



Measuring the Health of the Historic Triangle

databrief

What do available health data tell us about the health of the Historic Triangle?

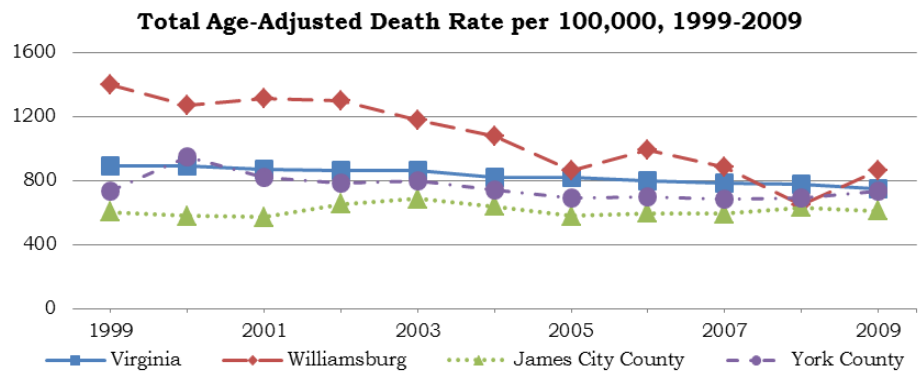
1. The overall population of the Historic Triangle is healthier than the population of Virginia, in terms of premature death and low birthweight rates. But, there are regional differences within the Historic Triangle.

Historic Triangle (HT) Premature Death and Low Birthweight Rates, 2012

Area	Population Share of HT	Premature Death Rate	Low Birthweight, %
Williamsburg	9.6%	10,893	11.0%
James City County	45.7%	5,269	6.8%
York County	44.7%	4,735	7.3%
Virginia	n.a.	6,729	8.3%
Historic Triangle Weighted Average		5,570	7.4%
Number of Virginia localities (out of 131) performing better than the HT		9	41

Sources: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, *County Health Rankings, 2012* report; 2010 Census data.

2. Between 1999 and 2009, all-cause mortality rates in Williamsburg declined, suggesting improvements in population health. James City County and York County had rates below the state of Virginia.



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

3. The populations of the Historic Triangle localities have relatively high levels of access to health care and a relatively high quality of health care compared to the state of Virginia.

Clinical Care Measures, 2012

	Williamsburg	James City County	York County	Virginia
Uninsured, %	12%	10%	9%	14%
Primary care physicians	n.a.	491:1	569:1	806:1
Preventable hospital stays	45	46	47	60
Diabetic screening, %	87%	88%	85%	84%
Mammography screening, %	79%	78%	75%	67%

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, *County Health Rankings, 2012* report.

This brief summarizes key findings from: "Health Outcomes and Health Determinants in the Historic Triangle." A report prepared for the Williamsburg Community Health Foundation.



4. Differences in socioeconomic status, by locality, are very likely to explain some of the differences in health outcomes across localities within the Historic Triangle. Compared to James City County and York County, Williamsburg performs worse, in terms of unemployment, crime, and children living in poverty.

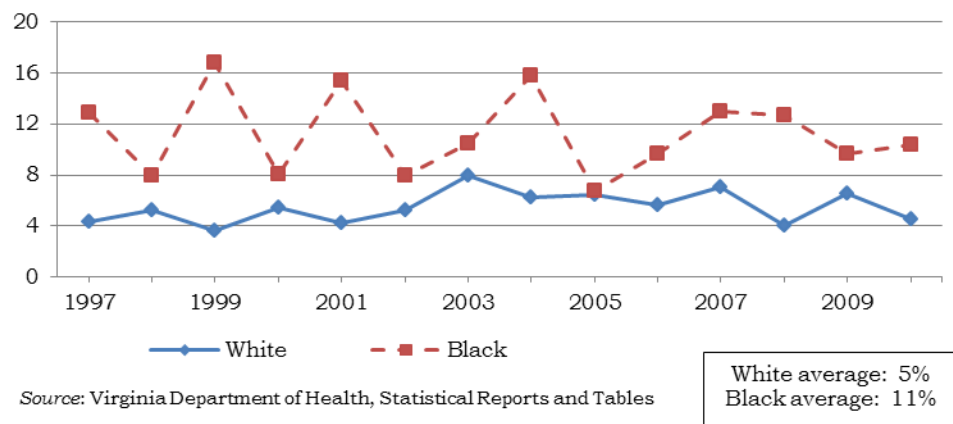
Social & Economic Measures, 2012

	Williamsburg	James City County	York County	Virginia
High school graduation, %	87%	87%	94%	87%
Some college, %	76%	72%	81%	65%
Unemployment, %	15%	6%	6%	7%
Children living in poverty, %	23%	10%	7%	15%
Inadequate social support, %	n.a.	10%	11%	18%
Children in single-parent households, %	41%	24%	20%	29%
Violent crime rate	247	124	122	252

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, *County Health Rankings, 2012* report.

5. Health data for the population as a whole may mask important differences, by race or socioeconomic status, in the Historic Triangle localities. For example, in James City County, over the period 1997-2010, the average low birthweight rate in the black population was twice the average low birthweight rate in the white population.

James City County, Low Weight Live Births as a Percentage of Total Births, by Race, 1997-2010



Source: Virginia Department of Health, Statistical Reports and Tables

6. The role of health risk factors in explaining differences in the health outcomes across the localities of the Historic Triangle is unclear. Data on some health risk factors, like smoking and excess alcohol consumption, and data by race or socioeconomic status, are not current or are unavailable. Health risk factors, that are available for all three localities, obesity and physical inactivity, are very similar across Historic Triangle localities. Similar rates are unlikely to explain differences in health outcomes.

Note: a ‘Guide to Community Health Data in Virginia’ is available as a supplement to this brief.

Sources of data:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, various years. Compressed Mortality File. Available at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/cmfi-icd10.html>.

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. 2012. *County Health Rankings, 2012*. Available at <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/#app/virginia/2012/compare-counties/830+095+199>.

U.S. Census Bureau. 2010. *Census 2010 Summary Files*. Available at <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Virginia Department of Health, various years (b). *Resident Low Weight Live Births And Very Low Weight Births By Race With Percents Of Resident Total Live Births By Planning District And City Or County, Virginia*. Available at www.vdh.state.va.us/HealthStats/stats.htm.

