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Situation Analysis Report



Prince William County

2013

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Introduction

During the fall of 2013, Extension Staff and Extension Leadership Council members conducted a Situation Analysis for the VCE Prince William Unit. The purpose of conducting the analysis was to help identify key issues in the region that extension staff might be able to address through its educational programs.

Staff and ELC members created a set of questions that were then entered into Qualtrics, an online evaluation tool. A survey tool was created with Staff and ELC input. The tool was then made available for public comment. The tool was posted online, emailed to e-notifications mailing lists, and a print survey was provided in classes and online for the public to complete. Surveys were collected over a month's time. Staff and ELC met to analyze the data and summarize the findings.

Unit Profile

Prince William County is located in Northern Virginia approximately 35 miles southwest of Washington, DC. It is bounded on the north by Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, on the east by the Potomac River (Maryland), on the south by Stafford County and on the west by Fauquier County.

Prince William County encompasses a total area of approximately 348 square miles (222,615 acres) and a total land area of 338 square miles. Prince William County includes within its boundaries the independent cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. The combined area of Prince William County and the independent cities is approximately 360 square miles (230,594 acres). Federal land accounts for approximately 41,500 acres or 18.6% of the total area, and includes Quantico Marine Corps Base, Manassas National Battlefield Park and Prince William Forest Park. Prince William County includes four incorporated towns and fourteen census designated places (CDPs), that are un-incorporated population centers designated by the U.S. Census Bureau for data collection purposes.

Population data

The data estimates current population of Prince William County as of September 30, 2013 as 419,577, while population for the Greater Prince William Area (including the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park is 454,096. Between 2000 and 2010 the population grew over 43.2%. Population of the county by 2020 is expected to be over 479,437 in the County and 546,464 in the region.

	2010	2020	2030	2040
■ Greater Prince William Area	454,096	546,464	638,562	730,382
□ Prince William County	402,002	487,768	573,535	659,301
■ Manassas City	37,821	42,105	46,591	51,005
□ Manassas Park City	14,273	16,591	18,436	20,076

The 2010 Census reports that Prince William County is the third most populous jurisdiction in Virginia. Almost 29% of the Greater Prince William Area’s population is under 18 and 6.7% of the population is over 65.

	Greater Prince William Area	Prince William County	Manassas City	Manassas Park City	Virginia
White	58.1%	57.8%	61.7%	55.9%	68.6%
Black	19.4%	20.2%	13.7%	13.0%	19.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%
Asian	7.4%	7.5%	5.0%	9.0%	5.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Persons reporting two or more races	5.0%	5.1%	4.3%	5.4%	2.9%
Persons of Hispanic origin	21.6%	20.3%	31.4%	32.5%	7.9%
White, not Hispanic	48.4%	48.7%	47.6%	42.5%	64.8%

Table 2: Race/Ethnicity Comparison, 2010

Source: US Census Bureau. (2010). Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

In recent decades, the population of Prince William County increasingly has become racially and ethnically diverse. The 2010 Census indicates that Prince William County is now a “minority-majority” community, meaning that less than half of the population (48%) is reported as non-Hispanic and of one race -- White. In the Greater Prince William Area, 21.6% of the population are persons of Hispanic origin. Also 21.8% of the region’s population is foreign born and 30.7% of the population over 5 speaks a language other than English at home.

Information from the [county strategic plan](#) identified several needs that all Agencies are working towards. VCE Prince William is part of the Human Service Agencies who identified the following strategies to reach outcomes established by the Team.

Human Services Strategies

County agencies have identified strategies that can be implemented to achieve the desired community outcomes. The majority of the strategies identified can be accommodated within the resources identified in the adopted five year budget plan and will be implemented:

1. Continue to collaborate between human service agencies to serve Prince William County residents and request that the state and federal governments remove barriers to further collaboration (Supports all Outcomes)
2. Increase efforts to divert seriously mentally ill individuals from in-patient hospitalization through the development of additional training, crisis management, community resources, and regional partnerships (Supports Outcome 1)
3. Increase placement of foster children by increasing foster parent and adoptive parent recruitment efforts and strengthening the use of technology to find relatives (Supports Outcome 2)

4. Fully implement the Family Partnership program for foster care, child abuse and neglect, and adult abuse and neglect cases by increasing the frequency of family meetings (Supports Outcomes 2, 4 and 5)
5. Increase the use of the Virginia Employment Commission's Skill Source Center and Community Work Employment placements to increase permanent employment and self-sufficiency (Supports Outcome 3)
6. Reduce reoccurring cases of child and adult abuse by advocating for state-wide definitions of repeat abuse, educating the community on the issue of abuse and strengthening the use of the "reoccurring abuse panel" (Supports Outcomes 4 and 5)
7. Start preparing for the loss of federal funds for Housing Choice Vouchers and other housing programs by exploring alternative sources of funding (Supports Outcome 6)
8. Accommodate special diets in Meals on Wheels and Congregate Meals programs (Supports Outcome 7)
9. Partner with local hospitals to reduce readmission rates for clients with chronic diseases (Supports Outcome 7)
10. Seek out students and interns as volunteers, and work closely with Human Resources and Volunteer Prince William to expand efforts to recruit, train and retain volunteers (Supports Outcome 11)

Strategies were also identified that could increase progress toward the Human Services goal, but would require additional resources not identified in the adopted five year budget plan. These strategies will not be implemented unless the Board of County Supervisors appropriates the necessary resources:

11. Build a Child Advocacy Center that provides a one-stop facility for abused children, staffed by public safety, health and human services, and hospital staff (Supports Outcome 4)
12. Create an adult foster care program (Supports Outcome 5)
13. Increase local funding for community partners and contractual services (Supports Outcome 10)
14. Reinstate the funding to provide a service slot for each intellectually disabled youth aging out of the school system (Supports Outcome 8)
15. Increase intensive case management and discharge planning for mentally ill and/or substance abusing youth in residential placements (Supports Outcome 9)
16. Partner with local and regional providers to increase federal, state and local funding of day support and training programs for individuals with autism (Supports Outcome 10)

Data on **household composition** showed there are 143,280 household in the greater Prince William Area. There are 46.3% of households with one or more people over the age of 18. 14.8% of households with one or more people over the age of 65 and 34% where there are grandparents living in a household who are responsible for grandchildren under 18 years old.

Household Type	1990	2000	2012
	(%)	(%)	(%)
Family Households	80.7%	76.9%	77.3%
Family with own children	50.6%	44.2%	42.0%
Married Couple with own children	42.6%	34.2%	32.4%
Single female with own children	6.1%	7.5%	6.4%
Single male with own children	1.9%	2.5%	3.2%
Family, no children	30.1%	32.7%	35.3%
Non-Family Households	19.3%	23.1%	22.7%

Sources: U.S.

Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census, Census 2000, 2012 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates.

Data indicate that there are increasing numbers of **teenage pregnancies** in the City of Manassas 52.3% with 15.4% in Prince William County.

As of September 30, 2013, there were an estimated 143,237 **housing** units in Prince William County. This represents an additional 6,122 units (4.46%) since April 1, 2010.

Foreclosures in the Prince William area have been on downward trend over the past few years, from the height of the economic downturn.

YEAR	TOTAL	MONTHLY AVERAGE
2002	301	25.1
2003	160	13.3
2004	70	5.8
2005	52	4.3
2006	282	23.5
2007	3,344	278.7
2008	7,245	724.5 (10 months)

(Data from Prince William Situation Analysis 2008)

While data from Virginia Housing and Development Authority show a decrease from 2008 to 2012, and to 2013, there are still homes in foreclosure and homeowners over 90 days delinquent on their mortgages.

Prince William County/Manassas

	Seriously Delinquent Loans		Loans in Foreclosure	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2nd Quarter 2012	3,990	4.24%	1,750	1.86%
2nd Quarter 2013	2,860	3.04%	880	0.93%
One-year change	-1,130 / -28%	-1.20 percentage points	-870 / -50%	-0.93 percentage points

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	Seriously Delinquent Loans		Loans in Foreclosure	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2nd Quarter 2012	58,500	3.81%	23,800	1.55%
2nd Quarter 2013	46,300	3.02%	13,700	0.89%
One-year change	-12,200 / -21%	-0.79 percentage points	-10,100 / -42%	-0.66 percentage points

According to the 2012 American Community Survey, the 2012 median **household income** in Prince William County was \$93,744. This ranks twelfth among the largest counties in the United States, fifth among counties in the Commonwealth, and is an indication of the relative wealth of Prince William County and the greater Washington metropolitan region, which included ten of the top twenty counties in the nation for median household income. The per capita income in Prince William County in 2012 was \$35,811.

The 2012 American Community Survey reported that Prince William County's poverty rate was 6.4% in 2012, compared to the statewide rate of 11.7% and the national rate of 15.9%.

In July 2013, Prince William County had a civilian **unemployment rate** of 5.0%, unchanged from the unemployment rate one year earlier. In July 2013, the national unemployment rate was 7.4%; statewide the unemployment rate was 5.8%.

Journey to Work

The 2012 American Community Survey indicates that on the average, Prince William County workers continue to face long commute times. Some 25.4% of all County workers travel an hour or more one way to work. This figure is more than three times the national number of 8.3% and is the eleventh longest commute among the largest 825 counties in the United

States. Of the 20 longest average commutes to work, eight are communities in the greater Washington area. The average travel time to work among Prince William County workers in 2012 was 39.6 minutes, an increase from 36.9 and 36 minutes in 2000 and 1990, respectively. The 2012 American Community Survey also indicated that 73.6% of Prince William County workers drive to work alone; 15.0% carpool to work; 5.7% use public transportation; 5.7% used other means, walked to work or worked at home.

As of the Census of Agriculture in 2007 the county has lost **a small number of farms and acres of farmland**. Farming is predominantly cattle, and corn crops. Over half of the farms are generating less than \$2500 in sales. While another third of the farms generate about \$2500-10,000 in sales.

Community and Resident Perspectives

Prince William County conducted a situation analysis survey during the late summer and fall of 2013. The situation analysis process was led by the Unit Coordinator, Staff and the Extension Leadership Council (ELC) to develop a survey tool to assist in gathering community and resident perspectives on issues and problems in the county. The survey was posted on our local Unit website from October 1 through November 1, 2013, emailed to stakeholders, posted on Facebook numerous times, and distributed in print at classes during the 1 month period. 298 people took the survey online and another 52 returned print versions. Data and information from this activity were analyzed by the Staff and the ELC and priority issues were identified. Data from Prince William County Strategic Plan, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Prince William Health District, the VCE Intranet and the Prince William County Demographic and Economic Newsletter, 3rd Quarter 2013 edition were used to compile the unit profile.

Priority Issues

Based on the unit profile and the community survey conducted, the following top priority issues were identified for Prince William Area.

Issue 1: Health and Wellness

Health and Wellness was identified as the top issue facing Prince William area residents responding to our Situation Analysis Survey. Responses from our survey that respondents also found important that tie into this are Healthy meals and snacks, access to local food, stretching your food dollars, and clean water

In the Survey completed by Prince William Area residents in preparation for the Situation Analysis, Health and Wellness was ranked as the top issue facing families and individuals. Also for the question asking “what are the major issues confronting youth in the Prince William Area that can be addressed through educational programming?,” Childhood obesity ranked as a medium concern

Prevention and Management of Obesity is one of the most pressing global public health problems. According to data from the 2013 County Health Rankings, all three GPWA jurisdictions exceeded the national benchmark for adult obesity in 2009. (Prince William 27%) Manassas City (29%) and Manassas Park City (30%) also exceeded Virginia's (28%) adult obesity percentage. (This was self-reported data)

Obesity is linked with most chronic diseases, including high blood pressure, diabetes, and high cholesterol. Childhood overweight is also increasingly dramatically with a resulting higher prevalence of diabetes in children.

On a community policy level, the nutrition extension agent is a member of the Prince William School Health Advisory Board, the Head Start Advisory Board, the Northern Virginia Health Kids Coalition, and the Healthy Greater Prince William Coalition. The 4-H Agent also participates on the Northern Virginia Healthy Kids Coalition and has worked with Prince William County Schools to complete curriculum for elementary, middle and high school classes in PWC.

Existing programming efforts in this area include:

- Childcare provider training to improve nutrition and physical activity
- Presentations at community groups including service organizations, churches, youth groups, and young families
- Support for SNAP Ed program assistants working with USDA FSNE participants
- Dining with Diabetes program to teach the importance of lifestyle to manage blood sugar control
- Get Fit That's It curriculum for elementary, middle and high school classes in PWC.

This issue is currently being addressed with current unit VCE resources. Based on the situation analysis, no further action is required.

Issue 2: Chronic Disease

Chronic Disease was identified as the second most important issue identified in the SA survey. Responses from our survey that respondents also found important that tie into this are child obesity. See descriptions above.

This issue is currently being addressed with current VCE unit resources. Based on the situation analysis, effort to collaborate with Prince William Health District, area hospitals and continue relationships with current collaborators should be explored to better address this issue.

Issue 3: At Risk Youth

At Risk Youth was identified as the third most pressing issue in Prince William Area. Responses from our survey that respondents also found important that tie into this is bullying

The community has always been a strong supporter of Parent Education, but the fact that our families are experiencing significant stress caused by the economic downturn and current foreclosure crisis magnifies the importance of support to parents. In recent months there has been an increase in demand for services provided by the Department of Social Services and our Community Services Board, our transitional housing programs and shelters are full, and there has been an increase report of domestic violence both against adults and children. As parents address the needs of their families, they will continue to benefit from programs that empower to deal effectively with these economic stresses while effectively parenting their children.

In a project funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, Ingird Schoon and Steven Hope found that the experience of material hardship directly effects the behavioral and cognitive development of children, exacerbates maternal distress, and is indirectly related to less effective parenting. In addition the study showed that experiences in the family can mediate the influence of material hardship on the child's outcomes. Prince William Area parent education programs provide parents with a wide variety of choices to support them. Parents of any age child can learn effective skills in the areas of communication, discipline, and anger management. They also have the opportunity to look at the issue of divorce and separation and its impact on the family. Families of at-risk youth can receive additional support in guiding their children to make healthy choices that will lead to good life decisions. While parent education is always important, residents in the Prince William Area are asking for continued support on this issue as they navigate the current economic downturn.

This issue is currently being addressed by VCE or other agencies in the Prince William region but could be more appropriately addressed by VCE as more appropriate Human Development and 4-H materials are created.

Issue 4: Money Management

Money Management was identified as the fourth most pressing issue in Prince William County. Responses from our survey that respondents also found important that tie into this are Stretching your Food Dollars, Affordable Housing, Buying and Maintaining a Home, Credit Repair.

VCE in Prince William continues to be the lead agency to provide services to families who need help with financial education. Services we offer include classes, individual counseling, collaborations with other agencies and public information campaigns. SNAP Program assistants are providing information on stretching food dollars. The Financial Education and Housing Counseling Program continues to be a HUD certified counseling agency. Because of the foreclosure crisis staff members are still focusing on mortgage default counseling, however there is a shift in grant funds and resources available for assisting individuals and families with managing their money and developing savings accounts. As with our other programs, there is much more demand for services than we are able to provide.

This issue is currently being addressed by VCE with other agencies in the Prince William region but could be more appropriately addressed by VCE as more appropriate Money Management materials are created.

Issue 5: Environment

The Environment was identified as the fifth most pressing issue facing Prince William Area. Responses from our survey that respondents also found important that tie into this are Clean Drinking Water, Stream Pollution, Using Pesticides Safely, Lawn and Landscape Management. Urban development in the Prince William area has created thousands of acres of lawns and gardens in place of native habitat. Urban and Suburban turf accounts for the largest percentage of managed turf. There are over 118,293 single family homes, townhouse units, or mobile homes in the county. Design for these lawns and gardens is based on century old methods and homeowners fail to incorporate big-picture environmental and ecological concepts into their landscape plans there-by contributing to soil and water quality problems. Teaching homeowners appropriate management of their lawns and landscapes using standardized best management practices (BMP's) will help to maintain water quality and can only help to reduce the amount of nutrient and chemical inputs into our watersheds and indirectly improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. The use of BMP practices result in positive effects on the environment and economics. Nutrient management plans are an integral part of educational efforts and utilize many BMP's. Helping homeowners and HOAs to understand how to work with landscape contractors is also a concern. Helping well owners understand the need for periodic testing and maintenance of their wells is also important. Also working closely with the Green Industry to incorporate the best management practices into their services and add value to their product, while ensuring the "boots on the ground" staff understand how they can ensure value added product to their business as well as positively affect water quality in the communities where they provide services.

The Environment and Natural Resources program's educational activities focus on how to teach homeowners to manage their landscapes to prevent water quality problems, save time and money, and ultimately affect water quality positively.

This issue is currently being addressed with current unit VCE resources. Based on the situation analysis, no further action is required.

Issue 6: Life Skills

Life Skills was identified as the sixth most pressing issue facing Prince William Area. Life skills' training is essential for ensuring healthy communities. Family values, traditions, the environment and many other factors affect how these valuable life skills are taught within the family unit. 4-H programs address life skills training through club, camp and in school enrichment programs offered locally. The Family and Consumer Science programs of VCE-Prince William also provide life skills training through current financial education, parenting and nutrition classes. Ensuring basic life skills training is included in as many programs as possible will help address this issue.

This issue is currently being addressed with current unit VCE resources. Based on the situation analysis, ensuring adequate resources are directed to this issue will help address current needs.