

# Otsego County, New York Community Needs Assessment

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Opportunities for Otsego is proud, once again, to present the Community Needs Assessment for Otsego County. Every three years the Community Services Block Grant, one of our core sources of funds, requires us to conduct needs assessment and to present to the community.

This needs assessment analyzes key issues, population changes, demographics, and poverty relating to employment, education, housing, nutrition, income, transportation, and health. Each section is summarized and is followed with extensive data from a variety of federal, state and local sources. In addition, the 2010 U.S. Census data were published since our last needs assessment in 2010.

The last Otsego County Community Needs Assessment turned out to be a popular research and planning tool for organizations, businesses, and local governments. Once again, we did not intend to take any official positions based on conclusions this assessment. We strove simply to gather and present the data as objectively as possible.

I would like to express my personal thanks to the Opportunities for Otsego Board of Directors for the continued support and encouragement they give to the whole agency as well as me. I am never more proud to be a part of Opportunities for Otsego, Inc. than when we can take a simple mandate and create something that can have a lasting impact. It is my sincere hope that this assessment can be a powerful resource for the Otsego County community.

Daniel Maskin  
Chief Executive Officer

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# Otsego Today

## *Key Issues:*

*Otsego County spans 1,003 square miles through the rolling hills and vast terrain of the Catskill Mountains and is the northernmost county in the Appalachian Region.*

*Otsego County is comprised of 34 municipalities, that includes 24 towns, nine villages, and one city.*

*There are 975 farms, covering 174,200 acres of land, and 38 lakes in Otsego County.*

*The county experienced historic and devastating flooding in June 2006 and August 2011.*

## Community Strengths

- Centrally located to three metropolitan areas
- Access to NY-Interstate 88
- Tourist attractions and higher education institutions
- Undeveloped land and natural resources

## Community Challenges

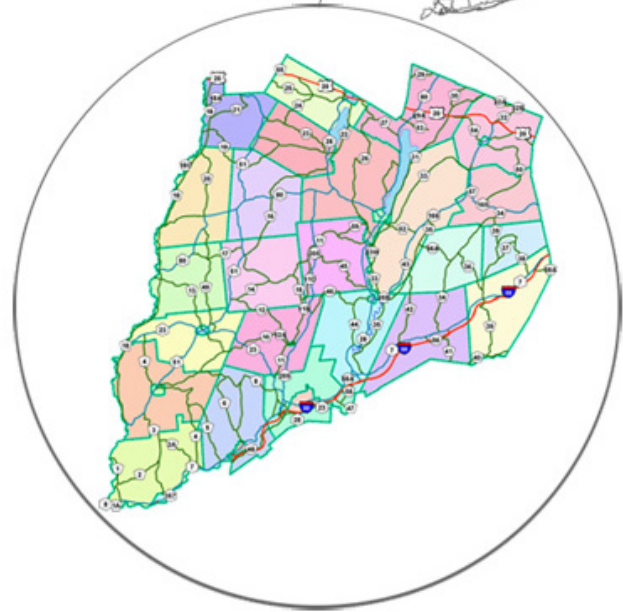
- Inadequate communication infrastructure (e.g. internet and cellular service)
- Extreme weather conditions



## Geographic Overview

Otsego County is a rural, upstate New York community, spanning 1,003 square miles through the rolling hills and vast terrain of the Catskill Mountains. Otsego County is located at the heart the New York Central-Leatherstocking region and is the northernmost county in the Appalachian Region. The closest metropolitan areas to Otsego County are Albany (80 miles to the east), Binghamton (60 miles west), and Utica (60 miles north). Major highways in Otsego County are NY-Interstate 88 and U.S. Route 20.

Otsego County is comprised of 34 municipalities - 24 towns, 9 villages, and 1 city. The county seat is Cooperstown, which boasts Glimmerglass Opera House and the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Oneonta is the only city in Otsego County (pop. 13,901), and is home to the State University of New York at Oneonta, Hartwick College, and multiple arts and entertainment venues.



Towns	Villages
Burlington	Cherry Valley
Butternuts	Cooperstown
Cherry Valley	Gilbertsville
Decatur	Laurens
Edmeston	Milford
Exeter	Otego
Hartwick	Richfield Springs
Laurens	Unadilla
Maryland	
Middlefield	
Milford	
Morris	
New Lisbon	
Oneonta	
Otego	
Otsego	
Pittsfield	
Plainfield	
Richfield	
Roseboom	
Springfield	
Unadilla	
Westford	
Worcester	

Otsego County is a rural community with a population density of 62.1 people per square mile. In 2010 there were 975 farms, covering 174,200 acres of land which is 10 fewer farms and 400 less acreage than in 2009<sup>1</sup>. Approximately 50% of farmland is designated for crops. Otsego County has 38 lakes, including Otsego Lake, which is the headwater for the Susquehanna River. The county sits atop of the Marcellus Shale bed, a large natural gas field in the form of shale rock, that when fractured, can produce a large amount of Natural Gas.

Despite its beauty, Otsego County poses significant accessibility issues. Many communities are isolated by geography and poor communication infrastructure. Otsego County is also challenged by extreme weather conditions. The county experienced historic and devastating flooding in June 2006 and August 2011. The average annual snowfall amount is 78 inches.

<sup>1</sup> USDA | National Agricultural Statistic Services

# Population Profile

## *Key Issues:*

*Otsego County experienced a slight increase (0.76%) in the overall population from 2000 to 2012, topping out at an estimated 62,147 in 2012. Minority groups represent 4.67% of the population in Otsego County.*

*The age distribution in Otsego County shifted from 2000 to 2010. Generation Y (persons age 18-24) grew 3.1% since 2000, while Baby Boomers (persons age 65+) decreased by 3.9%.*

*Overall, veterans comprise 9.97% of the adult population in Otsego County, which is greater than the statewide average of 6.36 percent and the national average of 9.34 percent.*

*American Community Survey (ACS) estimates note an increase in the poverty rate in Otsego County since 2000:*

- Estimates report that 16.4% of people in Otsego County live in poverty, of which 22.5% are under 18 years of age and 7.8% are over 65 years of age. This poverty rate is 1.9 percentage points higher than the New York State average of 14.5%.*
- Female head of household is the largest household type living in poverty in Otsego County at 43%.*
- There are more children under five years of age living in poverty in 2011 than in 2000. The rate of increase was 10.2%.*

## Community Strengths

- Greater racial and ethnic diversity and cultural influences
- Future employment openings resulting from retiring professionals
- Family legacies/Multi-generation families remaining in the community

## Community Challenges

- Maintaining school enrollment and future labor force with the decline numbers of children age birth-nineteen
- Acquiring sufficient financial resources to meet the needs of the growing number of persons in poverty
- Providing adequate social supports for persons from non-family households





### Population Change

During the twelve-year period from 2000-2012, the U.S. Census reported a slight population increase in Otsego County of 0.76%, from 61,676 persons in 2000 to 62,147 persons in 2012. According to the same data set, 0.32% of New York State's population resides in Otsego County. The overall population in the Chenango-Delaware-Otsego area from 2000-2012, declined by -0.4%, decreasing from 161,132 persons in 2000 to 160,488 persons in 2012. The population change for Otsego County compared to adjacent counties and New York State is provided in Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1 - Population Change, 2000-2012**

County	Census 2000 Population	ACS 2008-2012 Population	Population Change	Percent Change
Otsego	61,676	62,147	471	0.76
Chenango	51,401	50,490	-911	-1.77
Delaware	48,055	47,851	-204	-0.42
Report Area	161,132	160,488	-644	-0.40
Statewide	18,976,457	19,398,124	421,667	2.22

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Census 2010. Release Date: February 2011 and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.

Typical components of population changes include live births, deaths, international and domestic migration, and natural increases. In 2011, the number of births and deaths in Otsego County was 535<sup>2</sup> and 568<sup>3</sup> respectively.

### Racial Demographics

Population by race and gender within Otsego County is shown in Table 1.2. According U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, white population comprised 95.33% of the population, black population represented 1.93%, "Mixed Race" represented 1.54%, and other races combined was 1.2%.

**Table 1.2 - Population by Race**

County	White		Black		American Indian		Asian		Native Hawaiian		Mixed Race	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Otsego	28,426	30,443	578	613	26	31	289	394	0	0	520	433
Percent of Total	46.03%	49.30%	0.94%	0.99%	0.04%	0.05%	0.47%	0.64%	0.00%	0.0%	0.84%	0.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.

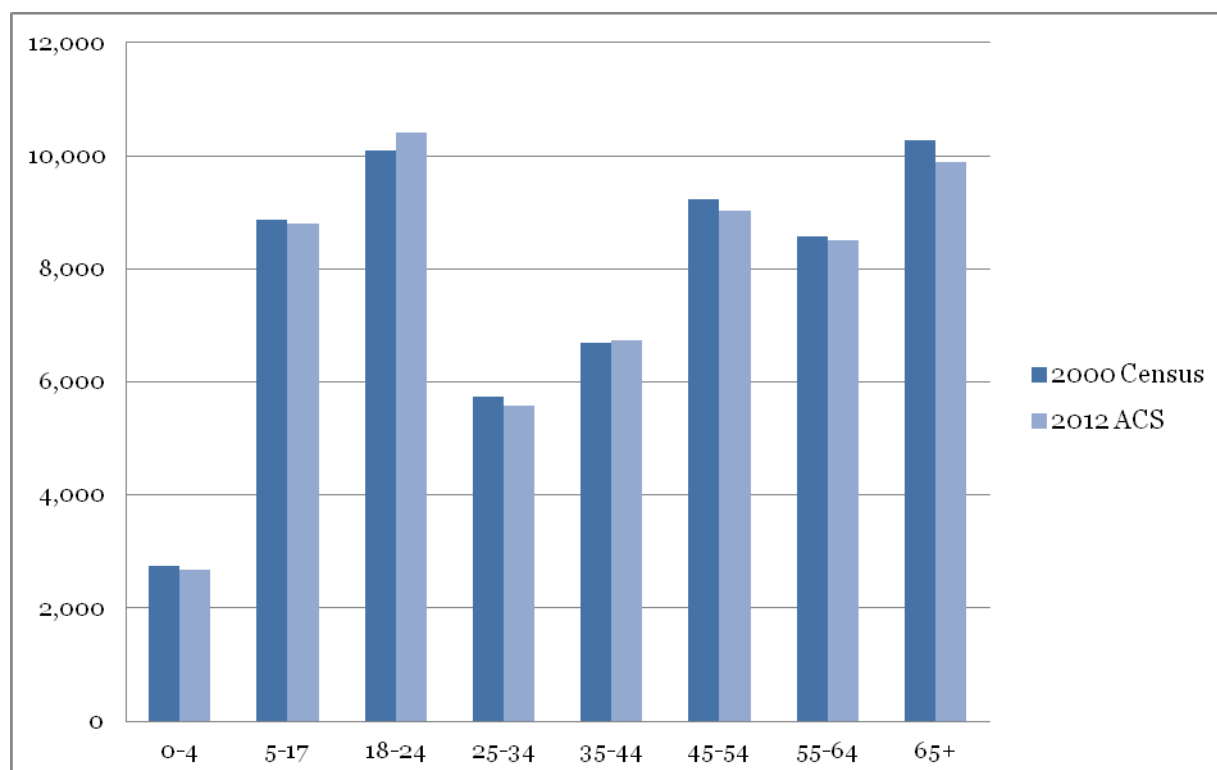
<sup>2</sup> [http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital\\_statistics/2011/table07.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2011/table07.htm)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital\\_statistics/2011/table07.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2011/table07.htm)

### Age Distribution

Table 1.3 illustrates the change in age distribution from the year 2000 to 2012 in Otsego County. The age cohort that represents the largest population in Otsego County is 18-24 (n=10,409). The age group with the greatest percentage increase is persons age 18-24 (+3.1% growth). The group with the largest percentage decline is 65 and over, with percentage decline of 3.9%.

**Table 1.3 - Population by Age, 2000 vs. 2012**



Source: US Census Bureau, 2000, Demographic Profile Data and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.

Population by gender within Otsego County is shown in Table 1.4. According to ACS 2008-2012 five-year population estimates, the female population comprised 52.19% of the report area, while the males represent 47.81%. The largest population group is females over 64 years of age (9.4%). The smallest group is females ages 0-4 (2.1%).

**Table 1.4 - Population by Gender**

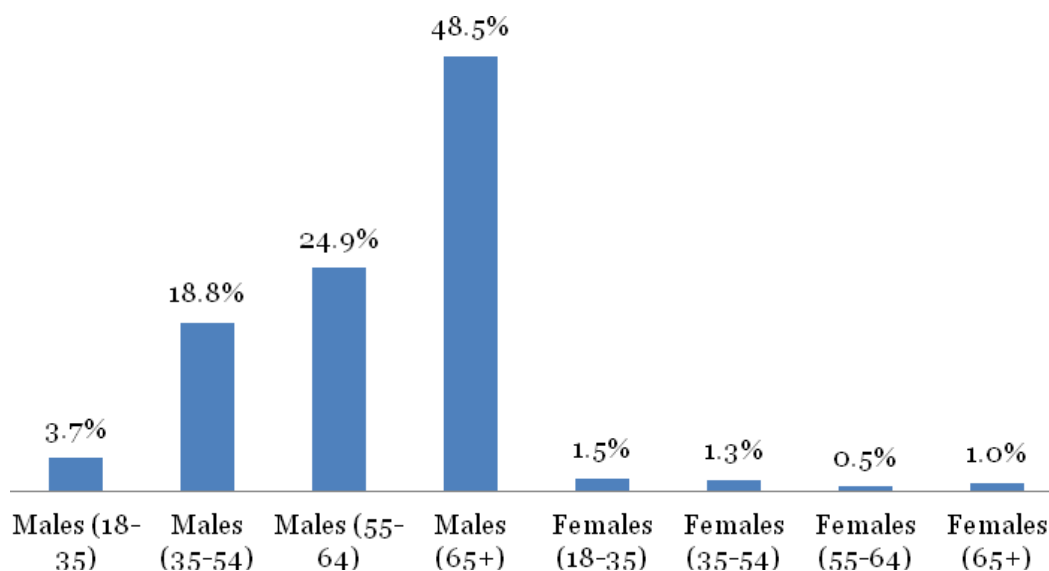
0 to 4		5 to 17		18 to 24		25 to 34		35 to 44		45 to 54		55 to 64		Over 64	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1,372	1,314	4,439	4,370	4,901	5,508	2,759	2,811	3,319	3,429	4,397	4,639	4,186	4,331	4,107	5,775
2.2%	2.1%	7.2%	7.1%	7.9%	8.9%	4.5%	4.6%	5.4%	5.6%	7.1%	7.5%	6.8%	7.0%	6.7%	9.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.

### Veterans, Age and Gender Demographics

Table 1.5 shows the percentage of veterans by gender and age living in Otsego County from 2008-2012. Overall, veterans comprise 9.97% of the adult population in Otsego County, which is greater than the statewide average of 6.36 percent and the nationwide percent of 9.34%.

**Table 1.5 Age and Gender Demographics of Veterans**



**Table 1.5a Age and Gender Demographics of Veterans**

County	Veterans			Percent of Population over 18 by Gender		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Otsego	5,047	4,835	212	9.97	20.02	0.80
Statewide	957,004	906,111	50,893	6.36	12.65	0.64
Nationwide	21,853,912	20,306,044	1,547,868	9.34	17.94	1.28

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.

**Table 1.5b Age and Gender Demographics of Veterans by Census Tract**

Census Tract	Veterans			Percent of Population over 18 by Gender		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Otsego Tract 5901: Maryland, Schenevus, Cherry Valley, Cooperstown,	329	327	2	8.78	18.12	0.10

Springfield, Richfield Springs, Roseboom						
Otsego Tract 5902.01: Cooperstown, Hartwick, Milford, Mount Vision, Oneonta	146	146	0	9.46	21.19	0.00
Otsego Tract 5902.02: Cooperstown, Fly Creek, Hartwick, Richfield Springs	387	375	12	11.95	27.49	0.64
Otsego Tract 5903: Burlington Flats, Hartwick, Richfield Springs, West Edmeston, West Winfield	405	392	13	11.41	23.02	0.70
Otsego Tract 5904: Burlington Flats, Edmeston, Garrattsville, Hartwick, New Berlin, New Lisbon, West Edmeston, Laurens, Morris, Mount Vision, South New Berlin	497	480	17	11.17	21.37	0.77
Otsego Tract 5905: Maryland, Milford, Oneonta, Portlandville	407	369	38	16.46	32.00	2.88
Otsego Tract 5906: Maryland, Schenevus, Worcester, Cherry Valley, Cooperstown, Roseboom, Westford	213	199	14	13.18	26.50	1.62
Otsego Tract 5907: East Worcester, Maryland, Schenevus, Worcester	387	378	9	11.32	22.38	0.52
Otsego Tract 5908: Oneonta, Otego, West Oneonta	403	403	0	10.40	20.66	0.00
Otsego Tract 5909: Oneonta (map in appendix)	103	83	20	4.76	9.23	1.58
Otsego Tract 5910:	262	243	19	7.90	14.96	1.12



Oneonta (map in appendix)						
Otsego Tract 5911: Oneonta (map in appendix)	191	153	38	7.36	12.02	2.87
Otsego Tract 5912: Oneonta (map in appendix)	51	51	0	2.12	5.21	0.00
Otsego Tract 5913: Oneonta (map in appendix)	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Otsego Tract 5914: Laurens, Morris, Mount Vision, Oneonta, Otego, West Oneonta	582	557	25	12.67	25.45	1.04
Otsego Tract 5915: New Berlin, Gilbertsville, Laurens, Morris, Mount Upton, Otego, South New Berlin, Unadilla	408	403	5	14.99	29.25	0.37
Otsego Tract 5916: Bainbridge, Mount Upton, Sidney, Unadilla, Wells Bridge	276	276	0	8.49	16.96	0.00
Otsego County Total	5,047	4,835	212	9.97	20.02	0.80
Statewide	957,004	906,111	50,893	6.36	12.65	0.64
Nationwide	21,853,912	20,306,044	1,547,868	9.34	17.94	1.28

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.

### Households

The change in number of households in Otsego County from 2000-2012 is shown in Table 1.6.

Households increased by 1,250, or 5.37%, as reported in the ACS 2012 estimates, equating to 24,541 households. This compares to a statewide increase of 2.47%.

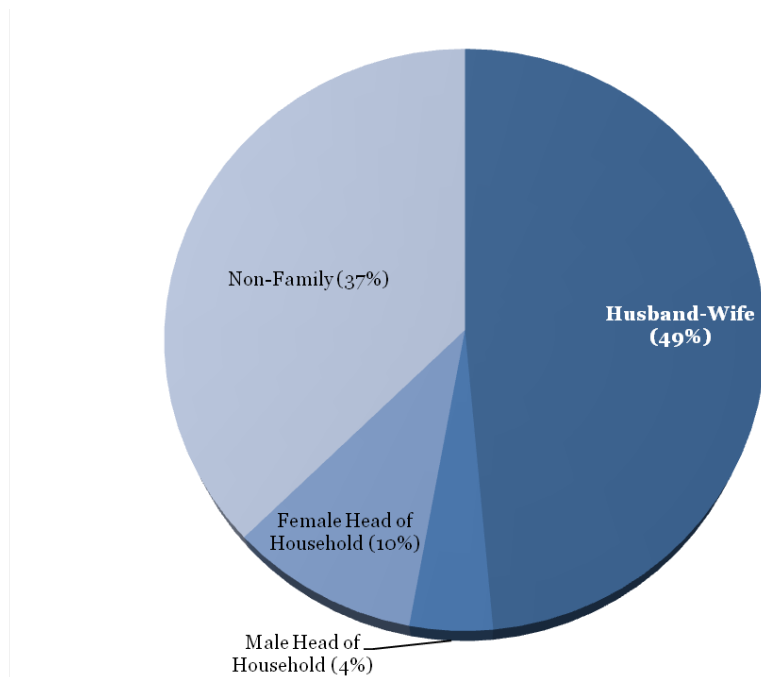
**Table 1.6 - Change in Number of Households, 2000-2012**

County	Total Households, 2000	Total Households, 2008-2012	Change in Households	% Change in Households
Otsego	23,291	24,541	1,250	5.37
Statewide	7,056,860	7,230,896	174,036	2.47

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 1, 2000 and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.

The largest household type in Otsego County is the husband-wife family (49 %), followed by non-family, female head of household, and male head of household. Non-family household consists of people living alone and households which do not have any members related to the householder. A breakdown of households by type is provided in Table 1.7.

**Table 1.7 – Household by Family Type, 2010-2012 Estimates**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 ACS 3-Year Estimates, Social Characteristics in the United States

### Poverty

Table 1.8 shows the total population estimates for all persons in poverty in Otsego County during the 2011 calendar year. According to the American Community Survey five-year averages, 16.4% of all persons in Otsego County lived in a state of poverty. The poverty rate for all persons living in Otsego County is greater than the statewide average of 14.5% and the national average of 14.3%.

**Table 1.8 - Poverty Rate (ACS), 2011**

County	Poverty Rate for All Persons		
	Total Population	In Poverty	Poverty Rate
Otsego	58,228	9,528	16.4
Statewide	18,787,162	2,722,107	14.5
Nationwide	298,788,000	42,739,924	14.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011 Data Release, December 2012.

Table 1.9 provides the change in the poverty rate in Otsego County from 2000 to 2011. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate in Otsego County increased by 4.1%, compared to a statewide increase of 2.9% and a national change of 4.6 percent.

**Table 1.9. Change in Poverty Rate, 2000 - 2011**

County	Persons in Poverty, 2000	Poverty Rate, 2000	Persons in Poverty, 2011	Poverty Rate, 2011	Change in Poverty Rate, 2000 - 2011
Otsego	7,032	12.3	9,359	16.4	4.1
Statewide	2,466,704	13.2	3,043,461	16.1	2.9
Nationwide	31,581,086	11.3	48,452,035	15.9	4.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), 2011.

**Table 1.9a - Poverty Rate (ACS) by Census Tracts, 2011**

Census Tracts	Poverty Rate for All Persons		
	Total Population	In Poverty	Poverty Rate
Otsego Tract 5901: Maryland, Schenectady, Cherry Valley, Cooperstown, Springfield, Richfield Springs, Roseboom	4,308	450	10.4
Otsego Tract 5902.01: Cooperstown, Hartwick, Milford, Mount Vision, Oneonta	2,205	378	17.1
Otsego Tract 5902.02: Cooperstown, Fly Creek, Hartwick, Richfield Springs	3,651	527	14.4
Otsego Tract 5903: Burlington Flats, Hartwick, Richfield Springs, West Edmeston, West Winfield	4,129	595	14.4
Otsego Tract 5904: Burlington Flats, Edmeston, Garrattsville,	5,855	796	13.6

Hartwick, New Berlin, New Lisbon, West Edmeston, Laurens, Morris, Mount Vision, South New Berlin			
Otsego Tract 5905: Maryland, Milford, Oneonta, Portlandville	3,026	532	17.6
Otsego Tract 5906: Maryland, Schenevus, Worcester, Cherry Valley, Cooperstown, Roseboom, Westford	1,971	199	10.1
Otsego Tract 5907: East Worcester, Maryland, Schenevus, Worcester	4,231	460	10.9
Otsego Tract 5908: Oneonta, Otego, West Oneonta	4,992	1,060	21.2
Otsego Tract 5909: Oneonta (map in appendix)	2,941	740	25.2
Otsego Tract 5910: Oneonta (map in appendix)	3,373	894	26.5
Otsego Tract 5911: Oneonta (map in appendix)	3,192	1,052	33.0
Otsego Tract 5912: Oneonta (map in appendix)	897	123	13.7
Otsego Tract 5913: Oneonta (map in appendix)	88	0	0.0
Otsego Tract 5914: Laurens, Morris, Mount Vision,	5,563	879	15.8



Oneonta, Otego, West Oneonta			
Otsego Tract 5915: New Berlin, Gilbertsville, Laurens, Morris, Mount Upton, Otego, South New Berlin, Unadilla	3,431	382	11.1
Otsego Tract 5916: Bainbridge, Mount Upton, Sidney, Unadilla, Wells Bridge	4,375	461	10.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011 Data Release, December 2012.

### Children in Poverty

According to the 2011 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, children ages 0-17 represent 22.5% of all people living in poverty in Otsego County.

**Table 1.10 - Poverty, 2011**

County	All Ages		Age 0-17		Age 5-17	
	Number of Persons	Poverty Rate	Number of Persons	Poverty Rate	Number of Persons	Poverty Rate
Otsego	9,359	16.4	2,431	22.5	1,587	19.6
Statewide	3,043,461	16.1	960,956	22.8	658,371	21.5
Nationwide	48,452,035	15.9	16,386,500	22.5	10,976,987	20.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), 2011.

The poverty rate change for all children in Otsego County from 2000 to 2011 is shown in Table 1.11

According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area increased by 5 percent. The rate of change for children under five years of age during the same time period increased by 10.2%, and children ages five to seventeen increased by 3.2%.

**Table 1.11 - Change in Childhood (0-17) Poverty Rate, 2000 - 2011**

County	Children in Poverty, 2000	Poverty Rate, 2000	Children in Poverty, 2011	Poverty Rate, 2011	Change in Poverty Rate, 2000 - 2011
Children (0-4)	659	21.0	844	31.2	10.2
Children (5-17)	1,640	16.4	1,587	19.6	3.2
Otsego County Total	2,299	17.5	2,431	22.5	5.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), 2011.

**Table 1.11a - Child (0-17) Poverty Rate by Census Tracts**

Census Tracts	Children, Ages 0 - 17 years		
	Total Population	In Poverty	Poverty Rate
Otsego Tract 5901: Maryland, Schenevus, Cherry Valley, Cooperstown, Springfield, Richfield Springs, Roseboom	748	155	20.7
Otsego Tract 5902.01: Cooperstown, Hartwick, Milford, Mount Vision, Oneonta	560	161	28.7
Otsego Tract 5902.02: Cooperstown, Fly Creek, Hartwick, Richfield Springs	780	156	20.0
Otsego Tract 5903: Burlington Flats, Hartwick, Richfield Springs, West Edmeston, West Winfield	681	98	14.4
Otsego Tract 5904: Burlington Flats, Edmeston, Garrattsville, Hartwick, New Berlin, New Lisbon, West Edmeston, Laurens, Morris, Mount Vision, South New Berlin	1,277	181	14.2
Otsego Tract 5905: Maryland, Milford, Oneonta, Portlandville	519	159	30.6
Otsego Tract 5906: Maryland, Schenevus, Worcester, Cherry Valley, Cooperstown,	394	12	3.0

Roseboom, Westford			
Otsego Tract 5907: East Worcester, Maryland, Schenevus, Worcester	905	127	14.0
Otsego Tract 5908: Oneonta, Otego, West Oneonta	1,156	414	35.8
Otsego Tract 5909: Oneonta (map in appendix)	636	130	20.4
Otsego Tract 5910: Oneonta (map in appendix)	466	31	6.7
Otsego Tract 5911: Oneonta (map in appendix)	486	97	20.0
Otsego Tract 5912: Oneonta (map in appendix)	206	21	10.2
Otsego Tract 5913: Oneonta (map in appendix)	8	0	0.0
Otsego Tract 5914: Laurens, Morris, Mount Vision, Oneonta, Otego, West Oneonta	1,054	335	31.8
Otsego Tract 5915: New Berlin, Gilbertsville, Laurens, Morris, Mount Upton, Otego, South New Berlin, Unadilla	686	142	20.7
Otsego Tract 5916: Bainbridge, Mount Upton, Sidney, Unadilla, Wells Bridge	1,060	81	7.6

Otsego County Total	11,622	2,300	19.8
Statewide	4,281,841	871,312	20.3
Nationwide	72,906,664	14,550,805	20.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011 Data Release, December 2012.

**Table 1.11b - Child (0-4) Poverty Rate by Census Tracts**

Census Tracts	Children, Ages 0 - 4 years		
	Total Population	In Poverty	Poverty Rate
Otsego Tract 5901: Maryland, Schenevus, Cherry Valley, Cooperstown, Springfield, Richfield Springs, Roseboom	166	44	26.5
Otsego Tract 5902.01: Cooperstown, Hartwick, Milford, Mount Vision, Oneonta	111	27	24.3
Otsego Tract 5902.02: Cooperstown, Fly Creek, Hartwick, Richfield Springs	142	45	31.7
Otsego Tract 5903: Burlington Flats, Hartwick, Richfield Springs, West Edmeston, West Winfield	177	27	15.3
Otsego Tract 5904: Burlington Flats, Edmeston, Garrattsville, Hartwick, New Berlin, New Lisbon, West Edmeston, Laurens, Morris, Mount Vision, South New Berlin	269	75	27.9
Otsego Tract 5905: Maryland, Milford, Oneonta,	78	20	25.6



Portlandville			
Otsego Tract 5906: Maryland, Schenevus, Worcester, Cherry Valley, Cooperstown, Roseboom, Westford	135	10	7.4
Otsego Tract 5907: East Worcester, Maryland, Schenevus, Worcester	131	4	3.1
Otsego Tract 5908: Oneonta, Otego, West Oneonta	147	0	0.0
Otsego Tract 5909: Oneonta (map in appendix)	194	49	25.3
Otsego Tract 5910: Oneonta (map in appendix)	169	0	0.0
Otsego Tract 5911: Oneonta (map in appendix)	226	59	26.1
Otsego Tract 5912: Oneonta (map in appendix)	30	21	70.0
Otsego Tract 5913: Oneonta (map in appendix)	0	0	0.0
Otsego Tract 5914: Laurens, Morris, Mount Vision, Oneonta, Otego, West Oneonta	281	136	48.4
Otsego Tract 5915: New Berlin, Gilbertsville, Laurens, Morris, Mount Upton, Otego, South New Berlin,	124	44	35.5

Unadilla			
Otsego Tract 5916: Bainbridge, Mount Upton, Sidney, Unadilla, Wells Bridge	268	34	12.7
Otsego County Total	2,648	595	22.5
Statewide	1,139,411	258,134	22.7
Nationwide	19,864,406	4,602,972	23.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011 Data Release, December 2012.

**Table 1.11c - Child (5-17) Poverty Rate by Census Tracts**

Census Tracts	Children, Ages 5 - 17 years		
	Total Population	In Poverty	Poverty Rate
Otsego Tract 5901: Maryland, Schenevus, Cherry Valley, Cooperstown, Springfield, Richfield Springs, Roseboom	582	111	19.1
Otsego Tract 5902.01: Cooperstown, Hartwick, Milford, Mount Vision, Oneonta	449	134	29.8
Otsego Tract 5902.02: Cooperstown, Fly Creek, Hartwick, Richfield Springs	638	111	17.4
Otsego Tract 5903: Burlington Flats, Hartwick, Richfield Springs, West Edmeston, West Winfield	504	71	14.1
Otsego Tract 5904: Burlington Flats, Edmeston, Garrattsville, Hartwick, New Berlin, New Lisbon, West Edmeston,	1,008	106	10.5

Laurens, Morris, Mount Vision, South New Berlin			
Otsego Tract 5905: Maryland, Milford, Oneonta, Portlandville	441	139	31.5
Otsego Tract 5906: Maryland, Schenevus, Worcester, Cherry Valley, Cooperstown, Roseboom, Westford	259	2	0.8
Otsego Tract 5907: East Worcester, Maryland, Schenevus, Worcester	774	123	15.9
Otsego Tract 5908: Oneonta, Otego, West Oneonta	1,009	414	41.0
Otsego Tract 5909: Oneonta (map in appendix)	442	81	18.3
Otsego Tract 5910: Oneonta (map in appendix)	297	31	10.4
Otsego Tract 5911: Oneonta (map in appendix)	260	38	14.6
Otsego Tract 5912: Oneonta (map in appendix)	176	0	0.0
Otsego Tract 5913: Oneonta (map in appendix)	8	0	0.0
Otsego Tract 5914: Laurens, Morris, Mount Vision, Oneonta, Otego, West Oneonta	773	199	25.7

Otsego Tract 5915: New Berlin, Gilbertsville, Laurens, Morris, Mount Upton, Otego, South New Berlin, Unadilla	562	98	17.4
Otsego Tract 5916: Bainbridge, Mount Upton, Sidney, Unadilla, Wells Bridge	792	47	5.9
Otsego County Total	8,974	1,705	19.0
Statewide	3,142,430	613,178	19.5
Nationwide	53,042,260	9,947,833	18.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011 Data Release, December 2012.

### Seniors in Poverty

Poverty rates for seniors, according to the 2012 American Community Survey estimates from 2007 to 2011, are shown in Table 1.12. In 2012, it is estimated that there were 774 seniors, or 7.76%, living in poverty within Otsego County.

**Table 1.12 - Seniors in Poverty**

County	Seniors, 2007/2011	Seniors in Poverty, 2007/2011	Senior Poverty Rate, 2007/2011
Otsego	9,980	774	7.8
Statewide	2,540,293	290,319	11.4
Nationwide	39,358,824	3,702,237	9.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.

### Households in Poverty

Details on households living in poverty through ACS estimates do not include “Non-Family” households like the complete Census; therefore, Table 1.13 provides a breakdown of households living in poverty by married couples, male head of household, and female head of household.

Table 1.13a shows the number and percentage of households in poverty in Otsego County. In 2011, it is estimated that there were 3,792 households, or 15.34% of households living in poverty, compared to a statewide average of 13.9% and a nationwide average of 13.4%.

**Table 1.13. Households in Poverty**

County	Total Households, 2007/2011	Households in Poverty, 2007/2011	% Households in Poverty, 2007/2011
Otsego	24,713	3,792	15.3
Statewide	7,215,687	1,001,848	13.9
Nationwide	114,761,360	15,337,307	13.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011 Data Release, December 2012.

**Table 1.13a - Households in Poverty by Census Tract**

County	Total Households, 2007/2011	Households in Poverty, 2007/2011	% Households in Poverty, 2007/2011
Otsego Tract 5901: Maryland, Schenevus, Cherry Valley, Cooperstown, Springfield, Richfield Springs, Roseboom	1,832	181	9.9
Otsego Tract 5902.01: Cooperstown, Hartwick, Milford, Mount Vision, Oneonta	866	120	13.9
Otsego Tract 5902.02: Cooperstown, Fly Creek, Hartwick, Richfield Springs	1,593	156	9.8
Otsego Tract 5903: Burlington Flats, Hartwick, Richfield Springs, West Edmeston, West Winfield	1,762	245	13.9
Otsego Tract 5904: Burlington Flats, Edmeston, Garrattsville, Hartwick, New Berlin, New Lisbon, West Edmeston, Laurens, Morris, Mount Vision, South New Berlin	2,217	256	11.6
Otsego Tract 5905: Maryland, Milford, Oneonta, Portlandville	1,293	187	14.5
Otsego Tract 5906: Maryland, Schenevus, Worcester, Cherry Valley, Cooperstown, Roseboom, Westford	823	116	14.1

Otsego Tract 5907: East Worcester, Maryland, Schenevus, Worcester	1,709	168	9.8
Otsego Tract 5908: Oneonta, Otego, West Oneonta	1,853	254	13.7
Otsego Tract 5909: Oneonta (map in appendix)	1,344	372	27.7
Otsego Tract 5910: Oneonta (map in appendix)	1,604	417	26.0
Otsego Tract 5911: Oneonta (map in appendix)	1,668	563	33.8
Otsego Tract 5912: Oneonta (map in appendix)	388	72	18.6
Otsego Tract 5913: Oneonta (map in appendix)	55	0	0.0
Otsego Tract 5914: Laurens, Morris, Mount Vision, Oneonta, Otego, West Oneonta	2,371	345	14.6
Otsego Tract 5915: New Berlin, Gilbertsville, Laurens, Morris, Mount Upton, Otego, South New Berlin, Unadilla	1,467	139	9.5
Otsego Tract 5916: Bainbridge, Mount Upton, Sidney, Unadilla, Wells Bridge	1,868	201	10.8
Otsego County Total	24,713	3,792	15.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011 Data Release, December 2012.

Table 1.14 shows the number of households in poverty by type in Otsego County. In 2011, it is estimated that there were 1,410 households living in poverty within Otsego County. Of the households in poverty, female headed households represented 43% of all households in poverty, compared to 16.2% and 40.9% of households headed by males and married couples, respectively.

**Table 1.14 - Households in Poverty by Family Type**

County	Total Households, 2007-2011	Households in Poverty			
		Overall	Married Couples	Male Householder	Female Householder
Otsego	15,416	1,410	576	228	606
Percentage of Overall Households			40.9%	16.2%	43.0%
Percentage of Overall Households: Statewide			34.0%	9.6%	56.4%
Percentage of Overall Households: Nationwide			36.1%	10.2%	53.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011 Data Release, December 2012.

**Table 1.14a - Households in Poverty by Family Type by Census Tract**

Census Tract	Total Households, 2007-2011	Households in Poverty			
		Overall	Married Couples	Male Householder	Female Householder
Otsego Tract 5901: Maryland, Schenevus, Cherry Valley, Cooperstown, Springfield, Richfield Springs, Roseboom	1,289	101	53	0	48
Otsego Tract 5902.01: Cooperstown, Hartwick, Milford, Mount Vision, Oneonta	619	90	37	23	30
Otsego Tract 5902.02: Cooperstown, Fly Creek, Hartwick, Richfield Springs	929	49	32	0	17
Otsego Tract 5903: Burlington Flats, Hartwick, Richfield Springs, West Edmeston, West Winfield	1,160	130	81	16	33
Otsego Tract 5904: Burlington Flats, Edmeston, Garrattsville, Hartwick, New Berlin, New Lisbon, West Edmeston, Laurens, Morris, Mount Vision,	1,613	155	81	38	36

South New Berlin					
Otsego Tract 5905: Maryland, Milford, Oneonta, Portlandville	942	113	46	7	60
Otsego Tract 5906: Maryland, Schenevus, Worcester, Cherry Valley, Cooperstown, Roseboom, Westford	579	27	9	6	12
Otsego Tract 5907: East Worcester, Maryland, Schenevus, Worcester	1,149	67	44	23	0
Otsego Tract 5908: Oneonta, Otego, West Oneonta	1,214	92	16	0	76
Otsego Tract 5909: Oneonta (map in appendix)	625	56	13	0	43
Otsego Tract 5910: Oneonta (map in appendix)	655	64	14	30	20
Otsego Tract 5911: Oneonta (map in appendix)	503	71	0	0	71
Otsego Tract 5912: Oneonta (map in appendix)	253	29	14	15	0
Otsego Tract 5913: Oneonta (map in appendix)	25	0	0	0	0
Otsego Tract 5914: Laurens, Morris, Mount Vision, Oneonta, Otego, West Oneonta	1,701	216	65	58	93
Otsego Tract 5915: New Berlin, Gilbertsville, Laurens, Morris, Mount Upton,	975	74	27	12	35



Otego, South New Berlin, Unadilla					
Otsego Tract 5916: Bainbridge, Mount Upton, Sidney, Unadilla, Wells Bridge	1,185	76	44	0	32
Otsego County Total	15,416	1,410	576	228	606
Statewide	4,656,855	513,319	174,591	49,328	289,400
Nationwide	76,507,232	8,000,077	2,890,719	815,895	4,293,463

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011 Data Release, December 2012.

Table 1.15 shows percentage of households in poverty by household type in Otsego County. In 2011, it is estimated that 9.15% of all households were living in poverty, compared to a statewide average of 11.0% and the national average of 10.5%.

**Table 1.15 - Household Poverty Rate by Family Type**

County	All Types	Married Couples	Male Householder	Female Householder
Otsego	9.1	3.7	1.5	3.9
Statewide	11.0	3.7	1.1	6.2
Nationwide	10.5	3.8	1.1	5.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011 Data Release, December 2012.

**Table 1.15a - Household Poverty Rate by Family Type by Census Tract**

County	All Types	Married Couples	Male Householder	Female Householder
Otsego Tract 5901: Maryland, Schenectady, Cherry Valley, Cooperstown, Springfield, Richfield Springs, Roseboom	7.8	4.1	0.0	3.7
Otsego Tract 5902.01: Cooperstown, Hartwick, Milford, Mount Vision, Oneonta	14.5	6.0	3.7	4.8
Otsego Tract 5902.02: Cooperstown, Fly Creek, Hartwick,	5.3	3.4	0.0	1.8

Richfield Springs				
Otsego Tract 5903: Burlington Flats, Hartwick, Richfield Springs, West Edmeston, West Winfield	11.2	7.0	1.4	2.8
Otsego Tract 5904: Burlington Flats, Edmeston, Garrattsville, Hartwick, New Berlin, New Lisbon, West Edmeston, Laurens, Morris, Mount Vision, South New Berlin	9.6	5.0	2.4	2.2
Otsego Tract 5905: Maryland, Milford, Oneonta, Portlandville	12.0	4.9	0.7	6.4
Otsego Tract 5906: Maryland, Schenevus, Worcester, Cherry Valley, Cooperstown, Roseboom, Westford	4.7	1.6	1.0	2.1
Otsego Tract 5907: East Worcester, Maryland, Schenevus, Worcester	5.8	3.8	2.0	0.0
Otsego Tract 5908: Oneonta, Otego, West Oneonta	7.6	1.3	0.0	6.3
Otsego Tract 5909: Oneonta (map in appendix)	9.0	2.1	0.0	6.9
Otsego Tract 5910: Oneonta (map in appendix)	9.8	2.1	4.6	3.1
Otsego Tract 5911: Oneonta (map in appendix)	14.1	0.0	0.0	14.1
Otsego Tract 5912: Oneonta (map in	11.5	5.5	5.9	0.0

appendix)				
Otsego Tract 5913: Oneonta (map in appendix)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Otsego Tract 5914: Laurens, Morris, Mount Vision, Oneonta, Otego, West Oneonta	12.7	3.8	3.4	5.5
Otsego Tract 5915: New Berlin, Gilbertsville, Laurens, Morris, Mount Upton, Otego, South New Berlin, Unadilla	7.6	2.8	1.2	3.6
Otsego Tract 5916: Bainbridge, Mount Upton, Sidney, Unadilla, Wells Bridge	6.4	3.7	0.0	2.7
Otsego County Total	9.1	3.7	1.5	3.9
Statewide	11.0	3.7	1.1	6.2
Nationwide	10.5	3.8	1.1	5.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011 Data Release, December 2012.

#### Opportunities for Otsego: Client Demographics

As the primary provider of services to Otsego County's low-income sector, Opportunities for Otsego (OFO) is recognized as the local authority on poverty. Through an agency-wide integrated client management database, OFO maintains demographic information on low-income individuals and households accessing services. Following is an analysis of OFO client data from the period 10/2012-9/2013.

**Table 1.16 - Household Type, 2012, Opportunities for Otsego**

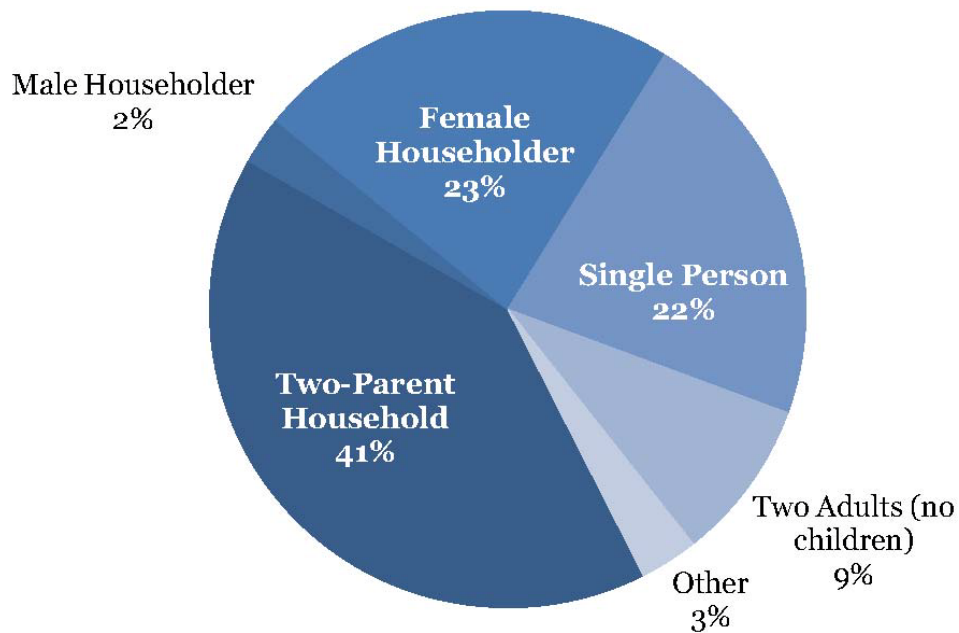
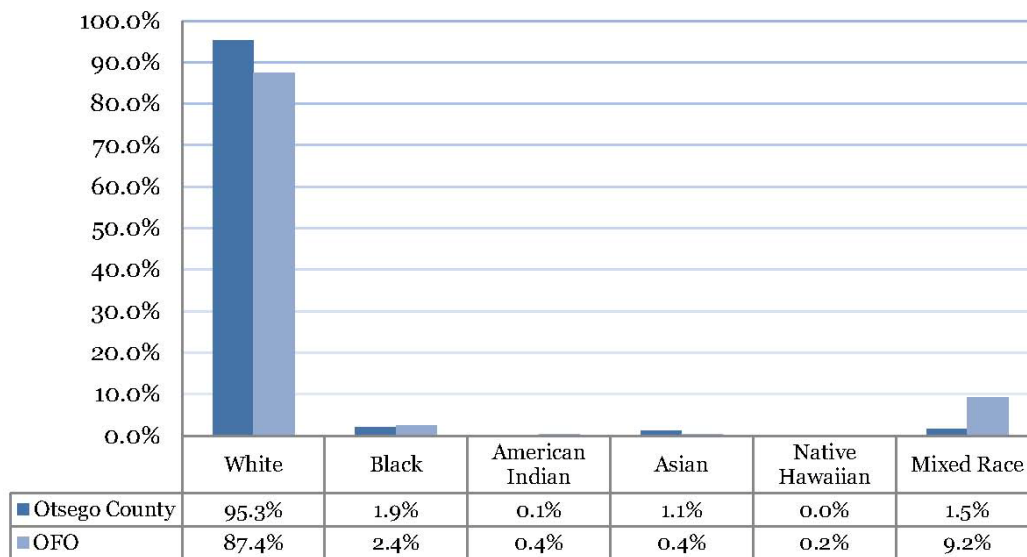


Table 1.17 compares the racial representation of all household members who benefitted from OFO services compared to the racial distribution of Otsego County in 2011. White/Caucasian represents the largest racial group in both Otsego County and those served by OFO. A ranking of all groups represented in Otsego County and OFO in descending order is provided in the following chart. Table 1.18 illustrates the racial distribution by percentage of those served by OFO from 10/2012-9/2013.

**Table 1.17 - Racial Representation (Otsego County vs. Opportunities for Otsego)**

	Otsego County	Opportunities for Otsego
White	1	1
Black/African American	2	3
American Indian/Alaska Native	5	5
Asian	4	4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	6	6
Mixed Race	3	2

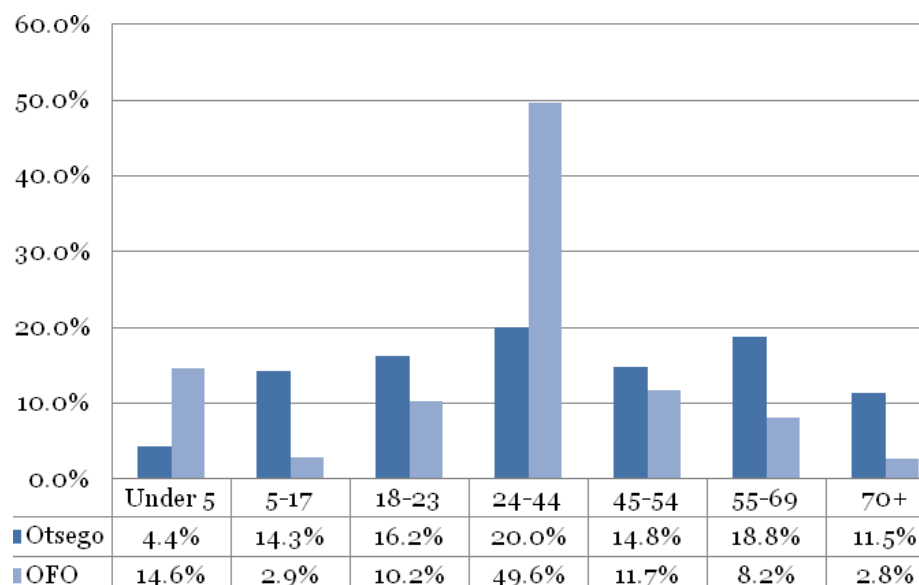
**Table 1.18 - Racial Distribution (Otsego County vs. Opportunities for Otsego)**



Analysis of ethnicity shows that OFO clientele does not diverge greatly from the ethnic distribution of Otsego County. In 2012, 3.1% of Otsego County residents reported being Hispanic/Latino<sup>4</sup>. Similarly, 4.0% of individuals benefitting from OFO services over the period 10/2012-9/2013 reported Hispanic/Latino as their ethnicity.

Tables 1.19 compare the age distribution of Otsego County residents and all household members benefitting from the services of OFO in 2012.

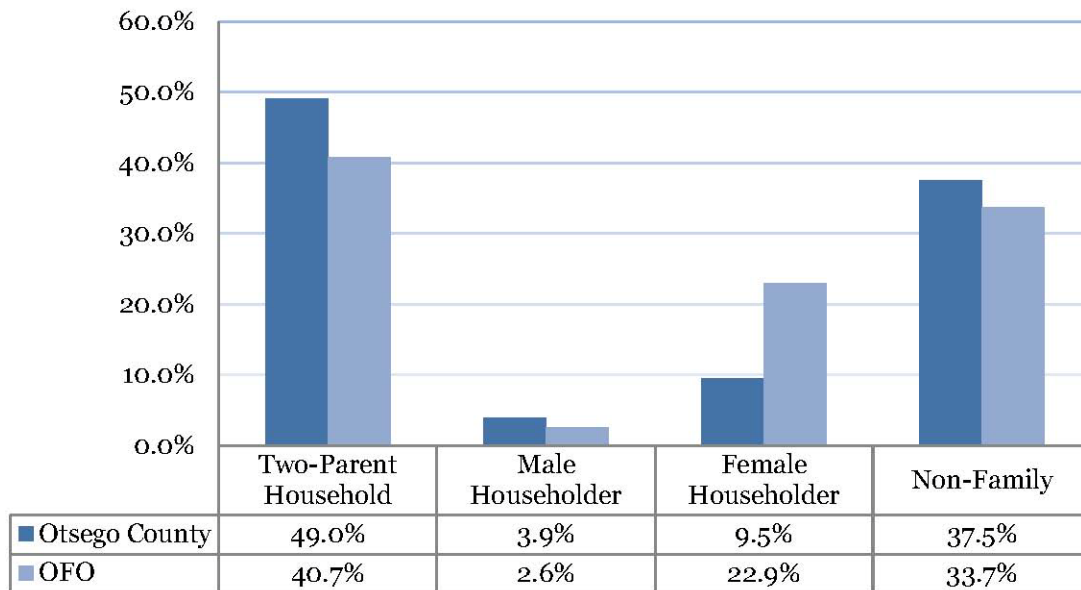
**Table 1.19 - Age Distribution (Otsego County vs. Opportunities for Otsego)**



<sup>4</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

Table 1.20 provides comparative data on the household types living in Otsego County and households served by OFO. Analysis finds that the percentage of household served by OFO is a similar distribution to that of household types in Otsego County.

**Table 1.20 - Household Type (Otsego County vs. Opportunities for Otsego)**



# Employment

## *Key Issues:*

*The median household income in Otsego County dropped in 2008; however, recovered in 2010 and has been increasing since. The current median household income is \$47,318 – the highest in the tri-county area; however, \$9,039 below the New York State median income of \$56,357.*

*Otsego County's average annual unemployment rate increased 3.8% from 2000-2012, reaching 8.0% in 2012. This rate is the highest average unemployment rate in Otsego County dating back to 1990. The January 2013 unemployment rate reached 10.0%, which was the highest level in county records dating back to the same period. This number represents 3,100 persons.*

*Major industries in Otsego County are health care/social assistance; retail trade; accommodation and food services; educational services; and manufacturing. These industries combined represent 57.1% of trades in which Otsego County residents are employed.*

*There is an inadequate supply of child care programs to meet the needs of working parents with children ages birth through twelve.*

## Community Strengths

- Generational/family-owned businesses
- Healthcare infrastructure to support labor projections
- Tourism and seasonal recreation activities
- Potential job growth from gas drilling

## Community Challenges

- Stagnant wages and historic unemployment rates
- Gradually declining labor force and outward migration of young, educated professionals
- Job seekers are not qualified to fill business openings
- Projected employment openings in fields that do not pay a living wage and/or are supported by public funding

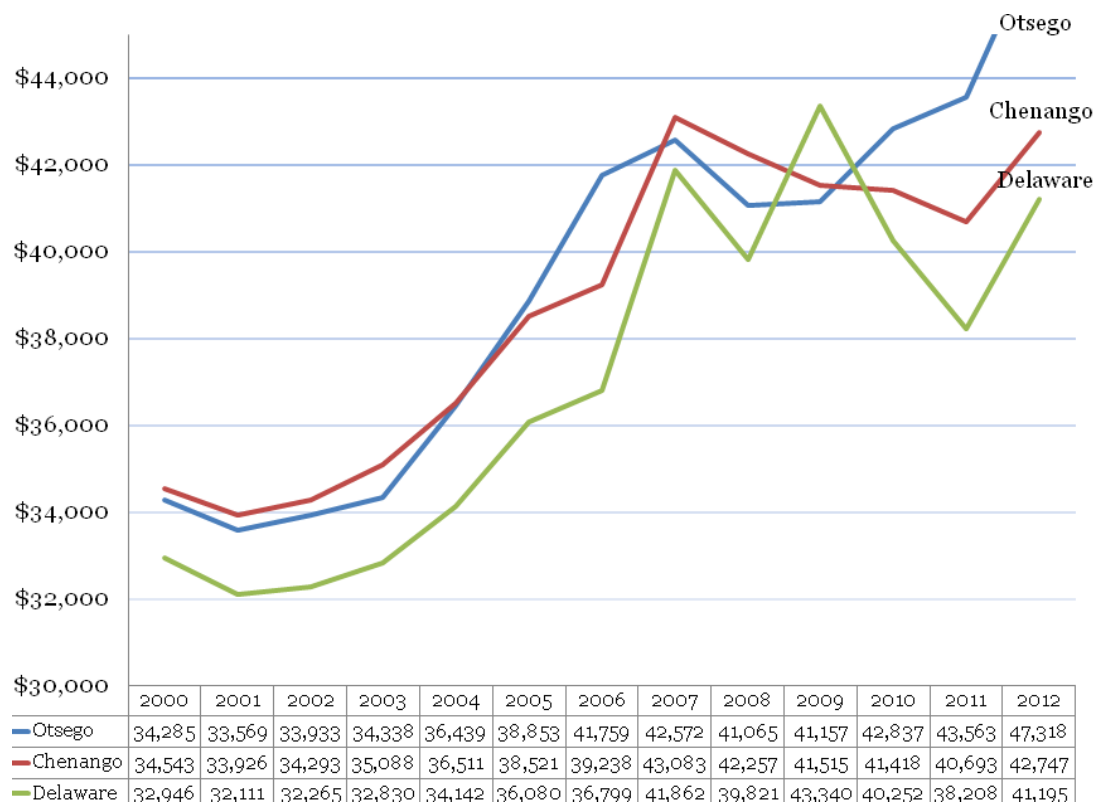


## Household Income

The median household income in Otsego County has fluctuated over the past 12 years. Between 2001 and 2007, the median income increased gradually, peaking at \$45,572 in 2007. Household income dropped in 2008 and 2009, but returned to 2007 levels in 2010. The current median household income is \$47,318. This is \$9,039 below the New York State median income of \$56,357.

Table 2.1 provides a comparison in the median household income between Otsego County and neighboring Chenango and Delaware Counties. The median income of Otsego County has historically been greater than neighboring Delaware County; however, dipped \$2,183 below in 2009. Since 2009, Otsego County household income levels have recovered and are now \$4,571 and \$6,123 above Chenango and Delaware Counties respectively.

**Table 2.1 - Median Household Income (Otsego, Chenango, and Delaware Counties)**



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), 2000-2012



### Wages

Average weekly wages for the tri-county region during the period July - September 2012, are provided in Table 2.2. Average weekly salaries range from \$685 in Otsego County to \$711 in Delaware County. The tri-county region has an average wage of \$694.

**Table 2.2 - Weekly Wages, Third Quarter 2012**

County	Total Employees	Average Weekly Wage (\$)	Federal Employees	Average Federal Government Weekly Wage (\$)	State/Local Employees	Average State/Local Government Weekly Wage (\$)	Private Employees	Average Private Weekly Wage (\$)
Chenango	16,789	690	102	1,055	3,194	652	13,492	696
Delaware	15,154	711	128	974	3,727	584	11,298	750
Otsego	24,130	685	131	974	4,057	655	19,941	690
Report Area	56,073	694	361	1,000	10,978	631	44,731	707
Statewide	8,507,230	1,088	117,872	1,396	1,141,059	1,014	7,248,298	1,095

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

### Living Wage

The living wage shown is the hourly rate that an individual must earn to support their family, if they are the sole provider and are working full-time (2,080 hours per year). The state minimum wage is the same for all individuals, regardless of the number of dependents. Table 2.3 provides the hourly living wage for various family types that adult members must earn in Otsego County to be self-sufficient. The poverty rate is typically quoted as gross annual income; it has been converted to an hourly wage for the sake of purposes. Wages that are less than the living wage are shown in bolded-red<sup>5</sup>.

**Table 2.3 - County Hourly Living Wage, June 2012**

Hourly Wages	1 Adult	1 Adult, 1 Child	1 Adult, 2 Children	1 Adult, 3 Children	2 Adults	2 Adults, 1 Child	2 Adults, 2 Children	2 Adults, 3 Children
Living Wage	\$8.94	\$20.07	\$27.66	\$36.79	\$13.33	\$16.30	\$17.71	\$20.99
Poverty Wage	<b>\$5.21</b>	<b>\$7.00</b>	<b>\$8.80</b>	<b>\$10.60</b>	<b>\$7.00</b>	<b>\$8.80</b>	<b>\$10.60</b>	<b>\$12.40</b>
Minimum Wage	<b>\$8.00</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>

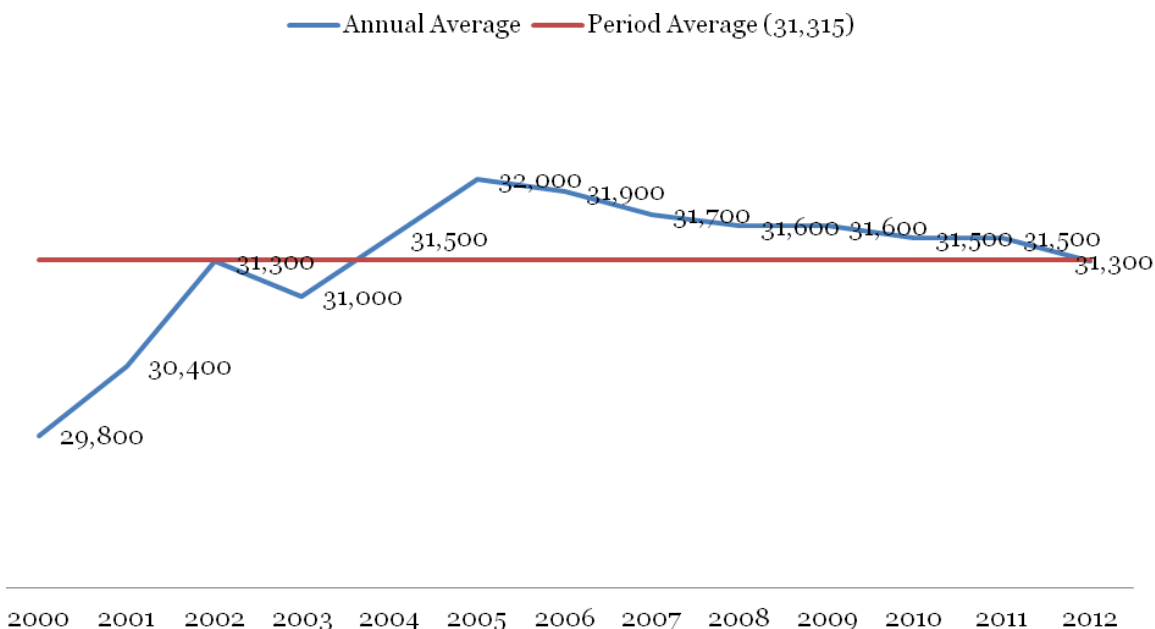
Source: Poverty in America, Living Wage Calculator, June 2012. (© 2014 Dr. Amy K. Glasmeier and The Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

<sup>5</sup> Minimum wage data was updated to reflect the 01.01.2014 increase

### Labor Force

The civilian labor force (age 16 years or older) in Otsego County as of November 2013 was 30,600 persons, which is an increase of 1,200 persons from the same period in the year 2000 and 2.28% less than the average number of persons in the labor force over the period 1/2000-12/2012. Table 2.4 provides a comparison of the average number of persons in the labor force for years 2000-2012 and the 13-year average.

**Table 2.4 – Civilian Labor Force, 2000-2012**



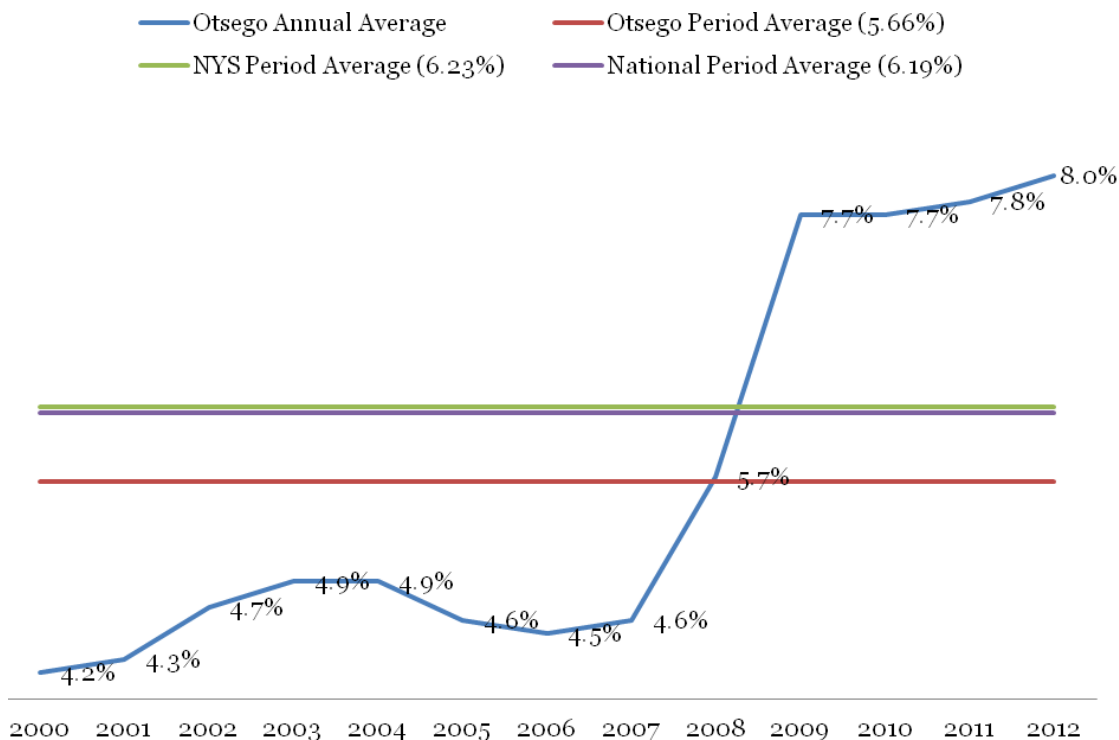
*SOURCE: NYS Department of Labor | Labor Force and Unemployment Data | Areas of at Least 25,000 Population*

### Unemployment

The November 2013 unemployment rate in Otsego County was 6.1%, which equates to 1,900 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 and national unemployment rates in November were 6.9% and 7.0% respectively during the same period.

Table 2.5 compares of the average unemployment rate in Otsego County for years 2000-2012 and the 13-year average for Otsego County, New York State, and the nation. Overall, Otsego County's average annual unemployment rate increased 3.8% from 2000-2012, reaching 8.0% in 2012. This rate is the highest average unemployment rate in Otsego County dating back to 1990.

**Table 2.5 – Unemployment Rate, 2000-2012**

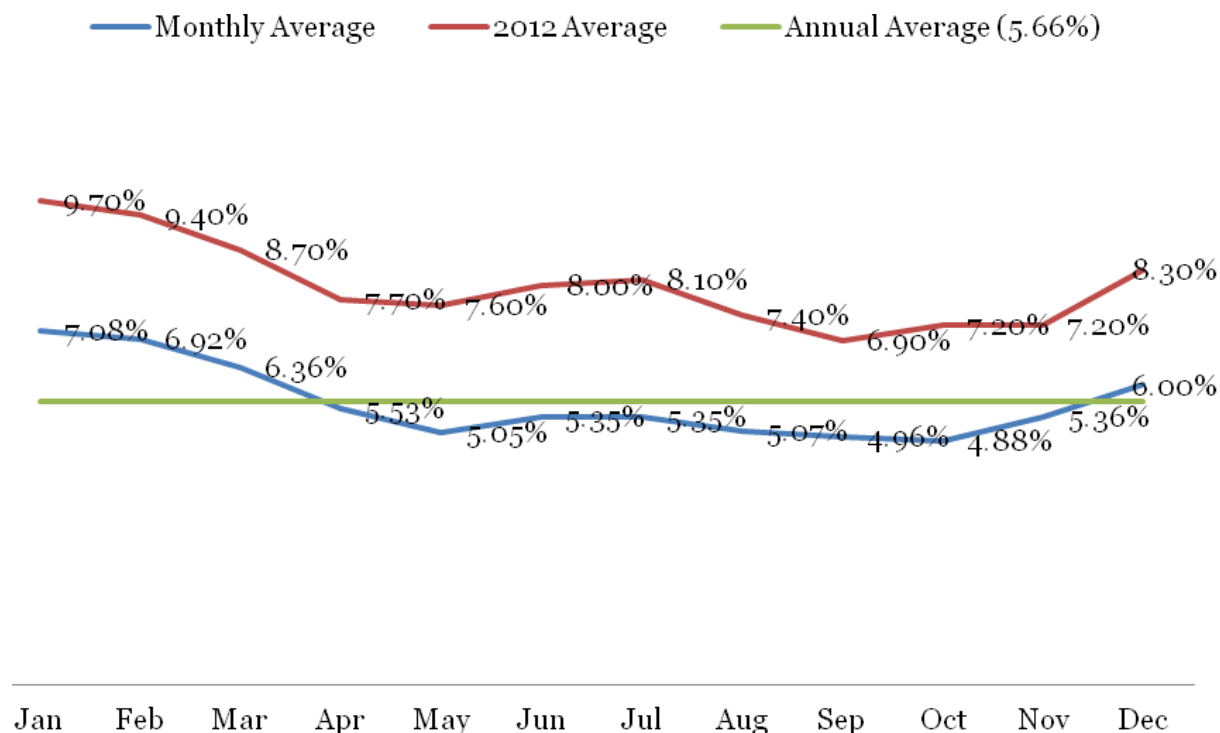


*SOURCE: NYS Department of Labor | Labor Force and Unemployment Data | Areas of at Least 25,000 Population & US Department of Labor | Bureau of Labor Statistics | Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey*

Table 2.6 is the average unemployment rate, over the period 2000-2012, in Otsego County by month. January, February, March, and December all exceed the average monthly unemployment rate, with the remaining months falling below. The highest monthly unemployment rate is January, averaging 7.08%; October has the lowest unemployment rate averaging 4.88%.

Otsego County 2012 monthly unemployment data is included separately as it provides the most recent unemployment statistics. These rates mirror monthly trends for the last 13 years; however, range 1.84-2.75 percentage points higher than comparable months.

**Table 2.6 – Average Monthly Unemployment Rates, 2000-2012**



*SOURCE: NYS Department of Labor | Labor Force and Unemployment Data | Areas of at Least 25,000 Population*

Although not included in this data set, it is important to note that in January 2013 the Otsego County unemployment rate reached 10.0%, which was the highest level in county records dating back to 1990. This number represents 3,100 persons.

### Industries

The five industries with the greatest average employment in 2012 in Otsego County are health care/social assistance; retail trade; accommodation and food services; educational services; and manufacturing. Many positions within these industries are seasonal and/or pay below the Otsego County average weekly pay. Average weekly pay in these industries is \$1,033 (health care and social assistance), \$479 (retail), \$313 (accommodation and food services); \$542 (educational services) and \$831 (manufacturing)<sup>6</sup>. These industries combined represent 57.1% of trades in which Otsego County residents are employed. Table 2.7 provides a listing of industries in descending order by the percentage of residents employed.

<sup>6</sup> Bureau of Labor and Statistics | Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages | Otsego County, 2012

**Table 2.7 – Industries with Greatest Employment, 2012**

<b>Industries</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Health care and social assistance	21.4%
Retail trade	13.5%
Accommodation and food services	10.6%
Educational services	6.9%
Manufacturing	4.8%
Finance and insurance	4.5%
Other services	2.9%
Arts, entertainment, recreation	2.8%
Professional and technical services	2.6%
Construction	2.4%
Wholesale trade	1.7%
Administrative and waster services	1.2%
Information	1.1%

The top 10 employers<sup>7</sup> in Otsego County are:

- Bassett Health Care (Bassett Hospital)
- State University College at Oneonta (Public)
- NYCM/New York Central Mutual Fire Insurance Co.
- A.O. Fox Memorial Hospital
- Otsego County Government (Public)
- Hartwick College
- Wal-Mart
- Organization of Ancillary Services of State University College at Oneonta
- The City of Oneonta School District
- Springbrook

#### High Demand Occupations<sup>8</sup>

The top growing industries from the fourth quarter of 2011 to the fourth quarter of 2012 are listed below with the average annual wage in 2012 and total number of jobs added:

- Food Manufacturing (\$46,700): +600
- Food Services and Drinking Places (\$13,700): +280
- Educational Services (\$28,500): +150

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<sup>7</sup> Data provided by CDO Workforce Investment Board (2/2014)

<sup>8</sup> SOURCE: New York State Department of Labor, Division of Research and Statistics, Regional Market Analyst – Southern Tier Region

- Truck Transportation (\$42,100): +140
- Professional and Technical Services (\$32,800): +120
- Health and Personal Care Stores (\$33,100): +80
- Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book, and Music Stores (\$16,900): +60
- Membership Organizations/Associations (\$17,300): +60
- Miscellaneous Manufacturing (\$44,600): +50
- Chemical Manufacturing (\$63,700): +50

The fastest growing occupations projected in the Southern Tier Region over the period 2010-2020 are:

- Veterinary Technologists and Technicians (\$34,060)
- Personal Care Aides (\$20,190)
- Meeting, Convention, and Event Planners (\$41,930)
- Physical Therapist Assistants (\$45,990)
- Health Educators (\$41,610)
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (\$65,660)
- Food Batchmakers (\$26,590)
- Helpers – Carpenters (\$25,400)
- Physical Therapist Aides (\$26,060)
- Home Health Aides (\$28,070)

Occupations projected to have the most openings in the Southern Tier over the period 2010-2020 are listed below along with the median annual wage<sup>9</sup>. These occupations have a high replacement need mainly due to high turnover and/or an aging workforce:

- Cashiers (\$19,000)
- Retail Salesperson (\$24,380)
- Waiters and Waitresses (\$21,140)
- Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food (\$18,370)
- Child Care Workers (\$20,270)
- Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers (\$25,060)
- Office Clerks, General (\$25,360)
- Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners (\$24,010)
- Customer Service Representatives (\$32,050)
- Home Health Aides (\$28,070)

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<sup>9</sup> SOURCE: New York State Department of Labor, Division of Research and Statistics – Chenango, Delaware, Otsego

### Declining Occupations<sup>10</sup>

The top declining industries from the fourth quarter of 2011 to the fourth quarter of 2012 are listed below with the average annual wage in 2012 and total number of jobs lost:

- Nursing and Residential Care Facilities (\$25,300): -120
- Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing (\$67,400): -110
- Local Government (\$34,900): -90
- Publishing Industries (\$24,700): -70
- Personal and Laundry Services (\$15,900): -60
- Social Assistance (\$22,900): -60
- Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods (\$40,400): -50
- Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealer (\$34,100): -40
- Insurance Carriers/Related Activities (\$49,100): -40
- State Government (\$38,600): -40

Occupations projected to have the greatest loss on its' labor forces in the Southern Tier over the period 2010-2020 are listed below along with the estimated loss of positions:

- Word Processors and Typists (-140)
- Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive (-120)
- Stock Clerks and Order Fillers (-120)
- Postal Service Carriers (-120)
- Mixing and Blending Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders (-120)
- Printing Press Operators (-120)
- Data Entry Keyers (-110)
- Team Assemblers (-100)
- General and Operations Managers (-90)
- Postal Service Mail Sorters, Processors, and Processing Machine Operators (-90)

Nationally, occupation projections from 2010-2020 are that:

- Total employment is expected to increase by 14.3%. The Southern Tier has an anticipated 6.2% growth.
- Slower population growth and a decreasing overall labor force participation rate are expected to lead to slower civilian labor force growth.

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<sup>10</sup> SOURCE: New York State Department of Labor, Division of Research and Statistics, Regional Market Analyst – Southern Tier Region

- “Baby Boomers” move entirely to the 55 years and older group by 2020, increasing that groups share of the labor force from 19.5% in 2010 to 25.2% in 2020. The “prime-age” working group, people ages 25 to 54, is projected to drop to 63.7% of the 2020 labor force.
- By 2020, the Hispanic labor force is expected to grow by 7.7 million, or 34%, and their share of the labor force is expected to increase from 14.8% in 2010 to 18.6% in 2020.

### Natural Gas Exploration

“Although geologists have long known about the natural gas resources of the Marcellus Shale formation, the depth and tightness of the shale made gas exploration and extraction very difficult and expensive. Interest has increased significantly of late due to recent enhancements in gas well development technology, specifically horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing; the proximity of high natural gas demand markets in New York, New Jersey and New England and; the construction of the Millennium Pipeline through the Southern Tier”<sup>11</sup>. The Marcellus Shale formation extends from Ohio and West Virginia northeast into Pennsylvania and southern New York. Otsego County is one of 28 counties in New York State that are within the bounds of the geologic formation. As of December 2012, there were 1,165 parcels of land, totaling 70,654 acres, leased to gas companies in Otsego County<sup>12</sup>.

Should gas drilling commence in Otsego County, there is the potential for new employment opportunities. Jobs may range from equipment operators, CDL truck drivers, operation supervisors, to health and safety advisors. Gas drilling may also bring economic growth and additional employment opportunities through local industries (e.g. food service, hospitality, service technicians/mechanics, fuel dealers). However, it is undetermined at this point if employment opportunities would be open to local residents or to people affiliated with gas companies.

Potential issues associated with gas drilling in Otsego County include, but are not limited to, negative impact on the tourism industry, environment, wildlife, and water issues, deterioration of road infrastructure, home values, quality of life (e.g. noise, visual), and agriculture/farm production.

### Child Care Costs

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services, 2011-2013 Child Care Market Rate provides guidance to local social service districts on the maximum reimbursement for expenditures for all childcare services funded under the New York State Child Care Block Grant (NYSCCBG) and Social Services Block Grant (Title XX). Childcare rates are based on a survey of over 5,000 providers across New York State. Data from the survey is analyzed and the rates clustered into five districts. Market rates are then established for each cluster at the 75th percentile.

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<sup>11</sup> New York State Department of Environment Conservation

<sup>12</sup> Otsego County Conservation Association (OCCA)



The cost of childcare for each type of care and age group for Otsego County is shown in Table 2.10. Childcare costs, including all age groups and type of care, range from \$140-\$190 per week.

**Table 2.10 – Childcare Rates by Type and Age**

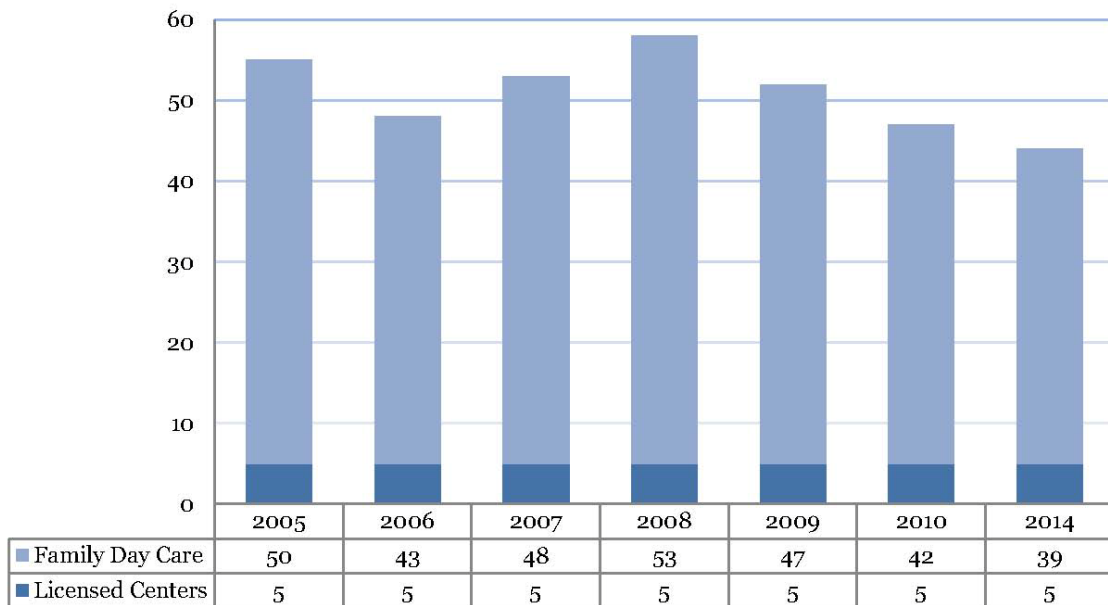
	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School Age
<b>REGISTERED FAMILY DAY CARE</b>				
Weekly	\$150	\$140	\$140	\$140
Daily	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30
Hourly	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.25
<b>GROUP FAMILY DAY CARE</b>				
Weekly	\$150	\$145	\$140	\$140
Daily	\$33	\$32	\$32	\$31
Hourly	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$5.00
<b>DAY CARE CENTER</b>				
Weekly	\$190	\$180	\$170	\$160
Daily	\$42	\$40	\$38	\$35
Hourly	\$6.75	\$6.75	\$6.25	\$6.25

SOURCE: NYS Office of Children & Family Services | Local Commissions Memo. | 11-OCFS-LCM-12

### Child Care Facilities

Data gathered from the Catholic Charities of Delaware and Otsego Counties *Childcare Connection*, *Child Care Services* program, Schoharie County Community Action Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) program, and the NYS Office of Child and Family Services show the number of child care slots in Otsego County have fluctuated over the past 10 years. The source of fluctuation is the number of Family/Group Day Care providers, ranging from a high of 58 in 2008 to a low of 39 in 2014. Licensed day care centers have remained consistent at five. Table 2.11 provides a breakdown on the number of childcare facilities by type for the years 2004-2014.

**Table 2.11 – Child Care Facilities**

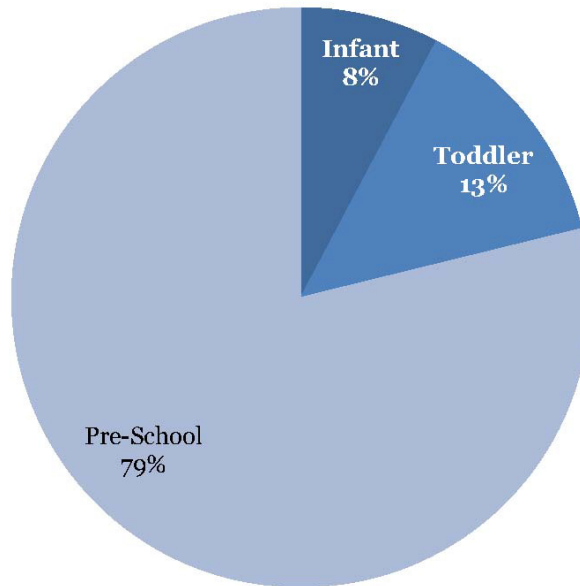


Of Note:

- Head Start centers and the YMCA school-age program are not included in this count.
- Sissy's Little Lamb day care located in Oneonta is not included as it is situated in Delaware County.
- Data for the years 2011-2013 were not available due to a change in agency management of the CCR&R contract through the NYS Office of Children and Family Services.

Per the NYS Office of Child and Family Services data, combined, Otsego County child care facilities are licensed to serve 757 youth: 56 infants; 102 toddlers; 599 preschoolers. Table 2.12 illustrates capacity by type of care.

**Table 2.12 – Child Care Capacity, 2014**



Of Note:

- 295 of the 599 licensed preschool slots are designated for Head Start eligible children.
- Sissy's Little Lamb in Oneonta (Delaware County) is licensed to serve 104 youth (24 infants, 32 toddlers, and 48 preschoolers).

In addition to infant, toddler, and preschool care, five child care facilities in Otsego offer school-age programs. School-age programs provide care for more than six children from kindergarten through age twelve. Care is for children during non-school hours. Programs may also provide care during school vacation periods and holidays. Additional school-age care is offered through 38 Family/group day care providers in Otsego County; however, availability is based on the ratio of infants and toddlers to the total facility enrollment.

**Table 2.13 - School-Age Programs**

Facilities	Location	Capacity
The Brookwood School	Cooperstown	77
Bugbee Children's Center	Oneonta	40
Oneonta Family YMCA	Oneonta	15
Richfield Springs Community Center	Richfield Springs	40
Sissy's Little Lamb	Cherry Valley	20
<b>Total Capacity</b>		<b>192</b>

Up until June 2013, Otsego Northern Catskills BOCES operated the Creating Rural Opportunities Partnership (CROP) afterschool program in twelve school districts throughout Otsego and Delaware Counties. The program provided after-school supervision and academic and cultural activities to 910 children in grades kindergarten through eighth. In June 2013, funding for the program was cut in Otsego County. The districts of Cherry Valley-Springfield, Cooperstown, Edmeston, Morris, Laurens, Milford, Oneonta (Riverside Elementary School), Schenectady and Worcester were impacted.

# Education

## Key Issues:

*The majority (88.8%) of Otsego County residents have a high school education or higher. Of those who did not obtain a high school diploma/GED, 39.7% have a ninth grade education or less. Estimates find that 11% of Otsego County residents over 16 years of age lack basic literacy skills.*

*The average graduation rate in Otsego County over the past twelve school years is 82%. For the four most recent school years, graduation rates fell below the 12-year average of 82% and school years 2007-2008, 2009-2010, and 2011-2012 fell below the New York State standard of 80%. Otego-Unadilla district had the lowest 2011-2012 graduation rate at 61%.*

*Public school enrollment in Otsego County has dropped consistently throughout all districts over the past twelve school years. Total countywide school enrollment in 2011-2012 was 7,760; 2,131 students less than the 1999-2000 school year. The greatest change was in the Laurens district with a 31.8% decrease in enrollment.*

*Otsego County has 58 licensed childcare providers to serve 2,741 children under five years of age. Combined, these providers have capacity to serve 37.4% of the population.*

*In 2012, 6% fewer students (age 4-21) received special education services compared to 2007. As of October 2012, 1,247 students with disabilities were receiving special education services in Otsego County. Forty-two percent of children are diagnosed as having a "Learning Disability".*

## Community Strengths

- Presence of three higher education institutions ( Hartwick College, SUNY Oneonta, Utica School of Commerce) and Job Corps Academy
- Multiple scholarship opportunities for graduating high school students
- More individualized attention in the primary and secondary grades due to small class sizes

## Community Challenges

- Limited access to childcare
- Declining school enrollment and potential school consolidation
- Poor county-wide communication infrastructure to support education (e.g. internet)



### Educational Attainment

Table 3.1 shows the distribution of educational attainment for adults over 25 years of age in Otsego County. The largest group (33.7%) is adults who obtained their high school diploma or general education equivalency (GED). Adults who have “some college” education are the second largest group, representing 18% of the population.

**Table 3.1 - Percent Attaining Educational Levels**

County	% No High School Diploma	% High School Only	% Some College	% Associates	% Bachelors	% Graduate or Professional
Otsego	11.19	33.7	18.0	10.5	15.0	11.5
Statewide	15.10	27.3	16.5	8.3	18.6	14.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.

Table 3.2 compares the distribution of educational attainment levels between veterans and non-veterans in Otsego County. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25, and is an average for the period from 2007 to 2011.

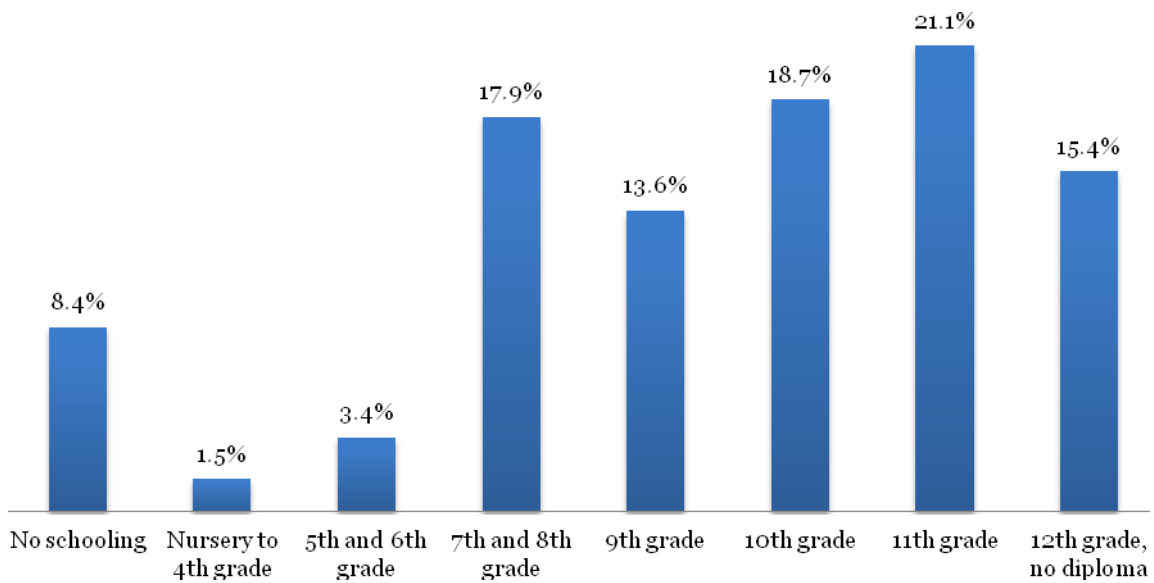
**Table 3.2 - Percent Attaining Educational Levels, Veterans vs. Non-Veterans**

County	Veterans				Non-Veterans			
	% No Diploma	% High School Diploma	%Some College	% Bachelors/Higher	% No Diploma	% High School Diploma	%Some College	% Bachelors/Higher
Otsego	10.77	37.13	31.64	20.46	11.87	34.25	26.86	27.02
Statewide	9.63	34.12	30.96	25.29	15.83	27.28	23.81	33.08

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011 Data Release, December 2012.

Of the 4,144 adults who did not graduate, the majority (21.1%) completed schooling through 11<sup>th</sup> grade, followed by 18.7% completing school through the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The number of adults who received only a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade education is greater than those receiving a 12<sup>th</sup> grade but not receiving a diploma. A breakdown of the educational attainment of non-graduates by grade completed is shown in Table 3.3.

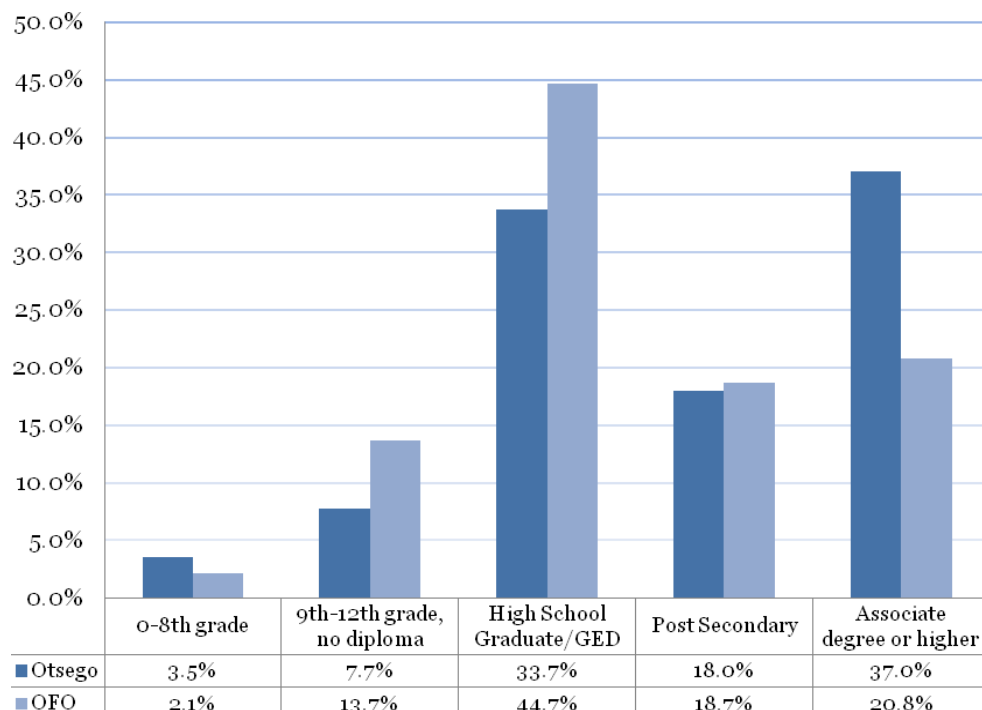
**Table 3.3 – Educational Attainment, Non-Graduates**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.

Table 3.4 compares educational attainment of all Otsego County residents and recipients of services through Opportunities for Otsego (OFO) over the period 10/2012-9/2013.

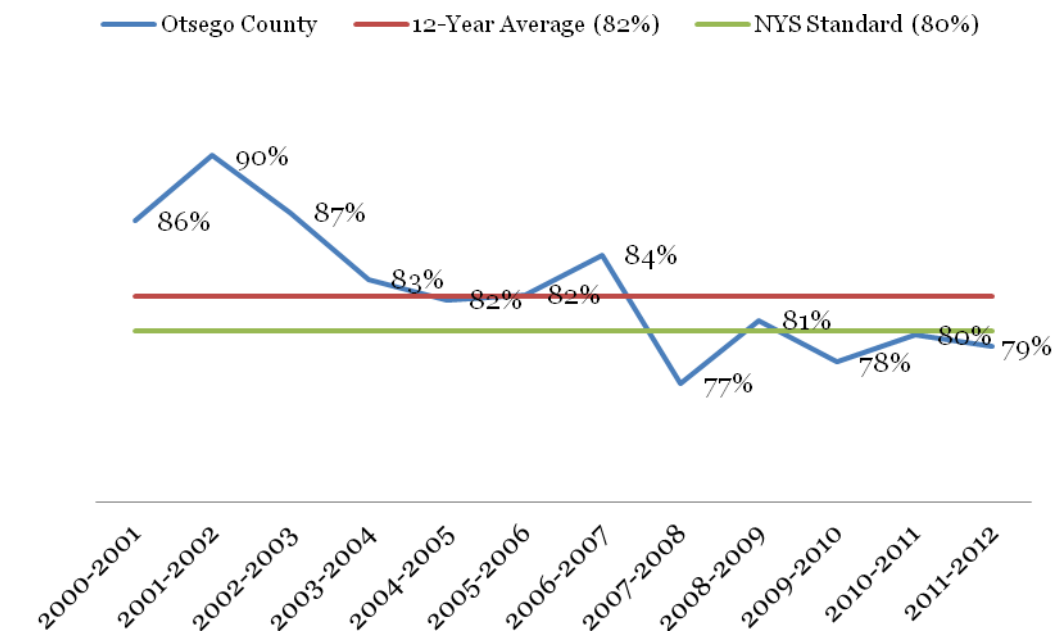
**Table 3.4 – Educational Attainment, Opportunities for Otsego vs. Otsego County**



### High School Graduation Rates

Otsego County graduation rates in for the school years spanning 2000-2001 through 2011-2012 is illustrated in Table 3.5. For the four most recent school years, graduation rates fell below the 12-year average of 82%. School years 2007-2008, 2009-2010, and 2011-2012 all fell below the New York State standard of 80%. The lowest average countywide graduation rate was 77% in 2007-2008. The highest countywide graduation rate was in 2001-2002 at 90%.

**Table 3.5 – High School Graduation Rate, 2001-2012**

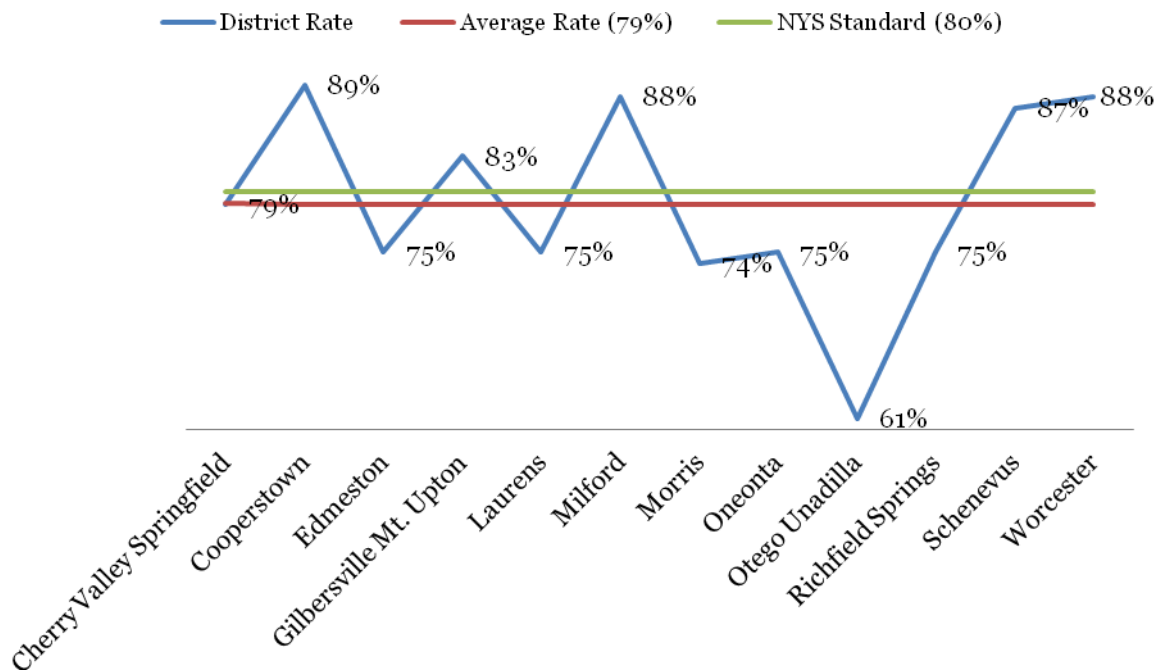


SOURCE: New York State Department of Education | Information and Reporting Services

Of the 632 high school seniors enrolled in the twelve school districts in Otsego County during the 2011-2012 school year, 579 (79%) graduated from high school. Table 3.6 compares the 2011-2012 graduation rates for each public school district in Otsego County and the average graduation rate for the same year. Cooperstown had the highest graduation rate at 89%. The lowest graduation rate (61%) was in the Unadilla-Otego school district.



**Table 3.6 – High School Graduation Rates by District, 2012**



SOURCE: New York State Department of Education | Information and Reporting Services

### 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)*<sup>13</sup>.

### Early Childhood Education

**INFANT & TODDLER CARE:** According to the Schoharie County Child Care Resources and Referral (CCR&R) program and the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, there are 54 licensed early child care providers in Otsego County that provide care to infants and toddlers.<sup>14</sup> These providers include 38 group/family day care providers and three day care centers. In total, these providers have the capacity to serve 445 infants/toddlers.

The cost of childcare varies on the age group and type facility care is offered in. Average childcare costs in Otsego County range from \$140-\$190 per week. Table 2.10 under the section Employment; Child Care Costs provides a breakdown of childcare costs by child age and childcare facility type.

<sup>13</sup> National Center for Educational Statistics | U.S. Department of Education | Institute of Educational Sciences

<sup>14</sup> Data obtained on 03.03.2014

**PRESCHOOL:** According to the Schoharie County CCR&R and the NYS Office of Children and Family Services there are sixteen licensed early childcare providers in Otsego County that provide care to preschool age children. These providers include six independent child care facilities (Great Beginnings Preschool in Burlington Flats; Oneonta Family YMCA; Bugbee Children's Center in Oneonta; Sissy's Little Lamb in Cherry Valley; Springbrook in Oneonta; The Brookwood School in Cooperstown) and ten Head Start centers. The capacity of these programs combined is 599 children. Of this total, 295 preschool slots (49.2%) are designated for children from Head Start-eligible families, whose household income threshold is below 130% of the Federal Poverty Level. 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 Table 2.10 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 295 children (age 3-5) in the preschool program and an additional 100 children (age birth-3) in the Early Head Start early childhood component. Considering the total number of children age birth-five in Otsego County (2,741) and the percentage of children under the age of five living in poverty (24.5%)<sup>15</sup>, it is estimated that 671 children are eligible for Early/Head Start services.

Head Start operates 16 classrooms in nine communities throughout Otsego County. At the conclusion of the 2012-2013 program year, Head Start program served 331 preschool-age children from 304 households. Early Head Start served 162 children and 19 pre-natal mothers through the home-based program component.

### Children Receiving Disabilities Services

**EARLY INTERVENTION**<sup>16</sup>: As of March 2013, the Otsego County Division for Children with Special Needs reported a caseload of 75 children benefitting from early intervention services and 28 children participating in child find services. Compared to data from October 2010, this is an increase of 16 children engaged in early intervention services and a decline of twelve children engaged in child find services <sup>17</sup>.

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<sup>15</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)*, 2012.

<sup>16</sup> The Early Intervention Program is responsible for identifying, locating and tracking infants and toddlers, birth through two years of age who are considered at-risk for a developmental delay. Early Intervention also ensures that a multi-disciplinary evaluation is provided to children with a suspected or confirmed delay. Eligible children and their families receive services based on an individualized family service plan unique to each child's developmental needs.

The Preschool Special Education Program provides services to eligible children ages 3 to 5. Eligibility as a preschool child with a disability is based on the results of an individual evaluation conducted by a multidisciplinary team. The individual evaluation enables the committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) in each local school district to determine whether a child has a disability and, if so, what preschool special education program and or services are appropriate. Services may include: evaluations; speech therapy; physical therapy; occupational therapy; special education itinerant services; special class in an integrated setting.

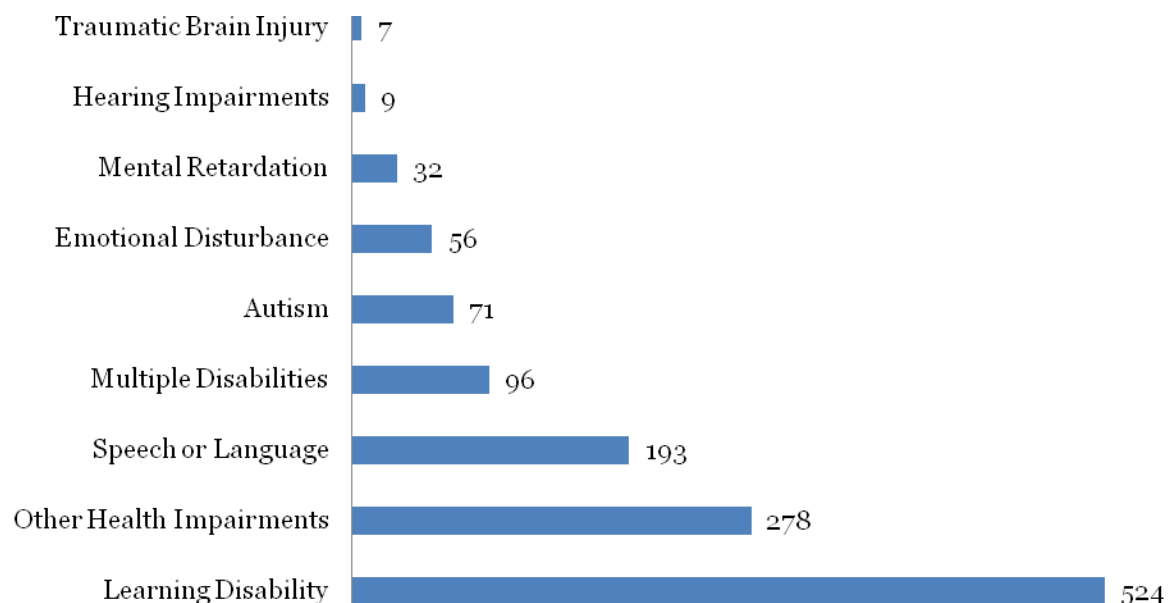
<sup>17</sup> Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council

**PRESCHOOL, PRIMARY, & SECONDARY STUDENTS:** According to the New York State Department Education, 1,247 students with disabilities (age 4-21) received special education services in Otsego County as of October 3, 2012. This number represents a 6% decline compared to the number of students receiving services in December 2007 (n=1,326). Table 3.7 provides the number of students with disabilities receiving special education services categorized by age. Table 3.8 categorizes the same cohort of students by disability type. Table 3.9 illustrates the trends of each disability over the period 2006-2012.

**Table 3.7 - Students with Disabilities Receiving Special Education Services (October 2012)**

Age	4-5	6-11	12-13	14-17	18-21
Number	126	435	215	392	79

**Table 3.8 - Special Education Services by Disability Type(2012), Ages 4-21**



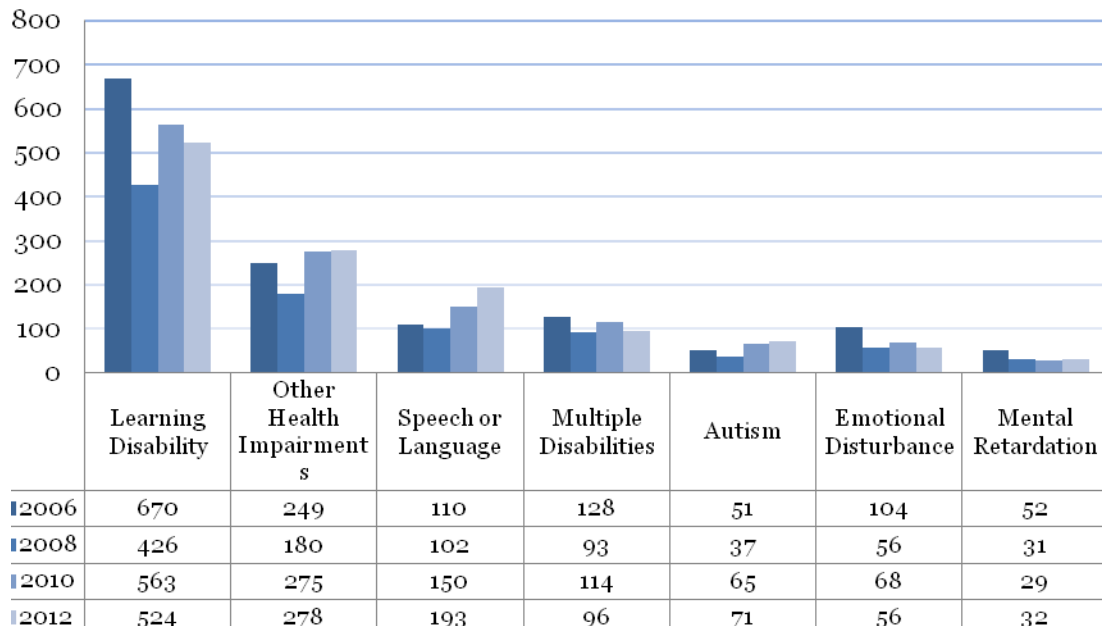
*SOURCE: New York State Dept. of Education | Data Summaries of Special Education*

**Notes:**

- The number of students is a duplicated count, as children may be diagnosed with multiple disabilities.
- No children were reported as having the following disabilities: Deaf-Blindness; Deafness; Orthopedic Impairments; Visual Impairments

**Table 3.9 - Students Receiving Special Education Services by Disability Type, 2006-2012**

## Students Receiving Special Education Services by Disability Type



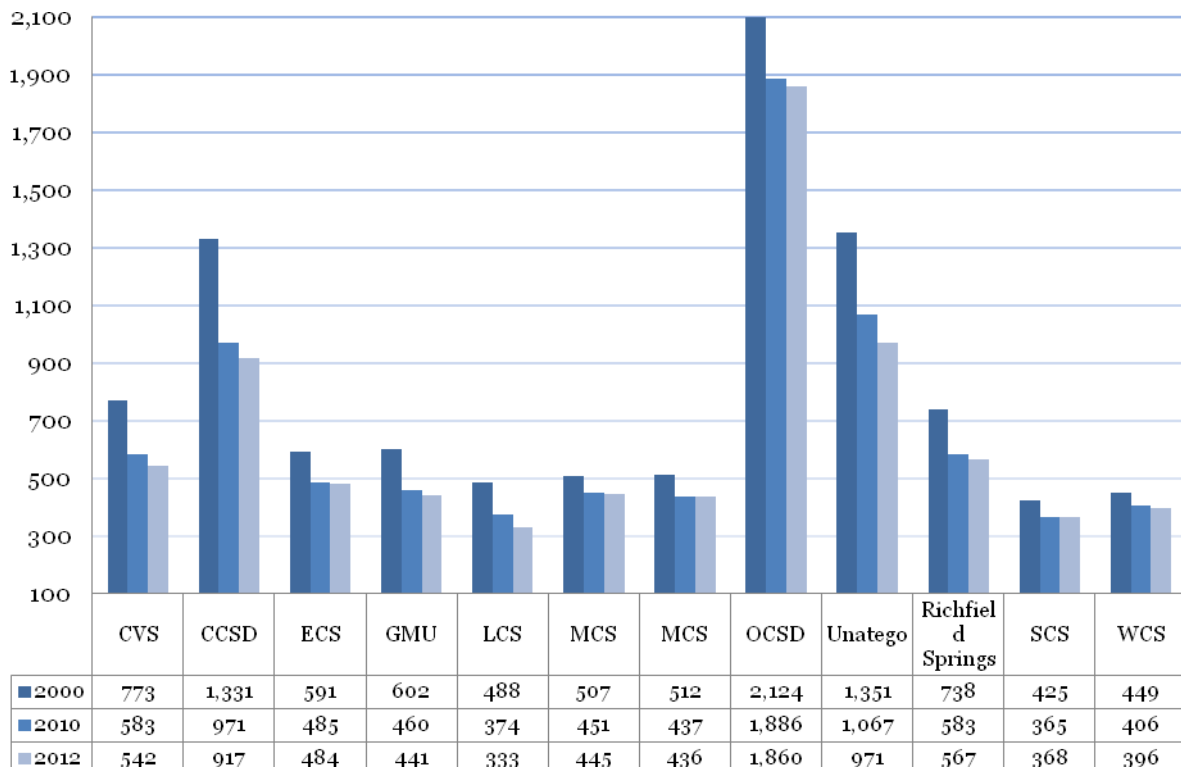
*SOURCE: New York State Dept. of Education | Data Summaries of Special Education*

**Notes:**

- Students with the following disability types were not reported as the cohort was less than 10 individuals: hearing impairments; traumatic brain injury; orthopedic impairments; visual impairments; deaf-blindness; and deafness.

### Elementary and Secondary Education

During the 2011-2012 school year, there were 7,760 children enrolled in grades pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup>, throughout the twelve public school districts in Otsego County. Enrollment has dropped consistently within all school districts since the 1999-2000 school year. The greatest change as a percentage of total enrollment was in the Laurens district with a 31.8% decrease in enrollment (n=155 students). The greatest change as a number of enrolled students is the Cooperstown School District with a drop in enrollment of 414 students (31.1% decline). Schools with the least impact on enrollment as a percentage of total enrollments are Worcester (11.8%), Schenevus (13.4%), and Milford (12.2%). Table 3.10 compares school enrollment by district during the 1999-2000, 2009-2010, and 2011-2012 school years.

**Table 3.10 – Public School Enrollment by District (2000, 2010, 2012)**

In addition to the 12 school districts in Otsego County, there were six private schools open during the 2011-2012 year<sup>18</sup>. Schools include The Brookwood School (Cooperstown), Faith Christian Academy (Cooperstown), Lighthouse Christian Academy (Oneonta), Oneonta Community Christian School (Oneonta), Pathfinder Village School (Edmeston), and The School at Springbrook (Oneonta)<sup>19</sup>. In total, these schools serve 260 children.

Profiles of students enrolled in all schools during the 2011-2012 school year is provided in Table 3.11.

**Table 3.11 - Student Profiles by School District, 2011-2012**

District	Enrollment	Native American	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	ESL	Drop Out Rate
<b>PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS</b>								
Cherry Valley-Springfield	542	0	0%	1%	0%	98%	0.0%	4.8%

<sup>18</sup> Source: National Center for Educational Statistics | PSS Private School Universe Survey

Cooperstown	917	0	3%	1%	2%	93%	0.0%	1.0%
Edmeston	484	0	1%	2%	1%	97%	0.0%	2.4%
Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton	441	0	0%	1%	2%	96%	0.0%	2.7%
Laurens	333	0	1%	0%	5%	93%	0.3%	2.6%
Milford	445	0	1%	2%	3%	93%	0.2%	0.0%
Morris	436	0	1%	5%	17%	77%	0.0%	7.1%
Oneonta	1860	0	3%	7%	6%	83%	0.8%	7.0%
Otego-Unadilla	971	0	1%	1%	4%	93%	0.0%	23.0%
Richfield Springs	567	0	1%	1%	2%	95%	0.0%	5.9%
Schenevus	368	0	1%	3%	3%	92%	0.0%	0.0%
Worcester	396	0	0%	0%	1%	98%	0.2%	6.9%
<b>PRIVATE SCHOOL DISTRICTS</b>								
The Brookwood School	54	0.0%	8.0%	4.0%	0.0%	88%	N/A	X
Faith Christian Academy	8	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	N/A	X
Lighthouse Christian Academy	50	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	95.0%	N/A	N/A
Oneonta Community Christian School	68	0.0%	6.0%	0.0%	4.0%	90.0%	N/A	N/A
Pathfinder Village School	20	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	N/A	X
The School at Springbrook	60	3.0%	2.0%	15.0%	5.0%	75.0%	N/A	X

N/A – data is not available “X” – data is not applicable, as schools do not provide secondary level education

Notes:

- The Brookwood School: 30 of 54 students are enrolled in preschool or Universal Pre-Kindergarten
- Faith Christian Academy: 3 of 8 students are enrolled in preschool or Universal Pre-Kindergarten
- Lighthouse Christian Academy: 7 of 50 students are enrolled in preschool or Universal Pre-Kindergarten
- Oneonta Community Christian School: 13 of 68 students are enrolled in Universal Pre-Kindergarten
- Pathfinder Village and Springbrook are ungraded schools

Additional secondary education is available at the Oneonta Job Corps Academy. Job Corps provides academic training in pursuit of a high school diploma/GED 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: auto body repair; auto mechanics; cement masonry; clinical medical assistant; electrician; facilities maintenance; health occupations/certified nurse aide training; medical office technology; overhead line construction; smart meter; tile setting; underground residential distribution.

### Higher Education

Table 3.12 provides a listing of colleges, universities, and trade schools within 46 miles of Oneonta and compares the school type, available degrees, and tuition rates for each.

**Table 3.12 - Colleges/Universities/Trade Schools Within 46 miles of 13820**

Name of Institution	Type of School	Location	Miles from 13820	Degrees Offered	Tuition (2012-13)
<b>LESS THAN 15 MILES</b>					
Hartwick College	Private not-for-profit 4-year or above	Oneonta	< 0.5 miles	Bachelor's	\$37,460
Otsego Area BOCES-School of Practical Nursing	Public less-than-2-year	Oneonta	< 0.5 miles	Certificates	\$9,720
SUNY College at Oneonta	Public 4-year or above	Oneonta	< 0.5 miles	Bachelor's, Master's, Postbaccalaureate, Post-master's	\$6,896 (In State) \$16,146 (Out of State)
Utica School of Commerce	Private for-profit 2-year	Oneonta	< 0.5 miles	Certificate's Associate's	\$12,865
SUNY College of Technology at Delhi	Public 4-year or above	Delhi	14.6 miles	Associate's Bachelor's	\$7,090 (In State) \$11,260 (Out of State)
<b>15 - 46 MILES</b>					
Delaware Chenango Madison Otsego BOCES-Practical Nursing	Public less-than-2-year	Norwich	23.7 miles	Certificates	\$8,150
SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill	Public 4-year or above	Cobleskill	33.5 miles	Associate's Bachelor's	\$8,262 (In State) \$17,512 (Out of State)
Colgate University	Private not-for-profit 4-year or above	Hamilton	34.8 miles	Bachelor's Master's	\$44,640
Herkimer County BOCES-Practical Nursing Program	Public less-than-2-year	Ilion	38.4 miles	Certificates	\$8,825
Herkimer County Community College	Public 2-year	Herkimer	39.7 miles	Certificate's Associate's	\$4,240 (In State) \$6,400 (Out of State)
Morrisville State College	Public 4-year or above	Morrisville	43.7 miles	Certificate's Associate's Bachelor's	\$8,277 (In State) \$17,527 (Out of State)
Mohawk Valley Community College	Public 2-year	Utica	44.1 miles	Certificate's Associate's	\$4,130 (In State) \$7,710 (Out of State)
Saint Elizabeth College of Nursing	Private not-for-profit,	Utica	44.1 miles	Associate's	\$14,000 (In State) \$21,500 (Out of State)

	2-year				State)
Utica School of Commerce	Private for-profit 2-year	Utica	44.1 miles	Certificate's Associate's	\$12,100
Hamilton College	Private not-for-profit 4-year or above	Clinton	44.3 miles	Bachelor's	\$44,350
Faxton-St Luke's Healthcare School of Radiologic Technology	Private not-for-profit, 2-year	Utica	45.3 miles	Certificates	N/A
SUNY Institute of Technology at Utica-Rome	Public 4-year or above	Utica	45.7 Miles	Bachelor's, Master's, Post-master's	\$6,764 (In State) \$16,014 (Out of State)
Utica College	Private not- for-profit, 4- year or above	Utica	45.7 miles	Certificates, Bachelor's, Master's, Doctor's- professional practice	\$31,930



# Housing

## *Key Issues:*

*Forty-two percent of the 30,737 housing units in Otsego County were built before 1940 and roughly, 50% of housing units in Oneonta were built before 1940.*

*Almost 2% of residents in Otsego County live in overcrowded conditions; 1% of housing units do not have plumbing; and 32% of homeowners and 57% of renters are “cost burdened” - having housing costs greater than 30% of their annual income.*

*Seventy-five homes were in foreclosure status as of February 2014.*

*The estimated wait time for subsidized housing in Otsego County averages 2-3 years.*

*The average number of HEAP benefits authorized over the 8-year period from 2007-2013 is 6,088. Authorized benefits during the 2013 HEAP season were down 19% from 2011.*

*Over the period 2009-2012, there was an average of 78 homeless students in Otsego County school districts. The greatest percentage of homeless students per district enrollment in 2012 were Milford, Edmeston, and Laurens Central School districts.*

## Community Strengths

- Open land for housing development
- Representation in the regional HUD Continuum of Care

## Community Challenges

- Aged housing: high maintenance and renovation costs; lead-based paints
- Rising heating costs
- Lack of affordable rental housing
- Housing for persons with special needs (e.g. transitional and substance abuse recovery)



### Housing Units

According to the 2012 ACS 5-year data release, there are 30,737 total housing units in Otsego County, an increase of 2,101 units since July 2000. Of these units, 79.8% are occupied and 20.2% are vacant.

### Homeowners & Vacancy Rates

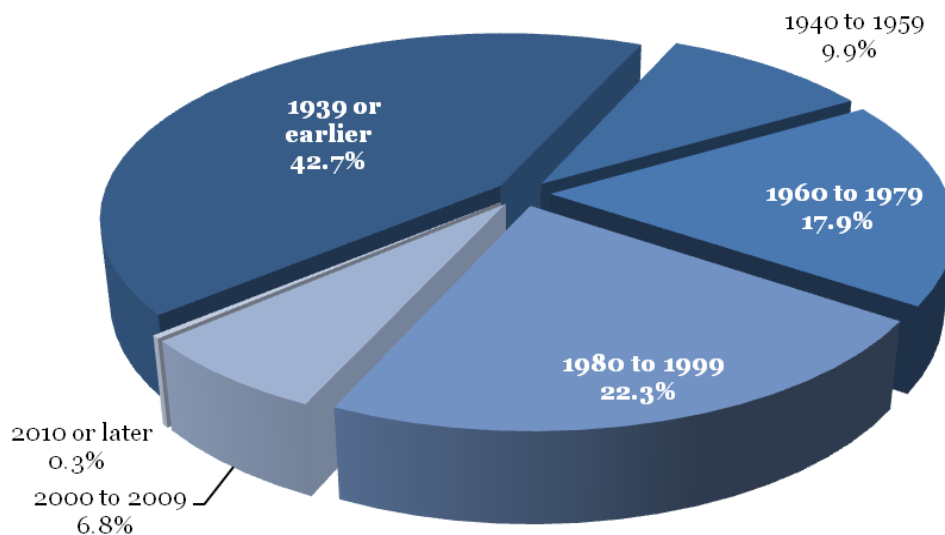
Of the 24,541 occupied housing units in 2012 in Otsego County, 72.5% were owner-occupied. Comparatively, the number of occupied rental units was 6,748, representing 27.5% of occupied housing in 2012.

According to the 2010 US Census, characteristics of vacant housing units are: 10% are for rent; 0.7% are rented but not occupied; 8.3% are for sale; 2.1% are sold, but not occupied; 58.8% are for seasonal or recreational use; and 20.1% are vacant for “other” reasons.

### Housing Age

According to the 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, less than 1.0% of the housing stock in Otsego County was built after 2010. In contrast, 42.7% of all housing units in Otsego County were built before 1940. The median year in which all housing was built was 1956. Table 4.1 shows the percentage of housing units by age in Otsego County.

**Table 4.1 – Housing Stock by Age, Otsego County**



*SOURCE: 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*

### Housing Problem: Overcrowding

The number of occupied housing units, overcrowded housing units, and the percent of overcrowded units for 2000 and 2012 are provided for Otsego County in Table 4.2. Housing units are deemed overcrowded when there is more than one person per room. The average for the report area is 1.89%.

**Table 4.2 - Overcrowded Housing Units**

County	Occupied Housing Units, 2000	Overcrowded Housing Units, 2000	Percent Overcrowded, 2000	Occupied Housing Units, 2008/2012	Overcrowded Housing Units, 2008/2012	Percent Overcrowded, 2008/2012
Otsego	23,291	20	0.09	24,541	463	1.89
Statewide	7,056,860	92,454	1.31	7,230,896	343,120	4.75

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3, 2000.; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.

### Housing: Substandard Homes

The number and percentage of occupied housing units without plumbing in Otsego County are shown in Table 4.3. U.S. Census data shows 80 housing units in the report area were without plumbing in 2000 and ACS five year estimates show 223 housing units in the report area were without plumbing in 2012. Homes lacking a complete kitchen or plumbing facilities are assumed as the most severe problem, followed by “overcrowding”, and then “cost burden”.

**Table 4.3 - Housing Units without Plumbing, 2000 and 2008 - 2012**

County	Occupied Housing Units, 2000	Housing Units without Plumbing, 2000	Percent without Plumbing, 2000	Occupied Housing Units, 2008-2012	Housing Units without Plumbing, 2008-2012	Percent without Plumbing, 2008-2012
Otsego	23,291	80	0.28	30,737	223	0.91
Statewide	7,056,860	58,418	0.76	8,102,223	46,253	0.64

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3, 2000.; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.

### Fair Market Rent

The Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment in Otsego County is \$844; up \$111 from 2011. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities, without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a

household must earn approximately \$2,813 monthly or \$33,760 annually. Table 4.4 provides the 2014 FMR for all apartment types.

**Table 4.4 - Final FY 2014 Fair Market Rents (FMR) By Unit Bedrooms**

	Efficiency	One-Bedroom	2-Bedroom	3-Bedroom	4-Bedroom
<b>Final FY 2014 FMR</b>	\$628	\$680	\$844	\$1,134	\$1,205

*SOURCE: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*

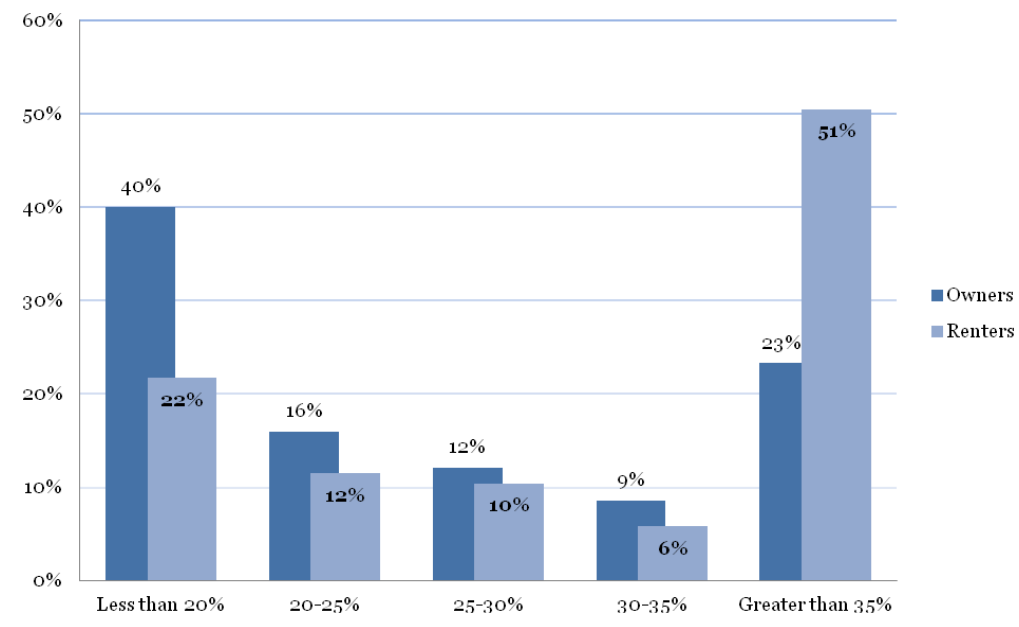
#### Average Home Costs

The median house value of owner-occupied housing over the period 2008-2012 in Otsego County was \$134,200.<sup>20</sup> This is an increase of over \$59,800 compared to house values in 2000 (\$74,400).<sup>21</sup>

#### 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 2012 was \$47,318, a family would have to pay \$14,195 or less a year on housing costs to be “affordable”. Table 4.5 summarizes housing cost burden all renters and homeowners in Otsego County.

**Table 4.5 – Housing Cost Burden: Renters and Owners**



<sup>20</sup> <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/36/36077.html>

<sup>21</sup> [http://www.city-data.com/county/Otsego\\_County-NY.html](http://www.city-data.com/county/Otsego_County-NY.html)

## Foreclosures

According to RealtyTrac, there were 75 homes in foreclosure in Otsego County in February 2014.

## Section 8 Waiting List

Agency reports as of January 2014, state the Otsego Rural Housing Assistance waiting list has been frozen since April 2013 (e.g. not able to move anyone from waiting list to approval). Prior to freeze, the time on waiting list averaged three to 3.5 years. Oneonta Housing Authority (OHA) has not been accepting new applications for 2 years (since 2012). Some applications have been on waiting list since 2008. The average waiting time is three or more years. OHA is considering opening up the waiting list to accept new applications

## Housing Authority Waiting List

Table 4.6 below provides the number of eligible households on the waiting list for housing provided through the Oneonta Housing Authority. Data is from March 2013.

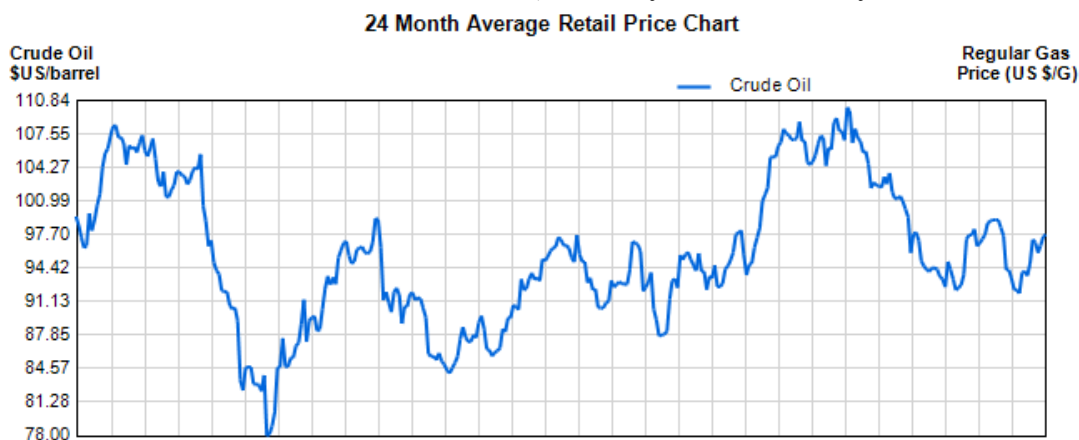
**Table 4.6 – Housing Authority Waiting List, March 2013**

Housing Facility	Households on Wait List	Approximate Wait Time
Academy Arms	40	2 or more years.
James Lettis Apartments	22	One year for a 2-bedroom; 2-3 years for a 3-bedroom.
Nader Towers Section 8/Housing Choice Voucher	47	One year for an efficiency unit; 2-years for a one bedroom.

## Home Heating Costs

The price of crude oil has fluctuated drastically since 2/2010. Prices have ranged from \$78.00/barrel in August 2012 to a high of almost \$110.00/barrel in August 2014. Table 4.7 shows the price of crude oil over the period 2/2012-2/2014.

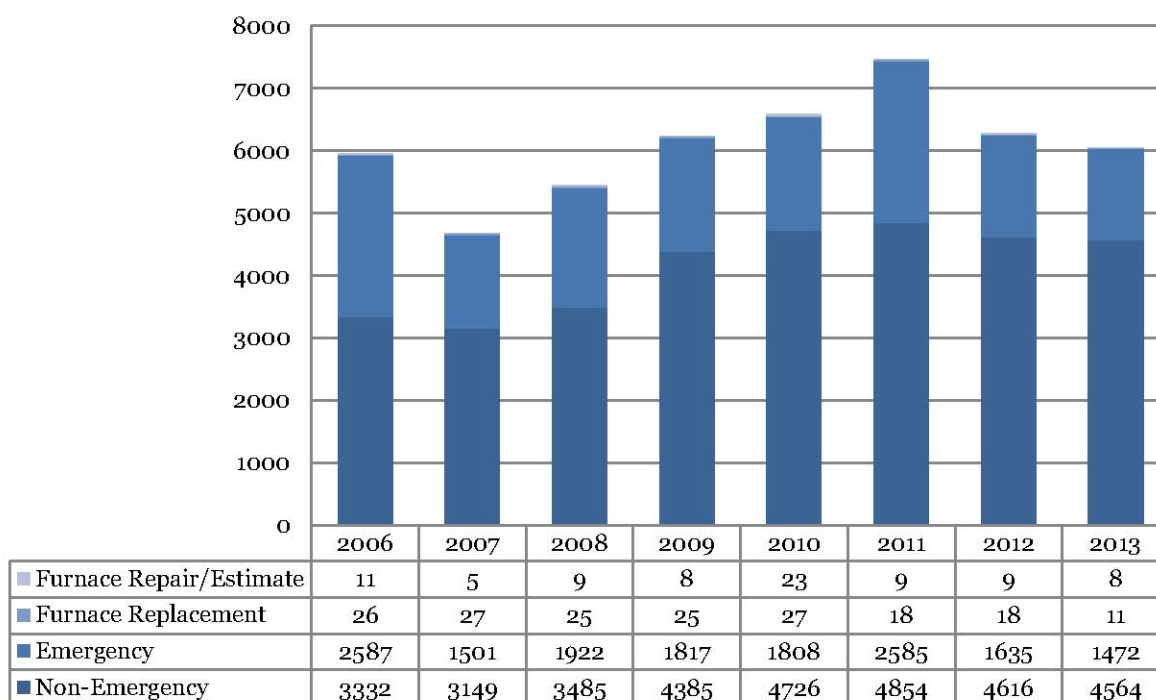
**Table 4.7 – Crude Oil Prices, January 2012 - January 2014**



### Home-Energy Needs

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 also offers an emergency benefit for households in a heat or heat related energy emergency and a furnace repair and/or replacement benefit for households with inoperable heating equipment. Table 4.8 provides a breakdown of all HEAP benefits paid to vendors during for the 2006-2013 HEAP seasons. Since 2007, the total number of HEAP benefits was on the rise until a decline in 2012.

**Table 4.8 – Authorized HEAP Benefits, 2006-2013**



*SOURCE: NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance | Resources & Data | Monthly Caseload Statistics*

Of note:

- Otsego County experienced widespread flooding during the 2006 HEAP season. Data was not attainable for 2005 to determine a baseline.
- In 2008 and 2009, second regular benefits were issued to a total of 897 and 412 households respectively.
- In 2010, an additional benefit was distributed to households with income levels between 60%-75% of the state median income (n=3,846).
- Benefit amounts for the 2011-2012 HEAP season were reduced 25-35% from the previous year. The base benefit for oil, kerosene, and propane was reduced to \$450 from \$600; wood, coal, pellets, and corn was reduced to \$250 from \$600; and natural gas, and electric heat was reduced

to \$250 from \$400. The date for emergency benefits was also pushed later into the heating season, from November 1st to January 3rd.

- 2012 and 2013 data does not include second benefit data.

Opportunities for Otsego offers additional heating assistance to low-income Otsego County residents when HEAP is not in season, typically May through September. Through Opportunities for Otsego, households may get emergency assistance for cooking, heating, and electric. Below provides a breakdown of services provided during the years 2008-2013:

<b>Emergency Utility Assistance Opportunities for Otsego</b>						
<b>Heating Type</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Cooking	34	24	17	11	4	2
Heating	3	16	3	2	0	0
Electric	3	1	3	0	0	0
Total	40	41	23	13	4	2

Opportunities for Otsego (OFO) also operates the Weatherization program. Over the period 4/1/2007 – 3/31/2013, OFO weatherized 657 units. Currently, 77 households are on the waiting list, 64 are approved applications and 13 are pending additional information.

Of note:

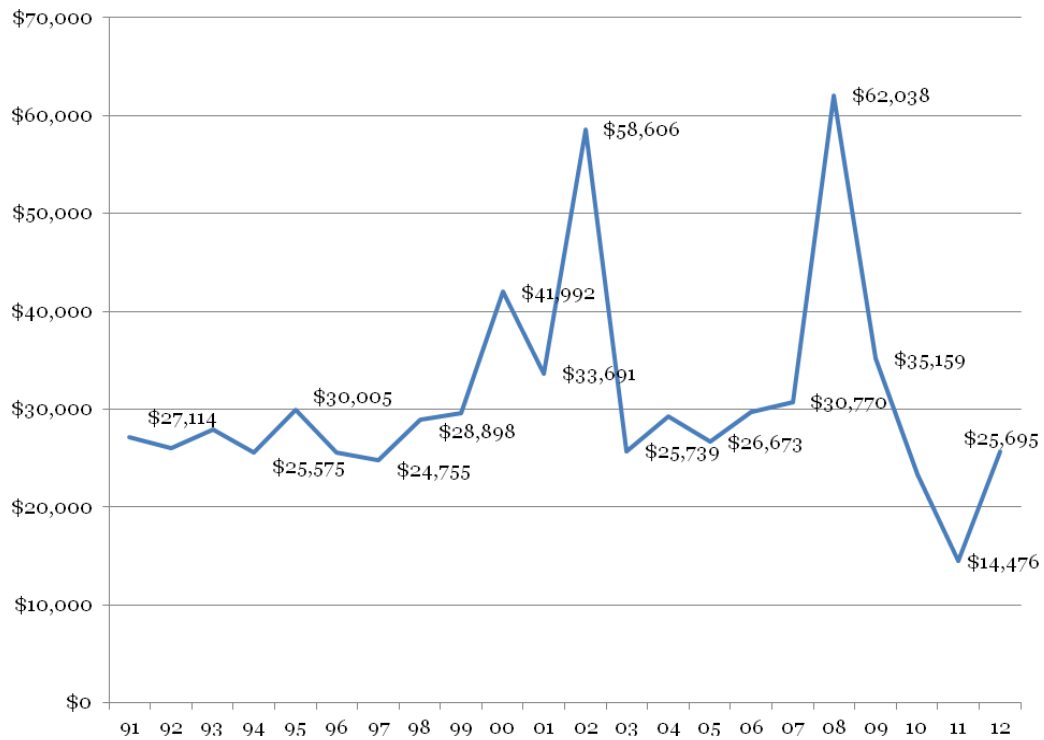
- Over the period 11/1/2009-3/31/2011, Weatherization was able to serve an additional 208 units through ARRA funding.
- Current funding levels only allow weatherization of 41-47 units annually.

#### FEMA

The FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) allocates funds to Otsego County to provide emergency food, shelter, housing, and utility assistance to households in crisis. Data from the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program reports that Otsego County has been a recipient of EFSP funds since 1991. Table 4.9 provides Otsego County FEMA-EFSP allocations since inception. The funding award for 2011 is the lowest in Otsego County history.

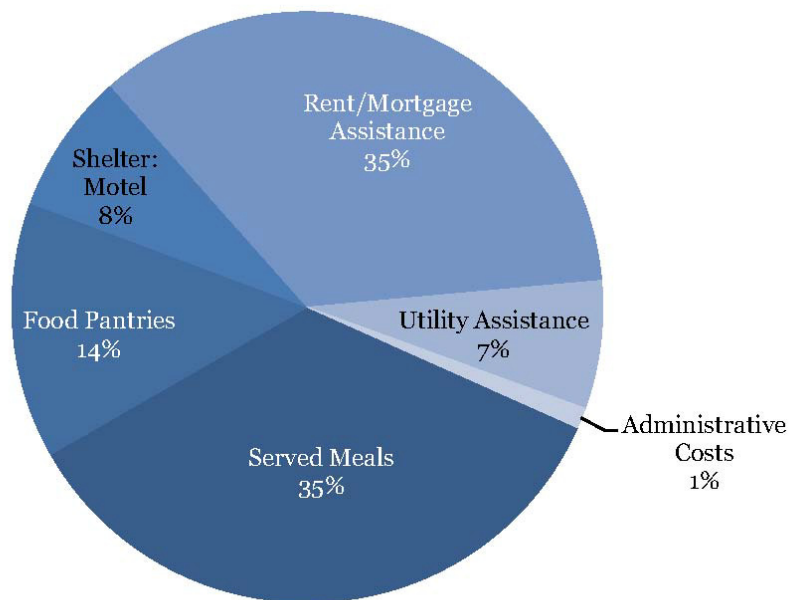
Table 4.10 provides the amount of local FEMA-EFSP funding spent per category in Otsego County during 2011.

**Table 4.9 – FEMA-EFSP Allocations, 1991-2012**



NOTE: The 2009 allocation includes a regular allocation of \$42,358 and an ARRA allocation of \$19,680.

**Table 4.10 – FEMA-EFSP Local Spending, 2011**



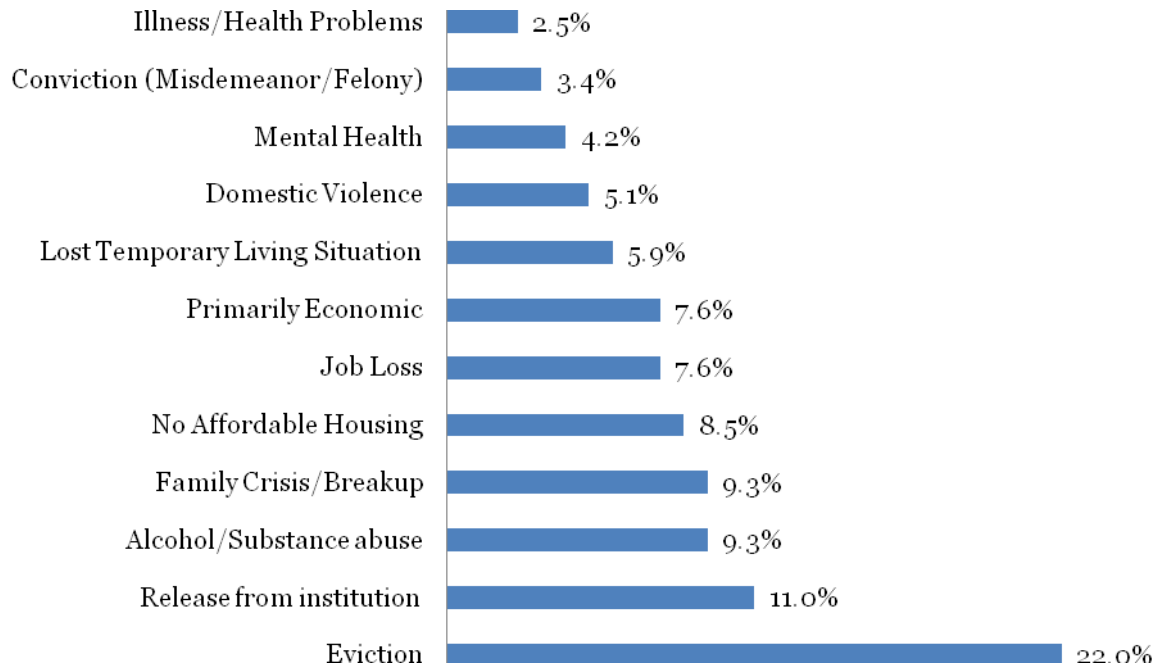
SOURCE: FEMA | Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program



### Homelessness

Over the period 1/2013 – 12/2013, Opportunities for Otsego housed 456 homeless individuals through its domestic violence shelter, emergency housing shelter, and at area motels. The presenting issue for the 43 persons housed at the domestic violence shelter was family violence/safety issues. Characteristics/stressors of the adults housed at the emergency housing shelter are presented in Table 4.11.

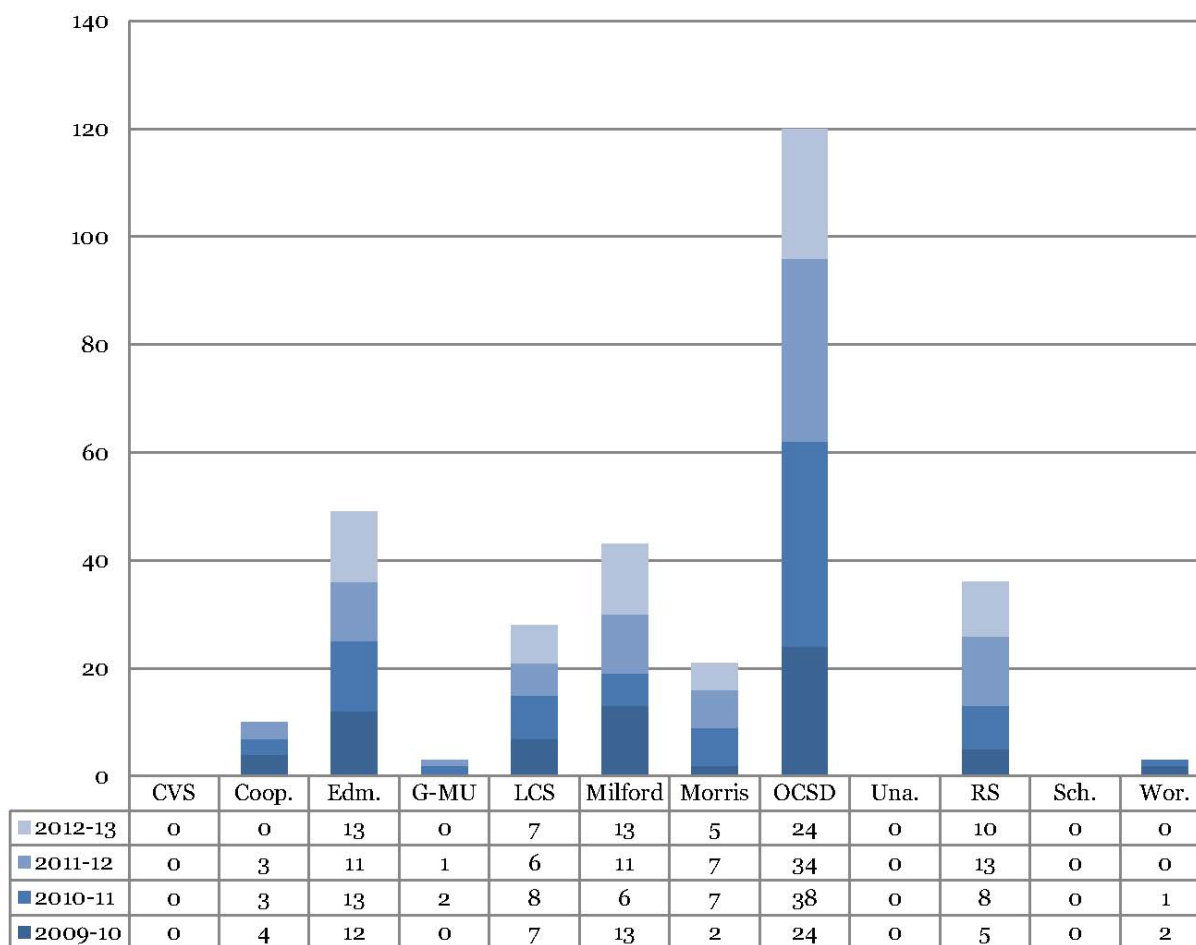
**Table 4.11 – Reason for Homelessness, 2013**



### Homeless Children

According to the New York State Education Department, Student Information Repository System (SIRS) the City of Oneonta School District had the highest number of homeless student among all districts in Otsego County over the past three school years (n=120). Edmeston Central School, whose student enrollment is approximately a quarter in size of Oneonta, had the second highest number of homeless students (n=49). Comparing the number of homeless students as a percentage of enrollment for the 2012-2013 school year, Milford ranks the highest (2.9%), with Edmeston (2.7%) and Laurens (2.1%) ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively. Table 4.12 shows the number of homeless students per school year by district.

**Table 4.12 – Homeless Students, 2009-2013**



*SOURCE: NYS Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students (NYS-TEACHES)*

Through emergency housing services at Opportunities for Otsego, 41 children, age birth to five, were housed at the domestic violence shelter (n=25) and the emergency homeless shelter (n=16) over the period 1/2012 through 12/2012. Additionally, thirteen pregnant women were housed at these shelters, with four residing at the domestic violence shelter and 9 at the emergency homeless shelter.

#### Continuum of Care

Otsego County is an active member of a five-county HUD-designated Continuum of Care that includes Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, and Otsego counties. Continuum of Care (CoC) is a program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that promotes community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. CoC provides (1) funding for efforts by nonprofit providers and state and local governments to rapidly re-house homeless households to minimize trauma and dislocation; (2) promotes access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs; and (3) optimizes self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

# Nutrition

## *Key Issues:*

*The 2009 food insecurity rate in Otsego County was 10.3% of the total population, which equates to 6,400 people.*

*On average, 43% of students enrolled in Otsego County public schools during the 2011-2012 year were enrolled for the free and reduced lunch program. Districts with the highest increase in percentage of students participating comparing the 2004-2012 average and 2011-2012 actual are the Laurens and Morris school districts (23%), the Unatego and Worcester school districts (18%) and the Cooperstown school district (17%).*

*The number of households receiving SNAP (a.k.a. food stamp) benefits in Otsego County over the period 2011-2012 has remained stable. In December 2010, 3,124 households consisting of 6,049 individuals were receiving benefits, compared 3,278 households and 6,217 individuals in December 2013.*

## Community Strengths

- Free and reduced lunch program
- Nutritional resources to the elderly
- Access to fresh produce through established farmers markets

## Community Challenges

- Limited nutritional resources outside of Oneonta
- Increase SNAP/food stamp rolls



### Food Insecurity

According to *Feeding America*, the 2011 food insecurity rate in Otsego County was 10.3% of the total population, which equates to 6,400 people. Of this group, 54% live below 130% of the federal poverty level, 22% between 130-185% of the federal poverty level, and 24% live above 185% of the federal poverty level and are ineligible for certain nutrition programs<sup>22</sup>.

### 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.

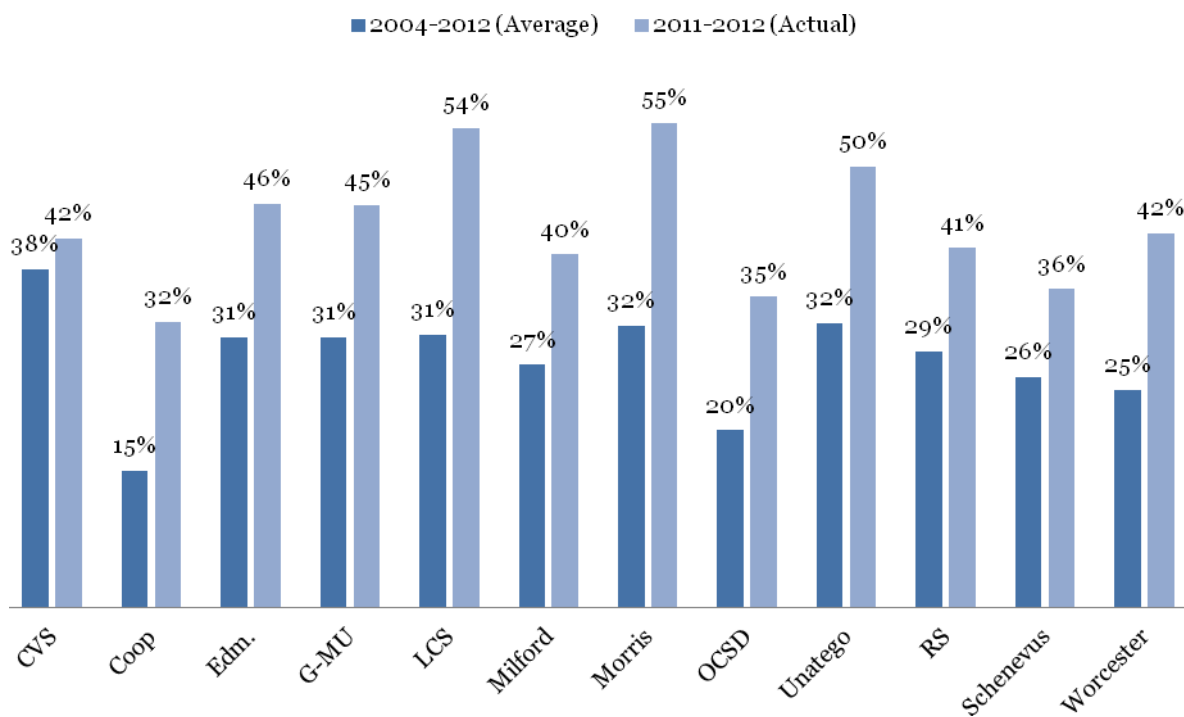
Eligibility for the free/reduced school lunch program is based on household income. The household income eligibility threshold for free meals is up to 130% of the federal poverty level. Eligibility for reduced lunch is between 131-185% of the federal poverty level.

Table 5.1 illustrates the average percentage of students participating in the free/ reduced lunch program by school district over the period 2004-2012 compared to percentage of children participating during the 2011-2012 school year. There was a 23% increase in participation in the Laurens and Morris school districts, an 18% increase in the Unatego and Worcester school districts and a 17% increase in the Cooperstown school district. The average percentage of children accessing the free/reduced lunch program across all school districts during the 2004-2012 period is 28%.

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<sup>22</sup> <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap.aspx>

**Table 5.1 – Free/Reduced Lunch, 2004-2012 vs. 2011-2012**



SOURCE: NYS Department of Education School Report Cards

#### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamp Program)

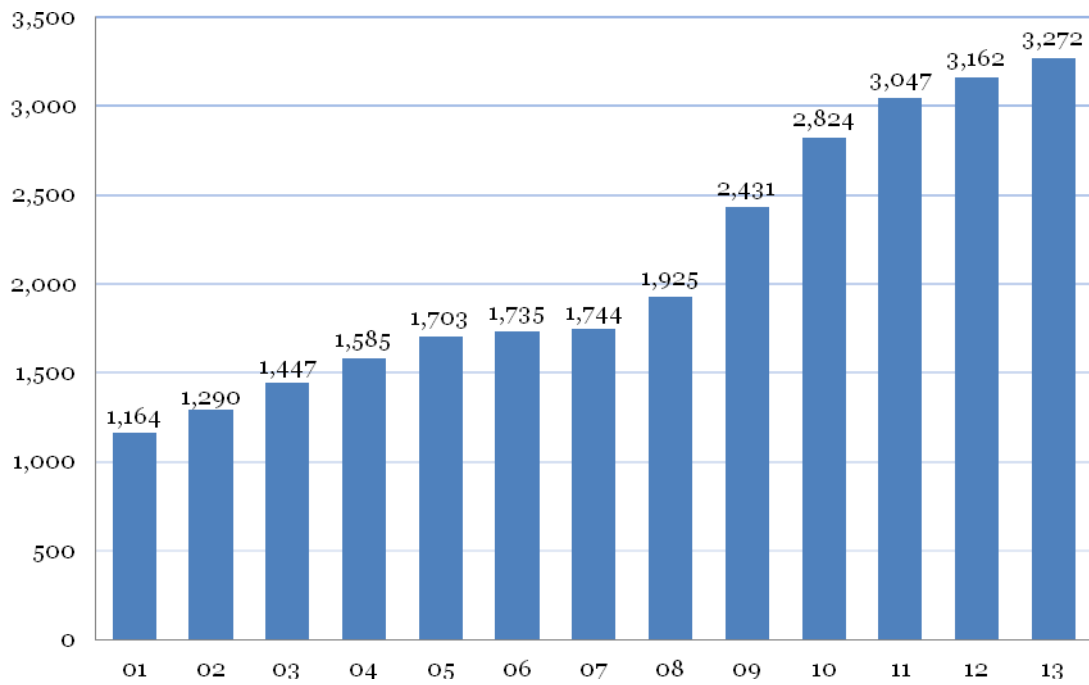
The SNAP caseload in Otsego County continues to increase partially due to changes in regulations, which have made benefits more accessible to households. In August and September 2011, Otsego County was declared a disaster county due to flooding damage from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Many households requested replacement of Food Stamp benefits to replace food purchases lost due to the disaster. The disaster designation also allowed the county to operate a Disaster Food Stamp Benefit Program. This program helped individuals who would not normally have been eligible for Food Stamp benefits<sup>23</sup>.

In December 2013, average SNAP benefit for Otsego County households was \$222 per month. This amount is \$40 less per month compared December 2010. During the period 10/2012 – 9/2013, 1,490 individuals served by Opportunities for Otsego benefitted from SNAP benefits.

The average number of households receiving SNAP/food stamp benefits annually in Otsego County for the calendar years 2001-2013 is shown in Table 5.2. Table 5.3 shows the average number of individuals receiving SNAP/food stamp benefits over the last twelve years.

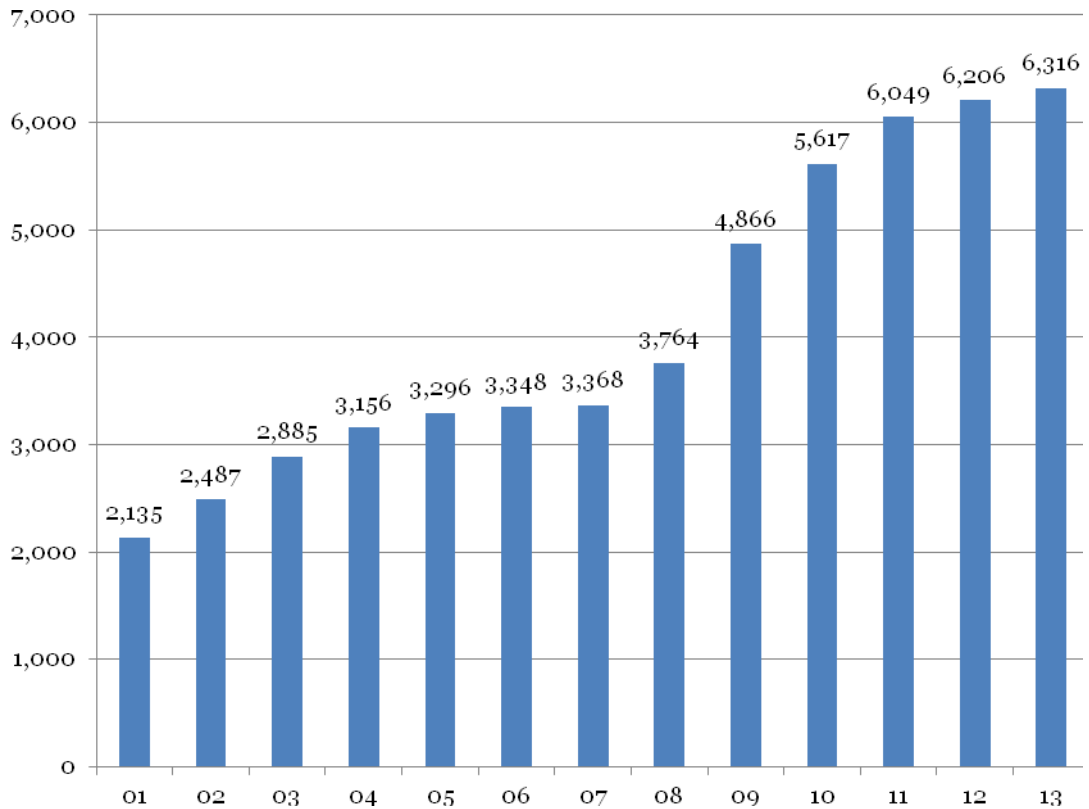
<sup>23</sup> Otsego County DSS, 2011 Annual Report

**Table 5.2 – Households Receiving SNAP Benefits, 2001-2013**



*SOURCE: NYS OTDA | Monthly Caseload Statistics*

**Table 5.3 - Individuals Receiving SNAP Benefits, 2001-2013**



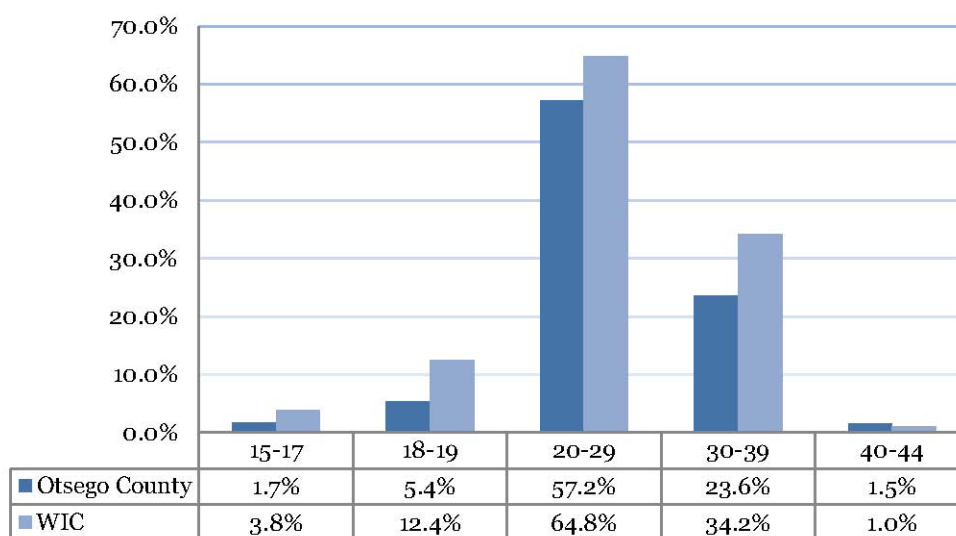
*SOURCE: NYS OTDA | Monthly Caseload Statistics*

### 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. In 2011, 1,168 prenatal-postpartum women, infants, and children received benefits from the Otsego County WIC program.<sup>24</sup>

A comparative analysis of the age of all pregnant women in Otsego County and that of prenatal WIC participants is provided in Table 5.4. The total number of live births during 2011 was 535.<sup>25</sup>

**Table 5.4 – Prenatal Women, Otsego County vs. WIC, 2011**



*SOURCE: CDC Pregnancy Nutrition Surveillance Report (2012), NYS Department of Health Vital Statistics (2011)*

### Senior Nutrition Centers

According to the Otsego County Office for the Aging, there are six dining centers in Otsego County. Residents must be 60 years of age or older and make reservations 24-hours in advance of the established mealtime. The chart below lists each meal site, with the location, and days of operation. Home delivered meals are also available. An alternative option is delivery of fresh meals five days a week with a possibility of two frozen weekend meals or a once a week delivery of all frozen meals.

Otsego County Senior Meal Sites		
Town	Location	Schedule
Cherry Valley	The Old School	Mondays and Wednesdays

<sup>24</sup>The CDC Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance Report, 2012

<sup>25</sup>NYS DOH Vital Statistics

Garrettsville	New Lisbon Town Hall	3rd & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday
Oneonta	Elm Park United Methodist Church	Monday – Friday
Oneonta	Nader Towers	Monday – Friday
Richfield Springs	Veterans Club	Monday – Friday
Unadilla	Unadilla Village Apartments	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday

The Office for the Aging also provides income-eligible elderly households with one booklet of Farmer's Market Coupons annually. Income thresholds are \$1,574 per month for a one-person household and \$2,110 per month for a two-person household. Coupons are a \$20 value and can be used from July through November.

#### Feeding Programs & Food Pantries

The following charts summarize the feeding programs and community pantries operating in Otsego County<sup>26</sup>.

Otsego County Meal Programs		
Town	Location	Schedule
Oneonta	The Lord's Table at St. James Episcopal Church	Monday – Friday, 4:30- 6:00 pm
Oneonta	Saturday's Bread at the First United Methodist Church	Saturday, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Oneonta	Meal with a Message at the Salvation Army	Sunday, 4:00 pm

Otsego County Food Pantries		
Town	Location	Notes
Burlington Flats	First Baptist Church of Burlington Flats	Monday–Friday, 8am – 3pm
Cherry Valley	Daily Bread Food Pantry, Assembly of God Church	Sundays 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM; Thursdays noon –4PM. Cherry Valley area only.
Cherry Valley	Honey Hill Food Pantry	
Cooperstown	Cooperstown Food Bank at the Presbyterian Church	Monday - Friday, 10:00am-Noon and 2:00-4:00pm
Edmeston	Second Baptist Church Food Pantry	Appointment only
Fly Creek	Fly Creek Food Pantry, Fire House	
Gilbertsville	Butternut Valley Food Pantry	Appointment only/Also provides toiletries

<sup>26</sup> SOURCE: Hunger Coalition of Otsego County Network: List as of 02/17/2012



Hartwick	Hartwick United Methodist Church	Appointment only
Laurens	Presbyterian Church	Appointment only
Laurens	St. Matthew's Lutheran Church	Appointment only
Maryland	Maryland Baptist Church	Appointment only
Mt. Upton	United Methodist Church	Appointment only
New Berlin	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	Appointment only
Oneonta	St. James Episcopal Church	Monday – Friday, 9 AM – noon; afternoon by appointment
Oneonta	St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church	Monday - Friday, 11:00am- 3:00pm
Oneonta	Salvation Army	Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Otego	Otego Baptist Church	Monday – Friday 9am–4pm. Also provides toiletries
Richfield Springs	Church of Christ Uniting	Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00am- Noon/2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday, 10:00am-Noon
Schenevus	Tri-Valley Food Pantry at the Methodist Church	Appointment only/Limited to immediate area
Unadilla	Unadilla United Methodist Church	Mon, Fri, Sat 11am–noon. Must live in Unadilla School District.
Worcester	First Presbyterian Church	Appointment only/Limited to immediate area

Seasonal nutrition assistance is available through a variety of holiday food basket programs in Otsego County. The three major organizations providing assistance (The Family Service Association, Opportunities for Otsego, and the Salvation Army) provided food to roughly 900 families in 2013. Additional assistance is available through local pantries and groups, such as Rotary and churches.

#### Farmer's Markets

There are five 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. Below is the list of farmer's markets in Otsego County<sup>27</sup>.

Otsego County Farmer's Markets		
Town	Location	Notes

<sup>27</sup> SOURCE: New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets

Cooperstown*	Pioneer Alley, 101 Main St. Behind Key Bank	Tuesday 12pm - 5pm, Jul-Aug Saturday 8am - 2pm (Saturday starts 10am, Jan - Apr)
Fly Creek	852 County Highway 26, United Methodist	June - September Wednesday 3pm - 6pm
Morris*	Village of Morris, W. Main St., behind Firehouse	May - October Thursday 3pm-6pm
Oneonta*	Kim Muller Plaza, Main Street, next to Key Bank	June-December Saturday, 9:00am-2:00pm
Oneonta	Main Street/Parking Garage Walkway	January-May Alternate Saturdays 9am - 1pm
Richfield Springs*	Main Street at Church Street	June 15 - October 26 Thursday 2pm - 6pm; Saturday 8am - 1pm
* Market Participates in the WIC/Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)		

## Income

### *Key Issues:*

*The estimated 2012 median household income in Otsego County was \$47,318, which is \$9,039 below the New York State median income of \$56,357.*

*Over sixteen percent of Otsego County residents live below the poverty level, of which 22.5% are under 18 years of age and 7.8% are over 65 years of age. This poverty rate is 1.9 percentage points higher than the New York State average of 14.5%.*

*Over the period 2001-2013, the number of households and individuals benefitting from public assistance programs has increased: TANF cases and recipients in Otsego County have doubled; households receiving SNAP/Food Stamp increased from 1,164 to 3,272; and average monthly SSI expenditures increased by 53% from \$520,702 in 2001 to \$796,774 in 2013.*

*Of all tax returns filed by Otsego County residents in 2011, 4,297 (17%) were Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITC filers received a total of \$15,106,452 in returns.*

### Community Strengths

- Working poor are taking advantage of EITC
- Community responsiveness to meeting urgent emergency needs (e.g. flood relief)
- Supplemental income from mineral rights

### Community Challenges

- Little economic growth
- Decrease in public funding to support income maintenance programs
- Job seekers are not qualified to fill business openings



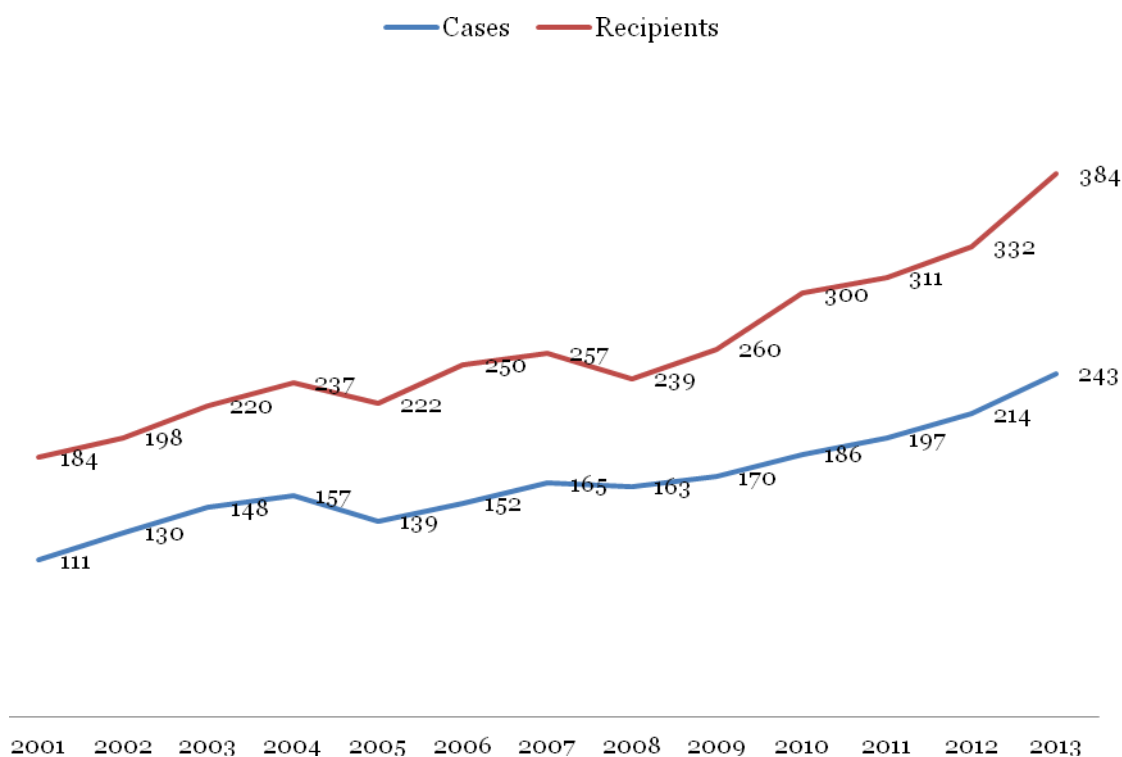
### Income Levels

The median household income in Otsego County during 2012 was \$47,318 - \$9,039 below the New York State median income of \$56,357<sup>28</sup>. According to 2005-2009 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, 16.4% of Otsego County residents live below the poverty level, of which 22.5% are under 18 years of age and 7.76% over 65 years of age.

### 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. Table 6.1 provides the average number of TANF cases/households and recipients in Otsego County from 2001-2013. Over the period there was a 119% increase in cases/households and a 109% increase in recipients/individuals.

**Table 6.1 – TANF Recipients, 2011-2013**

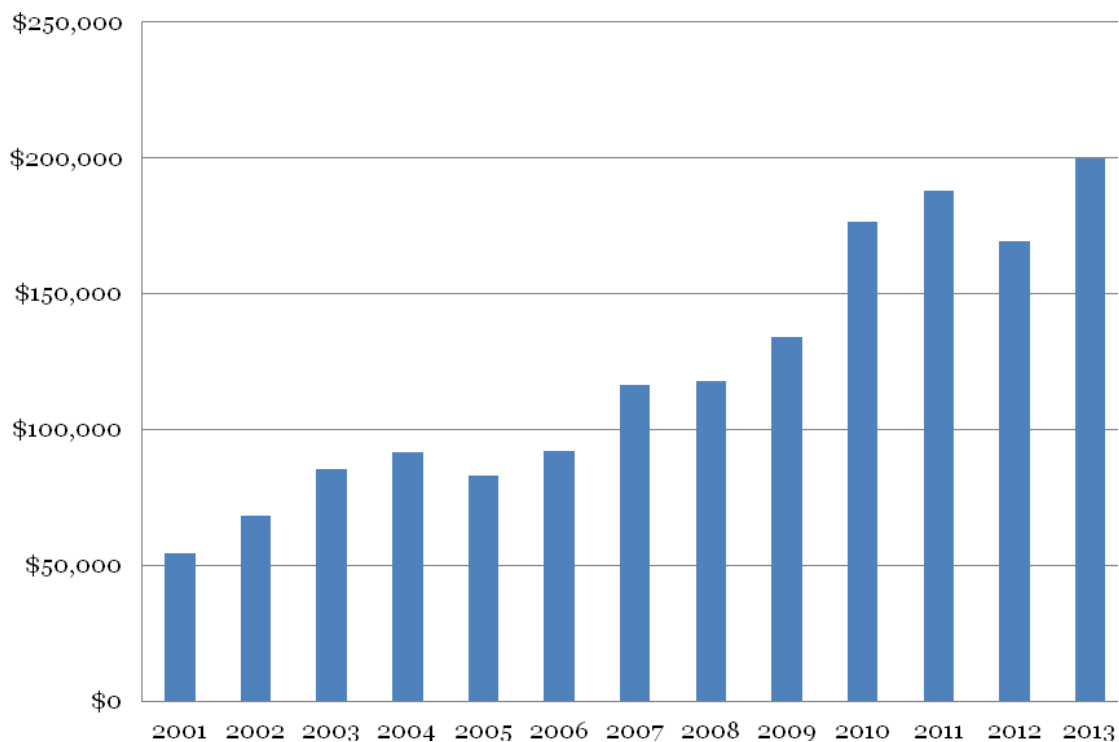


*SOURCE: NYS OTDA Temporary and Disability Statistics*

Table 6.2 provides the average monthly TANF expenditures in Otsego County over the period 2001-2013. Over this period, average monthly expenditures increased by 194% from \$54,677.75 in 2001 to \$161,145.83 in 2010.

<sup>28</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), 2000-2012.

**Table 6.2 – Monthly TANF Expenditures, 2011-2013**



*SOURCE: NYS OTDA Temporary and Disability Statistics*

### Earned Income Tax Credits

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 2011 in Otsego County was 4,297. On average, 17% of all tax returns filed in Otsego County claimed EITC. Of all EITC filer, 94% received a refund, totaling \$15,106,452<sup>29</sup>.

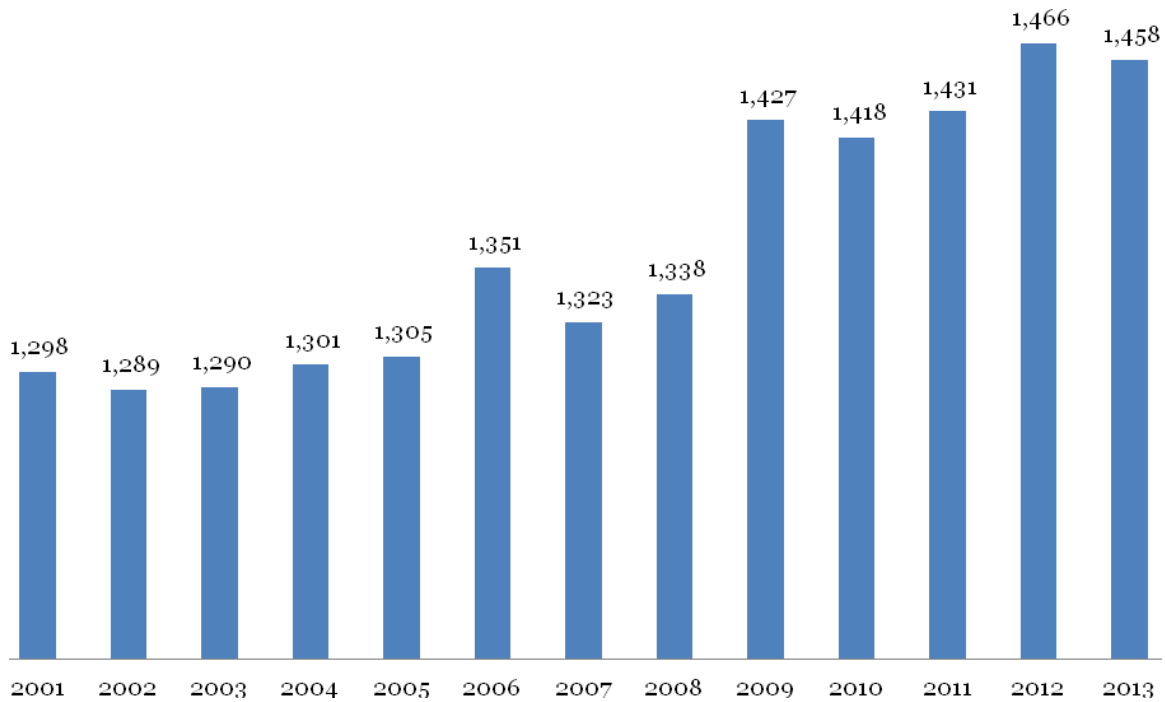
### Social Security Administration Benefits

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. During the period 10/2012-9/2013, 454 Opportunities for Otsego clients reported Social

<sup>29</sup> The Brookings Institute

Security, SSI, or SSDI as an income source. Table 6.8 shows the average number of SSI recipients in Otsego County per month for the years 2001 through 2013.

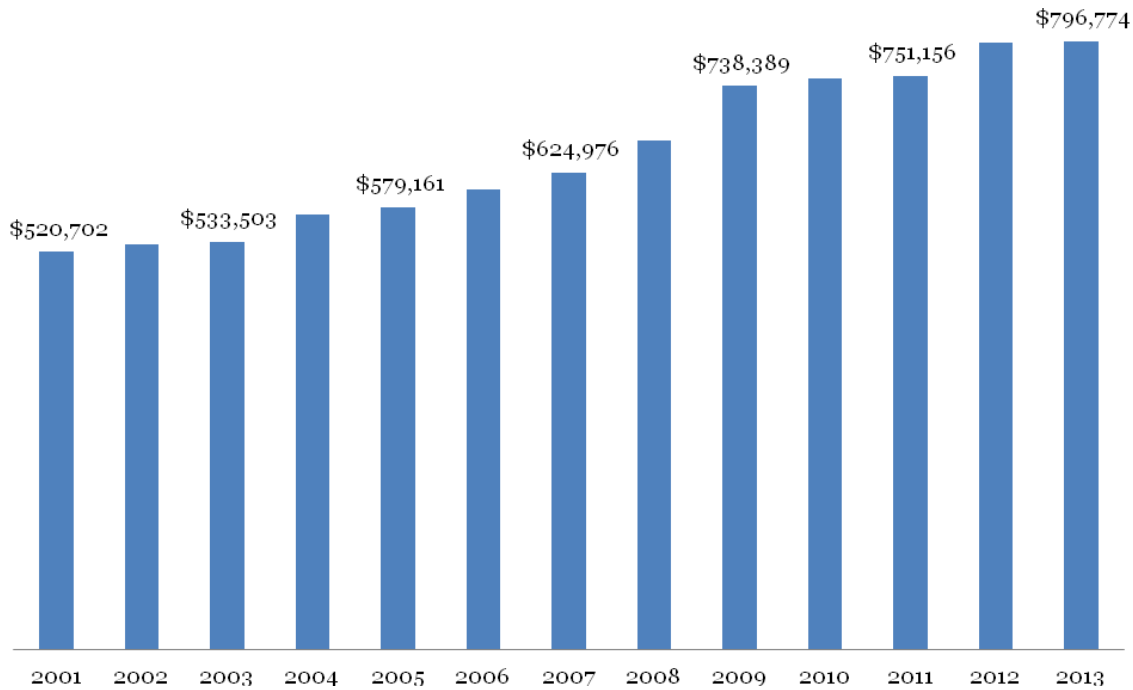
**Table 6.8 - Individuals Receiving SSI Benefits, 2001-2013**



*SOURCE: NYS OTDA Temporary and Disability Statistics*

Table 6.9 provides the average monthly SSI expenditures in Otsego County from 2001-2013. Over this period, average monthly expenditures increased by 53% from \$520,701.58 in 2001 to \$796,774.00 in 2013. In 2013, the average monthly SSI benefit per person in Otsego County was \$546 a month.

**Table 6.9- Monthly SSI Expenditures, 2001-2013**



*SOURCE: NYS OTDA Temporary and Disability Statistics*

### Child Support

The child support program provides custodial parents with assistance in obtaining financial support and medical insurance coverage for their children by locating parents, establishing paternity, establishing support orders, and collecting and distributing child support payments. During the period 10/2012-9/2013, 78 Opportunities for Otsego households reported child support as an income source. Table 6.10 provides the average monthly dollar amount distributed through child support in Otsego County over the period 2001 through 2013. Over this period, average annual collections increased by 10% from \$387,851 in 2001 to \$427,236 in 2013.

**Table 6.10 – Child Support Collections, 2001-2013**



*SOURCE: NYS OTDA Temporary and Disability Statistics*

#### Natural Gas Exploration/Mineral Rights

Otsego County is one of 28 counties in New York State that falls within the bounds of the Marcellus Shale geologic formation. “Geologists estimate that the entire Marcellus Shale formation may contain up to 489 trillion cubic feet of natural gas throughout its entire extent. It is not yet known how much gas will be commercially recoverable from the Marcellus in New York. To put this into context, New York State uses about 1.1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas a year”<sup>30</sup>.

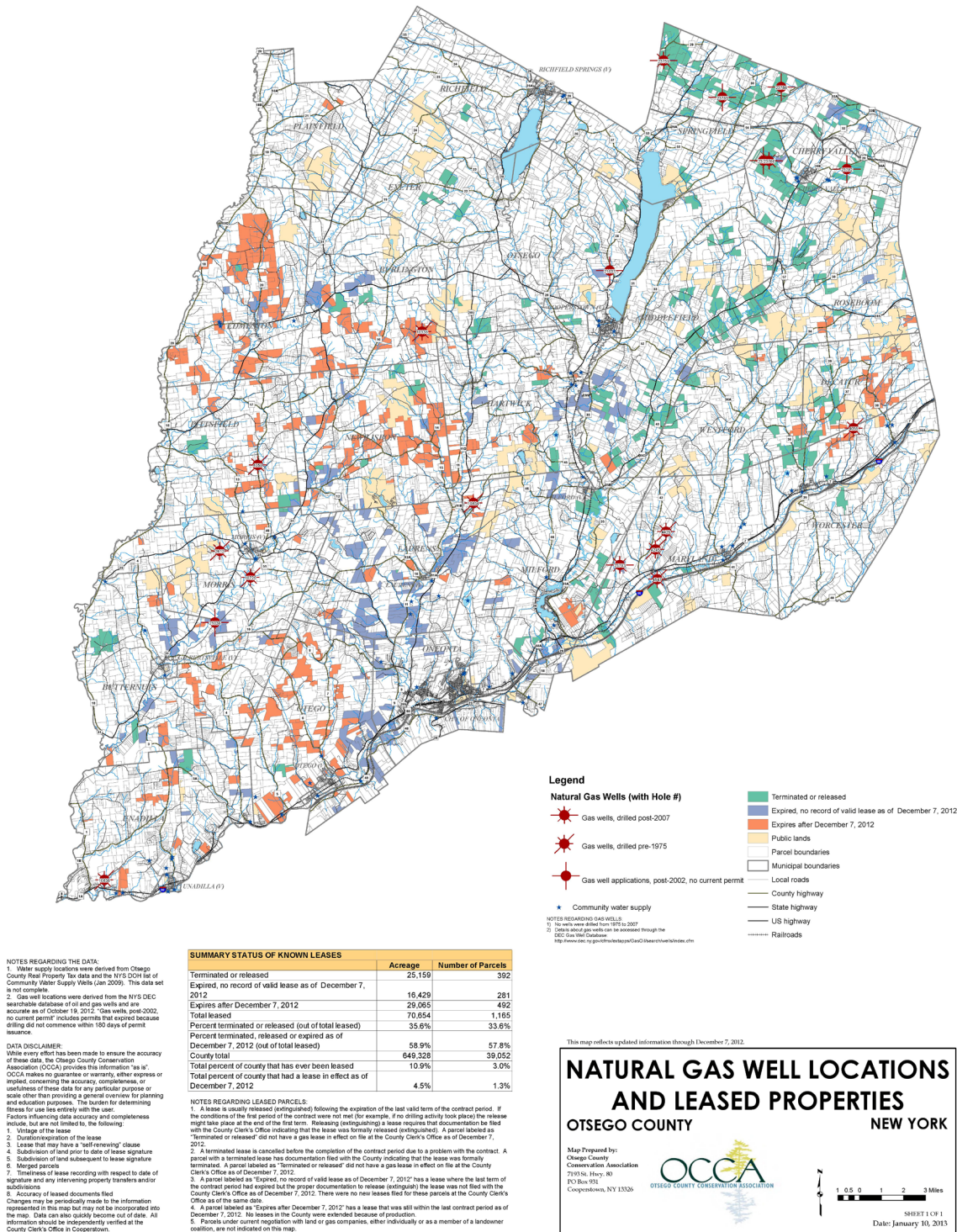
Due to the great potential for natural gas production, landowners in Otsego County have been approached by oil and gas companies to lease their mineral rights. Owners who sign a lease not only receive a mineral rights bonus, but also royalty payments from natural gas extracted from the Marcellus Shale. The image below summarizes mineral rights lease in Otsego County as of December 2012. In total, there were 1,165 parcels of land, totaling 70,654 acres, leased to gas companies. This is a 6.4% decline in the number of acres and a 1.7% decline in parcels leased compared to November 2010.

Although undetermined at this point if gas drilling will come to fruition in Otsego County, potential issues associated with gas drilling include, but are not limited to, naive landowners signing leases with lower

<sup>30</sup> NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



than average asking prices, negative impact on the tourism industry, deterioration of road infrastructure, home values, and agriculture/farm production.



# Transportation

## *Key Issues:*

*For the 23,180 individuals who use a personal vehicle to commute to work, the steady rise in gas prices has posed a serious challenge in maintaining employment. The average gas price in New York State increased from approximately \$3.44/gallon in January 2012 to \$4.11/gallon in January 2014.*

*The majority of Oneonta Public Transit (OPT) bus routes run Monday through Saturday, with the exception of two routes that have additional service on Sunday. Otsego Express, the public transportation option serving communities outside Oneonta, operates only Monday through Friday.*

## Community Strengths

- Access to public transportation six days a week for residents of the City of Oneonta
- Affordable bus fares for senior citizens
- Medicaid transportation for medical appointments

## Community Challenges

- Vehicle affordability (e.g. rising gas prices, maintenance, insurance costs)
- Reliable and time-efficient public transportation options for rural communities
- Maintaining aged and damaged transportation infrastructure (e.g. roads, highways, bridges)



## Commuter Trends

According to the 2012 ACS 5-Year Estimates, the average work-commute time in Otsego County is 21 minutes. Of all workers, age 16 and older, 82.8% either drove alone or carpooled in a car, truck, or van. Of the remaining workers, 1.9% reported utilizing some form of public transportation, while 9.21% (2,578 workers) used some other means including walking, bicycles, and taxicabs to travel to work. Table 7.1 provides a breakdown of the primary mode of transportation used by employed Otsego County residents.

**Table 7.1 - Method of Transportation to Work**

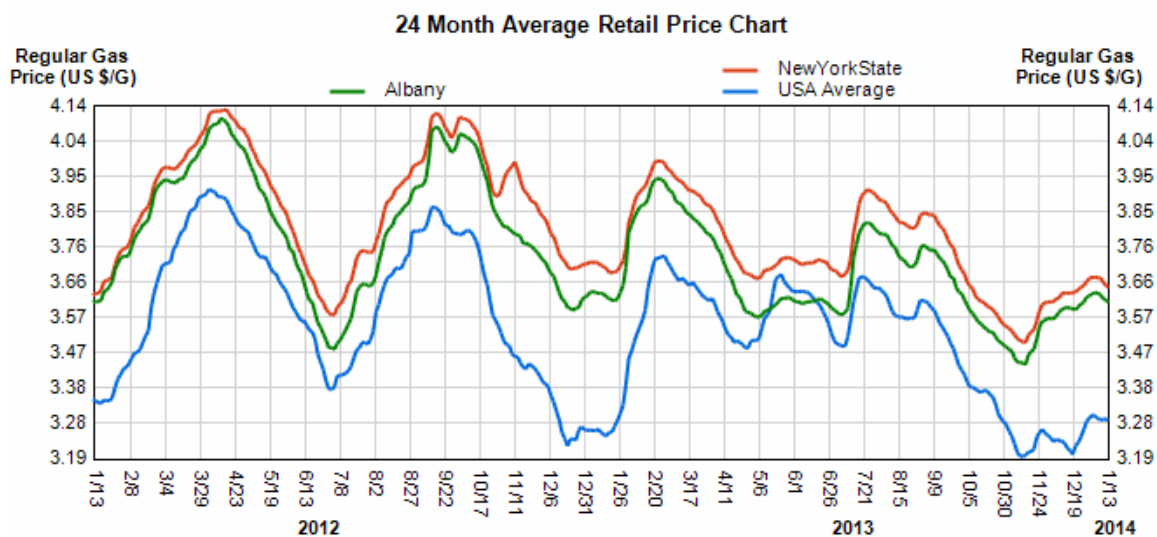
County	Workers 16 and Up	Method of Transportation to Work (Percent)					
		Drive Alone	Carpool	Public Transportation	Bicycle/Walk	Taxi/Other	Work at Home
Otsego	27,995	71.4	11.4	1.9	8.6	0.6	6.0
Statewide	8,877,453	54.0	7.1	26.8	6.9	1.3	3.9
Nationwide	139,893,632	76.1	10.0	5.0	3.4	1.2	4.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.

## Fuel Costs

For the majority who use a personal vehicle to commute to work, the steady rise in gas prices has posed a serious challenge in maintaining employment. The average gas price in Albany, New York have ranged from \$3.44/gallon to \$4.11/gallon from January 2012 to January 2014. Comparably, prices ranged from \$2.61/gallon to \$4.16/gallon from 2009-2011. The rise in gas prices have prompted increased cost in public transportation fares, the cost of groceries, postage, and delivery fees. Table 7.2 analyses gas prices over a 2-year time spans for Albany, New York and the Nation.

**Table 7.2 – Fuel Costs, January 2012 - January 2014**



SOURCE: GasBuddy.com

### Public Transportation

There are two public service providers in the county. Otsego Express is run by the county. The county's contracted operator is Birnie Bus. Otsego Express provides 8 routes throughout the county. Otsego Express provides service for the general fare-paying public and for clients of the county Department of Social Services Medicaid program. Otsego Express also collaborates with ARC Otsego to provide transportation to the general public on three routes once designated only for ARC consumers. Oneonta Public Transit (OPT) is run by the City of Oneonta. OPT operates seven routes within the city and one route to Cooperstown. OPT provides service for the general fare paying public.

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 provides mid-day service on four routes. Tables 7.3 and 7.4 shows the days of operation for all routes available through OPT and Otsego Express.

**Table 7.3 – OPT Route Schedule**

<b>Oneonta Public Transit (OPT) Route Schedule</b>							
Route	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Commuter Route (AM Only)	X	X	X	X	X		
Southside	X	X	X	X	X	X	12-6 only
West End	X	X	X	X	X	X	
East End	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Cooperstown	X	X	X	X	X	limited hours	
River Street	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SUNY Oneonta	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hartwick College/Southside Night	X	X	X	X	X	X	

**Table 7.4 – Otsego Express Route Schedule**

<b>Otsego Express Route Schedule</b>					
Route	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Cooperstown/Oneonta	X	X	X	X	X
Richfield Springs/Cooperstown/Edmeston	X	X	X	X	X
Richfield Springs/Cooperstown/Cherry Valley	X	X	X	X	X
Hartwick/Oneonta/East Worcester*	X	X	X	X	X
Hartwick/Oneonta/Sidney**	X	X	X	X	X
Richfield Springs/Cooperstown	Discontinued as of March 1, 2014				
Cooperstown/Cherry Valley	Discontinued as of March 1, 2014				
Hartwick/Morris/Otego/Laurens/Mount Vision***	X	X	X	X	X
Richfield Springs/Edmeston/Cooperstown****	X	X	X	X	X
Schuyler Lake/Edmeston ****	X	X	X	X	X
Dial A Ride	Discontinued as of March 1, 2014				

\* AM and PM runs; limited mid-day service; ARC collaboration; \*\* ARC collaboration; \*\*\* AM and PM runs; no mid-day service; ARC collaboration; \*\*\*\* AM and PM runs; no mid-day service

Oneonta Public Transportation (OPT) fixed route fares range from \$0.50 for students (age 5-18) to \$2.00 for commuter<sup>31</sup>. The standard adult fare is \$1.00; seniors (65+) are \$0.75. The standard OPT Cooperstown fare for students and seniors is \$2.00; adults pay \$3.50 one-way. OPT charges an additional \$0.25 for transfers. Otsego Express rates are \$0.50 for senior citizens (age 60+), \$1.00 for adults, and up to \$2.00 for route deviations. Children under 6 ride free.

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<sup>31</sup> The commuter route runs 6:00AM-6:55AM Monday through Friday



## Health & Wellness

### *Key Issues:*

*US Census Bureau Small Area Health Insurance Estimates from 2010, note that 13% of Otsego County residents are uninsured. During the period 10/2012 – 9/2013, over 1,252 Opportunities for Otsego clients (29.8%) reported being uninsured at intake.*

*The leading cause of death in Otsego County is heart disease (27.6%), followed by cancer (21.5%) and chronic lower respiratory disease (5.5%).*

*Otsego County maternal health indicators surpass New York State rates: the 2011 teen birth rate was 18 per 1,000 teens, well below the New York State rate of 45.9; 81.5% of mothers received early prenatal care compared to 72.4% statewide; and 6.3% of babies were considered “low birth weight” compared to 8.2% statewide.*

*Violent crime and property crime rates have decreased. The Otsego County violent crime and property crime rates in 2012 are the lowest since 2005. The violent crime rate is 78, and property crime rate is 904.*

*The inventory of primary care providers, dentists, and mental health professionals who accept Medicaid/Medicare and inpatient treatment options for substance abuse recovery do not adequately meet the needs of Otsego County residents.*

*Drug-related hospitalizations in 2011 are five times greater than rates in 1997. Trends show the “drug of choice” is changing from alcohol to opiates (e.g. heroin, pills).*

### Community Strengths

- Two hospitals (teaching hospital, Magnet Recognition for Excellence in Nursing Service)
- Low crime rate
- Coordinated efforts to address child abuse and neglect, drug related crimes

### Community Challenges

- Access to primary care, dental providers, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment.
- Geographic isolation and poor communication infrastructure



### Public Health Insurance

Medicare is a social insurance program administered by the United States 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.

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.

Family Health Plus is a public health insurance program run by the Department of Health for adults between the ages of 19 and 64 who do not have health insurance — either on their own or through their employers — but have incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid. Family Health Plus is available to single adults, couples without children, and parents with limited income who are residents of New York State.

Child Health Plus is a sister program of Family Health Plus, which provides health insurance for children under 19 years of age. Depending on household income, children may be eligible to join either Child Health Plus A (formerly Children's Medicaid) or Child Health Plus B.

### Medicaid/Medicare Providers

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there were 26 active Medicare and Medicaid institutional service providers (e.g. hospitals, nursing facilities, federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics and community mental health centers) in Otsego County in 2012.

**Table 8.1 - Institutional Medicare and Medicaid Providers, 2012**

County	Total Institutional Providers	Hospitals	Nursing Facilities	Federally Qualified Health Centers	Rural Health Clinics	Community Mental Health Centers
Otsego	26	11	3	1	3	0
Statewide	4,269	1,684	269	223	34	15

*Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Provider of Services File, Fourth Quarter, 2012*

### Federally Qualified Health Centers

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services there is one Federally Qualified Health Center in Otsego County; the Community Health Center in Cherry Valley.

### Persons Receiving Medicare

The total number of persons receiving Medicare, broken down by number of persons over 65 and the number of disabled persons receiving Medicare in Otsego County is listed in Table 8.2. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that a total of 12,092 persons were receiving Medicare benefits in the report area in 2011. A large number of individuals in our society are aware that persons over 65 years of age receive Medicare; however, many of them are unaware that disabled persons also receive Medicare benefits. A total of 2,146 disabled persons in the report area received Medicare benefits in 2011.

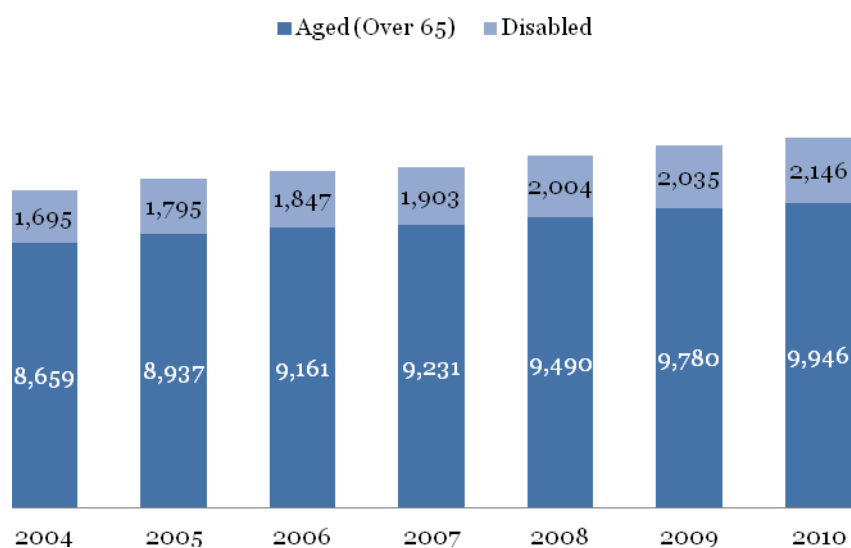
**Table 8.2 - Medicare Enrollment by County, 2011**

County	Persons Over 65 Receiving Medicare	Disabled Persons Receiving Medicare	Total Persons Receiving Medicare
Otsego	9,946	2,146	12,092
Statewide	2,480,828	484,946	2,965,774

*Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Medicare County Enrollment Report, 2011.*

Table 8.3 illustrates the gradual increase in the number of Medicare recipients over the period 2004 to 2010 in Otsego County. Per U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports, there were an additional 1,738 recipients in 2010 compared to 2004. Of all recipients, 82% were aged (over 65) and 18% disabled.

**Table 8.3 – Medicare Enrollment, 2004-2010**



*SOURCE: The Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services*



### Persons Receiving Medicaid

The average number of persons receiving Medicaid in Otsego County during 2012 is shown in Table 8.3. At a rate of 139.37 per 1,000 persons, the average rate of Medicare recipients in Otsego County is lower than the overall state rate.

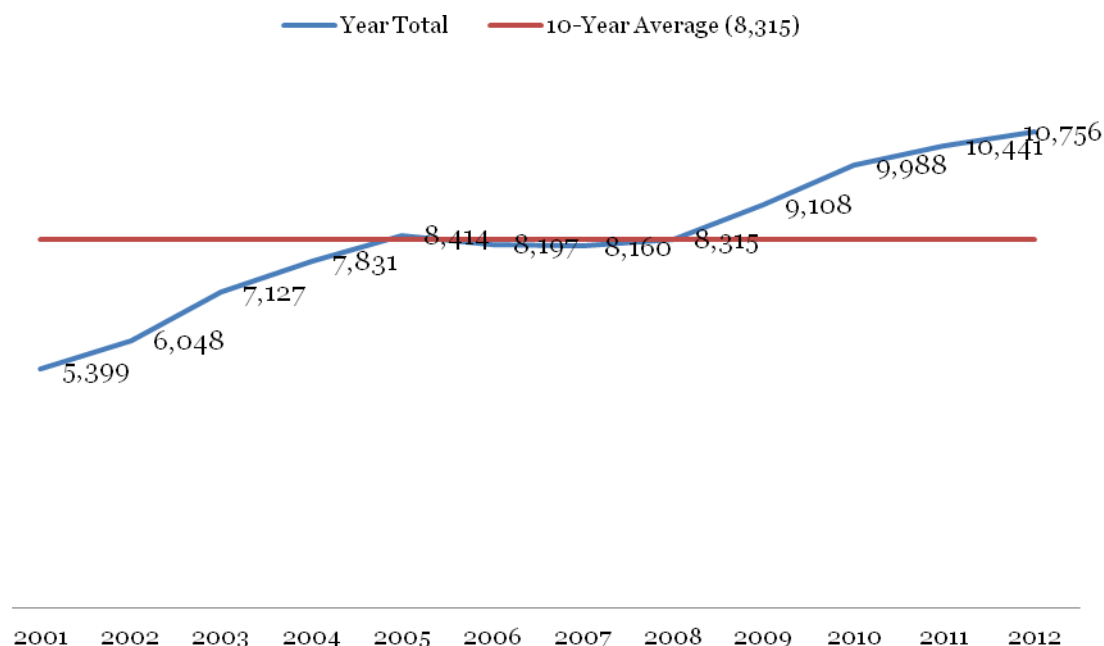
**Table 8.3 - Monthly Average Number of Persons Receiving Medicaid, 4th Quarter - 2012**

County	Monthly Average Number of Persons Receiving Medicaid 4th Quarter 2012						Total	Per 1000
	Children	Adults	Elderly	Disabled	Family Health	Other		
Otsego	3,129	2,367	509	1,914	905	12	8,694	139.37
Percent	35.41%	26.79%	5.76%	21.66%	10.24%	0.14%		
Statewide	1,721,327	1,230,402	289,917	632,220	426,787	214,406	4,461,327	231.13

Source: New York Department of Health, Information for a Healthy New York, Medicaid Quarterly Reports of Beneficiaries and Expenditures by Category of Eligibility and Social Service District. Data is for 4th Quarter (October - December), 2012.

The total number of persons receiving Medicaid in Otsego County from 2001-2012 is shown in Table 8.4. Table 8.5 categorizes recipients by type in 2012. Over the period, there has been a 99% increase in Medicaid enrollment, with the total number of recipients topping out at 10,756 in 2012.

**Table 8.4 – Medicaid Enrollees, 2001-2012**



SOURCE: New York State Department of Health

**Table 8.5 – Medicaid Recipient by Type, 2012**

<b>Otsego County, 2012</b>					
Children	Adults (under 65)	Over 65	Blind Disabled	Family Health Plus	Other
3,543	2,764	1,038	2,467	942	2

**Child Health Plus**

Table 8.4 shows the total enrollment for the New York Child Health Plus program for September 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. According to the New York Department of Health, there were 1,200 persons enrolled in the Child Health Plus Program during September 2012. Between September 2009 and September 2012, enrollment declined in Otsego County 156 persons (-11.5%).

**Table 8.4 - Child Health Plus**

County	Total Enrollment			
	Sept 2009	Sept 2010	Sept 2011	Sept 2012
Otsego	1,356	1,440	1,519	1,200
Statewide	389,190	395,312	411,892	

*Source: New York Department of Health, Information for a Healthy New York, Child Health Plus Enrollment by Insurer*

**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 among adults aged 18-64. The uninsured population is calculated by estimating the number of persons eligible for insurance minus the estimated number of insured persons. Per the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 13% of the Otsego County population is uninsured.

Data from the 2009 Otsego County Expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (7/2008-6/2009), offers similar findings. Of the population ages 18-64, 18.7% are uninsured. This percentage is 2.9 percentage points higher than the New York State average of 15.8%<sup>32</sup>.

Per records obtained through Opportunities for Otsego client database, 29.8% of persons who received services during the period 10/2012 – 9/2013 were uninsured upon intake.

**Causes of Death**

Total deaths broken down by cause for Otsego County are shown in Table 8.5. According to the New York

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<sup>32</sup> NYS Department of Health

State Department of Health, there were 568 deaths in Otsego County during 2011, the leading cause being heart disease.

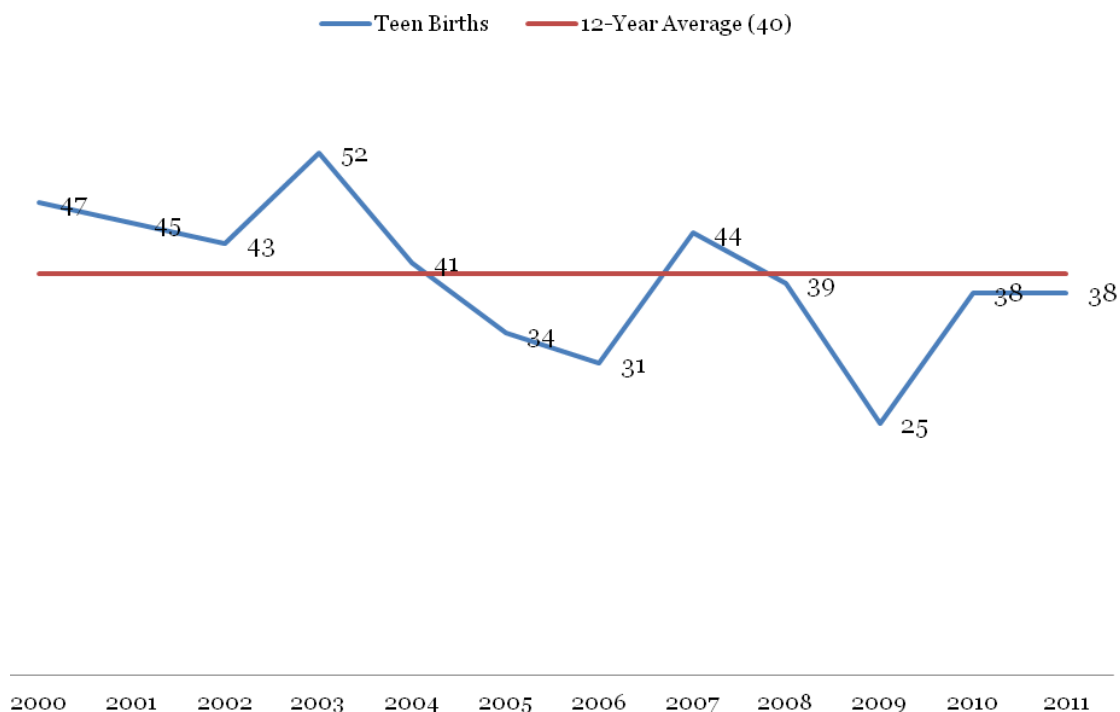
Table 8.5 – Leading Causes of Death, 2011										
Heart Disease	Cancer	Cerebrovascular Disease	AIDS	Pneumonia	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	Accidents	Diabetes	Homicide	Cirrhosis of the Liver	Suicide
27.6%	21.5%	3.7%	0.2%	2.3%	5.5%	3.9%	2.6%	0.2%	0.5%	0.5%

SOURCE: New York State Department of Health, Vital Statistics, 2011

### Teen Births

The teen birth rate in Otsego County during the year 2011 was 18 per 1,000 teens, well below the New York State rate of 45.9. The total number of pregnancies among teens (age 15-19) in 2011 was 58 with 38 live births. Table 8.9 tracks the number of live births to teens in Otsego County over the period 2000 through 2011. The year 2009 had the lowest number of births over the 10-year period at 25<sup>33</sup>.

**Table 8.9 – Teen Birth Rate, 2000-2011**



SOURCE: New York State Department of Health | Vital Statistics

<sup>33</sup> [http://www.health.ny.gov/nysdoh/vital\\_statistics/2009/table30.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/nysdoh/vital_statistics/2009/table30.htm)

### Infant Health

“Infant, neonatal, and post neonatal mortality and low birth weight are two of the most widely used indicators of the health and welfare used to measure the well-being of population as it reflects the general state of maternal health and the effectiveness of primary health care systems.<sup>34</sup>” Table 8.10 below reports maternal and infant health indicators for Otsego County compared to New York State for the years 2009-2011.

**Table 8.10 - Maternal and Infant Health Indicator, 2009-2011**

	<b>3 Year Total</b>	<b>County Rate</b>	<b>NYS Rate</b>
Percentage of births with early prenatal care	1,244	81.5	72.4
Percentage of births with late or no prenatal care	51	3.5	5.6
Mortality Rates (per 1,000 births)			
Infant (<1 year)	7	4.6*	5.1
Neonatal (<28 days)	7	4.6*	3.5
Post neonatal (1 month to 1 year)	0	0.0*	1.6
Fetal death (>20 weeks gestation)	6	3.9*	6.9
Perinatal (20 weeks gestation - 28 days of life)	13	8.4	10.4
Perinatal (28 weeks gestation - 7 days of life)	9	5.9*	5.5
Percentage of low birth weight (<2.5 Kg)	96	6.3	8.2
Newborn drug related discharge rate per 10,000 newborn discharges	13	86.3	72.6
<i>* fewer than 20 events in the numerator; therefore the rate is unstable</i>			

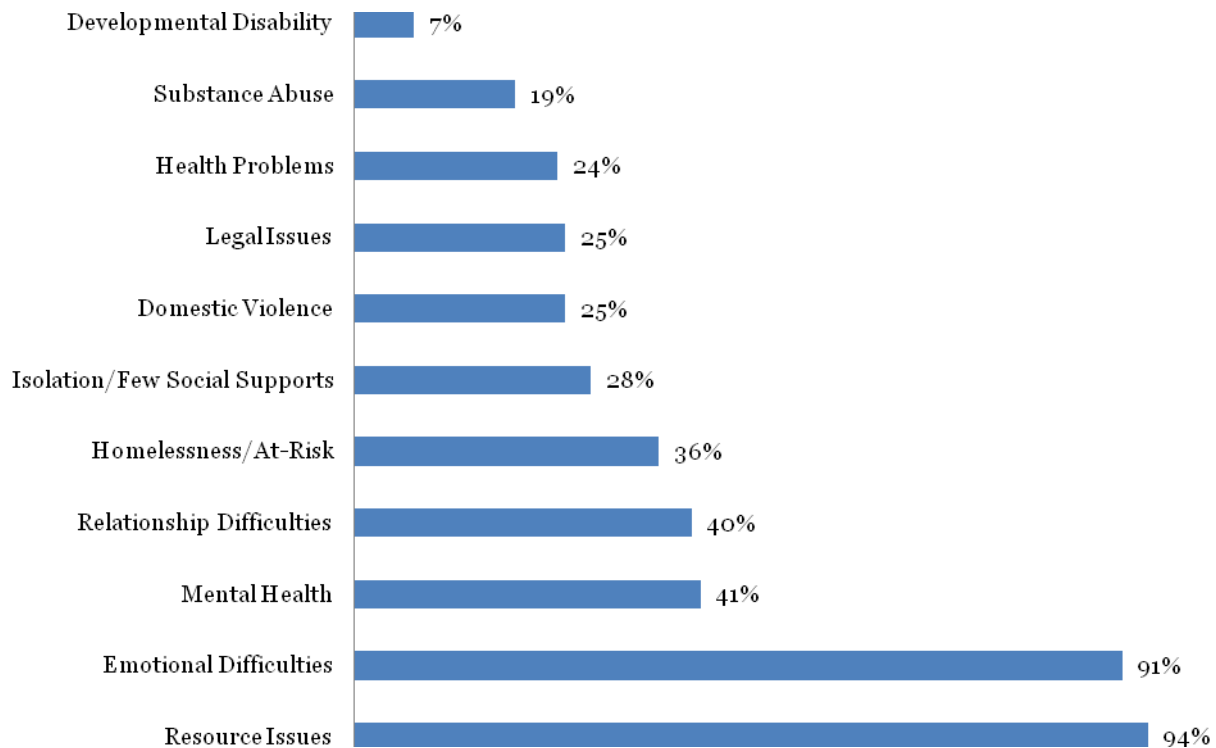
SOURCE: New York State Department of Health | County Health Assessment Indicators

Data collected through the Building Healthy Families program at Opportunities for Otsego, which provides an assessment service to pregnant and new parents, shows that young families in Otsego County are under high levels of stress. Table 8.11 summarizes the types of issues families who participated in the assessment service reported during the period 1/2013 – 12/2013.

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<sup>34</sup> NYS Kid's Well-Being Indicators

**Table 8.11 - Parental Stressors at Assessment, 2013**



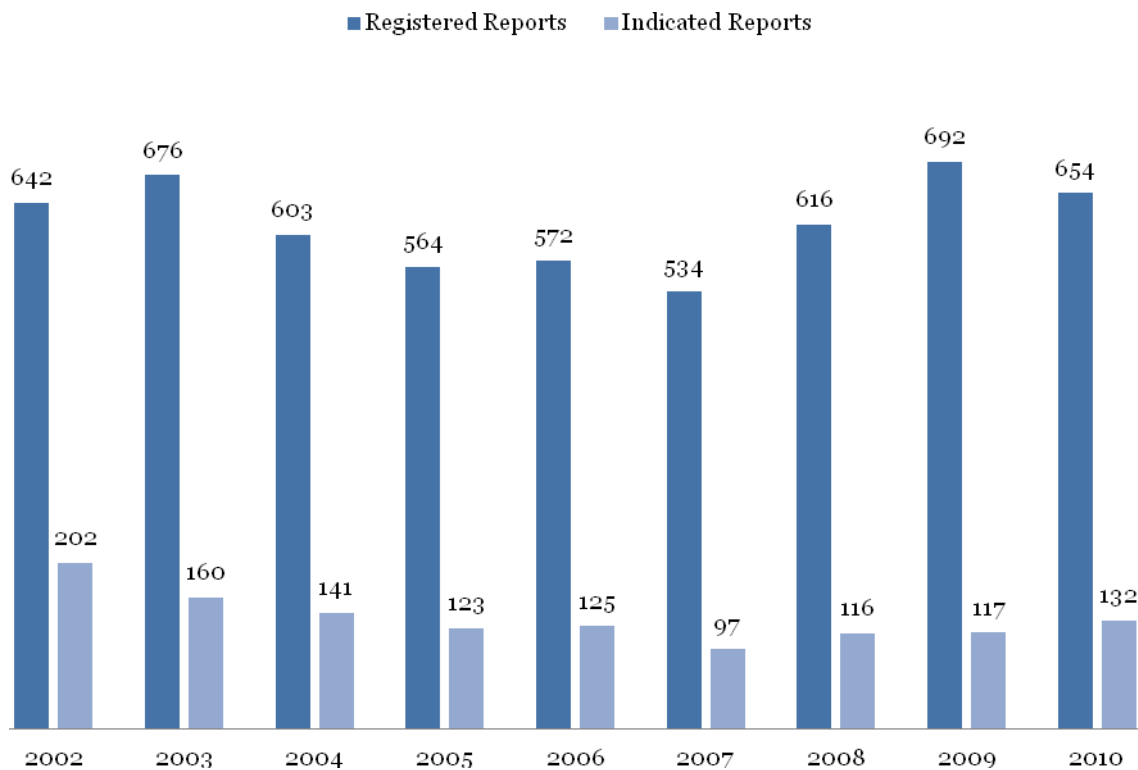
Notes:

- Number of respondents = 88
- Substance Abuse = Alcohol abuse and/or substance abuse
- Mental Health = Depression and/or other mental health illness/disability
- Legal Issues = Criminal activity and/or other legal problems
- Resource Issues = Financial difficulties, insufficient income and/or inadequate food, clothing, or household goods

Child Abuse and Neglect

Child abuse and neglect reports assigned to Otsego County Child Protective Services by the New York State Central Registry have remained relatively consistent from 2002-2008, until a spike in 2009. In 2009, 692 reports were investigated locally, which is a 12% increase from 2008. On average 22% of reports are indicated each year. The number of indicated reports in 2010 was 132. Table 8.12 compares the number of child abuse/neglect reports investigated by Otsego County Child Protective Services from 2002-2010 and the number of indicated reports per year.

**Table 8.12 – Child Abuse Reporting, 2002-2010**



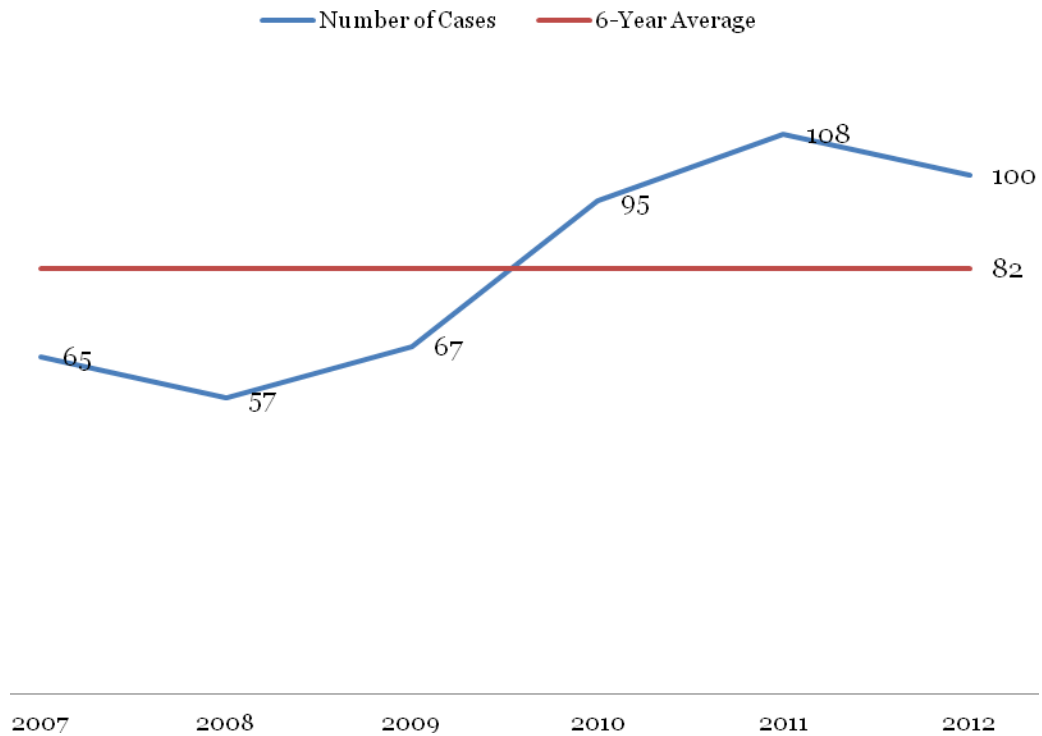
*SOURCE: Prevent Child Abuse New York | New York State Child Protective Services Data*

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 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.

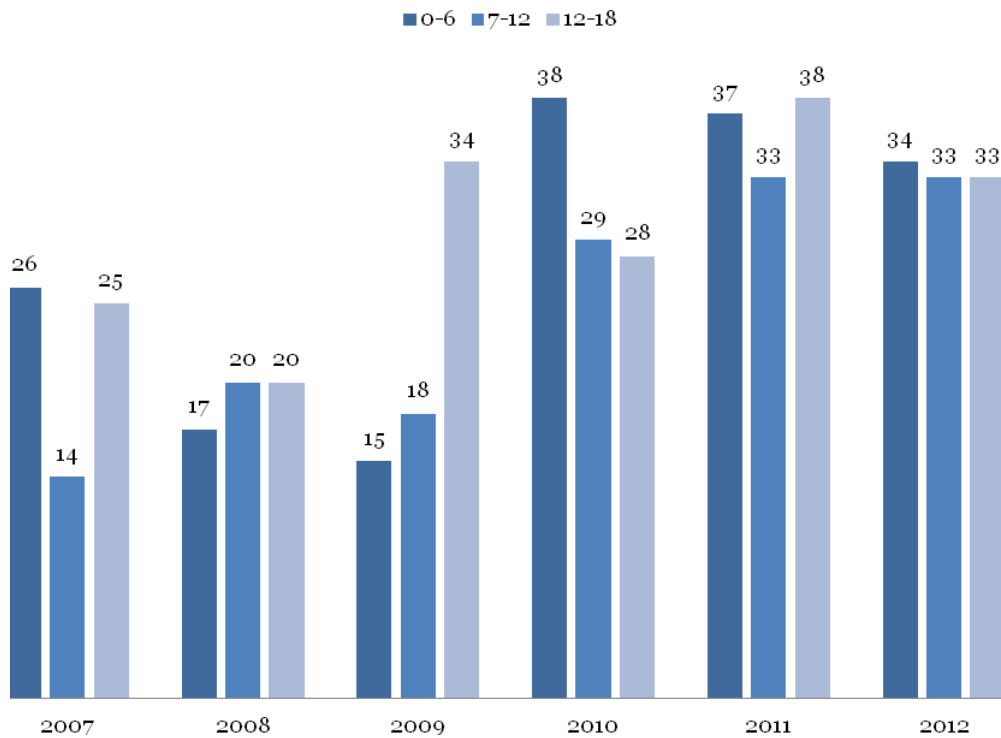
Table 8.13 through Table 8.15 provide demographics and case information of the children served by the CAC from 2007-2012.

The number of cases managed through the Child Advocacy Center has averaged 82 over the 6-year period. During the past three years (2010-2012), the number of cases overseen by the CAC have been above average with the highest caseload being in 2011 with 108. On average, 66% of victims seen by the CAC are females and 34% are males.

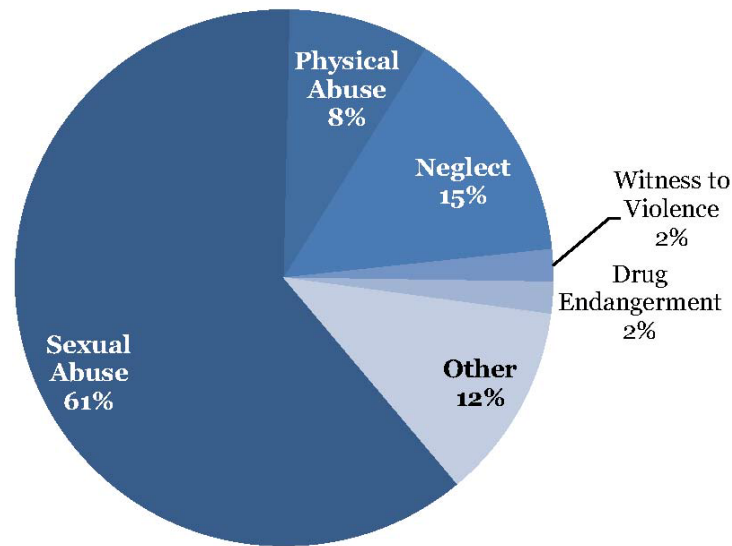
**Table 8.13 – Child Advocacy Center: Annual Caseload, 2007-2012**



**Table 8.14 - Child Advocacy Center, Victims by Age, 2007-2012**



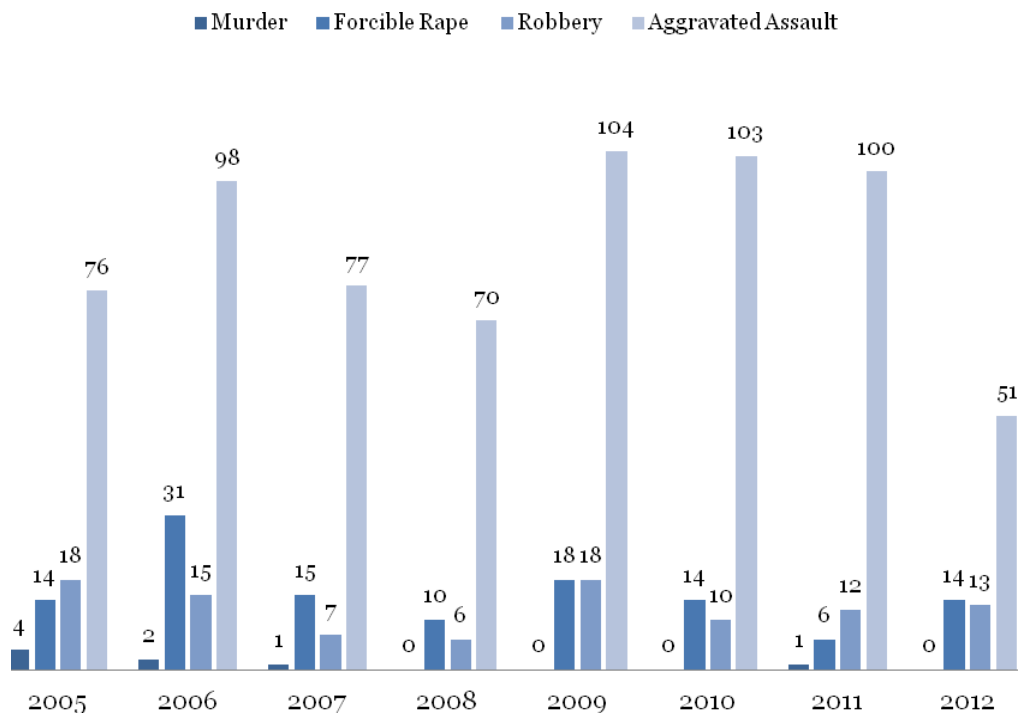
**Table 8.15 - Child Advocacy Center Victimization by Type, 2007-2012**



### Violent Crime

According to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, there were no murders, 14 incidents of forcible rape, 13 robberies, and 51 aggravated assaults in Otsego County during 2012<sup>35</sup>. Instances of violent crime and a comparison of annual data for Otsego County are shown in Table 8.16.

**Table 8.16 – Violent Crime Incidents, 2005-2012**

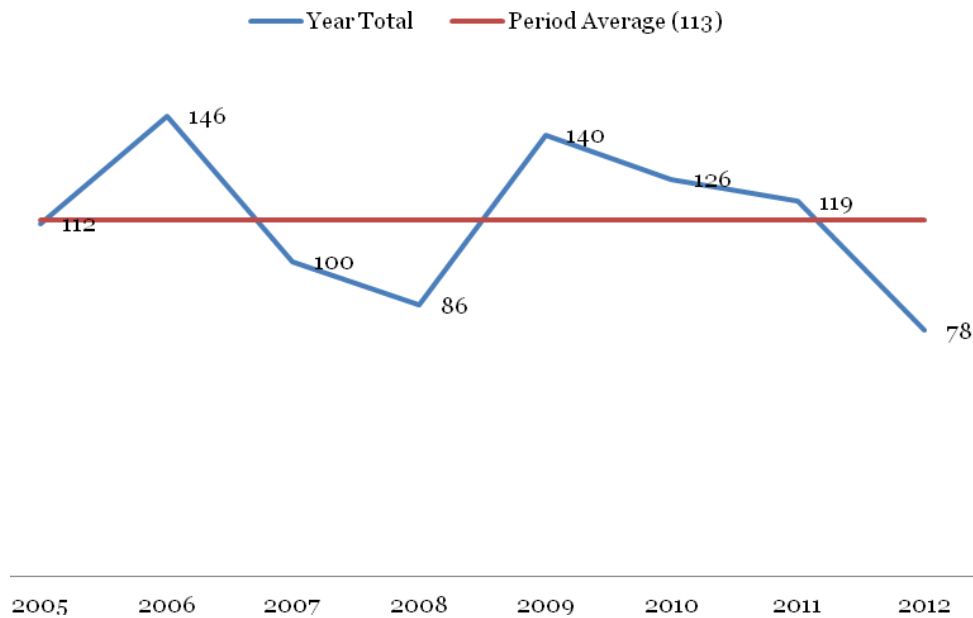


<sup>35</sup> New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services



Table 8.17 provides the total number of violent crimes for the years 2005-2012 compared to the 8-year average.

**Table 8.17 – Violent Crime Rate, 2005-2012**

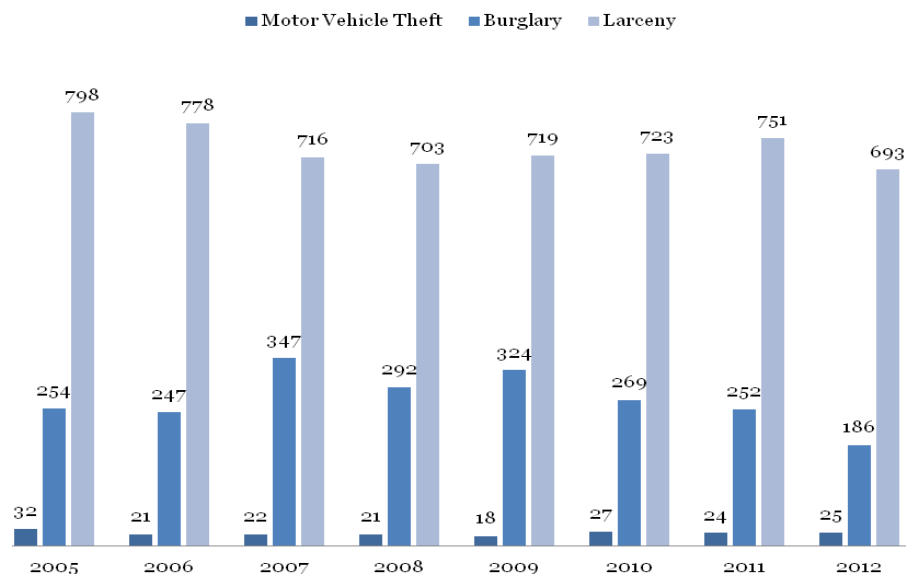


#### Property Crime

According to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, there were 904 property crimes in Otsego County during 2012 that include 186 burglaries, 693 larcenies, and 25 motor vehicle thefts.<sup>36</sup>

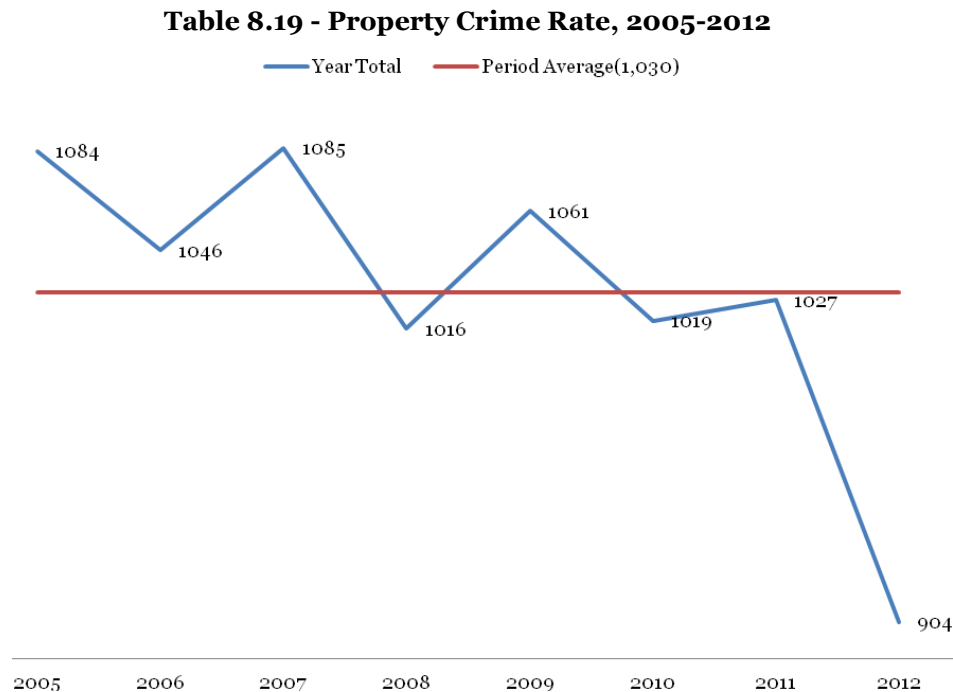
Instances of property crime in Otsego over the period 2005-2012 are shown in Table 8.18.

**Table 8.18 - Property Crime Incidents, 2005-2012**



<sup>36</sup> New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

Table 8.19 provides the total number of property crimes for the years 2005-2012 compared to the 8-year average.



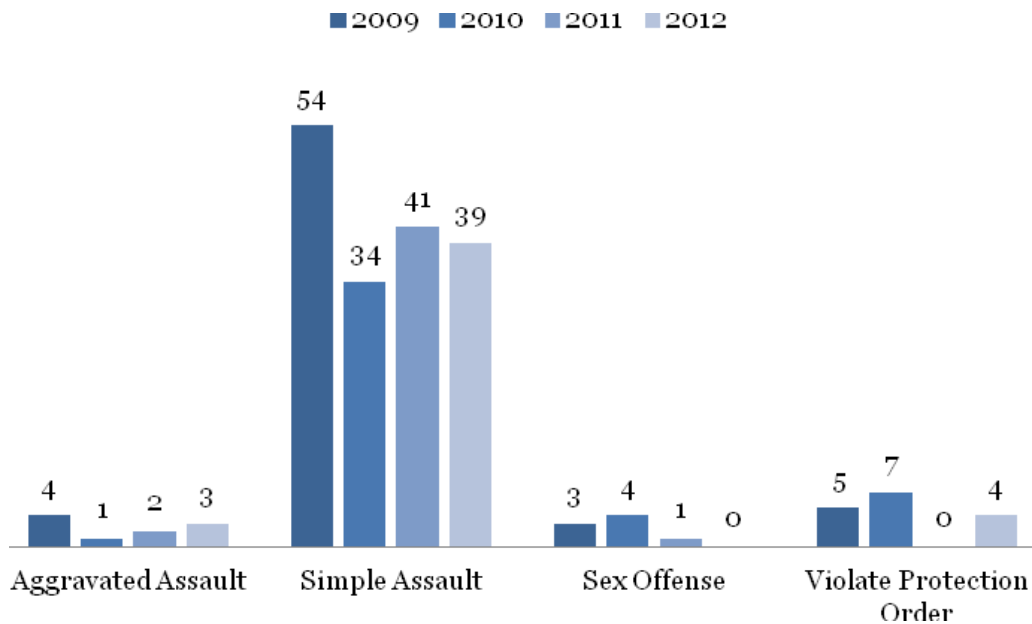
### Domestic Violence

The Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) collects information on victims of domestic violence reported through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Victim counts are reported for aggravated assault, simple assault, sex offenses, and violation of protective orders. Through the UCR, domestic violence victims are identified by their relationship to the offender and are categorized as “Intimate Partner” (spouse, ex-spouse, and those in an intimate relationship, including same-sex, dating or formerly dating relationships, whether or not the intimate partners had ever lived together) or “Other Family” (sibling, child, grandparent, grandchild, in-law, stepparent, stepsibling, and other blood and in-law relationships).

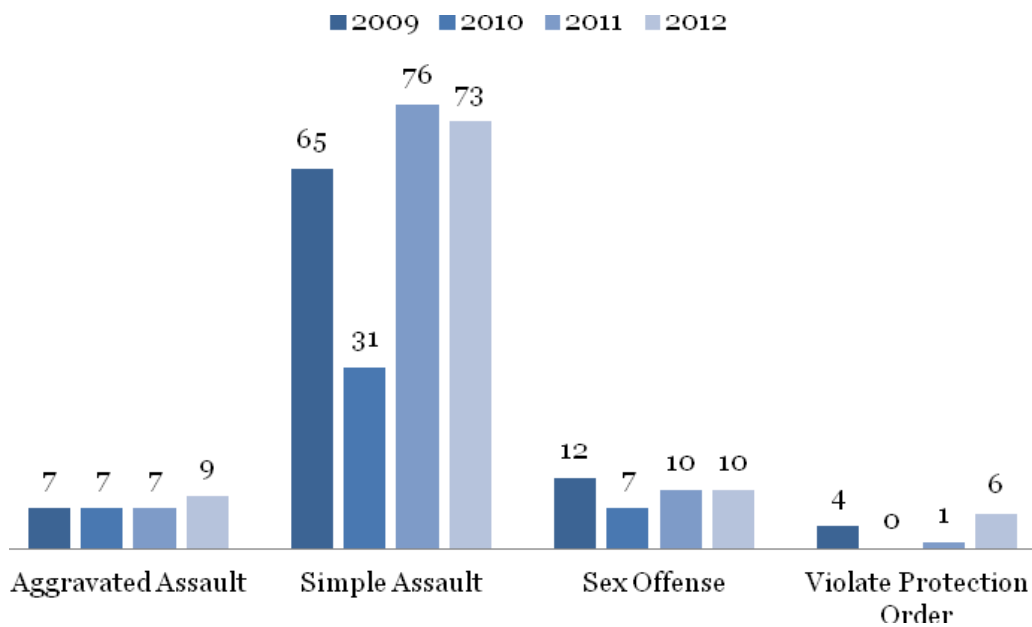
Tables 8.20 and 8.21 provide domestic violence data from the UCR for 2009-2012 by relationship<sup>37</sup>.

<sup>37</sup> In 2008, DCJS modified domestic violence reporting procedures to improve the quality to inform policy decisions in this important area. Comparative data prior to 2009 is not available.

**Table 8.20 – Domestic Violence Incidents by Intimate Partner, 2009-2012**

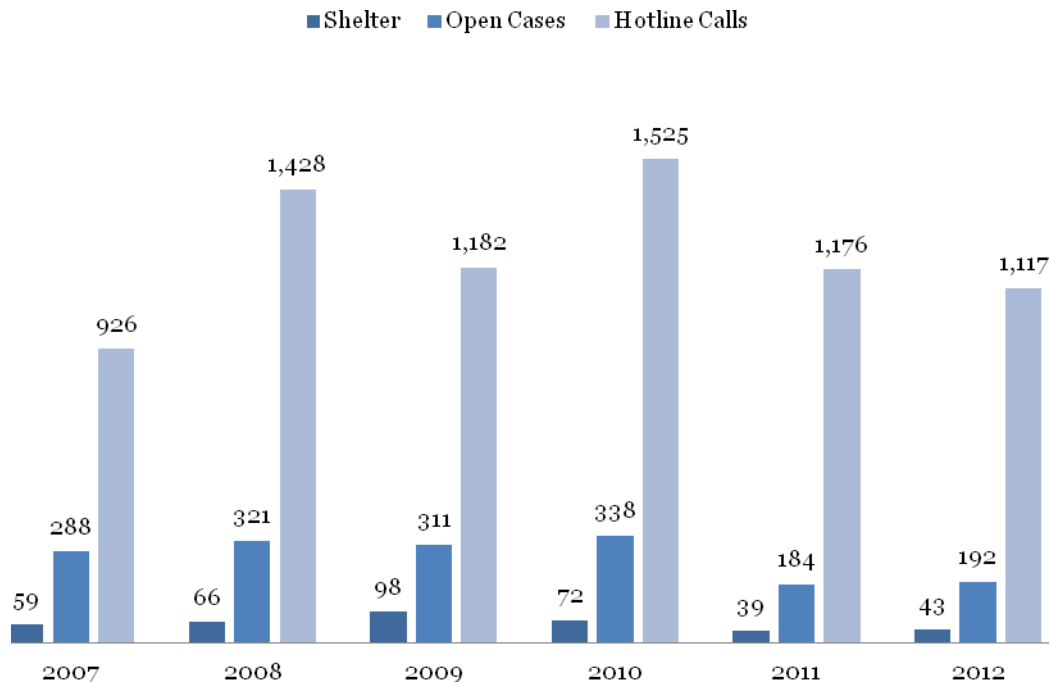


**Table 8.21 – Domestic Violence Incidents by Other Family Member, 2009-2012**



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. individuals sheltered, active cases, and hotline calls) over the period 2007-2012 is provided in Table 8.22.

**Table 8.22 – Violence Intervention Program Service Utilization, 2007-2012**



Over the period 2007-2012, there were an average of 271 Orders of Protection issued through Otsego County courts. During the years 2011 and 2012, 190 and 199 Orders of Protection were issued through Family and Criminal courts.

#### Mental Health

According to the New York State Office of Mental Health<sup>38</sup>, 478 persons accessed mental health services in Otsego County in 2011. Table 8.23 provides demographic information of the population by age and severity of their mental health condition.

**Table 8.23 - Mental Health Consumers**

Patient Characteristics Survey (Nov 2011)				
	Individuals	Percentage	Individuals with SMI/SED*	Percentage with SMI/SED
Youth 0-17	107	22.4%	80	74.8%
Adults 18-64	327	68.4%	264	71.1%
Adults 65+	44	9.2%		

\* SMI: Serious Mental Illness - A condition of persons who are eighteen years of age or older and who, as a result of a mental disorder, exhibit emotional or behavioral functioning which is so impaired as to interfere substantially with their capacity to remain in the community without supportive treatment or

<sup>38</sup> New York State Office of Mental Health

services of a long -term or indefinite duration | *SED: Serious Emotional Disturbance – A condition of a child (birth-18 years) currently or at any time during the past year, has had a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder that has resulted in functional impairment which substantially interferes with or limits the child's role or functioning in family, school, or community activities.*

Tables 8.24 and 8.25 provide additional information on the type of mental health services accessed and medication usage of the same cohort of individuals.

**Table 8.24 - Mental Health Service Usage by Type**

<b>Patient Characteristics Survey (Nov 2011)</b>		
	Individuals	Percent
<b>Adults (N=371)</b>		
Emergency	22	5.9%
Inpatient	29	7.8%
Outpatient	246	66.3%
Residential	32	8.6%
Support	80	21.6%
<b>Children: Age 0 – 17 (N=107)</b>		
Emergency	8	7.5%
Inpatient	0	0.0%
Outpatient	72	67.3%
Residential	0	0.0%
Support	31	29.0%

**Table 8.25 - Medication Indicators, 2011**

<b>Medication Indicators</b>	
Children under the age of 6 receiving any psychotropic medications	18
Children on any psychotropic medication for >=90 days	361
Percentage of children on 3 or more psychotropic medications >=90 days	24.9%
Adults on any psychotropic medication for >=90 Days	1,376
Percentage of adults on 4 or more psychotropic medications >=90 days	9.7%

#### Mental Health Providers: Outpatient

A summary of mental health providers in Otsego is available in the Rehabilitative Support Services publication, *2011 Otsego County Guide to Mental Health Service*. According to this source, there are 22 private providers offering services to children and adolescents, 30 providers of adult mental health services, and 21 family providers<sup>39</sup>. Of all the private providers, only four accept Medicaid and seventeen Medicare. Additional outpatient mental health care is available for children and adults through the Otsego County Mental Health Clinic and Bassett Hospital Psychiatry Department. Anecdotal data reports

<sup>39</sup> This is a duplicated number as providers may service more than one segment of the population.

that low-income individual's face long wait times, averaging 3 weeks, before accessing initial mental health services in Otsego County.

#### Mental Health Providers: Inpatient

In April 2014, Bassett Medical Center in Cooperstown announced the closing its 10-bed psychiatric unit, leaving Otsego County without any inpatient mental health services. In its place, Otsego County officials are developing a Mobil Crisis Assessment Team (MCAT) to provide community-based support to individuals with psychiatric needs. Mental health emergencies will be managed by the hospital emergency department; however, individuals requiring hospitalization will be transferred to a facility in Binghamton, Schenectady, or Utica.

Historically, A.O. Fox Hospital operated a 28-bed psychiatric unit, until its closure in 2007. In 2008, Bassett opened a 20-bed crisis unit, which was downsized to a 10-bed unit in December 2013. Closures are attributed to a shortfall of psychiatrists and support staff willing to work on rural areas<sup>40</sup>.

Tables 8.26 and 8.27 provide a summary of inpatient services delivered in Otsego County during calendar year 2011.

**Table 8.26 - Mental Health Inpatient Use by Age, 2011**

<b>Mental Health Inpatient Use by Age Calendar Year 2011</b>		
	Daily Census	Rate /10,000 Pop
<b>Adults (age 18 +)</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>
General Hospital	6.3	1.3
Private Hospital	0	0
State Psychiatric Centers	3	0.6
<b>Children (age 0 - 17)</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.6</b>
General Hospital	0	0
Private Hospital	0.2	0.2
State Psychiatric Centers	3	2.4
Residential Treatment Facility (age 0 - 21)	0	0

*SOURCE: NYS Office of Mental Health | County Profiles*

<sup>40</sup> The Daily Star, weekend edition (4/5/14)

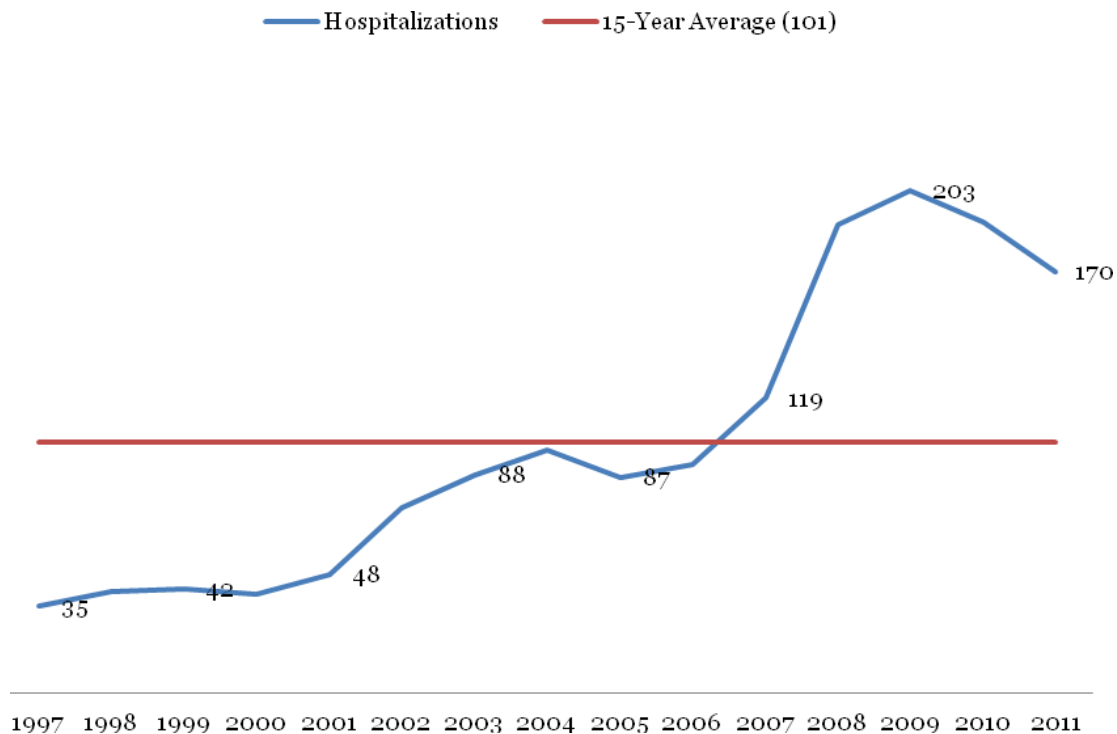
**Table 8.27 - Psychiatric Inpatient Readmissions, 2011**

Psychiatric Inpatient Readmissions Calendar Year 2011				
			Readmitted within 30 Days	
	Facility	Discharges	Readmissions	Percentage
Adults (age 18 +)	Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital	251	29	11.6%
Children (age 0 - 17)	Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital	N/A		

SOURCE: NYS Office of Mental Health | County Profiles

### Substance Abuse

Drug-related hospitalizations in Otsego County have increased significantly over the last 15 years. The 2011 figures are almost five times greater than what they were in 1997. Table 8.28 illustrates the growing trend of drug-related hospitalizations from 1997-2011.

**Table 8.28 – Drug-Related Hospitalizations, 1997-2011**

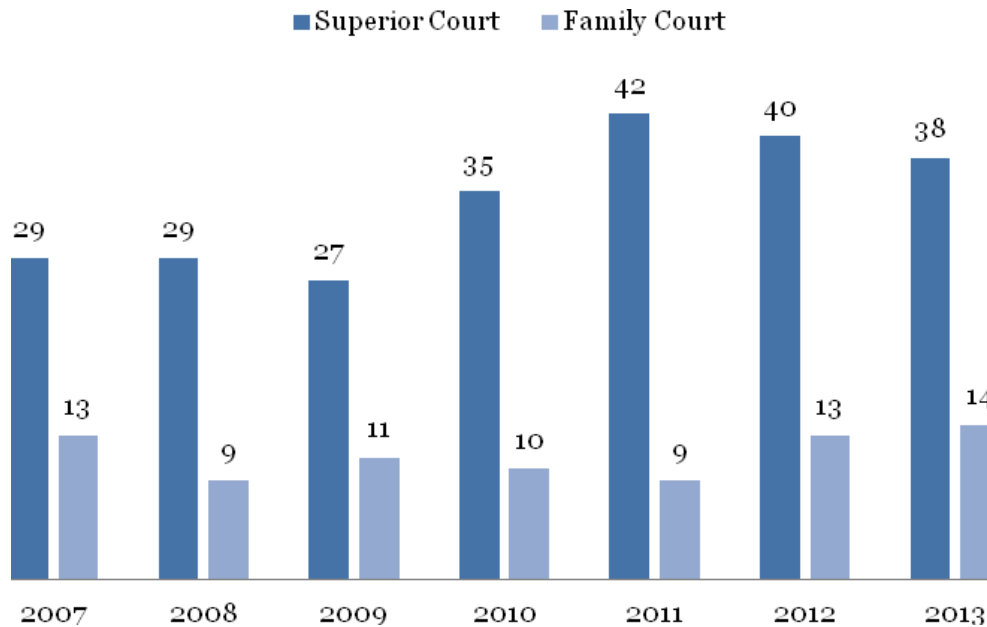
SOURCE: New York State Department of Health | Community Health Data Set

### Drug Treatment Court

“Drug treatment courts opened in New York State in the 1990's. Recognizing their positive impact on communities and the criminal justice system, former Chief Judge Judith Kaye convened an independent

commission to examine the impact of drug cases on New York State courts and to make recommendations for future reforms. Following the recommendation of the Commission to make drug treatment courts available in every jurisdiction, in October 2000, the Office of Court Drug Treatment Programs (OCDTP) was created<sup>41</sup>. In April 2000, Otsego County opened drug treatment court. Family drug treatment court opened in October 2001. Table 8.29 provides the number of active participants in Superior Drug Treatment Court and Family Drug Treatment Court for the years 2007-2013.

**Table 8.29 –Drug Treatment Court Participants, 2007-2013**



*SOURCE: NYS Unified Court Systems | Annual Reports 2007-2009 and local Drug Treatment Court data*

#### Substance Abuse Providers: Outpatient

A listing on substance abuse providers in Otsego is available on the New York State OASAS website. Providers listed on this site include prevention providers<sup>42</sup> (LEAF), 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 six. Anecdotal data reports that low-income individuals face long wait times before accessing initial substance abuse services in Otsego County. In addition to wait times, few providers accept Medicaid and Medicare.

<sup>41</sup> NYS Unified Court Systems | Drug Treatment Court 2008 Annual Report

<sup>42</sup> LEAF offers LifeSkills Training, a school-based program that aims to prevent alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana use and violence by targeting the major social and psychological factors that promote the initiation of substance use and other risky behaviors.



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, such as Cherry Valley, Cooperstown, Oneonta, Otego, Richfield Springs, South Edmeston, and Unadilla.

#### Substance Abuse Providers: Inpatient

According to the NYS OASAS, McPike Addiction Treatment Center<sup>43</sup> in Utica is the only inpatient treatment facility in New York in which Otsego County falls within its catchment area. McPike offers beds for 68 adults and serves 16 counties within New York State. Other inpatient rehabilitation facilities near Otsego County are Delaware Valley Hospital (Walton, NY); Conifer Park (Glenville, NY); and St. Peters Addiction Recovery Center (Guilderland, NY)<sup>44</sup>.

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<sup>43</sup> McPike is certified by OASAS and Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

<sup>44</sup> Rehabilitative Support Services, *2011 Otsego County Guide to Mental Health Service*

## Appendix

1. *Census Tract Codes by Zip Code and Town/Village*
2. *Census Tract Map: The City and Town of Oneonta*
3. *Client Community Needs Assessment Survey Responses*

## Census Tract Codes by Zip Code and Town/Village

Census Tract	Zip Code	Town Village
5901	12116	Maryland
	12155	Schenevus
	13317	Canajoharie
	13320	Cherry Valley
	13326	Cooperstown
	13333	East Springfield
	13361	Jordanville
	13439	Richfield Springs
	13450	Roseboom
	13459	Sharon Springs
	13468	Springfield Center
5902.01	13326	Cooperstown
	13348	Hartwick
	13807	Milford
	13810	Mount Vision
	13820	Oneonta
5902.02	13326	Cooperstown
	13337	Fly Creek
	13348	Hartwick
	13439	Richfield Springs
5903	13315	Burlington Flats
	13348	Hartwick
	13357	Ilion
	13439	Richfield Springs
	13485	West Edmeston
	13491	West Winfield
5904	13315	Burlington Flats
	13335	Edmeston
	13342	Garrattsville
	13348	Hartwick
	13411	New Berlin
	13415	New Lisbon
	13485	West Edmeston
	13796	Laurens
	13808	Morris
	13810	Mount Vision
	13843	South New Berlin
5905	12116	Maryland
	13807	Milford
	13820	Oneonta
	13834	Portlandville
5906	12043	Cobleskill
	12116	Maryland

	12155	Schenevus
	12197	Worcester
	13320	Cherry Valley
	13326	Cooperstown
	13450	Roseboom
	13488	Westford
5907	12036	Charlotteville
	12064	East Worcester
	12116	Maryland
	12155	Schenevus
	12197	Worcester
5908	13820	Oneonta
	13825	Otego
	13861	West Oneonta
5909	13820	Oneonta
5910	13820	Oneonta
5911	13820	Oneonta
5912	13820	Oneonta
5913	13820	Oneonta
5914	13796	Laurens
	13808	Morris
	13810	Mount Vision
	13820	Oneonta
	13825	Otego
	13861	West Oneonta
5915	13411	New Berlin
	13776	Gilbertsville
	13796	Laurens
	13808	Morris
	13809	Mount Upton
	13825	Otego
	13843	South New Berlin
	13849	Unadilla
5916	13733	Bainbridge
	13809	Mount Upton
	13838	Sidney
	13849	Unadilla
	13859	Wells Bridge

[illegible]

## **Client Community Needs Assessment Summary**

Opportunities for Otsego distributed a survey to client for the purposes of assessing community needs. The survey was made available to clients over the period February 2014 through April 2014. Surveys were distributed through reception at the Administrative office and through programs. A total of 181 surveys were received.

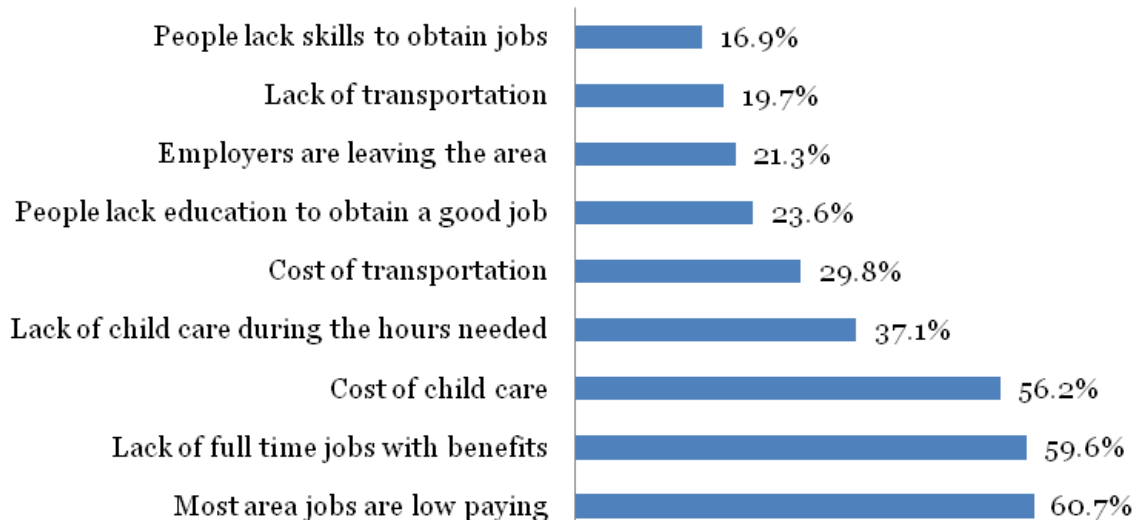
Following is a summary of survey responses.

I think **employment** in this area is a problem:

Yes = 153 (86.0%)

No = 25 (14.0%)

## Employment



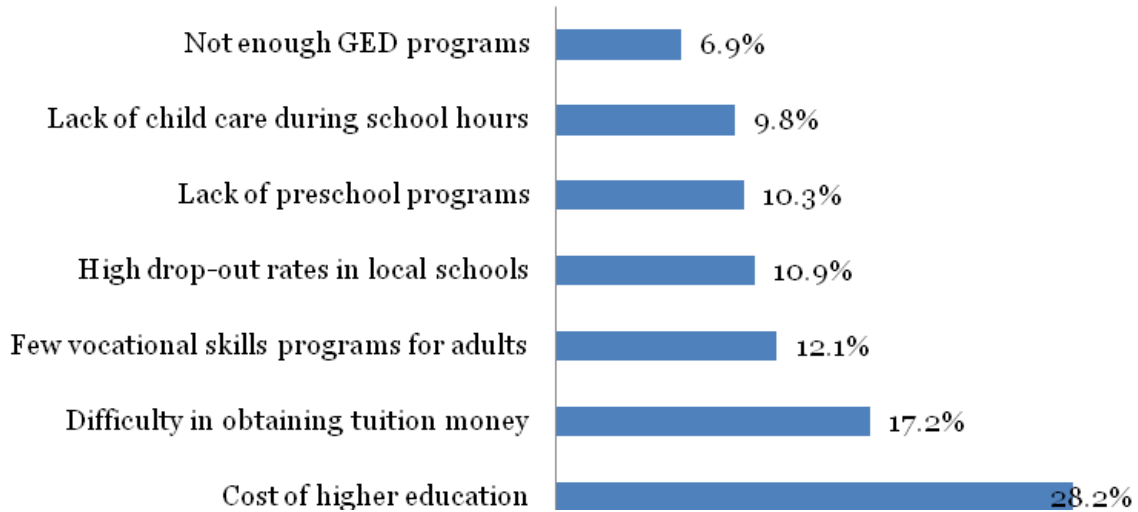
### Other Issues/Comments:

- Lack of jobs/opportunities/advancement
  - Not enough employment
  - Most jobs are seasonal
  - Hardly any jobs
  - Available jobs are taken by college students
- Lack of Education/Experience
  - Most jobs require a college degree
  - Most jobs want you to have experience, but it's difficult to obtain experience when you can't get hired because you have none.
  - People who have not completed their education are not considered for employment
- Other
  - Employers are not willing to work with parent schedules
  - Wages are not increasing to meet the cost of living

I think getting an **education** in this area is a problem: Yes =66 (37.9%)

No = 108 (62.1%)

## Education



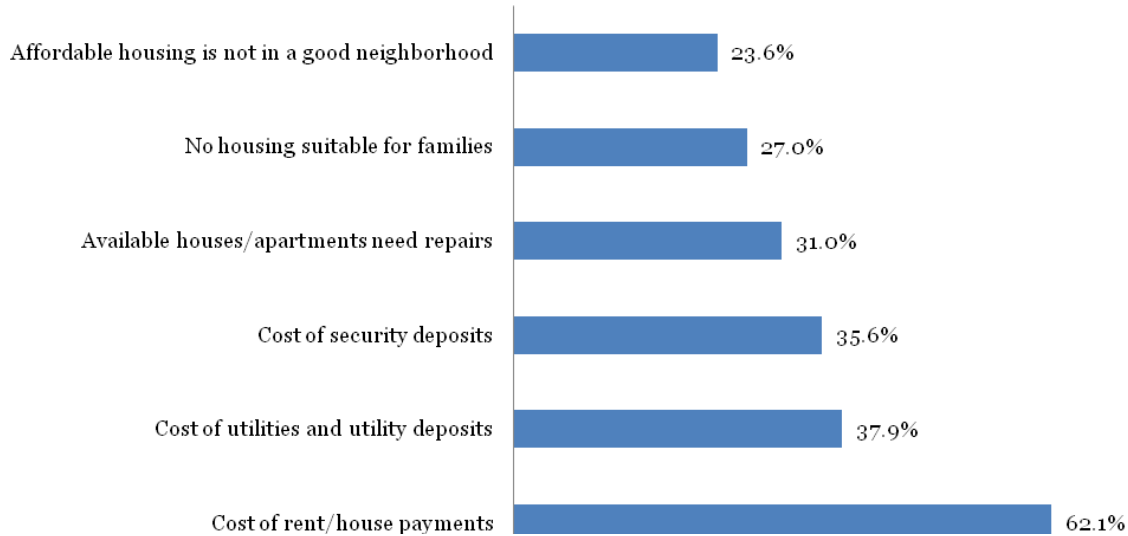
### Other/Comments:

- Help for single parents to get an education
- Cost of child care while trying to get an education
- More services and the ability and help to get an education - that way families can get off of public services.



I think **housing** in this area is a problem:      Yes =123 (70.7%)      No = 50 (28.7%)

## Housing



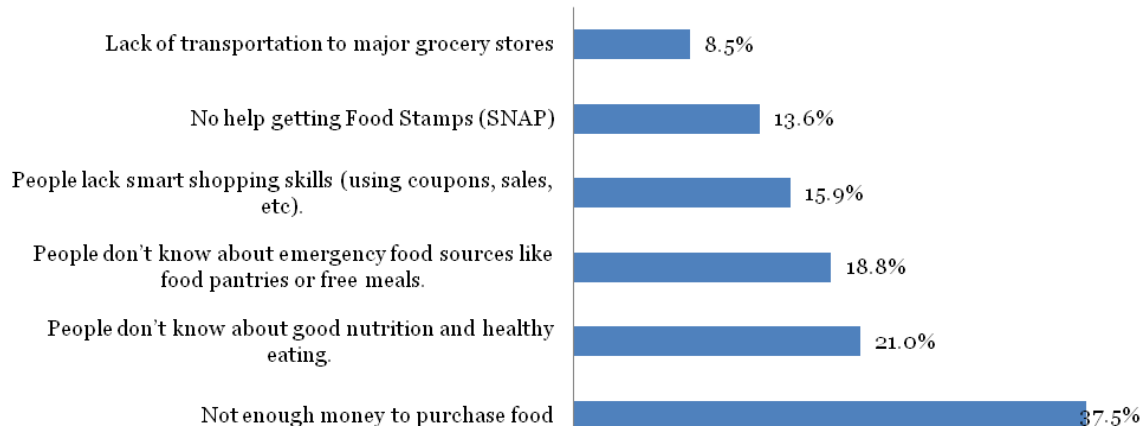
### Other Issues/Comments:

- Student Housing
  - Too many student-only housing
  - All that is around is student rentals
  - Too much student housing
  - Many rentals are for college students.
  - Too many student rentals; need homes for families
  - Most places are for students
- Cost of Utilities
  - High cost of heat
  - Paying for heat
- Lack of Affordable Housing
  - Housing too small for cost accepted by HUD
  - Affordable housing is usually some distance away from financial opportunity, cheaper housing results in more costly transportation
  - Keeping a good apartment with one income is hard to keep and fund one to rent amount and everything rising
- Other
  - Too much housing is Dreams Parks rentals

I think **food** is a problem in this area: Yes =86 (48.9%)

No = 90 (51.1%)

## Food



### Other Issues/Comments:

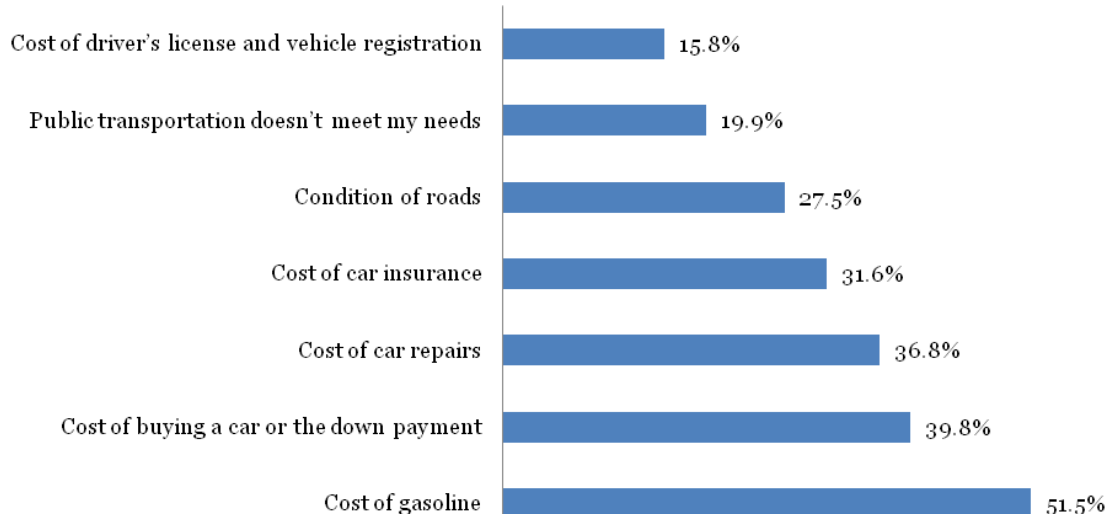
- Expensive
  - Other bills (e.g. heat, gas) are so expensive it takes up a lot of income. Healthy foods are expensive.
  - Eating healthy requires spending a lot of money.
  - The Great American & Price Chopper are expensive
- Accessibility
  - Distance; no local grocery stores
  - Lack of WIC foods in the stores
- Other
  - Some seniors go without groceries and get to a food bank once a month any yet very little food.
  - Food banks distribute little food
  - Lack of meal planning skills; how to put together a well balanced meal
  - Few decent, low-priced shopping stores

I think **transportation** in this area is a problem:

Yes =105 (61.4%)

No = 66 (38.6%)

## Transportation



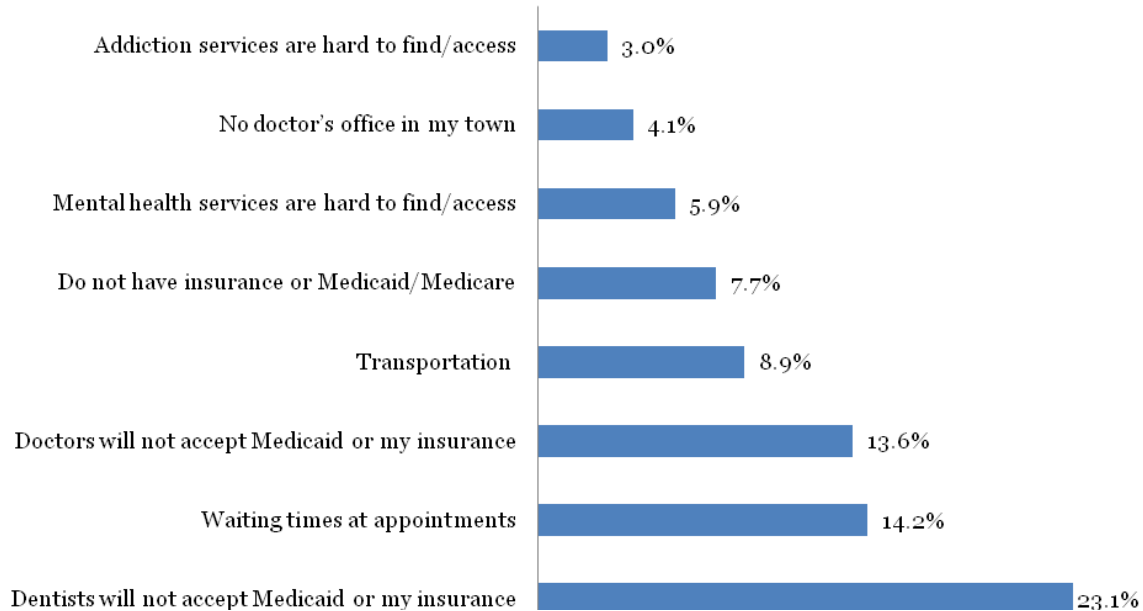
### Other Issues/Comments:

- Availability
  - I live too far away from a bus stop - 2 miles.
  - Some places are so rural there is no public transportation
  - Bus times could be longer; at least until 8PM
  - The new bus schedule presents huge issues for me
- Expensive
  - The cost of public transportation increasing
  - Cannot afford a dependable vehicle
- Other
  - Poor taxi/cab services

I think **healthcare** is a problem in this area: Yes =77 (45.6%)

No = 92 (54.4%)

## Healthcare



### Other Issues/Comments:

- Expensive/Cost
  - Cost of medical insurance
  - Cost of healthcare
  - Expensive
  - The cost of healthcare. I make \$3200/month and pay \$1400 in insurance; medical/dental/optical
- Access/Availability
  - They need an Urgent Care other than in Oneonta
  - Medicaid application is online
  - Mental health wait times are almost a month for an appointment; 28 days in substance abuse rehab is not enough - need long term care; if you are not in "crisis" mental health services discharge patients. Mental Health services are non-existent here.
  - Mental health services supply does not meet the demand of the county. Services that are available are limited in available appointments.
  - Not enough Specialists
- Continuity
  - Doctors have so many patients so you must see many different doctors when you are sick - lose out on good relationships

Please list **other challenges** you think are in the community.

- Child Care
  - Finding quality and affordable care
  - Finding inexpensive yet safe & reliable child care in order to work; after school programs are very expensive, not affordable, especially with more than one child.
  - Affordable, accessible and reliable. Not just having reasonable rates, but quality providers to watch the children.
- Recreation
  - Lack of social events for children
  - Not many recreational activities for young children; only McDonlad's Playland or Innerskate 88.
  - High cost of gym memberships.
- Access to Community Resources
  - No real financial assistance with other items that households might need.
  - Being a new, single mom without any resources is a struggle
  - Trying to get help in this area in near impossible; income levels are set very high.
- Other
  - Too many drugs circulating in public places (e.g. parks)
  - There should be more opportunities for single parents.
  - The major problem is employment therefore money becomes an issue for many families.



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