

# Stepping Stones

**A Report on Community  
Wellbeing in the Charlottesville/  
Albemarle Area by the  
Charlottesville Department of  
Human Services**

**January 2019**



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# Stepping Stones

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# Introduction

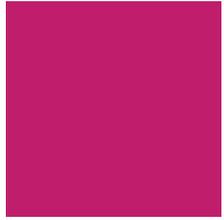
We are pleased to issue the 2018 edition of *Stepping Stones: A Report on Community Well-Being of Children and Families in the Charlottesville/Albemarle Area*.

## **About this Report**

Stepping Stones was created to chart the health of children and their families in the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County. Stepping Stones includes data on 38 indicators chosen to measure child and family well-being. Stepping Stones is intended to provide accurate data, stimulate community dialogue and action regarding regional trends in the Charlottesville/Albemarle community.

## **Method**

Each chapter introduction provides an overview of how the particular set of data impacts child and family well-being. Data presented was collected from local and state organizations.

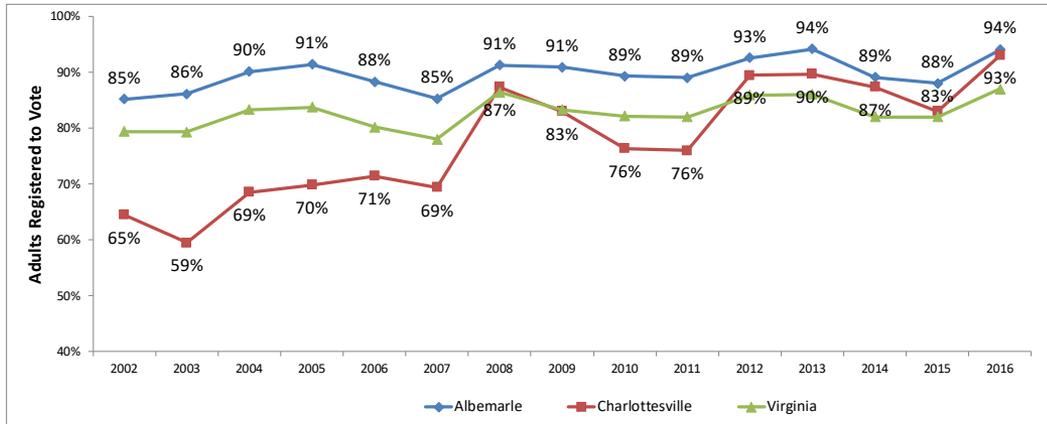


# Community Characteristics

These two graphs present information about the nature of the local community. The graphs provide a means of measuring civic participation of residents and changing demographics.

## Community Characteristics

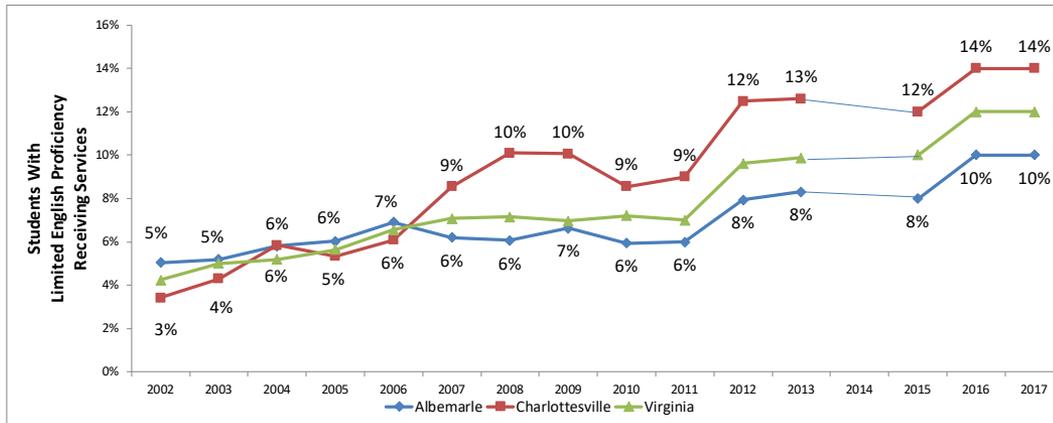
### 1.1 Voter Registration



The number of adult residents registered to vote in each locality, represented as a percentage of the adult population. This number may be slightly deflated because some adult residents are not eligible to vote.

Source: Virginia State Board of Elections

### 1.2 Students with Limited English Proficiency



The number of public school students receiving services for limited English proficiency, represented as a percentage of all students.

Source: Virginia Department of Education



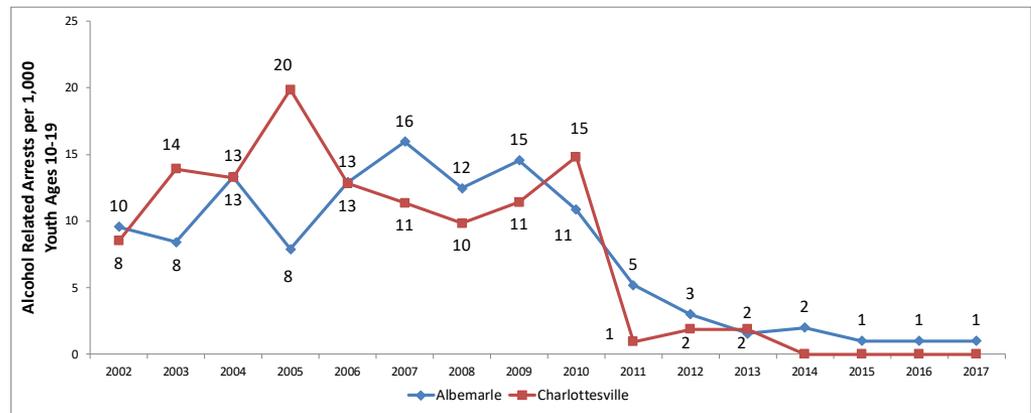
# Conduct in Community

These four graphs present data about negative and risky behaviors and the subsequent results for young people, their families, and the community – ranging from alcohol use to violent criminal behavior.

Delinquency judgments are convictions entered in the local juvenile and domestic relations court for any offense that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

## 2.1 Underage Alcohol Arrests

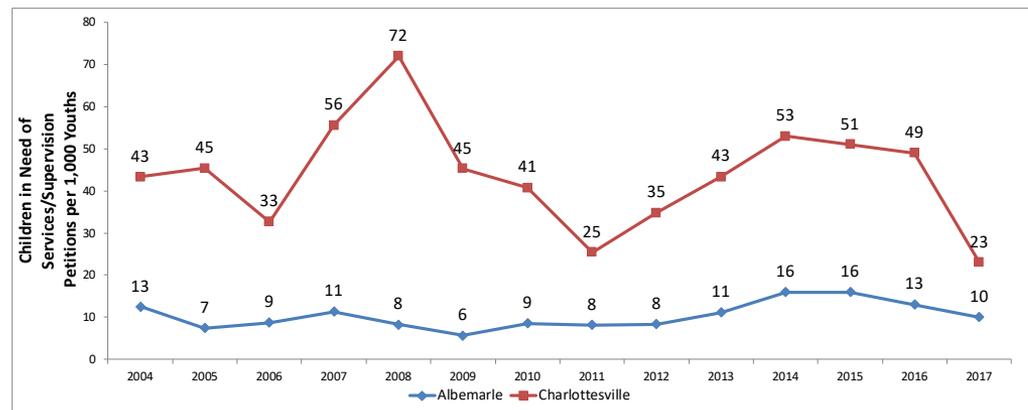
The number of alcohol-related offenses for persons under the age of 20 for the calendar year, divided by the population estimate per 1,000 youth, ages 10-19. Youth age 20 are excluded in these calculations. This results in an underestimation.



Source: Virginia State Police

## 2.2 Children in Need of Services/Supervision Petitions

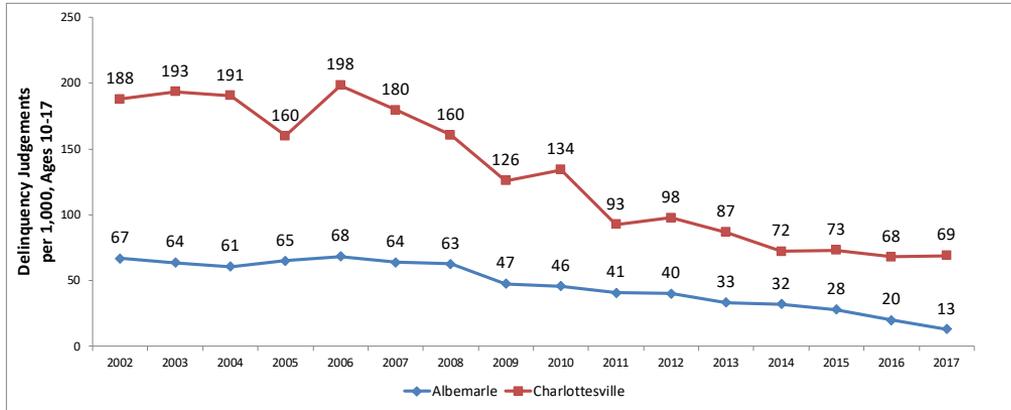
The number of petitions filed by school authorities or parents alleging juveniles that are Children in Need of Services/Supervision (chronic truants/run-aways), divided by the population estimate per 1,000 youth, ages 10-17. These petitions often result in court-ordered services or sanctions for these youth.



Source: Virginia Supreme Court

## Conduct in Community

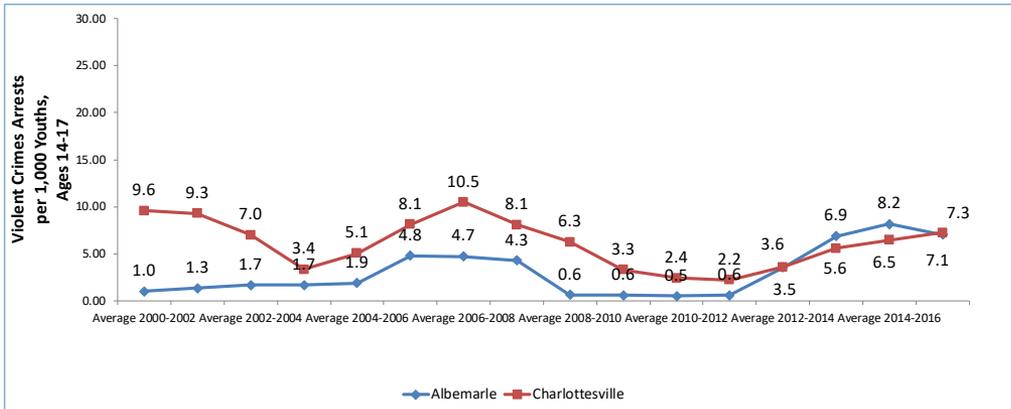
### 2.3 Delinquency Judgements



The number of juvenile delinquency judgments, divided by the population estimate per 1,000 youth. One juvenile may have multiple judgments in a year, resulting in an overestimation. The locality reflects the place where the offense occurred, and not the place of residence of the youth.

Source: Virginia Supreme Court

### 2.4 Juvenile Arrests for Violent Crime



The total number of violent crimes committed by juveniles, divided by the population estimate per 1,000 youth, ages 10-18. Violent crimes include murder, rape, arson, robbery, kidnapping, and malicious wounding.

Source: Virginia State Police



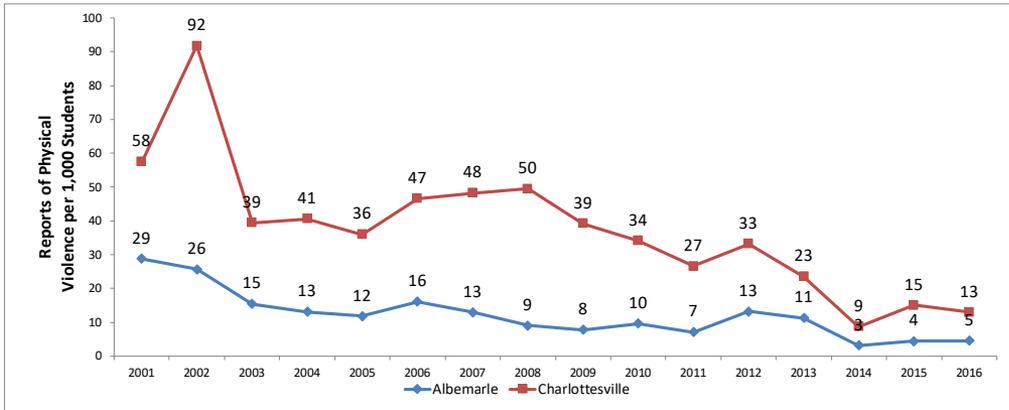
# Discipline in School

These four graphs indicate a range of risk-taking and dangerous behaviors in public schools that can have serious negative consequences for the community and the educational process: violence, drug and alcohol possession, weapons possession, and school suspensions.

When a safe learning environment is lacking, students tend to struggle in school and teachers have more problems adequately educating their students. A safe school can foster the opportunity for both students and teachers to develop their academic talents.

## Discipline in School

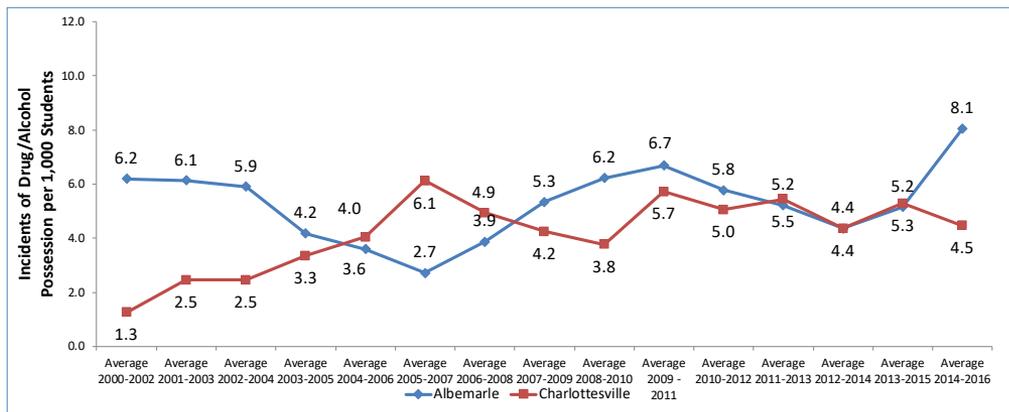
### 3.1 School Reports of Physical Violence



The number of acts of physical violence by students against students and staff, divided by the number of students, per 1,000.

Source: Virginia Department of Education

### 3.2 Possession of Drugs/Alcohol in Public School

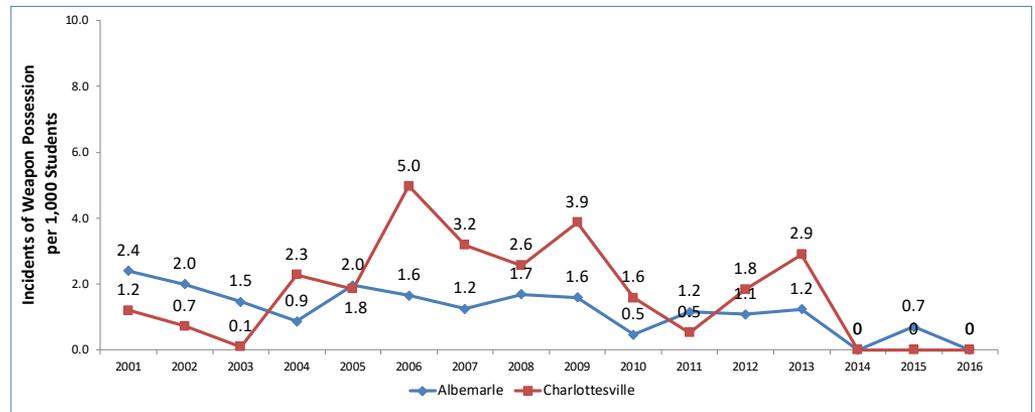


The incidences of drug/alcohol possession in public schools, divided by the number of students, per 1,000. Drug/alcohol possession is defined as location of alcohol, mood-altering drugs, illegal drugs, illegally possessed/used prescription drugs, synthetic drugs, or anabolic steroids on a student's person or within the scope of the student's control.

Source: Virginia Department of Education

### 3.3 Weapons Possession in Public School

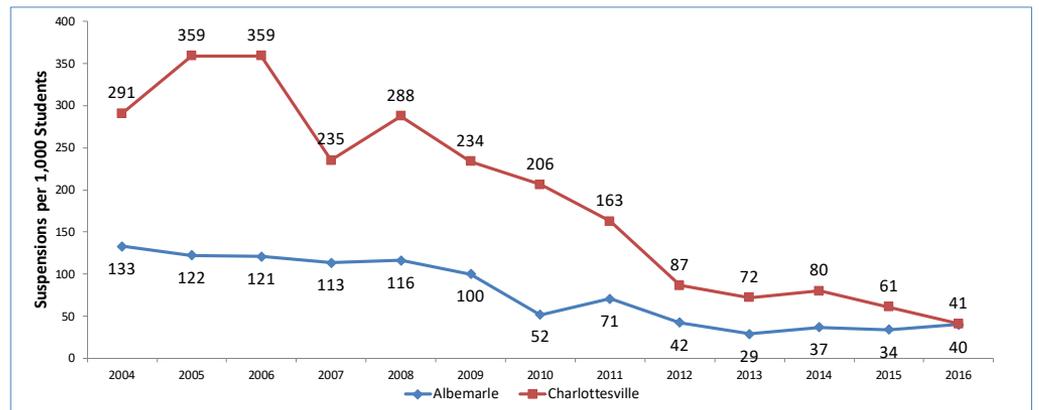
The number of reports of weapon possession violations, divided by the number of students, per 1,000. Weapons possession includes incidences where students are found to have weapons on their person or within their control.



Source: Virginia Department of Education

### 3.4 Public School Suspensions

The number of long- and short-term suspensions divided by the number of students, per 1,000. These figures reflect suspensions, not students. One student may be suspended multiple times.



Source: Charlottesville and Albemarle Public Schools



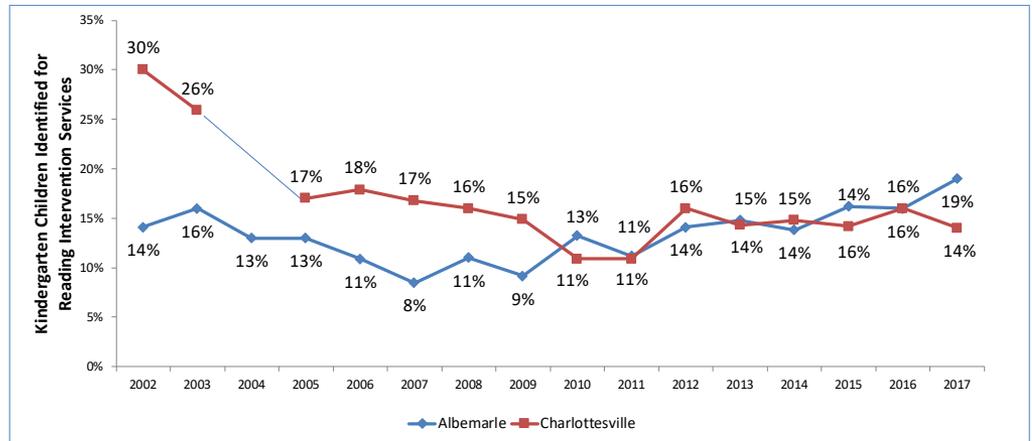
# Education

The first graph, on reading readiness, demonstrates the level of children entering local public school systems qualifying for early intervention and additional support services in order to improve their readiness for enrollment in school. In light of recent research linking early educational intervention with higher scores on mental, reading, and math tests, reading readiness may be linked to a lack of adequate early education experiences for children, ages 0-6, before they enter Kindergarten. Participation in high-quality early childhood education programs can provide children with skills and enrichment that improve the likelihood they will be successful in school.

In 1998, the Virginia Board of Education adopted Standards of Learning (SOL) in core subject areas. Passing scores for the SOL tests are set by the Virginia Board of Education. Graphs 4.4 through 4.9 represent the percentage of students in Charlottesville, Albemarle, and Virginia who passed the math and English SOL areas for the third, fifth, and eighth grades.

**4.1 Kindergarten Children Identified for Reading Intervention Services**

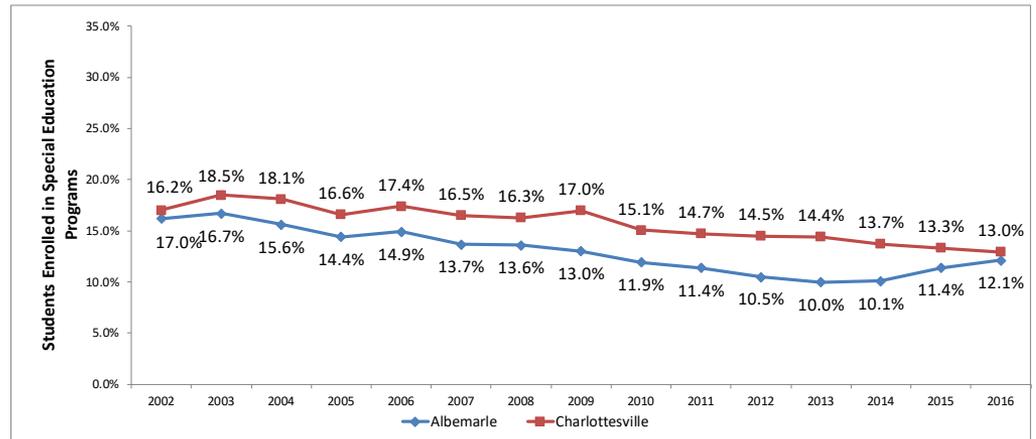
The number of children entering kindergarten that were identified for intervention services on the Early Intervention Reading Initiative, shown as a percentage of all children screened.



Source: PALS

**4.2 Special Education Involvement**

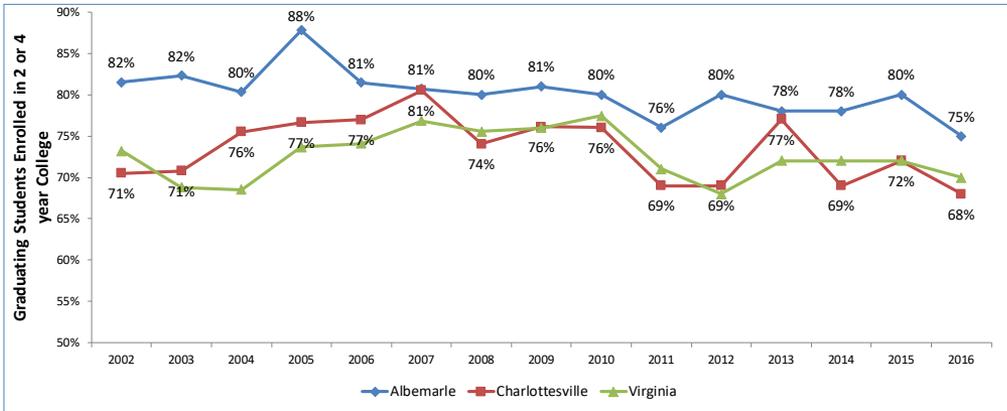
The percentage of students receiving special education services.



Source: Virginia Department of Education

## Education

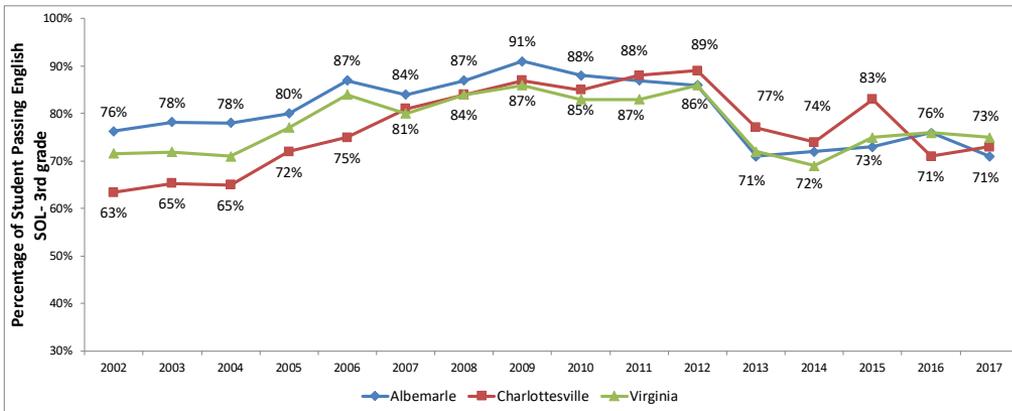
### 4.3 Post Secondary Education



The percentage of high school graduates who enroll in a two or four year college within eighteen months of graduation.

Source: Virginia Department of Education

### 4.4 Grade Three Standards of Learning Tests- English

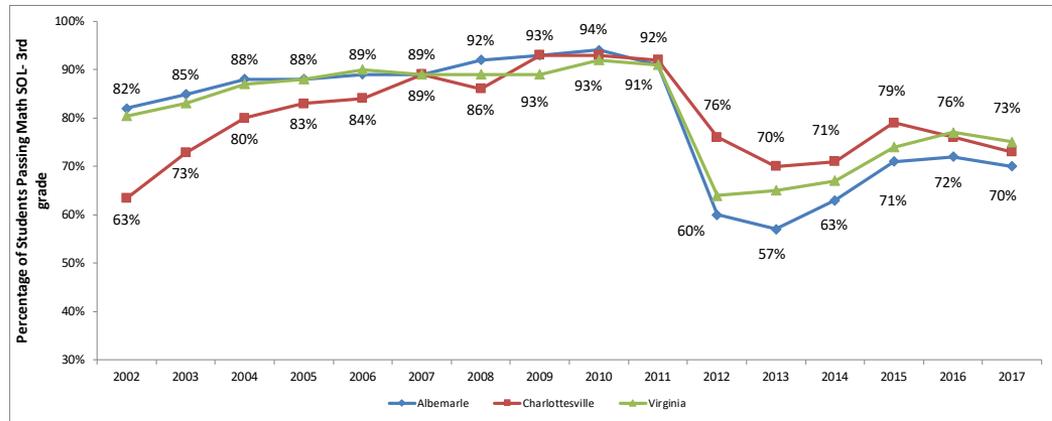


The numbers reported reflect the percentage of students in Charlottesville, Albemarle, and Virginia who passed the English SOL area for the third grade.

Source: Virginia Department of Education

#### 4.5 Grade Three Standards of Learning Tests- Math

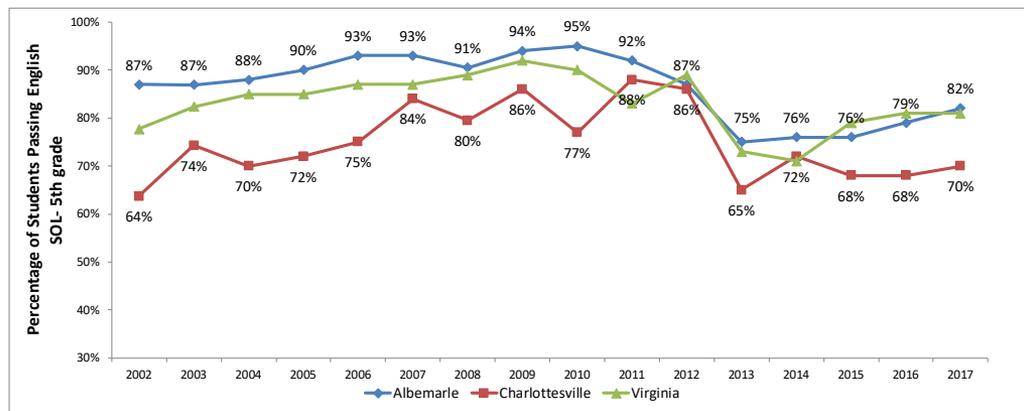
The numbers reported reflect the percentage of students in Charlottesville, Albemarle, and Virginia who passed the math SOL area for the third grade.



Source: Virginia Department of Education

#### 4.6 Grade Five Standards of Learning Tests- English

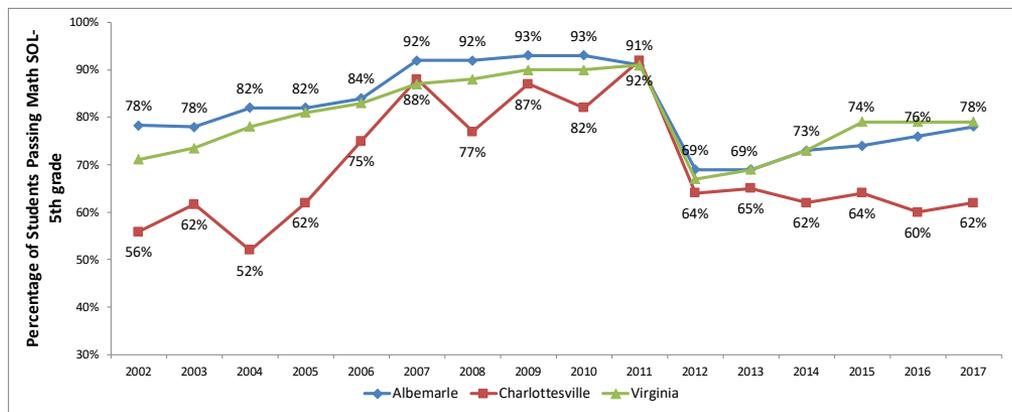
The numbers reported reflect the percentage of students in Charlottesville, Albemarle, and Virginia who passed the English SOL area for the fifth grade.



Source: Virginia Department of Education

## Education

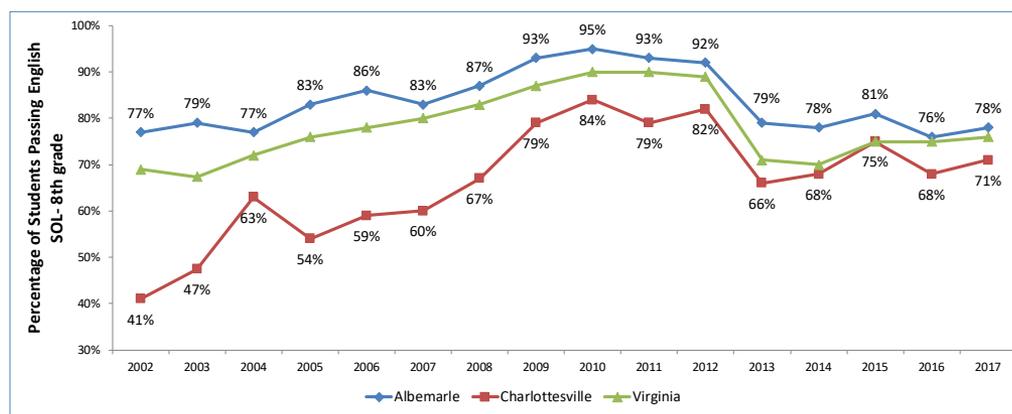
### 4.7 Grade Five Standards of Learning Tests- Math



The numbers reported reflect the percentage of students in Charlottesville, Albemarle, and Virginia who passed the math SOL area for the fifth grade.

Source: Virginia Department of Education

### 4.8 Grade Eight Standards of Learning Tests- English

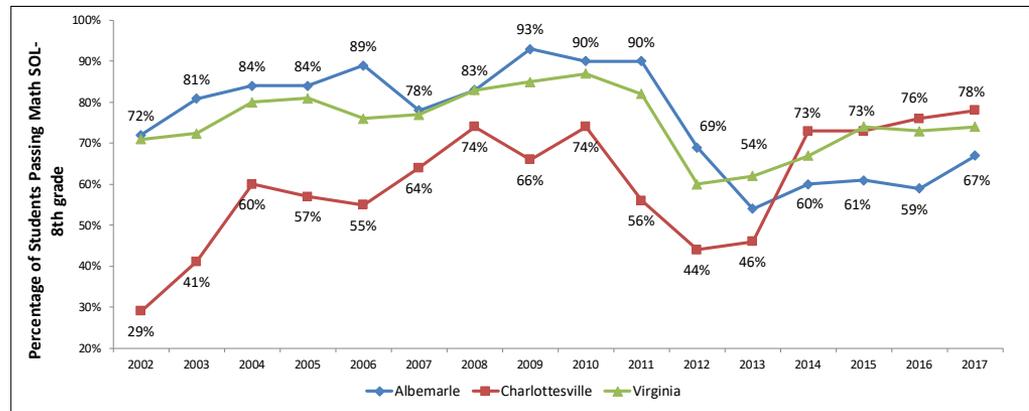


The numbers reported reflect the percentage of students in Charlottesville, Albemarle, and Virginia who passed the English SOL area for the eighth grade.

Source: Virginia Department of Education

#### 4.9 Grade Eight Standards of Learning Tests- Math

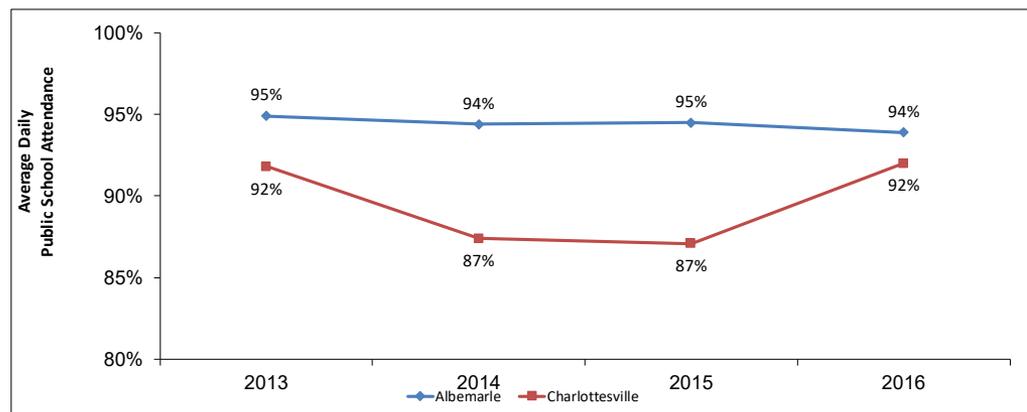
The numbers reported reflect the percentage of students in Charlottesville, Albemarle, and Virginia who passed the math SOL area for the eighth grade.



Source: Virginia Department of Education

#### 4.10 Average Daily Public School Attendance

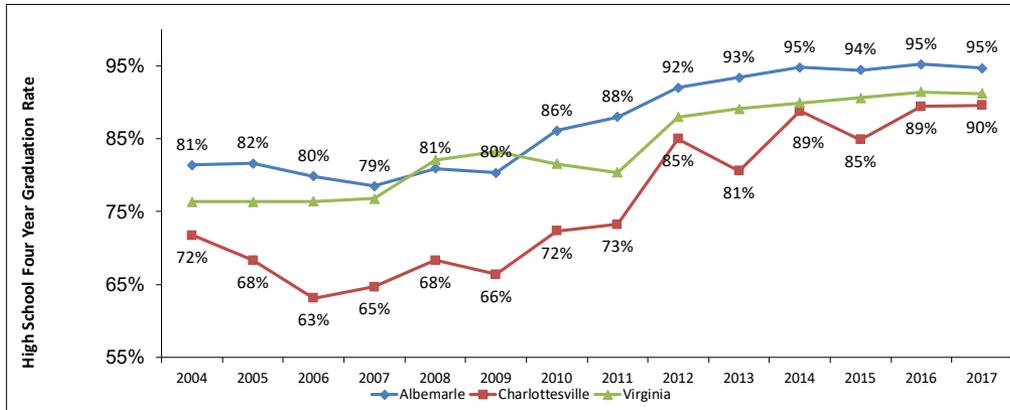
The average daily attendance for the school system, divided by the average daily membership, shown as a percentage.



Source: Virginia Department of Education

## Education

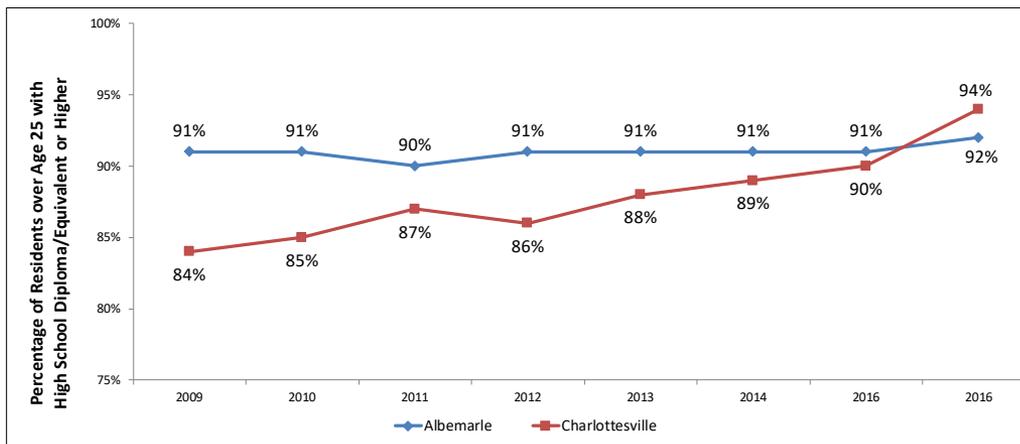
### 4.11 High School Graduation Rate



The percentage of students who graduated from high school in Charlottesville, Albemarle, and Virginia.

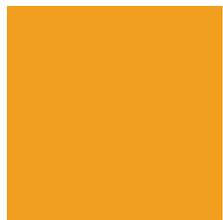
Source: Virginia Department of Education

### 4.12 Percentage of Residents Over the Age 25 with High School Diploma/Equivalent or Higher



The percentage of residents in Charlottesville and Albemarle over age 25 with a high school diploma/GED or higher.

Source: Virginia Department of Education

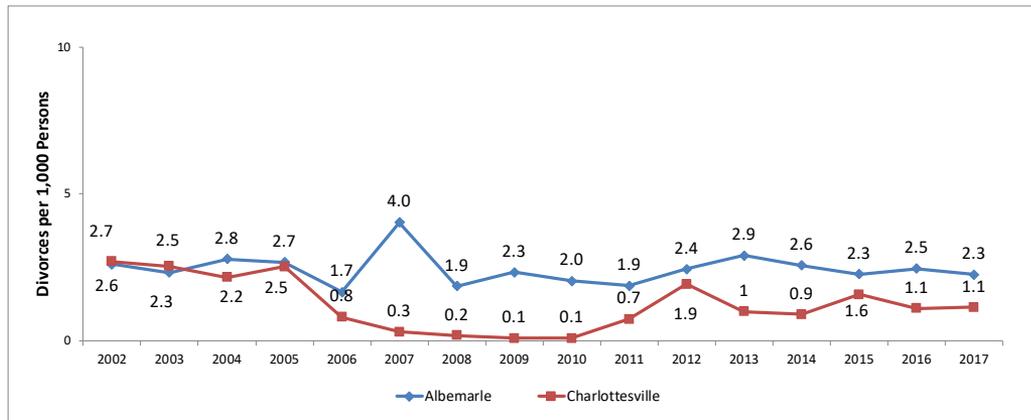


# Family Characteristics

These four graphs present characteristics of local families, describing the number of children living with both parents, local divorce rates, local foster care rates, and child abuse/neglect assessments and investigations.

## Family Characteristics

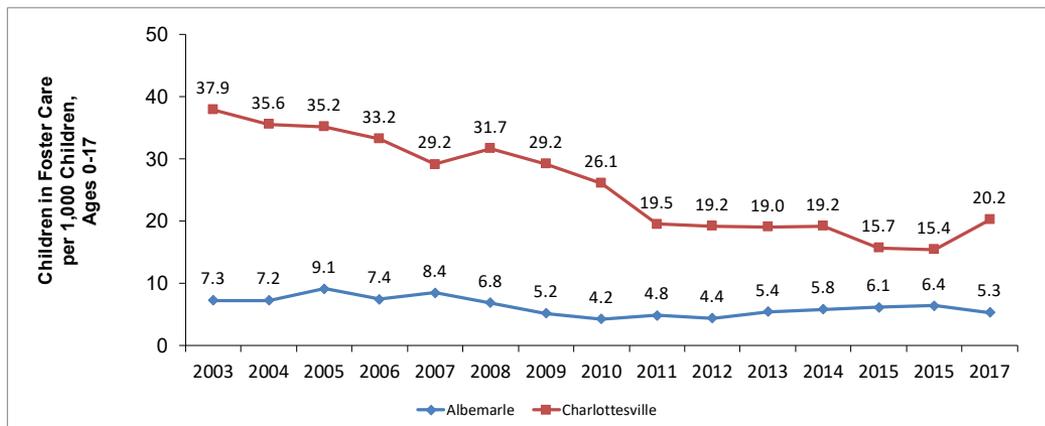
### 5.1 Divorces Processed in Circuit Court



The number of divorces, per 1,000 persons, granted by the Charlottesville and Albemarle Circuit Courts during the calendar year.

Source: Charlottesville and Albemarle Circuit Courts

### 5.2 Children in Foster Care

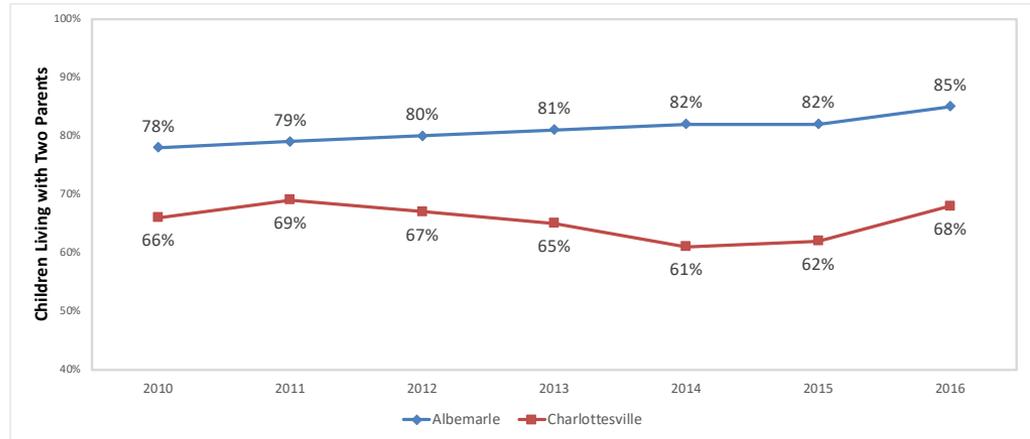


Source: Charlottesville and Albemarle Departments of Social Services

The unduplicated total number of children placed in foster care with local Departments of Social Services, per 1,000 children aged 0-17. A child may be placed in foster care by the court as a result of child abuse, neglect, abandonment, or through parental entrustment.

### 5.3 Children Living with Two Parents

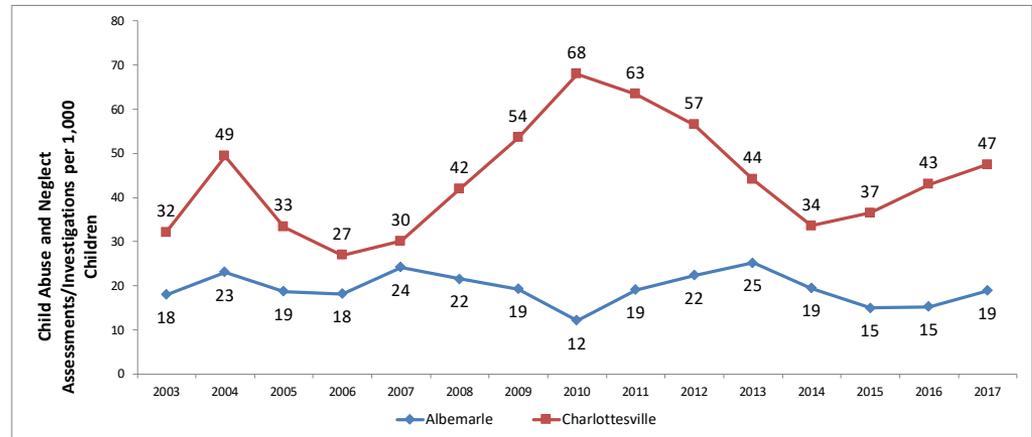
The number of children living with two adults in their home, represented as a percentage.



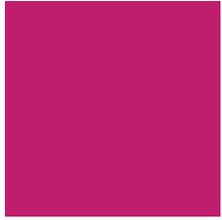
Source: U.S. Census

### 5.4 Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations/Assessments

The number of investigations and/or assessments made by the local Departments of Social Services in response to allegations of child abuse or neglect per 1,000 children. This number does not fully account for the number of children as a case may represent several children in a family.



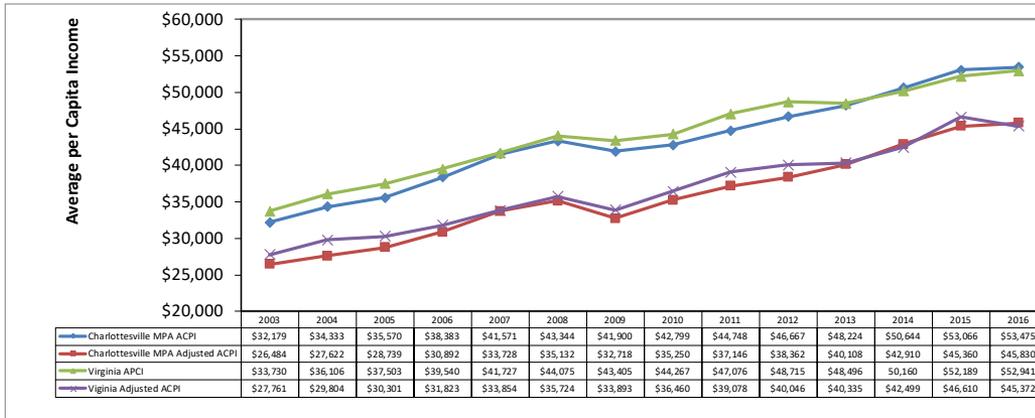
Source: Charlottesville and Albemarle Departments of Social Services



# Finance

These three graphs show financial information, including per capital income, children in poverty, and eligibility for free and reduced school meals.

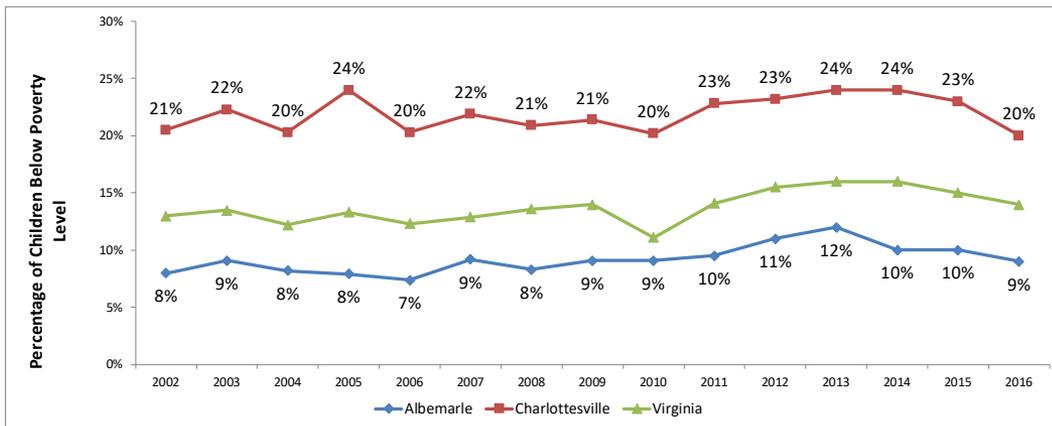
### 6.1 Average Per Capita Income



This chart shows the average per capita income for the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Charlottesville municipal area.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

### 6.2 Percentage of Children Below Poverty Level

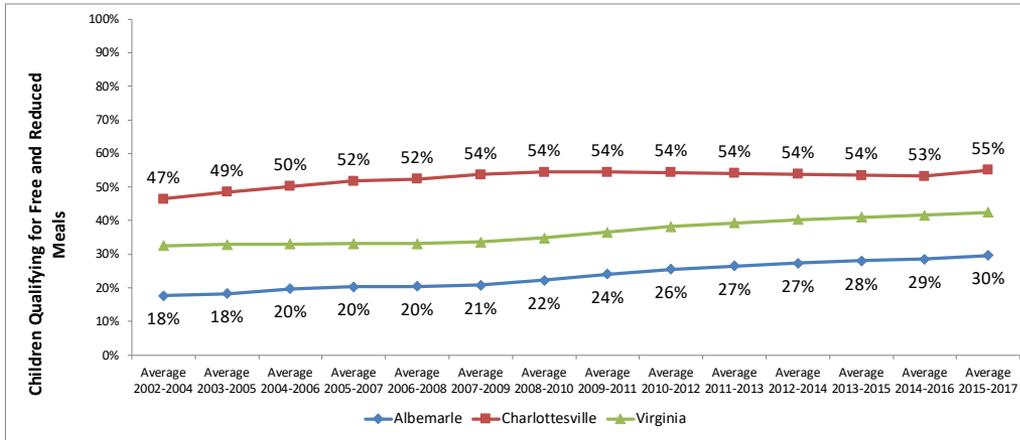


The percentage of children living below the federal poverty level, which is \$25,000 per year for a family of four.

Source: U.S. Census

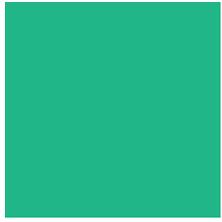
# Finance

## 6.3 Children Qualifying for Free Reduced Meals



The percentage of public school students who are eligible for free and reduced meals, based on household income.

Source: Virginia Department of Education

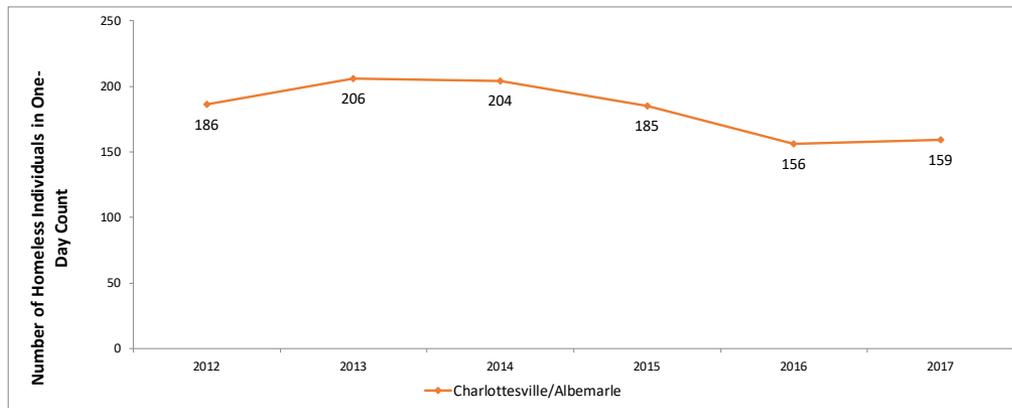


# Housing

These three graphs provide information about the number of individuals identified as homeless, as well as the percentages of home owners and renters who are classified as cost-burdened because they pay more than 30% of their income for rent or mortgage.

## Housing

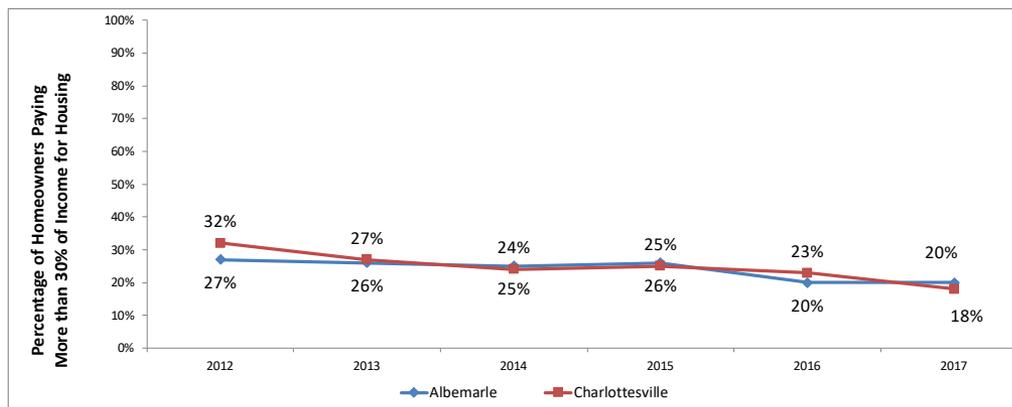
### 7.1 Homeless Adults



The number of individuals identified as not having a permanent home in an annual point in time.

Source: Thomas Jefferson Coalition for the Homeless

### 7.2 Percentage of Homeowners Paying More than 30% of Income for Housing

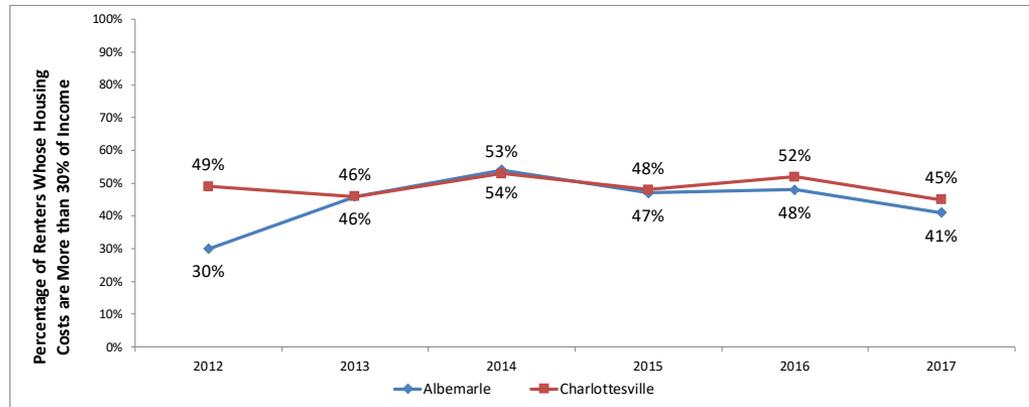


The percentage of homeowners paying more than 30% of their income for housing.

Source: U.S. Census

### 7.3 Percentage of Renters Paying More Than 30% of Income for Housing

The percentage of renters paying more than 30% of their income for housing. The number may be inflated by the large number of University of Virginia students in the area.



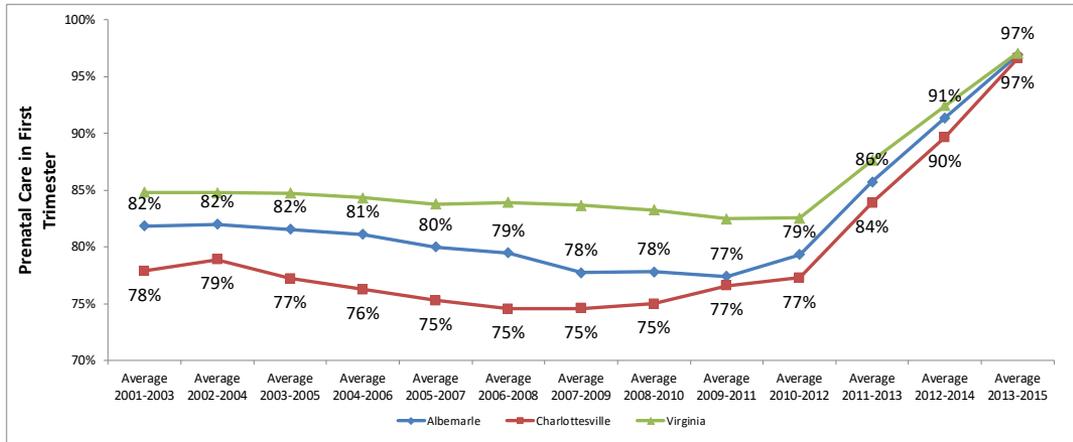
Source: U.S. Census



# Infant Health

These four graphs present information about prenatal care in the first trimester, infant deaths, low birth weight babies, and births to mothers with less than a twelfth grade education.

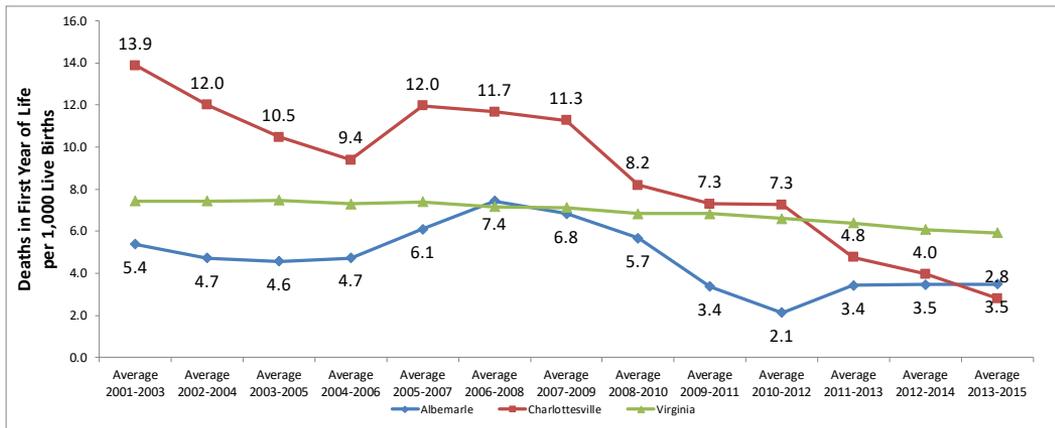
**8.1 Prenatal Care in First Trimester**



The percentage of pregnant females who began prenatal care in the first 13 weeks of pregnancy as a percentage of live births, per calendar year.

Source: Virginia Department of Health

**8.2 Infant Deaths**

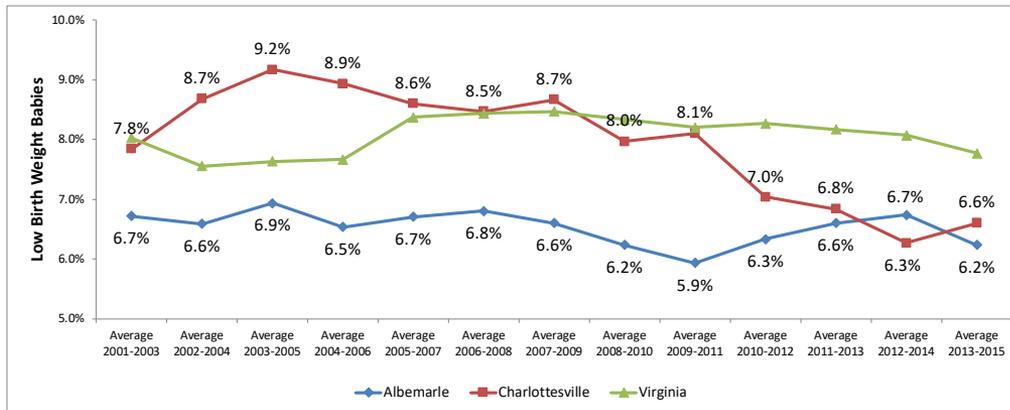


The number of infant deaths, per calendar year, per 1,000 children under age one.

Source: Virginia Department of Health

## Infant Health

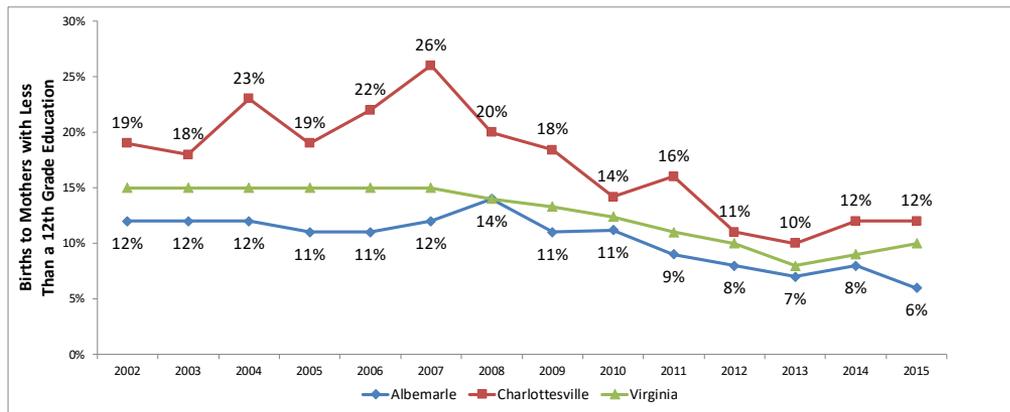
### 8.3 Low Birth Weight Babies



The percentage of low-weight births (<2,500 grams/ approximately 5.5 pounds) as a percentage of total live births, per calendar year.

Source: Virginia Department of Health

### 8.4 Births to Mothers with Less Than a 12th Grade Education



The percentage of births each year to mothers with less than a 12th grade education.

Source: Virginia Department of Health

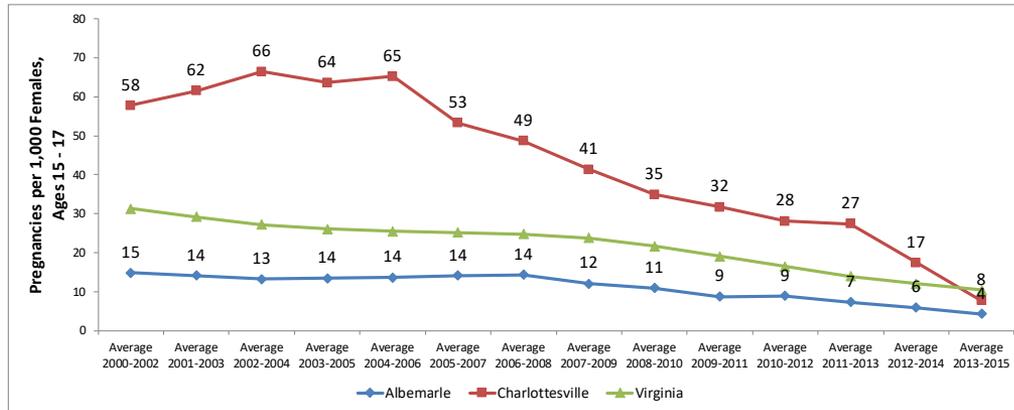


# Youth Health

These three graphs present information about the number of teenage pregnancies, births to mothers under age 18, and the number of reported cases of Sexually Transmitted Diseases for 10-19 year-old-youth in Virginia.

## Youth Health

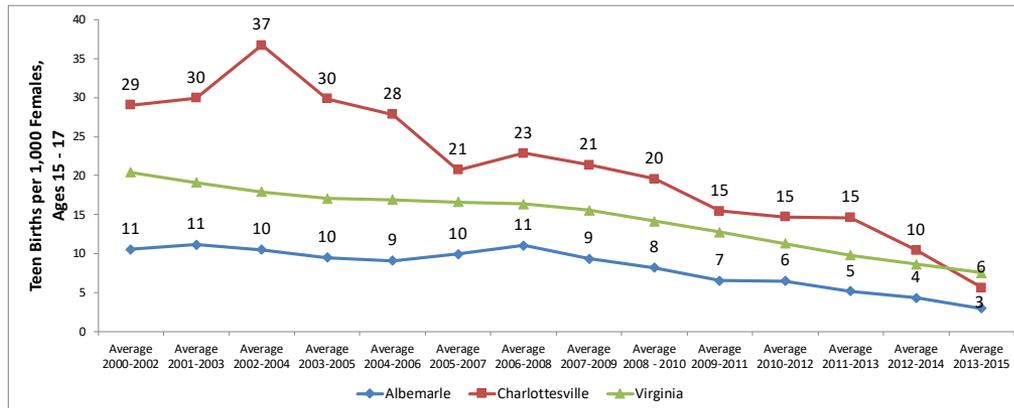
### 9.1 Teen Pregnancies



The number of pregnancies reported in the calendar year for females under the age of 18, divided by the estimated number of females ages 15-17 per 1,000.

Source: Virginia Department of Health

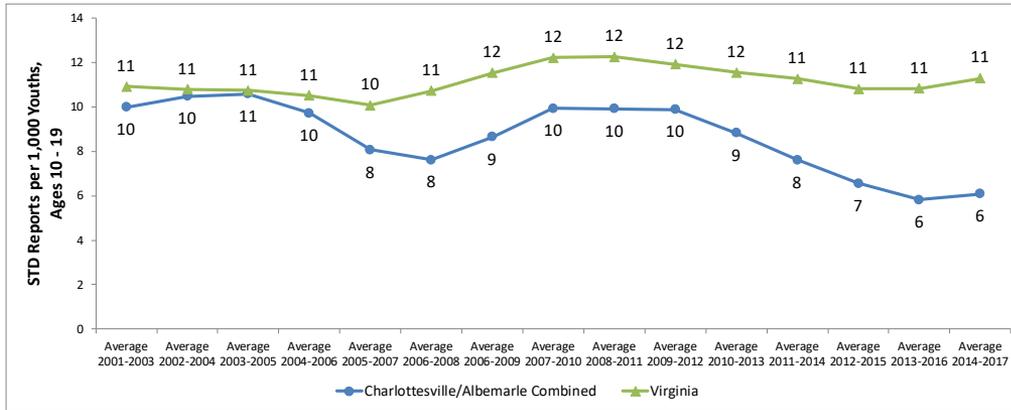
### 9.2 Births to Teens Ages 15-17



The number of live births in the calendar year to females, ages 15-17, divided by the estimated population of females ages 15-17.

Source: Virginia Department of Health

### 9.3 Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Youth



The number of reported cases of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (HIV/AIDS, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia) for 10-19 year old youth, divided by the population, ages 10-19 per 1,000.

Source: Virginia Department of Health

