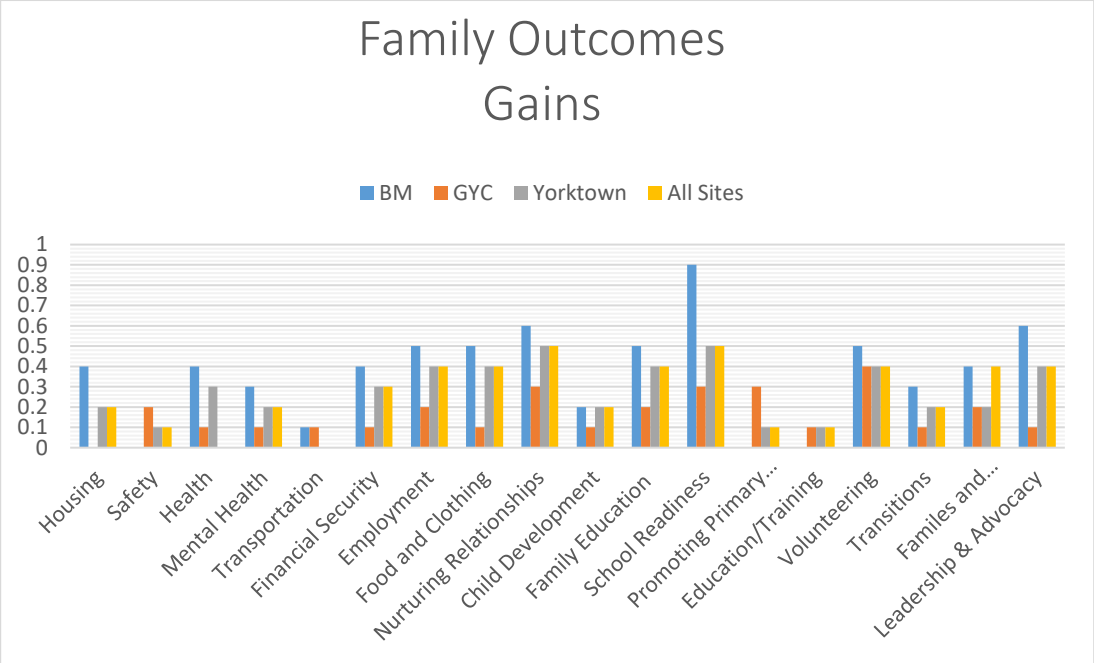
Head Start parents are often overwhelmed with the process of having their child evaluated by the school system for a disability and need reassurance as well as education about the process. Head Start staff provides support for each family that goes through this process. The administrators for the Head Start Program and the York County Public Schools have developed a very successful working relationship to ensure the families' needs are met, and children with special needs receive the finest support services possible. As a result of this relationship, our Head Start program has successfully maintained those children identified with special needs and, at times, has been able to dually enroll those children in both Head Start and the public school system to receive additional support and services.

On any given year, the Head Start program will have a minimum of 10% of children enrolled with a diagnosed disability. In 2023-2024, the program served 14 Head Start children with IEPs (Individualized Education Program).

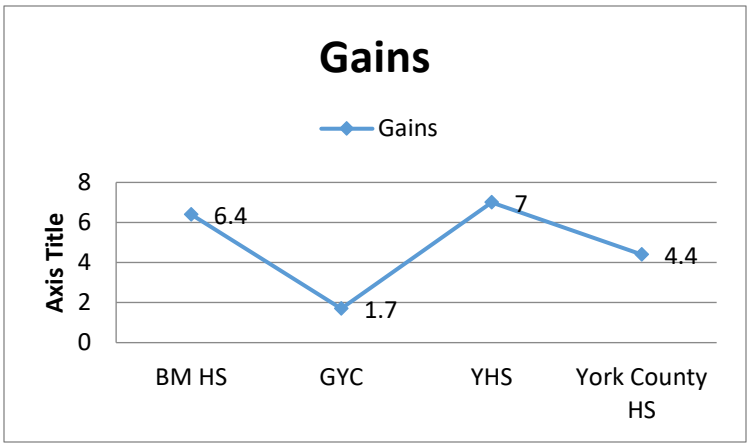
Family Services

Family Service Specialists partners with families to establish goals, develop action steps, and monitor progress. They also offer parent training/activities and assist families in securing resources (i.e., continuing education, social services, employment, housing, etc.

Areas Assessed to determine 2023-2024 Family Outcomes



The total average gain in all assessed areas of need for York County Head Start families was Δ 1.3.



Male Involvement

Number of father figures engaged in the following activities during the program year (2023-2024)	
Family Assessment	10
Family Goal Setting	7
Involvement in child's Head Start child development experiences (home visits, parent-teacher conferences, volunteering, etc.)	40
Parenting education workshops	12

York County Community Assessment Implications

2024-2025

- York County's Hispanic-origin population has increased by 56.3%% in the past ten years. To effectively recruit Hispanic families for our Head Start program, we focus on culturally responsive outreach strategies, including hiring/recruiting bilingual staff, partnering with community organizations, and utilizing Spanish language materials. We also translate all program materials including applications, brochures and website content, into Spanish.

- 2019-2023 Census Data reflects that 10.8% of York County's population speaks languages other than English at home. This data reflects the program's continued need to utilize translation services and to have programming that is culturally responsive to our community.

- Over 8% of York County is at or below the poverty level. Feeding America rated York County at 8.9% Food Insecurity in 2022. The continuation of our partnership with the Foodbank is a strength of our program and affirms our continued need for offering families food resources.

- York County's median value of owner-occupied homes from 2019-2023 was $411,200. The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Economic Data reports that the median listing price for York County homes was $464,977 as of November 2024. Housing in York County is not affordable to low-income families.

- FY22 Annual Report completed by York-Poquoson DSS demonstrates that there were substantial families that received SNAP, Medicaid, and Energy Assistance. This demonstrates that there are many families who are at or below the poverty levels and may need support in accessing Head Start and additional resources. The increased number of families accessing DSS benefits further supports our continued partnership with the organization and how we need to intensify our relationship to provide wrap-around services to families.

- According to Trading Economics, York County's unemployment rate as of October 2024 was at 2.70%. This demonstrates the available employment opportunities in York County.

- York County is the home to several large and important military facilities, the Naval Weapons Station Yorktown/Cheatham Annex Supply Complex and Camp Peary Seabee Training Base. As well as our close neighbors Joint Forces Command Langley and Ft. Eustis Military Bases. The armed forces and military families significantly influence the county, particularly in the lower end of the county, and have a considerable influence on Head Start enrollment.

- The Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission reported that of the estimated number of children in Virginia in need of child care, 900,000 have access to formal or informal child care. This leaves a statewide shortage of at least 140,000 slots. As of December 2024, there are only nine (9) regulated/licensed childcare centers, ten (10) preschools, and four (3) family day homes. High-quality childcare continues to be a demonstrated need for our service area and affirms the need for Head Start.

- Teacher Retention is identified as one of the challenges families encounter with the accessibility to quality child care. Exploring opportunities for wage increases and incentives to support Educators should be considered for our program. Connecting with our area providers such as William and

Mary, Christopher Newport, and Virginia Peninsula Community College can birth professional development opportunities for our Educators and staff.

- The Department of Health and Human Services defines affordable child care as 7% of a family's income. Currently, in the Hampton Roads areas-families are spending 17% of their household income on child care[38]. York County Head Start continues to connect families with the Childcare Subsidy program through York-Poquoson DSS.

- During the 2023-2024 school year the total number of families accepted into the program, 53% of them were eligible for the program due to receiving SNAP. Families enrolled are provided comprehensive services that includes connecting them to community resources, in addition to our Educational and Health services. In reviewing the data, we can see the continued need for our partnership with the Foodbank and encourages the program to seek out other nutritional resources that can provide our students and their families with nutritional education and food access information. The 2023-2024 school year showed 100% of the students had a dental home.

- Children referred for evaluation to determine eligibility under IDEA (The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.) During the 2023-2024 school year 15% of the enrolled students were referred for evaluation. In reviewing the data, this supports are continued need for our partnership with our LEA, York County School Division. Seeing the number of students referred for evaluation also encourages the program to seek out new and innovative ways to strengthen our partnership with YCSD.

[38] https://www.firstsparkva.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/CHILD-CARE-BUSINESS-1.pdf

Resources

https://www.census.gov

https://www.yorkcounty.gov

http://www.countyhealthrankings.org

https://fred.stlouisfed.org

http://jlarc.virginia.gov

https://ceapodu.com

https://affordablehousingonline.com

https://www.childcareaware.org

https://www.dss.virginia.gov

https://www.countyhealthrankings.org

https://www.nytimes.com

https://nhsa.org

https://map.feedingamerica.org

https://www.firstsparkva.org

https://www.colonialbh.org

https://www.yorkcounty.gov/1390/Transportation

https://tradingeconomics.com

https://live.goswift.ly/wata/route/11

https://yorkcountyschools.org

ChildPlus.com

https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov

https://www.natashahouse.org

https://hrfoodbank.org

https://www.elcslc.org