

## QUALITY OF LIFE

### Housing

A wide variety of housing is available for New River Valley residents. According to the 2000 Census, 58.6% of all housing units in the area were owner occupied. The remaining 23,512 units were composed of apartments, houses, rooms, single units, and trailers which were rental units. General housing characteristics are shown in Table 57.

**Table 57**  
**2000 General Housing Characteristics**

CHARACTERISTIC	FLOYD COUNTY	GILES COUNTY	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	PULASKI COUNTY	CITY OF RADFORD	NRV
Total Housing Units*	6,763	7,732	32,527	16,325	6,137	69,484
Occupied Housing Units	5,791	6,994	30,997	14,643	5,809	64,234
Owner	4,738	5,526	17,093	10,780	2,585	40,722
Renter	1,053	1,468	13,904	3,863	3,224	23,512
Median Value Owner	\$79,700	\$69,200	\$114,600	\$80,000	\$95,100	\$93,981
Median Value Renter	\$407	\$375	\$535	\$382	\$437	\$478
Vacancy Rate						
Owner	1.0%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%	1.0%	**
Renter	6.1%	6.7%	3.8%	7.3%	5.2%	**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

\* Includes vacant and seasonal vacation homes

\*\* Information not available

The average household size in the New River Valley declined from 1990 to 2000. The number of occupied housing units increased from 1990 to 2000, as shown in Table 58.

**Table 58**  
**Average Household Size**

JURISDICTION	PERSONS LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS			OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS			INDIVIDUALS/UNITS		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Floyd County	11,563	11,938	13,819	4,915	4,763	5,791	2.35	2.51	2.39
Giles County	17,810	16,246	16,562	6,733	6,461	6,994	2.65	2.51	2.37
Montgomery County	63,244	65,189	74,469	22,386	26,241	30,997	2.83	2.48	2.40
Pulaski County	35,299	33,526	34,015	13,736	13,349	14,643	2.57	2.51	2.32
City of Radford	13,497	12,922	13,046	4,162	5,207	5,809	3.24	2.48	2.25
New River Valley	141,413	139,821	151,911	51,932	56,021	64,234	2.73	2.50	2.35

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 59 and Figure 32 show 2000 occupancy and structural characteristics of housing for the New River Valley.

**Table 59**  
**2000 Occupancy and Structural Characteristics**

UNITS	FLOYD COUNTY	GILES COUNTY	MONTG. COUNTY	PULASKI COUNTY	CITY OF RADFORD	NRV	VA
Owner-occupied housing	4,738	5,526	17,093	10,780	2,585	43,117	1,837,958
1 detached	5,154	4,675	13,150	9,245	2,347	34,571	1,474,524
1 attached	49	27	827	161	66	1,130	175,865
2 or more, attached	524	28	223	105	40	920	65,081
Mobile home	1,370	791	2,893	1,253	132	6,439	121,751
Boat, RV, van, etc.	36	5	0	16	0	57	737
Renter-occupied housing	1,053	1,468	13,904	3,863	3,224	23,512	861,215
1 detached	665	768	2,273	1,520	533	5,759	223,627
1 attached	2	17	1,139	143	80	1,381	90,614
2 or more, attached	129	454	9,470	1,808	2,583	14,444	508,361
Mobile home	257	229	1,022	392	28	1,928	38,386
Boat, RV, van, etc.	0	0	0	0	0	0	227
Vacant housing	972	738	1,530	1,682	328	5,250	205,019
Total	6,763	7,732	32,527	16,325	6,137	71,879	2,904,192

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

**Figure 32**  
**2000 Occupancy Statistics**

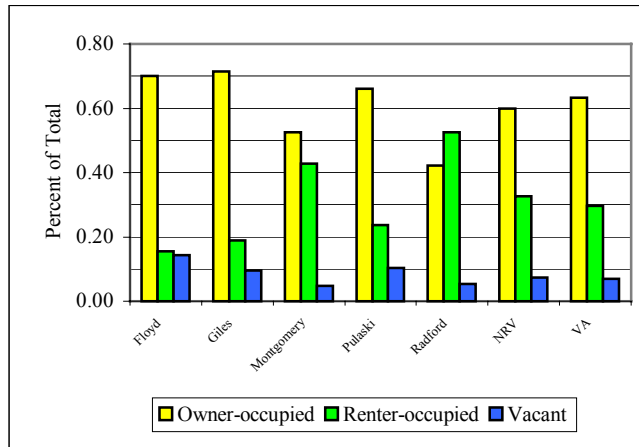


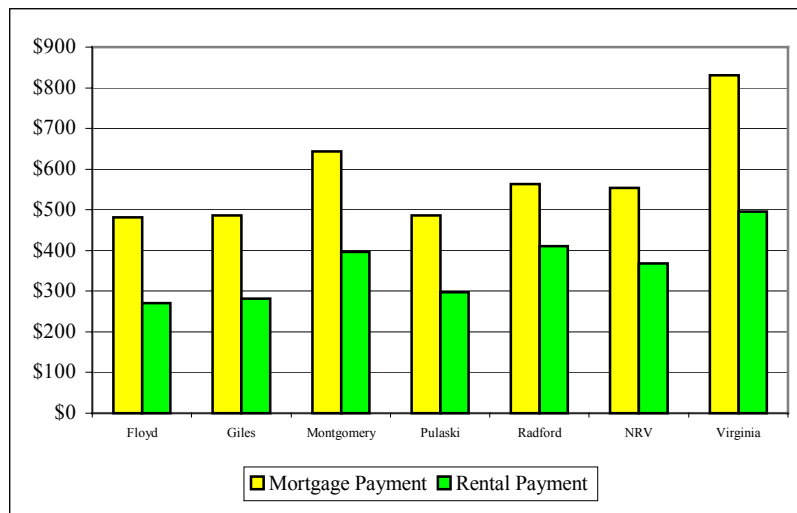
Table 60 and Figures 33 and 34 on the following page represent 2000 housing utilization characteristics at local, regional, and state levels.

**Table 60**  
**Housing Utilization Characteristics**

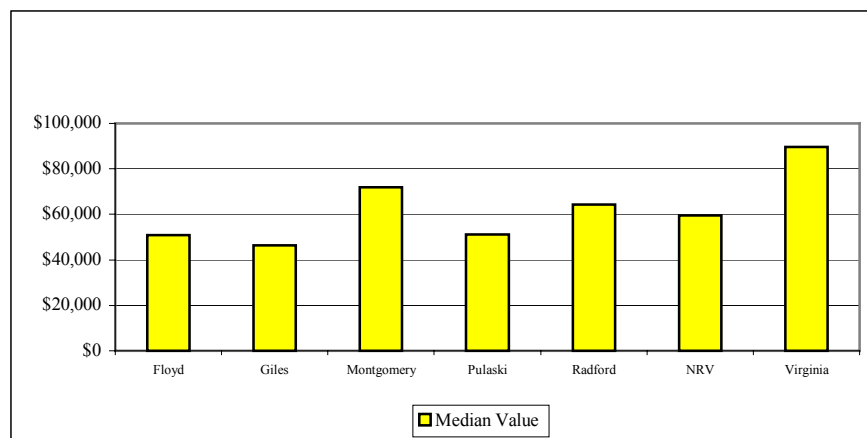
DESCRIPTION	FLOYD COUNTY	GILES COUNTY	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	PULASKI COUNTY	CITY OF RADFORD	NRV	VA
<b>Owned Housing</b>							
Total units	5,480	6,060	17,990	12,013	2,687	44,230	1,974,972
Occupied units	4,738	5,526	17,093	10,780	2,585	40,722	1,837,958
Vacant units	742	534	897	1,233	102	3,508	137,014
Vacancy rate	13.5%	8.8%	5.0%	10.3%	3.8%	7.9%	6.9%
Median persons in unit	2.39	2.42	2.51	2.41	2.46	2.45	2.63
Median rooms in unit	5.7	5.9	6.2	5.9	6.2	6.0	6.6
Median monthly cost	\$666	\$684	\$912	\$698	\$802	\$785	\$1,144
Median value	\$79,700	\$69,200	\$114,600	\$80,000	\$95,100	\$93,981	\$125,400
<b>Rental Housing</b>							
Total units	1,283	1,672	14,537	4,312	3,450	25,254	929,239
Occupied units	1,053	1,468	13,904	3,863	3,224	23,512	861,234
Vacant units	230	204	633	449	226	1,742	68,005
Vacancy rate	17.9%	12.2%	4.4%	10.4%	6.6%	6.9%	7.3%
Median persons in unit	2.37	2.16	2.27	2.08	2.07	2.21	2.33
Median rooms in unit	4.9	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.3
Median monthly rent	\$407	\$375	\$535	\$382	\$437	\$478	\$650

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

**Figure 33**  
**2000 Monthly Housing Costs**



**Figure 34**  
**2000 Median Value of Owned Housing**



### ***Health Care***

The New River Valley has excellent health care facilities. There are approximately 150 doctors and 75 dentists practicing in the Valley and there are four general hospitals in the region providing a total of 455 beds. In addition, Carilion Saint Albans Behavior Health provides 36 special care beds. Most of the hospitals have helicopter service (Lifeguard 10) from Roanoke Memorial Hospital for emergency cases. In addition to hospital services, numerous health department and out-patient clinics are available.

### **Hospital Corporation of America Health Care Centers**

#### Montgomery Regional Hospital

Montgomery Regional Hospital (MRH), located on Route 460 between Christiansburg and Blacksburg, is a 146-bed, full-service hospital. More than 170 physicians represent specialties that range from obstetrics to ophthalmology and from neurology to urology. MRH has been the New River Valley's premier healthcare provider for over 30 years.

Since its opening in 1971, MRH has been expanding its services and equipment to meet the growing healthcare needs of the community. MRH currently offers several special services such as cardiac services and cardiac rehabilitation; as well as an outpatient center in Christiansburg. The MRH Emergency Department is a 16-bed, Level III Trauma Center with all of the RNs certified in Advanced Life Saving Courses (ACLS, TNN, PALS, CEN). The Montgomery Regional Hospital also offers a Birthing Center/Maternity Service provides the latest in Family Centered Maternity Care with eight rooms equipped for Labor, Delivery, Recovery, Post-Partum (LDRP). Other special services include a Lactation Center, Health Education Center, nutrition services, outpatient services, physical therapy and sports medicine, and therapeutic services.

#### Pulaski Community Hospital

Pulaski Community Hospital is a 147-bed, acute care facility that provides extensive services to residents of Virginia's New River Valley. They are accredited by the Joint Commission for Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and meet ISO 9002 standards -- the first hospital in the U.S. ever to earn both distinctions.

Located at Pulaski Community Hospital, the New River Valley Cancer Care Center (NRVCCC) is dedicated to providing technologically advanced treatment to the patients of Southwestern Virginia. The center provides a complete range of treatment options on an inpatient or outpatient basis, including radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and surgery. Other services of the center include patient/family support groups and screenings for the public. PCH also offers surgical, obstetrical, pediatric, emergency and outpatient services. As an affiliate of Columbia/HCA, in Nashville Tennessee, PCH has the advantages of the financial, technical, and professional resources that only a corporation like Columbia/HCA can provide. At the same time, PCH has the best features of smaller hospitals where patients receive personalized treatment and concerned care.

## **Carilion Health Care Centers**

### Carilion Giles Memorial Hospital

Carilion Giles Memorial Hospital (CGMH), located in Pearisburg, Virginia has 65 beds and provides a variety of programs and services to ensure the quality of life in this serene setting. Since its charter more than 50 years ago, CGMH has grown to provide state-of-the art inpatient, outpatient, emergency and home healthcare. In 1988, the facility became a full affiliate of Carilion Health System, bringing southwest Virginians into the not-for-profit healthcare leader's network of top-rated medical personnel, leading-edge technology, health education and information. Comprehensive inpatient care, advanced cardiac testing, sophisticated outpatient surgery are also offered.

### Carilion New River Valley Medical Center

Located near Radford off I-81, exit 109, Carilion New River Valley (CNRV) serves a growing region, including the counties of Montgomery, Pulaski, Floyd, Giles, Wythe, Bland and Carroll, as well as the City of Radford. The 97-bed facility offers comprehensive healthcare services and more than 25 specialties. Services offered at CNRV include cardiac care, cardiopulmonary rehabilitation, child day care, community pharmacy and medical supply, a level III Trauma Center, rehabilitation, respiratory therapy, senior services, home care services, nutritional counseling, occupational medicine, pediatrics, radiology, a sleep center, vascular services, and two wellness/fitness centers.

### Carilion St. Albans Behavioral Health

Carilion Saint Albans Behavioral Health, located at the CNRV, provides comprehensive confidential mental health services to patients from the New River Valley to far southwest Virginia. The services include inpatient and outpatient care, a chemical dependency program, geriatric psychiatry, partial hospitalization and CONNECT, a free assessment and referral resource. The facility also features a healing garden for year-round renewal of body, mind and spirit.

### Carilion Hospice Services of the New River Valley

Carilion Hospice Services of the New River Valley (CHS) is an organization that provides medical, psycho-social and spiritual care and other support services to people with a life limiting, progressive illness and to his or her family. Hospice affirms life by providing the care and

support necessary to enhance the quality of life remaining for the patient. Hospice care is palliative. The aim is to manage pain and other symptoms so that patients remain comfortable and at an optimum level of functioning, preferably in their own homes. In addition, CHS offers speakers and other educational programming to family, friends and the public.

CHS serves the counties of Craig, Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski, and the City of Radford. Hospice services are available 24 hours per day, seven days a week, and are provided regardless of ability to pay. Some services may be reimbursed through Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance. United Way funding and tax-deductible contributions help pay for non-covered services. CHS utilizes volunteers in many capacities -- home care, bereavement counseling, and office work. Training sessions are held in the various service areas.

Table 61 lists hospitals in the New River Valley and Figure 35 illustrates the location of these hospitals. A variety of nursing homes also operate in the New River Valley; they are listed in Table 62.

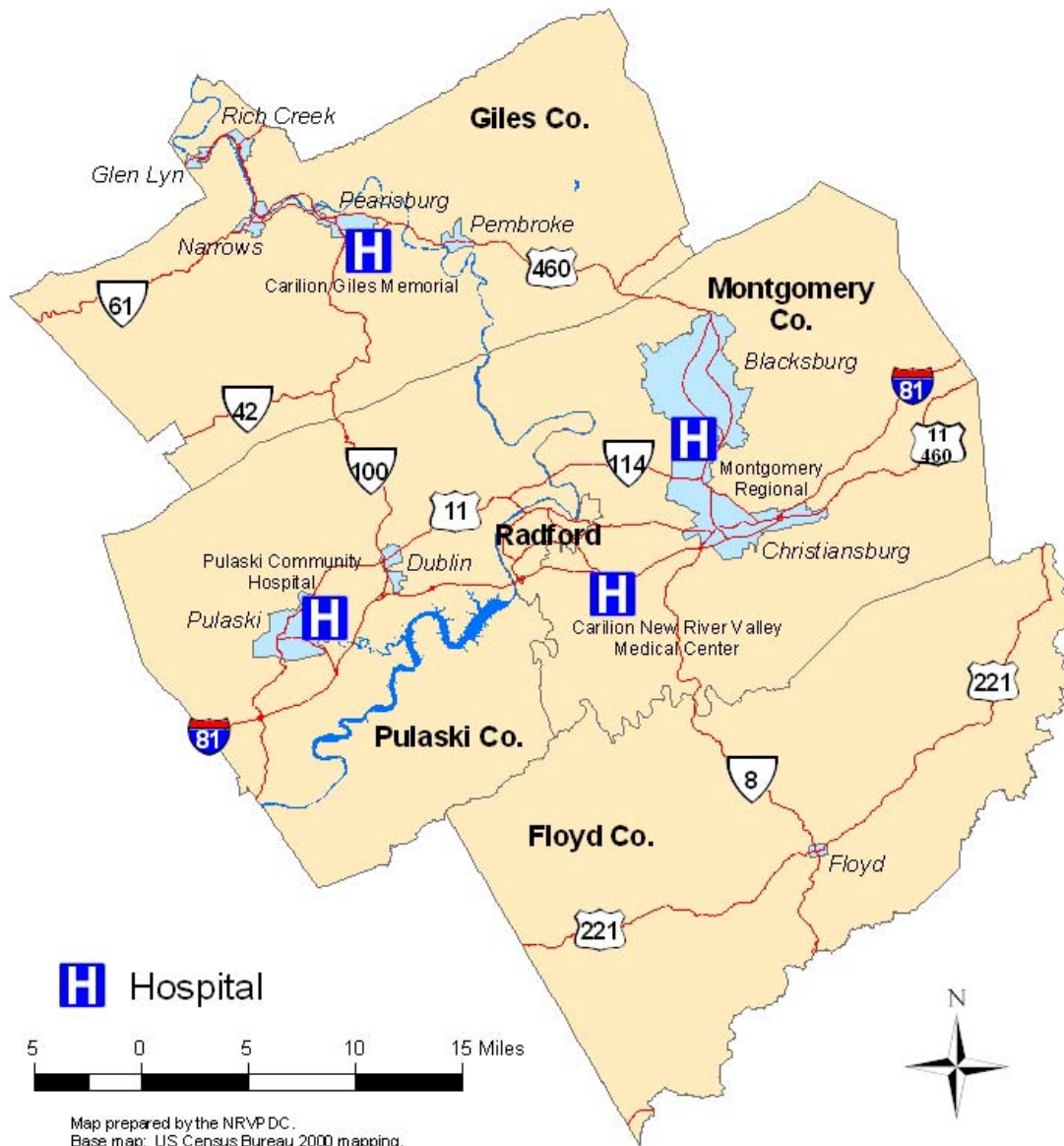
**Table 61**  
**Hospitals in the New River Valley**

<b>HOSPITALS</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b># BEDS</b>	<b>PERSONNEL</b>
Carilion Giles Memorial	Giles	38	177
Montgomery Regional	Montgomery	146	578
Carilion New River Valley Medical Center	Montgomery	97	789
Pulaski Community	Pulaski	147	383
<b>Total</b>		428	1,927
Source: Book of Lists 2004, Blue Ridge Business Journal.			

**Table 62**  
**Nursing Homes in the New River Valley**

<b>NURSING HOMES</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b># BEDS</b>
Fairview Home	Pulaski	66
Kroontje Health Care Center	Montgomery	120
Heritage Hall-Blacksburg	Montgomery	194
Highland Ridge Rehab Center, LLC	Pulaski	132
Pulaski Health & Rehabilitation Center	Pulaski	90
Radford Nursing & Rehabilitation Center	Radford	90
Riverview Nursing Home	Giles	60
Skyline Manor Nursing Home	Floyd	90
Wheatland Hills Retirement Center	Radford	80
Sources: Virginia Health Care Association and Local Nursing Homes.		

**Figure 35**  
**Hospitals in the New River Valley**



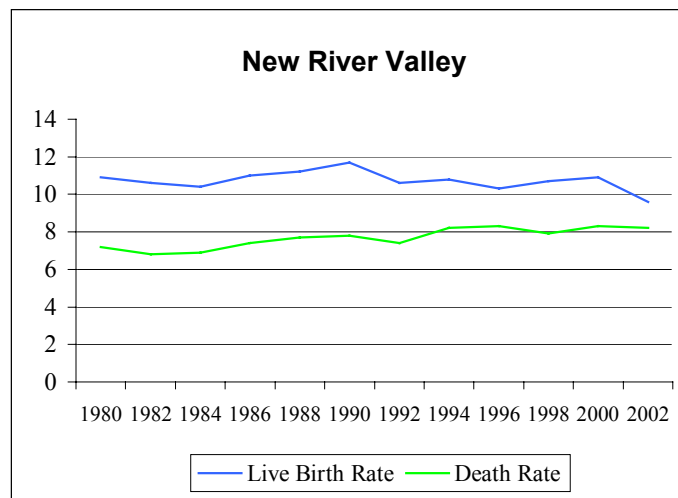
In 2002, the U.S. birth rate fell to the lowest level since national data have been available, 13.2 per 1,000 population. The current low birth rate primarily reflects the smaller proportion of women of childbearing age in the U.S. population, as baby boomers age and Americans live longer (National Center for Health Statistics, 2004). This national trend is reflected in the regional and state levels as well. Data on births are based on information reported on birth certificates filed in State vital statistic offices and reported to the Center for Disease Control through the National Vital Statistics System. The crude death rate in the U.S. in 2002 was 8.5 per 1,000 population, the same as 2001. The region's figures are in line with national trends. Table 63 and Figures 36 and 37 present the live birth and death rates for the region and the State.

**Table 63**  
**Birth and Death Rates Per 1,000 Persons**

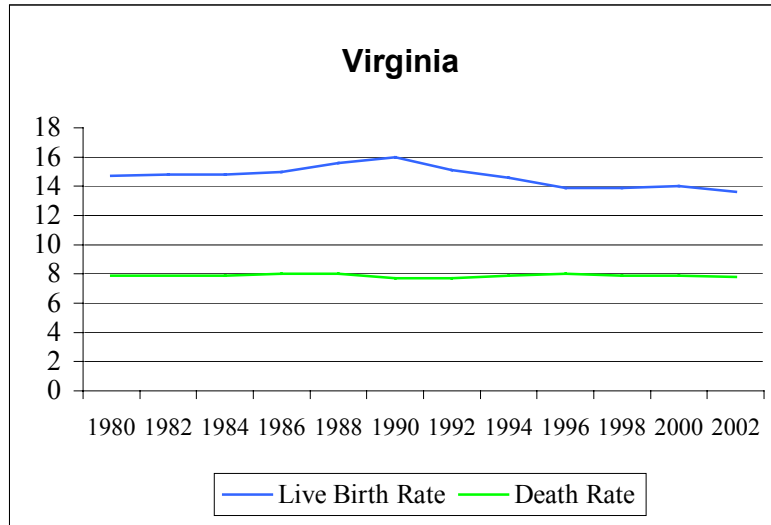
YEAR	NEW RIVER VALLEY		VIRGINIA	
	LIVE BIRTH RATE	DEATH RATE	LIVE BIRTH RATE	DEATH RATE
1980	10.9	7.2	14.7	7.9
1982	10.6	6.8	14.8	7.9
1984	10.4	6.9	14.8	7.9
1986	11.0	7.4	15.0	8.0
1988	11.2	7.7	15.6	8.0
1990	11.7	7.8	16.0	7.7
1992	10.6	7.4	15.1	7.7
1994	10.8	8.2	14.6	7.9
1996	10.3	8.3	13.9	8.0
1998	10.7	7.9	13.9	7.9
2000	10.9	8.3	14.0	7.9
2002	9.6	8.2	13.6	7.8

Sources: Virginia Vital Statistics: Center for Health Statistics, Virginia Department of Health, 1980 - 1994.  
 Virginia Health Statistics 1995: Center for Health Statistics, Virginia Department of Health, 1997.  
 Virginia Health Statistics 1996: Center for Health Statistics, Virginia Department of Health, 1998.  
 Virginia Health Statistics 1998, Volume I: Center for Health Statistics, Virginia Department of Health, 2000.  
 Virginia Center for Health Statistics, Virginia Department of Health, 2004.

**Figure 36**  
**New River Valley Birth and Death Rates**



**Figure 37**  
**Virginia Birth and Death Rates**



***Cultural and Recreational Opportunities***

There are an abundance of cultural and recreational opportunities available to the residents of the New River Valley. The Jefferson National Forest offers recreational opportunities including picnicking, camping, hiking, hunting and fishing. Claytor Lake State Park is located just off Interstate 81 at Exit 101. The Lake is 20 miles long with 100 miles of shoreline and consists of 497 acres of the Claytor Lake State Park which is adjacent to the 4,500 acres owned by the Appalachian Power Company.

Gatewood Reservoir Recreation Area is owned by the Town of Pulaski and provides facilities for picnicking, camping, fishing, boating, volleyball and horseshoes. The Appalachian Trail and the Cascades are located in Giles County, and the Blue Ridge Parkway, easily accessed in most of the New River Valley, offers scenic views, hiking, picnicking, camping, swimming, fishing, and other outdoor recreational activities.

Each jurisdiction operates independent recreation departments that administer parks and recreation facilities and programs. Organized sporting activities such as baseball, softball, basketball, and football are offered for participants of all ages. Pulaski is home to a professional minor league baseball team, and semi-pro teams are active as well. In addition, numerous public tennis and basketball courts, playgrounds, and ball fields are available throughout the New River Valley.

Numerous historical societies promote an appreciation of the region's heritage. There are many culturally significant sites in the area including the Smithfield Plantation, the Olde Newberne, Snowville, and Downtown Pulaski Historical Districts.

***Law Enforcement***

The New River Valley is served by numerous law enforcement agencies that act in cooperation with one another. Available for law enforcement duties are the sheriff's departments, town/city police departments, and the Virginia State Police. There are 345 officers employed full-time for the New River Valley and over 50 full-time officers at Virginia Tech and Radford University.

There has been a decrease in crime throughout most of the New River Valley between 2000 and 2002. Table 64 lists the crime rates (per 100,000) for local and State levels.

**Table 64**  
**Crime Rates in the New River Valley**  
**(Per 100,000)**

<b>JURISDICTION</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2002</b>
Floyd County	683	787	810	1,000	1,098	1,982	2,069
Giles County	1,094	1,071	1,448	1,151	1,320	1,855	968
Montgomery County	3,261	3,293	2,675	2,781	2,859	6,474	4,929
Pulaski County	3,971	2,788	2,263	2,166	2,752	3,689	2,570
City of Radford	2,842	3,273	2,599	2,448	2,323	*	*
Virginia	4,441	4,361	4,074	3,942	3,548	**	**

Sources: Virginia Statistical Abstract, 1996-97 Edition: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, 1996.  
Crime in Virginia, 1998, 2000, 2002: Department of State Police, Richmond, VA.

\*Data not submitted.  
\*\*Data not available.

Note: Based on serious crimes known to police (murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft).

### ***Fire and Rescue***

Fire and rescue in the Valley is provided by approximately 34 fire companies and rescue squads. The companies are staffed by 1,172 full-time and volunteer personnel combined.

**Table 65**  
**First and Rescue Personnel**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Fire Department Personnel</b>	<b>Rescue Squad Personnel</b>
Floyd County	105	35
Giles County	240	93
Montgomery County	150	192
Pulaski County	198	97
City of Radford	39	23

Source: Local Fire Departments and Rescue Squads, 2004.

### ***International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Fire Insurance Ratings***

ISO Fire insurance ratings for the New River Valley are listed in Table 66. The numbers represent protection class, the lower the number the quicker the response time in an emergency.

**Table 66  
ISO Fire Insurance Ratings**

<b>JURISDICTION</b>	<b>LESS THAN 5 MILES FROM A FIRE STATION AND LESS THAN 1,000 FT. OF A HYDRANT</b>	<b>LESS THAN 5 MILES FROM A FIRE STATION AND MORE THAN 1,000 FT. OF A HYDRANT</b>	<b>MORE THAN 5 MILES FROM A FIRE STATION AND MORE THAN 1,000 FT. OF A HYDRANT</b>
Floyd County			
Floyd	8	N/A	N/A
Indian Valley	9	9	10
Willis	9	9	10
Giles County			
Pearisburg	7	N/A	N/A
Narrows	6	9	10
Pembroke	7	9	10
Glen Lyn	7	9	10
Newport	9	9	10
Montgomery County			
Radford Army Ammunition Plant	5	9	10
Blacksburg	5	9	10
Christiansburg	6	N/A	N/A
Elliston	8	9	10
Riner	8	9	10
McCoy	9	9	10
Shawsville	8	9	10
Pulaski County			
Pulaski	5	9	10
Dublin	6	9	10
Draper	6	9	10
Fairlawn	6	9	10
Belspring	5	9	10
Snowville	9	9	10
Newbern	6	9	10
Radford City	6	N/A	N/A

***Libraries***

The Valley has at its disposal an excellent network of libraries and library systems, which includes mobile units in certain areas. The largest library in the area is on the Virginia Tech Campus, and maintains over two million volumes. This library is also open to the general public, as is Radford University's library, which houses over 500,000 volumes. New River Community College's (NRCC) library allows students, faculty, staff, citizens, businesses and industries of the New River Valley access to a collection of 33,000 books and periodicals and 16,000 films, videotapes and other media. NRCC possesses a networked on-line electronic catalog of all NRCC Library holdings as well as the holdings of the other 22 community college libraries in the state, through the Virginia Community College System's on-line library catalog system. Public libraries throughout the area compliment educational systems. In Giles County, the Towns of Narrows, Pearisburg, Pembroke, and Rich Creek maintain libraries in addition to those maintained by the School division. These libraries have a collection of volumes exceeding 65,000 units. The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library has 150,000 plus volumes, and Pulaski County's library system houses over 65,000. The City of Radford's public library makes 67,000 volumes available. Valley residents have 2.8 million volumes at their disposal.

***Media***

Print media coverage available in the New River Valley includes the Roanoke Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, and the New York Times. Approximately eight local newspapers are published in the area to cover news and events of a more local nature.

There are numerous radio stations serving the New River Valley, either AM, FM, or both. At least ten are now broadcasting locally and two more powerful FM stations can be received from Roanoke. Five television stations provide service to the Valley, as well. WDBJ 7 and WSLS 10 in Roanoke are CBS and NBC affiliates, respectively, and WSET 13, an ABC affiliate, operates out of Lynchburg. WVVA broadcasts from Bluefield, West Virginia, and public television is brought to the region by Blue Ridge Public Television (WBRA) in Roanoke. Cable television is also available, which includes CNN, HBO, Showtime, and ESPN.

### ***Internet Service***

There are several Internet providers in the region. Services provided include Dialup, DSL, Cable, and T-1. The region is developing a telecommunications plan to ensure that the NRV is well-wired to be competitive in the global economy.

### ***Shopping Facilities***

In addition to downtown and neighborhood shopping facilities within the New River Valley, two regional shopping malls are located at the intersection of Virginia Route 114 and U.S. Route 460. The major stores within the corridor include JC Penney, Sears, Belk, WalMart, K-Mart, Lowe's, Office Max, Books-A-Million, Barnes and Noble, Goody's, Home Depot and Target.

### ***Hotels and Motels***

There are approximately 50 lodging establishments in the New River Valley with over 1,800 lodging rooms, six of which offer conference space. Some of the hotels and motels accessible from Interstate 81 include the Best Western, Super 8, HoJo Inn, Travel Inn, and the Hampton Inn.

### ***Religious and Civic Organizations***

A wide variety of religious denominations are represented in the New River Valley, including Baptist, Brethren, Catholic, Christian, Church of Christ, Church of God, B'hai, Jewish, Quaker, Mormons, Mennonites, Jewish, Episcopal, Latter Day Saints, Lutheran, Pentecostal Holiness, Presbyterian, Methodist, Unitarian Universalist, and Wesleyan. Several non-denominational churches are established and growing as well.

There are also many agencies dedicated to public service, some of which are the Boy Scouts of America, Boys Club, Girl Scouts of the USA, the YMCA and the United Way. There are many youth oriented activities. The New River Valley is home to Ruritan International and hosts numerous Lions and other service organizations.