

**\*Lee County**

Land Area: 438 square miles

Population (2000): 23,589

Lee County's landscape is a study in contrasts. The broad and beautiful valley of the Powell River crosses the midsection of the county, meandering through fields that are as flat as the plains. To the north is all-but-impassable Stone Mountain and to the south is the spectacular Powell Mountain range. The northeast includes coal-bearing hills carved from the Cumberland Plateau. There are several small towns in the county: Dryden (pop. 1,253), Ewing (pop. 436), Jonesville (pop. 995), Keokee (pop. 316), Pennington Gap (pop. 1,781), Rose Hill (pop. 714), and St. Charles (pop. 159).

Although coal production declined over the last century, it remains an important aspect of the economy and culture of Lee County. The economy is based on service industries, manufacturing, trade, agriculture and mining, and transfer payments (retirement pensions, disability income, and welfare benefits). Health Care services and manufacturing are the largest industries, and major employers include: DeRoyal (medical device manufacturing), KCG Call Center, and Lee Regional Medical Center. A federal penitentiary opened by the US Department of Justice in 2001 is also a major employer. In December 2008 the unemployment rate was 6.3%, up 2.3% since December 2007.

<b>Employment By Industry</b>	<b>Lee</b>	<b>Virginia</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Mining, Fishing, Hunting	9.5%	1.3%
Construction	9.5%	7.3%
Manufacturing	12.1%	11.3%
Retail and Wholesale Trade	13.2%	14.1%
Transportation and Warehousing and Utilities	6.3%	4.6%
Information	1.7%	3.8%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	4.1%	6.6%
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management Services	4.6%	11.6%
Education, Health, and Social Services	24.9%	18.3%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services	4.3%	7.2%
Public Administration	5.6%	8.3%
Other Services	4.3%	5.4%

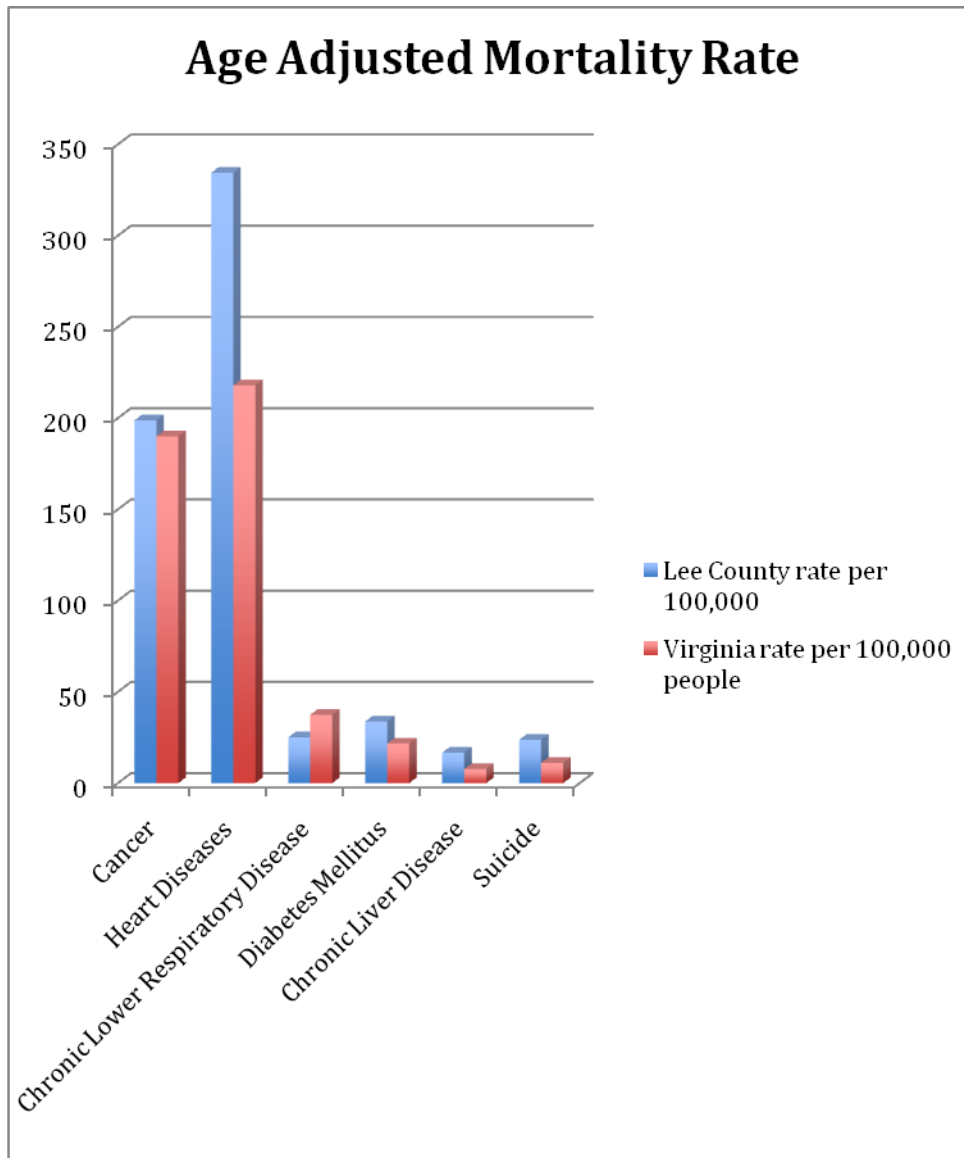
The population of Lee County is less prosperous than the population of Virginia. While the area is rich in natural resources, poverty and unemployment rates are high. The median household income is \$29,365- only 57% of the Virginia median of \$59,575. Approximately 23.9% of the population lives below the poverty line, a rate 150% higher than the poverty rate in Virginia. Proportionately fewer people in Lee County are in the labor force and the proportion of Lee Countians over the age of 25 without a high school diploma is 113% higher than in Virginia.

<b>Economic Indicators</b>	<b>Lee</b>	<b>Virginia</b>
Population with Medicaid (2004)	30.9%	10.8%
Poverty Rate (2000)	23.9%	9.6%
Per Capita Income (2000)	\$13,625	\$23,975
Population Aged 16+ in Labor Force (2000)	48.0%	66.8%
Population Aged 25+ w/o High School Diploma (2000)	39.4%	18.5%

The total pregnancy rate for women aged 15-44 in Lee County is 33% lower than in Virginia, and the teen pregnancy rate is 15% lower in Lee County. Lee women are 8% less likely to receive prenatal care in the first trimester than women in Virginia as a whole. Babies born to residents of Lee County are 1% more likely to be low birth weight than babies born to Virginia residents, but the infant mortality rate in Lee County is 49% higher than the infant mortality rate in Virginia.

Death rates from several common causes are higher in Lee County than in Virginia - e.g., heart disease (+53%), cancer (+5%), chronic lower respiratory diseases (+42%), unintentional injury (+112%), pneumonia and influenza (+4%), diabetes mellitus (+56%), chronic liver disease (+116%), suicide (+114%), and nephritis and nephrosis (+40%). Death rates from other common causes are lower in Lee County than in Virginia : stroke (-37%), septicemia (-51%), and Alzheimer's disease (-28%). Given the relative poverty and poor health status of the population, it seems clear that Lee County needs additional providers of primary care.

Premature mortality rates due to heart disease, lower respiratory disease, cancer, and diabetes are significantly higher than Virginia rates, as demonstrated by the graph below:



<b>Population Health</b>	<b>Lee</b>	<b>Virginia</b>
Disabled Population, Ages 5-20 (2000)	9.7%	8.1%
Disabled Population, Ages 21-64 (2000)	34.4%	17.5%
Disabled Population, Ages 65+ (2000)	57.1%	42.1%
Age Adjusted Death Rate Per 100,000 Population (1998 - 2002 avg.) - Diseases of the Heart	334.5	218.0
Age Adjusted Death Rate Per 100,000 Population (1998 - 2002 avg.) - Malignant Neoplasms	198.8	190.0

Age Adjusted Death Rate Per 100,000 Population (1998 - 2002 avg.) - Cerebrovascular Diseases	36.6	58.3
Age Adjusted Death Rate Per 100,000 Population (1998 - 2002 avg.) - COPD	55.5	39.2
Age Adjusted Death Rate Per 100,000 Population (1998 - 2002 avg.) - Unintentional Injury	69.6	32.8
Age Adjusted Death Rate Per 100,000 Population (1998 - 2002 avg.) - Pneumonia and Influenza	23.7	22.7
Age Adjusted Death Rate Per 100,000 Population (1998 - 2002 avg.) - Diabetes Mellitus	33.8	21.7
Age Adjusted Death Rate Per 100,000 Population (1998 - 2002 avg.) - Suicide	23.7	11.1
Age Adjusted Death Rate Per 100,000 Population (1998 - 2002 avg.) - Septicemia	10.2	15.4
Age Adjusted Death Rate Per 100,000 Population (1998 - 2002 avg.) - Nephritis and Nephrosis	21.9	15.6
Age Adjusted Death Rate Per 100,000 Population (1998 - 2002 avg.) - Chronic Liver Disease/Cirrhosis	16.7	7.7
Age Adjusted Death Rate Per 100,000 Population (1998 - 2002 avg.) - Alzheimers Disease	11.5	15.9
Total Pregnancy Terminations (Residents) Per 1,000 Females Aged 15-44 (1998 - 2002 avg.)	55.6	82.6
Teenage Pregnancies Per 1,000 Females Aged 10-19 (1998 - 2002 avg.)	26.6	31.3
Percent of Resident Live Births Beginning Prenatal Care in 1st Trimester (1998 - 2002 avg.)	78.1%	84.8%
Low Weight Live Births as a Percent of Total Births (1998 - 2002 avg.)	8.0%	7.9%
Resident Infant Deaths Per 1,000 Lives Births (1998 - 2002 avg.)	10.7	7.2

There are significant barriers to access to healthcare in Lee County, particularly with regard to specialty care and dental services. Approximately 13.7% of the population lacks health insurance, and many more are underinsured. Located in Pennington Gap, Lee County Community Hospital serves 75,000 people in a catchment area of 20 mile radius. The hospital has 80 beds, 31 of which are staffed. The nearest referral hospitals are 40 miles away in Kingsport, Tennessee. Renal dialysis services are not available in the county. The county health department is located in Jonesville and provides public health services and runs a clinic. Mental health, substance abuse, and behavioral health programs are provided by a private organization called Frontier Health that also serves Northeast Tennessee.

A general shortage of all health care providers exists in Southwestern Virginia; a preliminary assessment of health care resources showed that most counties had far fewer licensed healthcare professionals than the Virginia average. Lee County has only 16 licensed physicians, which translates into 6.7 physicians per 10,000 people, in contrast to the Virginia average of 27 and a national average of 19.8, respectively. Nurse Practitioners are also in short supply; there are 2.5

nurse practitioners per 10,000 people, compared to 4.2 per 10,000 in Virginia. In contrast, the county has 97.1 registered nurses per 10,000 people compared to state and national averages of 70.9 and 79.2 respectively. There are only 2.5 licensed dentists per 10,000 residents. While Virginia falls below the national average of 6.4, it has an average of 5.8 per 10,000 people, more than twice the average of Lee County. The relative poverty and poor health status of the population indicate the need for improved access to primary care in Lee County.

Provider Type	Number of Current Licenses	Number of Expired Licenses	Lee County Average per 10,000 people	Virginia Average per 10,000 people*
Physicians	16	4	6.7	27
Nurses (incl. RN, LPN, NP)	533	77	97.1	72.4
Physician Assistants	0	0	0	1
Dentists	6	0	2.5	5.8
Pharmacists	46	1	2.3	6.2
Psychologists	0	0	0	3.0

\*<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/ranks/rank18.html>  
<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/reports/statesummaries/virginia.htm>

**Links**

- Lee County - <http://www.netvaly.org/lee.htm>
- Lee County - <http://lee.va-village.com/>
- Lee County - <http://www.lenowisco.org/>
- Lee County - <http://www.vaswpromise.com/>
- Lee Regional Medical Center - <http://www.leeregional.com/>
- Lenowisco Health District - <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/lhd/lenowisco/index.htm>
- Jonesville (town) - <http://lee.va-village.com/jonesville/>
- Pennington Gap (town) - <http://www.townofpennington.com/>

<http://www.statemaster.com>

## **Lee County Health Care Resources**

### **Regional Hospitals**

- Lee Regional Medical Center  
 PO Box 589 1800 Combs Road Pennington Gap, VA 24277  
 276.546.1440  
<http://www.wellmont.org/Hospitals/Lee-Regional-Medical-Center.aspx>

## **Community Health Centers**

- Pennington Family Health Center  
P.O. Box 70 1800 Combs Road Pennington Gap, VA 24277  
Phone: 276.546.3001  
<http://www.mountainhome.va.gov/visitors/penningtongap.asp>
- Saint Charles Community Health Center  
100 Main Street Saint Charles, VA 24282  
(276) 383-4428
- Blackwater Rural Health Clinic  
Jonesville, VA24263-  
(276) 346-3739
- Rose Hill Rural Health Clinic  
Pennington Gap, VA24277-  
(276) 546-6831

## **Free Clinics**

## **Health Department**

- Lee County Health Department  
P.O. Box 763 Jonesville, Virginia 24263  
276-346-2011  
FAX: 276-346-0401  
<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/LHD/lenowisco/index.htm>

## **Department of Social Services**

- Lee County Department of Social Services  
Jerry Spence, Director  
Main St. P.O. Box 348 Jonesville, VA 24263-0346  
(276) 346-1010  
(276) 346-2217 (FAX)

## **Telemedicine Sites**

- St. Charles Community Health Center  
100 Main St, St. Charles VA 24282

276-383-4428

## **Home Health Care**

- Mt. Region Personal Care & Home Health Services  
13 Chappell Garden Dr Jonesville, VA  
(276) 346-2783
- Independent Home Healthcare  
Jonesville, VA 24263  
(276) 346-4420
- Mountain Region Home Health  
69 Main St Jonesville, VA 24263  
(276) 346-2783

## **Nursing Homes**

- Lee Nursing & Rehabilitation Center  
1751 Combs Road Pennington Gap, VA 24277  
(276) 546-4566
- Chesnut Grove Home for Adults Inc  
Dryden, VA 24243-  
(276) 546-1194

## **Hospice Facilities**

## **Pharmacies**

- Pennington Pharmacy  
209 W. Morgan Ave Pennington Gap, VA 24277  
(276) 546-1551
- John C Marion PC  
1724 Combs Rd Pennington Gap, VA 24277-  
(276) 546-5841
- Jonesville Drug  
1 Chappell Gdn Jonesville, VA 24263-9513  
(276) 346-2180

- Rite Aid  
103 Woodway Rd Pennington Gap, VA  
(276) 546-4613
- Rose Hill Pharmacy  
Po Box 538 Rose Hill, VA 24281-0538  
(276) 445-5026
- Wal Mart  
Rr 2 Box 3160 Jonesville, VA 24263-9550  
(276) 346-2872  
[www.walmart.com](http://www.walmart.com)
- Wal Mart  
Jonesville, VA 24263-  
(276) 346-2871  
[www.walmart.com](http://www.walmart.com)
- Food City  
930 E Morgan Ave Pennington Gap, VA 24277-2916  
(276) 546-4186
- Food City  
Rose Hill, VA 24281-  
(276) 445-4701

### **Alcohol/Drug Abuse and Mental Health Facilities**

- Lee County Counseling Center  
Jonesville, VA 24263-  
(276) 346-3590
- Lee County Mental Health Center  
430 Industrial Dr Pennington Gap, VA 24277-1610  
(276) 546-4357
- Addiction Education Center  
Pennington Gap, VA 24277-  
(276) 546-5432
- New Beginnings  
Dryden, VA 24243-  
(276) 546-4300

## Counseling Services

### Physicians

- Litton Family Medicine P.C.  
P.O. Box 646 Pennington Gap, VA 24277  
(276) 546-4894
- Lyndon B. Livesay P.C.  
P.O. Box 400 Pennington Gap, VA 24277  
(276) 546-3957
- Agarwal Anil MD  
Wise Professional Office Bui Pennington Gap, VA 24277-  
(276) 328-8910
- Ahsan Saira MD  
Lcch Medical Arts Bldg Pennington Gap, VA 24277-  
(276) 546-5532
- Ahsan Saira MD  
1800 Combs Rd Ste 4 Pennington Gap, VA 24277-1808  
(276) 546-3870
- Appalachian Pediatrics  
1800 Combs Rd Pennington Gap, VA 24277-1808  
(276) 546-5532
- Asghar Ali MD  
1800 Combs Rd Ste 3 Pennington Gap, VA 24277-1808  
(276) 546-1440
- Barrier Charles DR  
1405 Leigh Ave Pennington Gap, VA 24277-1911  
(276) 546-6205
- Basham Christopher MD Aafp  
Cloverleaf Sq Ste F1 Pennington Gap, VA 24277-  
(276) 523-6715
- Bell James Andrew  
Ewing, VA 24248-  
(276) 445-4826

- Botts Robert E DR Op  
535 W Morgan Ave Pennington Gap, VA 24277-2117  
(276) 546-2113
- Chanda Varandani MD  
1119 Lake Ave Pennington Gap, VA 24277-  
(276) 546-1182
- Chennareddy Kiran MD  
1800 Combs Rd Ste 3 Pennington Gap, VA 24277-1808  
(276) 546-1440
- Faiz Hossein  
Medical Arts Bldg Pennington Gap, VA 24277-  
(276) 546-5488
- Faiz Hossein DR  
800 Cecil St Pennington Gap, VA 24277-  
(276) 546-3796
- Habre Antoine MD Lee Specialty Clinic  
1800 Combs Rd Pennington Gap, VA 24277-1808  
(276) 546-3870
- Joyo Ghulam S MD  
Pennington Gap, VA 24277-  
(276) 546-1440
- Kaul Hitesh MD  
1800 Combs Rd Ste 8 Pennington Gap, VA 24277-1808  
(276) 546-3870
- Lee County Community Hospital Rotating Physicians  
Pennington Gap, VA 24277  
(276) 546-1987
- Lee Internal Medicine  
1800 Combs Rd Ste Penningtn Gap, VA 24277-  
(276) 546-1148
- Mackway Girardi Ann Marie DO  
Ewing, VA 24248-  
(276) 445-4826
- Molony Patrick A MD  
Rt 58 Jonesville, VA 24263-

(276) 346-1137

- Molony Patrick MD  
1800 Combs Rd Pennington Gap, VA 24277-1808  
(276) 546-5212
- Morarty Suhasini MD  
1800 Combs Rd Ste 4 Pennington Gap, VA 24277-1808  
(276) 546-3870
- Pennington Rural Health Clinic  
1800 Combs Rd Pennington Gap, VA 24277-1808  
(276) 546-3041
- Reed L Kathryn MD  
Pennington Gap, VA 24277-  
(800) 343-7477
- Southwest Virginia Heart Association  
1800 Combs Rd Pennington Gap, VA 24277-1808  
(276) 546-3870
- Stone Mountain Health Services  
Po Box S Saint Charles, VA 24282-0269  
(276) 383-4428
- Van Zee Art MD  
Po Box S Saint Charles, VA 24282-0269  
(276) 383-4428
- Vito Cruz Marissa MD  
Saint Charles, VA 24282-  
(276) 383-4428
- Western Lee County Health Clinic  
Ewing, VA 24248-  
(276) 445-4826

## **Optometrists**

- Botts & Botts Optometrists PC  
535 W Morgan Ave Pennington Gap, VA  
(276) 546-2113

## **Dental Facilities**

- Jones Thomas R DR  
Jonesville, VA 24263-  
(276) 346-1030
- Lancaster Alison DMD  
Saint Charles, VA 24282-  
(276) 383-4428
- Lee Family Dental Pl  
Pennington Gap, VA 24277-  
(276) 546-2042
- Myers Robbie J Jr Dm  
Saint Charles, VA 24282-  
(276) 383-4428
- Patterson Cheryl DR DMD  
Ewing, VA 24248-  
(276) 861-4011
- Roberson James M DR  
Pennington Gap, VA 24277-  
(276) 546-3121
- Roy S Shelburne DDS  
153 E Morgan Ave Pennington Gap, VA 24277-2643  
(276) 546-2042

## **Miscellaneous Health Care**

- Lee County Dialysis Center  
Pennington Gap, VA 24277  
(276) 546-5574
- St Charles Respiratory Care Center  
Saint Charles, VA 24282-  
(276) 383-4483