

## Chapter 3 **Population**

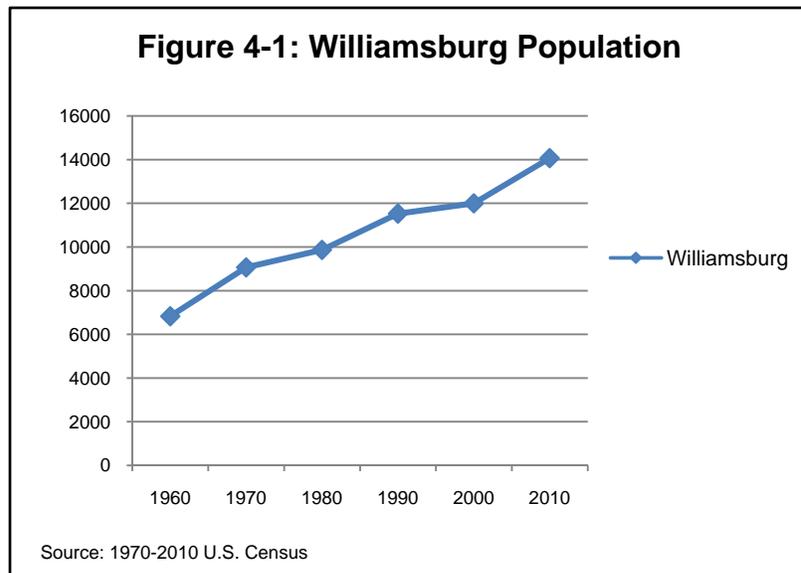
*This chapter was prepared for the City by the staff of the  
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission in October, 2012*

In order to provide a basis for predicting future growth needs and estimating residential and non-residential land use and infrastructure requirements it is important that the physical characteristics of a population are analyzed. An understanding of historic and existing population conditions provides the background for future population projections. Sound population projections then render predictions of the future need for housing, community facilities, infrastructure, and other types of services and development, the details of which will be the subject of subsequent chapters.

Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, and local records, this chapter examines the City of Williamsburg's population in detail by looking at the total population of City, as well as various aspects within the total population. The most recent population estimates, population growth trends, regarding gender, age groups, racial and ethnic identification, and household composition will be examined. In order to understand the dynamics affecting growth and development within the City of Williamsburg, this chapter will also examine regional population trends.

### **WILLIAMSBURG POPULATION**

As reported in the 2010 Census, Williamsburg's population is 14,067, an increase of 2,070 from the 2000 Census. Over the last 50 years, the total population of City of Williamsburg has increased at varying rates from decade to decade; the average growth per decade is 13.5% (Figure 4-1). During this time frame the greatest spike in total population was the 32.7% increase between 1960 and 1970, this increase due in part by the City annexing portions of James City County and York County in 1964. The decade between 1990 and 2000 indicated the smallest increase of 5.2%. The



The City annexed portions of James City County again in 1984 which contributed to a population increase of 16.8% between 1980 and 1990. The current census indicates that between 2000 and 2010 the City has experienced an increase of 17.3%, which is the highest population increase since the 1970s.

### **REGIONAL POPULATION**

Williamsburg is located on the Peninsula of Virginia in the center of the Historic Triangle which also includes James City County and a portion of York County. Table 4-1 shows that the Peninsula's population grew at a rate of 4.8% from 2000 to 2010; however this rate is below the national average of 9.7% for the same period. The cities of Hampton and Newport News dominate the lower end of the Peninsula, and approximately 67% of the population lives there. Although Williamsburg showed a slower rate of growth relative to the other localities, total population growth was approximately 49% over the fifty-year period.

Table 4-1: Population Change on the Peninsula

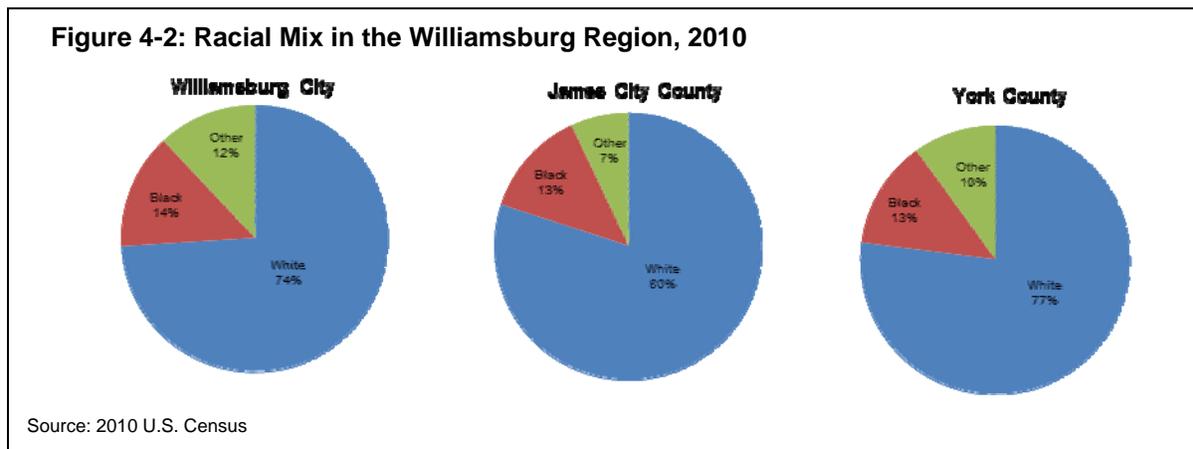
	Population						Change, 2000-2010	
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	Number	Percent
Williamsburg	6,832	9,069	9,870	11,530	11,998	14,067	2,070	17.3%
James City	11,539	17,853	22,339	34,970	48,102	67,009	18,907	39.3%
York County	21,583	27,762	35,463	42,434	56,297	65,464	9,167	16.3%
Poquoson	0	5,441	8,726	11,005	11,566	12,150	584	5.0%
Newport News	113,662	138,177	144,903	171,439	180,697	180,719	22	0.0%
Hampton	89,258	120,779	122,617	133,793	146,437	137,436	-9,001	-6.1%
Peninsula	242,874	319,081	343,918	405,171	455,097	476,846	21,749	4.8%
Hampton Roads	934,312	1,108,393	1,213,999	1,454,183	1,575,348	1,671,683	96,335	6.1%
Virginia	3,966,949	4,651,448	4,346,797	6,015,100	7,078,515	8,001,024	922,509	13.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

Williamsburg is influenced to a substantial degree by James City and York, the two rapidly growing predominantly suburban counties that surround it. Together the three localities comprise a region that more than tripled its population during the fifty-year period from 1960 to 2010, from 39,954 in 1960 to 146,541 in 2010. In ten-year period from 2000 to 2010, the Williamsburg region experienced a growth rate of 26%.

### POPULATION BY RACE

The racial composition of the Williamsburg population has been fairly stable and comparable with the Williamsburg region. Whites accounted for approximately 74% of the total population in 2010, down slightly from 78% in 2000. Although in 2010 African-Americans remain the most prominent minority group at 14% of the population, other minorities rose to 12% of the total population compared to 9% in 2000. Figure 4-2 illustrates that the localities in the Williamsburg region have similar racial mixes.



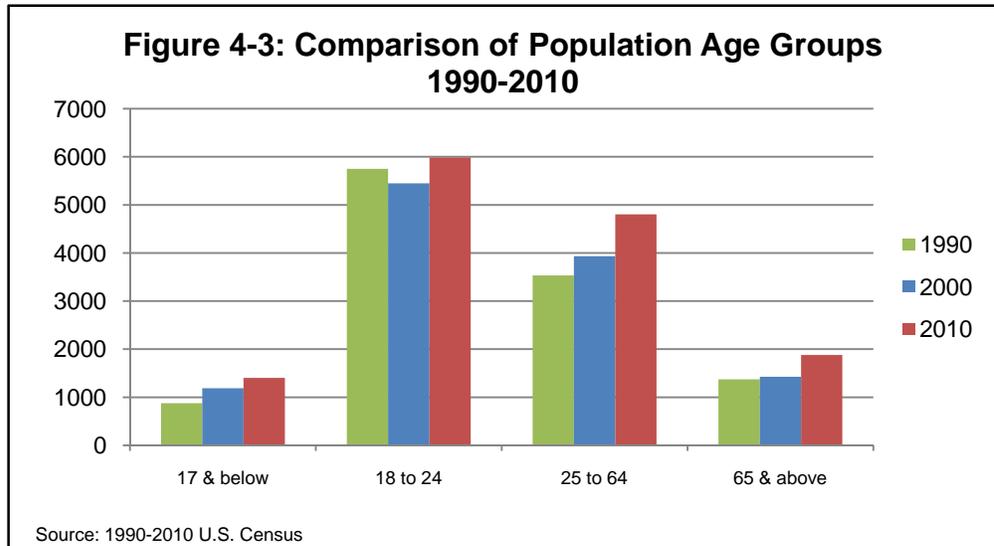
### POPULATION BY GENDER

According to the 2010 Census, the population of Williamsburg is 53% female, compared to males which comprise 47%, of the total population. Females comprise a higher proportion of the population in Williamsburg than they do in the region or the state, where they make up 51% of the population. The increasingly higher number of female residents in the City can be attributed in part to higher proportions of college age and elderly residents.

## POPULATION BY AGE

Williamsburg’s population can be analyzed by breaking it into four different age groups: grade school (17 & below) is 10% of the total, college (18-24) is 43% of the total, workforce (25-64) is 34% of the total, and retirement (65 & above) is 13% of the total. This is illustrated by Figure 4-3 below.

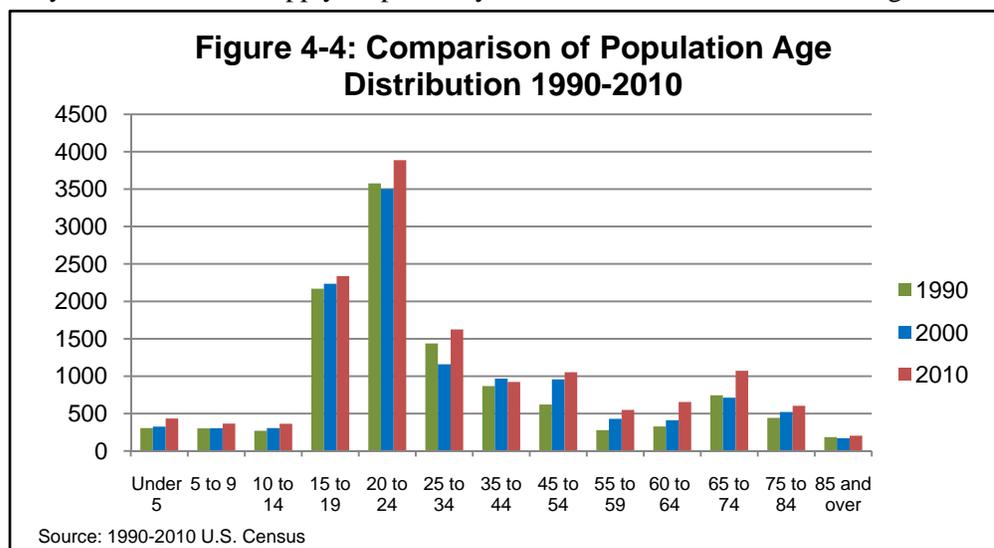
Figure 4-4 shows a more detailed breakdown of the population in five and ten year increments. This shows a trend for increases in the older age groups, particularly in the 60-75 range. This indicates that the City’s population is getting older, as it is all over the country, because of the aging of the post-war baby boom generation born between 1946 and 1964. It also illustrates the attraction of Williamsburg and the Historic Triangle as a retirement destination. This continuing trend will have an impact on the City in future years.



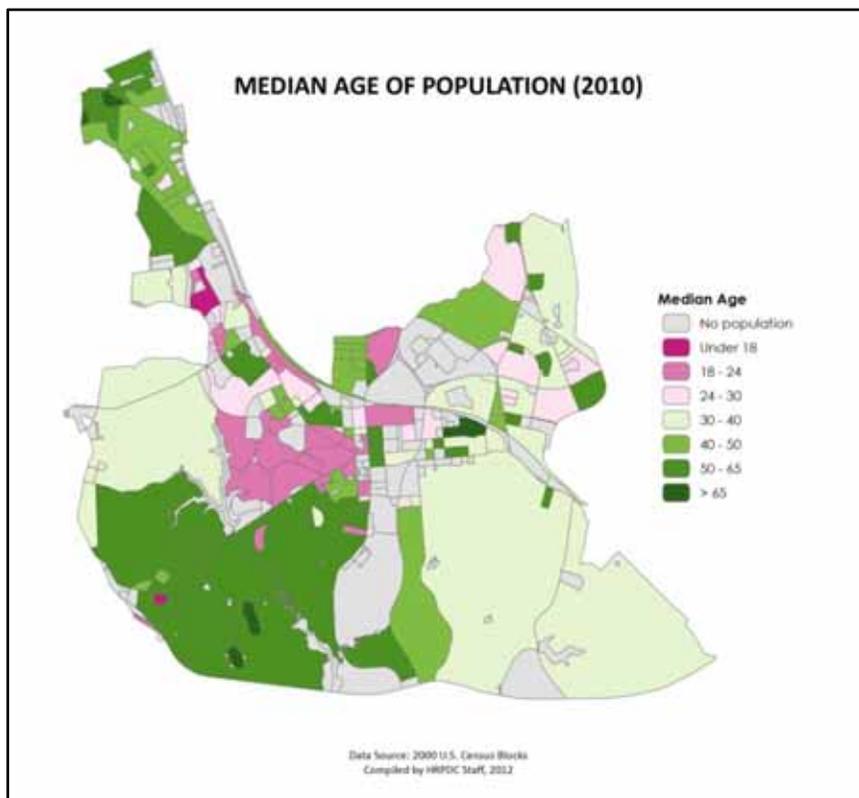
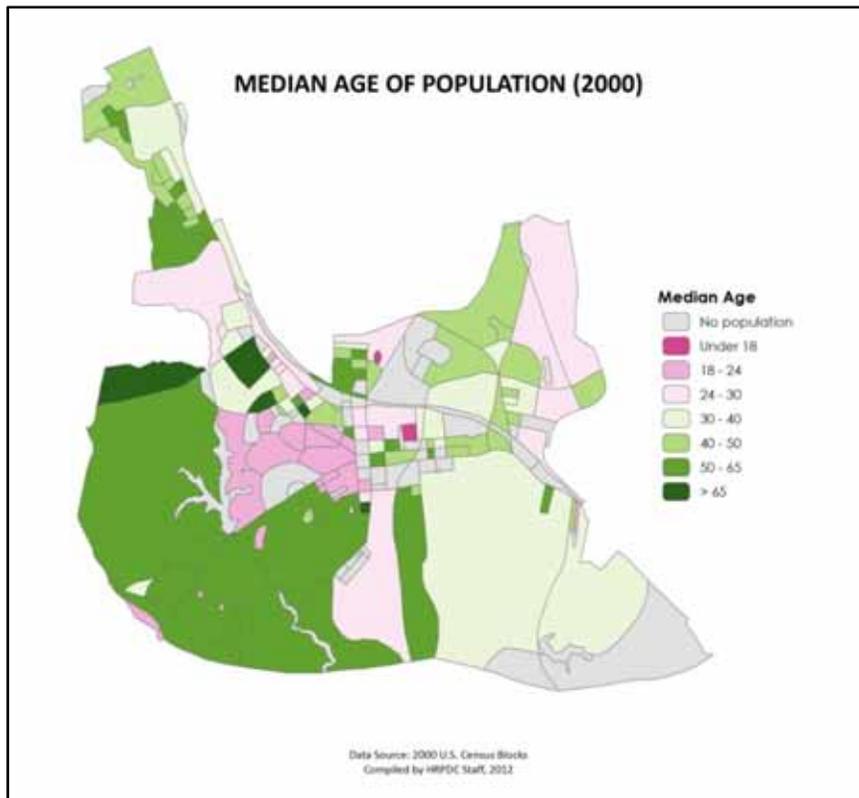
The 1,879 persons in the City who are 65 or older make up more than 23% of the City's non-student population of approximately 8,085. This proportion of permanent residents over the age of 65 is significantly higher in Williamsburg than in the surrounding region (19%), Hampton Roads (14%) or Virginia (14%).

Figures 4-3 and 4-4 also illustrate the impact of the College of William and Mary on the City. Its presence ensures a steady and substantial supply of primarily transient residents between the ages of 18 and 24, which has important impacts on both housing and the economy.

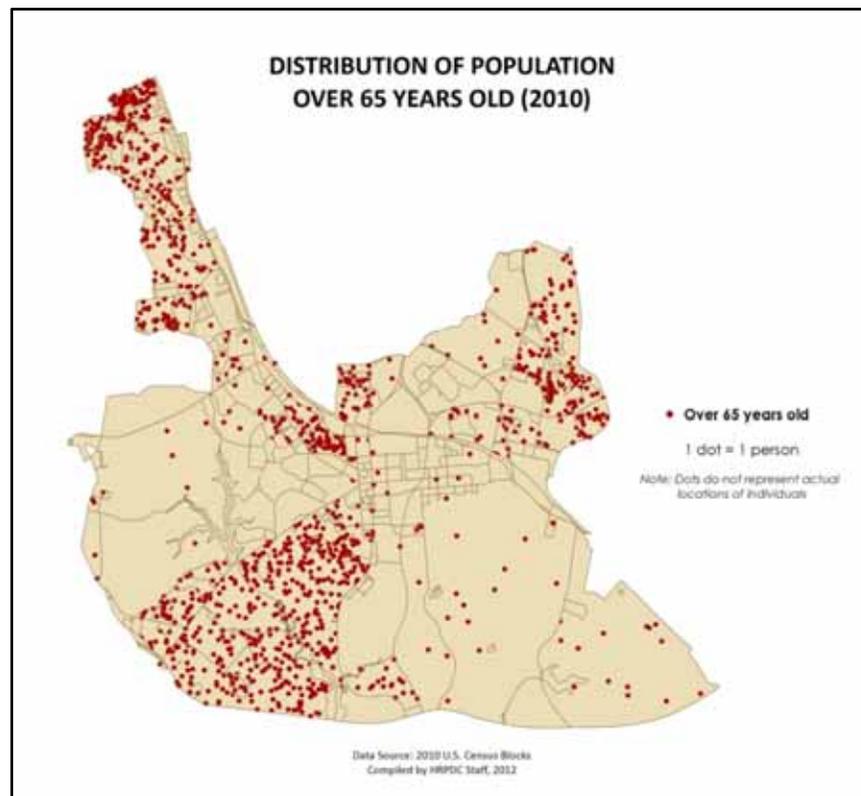
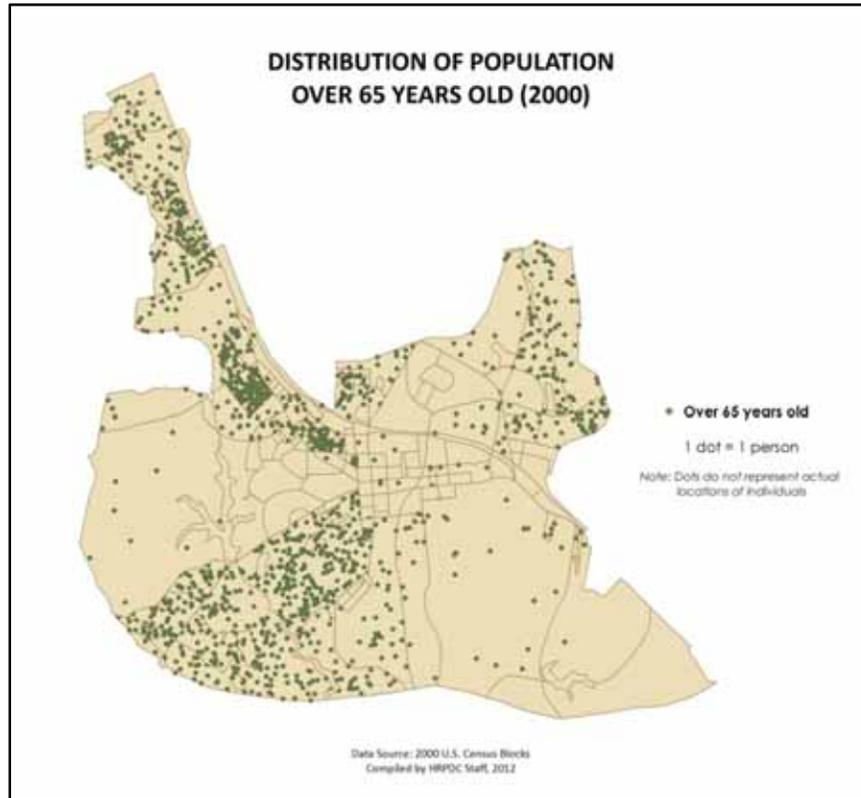
Maps 3-1 and 3-2 on the following pages help to graphically locate these illustrates the median age of the population, and Map 3-2 illustrates the population over 65 years old, both by Census Block.



### MAP 3-1: Median Age of Population

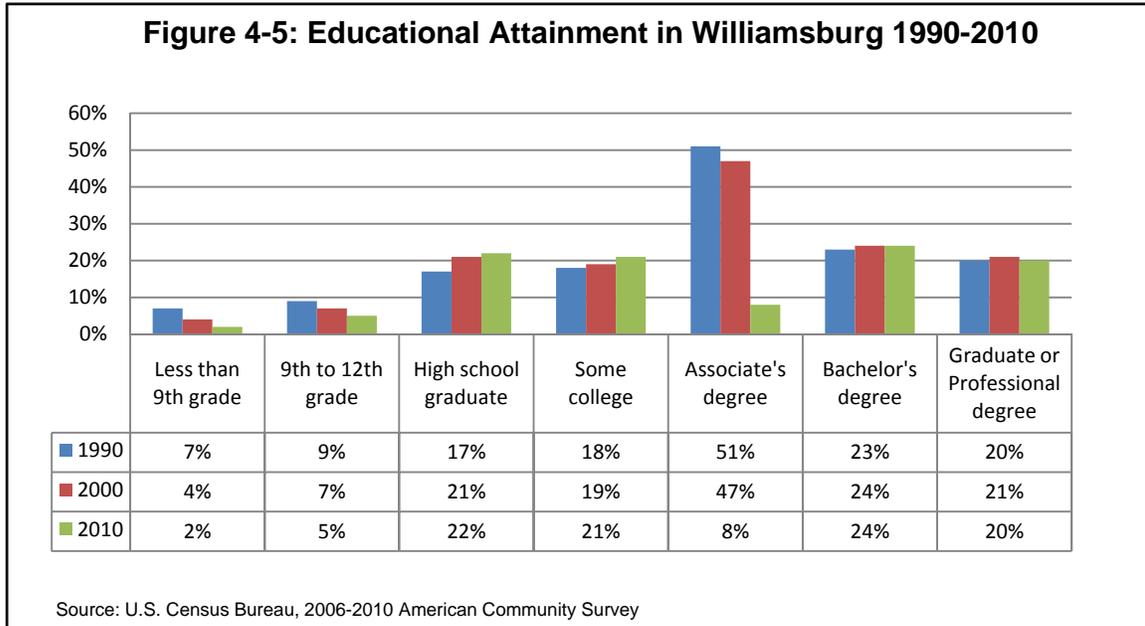


### MAP 3-2: Distribution of Population Over 65 Years Old



## SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

According to the 2006-2010 U.S. Census American Community Survey, Williamsburg’s population is highly educated. Approximately 94% of the population twenty-five and over has at least a high school diploma as compared to 90% in 2000 (Figure 4-5). Additionally, approximately 43% of the population twenty-five and over have bachelor’s degrees or above, down from 45% in 2000. In contrast, those holding bachelor’s degrees or higher account for only 28% of Hampton Roads population and 34% of Virginia population.

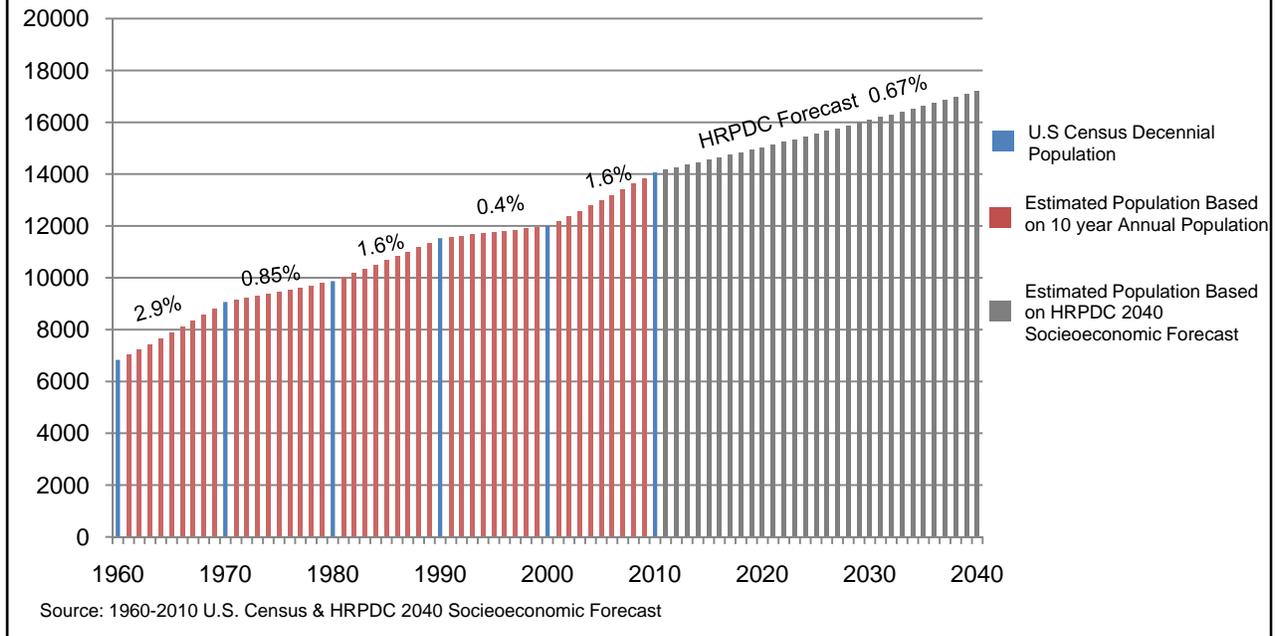


In Williamsburg, approximately 16% of the population enrolled in school is in grades K-12, compared with 71% in James City County and 76% in York County. However, students in college or graduate school make up 73% of the total Williamsburg population enrolled in school, compared with 22% in James City County and 18% in York County.

## POPULATION GROWTH

Based on the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) population projections the City of Williamsburg population is forecast to reach 17,200 persons by the year 2040 - nearly 3,132 people more than the City’s 2010 population base of 14,067 persons. This growth is based on an assumed growth rate of 0.67 percent per year throughout the thirty year period. Figure 4-6 shows the City’s population from 1960 to 2010 and between each U.S Census decennial population an annual growth rate was calculated to form an estimated population. This figure also shows the HRPDC forecasted population for Williamsburg from 2010 to 2040.

**Figure 4-6: City of Williamsburg Population 1960-2040**



According to the HRPDC forecast, the Peninsula’s population is projected to grow by a total of 13% between 2010 and 2040 (Table 4-2). James City County is projected to be the fastest growing locality on the Peninsula with a total growth of 56% between 2010 and 2040. In 2040 James City County is projected to remain the most populous locality in the Williamsburg region with an estimated population of 104,200 (Figure 4-7). York County is expected to grow about 26% over the same period, and is expected to have a total projected population of 82,700 by 2040. Although their projected growth rates exceed the rest of the Peninsula, both James City and York Counties are expected to experience slower growth than that seen in the fifty years from 1960 to 2010.

**Table 4-2: Population in Hampton Roads 1960-2040**

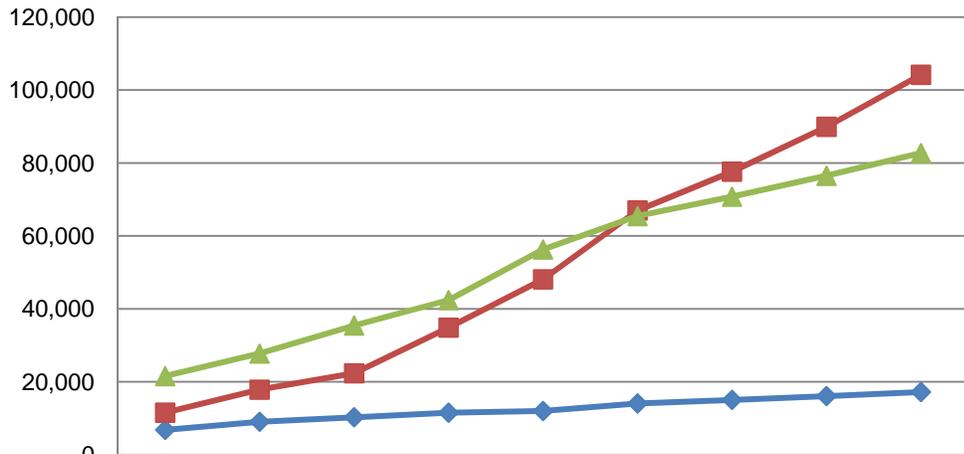
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020*	2030*	2040
Williamsburg	6,832	9,069	10,294	11,530	11,998	14,067	15,043	16,085	17,200
James City Co.	11,539	17,853	22,339	34,859	48,102	67,009	77,632	89,940	104,200
York Co.	21,583	27,762	35,463	42,422	56,297	65,464	70,768	76,501	82,700
Peninsula	242,874	333,140	364,449	435,197	481,330	513,704	509,888	545,220	583,000
Hampton Roads	934,312	1,108,393	1,213,999	1,454,183	1,566,801	1,666,310	1,785,526	1,907,123	2,037,000

Source: HRPDC Hampton Roads 2040 Socioeconomic Forecast

\*2020 & 2030 figures were derived from 2040 figures and are not part of HRPDC's official forecast

Williamsburg’s population experienced a 22% growth between 1990 and 2010, increasing from 11,530 to 14,067. Based on the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission’s regional population projections, the City’s population growth is expected to continue at the same rate of 22% between 2010 and 2040, reaching a population of 17,200 in 2040. However, during the 2010 to 2040 period, James City County’s rate of population growth is expected to decrease from 92% to 56%, and the rate of York County’s growth to decrease from 54% to 26%.

**Figure 4-7: Population in Williamsburg Region, 1960-2040**



	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020*	2030*	2040
—◆— Williamsburg	6,832	9,069	10,294	11,530	11,998	14,067	15,043	16,085	17,200
—■— James City Co.	11,539	17,853	22,339	34,859	48,102	67,009	77,632	89,940	104,200
—▲— York Co.	21,583	27,762	35,463	42,422	56,297	65,464	70,768	76,501	82,700

Source: 1960-2010 U.S. Census & HRPDC 2040 Socioeconomic Forecast

\*2020 & 2030 figures were derived from 2040 figures and are not part of HRPDC's official forecast