

# Surry County



# YOUTH AND FAMILIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT & RESOURCE INVENTORY

June 2007

Prepared by:  
**Southpoint Social Strategies, LLC**



Southpoint Social Strategies  
~Helping nonprofits and their communities reach their goals~

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**SURRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Honorable John M. Seward, Chairman  
Honorable Judy S. Lyttle, Vice-Chair  
Honorable Reginald O. Harrison  
Honorable M. Sherlock Holmes  
Honorable Timothy L. Jones

**SURRY COUNTY SPONSORING AGENCIES**

Surry County Public School System  
Surry County Department of Social Services  
Surry County Office on Youth  
Surry County Department of Health  
Surry County Sheriff's Department  
District 19, Community Services Board-Surry Mental Health Department  
Sixth District Court Services Unit

**COMMUNITY POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Mr. Tyrone Franklin, County Administrator and CPMT Chair  
Mr. Daniel Baltimore, Private Provider Representative  
Mr. Lloyd Hamlin, Superintendent  
Mrs. Beatrice Johns, Public Health Nurse  
Ms. Kathy Egelund, LCSW D19 Community Service Board, Clinic Manager, Surry Clinic  
Mrs. Valerie Pierce, Director of Social Services  
Mr. Avon Miles, Sixth District Court Services Unit  
Ms. Aundrea Hamrick, Parent Representative  
Mrs. Sopenia H. Pierce, Office on Youth

**SURRY COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES CITIZEN BOARD 2006-2007**

Mr. Anthony Washington, Sr., Chair (Claremont)  
Mrs. Gwendolyn J. Brown, Co Chair (Dendron)  
Mrs. Lucy Butler (Bacons Castle)  
Mr. Jessie Byrd (Carsley)  
Mrs. Cathy Harrison (Surry)  
Mr. Ray Rowland (At-large)  
Mrs. Octavia Williams (At-large)  
Mr. Roy King, Jr. (High School)  
Miss Aaliyah Lambert (Middle School)

**CONSULTANT INFORMATION:**

The 2007 Surry County Needs Assessment and Resources Inventory was prepared and compiled by Elizabeth Schmidt, President, Southpoint Social Strategies, LLC. For more information: <http://www.southpointsocialstrategies.com>.



## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT:**

We would like to extend a special thanks to the individuals and organizations who took the time to provide information, data, and feedback for this Needs Assessment and Resource Inventory. In particular, we thank those who participated in the focus groups and the Opinionated People Party, who completed questionnaires and surveys, who participated in interviews, and who provided feedback on interim reports and earlier versions of this assessment.

## **FUNDING:**

The Surry County Needs Assessment was funded by a grant from the Governor's Office of Substance Abuse Prevention with the Governor's portion of funds from the United States Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 2001, Title IV, part A of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number is 84-186.



"The Countrie it selfe, I must  
confesse is a very pleasant  
land,  
rich in commodities;  
and fertile in soyle .. ."

Samuel Argall, ca. 1609

# Surry County

## County Administrator's Office

P. O. Box 65  
45 School Street  
Surry, Virginia 23883

TYRONE W. FRANKLIN  
County Administrator  
Telephone (757) 294-5271  
Fax: (757) 294-5204  
Email: [twfranklin@co.surry.state.va.us](mailto:twfranklin@co.surry.state.va.us)

To: All Interested Parties

Re: Surry County Youth and Families

From: Tyrone W. Franklin  
Tyrone W. Franklin  
Surry County Administrator

Date: June 30, 2007

Subject: 2007 Comprehensive Youth and Families Needs Assessment,  
Six-Year Plan and Resource Inventory of Services

During the June 21, 2007 meeting of the Surry County Board of Supervisors, the members unanimously voted to approve the "2007 Comprehensive Youth and Families Needs Assessment and Six Year Plan along with a Resource Inventory of Services" .

It is with great pleasure that we, the members of the Community Policy and Management Team and the Youth Services Citizen Board, present this document to the community. This project is the result of months of planning, developing and refining of goals, objectives, timeframes, and strategies designed to prevent risk factors and increase protective factors aimed at enhancing the well-being of the children, youth, and their families of Surry County.

Using key data, the plan is designed to guide Surry County in our development of programs and services for the next six years. It aims to create a shared vision, to set the model for comprehensive prevention planning at the county level that stress the use of specific developmental strategies, and to encourage greater collaboration between the public and private sectors.

We invite your comments and suggestions about this plan and hope that the format provided will be user friendly to meet your needs. For further information, contact the Surry County Office on Youth at 757- 294-5278.

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Surry Office on Youth Needs Assessment 2007  
Prepared by Southpoint Social Strategies

***"Surry is Something Special"***



## I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

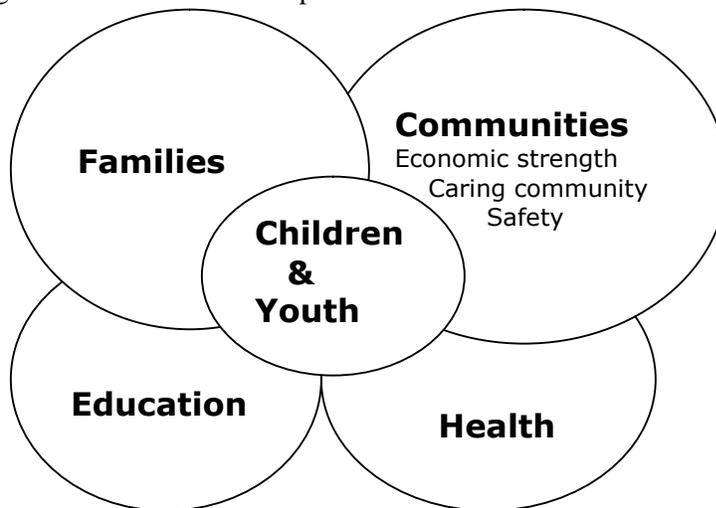
Surry County, Virginia, is home to approximately 7,100 people in southeastern Virginia, of whom close to 1,600 are under the age of 18. The county has several agencies devoted to youth development, many of which participate in the Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT). The CPMT provides planning and oversight for youth needs within Surry County. It manages funding provided by the local, state, and federal government for youth needs, and it coordinates long-range, community-wide planning for developing sufficient resources and services to meet the needs of the county's children and families.

In 2006, the Surry County CPMT received a grant from the Governor's Office on Substance Abuse Prevention under the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to conduct this needs assessment and resource inventory during the first half of 2007. The grant was designed to allow the community to identify gaps in services and the resources available to bridge these gaps, using archival data, focus groups, interviews, and surveys. After compiling the data, the CPMT was asked to identify the risk and protective factors that the data reflected, set priorities, plan, and coordinate an array of community prevention goals. The Surry County Office on Youth has acted as the lead agency for this project.

This document is the 2007 Surry County Needs Assessment and Resource Directory. It begins with an introduction, which outlines the assessment, describes its methodology, explains the concepts of risk and protective factors, and sets forth the vision statement for the plan. The assessment then sets forth the demographic and trend data that were compiled for this report, which covered the topics of families, education, health, economic strength, leisure activities in a caring community, and safety within the community. Each of these topics can have an effect on youth development. As America's Promise, a national organization devoted to youth development, has stated,

“Research affirms what generations of Americans have regarded as common sense wisdom: To become successful adults who contribute to society, children need the compounded effect of basic, essential resources in their lives. Parents are the first and most important providers of these developmental resources. But they are far from the only ones. Other adults, schools, and communities (among others) all have key roles to play.”<sup>1</sup>

The following diagram illustrates this concept.



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<sup>1</sup> *America's Promise, Every Child, Every Promise: Turning Failure into Action*, <http://www.americaspromise.org>.



The data reveal certain needs and strengths, both of which are discussed in the third section of the assessment, along with specific recommendations. The final section sets forth a six-year plan, with goals, objectives, strategies, designation of responsibility, a time line, and measures of success.

Over the next six years, Surry County will work toward achieving the following six goals:

1. Create a shared vision and a common language for the youth organizations, agencies, and individuals involved with youth in Surry County through communication, education, coordination, and consistent evaluation.
2. Provide parents, caregivers, educators, mentors, and the youth themselves with the knowledge, skills, opportunities, and services that will allow Surry County's youth to obtain the developmental assets and protective factors necessary to become productive adults.
3. Involve young people in constructive community activities that encourage good citizenship.
4. Encourage healthy behaviors among Surry County youth by improving access to health care and recreational opportunities, inspiring the adult population to provide better role models for healthy behavior, and providing effective health education.
5. Provide educational opportunities that allow young children to enter school ready to succeed and that prepare older youth for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
6. Encourage economic growth that maintains the county's quality of life and provides affordable housing so that Surry County's youth have an economically secure environment in which to grow up.

## METHODOLOGY

This needs assessment combines information learned from two focus groups of community leaders, a community forum directed at both adults and youth, interviews with key leaders, a resource survey sent to the governmental and civic groups active in youth development in Surry County, and a survey distributed throughout the county. It also incorporates archival data that various governmental and civic organizations make available to the public.<sup>2</sup>

The initial focus groups, held on November 27 and December 6, 2006, brought together the members of the Community Policy and Management Team, as well as several religious and civic leaders. The focus groups expressed their hopes and concerns for Surry County, named resources in the county, and suggested ways to find additional data for the assessment. The participants also filled out a questionnaire. The community forum followed a similar format. For part of the discussion, the youth and adults held separate conversations, and the youth participants completed a questionnaire about their hopes and concerns for the community. Summaries of those conversations and the results of the questionnaires can be found in Appendix D.

In January 2007, the Office on Youth sent a survey to the organizations that had been included in the 2002 Surry County Youth Resource Directory, asking them to update their information. Forty-one organizations responded. Their responses can be found in Appendix F. The author of this assessment used the information gleaned from the 2002 Youth Resources Directory, the responses to the 2007 Resources Survey, the suggestions offered at the focus groups and community forum, and research about Surry County that can be found on the Internet to create Appendix E: Surry County Resources Inventory. The county will be able to draw on these resources as it implements the recommendations of this assessment and works to improve the services for youth in the county.

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<sup>2</sup> A list of the resources used for this assessment can be found in the Bibliography, Part V, *infra*.

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With regard to archival data, the author examined federal, state and local reports that provide “official” data that are consistently reported for cities and counties throughout Virginia. Whenever possible, the author included statistics that could be translated as percentages or rates per 1,000 or 100,000 people, because such calculations are easier to use for comparisons than raw numbers. In Surry County, however, the population is small enough that a small change in the numbers can result in a large change in percentages or rates. Thus, this report also includes the actual numbers in many instances.

For the most part, the text of this assessment summarizes the data, rounds out the numbers, and/or presents charts in order to make the text more readable. The exact numbers behind the data and the sources of that data are found in the data sources for each topic in Appendix A. Some readers may prefer to concentrate on the text; others the appendix, and still others may want to move back and forth between the two. (If the assessment is placed on the Internet, hyperlinks can simplify the process of moving between the two.)

## **INTRODUCTION TO RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS FRAMEWORK**

This Needs Assessment uses a *risk and protective factors framework* to focus the report. Research over the past decade has identified factors that either place youth at risk for substance abuse and other problems or helps protect them from these problems. A *risk factor* is an attitude, behavior, belief, situation, or action that may put a group, organization, individual or community at risk for alcohol and drug problems. A *protective factor* has the reverse effect. It is an attitude, behavior, belief, situation, or action that builds resilience in a group, individual, or community and helps protect against substance abuse and other anti-social behavior.<sup>3</sup>

Risk and protective factors are important at all stages of children’s lives. An at-risk toddler who receives appropriate family, school, health care, and community intervention, is receiving protection against the early risks he or she faces. If not addressed, however, these risks are likely to multiply, leading to aggressive behavior and social difficulties as a young child, and ultimately to academic failure, difficulty holding a job, and/or drug and alcohol abuse. At some points in a child’s life, certain factors may be more important than others. During the teen years, for example, peer influence is more important than it is during early childhood. At any point during the child’s formative years, however, an infusion of protective factors can help change the balance so that protective factors outweigh risk factors.

Six domains of factors are important: the individual, the family, peers, the school, the local community, and the larger society or environment. Within each of these domains are several factors. For example, family risk factors include family conflict and domestic violence, poor supervision, and unrealistic expectations for development. Family protective factors include positive bonding among family members, high degrees of warmth in parenting, and clear and consistent expectations.

A community attempting to build on its resources to prevent substance abuse should attempt to address known risk factors at the appropriate developmental stage and as early as possible. It should address those risk factors that are most prevalent in the community and that have the largest impact on youth. The Center for Substance Abuse Protection maintains a database of research-based programs that have proven successful in reducing the risk for substance abuse among young people. Some of these programs, such as “Protecting You, Protecting Me” and “Guiding Good Choices” are already in use in Surry County.

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<sup>3</sup> This discussion is adapted from Atkinson, Anne E., *Planning for Results: The Complete Guide for Planning and Evaluating Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Programs* (Greystone Publishers, 2003). It also builds on research from other sources, which are identified in the Bibliography, Part V, *infra*.

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This Needs Assessment uses this risk and protective factors framework to organize the discussion. Each topic in the Demographics and Trends section—families, education, health, public safety, and caring community—begins with a chart that lists risks and protective factors related to that topic. The report then identifies data that can help determine which risk and protective factors are influencing youth behavior in Surry County. The Needs, Strengths and Recommendations section draws conclusions from the data, and the Six Year Plan maps out a strategy for increasing Surry County’s protective factors while decreasing the risk factors over the next few years.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

In an attempt to assist the CPMT with shaping the future for the youth and families of the county, Southpoint Social Strategies, LLC led the team in formulating a statement that captured a “unified vision”. Having a vision statement creates a sense of direction and helps agencies, organizations, faith-based groups and other youth workers to all have the same concepts in mind while promoting positive youth development.

The CPMT decided on the following vision that will be used by the entire county to create “a sense of unity and a foundation for outcomes” for Surry County’s youth and families.

*Vision Statement - “Surry County strives to improve the quality of life of our youth and families by encouraging economic growth, improving its citizens' health, and achieving educational excellence.”*

## **II. DEMOGRAPHICS AND TRENDS**

### **A. SURRY COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS**

In 2006, Surry County’s population was 7,119, up from 6,145 in 1990 and 6,829 in 2000. The county grew 11% between 1990 and 2000 and another 4% between 2000 and 2006. The county’s population is projected to be 8,156 by 2030. Thus, Surry County’s population continues to grow, but at a slower pace than it did between 1990 and 2000. Moreover, it is growing at a slower rate than the state of Virginia or the United States.

Surry County’s population is aging. Between 2001 and 2005, the population of children under 18 declined from 1,692 to 1,589, even though the total population was increasing. Enrollment in Surry County Schools is expected to decline through the 2010-2011 school year.

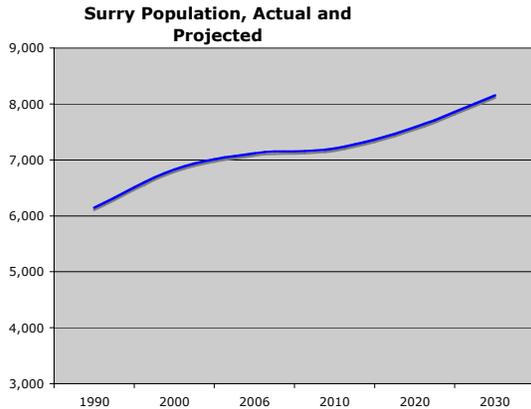
By 2030, the percentage of people over 65 is projected to be 20%, up from 14% in 2005. The percentage of people in the prime income producing years, 35-65, will be decrease from 46% to 35% but the percentage of those under age 20 will be roughly equal to the current level. (27% compared to the current 25%).

Currently, the county is 48% male and 52% female. Half the population classifies itself as black, 49% white and 1% Hispanic. In 2000, the first year in which people could classify themselves as more than one race, less than 1% of the Surry County population chose to do so. Of the youth under age 18, slightly more than half are black.

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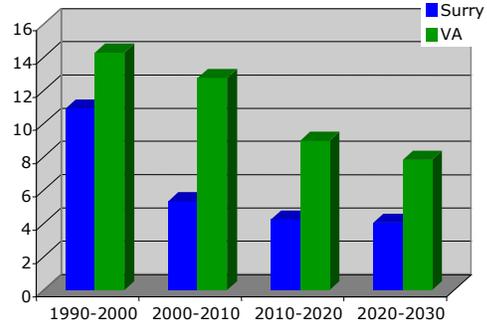
The demographic status of Surry County is quite stable. Not only is the rate of growth relatively slow, but few people move in or out of the county, few are foreign born and very few speak a language other than English in the home.

The following charts illustrate these demographic trends.



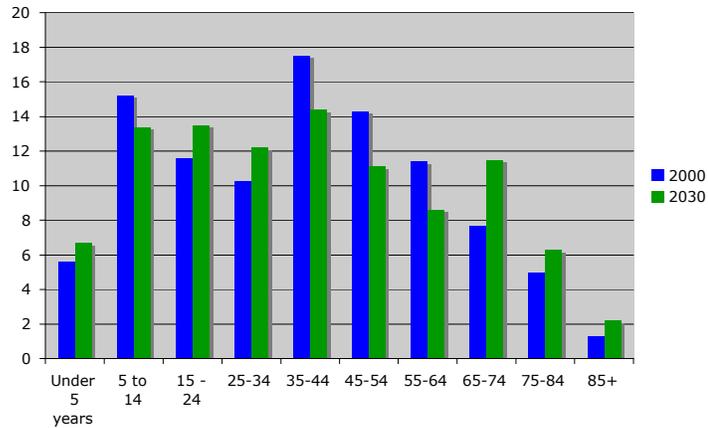
Sources: U.S. Census, Va. Employment Commission

Rate of Growth, Actual and Projected, 1990-2030



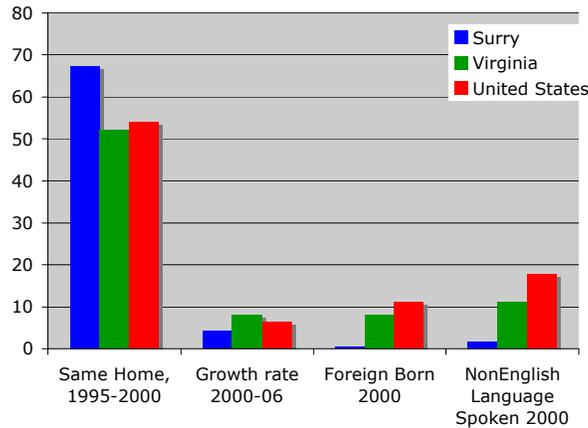
Sources: U.S. Census, Va. Employment Commission

Percentage of Population in Specific Age Groups, 2000 & 2030



Sources: U.S. Census, Va. Employment Commission

### Miscellaneous Demographic Statistics



Source: U.S. Census, 2000

## B. ECONOMIC TRENDS

An economically stable community offers sufficient employment opportunities to provide its citizens with income for food, clothing and safe, affordable housing.

Children’s economic circumstances are an important factor in youth development. Economically self-sufficient families are generally better able to spend time and attention on parenting, to supervise and encourage their children’s education, to model healthy behavior, and to obtain needed health care. Economic sufficiency is by no means a shield against substance abuse and other risky behavior on the part of youth, but poverty and a lack of marketable skills (for both the youth and their parents) are definite risk factors.

RISK FACTORS	PROTECTIVE FACTORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• No marketable skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic security</li> <li>• Marketable skills</li> </ul>

### 1. Community’s perceptions of Surry’s economic stability:

The participants in every focus group, forum and survey conducted in conjunction with this plan stressed the importance of a strong economy in creating an environment that will promote the healthy development of youth. Participants were concerned about employment opportunities in Surry County, especially for young people, and they worried that young people were leaving the county for this reason. The community would like to see more retail opportunities, better transportation, and affordable housing. Ninety-five percent of the respondents to the 2007 Youth Needs Survey were concerned about poverty as a risk factor for Surry County’s youth, and 94% considered job training and better jobs to be somewhat or very important to Surry’s families. Nevertheless, when asked to list their top 3 priorities, job training and employment opportunities ranked 8<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, respectively, out of 10.

### 2. Income indicators

In 2004 Surry County had a median per capita personal income of \$23,446. This was 65% of the state average (\$36,160) and 71% of the national average (\$33,050). The per capita income in Surry County has

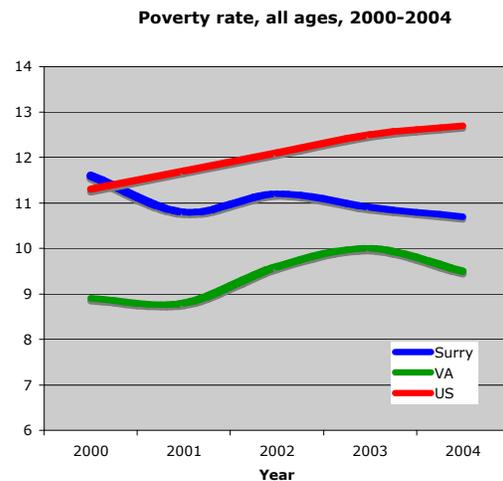
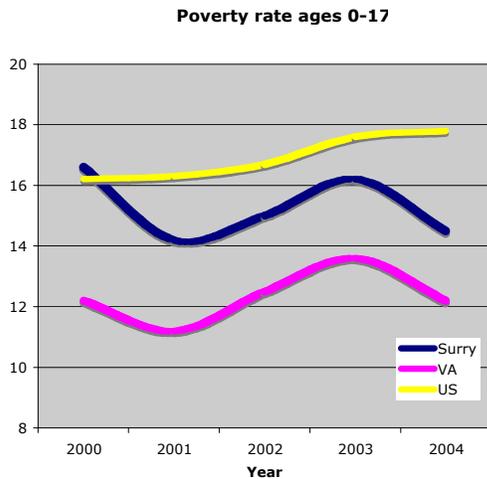
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risen every year since 1994, but the average rate of growth has not kept up with the growth rate in the state or country. Surry's per capita income growth rate was 2.5% over the decade, compared to a 4.5% rate for the state and 4.1% for the country. In 2003-2004 that gap was even more pronounced. Surry's per capita personal income grew 1.6% when the state's change was 6.3% and the nation's 5.0%.

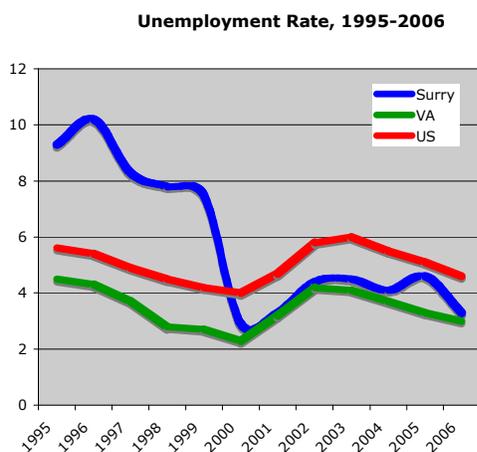
The median household income in 2004 was \$39,489, up from \$36,992 in 2000. That figure was 77% of the state's median household income and 89% of the country's. The median family income for 2005 was \$49,650, up from \$27,558 in 2000--a 25% increase in 5 years.

Surry County's poverty rate, which hovers around 11%, shows a slight downward trend over the five years between 2000 and 2005. Between 7 and 8% of the population received food stamps between 1999 and 2003, and in March 2007, approximately 300 people (or 4%) were receiving food stamps.

Surry County has a higher rate of children living in poverty than it does adults. In 2004, that rate was 14.5%, down from 16.2% in 2000. Approximately 50% of Surry's schoolchildren qualify for free and reduced lunches.



Source: Census Bureau, *Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates*, <http://www.census.gov>.



### 3. Employment Indicators

Surry County's unemployment rate has decreased dramatically since 1995, despite a slight upturn in the early years of the current decade. In 1995, Surry's unemployment rate was much higher than that of both the state and the nation. By 2006, Surry's unemployment rate was lower than the country's and comparable to the state's.

Surry County has approximately 100 business establishments within its borders. Forty percent of the workers at those establishments (and in government jobs) live and work in Surry. The rest commute into the county. More than 2000 of Surry's citizens leave the county to find

Source: Va Employment Commission

their employment.

Surry County's average weekly wage is higher than that for the state, even though the average income is lower. This fact suggests that the higher wages may be going to some of the people who commute from other counties.

The industries represented in Surry are quite diverse. Construction companies account for 17% of the establishments in Surry and 7% of the employees. Twelve percent of the establishments, with 5% of the employees, can be classified as public administration. Transportation and warehousing organizations, with 11 % of the establishments, account for 2% of the employees. All other categories, except the one called "other," account for less than 10% of Surry County's establishments. They include manufacturing (4%) professional (7%), retail (9%), arts and recreation (4%), agriculture, wholesale trade (4%) and finance (4%).

### Transportation

There are no interstate highways in Surry County, and public transportation is virtually non-existent.<sup>4</sup> School buses take children to school, and a van takes the elderly to programs at the recreation center. In 2000, 7.2% of Surry households had no vehicles available, and another 28.5% had only one.

Surry County residents commuted an average of 39 minutes to work in 2000, compared to 27 minutes in the rest of Virginia and 25.5 minutes in the United States. Seventy-five percent reported driving alone to work; 19% carpooling, 3% worked at home, and the rest used other means. The Jamestown-Scotland ferry transports an average of 3000 vehicles across the James River during the summer and 2500 during the winter months. Those who responded to the focus groups and the surveys conducted for this assessment consistently mentioned transportation as an issue facing Surry County. A lack of transportation can affect an individual's ability to reach a job, to obtain health care, and to participate in quality leisure activities.

### Housing Indicators:

In 2004, Surry County had 3,533 housing units, an increase of 7% since 2000, and 18% since 1990. The number of building permits issued has been increasing as well.

More than ¾ of Surry residents live in owner-occupied homes, a figure that is higher than the average in the state (68%) and the country (66%). More than 20% of existing housing units were vacant in 2000, and 11% were used for seasonal or recreational use.

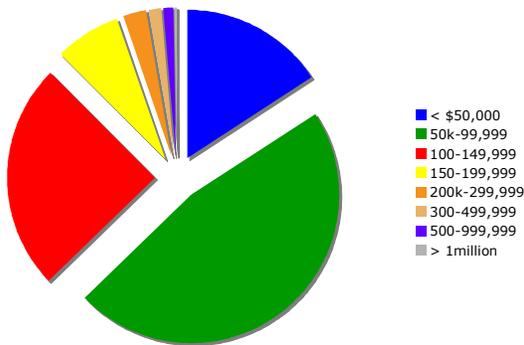
The median value of an owner-occupied home in 2000 was \$88,100, considerably lower than the \$125,400 average for the state and the \$119,600 for the country. In 2000 only 3% of homes were worth more than \$300,000. Almost half the owner-occupied homes were worth between \$50,000 and \$100,000. Despite the relatively low value of homes, 14% of Surry County's homeowners reported spending more than 35% of their income on mortgages and other costs of owning a home in 1999. By 2005, one estimate put the median value of homes at \$103,300.

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<sup>4</sup> In mid-2007 Surry County announced that it was beginning a pilot program with Williamsburg Area Transport to provide public transportation for the Surry County residents who work in the Williamsburg area.

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**Value of Owner-Occupied Homes in Surry County  
2000**



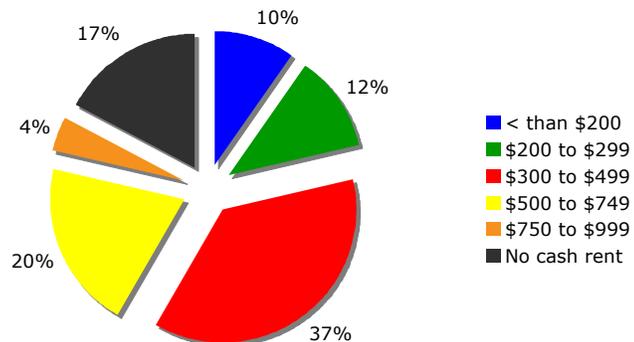
Source: US Census, 2000, <http://www.census.gov>

Surry County has very little rental housing. In 2000, only 4.5% of the housing units in Surry County were “multi-unit structures” compared to a state-wide figure of 21.5%. Less than ¼ of Surry County’s residents are renters, compared to more than 1/3 in the state and country. The focus groups and that were assembled as part of this assessment consistently mentioned the lack of safe, affordable rental housing as a concern for the county.

The average rent in Surry County in 2000 was \$402. Almost 40% spent less than \$300 a month, and no one spent more than \$1000 a month. Nevertheless, 19.3% reported that they spent more than 35% of their income on rent. That number is probably lower than it should be, as 21% did not respond to this question.

Some of Surry’s houses may be substandard. Twenty percent were unoccupied in 2000. Two percent had no indoor plumbing; 1% no kitchen facilities, and 5% no telephone.

**Distribution of Rent, Surry County, 2000**



Source: US Census, 2000, <http://www.census.gov>

### C. SURRY'S FAMILIES

Stable and supportive families provide the building block for a secure adulthood. A child with a strong family is more likely to do well in school, participate in community activities, stay healthy, avoid delinquency, and stay free from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The following discussion lists some family risk and protective factors, describes perceptions within the Surry County about the strength of the family, and provides statistics from public sources about the state of the family in Surry County.

FAMILY RISK FACTORS	FAMILY PROTECTIVE FACTORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of attachment and nurturing</li> <li>• Caregiver who abuses drugs</li> <li>• Chaotic home environment</li> <li>• Domestic abuse</li> <li>• Poor child supervision &amp; discipline</li> <li>• Unrealistic expectations for development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong bond between children &amp; parents</li> <li>• Parental involvement in child's life</li> <li>• High, clear, and consistent expectations</li> <li>• Consistent enforcement of discipline</li> <li>• Warm parenting, without severe criticism</li> <li>• Family social involvement</li> </ul>

*Sources: Atkinson, Planning for Results; Search Institute, America's Promise*

#### 1. The Importance of Family to Surry County's Residents: Perceptions of Family Stability

The 2007 Surry County Youth Needs Survey (Appendix C) demonstrated the importance of the family to Surry's residents. The respondents to this survey ranked a strong family unit as the most effective protective factor in helping Surry County youth. They also considered lack of parental supervision the second most important risk factor, after "access to drugs and alcohol." When asked to rank the importance of specific factors, 97% responded that strong family units are somewhat or very important to Surry County's youth. The respondents did not rank a stronger family unit as a high priority when asked to rank their priorities, however. Perhaps they consider family life in Surry County to be stable enough that it does not need improvement. Certainly, the participants in both focus groups and the Opinionated People Party noted the strength of Surry County's extended families. They also stressed the need for more parental involvement in children's lives. (Appendix D).

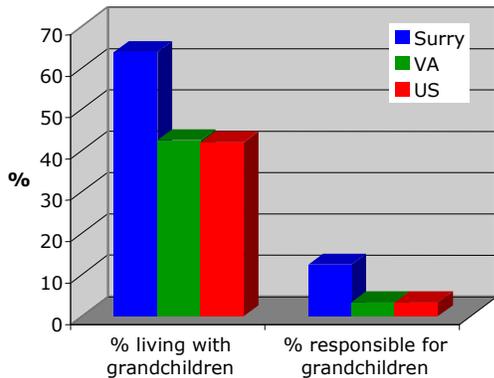
#### 2. General Statistics on the Family Unit in Surry

Marriages in Surry County are relatively stable. In 2000, 56.2% of Surry County's residents aged 15 and older were married. This is slightly higher than the percentage married in Virginia (55.7%) and the US. (54.4%). Surry also has a higher percentage of widowed people than the state and the country and a lower percentage of those who have never been married.

Surry children are less likely to live with family members than are children in other parts of the state or country, although they might live with grandparents rather than parents. In 2000, the rate of children under age 18 living in home situations other than with one or both parents was 176.06/1,000 compared to 101.26 in the state. But 12.4% of those children were being cared for by grandparents, a much higher percentage than the 3.4% rate in the state and country. The rate of foster care in Surry County is less than the rate in the state, which also suggests that family members and the community take care of children whose parents cannot care for them. The foster care rate has dropped noticeably since 1999. In 2000, roughly 1 in 5 children under 18 lived in single parent households in both Surry and Virginia.

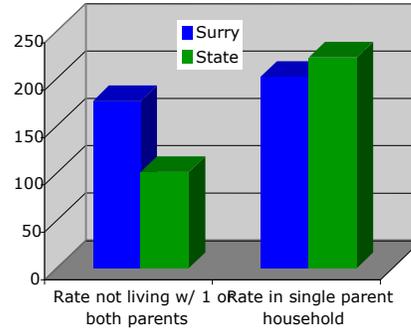
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**Grandparents Responsible for Grandchildren, 2000**



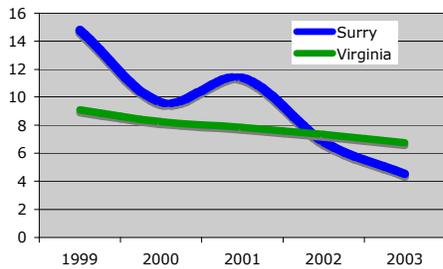
Source: U.S. Census

**Rate of Children (0-17) Per 1,000 Living in Single Parent Households or With Someone Other Than a Parent 2000**



Source: Virginia Department Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse

**Rate of Live Births to Adolescent Females (Age 10-17) Per 1,000 Adolescent**



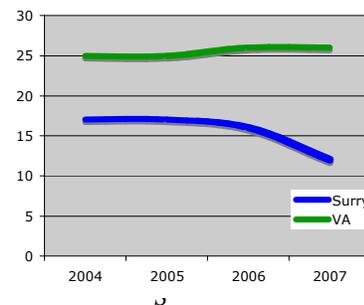
Source: Va. DMHM RSA

**3. A Stable Start to Life:**

Almost 50% of the live births in Surry County are non-marital births. The rate of births to teenage mother is declining, however. That rate, which was almost 15 per 1,000 girls in 1999 was 4.5/1,000 in 2003. Considering that children born to teenage mothers are, in general, less likely to be full term babies, receive good health care in their first few years, or live with sufficient economic resources, this trend is a favorable one. Maternal education is another factor that is associated with children's well-being. In the last few years, between 8% and 19 % of Surry County's births have been born to women with less than 12 years of education.

Parents need consistent, affordable child care in order to provide their children with a stable environment. According to *Virginia Kids Count*, Surry County can serve between 12% and 17% of its children in licensed child care facilities. Statewide that figure is approximately 25%. In the last 3 years for which statistics are available (2002-2004), the number of children receiving child care subsidies increased from 109 to 122, and the wait list was eliminated.

**Child Care Capacity: % of Licensed Day Care Slots/Children**



Source: Virginia Kids Count

**4. Familial Environment**

Domestic abuse and child abuse petitions are indications of familial instability. The rate of runaways and teen pregnancies also show whether families in the community are relatively stable. Surry County's rate of founded child abuse and neglect cases is lower than the state's. (2.34/1000 vs. 3.65/1,000 in 2003). The rate of runaway petitions per 1000 children is ordinarily 0 and occasionally 1/1000. Spousal abuse

petitions in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court jumped from 6 in 1997 to 36 in 1998 and have fluctuated between 22 and 37 since that time. And the rate of teen pregnancies declined from a peak in 2000 of almost 20/1000 girls ages 10-17 to 9/1000 in 2003. These particular indicators of familial stability, then, seem to be improving.

Parental involvement in a child's activities and education is a positive indicator in a child's life, but it is not measurable in the same way that teen pregnancy is. The focus groups, interviews, and surveys conducted in conjunction with this needs assessment all point to a wish for more parental involvement in the lives of Surry County's children, however.

#### **D. EDUCATIONAL TRENDS**

An effective education is a strong protective factor in a child's development toward adulthood. It ranks as one of the five promises that America's Promise would like to provide every child; for it helps build intellectual development, motivation, and the personal, social, emotional and cultural skills an adult will need. Students who do well in school are less likely to engage in anti-social behavior. Education can also provide the caring adults and the positive social activities that might otherwise be missing in a child's family life.

School Risk Factors	School Protective Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High rates of disciplinary offenses</li> <li>• Ambiguous, lax or inconsistent rules</li> <li>• Lack of school bonding</li> <li>• Low test scores</li> <li>• Drop-out</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High expectations, clear rules for appropriate behavior</li> <li>• Youth participation in school tasks and decisions</li> <li>• Participation in school activities</li> <li>• High school completion</li> </ul>

##### **1. Surry County School System Facts**

The Surry County School System consists of one elementary, one middle, and one high school with a total population of 1,080 in the 2006-2007 school years. That number represents a 5.4% decline since the 2003-2004 school year and a 14% decline in the past 10 years. Between 41 and 58 students have been home schooled in each of the last four years--many, but not all, for religious reasons.

In 2004, Surry County employed 254 staff, 120 of whom held instructional positions. Approximately half of Surry's teachers have a Bachelor's Degree and half a Master's Degree. In the 2005-2006 school year, 5% of the core academic classes were taught by teachers not meeting the federal definition of highly qualified, a percentage that is identical to the average state percentage. The Surry School System has improved this statistic from 14% in the 2003-2004 school year. Approximately half the students are approved for the free and reduced lunch program, compared to 1/3 statewide. In 2006, 12.6% of the population received special education services. Surry Schools' attendance rate is 95%.

##### **2. Perception of the school system:**

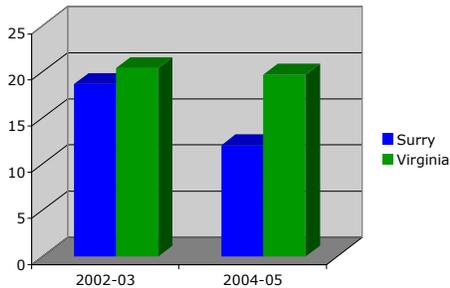
The Surry County Youth Needs Survey that was administered in the winter of 2007 suggested that the community is generally pleased with the school system. (86% found the schools either somewhat or very effective). School truancy and the school drop out rate, while important to the respondents, fell near the bottom of the list of risk factors that concerned the respondents. Nevertheless, 98% responded that a better education system was either somewhat or very important to Surry County families, and education ranked as the second most important priority, after better access to health care. The focus groups and

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community forum also suggested a high degree of satisfaction with the schools, although some concern was expressed that the county's alternative education program is now held outside the community.

### 3. Pre-School Initiatives

**Pre-K PALS Screening, % Identified as Needing Additional Intervention**



Pre-school is an especially important time in a child's life, because much of a child's learning takes place before kindergarten. Surry County has a comprehensive pre-school program in its public schools, and in 2005, it served 100% of the pre-school students identified as being at-risk. When tested for kindergarten readiness, almost 90% of the pre-school students in 2004-2005 needed no additional intervention, a marked improvement over the 2002-2003 school year. In both 2002 and 2004, a smaller percentage of children in Surry County needed additional intervention than the statewide average.

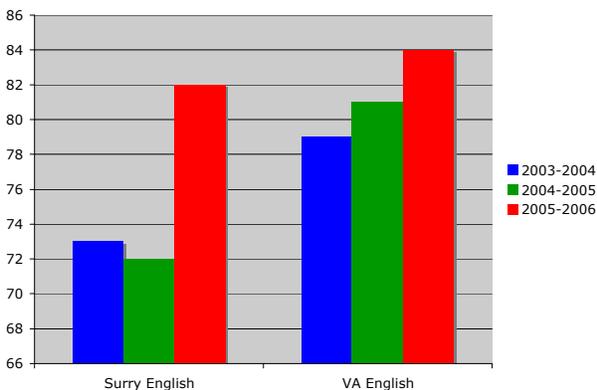
Source: *Indicators of School Readiness, 2004, 2006*

### 4. Test Scores

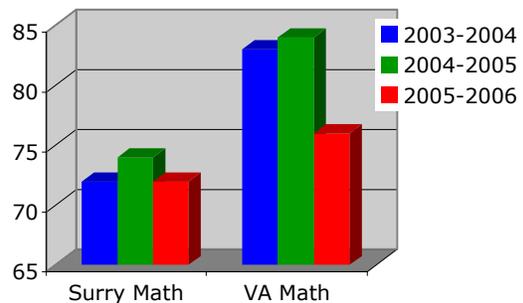
Test scores are one indication of a school system's strength. Surry County's scores are improving, but they remain lower than the state's average scores. An additional concern is a minority achievement gap in the test scores. In 2005-2006, for example, 88% of white students passed the English tests, as did 79% of black students. Seventy percent of black students and 78% of white students passed the math tests.

Two of the three schools in Surry County are fully accredited, and the third is provisionally accredited. The school system did not make AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) in 2005-2006.

**Percentage of Students Passing English SOLs, 2003-'04 through 2006-'07**



**Percentage of Students Passing Math SOLs, 2003-'04 through 2005-'06**



Source: Va. Dept. of Education, <https://plpe.doe.virginia.gov/reportcard/>

### 5. Discipline

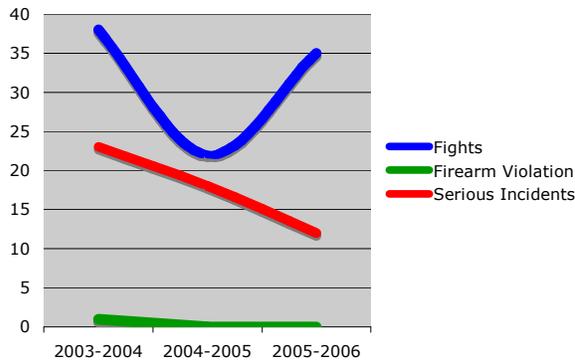
Serious discipline incidents in Surry County's schools have declined over the last few years, from 23 in 2003-2004 to 12 in 2005-2006. Firearms and other weapons offenses are virtually nonexistent, but there does not seem to be a trend toward reducing fights in the school. The PRIDE Survey asked students

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questions about their perception of school safety. Almost 40% said they never or seldom feel safe in the

bathroom, parking lot or playground of the school. Over 30% felt unsafe at school events, in the gym, the cafeteria, the school bus and the halls. And 27.4% felt unsafe in the classroom. In response to another question, however, 18% of students reported they were afraid at school. 5.5% reported having brought a gun to school in the past year.

**Discipline Incidents in Surry Schools, 2004-'06 to 2-005-'06**



Source: Virginia Department of Education

### 6. High School Completion and Post-High School Plans

Surry County’s high school graduation rate declined from the 2003 school year to the 2005 school year, from 82% to 77%. The drop out rate in 2005-2006 was 3.91%. Additionally, class sizes seem to decline each year of high school. For example, the 10<sup>th</sup> grade class in 2003-2004 had 114 students. The next school year, the 11<sup>th</sup> grade class had 94 students, a reduction in class size of 17.5%. Finally, the 2000 Census found a higher percentage of 16 to 19 year olds who had not completed school and were not enrolled in school (8%) than it had in 1990 (4.3%).

### 7. Educational Achievement of Population

Each census since 1980 has shown significant strides in increasing the percentage of adults with a high school and college degree and decreasing the percentage of those with less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education. Nevertheless, the county lags behind the state and the country in this respect.

## E. HEALTH TRENDS

Health affects every aspect of one’s life. It affects parents’ ability to give their babies a good start in life, children’s ability to succeed in school, and adults’ ability to be productive in the workplace. It affects the stability of families, the productivity of workplaces, and the vibrancy of the community. Physically and mentally healthy people do not abuse alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs, and those who do abuse those substances are unlikely to remain physically healthy. Access to health care, especially substance abuse treatment and mental health care, is crucial to the community’s ability to prevent and treat substance abuse.

RISK FACTORS	PROTECTIVE FACTORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low birth weight, premature births</li> <li>• Lack of access to necessary health care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical activity</li> <li>• Access to health care</li> <li>• Strong health habits</li> </ul>

### 1. Community Perception of Health and Health Care:

According to the Surry County Youth Needs Survey administered in the winter 2007, better access to health care is the top priority for Surry County residents, with stronger families the second most important

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priority. Eighty-four percent of the survey respondents found the health department to be somewhat or very effective. In a 2005 survey, 68% of the respondents characterized their health as good or excellent. That figure compares to the 82% from other communities in central Virginia who responded that their health was good or excellent.

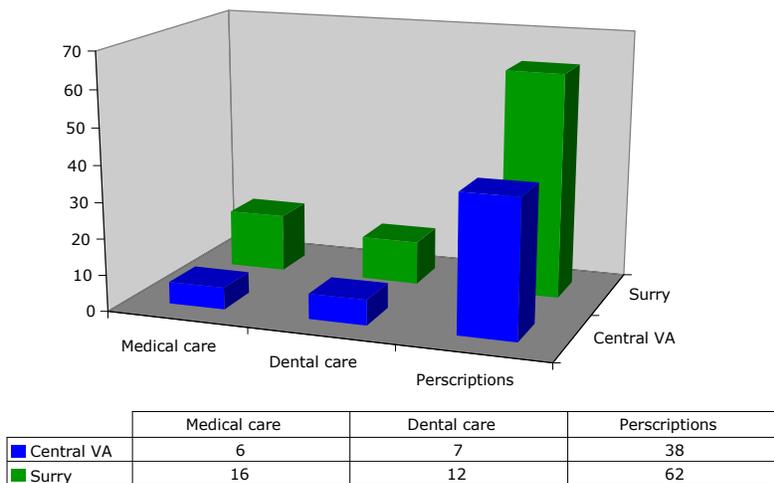
## 2. Access to Health Care

The federal government has designated Surry County, Virginia, as both a medically underserved and a health professional shortages area, due to a shortage of mental health, primary care, and dental health professionals. One doctor works part-time in the community; the Surry Health Department offers some preventive care; and the Surry Free Clinic is open one evening a week. The county does not have any nursing homes or assisted living facilities. Nurses and a social worker are able to perform some personal care and nursing home screenings. A paid rescue squad responds to calls during the work week; volunteers respond after hours and if the main ambulance is already on a call. Due to the spread-out nature of the county, it can take up to 30 minutes for an ambulance to respond and at least another 30 minutes to reach a hospital.

## 3. Affordability of Health Care:

In 2005, 17% of the county’s population, over 1,000 people, had no health insurance, and 40% had no dental insurance. Almost 20% of Surry County’s children were without insurance, a figure that compares unfavorably to the state’s average of 2%. Not surprisingly, 16% of Surry’s population also reported that they could not see a doctor due to cost in 2005. That figure is a large increase from the 5% who made this claim in 2002. This figure also compares unfavorably to the central Virginia figure of 6% who reported cost as preventing them from seeing a doctor. In 2005, 12% of Surry’s residents reported difficulty seeing a dentist due to cost, compared to 7% in central Virginia, and 62% of those who did not fill a prescription cited cost as a factor, compared to 38% in the larger community.<sup>5</sup>

**Percent Unable to Obtain Health Care Due to Cost, 2005**



Source: Central Virginia Health Planning Agency Community Needs Assessment Survey 2005

<sup>5</sup> The *Virginia Atlas of Community Health* also conducted a survey in 2005 that asked many of these same questions and occasionally came up with slightly different results. If a discrepancy exists, this report will set forth the Central Virginia Health Planning Agency’s finding in the body of the report and the *Virginia Atlas*’ finding in a footnote. In both surveys, Surry County lags behind the state in health care indicators.

#### 4. Healthy Start to Life:

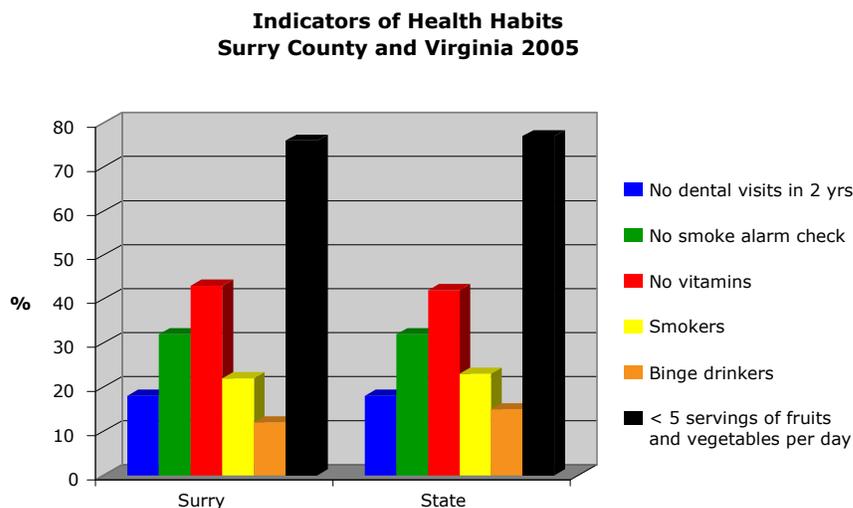
In both 2002 and 2004, 64 babies were born to women who lived in Surry County; in 2003 the number was 71. The vast majority of these mothers received prenatal care in the first trimester. In 2004, Surry County had 4 underweight (<2500 grams) babies at birth and no infant deaths, an outcome that improved on the two preceding years. Because the total number of infants born to Surry County mothers is quite small, percentages and comparisons to other counties or to the state are not meaningful.

#### 5. Teen Health:

Surry County had no teenage deaths in 2001, 2003, or 2004. In both 2000 and 20002, the county faced a single teenage death. The sections on families (II, V above) and substance abuse (II. D. 9 below) discuss teenage pregnancy and drug, alcohol, and tobacco use among teenagers.

#### 6. Healthy Habits:

In one survey administered in 2005, 45% of the Surry County population identified themselves as overweight, and 79% claimed they had exercised within the past month.<sup>6</sup> A second survey found that 62% of the population was overweight and 27% had *not* exercised in the past month. Given that the two surveys were likely administered in different months, the exercise figures are probably reconcilable. It is probably safe to estimate that approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Surry County residents engage in some sort of exercise. The reasons behind discrepancy in the percentage of overweight adults are unclear, but, again, it is probably safe to maintain that approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Surry County's residents are overweight.

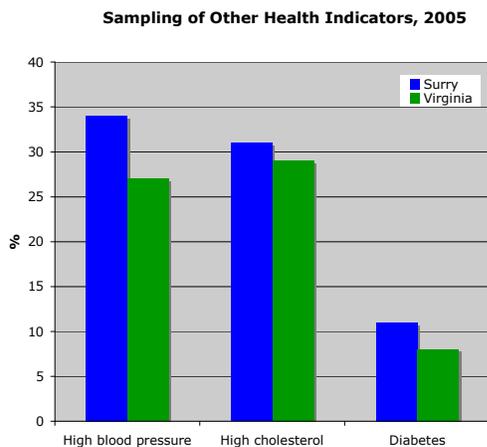


Source: *Virginia Atlas of Community Health*

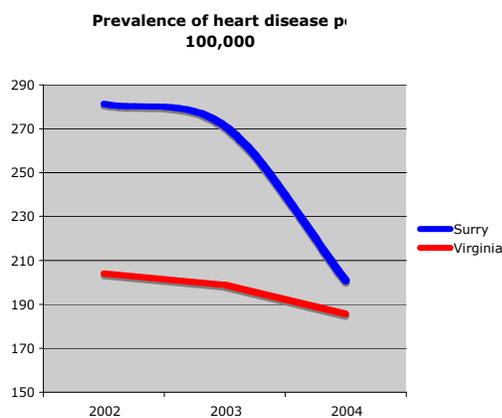
<sup>6</sup> According to the *Virginia Atlas of Community Health*, 62% of the population was overweight in 2005, compared to a statewide rate of 54%. This figure is considerably higher than the other assessment, and this author is unaware of an explanation for the discrepancy. The Virginia Atlas also found that 27% had not exercised in the past month. Given that the two surveys were likely administered in different months, the exercise figures are probably not contradictory. It is probably safe to estimate that approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Surry County residents engage in some sort of exercise.

### 7. Other Indicators that Relate to Good Health Habits:

Some conditions and diseases that can be controlled with good health habits, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and heart disease, appear to be more prevalent in Surry County than in the state of Virginia. Surry's rate of sexually transmitted diseases (gonorrhea, chlamydia, and syphilis) is also higher than the rate within the state. Surry reported two HIV positive people in 2001 and two cases of AIDS in 2003. The Surry County Health Department is treating one HIV positive patient in 2007.



Source: Virginia Atlas of Community Health



Source: VA Department of Health

### 8. Mental Health Indicators:

The Central Virginia Health Planning Agency conducted a survey during the winter of 2002 and 2003, to determine the need for mental health and substance abuse services in the localities covered by Planning District 19. Surry County residents responded that 4% needed mental health services and 1% substance abuse services. In 2005 two Surry County adults were hospitalized for mental health reasons. In 2006, four Surry residents, (1 under age 18), were hospitalized. Surry County had no successful suicides in 1998, 1999, 2003, and 2004; there was one in each of the three intervening years. Four percent of the students who responded to the PRIDE survey indicated that they thought about suicide.

### 9. Use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs:

Health indicators concerning use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs relate to good health habits (# 7 above) and mental health indicators (# 8 above). Preventing and treating substance abuse is crucial to any community, because substance abuse affects every part of an individual's life and spills over to his or her family, workplace, and community. Substance abuse is especially acute and tragic for youth, who are developing habits and behaviors that will follow them into adulthood. It exists at all cultural and socioeconomic levels.

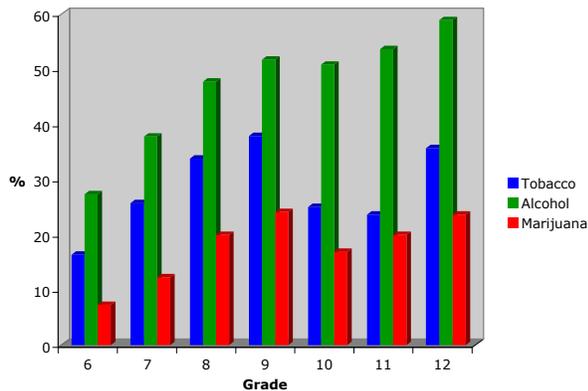
Risk factors for future abuse include caregivers who abuse, weak attachment to school, a perception that such behavior is safe, and association with peers who use. Protective factors include involvement in the school and community, strong family relationships, and attendance at church.

This section explores the perception of substance abuse as a problem in the community, the presence of substance abuse among students and adults in Surry County, and the risk and protective factors in the lives of students who are using drugs.

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i. Perception of Substance Abuse as a Problem in the Community: Substance abuse was not mentioned as a significant problem at the community forum or in one of the two focus groups. The participants in the focus group that did discuss substance abuse were concerned that a social stigma prevents people from obtaining help and that those involved in the criminal justice system are not as supportive of private counseling as they could be. (See Appendix D) Despite the lack of discussion in the community meeting and focus groups, 97% of the respondents to the community youth needs survey indicated they were concerned about youth's access to alcohol. This concern was tied with lack of supervision as the largest concern for Surry's youth. (See Appendix C)

**% Students Who Use Tobacco, Alcohol, Marijuana in Past Year**



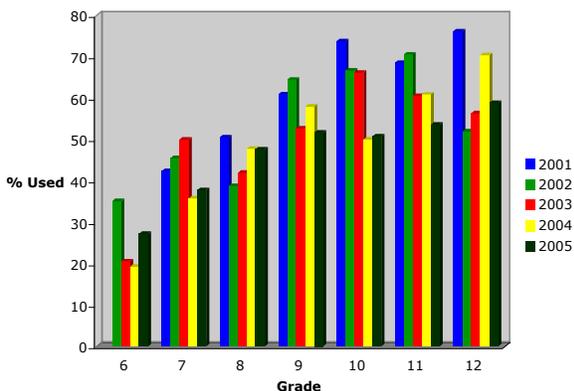
ii. Degree of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use Among Surry County Youth

In 2005, Surry County conducted a PRIDE survey among its students in grades 6 through 12 to learn more about the use of and attitudes toward alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs among the county's youth. The survey revealed that younger students are less likely to use tobacco, alcohol and drugs than older ones, although the use of inhalants appears to peak in middle school. In 2005, more than half of the high school students responded that they had used alcohol in the past year, 1/4 had used marijuana, and close to 40% had used tobacco. Although the responses to these questions vary from year to year, there is some indication that the annual use of alcohol and marijuana is declining.

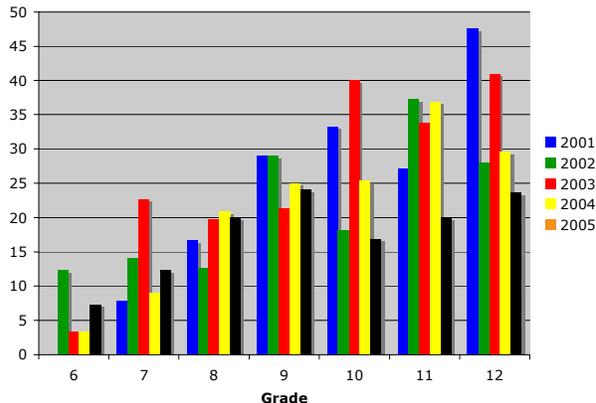
In 2005, the biggest jump in risky behavior seemed to come between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, which suggests that this is a crucial time for intervention. Ninth graders and seniors, however, were the least likely ages to consider alcohol, tobacco and marijuana use to be risky behavior, and seniors showed a marked increase in engaging in such behavior. Considering that research suggests that the transition to high school and the one upon graduation are times in which young people are more likely to use alcohol, tobacco, or drugs, these grades are likely ones for intervention as well.

Source: PRIDE Survey 2005

**Percent of Students Who Used Alcohol in Last Year  
2001-2005**



**Percent of Students Who Used Marijuana in Last  
Year, 2001-2005**

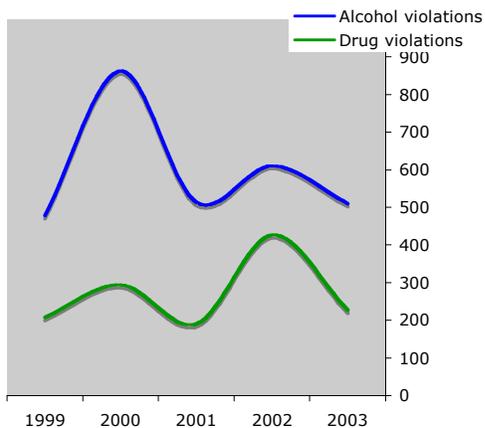


Source: Surry PRIDE Survey 2005

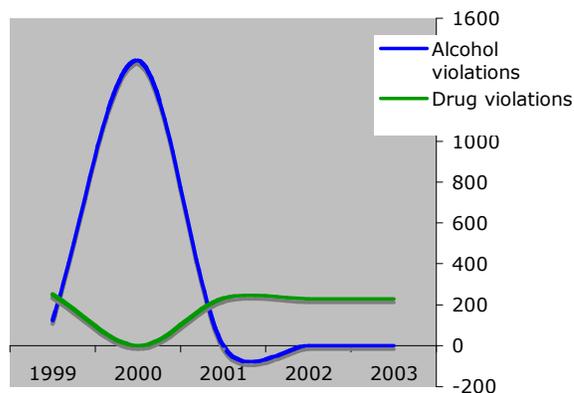
**iii. School discipline and crime data regarding alcohol and drugs**

Surry County Schools have reported no alcohol offenses in the past 5 years, and the last drug offense was in 2001. The county’s youth are also unlikely to be arrested for alcohol or drug related crimes. In fact, the rate of arrest for alcohol-related crimes per 100,000 youth was 0 in 2000, 2001, and 2002. The adult rate for alcohol and drug related crimes was higher than the youth arrest rate in Surry County, but it is also lower than the rate in the state.

**Rate of Adult (18+) Arrests for Alcohol and Drug  
Violations per 100,000 in population**



**Rate of Juvenile (10-17) Arrest for  
Alcohol and Drug**



Source: VA Dept. MHMRSA

**iv. Substance Abuse and Risk and Protective Factors**

The PRIDE Survey asks a series of questions that relate to risk and protective factors for youth substance abuse. It asks whether students perceive these substances as harmful, how available the substances are, and whether they sense disapproval from their families or peers if they use these

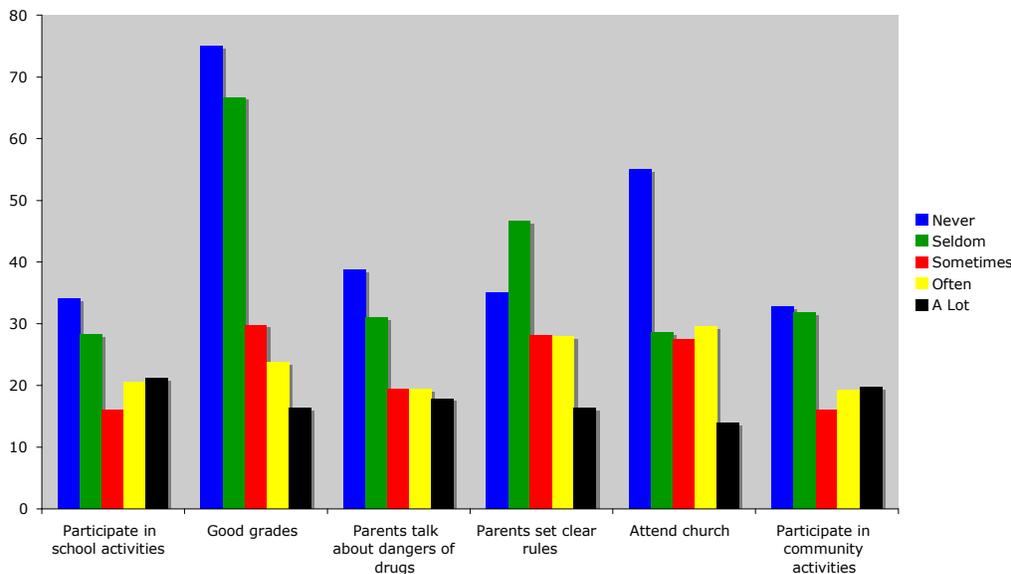
substances. In 2005, more than ¾ of the students in every grade perceived tobacco as harmful. Between 65% and 85% of the students considered alcohol harmful, and between 56% and 93% considered marijuana harmful. Students remained mostly consistent in their belief that tobacco was harmful across all grades, but the belief that alcohol and marijuana are dangerous declined significantly from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade, then rose again in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and declined until 12<sup>th</sup>.

Students across all grades perceive that their parents believe it is wrong or very wrong to use tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana. They are slightly less likely to perceive parental disapproval of alcohol use than tobacco and marijuana use, and seniors are slightly less likely to perceive disapproval than younger students.

The availability of cigarettes, liquor, and marijuana increases from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. In 2005 15.4% of 6<sup>th</sup> graders thought marijuana was available. That figure rose to 60.4% by 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Approximately one in four students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade found beer and cigarettes available. That figure rose to 69.1% for beer and 65.5% for cigarettes by 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Compared to earlier years, 6<sup>th</sup> graders thought marijuana, beer, and cigarettes are easier to obtain than 6<sup>th</sup> graders did in 2001-2004, but 12<sup>th</sup> graders found them less available.

The survey also asks the students who use illicit substances to report how prevalent certain protective factors are in their lives. Not surprisingly, those who use drugs are less likely to have the protective factors. The protective factors do not completely protect students from risky behavior, however. Approximately 40% of the students who have used these substances in the past year report positive factors (answered “often” or “a lot” to the question of whether they participated in or were exposed to known protective factors).

**% of students using illicit drugs who report protective factors**



Source: Surry County PRIDE Survey, 2005

**E. PUBLIC SAFETY:**

A safe community—one with low crime and low accident rates—provides young people with a strong protective factor, because young people who feel safe are more likely to become stable, productive adults. On the contrary, an unsafe environment can be a risk factor for individual children, as well as, a risk for

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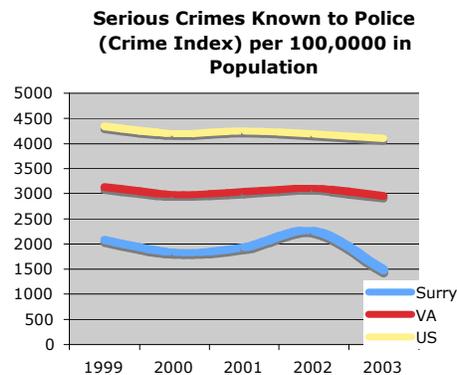
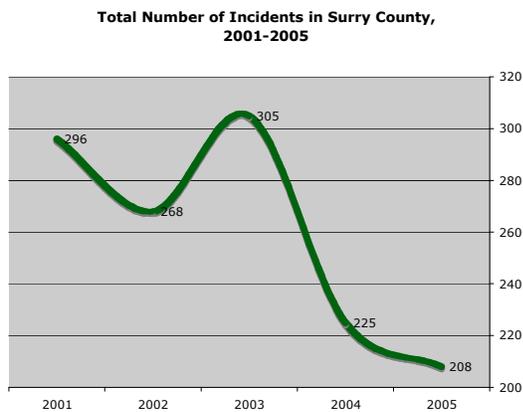
future generations. A child who grows up in an unsafe community is more likely to engage in activities that make the community less safe for the next generation as well.

Surry's crime rate is low, and the perception, at least among adults, is that crime is not a problem in the community. This low crime rate is especially significant in a small community, in which a single crime or arrest can cause the rate to jump significantly<sup>7</sup>.

RISK FACTORS	PROTECTIVE FACTORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High crime rate</li> <li>• Juvenile crime</li> <li>• Gangs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perception of safety</li> <li>• Low crime rate</li> <li>• Low accident rate</li> </ul>

1. **Community perceptions:** Neither the focus groups nor the community forum held in conjunction with this needs assessment considered crime a concern for the community. In fact, the focus group that attempted to prioritize Surry County's needs, placed crime at the bottom of its list (tied with a need for better technology and healthier families). One focus group specifically stated that juvenile crime is not a problem in Surry County. Nevertheless, 94% of the respondents to the 2007 Surry County Youth Needs Survey revealed that they are concerned about juvenile crime, and one of the interviews completed for this survey and a conversation at the community forum suggested some concern about sexual assault among teenagers. Also, the 2005 PRIDE Survey suggested that students are concerned about their safety. As mentioned in the "Effective Education" section of this report, approximately 1/3 of students who responded to the 2005 PRIDE Survey feel unsafe at school (although only 18% reported being afraid at school). The PRIDE data also suggest that 45% of 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders have threatened a fellow student, 15.9% have participated in gangs, 5.5% brought a gun to school in the past year, and 13.2% carried a gun for protection when not in school.

2. **Overall crime rate:** Surry's crime rate is lower than the rate for the state and the country, and is, in general declining. The number of incidents reported by the Surry County Sheriff to the Virginia Crime Statistics is also on a downward curve.



Source: State Crime in Virginia

### 3. Adult Crimes:

<sup>7</sup> For example, most years Surry County has no homicides. If it has a single homicide, however, as it did in 2002 and 2004, the rate per 100,000 is more than 14.

Surry County’s rate of adult arrests for violent crimes (murder, aggravated assault, robbery, rape) per 100,000 adults was higher than the rate for the state of Virginia between 1999 and 2003. This appears to reflect the small numbers of residents in the county, as there were only 2 murders between 2001 and 2005. Most of those years saw 1 or 2 robberies, 1 or 2 rapes, and 9 or 10 aggravated assaults. Surry County’s rate of adult arrests for non-violent crimes is lower than that for the state and is declining.

4. Juvenile Crimes

The juvenile arrest rate for violent crimes was higher than that for the state for 3 of the 5 years between 2001 and 2005, but during those years, the largest number of juveniles to be arrested for murder, rape, aggravated assault, and robbery combined was 5. In 2005 there were no juvenile arrests for these violent crimes. The juvenile arrest rate for non-violent crimes is also low, with a general declining trend.

5. Motor Vehicle Accidents

Between 2001 and 2004, Surry County had between 107 and 117 traffic accidents a year, with between 59 and 69 injuries and 1 or 2 fatalities. 2005 saw a large increase in accidents, injuries and fatalities, however—141 accidents, 84 injuries and 4 deaths. Between 9 and 16% of these accidents were alcohol related.

**F. QUALITY ACTIVITIES WITHIN A CARING COMMUNITY**

Research suggests that young people who are actively engaged in their communities are less likely to engage in dangerous behaviors, including substance abuse. Quality activities, whether at school, in church,<sup>8</sup> or elsewhere in the community, can provide students with values, self-worth, independence, a sense of belonging, and a belief that they are contributing to their community. The importance of instilling a belief in their ability to contribute to society is so great that America’s Promise includes “the opportunity to make a difference through helping others” as one of its five promises. Realistically, leisure activities also help keep young people busy at times they might otherwise get into trouble by providing an alternative to bad behavior.

Quality leisure activities need to take place within a caring community. Adults who supervise these activities can become mentors, especially to youth who face many of the risk factors described in this report. Adults who do not work directly with youth can also be important role models by voting in elections, volunteering, attending community and PTA meetings, and otherwise working to improve the community.

Risk Factors	Protective Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of participation in school and community activities</li> <li>• Peers who do not participate in school and community activities</li> <li>• Peers who abuse drugs or alcohol</li> <li>• Susceptibility to negative peer pressure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constructive use of time</li> <li>• Association with peers who are involved in school, recreation, service, religion, or other organized activities</li> <li>• Religious participation</li> <li>• Opportunity to serve the community</li> <li>• A community that cares about its youth</li> </ul>

1. Perceptions:

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<sup>8</sup> Youth who do not consider religion important are almost three times as likely to drink and smoke and seven times as likely to use illicit drugs as those who perceive religion as important.

Those who participated in the focus groups, forums and surveys conducted for this needs assessment demonstrated, through their participation, that Surry County is a caring community. They also shared their opinions about youth activities and community role models. Every community meeting included a discussion of the need for more and better youth activities, and 96% of the survey respondents indicated that increased youth activities were somewhat or very important to Surry County families. One of the focus group considered the lack of role models to be a concern for the county, but when that group prioritized its concerns, the lack of role models came in 5<sup>th</sup>—after jobs, education, housing and transportation.

## 2. Religion in Surry County

There are approximately 35 churches in Surry County. (See Appendix E for a complete list). Six of them responded to an informal survey concerning church membership and reported a combined 270 members under the age of 18. Thus, these 6 churches include 17% of the youth in Surry County in their congregations. Although we cannot extrapolate the percentage of youth who belong to the other 29 churches, we can assume a strong religious presence in the county. Fully 99% of the respondents to the Surry County Survey noted that religious affiliation is a strong protective factor for youth development. Appendix C.

## 3. Recreation

The Surry County Recreational Center is well utilized. The number of youth participating in youth sports ranges from 325-342 each year. If this number does not include a child who participates in two or more sports more than once, this figure represents between 21% and 22.5% of the county's population between the ages of 5 and 18. The Recreation Center is also a prime meeting place for the county. Unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts, the Recreation Department turns down as many requests for meetings as it accepts.

The focus groups and surveys conducted for this report consistently pointed to a need for more recreational opportunities. Several people suggested that a new or expanded recreation center, with a track and a pool, would do much to bring the community together, improve the citizens' health, and provide quality leisure activities for Surry County youth. Some even suggested including the health department, the library, and other community services that would allow the recreation center to become a true community center. If this is not feasible, the focus group participants would like to see the Recreation Center's schedule rearranged so that youth have more access to it, and/or increased use of the schools for after-school activities. Although 93% of those responding to the Surry Youth Needs Survey considered an expanded Recreation Center to be somewhat or very important to youth development in the county, this idea ranked 7<sup>th</sup> of 9 suggestions offered in the survey.

Surry County is also home to the Chippokes Plantation State Park, which offers fishing, swimming, boating, camping and picnic facilities. The James River offers additional recreational opportunities, beaches, and boat launching ramps.

## 4. Public Library

Surry County has two branches of the Walter C. Rawls Regional Library System within its borders, one in Surry and the other in Claremont. Surry Library reports serving 7321 in 2005-2006 and 8255 in 2005-2006. Its family-oriented programs those years involved 600 and 635, respectively. The summer program attracted 188 children in 2005 and 260 in 2006. The library reported that transportation can make it difficult for some to attend library programs, and that it is difficult to attract teens to its summer reading program. (In 2005, only 20 of the children participating in the summer program were between

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the ages of 12 and 18. In 2006 that number jumped to 40.).

#### 6. Surry County Youth Resources

Appendix E includes a list of resources available to serve youth and their families in Surry County. It updates an inventory that was originally compiled in 2002. All organizations in the original inventory were surveyed as part of this study, and 32 responded. Of those 32, 29 provided their mission and goals, but only 14 provided information on the number of youth served. All responding organizations pointed to their successes and most reported on the obstacles they face. Lack of funding was the primary obstacle mentioned. Lack of parental involvement and the need for better transportation were the second and third most reported obstacles. Only two organizations responded that they had wait lists for their services. Their responses are catalogued in Appendix F.

A second survey sent to 10 organizations asked some similar questions and requested questions about the methodology and research behind their programming. The responses to these two surveys suggest that the organizations serving Surry County's youth may not all understand the concepts of risk and protective factors or use research-based programming to reach their goals. Nor do most of these organizations appear to evaluate their programs to determine their impact in the community.

Surry County's citizens are generally pleased with the county's youth services. When asked on the 2007 Youth Needs Survey to comment on the effectiveness of certain institutions and programs in helping young people to grow up to be productive citizens, 93% responded that churches were very or somewhat effective, 89% gave similar responses for Head Start and the Rec Department, 86% for the Surry School System, 82% for the Office on Youth, and 80% for the Surry Extension Agency. In fact, those institutions that received the lowest percentages of positive responses on this survey (between 60 and 70%) were also the ones that had the highest responses of no opinions (over 20%). In other words, the Juvenile Courts, Job Corps, Surry Counseling Services, and the Planning Department, which had the lowest scores, probably have more of a public relations issue than a need to improve their services in order to improve their perception in the community.

### **III. RESOURCES, IDENTIFIED NEEDS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **A. RESOURCES:**

Surry County already provides many of the factors that are identified with positive youth development. The community has a stability and a small-town atmosphere that provide continuity and caring for the youth. The population remains quite small and is growing slowly. Most people over fifteen are married, and more than ¾ of the population own, rather than rent, their homes. The vast majority of those people have lived in the same homes for at least five years. Very few are foreign born, and the vast majority speak English at home.

This stability allows the adults in the community to know the youth, and the school-teachers to understand their students. Because there are so few retail opportunities, young people are likely to see friends and neighbors at the local market. Local churches are active, with strong youth groups. And if parents cannot care for their children, grandparents are likely to step in. The focus group participants spoke proudly of the strength of extended families within this community. In fact, the community truly seems to live up to the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child."

The community's stability is accompanied by a low and declining crime rate. Between 1999 and 2003 Surry County had five or fewer juvenile arrests for violent crimes each year. The perception in the community, at least among adults, is that the county is quite safe.

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Recent years have seen significant improvements in several indicators of youth well-being. Most women receive prenatal care in the first trimester of their pregnancies. Teen pregnancy and births to teenagers are declining, and infant mortality is almost non-existent. Foster care placements are rare, as are reports of runaways. The rate of founded child abuse is low. School test scores are improving; and serious discipline incidents in the school have almost disappeared. Youth understand that alcohol, tobacco and other drugs are dangerous, and illicit drug use among teens may be declining.

Surry County has in place several programs directed toward youth development. The County's Office on Youth coordinates many of these programs, and the Community Policy Management Team, provides oversight and planning and manages funding. The School System is an obvious resource for youth development, as are the churches, the day care centers, and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Other organizations are important to Surry's youth, even though they do not concentrate exclusively on people under the age of 18. The Parks and Recreation Department, for example, coordinates many of the youth sports activities within the county. The Health Department has programs devoted to pregnant women, provides alcohol and drug abuse education, and provides health services to children. A more complete listing of these programs can be found in Appendices E and F. As noted above and in Appendices C and D, Surry County's citizens are pleased with the county's youth services.

#### **B. GAPS IN SERVICES AND OTHER NEEDS:**

Despite several promising trends and a high degree of satisfaction with the community's services, there is always room for improvement. The trends and data described above pointed out gaps in services and/or needs that should be addressed in each of the areas under discussion.

- *Health Care:* Gaps in health care are perhaps the most obvious. In Surry County, health care is difficult to obtain, and lack of insurance can make it unaffordable. Surry County is a medically underserved area, due to a shortage of health care professionals. More children are uninsured, on average, than in the state, and 16% of the population reported foregoing medical care due to the cost.

A need for more preventive health care also exists in the county. Approximately half the county's residents report being overweight. Diseases such as high cholesterol, diabetes, and heart disease, which are themselves often indicators of poor health habits, are higher in Surry than in the rest of the state.

- *Parenting Issues:* Too many children in Surry County are either in single parent households or without either parent. Even though grandparents are more likely to raise children than the foster care system if parents are unavailable, the county will want to increase its efforts to help children remain with their parents. It will also want to increase its efforts to reach grandparents and other caregivers when working to support the parent figures within families

The data revealed other parenting issues as well. Community members who responded to the Youth Needs Survey were concerned about a lack of parental supervision within the county, and participants in the focus groups and community forum expressed a need for more parental involvement in children's activities. The PRIDE Survey also revealed that many students between 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade did not fear parental disapproval if they used alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.

- *Early Childhood:* Although most early childhood indicators either look good or are improving (prenatal health care, infant mortality, etc.), the availability of child care slots may be an issue.

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Youth Needs Survey Additionally, even though the county provides preschool and almost 90% of entering kindergarteners were prepared for school in 2004, the county will want to bridge the gap for the remaining 10%.

- Teen Issues:
  - School: The community is not particularly concerned with school drop-out issues, but the archival data suggests that students may be leaving school early. This issue should be explored more thoroughly, and if proven true, should be addressed. In any case, the level of educational attainment of the county's residents is lower than the rest of the state, which suggests there is room for improvement in the county's efforts to encourage students to graduate from high school and continue their education
  - Recreation: Surry County is not meeting the need for quality recreational activities for its youth. Participants at every focus group and community forum spoke of this need, and the Recreation Department reported a waiting list for youth activities and meeting space. The PRIDE Survey also suggested that encouraging participation in school and community activities could be one way to reduce the use of illicit drugs among Surry County teens.
  - Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs: The PRIDE survey showed that students are more likely to use alcohol, tobacco and other drugs as they get older, with two exceptions. The use of inhalants peaks in middle school, and there tends to be a dip in the use of alcohol and other drugs between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades, before usage increases again.
  - Employment: Although Surry County has several programs designed to help prepare young people for employment, the fact that one of those programs, the POWER Youth Program, reported a significant wait list when it responded to the Surry Resources Survey suggests that more job training is necessary. Most Surry youth leave the county to find employment, a fact that many participants in the focus groups and forum would like to change.
  
- Economic Concerns: Surry County's median income is considerably lower than the median for the state, even though the average weekly wage in Surry is high compared to the state. A possible explanation is that the higher wages are going to people who commute into the county, and those who commute from the county work for lower wages in other counties. The low median income correlates with the relatively high rate of poverty for Surry's youth and a 50% eligibility for free and reduced lunch within the school system.

Demographic trends also point to an economic concern, specifically that the county may face a shortage of workers. More than 1/4 of the population has already reached retirement age or is approaching it (ages 55-65). The county's youth are leaving to find employment, and the percentage of people in the wage earning years of 35-64 is projected to drop dramatically by 2030.

Finally, even though the median rent and mortgage payments in Surry County are lower than the average for the state, approximately 20% pay more than they can afford for housing. Affordable housing was raised as an issue in every focus group and forum that was convened for this assessment and it was one of the top concerns for survey respondents.

- Education: Despite great strides in the last few years, Surry County's school system is not fully accredited and has not yet made AYP. A slight minority achievement gap also exists with regard to test scores. Also, although the school discipline statistics appear to be improving, the 2005 PRIDE Survey suggests that many students feel unsafe at school.

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- Transportation: Transportation needs are an issue in this rural county with no public transportation. Those without cars or drivers' licenses have difficulty participating in activities, making health appointments, and reaching their jobs. Even those with access to transportation can find themselves spending more time driving than they would in less rural areas. The average commute in Surry County, for example is 33% longer than that in the state or the nation. Shortening that drive would allow parents to spend more time with their children. It would probably also mean that the county had created new employment opportunities for its citizens within its borders.
- Public Safety: Even though the crime rate in Surry County is low and declining, two potential warning signs exist. First, some of the factors related to crime, such as poverty, lack of adequate housing and lack of living wage jobs, are a concern for the community, and if not addressed, the county could see a rise in criminal behavior. Second, Surry County students' responses to the 2005 PRIDE survey suggest that students have concerns about their safety. If the 15% who claim to have participated in gangs and the 13% who carried a gun for protection are telling the truth, the county needs to address a public safety issue that has not yet appeared in the crime rate.
- Organizations and Programs Addressing Youth Issues: The responses to the Surry County Resource Survey suggest that the organizations serving youth in Surry County do not always use the same vocabulary to communicate their goals and objectives, measure whether they have achieved their goals, or use research-based programs. The responses were also often incomplete, which makes it impossible to compile a detailed Resource Directory.

### **C. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This assessment makes six major recommendations, each of which forms one of goals of the Six Year Plan set forth below. The first recommendation concerns the youth agencies themselves. They should work together to establish a common vocabulary, develop effective evaluation techniques, and measure their success toward helping Surry County's youth become productive adults. Such efforts should help improve the agencies' effectiveness and allow them to avoid duplication of services. The agencies will be able to eliminate ineffective programs and add those with proven track records. They should also be better able to attract funding once they can measure their accomplishments.

The second recommendation is to educate those who work with youth and the youth themselves about child development and measures that can help build protective factors for the county's youth. These efforts can be done on a piecemeal basis or combined into a larger initiative, such as a Year of the Family. The larger initiative would probably generate more publicity and participation. It could also bring the community together for a single project, thus helping to ensure a caring community, and it could be a focal point for achieving the goals of this assessment. Specific strategies of this initiative would be continued for the duration of the six year plan to measure each program or service for its effectiveness and outcomes.

Third, the county should involve its young people in constructive community activities that encourage good citizenship. The county has begun doing so by placing youth on councils and encouraging their participation in meetings. Getting the youth more involved with the school board and the board of supervisors will be a next step. The county can also do a better job of involving its young people in the community by improving access to recreational activities, through better offerings, better transportation, and more space.

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Fourth, Surry should encourage healthy behaviors among Surry County youth by improving access to health care and recreational opportunities, inspiring the adult population to provide better role models for healthy behavior, and providing effective health education.

Fifth, we recommend the county continue to provide educational opportunities that allow young children to enter school ready to succeed and that prepare older youth for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The final recommendation—to encourage economic growth that maintains the county’s quality of life and provides affordable housing so that Surry County’s youth have an economically secure environment in which to grow up—is one for which youth agencies will need to adopt a supporting role. Certainly Surry’s government and other organizations are better able to handle the problem directly, but a child’s economic and housing environment has such a major effect on his or her development that this assessment had to make note of Surry’s needs in this area.

#### **IV. OUTLINE OF SIX YEAR PLAN**

**GOAL # 1: The Community Policy and Management Team will create a shared vision and a common language for the youth organizations, agencies, and individuals involved with youth in Surry County through communication, education, coordination, and consistent evaluation.**

**Indications of Need or Supporting Data:**

- Although significant research exists about effective ways to achieve positive youth development, most youth organizations that responded to the Surry County Resources Inventory Survey did not effectively identify program specific information such as: how many youth they serve, which risk and protective factors their programs are addressing, or how they measure success. The incompleteness of this information indicates that program providers may be inadequately trained or are merely unaware of the need for programs that can guarantee success because they have been researched and proven to be effective.
- According to the responses of the Surry County Resources Inventory Survey, the most significant problem facing organizations working with Surry County youth is a lack of funding. If organizations and agencies are all working together more effectively, the groups will be better able to identify resources and collectively apply for funding from other sources.
- Focus group respondents indicated that sometimes they provide services but lack the cooperation and collaboration of other agencies while trying to get program participants and referrals. Research suggests that strong interagency relationships can increase the effectiveness of programs and information can be disseminated more efficiently.

**Objectives and Strategies <sup>9</sup>**

Objectives	Strategies	Who is Responsible	Time Frame
1. Inform the county about the needs assessment and resource inventory; provide an opportunity for public comment.	A. Distribute the needs assessment and resource inventory throughout the county, both in paper form and on the Internet.	CPMT Office on Youth	June-Aug. 2007

<sup>9</sup> If a column adjacent to a column is blank, the agency responsible or the applicable time frame is the same as that for the most recent strategy. For example, CPMT and the Office on Youth are responsible for all the strategies in Objective 1 above.

<p>2. Increase and enhance understanding of youth development principles and prevention research among those who work with youth.</p>	<p>B. Sponsor a special event to review report with key stakeholders, citizens and youth</p> <p>C. Develop marketing tools to communicate needs assessment findings and the focus/plan for the future to the community</p> <p>A. Use research-based curriculum, Advancing Youth Development, to support youth workers</p> <p>B. Coordinate annual in-service programs on prevention research and youth development principles for professionals</p> <p>C. Increase awareness of “risk and protective factors” concepts and developmental assets for youth development</p> <p>D. Choose a common vocabulary for discussing youth development concepts and devising evaluation methodologies</p> <p>E. Use the internet as a resource to make prevention tools more assessable.</p>	<p>CPMT Office on Youth</p> <p>All agencies serving youth</p>	<p>Sept. 2007</p> <p>June-Aug. 2007</p> <p>Fall 2007</p> <p>Annually through 2013</p> <p>Winter 2008</p> <p>Through 2013</p>
<p>3. Monitor the effectiveness of the county’s programs that focus on youth and their families.</p>	<p>A. All agencies will monitor programmatic effectiveness, using the common evaluation strategies developed in conjunction with this plan.</p> <p>B. Agencies will adopt programs for which effectiveness can be measured and drop ineffective programs.</p>	<p>All agencies serving youth</p>	<p>Through 2013</p>
<p>4. Monitor the progress of this strategic plan.</p>	<p>A. Maintain flexible plan and adjust strategies when needed</p>	<p>CPMT</p>	<p>Through 2013</p>

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	<p>B. Provide annual report to Board of Supervisors</p> <p>C. Annually update and maintain a collection of data consistent with formats provided in the 2007 needs assessment</p> <p>D. Ensure youth serving agencies are effectively staffed, job descriptions are updated and youth programs have sufficient county funding for in-service training.</p>		
<p>5. Increase networking and coordination of prevention services among agencies</p>	<p>A. Schedule quarterly, semi-annual or annual youth needs meetings for six-year plan.</p> <p>B. Rotate meeting spaces and leadership responsibilities</p> <p>C. Develop a system for planning in-service training</p> <p>D. Plan and implement a regular newsletter to disseminate information to youth serving agencies and groups</p>	<p>Office on Youth, Youth Servicing Agencies</p>	<p>2007</p> <p>Through 2013</p>
<p>6. Coordinate interagency teams for case management and long term decision-making processes regarding youth and families</p>	<p>A. Maintain local government appointments to the CPMT, which has authority to decide on interagency funding and policy issues</p> <p>B. Organize a study of CPMT to ensure all funding sources (i.e. Comprehensive Services, Virginia Juvenile Crime Control, Promoting Safe and Stable Funds, etc. ) are maximized and used effectively</p> <p>C. Hold annual interagency planning meeting, which includes client families and professionals, to assess directions of services.</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors, CPMT, FAPT</p>	<p>Through 2013</p> <p>2008 to 2011</p>

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<p>7. Develop a collaborative network between the public and private sector to increase resources and promote advocacy for issues that are important to all youth.</p>	<p>A. Include private sector in all aspects of this plan, including the planning and implementation of community events and the development of strategies for improving youth development.</p> <p>B. Develop strategies and priorities for increasing advocacy for issues that are important to youth.</p> <p>C. Implement the strategies for increasing advocacy for youth issues.</p> <p>D. Develop strategies such as a forum or service providers network day to provide opportunities for public and private groups to share their information and solicit referrals to their programs</p> <p>E. Research funding sources regularly and disseminate information to service providers and collectively decide a plan to distribute funds</p> <p>F. Hire a grantwriter to research funding sources and write grant proposals</p>	<p>CPMT, Local Advisory Boards, Committees Private Providers and Community Builders Network</p>	<p>Through 2013</p> <p>Through 2013</p>
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**Measures of Success:**

- The Number of organizations, agencies, and individuals attending the public awareness meetings and receiving the Needs Assessment and Resource Inventory will indicate that the “shared vision” has been adequately publicized.
- Every other year, 30 % of the youth serving agencies and organizations contained within the resource inventory list will complete the Advancing Youth Development Training, as indicated by the end of the year program completion list.
- When the Resource Inventory Survey is administered in 2009 and 2012, at least 75% of respondents will have knowledge of what research based programs are; and will indicate if they are using such programs, and the specifics of their program (i.e. how many youth they serve, which risk and protective factors their programs are addressing, how they work with other agencies to address youth issues, and how they measure their effectiveness).
- When the Resource Inventory Survey is administered in 2010 and 2013, fewer respondents will cite lack of funding as the largest problem facing their organizations.
- CPMT will report annually that the benchmarks for this plan have either been met or adjusted.

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**GOAL # 2: Provide parents, caregivers, educators, mentors, and the youth themselves with the knowledge, skills, opportunities, and services that will allow Surry County’s youth to obtain the developmental assets and protective factors necessary to become productive adults.**

**Indication of Need or Supporting Data:**

- According to the 2007 Youth Needs Survey, 83% of respondents agreed that a stronger family unit was the most important protective factor needed by Surry County families, and 74% believed that a strong family is a very effective protective factor that related to helping youth.
- 82% responded to the 2007 Youth Needs Survey that they were concerned that the lack of parental supervision was a risk factor
- Child development research suggests that some parenting and mentoring techniques work better than others in preparing children for adulthood.
- 2000 Census data indicated that 63.8% of Surry County grandparents who live with their grandchildren are responsible for these grandchildren in Surry County. That rate is higher than Virginia’s rate of 42.5%. A relatively high percentage of young people live either with one parent or with grandparents instead of with both parents.
- 2006 PRIDE Survey data indicated that 46.7% of students in grades 6 to 12 who indicated that they use illicit drugs reported that their parents seldom set clear rules and 38.7% of the same group responded that they never talk with parents about the dangers of drugs.

**Objectives and Strategies**

Objectives	Strategies	Who is Responsible	Time Frame
1. Plan and implement community/school events in order to teach/disseminate information on positive youth development.	<p>A. Support state and national initiatives to decrease risk factors and increase protective factors (i.e. Child Abuse Prevention Campaigns, Red Ribbon Substance Abuse Prevention Campaigns, Gang Prevention Initiatives, etc.)</p> <p>B. Continue the events that encourage parents and caregivers to learn about positive youth development such as Guiding Good Choices, Caregivers Meetings, Parent Network Meetings, etc.</p> <p>C. Improve promotion of these events</p> <p>D. Attend already-scheduled meetings and events to disseminate information.</p> <p>E. Identify new researched based programs &amp; continue programs such as “Across Ages,” a mentoring program that decreases risk factors while matching older volunteers with students.</p>	Social Services/Office on Youth/Youth Serving Agencies/Schools	Through 2013

<p>2. Create posters and brochures with tips on positive youth development to leave in churches, libraries, bulletin boards and other public spaces.</p>	<p>A. Conduct a contest to encourage youth participation in designing posters and brochures.  B. Produce posters and brochures  C. Use students for distribution</p>	<p>Department of Social Services  Office on Youth</p>	<p>2008, 2011</p>
<p>3. Provide opportunities for or encourage child care providers to meet periodically to discuss ideas, child-rearing techniques, etc.</p>	<p>A. Coordinate “Annual Child Care Providers” meeting  B. Provide regular information to providers related to daycare certifications/licensures,  C. Provide information relative risk and protective factors</p>	<p>Dept. of Social Services</p>	<p>Through 2013</p>
<p>4. Encourage parents and caregivers to participate in support groups, Parent Teacher Organizations or like programs.</p>	<p>A. Continue to provide community incentives and support systems such as transportation assistance, participation points, and childcare assistance  B. Survey parents to see what is a more appropriate time to meet</p>	<p>Youth Serving Agencies</p>	<p>Through 2013</p>
<p>5. Plan and implement a Year of the Family Campaign that stresses that strong family units serve as a foundation to positive youth development, decrease risk factors and increase protective factors.</p>	<p>A. Create a Steering Group from youth agencies, youth, parents, and private sector to plan the activities and identify funding needs  B. Create a media campaign that highlights the Year of the Family as the kick off event to the county’s Six Year Plan for Positive Youth Development. (This supports the shared vision concept Goal 2  C. Disseminate a calendar of special activities or services available regularly  D. Engage entire county for support  E. Disseminate resource inventory list produced with the needs assessment.</p>	<p>CPMT</p>	<p>Plan July 2008-2009   January 2010</p>

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**Measure of Success:**

- Each year that the PRIDE Survey is administered in Surry County schools, students surveyed will report 3% to 5% increase in protective factors in their lives and a 3% to 5% decrease in risk factors as indicated by a comparison between survey data from 2006 to 2012.
- 20% of students responding to the PRIDE Survey will say their parents would disapprove of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs as indicated by a comparison of data collected from 2006 to 2012.
- The 2010 Census Data will show a 10% decrease in the number of children who will live with one parent or with grandparents as indicated by the 2010 Census Data.
- By 2012, the number of foster care cases will remain stable and/or will not increase more than 10% as indicated by Surry Department of Social Services Case load.
- In 2010, community responses to focus groups, surveys, and the resource assessment will indicate that citizens/organizations are more satisfied with the amount of parental involvement in youth programs and activities.

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**GOAL # 3: Involve young people in constructive community activities that encourage good citizenship.**

**Indication of Need or Supporting Data:**

- Research suggests youth activities promote positive development.
- Providing an opportunity to serve the community is one of America’s Promise’s 5 promises for youth
- In the 2007 Youth Needs Survey, Surry citizens expressed concern that there are insufficient activities for youth and that existing activities have insufficient space. They would also like to see more parental involvement in youth activities. (See Appendix D)
- Students who use illicit drugs are more likely to respond that they never participate in school activities (34.1%) or community activities (32.8%) than that they participate “a lot” in school ( 21.2 %) or community ( 19.7%) activities.
- Students who use illicit drugs are less likely to attend church. (55% of teen drug users never attend church, compared to 13.9% who attend “a lot.”)

**Objectives and Strategies**

Objectives	Strategies	Who is Responsible	Time Frame
1. Promote and support the active participation of young people in the planning and decision making processes within the community.	A. Create greater awareness of existing programs that involve youth in decision-making, such as the Youth Citizens Board, School Board, Community Builders Network, Crater Youth Council and Extension Leadership Council.	Youth Serving Agencies	Ongoing
	B. Increase youth participation in organizations that include adult decision making boards, committees and community initiatives such as Parks and Recreation Board, Planning Boards, Social Services, Board of		July 2007 to 2010

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<p>2. Identify gaps and opportunities in the areas of internships, employment, mentorships, and volunteer service.</p>	<p>Supervisors, etc. and monitor participation for effectiveness</p> <p>C. Continue to promote youth skills through the Annual Youth Leadership Summits, 4H leadership programs, religious affiliations</p> <p>D. Develop new skill building opportunities for Surry County youth.</p> <p>A. Annually, set up a system to identify the number of working age youth interested in year around and/or summer employment</p> <p>B. Identify hard to serve youth (i.e. dropouts, special education, teen pregnant/parents, etc.) between the ages of 15 to 19 years of age and increase strategies that will improve services to them and that will help them to secure and maintain employment.</p> <p>C. Develop strategies for determining availability of internships, both paid and unpaid, and employment opportunities for youth in community.</p> <p>D. Work with community organizations to create or secure an evaluation tool for identified internships and employment interests of youth.</p> <p>E. Work with community organizations and the private sector to create new internships and employment opportunities for Surry youth such as establishing partnerships with larger corporations/businesses(i.e. Busch Gardens, Windsor Mills...) and filling the transportation gaps</p> <p>F. Identify businesses that will provide a core of career mentors for job shadowing programs</p>	<p>Office on Youth, Social Services, Improvement Association</p> <p>Office on Youth Schools, Youth Serving Agencies</p> <p>Office on Youth Social Services</p> <p>Office on Youth</p> <p>Office on Youth Social Services</p> <p>Youth Serving Agencies</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>July 2007 June 2009</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>July 2007 - June 2008</p> <p>July 2007 - June 2009</p> <p>July 2007 - June 2009</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
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<p>3. Identify successful activities and increase opportunities for all youth to participate in such activities</p>	<p>A. Review strategic plans for locally funded programs, in part or full, such as Parks and Recreation; Extension , and Office on Youth and evaluate for effectiveness; Report findings annually to the public</p> <p>B. Identify sponsorships for youth who may not be able to participate in activities and services because of lack of finances, transportation, or other barriers. Maintain a record of sponsorship provide annually.</p> <p>C. Identify community sites, funding sources/donors, and sponsors for satellite or annex parks in each district of the county that will contain at minimum a playground, basket ball court, and water foundation.</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors/ County Administration</p> <p>Youth Serving Agencies</p> <p>Board of Supervisors/County Administration/Parks and Recreation</p>	<p>July 2007 - June 2009</p> <p>Through 2013</p> <p>July 2007 - June 2009</p>
<p>4. Expand the space available for youth activities</p>	<p>A. Use school space more creatively</p> <p>B. Research the use of churches and other area as community satellites for recreation activities</p> <p>C. Examine possibility of expanding Recreation Center which will include statement of need and potential funding sources, and time frames</p> <p>D. Identify sponsoring groups/sites to ensure that a playground or recreational site is available in each district of the county and is appropriate for all ages.</p>	<p>Youth Serving Agencies</p> <p>Board of Supervisors/County Administration/Parks and Recreation</p> <p>Board of Supervisors/County Administration/Parks and Recreation</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>July 2007 - June 2009</p> <p>July 2007 - June 2009</p>
<p>5. Increase transportation to youth activities.</p>	<p>A. Inventory transportation needs for youth activities.</p> <p>B. Ensure that transportation is a component of more all-youth activities.</p> <p>C. Provide county passenger vehicles/drivers that are licensed and insured for transporting citizens under age 18</p>	<p>Office on Youth</p> <p>Youth Serving Agencies</p> <p>Youth Serving Agencies</p>	<p>July 2007 - June 2008</p> <p>Through 2013</p> <p>Through 2013</p>

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<p>6. Encourage youth to engage in volunteer and service activities.</p>	<p>D. Identify private sector and public transportation sources</p> <p>A. Increase public awareness of the importance and benefits of youth volunteers in community service.</p> <p>B. Recruit youth participation in all service projects.</p> <p>C. Increase youth/adult partnerships</p> <p>D. Maintain a volunteer roster that includes demographical data on all youth (i.e. name or ID number, race, gender, grade, program type, etc.).</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors/ County Administration/Youth Serving Agencies Office on Youth, Youth Serving Agencies</p>	<p>Through 2013</p> <p>Through 2013</p>
<p>7. More youth recognition programs</p>	<p>A. Plan/implement an annual county wide youth activity to recognize youth throughout the county for school and community achievements.</p> <p>B. Provide high achiever awards with special recognition by the Board of Supervisors.</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors County Administration Office on Youth</p>	<p>Through 2013</p>

**Measure of Success**

- 50% more students will participate on county-wide boards and commissions by 2012.
- As compared to findings from the 2007 assessments, future focus groups and community forums will show a decrease in the number of respondents who are concerned that youth need more activities, that sufficient space for activities is unavailable, or that a lack of transportation prevents youth from reaching activities.
- By 2012, the number of youth served by county assisted transportation system as indicated by youth agencies reports.
- There will be a noted increase in the number of youth placed in mentoring programs, internships and jobs as reported by working age students age 15 to 19 years old, local participating employees, and/or youth serving agencies and by annual job retention reports/agreements.
- By 2010, there will be an increase in the number of playgrounds in the county.
- County agencies will report that they have utilized other spaces for youth activities such as the school facility, Chippokes State Park, Dominion Power, churches, etc. on a more frequent basis.
- By 2012, the county will have improved/expanded the Parks and Recreation facility and/or has initiated development of a entirely new facility as indicated by actual work.
- Increase in the number of students recognized annually by the Board of Supervisors for achievements in school and community achievements and volunteer services as indicated by official resolution.

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**GOAL # 4: Encourage healthy behaviors among Surry County youth by improving access to health care and recreational opportunities, inspiring the adult population to provide better role models for healthy behavior, and providing effective health education.**

- 19% of Surry youth are uninsured; 2% of the children in Virginia are uninsured
- In 2005, 16% of Surry residents reported an inability to obtain medical care due to cost, 12% could not afford dental care, and 62% could not afford prescriptions.
- In one survey administered in 2005, 45% of the Surry County population identified themselves as overweight, and 79% claimed they had exercised within the past month. A second survey found that 62% of the population was overweight and 27% had *not* exercised in the past month.
- The 2005 PRIDE survey suggested students feel unsafe at school 39.8% reported feeling unsafe in the bathroom, 38.6% felt unsafe in the playground, and 27.4% in the classroom
- The 2005 PRIDE survey indicated that Almost 40% said they never or seldom feel safe in the bathroom, parking lot or playground of the school. Over 30% felt unsafe at school events, in the gym, the cafeteria, the school bus and the halls. And 27.4% felt unsafe in the classroom. In response to another question, however, 18% of students reported they were afraid at school. 5.5% reported having brought a gun to school in the past year.
- 15.9% of students responding to the 2005 PRIDE Survey said they had participated in gangs.
- 13.2% of students responding to the 2005 PRIDE Survey said they carried a gun for protection when not in school and 5.5% said they had taken a gun to school in the last year.

**Objectives and Strategies**

Objectives	Strategies	Who is Responsible	Time Frame
1. Increase availability of medical care services within the county.	A. Assess the number and types of medical services available within a 30 to 50 mile radius of the central point of the county. B. Actively seek and/or support opportunities to increase existing services and providers within the county.	Board of Supervisors/ Crater Region--	June 2007- June 2010  Through 2013
2. Increase efforts to enroll more children in FAMIS, find health insurance alternatives for uninsured adults	A. Publicize programs through use of other youth agencies, health department, and schools	Social Services	Through 2013
3. Continue, improve and develop new educational/research based programs on preventive health measures, including nutrition, exercise, pregnancy prevention, and the dangers of illegal substances.	A. Identify/inventory the names/types of programs used to serve youth and families B. Ensure/monitor that each program is meeting its goals, objectives, strategies, targeted population, etc. C. Identify/monitor fees for the programs and special	CPMT/FAPT (Health Department/ Schools/Sheriff's Department/ Youth Serving Agencies)	Through 2013

<p>4. Continue, improve and develop new educational programs designed to keep the schools and communities safe, including programs on anger management, sexual assault, gang activity, etc.</p>	<p>requirements for each program.</p> <p>D. Guarantee evaluation components as deemed appropriate.</p> <p>E. Update resource inventory and distribute information as necessary.</p> <p>F. Recommend research based or successful grassroots programs as identified that provide risk and protective factors framework to guide program implementation.</p> <p>A. Identify/inventory the names/types of programs used to serve youth and families</p> <p>B. Ensure/monitor that each program is meeting its goals, objectives, strategies, targeted population, etc.</p> <p>C. Identify/monitor denoted special requirements, fees</p> <p>D. Recommend evaluation components as deemed appropriate.</p> <p>E. Update resource inventory and distribute information as necessary.</p> <p>F. Increase opportunities for participation in local, state, and national public awareness campaigns that are associated with risk factors such as child abuse prevention, Red Ribbon Substance Abuse Prevention Campaign,</p> <p>G. Recommend research based or successful grassroots programs as identified that provide risk and protective factors framework to guide program implementation such as: In school programs/services i.e. Protecting You Protecting Me, hiring and maintaining a School Resource Officer, incorporating student hall monitors, bus patrollers, peer mediator, lunch buddy</p>	<p>Office on Youth</p> <p>Office on Youth</p> <p>CPMT/FAPT (D19 Mental Health, Prevention &amp; Counseling/ Sheriff's Department/6<sup>th</sup> District Court Services) Office on Youth, Contracted Evaluator Office on Youth</p> <p>CPMT</p> <p>Office on Youth</p>	<p>June 2009, June 2011, June 2013 Through 2013</p> <p>Through 2013</p> <p>Through 2013</p> <p>June 2009, June 2011, Through 2013</p> <p>Through 2013</p>
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5. Continue, improve and develop new strategies to keep juvenile crime low.	mentors, mentors.		
	H. Develop a program that gives a “straight or new start” when students have been demonstrating high risk behaviors that will redirect them into become more resilient.	CPMT/FAPT	Through 2013
	A. Continue to improve and monitor referral system between agencies, schools, and/or other organizations to ensure that youth who are demonstrating high risk indicators are receiving services (Refer to Goal 1)	Sheriff’s Department	Through 2013
	B. Increase opportunities for citizens input on ways to make neighborhoods safe	CPMT/FAPT	Through 2013
	C. Increased police patrol in neighborhoods that have moderate to high risk factors present		Through 2013
	D. Develop community neighborhood watch programs		
	E. Provide Student Resource Officer in middle and high schools		Through 2013
	F. Increase effectiveness of the utilization of the state funding sources such as Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act Funds, Mandate and/or Non Mandated Comprehensive Services Act funds to provide cost effective services to individual youth, families, or groups who are suspected of offending	CPMT/FAPT Victim Witness DSS Courts	Through 2013
G. Provide special services for youth victims of offenders			

**Measure of Success**

- By 2012, Surry County will have increased the number of either a full time doctor or a clinic providing the equivalent of a full-time doctor working within the county’s borders as compared to the number in existence in 2007 which will be reported by contact information.
- By 2012, 90% of mothers will receive prenatal care in the first trimester as compared to the 2007 Needs Assessment data.

- By 2010, 95% of children in Surry County will be covered by health insurance.
- By 2012, the majority of the health indicators that suggest healthy habits will have improved among both adults and children.
- The PRIDE Survey will show annually a change in attitudes toward dangers of alcohol, tobacco and drugs among teens.
- By 2010, there will be little or no indication of gang activity as indicated by a continued low rate of juvenile crime and there will be a 20% increase in the number of students who report that they are involved with gangs as reported by the PRIDE Survey as compared to the 2006 data reports.
- By 2010, Surry County youth agencies and organizations will report to the Board of Supervisors on the accomplishments and need of their programs and services; and provide data that supports the report, based on risk and protective factor framework using a standard format.

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**GOAL # 5: Provide educational opportunities that allow children to enter school ready to learn and succeed and that prepare teenagers for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

**Indication of Need or Supporting Data**

- Surry County can provide licensed child care to a smaller percentage of its children than is average for the state of Virginia (12% vs. 26%). Focus groups and interviews suggest this gap is especially large for children under age 2.
- The Surry County School system is not fully accredited and has not made AYP.
- In 2000, 12.8% of Surry residents had a Bachelor’s degree or higher, compared to 29.5% in Virginia and 24.4% in the United States
- In 2005-2006, 88% of white students passed the English SOL tests, as did 79% of black students. Seventy percent of black students and 78% of white students passed the math tests.
- In 2002-2003, 18.7% of Surry’s preschool students needed additional intervention before kindergarten. In 2004-2005, 12% needed additional intervention.

**Objectives and Strategies**

Objectives	Strategies	Who is Responsible	Time Frame
1. Review, improve, develop, and/or institute strategies to ensure sufficient child care for Surry children	A. Coordinate interagency-private providers meetings with key stakeholders that work to provide quality child care services for newborns to children up to age 4.	Board of Supervisors/Schools/Social Services/Private Childcare Providers	July 2007- June 2010
	B. Provide opportunities for parent/citizen input regarding child care needs.		
	C. Increase parents/caregivers knowledge of the resources available to assist them, especially in critical times or situations		
	D. Review/expand curriculums designed for children in pre k and other early childhood programs.	School Board/ Schools/Youth Serving Agencies/Churches	July 2007- June 2010

<p>2. Review, improve, develop, and/or institute strategies to reduce the minority educational gap</p>	<p>A. Provide opportunities for tutorial assistance and academic enrichment programs for minorities</p>	<p>School Board/ Schools/Youth Serving Agencies/Churches</p>	<p>July 2007- June 2010</p>
<p>3. Review, improve, develop, and/or institute strategies to improve test scores.</p>	<p>A. Coordinate programs, in addition to those set forth by the school system, that are guided and framed using the state and federal guidelines (AYP and SOL as references)</p>	<p>CPMT</p>	<p>July 2007- June 2010</p>
<p>4. Review, improve/develop and institute strategies to retain students through high school graduation.</p>	<p>A. Assess the need for alternative education systems for students who exhibit/possess risk factors that may lead to school dropout and formulate a plan to include a locally based alternative education program.</p>	<p>Schools/CPMT/Office on Youth</p>	<p>July 2007- June 2010</p>
	<p>B. Develop an “easy alert system” using strategies such as truant officers, guidance counselors and bus drivers to identify students who display risk factors that could lead to school dropout.</p>	<p>School Board/Social Services/Improvement Association/Office on Youth</p>	<p>July 2007 to June 2009</p>
	<p>C. Schools will refer identified students to a school and community based programs as an opportunity to intervene in risky behaviors that may contribute to drop out but will develop their skills (i.e. mentoring programs, after school programs for academics or cultural awareness,</p>	<p>Schools/Youth Services Agencies/Churches</p>	
	<p>D. Recognize these students for their strengths and facilitate individual plans of action based on their strengths</p>	<p>Schools/Youth Services Agencies/Churches</p>	

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<p>5. Encourage students to attend a 2 or 4 year College</p>	<p>A. Increase parents awareness of what is necessary for their child to attend college</p> <p>B. Increase youth opportunities for college advancement by providing annual school or community based “college days events” whereas local and state colleges are invited to participate.</p> <p>C. Increase the number of college tours</p> <p>D. Research and disseminate a inventory of scholarships available to students</p> <p>E. Empower students to take college proficiency/entrance exams as early as the ninth grade and provide preparatory courses/ financial/travel assistance for interested students</p>	<p>PTAs/Youth Services Agencies/Churches</p> <p>Schools/Youth Services Agencies/Churches</p> <p>Schools/Youth Services Agencies/Churches</p> <p>Board of Supervisors/School Board/CPMT</p>	<p>Through 2013</p>
<p>6. Improve and increase the number of job training programs in order to better equip and serve more teens</p>	<p>A. Initiate an interagency task force that focuses on training pre teens and teens to obtain and maintain a job with special emphasis on shaping personal competencies to match their job preferences.</p> <p>B. Develop a clearly defined “measurable set of goals/objectives” that will help agencies assist teens to acquire the skills necessary to obtain/maintain a job.</p>	<p>Job Training Taskforce/Youth Serving Agencies</p>	<p>July 1, 2007</p> <p>July 2007 to June 2009</p>

**Measure of Success**

- In 2010, Surry County will have as many child care slots per 1,000 children as the state average (use percentage).
- In 2013, 100% of preschoolers who take the Pre-K PALS Test will be ready for kindergarten without additional intervention.
- Demonstrate that prepared for kindergarten.
- By 2010, the minority achievement gap will be less than it was in 2005.
- By 2010, all Surry County schools will be accredited.
- The 2010 Census will show a higher percentage of 16 to 19 year olds in school or the workforce than the 2000 Census.

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**GOAL # 6. Work with other organizations to encourage economic growth that maintains the county's quality of life and provides affordable housing so that Surry County's youth have an economically secure environment in which to grow up.**

**Indication of Need or Supporting Data:**

- Economic growth and affordable housing were two of the primary concerns of the focus group participants. Appendix D
- In 2004, 52% of Surry's school children were eligible for free or reduced lunch.
- 14.5% of Surry's children lived below the poverty rate in 2004.
- In 2000, 936 people lived and worked in Surry County. 1,357 commuted in to the county; 2,205 commuted out to other counties for work.
- 13.9% of Surry's residents spend more than 35% of household income on rent or home owner costs. Residents who are renting could benefit in assistance in managing money more effectively in order to become homeowners.

**Objectives and Strategies**

Objectives	Strategies	Who is Responsible	Time Frame
1. Increase the economic growth within the county from a youth advocacy perspective	<p>A. Youth agencies/youth will become aware of economic development plans within the county and will be engaged by key adult stakeholders to determine how they can best support those plans</p> <p>B. Improve, expand, and increase job training programs for Surry County youth.</p> <p>C. Provide youth with knowledge, skills, and opportunities to become self employed in order to increase the number of businesses within the county</p>	Board of Supervisors/Chamber of Commerce/ Planning/Youth Serving Agencies	Through 2013
2. Increase opportunities for affordable housing in an effort to maintain a healthy, safe environment for the youth and their families	<p>A. Increase opportunities to advocate for affordable housing options for Surry families from the perspective of youth health and safety issues.</p> <p>B. Establish a referral system for parents/caregivers that will connect them to community action groups that work to assist individuals with identifying and obtain rental, lease, or transitional housing.</p> <p>C. Disseminate information provided by housing associations, builders, financial institutions, etc. (i.e. HUD, FHA, USDA, Fannie Mae) that will help parents/caregivers to realize that home ownership is an option.</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors/Planning Commission/Youth Serving Agencies/Private Groups/Churches</p> <p>Youth Serving Agencies/Private Sources/Churches</p> <p>Youth Serving Agencies/Private Sources/Churches</p>	Through 2013

	D. Increase opportunities for adult citizens (parents/guardians)that will help them to acquire and maintain affordable housing within the county.	Private Sources/Churches	Through 2013
	E. Increase youth skills in the areas of financial planning and management in order to help them to be better equipped in their futures to acquire their own property and homes.	Youth Serving Agencies/Private Sources/Churches	Through 2013

**Measures of Success:**

- A smaller percentage of people will respond that they are spending more than 35% of their income on rent or mortgage payments in the 2010 Census than in the 2000 Census.
- In 2010 the Census will show a smaller percentage of youth living below the poverty line than the 2000 Census.
- A survey of youth in 2012 will show that they have skills in the areas of financial planning and management and are aware of economic development plans.

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