

Tidewater EMS Council, Inc.

Regional Facts – Geography, Demography and EMS/Hospital Profile

Geography

The Tidewater EMS region encompasses six cities and four counties in eastern Virginia. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east, North Carolina to the south, Maryland's Eastern Shore to the North and the James River and several rural counties to the west.

The 2,717 square mile EMS region subdivides into two distinct geographical areas. The rural Eastern Shore (Planning District 22) lies to the north and is separated from the remainder of the region by the Chesapeake Bay and linked by a 17.6 mile toll bridge and tunnel. The Eastern Shore's two counties are Accomack and Northampton.

To the south, a combination of urban, suburban and rural jurisdictions form the larger portion of the region. This area, known as Southside Hampton Roads (formerly Planning District 20, now part of Planning District 23) includes the cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk and Virginia Beach, and the counties of Isle of Wight and Southampton.

The region is generally low-lying, interspersed with various rivers, lakes, creeks and man-made waterways. A significant number of bridges and tunnels link various areas within the region, and to other parts of the Commonwealth. Combining its coastline location and the various waterway crossings, which are oftentimes primary evacuation routes, the region is vulnerable to coastal storms and hurricanes. Storm surge, particularly along the heavily populated Virginia Beach resort and residential coast, and widespread flooding in pose significant threats.

Other weather phenomena of significance to the region are infrequent tornadoes, usually spawned by hurricanes or severe thunderstorms, urban and flash flooding caused by severe thunderstorms, and winter snow. The normal annual snowfall is 5.8 inches (National Weather Service, Norfolk location), though over 14 inches fell during one storm in 2010, nearly 19 inches hit the area in one storm in 1892, and 1980 saw nearly 40 inches cumulative snowfall. Overall, the climate is not extreme, moderated by the effect of the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay.

Demography

According to US Census data, the regional population grew approximately 5.4% during the ten-year period from 2000 to 2010, increasing from 1,130,040 to 1,191,101. This growth is similar to the previous 1990-2000 decade but represents a continued moderation of the more robust 12.2% average growth during each of the previous two decades.

During the past decade, the greatest total growth occurred in the jurisdictions of Chesapeake, Suffolk and Virginia Beach. The greatest growth, relative to population, occurred in Suffolk, Isle of Wight County and Chesapeake. Accomack County and to a lesser extent Northampton County and Portsmouth lost population.

Population projections through 2020 vary quite a bit depending on source. The Virginia Employment Commission predicts an 11.7% regional growth over the decade with Suffolk, Chesapeake and Accomack County showing the greatest growth. The Weldon-Cooper Center for Public Service (UVA) predicts a 5.5% regional growth. A private firm called ProximityOne predicts a conservative 1.5% regional growth. A

detailed population table follows.

EMS and Hospital Profile

The Tidewater EMS region includes **64 state-licensed EMS agencies**. Of the total licensed agencies, 46 of them are 9-1-1 response agencies, including first responder and transporting agencies, and 18 are specialized and commercial EMS agencies. (One additional agency, NASA Wallops, is not licensed by the Commonwealth.) The latter categories include medevac, neonatal/pediatric, industrial, federal and other interfacility BLS or ALS transportation agencies. Regional maps indicating EMS agencies follow below.

There are 635 state-permitted EMS vehicles in the region. This number includes **383 BLS or ALS ground ambulances** (including 4 neonatal ambulances), 3 rotary wing air ambulances (includes one as backup), and 249 first response or “chase” cars, fire apparatus which provide first response, and other specialty vehicles.

Reporting numbers of **EMS providers** is somewhat difficult. There are a total of 4919 state-certified EMS providers affiliated with one or more EMS agencies in the region. Because the state does not track “primary affiliation” there is duplication in these numbers when one provider is affiliated with more than one agency. There are an additional 1107 state-certified EMS providers who are not affiliated with an EMS agency, but who reside in the region.

Each jurisdiction within the region provides **emergency access** to police, fire and EMS via the universal 9-1-1 telephone number. Each locality maintains its own emergency communications center except for the two Eastern Shore Counties which operate a joint Eastern Shore 9-1-1 Center. However, the town of Chincoteague, in Accomack County, maintains its own separate communications center. Each of these communications centers features an “enhanced” 9-1-1 system and provide pre-arrival instructions to callers via an emergency medical dispatch (EMD) program. Three of the communications centers covering four jurisdictions have obtained EMD accreditation from the Commonwealth. They are the Eastern Shore 9-1-1 Center, the City of Chesapeake Emergency Communication Center and the City of Norfolk Emergency Communications Center.

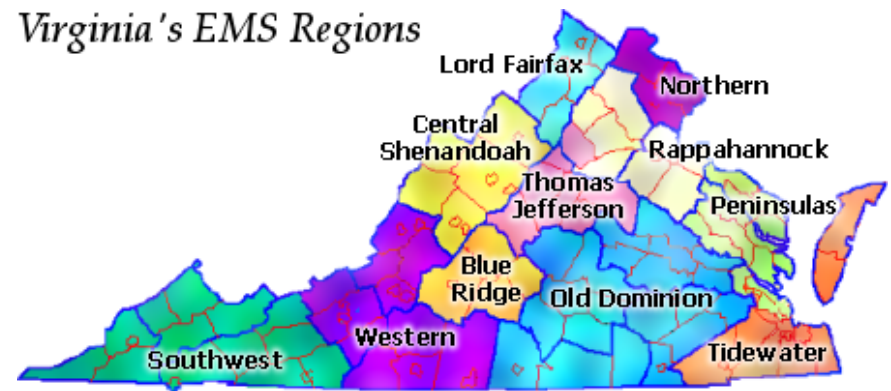
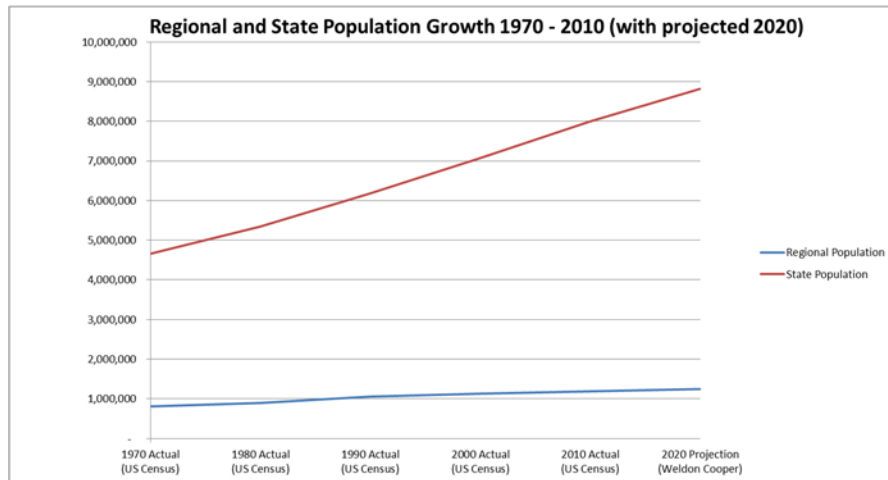
In addition to the emergency medical personnel and equipment provided by each agency and jurisdiction, a number of **special teams** and specialty resources are available within or hosted at the regional level. These include the Tidewater Regional Technical Rescue Team, the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Team VA TF-2, the HHS Disaster Medical Assistance Team VA-1, a regional Marine Incident Response Team, a regional Hazardous Materials Team, a regional Metropolitan Medical Strike Team and a regional Incident Management Team.

The region includes 11 civilian and one military acute care hospitals. One of these (Sentara Norfolk General) is a state-designated level 1 Trauma Center and one (Sentara Virginia Beach General) is a level 3 Trauma Center. Eight of the hospitals are certified as “Primary Stroke Centers” by one of three accrediting agencies. There are three additional freestanding emergency departments that receive ambulance patients who don’t otherwise match criteria for transport to a specialty center. A regional map showing acute care hospitals with licensed bed counts and trauma center status follows below.

Tidewater EMS Region Population 1970 - 2012 (with 2020 Projection)

Area Name	Square Miles	1970 Actual (US Census)	1980 Actual (US Census)	1990 Actual (US Census)	2000 Actual (US Census)	2010 Actual (US Census)	2000 - 2010 Change	2000 - 2010 Percent Change	2013 Estimate (US Census)	2020 Projection (Weldon Cooper)	Projected 2010-2020 Percent Change
Accomack County	449.5	29,004	31,268	31,703	38,305	33,164	(5,141)	-13.42%	33,612	33,432	0.81%
Chesapeake city	340.8	89,580	114,486	151,976	199,184	222,209	23,025	11.56%	232,977	253,813	14.22%
Franklin city	8.2	6,880	7,308	7,864	8,346	8,582	236	2.83%	8,655	9,261	7.91%
Isle of Wight County	315.6	18,285	21,603	25,053	29,728	35,270	5,542	18.64%	36,462	38,828	10.09%
Norfolk city	54.1	307,951	266,979	261,229	234,403	242,803	8,400	3.58%	246,392	252,128	3.84%
Northampton County	211.6	14,442	14,625	13,061	13,093	12,389	(704)	-5.38%	12,089	12,133	-2.07%
Portsmouth city	33.7	110,963	104,577	103,907	100,565	95,535	(5,030)	-5.00%	96,871	95,717	0.19%
Southampton County	599.2	18,582	18,731	17,550	17,482	18,570	1,088	6.22%	18,872	18,684	0.61%
Suffolk city*	400.2	45,024	47,621	52,141	63,677	84,585	20,908	32.83%	87,831	99,126	17.19%
Virginia Beach city	249	172,106	262,199	393,069	425,257	437,994	12,737	3.00%	449,628	438,114	0.03%
Region	2661.9	812,817	889,397	1,057,553	1,130,040	1,191,101	61,061	5.40%	1,223,389	1,251,236	5.05%
Virginia	39490.9	4,651,487	5,346,818	6,187,358	7,079,030	8,001,024	921,994	13.02%	8,260,405	8,811,512	10.13%

*includes Nansemond Co annexed in 1975



Prehospital EMS Agencies—911 Response Tidewater EMS Region

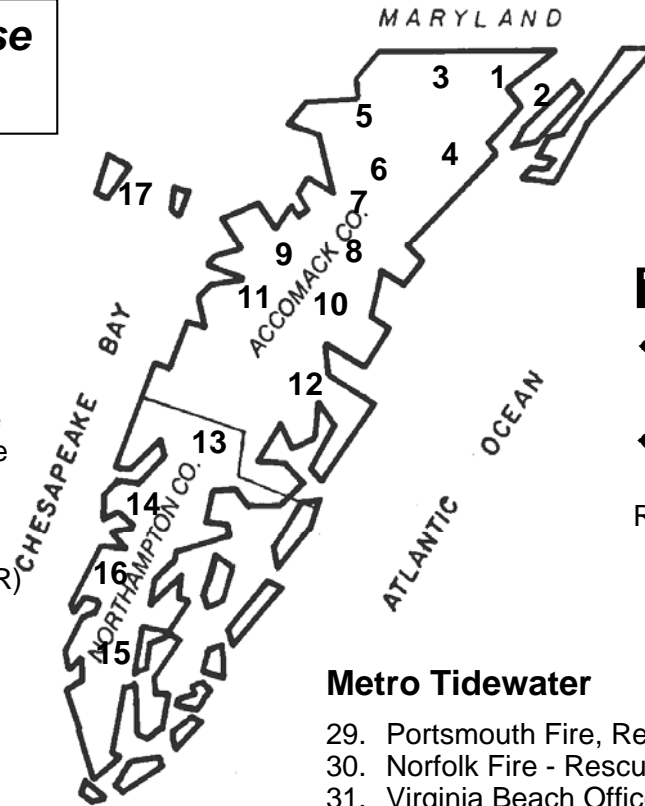
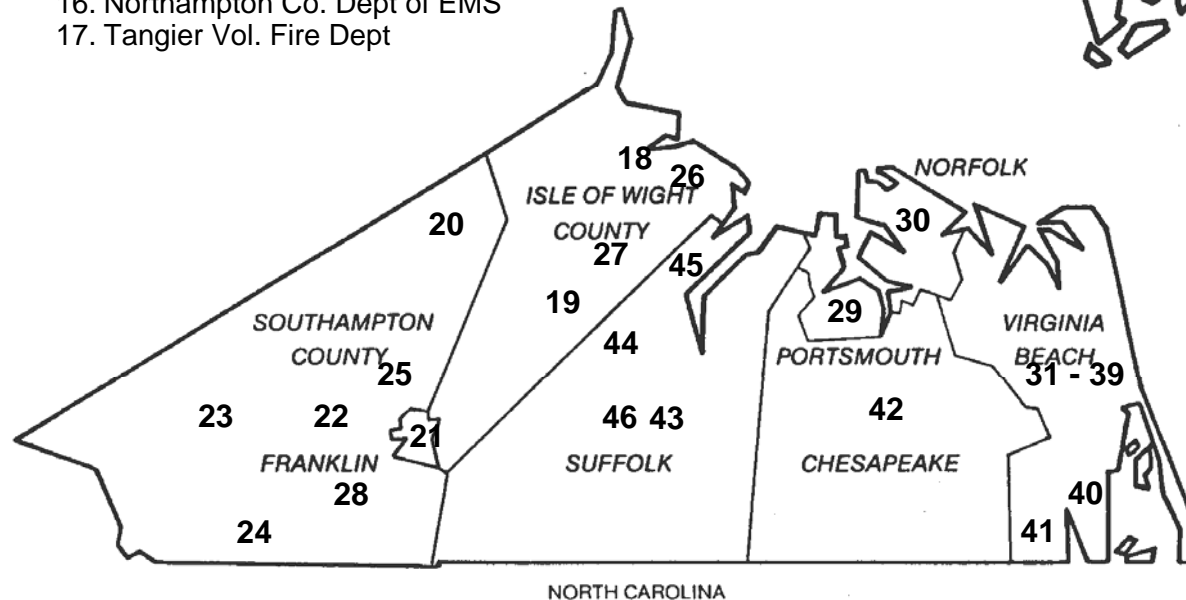
Eastern Shore

1. Greenbackville Vol. Fire Co.
2. Chincoteague Vol. Fire Co.
3. Oak Hall Vol. Rescue
4. Atlantic Vol. Fire Dept. (FR)
5. Saxis Vol. Fire and Rescue
6. Bloxom Vol. Fire and Rescue
7. Parksley Vol. Fire Co.
8. Accomack Dept of Public Safety
9. Onancock Vol. Fire Dept.
10. Onley Vol. Fire and Rescue
11. Melfa Vol. Fire and Rescue
12. Wachapreague Vol. Fire Co.
13. Exmore Community Vol. Fire Co.
14. Northampton Co. Fire and Rescue
15. Cape Charles Rescue Service
16. Northampton Co. Dept of EMS
17. Tangier Vol. Fire Dept

Western Tidewater

18. Isle of Wight Vol. Rescue
19. Windsor Vol. Rescue
20. Ivor Vol. Rescue
21. Franklin Fire and Rescue
22. Courtland Vol. Rescue
23. Capron Vol. Fire and Rescue
24. Boykins Vol. Fire and Rescue
25. Sedley Vol. Fire (FR)
26. Carrollton Vol. Fire Dept
27. Isle of Wight Co. ES
28. Newsomes Vol. Fire Dept (FR)

FR = First Responder Agency



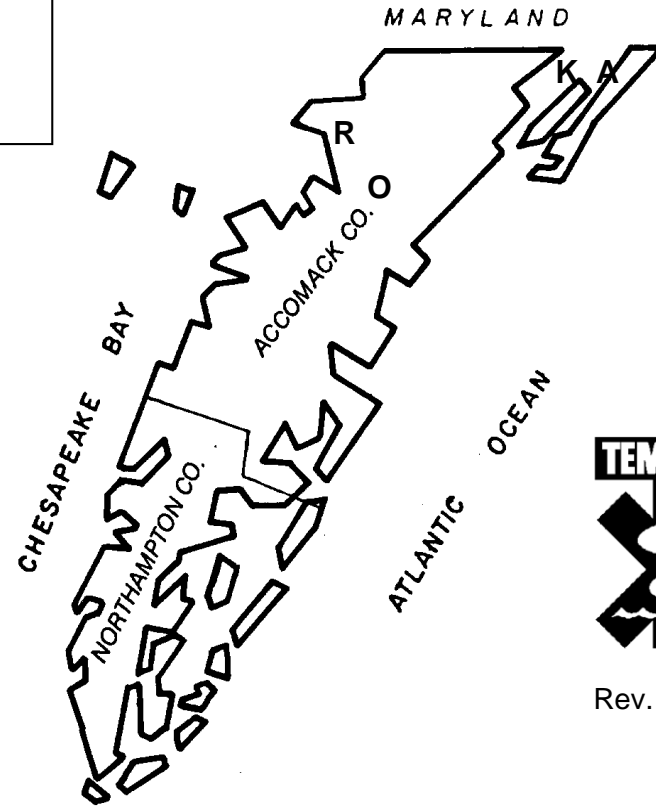
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Metro Tidewater

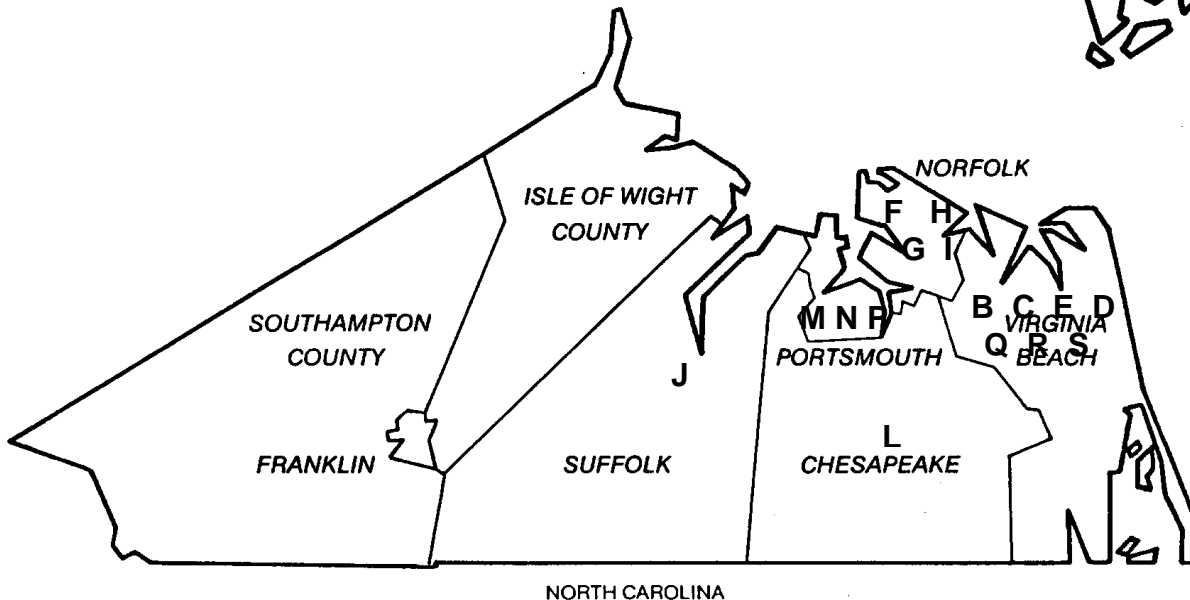
29. Portsmouth Fire, Rescue & ES
30. Norfolk Fire - Rescue
31. Virginia Beach Office of EMS
32. Chesapeake Beach Vol. Rescue
33. Davis Corner Vol. Rescue
34. Kempsville Vol. Rescue
35. Ocean Park Vol. Rescue
36. Plaza Vol. Rescue
37. Princess Anne CH Vol. Rescue
38. Sandbridge Vol. Fire
39. Virginia Beach Vol. Rescue
40. Creeds Vol. Rescue
41. Blackwater Vol. Rescue
42. Chesapeake Fire Dept.
43. Nansemond-Suffolk Vol. Rescue
44. Chuckatuck Vol. Fire Dept (FR)
45. Driver Vol. Fire Dept (FR)
46. Suffolk Fire and Rescue

**Commercial, Air and Specialized
EMS Agencies
Tidewater EMS Region**

- A. Virginia Lifeline Ambulance Service
 - B. Medical Transport, LLC
 - C. Special Event Providers of Emerg Med
 - D. Virginia Beach Lifesaving Service (FR)
 - E. Mid-Atlantic Regional Ambulance
 - F. Nightingale Air Ambulance (Sentara)
 - G. Children's Hospital Transport Team
 - H. Norfolk Airport Authority Fire Dept (FR)
 - I. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FR)
 - J. BASF Corporation (FR)
 - K. NASA Wallops Fire Dept. (Federal only)
- FR = First Responder Agency



Rev. 09/2015



- L. Southern Medical Transport
- M. Naval Medical Center/Navy EMS
- N. Emergency Medical Response
- O. Shore Transport Services
- P. Tidewater Medical Transport
- Q. Reliance Medical Transport
- R. Swift Medical Transport
- S. Robbie's Ambulance Service

NORTH CAROLINA

Acute Care Hospitals – Tidewater EMS Region
(with Licensed Bed Counts and Trauma Center Level)

Eastern Shore

Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital (130 beds)

Virginia Beach

Sentara Princess Anne Hospital (160 beds)
Virginia Beach General Hospital (276 beds, Trauma Center Level III)

Norfolk

Bon Secours DePaul Medical Center (180 beds)
Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters (206 beds)
Sentara Leigh Hospital (250 beds)
Sentara Norfolk General Hospital (525 beds, Trauma Center Level I)

Chesapeake

Chesapeake General Hospital (310 beds)

Portsmouth

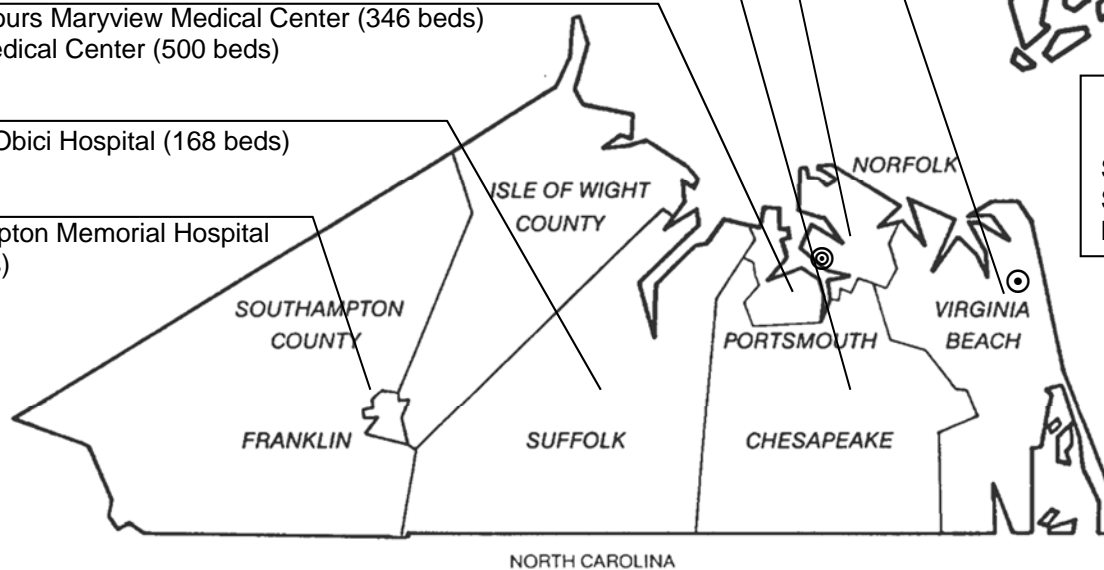
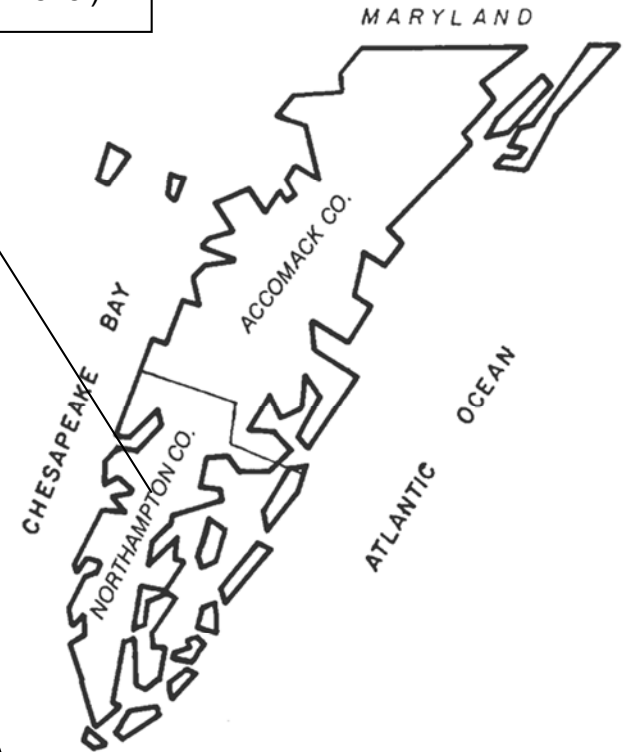
Bon Secours Maryview Medical Center (346 beds)
Naval Medical Center (500 beds)

Suffolk

Sentara Obici Hospital (168 beds)

Franklin

Southampton Memorial Hospital (90 beds)



Additional Freestanding Emergency Departments
Sentara Independence, Virginia Beach
Sentara BelleHarbour, Suffolk
Bon Secours Harbour View, Suffolk

- ⊙ Level 1 Trauma Center
- ⊙ Level 3 Trauma Center



Source:
Virginia Health Information, 09/2015