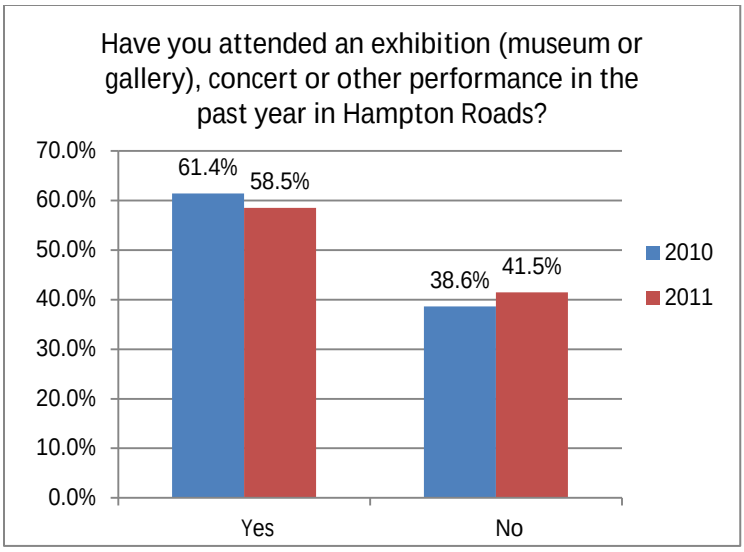
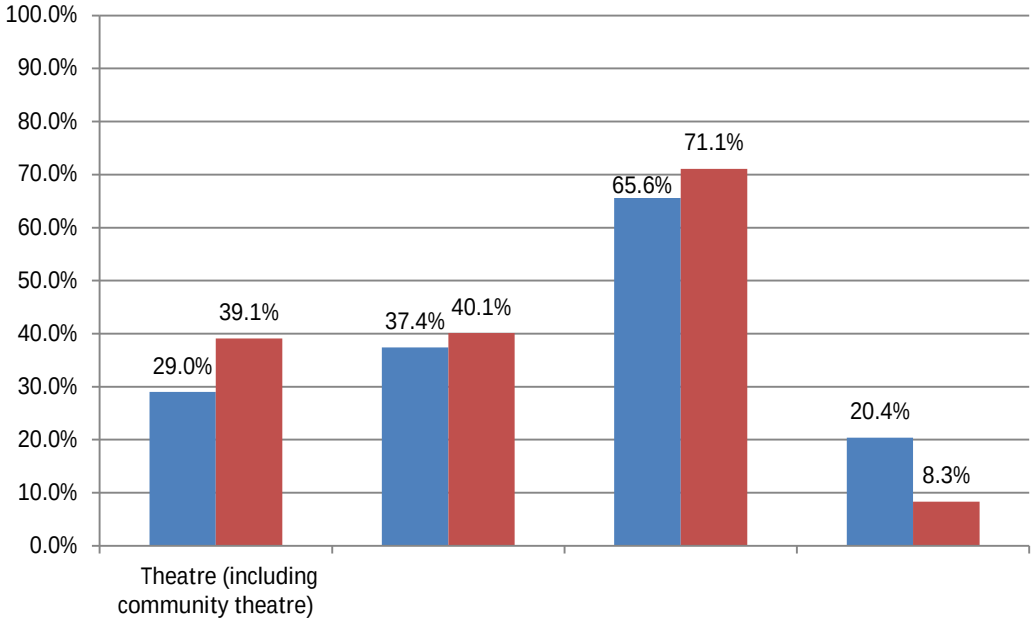
Overview of the Life in Hampton Roads Survey

The Social Science Research Center (SSRC) at Old Dominion University recently completed data collection for the second annual Life in Hampton Roads telephone survey. The purpose of the survey was to gain insight into residents' perceptions of the quality of life in Hampton Roads. The survey also attempted to determine the attitudes and perceptions of citizens regarding topics of local interest such as transportation and traffic, local and state government, crime, and other issues. Funding for the 2011 survey was provided by the ODU Office of Research and the Office of University Advancement. Questions were generated through email invitations to faculty throughout the University community. Questions of interest were submitted, and the overall pool of questions was narrowed down by SSRC staff and the Associate Dean of Research for the College of Arts and Letters. New questions were included along with several questions from the first Life in Hampton Roads survey conducted in 2010. The 2010 survey consisted of 106 questions and the 2011 survey consisted of 76 questions which asked respondents about media and news consumption, arts, culture, and travel, quality of life, transportation, local and state government and political issues, environmental issues, health and education, housing, spirituality and well-being, neighborhood issues and crime, military life, and basic demographic information. In addition to basic demographic questions, a total of 35 questions are comparable across the two years' data. This report examines the data for both years and compares the percentage of responses for various questions across the 2010 and 2011 samples[1].

In 2011, a total of 730 completed interviews were obtained; 681 completed surveys were obtained in the 2010 effort. It is important to note, however; that both overrepresented women, whites, and older individuals

Hampton Roads City	2010	2011
Chesapeake	17.7%	17.7%
Hampton	9.3%	9.5%
Newport News	14.7%	11.3%
Norfolk	10.4%	14.9%
Portsmouth	10.2%	


Have you attended an exhibition (museum or gallery), concert or other performance in the past year in Hampton Roads?
70.0%
60.0%
50.0%
40.0%
30.0%
20.0%
10.0%
0.0%
61.4%
58.5%
38.6%
41.5%
Yes
No
2010
2011


100.0%
90.0%
80.0%
70.0%
60.0%
50.0%
40.0%
30.0%
20.0%
10.0%
0.0%
29.0%
39.1%
37.4%
40.1%
65.6%
71.1%
20.4%
8.3%
Theatre (including community theatre)

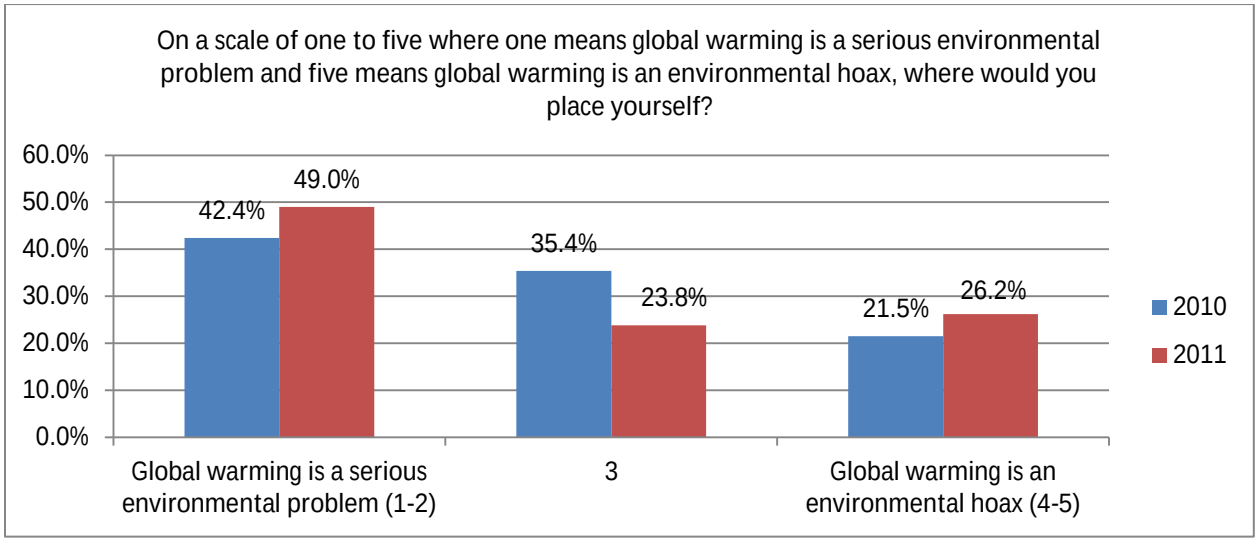
Public

However, there was also an increase in the percentage of individuals who responded that they would not be more likely to use public transportation once the light rail becomes available[4], from 29.6% in 2010 to 43.1% in 2011. Those who said 'don't know' also decreased; from 2.0% to 0.3%. When asked where they would like to see the

The percentage of respondents said that they were registered to vote was relatively unchanged; 91.4% in 2011

Almost 50% of 2011 respondents said that they strongly disagree or disagree with the statement that 'the

The percentage of respondents who said either 1 or 2, indicating that they felt global warming is a serious environmental problem was 49.0% in 2011 and 42.4% in 2010. Those who felt global warming 'is an environmental hoax,' (responding with 4 or 5) made up 26.2% of the sample in 2011 and 21.5% in 2010. Those who were neutral on the issue (responding with a 3) accounted for 23.8% in 2011, down from 35.4% in 2010.

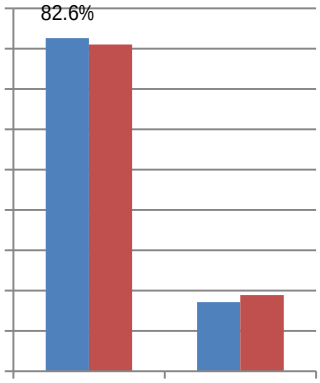


Public Schools in Hampton Roads

Twenty-nine percent of respondents had a child or children attending public school in Hampton Roads in 2011 (28.8%), compared to 34% in 2010. Respondents were asked to rate the overall quality of the local public school systems whether or not they had children attending, and overall ratings were favorable for both 2010 and 2011. Those rating the public school system as excellent or good accounted for 67.7% of the sample in 2011 and 62.5% in 2010.

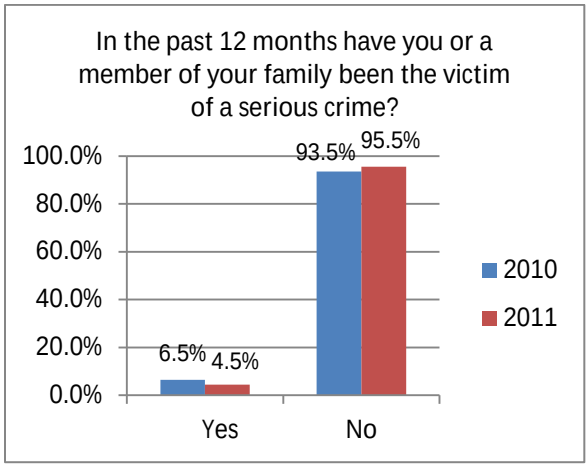
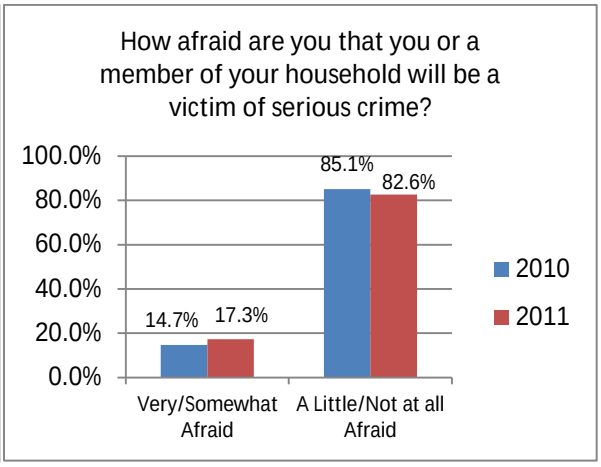
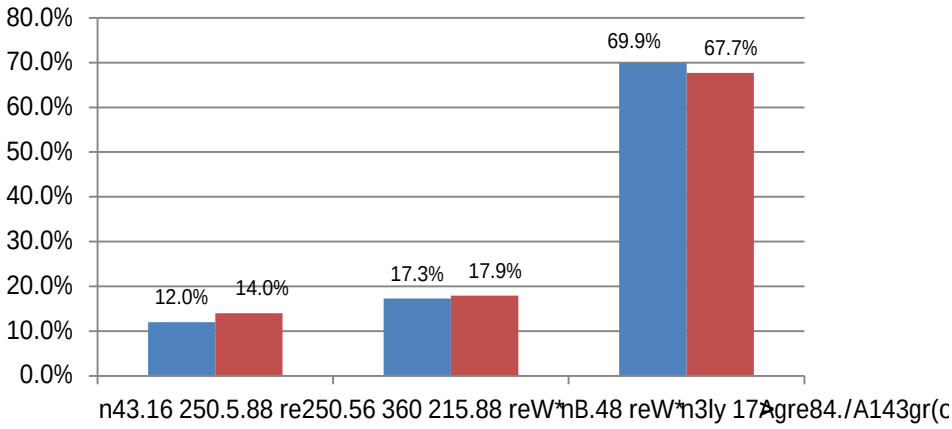
Health and Health Care Choices among Hampton Roads Residents

The majority of respondents in both 2010 (82.6%) and 2011 (81.0%) reported their general health as excellent or good, although there was a slight decrease in that percentage. A larger percentage of respondents in 2011 reported that they are covered by some form of health insurance than(n)-4(tae)4(n)- (



Housing Situation and Satisfaction

Similar percentages of respondents reported owning or being in the process of buying their homes in 2010 (72.5%) and 2011 (73.2%). Renters made up 24.1% of the sample in 2011, and 23.3% in 2010. Those who reported 'some other arrangement' accounted for 2.6% of respondents in 2011 and 3.7% in 2010. Respondents reported living in their current residence for longer periods in 2011 than in 2010: 6.9% reported less than one year of residence compared to 10.6% in 2010. The average number of years in their residence for those who reported living in their current residence for more than one year was 11.6 years in 2010 and 13.6 years in 2011. Almost

Spirituality and Religion

afraid increased slightly from 14.7% in 2010 to 17.3% in 2011. A slightly lower percentage of respondents reported in 2011 that they feel police are doing a good job of preventing crime; 67.7%, as compared with 69.9% in 2010.