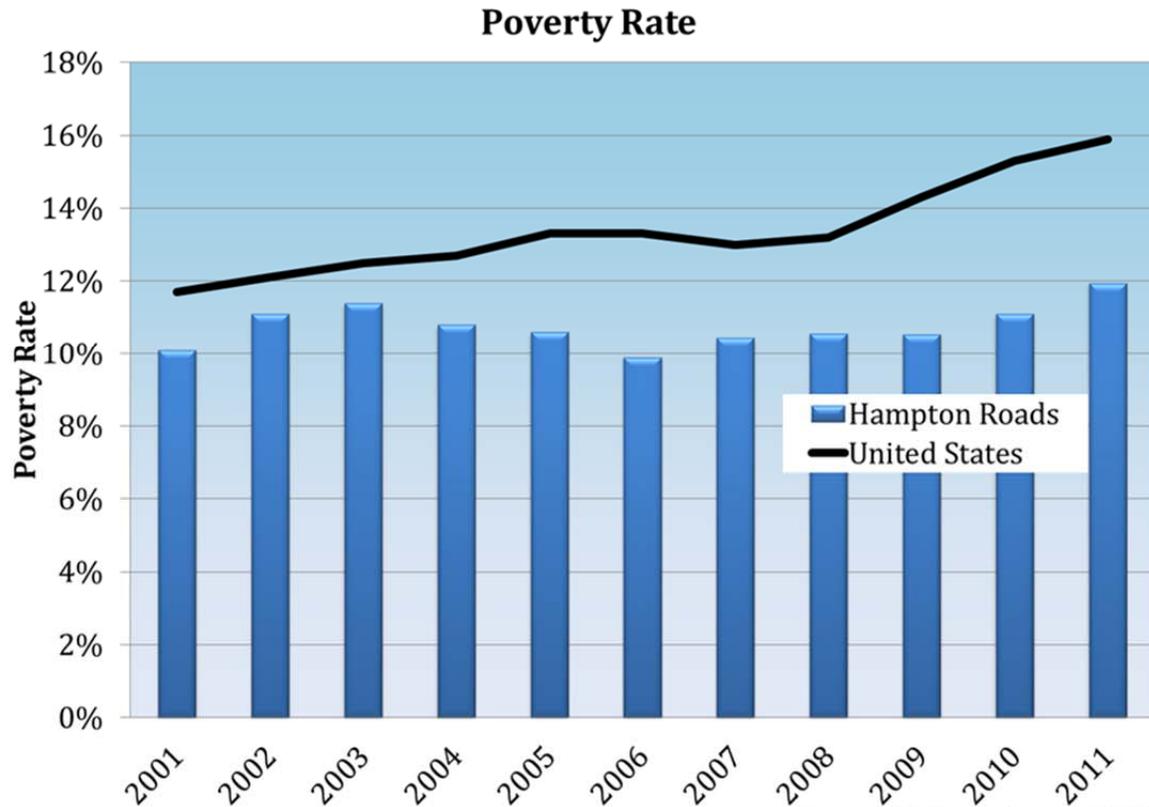


**Figure 6.11 Poverty Rates for Hampton Roads and the United States**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, HRPDC

**Why is it important?**

Impoverished persons lack the means to acquire adequate food, clothing, and shelter. Poverty rates are indicative of a region's ability to combat the social and economic conditions that result in poverty.

**How are we doing?**

Historically, poverty rates in Hampton Roads tended to follow the national trend. The region's poverty rate has been below the national average since 1997. The poverty rate had stayed flat in Hampton Roads while it rose nationally, but since 2008 the poverty rate in this region has begun to slowly increase.

