Life in Hampton Roads Survey Press Release #6

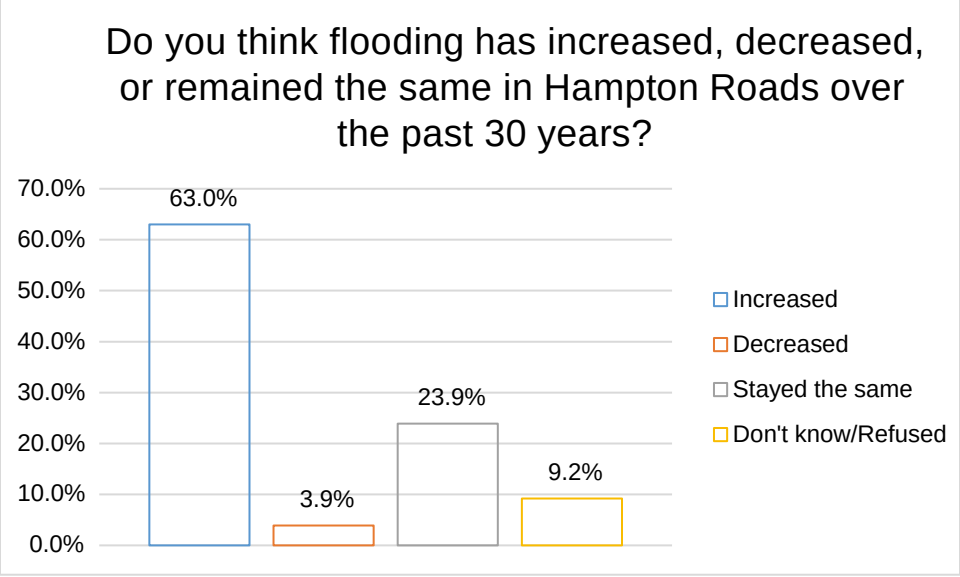
Sea Level Rise and Flooding

This report examines regional measures of environmental risk perceptions from the 2018 Life In Hampton Roads survey (LIHR 2018) conducted by the Old Dominion University Social Science Research Center. Data from prior years is also provided when available to show comparisons in responses over time. Responses were weighted by city population, race, age, gender, and phone usage (cell and line) to be representative of the Hampton Roads region. For additional information on survey methodology, and analyses of other issues, please see the SSRC website at odu.edu/ssrc.

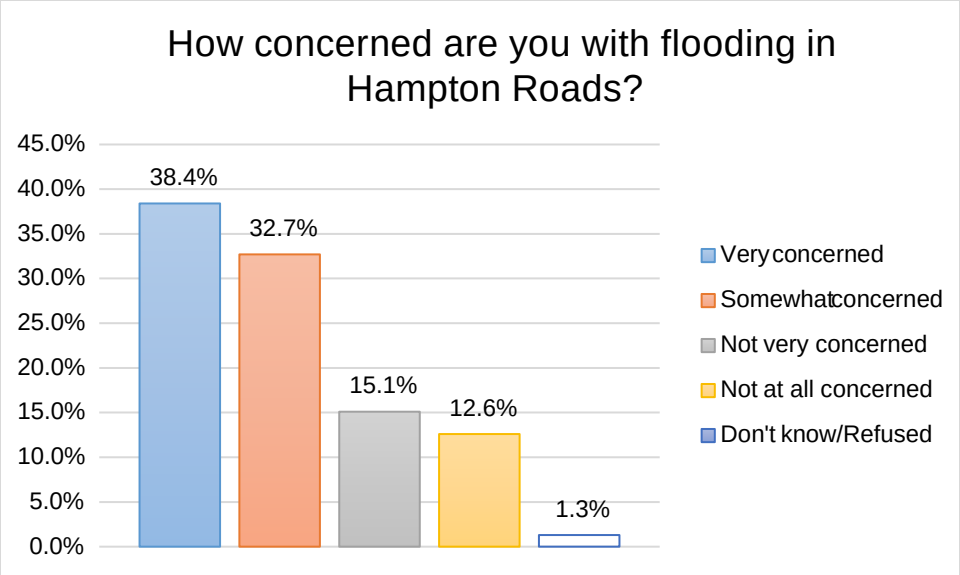
The 2018 Life in Hampton Roads survey included a series of questions to determine how people in Hampton Roads felt about sea level rise and flooding, which supports a research focus of the University in this area. The survey asked the respondents to give their opinion on a variety of questions ranging from sea level rise to prevalence of recurrent flooding and other flood related topics.

Sea Level Rise, Flooding, and Flood Risks

Respondents were asked whether they believe that flooding in Hampton Roads has increased, decreased, or stayed the same in the past 30 years. The majority of respondents (86.9%) stated that flooding has either increased (63.0%) or stayed the same (23.9%) in Hampton Roads over the past 30 years. Only 3.9 percent stated that flooding has decreased and 9.2 percent said that they did not know or refused to answer.

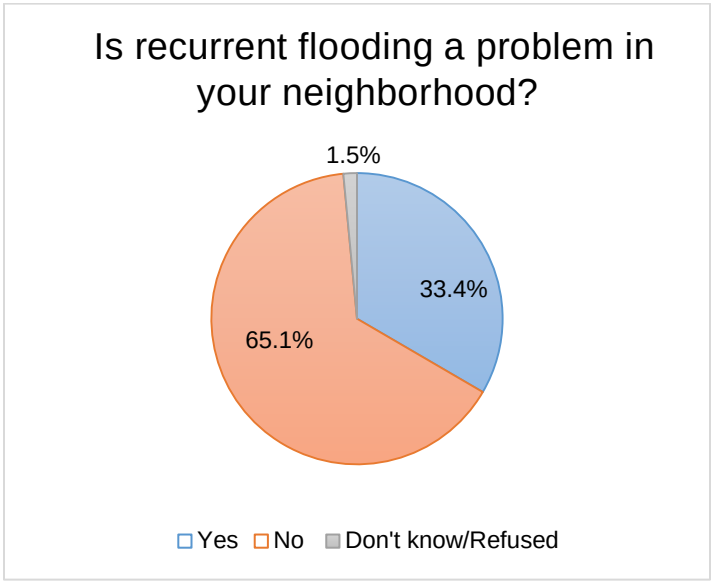


Responses to this question have remained relatively consistent with the previous four years; however, 2017 and 2018 saw an increase in respondents stating that flooding has increased. In 2017, 60.4 percent of respondents reported that they believe flooding had increased in Hampton Roads over the past 30 years, which was thnuS7e W* n BT 0 3906 (h10 Tr 11.09s18 104l496 r 111.03Tr 1106 Tm [(, (am)1 110.36 4

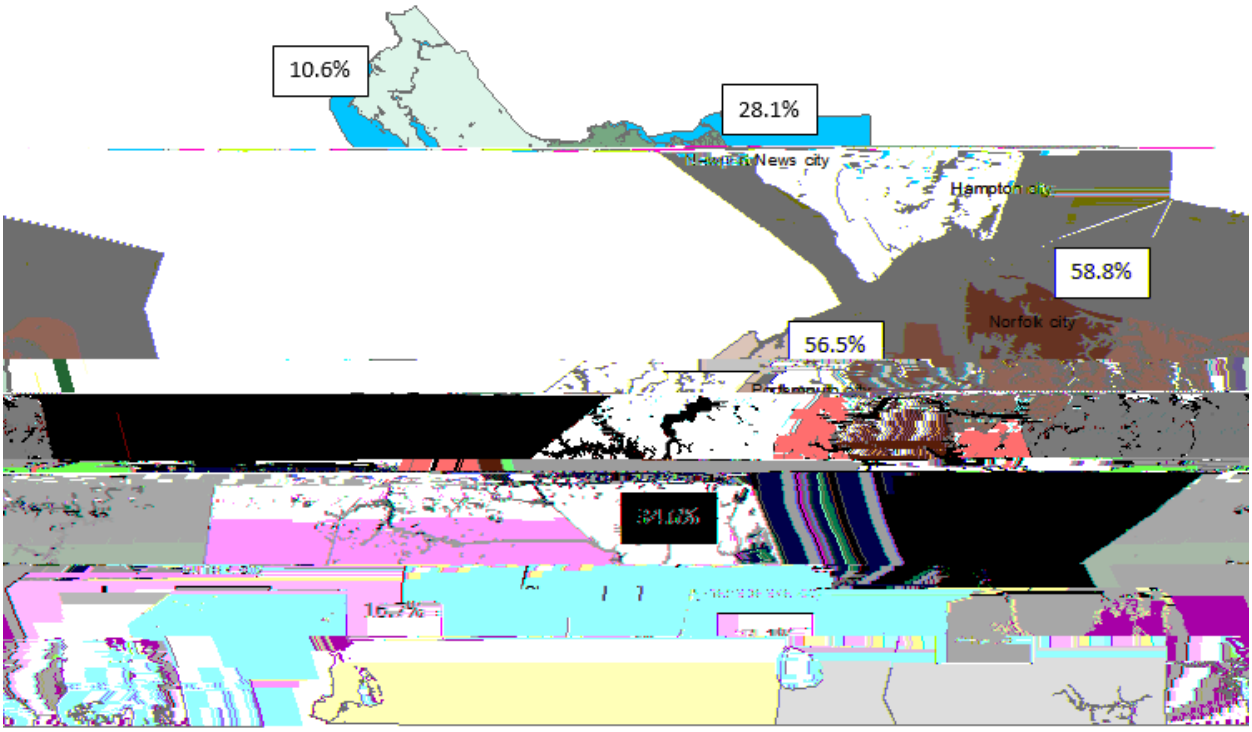


Neighborhood Flooding and Flood Insurance

Respondents were also asked whether or not recurrent flooding is a problem in their neighborhood. While 63.0 percent of respondents indicated that they think flooding has increased over the past 30 years, 65.1 percent reported that recurrent flooding is not a problem in their neighborhood. The percentage of Hampton Roads residents reporting that recurrent flooding is a problem in their neighborhood increased 2.4 percent (33.4%) from 2017 (31.0%).

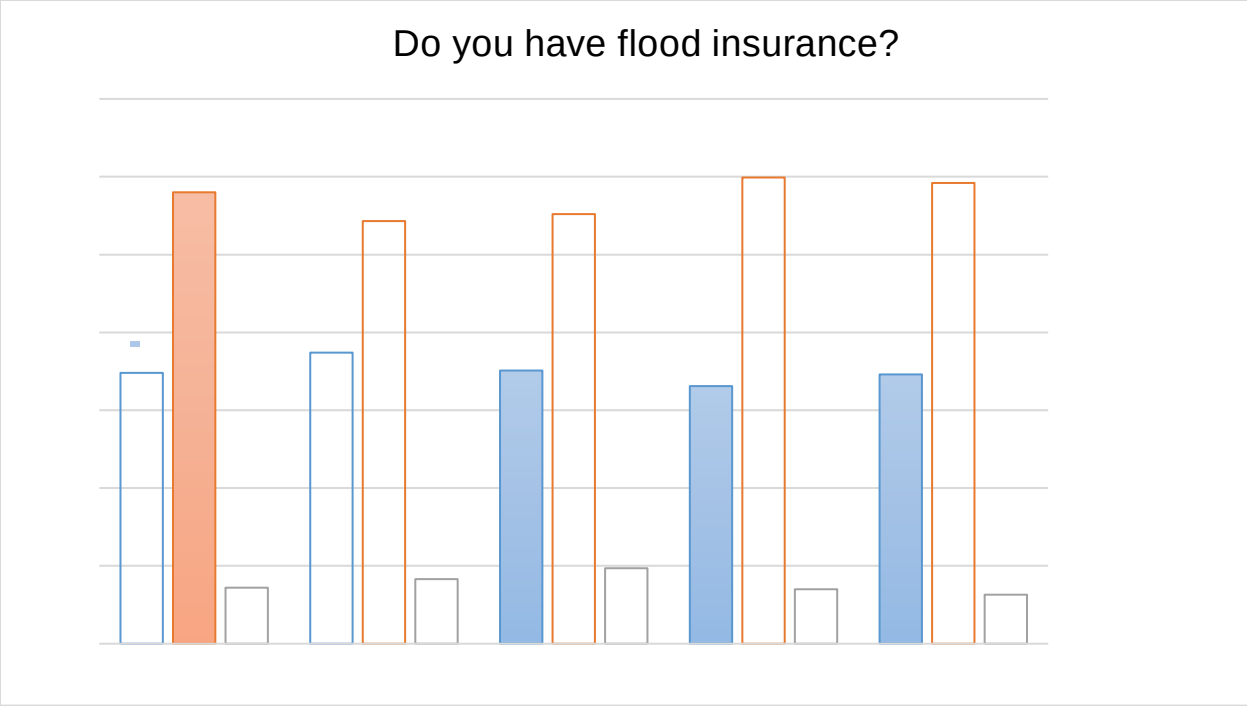


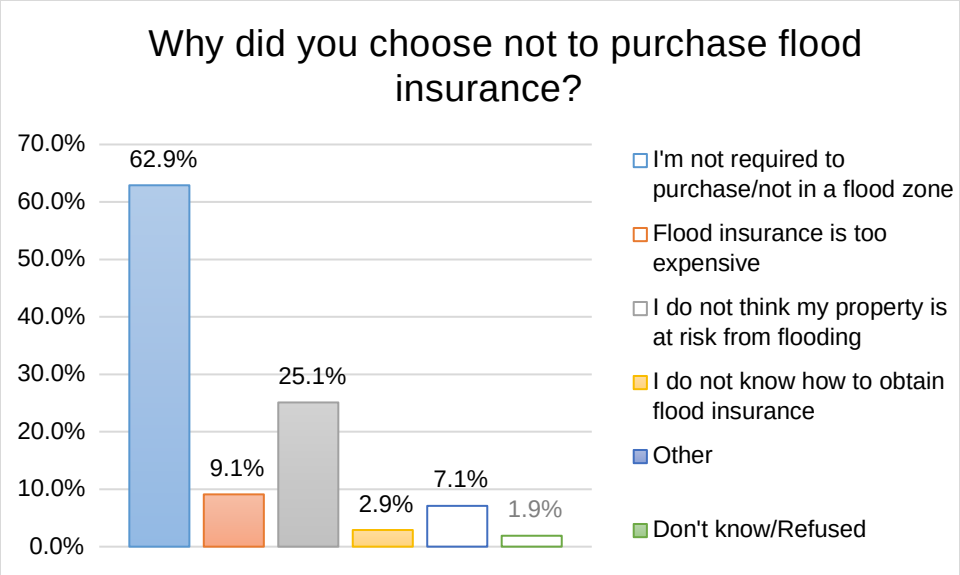
%Responding that Recurrent Flooding is a Problem in Your Neighborhood



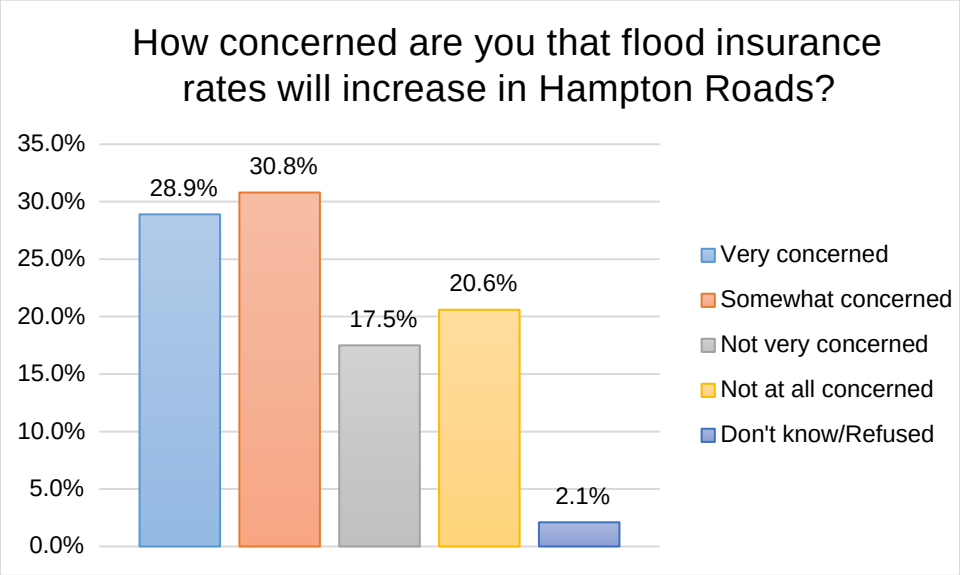
**p<.000 statistically significant, 2-tailed test

Only 13.8 percent of respondents said they live in a high


Do you have flood insurance?



Respondents were asked to identify how concerned they are that flood insurance rates will increase in Hampton Roads. The majority of respondents (59.7%) said they were either somewhat concerned (30.8%) or very concerned (28.9%) that flood insurance rates will increase in Hampton Roads. Conversely, 20.6 percent are not at all concerned and 17.5 percent are not very concerned that flood insurance rates will increase in Hampton Roads.



Respondents were also asked to identify the percent chance (between 0 and 100) that the Hampton Roads region would be struck by a catastrophic hurricane within the next ten years. The average percentage

given across all respondents was a 57.8 percent chance of a catastrophic hurricane striking the Hampton

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that they would

All Life in Hampton Roads Data Analyses will be placed on the Social Science Research Center website as they are released (http://www.odu.edu/al/centers/ssrc). Follow-up questions about the 2018 Life in Hampton Roads survey should be addressed to:

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