



COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Otsego County, NY

INTRODUCTION

In his State of the Union address in January 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced an “unconditional war on poverty,” and began introducing social welfare legislation that sought to transform the United States into a more just and equitable country. The resulting War on Poverty was part of a wider agenda known as the Great Society that set forth an ambitious series of policy initiatives and programs intended to end poverty, reduce crime, abolish inequality, and improve the environment.

Through the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), the federal government entrusted Community Action Agencies, like Opportunities for Otsego, with the unique responsibility of reducing the causes and conditions of poverty across the United States. Under the leadership of President Johnson and Sargent Shriver, the founding idea was simple: local communities are better suited to address poverty than a top-down, one-size-fits-all federal program, as issues confronting Otsego County, Michigan are different than the issues facing Otsego County, New York.

Originally, the Office of Economic Opportunity administered the Community Action Program, along with other groundbreaking initiatives for the poor such as Job Corps, Head Start and many others. The Economic Opportunity Act was repealed, and the Office of Economic Opportunity (renamed the Community Services Administration) was dismantled in 1981. Today, Community Action is authorized by the Community Services Block Grant, and is administered through the Office of Community Services, within the Administration for Children and Families at the Department of Health and Human Services.

All 1,000-plus Community Action Agencies across the nation bring together their communities to determine local priorities and how best to increase self-sufficiency, improve living conditions, and strengthen family and support systems for low-income individuals. One tenet of Community Action is maximum feasible participation by persons benefitting from agency resources. As such, each Community Action Agency is managed by a tripartite board of directors composed of equal parts of local elected officials, the low-income community, and public and private community stakeholders. Furthermore, every three years, each agency must complete a Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment. **This Community Needs Assessment summarizes qualitative and quantitative data gathered from consumers, the community, and various data sources to identify community needs and resources. Findings from this assessment guide future agency planning and help to formulate outcome-based strategic initiatives to address and alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in Otego County.**

In compliance with federal organizational standards, Opportunities for Otsego Board of Directors approved a motion to accept this report during their September 21, 2023 scheduled meeting.

Source: The National Community Action Foundation (NCAF). NCAF, founded in 1981 and based in Washington, DC, is a leading voice on federal anti-poverty policy and serves as the federal advocate for the nationwide Community Action network

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COUNTY PROFILE	1
Population Density	1
Natural Resources.....	1
Climate	2
Flood Hazard Areas.....	2
Transportation Infrastructure.....	3
Telecommunication Infrastructure.....	4
Broadband Fabric	5
POPULATION PROFILE	6
Population Change.....	6
Population Density	10
Vulnerable Populations	10
Age Demographics	10
Race Demographics.....	11
Spoken Language.....	11
Citizenship Status.....	11
Veteran Population.....	12
Households.....	13
Poverty.....	15
Economically Disadvantaged Populations	20
Vulnerable Communities.....	26
Opportunities for Otsego - Client Demographics.....	27
EMPLOYMENT	29
Income Levels	29
Median Household Income.....	30
Wages	31
Benefit Cliff.....	32
Living Wage	32
Consumer Price Index.....	34
Labor Force	35
Unemployment.....	36
Unemployment Insurance.....	38
Industries.....	39
Jobs in Demand	40
Long Term Occupational Projections.....	40

Long-Term Industry Employment Projections	44
Child Care Costs	46
Child Care Providers	47
School-Age Child Care.....	48
Summer Childcare	49
EDUCATION	51
Educational Attainment	51
High School Graduation Rates	52
High School Graduation Rates by Subgroups.....	53
Adult Literacy.....	55
Public Libraries	55
Early Childhood Education	55
Children Receiving Disabilities Services.....	56
Elementary and Secondary Education.....	58
Career and Technical Education	60
Higher Education.....	60
HOUSING	63
Housing Units.....	63
Occupied Units.....	63
Vacant Units	63
Housing Age	64
Housing Problems.....	66
Fair Market Rent	66
Home Values	67
Housing Affordability	68
Foreclosures.....	69
Home Heating Costs	69
Home Energy Assistance Program	73
Emergency Utilities.....	75
Weatherization.....	75
FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter.....	76
Point-in-Time Homeless Count	77
Emergency Shelter	77
Homeless Children.....	79
NUTRITION	82
Food Insecurity.....	82
Food Deserts	82

Free and Reduced Lunch Program	83
Summer Food Service Program	84
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	85
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program.....	85
Senior Nutrition Centers.....	87
Feeding Programs and Food Pantries	88
Farmer’s Markets	89
INCOME	91
Income Levels	91
Tax Credits and Programs.....	93
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA).....	93
Debt Delinquency	94
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).....	94
Family Assistance	95
Safety Net Assistance.....	97
Public Assistance Case Closures.....	99
Social Security Income.....	99
Child Support Collections	100
TRANSPORTATION	101
Households with No Motor Vehicle.....	101
Commuter Trends.....	101
Vehicle Fuel Type.....	102
Public EV Charging Stations.....	102
Vehicle fuel prices	103
Public Transportation	103
Private Transportation	105
HEALTH, WELLNESS & SAFETY	106
Public Health Insurance	106
Medicaid	107
Child Health Plus.....	108
Uninsured Population	109
Causes of Death.....	110
Teen Births	111
Maternal and Infant Health	111
Community Health Indicators	112
Primary Health Care	113
Mental Health Care	114

Addiction Services	117
Pharmacy Access.....	120
Child Abuse and Neglect	121
Foster Care	122
Crime and Victimization.....	122
Hate Crimes	125
Domestic Violence	125
Protection Orders.....	128
COMMUNITY VOICES	129
Community Needs Assessment Survey	130
Susquehanna River Region 211 - Referral Summary.....	146
OTSEGO COUNTY CENSUS TRACTS MAP	148

COUNTY PROFILE

Otsego County is a rural, upstate New York Community, spanning 1,002 square miles through the rolling hills and vast terrain of the Catskill Mountains and is the 17th-largest county in New York by area. Otsego County is located in the Mohawk Valley and is the northernmost county in the Appalachian Region. The county is bordered by Chenango, Delaware, Herkimer, Madison, Montgomery, Oneida, and Schoharie Counties. The closest metropolitan areas to Otsego County are Albany (80 miles to the east), Binghamton (60 miles west), and Utica (60 miles north).

Otsego County is comprised of 34 municipalities: 24 towns, 9 villages, and 1 city. The county seat is Cooperstown, which boasts Glimmerglass Opera House, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and is the childhood home of James Fenimore Cooper, author of *The Last of the Mohicans*. Oneonta is the only city in Otsego County (pop. 13,855¹) and is home to the State University of New York at Oneonta, Hartwick College, and a downtown undergoing a transformation to revitalize its business, art, and restaurant district.

Population Density: Otsego County is designated “rural” by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. The average population density of the county is 58.8 people per square mile. Within Otsego County, the City of Oneonta has the highest population density, with an estimated 2,927 persons per square mile. Conversely, Census Tract 5906, which encompasses the town of Westford has the lowest population density with an estimated 20.5 persons per square mile. Since 2010, the population density in Otsego County dropped 5.5% from 62.2 persons per square mile.

Natural Resources: In 2017 there were 880 farms, covering 154,634 acres of land: a 12% decrease in farms and 14% decrease in farmland since 2012². Approximately 53% of farmland is designated for crops. Otsego County has 38 lakes, including Otsego Lake, which is the headwater for the Susquehanna River, the largest tributary that empties into the Chesapeake Bay. The Unadilla River flows southerly through Otsego County until it converges with the Susquehanna River in the Village of Sidney (Delaware County, NY), just 5 miles west of Unadilla; the most southwestern township in Otsego County. Across Otsego County, New York State manages and maintains nearly



¹ US Census Bureau, 2020: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

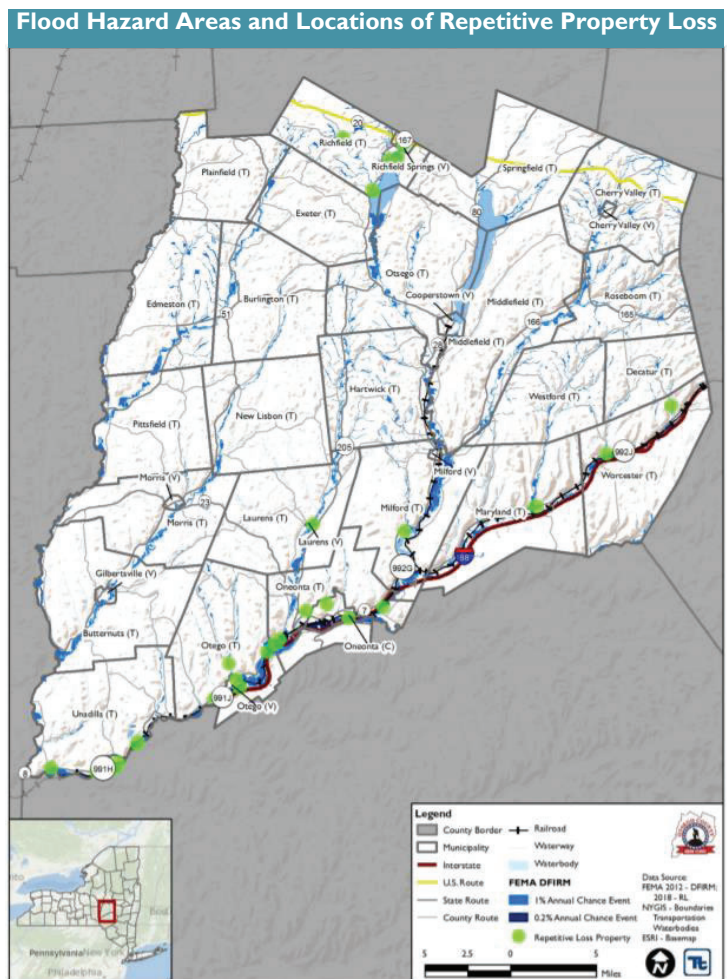
² www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/New_York/cp36077.pdf

two dozen forests and parks. Otsego County sits atop of Marcellus and Utica Shale, natural gas fields that have the potential to produce large amounts of natural gas.

Climate: The average annual temperature in Otsego County is 45°F. January temperatures average 11°F, while temperatures in July average 81°F. Annual precipitation averages 46.81 inches and annual snowfall averages 81 inches. Otsego County recorded 59 flood events between 1950 and August 2018, including 11 floods, 28 flash floods, and 2 ice jams, resulting in \$118.849 million in property damage. During this period, the county also recorded 251 severe weather events. Property damage from hail, high winds, lightning, and tornadoes, is estimated at \$6.456 million, with an additional \$10,000 in crop damage. “Otsego County is expected to continue experiencing direct and indirect impacts of severe storms annually. These storms may induce secondary hazards such as flooding and utility failure”³.

People living in poverty have greater vulnerability than other groups in disasters and hazardous natural events. Findings from a 2017 SAMHSA study assert persons of low socioeconomic status are less likely to receiving warnings of pending storms; are less likely to be prepared for a disaster; lack the ability to evacuate in response to disaster warnings; are more likely to live in fragile housing or high-risk areas; have difficulty accessing resources after a disaster; and experience higher rates of trauma during and after a disaster⁴.

Flood Hazard Areas: Historically, the towns of Laurens, Otego, and Unadilla have a higher propensity to be impacted by flooding due to their proximity to the Susquehanna River and larger tributaries feeding the river. Despite the higher rates of flooding, these communities are desirable due to ease of access to Interstate 88 and affordable housing options. On average, 77.3% of homeowners with a mortgage in these townships pay less than 30% of their household income for housing compared to 74.7% of mortgage holders countywide. Similarly, 56.3% renters in these townships pay less than 30% of their household income on rent compared to 54.3% of renters countywide⁵. The table below offers population



³ https://www.otsegocounty.com/departments/n-r/planning_department/hazard_mitigation_plan.php

⁴ https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/dtac/srb-low-ses_2.pdf

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

estimates within flood hazard zones by municipality. The Town of Unadilla has the greatest number of persons who would be impacted by a 1-percent chance flood (n=504). At the 0.2-percent flood chance, the City of Oneonta would have the most persons impacted (n=1,684). The Village of Laurens has the highest population rate within the 1-percent chance floodplain at 48.7%. The Village of Unadilla is slightly higher than Laurens at the 0.2-percent chance with an estimated 49.1% of the municipality to be impacted.⁶

Township	Population 2020 Census	Flood Hazard Area (n)	Hazard Area (%)	Poverty (%) 2020 ACS	POC (%) 2020 Census
Burlington	1,045	19	1.80%	11.3%	5.4%
Butternuts/Gilberstville (V)	1,665	91	5.45%	11.5%	8.0%
Cherry Valley (T/V)	1,229	95	7.70%	6.9%	5.5%
Decatur	374	19	5.10%	7.9%	11.0%
Edmeston	1,907	160	8.40%	13.5%	4.6%
Exeter	845	87	10.30%	7.0%	6.0%
Hartwick	1,952	57	2.90%	11.5%	9.3%
Laurens (T/V)	2,311	698	30.20%	9.4%	10.6%
Maryland	1,760	136	7.70%	10.2%	6.4%
Middlefield	1,882	111	5.90%	5.0%	8.9%
Milford (T/V)	2,827	319	11.30%	9.3%	9.3%
Morris (T/V)	1,735	72	4.15%	10.6%	5.9%
New Lisbon	1,084	35	3.20%	8.2%	7.8%
Oneonta (City)	13,079	1583	12.10%	19.6%	17.7%
Oneonta (Town)	5,065	19	3.90%	15.6%	14.3%
Otego (T/V)	2,756	362	13.15%	12.8%	9.8%
Otsego/Cooperstown (V)	3,641	124	3.40%	5.1%	10.7%
Pittsfield	1,312	195	14.90%	21.7%	3.5%
Plainfield	922	18	1.90%	15.1%	4.1%
Richfield/Richfield Springs (V)	2,065	142	6.90%	22.5%	6.9%
Roseboom	690	27	3.90%	15.8%	3.6%
Springfield	1,346	13	1.00%	20.6%	6.9%
Unadilla (T/V)	4,116	1364	33.15%	15.3%	6.6%
Westford	804	19	2.40%	11.0%	5.7%
Worcester	2,112	99	4.70%	8.3 %	8.1%
Total	58,524	5,864	8.22%	13.4%	10.5%

Transportation Infrastructure: There are 2,084 miles of municipality and county owned roadways within Otsego County, of which 36% is maintained by the county and the remaining 64% by local municipalities⁷. Additional state-owned roadways include Interstate 88, which runs east-west along the southern border of Otsego County, and Routes 20, 23, 28, 51, 80, 165, 166, and 167.

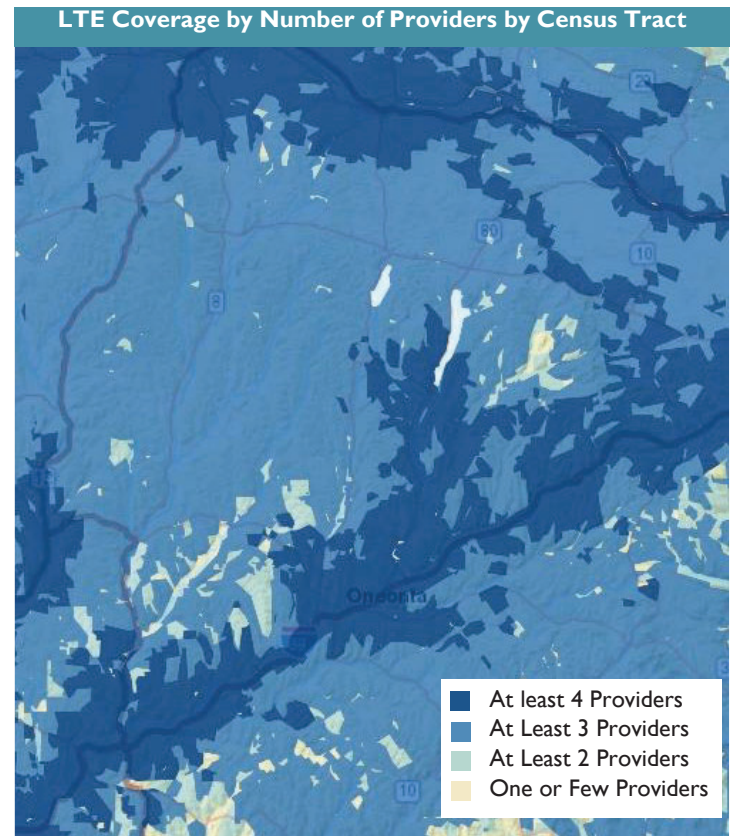
⁶ Otsego County Hazard Mitigation Plan Section 5.4.4-8 (April 2021); 0.2% Chance Event, Percent of Total to calculate Number based on 2020 Census Population Estimates

⁷ <https://www.dot.ny.gov/highway-data-services/lhi-local-roads>

Otsego County has a long history of rail transportation. The first excursion train arrived in Oneonta in the summer of 1865. In 1906, construction began on a roundhouse and by 1924 Oneonta held the distinction of the largest roundhouse in the world. Conversion from steam to diesel power trains diminished activity at the roundhouse, which eventually led to the roundhouse being fully demolished by 1993⁸. Today, there are no commuter trains in Otsego County. East-West running tracks operated by Norfolk Southern are exclusively used as freight lines and an abandoned rail line in Milford, operated Cooperstown & Charlotte Valley Railroad, is used exclusively for recreational purposes.

Otsego County has two airports: Oneonta Municipal Airport and Cooperstown Westville Airport. Activity at both airports is primarily single engine planes.

Telecommunication Infrastructure: According to a biannual study conducted by the CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, 68% of adults use a wireless telephone exclusively and live in a household that does not have a landline; 2.7% of adults use landline only; 4.1% landline mostly; and 7.4% are dual-users. **Of the wireless-only adults, 76.2% live in poverty and 71% near poverty***. The study also found that Hispanic adults (79.1%) were more likely than non-Hispanic white (65.6%), non-Hispanic black (65%), or non-Hispanic Asian (67.2%) adults to be wireless-only⁹. For residents in Otsego County, exclusive or primary use of wireless calling may be a barrier to communication in some areas as cellular signals are blocked by deep valleys and mountain ranges. Per the FCC, the availability of LTE providers varies throughout Otsego County. Census blocks along Interstate 88 and the Route 28 corridor have an option of at least four LTE providers, while some census blocks have no provider options¹⁰. The alternatives are landline or fiber optic options.



* *In Poverty*: household income 0-100% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$27,750 for a family of 4); *Near Poverty*: household income 101-200% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$55,500 for a family of 4).

⁸ <http://www.oneontahistorian.com/facts.htm#question7>

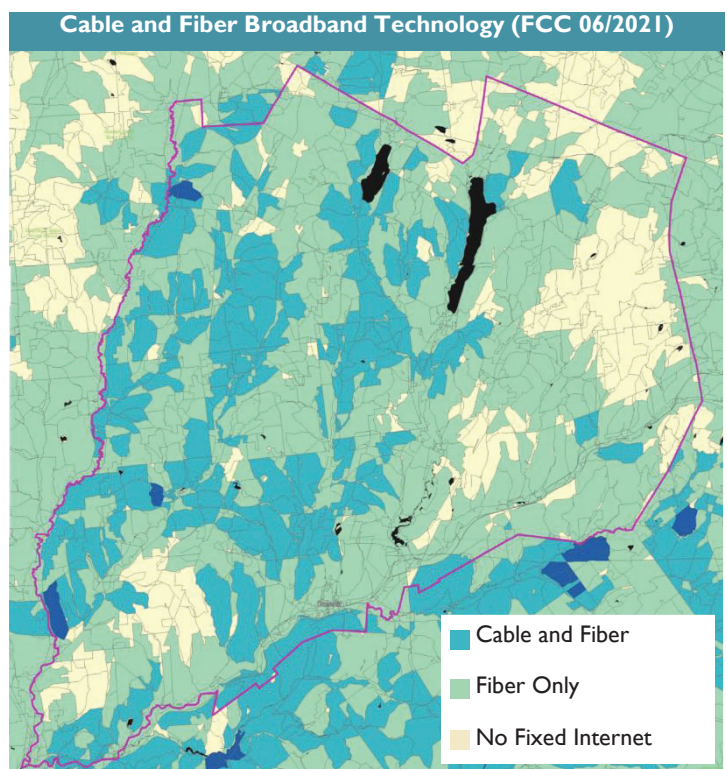
⁹ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/releases.htm#wireless> (05.2022 Report)

¹⁰ <https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/maps/lte-coverage-number-providers-ye-2018/>

Broadband Fabric: In 2014, Farr Technologies released a Broadband Feasibility Study noting the “state of the telecommunications network in [Otsego] County is plagued by the limited incumbent carrier investment over decades, especially outside of the population centers of Oneonta and Cooperstown...This situation has clearly limited business, especially those in community centers and main streets, and home-based business opportunities, educational both K-12 and colleges, universities and technical institutes, residential and public safety opportunities.” Since the 2014 report, improvements have been made; however, gaps in broadband access and infrastructure still exist. According to Broadband Now, 38% of Otsego County residents do not have access to fixed wireless internet service and approximately 4,000 people do not have access to 25 Mbps wired broadband; the minimum download speed necessary for the FCC to define as a “broadband” internet connection. Among all counties in New York State, Otsego ranks 48 out of 62 in the percentage of households with broadband coverage¹¹.

There are clusters of residences throughout Otsego County that only have the option of satellite, DSL, or dialup. These internet connection options cannot guarantee consistent minimum 25 Mbps as they are impacted by environmental conditions (e.g. rain, snow, and cloud cover), hence are insufficient to support video and/or audio streaming necessary for education and telemedicine.

Through newly allocated federal and state funding, access to fixed internet service is expected to expand into unserved areas of Otsego County. In late 2017, OEConnect, the internet subsidiary of Otsego Electric Cooperative, received \$10 million from New York State and federal Connect America Funds to support broadband projects for existing customers. By December 2020, OEConnect completed 700 miles of construction of mainline fiber and connected over 650 customers¹². In February 2021, OEConnect announced an additional award of \$7.1 million from the Rural Development Opportunity Fund through the FCC to expand existing infrastructure into unserved and underserved locations in Otsego as determined by the FCC¹³.



¹¹ Broadband Now

¹² <https://www.oeconnect.coop/2019-review>

¹³ <https://www.oeconnect.coop/press-release-broadband-expansion-news>

POPULATION PROFILE

- Otsego County lost an estimated 3,735 residents between 2010 and 2020. Persons ages 45-54 and children age 5-17 comprised the largest groups attributing to the population loss.
- The racial and ethnic diversity of Otsego County broadened from 2010 to 2020, with persons identifying as Mixed or Multi Race accounting for the greatest increase in diversity.
- Family households comprise 61.9% of all households living in Otsego County. Townships with the greatest rate of households with children under the age of 17 are Worcester and Edmeston.
- The 2020 poverty rate in Otsego County was 12.8%. This rate was lower than the 2019 rate of 16.8%; however, higher than 6 out of 7 adjacent counties, the New York State rate, and the national rate. Areas within Otsego County with the highest rates of poverty are the City of Oneonta (census tract 5911) and Richfield Springs.

Population Change: Over the period 2010-2020, **the total population in Otsego County declined 6.0%, from 62,259 persons in 2010 to 58,524 persons in 2020.** This decline is consistent with population trends in adjacent counties but contrary to the overall New York State rate which experienced a 4.2% growth in population. Overall, the population growth in New York State lagged behind other states across the nation, resulting in a loss of one Congressional Seat and subsequent reconfiguration of district maps after 2020 Census counts were tallied.

Report Area	Total Population (2020 Census)	Total Population (2010 Census)	Pop. Change (n) 2010-2020	Pop. Change (%) 2010-2020
Otsego County	58,524	62,259	-3,735	-6.0%
Chenango County	47,220	50,477	-3,257	-6.5%
Delaware County	44,308	47,980	-3,672	-7.7%
Herkimer County	60,139	64,519	-4,380	-6.8%
Madison County	68,016	73,431	-5,415	-7.4%
Montgomery County	49,532	50,219	-687	-1.4%
Oneida County	232,125	234,889	-2,764	-1.2%
Schoharie County	29,714	32,749	-3,035	-9.3%
New York State	20,201,249	19,378,102	+823,147	+4.2%

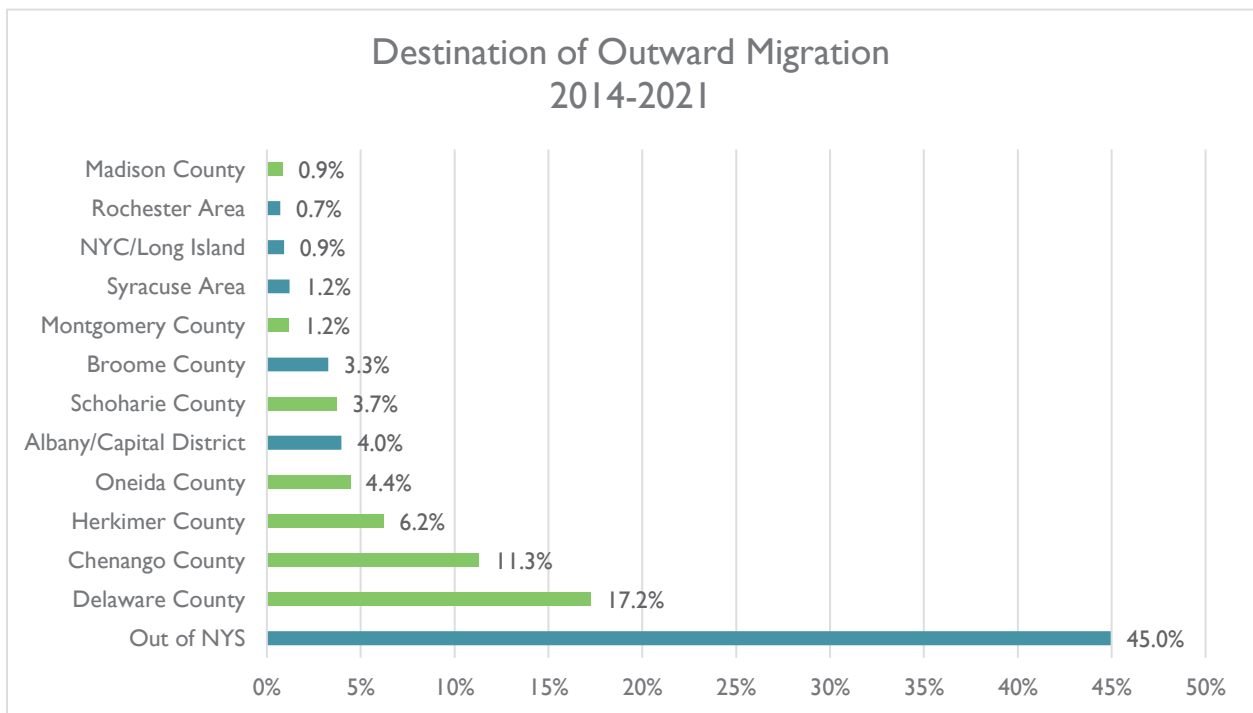
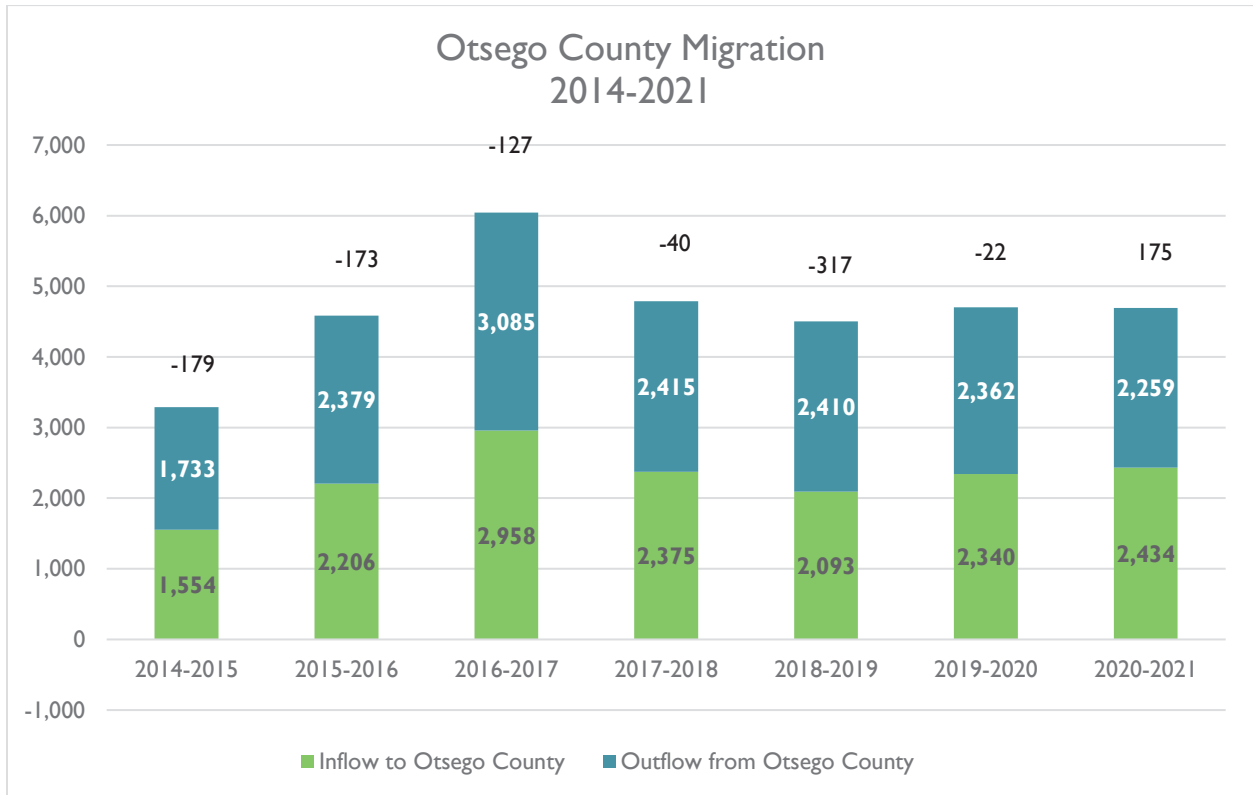
Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census. 2020, 2010

Typical components of population changes include live births, deaths, international and domestic migration, and natural increases. In 2020, the number of births and deaths in Otsego County was 478¹⁴ and 690¹⁵ respectively. According to the Internal Revenue Service, Otsego County averages a loss of 98 people per year due to outward migration. Among all person leaving Otsego County over the period 2014-2021, the majority (45.0%) migrated to areas outside of New York State and a similar amount of people moved to counties adjacent to Otsego County. A smaller population (9.2%) migrated to upstate metro areas, like Albany, Binghamton, Rochester, and Syracuse.

¹⁴ https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2020/table09.htm

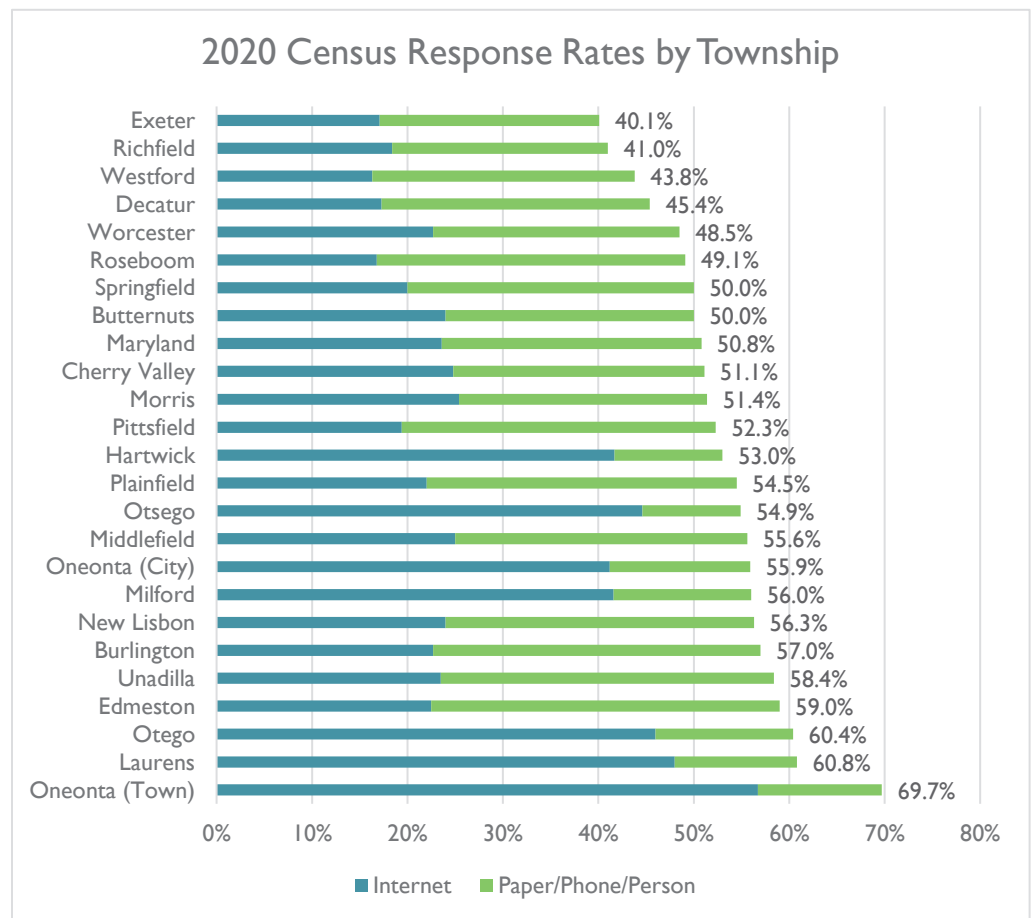
¹⁵ https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2020/table35.htm

Over the period 2014-2021 in Otsego County, 2018-2019 had the greatest net loss, totaling 317 people. Only 2020-21 showed a gain of residents.¹⁶



¹⁶ <https://www.irs.gov/statistics/soi-tax-stats-migration-data>

An additional factor potentially contributing to the decennial decline in population counts in Otsego County were challenges with the 2020 Census enumeration process¹⁷, which were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, only 54.7% of Otsego County households self-responded to the 2020 Census compared to 57.0% in 2010 and 61.0% in 2000. The 2020 Census was the first time households were offered the option to respond online. Considering the digital divide amongst communities in Otsego County and limited and targeted distribution of traditional paper questionnaires by the US Census Bureau, many households in Otsego County faced barriers to responding to the 2020 Census. Furthermore, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hartwick College and the State University of New York (SUNY) at Oneonta vacated residence halls before the official Census Day of April 1. Enrolled students who would otherwise be counted through an administrative process and included in Otsego County counts may have been counted in their home county or state to where they returned, thus removed from Otsego County counts through the Census Bureau process to remove duplications. Similarly, college students living in off-campus housing who returned to their home county or state may have been completely missed in local Census counts. In addition to Hartwick College and SUNY Oneonta, “Job Corps temporarily suspended operations on its campuses on March 16, 2020 and transported... students to their homes.”¹⁸ In total, 33.1% of households in Otsego County responded online, 21.6% responded by phone, paper questionnaire, or in-person enumeration, and seemingly 45.3% of households did not respond or get counted¹⁹.



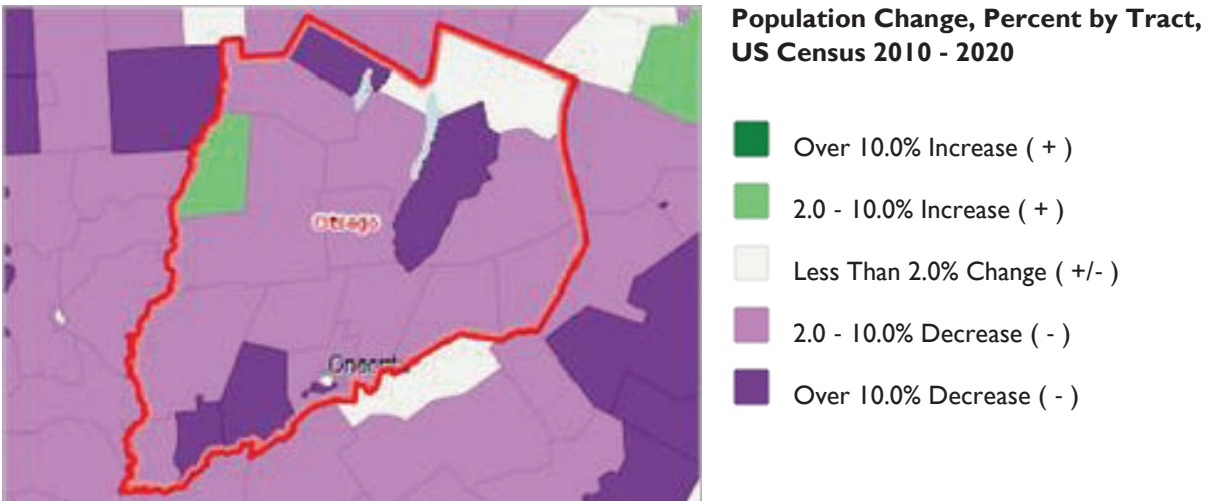
¹⁷ <https://www.amacad.org/news/2020-census-challenges-implications>, <https://hdrs.mitpress.mit.edu/pub/rosc6trb/release/2>

¹⁸ COVID-19: ETA Should Continue to Closely Monitor Impact on Job Corps Program, 07.20.2020, USDOL Officer of Inspector General

¹⁹ <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/2020-census-self-response-rates-map.html>

Data released by the US Census Bureau shows an overall loss of 6.0% of the population in Otsego County from the 2010 Census to the 2020 Census. In total, only **four townships experienced population growth: Decatur (5.9%), Edmeston (4.4%), Plainfield (0.8%), and Cherry Valley (0.5%)**. Townships with the greatest loss in population were Exeter (-14.4%), Richfield (-13.5%), Otego (-11.5%), and Middlefield (-11.0%).

Township	Population 2020 Census	Population 2010 Census	Change (%)
Burlington	1,045	1,140	-8.3%
Butternuts/Gilberstville (V)	1,665	1,786	-6.8%
Cherry Valley (T/V)	1,229	1,223	+0.5%
Decatur	374	353	+5.9%
Edmeston	1,907	1,826	+4.4%
Exeter	845	987	-14.4%
Hartwick	1,952	2,110	-7.5%
Laurens (T/V)	2,311	2,424	-4.7%
Maryland	1,760	1,897	-7.2%
Middlefield	1,882	2,114	-11.0%
Milford (T/V)	2,827	3,044	-7.1%
Morris (T/V)	1,735	1,878	-7.6%
New Lisbon	1,084	1,114	-2.7%
Oneonta (City)	13,079	13,901	-5.9%
Oneonta (Town)	5,065	5,229	-3.1%
Otego (T/V)	2,756	3,115	-11.5%
Otsego/Cooperstown (V)	3,641	3,900	-6.6%
Pittsfield	1,312	1,366	-4.0%
Plainfield	922	915	+0.8%
Richfield/Richfield Springs (V)	2,065	2,388	-13.5%
Roseboom	690	711	-3.0%
Springfield	1,346	1,358	-0.9%
Unadilla (T/V)	4,116	4,392	-6.3%
Westford	804	868	-7.4%
Worcester	2,112	2,220	-4.9%
Total	58,524	62,259	-6.0%



Population Density: Within Otsego County, the City of Oneonta has the highest population density, with an estimated 2,927 persons per square mile. Contributing to the population density within in the City of Oneonta are Hartwick College and the SUNY Oneonta. Combined, these educational institutions enroll an estimated 7,111 students with approximately 24% of the student body identifying as a person of color (POC)²⁰. According to the 2020 Census, 4,537 students live in college/university student housing (aka Group Quarters) within the City of Oneonta. Conversely, Census Tract 5906, which encompasses the town of Westford has the lowest population density with an estimated 20.5 persons per square mile. Per 2020 Census data, of the 1,797 persons in Census Tract 5906, 5.2% of residents identify as a POC.

Vulnerable Populations: Vulnerable populations are persons are at greater risk of poor physical and social health status²¹, and often include children, the elderly, racial and ethnic minorities, and economically disadvantaged. It may also include rural residents, who often encounter barriers to accessing healthcare and other supportive services²². Below offers a summary of vulnerable populations in Otsego County and a comparison of persons who accessed Opportunities for Otsego services during CSBG program years 2018 through 2022.

Age Demographics: The table below illustrates the change in age distribution from the year 2010 to 2020 in Otsego County. **The age cohort that represents the largest population in Otsego County is persons 65+ followed by people ages 18-24.** The age group with the greatest rate of growth is persons age 65+ (22.38%). The largest percentage decline in population was in the age group 45-54, with -25.12% rate change, followed closely by children ages 5-17 (-21.02%). Per 2020 ACS estimates, the median age in Otsego County is 42.0. Females comprise 51.64% of the populations, while males represent 48.36%.

²⁰ <https://www.niche.com/colleges>

²¹ https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007%2F978-94-007-0753-5_3184

²² <https://www.ajmc.com/view/nov06-2390ps348-s352>

Age Demographics: Otsego County								
Year	0-4	5-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
2020	2,487	7,011	10,051	5,973	5,714	6,920	8,855	12,582
2010	2,741	8,877	10,094	5,748	6,702	9,242	8,574	10,281
Variance	-254	-1,866	-43	225	-988	-2,322	281	2,301
Change	-9.27%	-21.02%	-0.43%	3.91%	-14.74%	-25.12%	3.28%	22.38%
Percent of Total Population	4.17%	11.76%	16.87%	10.02%	9.59%	11.61%	14.86%	21.11%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-20, Source geography: Tract

Race Demographics: Otsego County remains primarily Anglo; however, shifts in demographics have boosted racial diversity the area slightly. According to 2020 Census data, Whites comprise 89.5% of the population, Blacks represent 2.2% of the population, Multi/Mixed Race made up 5.3% of the population, and the remaining races combined represent 2.9% of the population. **The greatest change overall amongst racial groups was an 11.1% decline in persons identifying as White and a 203.1% jump in persons identifying as Multi/Mixed Race.** Of all persons, 4.1% (n=2,392) identify as Hispanic or Latino/Latinix.

Year	White	Black	Asian	Native American / Alaska	Native Hawaiian / Pacific	Some Other Race	Multiple Races
2020	52,403	1,286	827	121	11	748	3,128
2010	58,935	1,066	674	121	18	413	1,032
Variance	-6,532	220	696	0	-7	335	2,096
Change	-11.1%	20.6%	22.7%	0.0%	-38.9%	81.1%	203.1%
Percent of Total Population	89.5%	2.2%	1.4%	0.2%	0.0%	1.3%	5.3%

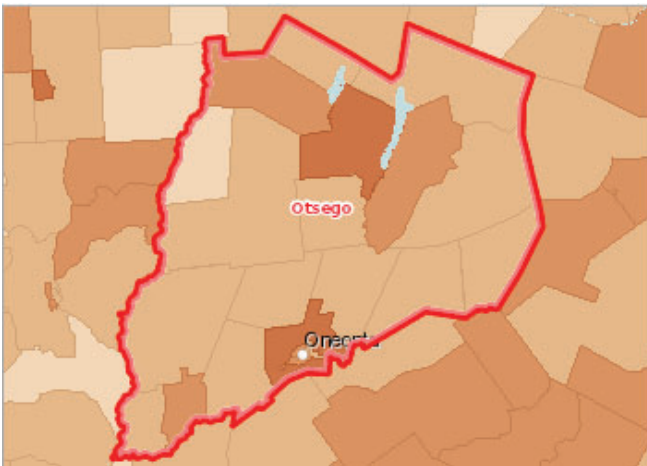
Spoken Language: Overall, 1.24% of Otsego County resident identify as having Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Of the estimated 738 persons, 48% speak Spanish or Spanish Creole. The other top five languages spoken are Chinese (6.8%), Italian (6.5%), Other West Germanic languages (5.4%), Japanese (4.5%) and Tagalong (3.5%). The chart below provides a full breakdown of spoken languages by the LEP population living in Otsego County.²³

Of all persons receiving services from Opportunities for Otsego during PY 2018-2022, 98.3% reported English as their primary language; 50 persons noted an “Other” language (0.8%); 33 Spanish (0.6%); 10 Urdu (0.2%); 5 Chinese and 3 French at 0.1% each.

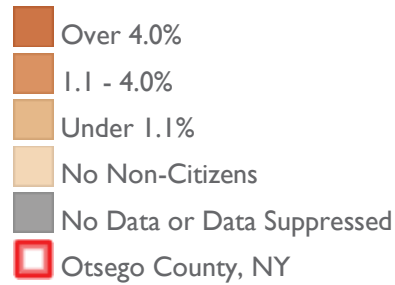
Citizenship Status: According to the 2021 American Community Survey, Otsego County has a total of 879 non-Citizens at a rate of 1.49% of the total population. This rate is lower than both the state average of 9.26% and the national average of 6.58% non-Citizens living in the United States. **Areas within Otsego County with the greatest concentration of non-Citizens are Census Tract 5908 (Town of Oneonta) at 5.09% with an**

²³ https://www.lep.gov/maps/lma2015/Final_508

estimated 259 persons, and Census Tract 5902.02 (Town of Otego) at 4.76% with approximately 176 persons.



**Non US Citizen
Population, Percent by Tract, ACS
2017-21**

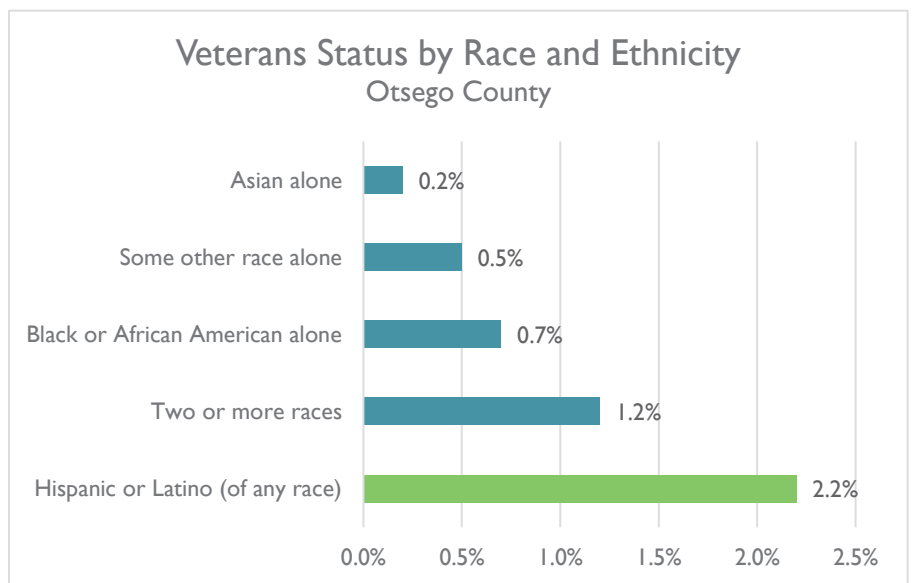


Veteran Population: Overall, 7.92% (n=3,957) of the adult population in Otsego County are veterans, which is greater than the national average of 7.07% and the New York State rate of 4.39%. This cohort includes civilians age 18 years old and over who served (even for a short time), but are not now serving on acting duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard, or who served as a Merchant Marine seaman during World War II. Of this group, 91% are male (n=3,601) and 9% female (n=326). Over 60% of all veterans in Otsego County are over age 65 and 96% identify as White, Non-Hispanic/Latino²⁴.

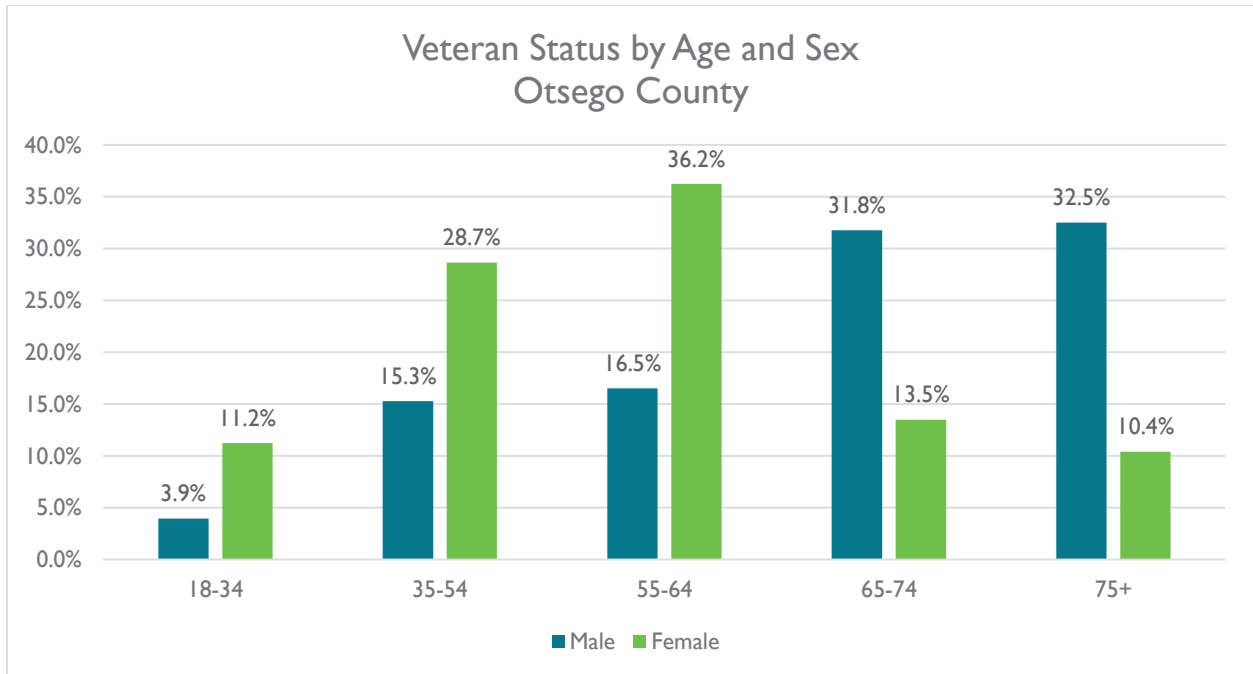
Within Otsego County, Veterans identified as Two or More races make up the largest portion of POC Veterans; followed by Black/African American, Other race, and Asian. Nearly 2.5% of all Veterans in Otsego County are Hispanic/Latino.

During CSBG PY 2018 through 2022,

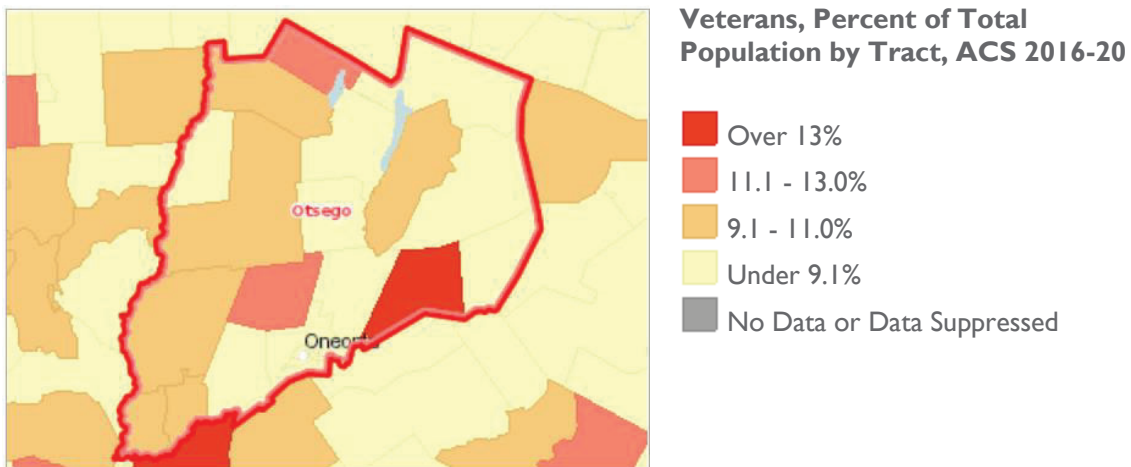
Opportunities for Otsego provided support to 191 military personnel; 2.1% of all persons accessing agency supports over the age of 18.



²⁴ US Census Bureau, 2020: ACS 5-Year Estimates, Tables S2101, B21001



The greatest concentration of veterans in Otsego County live in the towns of Maryland/Schenevus (14.8%), Laurens/Mount Vision (12.4%), and Richfield Springs (12.2%); Census Tracts 5907.01, 5914.02, and 5903.01 respectively²⁵.



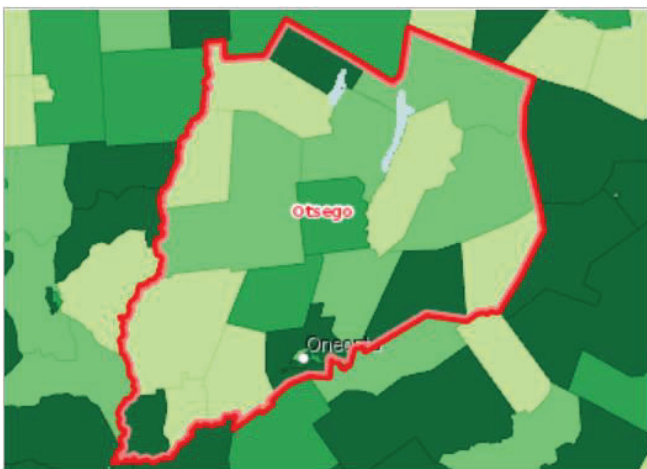
Households: Over the 5-year period **from 2015 to 2020, Otsego County gained 132 households; increasing the total number of households to 23,768.** This represents an increase of 0.56% compared to a statewide increase of 2.13% and a nationwide increase of 4.64%.

²⁵ US Census Bureau, 2020: ACS 5-Year Estimates, Tables S2101, B21001

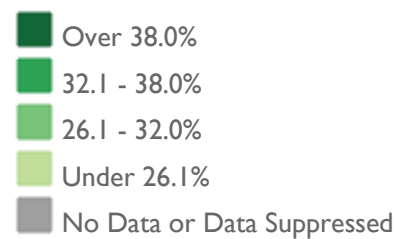
Report Area	Total Households (2020)	Total Households (2015)	Change in Households (n)	Change in Households (%)
Otsego County	23,768	23,636	132	0.56%
New York State	7,417,224	7,262,279	154,945	2.13%
United States	122,354,219	116,926,305	5,427,914	4.64%

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS Estimates 2016-2020

Of the estimated 23,768 households, 14,714 are families. Married-couple families comprised 77.76% of the total number, while male head of household (HoH) comprise 8.03% and female HOH comprised 14.21% of families. Among the estimated 1,928 unmarried-partnered households, 2.3% are male householder and male partner; 47.9% male householder and female partner; 0.6% female householder and female partner; and 49.2% female householder and male partner²⁶. In total, an estimated 3,272 households are single parent/caregiver. **Townships with the highest concentrations of male/female HOH are in and around the City of Oneonta (37-58.57%), Richfield/Richfield Springs (42%), Unadilla (41.6%), and Maryland/Schenevus (38.6%).** Census Tracts and townships with the highest rate of households with children (age 0-17), regardless of household type, are Worcester 5907.02 (33.98%, n=264) and Edmeston 5904.01 (32.69, n=221). Smaller, but significant, concentrations of households with children run across the entire northern border of Otsego County in Plainfield/Exeter (Tract 5903.02), Richfield (Tract 5903.01), and Springfield/Cherry Valley (Tract 5901.01) with rates of 28.05, 29.17%, and 31.03% respectively²⁷.



Single Parent Households with Children (Age 0-17), Percent by Tract, ACS 2016-20



Non-family households represent 38.09% of all households in Otsego County. Of non-family households, 80.78% live alone; of which 45.24% (n=3,309) are persons over the age of 65. The most typical household size in Otsego

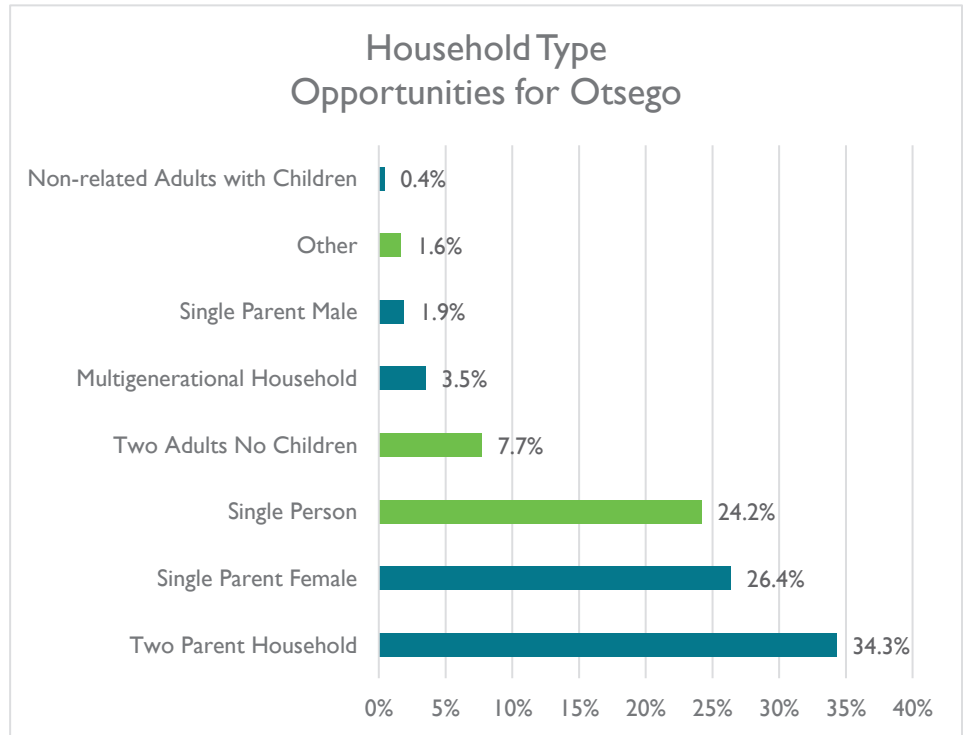
²⁶ US Census Bureau, ACS Estimates 2018, Table B11009, Unmarried-Partner Households by Sex of Partner

²⁷ US Census Bureau, ACS Estimates 2016-2020

County is two-persons (38.44%), followed by single persons (30.77%), four or more people (15.89%), and three-persons (14.9%)²⁸.

In comparison, **households served by Opportunities for Otsego over program years (PY) 2018-2022, were 33.5% non-family and 66.5% family.** Of the family households, nearly 52% were two-parent households followed by single parent female households (40%).

Additional 5,799 persons in Otsego County live in group quarters. Among the “Institutionalized” population, 286 live in a nursing or skilled-nursing facility; 14 in a juvenile facilities; and 41 in another type of institutional facility. Persons living in noninstitutionalized facilities include 4,578 in College/University student housing and 880 in another type of noninstitutional facility²⁹.



Poverty: The federal government releases poverty guidelines annually. These guidelines are used by federal agencies to determine program eligibility, including Department of Health and Human Services (Head Start, LIHEAP, Children’s Health Insurance Program, Family Planning Services), Department of Agriculture (SNAP, WIC, National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program), Department of Energy (Weatherization Assistance Program), Department of Labor (Job Corps, Workforce Investment Act Youth Activities), Department of the Treasury (Low-Income Taxpayer Clinics), and Legal Services Corporation (Legal Services for the Poor). The standard threshold in establishing poverty status is 100% of the federal poverty level. In Fiscal Year 2020, Congressional action expanded eligibility for services under the Community Services Block Grant, a key source of funding for Opportunities for Otsego, from 125% of the federal poverty level to 200%. This change opened service eligibility to an estimated 7,589 persons in Otsego County.

²⁸ US Census Bureau, ACS Estimates 2016-2020
²⁹ US Census Bureau, 2020 DEC Redistricting Data

Federal Poverty Guidelines for Federal Fiscal Year 2023					
Household Size	100% FPL	125% FPL	130% FPL (Free School Lunch, SNAP)	185% FPL (Reduced School Lunch, WIC)	200% FPL (TANF)
1	\$14,580	\$18,225	\$18,954	\$26,973	\$29,160
2	\$19,720	\$24,650	\$25,636	\$36,482	\$39,440
3	\$24,860	\$31,075	\$ 32,318	\$45,991	\$49,720
4	\$30,000	\$37,500	\$39,000	\$55,500	\$60,000
5	\$35,140	\$43,925	\$45,682	\$65,009	\$70,280
6	\$40,280	\$50,350	\$52,364	\$74,518	\$80,560
7	\$45,420	\$56,775	\$59,046	\$84,027	\$90,840
8	\$50,560	\$63,200	\$65,728	\$93,536	\$101,120

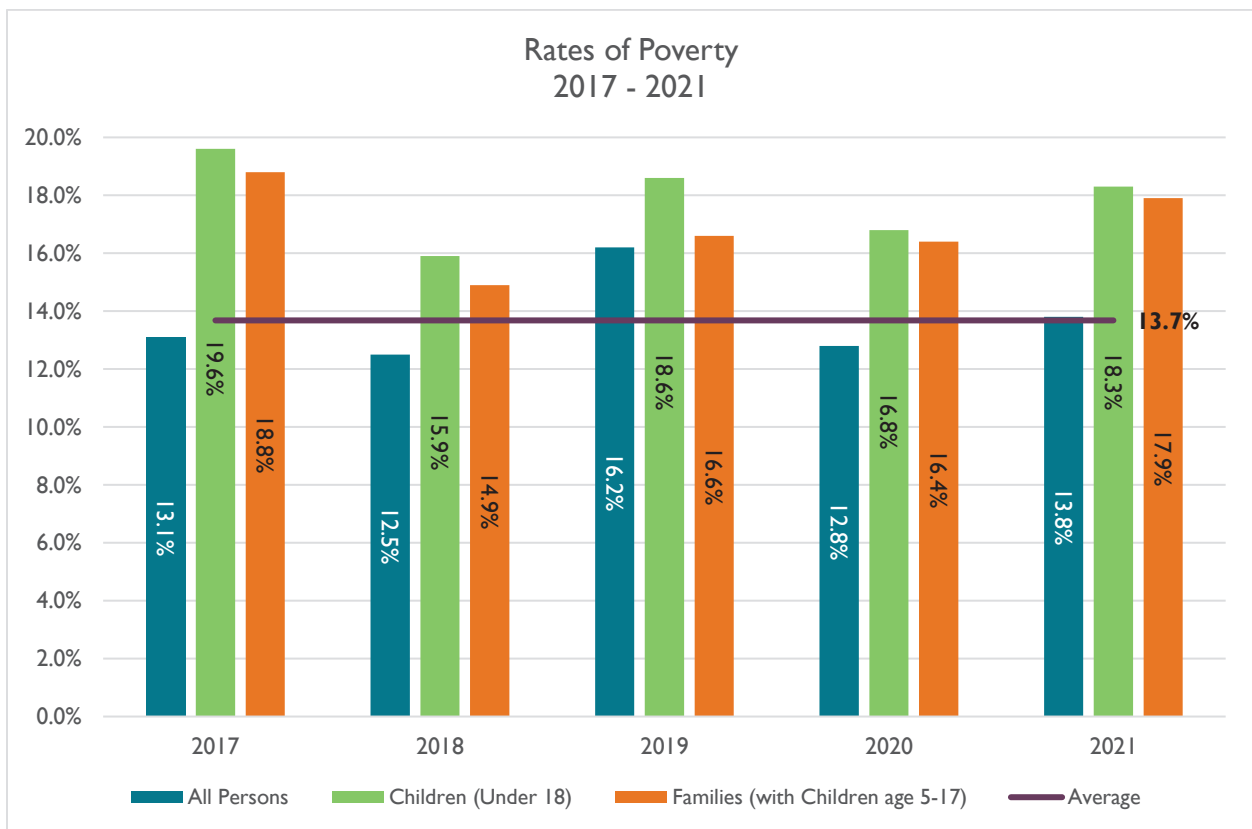
The chart below offers comparison rates of poverty for the year 2020 in Otsego County, seven adjacent counties, New York State and nationally. Per the US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, approximately **6,914 persons were living in poverty in Otsego County during 2020, representing 12.8% of the total population**. This rate is lower than the previous year (16.8%). Comparably, the 2020 poverty rate in Otsego County is higher than 6 out of 7 adjacent counties, and slightly higher than the New York State rate (12.7%) and the national rate (11.9%)³⁰.

Poverty Rates (2020)						
Report Area	Persons (n)	Persons (%)	Age 0-17 (n)	Age 0-17 (%)	Age 5-17 (n)	Age 5-17 (%)
Otsego County	6,914	12.8%	1,495	16.8%	1,049	16.4%
Chenango	5,283	11.5%	1,463	15.7%	952	13.8%
Delaware	5,345	12.8%	1,301	18.7%	915	17.9%
Herkimer	7,192	12.1%	1,970	16.2%	1,459	16.0%
Madison	6,878	10.4%	1,809	13.9%	1,240	13.0%
Montgomery	5,735	11.9%	2,224	20.2%	1,562	19.7%
Oneida	26,660	12.4%	8,353	17.7%	6,362	18.3%

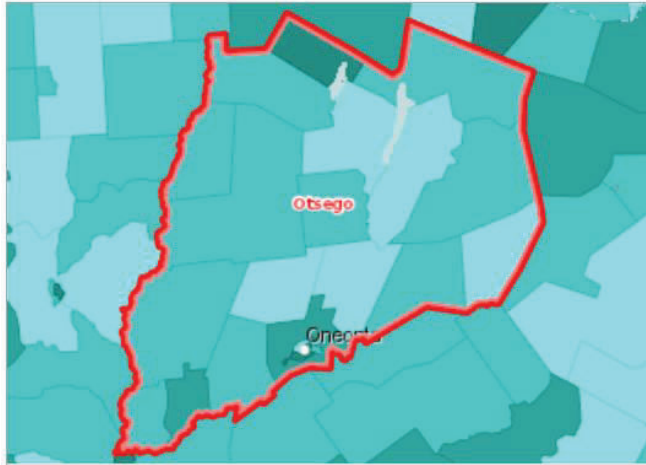
³⁰ US Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), 2020

Schoharie	3,281	11.0%	825	15.5%	577	14.7%
New York	2,401,141	12.7%	653,300	16.7%	460,210	16.3%
United States	38,371,394	11.90%	11,204,423	15.70%	7,798,566	14.90%

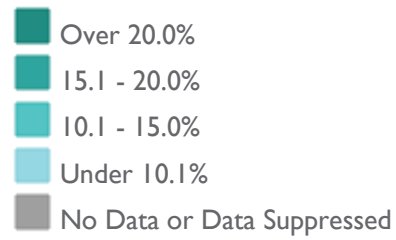
The chart below shows comparison rates of poverty over the 5-year period, 2017 through 2021, for all persons in Otsego County; children under age 18; and families with children ages 5-17. On average, the poverty rate over this period was 13.7% for all persons. The lowest rate of poverty over this period was in 2018. The effects of the 2018 economic downturn may have contributed to the increase in the poverty rate in the subsequent year; jumping to 16.2% from 12.5%. **During PY 2018-2022, 78.2% of households accessing support from Opportunities for Otsego lived at or below the 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.**



Additional information on the distribution of poverty by Census Tract is mapped below. **The highest rates of poverty within Otsego County are in the City of Oneonta, specifically Census Tracts 5911 and 5910 with rates of 29.3% and 21.72% respectively. Persons living below 100% of FPL in these tracts represent approximately 1,458 persons. Census Tract 5903.01, which encompasses the Town of Richfield, reports 467 persons in poverty, equating to the second highest rate of poverty in Otsego County at a rate of 22.46%.**



Population Below the Poverty Level, Percent by Tract, ACS 2016-20

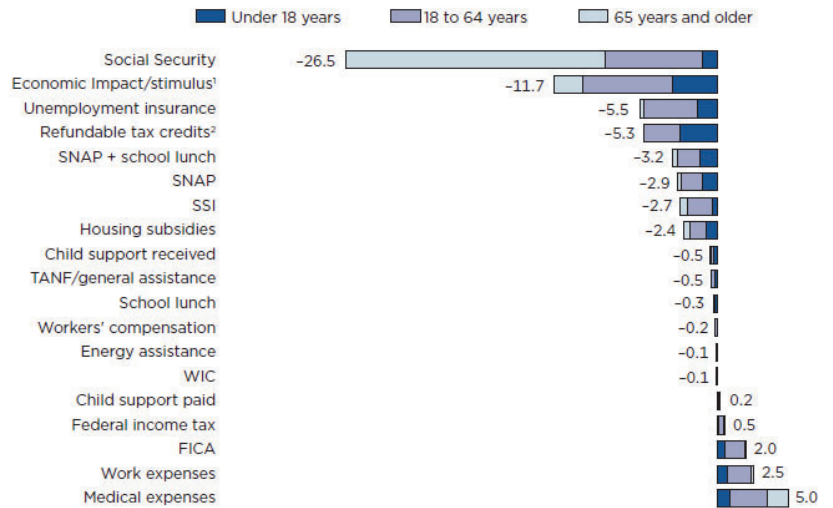


Census Tract 5911, which is located south of the Norfolk-Southern railroad tracks and adjacent to the Susquehanna River in the City of Oneonta, has the greatest rate of persons countywide living below 200% of FPL at a rate of 55.7% (n=1,555). Aside from Census Tract 5910 whose rate is 41.8% and tracts 5902.02 and 5912, whose rates are below 24%, all other Census Tracts in Otsego County have rates of their population living below 200% FPL between 28.2 and 37.1 percent.

Overall, 31.59% or 17,223 individuals in Otsego County live below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. The area with the highest rate of persons in this income bracket is Census Tract 5911, located south of the Norfolk-Southern railroad tracks and adjacent to the Susquehanna River in the City of Oneonta. It is estimated that 51.6% or 1,423 persons in this Census Tract live at 200% FPL. Other areas with high rates of persons living below 200% FPL are Census Tract 5903.01 (Town of Richfield) with 45.36% or 943 persons and Census Tract 5909 (City of Oneonta) with 31.45% or 825 persons. **During PY 2018-2022, 95.2% of households accessing support from Opportunities for Otsego lived at or below the 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.**

Supplemental Poverty Measure: Beginning in 2011, the U.S. Census Bureau began publishing the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), which extends the official poverty measure by accounting for government programs designed to assist low-income persons that are not included in the official poverty measure. In 2020, the SPM included stimulus payments and expanded unemployment insurance and SNAP benefits, enacted as part of COVID-19 economic relief legislation. These efforts moved an estimated 11.7 million individuals out of poverty and prevented 5.5 million individuals from falling into poverty³¹. **The impact of government**

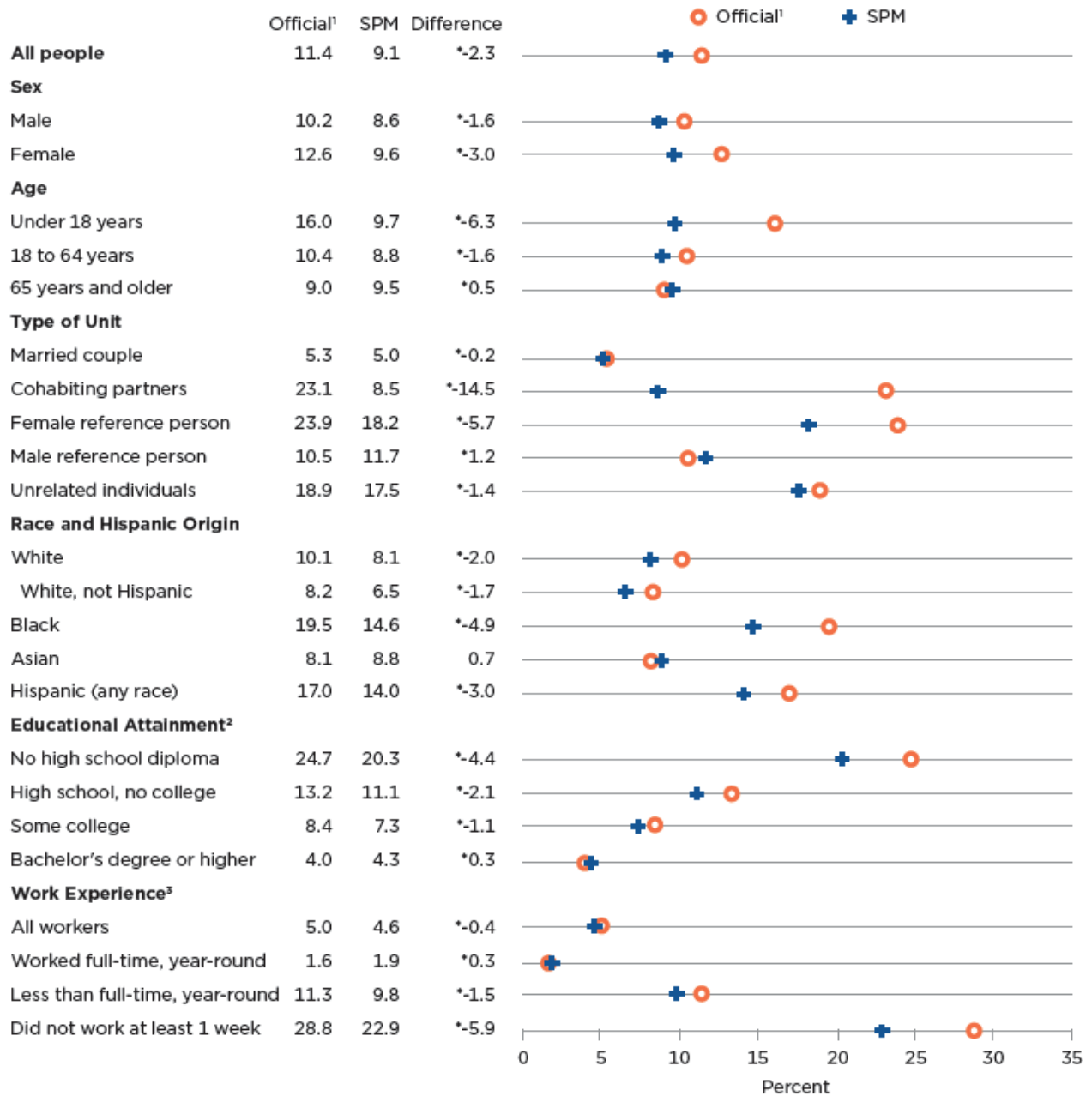
Change in Number of People In Poverty After Including Each Element: 2020
(In millions)



programs and COVID-19 economic relief legislation had the most significant impact for females, children ages 0-17, unmarried partners, POC, persons with less than a high school diploma, and the unemployed.

³¹ US Census Bureau, "The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2020", 09/2021

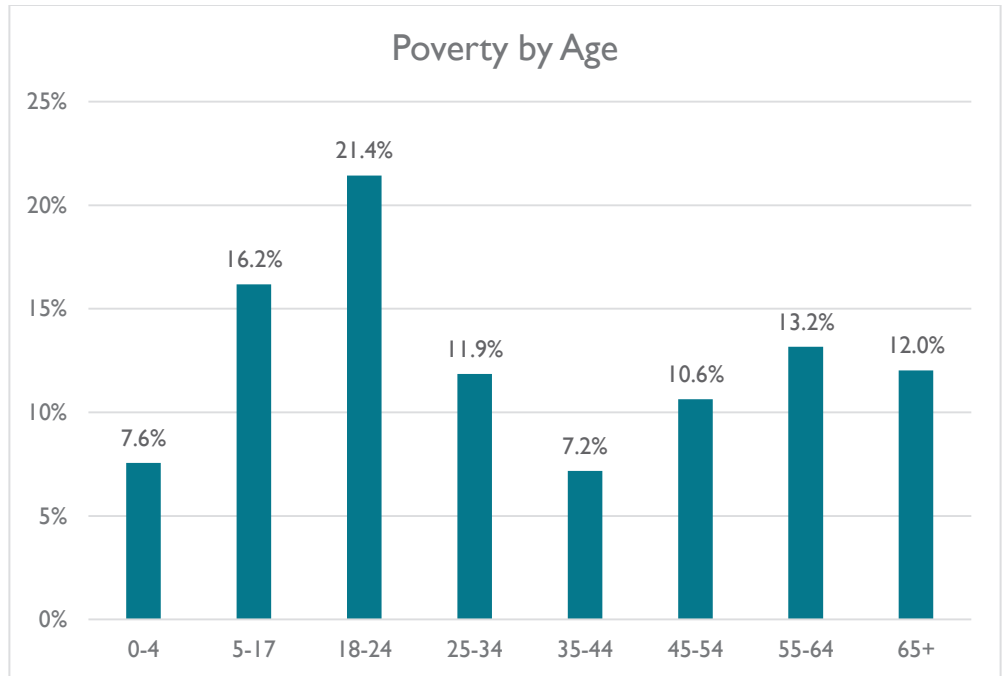
Percentage of People In Poverty by Different Poverty Measures: 2020



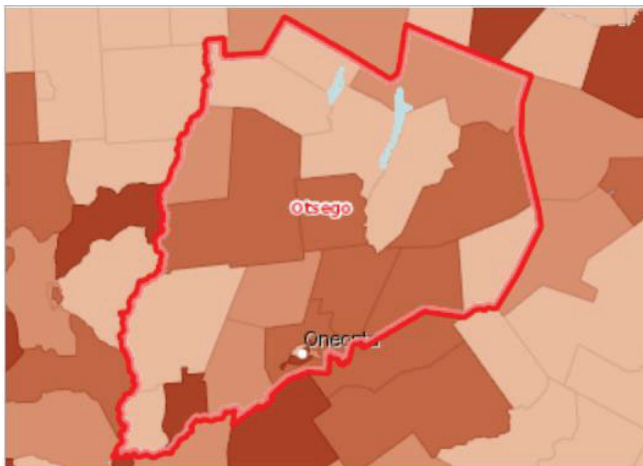
Economically Disadvantaged Populations: The following diagrams offer a summary of demographics of low-income and economically disadvantaged populations living in Otsego County³².

³² US Census Bureau, 2020: ACS 5-Year Estimates

Of all persons living below the FPL, persons aged 18-24 make up over one-fifth of the low-income population in Otsego County, followed by children under age 18 with a combined rate of 23.8%



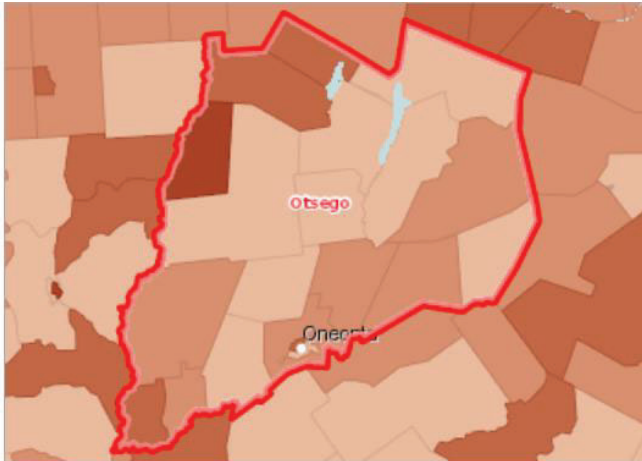
Among children age 0-4 living in poverty, the highest concentration are in Census Tract 5916.01 which encompasses the villages of Wells Bridge and Unadilla (40.24%) and Census Tract 5911 in the City of Oneonta (39.37%). Respectively, these areas are home to 33 and 50 children under age 5 who live in poverty.



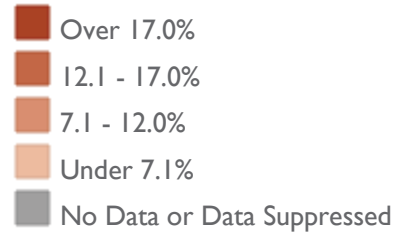
Population Below the Poverty Level, Children (Age 0-4), Percent by Tract, ACS 2016-20

- Over 37.0%
- 27.1 - 37.0%
- 17.1 - 27.0%
- Under 17.1%
- No Data or Data Suppressed

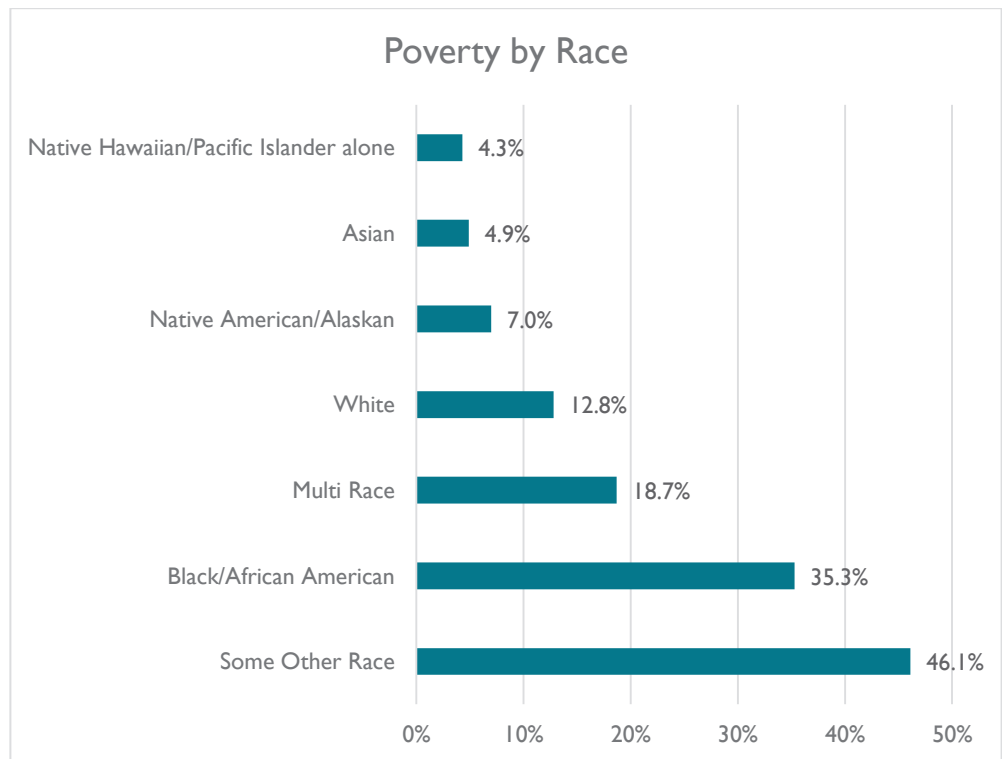
The greatest concentration of persons age 65+ living in poverty reside in north-west corner of Otsego County. The township of Edmeston (Census Tract 5904.01) has the highest concentration at a rate of 18.57% (n=65), followed by neighboring townships of Exeter (Census Tract 5903.02) at 16.67% (n=58), and Richfield (Census Tract 5903.01) at 12.31% (n=49). Additionally, there are 29 elderly persons living near Hartwick College in the City of Oneonta (Census Tract 5917) at a rate of 14.95%.



Population Below the Poverty Level, Senior (Age 65+), Percent by Tract, ACS 2016-20



Poverty broken down by racial cohorts shows that persons of “Some Other” race have the highest rate of poverty in Otsego County at 46.1%, followed by Black (35.3%), and Multi-Race persons (18.7%).



The largest percentage of persons living in poverty in Otsego County are Whites (90.2%), followed by Black/African American (4.1%), persons identifying Two or More races (3.5%) and some “Other” race (1.7%). Among the overall population, Hispanic/Latino persons comprise 5.3% of persons living in poverty in Otsego County; however, of those living in poverty 23% identify as Hispanic/Latino population of any race.

Rates of poverty among age groups by race are noted in the charts below. **Among all youth living in poverty, children of Some Other Race, Non-Hispanic/Latino children age 0-4, and Hispanic/Latino youth age**

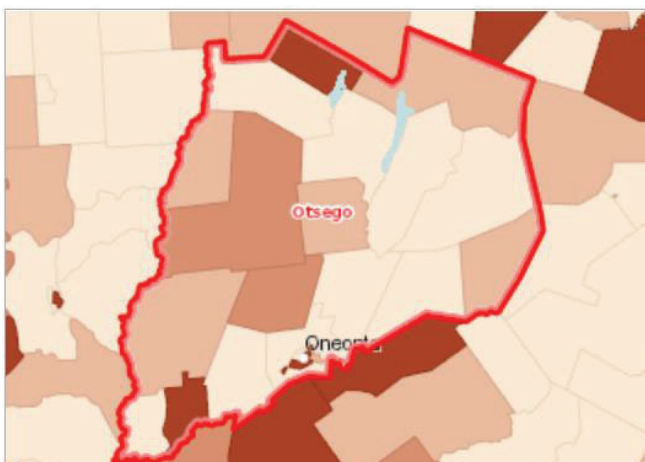
5-17 have the highest rates of poverty. Among adults, Black/African American and those identified as Hispanic/Latino have the highest rates of poverty in Otsego County.

Poverty by Age and Race and Ethnicity (2020)							
Age	White	Black	Asian	Some Other Race	Multiple Races	Hispanic-Latino	Non-Hispanic Latino
0-4	22.85% n=488	0.00% n=0	0.00% n=0	47.37% n=9	29.37% n=42	13.79% n=24	23.06% n=526
5-17	14.56% n=865	34.48% n=50	14.55% n=16	79.76% n=67	36.70% n=120	37.09% n=135	16.08% n=1,043
18-64	13.66% n=4,163	41.41% n=246	2.86% n=11	33.11% n=49	11.95% n=95	22.26% n=219	13.95% n=4,458
65+	7.25% n=865	8.62% n=5	0.00% n=0	0.00% n=0	0.00% n=0	3.47% n=5	7.18% n=870

It is estimated that 1,728 children aged 0-17 live below the poverty line in Otsego County at a rate of 18.6%.

Comparably, the New York State rate is 18.7% and the national rate is 17.5%. **The highest rates of childhood poverty are in Census Tracts 5903.1 in the town of Richfield (44.19%), 5916.01 in the Wells Bridge/Unadilla area (41.54%), and Tracts 5910 (43.32%) and 5911 (31.08%) in the City of Oneonta.**

The number of children in these areas are 213, 135, 146, and 101 respectively.

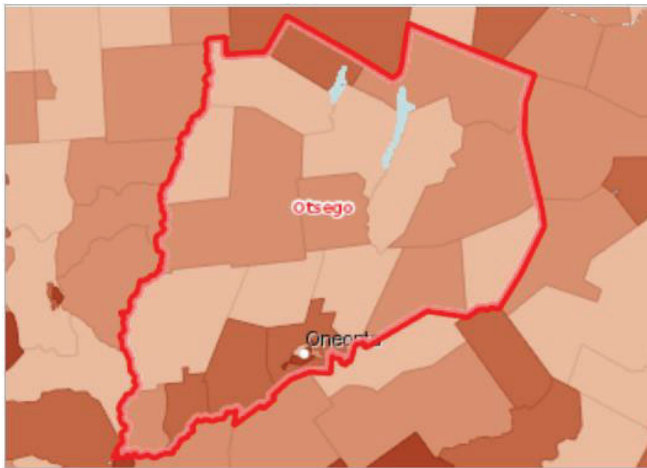


Population Below the Poverty Level, Children (Age 0-17), Percent by Tract, ACS 2016-20

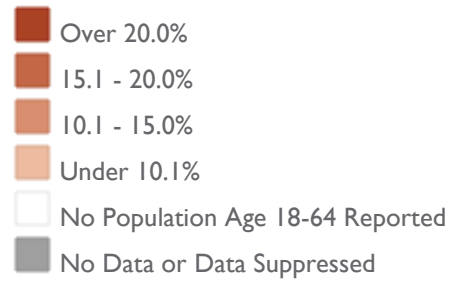
- Over 30.0%
- 22.6 - 30.0%
- 15.1 - 22.5%
- Under 15.1%
- No Data or Data Suppressed

It is estimated that there are 4,677 persons age 18-64 are living below the poverty line in Otsego County at a rate of 14.2% among all persons in this age cohort. This rate is higher than the New York State and national rates of 12.4% and 12.1% respectively. Like children age 17 and under, **Census Tracts 5910 (23.42%) and 5911 (33.55%) in the City of Oneonta have some of the highest rates of poverty among adults in Otsego County.** Census Tracts with adult poverty averaging between 15.1 - 20.0% surround the City of Oneonta, span west to east from Unadilla to the east-end of Oneonta and northerly into the town of Laurens. Additionally, like

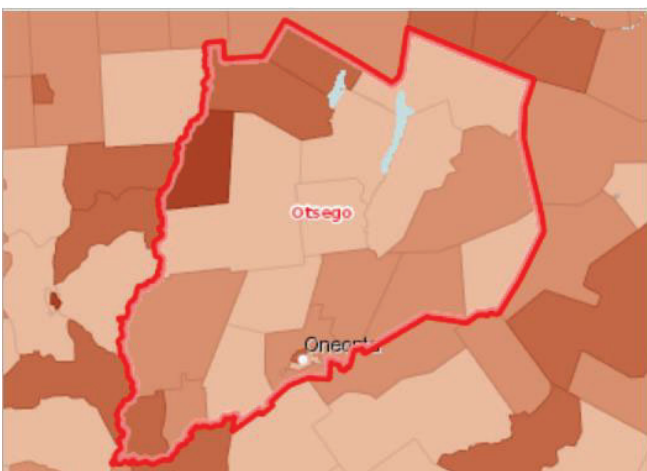
the child cohort age 0-17, adults living in Census Tract 5903.1 in the town of Richfield have a significantly high rate of poverty at 17.1%.



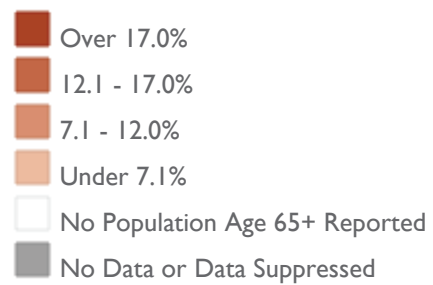
Population Below the Poverty Level, Adult (Age 18-64), Percent by Tract, ACS 2016-20



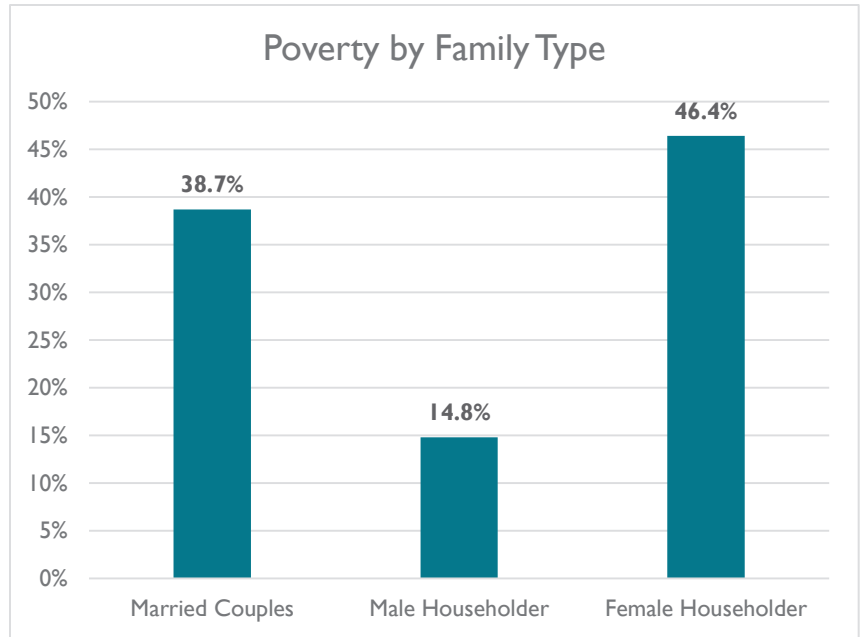
According to the American Community Survey, there are 875 persons age 65+ living in below the poverty line in Otsego County. This number equates to 7.1% of all persons within this age group across Otsego County. This rate is less than the New York State average of 11.3% and the national average of 9.3%. **The greatest concentration of low-income seniors are in the town of Edmeston** (Census Tract 5904.01) at a rate of 18.57% and 65 persons. Adjacent townships of Plainfield and Richfield have senior rates of poverty at 16.67% (n=58) and 12.31% (n=49) respectively. An additional significant pocket of senior poverty is within Census Tract 5917 in the City of Oneonta at a rate of 14.95% or 29 persons.



Population Below the Poverty Level, Senior (Age 65+), Percent by Tract, ACS 2016-20

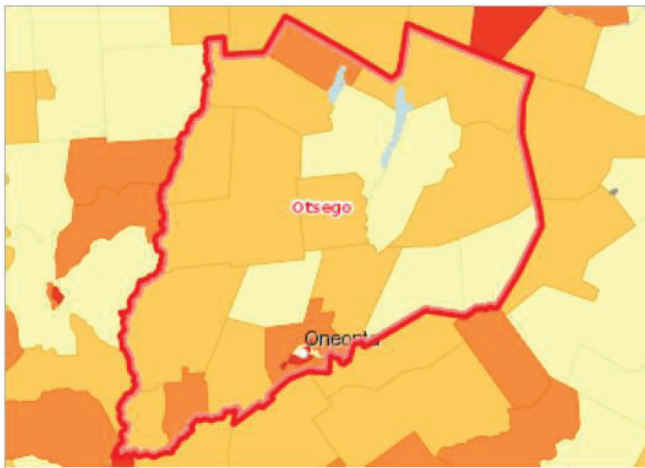


It is estimated that 13% or 3,081 households in Otsego County were living in poverty during 2020, compared to the New York State average of 13.5% and the national average of 12.5%. **Of all family households living in poverty, female-headed had the highest rate of poverty at 46.4%**, followed by and male headed households (38.7%) and married couples (14.8%),

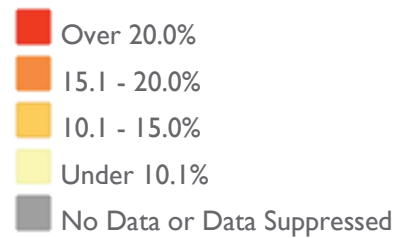


Among all household types in Otsego County, the highest rate of poverty is within the City of Oneonta (Census Tract 5911). This area has an

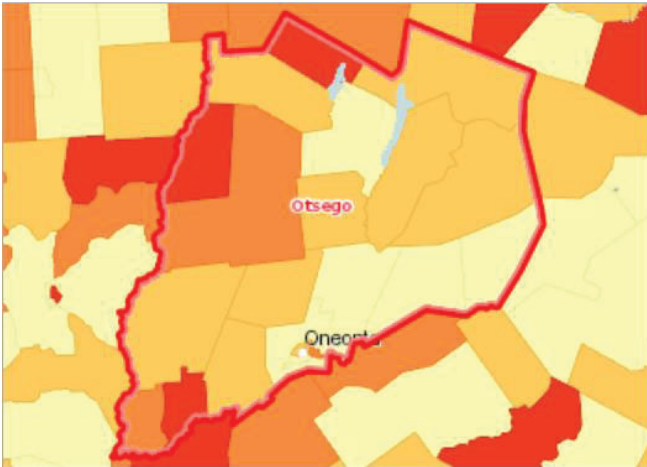
estimated 417 households living in poverty at a rate of 28.54%, followed by the Town of Richfield (17.74%, n=152), Unadilla/Wells Bridge area (15.09%, n=120), and the Town of Oneonta (15.01%, n=319).



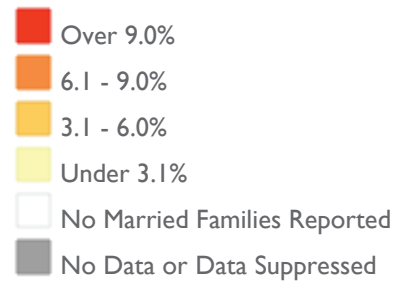
Households Living Below the Poverty Level, Percent by Tract, ACS 2016-20



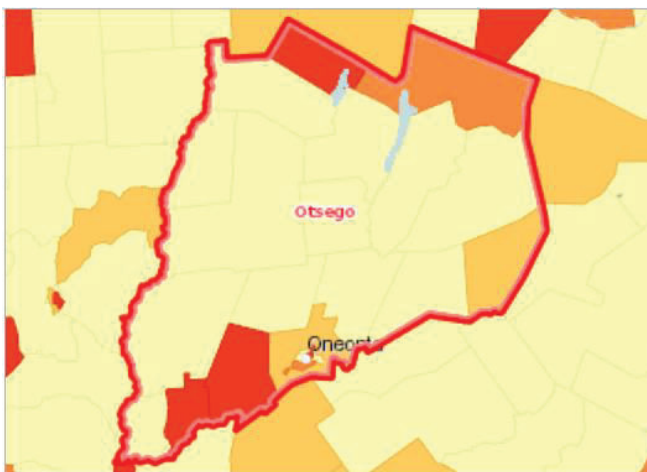
Among all married family households in Otsego County, the highest rate of poverty is the town of Richfield (Census Tract 5903.01) at 11.17%, followed by Edmeston (Census Tract 5904.01) at 9.95%, and the Unadilla/Wells Bridge area (Census Tract 5916.01) at 9.33%. In total, these area represent 74 married households living in poverty.



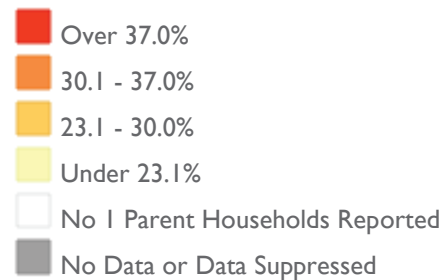
Married Family Households Living Below the Poverty Level, Percent by Tract, ACS 2016-20



Otsego County has a concentration of low-income single parent family households living in the Otsego/Wells Bridge/Unadilla area. In total, these communities, which encompass Census Tracts 5914 and 5916, have 98 single parent households at a rate of 37.77% and 40.91% respectively. Census Tract 5903, containing the town of Richfield, has 63 single parent households at a rate of 38.41%. **The area with the greatest number and rate of single family households is Census Tract 5910 in the City of Oneonta with 147 households and a rate of 62.82%.**

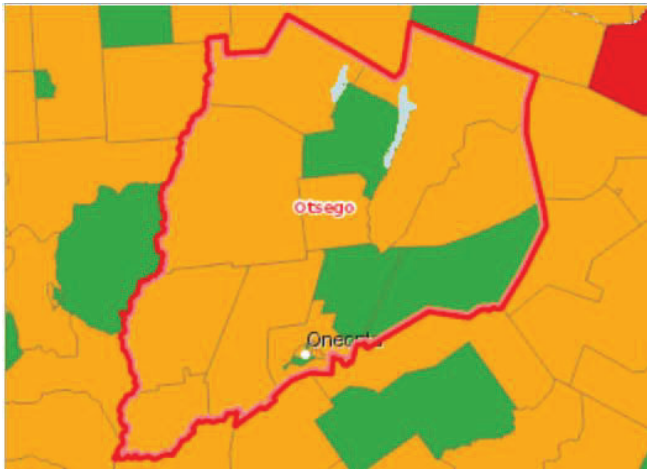


Single Parent Family Households Living Below the Poverty Level, Percent by Tract, ACS 2016-20



Vulnerable Communities: In 2021, the Census Bureau released a new product to estimate the risk and impact of disasters, such as COVID-19, would have on communities across the nation. The Community Resilience Estimates (CRE) determines at-risk populations based on several factors including: poverty; single head of household; overcrowded housing; communication barriers; unemployment; presence of a disability; lack of health insurance; persons age 65+; households without a vehicle; and households without broadband internet. **Within Otsego County, 26.15% of residents have 3 or more vulnerability risk factors.** This rate is greater than the New York State (25.51%) and national rate (21.57%).

Otsego County townships ranked as having the greatest risk are Otsego (Census Tract 5902.02) which encompasses Fly Creek and the village of Cooperstown; Worcester/Schenevus (Census Tract 5907); Milford (Census Tract 5905); and the City of Oneonta (Census Tract 5911 and 5913).



Community Resilience Estimates - Predominant Risk Factor by Tract, Census CRE 2019

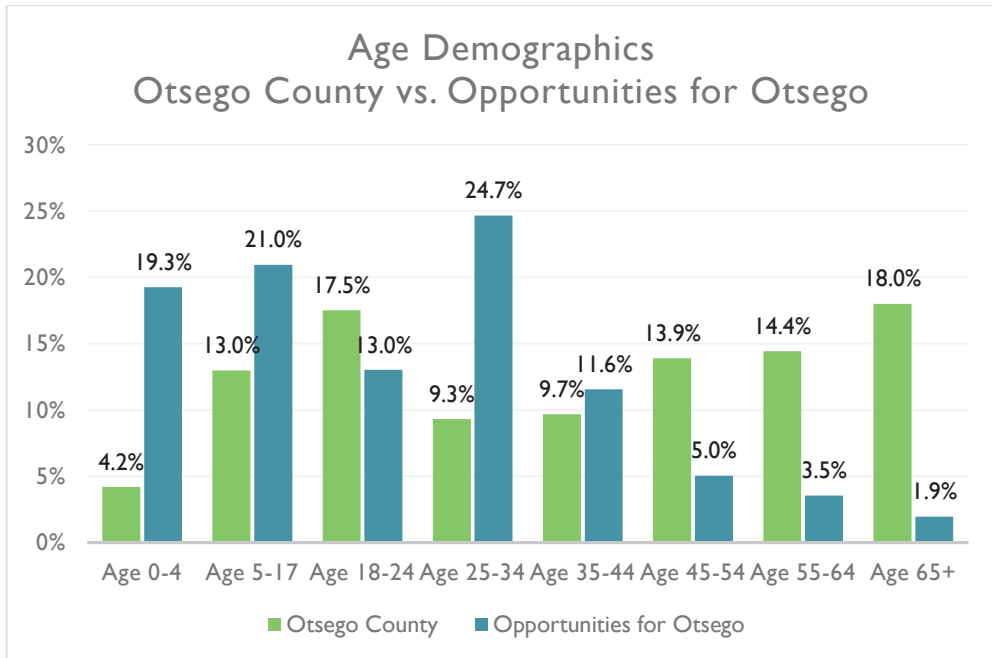
- Population with 3+ Risk Factors
- Population with 1-2 Risk Factors
- Population with 0 Risk Factors
- No Data or Data Suppressed

Key facts of the 2019 Community Resilience Estimates for Equity for all persons in Otsego County, based on 2019 Census population estimates, are noted below.

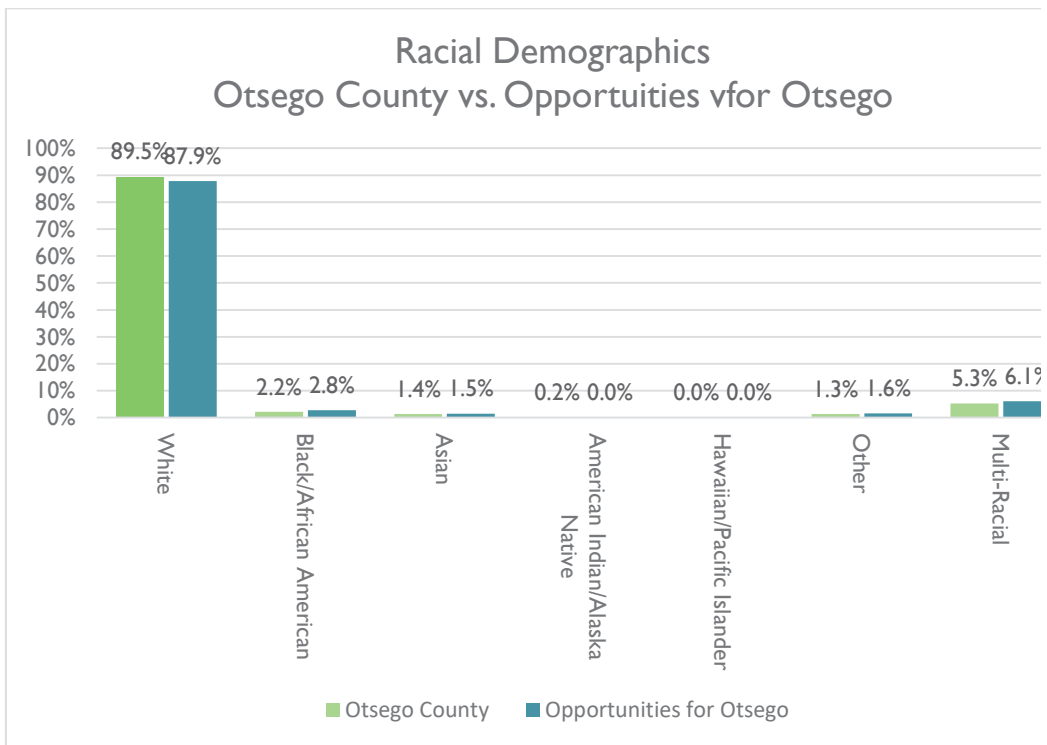
Community Resilience for Equity Key Factors (Otsego County)						
Poverty	Age 65+	Disability	No Vehicle	Female HOH	Male HOH	No Broadband
14.9%	20.6%	14.7%	8.8%	3.3%	1.8%	20.7%

Opportunities for Otsego - Client Demographics: As the primary provider of services to Otsego County’s low-income sector, Opportunities for Otsego is recognized as the local authority on poverty. Through an agency-wide integrated client management database, Opportunities for Otsego maintains demographic information on low-income individuals and households accessing services. Following is a comparative analysis of Opportunities for Otsego client data from the period 10/2020-9/2021 and Otsego County population demographics.

Age groups served most through the programs and services of Opportunities for Otsego are persons age 24-34, children from birth-4 and youth ages 5-17.



The demographics of the population served by Opportunities for Otsego mirrors that of Otsego County.



EMPLOYMENT

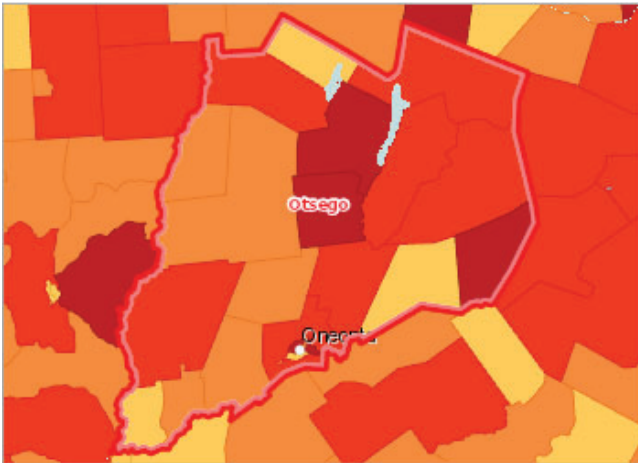
- The median household income in Otsego County increased nearly \$10,103 from 2017 to 2021, reaching \$60,523. Census tracts with the highest and lowest average median income directly adjacent to one another within the City of Oneonta.
- Private industry workers in Otsego County earned more on average than workers in all surrounding counties except Chenango. Residents employed by the state and federal governments have higher weekly average wages than workers in local government and the private sector.
- Per the 2023 Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Wage Calculator, only a household with two working adults and no children living in Otsego County could sustain themselves on the current minimum wage without assistance from public assistance programs.
- The labor force in Otsego has been on a continual decline since 2010, with 5,100 persons leaving the labor force at a rate of -10.35%.
- In comparing 2018 tax returns with 2020, towns that seem to have been most impacted by COVID-related furloughs as based on the increase in the number of returns claiming unemployment insurance were East Worcester, West Oneonta, and Springfield Center.
- The number of available child care slots continues to be inadequate to meet the needs of working parents. Since 2017, there has been a loss of 15 Family and Group Day Care Providers and subsequent loss of 96 child care slots for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years and 29 school age care slots. There is a notable lack of child care providers in the northern portion of Otsego County.

Income Levels: Three common measures of income are median household income, per capita income, and average income per earner. All three measures from the 2017-2021 ACS for Otsego County are shown below. Income disparities by geography can be illustrated via comparisons with nation, state, county, and Census Tract data. In comparison to New York State and the nation, the average income in Otsego County is below average within each category. Additional disparities in income distribution within Otsego County are visualized in the map below. *The Census Bureau defines an earner as someone age 15 and older that receives any form of income, whether it be wages, salaries, benefits, or other type of income.*

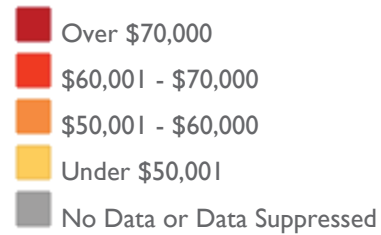
Household Income (2021)			
	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	Average Income Per Earner
Otsego County	\$60,523	\$32,226	\$41,326
New York	\$75,157	\$43,208	\$60,530
United States	\$69,021	\$37,638	\$53,104

The area with the highest median household income in Otsego County is Census Tract 5917 within the City of Oneonta at \$87,792. There is secondary concentration of wealth in the townships of Otsego (Census Tract 5902.02) and Worcester (Census Tract 5907.02) and at averages of \$84,583 and \$75,682 respectively. In contrast,

townships with the lowest median household income are Unadilla (Census Tract 5916.02) at \$43,806, Census Tract 5911 in the City of Oneonta at \$46,625, Richfield (Census Tract 5903.01) at \$47,066, and Schenevus (Census Tract 5907.01) at \$49,563. It is interesting to note that Census Tracts in Otsego County with the highest and lowest average median income are directly adjacent to one another within the City of Oneonta.

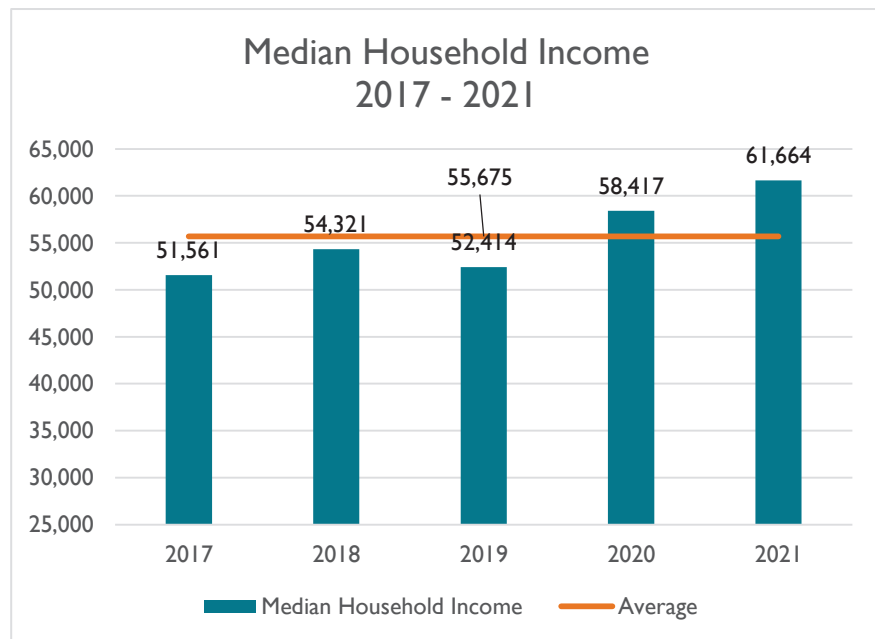


Median Household Income by Tract, ACS 2017-21



Median Household Income: The median household income in Otsego County increased nearly \$10,103 from 2017 to 2021³³. This rate of change kept up with inflation over this period. Per the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the

buying power of \$51,561 in 2017 is equivalent to the purchasing power of about \$57,190 in 2021. In comparison, the buying power of the 2021 median household income of \$61,664 has the same buying power of \$69,247 in 2023³⁴. “This means that today’s prices are 1.24 times as high as average prices since 2017, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics consumer price index. A dollar today only



buys 80.645% of what it could buy back then.”³⁵ **High inflation tends to “worsen inequality or poverty**

³³ US Census Bureau, [Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates](#)

³⁴ https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm

³⁵ <https://www.in2013dollars.com/us/inflation/2016?amount=1#:~:text=The%20dollar%20had%20an%20average,Labor%20Statistics%20consumer%20price%20index.>

because it hits income and savings harder for poorer or middle-income households than for wealthy households. Households that have recently escaped poverty could be pushed back into it by rising inflation”³⁶.

On average, the median income for all households from 2017 to 2021 was \$55,675. In comparison, the median household income Otsego County has been consistently higher than neighboring counties, except for Madison, Oneida, and Schoharie counties, over the five year period. Beginning in 2019, the median income of households in Herkimer County began rising above Otsego County levels³⁷.

Median Household Income (2017-2021)					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Otsego	\$ 51,254	\$ 54,121	\$ 54,028	\$ 56,171	\$ 60,523
Chenango	\$ 48,567	\$ 50,595	\$ 52,002	\$ 51,756	\$ 55,690
Delaware	\$ 47,921	\$ 48,827	\$ 49,544	\$ 49,945	\$ 52,757
Herkimer	\$ 49,077	\$ 51,862	\$ 54,646	\$ 58,438	\$ 60,561
Madison	\$ 58,365	\$ 60,228	\$ 61,633	\$ 61,176	\$ 63,312
Montgomery	\$ 47,449	\$ 45,837	\$ 49,462	\$ 50,146	\$ 53,533
Oneida	\$ 51,316	\$ 53,844	\$ 56,027	\$ 59,113	\$ 61,733
Schoharie	\$ 51,842	\$ 53,989	\$ 57,714	\$ 58,926	\$ 64,220

Wages: Average weekly wages for private industry workers and local government employees in Otsego County and those in surrounding counties are provided in the table below. During the first quarter of 2022, **private industry workers in Otsego County earned more on average than workers in all surrounding counties except Chenango. In comparison, wages of local government employees in Otsego County only surpassed those in Delaware and Chenango counties.** In addition, an estimated 1,649 Otsego County residents are employed by the state and federal government. These workers had higher weekly average wages than workers in local government and the private sector. Weekly salaries for these sectors are \$1,499 (State) and \$1,102 (Federal)³⁸.

³⁶ “Inflation could wreak vengeance on the world’s poor”, Brookings Institute, 03.18.2022

³⁷ US Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimates, Table S1901

³⁸ <https://data.bls.gov/> Quarterly Census of Employment and Wags, Employment and Wages Data Viewer

Average Weekly Wage: 2022 First Quarter				
	Private Industry		Local Government	
	Total Employed	Average Week Wage	Total Employed	Average Week Wage
Otsego	16,713	\$ 998	2,865	\$ 840
Chenango	12,349	\$ 1,082	3,096	\$ 814
Delaware	9,667	\$ 991	3,099	\$ 823
Herkimer	11,312	\$ 805	3,680	\$ 1,019
Madison	15,855	\$ 900	3,404	\$ 886
Montgomery	15,772	\$ 917	2,389	\$ 962
Oneida	72,941	\$ 965	15,747	\$ 918
Schoharie	5,361	\$ 780	1,819	\$ 923
New York	7,646,396	\$ 2,053	1,064,324	\$ 1,408

Benefit Cliff: In an effort to improve worker wages, legislation was enacted in the 2016-17 New York State budget to gradually increase the minimum wage to \$15/hour for all industries and \$10/hour for tipped workers. The mandated yearly bump in hourly wages helps to address the rising cost-of-living; however, has unintended consequences for workers receiving publicly-funded benefits such as food, childcare, housing assistance, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. Eligibility for public benefits is often means-tested, therefore **small increases in earned income could cause low-income families to lose some or all of their essential public benefits, leaving them worse off despite earning more. This phenomenon, coined the “Benefit Cliff”, disproportionately impacts Black and Hispanic families and often traps families in poverty instead of lifting them out of it³⁹.**

Research based on 2018 American Community Survey data found that a 10% increase in median wages for Black and Hispanic families resulted in greater income gains compared to Asian and White families, thus posing a greater risk for losing essential public benefits.

Living Wage: A living wage is the hourly rate that an adult must earn to support their family if they are the sole provider and are working full-time. At the time of this report, the general worker minimum wage in Upstate New York was \$14.20/hour, except for fast food workers employed at chain restaurants with over 30 locations, whose

³⁹ Koball, H., Growing Pains: How Benefit Cliffs Can Derail Government Support, 05.12.2021 (<https://spotlightonpoverty.org/spotlight-exclusives/growing-pains-how-benefit-cliffs-can-derail-government-support>)

minimum wage was increased to \$15/hour on July 1, 2021⁴⁰. Come January 2024, the New York State minimum wage will be raised to \$15.00 for non-tipped employees with equivalent increase for tipped employees. “In 2025 and 2026, the minimum wage will increase by an additional \$0.50 in each year, after which the State's minimum wage would increase at a rate determined by the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the Northeast Region⁴¹”. Despite these increases, many minimum-wage workers in Otsego County cannot afford basic family expenses (e.g. food, childcare, healthcare, housing, transportation, broadband) plus all relevant taxes. According to the 2023 Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Wage Calculator, **only a household with two working adults and no children living in Otsego County could sustain themselves on the current minimum wage.**

Household Composition	1 Adult, 0 Children	1 Adult, 1 Child	1 Adult, 2 Children	1 Adult, 3 Children	2 Adults (1 Working), 0 Children	2 Adults (1 Working), 1 Child	2 Adults (1 Working), 2 Children	2 Adults (1 Working), 3 Children	2 Working Adults, 0 Children	2 Working Adults, 1 Child	2 Working Adults, 2 Children	2 Working Adults, 3 Children
Living Wage	\$16.00	\$32.68	\$42.69	\$56.28	\$25.11	\$30.90	\$35.78	\$39.66	\$12.56	\$18.29	\$23.57	\$28.36
Poverty Wage*	\$6.53	\$8.80	\$11.07	\$13.34	\$8.80	\$11.07	\$13.34	\$15.61	\$4.40	\$5.54	\$6.67	\$7.81
* The poverty rate is typically quoted as gross annual income, but has been converted it to an hourly wage for the sake of comparison.												
Minimum Wage General Worker	\$14.20	\$14.20	\$14.20	\$14.20	\$14.20	\$14.20	\$14.20	\$14.20	\$14.20	\$14.20	\$14.20	\$14.20
Minimum Wage Fast Food Worker	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00

⁴⁰ <https://dol.ny.gov/minimum-wage-0>

⁴¹ <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-historic-agreement-increase-new-yorks-minimum-wage-and-index>

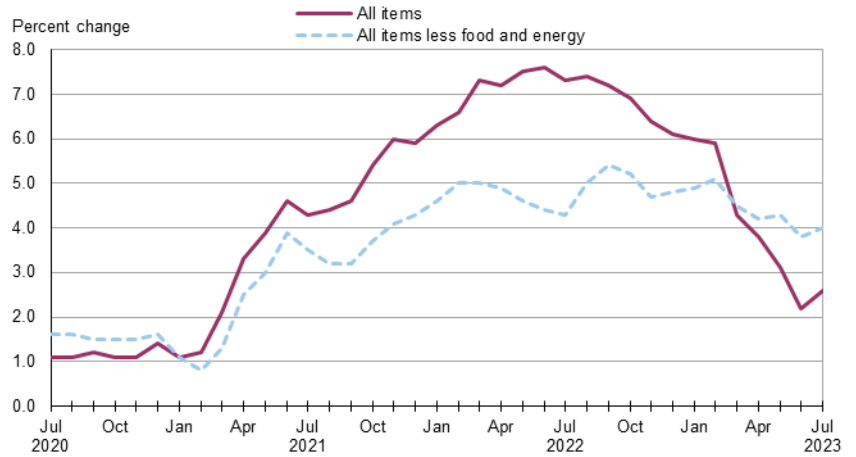
Consumer Price Index: The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by consumers for goods and services. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, the Northeast CPI-U rose 2.6% from July 2022 to July 2023, well below the recent peak of 7.6% in June 2022⁴².

Changes per commodity as of July 2023 were +4.0% for all items less food and energy; -13.6% for energy; and +4.6% for food⁴³.

Increases in the CPI can be detrimental for people living at the poverty threshold, as “they likely have the least ability to adjust their consumption patterns...Even at

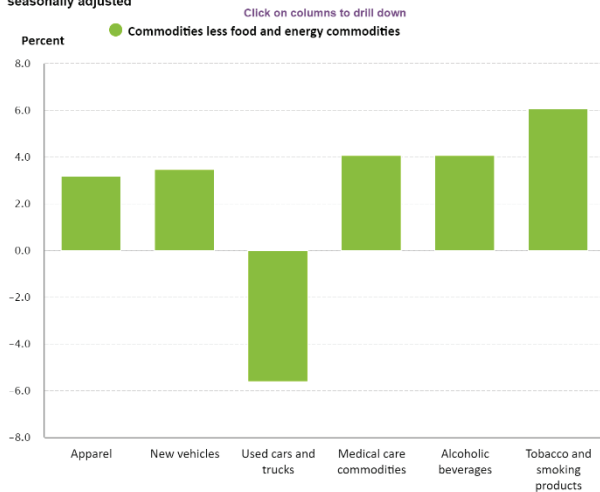
twice the poverty level large numbers of people in America are unable to make basic purchases like paying their utility bills. Households that are skipping basic necessities are unlikely to spend a large percentage of their budget on surplus items that they can easily cut back on. Second, low-income people in the United States may have fewer options for comparison shopping. There are many instances where living in poverty forces people to spend more on basic necessities than wealthier Americans spend. Issues like lack of transportation make it more difficult to shop at stores with the most competitive prices or the greatest variety of options. For example, many low-income Americans lack access to fresh foods. It is irrelevant for

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Northeast region, July 2020–July 2023



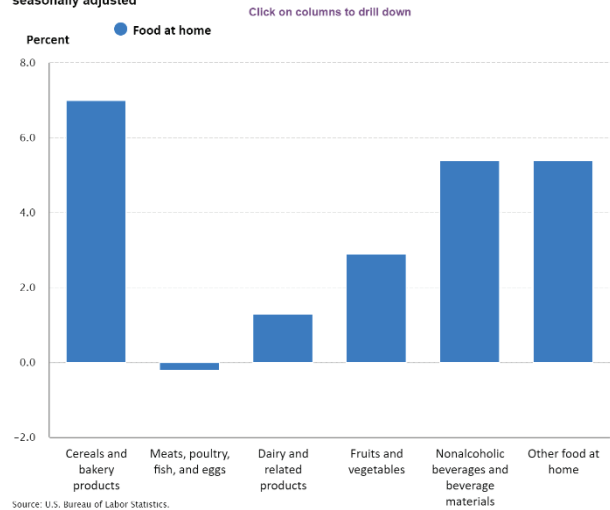
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

12-month percentage change, Consumer Price Index, selected categories, July 2023, not seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

12-month percentage change, Consumer Price Index, selected categories, July 2023, not seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

⁴² www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic/data/consumerpriceindexhistorical_northeast_table.htm

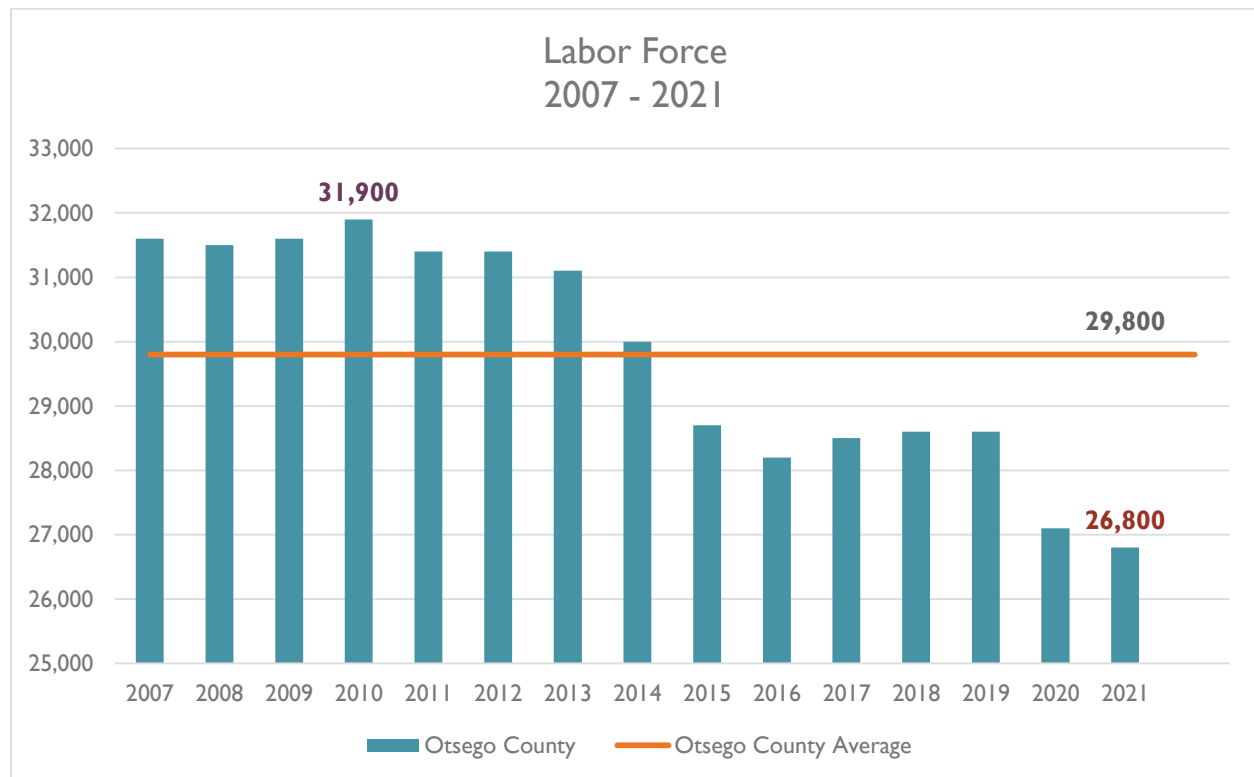
⁴³ https://www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic/news-release/consumerpriceindex_northeast.htm

people living in food deserts whether the price of fresh produce is rising or falling, because they are less able to buy fresh produce anyway.”⁴⁴

Chart Source: <https://www.bls.gov/charts/consumer-price-index/consumer-price-index-by-category.htm>

Labor Force: The civilian labor force (age 16 years or older) in Otsego County as of September 2022 was 27,800 persons; a decrease of 800 persons from the same period just 5 years ago and 6.7% less than the average annual number of persons in the labor force over the period 2007-2021. **The labor force in Otsego has been on a continual decline since 2010, with 5,100 persons leaving the labor force at a rate of -10.35%.** Based on Census Bureau age demographics from 2010 to 2020, one would expect this trend to continue.

Comparatively, neighboring counties have also experienced a decrease in its labor force: Chenango (-8.86%); Delaware (-16%); Herkimer (-12.97%); Madison (-9.55%); Montgomery (-8.75%); Oneida (-10.77%); and Schoharie (-8.81%). The following table provides a comparison of the average number of persons in the labor force in Otsego County for the 15-year period 2007-2021⁴⁵.



Per the 2020 “On the Map” Census report, among adult Otsego County residents employed in the private sector, 55.2% (n=9,445) work outside of Otsego County, while 44.8% (n=7,669) live and work within Otsego County.

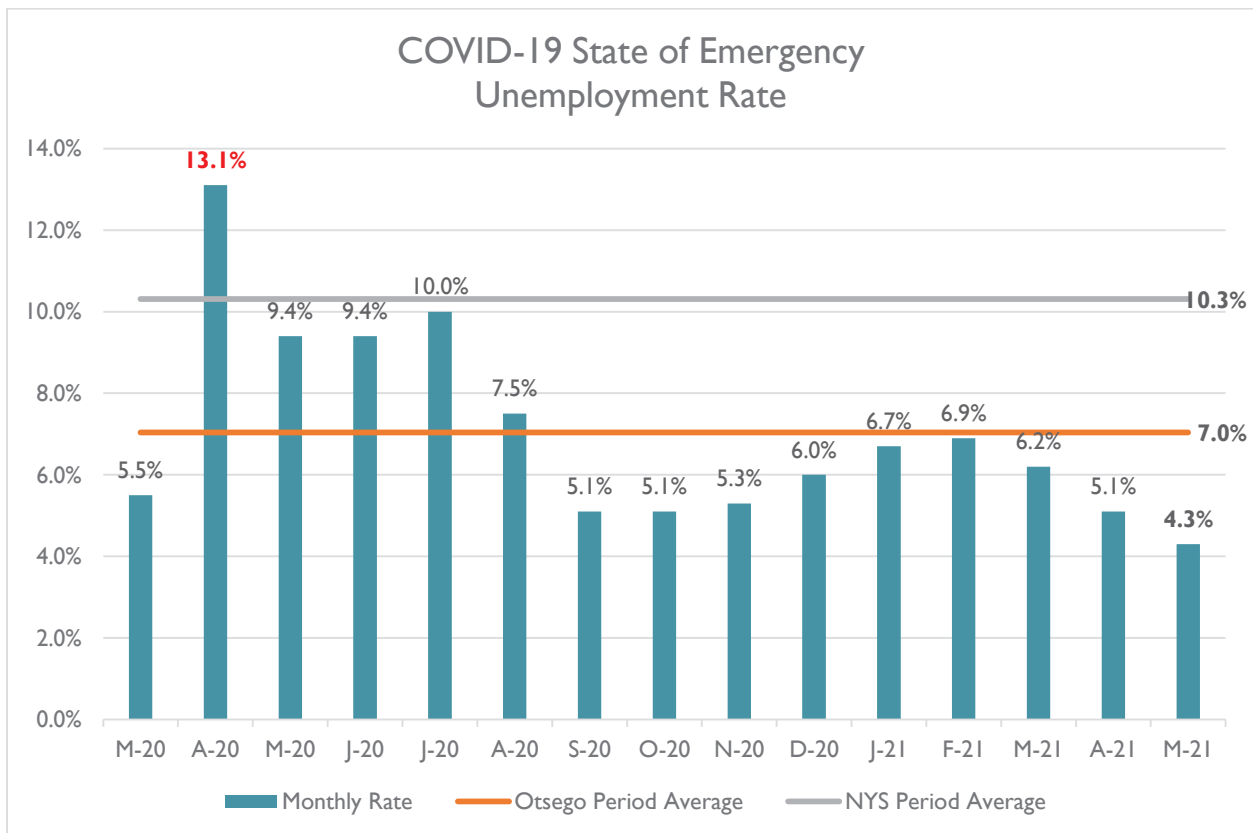
⁴⁴ Community Service Society of New York (CSSNY) Testimony: CPI-U is the Best Measure of Inflation for Low-Income Households, 06.21.2019 - <https://www.cssny.org/news/entry/testimony-cpi-u-best-inflation-measure-low-income-poverty>

⁴⁵ <https://dol.ny.gov/local-area-unemployment-statistics>

Comparatively, there are an estimated 7,598 persons who live outside Otsego County that are employed in private sector jobs within the county⁴⁶.

Unemployment: The July 2023 unemployment rate in Otsego County was 3.3%, equating to 900 persons who are not working but are able, available, and actively looking for work or individuals waiting to be recalled from a layoff. The New York State unemployment rate during the same month was 4.1% and 3.8% nationally⁴⁷.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate of unemployment across the nation spiked due to forced business closures. The 15-month period in which New York State was in a state of emergency skewed unemployment data from typical trends. From March 2020-May 2021, the average unemployment rate in Otsego County was 7.0% compared to 10.3% statewide. The highest county unemployment rate during the state of emergency was 13.1% in April 2020 when New York State Executive Orders to reduce the in-person workforce by 100%, except for non-essential businesses, took full effect. During April 2020, approximately 3,400 people were unemployed; more than double the average number of unemployed during April in the five years prior.



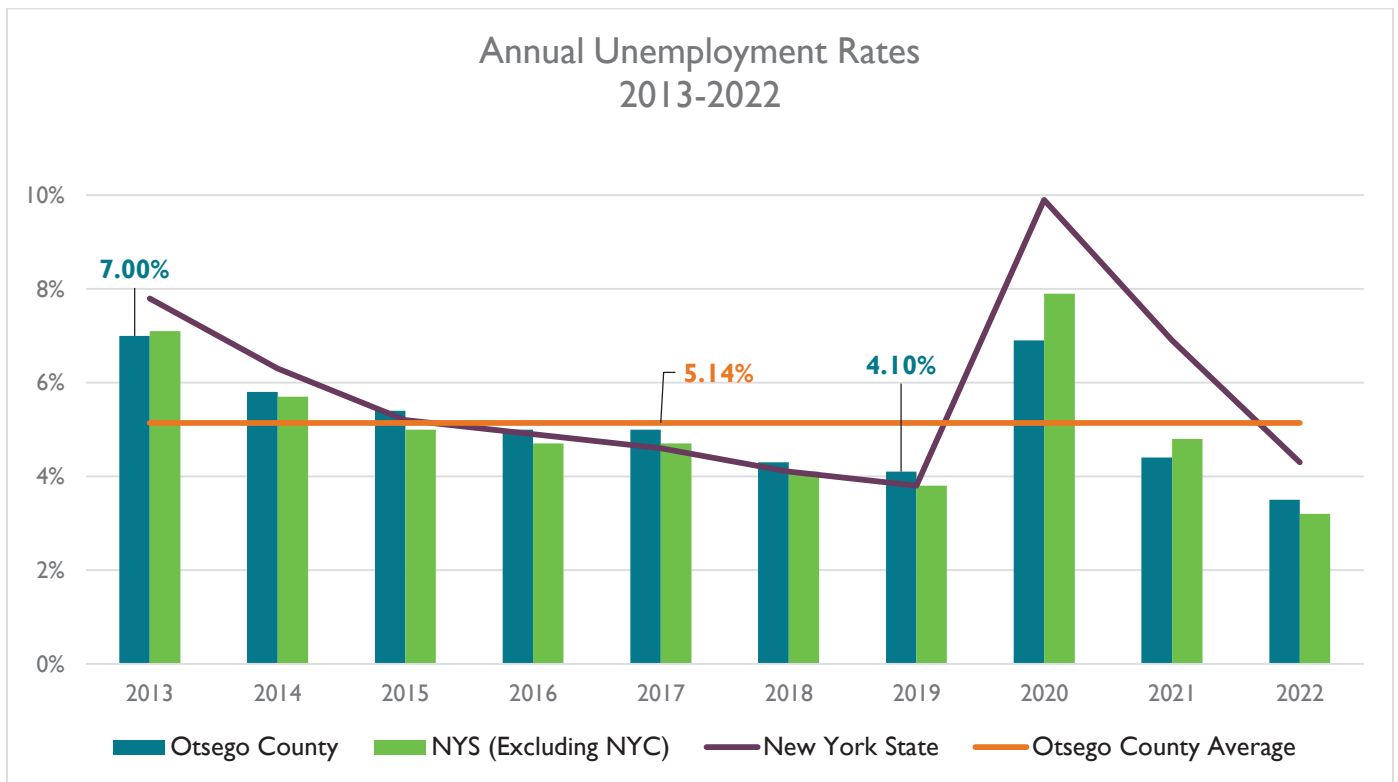
SOURCE: <https://statistics.labor.ny.gov/laus.asp>

⁴⁶ <https://onthemap.ces.census.gov/>

⁴⁷ <https://dol.ny.gov/local-area-unemployment-statistics>

Aside from the sudden and unexpected loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic and New York State emergency declaration, unemployed persons seeking benefits faced multiple barriers in completing claims such as busy phone lines, dropped phone calls, website technical issues, and delayed payments. Frustrations from applicants made their way to state lawmakers. Senate Deputy Majority Leader Michael Gianaris summarized frustrations voiced by constituents in a statement made to The Buffalo News in April 2020: “People need money now. They have no income now. They’re being pressured to pay rent now. And to tell them they’ll get their money weeks or months from now is not an answer when people have to feed their families.”⁴⁸ Challenges accessing unemployment benefits were echoed in Opportunities for Otsego COVID-19 Supplemental Needs Assessment, in which 40% of survey respondent who applied for unemployment after March 13, 2020 waited one month or more to receive any benefits.

The 10-year average annual unemployment rate in Otsego County from the years 2013-2022 is 5.14%. Disregarding the unemployment rate during the COVID-19 pandemic, the year with the greatest unemployment was 2013, with a rate of 7.0%. The lowest unemployment rate was in 2019 at 4.1%; the lowest annual rate since 1990. Until the COVID-19 pandemic, the unemployment rate in Otsego County was on a consistent downward trend since 2013.



SOURCE: <https://statistics.labor.ny.gov/laus.asp>

⁴⁸ The Buffalo News, *Unemployment benefit delays raise ire of jobless, state lawmakers*, 04.11.2020 (https://buffalonews.com/news/local/unemployment-benefit-delays-raise-ire-of-jobless-state-lawmakers/article_8dd5795d-bae9-55bf-b089-9473775668d1.html)

Unemployment Insurance: According to IRS 2020 tax return data, there were 4,290 Otsego County tax returns reporting unemployment compensation as income; accounting for 17.3% of all returns filed. In comparison, 910 and 900 tax returns noted unemployment compensation as income in 2018 and 2019 respectively; accounting for only 3.7% and 3.6% of all submitted tax returns. Zip codes and township with households claiming unemployment compensation in are ranked in the table below. Townships with over 20% of tax returns reporting UI in 2020 include East Worcester; Morris; Unadilla; Cherry Valley; and Laurens⁴⁹.

Zip Code	Township	Unemployment Compensation		Total Number of Tax Returns
		Percent	Number	
13315	Burlington Flats	16.9%	100	590
13320	Cherry Valley	20.9%	190	910
13326	Cooperstown	15.2%	390	2,560
12064	East Worcester	20.8%	50	240
13335	Edmeston	15.1%	110	730
13337	Fly Creek	10.0%	40	400
13776	Gilbertsville	17.9%	50	280
13348	Hartwick	17.5%	110	630
13796	Laurens	20.7%	120	580
12116	Maryland	19.3%	160	830
13807	Milford	16.9%	100	590
13808	Morris	21.5%	170	790
13810	Mount Vision	16.1%	90	560
13820	Oneonta	17.9%	1,390	7,780
13825	Otego	20.0%	310	1,550
13439	Richfield Springs	6.4%	110	1,720
13450	Roseboom	0.0%	0	110

⁴⁹ <https://www.irs.gov/statistics/soi-tax-stats-individual-income-tax-statistics-2020-zip-code-data-soi>

12155	Schenevus	17.5%	140	800
13468	Springfield Center	18.2%	40	220
13849	Unadilla	21.9%	460	2,100
13485	West Edmeston	18.9%	100	530
13861	West Oneonta	19.4%	60	310

In comparing 2018 tax returns with 2020, towns that seem to have been most impacted by COVID-related furloughs as based on the increase in the number of returns claiming unemployment insurance are East Worcester (+20.8%); West Oneonta (+19.4%); and Springfield Center (+18.2%).

Industries: Per New York State 2019 Annual Industry Employment data, the top industries with the greatest employment in 2019 in Otsego County are health care and social assistance; retail trade; local government; accommodation and food services; state government; educational services; and manufacturing. Combined, these industries represent 77% of all employment in Otsego County. The following table provides a listing of industries in descending order by the percentage of residents employed and their average annual wage⁵⁰.

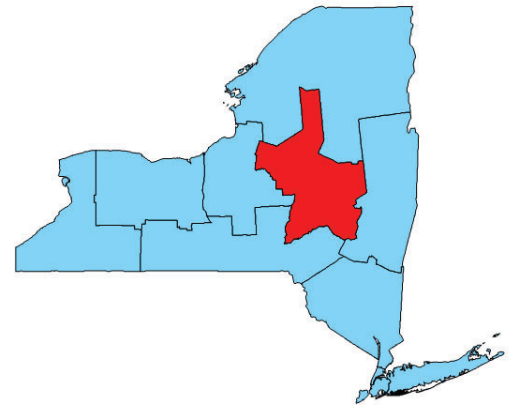
Industry Title	Average Employment	Percent of all Industries	Average Wage
Health Care and Social Assistance	5,917	24.9%	\$62,104
Retail Trade	2,963	12.5%	\$29,911
Local Government	2,802	11.8%	\$43,155
Accommodation and Food Services	2,581	10.9%	\$21,919
State Government	1,484	6.3%	\$57,343
Educational Services	1,344	5.7%	\$35,267
Manufacturing	1,185	5.0%	\$49,755

Fourth quarter employment data from 2020 shows a slight shift in industries with the greatest employment, with educational services slipping past manufacturing and finance and insurance sectors. Comparatively, educational

⁵⁰ <https://statistics.labor.ny.gov/ins.asp>

services employed 1,344 persons in 2019 and 959 in 2020⁵¹. This drop may attributed to furloughs and layoffs at public schools, higher education institutions, and other educational employers due to COVID-19.

Jobs in Demand: The New York State Department of Labor provides a real-time list of occupations that qualified jobseeker should have a reasonable expectation of obtaining employment in based on region. Occupations in demand across the Mohawk Valley as of November 2022 include: Carpenters; Cashiers; Customer Service Representatives; Dining Room, Cafeteria Attendants, and Bartender Helpers; Fast Food and Counter Workers; First-line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers; Food Preparation Workers; General and Operations Managers; Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers; Home Health and Personal Care Aides; Janitors and Cleaners; Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers; Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers; Office Clerks (General); Registered Nurses; Secretaries and Administrative Assistants; Stock Clerks and Order Fillers; Teaching Assistances (not postsecondary); and Waiters and Waitresses⁵².



Long Term Occupational Projections⁵³: The fastest growing and “Very Favorable” occupations in the Mohawk Valley over the period 2018-2028 are:

Title	Net Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Average Wage (2022)	Most Common Education	NYS Rate of Change
Home Health Aides	530	54.1%	192	N/A	High school diploma/HSED	65.9%
Personal Care Aides	2,870	43.7%	1,403	N/A	High school diploma/HSED	55.6%
Physician Assistants	70	36.8%	20	\$121,420	Master's degree	41.5%
Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary	120	36.4%	44	\$58,630	Doctoral or professional degree	27.9%
Physical Therapist Assistants	40	36.4%	20	\$55,460	Associate's degree	37.6%
Respiratory Therapists	60	33.3%	16	\$70,830	Associate's degree	30.1%
Weighers, Measurers, Checkers, and Samplers, Recordkeeping	30	33.3%	15	\$43,970	High school diploma/HSED	14.0%
Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	30	33.3%	11	\$97,680	High school diploma/HSED	12.3%
Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	20	33.3%	7	\$68,060	High school diploma/HSED	5.2%

⁵¹ NYS Department of Labor Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

⁵² <https://dol.ny.gov/jobs-demand-today>

⁵³ <https://dol.ny.gov/employment-projections>

Nurse Practitioners	130	32.5%	39	\$116,780	Master's degree	41.3%
Speech-Language Pathologists	80	30.8%	24	\$77,980	Master's degree	31.2%
Machine Feeders and Offbearers	60	30.0%	36	\$43,750	Less than high school diploma	8.6%
Information Security Analysts	30	30.0%	12	N/A	Bachelor's degree	34.3%
Interpreters and Translators	50	29.4%	25	\$50,780	Bachelor's degree	25.6%
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	350	28.7%	192	\$43,930	High school diploma/HSED	12.9%

Occupations projected to have the most openings in the Mohawk Valley over the period 2018-2028 due to turnover and/or an aging workforce are listed below.

Title	Net Change	Percent Change	Total Annual Openings	Median Wage (2022)	Required Education for Entry	NYS Rate of Change
Personal Care Aides	2,870	43.7%	1,403	N/A	High school diploma/HSED	55.6%
Cashiers	-680	-12.1%	928	\$29,320	No formal educational credential	-9.0%
Retail Salespersons	-310	-5.1%	830	\$34,550	No formal educational credential	-9.4%
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	300	6.7%	859	N/A	No formal educational credential	10.7%
Waiters and Waitresses	20	0.6%	620	\$43,760	No formal educational credential	3.1%
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	500	11.5%	655	\$34,170	No formal educational credential	15.0%
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	890	23.4%	679	\$40,040	No formal educational credential	9.5%
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	-220	-4.8%	479	\$41,720	High school diploma/HSED	-3.2%
Office Clerks, General	-80	-2.1%	443	\$37,540	High school diploma/HSED	-0.7%
Customer Service Representatives	0	0.0%	437	\$39,810	High school diploma/HSED	-0.9%

Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	0	0.0%	414	\$44,580	Some college, no degree	0.1%
Teacher Assistants	220	5.9%	427	N/A	Some college, no degree	9.1%
Nursing Assistants	320	10.5%	390	N/A	Postsecondary non-degree award	13.9%
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	110	4.5%	344	N/A	High school diploma/HSED	-1.2%
Registered Nurses	990	19.1%	402	\$78,330	Bachelor's degree	24.6%

Occupations projected to have the least growth and deemed “Very Unfavorable” in the Mohawk Valley over the period 2018-2028 are listed below:

Title	Net Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Median Wage (2022)	Required Education for Entry	NYS Rate of Change
Tire Repairers and Changers	-40	-22.2%	14	\$38,810	High school diploma/HSED	-15.4%
Office Machine Operators, Except Computer	-50	-19.2%	21	\$32,220	No formal educational credential	-19.4%
Travel Agents	-10	-16.7%	3	\$80,130	High school diploma/HSED	-14.1%
Switchboard Operators, Including Answering Service	-10	-16.7%	6	\$32,620	High school diploma/HSED	-10.8%
Postmasters and Mail Superintendents	-10	-16.7%	5	\$32,100	High school diploma/HSED	-10.3%
Vocational Education Teachers, Postsecondary	-10	-14.3%	8	N/A	High school diploma/HSED	-23.6%
Adult Basic and Secondary Education and Literacy Teachers and Instructors	-10	-14.3%	8	\$34,280	High school diploma/HSED	-18.0%
Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	-20	-12.5%	19	N/A	No formal educational credential	-10.5%
Computer Operators	-10	-12.5%	7	\$42,980	High school diploma/HSED	-13.8%

Photographers	-10	-11.1%	8	N/A	High school diploma/HSED	-22.5%
Editors	-10	-10.0%	12	\$34,010	High school diploma/HSED	-13.0%
Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters	-10	-9.1%	10	\$60,150	Bachelor's degree	-7.3%
Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers	-10	-9.1%	9	\$56,780	High school diploma/HSED	-11.2%
Dental Laboratory Technicians	-10	-7.7%	20	\$32,130	High school diploma/HSED	-7.8%
Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	-10	-7.7%	12	\$69,370	Postsecondary non-degree award	-1.8%

Occupations projected to have the greatest net loss of positions in the Mohawk Valley over the period 2018-2028 are noted below:

Title	Net Loss	Percent Loss	Average Annual Openings	Median Wage (2022)	Required Education for Entry	NYS Rate Change
Cashiers	-680	-12.1%	928	\$29,320	No formal educational credential	-9.0%
Retail Salespersons	-310	-5.1%	830	\$34,550	No formal educational credential	-9.4%
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	-220	-4.8%	479	\$41,720	High school diploma/HSED	-3.2%
Word Processors and Typists	-210	-37.5%	34	\$39,980	High school diploma/HSED	-34.3%
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other, Including Team Assemblers	-130	-9.8%	133	N/A	High school diploma/HSED	-11.9%
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	-110	-13.4%	74	\$70,770	High school diploma/HSED	-12.4%

First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	-110	-5.5%	202	\$47,610	High school diploma/HSED	-7.6%
Correctional Officers and Jailers	-100	-5.7%	141	\$69,190	High school diploma/HSED	-4.9%
Driver/Sales Workers	-90	-14.8%	56	\$35,180	High school diploma/HSED	-8.5%
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	-80	-11.9%	69	\$43,820	High school diploma/HSED	-12.9%
Office Clerks, General	-80	-2.1%	443	\$37,540	High school diploma/HSED	-0.7%
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	-70	-5.2%	120	\$44,950	Postsecondary non-degree award	-1.8%
Office Machine Operators, Except Computer	-50	-19.2%	21	\$32,220	No formal educational credential	-19.4%
Postal Service Mail Carriers	-50	-8.5%	37	\$54,820	High school diploma/HSED	-10.3%
Tire Repairers and Changers	-40	-22.2%	14	\$38,810	High school diploma/HSED	-15.4%

Long-Term Industry Employment Projections: Long-term industry employment projections offer valuable data on future employment trends. Industries projected to have the greatest growth in the Mohawk Valley over the period 2018-2028 are:

Industry Title	Employment 2018	Employment 2028	Net Change	Percent Change
Transportation and Warehousing				
Warehousing and Storage	4,370	6,830	2,460	56.3%
Couriers and Messengers	610	730	120	19.7%
Support Activities for Transportation	210	250	40	19.0%
Truck Transportation	1,570	1,840	270	17.2%
Retail Trade				
Nonstore Retailers	780	890	110	14.1%
Financial Activities				
Funds, Trusts, and Other Financial Vehicles	20	30	10	50.0%
Waste Management and Remediation Service	680	830	150	22.1%

Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,200	1,390	190	15.8%
Administrative and Support Services	4,110	4,740	630	15.3%
Health Care and Social Assistance				
Social Assistance	11,830	16,160	4,330	36.6%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	9,440	12,300	2,860	30.3%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	9,820	11,160	1,340	13.6%
Manufacturing				
Chemical Manufacturing	400	530	130	32.5%
Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	1,300	1,500	200	15.4%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting				
Crop Production	270	350	80	29.6%

Industries projected to have the least growth in the Mohawk Valley over the period 2018-2028 are:

Industry Title	Employment 2018	Employment 2028	Net Change	Percent Change
Manufacturing				
Apparel Manufacturing	170	100	-70	-41.2%
Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing	80	60	-20	-25.0%
Leather and Allied Product Manufacturing	450	340	-110	-24.4%
Paper Manufacturing	380	330	-50	-13.2%
Textile Product Mills	310	270	-40	-12.9%
Textile Mills	390	350	-40	-10.3%
Information				
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	510	370	-140	-27.5%
Telecommunications	640	490	-150	-23.4%
Retail Trade				
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	940	690	-250	-26.6%
Electronics and Appliance Stores	360	280	-80	-22.2%
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book, and Music Stores	690	540	-150	-21.7%
General Merchandise Stores	5,120	4,360	-760	-14.8%
Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores	550	500	-50	-9.1%
Other Services (except Government)				
Private Households	200	170	-30	-15.0%
Government				
Postal Service	920	840	-80	-8.7%

Child Care Costs: The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) sets the fair market rate for childcare in each county. Like fair market rates for rent, child care providers may choose to deviate from established rates and charge rates above or below NYS standard rates. Per the June 2022 Local Commissioners Memorandum (LCM) from OCFS, childcare costs for registered and licensed providers in Otsego County range from \$184-\$295 per week, up from \$150-\$220 per week three years ago. Rates for non-regulated, informal childcare in Otsego County ranges from \$158-\$186 per week, up from \$98-135 per week in 2019. Childcare rates are established by surveying a random sampling of licensed and registered childcare providers across the state.

Family and Group Day Care				
Age of Child (Years)	Under 2	2	3-5	6-12
Weekly	\$266	\$252	\$250	\$225
Daily	\$55	\$53	\$50	\$50
Part-Day	\$37	\$35	\$33	\$33
Day Care Center				
Age of Child (Years)	Under 1 ½	1 ½ - 2	3-5	6-12
Weekly	\$295	\$275	\$253	\$245
Daily	\$64	\$59	\$55	\$55
Part-Day	\$43	\$39	\$37	\$37
School-Age Child Care				
Age of Child (Years)	Under 1 ½	1 ½ - 2	3-5	6-12
Weekly	---	---	\$190	\$184
Daily	---	---	\$41	\$41
Part-Day	---	---	\$28	\$28
Legally-Exempt Group Child Care				
Age of Child (Years)	Under 1 ½	1 ½ - 2	3-5	6-12
Weekly	---	---	\$190	\$184
Daily	---	---	\$41	\$41
Part-Day	---	---	\$28	\$28
Informal Child Care (Standard Rate)				
Age of Child (Years)	Under 2	2	3-5	6-12
Weekly	\$173	\$164	\$163	\$146
Daily	\$36	\$34	\$33	\$33
Part-Day	\$24	\$23	\$21	\$21
Informal Child Care (Enhanced Rate)				
Age of Child (Years)	Under 2	2	3-5	6-12
Weekly	\$186	\$176	\$175	\$158
Daily	\$39	\$37	\$35	\$35
Part-Day	\$26	\$25	\$23	\$23

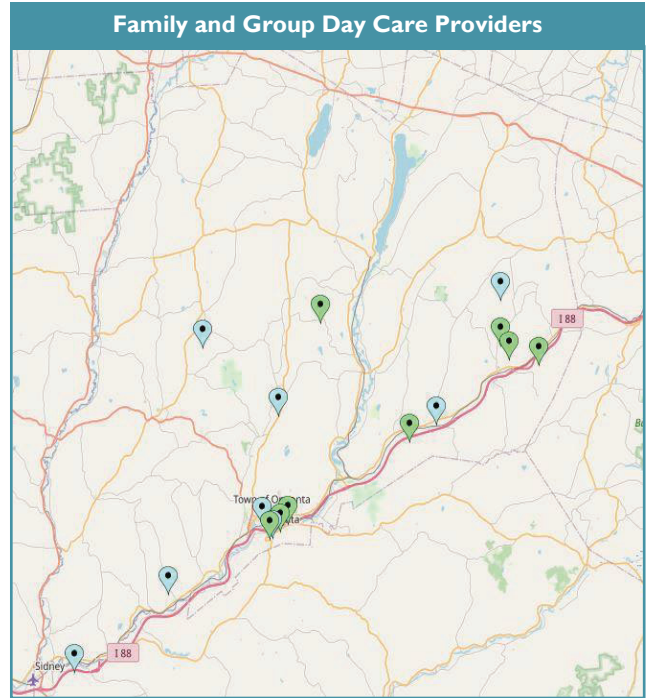
SOURCE: NYS Office of Children & Family Services, Informational Letter, 22-OCFS-LCM-14⁵⁴

⁵⁴ https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/policies/external/ocfs_2019/INF/19-OCFS-INF-03.pdf

Child Care Providers: Per the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and the Council on Children and Families (CCF), **over 60% of New York State is considered a child care desert.** By definition, “a child care desert is any census tract with more than 50 children under age 5 that contains either no child care providers or so few options that there are more than three times as many children as licensed child care slots⁵⁵”.

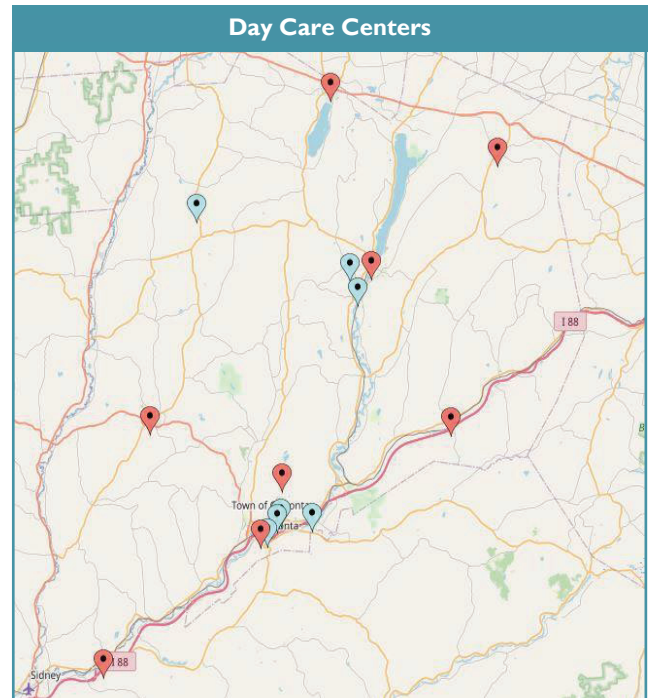
Upon review of the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, Division of Child Care Services website, as of 12.01.2022 there are 31 licensed and registered child care providers in Otsego County: 16 Family or Group Day Care providers - down from 31 in September 2017 - and 15 Day Care Centers.

Family and Group Day Care providers offer home-based childcare services to children 6 weeks to 12 years old and, should ratio and capacity allow, school-age children. In total, Family and Group Day Care providers in Otsego County are licensed to serve 144 children ages 6 weeks to 12 years - down from 240 children in 2017 - and an additional 51 school age children - down from 80 children in 2017. Family and Group Day Care providers are noted in the map above. Family providers are indicated by the green pin and Group providers by the blue pin. As illustrated, **there is an absence of Family and Group Day Care Providers in the northern portion of Otsego County.**



⁵⁵ Center for American Progress, <https://childcaresdeserts.org/>

Comparably, there are 15 Day Care Centers in Otsego County. In total, these centers are licensed to provide care for up to 71 infants, 96 toddlers, 561 preschoolers, and 121 school-age children. Of the available care for preschoolers, 37% of slots, are within the Head Start program. Per federal program standards, at least 90% of children enrolled in Head Start must be from families whose income is at or below 130% FPL or categorically eligible based on a status of homelessness, in foster care, or a recipient of public assistance (TANF, SSI, or SNAP). In total, Head Start is funded to serve 206 preschoolers and 8 toddlers. The location of Day Care centers are noted in the following map. Day Care centers open to all families are noted by a blue pin; Head Start centers are indicated by a red pin.



Among all licensed providers in Otsego County, only three offer non-traditional hours: two Day Care Centers (Cooperstown and Oneonta) and a Group Family Day Care provider in Unadilla. Non-traditional hours are defined as any time outside Monday through Friday from 6:00AM to 7:00PM for Day Care Centers and Family and Group Family Day Care.

Per report compiled by the NYS Office of Children and Families Services in partnership with local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&R), ***“Otsego county parents often have to travel across county lines to access work and childcare, and infant care is particularly scarce. The recent closure of multiple Family Child Care sites has dwindled the child care supply down even further.”***⁵⁶

Per NYS OTDA reports, there were an average of 45 children receiving subsidized child care benefits under the New York State Child Care Block grant over the period July 2020 – June 2021. Of these children, 44 were considered “low income” and one child’s household was recipient of public assistance. Comparatively, from the period July 2019-June 2020, an average of 72 children benefitted from subsidized child care, of which 70 were deemed “low income” and 2 in a household receiving public assistance⁵⁷.

School-Age Child Care: Through funding under the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, Otsego Northern Catskills BOCES operates the Creating Rural Opportunities Partnership (CROP) program in partnership with Otsego County school districts in Edmeston, Laurens, Milford, Morris, and Worcester. CROP offers after-school and summer programs to students in grades K-8 focused on academics, youth development, and family engagement. CROP operates under a 5-year funding contract award with capacity

⁵⁶ <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/assets/docs/deserts/CCD-Priorities-Mohawk.pdf>

⁵⁷ NYS OTDA, 2021 and 2020 Statistical Report on Public Assistance Programs, Table 17

based on individual districts. Program eligibility is based on need, including children whose families qualify for free and reduced lunch, children who may be academically at risk, children with disabilities, and children who may go home to an empty house after school.

Summer Childcare: Both anecdotal reports and preliminary data collected through community needs assessments surveys, report a great need for full-day, affordable summer programming. Forty-five percent of respondents to Opportunities for Otsego’s Fall 2021 and 2023 post-COVID needs assessment survey identified “lack of summer programs” as a problem in Otsego County. Below is a list of summer programming that was available within and near Otsego County during 2023. The list below was found on the “Oneonta For Kids” Facebook page and via website searches; it is not inclusive of all programs in Otsego County.

Provider	Location	Dates	Hours	Age	Cost
Oneonta Family YMCA	Oneonta	Mid-July to Mid-August	Morning or Afternoon sessions	Grade K-4	\$30/day or less (discount for city residents)
Orpheus Youth Theatre Summer Workshop	Oneonta	Late June to Mid-July	9AM – 5PM	Grades K-12	\$475 for 3 week program
Noah’s World Summer Camp	Oneonta	Late June to Late August	Morning or Afternoon Sessions. Tues-Thurs	Age 3-7	\$30-80/day or less
CANO Youth Art Program	Oneonta	Late June to Late August	9AM – 1PM	Ages 6-13	\$200/week
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society	Franklin/Oneonta	July or August	9AM – 3PM	Grades 3-6	\$31-\$50/day
Go STEM Institute	Oneonta	Mid-July	9AM – 3PM	Grades 7-9	\$30/day or less (sliding scale; recommended tuition of \$120)
Bugbee Children’s Center	Oneonta	July – August	7:30AM – 5PM	Grades K-6	Not published online
SUNY Oneonta: Various Sports Camps	Oneonta	May – August	Varies based on camp	Age 6 – 18 (depending on camp)	Free - \$375/week (depending on camp)

Clark Sports Center	Cooperstown	Late June to mid-August	Some full-day programs are available	Grades K-12	More than \$50/day
resource.ME	Cooperstown	Early July to mid-August	Some full-day programs are available	Grades K-8	Varies by Camp
Otsego Sailing Club	Cooperstown	July - August	1PM – 4:30PM	Grades K+	More than \$50/day
4-H Camp Shankitunk	Delhi	July – August	Day Camp and Overnight Camp	Ages 6-8	\$31-\$50/day (camperships available)
Rogers Environmental Education Center	Sherburne	Mid-July to Mid-August	Preschool program (9AM-Noon); School-age program (9AM – 3PM)	Age 3-11	\$30/day or less
Schoharie County Youth Bureau	Various locations in Schoharie County	Early July through early September	8AM – 4PM or 5PM	Age 8-18	\$30/day or less
Bright Hill Press	Treadwell	Late June through mid-August	9AM – 2:30PM	Age 6-14	\$30/day or less (discounts and scholarships available)
Stony Creek Farmstead	Walton	Early July through early August	9AM – 2:30PM	Age 6-14	\$30/day or less

Local colleges and the Oneonta Boys and Girls Club often offer summer programs that differ from year to year. Sites include SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Delhi Continuing Education, and Hartwick College.

EDUCATION

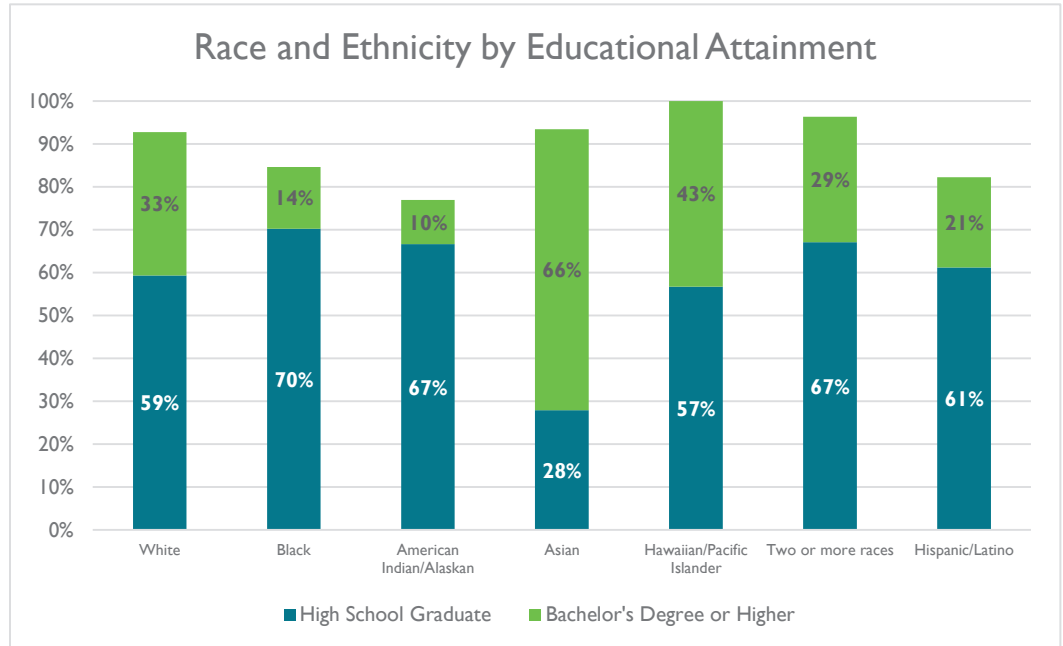
- Nearly 93% of adults over age 25 in Otsego County have earned their high school diploma or higher. Of those who have not, 26.8% live in poverty. In general, veterans have higher educational attainment rates than non-veterans in Otsego County.
- The average high school graduation rates for all public school districts from 2013-14 to 2021-22 was 85%. Graduation rates among traditionally disenfranchised groups (BI-POC, Hispanic/Latino, and Economically Disadvantaged) were all below 80% for the 2021-22 school year.
- During the 2021-22 school year, there were 1,217 children receiving disability services through preschool education programs and public school districts across Otsego County. The most prevalent disability noted for school-age children was a learning disability, followed by “other” health impairments and autism.
- Public school districts in Otsego County are experiencing continuing declines in student enrollment. Since 2017, there has been a loss of 1,109 students overall. School districts with the greatest rate of change are Morris, Edmeston, and Unatego.
- High school students and young adults in Otsego County have multiple options for vocational training and higher education at a variety of institutions within a 50 mile radius.

Educational Attainment: The table below illustrates the educational attainment of adults over age 25 in Otsego County. The largest group (30.7%) is adults who obtained their high school diploma or high school equivalency (HSED). Adults who earned a Bachelor’s degree are the second largest group, representing 18.1% of the population. According to the same data set, **26.8% of adults who did not earn a high school diploma or equivalency live in poverty**. Poverty rates for other groups are: High school graduate/HSED (12.4%); Some college/Associate’s degree (10.7%); and Bachelor’s degree or higher (3.9%). Included in the following table is the educational attainment Opportunities for Otsego adult clients during PY 2018 through 2022.

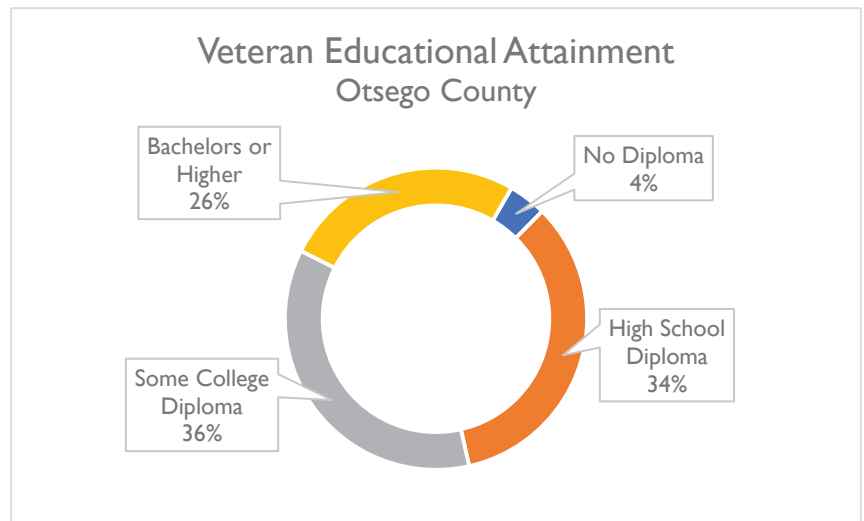
	Less than 9th grade	9-12 grade, No Diploma	High School Diploma or HSED	Some college, no degree	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Graduate or professional degree
2020	2.0%	5.3%	30.7%	16.6%	12.0%	18.1%	15.3%
2010	3.8%	8.0%	35.6%	17.1%	10.1%	14.5%	11.0%
Variance	-1.8%	-2.7%	-4.9%	-0.5%	+1.9%	+3.6%	+4.3%
OFO Clients (Age 25+)	1.8%	11.9%	41.6%	20.0%	10.0%	12.1%	2.6%

SOURCE: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2016-20 and Opportunities for Otsego CMS database.

Among all races and Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander adults in Otsego County had the highest rate of educational attainment with 100% (n=67) earning a high school diploma/HSED or higher. Persons of Two or More Races had an educational attainment rate of 96.3% (n=737).



Veterans residing in Otsego County generally have higher rates of educational attainment than non-veterans in the region. **In FY2021, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs distributed \$757,000 in Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Employment (EVRE) benefits to Otsego County veterans.** This benefit includes Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance (Chapter 32), Montgomery G.I. Bill for Selected

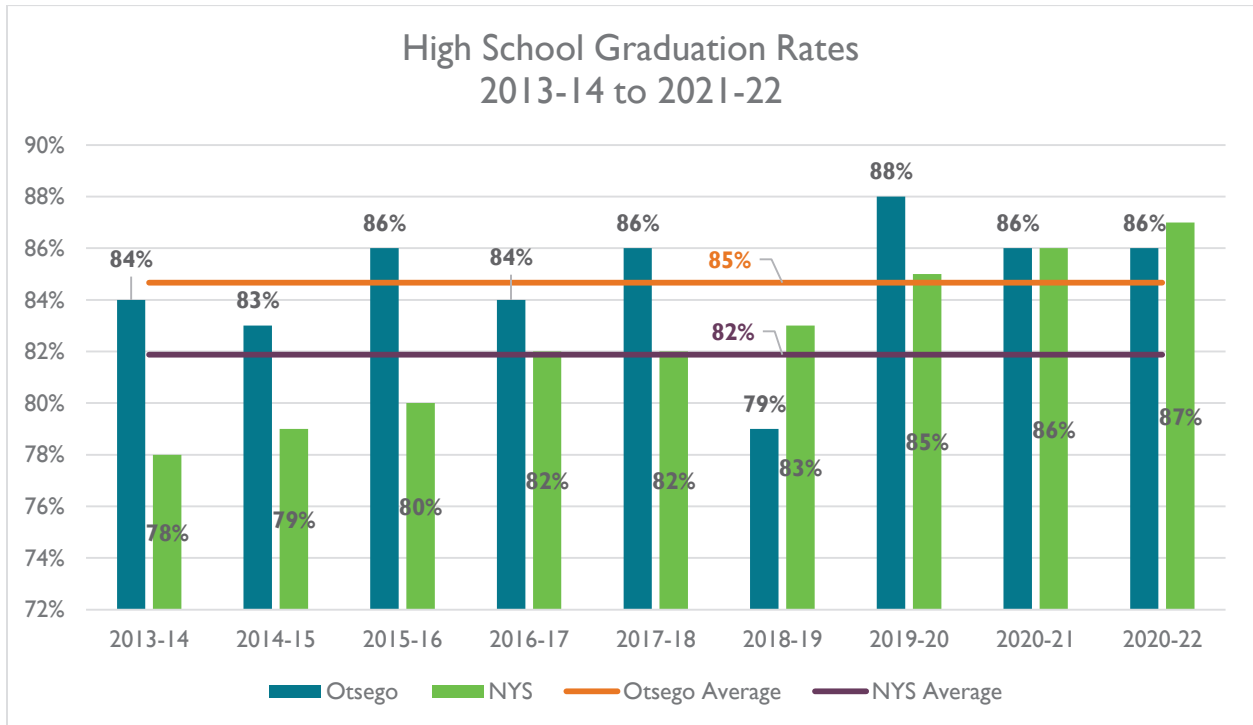


Reserves (Chapter 1606), Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1607), Montgomery G.I. Bill (Chapter 30), and Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance (Chapter 33), as well as Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (Chapter 35), Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Veterans (Chapter 31), automobile and adaptive equipment, and specially adapted housing⁵⁸.

High School Graduation Rates: Otsego County graduation rates for the school years spanning 2013-2014 through 2021-2022 are illustrated in the table below. Nearly every year over this time period, the graduation rate of students in Otsego County exceeded the New York State average of 82%. Only school year 2018-2019 fell

⁵⁸ <https://www.va.gov/vetdata/Utilization.asp>

below the New York State standard of 80%. The highest countywide graduation rate the reported period was 2019-20 at 88%.



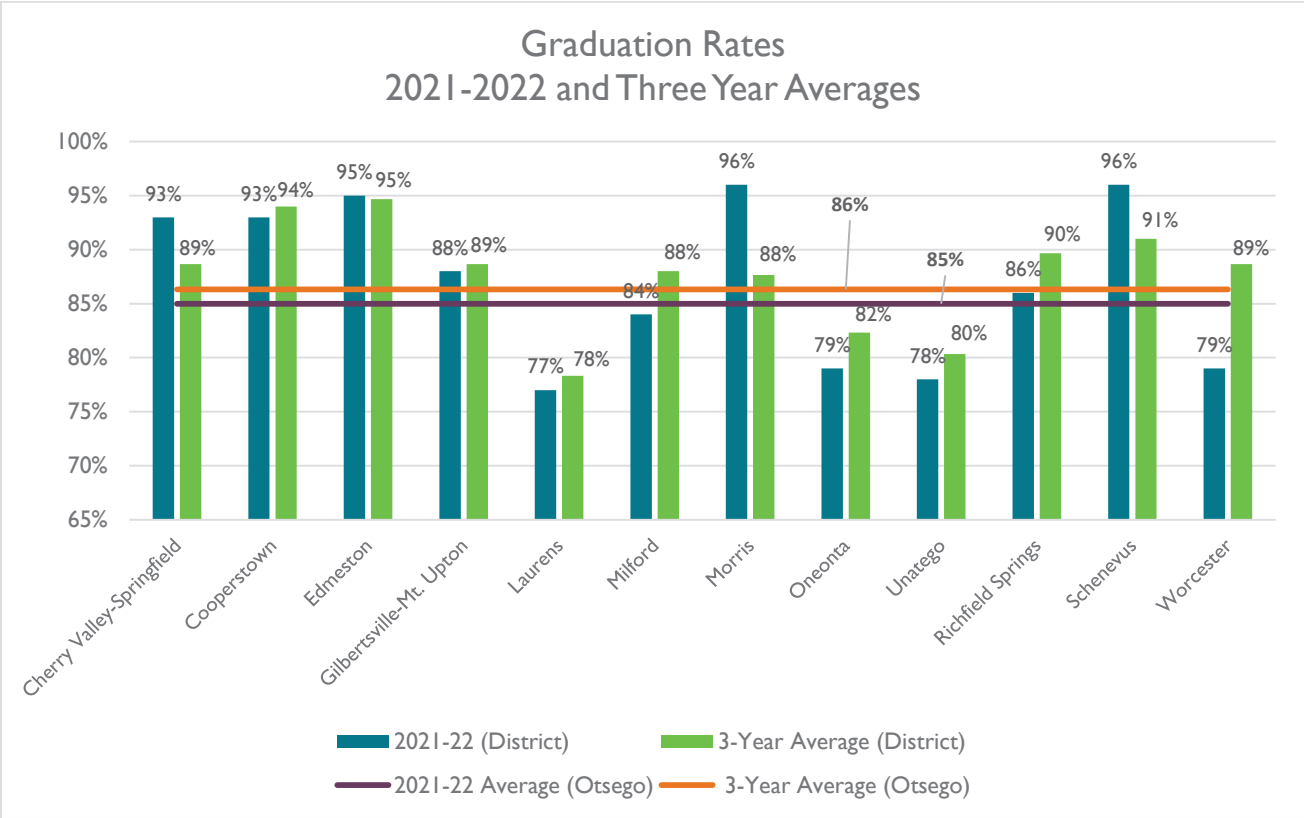
Additional graduation data from the NYS Department of Education provides a breakdown of graduation rates by subgroups. Countywide graduation rate by subgroups during school year 2021-2022 are provided below. Of note, the **graduation rates of students among traditionally disenfranchised groups - BI-POC, Hispanic/Latino, and Economically Disadvantaged - are all below 80%**. Graduation data was not provided for Homeless students for 2021-22. Dropout rates are highest among Black/African American students (15%), students with disabilities (11%), and economically disadvantaged students (11%)⁵⁹.

High School Graduation Rates by Subgroups SY 2021-2022				
	Enrolled (Total)	Graduated (Number)	Graduated (Percentage)	Dropout Rate
Gender				
Female	255	230	90%	4%
Male	233	186	80%	--
Disability Status				
General Education Students	401	359	90%	5%
Students with Disabilities	87	57	66%	11%
Race/Ethnicity				

⁵⁹ New York State Department of Education (<https://data.nysed.gov/>)

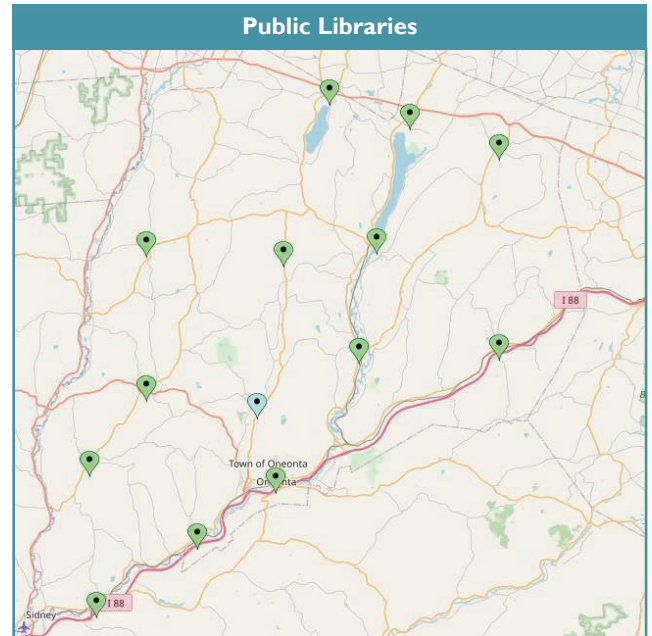
Asian or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	5	3	60%	0%
Black or African American	13	8	62%	15%
Hispanic or Latino	21	18	86%	5%
White	443	381	86%	7%
Multiracial	6	6	100%	0%
Income Status				
Not Economically Disadvantaged	305	274	90%	4%
Economically Disadvantaged	183	142	78%	11%
Homeless	2	--	--	--

Of the 488 high school seniors enrolled in the twelve school districts in Otsego County during the 2021-22 school year, 36% (n=178) received an Advanced Regents Diploma, 49% (n=237) a Regents Diploma, <1% (n=1) a Local Diploma, 2% (n=8) Non-Diploma Credentials, 7% (n=32), dropped out, and 6% (n=29) were still enrolled during the 2022-23 school year. The table below compares district 2021-2022 graduation rates, three-year average district graduation rates and the 2021-2022 Otsego County average graduation rate. Half of the district individual graduation rates during the 2021-22 school year were below their district three-year average. **Morris and Schenevus had the highest 2021-22 graduation rate at 96% (n=24 and n=26 respectively).** The lowest graduation rate (77%) was in the Laurens school district with 17 out of 22 students meeting graduation requirements.



Adult Literacy: The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) produces estimates of adults with low-literacy levels based on educational attainment, poverty, race/ethnicity distributions, and other factors in each county. Based on these estimates, **11% of adults (age 16 and older) in Otsego County lack Basic Prose Literacy Skills (BPLS) in 2003**⁶⁰. Per a longitudinal study conducted by NCES from 2012-2017, Otsego County adults, age 16 to 74, have higher than average rates of literacy and numeracy proficiency in comparison to New York State and the Nation, with scores of 268, 260, and 264 respectively⁶¹.

Public Libraries: According to the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services FY2020 Public Libraries Survey, there are thirteen (13) public libraries in Otsego County. All libraries offer internet-connected computers for use by the general public, with 60 computers available within the county library system. In total, these libraries recorded 8,626 uses of public internet computers for a total of 27,370 wireless sessions within the year. Responses to survey questions related to external WiFi access before and during the COVID-19 pandemic indicated twelve of the thirteen libraries (92.3%) offered external WiFi access before COVID-19; ten of the thirteen libraries (76.9%) added external WiFi access in response to COVID-19; and only four of the thirteen libraries (30.7%) noted an increase in external WiFi access during COVID-19⁶². The location of public libraries is mapped below. Of note, the Town of Laurens public library is not included in the abovementioned data set as the Laurens Village Library is operated by the local school district.



Early Childhood Education:

Infant and Toddler Care: Per information available gathered from NYS Office of Children and Family Services, Division of Child Care Services, as of 12.01.2022, there are 19 licensed early child care providers in Otsego County that provide care to infants and toddlers. These providers include 16 group/family day care providers and three day care centers. **In total, these providers have the capacity to serve 167 infants/toddlers. This is a reduction of 190 slots from four years prior from 357 slots.** Of the 167 slots, eight are designated for Head Start eligible children.

The cost of childcare varies by age group and facility type where offered. Average costs with a licensed provider in Otsego County range from \$184-295 per week. Nonregulated care range \$158-186 per week. A comprehensive

⁶⁰ Institute of Education Sciences, National center for Educational Statistics (<https://nces.ed.gov>)

⁶¹ <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac/skillsmap/>

⁶² <https://www.imls.gov/research-evaluation/data-collection/public-libraries-survey>

breakdown of childcare costs by child age and childcare facility type is available under section Employment: Child Care Costs.

Preschool: According to NYS Office of Children and Family Services, Division of Child Care Services reports, as of 12.01.2022, there are fifteen (15) licensed early childcare providers in Otsego County that provide care to preschool age children. These providers include seven (7) independent child care facilities (Great Beginnings Preschool in Burlington Flats; Centers Childcare in Cooperstown; Oneonta Family YMCA; Bugbee Children’s Center in Oneonta; Kids Unlimited in Oneonta; The Brookwood School in Cooperstown; Yaks Youth Center in Oneonta) and eight Head Start centers. **The capacity of these preschool programs combined is 561 children.** Of this total, 206 preschool slots (36.7%) are designated for children from Head Start-eligible families (household income threshold is below 130% of the Federal Poverty Level or categorically eligible). Group/family day care providers may also serve preschool children; however, availability is based on the ratio of infants and toddlers to the total facility enrollment. The average cost of preschool care is listed in under the section Employment; Child Care Costs. Head Start preschool services are free to eligible families.

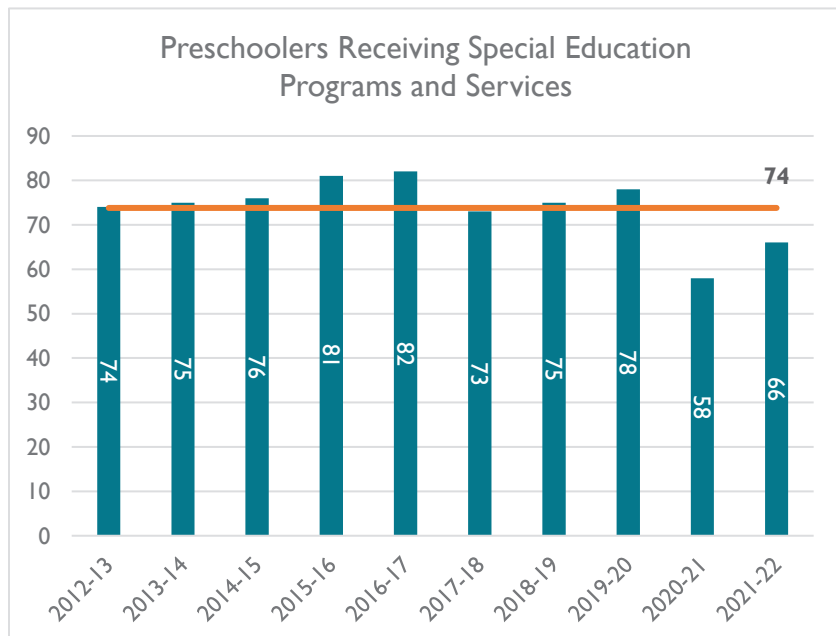
Head Start: Opportunities for Otsego (OFO) is the sole provider of Head Start services in Otsego County. The agency is contracted to serve 206 children (age 3-5) in the preschool program and an additional 90 children (age birth-3) and 10 prenatal mothers in the Early Head Start early childhood component. Per 2020 Census data on age and poverty, there are approximately 539 children (ages 0-4) living in Otsego County that would be eligible for Early/Head Start services.

Head Start operates 12 classrooms in seven communities throughout Otsego County. At the conclusion of the 2021-2022 program year, Head Start program served 148 preschool-age children from 134 households. Early Head Start served 88 families through the home-based program component; 131 children and 15 pre-natal mothers.

Children Receiving Disabilities

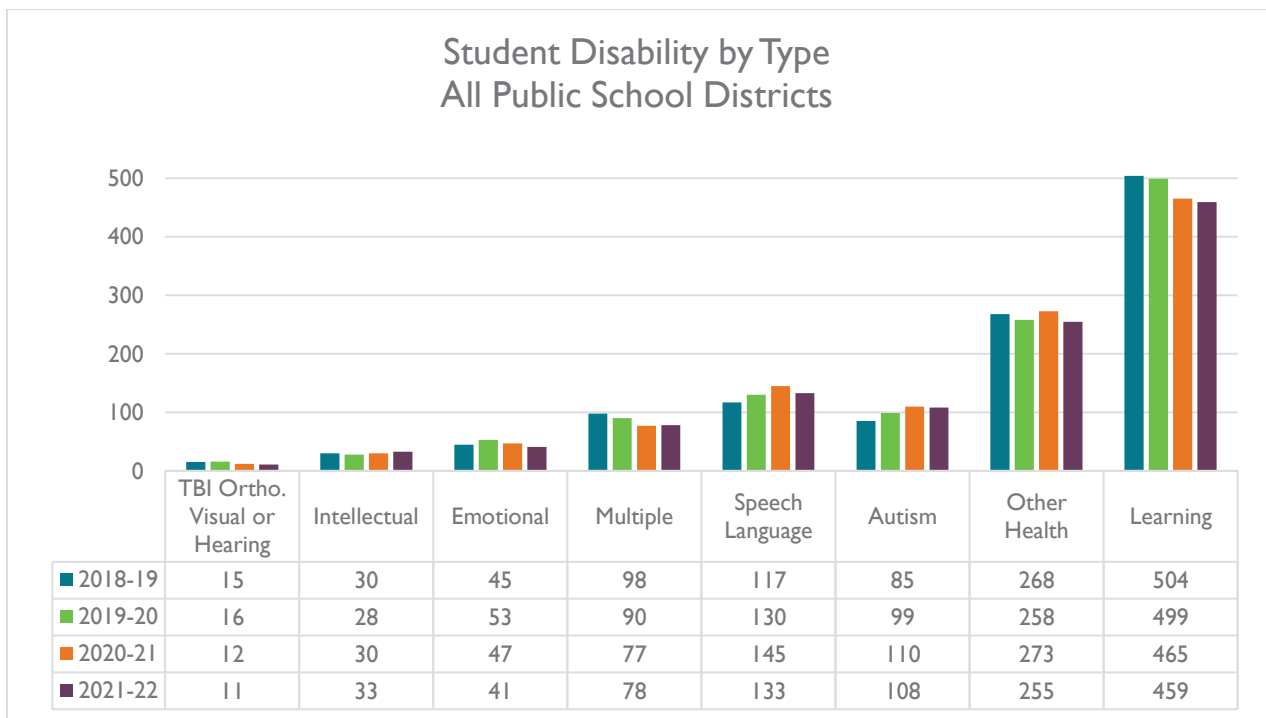
Services: The New York state Department of Education, Information and Reports Services collects and maintains data on children and youth receiving special education programs and disability services. Data is collected during the first quarter of each school year.

Preschool: Otsego County, through the Preschool Special Education Program, provides



services to eligible children ages 3 to 5. Eligibility as a preschooler is based on the results of an individual evaluation conducted by a multidisciplinary team, which enables the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) in each local school district to determine which preschool special education program and or services are appropriate. Data provided in the chart is the cumulative number of preschool-age children receiving special education programs and services by school year across all public school districts in Otsego County. **Based on the past ten years of data, an average of 74 preschool-age children receive special education services annually⁶³.**

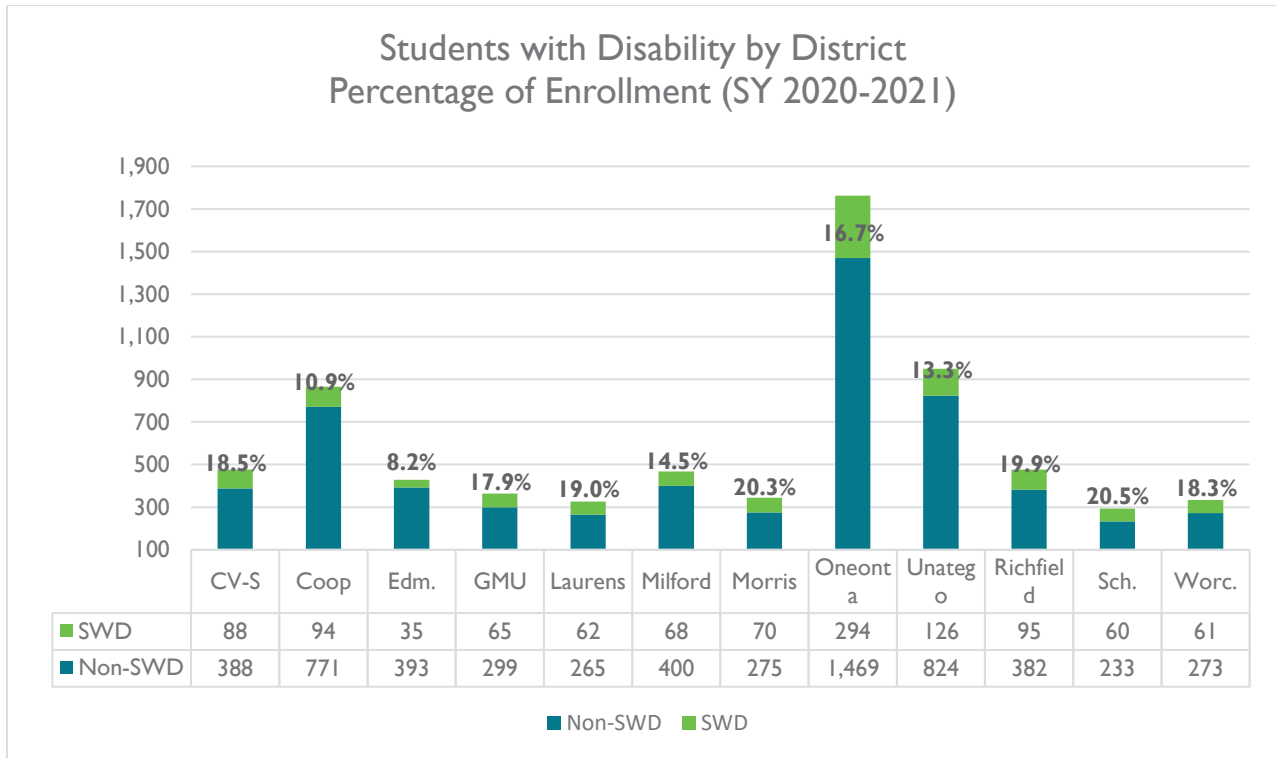
School Age: According to the New York State Department Education, 1,118 school age students received special education/disability services in Otsego County as of October 1, 2021. This number dropped from a 4-year high of 1,173 during the 2019-20 school year. Consequent to the COVID-19 public health declaration, New York State shuttered school doors in March 2020, thus many students did not receive in-person disability supports until in-person schooling resumed. The chart below provides the number of students receiving special education services by disability type among all districts in Otsego County. “Learning Disability” was the most prevalent category of disability reported followed by “Other Health Impairment” consistently over the past four school years.



The next chart illustrates the number and percentage of students with a disability by district. The greatest number of students with an identified disability are in the City of Oneonta School District; encompassing 16.7% of the entire student body (n=294). **School districts with the greatest percentage of students with a disability**

⁶³ <https://www.p12.nysed.gov/sedcar/state.htm>

in descending order are Schenevus (20.5%), Morris (20.3%), and Laurens (19.0%) with 60, 70, and 62 students respectively.

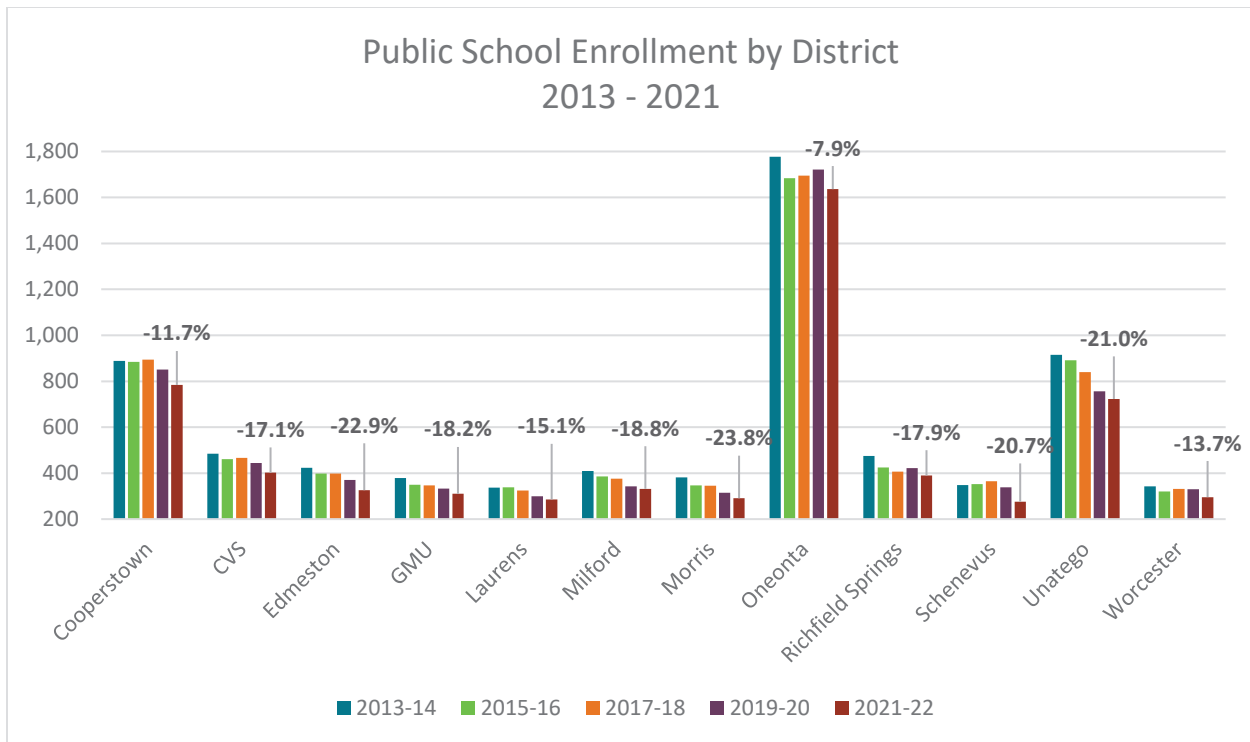


Elementary and Secondary Education: During the 2021-22 school year, there were 6,052 students enrolled in grades pre-kindergarten through 12, throughout the twelve public school districts in Otsego County.

Enrollment has dropped consistently among all school districts since the 2013-14 school year.

Overall, public school districts within Otsego County had a drop in enrollment of 1,109 students.

The greatest change as a percentage of total enrollment was in the Morris district with a 23.8% decrease in enrollment (n=91 students). The greatest change as a number of enrolled students is the Otego-Unadilla (Unatego) district with a drop in enrollment of 192 students (-21.0%). Schools with the least impact on enrollment as a percentage of total students are Oneonta (-7.9%), Cooperstown (-11.7%), and Worcester (-13.7%). The table below compares school enrollment by district for the 2013-14, 2015-16, 2017-18, 2019-20, and 2021-22 school years.



In addition to the 12 school districts in Otsego County, there were two (2) private schools open during the 2021-22 school year. Schools include the Otsego Christian Academy in Otego (former known as the Oneonta Community Christian School) and The School at Springbrook in Oneonta. In total, these schools have the capacity to serve 185 children: 16 students in Pre-K; 74 students in grades K-12; and 95 Ungraded students at Springbrook. Profiles of students enrolled in all schools in Otsego County is provided below⁶⁴.

Public and Private School Demographic Profiles								
School/District	Total Enrollment	American Indian/Alaskan	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	White	Multiple Race
Public Schools (2021-2022)								
Cherry Valley-Springfield	447	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	1.6%	0.0%	92.8%	4.7%
Cooperstown	802	0.0%	5.6%	1.2%	3.5%	0.0%	88.4%	1.2%
Edmeston	362	0.0%	1.7%	0.8%	1.1%	0.0%	94.2%	2.2%
Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton	350	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	1.4%	0.0%	96.6%	1.7%
Laurens	296	0.0%	0.3%	2.7%	7.8%	0.0%	89.2%	0.0%
Milford	370	0.0%	1.6%	1.1%	1.9%	0.0%	94.3%	1.1%
Morris	315	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%	3.5%	0.0%	92.1%	2.2%
Oneonta	1592	0.2%	3.0%	6.2%	8.7%	0.1%	78.1%	3.6%

⁶⁴ National Center for Educational Statistics (<https://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/>)

Unatego	718	0.0%	0.7%	2.2%	5.3%	0.0%	88.4%	3.3%
Richfield Springs	423	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%	3.1%	0.0%	94.6%	1.7%
Schenevus	268	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	0.7%	0.0%	94.8%	3.0%
Worcester	316	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	3.8%	0.0%	95.9%	0.0%
Private Schools (2019-2020)								
Otsego Christian Academy	74	0.0%	1.4%	6.8%	2.7%	89.2%	0.0%	0.0%
The School at Springbrook	95	0.0%	1.1%	14.7%	9.5%	73.7%	0.0%	1.1%

Career and Technical Education: Otsego Northern Catskills Board of Cooperative Educational Services (ONC BOCES), based out of Milford, is a regional educational agency providing services in partnership with the majority of public school districts in Otsego County. ONC offers the following career and technical education (CTE) programs to students beginning in grade 11: Automotive Service Technician; Cosmetology; Culinary Arts; Equipment Operation and Repair; New Visions Health Care Professions; Visual Arts Communication and Technology; and Welding and Metal Fabrication. Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego (DCMO) BOCES only partners with Otsego County students in the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton and Unatego school districts. DCMO BOCES has more CTE offerings including: Automotive Collision and Refinishing Technology; Automotive Technology; Business Administration; Carpentry and Construction; Computer Repair and Networking; Conservation and Equipment Technology; Cosmetology and Barbering; Culinary Arts; Early Child Education; Nurse Assisting; Security and Law Enforcement; Visual Communications; and Welding.

Additional secondary education is available at the Oneonta Job Corps Academy. Job Corps provides academic training in pursuit of a high school diploma/equivalency and courses in independent living, employability skills, and social skills to help students transition into the workplace. Career training is available in the following areas: Advanced Electrical (overhead line; smart meter and instrumentation technician; underground residential); Automotive and Machine Repair (collision repair and refinish; maintenance and light repair); Construction (cement masonry; electrical; tile setting); and Healthcare (certified nurse assistant; clinical medical assistant, medical administrative assistant).

Higher Education: Students seeking postsecondary education have several viable options within a 50-mile radius to Otsego County. The chart below provides a listing of schools along with location, degrees offered, and tuition rates.

Name of Institution	Type of School	Location	Distance from 13820	Degrees Offered	Tuition and Fees (2022-23)
Less than 15 Miles					
Hartwick College	Private, not-for-profit 4-year or above	Oneonta	< 0.5 miles	Bachelor's and Master's degrees	\$8,775 (Otsego and regional students) <i>Conditional</i>

					eligibility - \$51,309
Otsego Area BOCES-School of Practical Nursing	Public, less-than-2-year	Oneonta	< 0.5 miles	Certificates	\$13,025
SUNY Oneonta	Public 4-year or above	Oneonta	< 0.5 miles	Bachelor's and Master's degrees; Post-master's Certificate	\$8,775 (In State) - \$18,685 (Out of State)
SUNY College of Technology at Delhi	Public, 4-year or above	Delhi	14.6 miles	Associate's, Bachelor's, and Master's degrees; Postbaccalaureate, Post-master's Certificates.	\$8,720 (In State) - \$12,490 (Out of State)
15-50 Miles					
Delaware Chenango Madison Ostego BOCES-Practical Nursing	Public less-than-2-year	Norwich	23.7 miles	Certificates	\$12,500
SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill	Public 4-year or above	Cobleskill	33.5 miles	Associate's and Bachelor's degrees	\$8,676 (In State) - \$18,586 (Out of State)
Colgate University	Private not-for-profit 4-year or above	Hamilton	34.8 miles	Bachelor's and Master's degrees	\$64,290
Herkimer County BOCES-Practical Nursing Program	Public less-than-2-year	Ilion	38.4 miles	Certificates	\$16,800
Herkimer County Community College	Public 2-year	Herkimer	39.7 miles	Certificates; Associate's degree	\$5,776
SUNY Morrisville	Public 4-year or above	Morrisville	43.7 miles	Certificates, Associate's and Bachelor's degrees	\$8,741 (In State) - \$18,651 (Out of State)
Mohawk Valley Community College	Public 2-year	Utica	44.1 miles	Certificates; Associate's degree	\$5,776 (In State) - \$8,211 (Out of State)
Saint Elizabeth College of Nursing	Private not-for-profit, 2-year	Utica	44.1 miles	Associate's degree	\$19,300 (In State) - \$30,000 (Out of State)
Hamilton College	Private not-for-profit 4-year or above	Clinton	44.3 miles	Bachelor's	\$62,670
SUNY Polytechnic Institute	Public 4-year or above	Utica	45.7 Miles	Postbaccalaureate and Post-master's Certificates; Bachelor's, Master's, Doctor's-research-scholarship,	\$8,578 (In State) - \$19,338 (Out of State)

				Doctor's professional practice degrees	
Utica College	Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above	Utica	45.7 miles	Postbaccalaureate Certificate; Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctor's-professional practice degrees	\$ 24,308
SUNY Broome Community College	Public, 2-year	Binghamton	49.7 miles	Certificates; Associate's degree	\$ 6,704 (In State) - \$11,984 (out of State)
Broome, Delaware, Tioga BOCES – Practical Nursing Program	Public, less-than-2-year	Binghamton	49.7 miles	Certificates	\$ 13,998

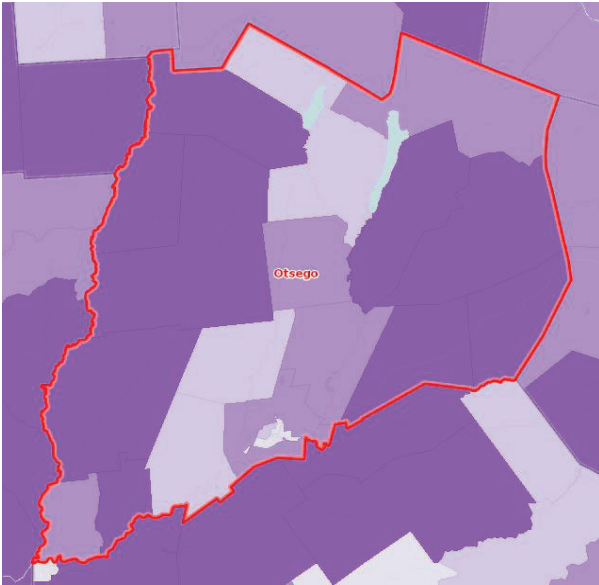
HOUSING

- Otsego County has had a reduction in housing units since 2013, down to an estimated 30,080 units. Of these, nearly 75% are occupied and 25% are vacant. Of the vacant units, 6,480 are used for seasonal or recreational purposes.
- Nearly 69% of housing units in Otsego County were constructed before the federal ban on consumer use of lead-based paints. As a community, the City of Oneonta has the oldest housing stock with 68% of homes built prior to 1939.
- On average, there have been 64 building permits for single-family homes and 39 building permits for multi-family units issued in Otsego County annually since 2012.
- Per 2021 Census data, 36.9% of homeowners and 44.5% of renters are cost burdened: spending more than 30% of household income on housing costs. The most affordable communities for renters are Edmeston, the village of Morris, and Burlington.
- The 2023 HUD PIT Count estimates 76 persons are either living in a congregate homeless shelter or “on the streets” on any given night in Otsego County. Additionally, public school districts reported an average of 75 homeless students enrolled in districts across Otsego County annually since the 2016-16 school year.

Housing Units: Since 2013, Otsego County has a -2.61% (n=805) reduction in housing units compared to a 4.79% increase statewide. Of the 30,080 units estimated in 2022, 74.8% are occupied (n=22,514) and 25.2% are vacant (n=7,566).

Occupied Units: Per 2021 ACS data, 73.8% of occupied housing units are owner-occupied (n=16,568), while 26.2% (n=5,880) are renter-occupied units. Per the map below, it is apparent that there is a higher rate of owner-occupied housing is on the eastern and western borders of Otsego County, with higher rates if rental properties centralized in the county. The centralization of rental properties may be attributed to student housing in the City of Oneonta; seasonal rentals associated with the Cooperstown All Star Village, in the town of Oneonta, and Dreams Park located in the town of Hartwick; and Bassett Healthcare in Cooperstown.

Vacant Units: The majority of vacant units (n=6,480) are those used for seasonal, recreational, occasional use, or used for migrant workers. The remaining vacant units are rental housing units (n=753) including those rented but not occupied and non-rental units (n=333) that are for sale or sold but not occupied. **Otsego County vacancy rates for “other” housing units is nearly three-times the national rate at 21.59% compared to 7.71%.**

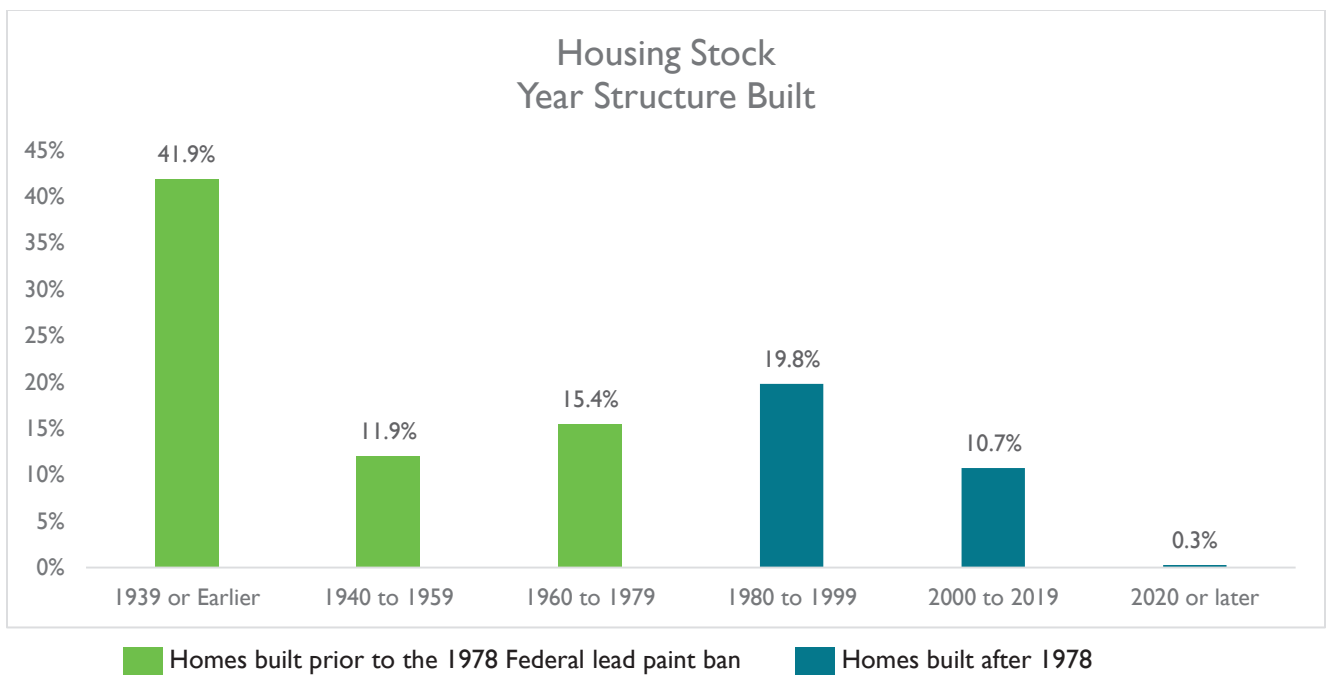


Owner-Occupies Housing Units, Percent by Tract, ACS 2017-21

- Over 82.0%
- 74.1 - 82.0%
- 66.1 - 74.0%
- Under 66.1%
- No Data or Data Suppressed

Housing Age: According to the 2021 ACS Estimates, 11% of the housing stock in Otsego County was built after 2000. In contrast, 41.9% of all housing units in Otsego County were built before 1939. **Of all housing units in Otsego County, approximately 69.2% were built before 1978; prior to the federal ban on consumer use of lead-containing paint.**

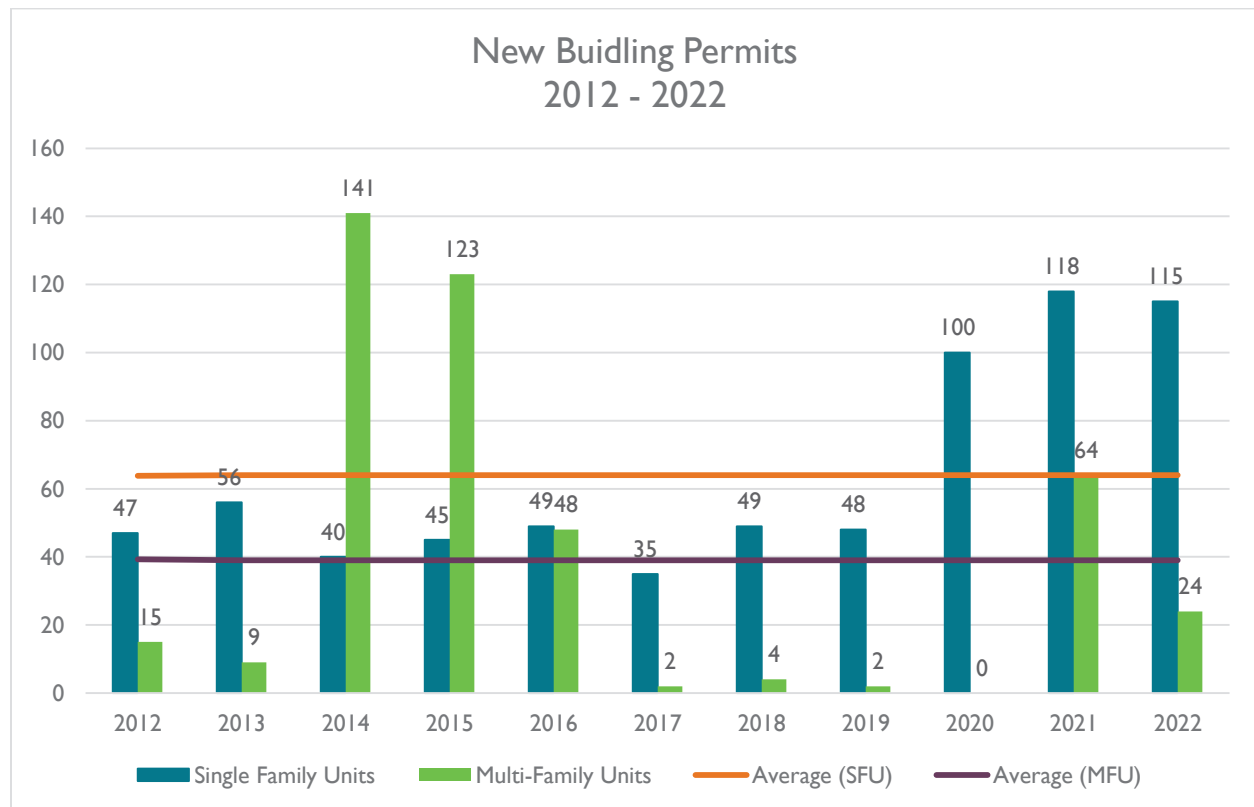
As a community, the City of Oneonta has the oldest housing stock within Otsego County, with census tract 5910 - fondly referred to as “Center City” - having the largest percentage of housing units built prior to 1939 at 68.2% (n=1,021).



Children younger than age six are more likely to get lead poisoning than any other age group. Most often, children get lead poisoning from breathing in or swallowing dust from old lead paint. Lead can also be found on floors, windowsills, hands, toys and can also be passed to baby during pregnancy. **During the year 2020, of the 459 lead tests performed on children across Otsego County, 247 (53.2%) return results with lead levels up to 10 mcg/dL.** Of these test, six children living in the City of Oneonta (zip code 13820) were the only instances of elevated lead levels between 5-10 mcg/d⁶⁵.

Since 2000, 3,294 new housing units have been constructed within Otsego County. Census Tracts with new development include 5901.01 (n=127); 5901.02 (n=205); 5902.01 (n=149); 5902.02 (n=195); 5903.01 (n=154); 5903.02 (n=193); 5904.01 (n=122); 5904.02 (n=340); 5905 (n=202); 5906 (n=149); 5907.01 (n=107); 5907.02 (n=66); 5908 (n=335); 5909 (n=10); 5910 (n=11); 5911 (n=8); 5914.01 (n=243); 5914.02 (n=110); 5915 (n=294); 5916.01 (n=58); 5916.02 (n=216). Census tracts 5908 (Town of Oneonta), 5902.01 (Town of Hartwick), and 5904.02 (Town of New Lisbon) are the only areas in Otsego County to have had new structures built since 2020.

Data from the US Census Bureau Building Permit Survey estimates an average of 64 building permits for single family units and 39 building permits for multi-family units were authorized annually over the period 2012-2022⁶⁶.



⁶⁵ <https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/environmental/lead/>

⁶⁶ <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/bps-new-privately-owned-housing-unit-authorizations.html>

Housing Problems: Per HUD, there are four categories of housing problems: housing units that lack complete kitchen facilities; housing units that lack complete plumbing facilities; overcrowded households; and cost burdened households. A household is said to have a “housing problem” if they have any one or more of these conditions.

Homes lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities are considered as the most severe housing problems, followed by “overcrowding” and then “cost burden”. The number and percentage of occupied housing units without plumbing and kitchen facilities in Otsego County for the years 2000, 2015, and 2021 are shown below. Most recent data is based on an estimate of 22,448 occupied housing units⁶⁷.

No Kitchen Units (2000)	Percent 2000	No Kitchen Units (2015)	Percent 2015	No Kitchen Units (2021)	Percent 2021	Rate of Change 2000-2015
163	0.7%	192	0.8%	279	1.2%	+0.5%

No Plumbing Units (2000)	Percent 2000	No Plumbing Units (2015)	Percent 2015	No Plumbing Units (2021)	Percent 2021	Rate of Change 2000-2021
135	0.5%	122	0.5%	165	0.7%	+0.2%

The Census Bureau has no official definition of crowded units, but this report considers units with more than one occupant per room to be overcrowded. Per 2021 ACS data, there are 325 overcrowded housing units in Otsego County. These units account for 1.4% of all occupied housing units. The number of overcrowded housing units, and the percent of overcrowded units for the years 2000, 2015, and 2021 in Otsego County are noted below.

Overcrowded Units (2000)	Percent 2000	Overcrowded Units (2015)	Percent 2015	Overcrowded Units (2021)	Percent 2021	Rate of Change 2000-2015
299	1.20%	713	3.11%	325	1.4%	+0.2%

Fair Market Rent: The 2023 Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment in Otsego County is \$990; up \$137 from 2017. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities, without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn approximately \$3,300 monthly or \$39,600 annually. The greatest increase in FMR as a percentage change is a one-bedroom rental. These rates increased 20.44% over the past seven (7) years⁶⁸.

Year	Efficiency	1-Bedroom	2-Bedroom	3-Bedroom	4-Bedroom
Final FY 2023 FMR	\$720	\$827	\$990	\$1,254	\$1,381
Final FY 2022 FMR	\$723	\$734	\$892	\$1,151	\$1,307
Final FY 2021 FMR	\$732	\$737	\$916	\$1,182	\$1,425
Final FY 2020 FMR	\$692	\$696	\$873	\$1,095	\$1,404
Final FY 2019 FMR	\$652	\$657	\$832	\$1,042	\$1,329
Final FY 2018 FMR	\$654	\$658	\$832	\$1,043	\$1,295
Final FY 2017 FMR	\$670	\$658	\$853	\$1,100	\$1,296
Percentage Change	6.94%	20.44%	13.84%	12.28%	6.15%

⁶⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2000, 2015, 2021

⁶⁸ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the federal government appropriated funding to states to ensure the housing stability of households impacted by the pandemic. Funding through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) allows states to issue payment for rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, and/or utilities and home energy costs arrears to eligible households. Maximum award amounts are based on established Fair Market Rents. According to New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance ERAP reports, Otsego County households submitted 491 applications for rental arrears; 235 for prospective rent; and 164 for utility arrears through May 2, 2023. Data notes “Counts include applications made by persons in income-based rental units, which can only be paid if there are sufficient funds to do so after eligible applications from other rental units are paid. Counts also include some applications that may eventually be paid out of allocations reserved for applicants with incomes of 80 to 120 percent of AMI.”

As of the same date, payments have been made on 273 rental arrears applications at an average of \$5,666.51; 194 prospective rent applications at an average of \$2,655.58; and 286 utility arrears applications at an average of \$7,210.28. Data notes that utility payments include arrears requested through the ERAP application that were paid through the ERAP, HEAP, and forgiven in lieu of tax credits to the utilities. ERAP-specific payments total 133 as of May 3, 2023 at an average amount of \$1,896.55.

Complementary to ERAP is the Landlord Rental Assistance Program (LRAP). This program provides rental assistance to landlords whose tenants were unwilling to apply for ERAP and in cases where the tenant abandoned the rental property. Per OTDA reports, 23 payments in the amount of \$117,586.28 has been paid from the 42 applications submitted through May 3, 2023.⁶⁹

Home Values: Over the past 5 years, the median value and sale price of homes have increased in Otsego County. Per 2021 ACS data, the median home value of owner-occupied housing is \$154,200; an increase of \$12,300 from 5 years prior when values were estimated at \$141,900. **Per the 2022 Annual Report on the New York State Market, median home sale prices in Otsego County increased 47.2% since 2018 to an average of \$195,000.**

Area Historical Median Sale Price						
2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Change From 2021	Change From 2018
\$132,500	\$143,750	\$156,125	\$165,000	\$195,000	+ 18.2%	+ 47.2%

During 2022, 731 homes were placed on the market for sale in Otsego County, with an average inventory of 198 homes available at any given time. In total 592 homes sales were closed on. Home sales in 2022 were down 8.6% from 2021 and up 17.0% from 2018. On average, homes were sold at 97.2% of the listing price⁷⁰.

⁶⁹ <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance/program-reports.asp>

⁷⁰ <https://www.nysar.com/news/market-data/reports/>

Housing Affordability: According to HUD, the generally accepted definition of “affordability” is for a household to pay no more than 30% of its annual income on housing. Families who pay more than 30% of their income for housing are considered “cost burdened” and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care. Considering the median household income in Otsego for 2020 was \$56,171, a family would pay up to \$16,851 annually or \$1,404 month on housing costs to be “affordable”. According to 2021 ACS data, **36.9% of homeowners and 44.5% of renters in Otsego County are “cost burdened”**. These rates have declined since 2017 by 5.5% and 9.8% respectively.

According to US Census and ACS data, **the most affordable communities for renters in Otsego County are Edmeston, the village of Morris, and Burlington**. Communities with the highest rent burden are the village and town of Cherry Valley, the village of Milford, and the village of Unadilla⁷¹.

Township	Housing Stock		Tenure Type		Rent Burden	
	Vacant	Occupied	Owner	Renter	Average Rent	Rent Burden
Burlington	63	444	379	65	\$773	16.7%
Butternuts	226	741	626	115	\$688	26.0%
Gilberstville (V)	24	174	122	52	\$658	23.1%
Cherry Valley (T)	148	514	410	104	\$804	61.5%
Cherry Valley (V)	59	218	165	53	\$746	71.2%
Decatur	95	147	132	15	--	28.6%
Edmeston	168	701	589	112	\$642	10.8%
Exeter	206	355	298	57	\$813	34.0%
Hartwick	325	827	666	161	\$821	37.2%
Laurens (T)	193	1010	779	231	\$895	33.0%
Laurens (V)	14	102	52	50	\$577	22.9%
Maryland	245	772	619	153	\$670	38.5%
Middlefield	331	837	680	157	\$956	26.3%
Milford (T)	406	1225	926	299	\$773	49.1%
Milford (V)	54	179	115	64	\$623	68.7%
Morris (T)	177	732	544	188	\$542	30.3%
Morris (V)	38	232	133	99	\$807	12.0%

⁷¹ <https://www.governor.ny.gov/new-york-state-housing-statistics>

New Lisbon	147	469	410	59	\$1,286	54.3%
Oneonta (City)	849	4,031	1,732	2,299	\$901	47.8%
Oneonta (Town)	188	2,022	1,596	426	\$696	49.0%
Otego (T)	223	1,188	944	244	\$648	55.3%
Otego (V)	44	393	291	102	\$768	28.4%
Otsego (T)	657	1,689	1,142	547	\$862	23.8%
Cooperstown (V)	244	923	454	469	\$1,081	23.9%
Pittsfield	147	517	431	86	\$647	26.7%
Plainfield	50	371	307	64	\$773	58.3%
Richfield (T)	402	928	669	259	\$665	43.2%
Richfield Springs (V)	113	506	310	196	\$636	59.2%
Roseboom	140	305	268	37	\$695	26.2%
Springfield	225	533	420	113	\$627	23.2%
Unadilla (T)	327	1,785	1,408	377	\$667	31.8%
Unadilla (V)	107	451	305	146	\$595	60.7%
Westford	150	352	315	37	\$916	37.8%
Worcester	336	919	731	188	\$946	40.7%

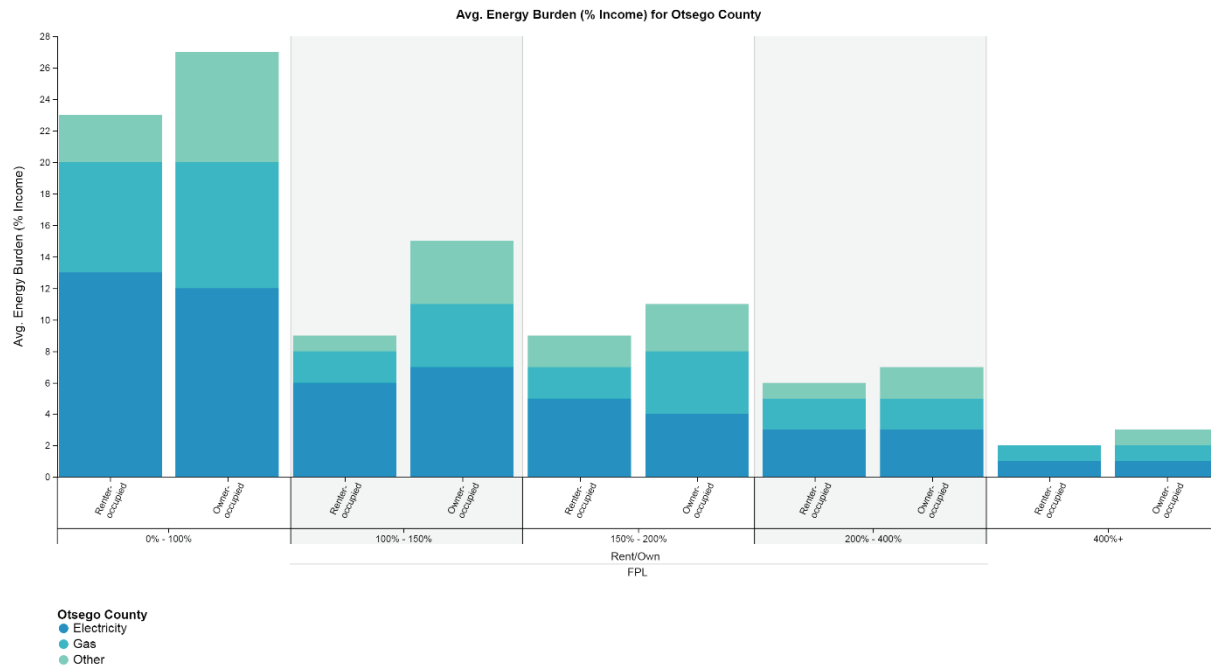
During PY 2018-2022, forty-five percent of households accessing support from Opportunities for Otsego identified as renters and 28.5% were homeowners. Of the remaining households, 4.3% had other permanent housing arrangements and 22.2% were homeless.

Foreclosures: According to RealtyTrac, there were 131 homes in foreclosure status in Otsego County in July 2023 of these: Pre-Foreclosure (n=128) and up for Auction (n=3). None are bank owned.

Home Heating Costs: Energy burden is defined as the percentage of gross household income spent on energy. According to the U.S. Department of Energy Low-Income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD) tool⁷², the average household energy burden in Otsego County is 5%, compared to 3% statewide. Based on the same dataset, the average energy burden for low-moderate income households (0-200% FPL) in Otsego County is nearly three-times higher at 14% and jumps to 25% for low-income households (0-100%FPL). Regardless of income level, energy burden rates are higher for owner-occupied households verse renter-occupied households. **“High energy**

⁷² <https://www.energy.gov/eere/slsc/maps/lead-tool>

burdens are correlated with greater risk for respiratory diseases, increased stress and economic hardship, and difficulty in moving out of poverty.”⁷³



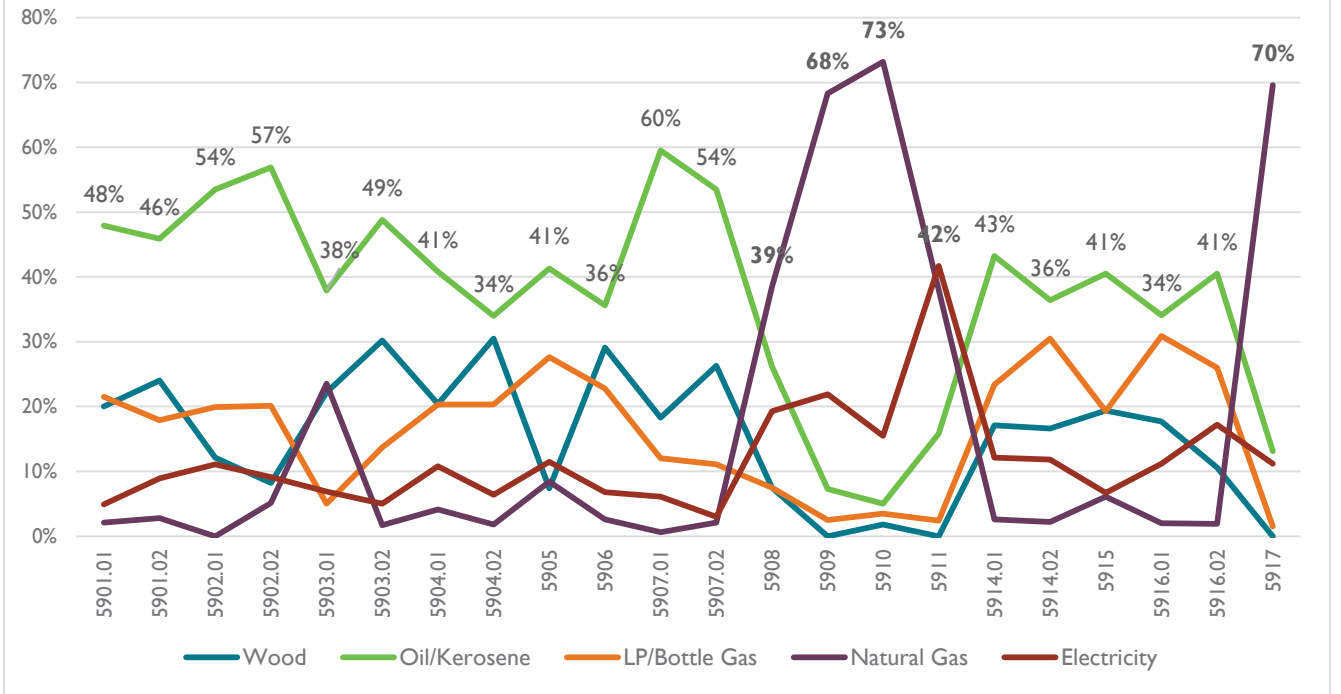
According to US Census Bureau 2021 ACS data, **35.4% of Otsego County households rely on fuel oil/kerosene to heat their homes**. The remaining households utilize natural gas (18.1%); LP or bottled gas (16.5%); wood (14.3%); electricity (12.5%); coal (1%); and other or no fuel options (2.1%). Only 0.2% of households (n=46) in Otsego County utilize solar for home energy⁷⁴. Regardless of income-level, electricity poses the lowest energy burden on all households, while LP or bottled gas have the highest energy burden.

Primary home heating fuel by Census Tract is provided in the chart below. **The majority of Census Tracts in Otsego County rely on oil/kerosene to heat their homes**. Census Tracts that primarily rely on a fuel source other than oil/kerosene are the Town of Oneonta (5908) and all City of Oneonta Census Tracts (5909, 5910, 5917, 5911). Census Tract 5911, which has one of the highest rates of low-income persons in Otsego County, primarily heat their homes with electricity.

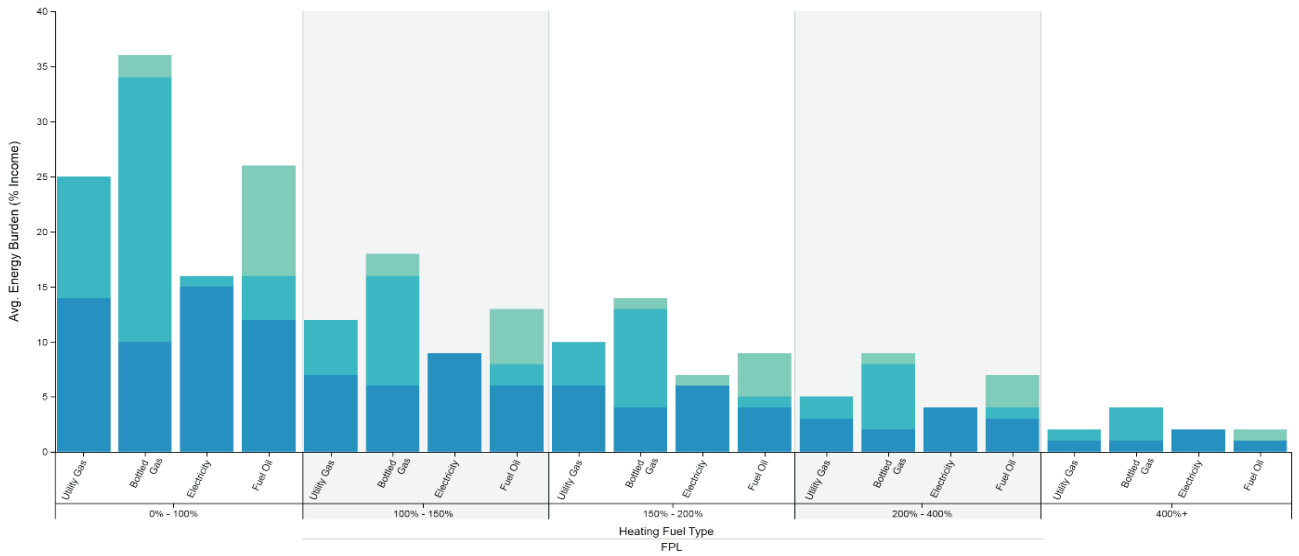
⁷³ <https://www.aceee.org/energy-burden>

⁷⁴ US Census Bureau, 2021 ACS, Table B25040

Heating Fuel Type by Census Tract



Avg. Energy Burden (% Income) for Otsego County



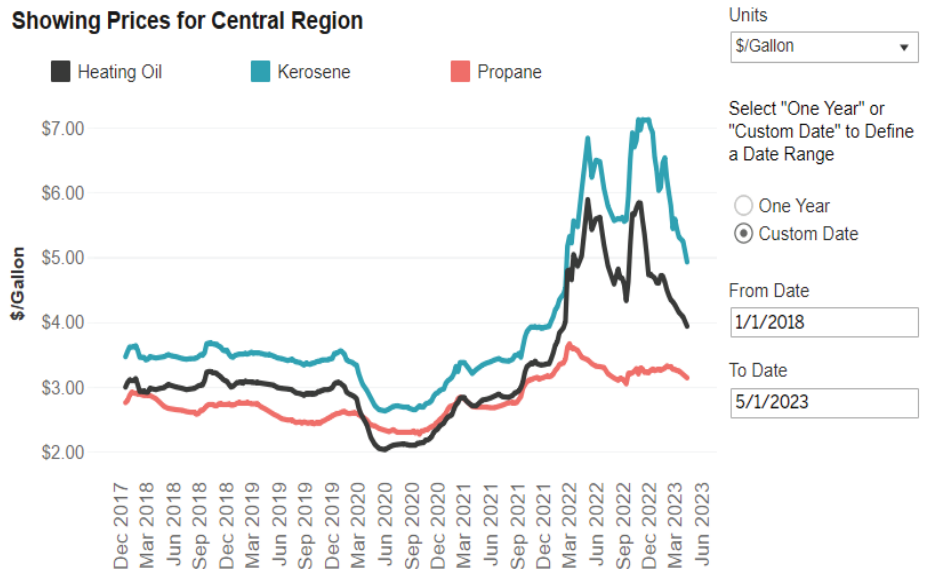
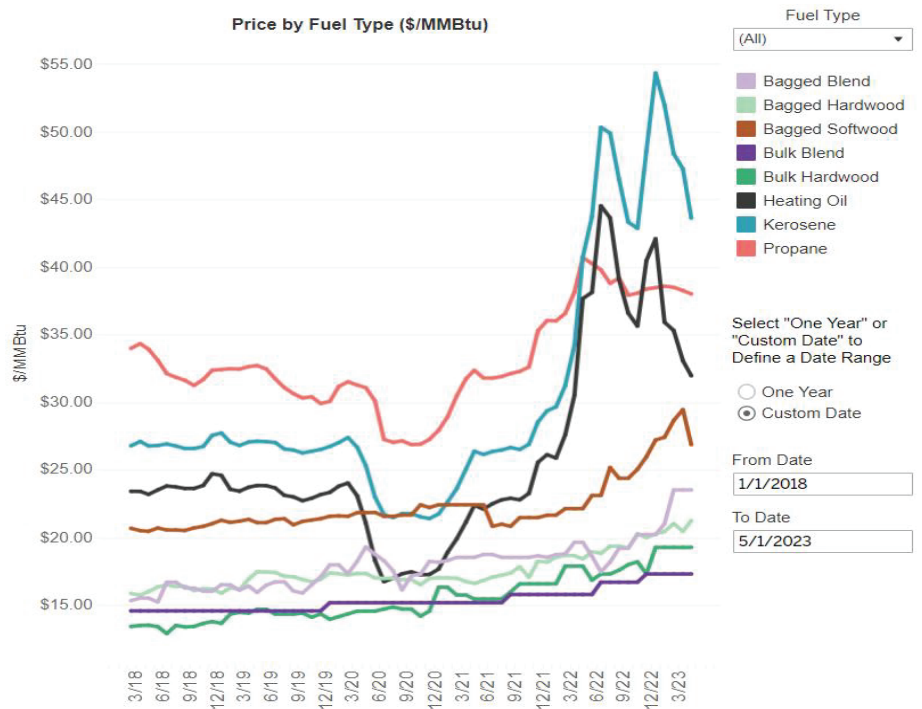
Otsego County
 ● Electricity
 ● Gas
 ● Other

The average annual energy costs for all households in Otsego County is \$3,164 compared to \$2,668 statewide. Annual costs for homeowners in Otsego County verse renters is \$3,406 compared to \$2,404.

Costs for home heating fuel has skyrocketed over the past five years, and even more significantly within the past two years. The chart to the right summarizes statewide price trends from January 2018 - May 2023.

Additional cost-over-time comparison for home heating fuel in the New York Central Region is provided below⁷⁵.

Price comparisons from January 2021, 2022, and 2023 are provided below. Among all fuel sources, kerosene had the greatest price increase (+105.53%), followed by heating oil, and natural gas. Bulk wood pellets and propane had the least dramatic increase in cost from 2021 to 2023.



⁷⁵ <https://www.nysedra.ny.gov/Researchers-and-Policymakers/Energy-Prices/>

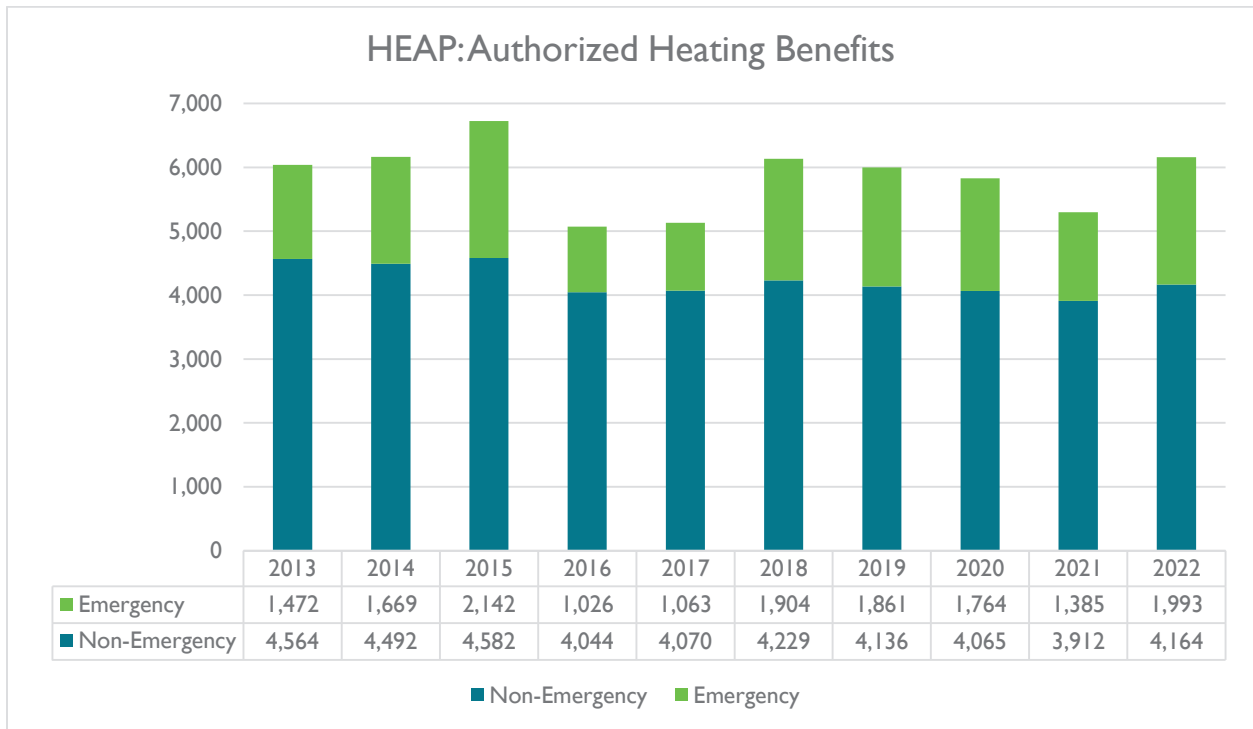
Home Heating Fuel Price Comparison (Year over Year)					
	2021	2022	2023	Change over time	Region
Heating Oil	\$2.52/Gallon	\$3.55/Gallon	\$4.68/Gallon	+85.71%	Central Region
Kerosene	\$3.07/Gallon	\$4.11/Gallon	\$6.31/Gallon	+105.53%	Central Region
Natural Gas	\$17.20/MCF	\$13.83/MCF	\$11.21/MCF	-34.83%	Statewide
Propane	\$2.64/Gallon	\$3.23/Gallon	\$3.28/Gallon	+24.24%	Central Region
Electricity	¢18.3/kWh	¢21.0/kWh	¢23.57/kWh	+28.79%	Statewide
Wood Pellets (Bulk)	\$15.51-15.72/MMBtu	\$15.76-17.86/MMBtu	\$17.27-19.24/MMBtu	+11.35 - 22.39%	Statewide
Wood Pellets (Bagged)	\$16.96-22.39/MMBtu	\$18.65-22.11/MMBtu	\$21.00-28.63/MMBtu	+25.82 – 27.87%	Statewide

SOURCE: <https://www.nysersda.ny.gov/Researchers-and-Policymakers/Energy-Prices/>

Home Energy Assistance Program: The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded program that issues heating benefits to low-income households to supplement annual energy cost. HEAP issues one “regular” benefit per household annually to assist with heating costs and can provide an emergency benefit for households in a heat or heat-related energy emergency. Benefits can help pay for oil, kerosene, natural gas, heating propane, electricity, wood/wood pellets, coal, and corn. Additional benefits are a Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement benefit to repair or replace an inoperable furnace, boiler and other direct heating equipment; a Clean and Tune benefit to ensure the safe, proper and efficient operation of heating equipment; and a Cooling Assistance benefit for the purchase and installation of an air conditioner or a fan. The Cooling Assistance benefit was added to the HEAP program in 2013. An additional HEAP benefit, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, was a Regular Arrears Supplement. This one-time benefit helped pay for gas and/or electricity utility arrears up to a maximum of \$10,000 per applicant household. HEAP eligibility households income limits are up to 60% of the State Median Income (SMI) or 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

Over the 10 year period from 2013 to 2022, Otsego County authorized an average of 4,226 regular HEAP benefits and 1,628 emergency HEAP benefits annually. Over the same period, the Regular HEAP

benefit increased 28% from an average of \$480 in 2013 to \$615 in 2022. Over the same period, the average Emergency HEAP benefit increased from \$548 to \$883⁷⁶.

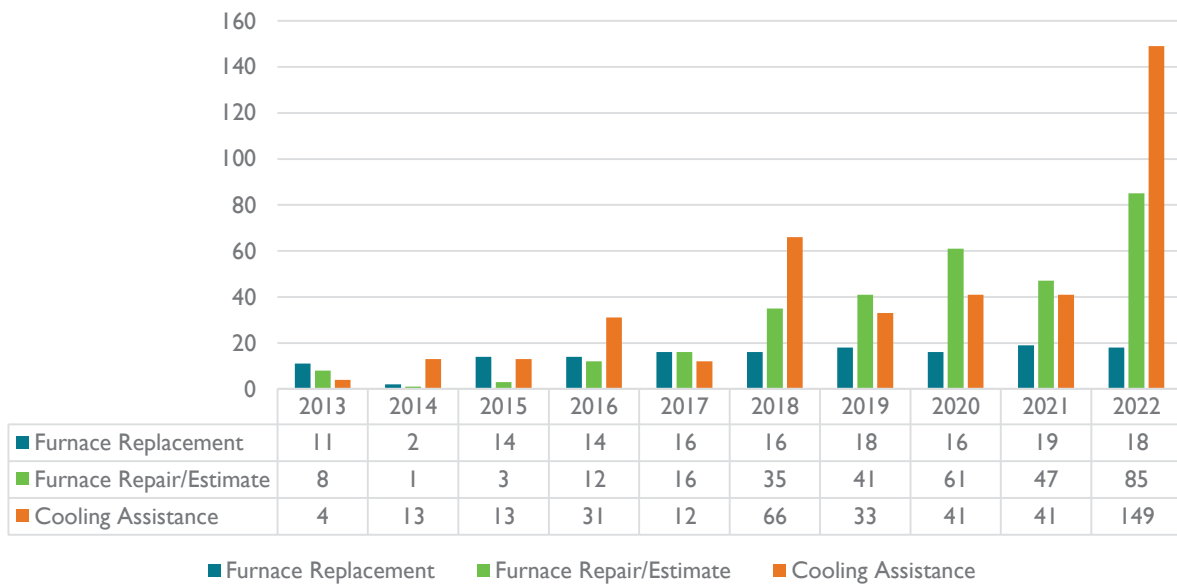


The first notable increase in households benefitting from additional HEAP benefits (Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement Clean and Tune; Cooling Assistance) was in 2018. This rate rose exponentially again in 2022 with the number of households benefitting more than doubling. During this year, 252 households benefited from non-fuel HEAP benefits, with a significant jump in households receiving Cooling Assistance benefits. In all, **the number of households benefitting from non-fuel HEAP benefits in 2022 was more than 2020 and 2021 combined**. Over the 10-year period, Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement benefits averaged \$3,724; Clean and Tune benefits averaged \$547; and Cooling Assistance averaged \$598 per households annually⁷⁷. The average benefit per household in 2022 were \$4,913, \$583, and \$635 respectively.

⁷⁶ NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Monthly Caseload Statistics

⁷⁷ NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Monthly Caseload Statistics

HEAP Authorized Benefits Heating Equipment and Cooling Assistance

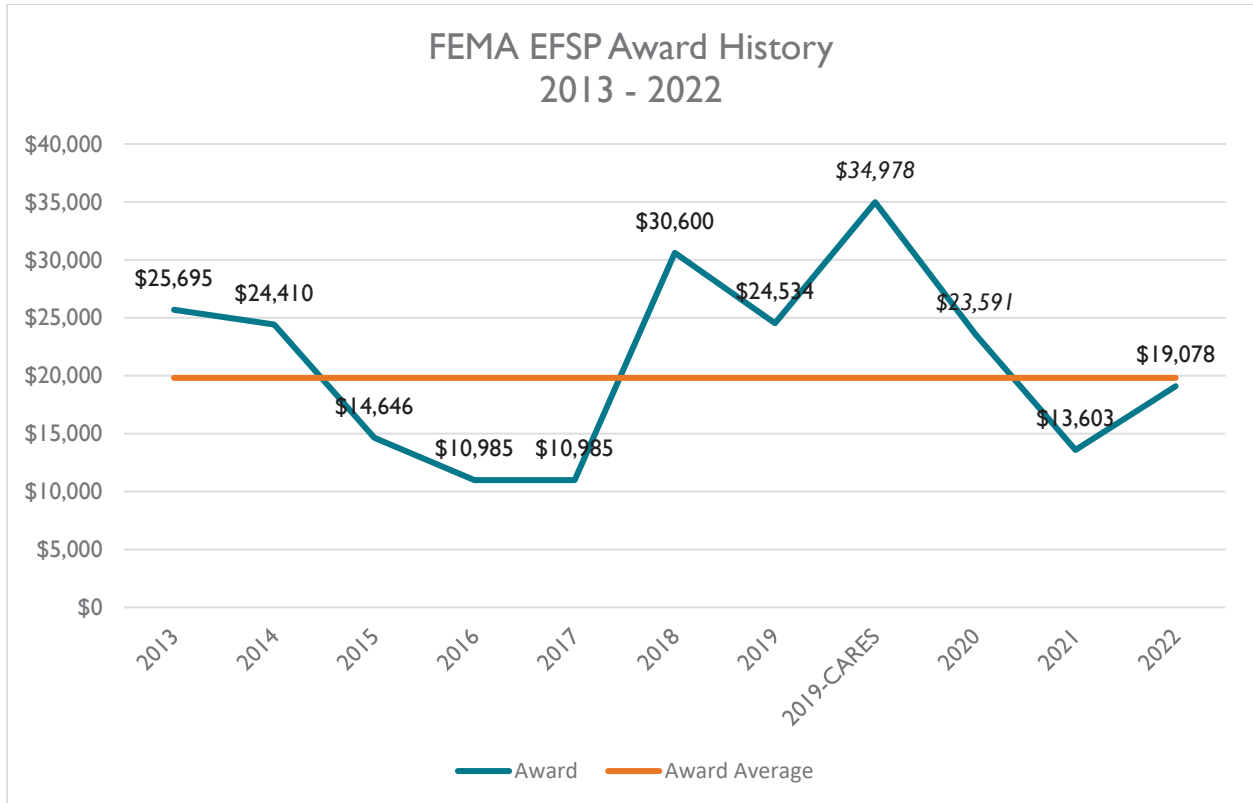


Emergency Utilities: As funding is available and permits, Opportunities for Otsego may offer emergency utility assistance to Otsego County residents on a case-by-case basis. Households with a documented need may receive assistance to restore a utility shut-off, pay utilities associated with hot water and cooking, or a utility security deposit. Below is an annual breakdown of assistance provided by fuel type. In part to a New York State COVID-19 related utility service shutoff moratorium, Opportunities for Otsego had zero requests for utility assistance during FY2021.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Fuel Oil/Kerosene	2	--	3	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Propane	7	2	4	6	5	--	1	--	2	--
Electricity	1	--	18	7	2	3		4	3	--
Total	10	2	25	14	7	3	1	4	5	0

Weatherization: To support low-to-moderate income households in reducing energy and utility costs, Opportunities for Otsego operates a Weatherization home energy conservation program. **Over the period 6/1/2020 – 5/31/2023, Opportunities for Otsego weatherized 139 housing units, reducing the energy burden for 207 households.** As of July 2023, 111 households are on the waiting list: 96 have approved applications and 15 are pending additional information. Additionally, a 40 unit multifamily complex, with 25 occupied units, is being prepared for weatherization work. The current base funding contract allow for weatherization of 72-78 units annually.

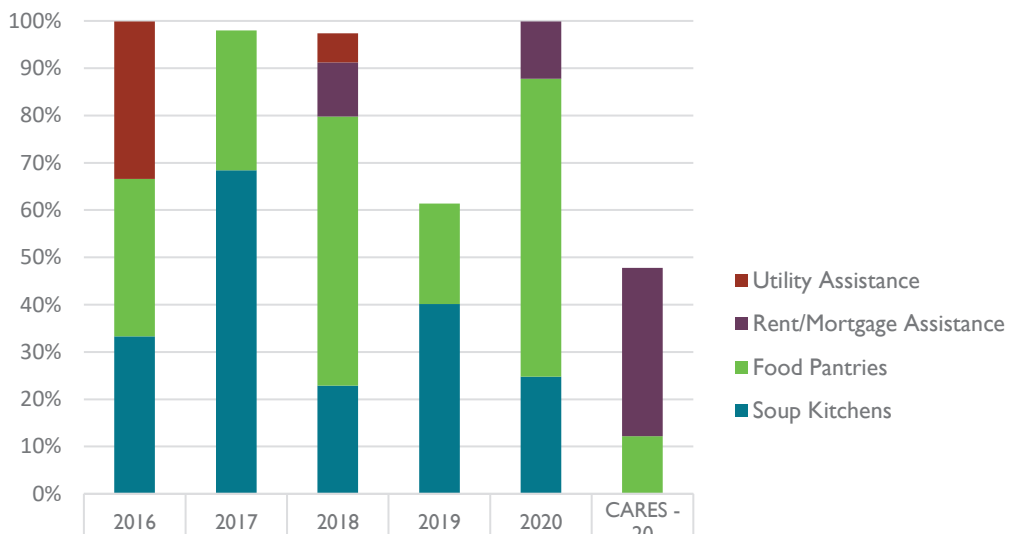
FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter: Since 1991, the FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) has supported Otsego County in addressing the needs of hungry and homeless persons by allocating federal funds for the food and shelter services. Funds may be used to provide emergency food, shelter, housing, and utility assistance to households in crisis. The chart below illustrates local FEMA EFSP award history from 2013-2022. Funding awards for Otsego County in 2016 and 2017 were the lowest amounts dating back to 1991. The largest regular allocation in recent history was \$30,600 in 2018. On average, Otsego County receives \$19,813 in FEMA EFSP funds. In addition to regular allocations, a supplemental award of \$34,978 was allocated to Otsego County in 2019 through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES)⁷⁸.



On average, the greatest allocation of local FEMA ESFP funds is for food pantries (36%), followed by soup kitchens (32%), utility assistance (14%), rent/mortgage assistance (10%), and utility assistance (7%). Remaining allocations are administrative expenses. *Of note, funding allocations reported in Phase 37 (2019) and CARES (2020) did not total 100%.*

⁷⁸ FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program (<https://www.efsp.unitedway.org/efsp>)

FEMA EFSP Funding Allocation 2016 - 2020

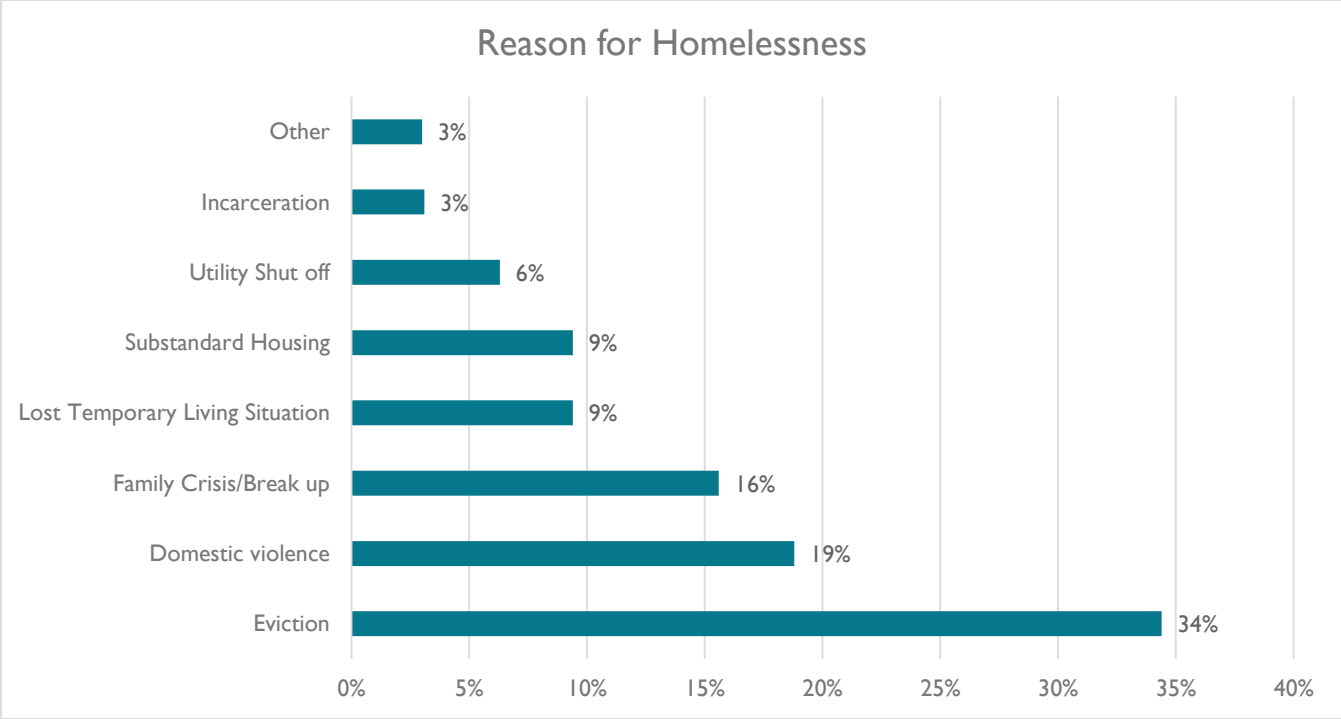


	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	CARES - 20
Utility Assistance	33%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%
Rent/Mortgage Assistance	0%	0%	11%	0%	12%	36%
Food Pantries	33%	30%	57%	21%	63%	12%
Soup Kitchens	33%	68%	23%	40%	25%	0%

Point-in-Time Homeless Count: As required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), regional Continuum of Cares are required to complete an annual Point in Time (PIT) Count of sheltered and unsheltered persons within their region. The Southern Tier Homeless Coalition (NY-511 CoC) PIT count was conducted on the evening of January 26, 2023, which involved a coordinated count by housing advocates from Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, and Tioga Counties. **The Otsego County PIT count totaled 76 persons from 68 households; of which 10 single-persons households were unsheltered.** The remaining 58 households were temporarily housed in either a congregate facility or motel. Five homeless children (under 18 years of age) were counted in the 2023 PIT⁷⁹.

Emergency Shelter: Over the period 10/2020 – 9/2022, Opportunities for Otsego housed 126 homeless households through its domestic violence shelter and emergency housing shelter. The presenting issue for the persons housed at the domestic violence shelter was family violence/safety issues. **The most prevalent reasons of homelessness for households housed at Opportunities for Otsego’s emergency housing shelter are eviction (34%); domestic violence (13%); family crisis/break up (16%); loss of a temporary living situation (9%); and substandard housing (9%).** Beginning August 2023, Opportunities for Otsego’s emergency shelter transitioned to “family-only” as per NYS OTDA directive, and will no longer shelter single persons at the Depew Street facility.

⁷⁹ Data provided by CARES of NY, Inc



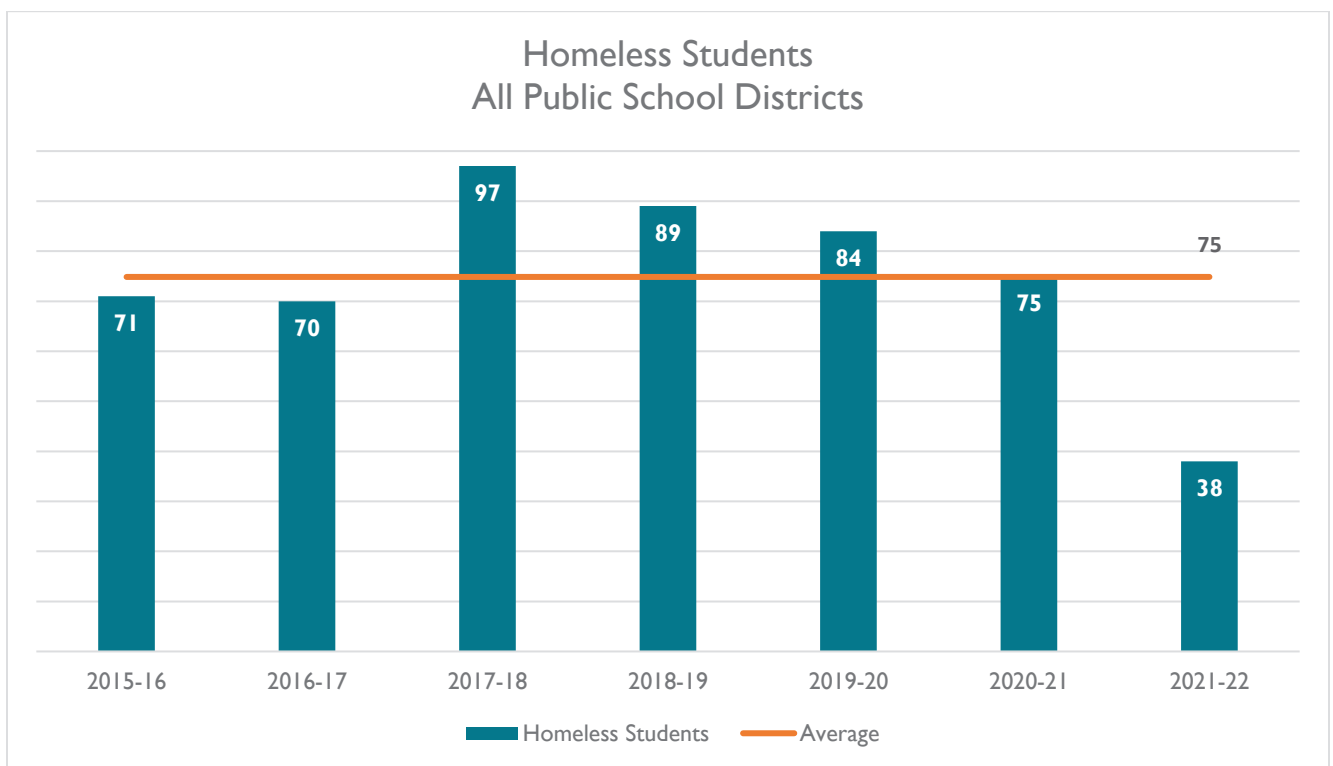
In addition to emergency shelter provided by Opportunities for Otsego, the Otsego County Department of Social Services (DSS) offers housing placement assistance for homeless at other facilities throughout Otsego County. Per Otsego County DSS Annual Reports, the county assisted 285 adults and 50 children with emergency housing in 2019; 226 adults and 28 children in 2020; and none in 2021 due to the state and federal eviction moratoriums. Beginning in early 2023, housing assistance expanded to include the DSS-operated Tiny Home Project. Current occupancy/capacity is for 6 chronically homeless single individuals. Construction of 4 additional units are pending grant funding⁸⁰.

Under New York State law Code Blue, social service districts are required to shelter the homeless when winter temperatures drop to 32° or below, including wind-chill, between 4:00PM and 8:00AM. Prior to the Oneonta Warming Station, which opened in March 2021, Opportunities for Otsego assisted DSS in housing unsheltered persons under Code Blue. The Warming Station, operated by Catholic Charities of Delaware and Otsego Counties, offers drop-in emergency shelter to provide overnight respite from winter weather. **During the 2022 season, the Warming Station was open 152 nights and housed 137 unduplicated individuals. On average, nearly 13 people were sheltered each night at the facility.** During the season, the Warming Station was over capacity on 72 nights, which required Catholic Charities to offer alternate arrangements for unsheltered persons including the Oneonta City Police Station vestibule, the Townhouse Motel, Motel 88, the Budget Inn, and the Super 8 Motel⁸¹.

⁸⁰ Per anecdotal data from Otsego County Planning Department

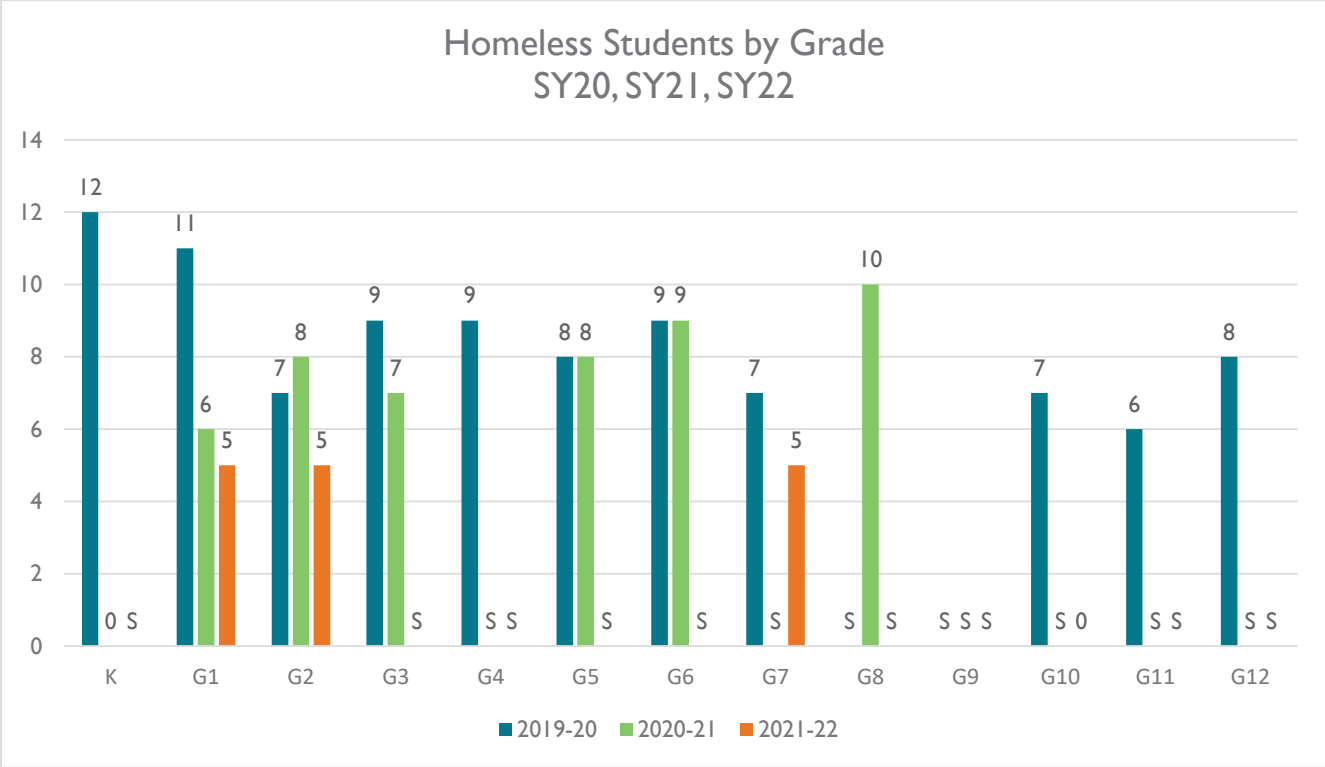
⁸¹ Data provided by Housing Program Director of Catholic Charities of Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties

Homeless Children: According to the New York State Education Department, Student Information Repository System (SIRS), 38 unduplicated children were homeless and attending public school in Otsego County during the 2021-2022 school year; down from 79 children reported during the previous school year. Approximately 53% (n=20) of these students were living in a “doubled-up” situation. The remaining students reported their primary nighttime residence as hotel/motel (n=6) or a congregate shelter (n=12). In comparison, during the 2020-2021 school year, 68% of students were living in a “doubled-up” situation; 9% were living in a hotel/motel, 22% were in a congregate shelter; and one student was reported as being unsheltered (e.g. car, park/campground, abandoned building). **On average, Otsego County public school districts educate 75 homeless students each year.** *Of note: These numbers may be an underrepresentation of the actual count to protect confidentiality. Individual counts are suppressed for districts reporting less than four (4) students.*



During the 2021-2022 school year, the Oneonta City School District had the highest number of homeless students (n=23), followed by Richfield Springs (n=9). All other remaining school districts either reported zero students or the data was suppressed to protect confidentiality. Most of these students (52.6%) were doubled-up or living in a temporary, shared housing situation; 31.6% lived in a congregate shelter; and 15.8% lived in a motel/hotel. As a three-year average (2018-19 to 2020-21), Oneonta averages 37 homeless students a year, followed by Richfield Springs (n=18), Edmeston (n=14) and Unatego (n=14). Generally, elementary age students represent the largest homeless student population in Otsego County⁸².

⁸² <https://nysteachs.org/topic-resource/data-on-student-homelessness-nys/>



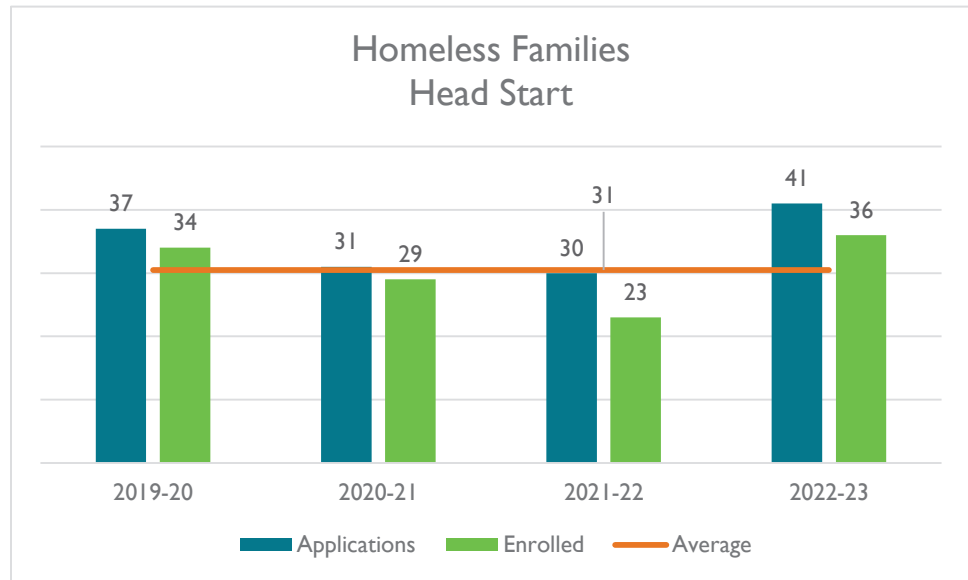
As a rate of student homelessness compared to total enrollment, Richfield Springs Central School has consistently ranked as one of the top three districts for the last seven consecutive years and had the highest rate of student homelessness for school years 2017-18 through 2021-22 at an average of 3.3%⁸³.

School District	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Cherry Valley-Springfield Central School District	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cooperstown Central School District	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Edmeston Central School District	2.8%	2.5%	2.1%	0.3%	4.2%	2.8%	0.0%
Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
Laurens Central School District	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	3.0%	0.7%	0.0%
Milford Central School District	2.8%	2.3%	3.4%	0.6%	1.8%	0.6%	0.0%
Morris Central School District	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Oneonta City School District	1.0%	1.3%	1.8%	1.2%	2.2%	1.4%	1.4%
Otego-Unadilla Central School District	1.8%	1.3%	1.7%	0.7%	2.0%	0.6%	0.0%
Richfield Springs Central School District	2.4%	2.4%	4.4%	3.3%	4.2%	3.8%	2.3%
Schenevus Central School District	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Worcester Central School District	1.9%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

⁸³ <https://nysteachs.org/topic-resource/data-on-student-homelessness-nys/> and <https://data.nysed.gov/downloads.php>

In addition to homeless children enrolled in public schools are children, age birth to five, enrolled in Head Start. Like children enrolled in public schools, children in Head Start are considered “homeless” per the federal definition set forth by the McKinney-Vento Act; living in a doubled-up situations; in a hotel/motel or congregate shelter; or unsheltered (e.g. car, park, campground, abandoned building).

Adjacent is a summary of families identified as homeless by Opportunities for Otsego’s Head Start program. **On average, homeless families comprise 11.4% of all enrolled families in the Otsego County**



Head Start program. Per federal guidelines, homeless children are categorically eligible for Head Start 0-5 programming and do not have to provide proof of income to qualify.

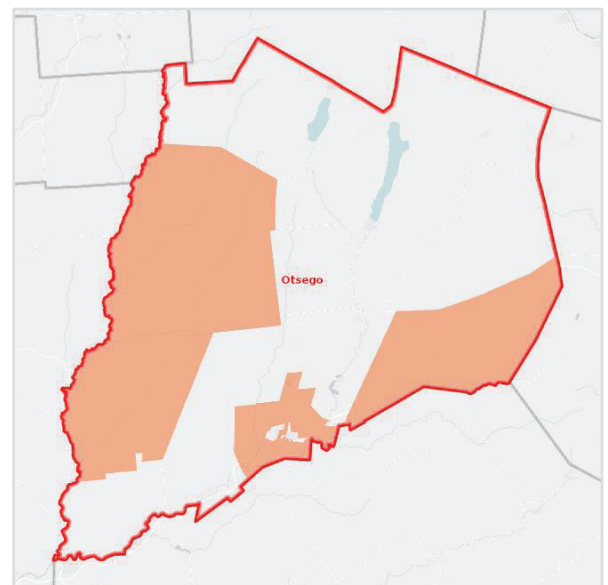
NUTRITION

- There are an estimated 5,440 persons deemed food insecure in Otsego County, of which 19% live above income thresholds to be eligible for SNAP and other nutrition programs. Food deserts are one contributing factor to food insecurity. Nearly 18,850 Otsego County residents live in a “food desert” and have low access to a supermarket or grocery store.
- Participation in the school free/reduced lunch program has increased 19% among public schools across Otsego County; increasing to 66% during the 2021-22 school year from 47% during 2015-16.
- SNAP caseloads in Otsego County were on a gradual decline from 2013 to 2019. Since, the number of households benefiting has reached a 10-year high.
- On average, Otsego County nutrition programs serve 1,269 meals daily. Since 2011, the Otsego County Office for the Aging has served roughly 222 meal daily through congregate meal sites and its meal delivery program, and community food pantries and feeding programs provide an estimated 1,047 meals a day through food distribution and served meals.

Food Insecurity: Food insecurity refers to the USDA’s measure of the lack of access to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food-insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time, rather may indicate a household’s need to make trade-offs between important basic needs (e.g. housing costs, medical bills) and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods.

Per Feeding America 2021 estimates, **9.2% of Otsego County residents (n=5,440) are food insecure**. This number is down from the estimated 12% (n=7,190) of food insecure persons in 2019. Of those considered food insecure in 2021, 19% live above the income threshold (200% FPL) to be eligible for SNAP and other nutrition programs⁸⁴.

Food Deserts: An additional contributor to food insecurity is proximity to vendors that offer fresh fruit, vegetables, and other healthful whole foods. Food deserts are defined as census tracts where a substantial number or share of residents has low access to a supermarket or large grocery store. Low food access may be compounded by income and vehicle access⁸⁵. Within Otsego County, there are four census tracts where a significant number residents (n=18,456) live more than 1 mile from the nearest supermarket. These tracts include the communities of Edmeston/Burlington/Garrattsville (5904); Morris (5915); the Town of Oneonta (5908); and Schenevus/Worcester (5907). Among these areas, census tract 5908 (Town of Oneonta) has the highest rate of households without access to a vehicle (12.2%).



⁸⁴ <https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2021/overall/new-york/county/otsego>

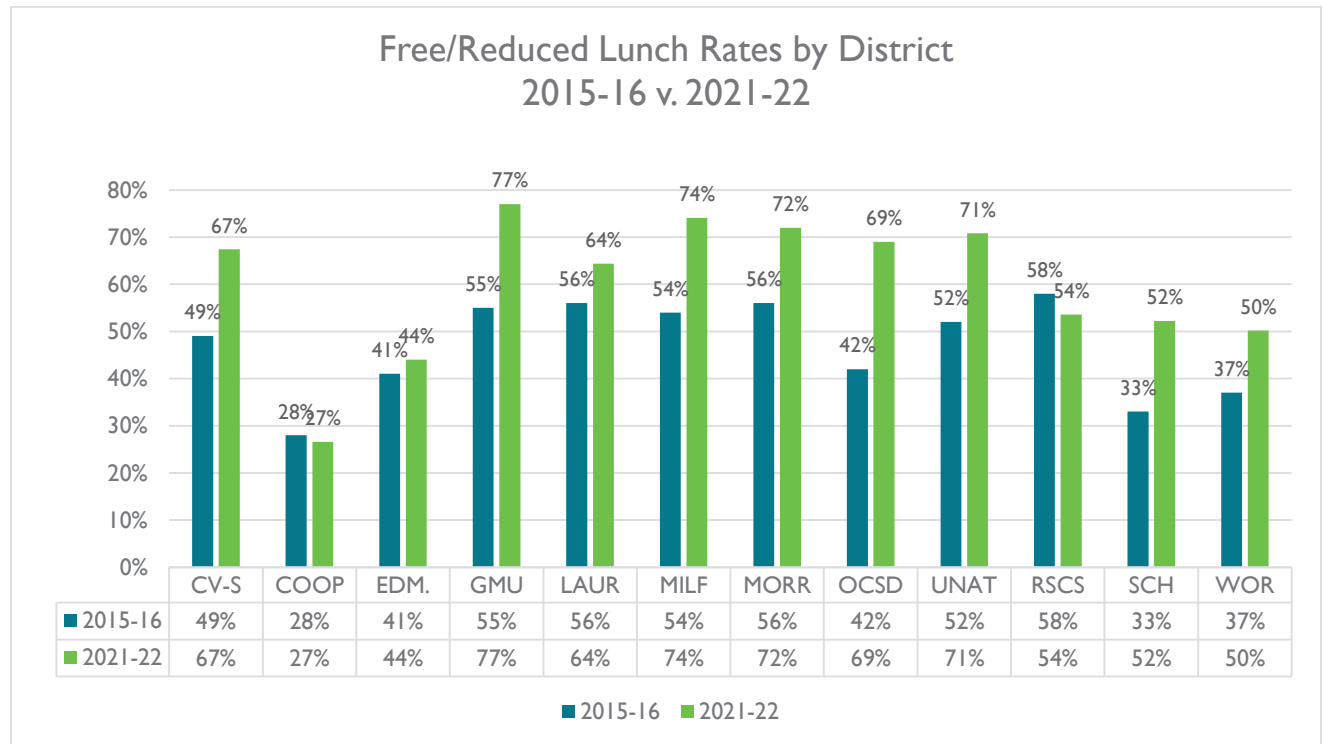
⁸⁵ USDA Food Access Research Atlas (2019) and ACS, 2021 5-Year Estimates

Vehicle access within the remaining food deserts are 3.9%; 5%; and 4.6% respectively. **Persons living in these food deserts represent approximately 31% of the population within Otsego County.**

Free and Reduced Lunch Program: The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential childcare institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. The program was established under the National School Lunch Act, signed by President Harry Truman in 1946.

Eligibility for the free/reduced school lunch program is based on household income. The income eligibility threshold for free meals is up to 130% of the federal poverty level (\$39,000 for a family of 4 annually). Eligibility for reduced lunch is between 131-185% of the federal poverty level (\$55,500 for a family of 4 annually). Per the New York State Department of Education, **61.15% of students enrolled in Otsego County public schools (n=3,731) are eligible for free/reduced lunch.** The table below illustrates the comparative rate of students participating in the free/reduced lunch program by district during the school years 2015-16 and 2021-22.

Starting in 2020, in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, Congress approved schools waivers that allowed all students to receive free meals regardless of income. This waiver expired at the start of the 2022-23 school year.



The greatest rate of increase in enrollment in the free/reduced lunch program from 2015-16 to 2021-22 was in the Oneonta City School District (+27%), followed by Gilbertsville-Mount Upton (+22%) and Milford (+20%). Cooperstown was the only district with a decrease (-1%) in enrollment. The school districts with the highest rates of free/reduced lunch during school year 2021-22 were Gilbertsville-Mount Upton (77%), Unatego (71%), and Rensselaer Central (54%).

Oneonta at 69%. **The overall rate of free/reduced lunch participation has increased 19% in the last six years; from 47% in 2015-16 to 66% during the 2021-22 school year⁸⁶.**

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP): SFSP is a summer feeding program sponsored by the USDA, which ensures low-income children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. Approved organizations offer free meals to children under 18 years of age. Several approved SFSP programs operated across, and in close proximity to, Otsego County during the summer of 2023. Sites may choose to serve breakfast, lunch, snack, dinner, or a combination of meals⁸⁷. In addition to coordinating two sit-down meal sites, Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties offered delivery to four (4) mobile home parks in Oneonta.

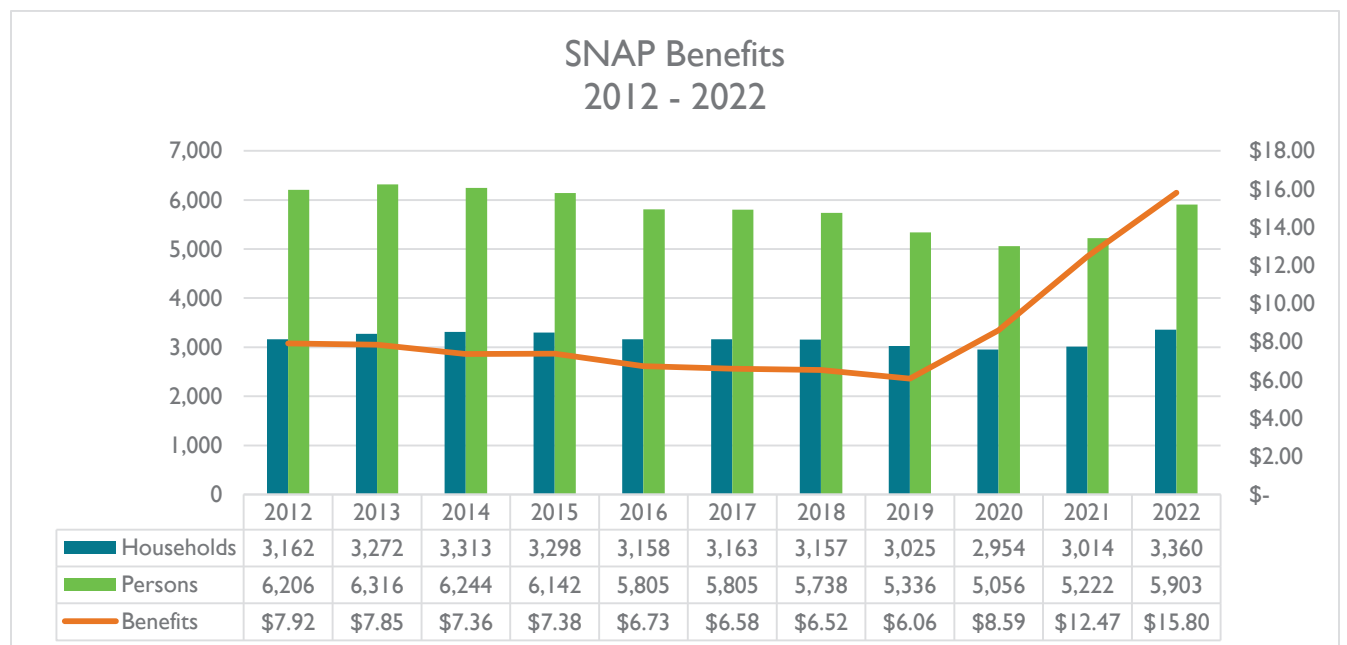
Summer Food Service Program (2023)					
Site Name	Town	Days	Breakfast Time	Lunch Time	Meal Type
Sidney Elementary School	Sidney	MTWTH	7:30AM - 8:00AM	11:00AM - 12:30PM	Served
Unadilla Elementary School	Unadilla	MTWTH	7:45AM - 8:45AM	10:45AM - 12:15PM	Served
Unatego Junior-Senior HS	Otego	MTWTH	7:45AM - 8:45AM	10:45AM-12:15PM	Grab & Go
Unatego Church	Otego	MTWTHF	8:00AM - 8:45AM	11:00AM-12:30PM	Grab & Go
Morris Central School	Morris	MTWTHF	8:00AM - 8:30AM	10:45AM-11:15AM	Served
South New Berlin Free Library	South New Berlin	MTWTH		12:15PM - 12:45PM	Served
Unadilla Valley CSD	New Berlin	MTWTH	7:50AM - 8:20AM	12:00PM - 12:45PM	Grab & Go
Hyde Park	New Berlin	MTWTH	8:30AM - 9:00AM	11:30AM - 12:00PM	Served
Leonardsville Community Ministry Center	Leonardsville	MTWTHF		11:00AM - 12:00PM	Served
Mt. Markham Elementary School	West Winfield	MTWTHF	8:15AM - 8:45AM	11:15AM - 12:15PM	Served
Richfield Springs Elementary School	Richfield Springs	MTWTHF	7:45AM - 8:15AM	11:00AM-12:00PM	Served
Milford Central School	Milford	MTWTHF	8:00AM - 8:30AM	11:00AM-11:30AM	Served
Schenevus Central School	Schenevus	MTWTH	7:45AM - 8:30AM	11:00AM - 11:45AM	Served
Greater Plains Elementary School	Oneonta	MTWTHF		11:15AM - 11:45AM	Served
Neahwa Park: Large Pavillion	Oneonta	MTWTHF		12:00PM-1:00PM	Served
Oneonta High School	Oneonta	MTWTHF		11:30AM-11:45AM	Delivery
Oneida Village Mobile Home Park	Oneonta	MTWTHF		12:00PM - 12:15PM	Delivery
Moutainview Mobile Home Park	Oneonta	MTWTHF		12:15PM - 12:30PM	Delivery
Lantern Hill Mobile Home Park	Oneonta	MTWTHF		12:45PM - 1:00PM	Delivery

⁸⁶ NYS Department of Education School Report Cards

⁸⁷ <https://hungersolutionsny.org/federal-nutrition-programs/summer-food-service-program/>

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): The SNAP caseload in Otsego County, including number of households, individual beneficiaries, and the average benefit amount, gradually declined over the period 2013 to 2019. The average monthly SNAP benefit for Otsego County households during 2019 was \$200 each month. Over the period 2019-2022, there was a sharp increase in the dollar amount of benefits distributed, which were attributed to additional COVID-related food benefits. Average benefits amounts per household from 2019 to 2022 more than doubled with average benefits increasing to \$290 in 2020, \$413 in 2021 and \$470 in 2022. COVID-related food benefits ended in March 2023. **During PY 2018-2022, an estimated 857 households enrolled in Opportunities for Otsego programs received SNAP benefits; approximately 32% of all households served.**

The average number of households and individuals receiving SNAP benefits annually in Otsego County, along with average benefit amount in hundred-thousands of dollars, for the past ten years is shown in the table below.

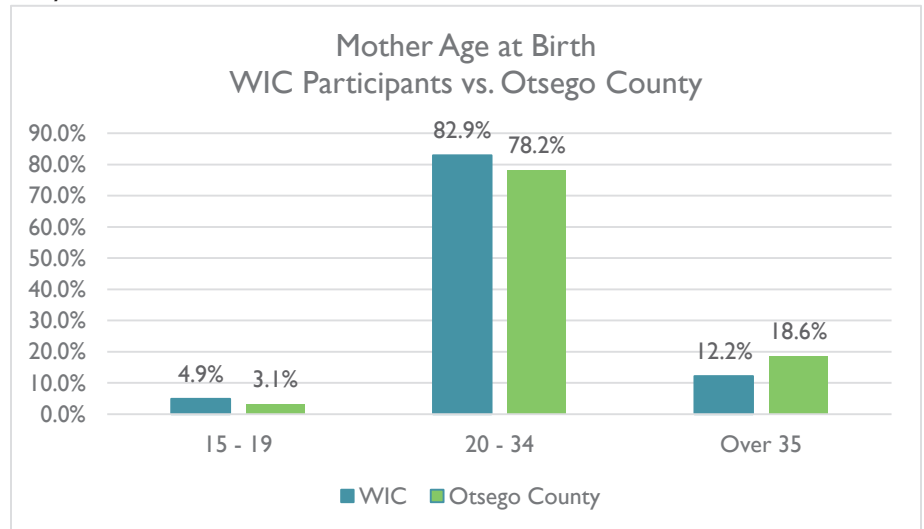


SOURCE: NYS OTDA, Monthly Caseload Statistics

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program: WIC provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk. **During 2022, an average of 610 prenatal and postpartum women, infants, and children received benefits monthly from the Otsego County WIC program.** Among the 41 prenatal mothers served by WIC, the majority were age 20-34.

Below is a comparative analysis of the age of all women who gave birth in Otsego County and prenatal mothers benefitting from WIC⁸⁸. Of note, there were no births to mothers under age 15 during 2020 in Otsego County. Among birthing mothers age 35+, 15.7% (n=75) were age 35-39 and 2.9% (n=14) were age 40+. The total number of live births during 2020 in Otsego County, for which the WIC data is compared to, was 478. The total number of live births during 2022 in Otsego County was 530.

In addition to supplemental nutrition, WIC, in recognizing the long-term health benefits for mother and baby, provides breastfeeding support to mothers. Breastfeeding goals have been established for WIC programs by the USDA and are included in Healthy People 2030 as a social determinant of health indicator. Historically, “mothers with lower



rates of breastfeeding tend to be young, low-income, African American, unmarried, less educated, participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), overweight or obese before pregnancy, and more likely to report their pregnancy was unintended⁸⁹.”

Data from 2018–2019 National Vital Statistics System is used by the USDA to determine the percentage of live infants who initiated breastfeeding, defined as receiving any breast milk or colostrum during the period between delivery and discharge from the birth facility or completion of the birth certificate for home births⁹⁰. This data is provided below alongside local agency WIC breastfeeding rates⁹¹.

Report Area	County Number of Infants	County Breastfeeding Rate	WIC Number of Infants	WIC Breastfeeding Rate
Otsego County	878	85.8%	145	25.5%
Chenango County	858	81.2%	206	21.8%
Delaware County	717	81.5%	155	31.0%
Herkimer/Madison/Oneida County	7,276	75.6%	1,638	25.3%
Montgomery County	1,173	78.9%	446	20.2%
Schoharie County	517	84.3%	95	36.8%
New York State	442,523	87.6%	86,220	47.4%

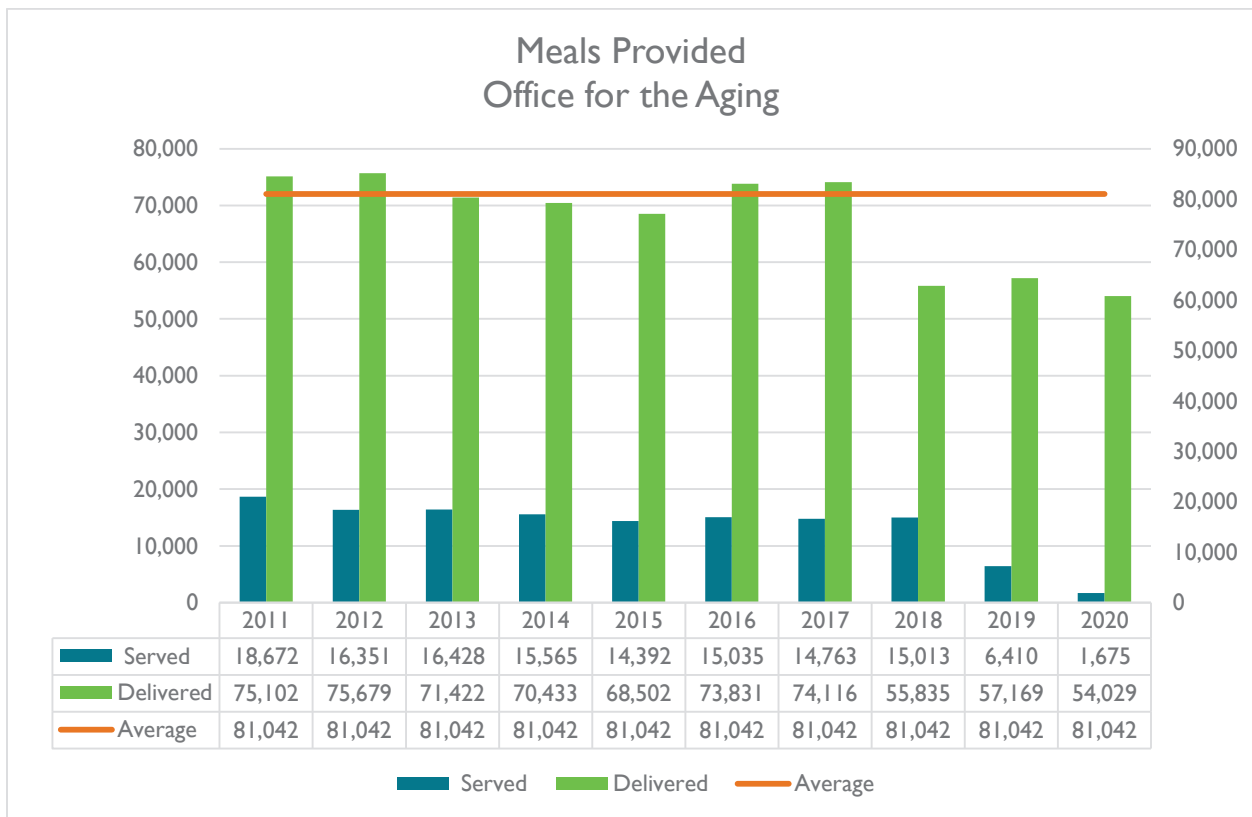
⁸⁸ WIC program report (2022) and NYSDOH Vital Statistics (2020)

⁸⁹ Jones KM, Power ML, Queenan JT, Schulkin J. “Racial and ethnic disparities in breastfeeding”. *Breastfeed Med.* 2015 May

⁹⁰ <https://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/county/2018-2019/newyork.html>

⁹¹ <https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/wic-breastfeeding-data-local-agency-report>

Senior Nutrition Centers: According to the Otsego County Office for the Aging website, there are three congregate senior dining centers located across Otsego county that provide a nutritious meal and socialization to residents age 60 and older. Prior to the COVID-19 public health event, six senior meals sites were in operation across Otsego County. Those seeking meals must make reservations 24-hours in advance of the established mealtime and are asked to make a small donation to eat. For those who cannot make it to a congregate meal site, home delivered frozen meals are an option. **On average, the Otsego County Office for the Aging provides 81,042 meals annually, or roughly 222 meals daily, through congregate meals sites and delivery program.** A notable decrease in served meals was observed beginning in 2019, which may be attributed to COVID-related meal site closures⁹².



The chart below lists each meal site, with the location, and days of operation.

Otsego County Senior Meal Sites 2023			
Dining Location	Town	Days	Time
Cherry Valley Community Center	Cherry Valley	Monday/Wednesday	Noon
Nader Towers	Oneonta	Monday - Friday	11:30AM
Richfield Springs Community Center	Richfield Springs	Thursday	11:30AM

⁹² <https://data.ny.gov/Human-Services/Home-Delivered-Meals-Served-by-County-by-the-Office/5y5b-3gjx> AND <https://data.ny.gov/Human-Services/Congregate-Meals-Served-by-County-by-the-Office-fo/ytzm-8tkg>

Additional nutrition support offered to persons age 60 and older through the Office for the Aging are home delivered meals, Farmers Market Coupons, and its Senior Restaurant dining program. Home delivered meals are for seniors who are unable to attend a local dining center or are unable to prepare a meal for themselves. Frozen meals are delivery weekly. Farmer’s Market coupons are provided to income-eligible seniors to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at area Farmers' Markets. Recipients must either be receiving or eligible to receive SSI, public assistance or Section 8 housing subsidy or have monthly household income at or below \$2,096 (1 person household), \$2,823 (2 person household), or \$3,551 (3 person household). Coupons books are valued at \$25 and can be used from July through November. The Senior Dining program affords seniors the opportunity to eat at local restaurants at a reduced cost.

Feeding Programs and Food Pantries: Per NYS Department of Health data on Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Programs (HPNAP), there are eighteen (18) HPNAP supported sites in Otsego County. These sites may include soup kitchens, food pantries and congregate shelters. Over the period April 2018-March 2019, these eighteen separate sites received 74,540 requests for assistance from individuals and provided 382,292 meals at an average of 1,047 meals provided daily. Of those served, 26.8% were under 18 years of age; 59.5% were between 18-64 years old; and 13.7% were age 65+⁹³.

The following charts summarize community feeding programs and panties operating in Otsego County. Additional sites not open to the general public include A. O. Fox Memorial Hospital Employee Pantry, Opportunities for Otsego emergency shelters, Rehabilitative Support Services⁹⁴, and campus-based food pantries for students attending Hartwick College and SUNY Oneonta. Seasonal nutrition assistance is available through a variety of holiday food basket programs in Otsego County. Organizations providing assistance include The Family Service Association, the Salvation Army, as well as community pantries and groups, such as Rotary and churches.

Otsego County “Soup Kitchen” and Feeding Programs			
Town	Location	Hours of Operation	HPNAP
Year-Round Sites			
Oneonta	The Lord’s Table at St. James Episcopal Church	Mon/Weds/Fri 4:00- 5:30PM	✓
Oneonta	Saturday’s Bread at First United Methodist Church	Saturday 11:00AM- 1:00PM	✓
Oneonta	Meal with a Message at Salvation Army	Sunday 4:00PM-5:00PM	✓
Richfield Springs	St. Joseph Community Table	First Thursday 11:30AM-1:30PM	
Unadilla	Free Community Breakfast at Unadilla United Methodist Church	Third Saturday 9:00AM – 11:00AM	
Seasonal Programs			
Oneonta	Soup-To-Go at Elm Park United Methodist	Wednesday (Jan-March)	

⁹³ https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/prevention/nutrition/hpnap/services_provided.htm

⁹⁴ <https://regionalfoodbank.net/agency-list-by-county/otsego/>

		4:00PM-5:00PM	
Oneonta	Dollar Dinner at First United Presbyterian	Once per Year on a Sunday from 4:30PM - 6:30 PM	
Oneonta	Thanksgiving Community Dinner sponsored by St. Mary's Parish and The Lord's Table	Thanksgiving Day Delivery: 10:30 AM Take Out: 12:00 - 1:00PM	
Oneonta	Friends of Christmas (Dinner for Community) at First United Methodist	Christmas Day 12:30PM - 2:30 PM Delivery too	

SOURCE: Hunger Coalition of Otsego County Network

Otsego County Community Food Pantries			
Town	Location	Hours of Operation	HPNAP
Burlington Flats	First Baptist Church of Burlington Flats		
Cherry Valley	Daily Bread Food Pantry at the Community Center	Tuesday, 9:00am-Noon Saturday, 10:00am – 1:00pm	
Cooperstown	Ecumenical Food Pantry at the First Presbyterian Church		✓
Edmeston	Second Baptist Church Food Pantry		✓
Gilbertsville	Butternut Valley Food Pantry at Christ Church Episcopal		✓
Hartwick	United Methodist Food Pantry	Mon/Weds/Thurs 10am-Noon	✓
Laurens	St. Matthew's Lutheran Church		
Maryland	Southern Baptist Church		✓
Milford	Milford Food Pantry at the American Legion	Saturday, 9:30AM– 11:30AM	✓
Mt. Upton	United Methodist Church	Appointment only	
New Berlin	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church		
Oneonta	Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry at St. James' Episcopal Church		✓
Oneonta	St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church		✓
Oneonta	Salvation Army		✓
Otego	Otego Community Food Pantry	Thursday, 3:15pm-5:15pm; Saturday, 11:00am-1:00pm	✓
Richfield Springs	Church of Christ Uniting		✓
Schenevus	Tri-Valley Food Pantry at the Methodist Church		✓
Unadilla	Unadilla Community Food Pantry		✓
West Oneonta	Edith's Cupboard at the West Oneonta Baptist Church		
Worcester	First Presbyterian Church	Appointment only	✓

SOURCE: Hunger Coalition of Otsego County Network

Farmer's Markets: There are six established farmer's markets in Otsego County that offer fresh, local, seasonally-grown fruits, vegetables, and meats. The benefits of farmer's markets are that consumers get to buy direct from the farmer/producer, profit loss is minimized by circumventing the middleman, and more capital remains in the community. Some markets accept Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards/food stamp payment,

which increase accessibility of nutritious food to low-income households, and Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) coupons typically distributed by WIC and Office for the Aging.

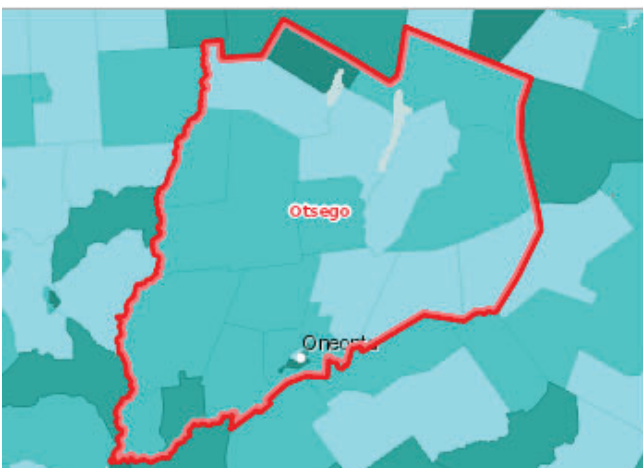
Otsego County Farmers Markets 2023					
Market Name	Location	Days	Season	FMNP	SNAP
Richfield Springs Area Farmers' Market	Spring Park Main St. (Rt. 20) Richfield Springs	Saturdays 8AM-1PM	June 17-October 28	✓	
Middlefield Orchard Farm Stand	2274 State Hwy 166 Cooperstown	Mon-Sat 9am-5pm	June 15-November 4	✓	
Cooperstown Tuesday Farmers' Market	101 Main Street in Pioneer Alley Cooperstown	Tue 12pm-4pm	July 1-September30	✓	✓
Cooperstown Saturday Farmers' Market	101 Main Street in Pioneer Alley Cooperstown	Sat 9am-2pm	Year-round	✓	✓
Morris Farmers' Market	Guy Rathbon Park 17 Main St, Morris	Thu 2:30pm-5:30pm	May 25-October 26	✓	
Oneonta Farmers' Market	51-55 Market St Oneonta	Sat 9am-12pm	Year-round	✓	
Oneonta Winter Farmers' Market	Foothills Performing Arts & Civic Center, 24 Market St., Oneonta	Saturday 9am-12pm	Nov 7-April 24		

Additional fresh produce is available through the Pathfinder Produce program of Pathfinder Village. This weekly market offers a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables for pick up at its Edmeston location or by deliver within a 20 mile radius of Edmeston.

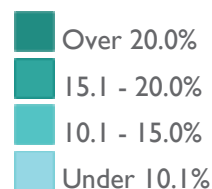
INCOME

- Point Census estimates report that 12.4% of Otsego County residents live below the poverty line, of which 17% are under seventeen years of age and 7.5% are aged 65 and older. The City of Oneonta (Census Tract 5911) has the highest rate of poverty within Otsego County, followed by the town of Richfield and the Wells Bridge/Unadilla area.
- Nearly 47% of Otsego County residents are “working poor”; having limited assets and income to meet a minimum household budget. Persons identifying as Asian and Hispanic have a higher rates of working poor in comparison to other racial groups in Otsego County.
- Nearly 23,000 households claimed Coronavirus-related Economic Impact Payments on their 2020 tax returns, totaling over \$64.4 million.
- During 2022, the Otsego County Department of Social Services managed 358 cases for cash assistance benefits: 179 TANF cases; 62 Family Assistance; and 117 Safety Net.

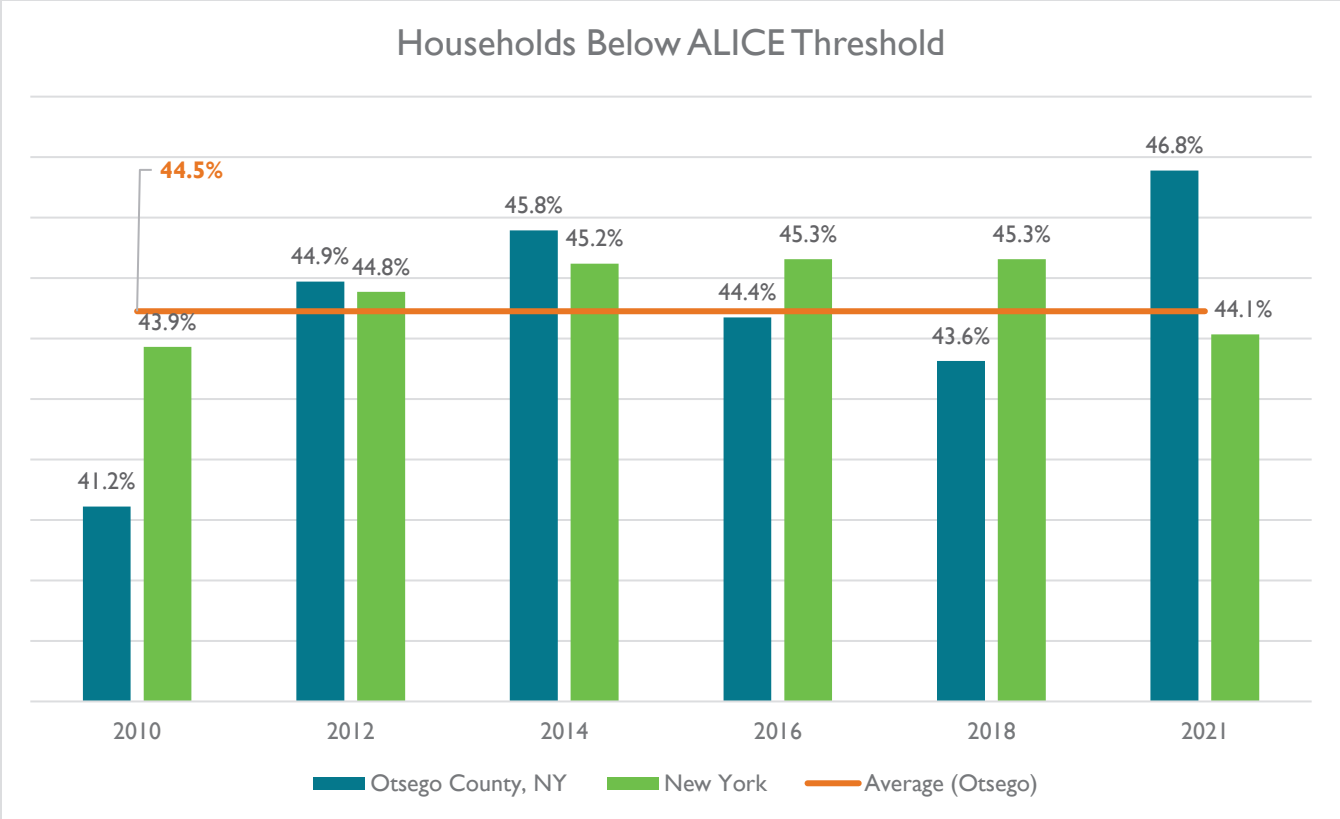
Income Levels: The median household income in Otsego County during 2021 was \$60,523; \$14,634 below the New York State median income of \$75,157. According to the American Community Survey 5 year estimates, **an average of 12.4% of all persons in Otsego County lived below the poverty level during the 2017-2021 period**, of which 17.0% were under 18 years of age (n=1,561) and 7.5% over 65 years of age (n=912). The City of Oneonta has the highest rate of poverty within Otsego County in Census Tract 5911 at 26.3%, followed by the Town of Richfield (5903.01) at 22.4% and the Wells Bridge/Unadilla area (5916.01) at 15.42%



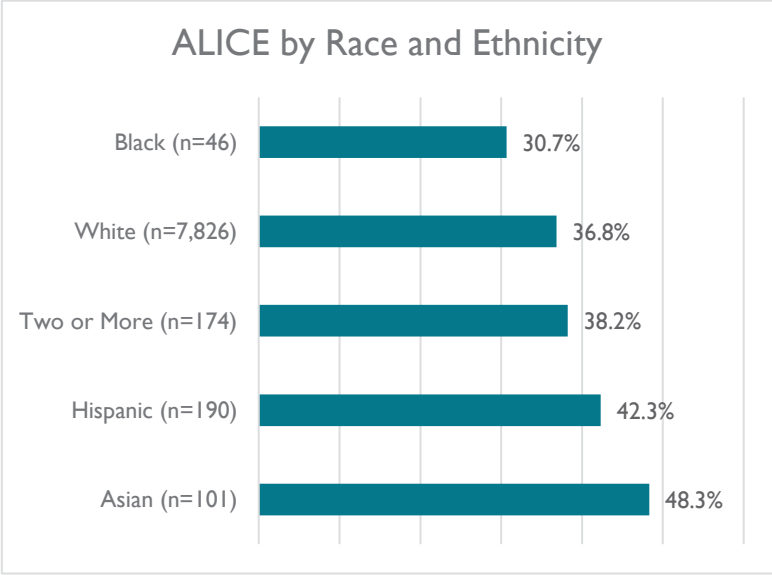
Population Below the Poverty Level, Percent by Tract, ACS 2017-21



ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) households have incomes above the Federal Poverty Level but below the basic cost of living; also referred to as “working poor”. Per 2021 ACS Census data, of the 22,448 estimated households in Otsego County, 11.6% (n=2,612) live below or at the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and 35.1% (n=7,889) live above the FPL but still struggle to meet a minimum household budget. The percentage of households deemed below the ALICE threshold in 2021 (46.8%) was the highest rate over the eleven year period going back to 2010. **On average, 44.5% of Otsego County households were considered “working poor” over the period 2010 to 2021.**



The percentage of households living below the ALICE threshold by race and ethnicity is illustrated below. Overall, **persons identifying as Asian have the highest rate of households deemed “working poor” in Otsego County at 48.3%, followed by Hispanics (42.3%), and persons identified as “Two or More” races (38.2%).** As a total number of persons living below the ALICE threshold in Otsego County, Whites have the highest number (n=7,826), followed by Hispanics (n=190), and persons identified as “Two or More” races (n=174)⁹⁵.



Over PY 2018-2022, 43.3% of households accessing support from Opportunities for Otsego earn income through employment or employment and other sources; 44.9% receive income from a

⁹⁵ <https://nyscaa.engagementnetwork.org/community-needs-assessment> based on 2021 ACS data

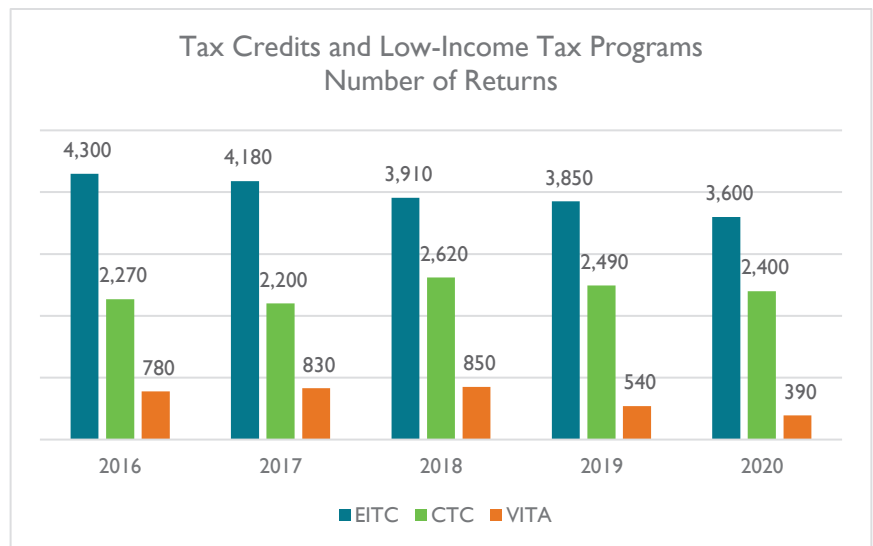
pension, Social Security retirement, SSI, SSDI, unemployment benefits, or other income sources; and 11.8% reported no income.

Tax Credits and Programs: There are several income tax credits intended to benefit low-income earners and families with children. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a tax credit for certain people who work and have low wages. This tax credit reduces the amount of taxes taken out each pay period and the amount of tax owed at the end of the fiscal year. Persons who file for the EITC may also receive a refund. **The number of EITC filed for tax year 2020 in Otsego County was 3,600. In total, \$7,242,000 was received in EITC.**

The Child Tax Credit (CTC) helps families with children through tax breaks. The American Rescue Plan increased CTC from \$2,000 per child to \$3,000 per child for children over the age of six and from \$2,000 to \$3,600 for children under the age of six, and raised the age limit from 16 to 17. **In tax year 2020, a total of 2,400 returns claimed the CTC with \$4,076,000 in credits earned.**

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals; generally households that make \$60,000 or less annually, persons with disabilities; and limited English-speaking taxpayers. TCE offers free tax help to persons over 60 years of age. **Of all 2020 tax returns, 390 were**

prepared by volunteer income tax assistance (VITA) preparers; 150 through the VITA program and 240 through tax counseling for the elderly (TCE). Of these returns, 40 were EITC tax returns⁹⁶. VITA sites available to Otsego County residents are Hartwick College and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County in Norwich⁹⁷.



In response to COVID-19 public health emergency, Congress authorized Economic Impact Payments to qualifying households. First round of payments, authorized by the CARES Act in March 2020, provided up to \$1,200 for individuals (\$2,400 for a married couple) and \$500 for each qualifying dependent under the age of 17. The second round of payments, authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, were up to \$600 per adult for eligible individuals and up to \$600 for each qualifying child under age 17. **Per 2020 IRS income tax return data, 22,920 returns originating from Otsego County claimed the first round of Economic Impact**

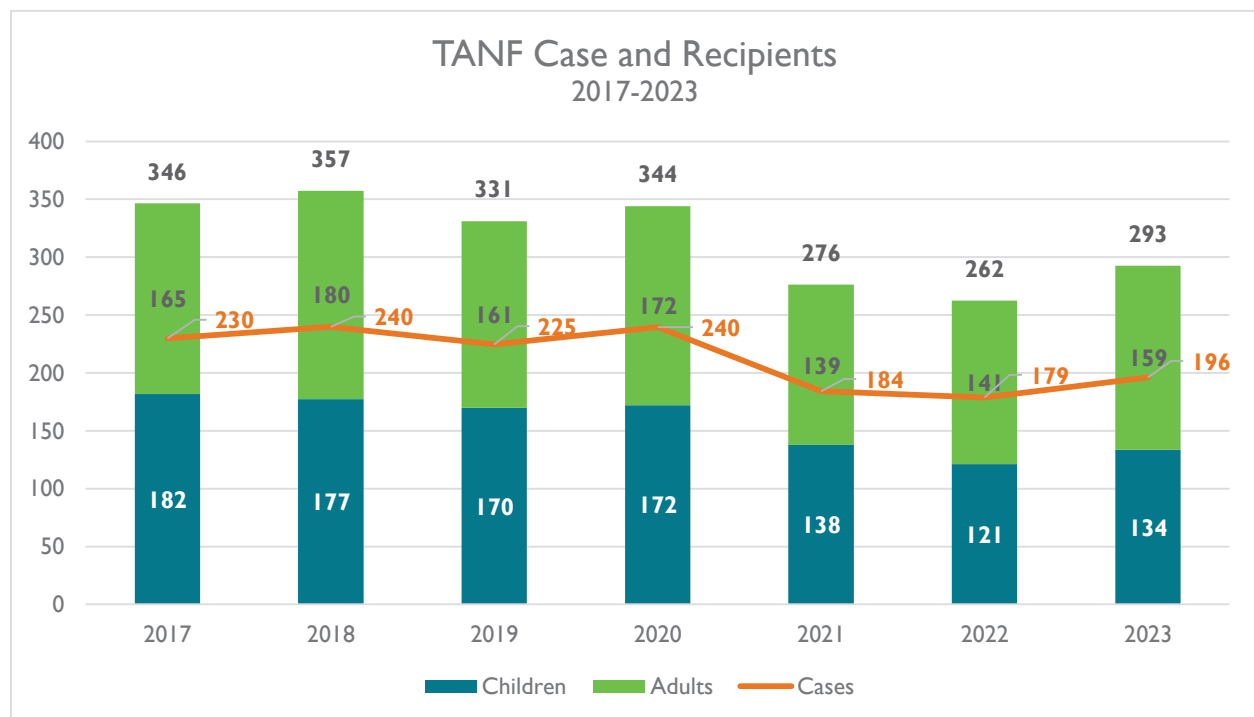
⁹⁶ <https://www.irs.gov/statistics/soi-tax-stats-county-data-2016,2017,2018,2019,2020>

⁹⁷ <https://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/>

Payments in the amount of \$42,123,000, and 21,280 tax returns claimed the second round of Economic Impact Payments in the amount of \$22,295,000⁹⁸.

Debt Delinquency: Debt from credit or unpaid bills often burdens family financial well-being and hinders opportunities for advanced education and homeownership. Per data from the Urban Institute, approximately **19% of Otsego County residents are delinquent on accrued debt with an average of \$1,667 in collections.** Among all categories, student loans represent 8% of all debt in collections; 5% medical debt; 4% credit cards; and 2% auto loans⁹⁹.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): TANF, formerly known as Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), is a federal assistance program that provides cash assistance to low-income families with dependent children. The table below provides the average number of TANF cases/households and recipients in Otsego County from 2017-2023. *Data for 2023 has been calculated based on January through April.* The year with the greatest average number of recipients was 2018 at 357 persons. This year and 2020 had the highest number of cases at 240. On average, over the period January 2017 to April 2023, 156 children and 160 adults benefitted from TANF. In May 2023, Otsego County reported 173 active TANF cases benefitting 265 recipients (134 children and 131 adults).

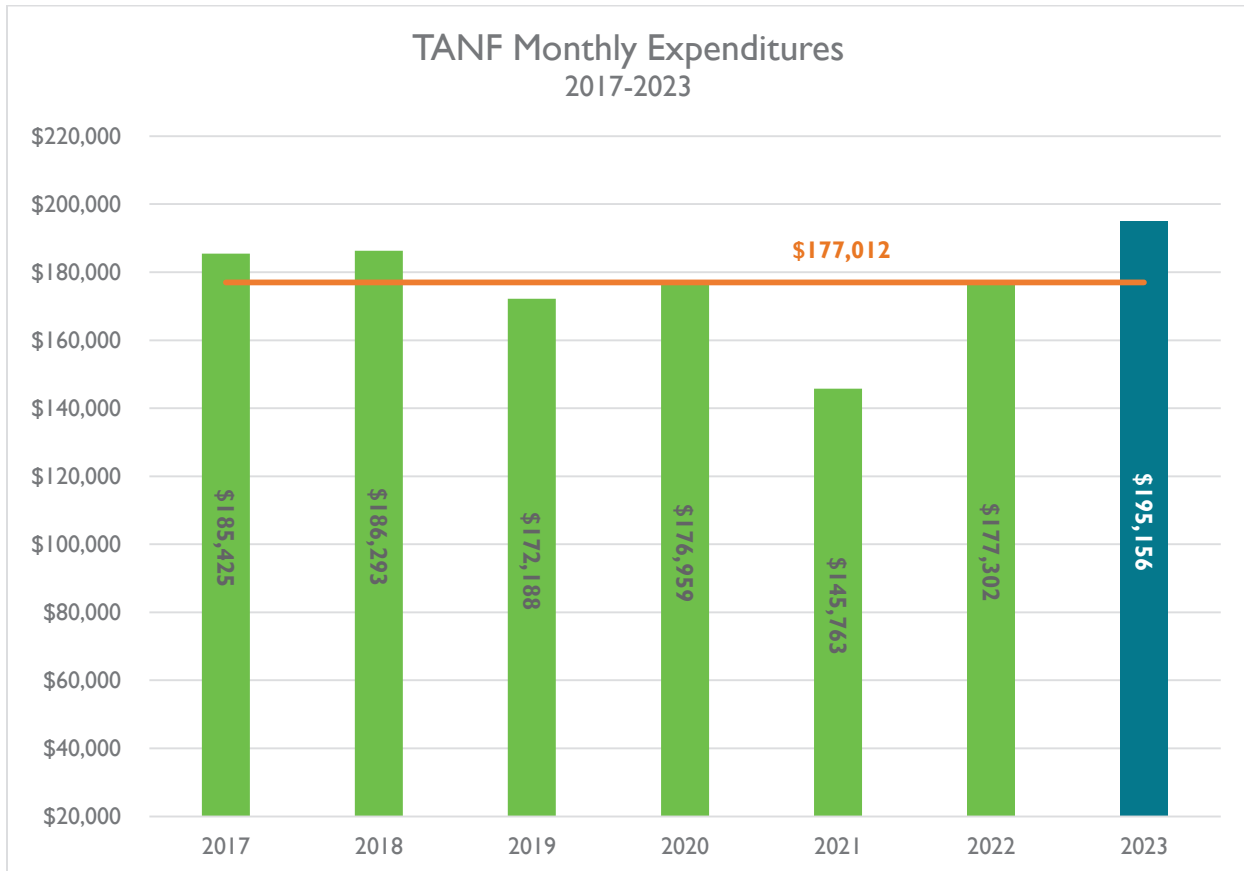


Average monthly TANF expenditures in Otsego County over the period January 2017 to April 2023 were \$177,012. Since 2017, average monthly expenditures have trended downward, with a significant drop in benefits

⁹⁸ <https://www.irs.gov/statistics/soi-tax-stats-county-data-2020>

⁹⁹ https://apps.urban.org/features/debt-interactive-map/?type=overall&variable=household_income_avg&state=36&county=36077

distributed in 2021. The greatest expenditures have been during the months January to April 2023. Prior, to this date, 2018 and 2017 noted the highest monthly average expenditures, which seem to correlate with historic case counts¹⁰⁰.



Family Assistance: Family Assistance (FA) provides cash assistance to eligible needy families that include a minor child living with a parent/parents or a caretaker relative. FA operates under federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) guidelines. Under FA, eligible adults are limited to receiving benefits for a total of 60 months in their lifetime, including months of TANF-funded assistance granted in other states. Adults receiving FA who are determined to be able to work must comply with federal work requirements to receive FA benefits.

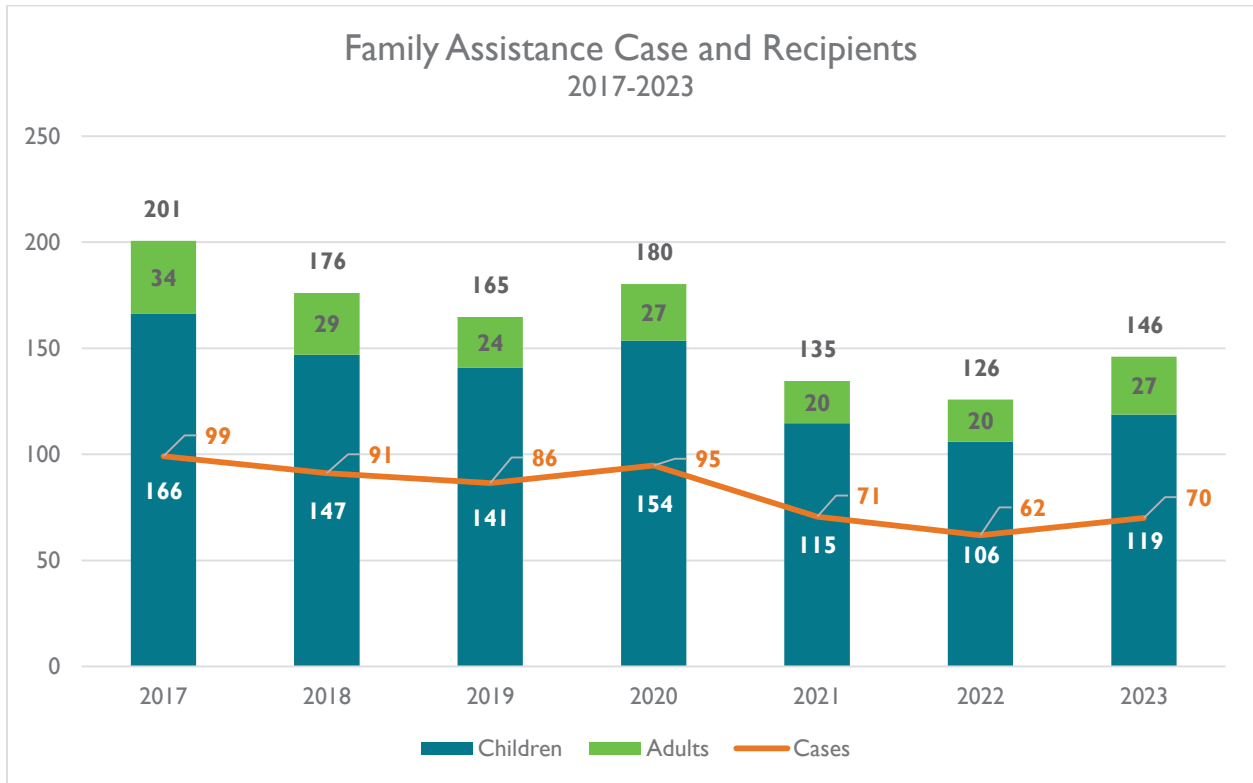
Per the New York Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, **over the period July 2020-June 2021, Otsego County processed 138 applications for FA. Of these applications, 22.5% (n=31) were approved.** Of the 107 applications denied, reasons included “other” compliance issues (71.9%); financial issues (21.5%); residence issues (4.7%); and other reasons (1.9%)¹⁰¹.

The table below provides the average number of FA cases/households and recipients in Otsego County from 2017-2023. *Data for 2023 has been calculated based on January through April.* The year with the greatest average

¹⁰⁰ <https://data.ny.gov/> - Table “Public Assistance (PA) Caseloads and Expenditures: Beginning 2002”

¹⁰¹ NYS OTDA, 2021 Statistical Report on Public Assistance Programs

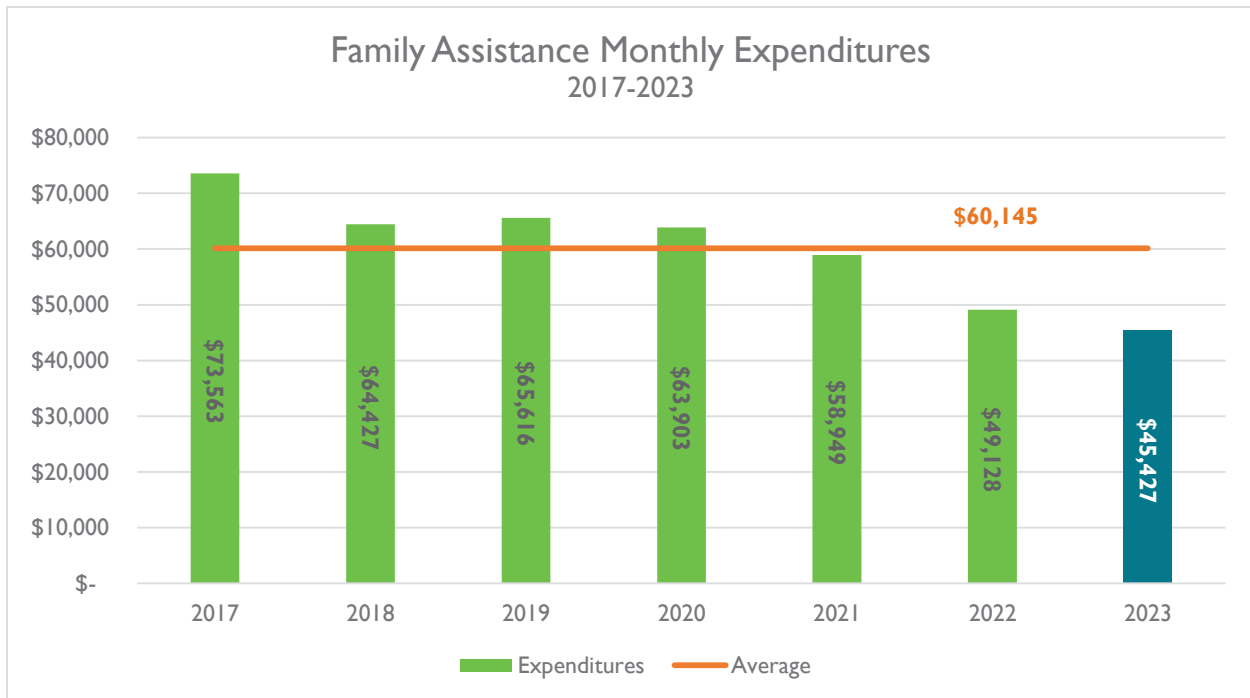
number of recipients and cases was 2017 with 201 persons and 99 cases. On average, over the period January 2017 to April 2023, 135 children and 26 adults benefitted from FA. As of May 2023, there were 72 active FA cases in Otsego County encompassing 149 persons (119 children, 30 adults)¹⁰².



Average monthly FA expenditures in Otsego County over the period January 2017 to April 2023 were \$60,145. Since 2017, average monthly expenditures have trended downward. The greatest monthly average expenditures were in 2017, which seem to correlate with historic case counts. During May 2023, a total of \$99,423 in benefits was distributed¹⁰³.

¹⁰² <https://otda.ny.gov/resources/caseload/> - Table 7

¹⁰³ <https://data.ny.gov/> - Table "Public Assistance (PA) Caseloads and Expenditures: Beginning 2002"



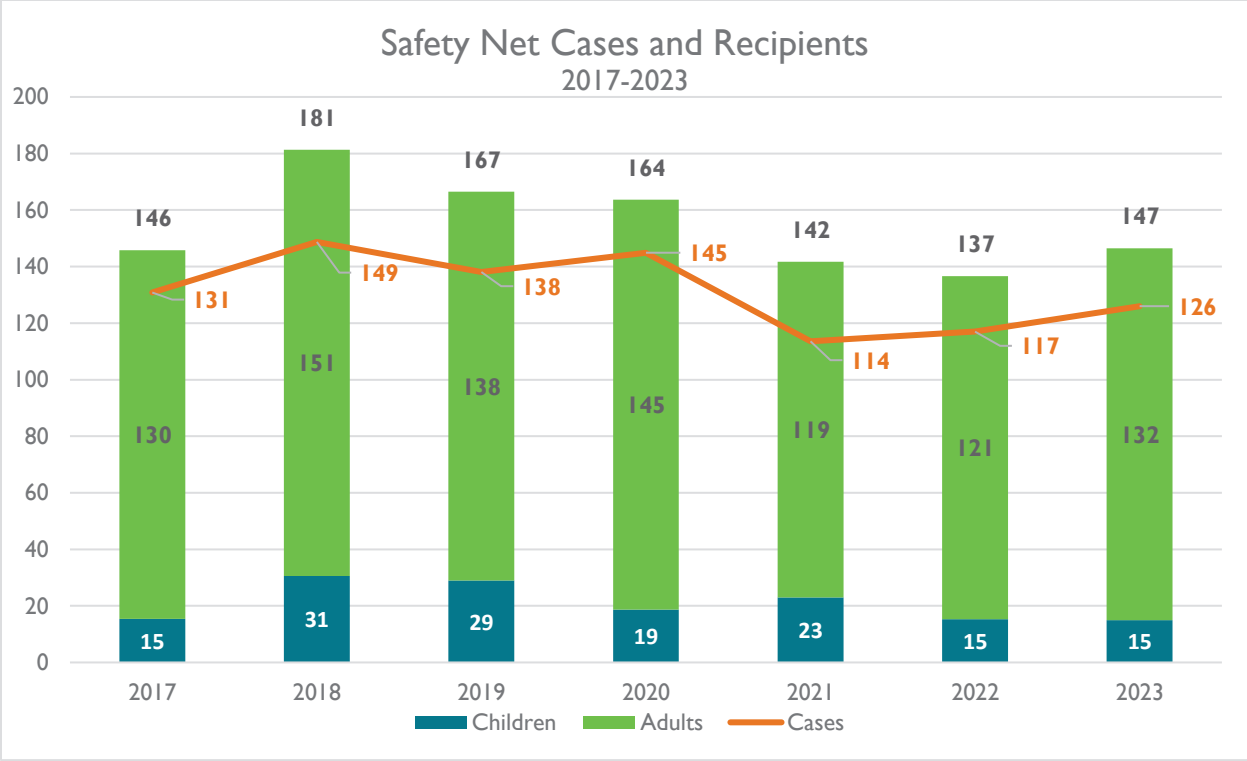
Safety Net Assistance: Safety Net Assistance (SNA) provides cash assistance to needy individuals and families who are not eligible for Family Assistance cash benefits through the local Department of Social Services. SNA is for: Single adults; Childless couples; Children living apart from any adult relative; Families of persons found to be abusing drugs or alcohol; Families of persons refusing drug/alcohol screening, assessment or treatment; or Non-citizens who are eligible for TA, but who are not eligible for federal reimbursement. Recipients of SNA who are determined to be able to work must also comply with work requirements to receive SNA benefits.

Per the New York Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, **over the period July 2020-June 2021, Otsego County processed 382 applications for SNA. Of these applications, 23.3% (n=89) were approved.** Of the 293 applications denied, reasons included “other” compliance issues (53.4%); financial issues (21.1%); residence issues (21.1%); other reasons (3.1%) and employment compliance (1.4%)¹⁰⁴. In total \$60,830 in benefits were distributed monthly¹⁰⁵.

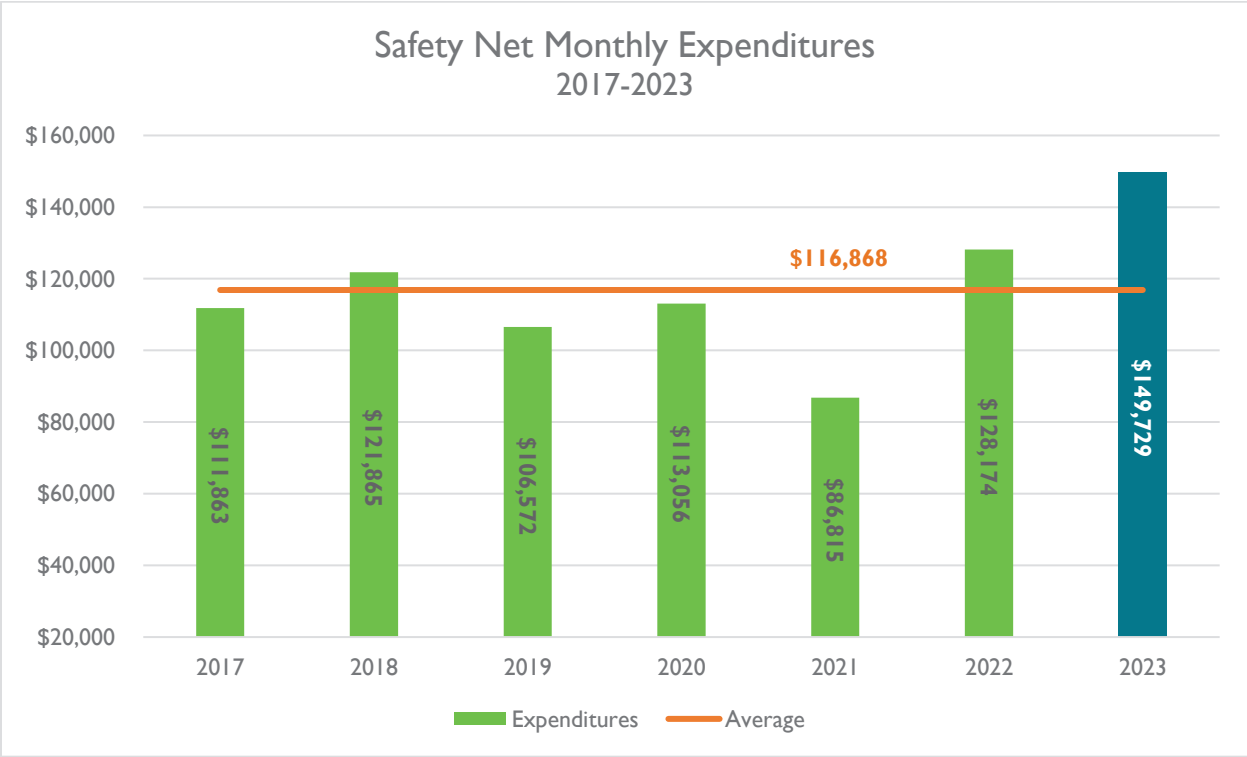
The table below provides the average number of SNA cases/households and recipients in Otsego County from 2017-2023. *Data for 2023 has been calculated based on January through April.* The year with the greatest average number of recipients and cases was 2018 with 181 persons and 149 cases. On average, over the period January 2017 to April 2023, 21 children and 134 adults benefitted from SNA monthly. During May 2023, there were 101 active SNA cases in Otsego County encompassing 116 persons (15 children, 101 adults).

¹⁰⁴ NYS OTDA, 2021 Statistical Report on Public Assistance Programs

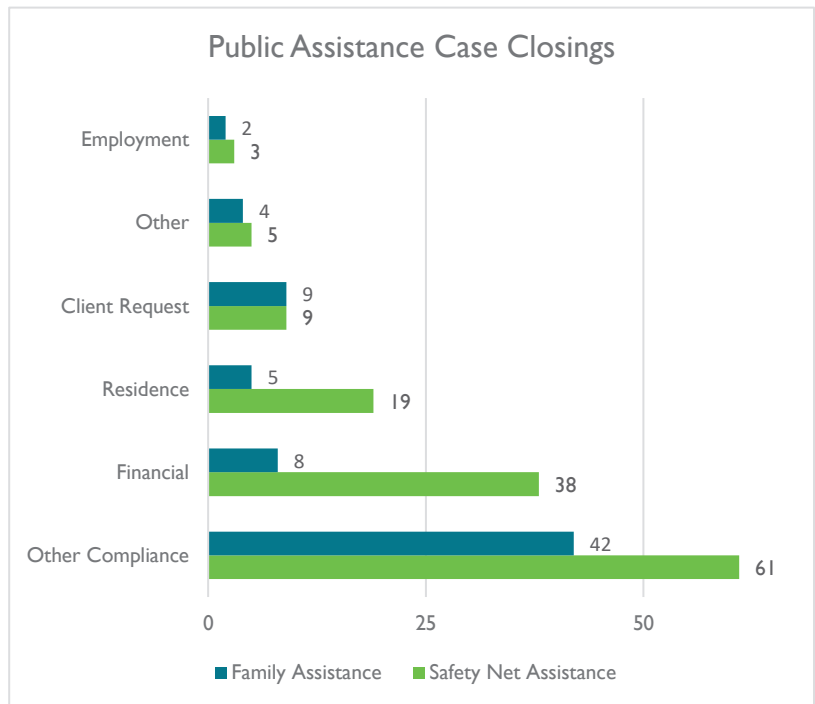
¹⁰⁵ <https://otda.ny.gov/resources/caseload/> - Table 7



Average monthly SNA expenditures in Otsego County over the period January 2017 to April 2023 were \$116,868. Since 2017, average monthly expenditures have remained relatively stable, except for a drop in expenditures in 2021. During May 2023, a total of \$60,830 in benefits was distributed



Public Assistance Case Closures: OTDA designates several reasons for closing Family Assistance and Safety Net Assistance cases which include: client request; financial issues (e.g. increased earned or unearned income, exceeding resource limits, or other household circumstance changes that make the case financially ineligible); residence issues (cases not residing in the jurisdiction of application/client cannot be located); employment compliance issues (failure to participate as required in Public Assistance work participation requirements, such as failure to cooperate with establishing employability, failure to attend work program assignments and voluntarily leaving or failing to accept employment without good cause); other compliance issues (failure to comply with rules other than those related to employment, such as failure to show for



eligibility interviews, provide required documentation to verify eligibility or comply with household composition requirements); and other. **From July 2020 - June 2021, the Otsego County Department of Social Services closed 205 Public Assistance cases. The most frequent reason for case closure is “other” compliance issues, accounting for 50.2% of all closures.** Less frequent circumstance prompting case closings were financial (22.4%); residence (11.7%); client request (8.8%); other (4.4%); and employment (2.4%)¹⁰⁶.

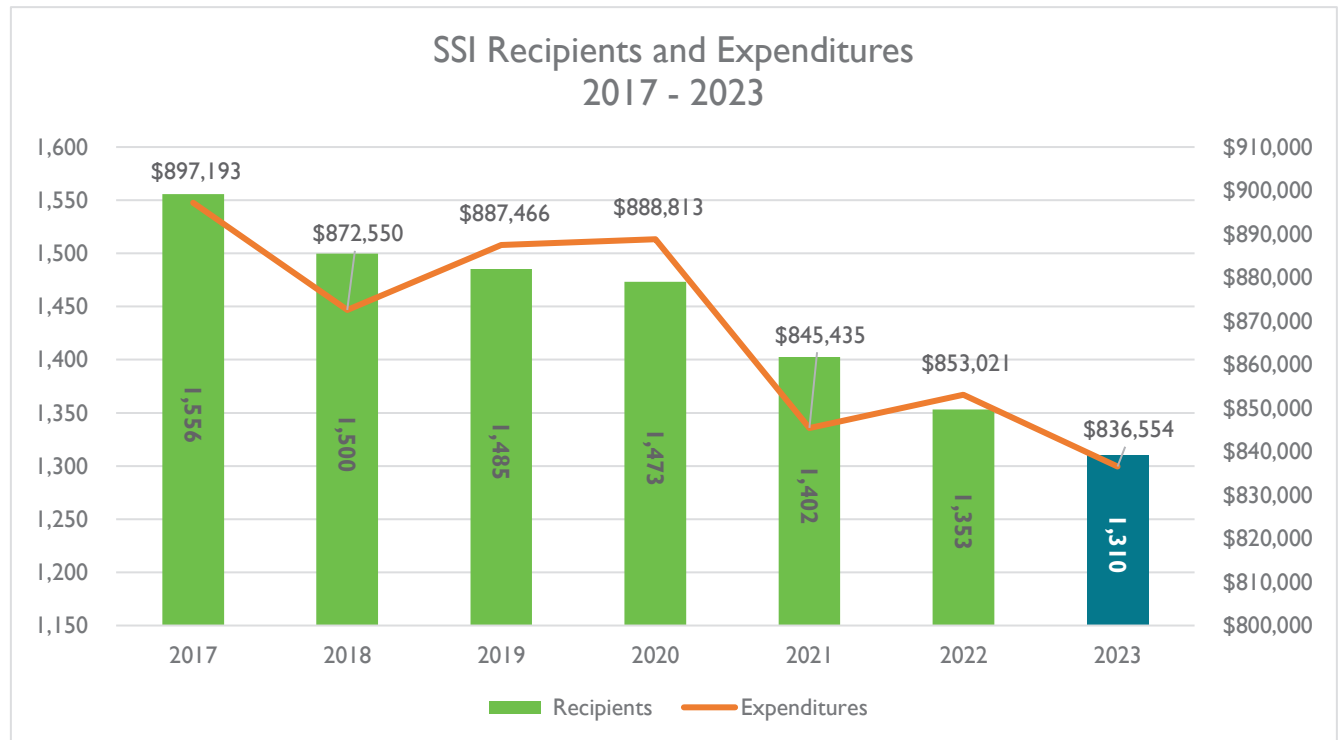
Social Security Income: SSI, or Supplemental Security Income, is a federal program that provides monthly cash payments to people in need. SSI is for people who are 65 or older, as well as for blind or disabled people of any age, including children. To qualify, individuals also must have little or no income and few resources. This means that the value of the things owned must be less than \$2,000 if single or less than \$3,000 if married.

The table below illustrates the average monthly number of SSI recipients in Otsego County for the years 2017 through 2023 and the average monthly expenditures for the same years. *Data for 2023 has been calculated based on January through April.* The number of SSI recipients over the period 2017-2022 decreased by 13%. Per OTDA data, the number of recipients during 2023 is on a downward trend as well. Over the same period, the **overall average monthly SSI expenditures decreased by 4.9% while the average monthly benefit per recipient increased 9.3% from \$576.73 in 2017 to \$630.35 in 2022.** Average monthly benefits thus far from January to April 2023 are \$638.47¹⁰⁷.

¹⁰⁶ NYS OTDA, 2021 Statistical Report on Public Assistance Programs

¹⁰⁷ <https://data.ny.gov/>, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Recipients and Expenditures: Beginning 2002

Over the program years 2018-2022, thirty-two percent of households (n=389) households accessing support from Opportunities for Otsego reported Social Security, SSI, or SSDI as an income source.



Child Support Collections: Local social service districts can assist custodial parents in obtaining financial support and medical insurance coverage for their children by locating noncustodial parents; establishing parentage; establishing, modifying, and enforcing support orders; and collecting and distributing child support payments. Per data from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), \$345,320.62 was collected on behalf of custodial parents and their children in Otsego County during May 2023. Of the funds collected, 3.4% was collected on behalf of children currently receiving public assistance; 65.8% collected on former public assistance cases; and 30.8% on behalf of children that have never received public assistance. **The average child support collected per month from January 2023-May 2023 in Otsego County was \$363,318.56**, compared to \$352,740.65 monthly during the 2022 year.¹⁰⁸

Over the program years 2018-2022, nearly eight percent of households (n=93) accessing support from Opportunities for Otsego reported child support as an income source.

¹⁰⁸ <https://otda.ny.gov/resources/caseload/> - Table 20

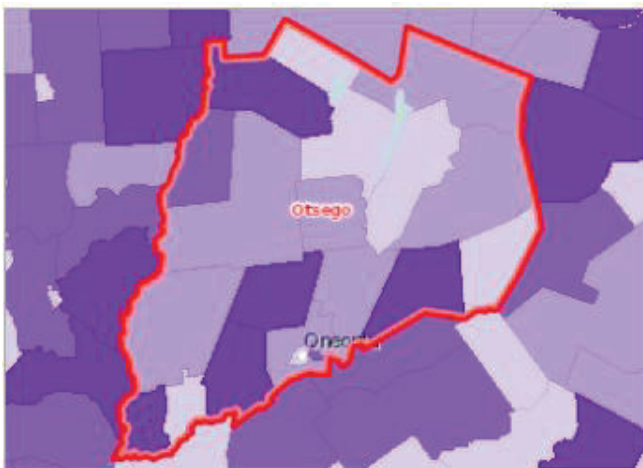
TRANSPORTATION

- In total, there are an estimated 1,676 households without a motor vehicle in Otsego County. Overall, the households in City of Oneonta represent 34% of households county-wide without a vehicle.
- The town of Unadilla, the area of Plainfield/Exeter, and Schenevus have the highest rate of solo commuters within Otsego County. Workers living in Decatur have the longest average commute time at 38 minutes.
- Per DMV records, 93% of registered vehicles in Otsego County are fueled by gasoline and 6.4% by diesel. Less than one-percent of registered vehicles are flex fuel or electric.
- Public bus transportation is available Monday through Friday through OPT and Otsego Express. Gaps in the public bus schedules are alleviated through private transportation options operated by a variety of vendors, some of which who accept insurance payment.

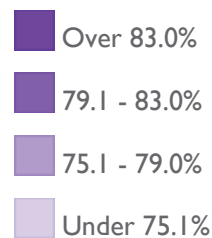
Households with No Motor Vehicle: There are 1,676 households (7.5%) in Otsego County that do not own a vehicle. Of those, 3.4% (n=563) are homeowners and 18.9% (n=1,113) are renters. Census Tracts 5911 and 5910 in the City of Oneonta have the highest rate of households without a vehicle in Otsego County at 23.6% (n=105) and 14.9% (n=172) respectively. Additional areas with a high rate of households without a vehicle are the Town of Oneonta (9.7%, n=114); Unadilla (9.5%, n=57); and Hartwick (9.3%, n=83). Overall, households in the City of Oneonta represent 34% of the total county-wide population who do not own a vehicle (n=570).

Commuter Trends: Of the estimated 26,584 workers age 16 and older in Otsego County, 75.1% drive to work alone compared to 51.4% of workers across New York State and 73.2% of workers in the nation. Alternate means of commuting by Otsego County workers are carpool (8.7%); walk or ride a bicycle (7.7%); some form of public transportation (1.1%); and taxicabs (0.8%). An estimated 6.7% of workers work from home.

Areas with the highest rate of solo commuters are Unadilla at 89.1% (n=1,054); Plainfield/Exeter at 87.9% (n=623) and Schenevus at 85.7% (n=610). Other areas with over 83% of workers commuting alone are Otego (84.4%, n=1,056) and Laurens (84.2%, n=845).



Workers Traveling to Work by Car Alone, Percent by Tract, ACS 2017-21



The average commute time for Otsego County workers is 23.2 minutes, which is quicker than the national average of 26.8 minutes. Among all workers working outside the home, 36% commute less than 15 minutes; 35% drive between 15-30 minutes; 22% drive between 30-60 minutes; and 6.7% are considered "super commuters", driving more than 60 minutes to get to their place of work. **Workers with the longest average commute time in Otsego County live in the town of Decatur at 38 minutes.** Workers from the Burlington/Pittsfield/New Lisbon area (Census Tract 5904.02) travel an average of 30 minutes; town of Milford commuters travel an average of 21 minutes and those living in the City of Oneonta (Census Tract 5909) travel an average of 12 minutes to get to work. *Data on other Census Tracts was unavailable.*

As an average, among all townships and all modes of transportation, **24.7% of workers living in Otsego County commute to work between the hours of 9:00AM - Midnight;** 15.8% between 7:00AM - 7:29AM; 13.4% between 7:30AM - 7:59AM; and 10.8% between 6:30AM-6:59AM¹⁰⁹.

Vehicle Fuel Type: Per New York State Department of Motor Vehicle data, of the 48,613 **vehicles registered in Otsego County, 93% are fueled by gas and 6.4% by diesel**¹¹⁰. Less than one-percent of registered vehicles are flex fuel or electric at 0.3% each. For persons with electric vehicles, there are 37 public charging ports at 8 locations divided between Cooperstown and Oneonta.

Public EV Charging Stations					
Location	Level 2	DC Fast	Network	EV Connector	Notes
Cooperstown					
The Inn at Cooperstown 16 Chestnut Street	2	0	Tesla	J1772, Tesla	Free to Guests
Glen Avenue Suites 6 Glen Avenue	1	0	N/A	J1772	8AM-6PM daily; Guest use only
Doubleday EV 2 Doubleday Court	2	0	ChargePoint Network	J1772	24 Hour Daily Access
OMG EV Charger 656 Co Hwy 33	8	0	ChargePoint Network	J1772	24 Hour Daily Access
Oneonta					
Country Club Imports 55 Oneida Street	2	2	N/A	CHADEMO; J1772; J1772COMBO	Only during dealership hours. Service desk provides access
SUNY Oneonta 24-26 Ravine Pkwy N.	2	0	ChargePoint Network	J1772	24 Hour Daily Access
SUNY Oneonta 108 Ravine Parkway	4	0	Blink Network	J1772	24 Hour Daily Access
Hampton Inn 225 River Street	2	0	Tesla	Tesla	Free to guests
Mirabito Convenience Store #69 4968 NY-23	0	8	Tesla	Tesla	24 Hour Daily Access \$0.28 per kWh; \$0.26 per minute above 60 kW

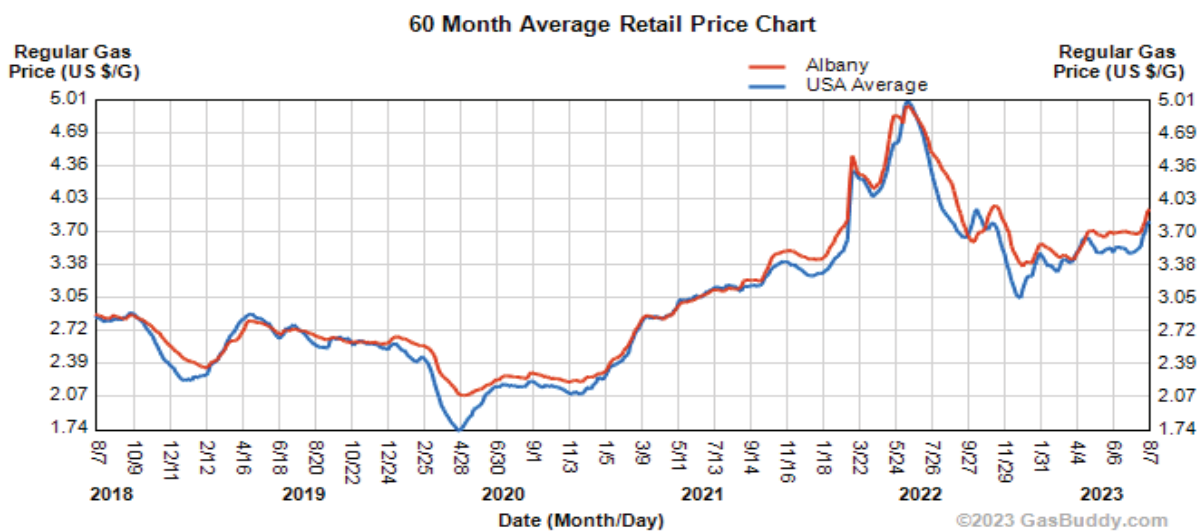
¹⁰⁹ US Census Bureau, 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Table S0802 – Means of Transportation to Work by Selected Characteristics

¹¹⁰ <https://data.ny.gov/Transportation/Vehicle-and-Boat-Registrations-by-Fuel-Type-per-Co/vw9z-y4t7>

					and \$0.13 per minute at or below 60 kW
Mirabito Convenience Store #69 4968 NY-23	0	4	Electrify America	CHADEMO J1772COMBO	24 Hour Daily Access

SOURCE: US Department of Energy (https://afdc.energy.gov/fuels/electricity_locations)

Vehicle fuel prices have fluctuated dramatically since 2018 to current. Gas prices in Albany, New York ranged from a low of \$2.08 in late April 2020 to a high of \$4.97 in June 2022. On average, fuel costs in the Albany area are higher than national averages. **Fluctuations in gas prices add an additional financial burden for households as they not only impact daily commutes, but the cost of everyday items such as delivery fees, groceries, and postage.** The table below illustrates gas prices over a 5-year time span for Albany, New York and the nation.



Public Transportation: There are two public transportation providers in the county. Oneonta Public Transit (OPT) is run by the City of Oneonta and operates routes within the city, town, and one route to Cooperstown. OPT provides service for the general fare paying public. Otsego Express is operated by Otsego County. The County’s contracted operator is Birnie Bus. Otsego Express provides nine routes throughout the area. Otsego Express provides service for the general fare-paying public and for clients of the county Department of Social Services Medicaid program. Otsego Express collaborates with ARC Otsego to provide transportation to the general public on three routes once designated only for ARC consumers. The majority of OPT routes run Monday through Saturday; two routes have additional service on Sunday. Otsego Express operates Monday through Friday. All routes run five days; however, only provide mid-day service on four routes.

Oneonta Public Transit (OPT) Route Schedule							
Route	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Commuter Route (6:00AM-6:55AM)	X	X	X	X	X		
Southside	X	X	X	X	X	X	12-6 only

West End	X	X	X	X	X		
East End						X	
Cooperstown	X	X	X	X	X	limited hours	
River Street	X	X	X	X	X		
SUNY Oneonta	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hartwick College/Southside Night		X	X	X	X	X	
Hillside	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Otsego Express Route Schedule					
Route	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Richfield Springs - Oneonta – Cooperstown (#1) <i>Service along Route 11 and 205 into Laurens, Mt. Vision and Hartwick</i>	X	X	X	X	X
Richfield Springs - Edmeston – Cooperstown (#2) <i>Service along Route 51 and 20 into West Winfield, Exeter, Burlington, Schuyler Lake, and Fly Creek</i>	X	X	X	X	X
Richfield Springs - Cooperstown - Cherry Valley (#3-4) <i>Service along Route 80 and 33 into Schuyler Lake, Fly Creek, Springfield Center, and East Springfield</i>	X	X	X	X	X
Richfield Springs - Oneonta - East Worcester (#5) <i>Service along Route 205 and 7 into Hartwick, Schenevus, Worcester, and East Worcester</i>		X	X	X	
Oneonta – Sidney (#6) <i>Service along Route 7 into Otego, Wells Bridge, and Unadilla</i>	X	X	X	X	X
Richfield Springs - Edmeston – Cooperstown (#12) <i>Service along Route 51 and 20 into Schuyler Lake, Burlington, and Fly Creek</i>	X	X	X	X	X

Oneonta Public Transportation (OPT) fixed route fares range from \$0.75 for students (age 5-18) to \$2.25 for commuter. The standard adult fare is \$1.50 and seniors (65+) are \$1.00. Additional charges range from \$0.75 to \$1.00 for transfers and off route service. The standard OPT Cooperstown fare for students and seniors is \$2.25; adults age 18-62 years pay \$3.75 one-way. ADA-eligible persons who are unable to use regular fixed route bus service must submit an application to OPT, with medical verification, for transportation service. Applicants will be notified of a determination within 21 calendar days of a request. Otsego Express rates are \$0.50 for senior citizens (age 60+), \$1.00 for adults, and up to \$2.00 for route deviations. Otsego Express transfers are \$0.50 and transfers to OPT are \$1.00. Children under 6 ride free.

Per ACS 2021 5-year estimates, 1.1% (n=289) of the working population age 16 and older use public transportation (excluding taxi) as their primary means of commute to work. **Persons employed in service occupations comprise the largest sector to utilize public transportation at 36.7% (n=106)**, followed by sales and office occupations (29.8%); management, business, science, and arts occupations (27.7%); production,

transportation, and material moving occupations (4.5%), and natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations (1.4%)¹¹¹.

Private Transportation: Alternate transportation options available for personal and medical appointments are summarized below. This list was compiled in February 2023 and distributed via the Transportation Coordinating Committee of the Otsego County Planning Department.

Provider Name	Hours	Payment Method	Service Notes
I23 Taxi	5:00AM - 9:00PM	Medicaid	
A&D Transport Services	24/7	Medicaid, Cash, Card	Paratransit
Allstar Taxi	5:00AM - 8:00PM, Monday-Saturday	Medicaid, Cash	
Bassett Medical Center	4:00AM - 12:30AM, Weekdays	N/A	Cooperstown and surrounding area
Circle of Life	24/7	Medicaid, Cash, Card, Check	Paratransit
Cookie Cab	6:30AM - 7:00PM	Medicaid, Cash, Check	
DAD Cab	6:00AM - 5:00PM, Monday-Saturday	Medicaid, Cash	
Medical Answering Services	7:00AM – 6:00PM	N/A	Medicaid
Mobile Life Transport	6:00AM - 5:00PM, Monday-Friday (Weekends by request)	Medicaid, Cash, Card, Check	Paratransit
Office for the Aging Bus-Delaware	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	\$5 Suggested Donation	Two fixed-routes transporting to Oneonta, Albany, Kingston, Sidney, and Binghamton
Otsego County Office for the Aging	8:30AM - 4:30PM, Tuesday-Thursday	Cash or Check	Volunteer Transport
Otsego County Veteran's Affairs	6:30AM - 4:30PM, Tuesday - Friday	N/A	Volunteer Transport; Otsego County to Albany VA Medical Center
S&G Transport	4:30AM - 7:00PM (Dependent on area/driver availability)	Medicaid, Cash, Card	
S&P Mobility	7:00AM - 7:00PM, Monday-Saturday (Sunday by request)	Medicaid, Cash, Card, Check	Paratransit
Shred 518 Medical	6:00AM - 5:00PM	Medicaid, Other Insurances	
TriTown Taxi	5:30AM - Midnight (Monday-Thursday); 24 hours (Friday-Sunday)	Medicaid, Cash	

¹¹¹ Census Bureau, 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Table B08124 – Means of Transportation to Work by Occupation

HEALTH, WELLNESS & SAFETY

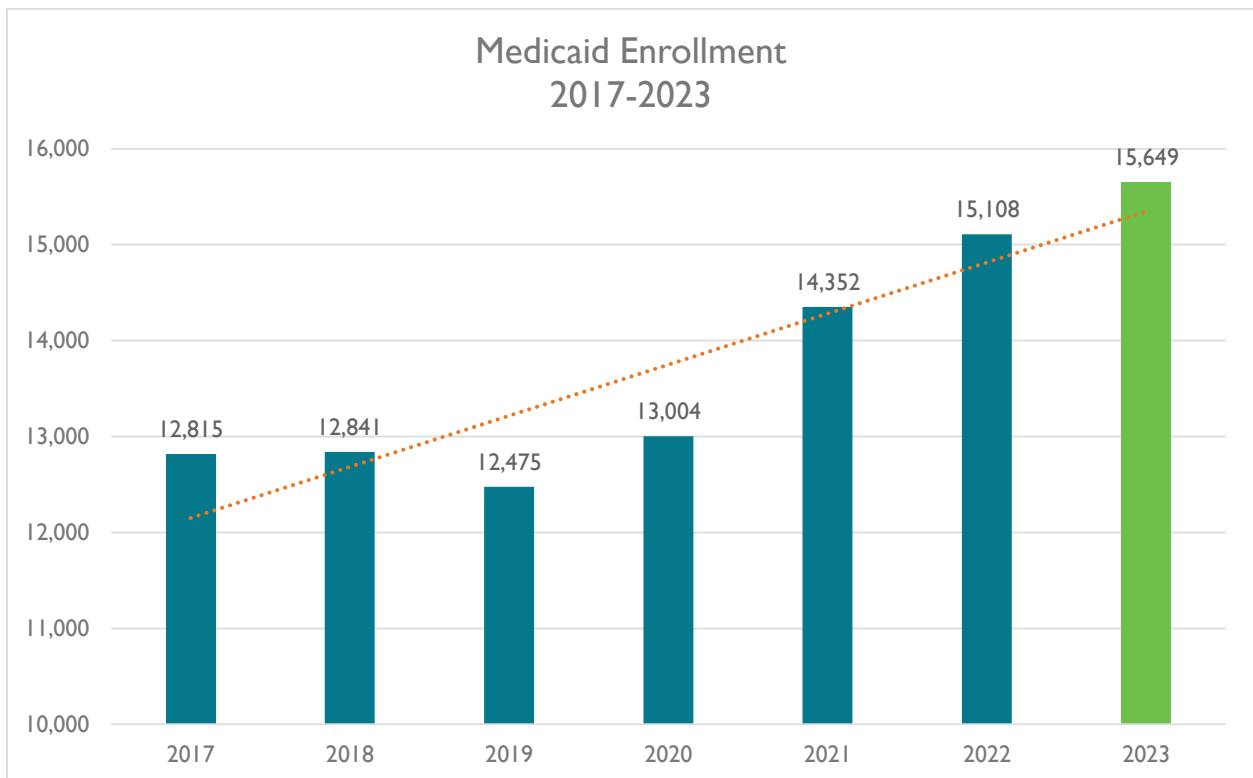
- As the aging population in Otsego County has increased, so has the number of Medicare recipients. Since 2017, the number of Medicare recipients over age 65 has increased 9.0%. Of all Medicare recipients in 2022, 19.4% were deemed automatically eligible for the low-prescription subsidy.
- Over the period 2017-2021, an estimated 2,245 persons, or 5.3% of the population under age 65, were uninsured. The area with the highest rate of uninsured people is Springfield/Cherry Valley.
- The rate and the number of teen pregnancies and births has been on a downward trend since 2011. Rates for 2020 are below the New York State average and the 10-year county average of 23 births.
- Community health indicators above New York State rates include cardiovascular disease, childhood incidence of high lead blood levels, diabetes, Lyme disease, injury indicators, and emergency department visits.
- Otsego County continues to have a shortage of healthcare providers. There is an estimated one primary care physician for 780 people; one dentist per 2,000 people; and one mental health provider for 460 people.
- Since 2016, the number of indicated child abuse/neglect reports has trended upward, with an estimated 30.4% of reported cases having adequate evidence to prove the presence of child maltreatment.
- Over the period 2017-2022, Otsego County courts granted an average of 694 orders of protection annually, with Family Court granting 55.7% of all protective orders. The increase in protection orders granted through Supreme Court since 2020 may be attributed to the opening of the Integrated Domestic Violence Court.

Public Health Insurance: Medicare is a social insurance program administered by the U.S. government, providing health insurance coverage to people ages 65 and over; those under 65 and permanently physically disabled or who have a congenital physical disability; or to those who meet other special criteria. Over the period 2017-2023, an average of 14,278 persons living in Otsego County received Medicare benefits annually, of which 14.1% (n=2,020) are deemed disabled. From 2017 to 2023, enrollment has increased 6% alongside an aging population with the County. **Among all Medicare beneficiaries, nearly 19% are deemed automatically eligible for the low-income prescription subsidy** based on dual enrollment in Medicare and Medicaid benefits; receipt of Supplemental Security Income (SSI); or participation in the Medicare Savings Programs (MSP)¹¹².

Medicare Enrollment: Otsego County				
Year	Total	Aged	Disabled	Low-Income Subsidy
2022	14,692	12,790	1,902	19.4%
2021	14,507	12,557	1,950	18.8%
2020	14,366	12,351	2,014	19.0%
2019	14,149	12,114	2,035	19.3%
2018	14,082	11,994	2,088	19.1%
2017	13,872	11,739	2,133	19.0%

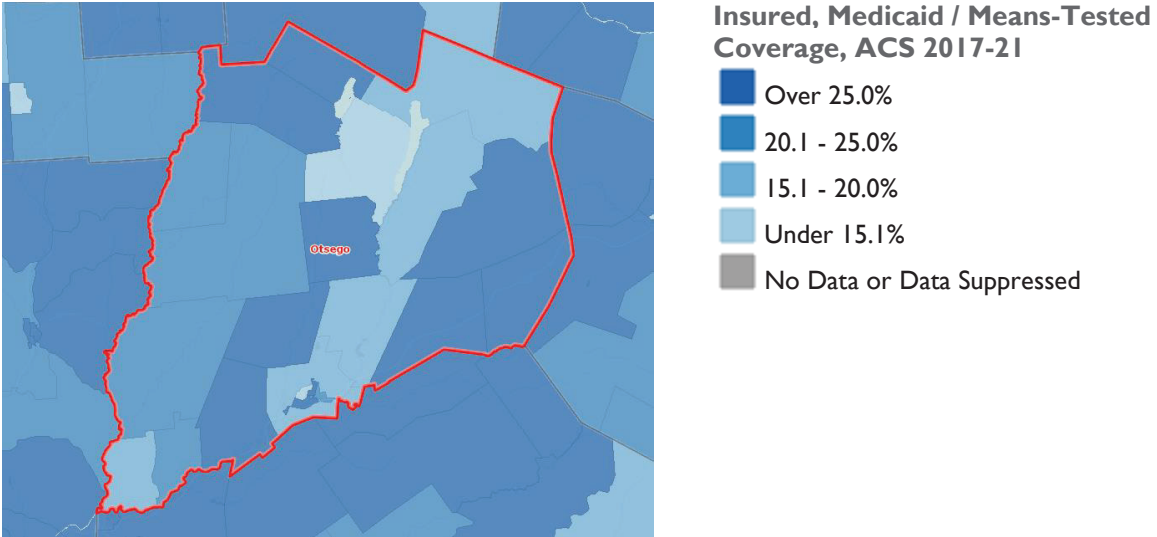
¹¹² <https://data.cms.gov/>

Medicaid is a government administered health program for certain people and families with low incomes and resources. Medicaid is a means-tested program that is jointly funded by the state and federal governments, and is managed by the states. People served include low-income adults, their children, and people with certain disabilities. Medicaid is the largest source of funding for medical and health-related services for people with limited income in the United States. Over the period 2017-2023, the year 2019 was the only year in which Medicaid enrollment was on a downward trend in Otsego County. **Presumable due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, Medicaid enrollment began to climb in 2020 and has since risen 16% into 2022. Estimates for 2023, based on January through June data, estimate a 3.5% increase over 2022 enrollment numbers from 15,108 to 15,649 persons¹¹³.**

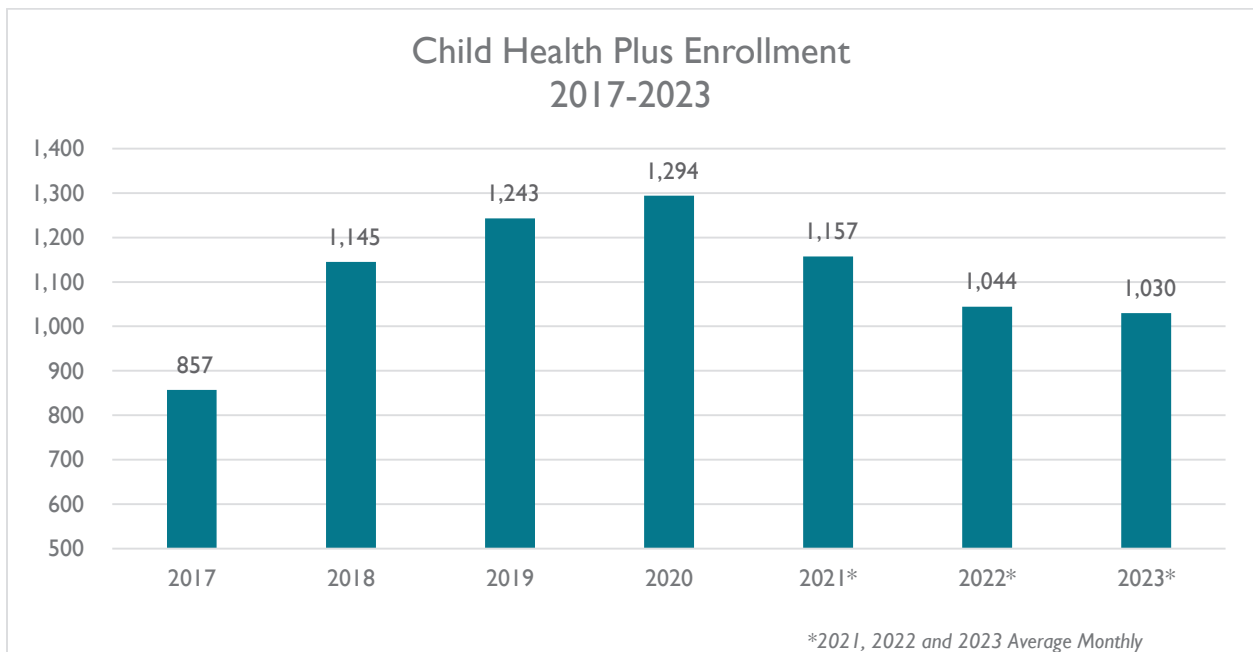


Within Otsego County, persons living in Census Tract 5903.01 (Richfield area) has the highest rate of persons enrolled in Medicaid at 40.4% (n=843). Other Census Tracts with more than 30% of its residents enrolled in Medicaid include 5911 in the City of Oneonta (33.2%, n=752), 5907.02 in the Worcester area at 30.4% (n=602), 5914.02/Town of Laurens at 30.4% (n=612), and 5914.01/Town of Otego at 30.2% (n=828).

¹¹³ https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/enrollment/historical/enrollment_trends.htm



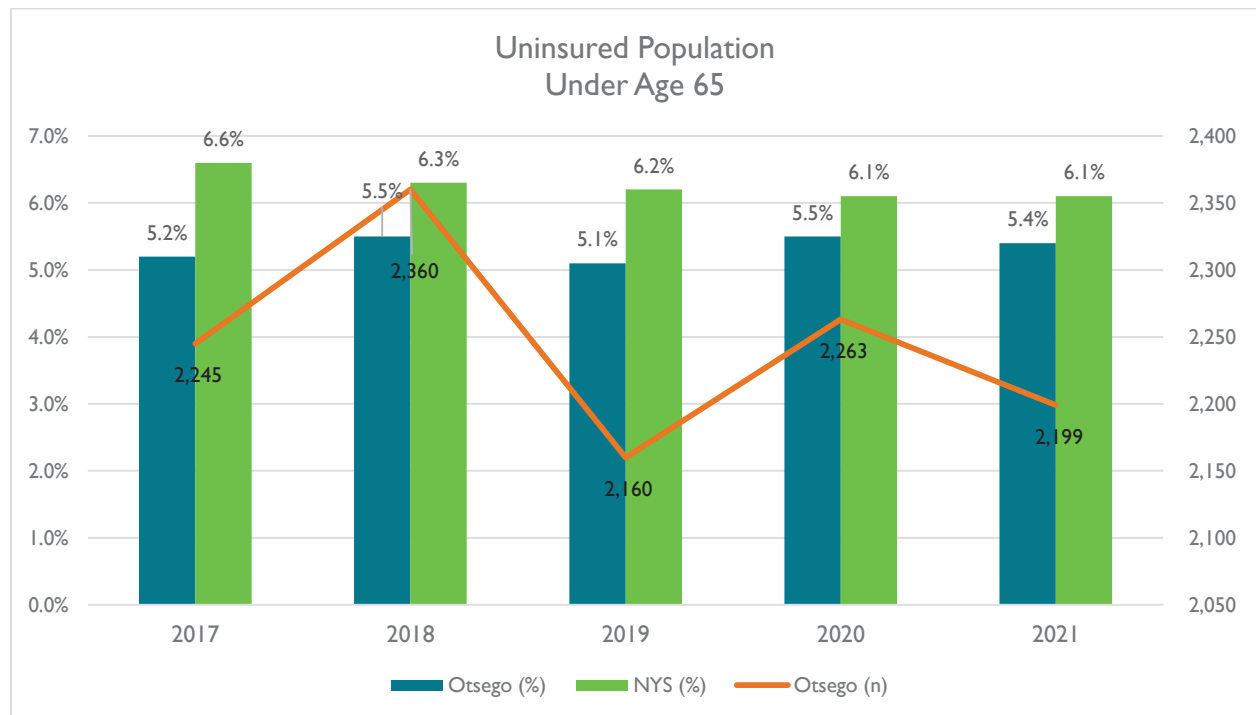
Child Health Plus (CHP) is the New York State administered health insurance plan for children under 19 years of age. Depending on family income, child may be eligible for either Children's Medicaid or Child Health Plus. Both Children's Medicaid and Child Health Plus are available through CDPHP, Excellus, or Fidelis Healthcare of New York. The data below provides actual enrollment numbers for years 2017-2020 as reported by the NYS Department of Health¹¹⁴. Years 2021-2023 are an average of monthly enrollment in Otsego County¹¹⁵. Since 2020, CHP enrollment has been declined approximately 20% in Otsego County. Of all enrollees in 2023, 47% are enrolled in Fidelis Care; 39% Excellus; and 14% CDCHP.



¹¹⁴ <https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/enrollmentdata>

¹¹⁵ <https://health.data.ny.gov/> - Child Health Plus Program Enrollment by Month and Year: Beginning 2009

Uninsured Population: “Uninsured” is defined as having no kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as health maintenance organizations, or government plans such as Medicare. The uninsured population is calculated by estimating the number of persons eligible for insurance of persons under 65 of age minus the estimated number of insured persons. **Over the period 2017-2021, an average of 2,245 persons, or 5.3% of the under 65 population, in Otsego County was uninsured.** The year with the greatest number and percentage of uninsured persons was 2018 at 2,360 and 5.5%¹¹⁶. The area within Otsego County with the greatest rate of uninsured persons is the Springfield/Cherry Valley area (Census Tract 5901.01) at 12.34% (n=306).



Per Opportunities for Otsego client records from program years 2018-2022, an estimated 9.4% of persons were uninsured upon intake. Comparably, 15.8% of persons who accessed support during PY 2017 were uninsured upon intake. The chart below compares Otsego County uninsured data to that of persons benefitting from Opportunities for Otsego programs from October 2021-September 2022. As the Otsego County population count does not meet the US Census Bureau threshold of 65,000 people, annual and granular data, such as insurance status by race, is not available.

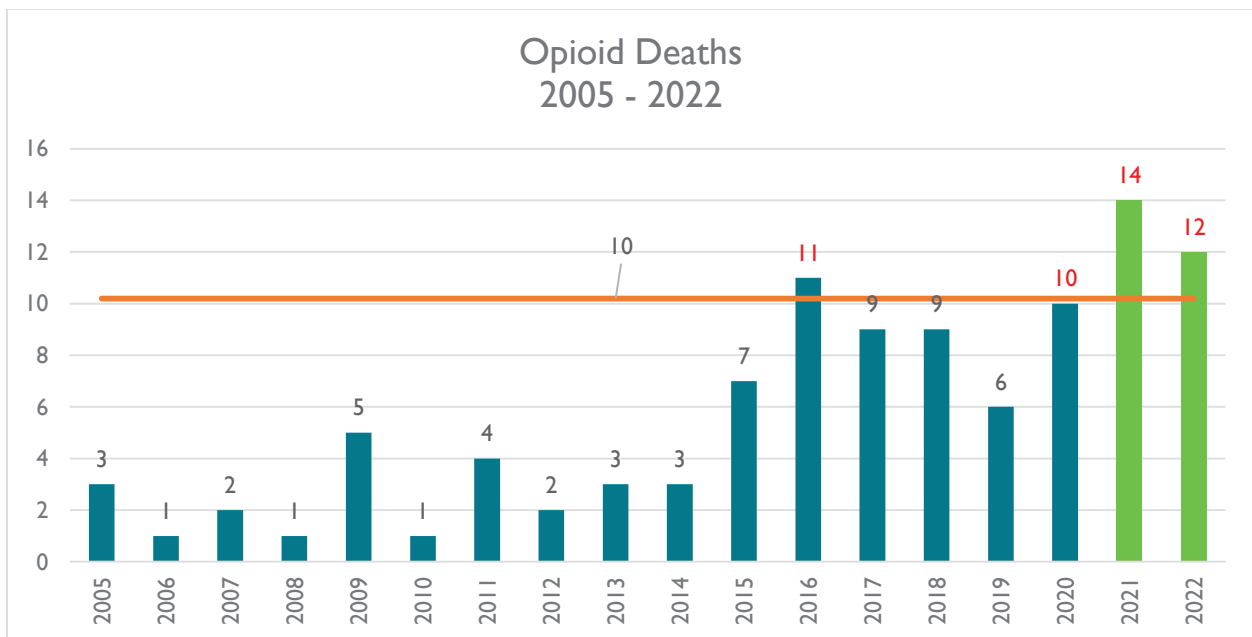
Uninsured Otsego County (2021)						
	Under 65	Under 65	18-64	18-64	Under 19	Under 19
Otsego County	2,199	5.4%	1,965	6.1%	258	2.7%
Opportunities for Otsego	9	7.3%	129	8.7%	43	2.8%

¹¹⁶ www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/sahie/

Causes of Death: According to the New York State Department of Health¹¹⁷, there were 690 deaths in Otsego County during 2020. **The leading individually-specified causes of death during this year, and the four years prior, were Diseases of the Heart and Malignant Neoplasms/Cancer.** Death by “All Other Causes” not specifically identified has ranked first as cause of death for Otsego County residents dating back to 2010. Other causes may include Alzheimer disease; Assault (homicide); Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis; COVID-19; Intentional self-harm (suicide); Parkinson disease; or Septicemia. Per August 2023 NYS Department of Health data, 179 persons died due to COVID-19 in Otsego County, of which 113 were residents¹¹⁸.

Leading Causes of Death: Otsego County 2017-2020								
	Diseases of the Heart	Malignant Neoplasms	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	Cerebrovascular Disease	Accidents	Diabetes Mellitus	Pneumonia	All Other Causes
2020	25.4%	21.2%	5.9%	4.5%	3.0%	1.6%	0.6%	37.8%
2019	24.1%	20.7%	6.1%	3.4%	3.9%	1.9%	3.0%	36.8%
2018	24.8%	21.5%	5.8%	3.7%	3.1%	1.9%	1.5%	37.7%
2017	26.4%	22.1%	7.0%	2.5%	4.6%	1.9%	1.5%	33.9%

The first Opioid-related death recorded in Otsego County by the NYS Department of Health was in 2005. Since, opioid-related deaths have been on the rise. Over the five year period from 2018-2022, **Otsego County averaged 10 opioid-related deaths annually.** Preliminary data gathered via New York State County Opioid Quarterly Reports, noted 14 opioid overdose deaths in 2021 and 12 opioid overdose deaths in 2022¹¹⁹.

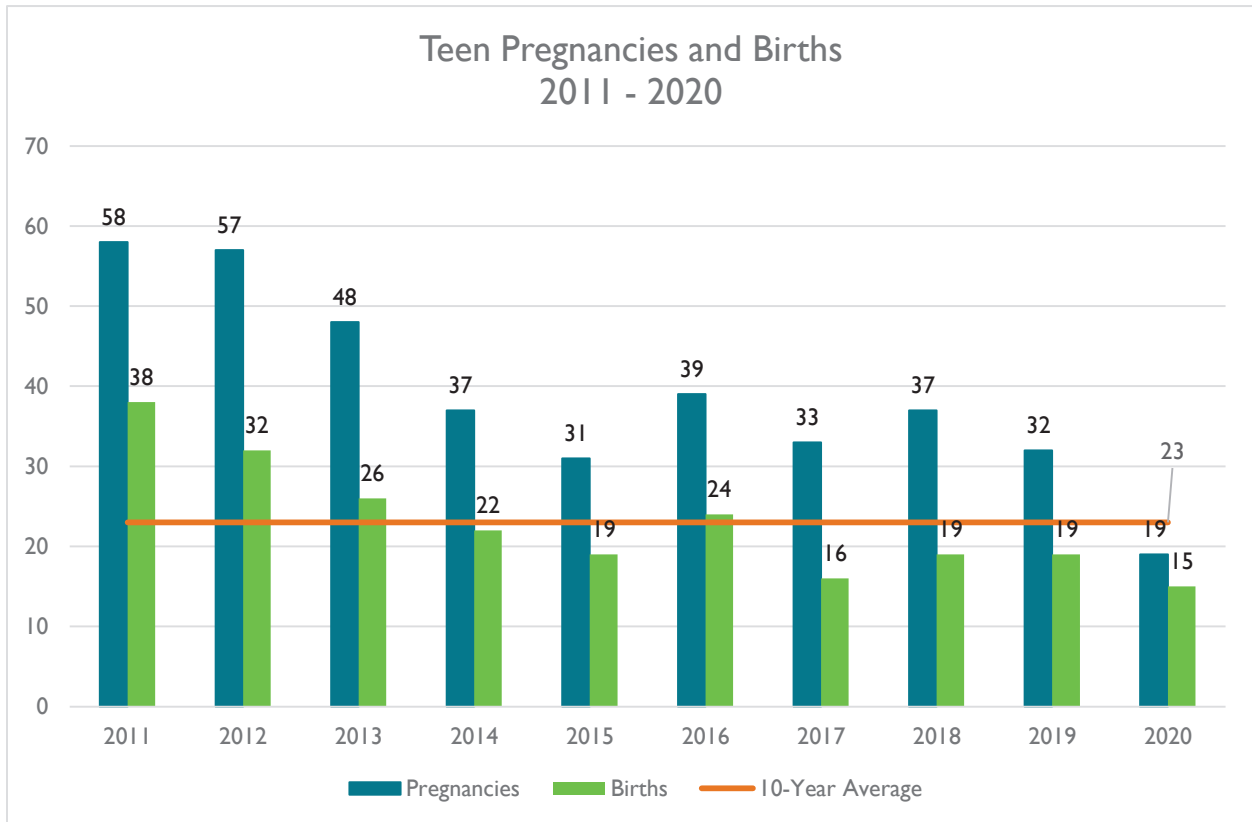


¹¹⁷ <https://health.data.ny.gov/> - Vital Statistics Deaths by Resident County, Region, and Selected Cause of Death: Beginning 2003

¹¹⁸ <https://health.data.ny.gov/> - New York State Statewide COVID-19 Fatalities by County

¹¹⁹ <https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/opioid/>

Teen Births: Since 2011, both the number of pregnancies and births to females age 19 and under in Otsego County have trended downward. The teen pregnancy rate in Otsego County during 2020 was 6.7 per 1,000 teens, well below the New York State rate of 19.3. The total number of pregnancies during this year was 19 with 15 live births; the lowest rate on record for the past 10 years. The highest rate of teen pregnancies and births was in 2011, with 58 teen pregnancies and 38 live births at a rate of 18.0 per 1,000 pregnancies¹²⁰. Per Opportunities for Otsego’s client data management system, only 2 prenatal mothers enrolling in agency programs during the 2021-22 program year were under age 19; encompassing 4.2% of all prenatal mother served.



Maternal and Infant Health: Infant, neonatal, and post neonatal mortality and low birth weight are two of the most widely used health indicators to measure the well-being of population as it reflects the general state of maternal health and the effectiveness of primary health care systems. The table below reports maternal and infant health indicators for Otsego County compared to New York State for the years 2018-2020. **Otsego maternal and child health indicators significantly different from Statewide are the rate of births with early prenatal care; low birth weight infants (<2.5 Kg); newborns with neonatal withdrawal symptoms¹²¹.**

¹²⁰ https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/ - Years 2011-2020, Tables 7, 26, and 30

¹²¹ New York State Community Health Indicator Reports (CHIRS) and Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Dashboard - County Level

Maternal and Child Health Indicators	3-Year Total	County Rate	NYS Rate
Percentage of births with early (first trimester) prenatal care	855	63.1	76.2
Percentage of births with late (third trimester) or no prenatal care	65	4.8	5.3
Mortality Rates (per 1,000 births)			
Infant (<1 year)	7	4.9*	4.2
Neonatal (<28 days)	3	2.1*	2.8
Post neonatal (1 month to 1 year)	4	2.8*	1.5
Fetal death (>20 weeks gestation)	7	4.9*	6.3
Perinatal (20 weeks gestation - 28 days of life)	10	7.0	9.0
Perinatal (28 weeks gestation - 7 days of life)	4	2.8*	5.0
Percentage of low birth weight (<2.5 Kg)	76	5.6	8.1
Newborns with neonatal withdrawal symptoms per 1,000 newborn discharges (2020)	8	19.0*	8.8
* Fewer than 10 events in the numerator, therefore the rate is unstable			

Community Health Indicators: The New York State Community Health Indicator Reports (CHIRS) dashboard compiles information on 350 health indicators organized by 15 health topics to assess the health of counties across the state. Otsego County health indicators significantly different than New York State are noted below¹²².

Community Health Indicators	3-Year Total	County Rate	NYS Rate
Cancer Indicators			
All cancer incidence rate per 100,000	1,235	689.4	600
All cancer mortality rate per 100,000	415	231.7	173.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific cancers with higher incident rates than NYS: Oral cavity/pharynx; Colon/rectum; Lung/bronchus • Specific cancers with higher mortality rates than NYS: Lung/bronchus 			
Cardiovascular Disease Indicators			
Cardiovascular disease mortality rate per 100,000	615	342.6	287.4
Cardiovascular disease pretransport mortality rate per 100,000	401	223.4	177.7
Heart attack mortality rate per 100,000	74	41.2	29.5
Congestive heart failure mortality rate per 100,000	50	27.9	14.4
Cerebrovascular disease (stroke) mortality rate per 100,000	76	42.3	32
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators “better” than NYS: Coronary heart disease premature death (aged 35-64 years) rate per 100,000; Emergency room visits for Hypertension and Chronic kidney disease 			
Child and Adolescent Health Indicators			
Asthma hospitalization rate per 10,000 - Aged 0-17 years	9	3.1*	15.9
Incidence of high blood lead level (5+ micrograms per deciliter) - rate per 1,000 tested children aged <72 months	24	31.9	10.4
Incidence of high blood lead level (10+ micrograms per deciliter) - rate per 1,000 tested children aged <72 months	17	6.7	3.5
Cirrhosis, Diabetes, and Kidney Indicators			
Cirrhosis mortality rate per 100,000	28	15.6	8.8

¹²² New York State Community Health Indicator Reports (CHIRS) - County Level. Reported data from 2017-2020 based on indicator

Diabetes mortality rate per 100,000	73	40.7	24.6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicators “better” than NYS: Chronic kidney disease hospitalization rate per 10,000; Chronic kidney disease emergency department visit rate per 10,000 			
Communicable Disease Indicators			
Pneumonia/flu hospitalization rate per 10,000 - Aged 65 years and older	360	94.8	81.7
E. coli Shiga Toxin incidence per 100,000	21	11.7	4.8
Lyme disease incidence per 100,000	402	224	36.3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicators “better” than NYS: Percentage of adults aged 65 years and older with pneumococcal immunization 			
Family Planning/Nativity Indicators			
All significantly different indicators are “better” than NYS including: Fertility rate of females aged 15-44 years; Teen pregnancy rates age 15-19 years; Abortion ratio (all ages)			
HIV/AIDS and STI Indicators			
All significantly different indicators are “better” than NYS including: Newly diagnosed HIV case rates; Gonorrhea case rates – All persons age 15-44 years; Chlamydia case rates – All persons age 15-44 years			
Injury Indicators			
Suicide mortality rate per 100,000	28	15.6	8.6
Unintentional injury hospitalization rate per 10,000	1,526	85	77.9
Falls hospitalization rate per 10,000 - Aged 85 years and older	327	631.9	556
Alcohol related motor vehicle injuries and deaths per 100,000	69	38.4	26.5
Health Status and Social Determinants of Health Indicators			
Total emergency department visit rate per 10,000	71,443	3,980.50	3,226.20

Primary Health Care: Per the Rural Health Information Hub, portions of Otsego County have a shortage of primary medical care; however, all areas have a shortage of mental health and dental care providers¹²³. It is estimated there is one primary care physician per 780 people; one dentist per 2,000 people; and one mental health provider per 460 people in Otsego County¹²⁴.

Responses collected via Opportunities for Otsego 2021 Community Needs Assessment survey support quantitative data on the lack of available medical providers in Otsego County: 14.8% of respondents indicated “not enough Specialists locally” and 13.8% noted “waiting times for appointments” as barriers to obtaining health care. Similarly, under Mental Health, 14.8% noted “lack of providers” and 12.2% “waiting times for appointments” as barriers to obtaining care.

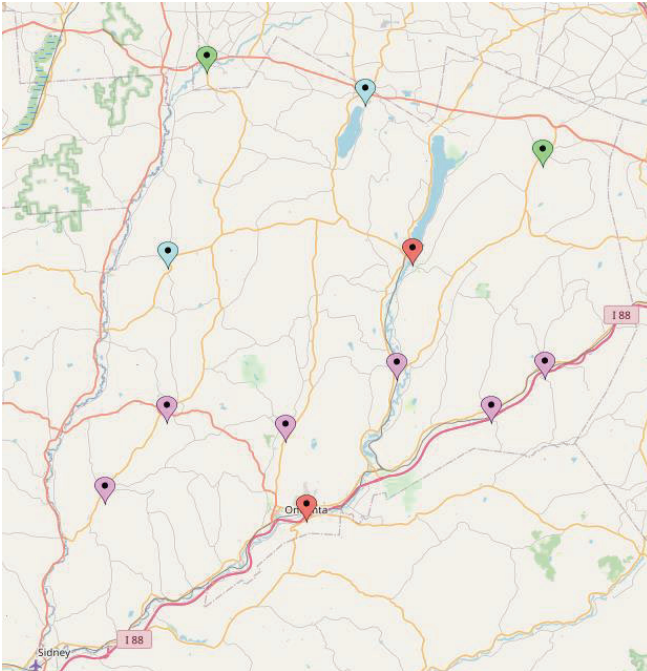
Bassett Healthcare Network provides care and services to people living in a 5,600 square mile region in upstate New York and is the primary medical provider in Otsego County. The hub of the network is Bassett Medical Center in Cooperstown. In addition, the network has a community hospital in Oneonta (A.O. Fox Hospital) that provides acute inpatient care and 24/7 emergency care and 12 primary care facilities in Otsego County¹²⁵. These services are supplemented and supported through School Based Health Centers (SBHC) at 9 school districts in

¹²³ <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/charts/5?state=NY>

¹²⁴ <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/new-york/otsego?year=2023>

¹²⁵ Data Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. February 2020.

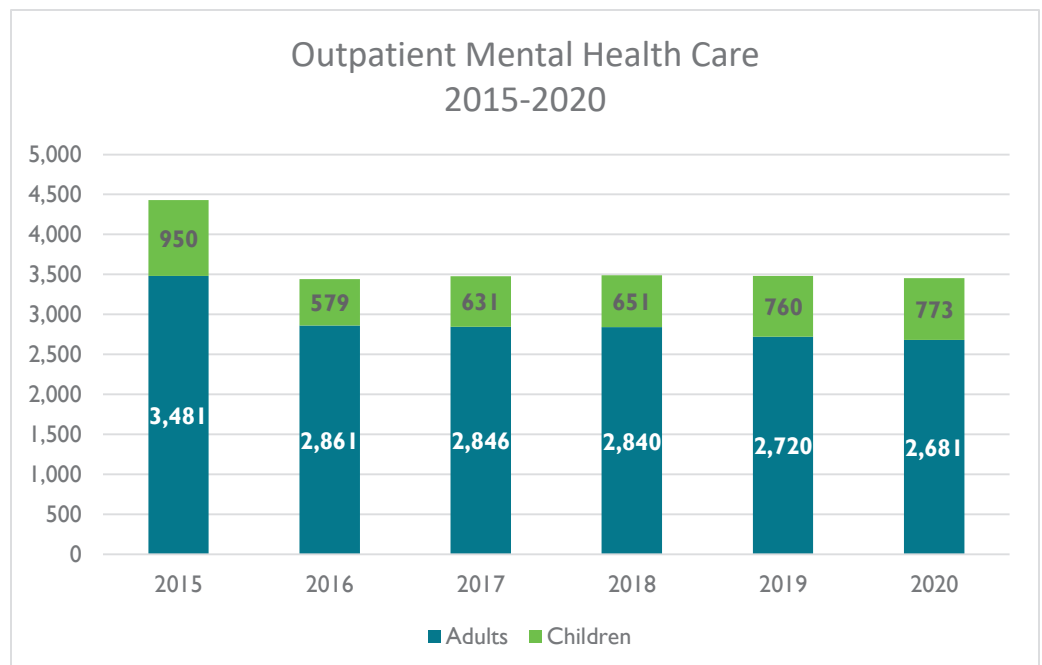
Otsego County. These clinics provide comprehensive healthcare, preventive dental care, and mental health services to youth in grades PreK-12. Below is a map of Bassett-affiliated health care clinics and SBHC's located throughout Otsego County. Additional pediatric care is available through United Health Services (UHS) in Oneonta. UHS discontinued adult primary care at this location in spring 2023.



Bassett Healthcare Locations

- ER/Hospital, Primary Care Clinics
Cooperstown (School-Based Health)
Oneonta (Convenient Care, VA Clinic)
- Primary Clinic, School-Based Health
Edmeston, Richfield Springs
- School-Based Health
Gilbertsville, Laurens, Milford, Morris,
Schenevus, Worcester
- Primary Care Clinic
Cherry Valley, West Winfield

Mental Health Care: A listing of mental health providers in Otsego is available through the Rehabilitative Support Services (RSS) 2021 Otsego County Guide to Mental Health Service publication. According to this source there are 14 private providers offering services to children and adolescents, 17 providers of adult mental health services, and 12 family providers, and one Psychiatrist. **Since 2017, there has been a loss of 5 private providers offering services to children and adolescents; 9 providers of adult**



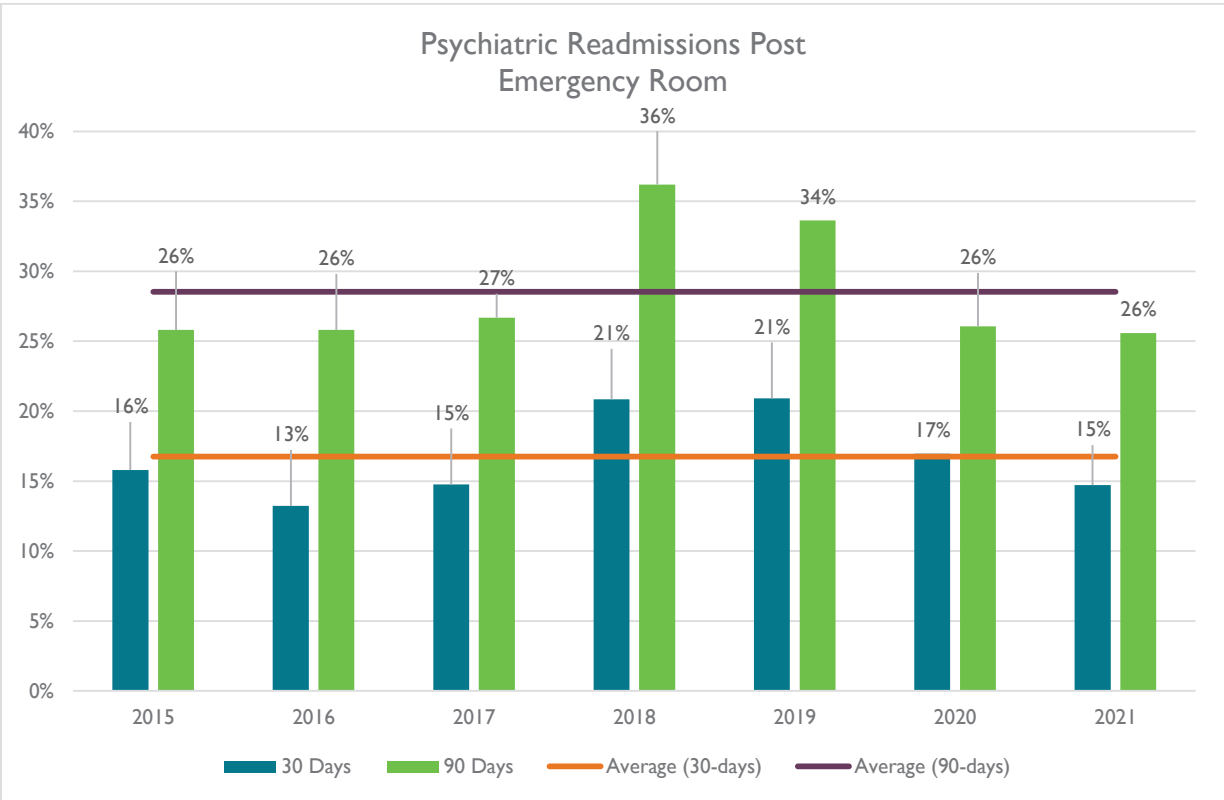
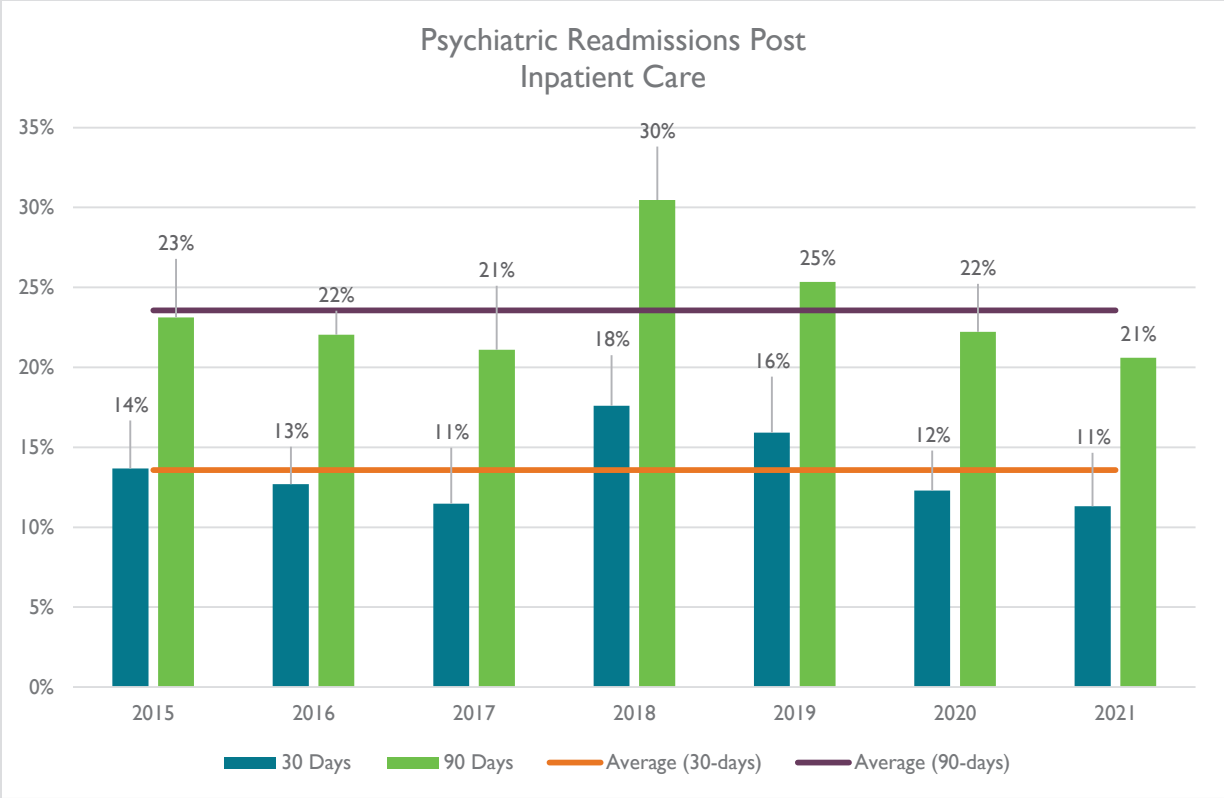
mental health services; 8 family providers; and one Psychiatrist in Otsego County. Additional outpatient mental health care is offered through the Otsego County Mental Health Clinic, Bassett Hospital Psychiatry Department, and through Bassett Healthcare School Based Health Centers for youth enrolled in the individual school districts. During 2020, an estimated 3,454 individuals accessed outpatient mental health services in Otsego County, of which 2,681 (77.6%) were adults and 773 (22.4%) were children. During the same year, the average daily census for inpatient treatment at a general hospital, private hospital, or state psychiatric center was 8.8 for adults and 3.2 for children. **Generally, the number of person accessing mental health care in Otsego has declined since 2015.** The average number of persons accessing outpatient care over the period 2015-2020 was 3,629 (2,905 adults, 724 children). Inpatient census counts over the same period average 9.9 for adults and 3.7 for children.

Bassett Healthcare is the only resource for inpatient mental health care in Otsego County. Per its website, “Bassett Medical Center has an Inpatient Psychiatry Unit that offers psychiatric assessment, evaluation and treatment to adults 18 and over who require acute care hospitalization.” In place of inpatient crisis based services, Otsego County partners with the Mobile Crisis Assessment Team (MCAT) from The Neighborhood Center in Utica to provide 24 hour/7 day a week intervention, mental health assessment, crisis de-escalation and debriefing, and other community-based supports to individuals with psychiatric needs. Mental health emergencies are managed by the hospital emergency department.

Per the OMH website, the closest inpatient mental health facilities to Otsego County are in Albany (Capital District Psychiatric Center); Binghamton/Elmira (Elmira Psychiatric Center; Greater Binghamton Health Center), Marcy/Utica (Central New York Psychiatric Center; Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center; Secure Treatment and Rehabilitation Center); Rochester (Rochester Psychiatric Center); and Syracuse (Hutchings Psychiatric Center). Additional facilities noted in the RSS Guide to Mental Health Service are Binghamton General Hospital, Mohawk Valley Health System in Utica (Faxton-St. Lukes and St. Elizabeth), and Ellis Hospital in Schenectady. As of the date of this report, there is not an established Assertive Community Treatment (ACT Team) serving Otsego County. ACTs offers treatment, rehabilitation, and community integration services to individuals diagnosed with serious mental illness. However, similar support is offered though the Southern Tier Mobile Integration Team (MIT) for youth and adults. In addition to supporting persons in Otsego County, the Southern Tier MIT provides services in 14 other counties including Allegany, Broome, Cattaragus, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates.

On average, over the period 2015-2021, 14% of persons accessing inpatient care in Otsego County for 30-days were readmitted, while 24% accessing inpatient care for 90-days were readmitted. Readmission rates for persons seeking psychiatric care through the Emergency Room over the same period were 17% after 30-days and 29% after 90-days¹²⁶.

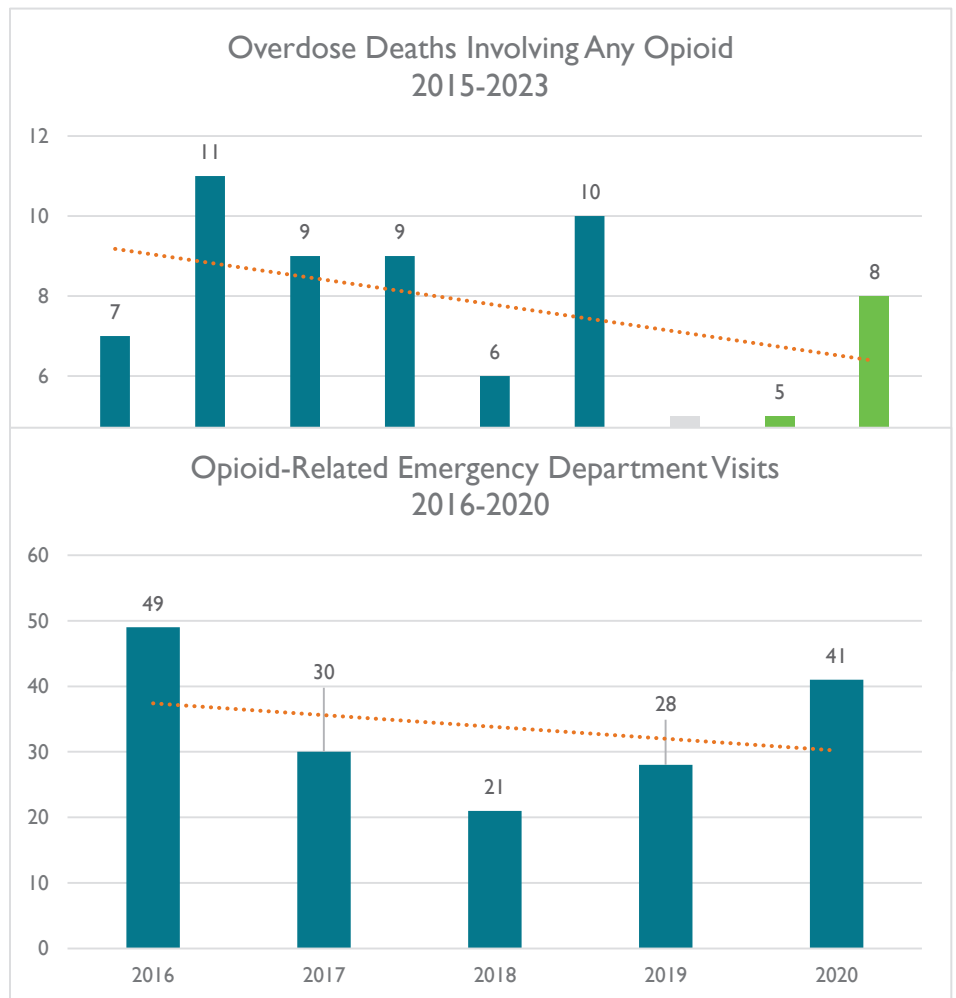
¹²⁶ <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/statistics/> - County Planning Reports



Addiction Services: The New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) website offers a listing of substance abuse providers in Otsego County. Providers listed on this site include prevention providers (LEAF: Leatherstocking Education on Alcoholism and Addictions); treatment providers (Otsego County Community Services Board/Chemical Dependencies Clinic); providers of clinical screening and assessment services for the impaired driving offender (Otsego County Community Services Board/Chemical Dependencies Clinic) and other NYS OASAS approved providers/practitioners, which there are seven¹²⁷. Additional support is offered through various support groups (e.g. AA, NA, Ala-non), some of which are coordinated through Friends of Recovery: Delaware and Otsego. Groups are offered in a variety of communities, including Bainbridge, Cooperstown, Oneonta, Otego, Richfield Springs, and Unadilla¹²⁸.

McPike Addiction Treatment Center in Utica is the only inpatient treatment facility in New York State in which Otsego County falls within its catchment area. McPike offers beds for 68 adults and serves 16 counties within New York State. Inpatient detox facilities near Otsego County are Delaware Valley Hospital (Walton, NY); Conifer Park (Glenville, NY); and St. Peters Addiction Recovery Center (Guilderland, NY).

OASAS tracks several data points that serve as key substance use disorder indicators for counties across New York State, including overdose deaths involving any opioid; opioid-related emergency department visits; and newborns with neonatal withdrawal symptoms and/or affected by maternal drug use. Per this source, in 2020, both the Otsego County opioid overdose death and opioid ED visit rate was lower than New York State excluding NYC (ROS); although, both these rates increased between 2017 and 2020. **The number of opioid deaths, based on**



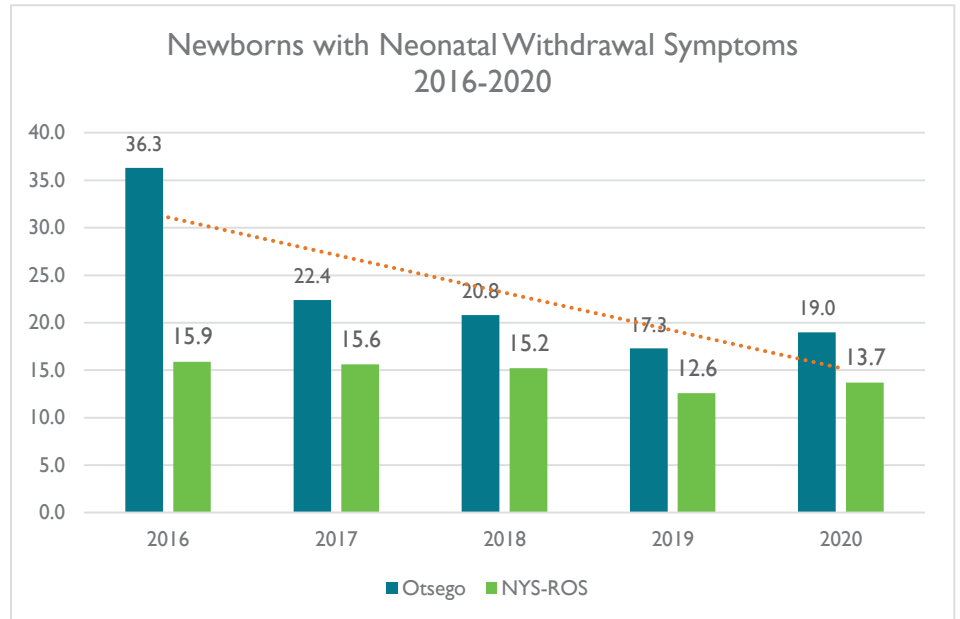
¹²⁷ https://webapps.oasas.ny.gov/providerDirectory/index.cfm#search_results

¹²⁸ <https://www.district8.aahmbny.org/1740-2/>

preliminary locally-sourced data, is on a positive-downward trend.

In 2020, of the 420 newborns born and discharged from the hospital in Otsego County, there were eight incidents of newborns exhibiting neonatal withdrawal symptom.

Although the number of newborns delivered in Otsego County with neonatal withdrawal symptoms has gone down, the Otsego County rate of newborns with neonatal withdrawal symptoms



and/or affected by maternal drug use has been higher than the Rest of State since 2016. Data for 2016 and onward are based on ICD-10-CM and may not be comparable to previous ICD-9-CM estimates; thus, only data from 2016 and onward are shown. Direct comparisons between the two data sources are not recommended.

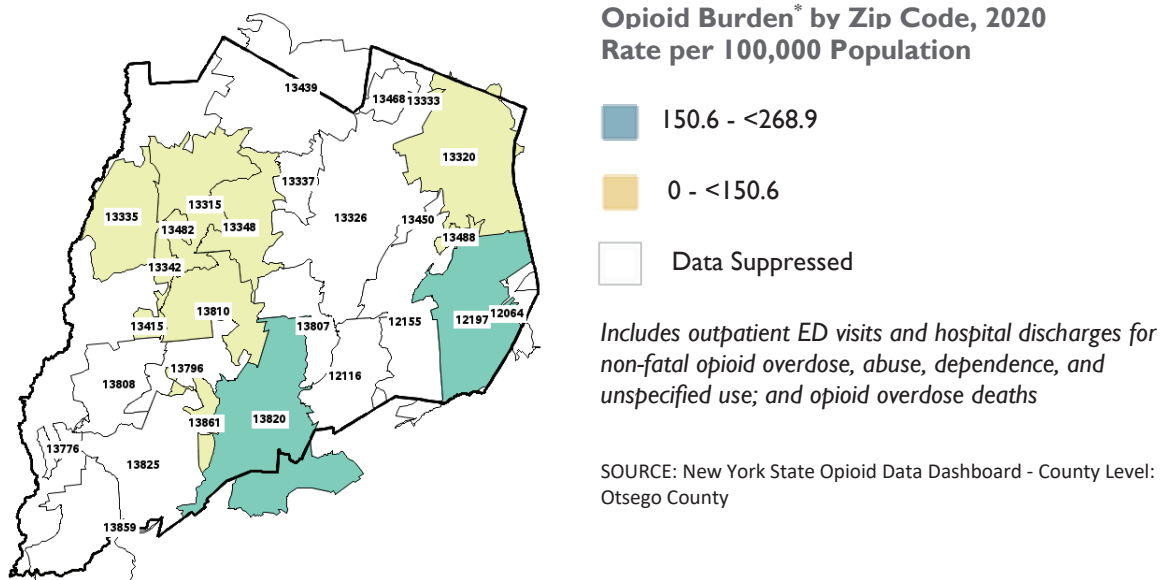
Data collected through the Mohawk Valley Public Health Improvement Program, **2018 Youth Behavior Risk Survey provides insight to adolescent behaviors as they relate to substance use.** All districts in Otsego County agreed to participate. Seventy-percent of all high school students (1,427 of 2,041 students) in Otsego County participated in the survey. Students in grades 9-12 throughout Otsego County reported the following¹²⁹:

- 28.4% currently use alcohol. *Down from 36.3% in 2016.*
- 19.6% use marijuana in the past 30 days. *Down from 23.0% in 2016.*
- 9.0% have used prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription. *Down from 11.3% in 2016.*
- 4.0% have used cocaine. *Down from 4.7% in 2016.*
- 8.0% have used inhalants. *Up from 5.6% in 2016.*
- 2.0% have use heroin. *Down slightly from 2.4% in 2016.*
- 3.0% have used methamphetamines. *Up from 2.5% in 2016.*

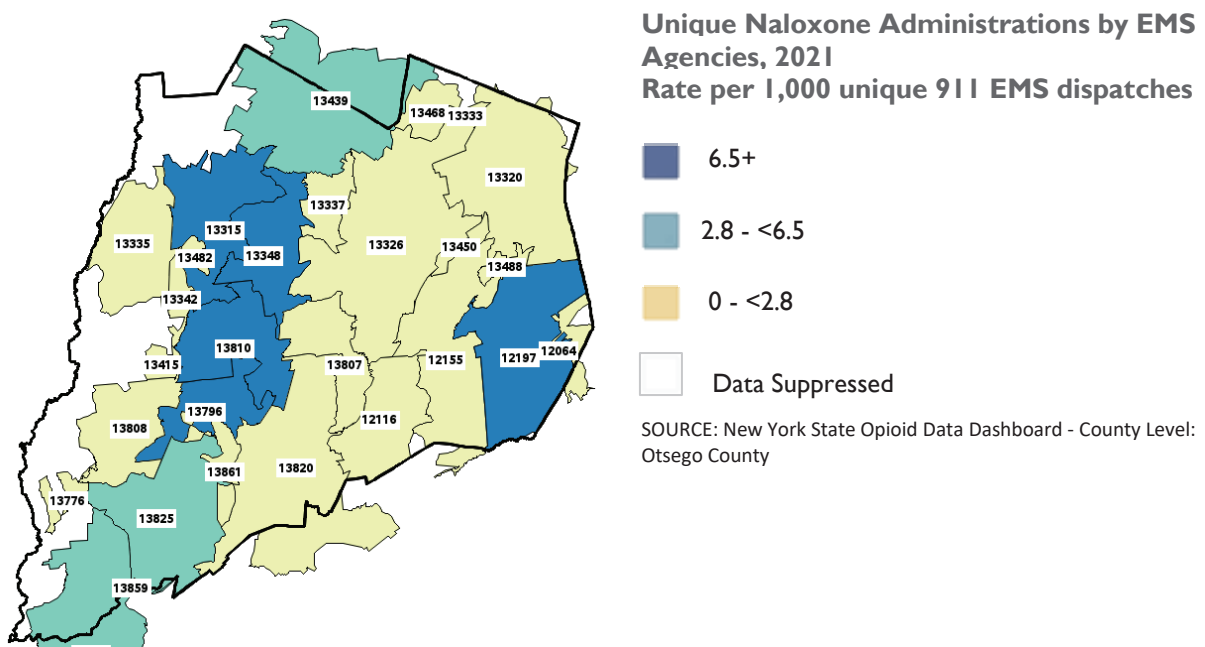
Per NYS Department of Health data, the overall Otsego County Opioid burden during 2020 was 148.8 per 100,000 population. This rate is based on outpatient ED visits and hospital discharges for non-fatal opioid overdose, abuse, dependence, and unspecified use; and opioid overdose deaths. By zip code, Worcester (12197)

¹²⁹ https://www.otsegocounty.com/departments/d-m/mental_health/system_of_care.php

and Oneonta (13820) had the highest rates of opioid burden in 2020 with incidents at 265.1 (n=6) and 208.1 (n=46) respectively in Otsego County¹³⁰.



An additional community indicator of the opioid crisis in Otsego County is the number and rate of unique naloxone (Narcan) administrations by EMS agencies. The overall county rate in 2021 was 2.5 per 1,000 EMS dispatches with a total of 19 unique naloxone administrations given. By zip code, Oneonta (13820) has the greatest number at 9, while Mount Vision (13810) has the highest rate at 29.4. **Year-over-year data available through**



¹³⁰ <https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/opioid/> - Opioid Data Dashboard - County Level: Otsego County

Otsego County reported 26 naloxone administrations given in 2022 and 28 from January to August 15, 2023¹³¹.

Per data available through Otsego County, there were 44 non-fatal and 5 fatal overdoses in 2022 and 45 non-fatal and 8 fatal overdoses over the period January to August 15, 2023. Overdose by primary drug during 2023 thus far are heroin (43.4%); fentanyl (15.1%); cocaine (9.4%); methamphetamine (9.4%); crack (3.4%); synthetic marijuana (3.4%); prescription drugs (1.9%); and other (1.9%). Six overdoses incidents (11.3%) were non-specified. The most frequent time of day of overdoses during 2023 are 1AM and 10PM at 5 incidents during each time block; followed by 6PM (n=4), and 5AM, 6AM, 10AM, and 11AM (n=3 each time block).

Pharmacy Access: Access to pharmacies is an essential component to community health and a social determinant of health. Per the New York State records, there are 52 licensed Pharmacists and 15 Pharmacies in Otsego County¹³². Pharmacies not only provide access to prescribed medicine and vaccinations, but public health and harm-reduction strategies. To prevent blood borne diseases (e.g. HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B and C), licensed pharmacies, health care facilities, and health care practitioners can sell or furnish hypodermic needles or syringes to persons 18 years of age or older without a patient-specific prescription. The Expanded Syringe Access Program (ESAP) law became permanent in New York State in 2009. In August 2022, New York issued a statewide pharmacy standing order for Naloxone to reverse life-threatening overdoses from opioids, including fentanyl, heroin, and opioid-based pain killers. Naloxone can be accessed without a prescription and can be covered by health insurance or through the Naloxone Co-payment Assistance Program (N-CAP). Free Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs are also available at the Community Cupboard in Edmeston and Friends of Recovery of Delaware and Otsego Counties (FOR-DO) in Oneonta¹³³.

Pharmacy	Location	ESAP Registered	Naloxone Participating
Cooperstown			
Bassett Medical Center	1 Atwell Drive, Cooperstown		
Church and Scott	5396 State Highway 28, Cooperstown		
CVS	100 Main Street, Cooperstown	✓	✓
New Berlin			
Service Pharmacy	12 South Main Street, New Berlin		
Oneonta			
Foxcare Pharmacy	1 Foxcare Drive, Oneonta		
Hannaford	705 State Highway 28, Oneonta	✓	
Price Chopper	1000 Main Street, Oneonta		✓
Rite Aid	400 Chestnut Street, Oneonta	✓	✓
Rite Aid	94 Chestnut Street, Oneonta	✓	✓
Walgreens	99 Chestnut Street, Oneonta	✓	✓
Walgreens	5626 State Highway 7, Oneonta	✓	✓

¹³¹ Otsego County Source:

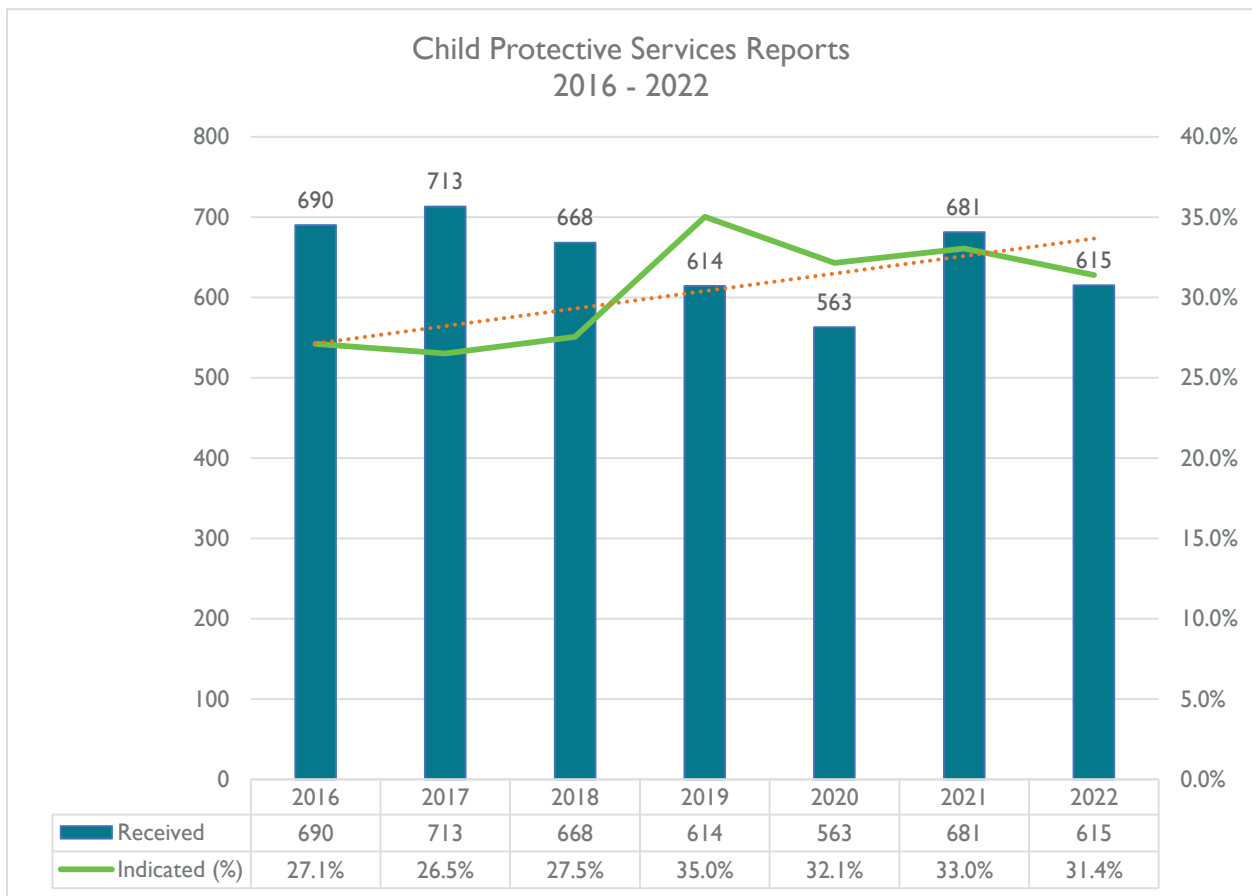
https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/1b4923eeba834c22ac22ac750e30cc32e0ec?fbclid=IwAR0UvClvapHANFdeGkJom6D7F_-jZ0Ru0f4tp-juMjKnhR94tilbBnlPwnQ

¹³² <https://www.op.nysed.gov/professions/pharmacist/license-statistics>

¹³³ <https://providerdirectory.aidsinstitute.org/>

Walmart	5054 State Highway 7, Oneonta	✓	✓
Richfield Springs			
Kinney Drugs	10 Main Street, Richfield Springs	✓	✓
Unadilla			
Sturgess Pharmacy	225 Main Street, Unadilla		

Child Abuse and Neglect: The average number of suspected case of child abuse, neglect or maltreatment received by Otsego County Child Protective Services (CPS) from 2016 to 2022 was 649 annually, with 2017 being the highest number of reports received by the local CPS office dating back to 1995 with a total of 713. **The rate of suspected reports of child abuse/neglect being “indicated” is trending negatively (upwards). On average, 30.4% of reported case over the period 2016-2022 were found to have enough evidence to prove the presence of child maltreatment indicated.** The year 2019 had the greatest percentage of indicated reports at 35.0%¹³⁴.



Additional data on child abuse and maltreatment was obtained from the Otsego County Child Advocacy Center (CAC), which provides a multi-disciplinary approach to investigating cases of child sexual abuse and severe physical

¹³⁴ <https://ocfs.ny.gov/reports/maps/aggregate.php>

abuse. Members of the CAC include the Oneonta Police Department, Cooperstown Police Department, Otsego County Sheriff's Office, the New York State Police, Otsego County Department of Probation, Otsego County District Attorney's Office, Otsego County Attorney's Office, Otsego County Department of Social Services, Bassett Healthcare Network, Opportunities for Otsego/Violence Intervention Program, and the Otsego County Mental Health Department.

From 2017 to the date of this report, the CAC supported and assisted 1,076 children who were victims of child abuse in Otsego County. Among these victims, 31.2% were age birth-six, 41.9% ages 7-12 and 26.9% ages 13-18. Victims age was 60.7% female (n=651) and 39.3% male (n=422). The most prevalent victimization type of children being seen at the CAC was sexual assault (81.1%); followed by physical abuse (9.6%); neglect (4.9%); witness to violence (4.1%); and drug endangerment (<1%).

Foster Care: If a local Child Protective agency finds that a child has been abused or neglected or is at risk of such harm, the court may order that the child be placed in foster care. Foster care placement may also be precipitated voluntarily, at the request of his or her parents or legal guardian; by the court when a child's behavior is beyond the control of those responsible for his or her care; or if a child is removed from their home by a child-protective agency because of an emergency in the home. Children may be placed with foster parents in their home, in a group home, or in an institution, depending upon the child's needs and the available foster care settings. Instead of foster care, a child may be placed in the care of a relative or another suitable person. Below is a summary of foster care admissions, discharges, and the foster care census as of December 31st annual for the years 2016 to 2022 in Otsego County¹³⁵.

Foster Care: Admissions and Discharge (2016 – 2022)							
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Admitted	19	20	17	31	22	30	19
Discharged	21	21	17	23	24	24	29
As of 12/31	33	32	33	40	40	46	37

Crime and Victimization: The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) maintains, analyzes and publishes criminal and youth justice system data, including incidents of crime and arrests and dispositions. Police departments, sheriffs' offices, probation departments and the state Office of Court Administration report these data, which provide the public and policy makers with information detailing how the criminal justice system is operating in their communities. A summary of crime data for Otsego County is provided below for the period 2017 to 2022¹³⁶.

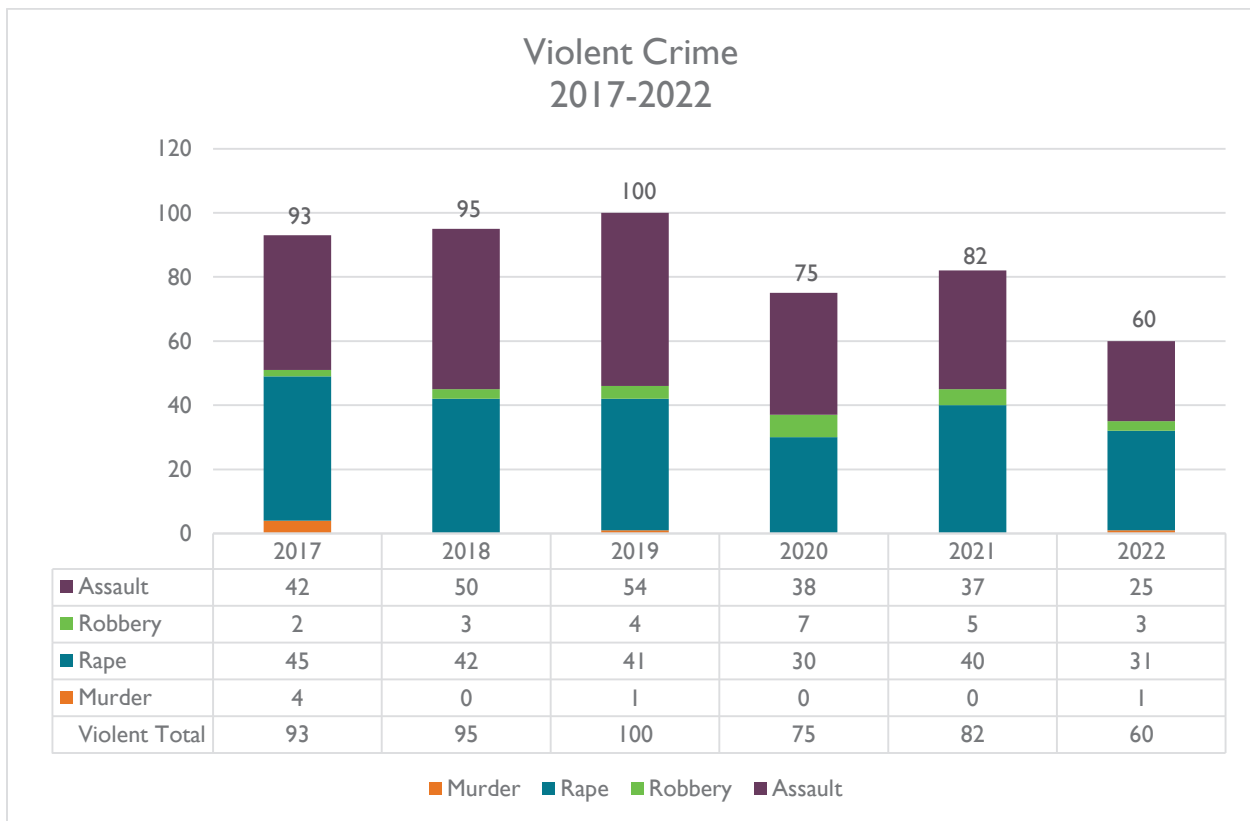
¹³⁵ <https://ocfs.ny.gov/reports/maps/aggregate.php>

¹³⁶ https://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/tableau_index_crime_by_agency.htm

Over the period 2017-2022, there were an average of 84 incidents of violent crime across Otsego County. Aggravated assault (an attempt to cause bodily harm, with or without a weapon) represented 48.7% of all violent crimes occurring over the 6-year period, closely followed by rape at 45.3%. Robbery and Murder accounted for 6% of remaining violent crime at 4.8% and 1.2% respectively. During Q1 of 2023, the Oneonta City Police reported 2 incidents of violent crime and the State Police/Troopers reported 15. No incidents of violent crime were reported by the Cooperstown Village Police, the Otsego County Park Police, the Otsego County Sheriff, or SUNY Oneonta Police.

Under the Clery Act, colleges and universities are required to report campus crime data and disseminate a public annual security report (ASR) to employees and students every fall. The ASR includes statistics of campus crime for the preceding 3 calendar years. Over the period 2019-2021, Hartwick College and SUNY Oneonta reported the following combined violent crime statistics: 13 incidents of rape and 3 aggravated assaults¹³⁷. *Campus representatives who are confidential resources do not report crimes to law enforcement or college officials without victim consent, therefore Clery Act data and DCJS data may differ.*

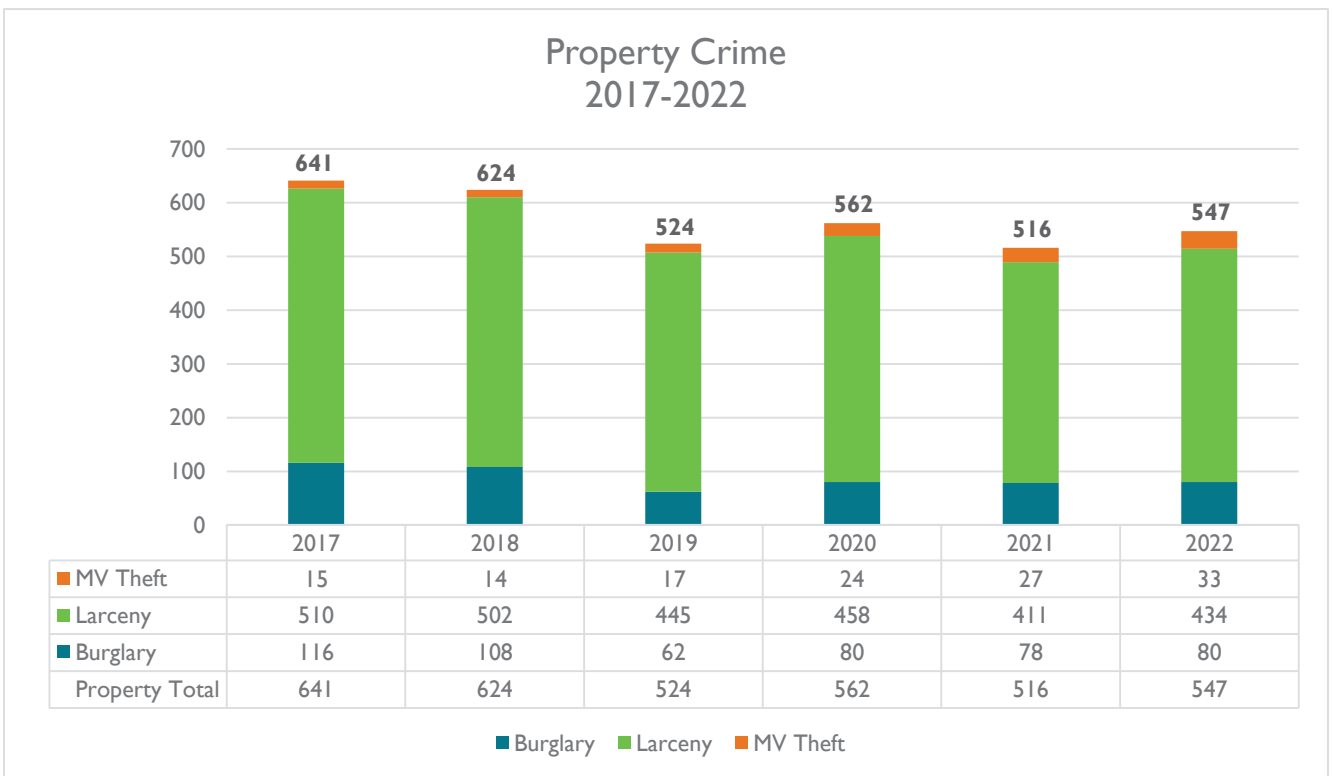
Since 2017, there have been 29 acts of violent crime by firearm in Otsego County; 3 murders; 3 robberies; and 23 aggravated assaults.



¹³⁷ <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

Over the period 2017-2022, there were an average of 649 incidents of property crime across Otsego County. Larceny, which includes shoplifting, purse snatching, bicycle thefts, and other acts of unlawfully taking possession of another’s property, is the highest reported incident consistently over the period encompassing 80.8% of all property crimes. Burglary (unlawful entry into a structure) represented 15.3% of property crimes and motor vehicle thefts was 3.8%. During Q1 of 2023, the Oneonta City Police, Otsego County Sheriff, the State Police/Troopers, and SUNY Oneonta Police reported 99 incidents of property crime. No incidents of property crime were reported by the Cooperstown Village Police or the Otsego County Park Police.

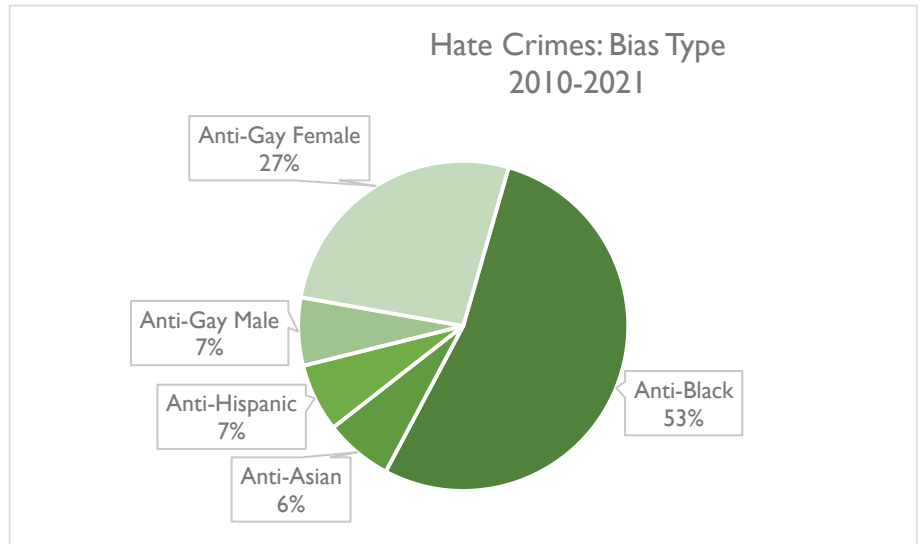
Over the period 2019-2021, Hartwick College and SUNY Oneonta reported a combined 9 incidents of burglary¹³⁸. *Campus representatives who are confidential resources do not report crimes to law enforcement or college officials without victim consent, therefore Clery Act data and DCJS data may differ.*



¹³⁸ <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

Hate crimes target individuals, groups of individuals or property based on a perception or belief about race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion or other characteristic as defined by state law. **Since 2010, there were 22 hate crimes reported to law enforcement in Otsego County. Of these incidents, over half were Anti-Black¹³⁹.**

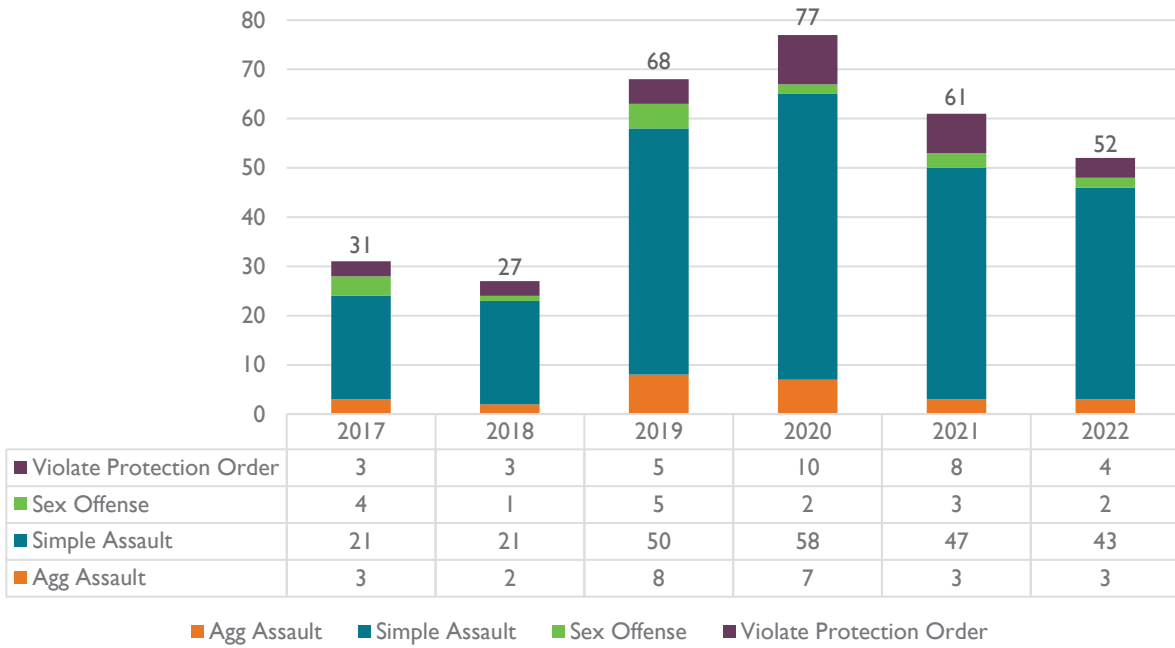
Domestic violence involves members of the same family, including but not limited to parents, children and siblings, and intimate partners who may or may not live together at the time of the incident. Domestic incidents are categorized and reported as aggravated assault, simple assault (e.g. stalking, harassment, intimidation, coercion, or hazing), sex offenses (rape, statutory rape, sodomy, incest, or sexual abuse), and violation of protective orders (violation of a court order by the person for which the order was issued against).



Up until the year 2019, incidents of domestic violence between intimate partners in Otsego County was on a decline. In part to COVID-related lock downs and social distancing, incidents of domestic violence spiked across New York State prompting action by state government to develop innovative solutions to reach domestic violence survivors and provide critical services. **In Otsego County, the number of reported intimate partner domestic violence incidents increased 152% from 2019 to 2020, and another 13.2% from 2020 to 2021.** The highest number and rate of domestic violence incidents over the 6-year period were simple assaults ranging from 67.7%-91.3% of all intimate partner incidents.

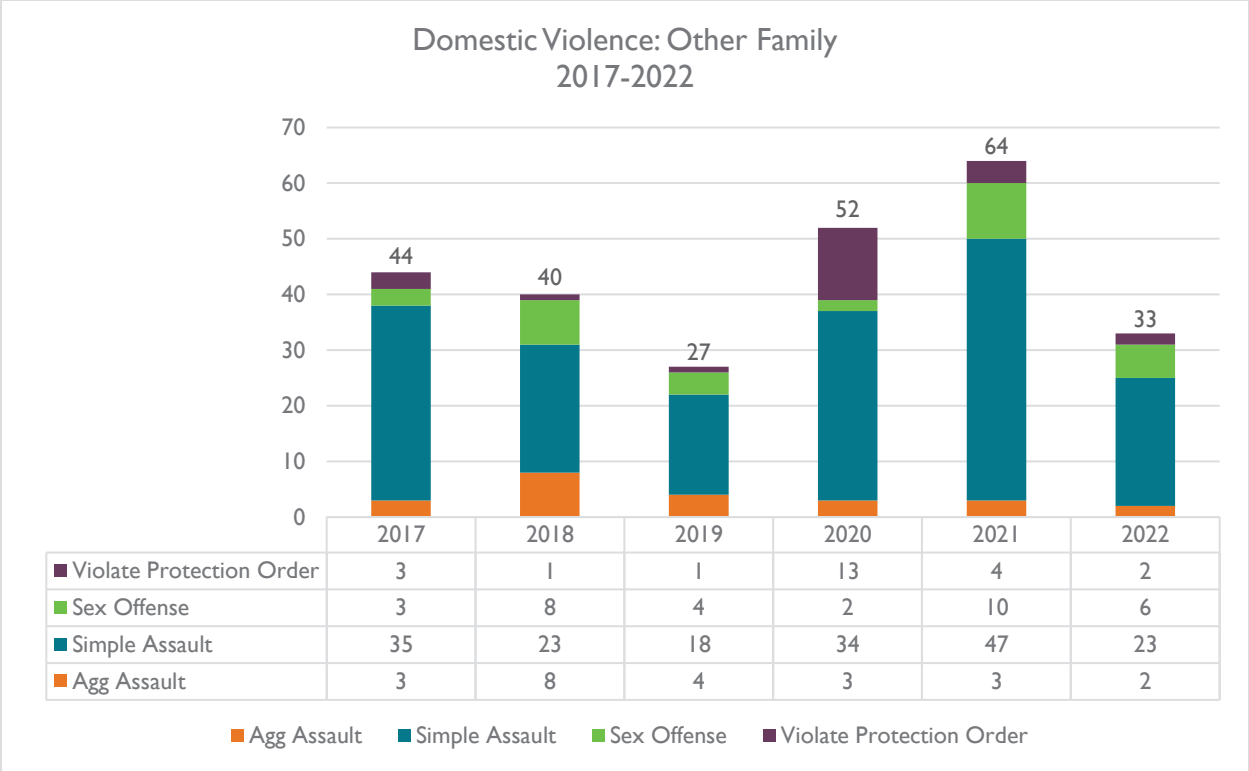
¹³⁹ data.ny.gov/Public-Safety/Hate-Crimes-by-County-and-Bias-Type-Beginning-2010 and NYSDCJS Hate Crime Incidents by County and Agency

Domestic Violence: Intimate Partner 2017-2022

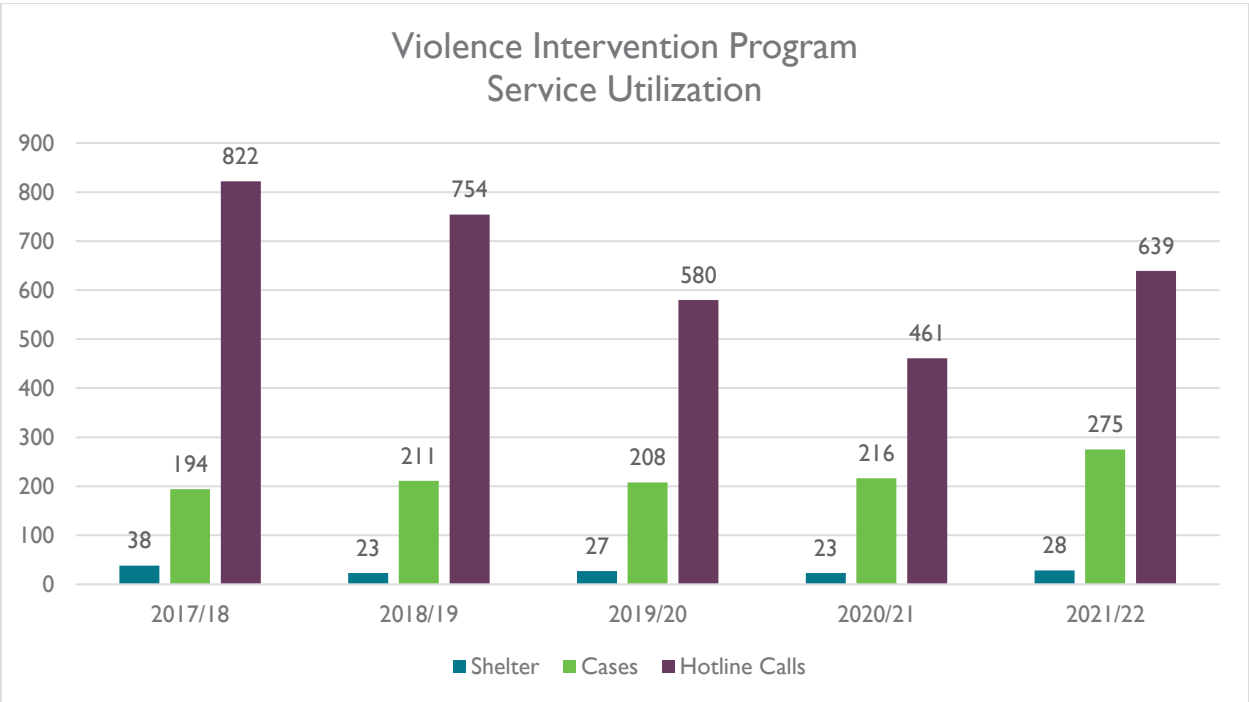


Unlike intimate partner domestic violence, incidents of violence between “Other” family - sibling, child grandparent, grandchild, in-law, stepparent, stepsibling, and other blood and in-law relationships - did not spike until the year 2020, during which was also a notable increase in Protection Order Violations. **Between the years 2019 and 2021, the number of reported “other family” domestic violence incidents increased 137% in Otsego County. Incidents in 2022 dropped to half of those reported the year prior.** Like intimate partner domestic violence incidents, simple assault were the highest number and rate of domestic violence incidents between other family members. Over the 6-year period, simple assaults ranged from 57.5%-79.5% of all other family incidents.

Over the period 2019-2021, Hartwick College and SUNY Oneonta reported a combined 14 VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) offenses: 5 incidents of dating violence; 4 incidents of domestic violence; and 5 incidents of stalking.



The Violence Intervention Program (VIP) at Opportunities for Otsego is the primary provider of domestic violence and sexual assault support services in Otsego County. VIP also provides assistance to innocent victims of violent crime. Program data on service utilization (e.g. persons sheltered, active cases, and hotline calls) over the period 2017-2022 is provided in the table below. **On average, VIP helps 221 victims of violence each year.**



Protection Orders: Over the period 2017-2022, Otsego County Courts granted an average of 694 orders of protection annually, with Family court granting 55.7% of all protection orders. These Orders include temporary, final, required and non-required orders¹⁴⁰. The increase in orders of protection issued through Supreme Civil Court may be attributed to the opening of the Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) court. Per a 10.23.2019 article in the Daily Star¹⁴¹, the Otsego County IDV court was scheduled to open in January 2020. This court model streamlines the judicial process for victims of domestic violence by taking a holistic approach to meeting all the legal needs a victim of violence may have, including issuing orders of protection.

Orders of Protection in Domestic Violence Registry						
2017-2023						
	County/Supreme	Family	Local Criminal	Supreme Civil	Town/Village	Total
2023*	15	273	72	82	77	529
2022	27	367	95	72	109	670
2021	12	416	155	27	114	724
2020	12	360	116	21	91	600
2019	11	392	203	2	103	711
2018	37	343	146	2	161	689
2017	10	461	157	11	128	767
*2023 data is January through August 2023						

¹⁴⁰ <https://ww2.nycourts.gov/orders-protection-dashboard-35346>

¹⁴¹ https://www.thedailystar.com/news/local_news/new-county-court-to-ease-burden-on-domestic-abuse-victims/article_5c943814-a13b-5319-9c14-dc6fb3fb06fe.html

COMMUNITY VOICES

In addition to quantitative data collected through the Needs Assessment process, Opportunities for Otsego distributed an electronic survey to the community to solicit opinions, observations, and other information about the state of services and gaps within Otsego County. Surveys were made available through the agency webpage, social media, and paper copies were offered to agency program staff. Surveys were open to solicitation 08.30.2021 - 12.31.2021 and again 05.01.2023-06.30.2023. The purpose of the second distribution was to glean post-COVID emergency input. A summary of the 148 collected surveys is included as an addendum to this document.

Evaluation of community needs may also be measured from data maintained the Susquehanna River Region 211 referral service operated by the United Way of Broome County. A summary of top requests from persons in Otsego County from 06.13.2022 – 06.12.2023 is included as an addendum to this document.



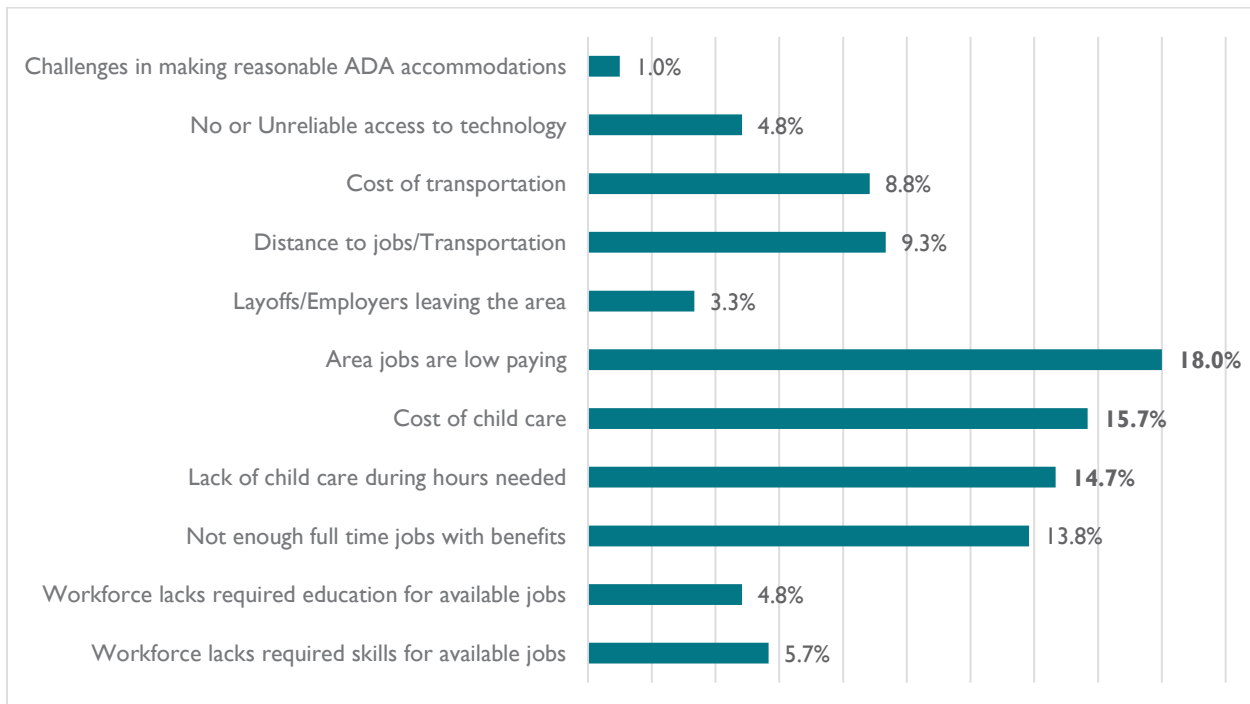
Community Needs Assessment Survey Otsego County, NY

Summary of data collected 08.30.2021-12.31.2021 and again 05.01.2023-06.30.2023. A total of 148 surveys were received.

EMPLOYMENT is a problem in our area:

14% No

86% Yes



Additional Feedback:

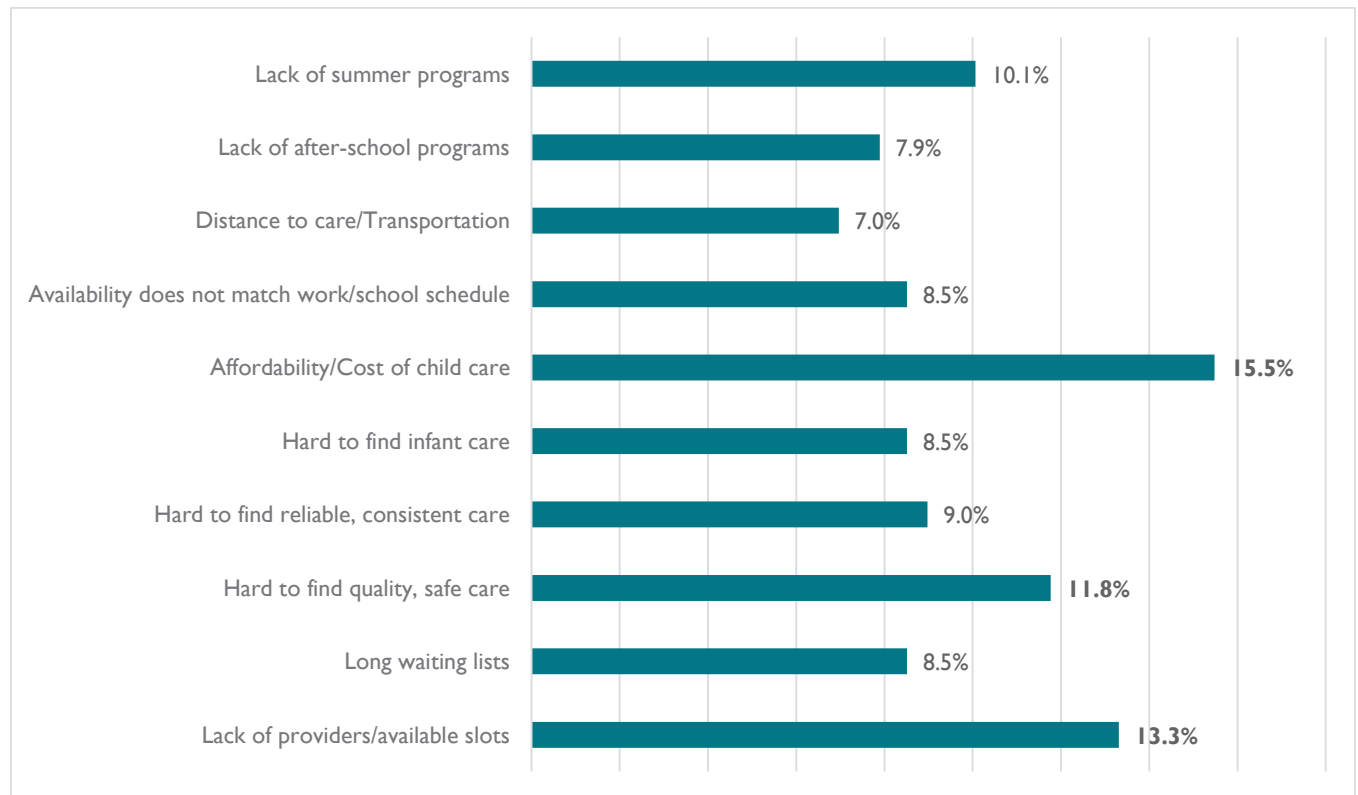
- Not able to return to work due to COVID-19
- Housing where the jobs are/Housing for employees
- 53 years old, been at same job 25 years, no high school diploma or GED, got laid off 17 months ago because of COVID and now they aren't taking us back.
- There are plenty of position out there people are just not applying for jobs.
- On a recent drive to Oneonta, we passed road side help wanted signs for care aids, servers, prep cooks, Town of Otego Highway Dept., NYS DOT snow plow drivers, Corning, a farm implement company, Aldi's, McDonald's, etc. All of the elements you list are barriers that have existed for years in this area. There are a significant number of people who seem to have been lulled into a malaise by dependence on COVID related government supports. You may need to think about 'how to return to the workforce' programs as well as the barriers listed.
- People were making more on unemployment than at their jobs and don't wish to go back until it ends.

- Not enough entry level professionals in the area.
- Unemployment pays better
- Not enough year-round jobs
- Lack of workers
- Low paying jobs is a huge issue! How do you value me as an employee when McDonald's workers make more than me!!
- I've been hearing construction/labor jobs are unable to find anyone willing to work.
- Few employment opportunities outside of University for those with higher degrees. Job pay for many positions barely covers child care.
- There are not enough workers to fill open jobs.
- Insufficient business base in most communities.
- We need major employers in the area, job growth/economic development will create the change we need so that everyone in the area has a better quality of life.

CHILD CARE is a problem in our area:

12% No

88% Yes



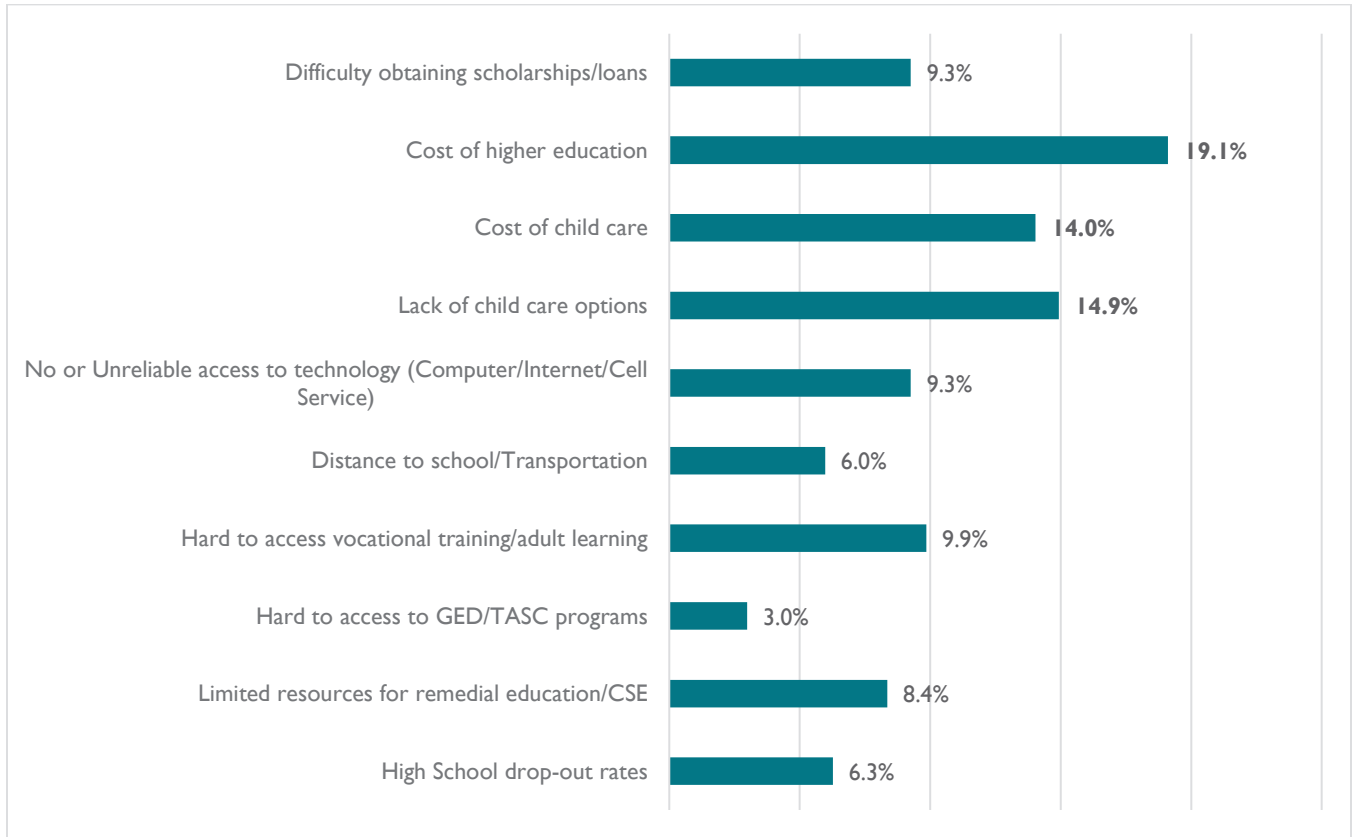
Additional Feedback:

- No childcare available for employees with 2nd & 3rd shift jobs. Also for people working 10 or 12 hour shifts.
- Concerns related to COVID
- No before or after school care for kids with disabilities.
- Shift work coverage and sick child

EDUCATION is a problem in our area:

38% No

62% Yes



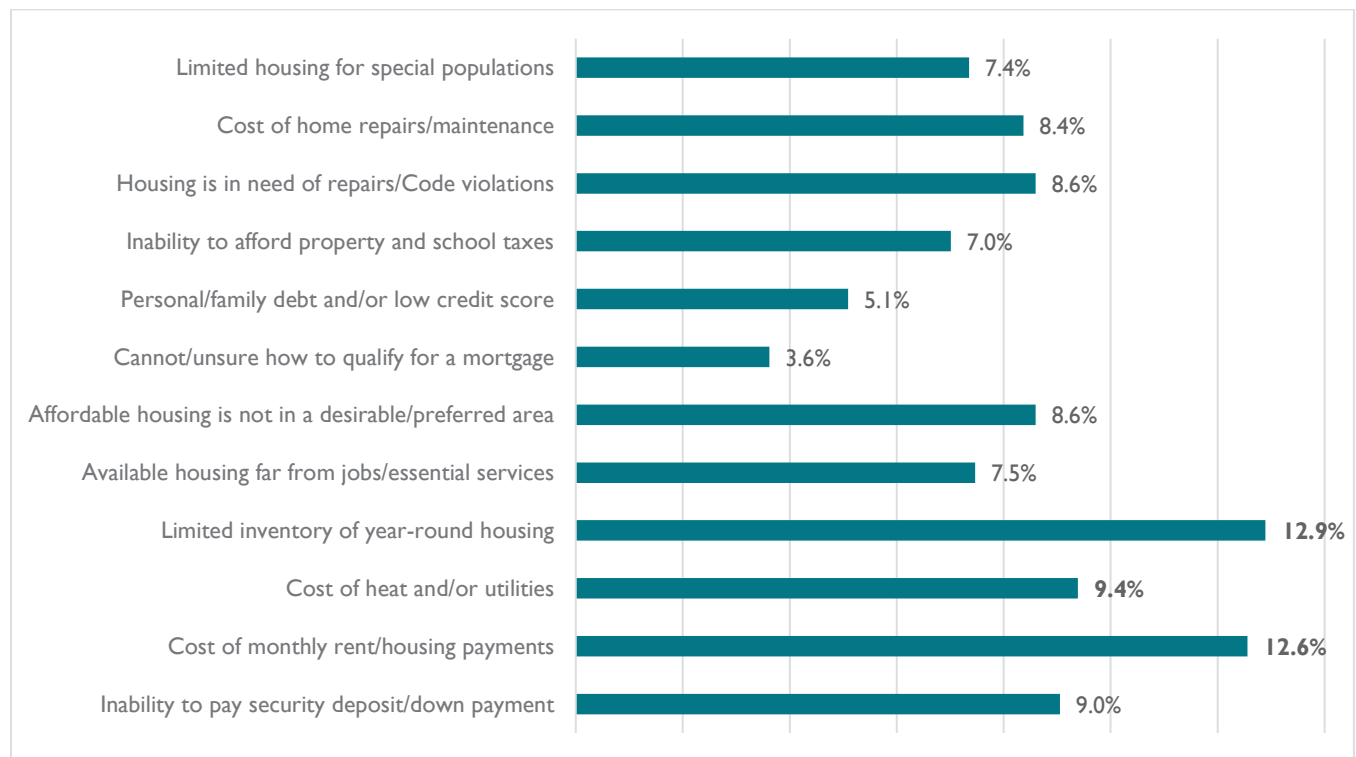
Additional Feedback:

- Lack of education for 21st Century skills
- More focus on COVID than education: Inconsistent quality education because of COVID closures and constant changes in learning environment
- Lack of funding for part-time college
- Resources, opportunities, and quality vary widely between local school districts.
- Primary and secondary education aren't preparing students to think and learn independently
- Lack of people of color working for our school district
- Kids don't have motivation, alot have lack of structure/discipline at home which causes them to feel they don't need to learn anything new
- It is also odd to me that so many other counties in NY have full day pre k and we don't! Then if my child is enrolled in the half day perk at Little Lambs I only receive a 10% discount on tuition?
- Lack of supports for students once they leave elementary school.
- I believe there is a lack of access to adult trade programs on a bus route.

HOUSING is a problem in our area:

10% No

90% Yes



Additional Feedback:

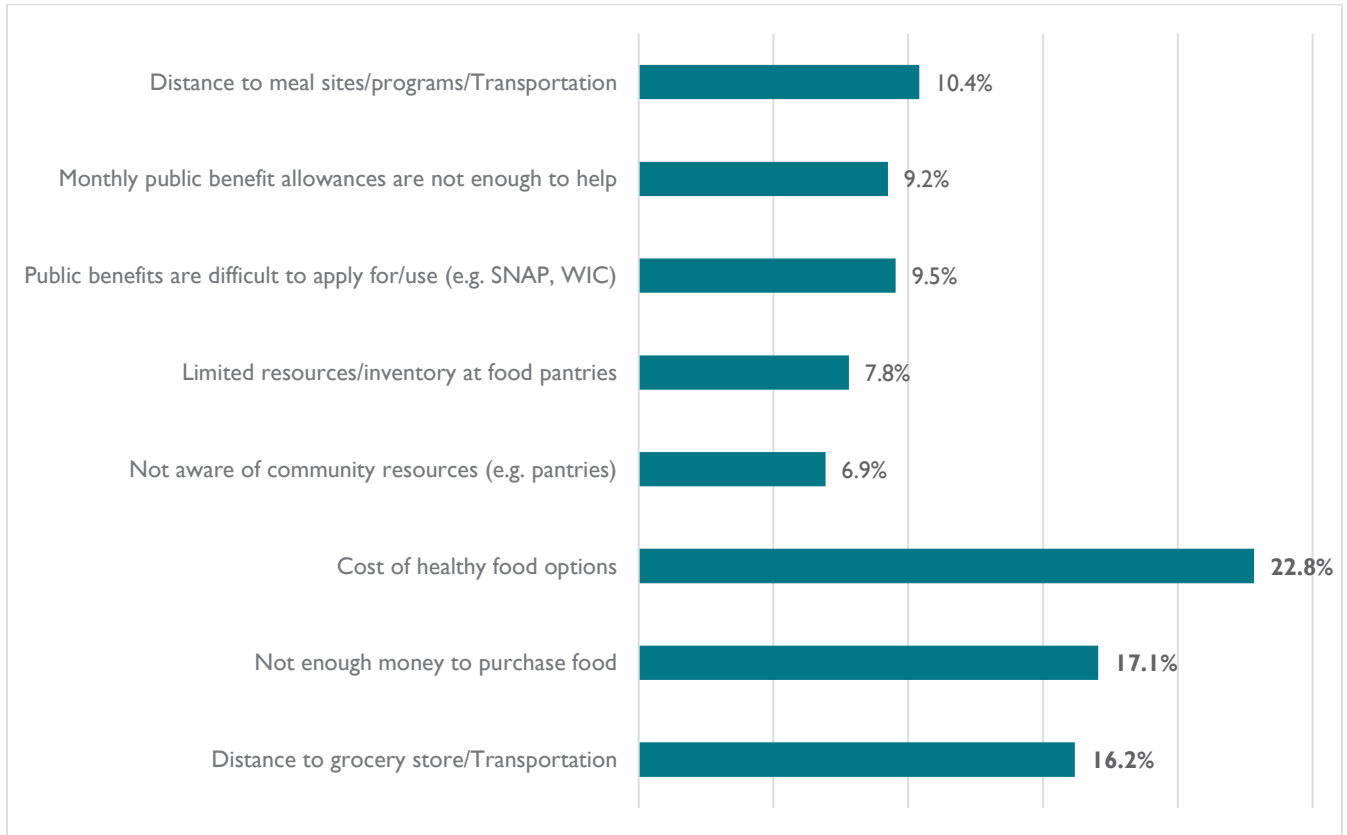
- Discriminatory landlords (particularly re: source of income); no single place most Otsego County landlords advertise; landlord (and tenant) lack of knowledge re: NYS housing laws/tenants' rights; predatory "as-is" sales of substandard homes to low-income people (especially out-of-towners); lack of pet-friendly housing; prevalence of lead-based paint (and deteriorating lead-based paint); limited practical housing options for non-drivers, esp. affordable options; the appalling condition of much of the county's rental stock cannot be overstated
- Rental companies buying up properties.
- Long wait times for contractors.
- Homes are not in good shape.
- With COVID-19, we saw an influx of down state families moving upstate and offering much higher than the asking price, with cash. This caused the inability for our local families to compete in the market for a home.
- Nothing for families. Everything is students or baseball
- Limited shelters, often not available for men
- Not enough market rate housing, too many low-income or college units
- No house rentals for families!!!! Everything is for students or short term for baseball families. We have to move because our landlord is selling and there's nothing available.
- Please do something about the student rental companies, they need more oversight and should pay higher taxes to support middle income house initiatives.

- Affordable year round safe housing and adequate transportation services are severely lacking in the Oneonta area. Many area landlords do not take care of their properties. Most charge above the fair market rates for small, run down units. Code enforcement from the city is lacking.
- Otsego has allowed the tourist industry to control housing market and eliminated year round affordable housing throughout most of the County and we have never had rent stabilization (just bed tax increases).
- Too many homeless around.
- Apartments are only for college kids or baseball- not for a regular person or family with full time jobs. I hate living by baseball rentals. If I wanted to live next to rentals, I would've lived downtown not in the town of Oneonta.
- Lack of Affordable Housing is a huge issue in this community.
- There's no affordable housing for larger families. If there was a program for families who have debt but can show they pay their rent on time for years to apply for a home loan with an agency backing them up that would be great. My credit is ruined due to my ex but I pay my rent every single month and due to having 8 kids it's very hard to find large enough housing or a landlord who will allow us to rent due to family size.
- Available services for elderly in helping with home/property maintenance.
- Available services for those with physical disabilities/limitations for help with home/property maintenance, cooking, cleaning, and errands
- Reliable, available, respectable contractors and handymen for smaller maintenance needs
- There aren't many resources to help those with low income housing when moving to get their items from one place to the next so moving although may be the best option the person will either not move or move and leave most of their belongings behind causing them a lack of resources
- Getting helpers for small repair and maintenance is nearly impossible.

FOOD/NUTRITION is a problem in our area:

35% No

65% Yes



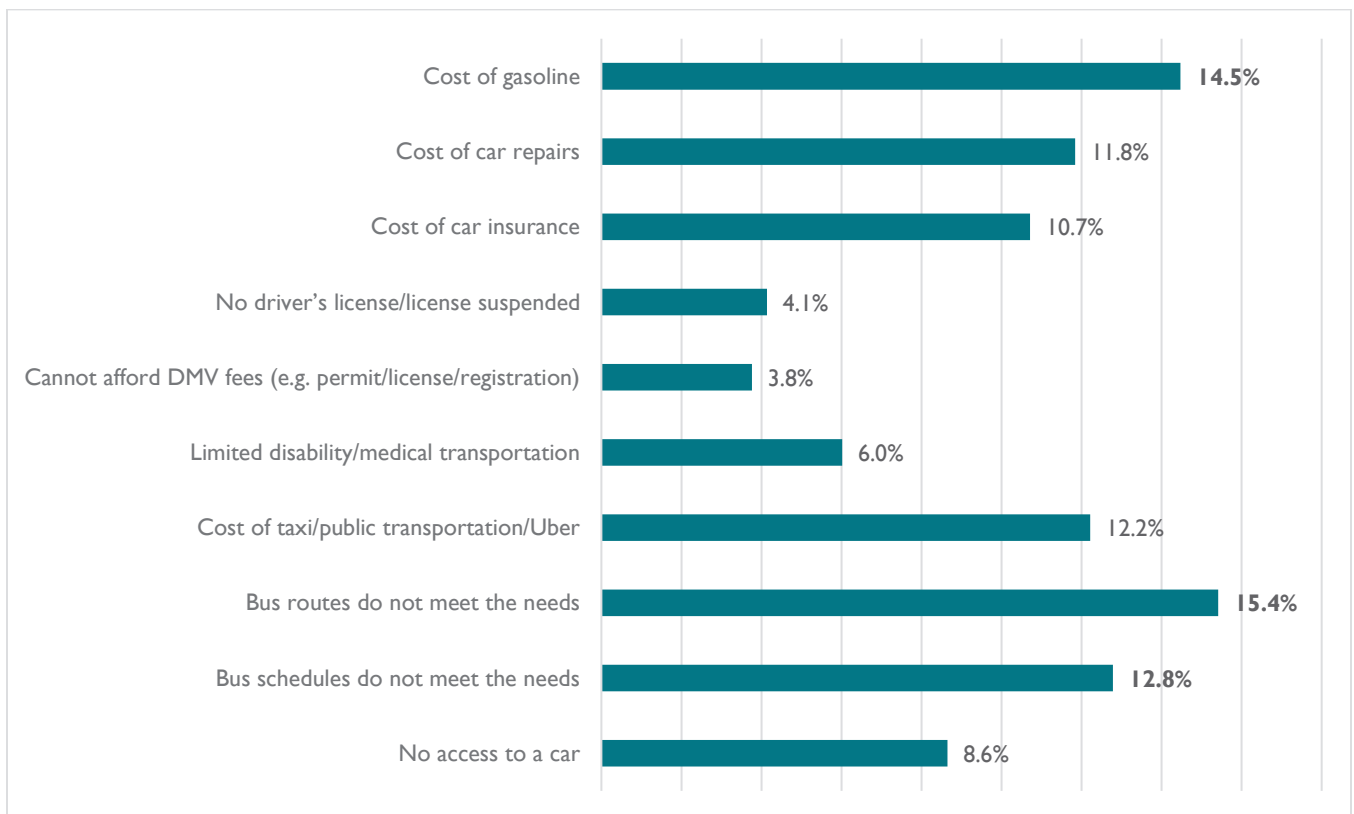
Additional Feedback:

- Produce and meat are terrible
- Need more options for local fresh produce, dairy, and meat
- Needs grocery store on West End [Oneonta]
- Availability of farm to table food. There should be an actual store location that is locally farm sourced products only, place for year round sales other than once a week farmers market.

TRANSPORTATION is a problem in our area:

23% No

77% Yes



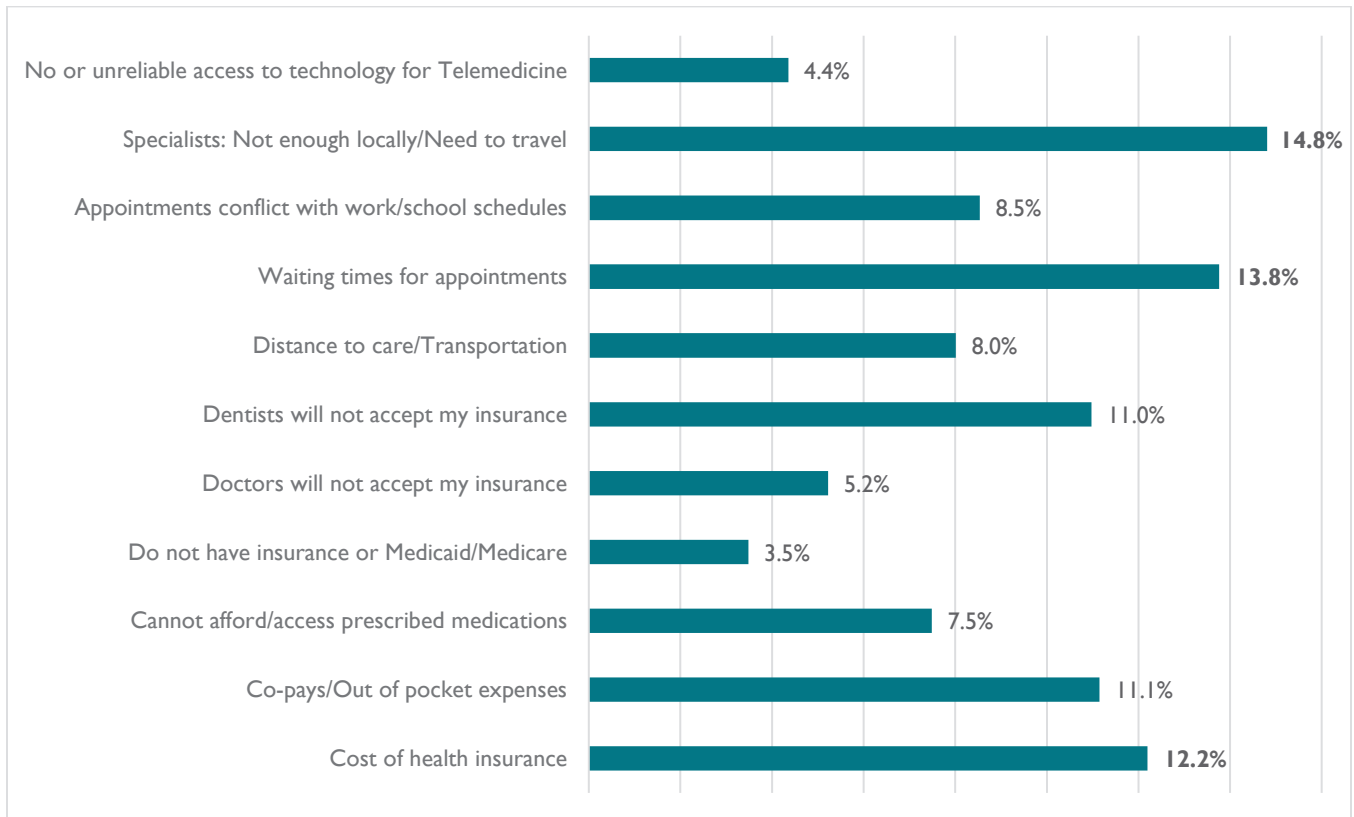
Additional Feedback:

- Distance between towns, services, etc.
- Lack of parking in center city [Oneonta]
- Unreliable and dangerous taxi drivers
- A&D Taxi drivers are dangerous on the roads
- A local commuter rail network should be built, branching out over upstate NY from Albany.
- Limited bus destinations, no night or Sunday service.
- Medicaid transportation is not approved to stop at a local pharmacy to pick up any scripts the members may need - this makes it very difficult for a member using services to be able to follow through with any health related needs.
- Otsego County is mostly rural and has hypocritical minimal public transit system that only makes upper class feel good that it exists without actually knowing it serves no one practically because poor limited routes can never be used for employment needs or accessing public services, especially from southern end of County; Private greedy taxi industry now controls Medicaid transit (100% pure tax dollar) and limits its access to public with confusing automated telephone system and/or computer access only and costs 500% more than original MA Transit plan that allowed for better public transit routes 5 + years ago
- No public transportation available in the Unadilla area. Taxi cabs are scarce.

HEALTH CARE is a problem in our area:

23% No

77% Yes

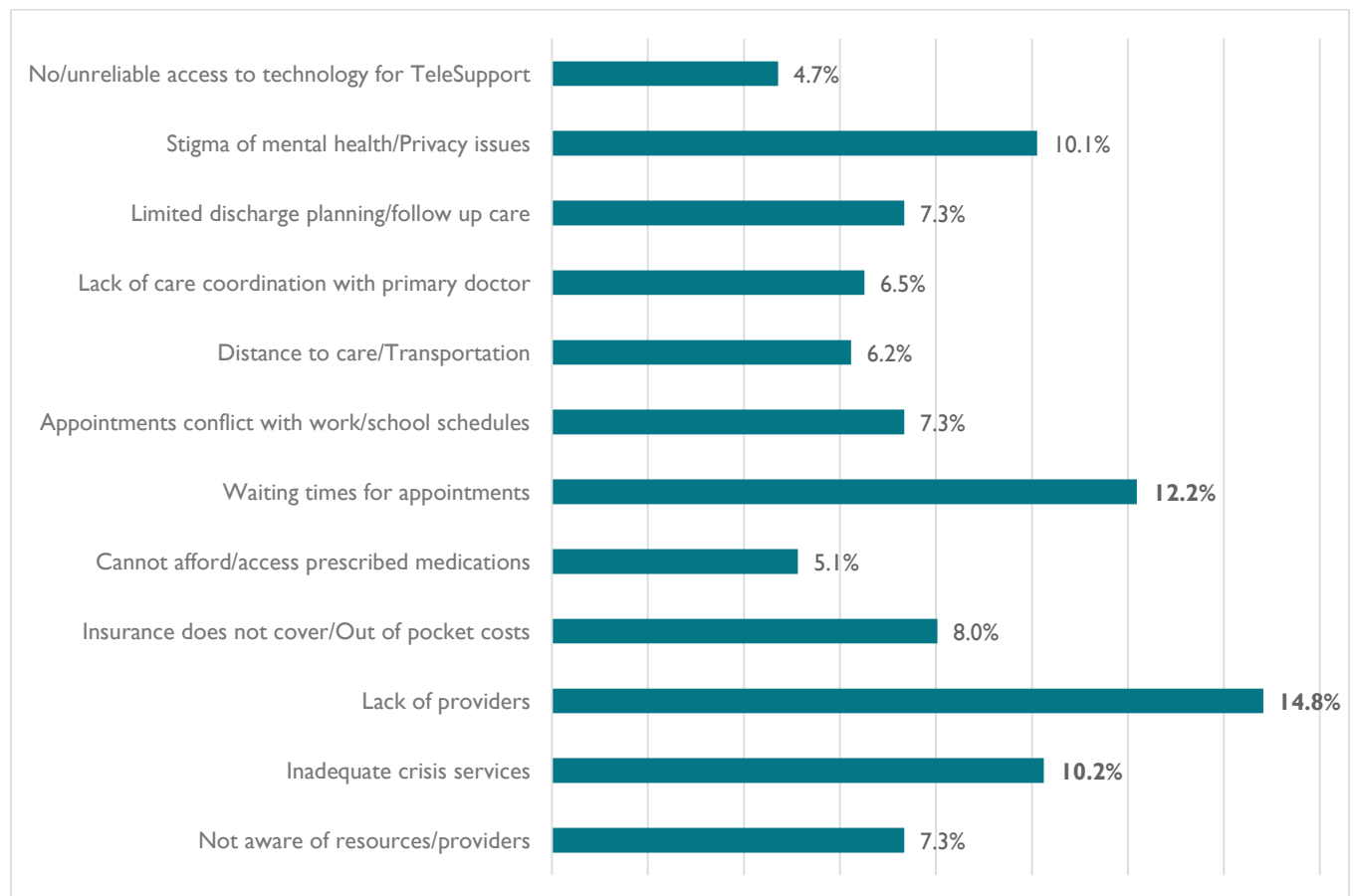


Additional Feedback:

- Poor medical services locally
- Not enough providers and competent providers in the area; constant turnover of providers who get "better jobs" after a year or two in the area
- The quality of the healthcare available in our area has declined in recent years. A great deal of turnover with health care staff, often don't see the same provider more than once. Less time spent with patients.
- Relatively low quality providers by comparison to other systems; corporate/private models seek profits over quality care
- There's a 6mo waitlist to get a doctor. Fox is awful and not trustworthy. I'll go to Albany and Binghamton for most every specialist
- Lack of providers and continuity of providers
- Not enough providers and competent providers in the area; constant turnover of providers who get "better jobs" after a year or two in the area
- Low quality of providers in area and high turnover of Healthcare providers.
- Quality of care
- Bassett forces Oneonta residents to travel to Cooperstown for too many needs. We need a birthing facility in Oneonta. Bassett doesn't provide essential services in Oneonta to the larger population.

- Many people work for Bassett Healthcare which has outsourced many jobs to Optim and changed to Optim's health insurance which has very high copays and deductibles, making critical services like physical therapy nearly unaffordable.
- We go to Albany for ortho, neuro and Developmental Ped's, Binghamton for MRI and mammos, Utica for allergy, oral surgeon. As a middle class family we can afford to do this- most people can't. Fox is beyond AWFUL. I would hate to have to go there. Bassett only slightly better.
- Medicaid transportation is not approved to stop at a local pharmacy to pick up any scripts the members may need - this makes it very difficult for a member using services to be able to follow through with any health related needs.
- Healthcare and keeping same doctors has been a huge challenge.
- Medical care is atrocious. No specialists. No one taking new patients. Hospital is awful.
- Finding caregivers for seniors that is affordable is a community problem & a health insurance problem because caregivers do deserve to be paid more but people that need this service usually can't afford it.
- The cut back of health services locally, now most things necessitate a trip to Cooperstown. Restore services at Fox Hospital. Wonderful LOCAL hospital.

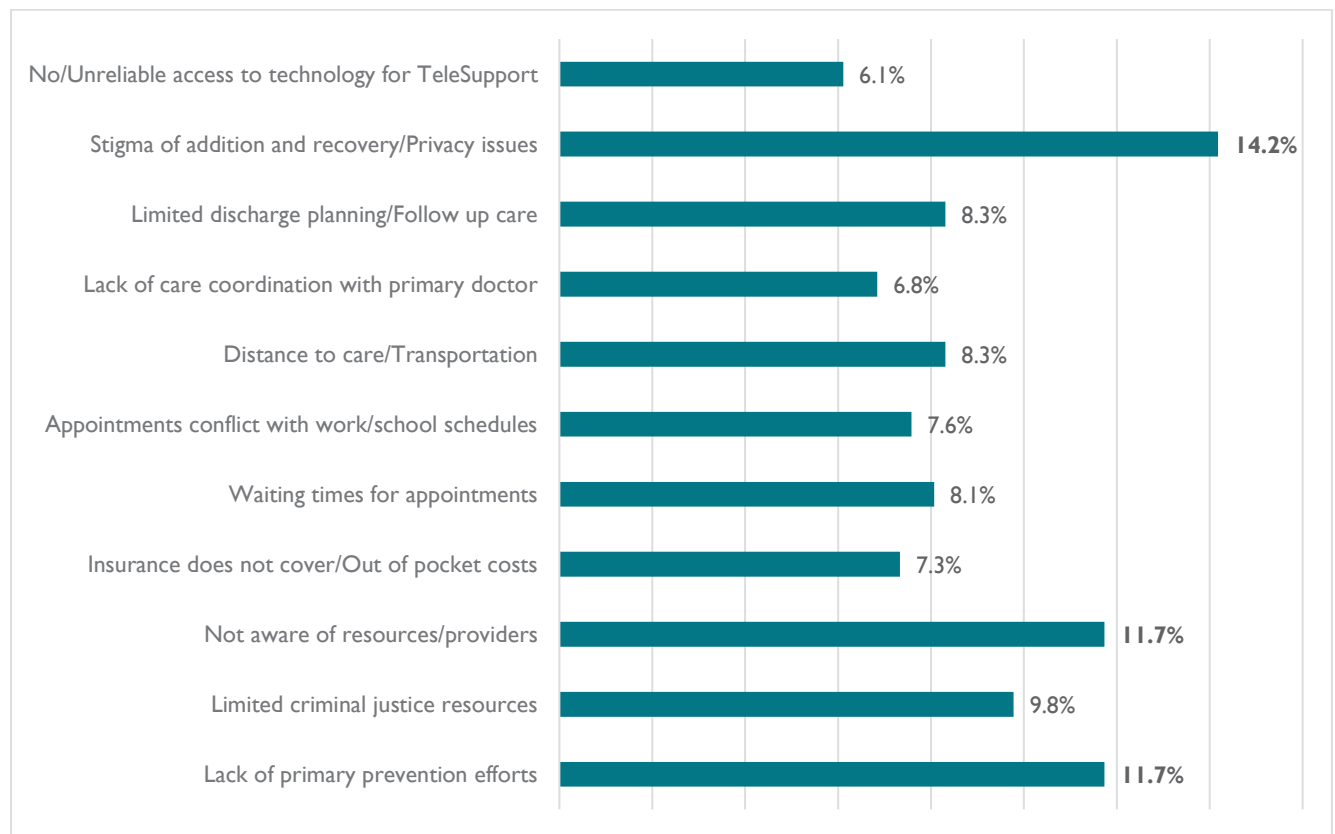
MENTAL HEALTH is a problem in our area: 7% No 93% Yes



Additional Feedback:

- Decreased quality of services.
- There’s hardly any good care here. No psychiatrists.
- Continuity of providers, too many people on the streets who seem uncared for and who are threatening to others
- Not taking new patients.
- Since the Pandemic, it has been apparent that many people have emotional issues dealing with family and/or employment such as depression, low morale, increase in illness, and increase in domestic violence, etc. Plus, emotional stress from the increase in all around costs making it more difficult to afford items of necessity.
- Too many homeless and mentally unstable people wander around Main Street (Oneonta).
- Lack of mental health and medical specialists is HUGE. If I knew that, I would have reconsidered moving here.
- Depression
- Lack of Mental Health Resources is a huge issue in this community.
- Lack of youth supports for mental health and addiction services.

ADDICTION RECOVERY is a problem in our area: 20% No 80% Yes

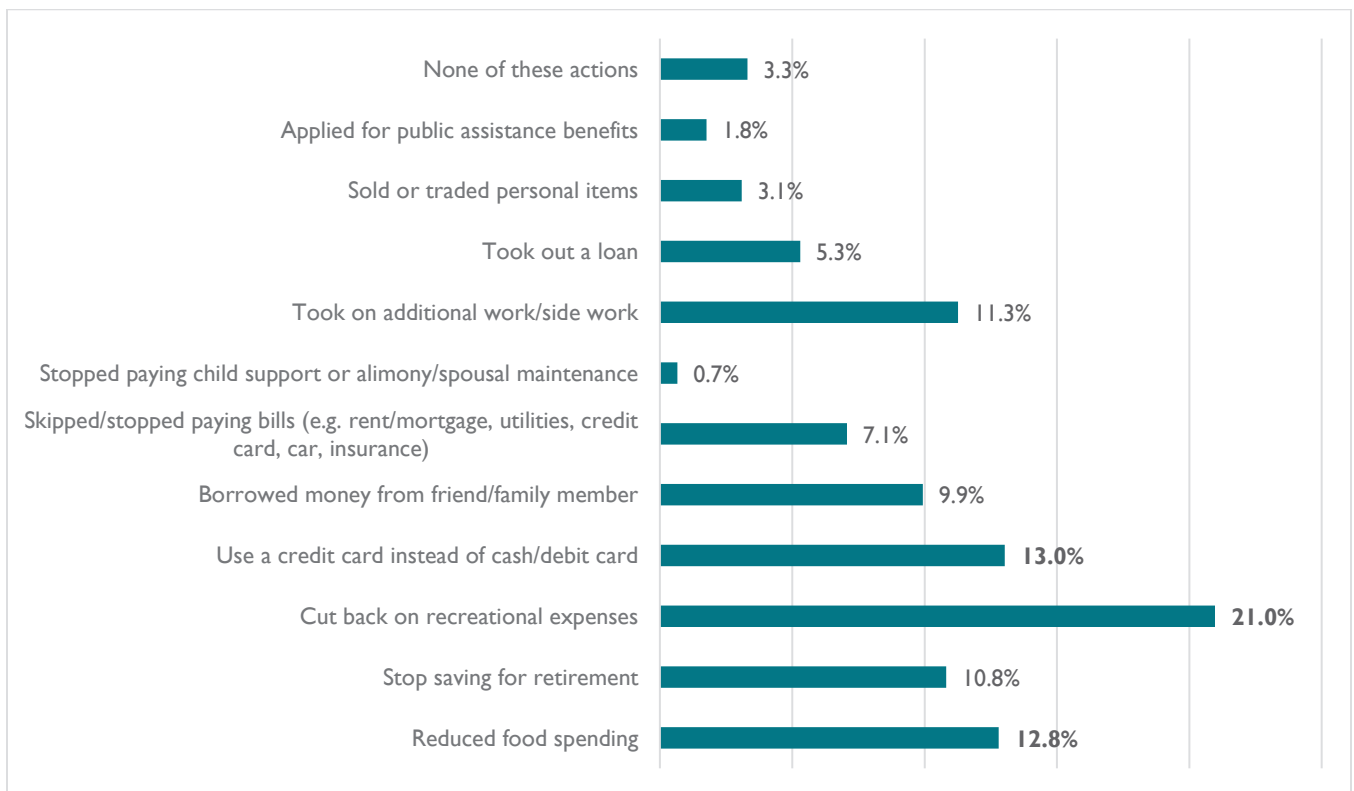


Additional Feedback:

- High quality services are lacking in our area.

- Police need to do better and clearing Oneonta of the drug addicted, it makes Main Street trashy and unsafe for kids and families
- No nearby residential treatment available for family members or mothers with young children.
- Ease of access and availability of harmful substances & lack of enjoyable social experiences for young adults that don't include substances
- Increase in substance abuse since the Pandemic
- Lack of providers
- Bail reform
- The groups that "help" are overfunded and not meeting the needs of those who are actually struggling.
- Drug addicts are a big problem. Police need to do better and patrolling to get them off the streets getting high by the gas station on Main Street, Oneonta. Also, mental health services and drug rehabilitation programs need to be a highlighted resource in this area. I moved here a year ago and plan on moving out because of that growing problem of drug addicts in town taking over Main Street.
- Lack of addiction and recovery resources is a huge issue in this community.
- Lack of youth supports for mental health and addiction services.

FINANCES: What actions have you taken to make sure you have enough money on hand for basic need?



Additional Feedback:

- Decreased heating costs by heating units less; stopped using gas appliances

- Reduced amount of retirement savings and have cut back on unnecessary spending.
- Postponed home renovations
- Budget to keep 6 months of emergency funds in the bank.
- Food, gas, and home heating costs are too high.

OTHER CHALLENGES you believe are in our community:

INFRASTRUCTURE

- West Street needs repaving. Has not been done in over 50 years from Chestnut to Center Street [Oneonta]
- Constant road work that more often than not leaves roads worse off. Not enough road patrols for the awful drivers in the town especially when college students arrive.
- Communities are not walkable or bikeable.
- Empty storefronts and deteriorated buildings in village/hamlet centers.
- Need a public exercise and walking path. Need safe areas to ride bikes, Need safe sidewalks which are smooth for safe walking for seniors and trikes and skates for kids.
- Downtown [Oneonta] looks awful with so many empty stores.
- Safe roads and infrastructure.
- Lack of solid Wi-Fi and broadband in rural towns in Otsego County
- Parking downtown [Oneonta].

GOVERNMENT/MUNICIPALITIES

- Inactive/unresponsive town-level elected officials. Many towns could pursue funding to invest in their communities but do not. In some cases, town involvement need only be an agreement with another agency to manage the entire process, but town officials remain difficult to contact and uninterested in such partnerships.
- No political will for infrastructure improvements.
- Lack of strong housing codes in small towns. Live in Oneonta and own a duplex and housing code is tough and crazy strict but allows for safer homes (mostly). My home town of Edmeston homes and in ugly states of disrepair. Would be nice for a county wide standard to be maintained for beauty, home value and safety for renters.
- Some state lands (ex. wetlands by railways in Oneonta) not maintained by any state or local agency. I myself live above them and am slowly cleaning them alone. Decades of dumping. COVID cancelled my 100 person volunteer operation.

RECREATION/SOCIALIZATION

- Nothing for high schoolers to do.
- There are limited activities for families with younger children. I would like to see the splash pad put in at Neawah Park.
- Noah's World is very expensive for a regular inside play opportunity.

- I would like to see more resources spent on learning and recreation for children 0-5.
- Kids with disabilities have very few chances to meaningfully participate in sports beyond random clinics.
- Activities for families and sport options for kids with disabilities. There is hardly any recreation options indoors during winter except for interstate 88 or Noah's world.
- Lack of family friendly housing and family friendly recreational activities to engage in that do not cost exorbitant amounts. There should be more publicly funded programs. The lack of resources has led to many locals leaving, and professionals leaving to other cities and states with more opportunities and resources.
- Not enough public support and funding for arts and cultural offerings outside of the school systems for adults leads to a lack of quality of life.
- Need more for little kids and seniors to do.
- Lack of Entertainment options. Oneonta Theatre needs to be re-opened and become what it was. Far better option than Foothills.
- As an educator I see the need for activities and opportunities for grade school children. FREE summer programs are necessary and STOP charging for swimming. The city should take back that program not the YMCA. Restore the DMV office in Oneonta.

SERVICES/COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- Lack of active assistance to people to navigate social services and other resources - unfortunately at the State or Federal level, these programs have been made complicated, and in my experience many people who do have a caseworker/advocate are nevertheless left to figure out the details beyond "obtain an application and the address to send it to" on their own. (Still others who could use help don't have any at all, unfortunately.)
- Too many public assistance benefits and other State and Federal programs have narrow requirements that leave many people in Otsego County who need help unable to get it. The county's social service organizations need the means to address these unmet needs.
- Lack of response from government agencies that are supposed to help.
- The trend to centralize services in the population center of Oneonta creates many of the problems listed above for vulnerable populations in smaller communities within Otsego County.
- Services to address the needs of teens are limited to Oneonta. Although the Oneonta Teen Center provides transportation this is not a feasible resource to youth living at other ends of the County.
- While there are many resources in our community, the problem is the cost of bills continue to rise while the income cut offs stay the same. The income guidelines for a 2 or 4 person household are so incredibly low, but people need to continue to work to keep roofs over their families head while the cost of basic necessities continue to rise, then they no longer qualify for services despite keeping their heads above water. While job listings may be out there, the pay and the insurance offered is so astronomically high it isn't affordable.
- Limited support and programs for seniors which are in Oneonta. Limited support to navigate programs such as obtaining disability. Case workers for life threatening illness are needed.

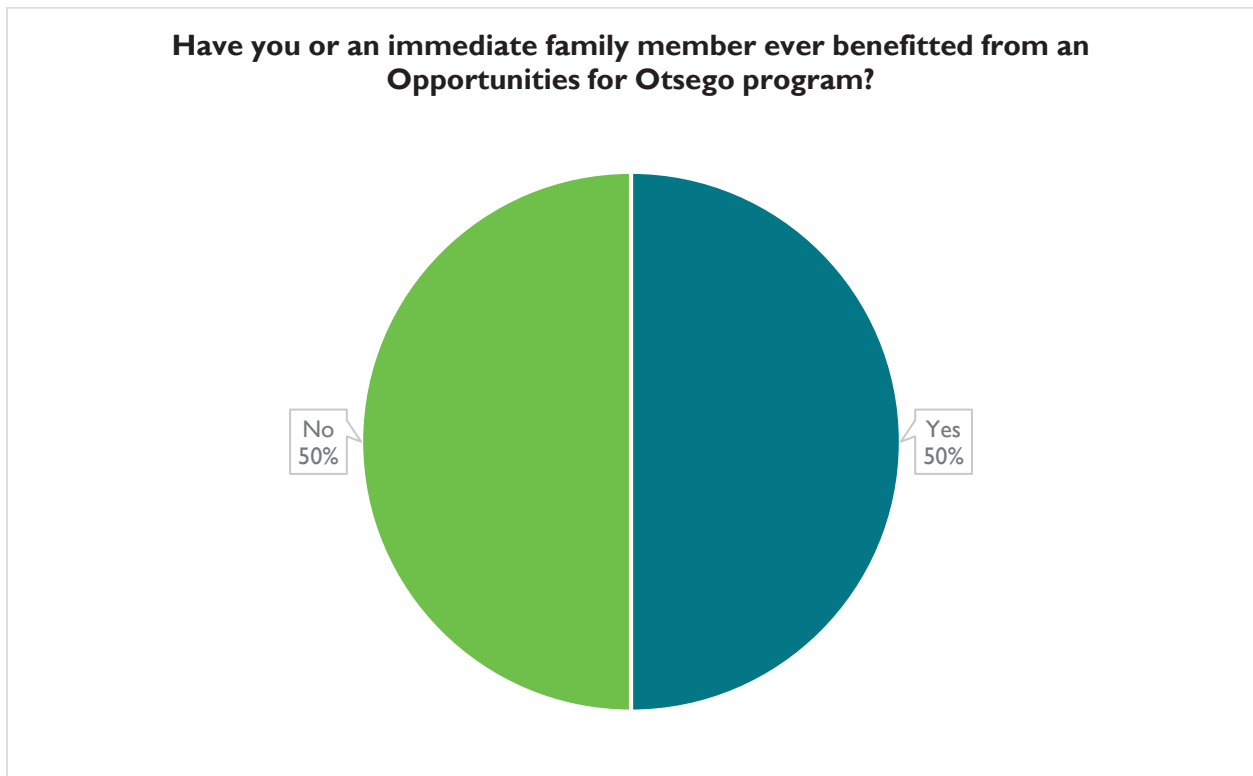
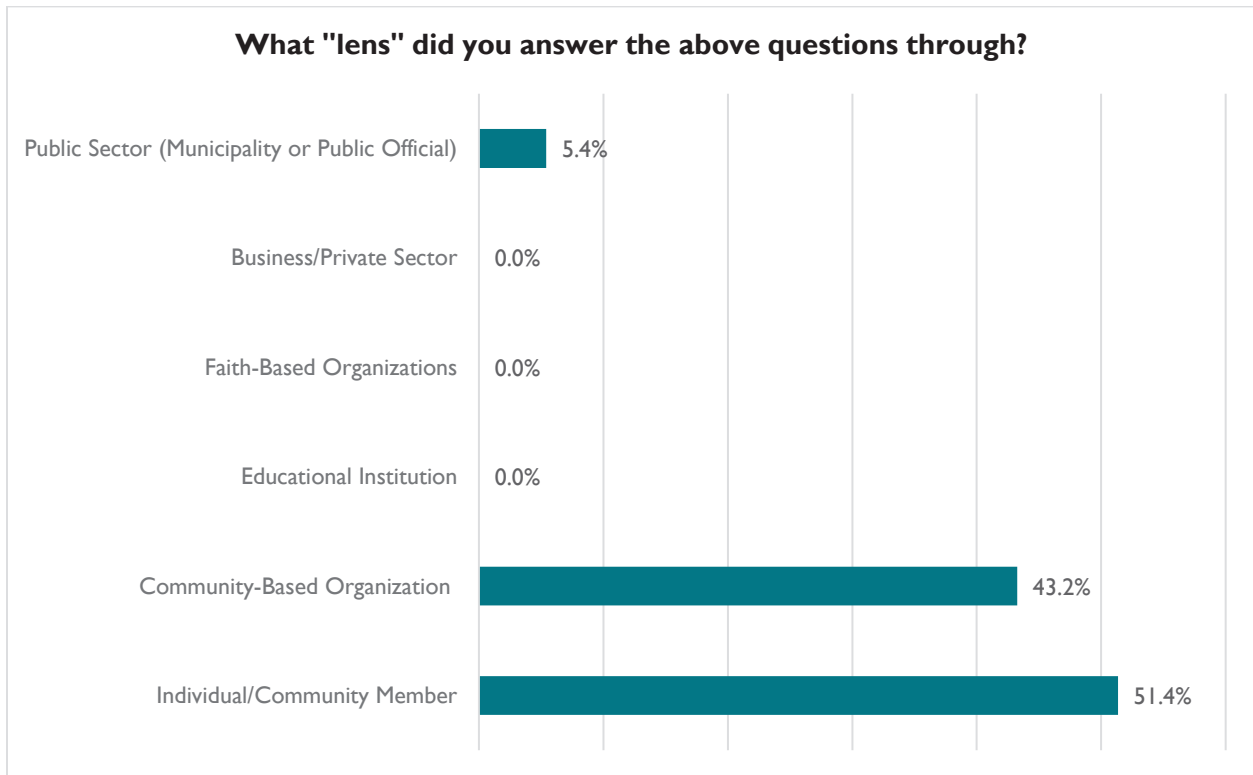
- Provider's are unaware of resources in the area, and those that they are aware of they aren't always aware of what they can actually offer, a lot of members are aware of resources in their communities but expect things vs working toward things, when a person utilizes.
- Too many non-profits in the area are leaching taxpayer money without making a real difference. We're treating the wounds with a Band-Aid instead of the root cause. Oneonta gets dumped with all of the social programming, creating a burden on the home-owners and taxpaying residents of the city.

GENERAL CHALLENGES/AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

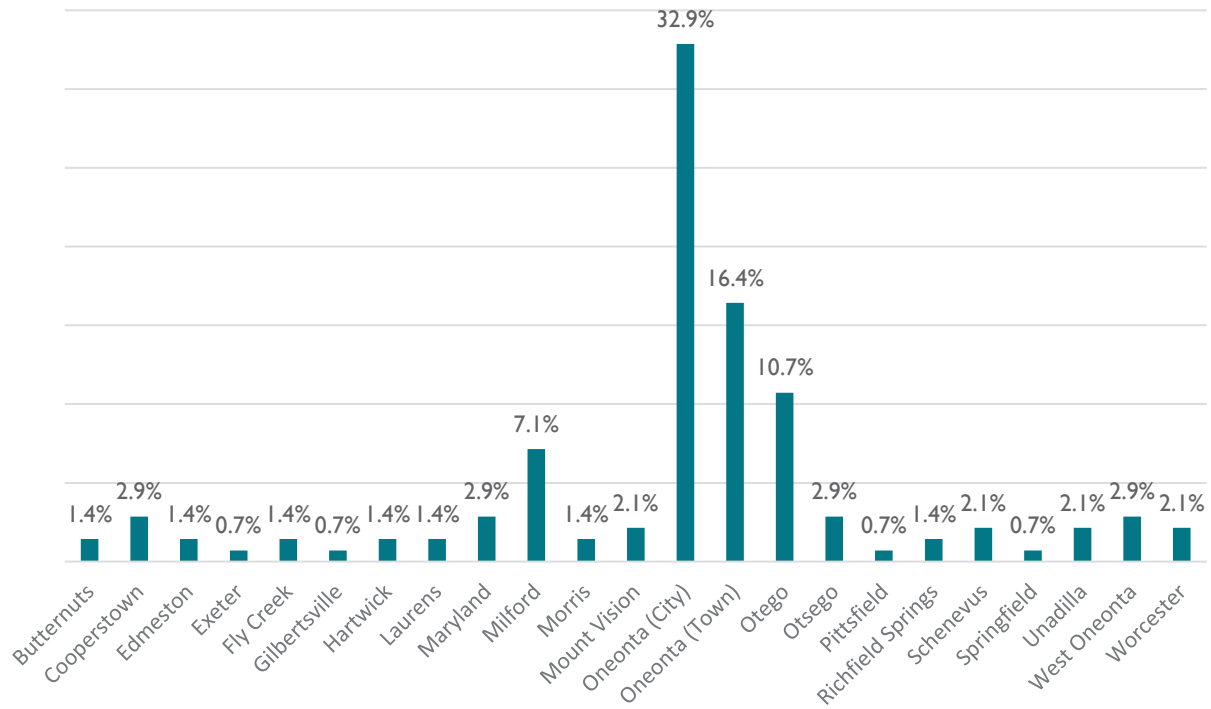
- Racism and homophobia.
- Systemic Racism - for example our city school district, which has a very diverse student population, does not have an equally diverse employee population.
- Parking, wellness, homeless on the street instead of getting services, everything closing, lack of professional services (lawyers, dentist, doctor, etc) and the lack of people wanting to actually work.
- In general the working class struggles and is not eligible for help. Many working paycheck to paycheck don't make enough to get by and can't get help due to federal poverty guidelines.
- Lack of transportation and affordable internet make it extremely difficult for people to find the resources they need for help. Also a lot of help available is rarely outside the confines of 9-5, M-F not to mention a lot of programs are short staffed/lack funds/budget cuts.
- Need to travel to Utica or Albany to have shopping choices when needing a good pair of shoes for bad feet. Need to shop on line because of limited clothing stores in the area. No place to buy sheets or blankets except Walmart & the quality is not always long lasting.
- Lack of retail stores that could boost the economy and offer goods for low/middle class. Plenty of space available for such stores like a Target. Community seems dead, struggling to get people to visit Main Street or Oneonta in general. A place like Target could help, in part, improve employment/opportunities/wages/access. There was a poll about this, overwhelmingly wanting it with 850+ votes.
- Clothing shopping is limited to young and college age population.

Oneonta is circling the drain for sure. Drugs, homeless people, lack of stores, school sucks. Can't wait to move away

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

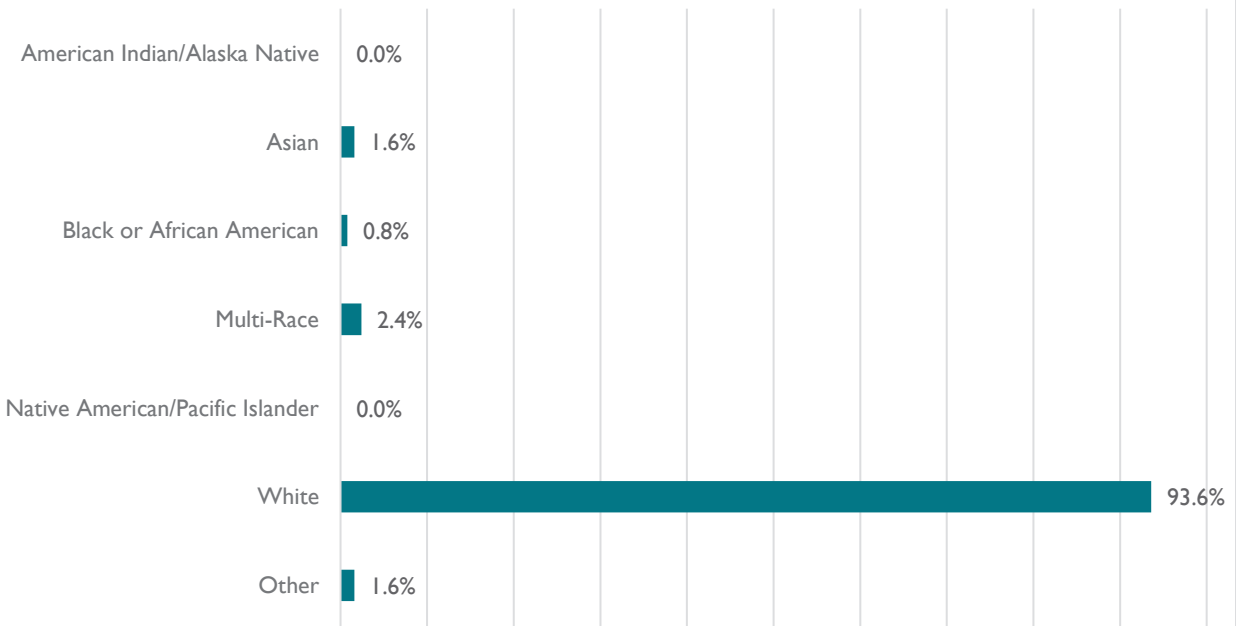


OPTIONAL: What community do you live in?



Respondents from Fall/Winter 2021 and May 2023 Survey

OPTIONAL: What race do you identify as?



Respondents from Fall/Winter 2021 and May 2023 Survey



Susquehanna River Region 211 - Referral Summary

Evaluation of community needs may also be gleaned from data maintained the Susquehanna River Region 211 hotline operated by the United Way of Broome County. Through 211, community members from Otsego County and surrounding Broome, Chenango, Delaware, and Tioga Counties can search

for resources online or call a live hotline counselor.

Top requests from persons in Otsego County from 06.13.2022 – 06.12.2023 are summarized below. In total, there were 193 request for information on Otsego County resources during this period:

General Category	Percentage of All Requests	Subcategories
Housing & Shelter	29.0%	Shelters 25.0%; Low-cost housing 5.4%; Rent assistance 66.1%; Mortgage assistance 3.6%.
Food	28.0%	Food pantries 13.0%; Home-delivered meals 40.7%; Holiday meals 46.3%. <i>43% of "Food Pantry" requests were unmet as no help was available.</i>
Utilities	5.2%	Electric 80.0%; Heating fuel 10.0%; Utility payment plans 10.0% <i>13% of "Electric" requests were unmet as no help was available.</i>
Employment and Income	6.7%	Tax preparation 38.5%; Financial assistance 46.2%; Money management 7.7%; Contacts 7.7% <i>17% of "Financial assistance" requests were unmet as no help was available.</i>
Government and Legal	6.2%	Child & family law 8.3%; Government 16.7%; Contacts 75.0% <i>22% of "Contacts" requests were unmet as no help was available.</i>
Transportation Assistance	3.1%	Medical transportation 33.3%; Public transportation 50.0%; Automobile assistance 16.7%

		<i>33% of “Public transportation” requests and 100% of “Automobile assistance” requests were unmet as no help was available.</i>
Healthcare and COVID-19	2.1%	Medical providers 50.0%; Dental & eye care 25.0%; Prescription medications 25.0%
Mental Health and Addictions	2.1%	Mental health services 50.0%; Mental health facilities 50.0%
		<i>50% of “Mental health services” requests and 50% of “Mental health facilities” were unmet as no help was available.</i>
Clothing and Household	2.1%	Personal hygiene products 25.0%; Appliances 50.0%; Home furnishings 25.0%
Disaster	1.0%	Housing/Shelter 100.0%
Child Care & Parenting	<1%	Childcare 100.0%
		<i>100% of “child Care” requests were unmet as no help was available.</i>
Other	14.0%	Agency & other contact information 22.2%; Community development & enrichment 7.4%; Volunteering & donations 3.7%; Support & advocacy 7.4%; Complaints 3.7%; Special population services 11.1%’ All other requests 44.4%
		<i>33% of “Agency & other contact information” requests were unmet as no help was available.</i>

SOURCE: <https://helpme211.211counts.org/>

OTSEGO COUNTY CENSUS TRACTS MAP

2020 CENSUS - CENSUS TRACT REFERENCE MAP: Otsego County, NY

