



# **2018 Community Assessment Annual Update**

**PO Box 279  
Gate City, VA 24251**

**(276) 452-2441 (phone)**

**(276) 452-2472 (fax)**

Table of Contents

Executive Summary and Conclusions..... 4

Key Findings ..... 5

    Community Survey..... 5

    Client Satisfaction Survey..... 5

    Lee County ..... 5

    Scott County..... 6

    Wise County ..... 6

    Norton City..... 7

Agency Overview and Assessment Methodology..... 7

Community Survey..... 9

Client Satisfaction Survey..... 12

Community Profiles..... 14

    Lee County ..... 14

        Poverty ..... 14

        Nutrition..... 16

        Individual Financial Position..... 17

        Unemployment ..... 17

        Economy..... 18

        Housing ..... 19

        Education ..... 20

        Demographic Changes ..... 21

        Health..... 22

        Substance Abuse ..... 23

        County Health Ranking..... 24

    Scott County..... 25

        Poverty ..... 25

        Nutrition..... 27

        Individual Financial Position..... 28

        Unemployment ..... 28

        Economy..... 29

        Housing ..... 30

        Education ..... 31

Demographic Changes .....	32
Health.....	33
Substance Abuse.....	34
County Health Ranking.....	35
Wise County .....	36
Poverty .....	36
Nutrition.....	38
Individual Financial Position.....	39
Unemployment .....	39
Economy.....	40
Housing .....	41
Education .....	42
Demographic Changes .....	43
Health.....	45
Substance Abuse.....	46
County Health Ranking.....	47
City of Norton.....	48
Poverty .....	48
Nutrition.....	50
Individual Financial Position.....	51
Unemployment .....	51
Economy.....	52
Housing .....	53
Education .....	54
Demographic Changes .....	55
Health.....	56
Substance Abuse.....	57
County Health Ranking.....	58
Other Available Resources in Service Area .....	59
Lee County .....	59
Scott County.....	60
Wise County .....	62
City of Norton.....	64

## Executive Summary and Conclusions

Central Appalachia is a region deeply troubled by persistent poverty. At the same time, it is a region of opportunity, and people who are used to hard work. Founded in 1965, Appalachian Community Action and Development Agency (AppCAA) serves Lee, Scott and Wise Counties and the City of Norton in far Southwest Virginia. AppCAA's vision is the elimination of poverty by enabling residents to achieve self-sufficiency. The agency's mission is to eliminate poverty and make AppCAA's clients more self-sufficient by development of resources and services to low income individuals and households in AppCAA's service area.

Lee, Scott, Wise Counties, and the City of Norton (Lenowisco) tend to have similar needs and similar reasons for those needs. All have suffered because of structural changes to the economy including the mechanization and internationalization of mining and farming. All are heavily reliant on state and federal funds to subsidize local schools and governments. All are increasingly working together on projects related to economic development as a way to pool limited resources. All bear the burden of high poverty rates, higher than state and national unemployment rates, issues of substance abuse, population decline, and high levels of people with debt in collections.

The key issues across Lenowisco region of Southwest Virginia identified through this Community Assessment are:

- Underemployment/unemployment
- High housing cost burdens
- Older housing stock
- High poverty and food insecurity
- Poor health indicators
- Low education rates beyond high school
- Substance abuse
- Declining population and changing demographics
- Personal debt and need for financial counseling

Though there are significant similarities across the jurisdictions served by the agency, there are also important differences. Specific key findings by locality are laid out in the next section. With the data that has been collected both quantitative and qualitative, AppCAA has prioritized these four needs, which were consistently identified across all service areas as the most urgent.

1. Employment
2. Housing
3. Financial Empowerment
4. Nutrition

AppCAA addresses these needs with various programs, such as AppCAA's housing rehabilitation and weatherization programs, summer food programs, tax preparation, various emergency services programs to help clients with housing, food, and utility assistance, and a new financial empowerment

program. While AppCAA is not a health or substance abuse service provider, high levels of addiction in the region contribute significantly to poverty. AppCAA is supporting efforts across the region, participating in coalitions and housing an AmeriCorps VISTA member dedicated to this effort.

Statistically, this region continues to be worse off than the rest of Virginia and the country. One thing not captured by these statistics is the strong relationship many of the residents have to the place and community in which they live. It is not uncommon for residents of the region to have a connection to the land that goes back four generations or more. For many residents this deep-seated family history is paramount to other considerations regarding the decision to stay or move. It also has the benefit of creating a strong support network for the residents. This support network is the most important “asset” that many residents have.

Sadly, the data in this survey overwhelmingly points to one conclusion: The need for AppCAA to continue and expand its programs is as urgent as ever.

## Key Findings

People and agencies in AppCAA’s service area continue to face many challenges and much suffering. Unfortunately, the clients AppCAA was created to help, those in poverty and struggling to avoid poverty, will continue to carry the bulk of this suffering.

## Community Survey

The 2017 community survey suggests there is need for a broad range of services in Southwest Virginia. The top four needs identified are: employment, housing, financial empowerment and nutrition, these four needs match the agency’s current and coming year priorities.

## Client Satisfaction Survey

Half of the 111 respondents to a client satisfaction survey said this was not the first time they received services from AppCAA. Over half of those same 111 respondents said they were seeking help with a crisis/emergency. This strongly suggests that the region needs to strengthen its efforts to address the causes of poverty, such as through financial empowerment programs.

The survey shows clients believe AppCAA:

- treated them with respect- 100%,
- provided services or information they needed- 98%,
- their family’s life improved as a result of being a client of AppCAA- 87%, and
- they would recommend AppCAA to family and friends- 99%.

## Lee County

Lee County is the western most county in Virginia; it borders both the Tennessee and Kentucky, and covers 436 square miles. As can be seen from Community Commons, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, U.S. Census, and other information sources:

- 26.1% of households are in poverty compared to the state average of 11.4%
- Unemployment rate of 7.3% compared to the state average of 4.3%

- Percent of housing without plumbing is 1.64% compared to Virginia's rate of 0.31%
- 64.42% of children receive free/reduced price lunches compared to Virginia's rate of 41.22%
- Percent of residents lacking health insurance is 15.9% compared to Virginia's 10.7%
- Drug overdose deaths 30.1 per 100,000 compared to the national average of 20.6 per 100,000
- Population decline of -7.7% compared to Virginia's growth of 5.5% from 2010 to 2017
- Population with a high school diploma or higher 75.4% compared to Virginia's 88.6%
- The Appalachian Regional Commission classifies the county's economic status as *Distressed*
- 46% of households have personal debt in collections compared to Virginia's 29%
- Overall County Health ranking 119th lowest out of 133 municipalities in Virginia

### Scott County

Scott County is in southwestern Virginia on the Tennessee border, covering 539 square miles. As can be seen from Community Commons, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, U.S. Census, and other information sources:

- 20.1% of households are in poverty compared to the state average of 11.4%
- Unemployment rate of 5.3% compared to the state average of 4.3%
- Percent of housing without plumbing is 1.08% compared to Virginia's rate of 0.31%
- 57.09% of children receive free/reduced price lunches compared to Virginia's rate of 41.22%
- Percent of residents lacking health insurance is 11.5% compared to Virginia's 10.7%
- Drug overdose deaths 23.7 per 100,000 compared to the national average of 20.6 per 100,000
- Population decline of -5.5% compared to Virginia's growth of 5.5% from 2010 to 2017
- Population with a high school diploma or higher 79.3% compared to Virginia's 88.6%
- The Appalachian Regional Commission classifies the county's economic status as *At-Risk*
- 33% of households have personal debt in collections compared to Virginia's 29%
- Overall County Health ranking 92nd lowest out of 133 municipalities in Virginia

### Wise County

Wise County is in southwestern Virginia on the Kentucky border, covering 405 square miles. This county is the most populated of AppCAA's service area. As can be seen from Community Commons, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, U.S. Census, and other information sources:

- 21.2% of households are in poverty compared to the state average of 11.4%
- Unemployment rate of 9.3% compared to the state average of 4.3%
- Percent of housing without plumbing is .59% compared to Virginia's rate of 0.31%
- 55.33% of children receive free/reduced price lunches compared to Virginia's rate of 41.22%
- Percent of residents lacking health insurance is 12.5% compared to Virginia's 10.7%
- Drug overdose deaths 48.1 per 100,000 compared to the national average of 20.6 per 100,000
- Population decline of -5.5% compared to Virginia's growth of 5.5% from 2010 to 2017
- Population with a high school diploma or higher 75.2% compared to Virginia's 88.6%
- The Appalachian Regional Commission classifies the county's economic status as *Distressed*
- 53% of households have personal debt in collections compared to Virginia's 29%
- Overall County Health ranking 124th lowest out of 133 municipalities in Virginia

## Norton City

Norton City is located within Wise County and includes 7.21 square miles. As can be seen from Community Commons, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, U.S. Census, and other information sources:

- 26.5% of households are in poverty compared to the state average of 11.4%
- Unemployment rate of 6.9% compared to the state average of 4.3%
- Percent of housing without plumbing is 0% compared to Virginia's rate of 0.31%
- 66.95% of children receive free/reduced price lunches compared to Virginia's rate of 41.22%
- Percent of residents lacking health insurance is 10.5% compared to Virginia's 10.7%
- Drug overdose death rates are not available but are likely close to Wise County's
- Population decline of -1.6% compared to Virginia's growth of 5.5% from 2010 to 2017
- Population with a high school diploma or higher 82.8% compared to Virginia's 88.6%
- The Appalachian Regional Commission classifies the city's economic status as *Distressed*
- 58% of households have personal debt in collections compared to Virginia's 29%
- Overall County Health ranking 74th lowest out of 133 municipalities in Virginia

## Agency Overview and Assessment Methodology

Appalachian Community Action & Development Agency, Inc. currently offers 13 programs and services in 4 work areas. The four work areas include business and economic development, children's programs, housing and community solutions, and volunteer programs. The agency serves Lee County, Scott County, Wise County, and the City of Norton. AppCAA's main office is just outside of Gate City in Scott County. AppCAA also has offices in Jonesville (Lee County), Big Stone Gap (Wise County), and the warehouse/office facility for housing repair/weatherization crews in Duffield (Scott County). As of April 2018, AppCAA employs 22 people, has one fulltime VISTA volunteer, a budget of approximately \$1.4 million for FY2018, and an estimated local economic impact of over \$4.2 million annually.

This community assessment uses data from different sources including Community Commons, The U.S. Census Bureau, the Appalachian Regional Commission, Urban Institute, County Health Rankings, and surveys completed by clients, local partners, and AppCAA's Board of Directors. The racial and ethnic makeup of the region is 94% white and 3.9% black; because of this, no data is presented by race. Staff wishes to note its gratitude to the national Community Action Partnership's relationship with Community Commons, which aggregates and presents very useful data, charts, and graphs for community use.

As a Community Action Agency, AppCAA develops a comprehensive Community Assessment every three years. The Community Assessment is updated annually during its second and third year of use. 2018 is the second year for the current Community Assessment. The goal of the Community Assessment is to investigate the types and levels of needs as well as the community resources that already exist to address those needs. As part of creating the Community Assessment, AppCAA staff gathers a broad range of quantitative and qualitative data about and from the communities served by the agency.

Staff analyzed both the quantitative and the qualitative data, looking for areas of convergence and divergence. Broadly speaking, the information from people who completed surveys supports the

demographic information gathered on the communities, arguing that residents have a clear understanding of area needs.

AppCAA's dedicated Board of Directors utilizes this Community Assessment – informed by the agency's knowledgeable staff, and considering the programs for which the agency already receives funding – to establish key priorities for the agency to address in its long-term Strategic Plan and to operationalize in the agency's annual Community Action Plan. The agency will address some needs directly, through programming and resource development. Other needs it will address with partnerships and supporting other agencies in their efforts.

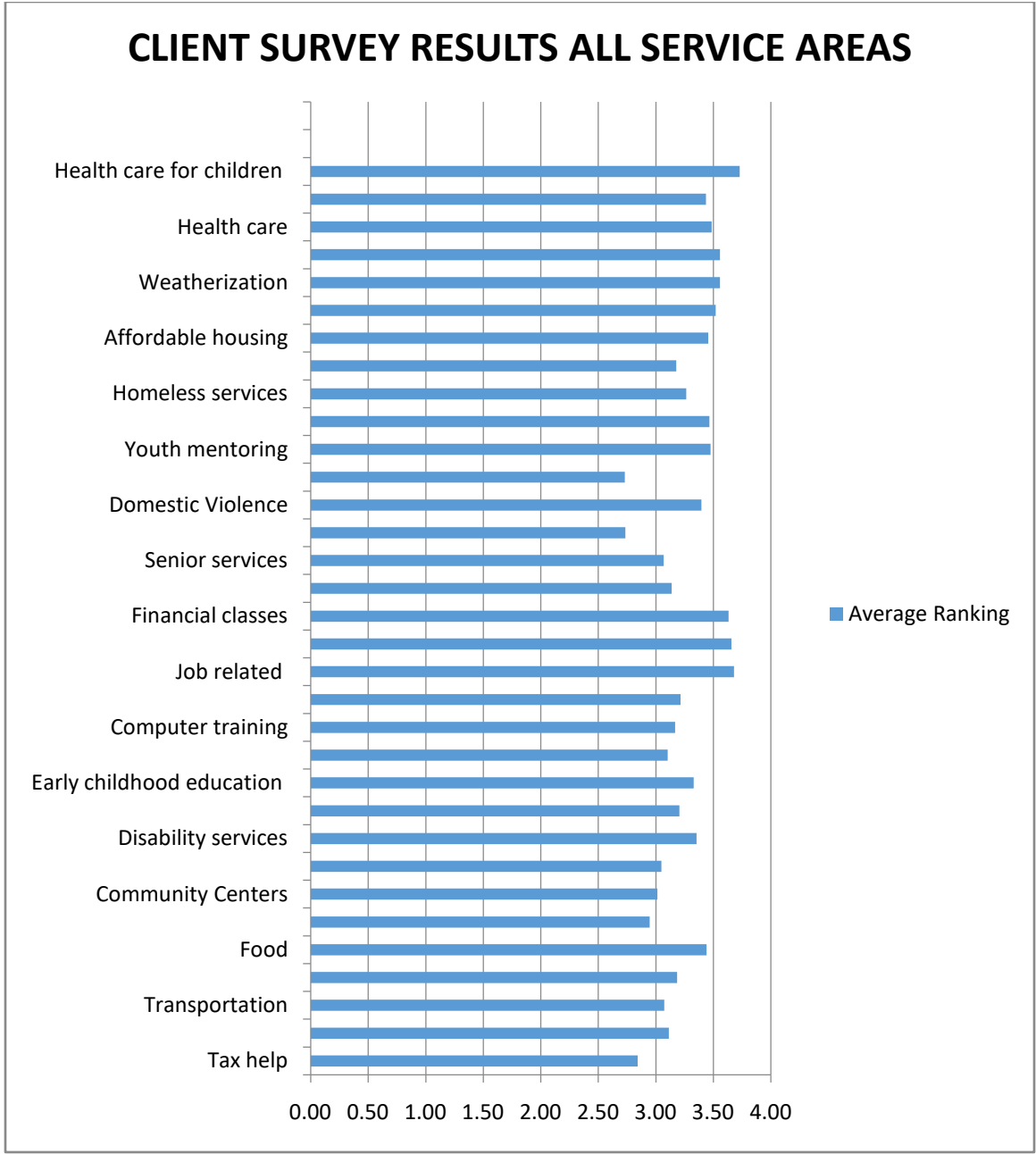
This Community Assessment will guide the agency's Strategic Plan and will be broadly shared with residents and agencies that are invested in understanding the needs of Scott, Lee, Wise counties, and the City of Norton.

For full data sets and more detailed data, please contact Stuart Burrill at [sburrill@appcaa.org](mailto:sburrill@appcaa.org).

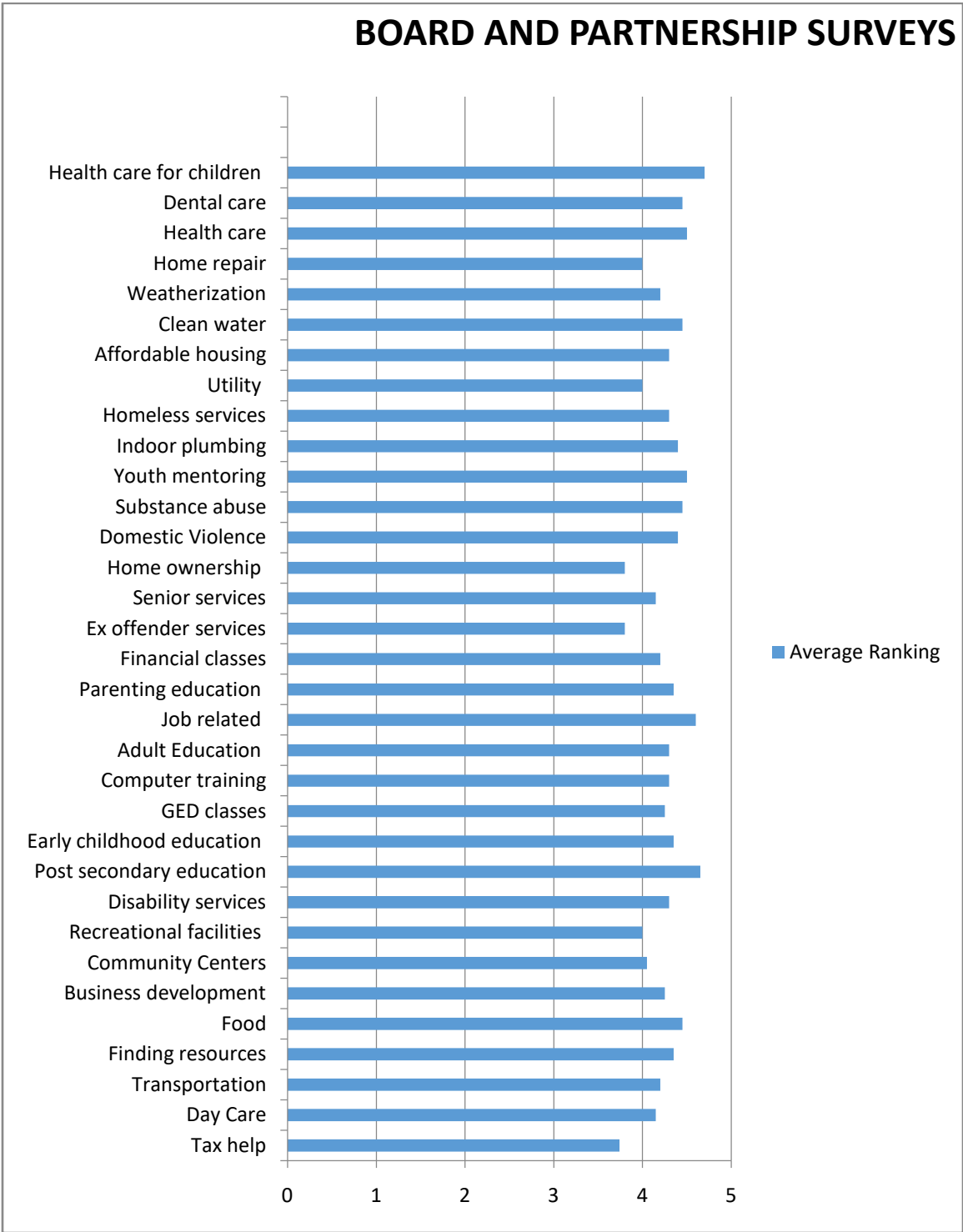


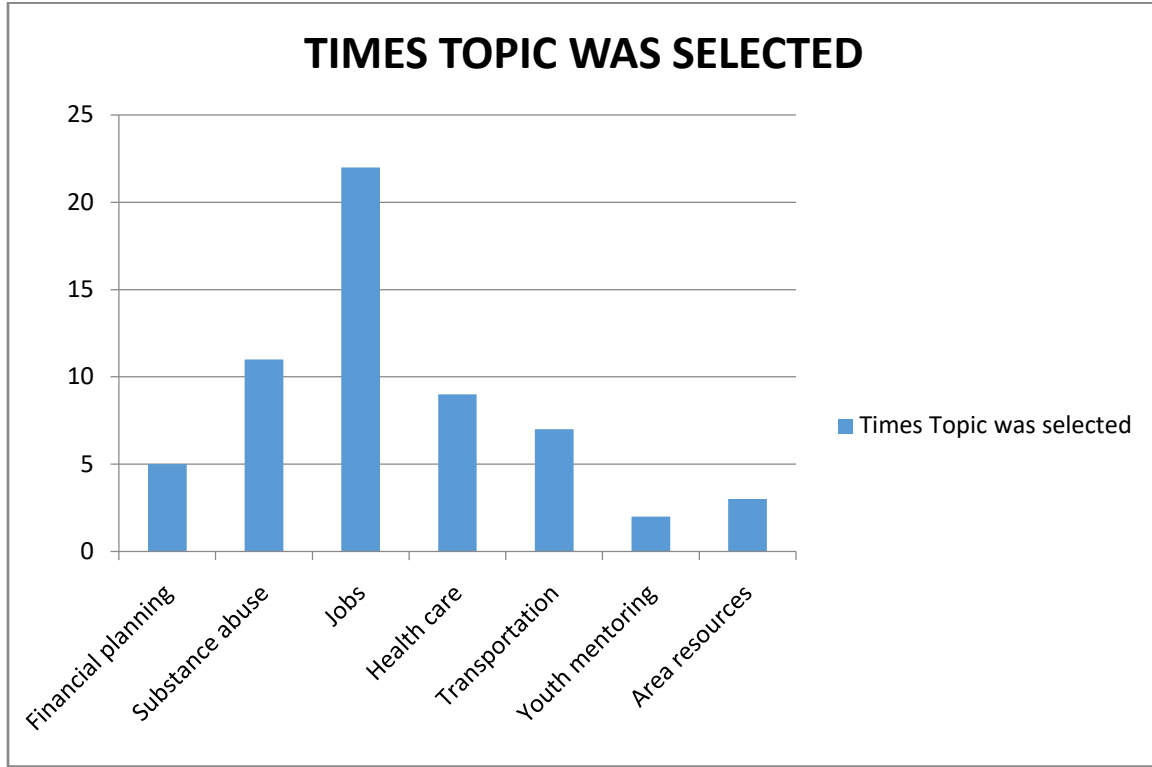
Community Survey

In 2017, Appalachian Community Action conducted a client survey as well as a partner survey to gather community input. Survey responses came from 204 clients, 12 partners, and 8 members from AppCAA’s Board of Directors, and included responses across the agency’s entire service area. The 12 partners included responses from five sectors: community based, faith based, private sector, public sector, and educational institutions. As noted above, the responses reinforce information from other data resources about the greatest needs in the service area.



As can be seen in the collected surveys, the needs that ranked the highest were job related, parenting education, financial education, health care, and housing. This data will also be reiterated in the next graph that will show the responses from the board and local partners.





The surveys from both clients and partners, demonstrate that health care, employment/job related, housing, and substance abuse are the highest priority needs in the region.

### Client Satisfaction Survey

Beginning in the fall of 2017 AppCAA started collecting client satisfaction surveys. The survey asks eight questions. Anonymous survey forms were given to clients and prospective clients when they came to an AppCAA facility. 111 surveys were filled out between October, 2017 and early April, 2018. Respondents self selected to participate in this survey. This survey is an ongoing effort.

The first seven questions ask respondents to answer “yes”, “no”, or “N/A”:

1. I was treated with respect?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	111
No	0.00%	0
N/A	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>111</b>

2. The building was clean and accessible?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	111
No	0.00%	0
N/A	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>111</b>

3. I got the services or information I needed?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	98.17%	107
No	1.83%	2
N/A	0.00%	0
<b>Total Respondents: 109</b>		

4. My and /or my family's life has improved in some way as a result of being a client of AppCAA?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	87.04%	94
No	0.00%	0
N/A	12.96%	14
<b>Total Respondents: 108</b>		

5. I would recommend AppCAA to my family and friends?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	99.08%	108
No	0.92%	1
N/A	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>109</b>

6. Was this your first time receiving services from AppCAA?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	48.18%	53
No	50.00%	55
N/A	1.82%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>110</b>

7. Was this for a crisis/ emergency?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	52.25%	58
No	42.34%	47
N/A	5.41%	6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>111</b>

8. The last question allows for an open-ended response: Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

21 individuals responded to question #8. Of these responses, the vast majority was complimentary and appreciative of AppCAA’s staff and programs, none of the comments were negative towards AppCAA.

## Community Profiles

### Lee County

Lee County is the southwestern most county in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It borders both Tennessee and Kentucky. Lee County had a population of 23,328 according to the American Community Survey in 2016. When compared to the other counties in AppCAA’s service area Lee County is the second largest in terms of population, it is also the second largest in size at 436 square miles. Lee County is considered rural by every major agency, and in practical terms, is very rural. The population is almost entirely English speaking with the white population making up 93.5% of the population and a population of 4.1% black residents according to the US Census Bureau.

For 2018, the Appalachian Regional Commission considers the county’s economic status to be *Distressed*, the lowest ranking out of five possibilities.

One bright spot for Lee County is Lincoln Memorial University’s recently opened veterinary school in the western portion of the county. LMU, based in neighboring Harrogate, TN, has opened a number of graduate programs that have attracted students from across the country.

### Poverty

Lee County, continues to have some of the highest poverty rates in Virginia, it also has the highest poverty rates in AppCAA’s service area. Poverty creates barriers to accessing health services, healthy food, and other necessities, thus contributing to poor health status. For 2016, the federal poverty level (FPL) was \$11,880 for a one person household and \$24,300 for a four person household.

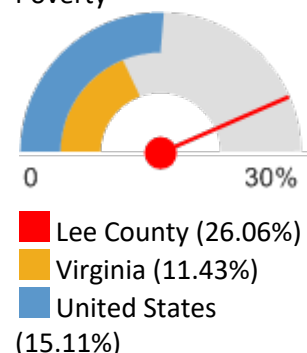
#### Poverty - Population Below 100% FPL

Report Area	Total Population	Population in Poverty	Percent Population in Poverty
Lee County	23,328	6,080	26.06%
Virginia	8,060,892	921,664	11.43%
United States	310,629,645	46,932,225	15.11%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Source geography: Tract

Percent Population in Poverty

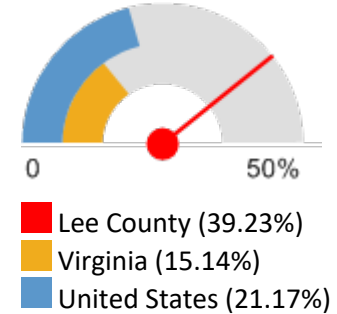


## Poverty - Children Below 100% FPL

Report Area	Total Population	Population Under Age 18	Population Under Age 18 in Poverty	Percent Population Under Age 18 in Poverty
Lee County	23,328	4,606	1,807	39.23%
Virginia	8,060,892	1,838,212	278,352	15.14%
United States	310,629,645	72,456,096	15,335,783	21.17%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Percent Population Under Age 18 in Poverty

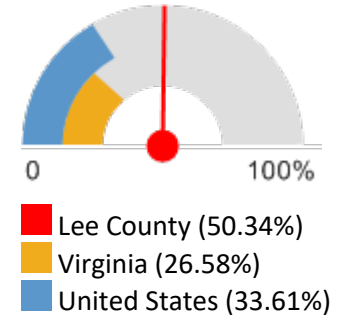


## Poverty - Population Below 200% FPL

Report Area	Total Population	Population with Income at or Below 200% FPL	Percent Population with Income at or Below 200% FPL
Lee County	23,328	11,744	50.34%
Virginia	8,060,892	2,142,217	26.58%
United States	310,629,645	104,390,198	33.61%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Percent Population with Income at or Below 200% FPL

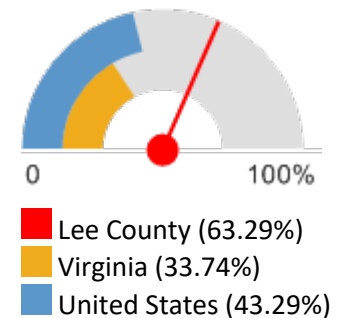


## Poverty - Children Below 200% FPL

Report Area	Total Population Under Age 18	Population Under Age 18 at or Below 200% FPL	Percent Population Under Age 18 at or Below 200% FPL
Lee County	4,606	2,915	63.29%
Virginia	1,838,212	620,201	33.74%
United States	72,456,096	31,364,270	43.29%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Percent Population Under Age 18 at or Below 200% FPL



**Nutrition**

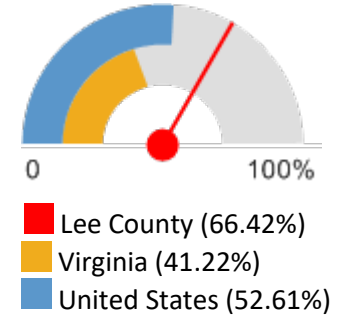
Food insecurity, limited or uncertain access to adequate food, is an ongoing concern for many people in Lee County, particularly children and the elderly. Poor nutrition directly contributes to worse health and lower performance in school. Food insecurity is directly tied to poverty and household income.

Children Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch

Report Area	Total Students	Number Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligible	Percent Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligible
Lee County	3,297	2,190	66.42%
Virginia	1,283,548	523,972	41.22%
United States	50,611,787	25,893,504	52.61%

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Common Core of Data. 2015-16.

Percent Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch

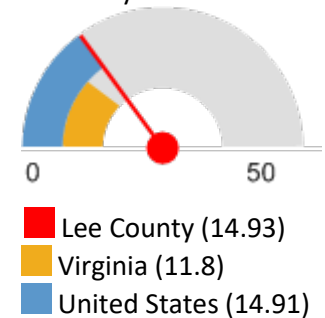


Food Insecurity Rate

Report Area	Total Population	Food Insecure Population, Total	Food Insecurity Rate
Lee County	25,380	3,790	14.93%
Virginia	8,326,289	983,880	11.8%
United States	318,198,163	47,448,890	14.91%

Data Source: Feeding America. 2014. Source geography: County

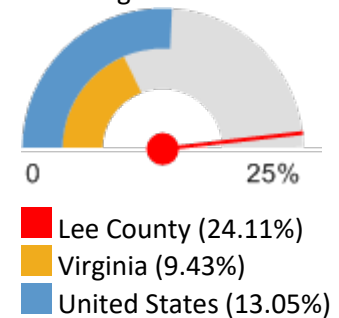
Percentage of Total Population with Food Insecurity



Population Receiving SNAP Benefits (formerly called Food Stamps)

Report Area	Total Households	Households Receiving SNAP Benefits	Percent Households Receiving SNAP Benefits
Lee County	9,282	2,238	24.11%
Virginia	3,090,178	291,537	9.43%
United States	117,716,237	15,360,951	13.05%

Percent Households Receiving SNAP Benefits





Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

### Individual Financial Position

According to the Urban Institute’s recently published Debt in America: An Interactive Map, 46% of Lee County households have debt in collections, with a median household debt in collections of \$842. Virginia has an average of 29% percent of households with debt in collections. The most common component of debt in collections is medical bills.

Having debt in collections dramatically lowers credit ratings. A lower credit rating limits access to financing, and when that financing is available, it often comes with predatory rates and fees. In addition, a poor credit rating can limit a family’s ability to afford transportation, increase their housing cost (while preventing home ownership), and increase insurance rates. Credit rating is increasingly used by employers when making hiring decisions. AppCAA is expanding its financial counseling efforts in part to help families overcome this hurdle.

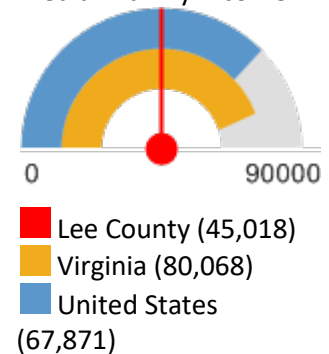
### Income - Median Family Income

This indicator reports median family income based on the latest 5-year American Community Survey estimates. A family household is any housing unit in which the householder is living with one or more individuals related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption. Family income includes the incomes of all family members age 15 and older.

Report Area	Total Family Households	Average Family Income	Median Family Income
Lee County	6,251	\$54,151	\$45,018
Virginia	2,067,943	\$105,488	\$80,068
United States	77,608,829	\$90,960	\$67,871

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Median Family Income

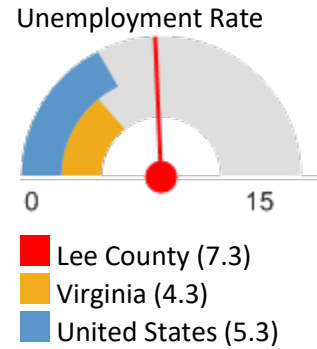


### Unemployment

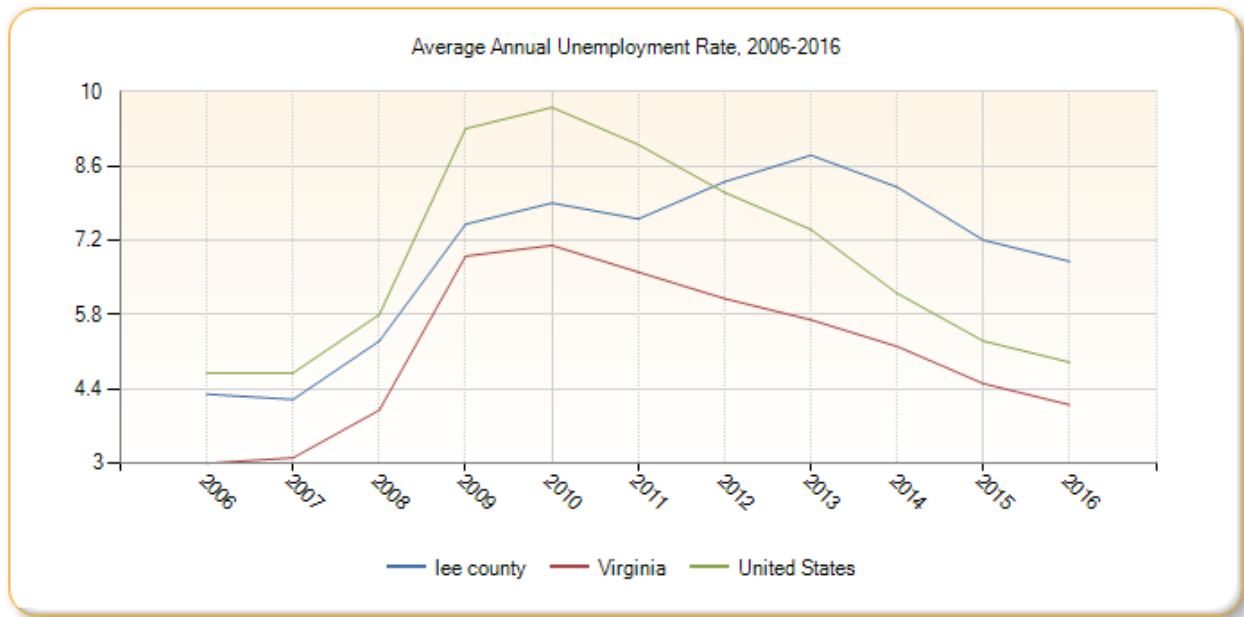
Unemployment in Lee County continues to be high, not just compared to the Commonwealth of Virginia, but also compared to the rest of AppCAA’s service area. Lee County has long had a higher unemployment rate than the state as a whole, for the last several years it has also been worse than the national rate. The unemployment rate measures those out of work for less than 180 days and currently looking for work, it does not measure underemployment.

Unemployment Rate as of December 2017

Report Area	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Lee County	8,452	7,832	620	7.3
Virginia	4,183,950	4,005,592	178,358	4.3
United States	158,230,700	149,808,710	8,421,990	5.3



Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2017 - December.



**Economy**

Lee County is a rural area with some local opportunity for employment. The coal industry was a large part of the economy in this area, its decline in recent years has put many residents out of work. As with AppCAA’s other service areas Lee County faces large unemployment rates due to the lack of work within the county and lack of affordable transportation to neighboring areas for employment. The decline of farming, in particular tobacco farming, has also hurt the local economy.

Employment Distribution by Industry

The table below shows the industries with the highest number of employees in Lee County, VA for the 3rd Quarter, 2017.

Rank	Industry Sector	Number of Establishments	Number of Employees
1	Total, All Industries	554	4,328
2	Educational Services	2	718
3	Retail Trade	64	685
4	Health Care and Social Assistance	194	682
5	Public Administration	29	616
6	Construction	26	330
7	Accommodation and Food Services	18	282
8	Other Services (except Public Administration)	82	111
9	Transportation and Warehousing	26	107
10	Administrative and Support and Waste Management	14	105

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

### Housing

Housing is an issue in the Lenowisco region due to the ages and conditions of the housing units. According to the Census Bureau’s Community Survey, Lee County has 8,616 housing units with 1 unit detached. The housing stock includes 88.7% of homes that were built in 1999 or earlier. With older homes, this raises the need for housing counseling around rehabilitation, refinance, higher energy costs, and maintenance. With AppCAA’s weatherization and housing rehab programs some older homes can be brought up to code and the houses can be made reliable, cost efficient, and safe for the families.

The U.S. Census Bureau’s 2015 home ownership rate in Lee County is 73.1% with a rental rate of 26.9%. Housing Virginia’s Sourcebook defines a high cost burden as a household spending more than 30% of their income on housing, for which 2014 is the most recent year these numbers are available. For Lee County 25.5% of households suffer under high cost burden. The rate of households suffering high housing cost burden is more than double for renters at 41.3% than homeowners’ at 17.7%.

Homes that lack proper plumbing and sanitation facilities present an increased risk of illness for residents. In addition to the families who live in these homes, their neighbors, and community, suffer from increased exposure to potentially dangerous bacteria and pollutants. Complete plumbing facilities include: (a) hot and cold running water, (b) a flush toilet, and (c) a bathtub or shower, within the home.

All Housing Units by Age

Report Area	Before 1960	1960-1979	1980-1999	2000-2010	After 2010	Total Housing Units	Median Year Structures Built
Lee County	31.9%	27.44%	29.53%	9.81%	1.31%	11,718	1975
Virginia	21.46%	27.09%	32.83%	15.85%	2.78%	3,445,357	1981
United States	28.85%	26.46%	27.69%	14.7%	2.31%	134,054,899	1977

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Households Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities

Report Area	Total Occupied Housing Units	Housing Units Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities	Housing Units Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities, Percent
Lee County	9,282	152	1.64%
Virginia	3,090,178	9,734	0.31%
United States	117,716,237	463,649	0.39%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

**Education**

Today one key factor in having what it takes to become a self sufficient family is education. Many employers are requiring higher education levels when hiring, this limits the job opportunities for those with low education levels of formal education. Education levels and the quality of the local school systems are key factors employers consider when deciding where to locate or expand facilities and jobs. Educational attainment is also the single biggest predictor of an individual’s health.

Reading at grade level can also be an indicator of future well being and success. Fortunately, Lee County scores well above the national average.

Educational Attainment 2012-2016 by Percentage of Population	Lee County	Virginia	United States
Less than High school diploma	24.6	11.4	13.0
High school diploma or equivalency	34.7	24.5	27.5
Some college, no degree	22.6	19.9	21.0
Associate's degree	6.6	7.4	8.2

Educational Attainment 2012-2016 by Percentage of Population	Lee County	Virginia	United States
Bachelor's degree	7.4	21.2	18.8
Graduate or Professional degree	4.2	15.7	11.5

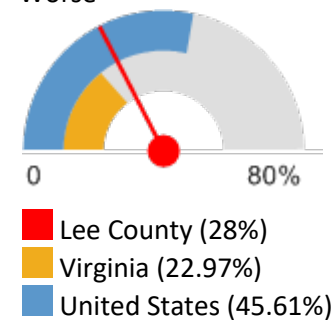
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

### Student Reading Proficiency (4th Grade)

This indicator reports the percentage of children in grade 4 whose reading skills tested below the "proficient" level for the English Language Arts portion of the state-specific standardized test. This indicator is relevant because an inability to read English well is linked to poverty, unemployment, and barriers to healthcare access, provider communications, and health literacy/education.

Report Area	Total Students with Valid Test Scores	Percentage of Students Scoring 'Proficient' or Better	Percentage of Students Scoring 'Not Proficient' or Worse
Lee County	226	72%	28%
Virginia	94,310	77.03%	22.97%
United States	3,393,582	49.67%	45.61%

Percentage of Students Scoring 'Not Proficient' or Worse



Data Source: US Department of Education, ED Facts. Accessed via DATA.GOV. 2014-15.

### Demographic Changes

The population in Lee County has declined by -7.7% compared to Virginia's growth of 5.5% from 2010 to 2017 according to the US Census Bureau. The people leaving Lee County are often individuals who are of age to enter college and/or the workforce. The decline in population is one reason Lee County has a greater percentage of those over 55 and 65 than state and national rates. Older populations have a greater need for medical and social services.

### Total Population Annually 2010-2017

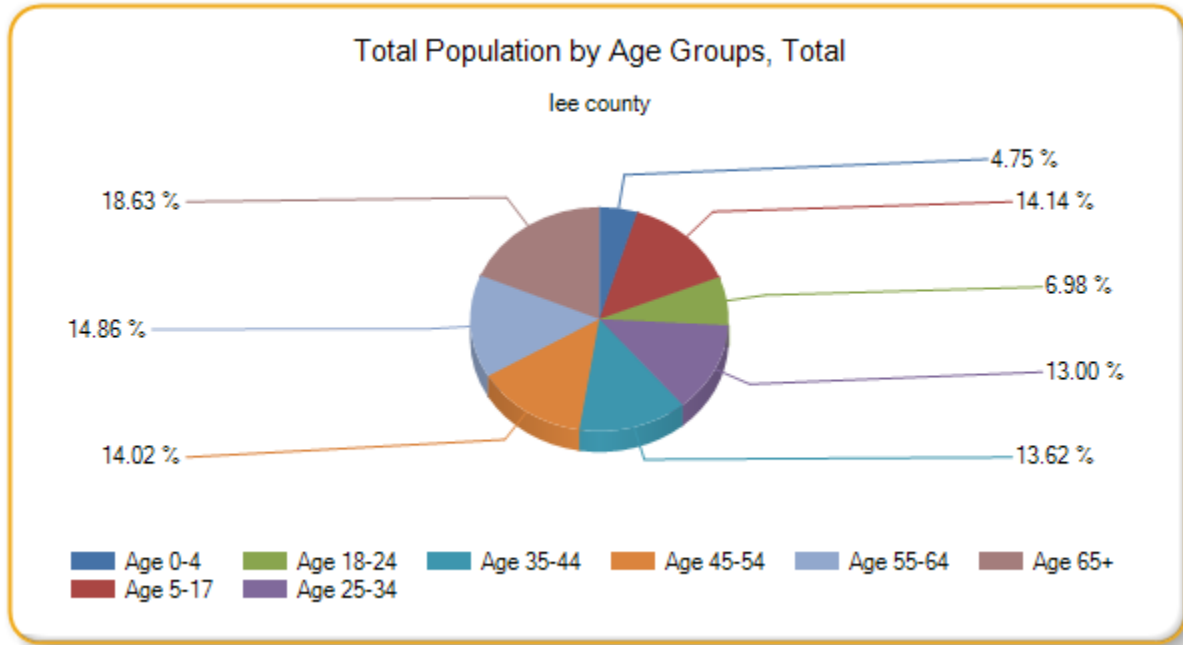
	April 1, 2010		Population Estimate (as of July 1)							
	Census	Estimate Base	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Lee County	25,587	25,583	25,598	25,533	25,421	25,068	24,715	24,547	24,051	23,758

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Total Population and Median Age by Gender

Report Area	Male	Female	Percent Male	Percent Female	Male	Female
Lee County	13,083	11,828	52.52%	47.48%	40.4	46.6
Virginia	4,086,283	4,224,018	49.17%	50.83%	36.5	39.1
United States	156,765,322	161,792,840	49.21%	50.79%	36.3	39

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.



Total Population by Age Groups, Percent

Report Area	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65
Lee County	4.75%	14.14%	6.98%	13%	13.62%	14.02%	14.86%	18.63%
Virginia	6.14%	16.31%	9.91%	13.89%	13.18%	14.24%	12.55%	13.78%
United States	6.24%	16.87%	9.82%	13.62%	12.73%	13.64%	12.58%	14.5%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

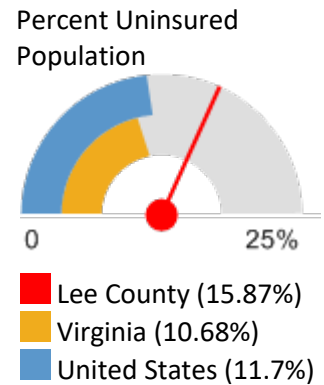
**Health**

Health issues have long been a major concern in Central Appalachia. Some of the most critical health issues for residents of Lee County are substance abuse, diabetes, smoking, obesity, and lack of medical providers in the county. The causes of poor health are exacerbated when a person lacks health insurance. Poor health makes it more difficult for someone to obtain and keep a job. Often those in poor health rely heavily on their family networks and have a significantly increased need for social services. The data, provided along with client and partner surveys, shows a clear need for increased access to health and dental services across all of AppCAA’s service area.

Lee County has a much higher percentage of the population with a disability than state and national averages. The reasons for this are varied but include the dangerous nature of mining, logging, farming, and other locally common occupations.

Insurance - Uninsured Population

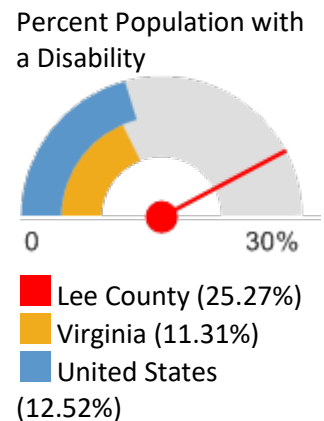
Report Area	Total Population (For Whom Insurance Status is Determined)	Total Uninsured Population	Percent Uninsured Population
Lee County	23,396	3,714	15.87%
Virginia	8,096,958	864,477	10.68%
United States	313,576,137	36,700,246	11.7%



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Population with Any Disability

Report Area	Total Population (For Whom Disability Status Is Determined)	Total Population with a Disability	Percent Population with a Disability
Lee County	23,396	5,912	25.27%
Virginia	8,096,958	915,366	11.31%
United States	313,576,137	39,272,529	12.52%



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Substance Abuse

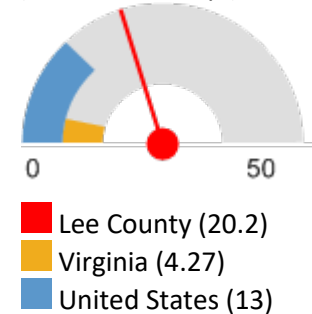
Substance abuse is another key health issue that residents of Lee County are facing. Substance abuse ranked lower with surveys that were completed by clients ranking 2.75 out of 4, and ranked at a higher rate of 4.5 out of 5 with AppCAA’s Board of Directors and community partners. Both quantitative and qualitative data prove that substance abuse is an issue in Lee County.

Opioid use, particularly prescription pills, has been especially high; however, local health departments are now seeing a gradual resurgence of methamphetamines as the drug of choice among addicts. Drug use is all too frequently a causal element in suicides within the region. Suicide and substance abuse are made more common by poor mental health.

Mortality - Suicide

Report Area	Total Population	Average Annual Deaths, 2010-2014	Crude Death Rate (Per 100,000 Pop.)	Age-Adjusted Death Rate (Per 100,000 Pop.)
Lee County	24,906	5	20.9	20.2
Virginia	731,669	29	3.99	4.27
United States	318,689,254	42,747	13.4	13

Suicide, Age-Adjusted Death Rate (Per 100,000 Pop.)



Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System. Accessed via CDC WONDER. 2012-16.

Overdose Death Rate

According to the Appalachian Regional Commission, Lee County had a rate of 30.1 drug overdose deaths per 100,000 people in 2015. This is significantly higher than the national average of 20.6 deaths per 100,000 people.

County Health Ranking

The County Health Rankings, issued by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, have become one of the most common metrics for evaluating the overall health of a region. Lee County ranks near the bottom of the state- as the 119<sup>th</sup> least healthy out of 133 jurisdictions evaluated.



## Scott County

Scott County is a rural area in Southwest Virginia. Resting on the Tennessee state line, it has a population of 21,621 according to the American Community Survey in 2016. The county covers 536 square miles. Bordering the Tri-Cities metro area, Scott County residents have more opportunities for employment and other resources compared to the other counties that AppCAA serves. However, Scott County still shows difficult challenges when compared to the averages across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Because it borders the Tri-Cities metro area, some agencies do not consider the county or portions of it to be rural. In practical terms, it is a rural county.

For 2018, the Appalachian Regional Commission considers the county’s economic status to be At-Risk, the fourth lowest ranking out of five possibilities. Overall Scott County has the strongest economy of any AppCAA service area.

When compared to the other two counties that AppCAA serves Scott County has a smaller population than both Wise and Lee Counties. The population is almost entirely English speaking with the white population making up 98.1% of the population according to the US Census.

## Poverty

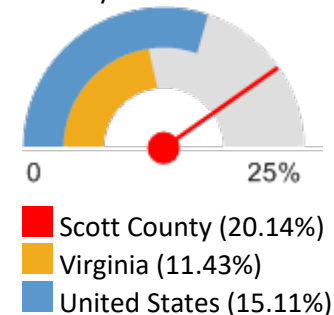
Scott County, along with the surrounding areas continues to have some of the highest poverty rates in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Poverty creates barriers to accessing health services, healthy food, and other necessities, thus contributing to poor health status. For 2016, the federal poverty level was \$11,880 for a one person household and \$24,300 for a four person household.

### Poverty - Population Below 100% FPL

Report Area	Total Population	Population in Poverty	Percent Population in Poverty
Scott County	21,621	4,355	20.14%
Virginia	8,060,892	921,664	11.43%
United States	310,629,645	46,932,225	15.11%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Percent Population in Poverty

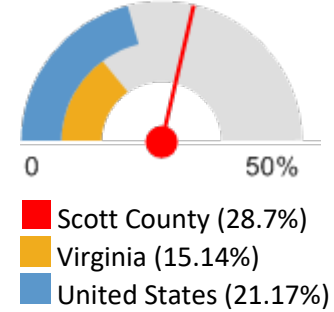


Poverty - Children Below 100% FPL

Report Area	Total Population	Population Under Age 18	Population Under Age 18 in Poverty	Percent Population Under Age 18 in Poverty
Scott County	21,621	4,126	1,184	28.7%
Virginia	8,060,892	1,838,212	278,352	15.14%
United States	310,629,645	72,456,096	15,335,783	21.17%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Percent Population Under Age 18 in Poverty

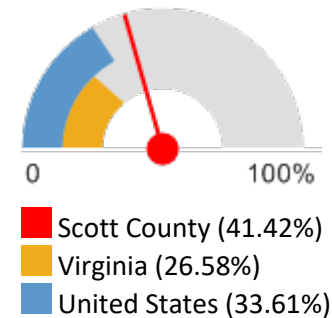


Poverty - Population Below 200% FPL

Report Area	Total Population	Population with Income at or Below 200% FPL	Percent Population with Income at or Below 200% FPL
Scott County	21,621	8,955	41.42%
Virginia	8,060,892	2,142,217	26.58%
United States	310,629,645	104,390,198	33.61%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.  
Source geography: Tract

Percent Population with Income at or Below 200% FPL

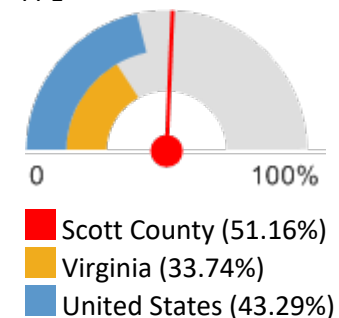


Poverty - Children Below 200% FPL

Report Area	Total Population Under Age 18	Population Under Age 18 at or Below 200% FPL	Percent Population Under Age 18 at or Below 200% FPL
Scott County	4,126	2,111	51.16%
Virginia	1,838,212	620,201	33.74%
United States	72,456,096	31,364,270	43.29%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Percent Population Under Age 18 at or Below 200% FPL



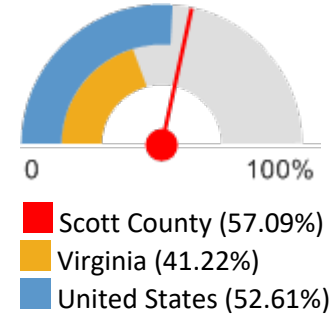
**Nutrition**

Food insecurity, limited or uncertain access to adequate food, is an ongoing concern for many people in Scott County, particularly children and the elderly. Poor nutrition directly contributes to worse health and lower performance in school. It is directly tied to poverty and household income.

Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch

Report Area	Total Students	Number Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligible	Percent Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligible
Scott County	3,817	2,179	57.09%
Virginia	1,283,548	523,972	41.22%
United States	50,611,787	25,893,504	52.61%

Percent Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch

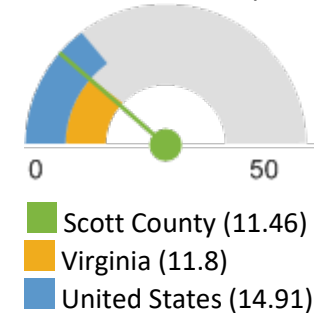


Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Common Core of Data. 2015-16.

Food Insecurity Rate

Report Area	Total Population	Food Insecure Population, Total	Food Insecurity Rate
Scott County	22,781	2,610	11.46%
Virginia	8,326,289	983,880	11.8%
United States	318,198,163	47,448,890	14.91%

Percentage of Total Population with Food Insecurity

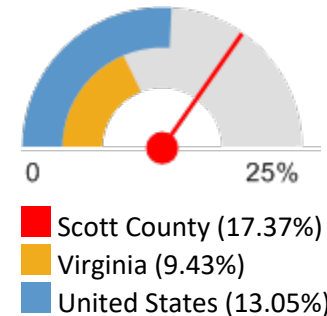


Data Source: Feeding America. 2014.

Population Receiving SNAP Benefits (formerly called Food Stamps)

Report Area	Total Households	Households Receiving SNAP Benefits	Percent Households Receiving SNAP Benefits
Scott County	9,104	1,581	17.37%
Virginia	3,090,178	291,537	9.43%
United States	117,716,237	15,360,951	13.05%

Percent Households Receiving SNAP Benefits



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

### Individual Financial Position

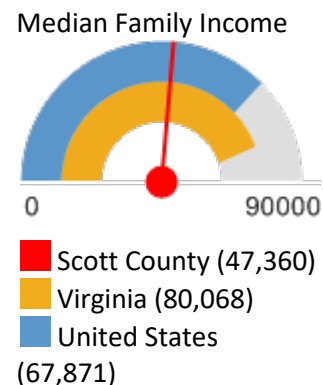
According to the Urban Institute’s recently published Debt in America: An Interactive Map, 33% of Scott County households have debt in collections, with a median household debt in collections of \$1,655. Virginia has an average of 29% percent of households with debt in collections. The most common component of debt in collections is medical bills.

Having debt in collections dramatically lowers credit ratings. A lower credit rating limits access to financing, and when that financing is available, it often comes with predatory rates and fees. In addition, a poor credit rating can limit a family’s ability to afford transportation, increase their housing cost (while preventing home ownership), and increase insurance rates. Credit rating is increasingly used by employers when making hiring decisions. AppCAA is expanding its financial counseling efforts in part to help families overcome this hurdle.

### Income - Median Family Income

This indicator reports median family income based on the latest 5-year American Community Survey estimates. A family household is any housing unit in which the householder is living with one or more individuals related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption. Family income includes the incomes of all family members age 15 and older.

Report Area	Total Family Households	Average Family Income	Median Family Income
Scott County	6,343	\$58,335	\$47,360
Virginia	2,067,943	\$105,488	\$80,068
United States	77,608,829	\$90,960	\$67,871



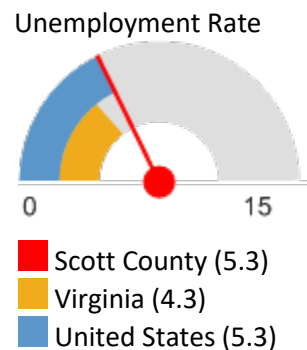
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

### Unemployment

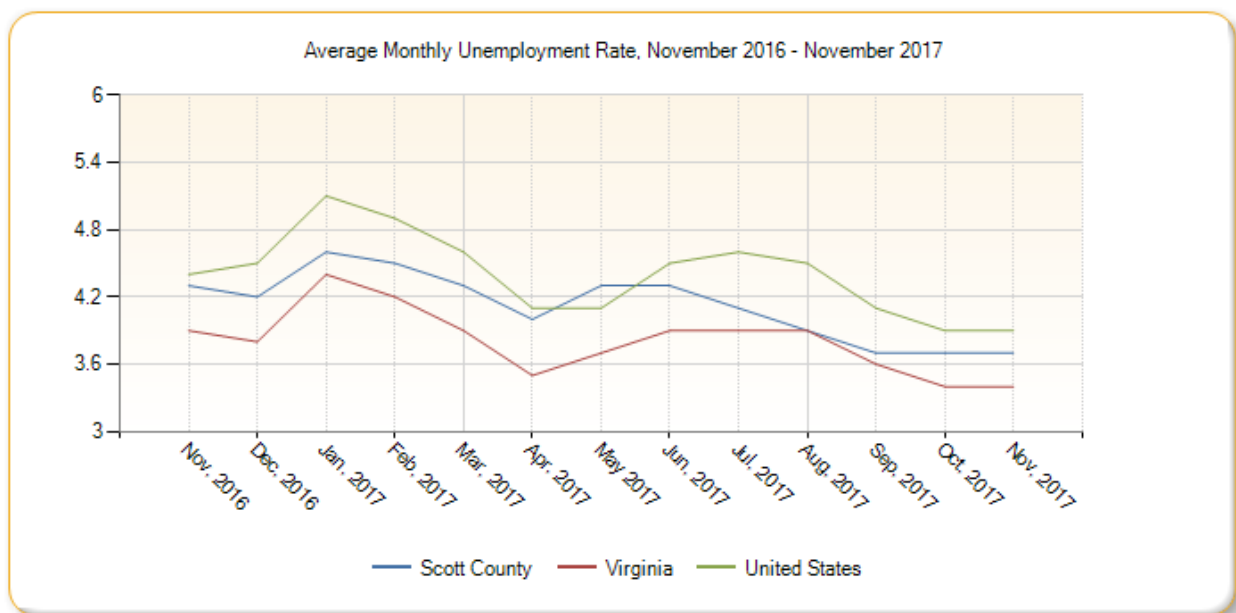
Scott County has long had a higher unemployment rate than the state as a whole, for the last several years it has also been worse than the national rate. The unemployment rate measures those out of work for less than 180 days and currently looking for work, it does not measure underemployment.

Unemployment Rate as of December 2017

Report Area	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Scott County	9,368	8,867	501	5.3
Virginia	4,183,950	4,005,592	178,358	4.3
United States	158,230,700	149,808,710	8,421,990	5.3



Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2017 - December.



**Economy**

Scott County is a rural area with some local opportunity for employment; however, a vast majority of workers travel to nearby counties and states for employment. As can be seen in the chart below there is a lack of local businesses and job opportunities, resulting in residents traveling to neighboring areas for employment opportunities. Scott County benefits from employment opportunities in the Tri-Cities metro area and the growth of industries along the I-81 corridor in Washington County, VA. One bright spot is recently attracted call centers, that pay above the industry average.

Employment Distribution by Industry

The table below shows the industries with the highest number of employees in Scott County, VA for the 3rd Quarter, 2017.

Rank	Industry Sector	Number of Establishments	Number of Employees
1	Total, All Industries	419	4,600
2	Health Care and Social Assistance	112	802
3	Manufacturing	9	740
4	Educational Services	3	672
5	Retail Trade	75	636
6	Accommodation and Food Services	23	417
7	Public Administration	33	338
8	Other Services (except Public Administration)	43	155
9	Administrative and Support and Waste Management	5	144
10	Transportation and Warehousing	18	140

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

### Housing

Housing is an issue in the Lenowisco area due to the ages and conditions of the housing units. According to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey in 2015, Scott County had 8,157 housing units with 1 unit detached. 89.2% of homes in Scott County were built in 1999 or earlier. With older homes, this raises the need for housing counseling around rehabilitation, refinance, high energy use, and maintenance. With AppCAA's weatherization and housing rehab programs some older homes can be brought up to code and the houses can be made reliable, cost efficient, and safe for the families.

The Census Bureau's 2015 home ownership rate in Scott County is 77.7% with a rental rate of 22.3%. Housing Virginia's Sourcebook defines a high cost burden as a household spending more than 30% of their income on housing, for which 2014 is the most recent year these numbers are available. For Scott County 20.3% of households suffer under high cost burden. The rate of households suffering high housing cost burden is nearly double for renters at 36.4% than homeowners' at 18.5%.

Homes that lack proper plumbing and sanitation facilities present an increased risk of illness for residents. In addition to the families who live in these homes, their neighbors, and community, suffer from increased exposure to potentially dangerous bacteria and pollutants. Complete plumbing facilities include: (a) hot and cold running water, (b) a flush toilet, and (c) a bathtub or shower, within the home.

All Housing Units by Age

Report Area	Before 1960	1960-1979	1980-1999	2000-2010	After 2010	Total Housing Units	Median Year Structures Built
Scott County	30.28%	26.51%	31.46%	9.79%	1.95%	11,874	1976
Virginia	21.46%	27.09%	32.83%	15.85%	2.78%	3,445,357	1981
United States	28.85%	26.46%	27.69%	14.7%	2.31%	134,054,899	1977

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Households Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities

Report Area	Total Occupied Housing Units	Housing Units Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities	Housing Units Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities, Percent
Scott County	9,104	98	1.08%
Virginia	3,090,178	9,734	0.31%
United States	117,716,237	463,649	0.39%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

**Education**

Today one key factor in having what it takes to become a self sufficient family is education. Many employers are requiring higher education levels when hiring, this limits the job opportunities for those with low education levels of formal education. Education levels and the quality of the local school systems are key factors employers consider when deciding where to locate or expand facilities and jobs. Educational attainment is also the single biggest predictor of an individual’s health.

Reading at grade level can also be an indicator of future well being and success. Fortunately, Scott County scores well above the national average.

Educational Attainment 2012-2016 by Percentage of Population	Scott County	Virginia	United States
Less than High school diploma	20.7	11.4	13.0
High school diploma or equivalency	38.1	24.5	27.5
Some college, no degree	21.6	19.9	21.0
Associate's degree	7.0	7.4	8.2

Educational Attainment 2012-2016 by Percentage of Population	Scott County	Virginia	United States
Bachelor's degree	8.7	21.2	18.8
Graduate or Professional degree	3.8	15.7	11.5

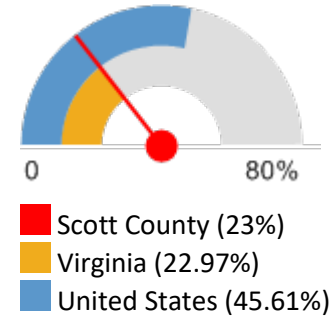
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Student Reading Proficiency (4th Grade)

This indicator reports the percentage of children in grade 4 whose reading skills tested below the "proficient" level for the English Language Arts portion of the state-specific standardized test. This indicator is relevant because an inability to read English well is linked to poverty, unemployment, and barriers to healthcare access, provider communications, and health literacy/education.

Report Area	Total Students with Valid Test Scores	Percentage of Students Scoring 'Proficient' or Better	Percentage of Students Scoring 'Not Proficient' or Worse
Scott County	267	77%	23%
Virginia	94,310	77.03%	22.97%
United States	3,393,582	49.67%	45.61%

Percentage of Students Scoring 'Not Proficient' or Worse



Data Source: US Department of Education, EDData. Accessed via DATA.GOV. 2014-15.

Demographic Changes

The population in Scott County has declined by -5.5% compared to Virginia's growth of 5.5% from 2010 to 2017. The people leaving Scott County are often individuals who are of age to enter college and/or the workforce. The decline in population is one reason Scott County has a greater percentage of those over 55 and 65 than state and national rates. Older populations have a greater need for medical and social services.

Total Population Annually 2010-2017

	April 1, 2010		Population Estimate (as of July 1)							
	Census	Estimates Base	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Scott County, Virginia	23,177	23,174	23,134	23,061	22,959	22,774	22,529	22,256	22,028	21,865

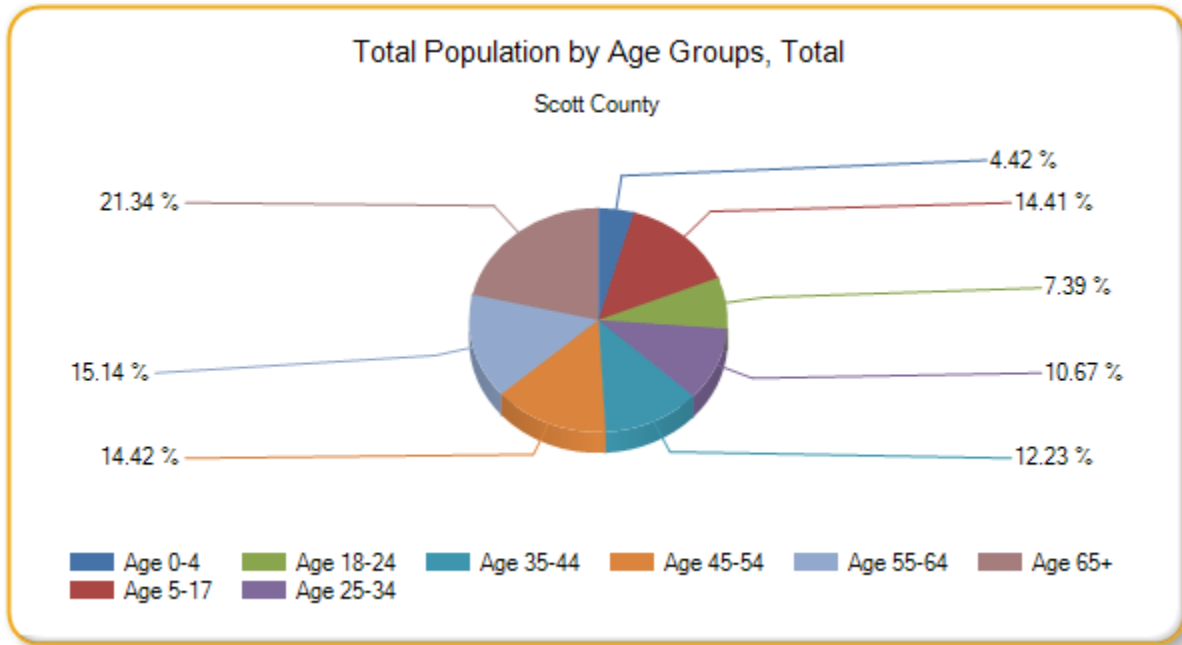


Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Total Population and Median Age by Gender

Report Area	Male	Female	Percent Male	Percent Female	Male	Female
Scott County	11,259	11,119	50.31%	49.69%	44.5	47.5
Virginia	4,086,283	4,224,018	49.17%	50.83%	36.5	39.1
United States	156,765,322	161,792,840	49.21%	50.79%	36.3	39

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.



Total Population by Age Groups, Percent

Report Area	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65
Scott County	4.42%	14.41%	7.39%	10.67%	12.23%	14.42%	15.14%	21.34%
Virginia	6.14%	16.31%	9.91%	13.89%	13.18%	14.24%	12.55%	13.78%
United States	6.24%	16.87%	9.82%	13.62%	12.73%	13.64%	12.58%	14.5%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

**Health**

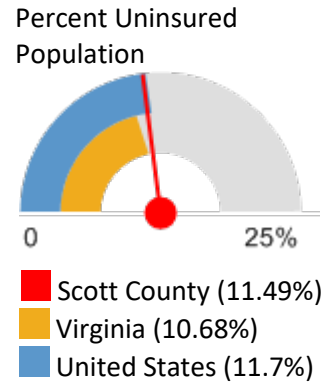
Health issues have long been a major concern in Central Appalachia. Some of the most critical health issues for residents of Scott County are substance abuse, diabetes, smoking, obesity, and lack of medical providers in the county. The causes of poor health are exacerbated when a person lacks health insurance. Poor health makes it more difficult for someone to obtain and keep a job. Often those in poor health rely heavily on their family networks and have a significantly increased need for social services.

The data, provided along with client and partner surveys, shows a clear need for increased access to health and dental services across all of AppCAA’s service area.

Scott County has a much higher percentage of the population with a disability than state and national averages. The reasons for this are varied but include the dangerous nature of mining, logging, farming, and other locally common occupations.

Insurance - Uninsured Population

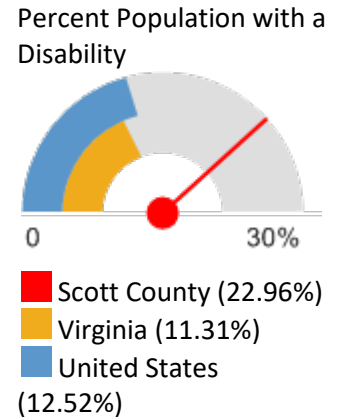
Report Area	Total Population (For Whom Insurance Status is Determined)	Total Uninsured Population	Percent Uninsured Population
Scott County	21,697	2,493	11.49%
Virginia	8,096,958	864,477	10.68%
United States	313,576,137	36,700,246	11.7%



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.  
Source geography: Tract

Population with Any Disability

Report Area	Total Population (For Whom Disability Status is Determined)	Total Population with a Disability	Percent Population with a Disability
Scott County	21,697	4,982	22.96%
Virginia	8,096,958	915,366	11.31%
United States	313,576,137	39,272,529	12.52%



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.  
Source geography: Tract

Substance Abuse

Substance abuse is another key health issue that residents of Scott County are facing. Substance abuse ranked lower with surveys that were completed by clients ranking 2.75 out of 4, and ranked at a higher rate of 4.5 out of 5 with AppCAA’s Board of Directors and community partners. Both quantitative and qualitative data prove that substance abuse is an issue in the area of Scott County.

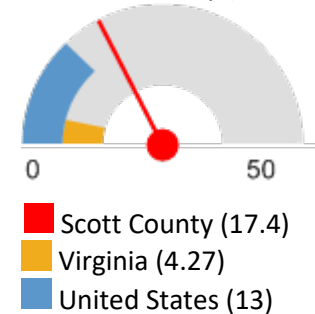
Opioid use, particularly prescription pills, has been especially high; however, local health departments are now seeing a gradual resurgence of methamphetamines as the drug of choice among addicts. Drug

use is all too frequently a causal element in suicides within the region. Suicide and substance abuse are made more common by poor mental health.

### Mortality – Suicide

Report Area	Total Population	Average Annual Deaths, 2010-2014	Crude Death Rate (Per 100,000 Pop.)	Age-Adjusted Death Rate (Per 100,000 Pop.)
Scott County	22,372	5	20.6	17.4
Virginia	731,669	29	3.99	4.27
United States	318,689,254	42,747	13.4	13

Suicide, Age-Adjusted Death Rate (Per 100,000 Pop.)



Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System. Accessed via CDC WONDER. 2012-16.

### Overdose Death Rate

According to the Appalachian Regional Commission, Scott County had a rate of 23.7 drug overdose deaths per 100,000 people in 2015. This is notably higher than the national average of 20.6 deaths per 100,000 people.

### County Health Ranking

The County Health Rankings, issued by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, have become one of the most common metrics for evaluating the overall health of a region. Scott County ranks near the bottom of the state- as the 92<sup>nd</sup> least healthy out of 133 jurisdictions evaluated in Virginia.

## Wise County

Wise County is the southwestern part of the Commonwealth, bordering Kentucky to its north and west. Wise County has a population of 39,034 according to the American Community Survey in 2016. When compared to the other counties in AppCAA’s service area Wise County is the largest in terms of population, it is the smallest county by size. The county covers 436 square miles. Wise County is considered rural by every major agency, and in practical terms, is very rural. The population is almost entirely English speaking with the white population making up 92.6% of the population and a population of 5.3% black residents according to the US Census.

For 2018, the Appalachian Regional Commission considers the county’s economic status to be *Distressed*, the lowest ranking out of five possibilities.

Wise County surrounds the City of Norton. Some statistical areas for Wise County include Norton, when known this is noted. There are two colleges in Wise County- University of Virginia’s College at Wise, located in the town of Wise, and Mountain Empire Community College in Big Stone Gap.

## Poverty

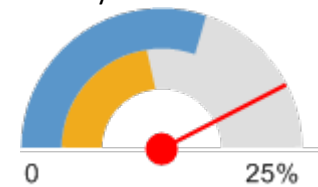
Wise County continues to have some of the highest poverty rates in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Poverty creates barriers to accessing health services, healthy food, and other necessities, thus contributing to poor health status. For 2016, the federal poverty level (FPL) was \$11,880 for a one person household and \$24,300 for a four person household.

### Poverty - Population Below 100% FPL

Report Area	Total Population	Population in Poverty	Percent Population in Poverty
Wise County, VA	37,171	7,865	21.16%
Virginia	8,060,892	921,664	11.43%
United States	310,629,645	46,932,225	15.11%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Percent Population in Poverty

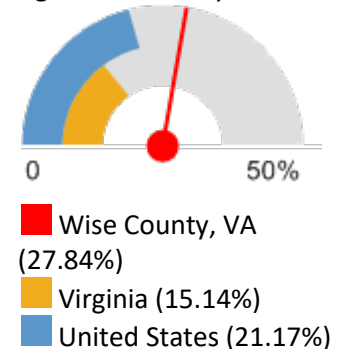


- Wise County, VA (21.16%)
- Virginia (11.43%)
- United States (15.11%)

## Poverty - Children Below 100% FPL

Report Area	Total Population	Population Under Age 18	Population Under Age 18 in Poverty	Percent Population Under Age 18 in Poverty
Wise County, VA	37,171	7,884	2,195	27.84%
Virginia	8,060,892	1,838,212	278,352	15.14%
United States	310,629,645	72,456,096	15,335,783	21.17%

Percent Population Under Age 18 in Poverty

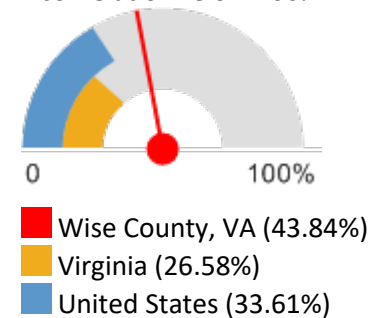


Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.  
Source geography: Tract

## Poverty - Population Below 200% FPL

Report Area	Total Population	Population with Income at or Below 200% FPL	Percent Population with Income at or Below 200% FPL
Wise County, VA	37,171	16,297	43.84%
Virginia	8,060,892	2,142,217	26.58%
United States	310,629,645	104,390,198	33.61%

Percent Population with Income at or Below 200% FPL

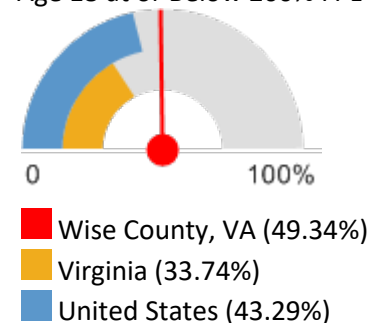


Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

## Poverty - Children Below 200% FPL

Report Area	Total Population Under Age 18	Population Under Age 18 at or Below 200% FPL	Percent Population Under Age 18 at or Below 200% FPL
Wise County, VA	7,884	3,890	49.34%
Virginia	1,838,212	620,201	33.74%
United States	72,456,096	31,364,270	43.29%

Percent Population Under Age 18 at or Below 200% FPL



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

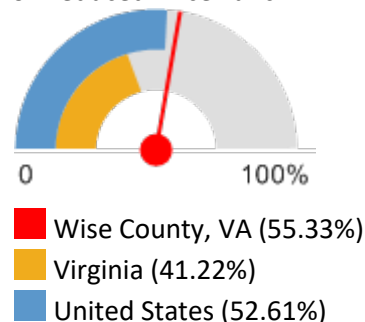
## Nutrition

Food insecurity, limited or uncertain access to adequate food, is an ongoing concern for many people in Wise County, particularly children and the elderly. Poor nutrition directly contributes to worse health and lower performance in school. It is directly tied to poverty and household income.

### Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch

Report Area	Total Students	Number Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligible	Percent Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligible
Wise County, VA	6,024	3,333	55.33%
Virginia	1,283,548	523,972	41.22%
United States	50,611,787	25,893,504	52.61%

Percent Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch

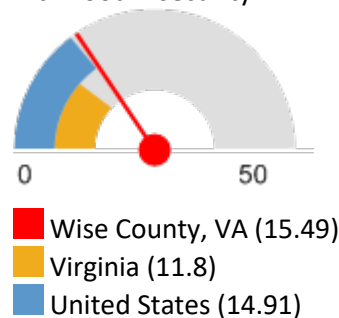


Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Common Core of Data. 2015-16.

### Food Insecurity Rate

Report Area	Total Population	Food Insecure Population, Total	Food Insecurity Rate
Wise County, VA	40,872	6,330	15.49%
Virginia	8,326,289	983,880	11.8%
United States	318,198,163	47,448,890	14.91%

Percentage of Total Population with Food Insecurity

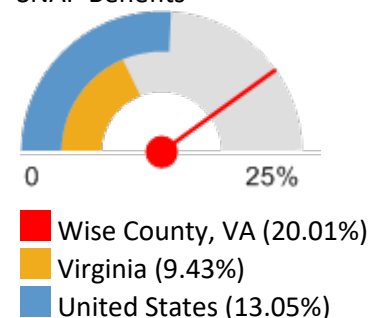


Data Source: Feeding America. 2014. So

### Population Receiving SNAP Benefits (formerly called Food Stamps)

Report Area	Total Households	Households Receiving SNAP Benefits	Percent Households Receiving SNAP Benefits
Wise County, VA	15,225	3,046	20.01%
Virginia	3,090,178	291,537	9.43%
United States	117,716,237	15,360,951	13.05%

Percent Households Receiving SNAP Benefits



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

## Individual Financial Position

According to the Urban Institute’s recently published Debt in America: An Interactive Map, 53% of Wise County households have debt in collections, with a median household debt in collections of \$1,368.

Virginia has an average of 29% percent of households with debt in collections. The most common component of debt in collections is medical bills.

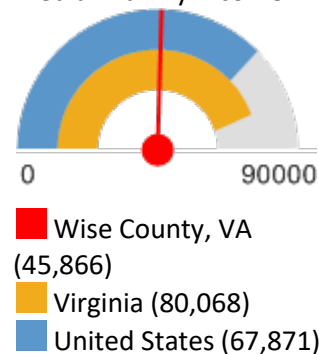
Having debt in collections dramatically lowers credit ratings. A lower credit rating limits access to financing, and when that financing is available, it often comes with predatory rates and fees. In addition, a poor credit rating can limit a family’s ability to afford transportation, increase their housing cost (while preventing home ownership), and increase insurance rates. Credit rating is increasingly used by employers when making hiring decisions. AppCAA is expanding its financial counseling efforts in part to help families overcome this hurdle.

## Income - Median Family Income

This indicator reports median family income based on the latest 5-year American Community Survey estimates. A family household is any housing unit in which the householder is living with one or more individuals related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption. Family income includes the incomes of all family members age 15 and older.

Report Area	Total Family Households	Average Family Income	Median Family Income
Wise County, VA	10,265	\$60,798	\$45,866
Virginia	2,067,943	\$105,488	\$80,068
United States	77,608,829	\$90,960	\$67,871

Median Family Income



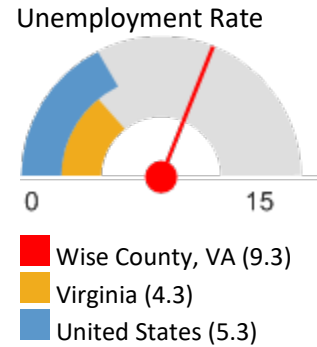
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.  
 Source geography: Tract

## Unemployment

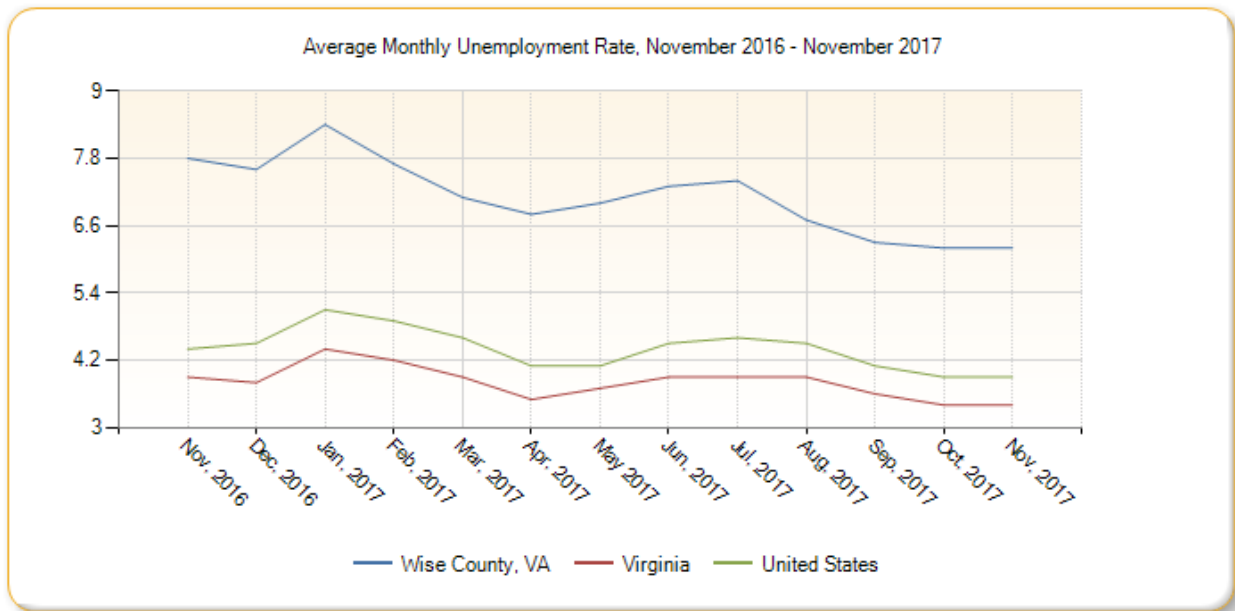
Wise County has long had a higher unemployment rate than the state and nation. The decline of the coal mining industry has significantly impacted Wise County. The unemployment rate measures those out of work for less than 180 days and currently looking for work, it does not measure underemployment.

Unemployment Rate as of December 2017

Report Area	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Wise County, VA	13,099	11,882	1,217	9.3
Virginia	4,183,950	4,005,592	178,358	4.3
United States	158,230,700	149,808,710	8,421,990	5.3



Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2017 - December.  
Source geography: County



**Economy**

Wise County is the most unique of AppCAA’s services area due in large part to the four year college located in the City of Wise. The area of Wise County is still feeling the effects of the coal industry slowing down in recent years. Local businesses are not plentiful in the rural area of Wise even with places like the college nearby. Just as in AppCAA’s other territories, transportation remains an issue with the economy, with residents not being able to drive to work, and the lack of public transportation. As can be seen in the chart below there is a lack of local business and job opportunities which leads to issues like high unemployment rates and poverty rates.

Employment Distribution by Industry

The table below shows the industries with the highest number of employees in Wise County, VA for the 3rd Quarter, 2017.



Rank	Industry Sector	Number of Establishments	Number of Employees
1	Total, All Industries	923	11,146
2	Retail Trade	152	1,831
3	Health Care and Social Assistance	231	1,704
4	Public Administration	40	1,688
5	Educational Services	10	1,279
6	Administrative and Support and Waste Management	31	944
7	Accommodation and Food Services	50	876
8	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	60	407
9	Construction	56	365
10	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	25	343

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

### Housing

Housing is an issue in the Lenowisco area due to the ages and conditions of the housing units. According to the Community Survey, Wise County has 17,815 housing units with 1 unit detached. The housing stock includes 88.7% of homes that were built in 1999 or earlier. With older homes, this raises the need for housing counseling around rehabilitation, refinance, high energy use, and maintenance.

The U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 home ownership rate in Wise County is 69.7% with a rental rate of 30.3%. Housing Virginia's Sourcebook defines a high cost burden as a household spending more than 30% of their income on housing, for which 2014 is the most recent year these numbers are available. For Wise County 23.9% of households suffer under high cost burden. The rate of rental households suffering high housing cost burden is more than double for renters at 40.1% than homeowners' at 15.3%.

Homes that lack proper plumbing and sanitation facilities present an increased risk of illness for residents. In addition to the families who live in these homes, their neighbors, and community, suffer from increased exposure to potentially dangerous bacteria and pollutants. Complete plumbing facilities include: (a) hot and cold running water, (b) a flush toilet, and (c) a bathtub or shower, within the home.

All Housing Units by Age

Report Area	Before 1960	1960-1979	1980-1999	2000-2010	After 2010	Total Housing Units	Median Year Structures Built
Wise County	29.61%	27.26%	31.78%	9.82%	1.53%	17,815	1977
Virginia	21.46%	27.09%	32.83%	15.85%	2.78%	3,445,357	1981
United States	28.85%	26.46%	27.69%	14.7%	2.31%	134,054,899	1977

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Households Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities

Report Area	Total Occupied Housing Units	Housing Units Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities	Housing Units Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities, Percent
Wise County	15,225	90	.59%
Virginia	3,090,178	9,734	0.31%
United States	117,716,237	463,649	0.39%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

**Education**

Today one key factor in having what it takes to become a self sufficient family is education. Many employers are requiring higher education levels when hiring, this limits the job opportunities for those with low education levels of formal education. Education levels and the quality of the local school systems are key factors employers consider when deciding where to locate or expand facilities and jobs. Educational attainment is also the single biggest predictor of an individual’s health.

Reading at grade level can also be an indicator of future well being and success. Fortunately, Wise County scores well above the national average.

Educational Attainment 2012-2016 by Percentage of Population	Wise County	Virginia	United States
Less than High school diploma	24.8	11.4	13.0
High school diploma or equivalency	32.7	24.5	27.5

Educational Attainment 2012-2016 by Percentage of Population	Wise County	Virginia	United States
Some college, no degree	21.2	19.9	21.0
Associate's degree	6.8	7.4	8.2
Bachelor's degree	8.9	21.2	18.8
Graduate or Professional degree	5.5	15.7	11.5

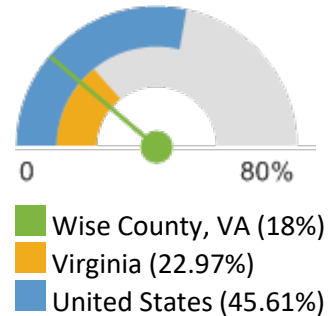
Source: Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Student Reading Proficiency (4th Grade)

This indicator reports the percentage of children in grade 4 whose reading skills tested below the "proficient" level for the English Language Arts portion of the state-specific standardized test. This indicator is relevant because an inability to read English well is linked to poverty, unemployment, and barriers to healthcare access, provider communications, and health literacy/education.

Report Area	Total Students with Valid Test Scores	Percentage of Students Scoring 'Proficient' or Better	Percentage of Students Scoring 'Not Proficient' or Worse
Wise County, VA	426	82%	18%
Virginia	94,310	77.03%	22.97%
United States	3,393,582	49.67%	45.61%

Percentage of Students Scoring 'Not Proficient' or Worse



Data Source: US Department of Education, EDData. Accessed via DATA.GOV. 2014-15.

Demographic Changes

The population in Wise County has declined by -5.5% compared to Virginia’s growth of 5.5% from 2010 to 2017. The people leaving Wise County are often individuals who are of age to enter college and/or the workforce. The decline in population is one reason Wise County has a greater percentage of those over 55 and 65 than state and national rates. Older populations have a greater need for medical and social services.

## Total Population Annually 2010-2017

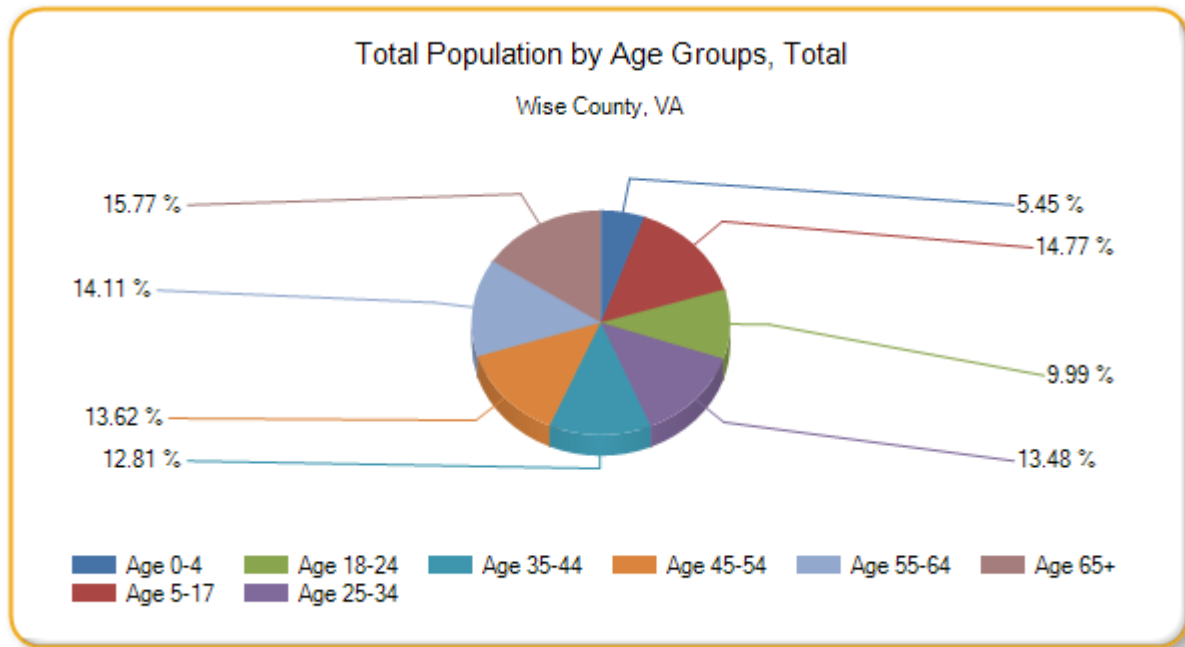
	April 1, 2010		Population Estimate (as of July 1)							
	Census	Estimates Base	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Wise County, Virginia	41,452	41,428	41,561	41,439	40,899	40,653	39,884	39,540	39,034	38,586

Source: Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

## Total Population and Median Age by Gender

Report Area	Male	Female	Percent Male	Percent Female	Male	Female
Wise County, VA	20,706	19,368	51.67%	48.33%	39	41.1
Virginia	4,086,283	4,224,018	49.17%	50.83%	36.5	39.1
United States	156,765,322	161,792,840	49.21%	50.79%	36.3	39

Source: Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.



## Total Population by Age Groups, Percent

Report Area	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65
Wise County, VA	5.45%	14.77%	9.99%	13.48%	12.81%	13.62%	14.11%	15.77%
Virginia	6.14%	16.31%	9.91%	13.89%	13.18%	14.24%	12.55%	13.78%
United States	6.24%	16.87%	9.82%	13.62%	12.73%	13.64%	12.58%	14.5%

Source: Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

## Health

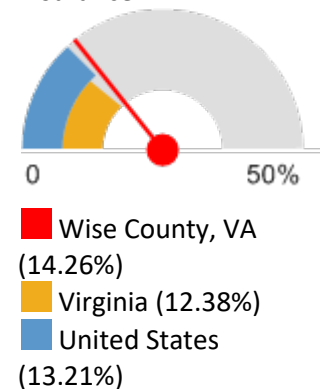
Health issues have long been a major concern in Central Appalachia. Some of the most critical health issues for residents of Wise County are substance abuse, diabetes, smoking, obesity, and lack of medical providers in the county. The causes of poor health are exacerbated when a person lacks health insurance. Poor health makes it more difficult for someone to obtain and keep a job. Often those in poor health rely heavily on their family networks and have a significantly increased need for social services. The data provided along with client and partner surveys shows a clear need for increased access to health and dental services across all of AppCAA’s service area.

Wise County has a much higher percentage of the population with a disability than state and national averages. The reasons for this are varied but include the dangerous nature of mining, logging, farming, and other locally common occupations.

## Insurance - Uninsured Population

Report Area	Total Population Age 18 - 64	Population with Medical Insurance	Percent Population With Medical Insurance	Population Without Medical Insurance	Percent Population Without Medical Insurance
Wise County, VA	22,913	19,646	85.74%	3,267	14.26%
Virginia	5,132,774	4,497,120	87.62%	635,654	12.38%
United States	194,584,952	168,884,012	86.79%	25,700,940	13.21%

Percent Population Age 18-64 Without Medical Insurance

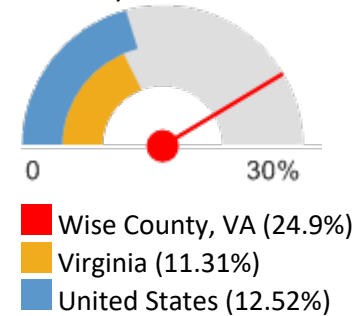


Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. 2015.

Population with Any Disability

Report Area	Total Population (For Whom Disability Status Is Determined)	Total Population with a Disability	Percent Population with a Disability
Wise County, VA	37,969	9,454	24.9%
Virginia	8,096,958	915,366	11.31%
United States	313,576,137	39,272,529	12.52%

Percent Population with a Disability



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16

Substance Abuse

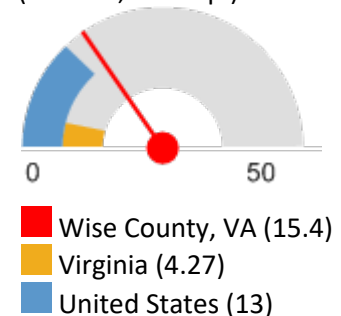
Substance abuse is another key health issue that residents of Wise County are facing. Substance abuse ranked lower with surveys that were completed by clients ranking 2.75 out of 4, and ranked at a higher rate of 4.5 out of 5 with AppCAA’s Board of Directors and community partners. Both quantitative and qualitative data prove that substance abuse is an issue in the area of Wise County.

Opioid use, particularly prescription pills, has been especially high; however, local health departments are now seeing a gradual resurgence of methamphetamines as the drug of choice among addicts. Drug use is all too frequently a causal element in suicides within the region. Suicide and substance abuse are made more common by poor mental health.

Mortality – Suicide

Report Area	Total Population	Average Annual Deaths, 2010-2014	Crude Death Rate (Per 100,000 Pop.)	Age-Adjusted Death Rate (Per 100,000 Pop.)
Wise County, VA	40,078	7	16.5	15.4
Virginia	731,669	29	3.99	4.27
United States	318,689,254	42,747	13.4	13

Suicide, Age-Adjusted Death Rate (Per 100,000 Pop.)



Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System. Accessed via CDC WONDER. 2012-16.

## Overdose Death Rate

According to the Appalachian Regional Commission, Wise County had a rate of 48.1 drug overdose deaths per 100,000 people in 2015. This is more than double the national average of 20.6 deaths per 100,000 people.

## County Health Ranking

The County Health Rankings, issued by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, have become one of the most common metrics for evaluating the overall health of a region. Wise County ranks near the bottom of the state- as the 124<sup>th</sup> least healthy out of 133 jurisdictions evaluated in Virginia.

## City of Norton

The City of Norton is located in the heart of Wise County. According to the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey in 2016, the City of Norton has a population of 3,921. Norton is the most racially diverse of the jurisdictions AppCAA serves, with the white population making up 87.2% of the population and a population of 6% black residents. The population is almost entirely English speaking.

As an independent city, Norton is legally distinct from and not considered part of Wise County. In some cases, the two have combined services at the state level, such as state courts and health department, but for the most part Norton residents are offered services through Norton City, rather than Wise County labeled agencies/offices. Norton has its own school system, department of social services and other programs.

Norton is 7 square miles. Despite being a City, Norton is considered rural by every major agency. Wise County surrounds the 7 square mile City of Norton. Some statistical areas for Wise County include Norton, when known this is noted.

For 2018, the Appalachian Regional Commission considers the Norton and Wise County’s economic status to be *Distressed*, the lowest ranking out of five possibilities.

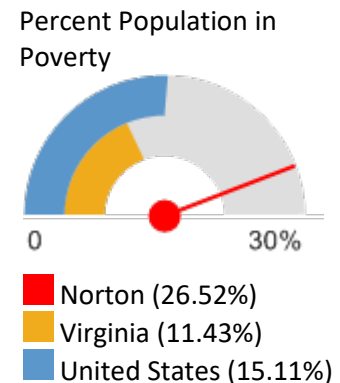
## Poverty

Norton continues to have some of the highest poverty rates in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Poverty creates barriers to accessing health services, healthy food, and other necessities contributing to poor health status. For 2016, the federal poverty level (FPL) was \$11,880 for a one person household and \$24,300 for a four person household.

### Poverty - Population Below 100% FPL

Report Area	Total Population	Population in Poverty	Percent Population in Poverty
Norton	3,921	1,040	26.52%
Virginia	8,060,892	921,664	11.43%
United States	310,629,645	46,932,225	15.11%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.  
Source geography: Tract



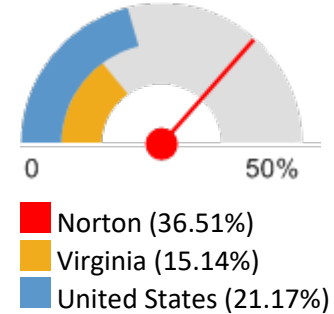


Poverty - Children Below 100% FPL

Report Area	Total Population	Population Under Age 18	Population Under Age 18 in Poverty	Percent Population Under Age 18 in Poverty
Norton	3,921	808	295	36.51%
Virginia	8,060,892	1,838,212	278,352	15.14%
United States	310,629,645	72,456,096	15,335,783	21.17%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.  
Source geography: Tract

Percent Population Under Age 18 in Poverty

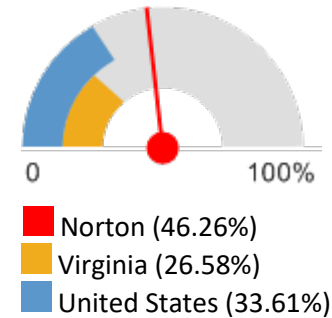


Poverty - Population Below 200% FPL

Report Area	Total Population	Population with Income at or Below 200% FPL	Percent Population with Income at or Below 200% FPL
Norton	3,921	1,814	46.26%
Virginia	8,060,892	2,142,217	26.58%
United States	310,629,645	104,390,198	33.61%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.  
Source geography: Tract

Percent Population with Income at or Below 200% FPL

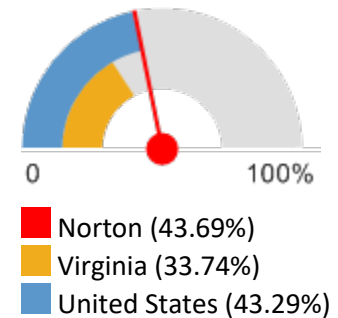


Poverty - Children Below 200% FPL

Report Area	Total Population Under Age 18	Population Under Age 18 at or Below 200% FPL	Percent Population Under Age 18 at or Below 200% FPL
Norton	808	353	43.69%
Virginia	1,838,212	620,201	33.74%
United States	72,456,096	31,364,270	43.29%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.  
Source geography: Tract

Percent Population Under Age 18 at or Below 200% FPL



**Nutrition**

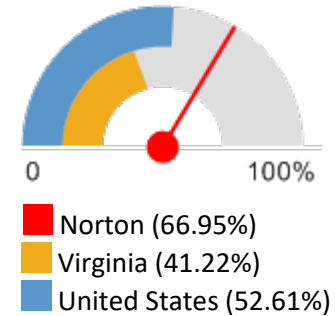
Food insecurity, limited or uncertain access to adequate food, is an ongoing concern for many people in Norton, particularly children and the elderly. Poor nutrition directly contributes to worse health and lower performance in school. It is directly tied to poverty and household income.

Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch

Report Area	Total Students	Number Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligible	Percent Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligible
Norton	835	559	66.95%
Virginia	1,283,548	523,972	41.22%
United States	50,611,787	25,893,504	52.61%

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Common Core of Data. 2015-16. Source geography: Address

Percent Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch

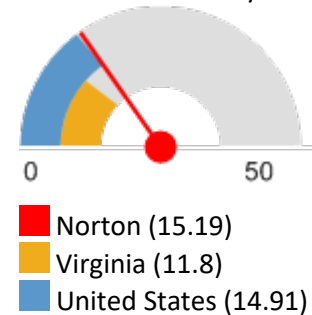


Food Insecurity Rate

Report Area	Total Population	Food Insecure Population, Total	Food Insecurity Rate
Norton	4,015	610	15.19%
Virginia	8,326,289	983,880	11.8%
United States	318,198,163	47,448,890	14.91%

Data Source: Feeding America. 2014. Source geography: County

Percentage of Total Population with Food Insecurity

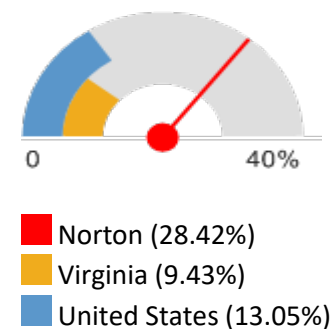


Population Receiving SNAP Benefits (formerly called Food Stamps)

Report Area	Total Households	Households Receiving SNAP Benefits	Percent Households Receiving SNAP Benefits
Norton	1,858	528	28.42%
Virginia	3,090,178	291,537	9.43%
United States	117,716,237	15,360,951	13.05%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Percent Households Receiving SNAP Benefits



## Individual Financial Position

According to the Urban Institute’s recently published Debt in America: An Interactive Map, 58% of Norton households have debt in collections. The median household debt in collections is not listed but it is likely similar to Wise County’s \$1,368. The state has an average of 29% percent of households with debt in collections.

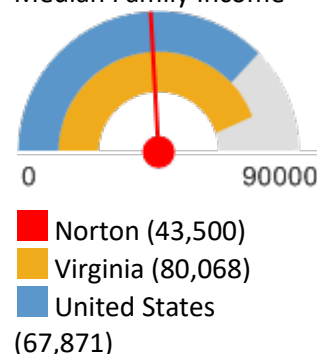
Having debt in collections dramatically lowers credit ratings. A lower credit rating limits access to financing, and when that financing is available, it often comes with predatory rates and fees. In addition, a poor credit rating can limit a family’s ability to afford transportation, increase their housing cost (while preventing home ownership), and increase insurance rates. Credit rating is increasingly used by employers when making hiring decisions. AppCAA is expanding its financial counseling efforts in part to help families overcome this hurdle.

## Income - Median Family Income

This indicator reports median family income based on the latest 5-year American Community Survey estimates. A family household is any housing unit in which the householder is living with one or more individuals related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption. Family income includes the incomes of all family members age 15 and older.

Report Area	Total Family Households	Average Family Income	Median Family Income
Norton	940	\$55,522	\$43,500
Virginia	2,067,943	\$105,488	\$80,068
United States	77,608,829	\$90,960	\$67,871

Median Family Income



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

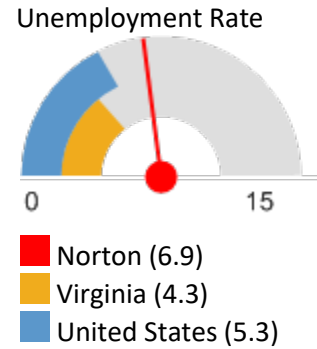
Source geography: Tract

## Unemployment

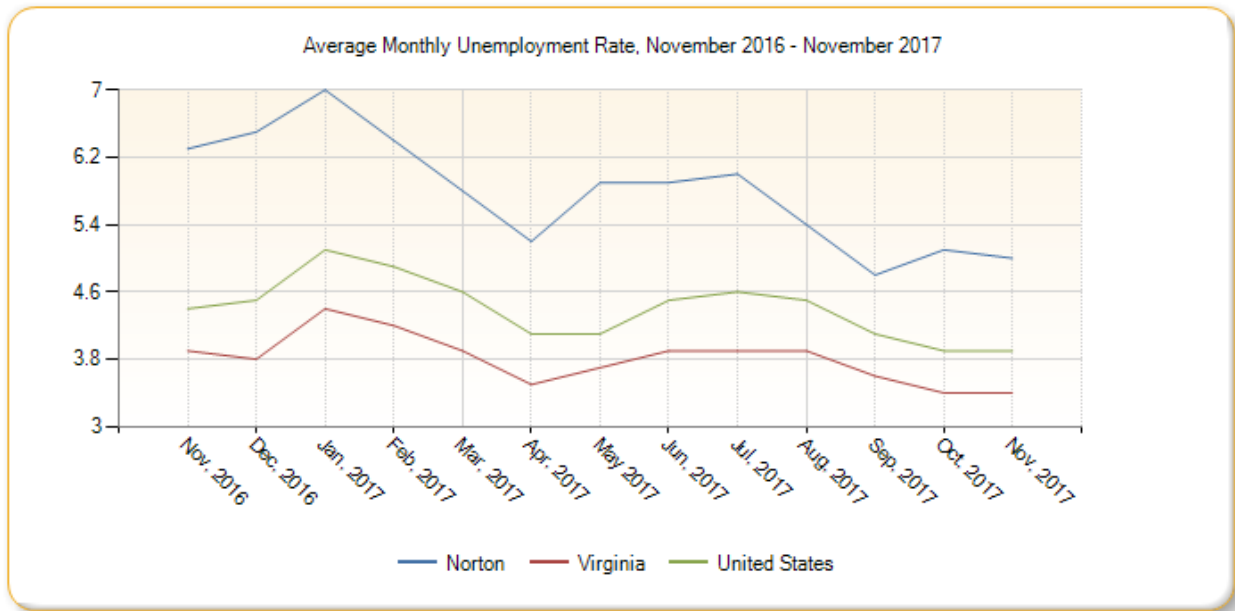
Unemployment in Norton continues to be high compared to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Wise County has long had a higher unemployment rate than the state and nation. The decline of the coal mining industry has significantly impacted Wise County. The unemployment rate measures those out of work for less than 180 days and currently looking for work, it does not measure underemployment.

Unemployment Rate as of December 2017

Report Area	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Norton	1,654	1,540	114	6.9
Virginia	4,183,950	4,005,592	178,358	4.3
United States	158,230,700	149,808,710	8,421,990	5.3



Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2017 - December. Source geography: County



**Economy**

Norton is still feeling the effects of the coal industry slowing down in recent years. Just as in AppCAA’s other territories affordable transportation remains an issue with the economy, with residents not being able to drive to work and lack of public transportation. As can be seen in the chart below there is a lack of local business and job opportunities which leads to issues like high unemployment rates and poverty rates.

Employment Distribution by Industry

The table below shows the industries with the highest number of employees in Norton City, VA for the 3rd Quarter, 2017.

Rank	Industry Sector	Number of Establishments	Number of Employees
1	Total, All Industries	252	3,539
2	Health Care and Social Assistance	59	1,151
3	Retail Trade	49	672
4	Accommodation and Food Services	28	461
5	Public Administration	13	242
6	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	14	147
7	Manufacturing	8	135
8	Educational Services	1	124
9	Information	6	78
10	Other Services (except Public Administration)	17	66

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

### Housing

Housing is an issue in the Lenowisco area due to the ages and conditions of the housing units. The American Community Survey reports 1,958 housing units in Norton, 95.6% of homes were built in 1999 or before. This is the area with the oldest housing stock out of the areas AppCAA serves. This makes the need greater that clients receive housing counseling services for loans around rehabilitation, refinance, high energy use, and maintenance.

The Census Bureau's 2015 home ownership rate in the City of Norton is 50.9% with a rental rate of 49.1%. Housing Virginia's Sourcebook defines a high cost burden as a household spending more than 30% of their income on housing, for which 2014 is the most recent year these numbers are available. For Norton 31.2% of households suffer under high cost burden. The rate of households suffering high housing cost burden is nearly double for renters at 40.6% than homeowners' at 25.3%.

All of the homes in Norton are listed as having complete plumbing facilities.

All Housing Units by Age

Report Area	Before 1960	1960-1979	1980-1999	2000-2010	After 2010	Total Housing Units	Median Year Structures Built
Norton	31.87%	31.46%	32.99%	1.74%	1.94%	1,958	1975
Virginia	21.46%	27.09%	32.83%	15.85%	2.78%	3,445,357	1981
United States	28.85%	26.46%	27.69%	14.7%	2.31%	134,054,899	1977

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

**Education**

Today one key factor in having what it takes to become a self sufficient family is education. Many employers are requiring higher education levels when hiring, this limits the job opportunities for those with low education levels of formal education. Education levels and the quality of the local school systems are key factors employers consider when deciding where to locate or expand facilities and jobs. Educational attainment is also the single biggest predictor of an individual’s health.

Reading at grade level can also be an indicator of future well being and success. Fortunately, Norton scores well above the state and national averages.

Educational Attainment 2012-2016 by Percentage of Population	Norton City	Virginia	United States
Less than High school diploma	17.2	11.4	13.0
High school diploma or equivalency	23.2	24.5	27.5
Some college, no degree	30.0	19.9	21.0
Associate's degree	12.2	7.4	8.2
Bachelor's degree	12.1	21.2	18.8
Graduate or Professional degree	5.2	15.7	11.5

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

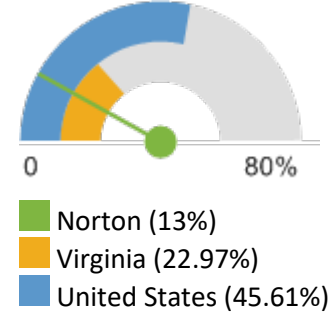
Student Reading Proficiency (4th Grade)

This indicator reports the percentage of children in grade 4 whose reading skills tested below the "proficient" level for the English Language Arts portion of the state-specific standardized test. This

indicator is relevant because an inability to read English well is linked to poverty, unemployment, and barriers to healthcare access, provider communications, and health literacy/education.

Report Area	Total Students with Valid Test Scores	Percentage of Students Scoring 'Proficient' or Better	Percentage of Students Scoring 'Not Proficient' or Worse
Norton	64	87%	13%
Virginia	94,310	77.03%	22.97%
United States	3,393,582	49.67%	45.61%

Percentage of Students Scoring 'Not Proficient' or Worse



Data Source: US Department of Education, EDData. Accessed via DATA.GOV. 2014-15. Source geography: School District

**Demographic Changes**

The population in Norton has declined by -1.6% compared to Virginia’s growth of 5.5% from 2010 to 2017. The people leaving Norton are often individuals who are of age to enter college and/or the workforce. The decline in population is one reason Norton has a greater percentage of those over 55 and 65 than state and national rates. Older populations have a greater need for medical and social services.

Total Population Annually 2010-2017

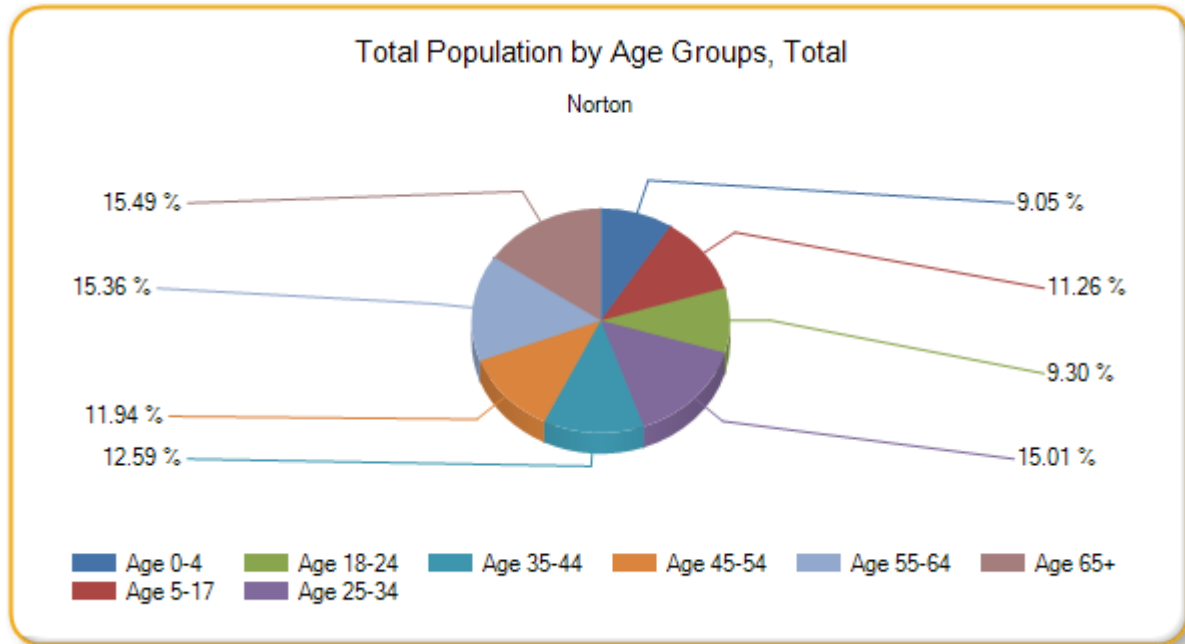
	April 1, 2010		Population Estimate (as of July 1)							
	Census	Estimates Base	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Norton city, Virginia	3,958	4,002	4,022	4,096	4,135	4,111	4,152	4,027	3,988	3,936

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Total Population and Median Age by Gender

Report Area	Male	Female	Percent Male	Percent Female	Male	Female
Norton VA	1,763	2,215	44.32%	55.68%	44.1	36.3
Virginia	4,086,283	4,224,018	49.17%	50.83%	36.5	39.1
United States	156,765,322	161,792,840	49.21%	50.79%	36.3	39

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey.



Total Population by Age Groups, Percent

Report Area	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65+
Norton	9.05%	11.26%	9.3%	15.01%	12.59%	11.94%	15.36%	15.49%
Virginia	6.14%	16.31%	9.91%	13.89%	13.18%	14.24%	12.55%	13.78%
United States	6.24%	16.87%	9.82%	13.62%	12.73%	13.64%	12.58%	14.5%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

### Health

Health issues have long been a major concern in Central Appalachia. Some of the most critical health issues for residents of Norton are substance abuse, diabetes, smoking, obesity, and lack of medical providers in the county. The causes of poor health are exacerbated when a person lacks health insurance. Poor health makes it more difficult for someone to obtain and keep a job. Often those in poor health rely heavily on their family networks and have a significantly increased need for social services. The data, provided along with client and partner surveys, shows a clear need for increased access to health and dental services across all of AppCAA’s service area.

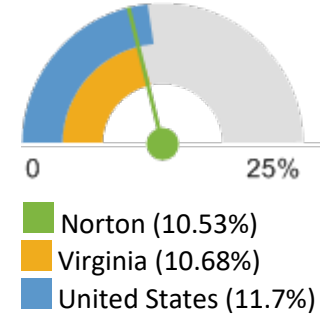
Norton has a much higher percentage of the population with a disability than state and national averages. The reasons for this are varied but include the dangerous nature of mining, logging, farming, and other locally common occupations.



Insurance - Uninsured Population

Report Area	Total Population (For Whom Insurance Status is Determined)	Total Uninsured Population	Percent Uninsured Population
Norton	3,921	413	10.53%
Virginia	8,096,958	864,477	10.68%
United States	313,576,137	36,700,246	11.7%

Percent Uninsured Population

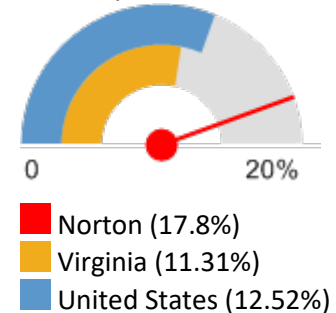


Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Population with Any Disability

Report Area	Total Population (For Whom Disability Status is Determined)	Total Population with a Disability	Percent Population with a Disability
Norton	3,921	698	17.8%
Virginia	8,096,958	915,366	11.31%
United States	313,576,137	39,272,529	12.52%

Percent Population with a Disability



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Source geography: Tract

Substance Abuse

Substance abuse is another key health issue that residents of Norton are facing. Substance abuse ranked lower with surveys that were completed by clients ranking 2.75 out of 4, and ranked at a higher rate of 4.5 out of 5 with AppCAA’s Board of Directors and community partners. Both quantitative and qualitative prove that substance abuse is an issue in the area of Wise County.

Opioid use, particularly prescription pills, has been especially high; however, local health departments are now seeing a gradual resurgence of methamphetamines as the drug of choice among addicts. Drug use is all too frequently a causal element in suicides within the region. Suicide and substance abuse are made more common by poor mental health.

Mortality - Suicide

The mortality by suicide rate for Norton is suppressed/unavailable because of the small sample size of the community (even one suicide annually would yield extremely high per 100,000 population statistics.) The rate for Norton is likely similar to Wise County’s 15.4 suicides per 100,000 population.

## Overdose Death Rate

The Appalachian Regional Commission does not provide overdose death information for Norton. The rate is probably similar to or included with in Wise County's rate of 48.1 drug overdose deaths per 100,000 people in 2015. This is more than double the national average of 20.6 deaths per 100,000 people.

## County Health Ranking

The County Health Rankings, issued by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, have become one of the most common metrics for evaluating the overall health of a region. Norton ranks near the middle of the state- as the 74<sup>th</sup> least healthy out of 133 jurisdictions evaluated in Virginia.

### Other Available Resources in Service Area

In the charts below are listings of the other resources in AppCAA’s service areas that the agency already has partnerships with or is looking to developing partnerships in the future. Listed below is the name of the company, address, and services offered.

#### Lee County

Business	Address	Services
Advocate Center	701 Kentucky Ave SE Norton, VA 24273  (276) 679-7240	Rapid rehousing, homeless prevention, domestic violence, sexual assault services, thrift store, Dollar Energy Fund (Services provided in Lenowisco and Dickenson County)
Common Wealth Catholic Charities  www.cccofva.org	507 Park Ave NW, Norton, VA 24273  (276) 679-1195	Aging and disability services, adoption, children’s services, foster care, counseling, pregnancy counseling, immigration services, income and asset services, food pantry, HOPWA, Interpreter services, supportive housing and homeless services
Lonesome Pine Office on Youth  www.Lonesomepineofficeonyouth.org	219 Wood Ave E Big Stone Gap, VA 24219  (276) 523-5064	Professional parent services, KIDS, Strengthening families program, nurturing parenting, Parenting Wisely, mentor program, family liaison, #LIFE, school essay contests
Frontier Health  www.frontierhealth.org	34084 Wilderness Rd Jonesville, VA 24263  (276) 346-3590	Crisis response, mental health, drug & alcohol addiction/co-occurring, developmental disabilities, vocational & recovery services
Mountain Empire Older Citizens  www.meoc.org	1501 3rd Ave E Big Stone Gap, VA 24219  (276) 523-4202	Transportation, primary medical & specialty care, prescription drug coverage, physical, occupational, speech therapy, dental, podiatry, optometry adult day health services, Home care services, medical equipment/supplies, meal
Lee County Social Services  www.dss.virginia.gov	108 Hill St Jonesville, VA 24264  (276) 346-1010	Medical, food, Income maintenance, CPS, APS, TANF, SNAP, Medicaid, FAMIS, Energy assistance program, fuel assistance, crisis assistance, cooling assistance, foster care, adoption services

Lee County Health Department  <a href="http://www.vdh.virginia.gov">www.vdh.virginia.gov</a>	Hill Street Jonesville, VA 24263  (276) 346-2014	Environmental health services, WIC, Pharmacy connection program, dental health services, child development clinic, family planning & birth control, resources for parents & expectant parents, STD, HIV, immunizations, and more
Appalachia Service Project  <a href="http://www.asphome.org">www.asphome.org</a>	383 Asp Dr. Jonesville, VA 24263  (276) 346-3377	Home repair
Feeding America Southwest Virginia  <a href="http://www.faswva.org">www.faswva.org</a>	21452 Gravel Lake Road Abingdon, VA 24211  (276) 628-9266	They have local food pantries/kitchens spread across Scott, Lee, Wise, and Norton

### Scott County

Organization/website	Address /Phone	Services
Advocate Center  <a href="http://www.ccrh.org">www.ccrh.org</a>	701 Kentucky Ave SE, Norton, VA 24273  (276) 679-7240	Rapid Rehousing, homeless prevention, domestic violence, sexual assault services, thrift store, Dollar Energy Fund (services provided in Lenowisco and Dickenson County)
Clinch River Health Services  <a href="http://www.crhealthservices.weebly.org">www.crhealthservices.weebly.org</a>	17285 Veterans Memorial Hwy, Dungannon, VA 24245  (276) 467-2201	Prenatal care, infant & child care, adolescent medicine, primary gynecology, general internal medicine, geriatrics, preventive health care, minor surgery, behavioral health services
Common Wealth Catholic Charities  <a href="http://www.cccofva.org">www.cccofva.org</a>	507 Park Ave NW Norton, VA 24273  (276) 679-1195	Aging and disability services, adoption, children's services, foster care, counseling, pregnancy counseling, immigration services, income and asset services, food pantry, HOPWA, Interpreter services, supportive housing and homeless services
Dungannon Development Commission  <a href="http://www.ddcinc.org">www.ddcinc.org</a>	344 Phoenix Street Dungannon, VA 24245  (276) 467-2306	Home repairs, food bank, crisis repair for houses damaged by flood or fire

<p>Hope House of Scott County</p> <p><a href="http://www.domesticshelters.org">www.domesticshelters.org</a></p>	<p>PO Box 1992 Gate City, VA 24251</p> <p>(276) 386-1373</p>	<p>Case management, food &amp; clothing, emergency shelter, domestic violence education, assistance with orders of protection, court accompaniment/advocacy, relocation services, transportation, parenting skills training, spiritual services, after school programs.</p>
<p>Scott Co Social Services</p> <p><a href="http://www.dss.virginia.gov">www.dss.virginia.gov</a></p>	<p>190 Beech St Suite 101, Gate City, VA 24251</p> <p>(276) 386-3631</p>	<p>Medical services, food, income maintenance, CPS, APS, TANF, SNAP, Medicaid, FAMIS, energy assistance program, fuel assistance, crisis assistance, cooling assistance, foster care, adoption services</p>
<p>Scott Co Health Department</p> <p><a href="http://www.vdh.virginia.gov">www.vdh.virginia.gov</a></p>	<p>190 Beech St Suite 102, Gate City, VA 24251</p> <p>(276) 386-1312</p>	<p>Environmental health services, WIC, pharmacy connection program, dental health services, child development clinic, family planning &amp; birth control, resources for parents &amp; expectant parents, STD, HIV, immunizations, and more</p>
<p>Frontier Health</p> <p><a href="http://www.frontierhealth.org">www.frontierhealth.org</a></p>	<p>1006 U.S. Highway 23N, Weber City, VA 24290</p> <p>(276) 225-0976</p>	<p>Crisis response, mental health, drug &amp; alcohol addiction/co-occurring, developmental disabilities, vocational &amp; recovery services</p>
<p>Lonesome Pine Office on Youth</p> <p><a href="http://www.lonesomepineofficeonyouth.org">www.lonesomepineofficeonyouth.org</a></p>	<p>219 Wood Ave E Big Stone Gap, VA 24219</p> <p>(276) 523-5064</p>	<p>Professional parent services, KIDS, strengthening families program, nurturing parenting, Parenting Wisely, mentor program, family liaison, #LIFE, school essay contests</p>
<p>Mountain Empire Older Citizens</p> <p><a href="http://www.Meoc.org">www.Meoc.org</a></p>	<p>1501 3rd Ave E Big Stone Gap, VA 24219</p> <p>(276) 523-4202</p>	<p>Transportation, primary medical &amp; specialty care, prescription drug coverage, physical, occupational, speech therapy, dental, podiatry, optometry adult day health services, home care services, medical Equipment/supplies, meals</p>
<p>Feeding America Southwest Virginia</p> <p><a href="http://www.Faswva.org">www.Faswva.org</a></p>	<p>21452 Gravel Lake Road, Abingdon, VA 24211</p> <p>(276) 628-9266</p>	<p>They have local food pantries/kitchens spread across Scott, Lee, Wise, and Norton.</p>

Rural Development  <a href="http://www.rd.usda.gov">www.rd.usda.gov</a>	359 Gateway Plaza A1, Gate City, VA 24251  (276) 386-3951	Rural Business-Cooperatives Service, Rural Housing Service - Community Facilities, Rural Housing Service - Multi-Family Housing, Rural Housing Service - Single-Family Housing, Rural Utilities Service - Electric Programs, Rural Utilities Service - Telecommunications Programs, Rural Utilities Service - Water & Environmental Programs
RACE to GED  <a href="http://www.Myrace1.org">www.Myrace1.org</a>	1490 Bristol Hwy Gate City, VA 24251.  (276) 386-2433	GED testing and resources to study for the test, English as a Second Language instruction

### Wise County

Business	Address	Services
Advocate Center	701 Kentucky Ave SE Norton, VA 24273  (276) 679-7240	Rapid rehousing, homeless prevention, domestic violence, sexual assault services, thrift store, Dollar Energy Fund (Services provided in Lenowisco and Dickenson County)
Common Wealth Catholic Charities  <a href="http://www.cccofva.org">www.cccofva.org</a>	507 Park Ave NW Norton, VA 24273  (276) 679-1195	Aging and disability services, adoption, children’s services, foster care, counseling, pregnancy counseling, immigration services, income and asset services, food pantry, HOPWA, Interpreter services, supportive housing and homeless services
Lonesome Pine Office on Youth  <a href="http://www.lonesompineofficeonyouth.org">www.lonesompineofficeonyouth.org</a>	219 Wood Ave E Big Stone Gap, VA 24219  (276) 523-5064	Professional parent services, KIDS, Strengthening families program, Nurturing parenting, Parenting Wisely, Mentor program, Family liaison, #LIFE, School essay contests
Mountain Empire Older Citizens  <a href="http://www.meoc.org">www.meoc.org</a>	1501 3rd Ave E Big Stone Gap, VA 24219  (276) 523-4202	Transportation, primary medical & specialty care, prescription drug coverage, physical, occupational, speech therapy, dental, podiatry, optometry adult day health services, home care services, medical equipment/supplies, nutritious meals.

Frontier Health  <a href="http://www.frontierhealth.org">www.frontierhealth.org</a>	43 Champions Ave Big Stone Gap, VA 24219  (276) 523-8300	Crisis response, mental health, drug & alcohol addiction/co-occurring, developmental disabilities, vocational & recovery services
Wise County Social Services  <a href="http://www.dss.virginia.gov">www.dss.virginia.gov</a>	5612 North Bear Creek Road, Wise, VA 24293  (276) 328-8056	Medical, food, Income maintenance, CPS, APS, TANF, SNAP, Medicaid, FAMIS, energy assistance program, fuel assistance, crisis assistance, cooling assistance, foster care, adoption services
Wise County Health Department  <a href="http://www.vdh.virginia.gov">www.vdh.virginia.gov</a>	134 Roberts Ave SW, Wise, VA 24293  (276) 328-8000	Environmental health services, WIC, pharmacy connection program, dental health services, child development clinic, family planning & birth control, resources for Parents & expectant parents, STD, HIV, immunizations, and more
Habitat for Humanity  <a href="http://www.habitat.org">www.habitat.org</a>	136 Ridgefield Rd SW, Wise, VA 24293  (276) 207-8249	Home construction, neighborhood revitalization, Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter, disaster response, financial education
The Health Wagon  <a href="http://www.Thehealthwagon.org">www.Thehealthwagon.org</a>	5626 Patriot Dr Wise, VA 2429  (276) 328-8850	Acute disease management, chronic disease management, low cost labs, physical assessment, lung cancer early detection, dental & eye clinics, ETC
Junction Center  <a href="http://www.junctioncenter.org">www.junctioncenter.org</a>	1520 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave East Big Stone Gap VA 24219  (276) 524-4081	Peer counseling, independent living skills training, information & referral, individual advocacy, ADA accessibility, alternative formats, assistive technology, home modifications, support groups, college transition, transportation, options counseling
Feeding America Southwest Virginia  <a href="http://www.Faswva.org">www.Faswva.org</a>	21452 Gravel Lake Road, Abingdon, VA 24211  (276) 628-9266	They have local food pantries/kitchens spread across Scott, Lee, Wise, and Norton

City of Norton

Business	Address	Services
Advocate Center	701 Kentucky Ave SE Norton, VA 24273  (276) 679-7240	Rapid rehousing, homeless prevention, domestic violence, sexual assault services, Thrift store, Dollar Energy Fund (Services provided in Lenowisco and Dickenson County)
Common Wealth Catholic Charities  <a href="http://www.cccofva.org">www.cccofva.org</a>	507 Park Ave NW, Norton, VA 24273  (276) 679-1195	Aging and disability services, adoption, children’s services, foster care, counseling, pregnancy counseling, immigration services, income and asset services, food pantry, HOPWA, Interpreter services, supportive housing and homeless services
Lonesome Pine Office on Youth  <a href="http://www.lonesomepineofficeonyouth.org">www.lonesomepineofficeonyouth.org</a>	219 Wood Ave E, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219  (276) 523-5064	Professional parent services, KIDS, strengthening families program, nurturing parenting, Parenting Wisely, mentor program, family liaison, #LIFE, school essay contests
Mountain Empire Older Citizens  <a href="http://meoc.org">meoc.org</a>	1501 3rd Ave E Big Stone Gap, VA 24219  (276) 523-4202	Transportation, primary medical & specialty care, prescription drug coverage, physical, occupational, speech therapy, dental, podiatry, optometry adult day health services, home care services, medical equipment/supplies, meals
Junction Center  <a href="http://www.junctioncenter.org">www.junctioncenter.org</a>	1520 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave E Big Stone Gap, VA 24219  (276) 524-4081	Peer counseling, independent living skills training, Information & referral, individual advocacy, ADA accessibility, alternative formats, assistive technology, home modifications, support groups, college transition, transportation, options counseling
Norton Social Services  <a href="http://www.dss.virginia.gov">www.dss.virginia.gov</a>	644 Park Ave Norton, VA 24273  (276) 679-2701	Medical, food, income maintenance, CPS, APS, TANF, SNAP, Medicaid, FAMIS, energy assistance program, fuel assistance, crisis assistance, cooling assistance, foster care, adoption services
Family Crisis Support Services  <a href="http://www.family-crisis.org">www.family-crisis.org</a>	701 Kentucky Ave SE, Norton, VA 24273  (276) 679-2701	Domestic violence help, shelter



<p>Norton City Health Department</p> <p><a href="http://www.vdh.virginia.gov">www.vdh.virginia.gov</a></p>	<p>134 Roberts Ave SW, Wise VA 24293</p> <p>(276) 328-8000</p>	<p>Environmental health services, WIC, Pharmacy connection program, dental health services, child development clinic, family planning &amp; birth control, resources for parents &amp; expectant parents, STD, HIV, immunizations, and more</p>
<p>Feeding America Southwest Virginia</p> <p><a href="http://Faswva.org">Faswva.org</a></p>	<p>21452 Gravel Lake Road, Abingdon, VA 24211</p> <p>(276) 628-9266</p>	<p>They have local food pantries/kitchens spread across Scott, Lee, Wise, and Norton</p>