



Situation Analysis Report



Spotsylvania

2018

UNIT Extension Staff

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Introduction

Spotsylvania County situation analysis has been created using data and information from various sources, such as; VA Employment Commission community profile, VA Economic Development Partnership, and Census Bureau. This information was then consolidated and analyzed by Spotsylvania VCE staff to bring forth a greater understanding of community. Residents were sent a survey via e-mail, asking them to rank important issues within three areas of discipline.

Unit Profile

Spotsylvania County is 401.5 square miles situated in the northeastern part of Virginia where it borders the city of Fredericksburg, Caroline County, Stafford County and Louisa County. Flowing north to south is Interstate 95, which creates a major thoroughfare within the county that provides quick and easy transportation to major cities like Washington DC and Richmond. Within recent years, the Virginia Railway Express opened a station in Spotsylvania for easy travel to DC and Northern VA.

The community has long served as a center for industry and commerce owing to its strategic position as a crossroads for highway, rail, and water-based transportation. Spotsylvania County is part of the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (2).

As of 2017, the population estimate of Spotsylvania was 133,033 representing a growth of 8.6% compared to the 2010 Census of 122,397 (1).

The county has seen a very dramatic 35% spike in population since 2000. (3) The population in 2000 was 90,395 and in 2017, it is estimated to be 133,033.

Female population is higher at 51% and male population representing 49%. Race and ethnicity represents 76% white, 16% black, 3% Asian, and 10% Hispanic.

The majority of the population is in the age range of 45-54 (14%) and 5-17 (19%).

The median household income of \$79,742 (1) is higher than the state and national medians (\$71,293 and \$61,372)

23,808 students enrolled in 29 public schools

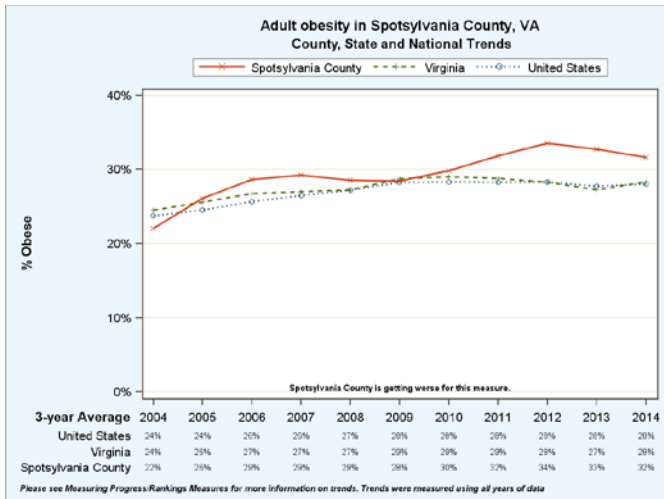
90% on-time graduation rate (class 2017)

89% of population 25+ are high school graduates

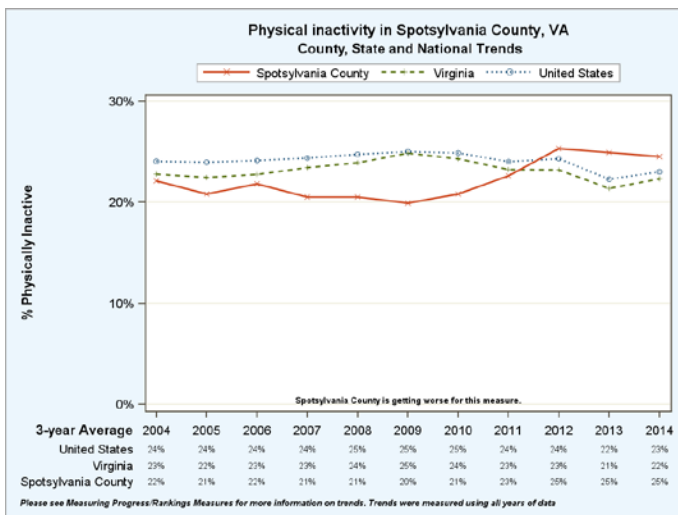
29% of Spotsylvania population age 25+ earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher (2)

Spotsylvania has the highest diabetes prevalence compared to all surrounding counties. Adult obesity is a true concern in the county with 32% of the population obese, which is above the state average of 28% (4)

The census of agriculture for Spotsylvania claims a 3% increase in farms from 359 in 2007 to 369 in 2012. However, there has been a 19% decrease in farmlands from 52,230 acres in 2007 to 42,191 acres in 2012.



Physical inactivity is higher in Spotsylvania at 25% compared to the state's 20%



Commute time data from VEDP (2) suggests that 29% (17,696) of the population commutes 15-24 minutes to work and 24% (14,626) have over a 60-minute commute to work.

Major attractions in Spotsylvania are Lake Anna, the Civil War battlefields, Agro tourism, Spotsylvania Town Centre for shopping, the historic courthouse area and Kings Dominion is just 30 minutes south of Spotsylvania.

The Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center is located on a 75-acre campus adjacent to Interstate 95. The facility has 126 beds and provides the following services: 24-hour emergency care, Inpatient and Outpatient surgery, Intensive Care, Obstetrics and Neonatal Care. Diagnostic imaging as well as Cardiac catheterization, Endoscopy and Cystoscopy. Mary Washington Hospital located nearby in the City of Fredericksburg is a 310-bed facility that contains private rooms for all patients and 10 operating rooms. It also houses separate critical-care units for medical, surgical, and cardiac patients as well as a helipad near the emergency department and a 200-seat auditorium.

Over 130 physicians, representing more than 20 medical and surgical specialties, serve the area.

Spotsylvania county residents have access to five nursing homes offering extended care to the elderly in the community.

Spotsylvania houses two branches of the Rappahannock Regional Library, located at Spotsylvania Courthouse and Smith Station Road. The library system overall maintains an 143,000 volume collection and conducts a variety of adult and child programs. (2)

Community and Resident Perspectives

Our office developed a community needs survey to identify important issues from feedback by community members. Extension agents and staff deployed the survey via e-mail to as many outlets and diverse groups as we could. Results were analyzed and key priority issues were identified below.

Priority Issues

The top three issues by program area are listed below.

Agriculture identified issues:

- 1) Water Quality/Quantity
- 2) Environment
- 3) Tied: Invasive Species and Land Use

Many of the comments from participants stressed the importance of agriculture education. There is a surmounting need for research-based community education on farming practices, water quality maintenance, gardening, horticulture, and sound resources related to these topics. There has been an increase in farming in the county, but the lands are steadily disappearing.

VCE's role:

At the time of publish for this 2018 Situation Analysis, the county has been without an Agriculture Agent for 2 years. July 2019 is the proposed hire date for an animal science focused agent.

FCS identified issues:

- 1) Tied: Health and Nutrition
- 2) Tied: Community Services and Food Safety/Preservation
- 3) Obesity

Comments were shared that healthy living is very important and extension needs to be providing education about healthy food sources and improve the access to these resources.

VCE's role: Currently, the issues above are being addressed by providing healthy living series at the local library. Nevertheless, this opportunity can be improved upon by offering the series at more locations. Food

Safety classes are being offered and it is a topic that is often presented to groups. More food preservation classes are planned to be offered in the future, but in the past, hands on trainings have been offered and questions/concerns are addressed when community members call the office. Obesity is a growing issue and to combat that, the FCS agent will be offering many healthy living talks, physical activity programs, and the CDC curriculum for the Diabetes Prevention Program.

4-H identified issues:

- 1) Youth Activities
- 2) Three Way Tie: Life Skills/Decision Making for Youth, Teen Community Involvement, and Youth Volunteers
- 3) Science and Technology

VCE's role: Currently, the issues above are being addressed by providing positive youth development programming through a variety of instructional methods. We have four 4-H Clubs that meet on a bi-weekly/monthly basis. These clubs provide a safe environment for youth to meet and learn about a particular 4-H project and build a positive relationship with a caring adult. The projects that are being focused on in Spotsylvania are Shooting Sports Education, Horse, and Livestock. No matter what project a youth participates in, they will learn valuable life skills that develop them into outstanding individuals. These clubs provide an outlet for youth to foster positive development including leadership and citizenship skills. Along with volunteer led clubs, the county plans to incorporate additional experiences for 4-H members. The Extension Office plans to facilitate an annual County Contest Day that will have Presentations, Public Speaking, and Demonstrations. Extension also organizes an annual overnight camping trip, providing youth a weeklong fun, safe, educational environment outdoors. 4-H is also involved in Curriculum Enrichment programs in the schools. During school enrichment, extension is involved directly in the classroom with the participants actively engaged in learning. Using the school enrichment delivery method, 4-H is able to affect the lives of many more youth in the county. These experiences provide youth opportunities for after school activities, leadership development, and community involvement.

References

- 1) www.census.gov U.S. Census Bureau. Accessed 11/30/18.
- 2) Vedp.org Virginia Economic Development Partnership. Accessed 11/30/18.
- 3) VirginiaLMI.com Virginia Employment Commission Labor Market Information. Accessed 12/3/18.
- 4) Countyhealthrankings.org County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. Accessed 12/3/18.