

Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile



2022 Update

Introduction

The Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile is accomplished through a true collaboration between many people and agencies. As local “experts” in their fields, a diverse group of stakeholders from the areas of government, healthcare, education, and human services contributed data and narratives for the Risk Profile. The data is collected to provide a convenient snapshot of the levels of risk existing in multiple domains; all of which have an affect on the residents of our community. A format for presenting the information in the most useful and useable way was established with the first publication in 2000, and continues with this document.

The information and data are separated into the following domains:

- **Community** – this section includes the history and demographics of Herkimer County, population statistics by age and community, older adults, housing, transportation, employment & industry, quality of life, youth development & adult employment assistance, childcare, and information & referral.
- **Citizenship** – this section covers voting statistics, engaged & informed citizens, youth citizenship, firearms, youth arrests, crime rates, adult arrests & convictions, DWI information, Probation and Correctional Alternatives, juvenile delinquency, Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS), and incarceration.
- **Family** – this section includes information and data on household composition, family management, housing, family conflict, and parental attitudes& family norms.
- **Economic Security** – this section includes statistics and information related to income and employment, poverty (extreme economic deprivation), economic assistance for basic needs, and health care coverage & assistance.
- **Physical and Emotional Health** – the Herkimer County Community Health Needs Assessment done by Herkimer County Public Health can be found here, as well as information on the COVID 19 pandemic, mental health and substance use & misuse, and suicide & self-inflicted injury.
- **Education** – this section includes information on Pre-K to grade 12 demographics and environment, academic proficiency for grades 3-8 ELA/Math and grades 4-8 Science, Regents proficiency, graduation rates and career & college readiness, youth perceptions of school, and continuing education (community college)

The Risk Profile is used within the county government structure to determine the priority need areas that will be the main focus for improvement in the upcoming years. This document helps guide decision making and planning for services as we strive to improve the lives of our residents.

Pictures of local landmarks and scenery have been used in the Risk Profile documents for years; this document displays pictures that represent both the beauty of our communities and our rich history, dating back to the 18th century. It wasn’t possible to include every picture worthy of publication, but this will give readers a snapshot of the beauty and history surrounding us every day.

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Community

History and Demographics

Geography

Herkimer County is located in central New York State, situated northwest of Albany and east of Syracuse. The northern part of the county is in the Adirondack State Park, and the Mohawk River flows across the southern part of the county. Herkimer County is bordered by St. Lawrence County to the north, Otsego County to the south, Hamilton, Fulton and Montgomery Counties to the east, and Lewis and Oneida Counties to the west.

Herkimer County is the longest county in New York State, and has the sixth largest land area (1,412 square miles). Forty-seven square miles of the county is covered in water (3.32%). The 2017 Census of Agriculture, Herkimer County Profile estimates that 13% of the land (117,780 acres) is used in farming.

Herkimer County has a population of 61,738 (2020 ACS). There are nineteen towns, ten villages and one city in Herkimer County.

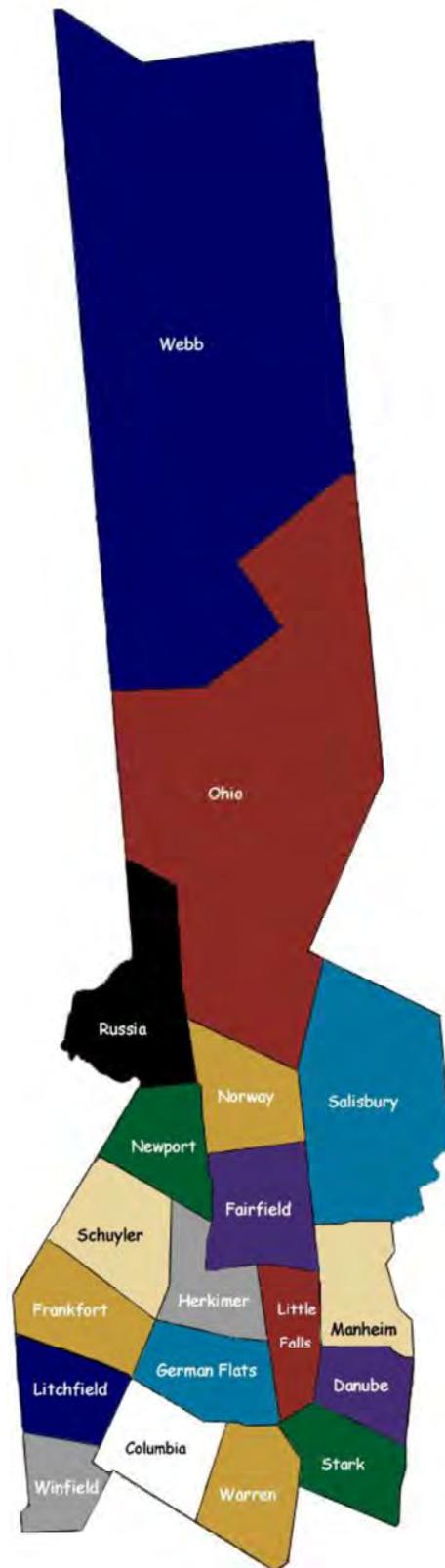
The majority of the county's population resides in the towns, villages and city that surround the Mohawk River, referred to as the Mohawk Valley Corridor. The county seat is the Village of Herkimer, which is home to the county's community college.

The county is named after General Nicholas Herkimer, a Revolutionary War hero who died after being wounded at the Battle of Oriskany in 1777.

County History

Herkimer County's rich history dates back hundreds of years. When counties were established in New York State in 1683, the present Herkimer County was then a part of Albany County. Albany County was an enormous county that included the northern part of New York State as well as all of the present state of Vermont. Albany County was reduced in size on July 3, 1766 by the creation of Cumberland County, and again on March 16, 1770 by the creation of Gloucester County, both containing territories which are now in Vermont.

On March 12, 1772, what was left of Albany County was split into parts. One part remained under the name Albany County and one became Tryon County, which contained what is now 37



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counties in New York State. The county was named for William Tryon, colonial governor of New York.

In 1784, following the peace treaty that ended the American Revolutionary War, the name of Tryon County was changed to Montgomery County to honor General Richard Montgomery. In 1789, Montgomery County's size was reduced when Ontario County was formed. Ontario County included the present Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, Steuben, Wyoming, Yates, and part of Schuyler and Wayne Counties.

In 1791, what was left of Montgomery County was split again by the creation of three additional counties: Herkimer County, Otsego County and Tioga County. Herkimer County in 1791 was much larger than the present county and was also reduced by a number of subsequent splits. These splits helped to form Onondaga, Oneida, Chenango and St. Lawrence Counties.

Herkimer County assumed its present form in 1817. Herkimer County now extends from the Adirondack Mountains to the Mohawk Valley. The forests to the north provide wood products while the southern valleys are favorable for farming.

As westward expansion provided access to land more suitable for growing wheat, Herkimer County farmers realized that dairying would be a more profitable use of their land. The lack of a mass market for milk led to the production of cheese. By the 1850s, Little Falls was the location of a world famous cheese market.

The Erie Canal spurred the development of large villages and provided a means to transport goods both east and west. Immigrants from Ireland and later from eastern and southern Europe arrived to work in local industries and agriculture, providing a diversity of culture.

Many products have been produced in Herkimer County over the last 200 years including rifles, typewriters, farm equipment, furniture, textiles, shoes, data recorders, bicycles, nutcrackers, and paper. The oldest Herkimer County industry, Remington Arms, still plays a major role in the county's economy.

Many landmarks in Herkimer County have been included in the *National Register of Historic Places*. These historical sites and the dates they were entered in the National Register are listed below. This list can also be found on the Herkimer County Historical Society's webpage;

Village of Cold Brook - Cold Brook Feed Mill 10/9/1974
Town of Danube – Herkimer Home 2/12/1971
Town of Danube - Indian Castle Church 2/18/1971
Town of Danube - Zoller-Frasier Round Barn (torn down) 9/29/1984
Village of Dolgeville - Alfred Dolge Hose Co. No. 1 8/19/1994
Village of Dolgeville - Alfred Dolge Hose Co. No. 1 8/19/1994
Village of Dolgeville - Breckwoldt-Ward House 3/15/2005
Village of Dolgeville - Menge House Complex 12/16/1996
Village of Dolgeville - Dolge Company Factory Complex 9/17/1974
Village of Dolgeville - U.S. Post Office 11/17/1988
Town of Fairfield - Trinity Episcopal Church 6/10/1993
Town of Fairfield - Lalino Stone Arch Bridge (Route 29) 12/28/2001
Town of Fairfield - Old City Stone Arch Bridge (Welch Corners) 12/28/2001
Town of Fairfield - Route 29 Stone Arch Bridge 1/26/2001

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Town of Frankfort - Balloon Farm 4/23/1998
Town of Frankfort - Frankfort Hill District #10 School 6/23/2011
Town of Frankfort - Frankfort Town Hall 12/9/1999
Town of Frankfort - Remington House 8/21/1997
Village of Frankfort - U.S. Post Office 5/11/1989
Town of German Flatts - Fort Herkimer Church 7/24/1972
Town of German Flatts - Van Slyke House 11/8/2021
Village of Herkimer - H.M. Quackenbush Factory 8/15/2022
Village of Herkimer - Herkimer County Court House 1/14/1972
Village of Herkimer - Herkimer County Historical Society 4/13/1972
Village of Herkimer - Herkimer County 1834 Jail 1/14/1972
Village of Herkimer - Oak Hill Cemetery 5/2/2013
Village of Herkimer - The Reformed Church of Herkimer 3/16/1972
Village of Herkimer - U.S. Post Office 5/11/1989
Town of Herkimer - Hildreth Homestead 11/23/2020
Town of Herkimer - Palatine German Frame House (Rt. 5) 4/15/2004
Village of Ilion - Remington Stables 10/29/1976
Village of Ilion - First United Methodist Church 7/5/2003
Village of Ilion - Library Bureau–Remington Rand–Sperry Univac Manufacturing Complex
2/12/2021
Village of Ilion - Thomas Richardson House 9/7/1984
Village of Ilion - U.S. Post Office 5/11/1989
City of Little Falls - Emmanuel Episcopal Church 7/29/2009
City of Little Falls - Herkimer County Trust Company Building (Little Falls Historical Society)
3/5/1970
City of Little Falls - Italian Community Bake Oven 11/8/2006
City of Little Falls - James Sanders House 4/12/2006
City of Little Falls - Little Falls City Hall 8/24/2011
City of Little Falls - Overlook Mansion 7/19/2010
City of Little Falls - U.S. Post Office 5/11/1989
Town of Litchfield - Cedar Lake Methodist Episcopal Church 8/17/2020
Town of Manheim - Snells Bush Church and Cemetery 2/26/2004
Town of Newport - Brown-Morey-Davis Farmhouse 1/15/2014
Town of Newport - James Keith House 1/15/2014
Village of Newport - Benjamin Bowen House 11/5/1998
Village of Newport - Newport Stone Arch Bridge 2/10/1992
Village of Newport - Yale-Cady Octagon House and Yale Lock Factory Site 9/29/2007
Village of Newport - Masonic Temple – Newport Lodge No 445 F. & A.M. 1/13/2010
Village of Newport - Stuart Perry & William Swezey Houses 11/28/2012
Town of Norway - Norway Baptist Church (former) 6/29/2007
Town of Salisbury - Augustus Frisbie House 12/9/1999
Town of Salisbury - Salisbury Center Covered Bridge 6/19/1972
Town of Salisbury - Salisbury Center Grange Hall 2/12/1999
Village of Van Hornesville - James H. III and Laura Rockefeller Case House (2333 St. Rt. 80)
9/3/19

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Town of Warren - Blatchley House (Jordanville) 8/15/2008
Town of Warren - Church of the Good Shepherd 8/21/1997
Town of Warren - Jordanville Public Library 5/24/1984
Town of Warren - Jordanville Holy Trinity Monastery 6/23/2011
Town of Warren - Sunset Hill 1/4/2007
Town of Webb - Big Moose Community Chapel (Eagle Bay) 2012
Town of Webb - Covewood Lodge (Old Forge) 5/12/2004
Town of Webb - Goodsell Memorial Home (Town of Webb Historical Association) 4/12/2006
Town of Webb - Stillwater Fire Observation Station 9/18/2017
Town of Winfield - Brace Farm 6/5/2013
Town of Winfield - Meetinghouse Green Road Cemetery 6/5/2013
Town of Winfield - Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm 11/24/2015
Village of West Winfield - Bonfoy-Barstow House 8/24/2011

HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Holy Trinity Monastery District 2009
Little Falls Historic District 2012
Mohawk Upper Castle Historic District 1993
New York State Barge Canal Historic District 2017
NY Central Railroad Adirondack Division Historic District 1993
Russian Corners Historic District 1996
South Ann Street-Mill Street Historic District 2008
Thendara Historic District 2010



General Herkimer Home Historic Site

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Population and Demographics

Table 1 depicts Herkimer County's population demographics from the 2010 U.S. Census and the 2020 U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimate.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census ACS, there were 61,738 people living in Herkimer County. The county's population has decreased by 4.3% since the 2010 Census. Although the percentage of males has increased slightly since 2010, the percentage of females has decreased slightly.

There has been an increase in the median age of Herkimer County residents, from 41.2 in 2010 to 44.3 in 2020. The number of Herkimer County households has also decreased during this time period, but the average household size has remained relatively stable at 2.4. There has been a 6.4% decrease in the number of family households since 2010.

Herkimer County Demographics: 2010 Census and 2020 American Community Survey (ACS)

	2010 U.S. Census	Percent	2020 ACS	Percent
Population	64,519	100%	61,738	100%
Male	31,579	48.9%	30,556	49.5%
Female	32,940	51.10%	31,182	50.50%
Median Age	41.2	—	44.3	—
Total Households	26,324	100%	25,093	100.00%
Average Household Size	2.4	—	2.4	—
Family Households	16,871	64.10%	15,791	62.90%

Table 1 Source: US Census, American Community Survey

Age

Table 2 on the next page illustrates demographic information taken from the 2020 U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) looking at population by age in Herkimer County, NYS, and the US. Table 2 illustrates the population of Herkimer County, NYS and US residents by age. As the table depicts, Herkimer County's population is slightly older than the population in New York State and the United States. The median age of Herkimer County residents, 44.3 years, is 5.3 years older than the median age in NYS and 6.1 years older than the median age in the U.S. When compared with NYS and the US, the percentage of individuals under age 35 in Herkimer County (40.4%) was lower than that found in NYS (44.6%) and the US (45.7%), and the percentage of those age 55 and over (33.9%) was higher than found in both NYS (29.9%) and the US (31.1%).

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Herkimer County, NYS and US by Age: 2020

	Herkimer County 2011-2013 ACS	Herkimer County 2020 ACS	Herkimer County Percent change	New York State 2020 ACS	US 2020 ACS
Population	64,442	61,738	-4.3%	20,201,249	331,449,281
Median Age	42.4	44.3	+4.5%	39	38.2
% Under Age 5	5.2%	5.0%	+3.8%	5.80%	6.00%
5 to 19 years	19.1%	18.3%	+4.2%	17.60%	19.10%
20 to 34 years	16.9%	17.1%	+1.2%	21.20%	20.60%
35 to 54 years	26.5%	23.8%	-10.2%	25.50%	25.30%
55 to 74 years	23.7%	27.1%	+14.3%	22.70%	22.30%
75 and above	8.5%	6.7%	-21.2%	7.20%	8.80%

Table 2 Source: US Census, American Community Survey

Race and Ethnicity

Herkimer County is less diverse when compared with NYS and the U.S. as seen in Table 3 (below). Herkimer County is nearly 95% white (94.8%), with 1.4% of the population reporting being Black or African American, 0.50% being Asian, and 0.01% reporting being some other race.

Herkimer County, NYS and US by Race and Ethnicity 2020

	Herkimer County		New York State		US	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Population	61,738	100.00%	19,514,849	100.00%	326,569,308	100.00%
White	58,518	94.80%	NA	62.30%	NA	70.40%
Black or African American	866	1.40%	NA	15.40%	NA	12.60%
Asian	309	0.50%	NA	8.60%	NA	5.60%
Some Other Race	499	0.01%	NA	9.00%	NA	6.10%
Two Races or more	1,546	2.50%	NA	4.70%	NA	5.20%
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	1,411	2.30%	NA	19.10%	NA	18.20%

Table 3 Source: US Census, American Community Survey

Income and Poverty

The median and per capita incomes for Herkimer County are increasing, as seen in

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Table 4, but remain lower than those reported in NYS and the U.S. The percentage of individuals who make over \$100,000 per year in Herkimer County has also increased from 12.6% in 2011 to 17.7% in 2020, but continues to be much lower than the percentages reported in NYS and the U.S.

Herkimer County, NYS and US by Income 2020

	Herkimer County		New York State		United States	
	2011	2020	2011	2020	2011	2020
Median Household Income	\$43,722	\$51,862	\$57,327	\$65,323	\$52,176	\$60,293
Per Capita Income	\$23,374	\$29,540	\$32,083	\$40,898	\$27,884	\$35,384
% <\$10,000	7.4%	5.5%	8.1%	6.7%	7.5%	6.3%
% <\$25,000	27.0%	22.4%	23.5%	20.7%	23.9%	20.2%
% \$100,000+	12.6%	17.7%	27.1%	32.7%	22.3%	27.9%

Table 4 Source: US Census, American Community Survey

As seen in Table 5 (below), poverty has increased for individuals in Herkimer County since 2000, but is declining from its peak in 2011 (15.4%). The percentage of Herkimer County individuals in poverty is similar to the of NYS, but is larger than those in the US. Poverty rates for children under the age of 18 years in Herkimer County are higher in 2020 than they were in 2000, but have declined from their peak in 2011. Poverty rates for seniors have declined since 2000 and are lower than those in NYS and the U.S.

Percent of Persons Living Below Poverty: Herkimer County, NYS, US

	HC 2000	HC 2008-2010	HC 2011-2013	HC 2020	NYS 2020	US 2020
Individuals	12.50%	14.60%	15.40%	13.60%	13.60%	12.80%
Children (<18)	16.10%	21.20%	25.10%	20.70%	18.70%	17.50%
Seniors (65+)	10.40%	11.90%	8.80%	7.40%	11.50%	9.30%

Table 5 Source: 2020 ACS, 5 year estimates

Agriculture and Farming

Herkimer County is rich in scenic beauty, and has historical roots closely tied to agriculture. Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, farming was the primary livelihood of the majority of the county's residents and a major force in its economic life. In the eighteenth century, 90 percent were farmers; by 1900, 30 percent were employed in agriculture or agriculture-related industries. In 1991, less than 2 percent of the population of the county worked at farming.

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Herkimer County dairy farms numbered 1,433 in 1941 with 36,800 cows (an average of 26 cows per farm) and in 1991 fell to 378 dairy farms, with 23,000 cows (average 61 cows). In 1960, 1,100 producers were shipping over 260 million pounds of milk a year (about 30.5 million gallons). By 1990, despite far fewer farms, production was still over 400 million pounds of milk a year, maintaining Herkimer County's long standing place among the top dozen dairy counties in New York. In that year, Herkimer County's agricultural production totaled more than \$55 million. (Source: "Herkimer County at 200" published by the Herkimer County Historical Society 1992)

Farming continues to be an important aspect of the economy, culture, and way of life in Herkimer County. According to the 2017 New York State Agricultural Statistics, there were 596 farms and 117,780 farmed acres in Herkimer County, accounting for 14% of the total land area in the county (Table 6). Dairy farming is the dominant agricultural activity in Herkimer County. In 2019, Herkimer County was the second largest producer of honey in NY State (DiNapoli, 2019).

Farming activities are located almost exclusively within the southern portion of the county outside of the Adirondack Park. It is important to note that a significant portion of the county is located within the Adirondack Park (555,690 out of 931,923 total acres) where the majority of the land is forested with little agricultural activity. Cornell Cooperative Extension reports that approximately 41% of the total acreage of all lands south of the Adirondack Park is farmland.

Number of Farms and Acreage Used in Farming, Herkimer County

	2000	2002	2010	2015	2017
Number of Farms	710	690	675	687	596
Land in Farms	154,200 acres	159,258 acres	136,600 acres	140,270 acres	117,780 acres
Average Size of Farm	217 acres	231 acres	243 acres	204 acres	198 acres

Table 6 Source: 2017 Census of Agriculture, Herkimer County Profile

Information from the NYS Agricultural Statistics indicates that the number of farms and land used in farming in Herkimer County decreased between 2000 and 2010, but experienced a slight increase in 2015. However, by 2017 there was a 16% decrease in the number of farms in the county from 2000 to 2017. There was a 23.6% decrease in the number of acres dedicated to farming, and an 8.8% decrease in the number of farms from 2000 to 2017 (Ag Census, 2017).

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2017 Top Livestock and Value of Sales, Herkimer County

2017	Quantity	State Rank
Top Livestock		
Cattle and Calves	22,547	35
Layers	10,079	27
Pullets	6,104	27
Top Value of Sales by Commodity Group		
Milk and Other Dairy	\$38,884,000	25
Crops and Hay	\$6,715,000	26
Grains, Oil Seeds, Dried Beans and Peas	\$4,716,000	30
Vegetables, melons, potatoes and sweet potatoes	\$1,291,000	39

Table 7 Source: 2017 Census of Agriculture, Herkimer County Profile

The Table 7 illustrates the number of livestock and the value of farm sales in 2017. There were 122 dairy farms reported in 2017 with the value of milk and other dairy products estimated at \$38,884,000, a 25.2% decrease in sales from 2012.

In 2017, the market value of Herkimer County agricultural products sold was \$57,977,000, a 17.7% decrease in value from 2012. Total farm production expenses were approximately \$44,539,000, and increase of 33.9% from 2012. Net farm income was an average of \$26,246 per farm in 2017, a 1% decrease from 2012. No adjustments for cost of living or inflation were made.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Herkimer County reported the following challenges facing Herkimer County dairy farmers in 2021:

Summer and fall harvesting conditions in 2021 were extremely challenging. Excessive amounts of rain made it difficult to get crops in, leading to a shortage of quality forages, and in some instances severe crop loss. Some organic dairy farmers also suffered additional challenges, losing their milk contract with Horizon Organic due to a shifting economic model.

The pressures of COVID-19 are still very real with changing regulations, continuing labor shortages, supply chain issues, and skyrocketing prices for regular products like medication, latex gloves, and feed. These pressures are further exacerbated by the continually low commodity prices.

The ups and downs families face with school, continued isolation, off-farm work, quarantines, and ever-changing information has led to increased stress across the board.

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Government Structure and Legislative Districts

Herkimer County has 17 legislative districts. The Chairman of the Legislature is designated as the Chief Elected Officer in Herkimer County.

Herkimer County is one of twenty-one counties in New York State that employs a County Administrator. The Herkimer County Administrator is appointed by and responsible to the Herkimer County Legislature. The County Administrator handles all administrative operations of the county.

With the release of the 2020 Census data, NY State assembled a bipartisan redistricting commission to redraw state district lines. As part of the new district line, portions of Herkimer County are included in the 49th and 53rd Districts of the New York State Senate and the 118th and 122nd Districts of the New York State Assembly. At the federal level, the entirety of Herkimer County is represented in the 22nd Congressional District of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Expenditures Per Capita

Table 8 on the next page illustrates the expenditures, tax rates, and debt per capita for Herkimer County for the years 2015, 2018 and 2021, with benchmark comparisons to other counties in Upstate New York, small counties, and the six counties in the Mohawk Valley region (Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, and Schoharie).

Total per capita expenditures in Herkimer County have increased by 46% between 2015 and 2021. Upstate small county average per capita expenditure rates rose by 12.2% between 2015 and 2021, and were \$345 more than the expenditures recorded for Herkimer County in 2021 (\$2,499 vs. \$2,154 respectively).

In 2021, Herkimer County's expenditures for education (K–12 instruction, pupil services, transportation and the community college) rose by \$22 from \$80 in 2015 to \$102 in 2021. These expenditures remained higher than the average expenditures recorded for upstate small counties, and ranked #2 in the Mohawk Valley region.

Herkimer County's Public Safety expenditures per capita have seen a slight increase between 2015 and 2021, but continue to be lower than the average expenditures recorded in upstate small counties (\$128 per capita in Herkimer County vs. \$237 in upstate small counties). Herkimer County ranked the lowest (#6) overall in the Mohawk Valley region, #55 in NYS (minus NYC) and #48 (out of 50) for upstate small counties in per capita public safety expenditures in 2021.

Expenditures for Employee Benefits per Capita in 2021 were more than half of those recorded for upstate small counties (\$216 vs. \$398 respectively), and ranked #5 overall in the Mohawk Valley region, #51 in NYS (minus NYC) and #44 (out of 50) for upstate small counties.

A searchable database of comparative tax and spending data for local governments has been posted at <http://seethroughny.net/benchmarking>.

**Herkimer County Benchmarks: 2015, 2018, & 2021 Expenditures,
Tax Rates, and Debt Per Capita**

	Herkimer County			Upstate Small County Average			Area Rank (out of 50)			Region Rank (out of 6)			NYS Rank (out of 57)		
	2015	2018	2021	2015	2018	2021	2015	2018	2021	2015	2018	2021	2015	2018	2021
Total Expenditures	\$1,475	\$1,605	\$2,154	\$2,228	\$2,374	\$2,499	46	47	32	6	6	5	53	53	36
Full Value per Capita	\$71,896	\$72,918	\$87,030	\$89,551	\$92,994	\$102,246	16	17	15	2	2	2	23	24	22
Effective Property Tax rate	0.56%	0.57%	0.48%	0.76%	0.74%	0.73%	33	34	38	5	5	5	33	34	38
Debt Per Capita	\$118	\$377	\$309	\$433	\$377	\$484	40	29	33	4	4	4	47	36	40
Taxes Per Capita	\$937	\$972	\$1,154	\$1,101	\$972	\$1,359	34	39	39	4	4	4	41	46	46
Total Revenues Per Capita	\$1,541	\$1,604	\$2,636	\$2,229	\$2,411	\$2,937	45	46	29	6	6	4	51	53	33
General Gov't Per Capita	\$247	\$247	\$677	\$348	\$425	\$520	41	44	13	6	6	1	46	48	15
Education Per Capita	\$80	\$99	\$102	\$73	\$80	\$77	30	16	9	3	3	2	35	21	14
Public Safety Per Capita	\$116	\$157	\$128	\$237	\$249	\$237	46	44	48	6	6	6	56	51	55
Social Services Per Capita	\$471	\$470	\$473	\$487	\$487	\$450	32	32	26	5	4	4	34	34	27
Economic Development Per Capita	\$6	\$24	\$37	\$19	\$26	\$28	35	15	26	5	3	4	42	17	27
Culture and Recreation Per Capita	\$13	\$12	\$12	\$13	\$14	\$13	20	25	22	3	5	4	25	30	28
Employee Benefits Per Capita	\$176	\$196	\$216	\$383	\$372	\$398	45	43	44	6	5	5	52	50	51

Table 8 *Source: Office of State Comptroller, with further calculations by the Empire Center for Public Policy*

Community

Population by Age and Community

Data Sources

American Community Survey (2020). U.S. Census Bureau. Explore Census Data. Retrieved October 9, 2022, from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/all?q=Herkimer+County,+New+York>

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Herkimer Community Garden

Community

Population by Age and Community

Why this is important

Understanding population trends can help communities plan for needed services and supports for their residents. The place where an individual or family resides can impact activities of daily living. Access to health services and day care, engaging in activities, commuting to work, location of shopping venues, and accessing valuable supports and services are all connected to location.

Where we stand

Population Trends

Herkimer County has fluctuated with an increase from 1950 to 1970 and a steady decline from 1970 to 2020 (Figure 1). The overall population in Herkimer County peaked in 1970 with 67,633 individuals and then steadily declined to 2020 with a population of only 331 more individuals than in 1950. Between 1950 and 1970, the population in Herkimer County increased by 10%. This was followed by a 67.9% decrease between 1970 and 2020.

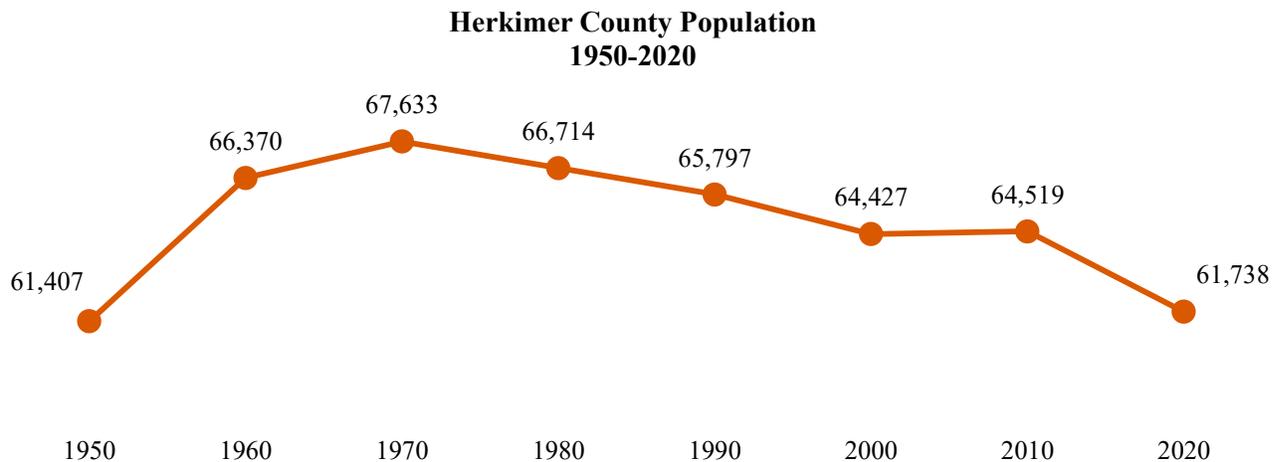


Figure 1 Source: 1950 – 2010 Census, 2020 5-year American Community Survey

Figure 2 on the following page illustrates the median age of Herkimer County residents from 1950 to 2020. The median age of Herkimer County residents has changed considerably over the last 60 years. This change has not, however, simply been one of a continually aging population. The median age of the population actually declined for a period of twenty years from 1950 to 1970. During those 20 years, the median age dropped from 33.6 in 1950 to 31.1 in

Community

Population by Age and Community

1970. After 1970, the median age began to climb, rising to its highest level of 44.3 years in 2020. The advancing age of the “baby boomers” (those born during the post –World War II baby boom from 1946 to 1964) has contributed to the aging population, and increased median age, within Herkimer County.

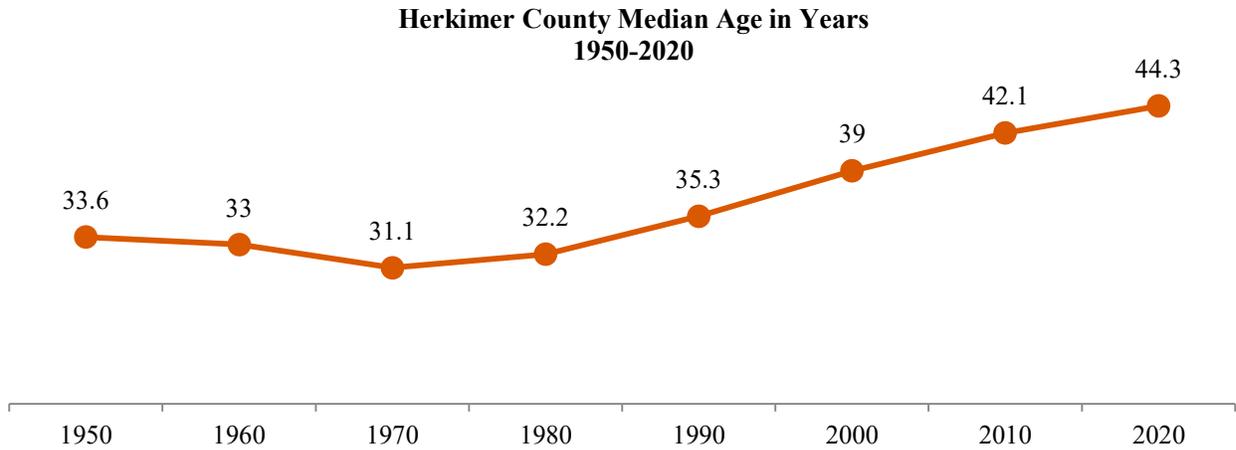


Figure 2 Source: 1950 – 2010 Census, 2020 5-Year American Community Survey

Figure 3 below depicts the median age of males and females in Herkimer County from 1960 to 2020. The median age of females in Herkimer County has been consistently higher than that of males during this time period.

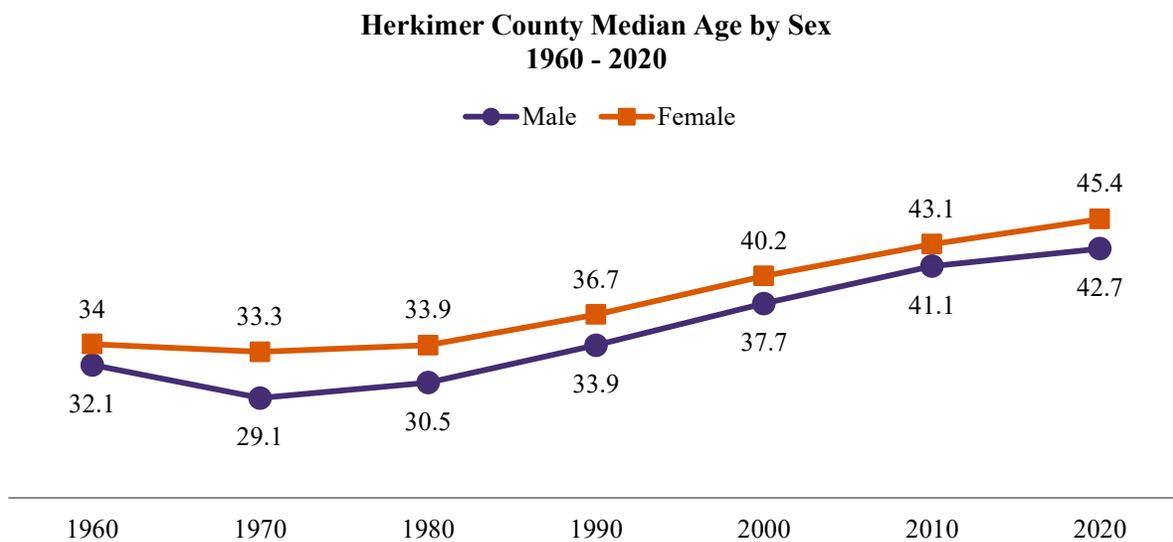
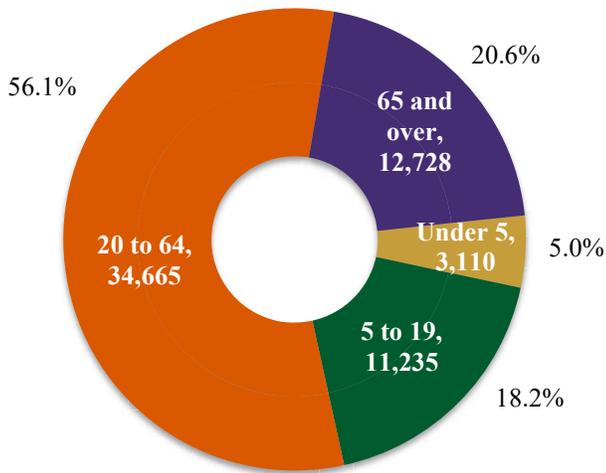


Figure 3 Source: 1950-2010 Census, 2020 5-Year American Community Survey

Community

Population by Age and Community

Herkimer County population by age 2020



According to the U.S. Census 2020 ACS, over half (56.1%) of the county’s population is between the age of 20 and 64 (see Figure 4). In addition, around one in five county residents (20.6%) are age 65 or older. About 18% of Herkimer County residents are between ages 5 and 19. The county’s youngest cohort, those age 5 and under, make up 5% of the total population.

The growth of the county’s residents who are age 65 and older has increased significantly since 1950 (see Figure 5). The number of residents over the age of 65 has increased by 86.1% since 1950. In contrast, the population of children under the age of five has decreased by 50.4% since 1950.

Figure 4 Source: 2020 5-Year American Community Survey

Population trends among selected age groups 1950-2020

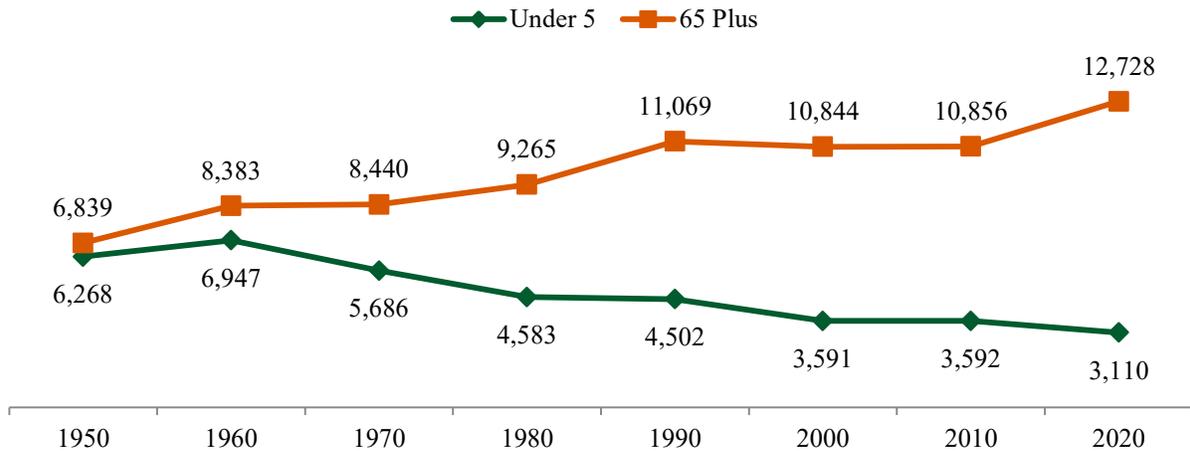


Figure 5 Source: 2020 5-Year American Community Survey

Community

Population by Age and Community

Table 9, illustrates the number of births recorded by city and township in Herkimer County from 2010 to 2019. During that time period, a total of 6,319 children were born in Herkimer County. Births to residents in German Flatts have seen the largest decline, and the City of Little Falls has seen the largest increase.

Herkimer County Births By Municipality 2010-2019

City	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Little Falls	55	59	61	47	49	46	46	50	53	65
Town	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Columbia	17	13	19	11	15	22	15	13	13	19
Danube	7	14	11	8	8	12	9	13	14	10
Fairfield	13	12	19	10	15	14	19	17	30	19
Frankfort	65	71	58	73	78	63	85	71	54	73
German Flatts	162	168	173	157	160	133	131	116	119	109
Herkimer	106	102	99	121	115	98	107	112	87	99
Litchfield	15	18	16	22	13	13	21	9	15	12
Little Falls	9	9	13	13	12	17	11	13	16	7
Manheim	29	38	36	35	37	41	31	27	40	28
Newport	23	25	17	22	22	17	22	23	21	26
Norway	9	6	6	8	5	3	8	8	8	7
Ohio	7	7	9	9	7	3	4	1	12	11
Russia	23	19	30	23	26	35	17	23	16	29
Salisbury	15	20	17	23	22	21	21	19	17	15
Schuyler	22	35	26	33	25	25	30	20	24	28
Stark	17	10	8	5	8	8	9	17	16	16
Warren	8	8	8	19	13	8	14	11	8	16
Webb	10	8	11	14	4	6	12	6	10	9
Winfield	23	17	21	20	23	16	22	19	15	28
Towns Total	580	600	597	626	608	555	588	538	535	561
County Total	635	659	658	673	657	601	634	588	588	626

Table 9 Source: NY State Vital Statistics, Live Births by Minor Civil Division, Table 55

Table 10 on the next page illustrates the number of births recorded by villages in Herkimer County from 2010 to 2019. While the majority of village births during this time period were in the villages of Ilion and Herkimer, both villages have also seen a decrease in births between 2010 and 2019.

Community

Population by Age and Community

Herkimer County Births By Village 2010 to 2019

Village	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Cold Brook	2	1	8	4	0	5	2	0	1	6
Dolgeville	18	22	26	22	20	26	18	15	21	20
Frankfort	26	29	23	35	28	24	36	36	25	35
Herkimer	91	83	83	98	93	84	88	91	70	76
Ilion	114	126	120	111	99	91	96	80	82	80
Middleville	5	4	0	2	6	5	5	7	7	6
Mohawk	30	27	29	28	38	31	18	18	30	17
Newport	9	4	5	1	9	5	10	8	8	10
Poland	9	0	0	1	1	6	5	5	4	6
West Winfield	11	6	11	7	9	4	12	11	3	13
Villages Total	315	302	305	309	303	281	290	271	251	269

Table 10 Source: NY State Vital Statistics, Live Births by Minor Civil Division, Table 55

Table 11 below illustrates the number of live births in Herkimer County by mother's age between 2010 and 2019. Between the years 2010 and 2019, there were no births reported to mothers under the age of 15 years. The number of births to teen mothers ages 15–17 recorded in 2019 was 33.3% lower than in 2010. Births to mothers ages 18–19 have been reduced by 64.6% between 2010 and 2019. Births to mothers over age 30 have slightly increased by 21.2% from 2010 to 2019, rising from 217 total births in 2010 to 263 births in 2019.

Live Births in Herkimer County by Mother's Age 2010–2019

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15–17	15	8	19	11	11	10	5	9	11	10
18–19	48	35	47	34	36	31	32	21	25	17
20–24	171	185	185	193	163	156	168	156	133	129
25–29	183	221	189	214	215	186	204	179	172	207
30–34	143	135	139	158	154	149	146	151	167	173
35–39	60	63	64	51	64	61	65	57	61	72
40–44	14	11	15	11	13	14	14	14	13	16
45+	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	5	2
NR	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0

Table 11 Source: NY State Vital Statistics, Live Births by Mother's Age and Resident County, Table 7

Community

Population by Age and Community

Population by Municipality

There are 19 towns, 10 villages and one city that lie within Herkimer County's borders. The Figure below illustrates the percentage of Herkimer County residents that live in these various areas.

According to the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, slightly more than half (53%) of the county live in towns, 39% live in villages, and 8% live in the City of Little Falls.

Place of Residence: Herkimer County, 2020

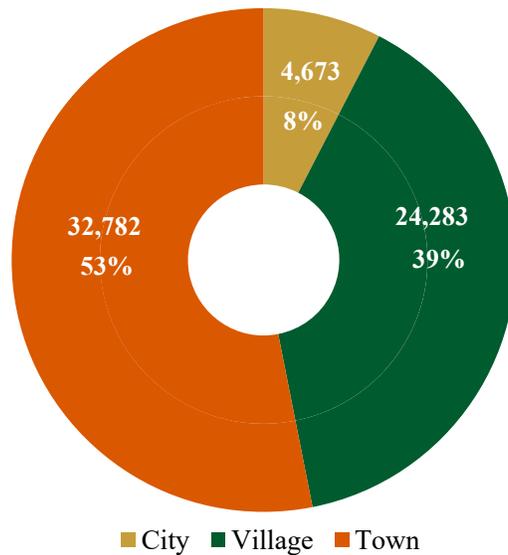


Figure 6 Source: 2020 5-Year American Community Survey

Population Changes by Municipality

Table 12 on the following page illustrates the population by municipality in 2000, 2010 and 2020. Overall, 63.3% of municipalities in Herkimer County experienced population decreases between 2000 and 2020. Nine of the nineteen towns in Herkimer County saw growth in their populations, with the largest increases located in the towns of Norway (22.1%), Salisbury (17.3%), and Ohio (16.3%). The City of Little Falls has seen a 9.9% decline in population during this time period. Ten towns in Herkimer County experienced population losses of between -1.4% and -36.2%, and seven of the ten villages in Herkimer County experienced declines in population ranging from -1.3% to -31.9%.

Community

Population by Age and Community

Herkimer County Population Changes 2000 to 2020

NAME	2000	2010	2020	% Change 2000 - 2020
Herkimer County	64,427	64,519	61,738	
CITIES				
Little Falls	5,188	4,946	4,673	-9.9%
TOWNS				
Columbia	1,630	1,580	1,449	-11.1%
Danube	1,098	1,039	921	-16.1%
Fairfield	1,607	1,627	1,709	6.3%
Frankfort	7,478	7,636	7,283	-2.6%
German Flatts	13,629	13,258	12,531	-8.1%
Herkimer	9,962	10,175	9,660	-3.0%
Litchfield	1,453	1,513	1,474	1.4%
Little Falls	1,544	1,587	1,803	16.8%
Manheim	3,171	3,334	3,180	0.3%
Newport	2,192	2,302	1,982	-9.6%
Norway	711	762	868	22.1%
Ohio	922	1,002	1,072	16.3%
Russia	2,487	2,587	2,511	1.0%
Salisbury	1,953	1,958	2,292	17.4%
Schuyler	3,385	3,420	3,336	-1.4%
Stark	767	757	662	-13.7%
Warren	1,136	1,143	1,211	6.6%
Webb	1,912	1,807	1,220	-36.2%
Winfield	2,202	2,086	1,901	-13.7%
VILLAGES				% Change 2000 - 2020
Cold Brook	336	329	254	-24.4%
Dolgeville*	2,066	2,206	1,927	-6.7%
Frankfort	2,537	2,598	2,503	-1.3%
Herkimer	7,498	7,743	6,912	-7.8%
Ilion	8,610	8,053	7,766	-9.8%
Mohawk	2,660	2,731	2,575	-3.2%
Middleville	550	512	767	39.5%
Newport	640	640	436	-31.9%
Poland	451	508	451	0.0%
West Winfield	862	826	692	-19.7%
<i>* Herkimer County portion only</i>				

Table 12 Sources: 2020 5-Year American Community Survey

Community

Population by Age and Community

Population by Age and Municipality

Table 13 illustrates the number of residents by age in Herkimer County towns and the city of Little Falls in 2020.

**Herkimer County Age and Municipality
2020**

Towns and City	Under 5	5 to 17	18 to 64	65 and over
Columbia	70	180	920	279
Danube	96	126	526	173
Fairfield	242	352	851	264
Frankfort	454	1,055	4,195	1,579
German Flatts	671	2,427	7,083	2,350
Herkimer	101	1,052	5,957	2,550
Litchfield	116	242	851	265
Little Falls City	228	902	2,704	839
Little Falls	73	405	1,057	268
Manheim	170	482	1,809	719
Newport	97	356	1,123	406
Norway	37	85	624	122
Ohio	39	147	665	221
Russia	254	286	1,525	446
Salisbury	110	546	1,313	323
Schuyler	100	389	2,113	734
Stark	56	82	370	154
Warren	69	127	874	141
Webb	24	56	626	514
Winfield	103	303	1,114	381
TOTAL	3,110	9,600	36,300	12,728

Table 13 Sources: 2020 5-Year American Community Survey

Racial Composition by Municipality

Table 14 on the following page illustrates the racial composition of Herkimer County as recorded in the 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (ACS).

According to the 2020 ACS, 94.8% of Herkimer County residents are white. Herkimer County has seen an increase in racial diversity in its population between 2000 and 2020, Table 14, indicates an increase in residents reporting that they are Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, or multiple races. The communities along the valley corridor are the most racially diverse.

Municipalities by Race, 2000 Census & 2020 ACS

	Race													
	Total		Single		White		Black or African American		Other		Multiple		Hispanic or Latinx	
	2000	2020	2000	2020	2000	2020	2000	2020	2000	2020	2000	2020	2000	2020
Herkimer County	64,427	61,738	63,886	60,192	63,031	58,518	329	866	526	369	541	1546	580	1,411
CITIES														
Little Falls	5,188	4,673	5,138	4,612	5,073	4,551	15	38	50	0	50	61	28	207
TOWNS (Include village populations)														
Columbia	1,630	1,449	1,618	1,445	1,606	1,440	1	3	12	2	12	4	6	25
Danube	1,098	921	1,088	885	1,064	885	9	0	10	0	10	36	10	0
Fairfield	1,607	1,709	1,591	1,709	1,582	1,665	6	4	16	0	16	0	4	8
Frankfort	7,478	7,283	7,392	7,001	7,323	6,478	37	114	86	119	86	282	76	163
German Flatts	13,629	12,531	13,487	12,092	13,339	11,469	80	446	142	50	142	439	196	447
Herkimer	9,962	9,660	9,906	9,322	9,646	8,898	97	193	56	50	56	338	117	180
Litchfield	1,453	1,474	1,446	1,448	1,433	1,445	1	0	7	3	7	26	9	7
Little Falls	1,544	1,803	1,538	1,743	1,521	1,733	4	0	6	7	6	60	4	17
Manheim	3,171	3,180	3,144	3,147	3,103	3,139	11	0	27	0	27	33	22	143
Newport	2,192	1,982	2,180	1,968	2,165	1,949	9	13	12	1	12	14	18	25
Norway	711	868	705	868	704	862	0	6	6	0	6	0	3	1
Ohio	922	1,072	918	1,064	894	1,058	5	4	4	0	4	8	5	6
Russia	2,487	2,511	2,474	2,498	2,431	2,488	8	7	13	0	13	13	11	5
Salisbury	1,953	2,292	1,935	2,248	1,921	2,095	3	0	18	153	18	44	3	48
Schuyler	3,385	3,336	3,356	3,203	3,316	3,196	17	0	29	0	29	133	21	0
Stark	767	662	766	661	760	661	3	0	1	0	1	1	2	7
Warren	1,136	1,211	1,118	1,202	1,103	1,170	7	6	18	9	18	9	15	32
Webb	1,912	1,220	1,899	1,220	1,873	1,190	13	30	13	0	13	0	17	26
Winfield	2,202	1,901	2,187	1,896	2,174	1,876	3	2	15	7	15	5	13	64

Table 14 Source: 2020 5-Year American Community Survey

Community

Older Adults in the Community

Table 15, below indicates that Herkimer County seems to be becoming a more diverse county over time. The percentage of Black or African American residents was .5% (2000) and increased to 1.4% by 2020. Residents who identify as Multiple Races increased from .8% (2000) to 2.5% (2020) and Hispanic/Latinx residents increased from .9% (2000) to 2.3% (2020)

Herkimer County Percent Population by Race

	2000	2020
Herkimer County Total	64,427	61,738
White	63,031	58,518
Black or African American	329	866
Multiple Races	541	1,546
Hispanic or Latinx	580	1,411
Other	526	369

Table 15 Sources: *2020 5-Year American Community Survey*



Iliion Community Garden

Community

Older Adults in the Community

Data Sources

American Community Survey (2020). U.S. Census Bureau. Explore Census Data. Retrieved October 9, 2022, from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/all?q=Herkimer+County,+New+York>

Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program

NY State Vital Statistics. (2019). NY State Department of Health. Retrieved from https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2019/



Located at Herkimer College

Community

Older Adults in the Community

Why this is important

Older adults are a vital part of our community; they are our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, and are part of our individual and community family. Older adults deserve our attention as many of them are as vulnerable as our youth. The older adult population is diverse, ranging from age 60 to over 100 years of age.

While the majority of older adults are independent and self-supporting, many have serious health issues that restrict their ability to perform activities of daily living such as driving, housekeeping, and personal care. Many of them live alone due to the death of their partner; this usually results in a loss of household income which can result in a myriad of effects. Although there are programs to assist older adults, a number of factors can limit their ability to access these services or for the services to be adequate to meet their needs.

Where we stand

According to the 2020 Five Year ACS Data from the Census (Table 16), 3% of Herkimer County’s population is 85+ years old, and 28% of the population is 60+ years old.

As Tables 17 and 18 display (next page), the Herkimer County population aged 85 and older has increased by over 127% and currently makes up 10% of the population over 60 in Herkimer County. The group is much more likely to need services in order to keep them living independently in their own home.

As seen in Figure 7 (next page), the percentage of seniors in Herkimer County has consistently exceeded the percentage of seniors in New York State and the United States from 1970 to 2020. As a result of being “elder rich”, our County is presented with unique challenges and opportunities well ahead of the rest of the nation. The areas of Health Care, Elder Care, and Quality of Life will be impacted greatly by these changes.

Herkimer County Senior Citizen Population 1970-2020

Herkimer County	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Total Population	67,633	66,714	65,797	64,427	64,519	61,738
Total Senior Population (Age 60+)	11,545	13,164	14,243	13,781	15,022	17,307
Percentage of total population	17%	20%	22%	21%	23%	28%
Total Aged 85+	740	910	1,157	1,443	1,737	1,684
Percentage of Herkimer County population ages 60+	6%	7%	8%	11%	12%	10%

Table 16 *Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*

Community

Older Adults in the Community

**Adults age 60+ as a Total Percent of the Population
1970-2020**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
United States	14%	16%	17%	15%	18%	22%
NY State	16%	17%	18%	17%	19%	25%
Herkimer County	17%	20%	22%	21%	23%	28%

Table 17 Source: 2020 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

**Adults age 85+ as a Total Percent of the Senior (60+) Population
1970-2020**

	1970	1980	199	2000	2010	2020
United States	0.70%	1.00%	1.20%	1.50%	1.8%	2.00%
NY State	0.70%	1.10%	1.40%	1.60%	2.0%	2.40%
Herkimer County	1.10%	1.40%	1.80%	2.20%	2.70%	2.70%

Table 18 Source: 2020 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

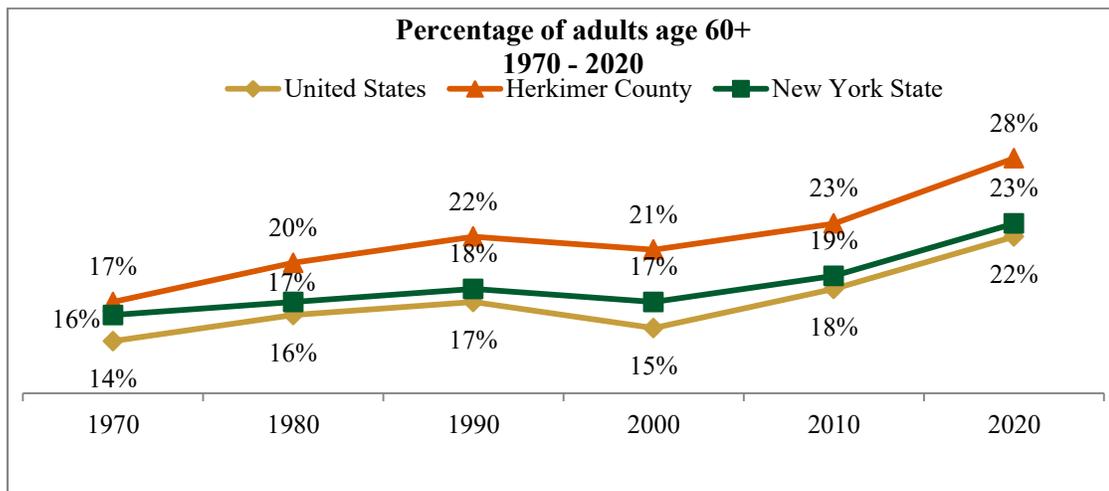


Figure 7 Source: 2020 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Community

Older Adults in the Community

Table 19 depicts the population changes by age group for individuals over age 50 in Herkimer County. Overall increases were seen between 2000 and 2020 among 55-74 year olds, and 85+ year olds.

The numbers of adults aged 75 – 84 years have decreased by 25.4% between 2000 and 2020. Overall, adults age 85+ years have increased by 16.7% between 2000 and 2020.

**Herkimer County Population Changes by Age Group
2000 - 2020**

Age	2000	2010	2020	% change		
				2000 - 2010	2010 - 2020	2000 - 2020
50–54	4,333	5,089	4,318	+ 17.4%	- 8.3%	- 0.3%
55–59	3,461	4,731	4,798	+ 36.7%	+ 1.4%	+ 38.6%
60–64	2,937	4,166	4,579	+ 41.8%	+ 9.9%	+ 55.9%
65–69	2,525	3,114	4,190	+ 23.3%	+ 34.6%	+ 65.9%
70–74	2,569	2,421	3,121	- 5.8%	+ 28.9%	+ 21.5%
75–79	2,454	1,937	2,032	- 21.1%	+ 4.9%	- 17.2%
80–84	1,853	1,647	1,701	- 11.1%	+ 3.3%	- 8.2%
85+	1,443	1,737	1,684	+ 20.4%	- 3.1%	+ 16.7%

Table 19 Source: 2020 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Projected Growth of the Older Adult Population

Table 20 and Figure 8 (next page) illustrate the projected growth of Herkimer County’s older population between the years 2020 and 2040. While it is projected that the overall population of Herkimer County will remain stable over the next 20 years, the population of adults over age 60 is expected to increase.

Community

Older Adults in the Community

Herkimer County Senior Citizen Population Projections

	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Total Population	61,738	61,185	60,367	59,531	58,723
Ages 60 and over	17,307	19,368	19,770	19,547	19,161
Ages 65 and over	12,728	14,512	15,558	15,746	15,362
Ages 75 and over	5,417	2,865	3,197	3,698	3,978
Ages 85 and over	1,684	1,836	2,026	2,415	2,718

Table 20 Source: Cornell University County Projections Explorer 2025-2040

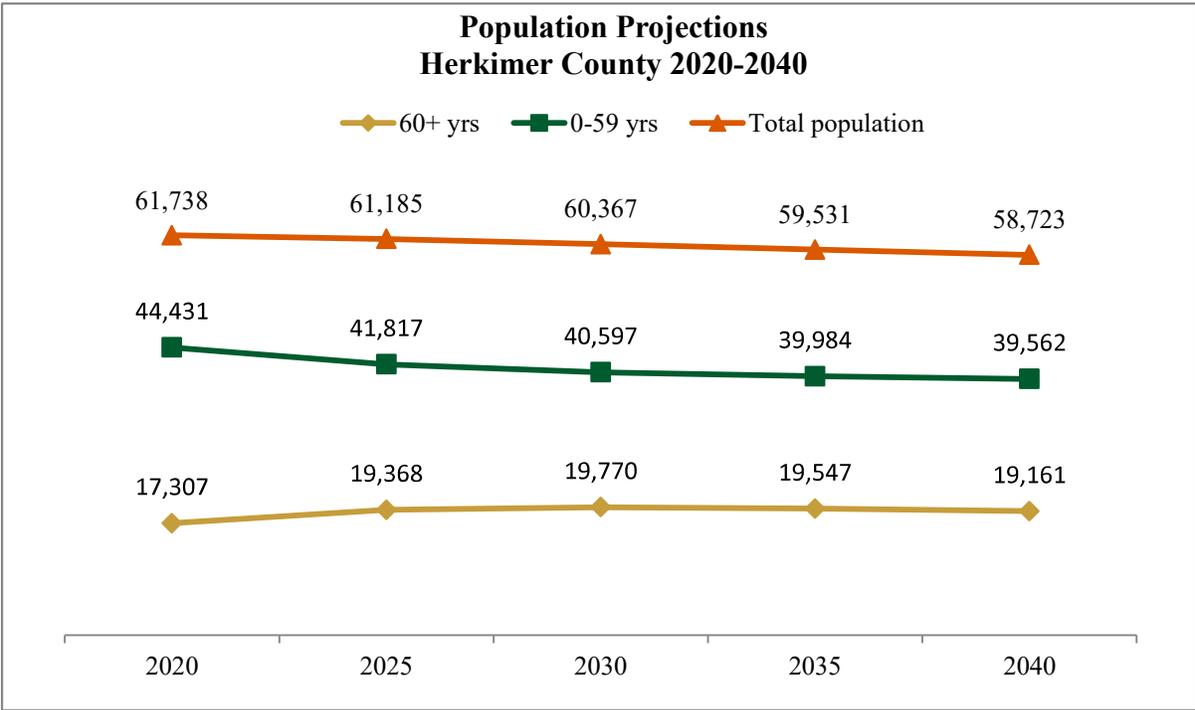


Figure 8 Source: Cornell University County Projections Explorer 2025-2040

Community

Older Adults in the Community

Data Sources

American Community Survey (2020). U.S. Census Bureau. Explore Census Data. Retrieved October 9, 2022, from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/all?q=Herkimer+County,+New+York>

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Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program



Location: Herkimer College

Community Housing

Why this is important

Safe and affordable housing is a luxury that many take for granted. Inadequate housing is linked to a myriad of negative health outcomes, decreasing property values, an inability to build generational wealth, and other negative economic and social outcomes. Only 66% of the nation and 61.7% of Herkimer County residents currently own their own home. Home ownership, the development of new housing, combined with the rehabilitation and preservation of existing housing stock, is a significant contributing factor to the stability and growth of communities.

Where we stand

The 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (ACS) indicate there are 33,850 housing units in Herkimer County. Of these, 74.1% are occupied and 25.9% are vacant (figure 9). Of the 25,093 occupied housing units, 74.3% are owner-occupied, and 25.7% are rented (figure 10). Figure 11 illustrates the occupancy changes over time.

The average household size of an owner-occupied unit is 2.71 persons, and the average household size of a renter-occupied unit is 2.37 persons. According to Realtor.com, the median value of a sold home in Herkimer County is \$109,100.0

**Housing occupancy,
Herkimer County 2020**

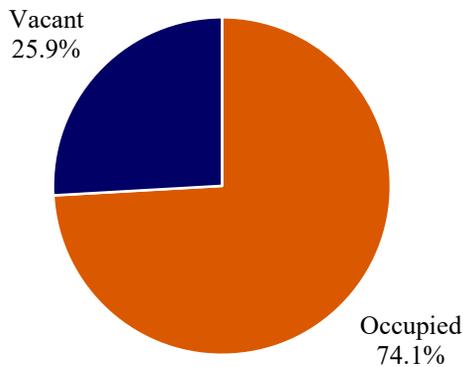


Figure 9
Source: 2020 American Community Survey

**Owner occupied housing,
Herkimer County, 2020**

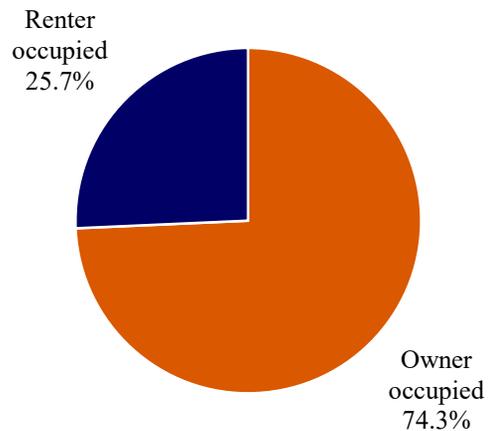


Figure 10
Source: 2020 American Community Survey

Occupied housing units over time, Herkimer County 2010 - 2020

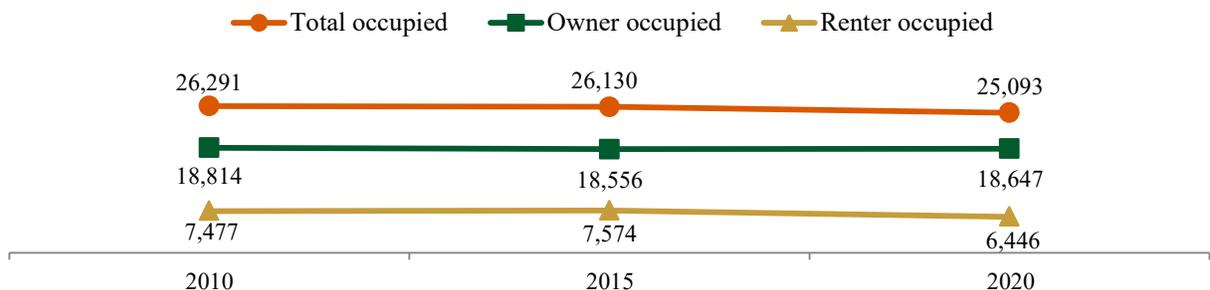


Figure 11 Source: 2010, 2015, & 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Community Housing

Table 21 illustrates the median year of construction for year round housing for Herkimer County, neighboring counties, and New York State. As the table illustrates, the median year of construction for year-round housing in Herkimer County is 1954. The housing stock in Herkimer County, as well as, Fulton, Montgomery, and Oneida counties is older than the NYS average.

**Median Year of Construction for
Year-Round Housing**

County	Median Year Built
Herkimer County	1954
Madison County	1963
Fulton County	1952
Montgomery County	1943
Otsego County	1958
Oneida County	1954
New York State	1956

Table 21 *Source: 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*

Roughly 47% percent of the 18,594 owner-occupied units in Herkimer County have a mortgage, compared to 61% in NYS and 64% in the United States. Table 22 below illustrates the monthly owner costs for the 8,770 housing units in Herkimer County with a mortgage. The median owner cost for a home with a mortgage in Herkimer County is \$1,125; the median monthly cost of home expenses without a mortgage is \$474.

Selected Monthly Owner Costs, Herkimer County, 2020

Housing units with a mortgage	Total number of units 8,770	Percentage of Total Housing Units w/Mortgage
Less than \$500/month	280	3.2%
\$500 to \$999/month	3280	37.4%
\$1,000 to \$1,499/month	2888	32.9%
\$1,500 to \$1,999/month	1298	14.8%
\$2,000 to \$2,499/month	554	6.3%
\$2,500 to \$2,999/month	215	2.5%
\$3,000 or more / month	255	2.9%
Median Cost (dollars)	\$1,125	

Table 22 *Source: 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*

Table 23, on the next page, illustrates the monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income for Herkimer County and the U.S. According to the 2020 American

Community Housing

Community Survey, 15.9% Herkimer County homeowners with a mortgage spent over 35% of their household income on home expenses, compared to the one in five (20.6%) of mortgaged homeowners in the United States. More than half of all Herkimer County homeowners with a mortgage (58.1%) spent less than 20% of their income on housing expenses.

**Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income,
Herkimer County and U.S.: 2020**

Percent of household income for housing units with mortgage	Total number of units 9,339	Herkimer County Percent	United States Percent
Less than 20%	5,426	58.1%	46.7%
20.0 to 24.9%	1,206	12.9%	15.6%
25.0 to 29.9%	841	9.0%	10.3%
30.0 to 34.9%	377	4.0%	680.0%
35% or more	1,489	15.9%	20.6%
Not computed	31		

Table 23 Source: 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Of the 25,093 occupied housing units in Herkimer County, 5,866 (25.7%) are occupied by a renter. The 2020 American Community Survey indicates that the median rent paid in Herkimer County is \$680. Table 24 indicates that the majority of Herkimer County renters pay between \$500 and \$999 monthly in rent.

Gross Rent Paid, Herkimer County, 2020

Occupied units paying rent	5,884	Percent
Less than \$500	1206	20.5%
\$500 to \$999	3,973	67.5%
\$1,000 to \$1,499	590	10.0%
\$1,500 or more	115	2.0%
Median Rent (dollars)	\$680	

Table 24 Source: 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Community Housing

Table 25 below illustrates the monthly rental costs as a percentage of household income for Herkimer County and the U.S. According to the 2020 American Community Survey, 28.7% of Herkimer County renters spent over 35% of their household income on rent, while 40% of renters in the United State spent over 35% of their income on rent.

**Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income,
Herkimer County and United States, 2020**

Occupied units paying rent	Total number of units Herkimer County 6,446	Herkimer County Percent	United States Percent
Less than 15%	1,424	24.3%	13.4%
15.0 to 19.9%	816	13.9%	13.0%
20.0 to 24.9%	729	12.4%	12.9%
25.0 to 29.9%	768	13.1%	11.6%
30.0 to 34.9%	444	7.6%	9.1%
35% or more	1,685	28.7%	40.0%
Not computed	580		

Table 25 Source: 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Based on the 2020 ACS 5-year estimates, renters in Herkimer County are burdened with higher housing expenses than homeowners. A greater percentage of renters are spending more than 35% of their income on rent than homeowners with and without a mortgage are spending. Additionally, a greater percentage of homeowners, with and without a mortgage, are spending less than 20% of their income on housing than renters. Figure 12 illustrates this disparity in Herkimer County. Figure 13 (next page) shows changes from 2010 – 2020 of Herkimer County residents paying 35% or more of their income on housing, by housing type.

**Percentage of Income Spent on Housing Related Expenses by Housing Type,
Herkimer County, 2020**

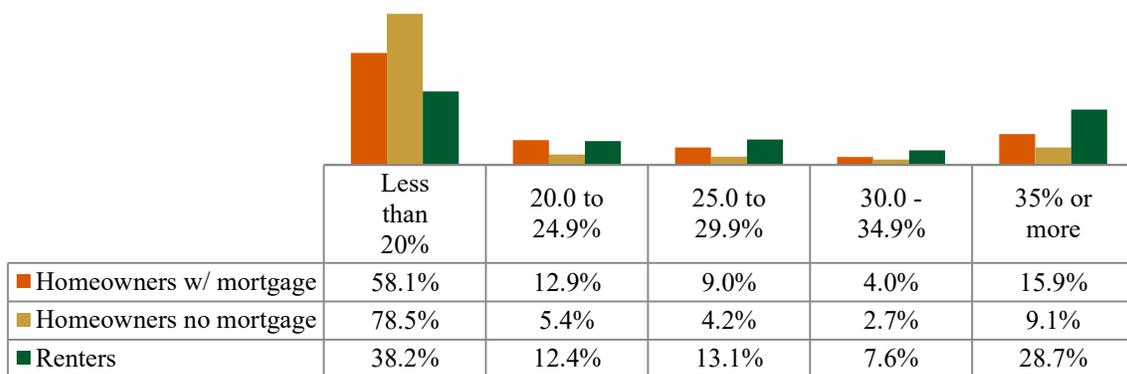


Figure 12 Source: 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Community Housing

Percentage of Herkimer County Residents Spending 35% or More of Their Income on Housing, by Housing Type, 2010 - 2020

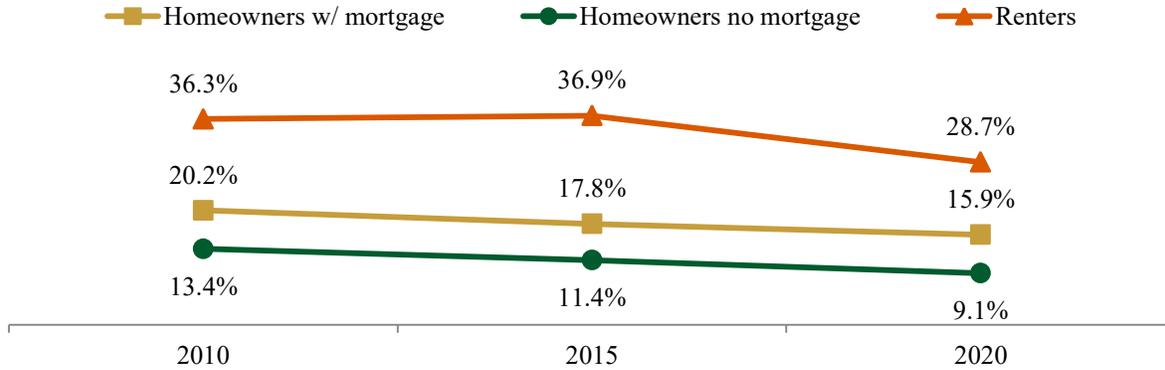


Figure 13 Source: 2010, 2015, & 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Safe and decent rental housing at fair market levels was reported as the primary housing need in Herkimer County by focus group participants in the Community Health Needs Assessment conducted jointly by the Herkimer County Public Health Department and Herkimer County Integrated County Planning in 2022. The issue of absentee landlords was also identified, as rental housing is increasingly owned by entities located outside the region. Rehab and modernization funds for existing housing stock were cited as a need for both owner-occupied homes and rental stock. Although affordability of homeownership was found in much of the region, it was noted that a preponderance of second home purchases in the Old Forge area has exerted strong upward pressure on home prices, making it difficult for year-round residents to afford homes.

Home Sales

Table 26 illustrates the 2021 home sales in Herkimer County, neighboring counties and New York State. Existing single family home sales increased by 4.6% in Herkimer County between 2017 and 2021. Home sales also increased in most neighboring counties and in New York State during this time period. Madison County saw a 3.2% decrease in home sales.

2021 Home Sales: Herkimer County, Neighboring Counties and NYS

County	Total Closed Sales 2021	Change from 2017	Change from 2020
Herkimer	596	4.6%	14.2%
Madison	658	-3.2%	-3.2%
Fulton	665	22.0%	7.6%
Otsego	644	19.3%	12.2%
Oneida	2102	3.2%	7.9%
New York State	153,110	14.9%	17.2%

Table 26 Source: New York State Association of Realtors, 2021 Annual Report on the NY State Market

Community Housing

As Table 27 illustrates, the median sales prices of existing homes in Herkimer County rose by 52.4% between 2017 and 2021, but sales prices have remained consistently lower than in neighboring counties and NYS.

Median Sale Prices 2017-2021: Herkimer County, Neighboring Counties and NYS

County	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Herkimer	\$95,400	\$100,000	\$112,600	\$127,200	\$145,375
Madison	\$141,000	\$147,750	\$148,000	\$173,250	\$184,900
Fulton	\$108,665	\$117,500	\$130,000	\$136,740	\$155,000
Otsego	\$120,500	\$132,500	\$143,750	\$156,125	\$165,000
Oneida	\$122,000	\$126,000	\$131,000	\$147,000	\$170,000
New York State	\$245,000	\$262,500	\$278,000	\$310,000	\$370,000

Table 27 Source: NY State Association of Realtors 2021 Annual Report



Main St., Little Falls, NY

Community Housing

Data Sources

Annual report on the New York state market. (2021). New York State Association of Realtors, Inc. Retrieved from https://www.nysar.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/NYSAR_ANN_2021.pdf

American Community Survey (2020). U.S. Census Bureau. Explore Census Data. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/all?q=Herkimer+County,+New+York>



Frankfort Community Garden

Community Transportation

Why this is important

Having adequate transportation allows individuals to access work, shopping and other activities necessary for daily living. It also allows residents to attend appointments and events, and to access services that help individuals maintain a good quality of life. Lack of transportation is one of the major causes of missed medical appointments, serves as a barrier to accessing healthy food and medications, social connections, (Humana, n.d., CDC, 2018) and even serves as a barrier to economic investments and advancement (Wachs, 2011). Ensuring that transportation is available to all residents is critical, especially in rural counties such as Herkimer, where low population can cause this necessary utility to be overlooked.

Where we stand

Table 28 illustrates the household size and number of vehicles available to Herkimer County households in 2000, 2010, and 2011-2013. According to the U.S. Census 2020 American Community Survey (ACS), 89.7% of the 25,093 households in Herkimer County reported that they had access to at least one vehicle. Approximately one in ten households (2,577 households, 10.3%) reported that they do not have access to a vehicle.

Herkimer County—Household Size and Vehicles Available (2000, 2010, & 2020)

	2000 Census		2010 Census		2020 ACS		Change 2000 to 2020	
Subject	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total population	64,427	100.0%	64,519	100.0%	61,738	100.00%	2,689	-4.2%
HOUSEHOLD SIZE								
Total households	25,740	100%	26,478	100.00%	25,093	100%	-647	-2.5%
1-person household	7,099	27.6%	7,816	29.50%	7,603	30.3%	504	7.1%
2-person household	8,688	33.8%	9,438	35.60%	9,275	37.0%	587	6.8%
3-person household	4,283	16.6%	3,754	14.20%	3,693	14.7%	-590	-13.8%
>4 person household	5,670	22.0%	5,470	20.70%	4,522	18.0%	-1148	-20.2%
VEHICLES AVAILABLE								
Subject	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total households	25,740	100%	26,478	100%	25,093	100%	-647	-2.5%
No vehicle available	2,524	10.0%	2,831	11.0%	2,577	10.3%	53	2.1%
1 vehicle available	10,014	39.0%	9,257	35.0%	8,581	34.2%	-1,433	-14.3%
2 vehicles available	9,747	38.0%	10,313	39.0%	10,022	39.9%	275	2.8%
3 vehicles available	2,667	10.4%	2,958	11.2%	2,597	10.3%	-70	-2.6%
>4 vehicles available	788	3.0%	1,119	4.2%	1,316	5.2%	528	67.0%

Table 28 Source: 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Community Transportation

Commuting

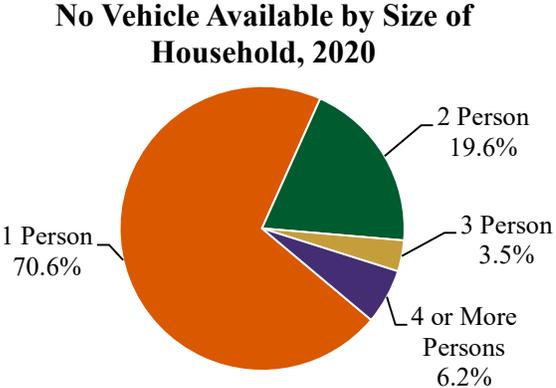
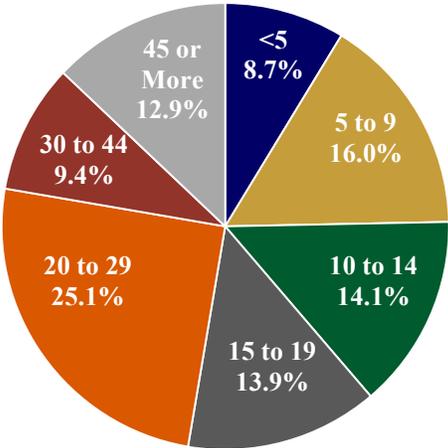


Figure 14 illustrates the Herkimer County households that report having no vehicle available by size of households. The majority of the households without a vehicle (70.6%) are one-person households. The remaining 29.4% of the households without a vehicle are made up of two people (19.6%), three people (3.5%), or four or more people (6.2%).

Figure 14 Source: 2020 American Community

The majority of workers in Herkimer County used a car or other vehicle to get to work in 2020, by either driving alone (79.6%), carpooling (7%), or driving a motorcycle (0.7%). Only 4.9% of people walked to work, and less than 1% utilized public transportation. Approximately 7.3% worked from home. In 2020, the COVID-19 lockdowns required many employed Herkimer County residents to work from home. This resulted in a 107.4% increase in people who worked from home between 2000 and 2020.

Average travel time to work in minutes, 2020



It takes a Herkimer County resident an average of 23.9 minutes to commute to work each day. About one in four (24.7%) commute less than 10 minutes to work and 22.3% travel more than 30 minutes to work each day. About one half of all workers (53.1%) have a work commute of between 10 and 30 minutes each day.

Figure 15 Source: 2020 American Community Survey

Public Transportation

There is very limited public transportation available in Herkimer County. Commuter bus service is available between Little Falls and Utica (in Oneida County), along the Routes 5 and 5S corridor providing services to the communities of Little Falls, Herkimer, Ilion, Mohawk and Frankfort. There are also two companies in Herkimer County that provide commercial taxi services. The majority of Herkimer County to the north and south of the Valley Corridor does not have public transportation services.

Community and Agency Assistance

Several agencies and one community have created small, localized services to meet the transportation needs of specific areas and/or populations. These services, however, are limited and are not intended to meet the needs of the general population. Examples of these types of services include the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), the Herkimer County Office for the Aging Transportation Program, and the Town of Webb Community Transportation Program.

RSVP RIDE Program

The RSVP RIDE Program provides transportation for non-Medicaid ambulatory individuals, 55 years of age and older, to needed medical and health related services at facilities in Herkimer, Oneida, and Otsego Counties. The program has been in existence since 1985. In recent years, the program has expanded coverage to include destinations in Fulton, Onondaga, Monroe and Albany Counties. Calls for transportation have to be received 48 hours in advance of scheduled appointments. No weekend coverage is provided. The most common destinations include the Dialysis Center at Faxton/St. Luke's, Masonic Home, Slocum-Dickson Medial Group, Bassett Healthcare in Cooperstown, New Hartford Medical Group, Central New York Cardiology; St. Elizabeth's Hospitals, Mohawk Valley Retina, Utica Business Park, and medical providers on Genesee Street in Utica as well as New Hartford. Clients are not permitted to give the volunteer driver any reimbursement for the ride; however, donations can be made to the agency. Volunteer drivers are allowed to submit mileage reimbursement requests to the program. Drivers and clients are covered by CIMA excess auto, liability, and accidental insurance.

The RSVP RIDE Program is considered a valuable community asset as there is no other program that provides this one-on-one, door-to-door, escort and transportation service for seniors to destinations outside of Herkimer County from the Valley Corridor. Volunteers use their own vehicles and must submit to background checks and training before becoming active in the program. Table 29 on the next page, illustrates the activity of the RSVP RIDE Program from 2015-2021.

Community Transportation

RSVP RIDE Program 2015 to 2021

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Volunteer Drivers	16	15	16	21	17	15	11
Volunteer Hours	3,941	4,566	3,924	4,223	4,488	1,491	2,137
Dispatchers	9	9	9	10	8	8	6
Annual Mileage	62,884	62,831	54,623	61,529	64,443	25,146	39,855
Clients Transported	1,153	1,266	1,099	1,352	1,407	476	698

Table 29 Source: Catholic Charities of Herkimer County Program Data

Herkimer County Office for the Aging Transportation Services

The Herkimer County Office for the Aging (OFA) provides transportation services to senior citizens aged 60 and older. This service is a demand-response system; that is, rides are door-to door, not traveling from one bus stop to another. Rides are provided for medical appointments, grocery store/pharmacy, banking, hairdresser, visiting, etc., basically wherever the senior wants to go. Due to the demand for services, the OFA does not travel outside the County and basically services the valley corridor from the town of Schuyler to Dolgeville. Two times a month the OFA provides transportation from the Middleville, Newport, and Poland areas. The OFA currently has three vehicles, all equipped with wheelchair lifts.

Tables 30 and 31 on the following page, depicts the number of rides provided from 2015-2019 increased significantly due to additional older adults utilizing the service. However, the number of rides decreased after 2019 due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Community Transportation

OFA Transportation, Total number of Rides Provided 2015 - 2021

Year	# Rides Provided
2015	4,275
2016	5,006
2017	5,475
2018	5,713
2019	6,350
2020	5,081
2021	5,469

Table 30 Source: Herkimer County Office for the Aging

OFA Transportation, Unduplicated Riders 2015 - 2021

Year	# Riders
2015	295
2016	324
2017	289
2018	297
2019	290
2020	229
2021	300

Table 31 Source: Herkimer County Office for the Aging

Webb Community Transportation Services (CTS)

Community Transportation Services, Ltd. was incorporated in 1987 as a not-for-profit (501, c, 3) organization. Its Certificate of Incorporation, Article 3, states “the purpose is to assist the elderly, disabled and disadvantaged in the Central Adirondack area by providing necessary transportation, without cost, for medical, health and other related necessary services”. CTS is not a taxi service; it is a volunteer organization with no payroll. CTS exists strictly on “free will” donations. During 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic limited the number of drivers and riders. In recent years, the number of riders is increasing. However, the number of volunteers remains low. Table 32 illustrates the CTS program statistics for 2014 to 2021.

**Community Transportation Services
2014-2021**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Trips	377	357	586	452	581	533	61	135
# of Riders	589	541	878	668	661	575	64	155
Riders for Medical	348	344	859	622	644	559	60	126
Riders Over 60 Years Old	97%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%
Total Mileage	32	32,949	61,437	51,942	45,983	40,259	8,298	16,967
# of Volunteer Drivers	34	36	48	45	50	49	38	34

Table 32 Source: Community Transportation Services program data

Community Transportation

Data Sources

American Community Survey (2020). U.S. Census Bureau. Explore Census Data. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/all?q=Herkimer+County,+New+York>

Catholic Charities of Herkimer County, RSVP Ride Program

Herkimer County Office for the Aging

Public transportation system: Introduction or expansion. (2018, October 19). Retrieved February 14, 2023, from <https://www.cdc.gov/policy/opaph/hi5/publictransportation/index.html>

Wachs, M. (2011). Transportation, jobs, and economic growth. Retrieved February 15, 2023, from <https://www.accessmagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2016/07/Access-30-02-Horse-Power.pdf>

Webb Community Transportation Services

Community

Employment and Industry

Why this is important

Employment breakouts by industry show the diversity of the economy. Wage data by industry depicts the varied income levels of jobs in the area. The unemployment rate can be used as a barometer of the general economic health of an area. Since all of these statistics are calculated uniformly, comparison with other geographic areas can easily be done.

Where we stand

County Labor Force and Employment

Table 33 depicts the number of individuals in the Herkimer County labor force, the average number of individuals employed and unemployed, and the unemployment rate from 2001 to 2021.

Herkimer County Labor Statistics 2001 - 2021

Year	Herkimer County Labor Force	Number Employed (annual average)	Number Unemployed (annual average)	Unemployment Rate (annual average)
2001	31,100	29,700	1,400	4.50%
2002	31,400	29,800	1,700	5.30%
2003	31,400	29,600	1,800	5.70%
2004	31,400	29,700	1,800	5.60%
2005	31,700	30,000	1,700	5.30%
2006	31,400	29,900	1,500	4.90%
2007	31,000	29,500	1,500	4.90%
2008	31,300	29,400	1,900	6.10%
2009	31,200	28,700	2,500	8.00%
2010	31,600	28,800	2,700	8.60%
2011	30,700	28,000	2,700	8.70%
2012	30,500	27,800	2,700	8.80%
2013	29,900	27,500	2,300	7.80%
2014	28,900	27,000	2,000	6.80%
2015	28,900	27,100	1,800	6.30%
2016	28,200	26,600	1,600	5.60%
2017	28,500	26,900	1,600	5.70%
2018	28,400	27,000	1,400	4.90%
2019	28,600	27,200	1,300	4.70%
2020	28,000	25,800	2,200	7.90%
2021	27,500	25,900	1,600	5.80%

Table 33 Source: NY State Dept. of Labor, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The **labor force** is comprised of all civilians 16 years of age and over classified as employed or unemployed. The number of individuals in Herkimer County that are part of the labor force peaked in 2005 and has declined steadily ever since.

Community

Employment and Industry

Employed persons are all civilians who, during the month, did any work at all as paid employees in their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a member of the family. Each person is counted only once, even if he or she holds more than one job.

Unemployed persons are all persons who had no employment during the month, were available for work, except for temporary illness, and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period. Persons who were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not have been looking for work to be classified as unemployed.

The **unemployment rate** for all civilian workers represents the number of unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force. The unemployment rate climbed from 2008 to 2012. The record jobless rate was posted in 1991, 1992 and 2012. The unemployment rate inched downwards steadily until 2020 when NY State shut down all but the essential businesses across the state due to COVID-19. This caused the unemployment rate to spike from 4.7% to 7.9%. However, the unemployment rate began to recover as COVID-19 restrictions were lifted and unemployment rates declined to 5.8%.

Figure 16 below illustrate the unemployment rates for Herkimer County, NYS and the U.S. from 2005 to 2021.

Unemployment Rates 2005 to 2021: Herkimer County, NYS and US

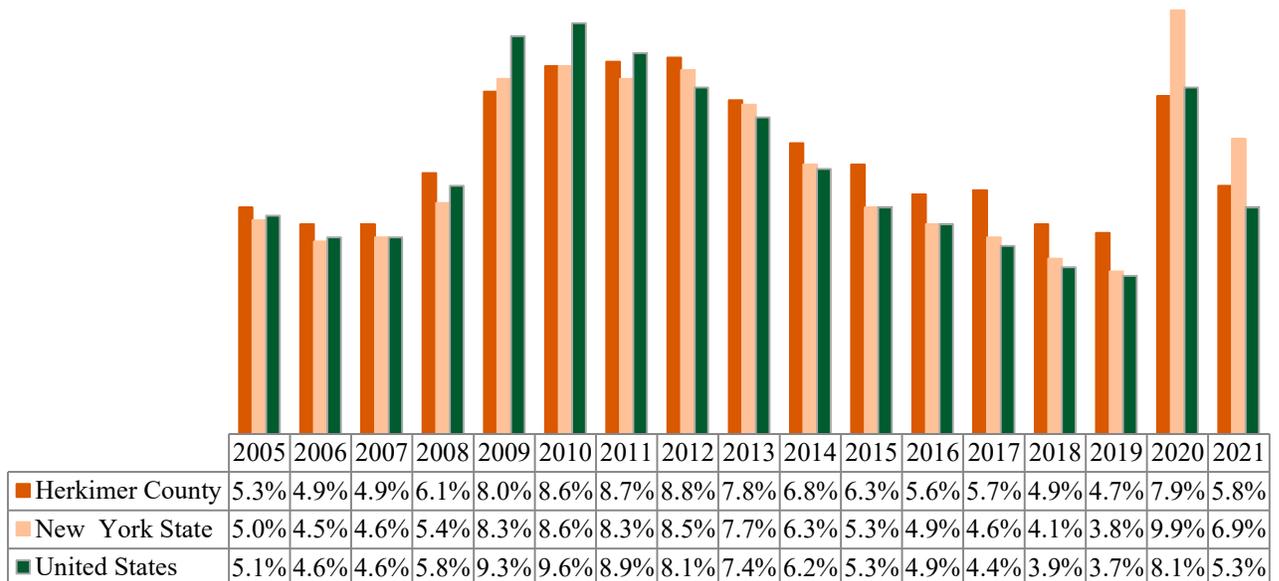


Figure 16 Source: NY State Dept. of Labor, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Community

Employment and Industry

Location of Employment

Figure 17 identifies the counties where Herkimer County residents work. According to the figure, the majority of Herkimer County residents work in either Oneida (33.2%) or Herkimer (31.6%) counties.

**Counties Where Herkimer County Residents Work
2020**

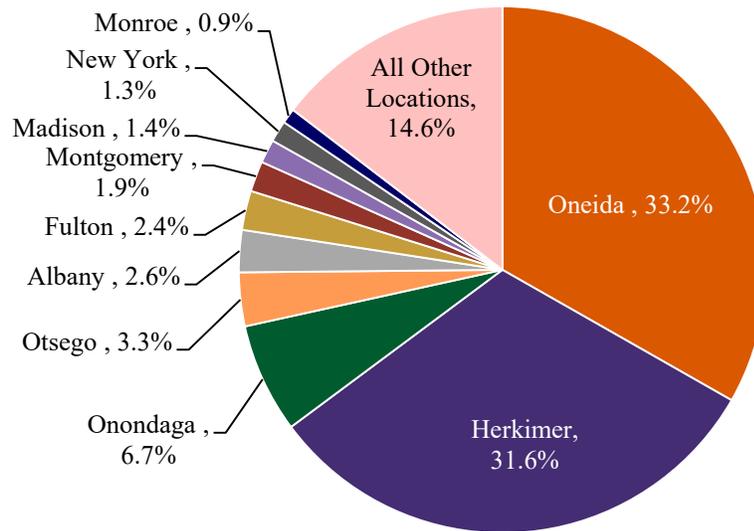


Figure 17 Source: United States Census Bureau, On the Map Tool

Types of Employment—Herkimer County Industries

Table 34 on the next page depicts the industries present in Herkimer County, the number of persons employed and the average wages earned in 2021 and compares it to 2016.

Employment information, by place of work, is based on quarterly reports from employers covered under New York State's Unemployment Insurance Law. Data by industry (using the North American Industry classification system) include employment, total annual and average annual wages, and the number of establishments.

The number of jobs in Herkimer County declined by 974 or 5.9% percent from 2016 to 2021. Manufacturing, Management of Companies and Enterprises, and Unclassified industries saw the highest percentage of losses with 36.6%, 32.8%, and 36.1% job losses respectively. The Retail industry saw the highest increase at 30.1%.

Herkimer County Industries, Numbers Employed and Average Wages Earned

2016 to 2021

Industry	2016 Annual Average				2021 Annual Average				Change 2016 - 2021	
	Number of Establishments	Employment	Total Wages	Salary	Number of Establishments	Employment	Total Wages	Salary	Total	%
Total, All Industries	1,255	16,621	\$602,335,148	\$36,239	1,260	15,647	\$705,203,116	\$45,070	-974	-5.9%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	22	99	\$3,106,238	\$31,376	28	120	\$3,973,278	\$33,111	21	21.2%
Mining	6	37	\$1,601,501	\$43,284	5	39	\$2,489,397	\$63,831	2	5.4%
Utilities	5	36	\$3,940,675	\$109,463	4	29	\$3,811,932	\$131,446	-7	-19.4%
Construction	137	601	\$32,075,399	\$53,370	128	713	\$48,103,854	\$67,467	112	18.6%
Manufacturing	58	2,699	\$129,023,507	\$47,804	58	1,710	\$89,776,213	\$52,501	-989	-36.6%
Wholesale Trade	36	759	\$45,276,883	\$59,653	32	612	\$37,412,246	\$61,131	-147	-19.4%
Retail Trade	162	1,991	\$51,889,299	\$26,062	156	2,591	\$92,276,024	\$35,614	600	30.1%
Transportation and Warehousing	53	516	\$18,187,510	\$35,247	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Information	20	91	\$3,871,808	\$42,547	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Finance and Insurance	40	277	\$10,860,180	\$39,206	44	234	\$11,484,682	\$49,080	-43	-15.5%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	33	137	\$4,306,517	\$31,434	30	127	\$4,735,137	\$37,285	-10	-7.3%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	5	177	\$10,465,209	\$59,125	6	119	\$6,535,581	\$54,921	-58	-32.8%
Administrative and Waste Services	46	264	\$7,869,199	\$29,808	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Educational Services	44	2,353	\$97,204,051	\$41,311	45	2,197	\$111,939,249	\$50,951	-156	-6.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	130	2,342	\$76,187,915	\$32,531	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	28	279	\$6,377,447	\$22,858	28	244	\$6,892,660	\$28,249	-35	-12.5%
Accommodation and Food Services	158	1,606	\$26,453,813	\$16,472	154	1,529	\$32,876,852	\$21,502	-77	-4.8%
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	125	550	\$10,138,497	\$18,434	115	456	\$11,320,057	\$24,825	-94	-17.1%
Public Administration	58	1,609	\$55,322,031	\$34,383	63	1,419	\$81,035,144	\$57,107	-190	-11.8%
Unclassified	31	36	\$990,410	\$27,511	53	23	\$846,999	\$36,826	-13	-36.1%

Table 34 Source: New York State Department of Labor; Research & Statistics

Community

Employment & Industry

One industry of particular interest in Herkimer County and Upstate New York has been manufacturing. In Herkimer County, manufacturing jobs peaked in 2016 but have declined rapidly since then (Figure 18). Herkimer County lost 36.6% of its manufacturing employment base from 2016 to 2021.

This is a concerning trend because manufacturing plays an important part in the local community. In the past, manufacturing jobs tended to be comprised of full-time, higher-paying jobs with good benefits. Manufacturing also brought in money from outside the local area.

Despite the decrease in jobs, manufacturing wages continue to be higher than the average wage in Herkimer County. Manufacturing jobs in Herkimer County make up 10.92% of total employment and total manufacturing wages comprise 12.73% percent of the total wages for all jobs in the county. The average manufacturing wage in Herkimer County was \$52,501 in 2021, 15.23 percent higher than the average of \$45,070 for all nonmanufacturing jobs in the county. Figure 19 below shows the average annual wage in manufacturing in Herkimer County compared to the average annual wage in nonmanufacturing.

**Herkimer County Manufacturing Jobs
2015 - 2021**



Figure 18 Source: New York State Department of Labor; Division of Research and Statistics

**Wages-Herkimer County
Manufacturing vs. Non-Manufacturing Employment,
2015 - 2021**



Figure 19 Source: New York State Department of Labor; Division of Research and Statistics

Community

Employment & Industry

Employment Projections

Table 35 on the next page shows the number of persons in the Mohawk Valley Region employed in each of the major employment categories in 2018 and the number expected in 2028. The total number of jobs is expected to grow from 217,630 in 2018 to 234,560 in 2028, a gain of 16,930 or 5.8 percent.

Occupational groups with the highest growth rates include Personal Care and Service Occupations (+27.7%), Healthcare Support Occupations (+20%), Community and Social Services (+17.8%), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical occupations (+17%).

The two occupational groups expected to decline are Sales and Related occupations (-5.2%), and Production occupations (-1.1%).

It is interesting to note that job openings are not only due to growth in an occupation, but also the need to replace workers that retire, move out of the area, die or leave their occupation grouping for a different occupation. Of the 27,363 expected average annual job openings, only 1,693 or 0.8% are due to growth. The other 99.2% percent of job openings are due to replacement needs cited above.



Working Solutions Career Center, Located at 320 North Prospect St., Herkimer

Employment Projections—Mohawk Valley 2018 - 2028

Occupations	Employment Years		Change		Annual Average Openings			Annual Wages (\$) — 2016			
	2018	2028	Net	%	Total	Growth	Replacement	Mean	Median	Entry ¹	Experienced ²
Total, All Occupations	217,630	234,560	16,930	7.8%	27,363	0.8%	25,670	\$54,280	\$40,450	\$29,610	\$66,620
Management	10,350	11,270	920	8.9%	991	0.9%	900	\$114,760	\$100,830	\$57,470	\$143,410
Business and Financial Operations	8,900	9,680	780	8.8%	941	0.80%	860	\$75,710	\$65,510	\$44,700	\$91,210
Computer and Mathematical	3,760	4,220	460	12.2%	336	1.20%	300	\$86,530	\$80,840	\$49,550	\$105,020
Architecture and Engineering	1,810	2,010	200	11.0%	167	1.10%	150	\$86,250	\$80,580	\$51,570	\$103,580
Life, Physical, and Social Science	1,110	1,250	140	12.6%	128	1.20%	120	\$77,280	\$67,740	\$44,880	\$93,490
Community and Social Services	7,010	8,260	1,250	17.8%	925	1.70%	800	\$54,310	\$50,260	\$34,280	\$64,330
Legal	1,170	1,290	120	10.3%	81	1.00%	70	\$102,160	\$79,590	\$40,350	\$133,060
Education, Training, and Library	18,670	20,210	1,540	8.2%	1,873	0.80%	1,720	\$64,510	\$62,620	\$31,850	\$80,840
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	2,890	3,010	120	4.2%	348	0.40%	340	\$58,740	\$50,420	\$33,130	\$71,550
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	15,430	18,060	2,630	17.0%	1,228	1.60%	970	\$88,010	\$67,660	\$43,780	\$110,120
Healthcare Support	6,190	7,430	1,240	20.0%	896	1.80%	770	\$36,020	\$31,600	\$29,070	\$39,490
Protective Service	6,180	6,400	220	3.6%	670	0.40%	650	\$63,150	\$64,650	\$38,210	\$75,620
Food Preparation and Serving Related	17,060	17,740	680	4.0%	3,072	0.40%	3,000	\$35,770	\$31,000	\$28,880	\$39,220
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	7,720	8,440	720	9.3%	1,126	0.90%	1,060	\$35,350	\$31,560	\$29,190	\$38,440
Personal Care and Service	13,160	16,810	3,650	27.7%	2,528	2.50%	2,170	\$40,780	\$32,470	\$29,040	\$46,650
Sales and Related	18,870	17,880	-990	-5.2%	2,564	-0.50%	2,660	\$42,100	\$30,580	\$28,190	\$49,050
Office and Administrative Support	31,870	32,030	160	0.5%	3,746	0.10%	3,740	\$43,700	\$39,250	\$30,840	\$50,140
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	760	840	80	10.5%	137	1.00%	130	\$43,780	\$38,920	\$29,130	\$51,100
Construction and Extraction	8,660	9,320	660	7.6%	1,064	0.70%	1,000	\$55,150	\$49,140	\$35,600	\$64,920
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	8,490	8,870	380	4.5%	884	0.40%	850	\$51,370	\$48,640	\$34,130	\$60,000
Production	13,210	13,060	-150	-1.1%	1,498	-0.10%	1,510	\$41,320	\$38,560	\$29,150	\$47,410
Transportation and Material Moving	14,370	16,490	2,120	14.8%	2,160	1.40%	1,950	\$42,450	\$39,750	\$30,210	\$48,580

Table 35 Source: NYS Department of Labor, Research and Statistics Division

Community

Employment and Industry

Table 36 below shows the number of jobs in the Mohawk Valley in 2018 that require specific education requirements compared to the expected number of jobs in 2028 that require the same education requirements. For example, the number of jobs that will require an Associate's Degree is expected to grow 16.9% from 2018–2028, while the jobs that require a high school degree or equivalent will grow 7.2%.

Overall, jobs requiring a high school degree or less are expected to grow by 11.7% over the 10-year period, compared with a 14.1% increase in jobs requiring more than a high school degree, but less than a college degree. Although jobs requiring post-secondary education are expected to grow faster than other jobs, the total number of jobs in 2028 that will require post-secondary education (58,020) will still be well below the number of jobs that only require a high school education or less (158,440).

Educational and Training Requirements 2018–2028 Mohawk Valley Region

Typical Education and Training Requirements	2018	2028	Net Change	% Change
			2018 - 2028	2018 - 2028
No formal educational credential	47,380	49,520	2,140	4.5%
High School Diploma or Equivalent	80,000	85,740	5,740	7.2%
Some College, No Degree	8,030	8,310	280	3.5%
Postsecondary Non-degree Award	13,450	14,870	1,420	10.6%
Associate's Degree	2,600	3,040	440	16.9%
Bachelor's Degree	38,020	41,620	3,600	9.5%
Master's Degree	4,760	5,620	860	18.1%
Doctoral or Professional Degree	6,700	7,740	1,040	15.5%
TOTAL	200,940	216,460	15,520	7.7%

Table 36 Source: NYS Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Community

Employment and Industry

Data Sources

American Community Survey (2017-2021), ACS (Tables B23001, C23002A, C23002B, C23002D, C23002I, B23006). (2020). U.S. Census Bureau. Explore Census Data. Retrieved October 9, 2022, from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/all?q=Herkimer+County,+New+York>

U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (2002-2019). Washington, DC: U.S. Accessed on March 18, 2023 at <https://onthemap.ces.census.gov>. LODS 7.5 [version]

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics



Community Quality of Life

Why this is important

The health and well-being of a community—physical, social, economic or political—cannot be determined by statistics alone. Many intangible, immeasurable factors must also be considered. One of these factors is the ability of a community to provide its residents with a variety of amenities and opportunities that make it a great place to live, work, and raise a family. It also includes the perceptions of community members and their level of belief that community factors support or inhibit their quality of life.

Where we stand

Herkimer County's green space is crucial to the overall health of families and communities. Our parks and trails give the opportunity to build strong families, spawning economic development, and enhancing the area's quality of life.

With nearly a dozen golf courses, over 30 parks and scores of hiking trails, people of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to play, relax, and explore natural resources in Herkimer County.

Fitness Tracks and Hiking Trails

The recent edition of the Herkimer County Trail Guide displays trails that include the rolling hills of the southern part of the county, along the Mohawk River Valley and Erie Canal, and north throughout the Adirondack Mountains. Walking, running, in-line skating, bicycling, and cross country skiing are some of the many activities that take place on these trails.

Table 37 on the next page details the tracks and hiking trails available in Herkimer County. These tracks and trails are located throughout the county and can be utilized by both the general public and experienced hikers alike.

Copies of the guide are available throughout the Mid-York Library System in Herkimer County.



Photo courtesy of Herkimer HealthNet

Community Quality of Life

List of Fitness Tracks and Trails in Herkimer County

Name	Type	Location	Length (mi.)
Rondaxe Mountain (Bald Mountain)	Trail	Rondaxe Road, Old Forge	2.0 (Round Trip)
Bubb-Sis Trail	Trail	State Route 28, Old Forge	2.3
Canal Trail - Little Falls	Trail	State Route 5-S, Little Falls	3 .0
Canal Trail - Mohawk	Trail	State Route 5-S, Mohawk	4.5 (Round Trip)
Cascade Lake Trail	Trail	Big Moose Road, Eagle Bay	6.0 (Round Trip)
Central Valley Academy (Ilion and Mohawk)	Fitness Tracks	Frederick Street, Ilion & Grove Street, Mohawk	~
Dolgeville Central School District	Fitness Track	Slawson Street, Dolgeville	~
Dolgeville-Salisbury Greenway Trail	Trail	Spencer Street, Dolgeville	3.2 (Round Trip)
Faville Falls Trail	Trail	Peckville Road, Dolgeville	1.8 (Round Trip)
Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District	Fitness Track	Palmer Street, Frankfort	~
Herkimer BOCES Nature Trail	Trail	Gross Boulevard, Herkimer	~
Herkimer College Nature Trail	Trail	100 Reservoir Road, Herkimer	1.8 (Round Trip)
Keegans Trail (Vista Trail) to Ledge Mountain	Trail	State Route 8, Poland	1.5 (Round Trip)
McCauley Mountain & Fitness Trail	Fitness Stations & Scenic Trail	Park Avenue, Old Forge	7.4 (Round Trip)
McKeever Area Trails (Bear Lake, Remsen Falls, & Woodhull Mountain)	Trail	McKeever Road, Forestport	0.5 - 7.6
Moreland Park Trail	Trail	Moreland Park Street, Little Falls	1.2 (Round Trip)
Moss Island Trail	Trail	Lock 17, Little Falls	Varies by Path
Moss Lake Trail	Trail	Big Moose Road, Eagle Bay	2.5 (Loop)
Mount Markham Nature & Fitness Trail	Fitness Track, Stations & Scenic Trail	Fairground Road, West Winfield	1
Nick's Lake Loop Trail	Trail	Bisby Road, Old Forge	2(Round Trip),9(Loop)
Owen D. Young School Robert B. Woodruff Trail & Learning Center	Trail & Learning Center	State Route 80, Van Hornesville	2.5(Round Trip)
Poland Central School Nature Trails #1 and #2 (Town of Russia)	Trail	State Route 8, Poland	0.4, 0.6
Russell Park Trail	Trail	Frederick Street, Ilion	Varies by Path
TOBIE Trail	Trail	State Route 28, Old Forge	14
Town of Ohio Park& Fitness Stations	Fitness Station & Trail	Nellis Road, Ohio	1.0 (Two Trails)
West Canada Valley School Nature Trail and Track	Fitness Track & Trail	State Route 28, Newport	Varies by Path

Table 37 *Source: Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc. 2022 Trail Guide*

Community Quality of Life

Physical Activities

Following are three Tables 38, 39, and 40 which represent a selection of opportunities for outdoor physical activity, including playgrounds, public beaches, and tennis courts.

Herkimer County Playgrounds

Name	Location
Ward Wheelock, Jr. Community Park	State Route 51, Cedarville
American Legion	529 Main Street, Cold Brook
Village Playground	Helmer Avenue, Dolgeville
Fairfield Playground	Hard Scrabble Road, Fairfield
Frankfort Marina	Railroad Street, Frankfort
Hilltop Park	4 Hilltop Road, Frankfort
Reese Road Elementary School	Reese Road, Frankfort
Basloe Playground	Gilbert Street, Herkimer
Brookwood Park	West German Street, Herkimer
Basloe Park	East German Street, Herkimer
Harmon Field	Frederick Street, Herkimer
Herkimer Town Park, Playground and Fields	Pine Grove Road, Herkimer
Lou Ambers Fields & Playground	Marginal Road, Herkimer
Barringer Road School Playground	Barringer Road, Ilion
Remington School Playground	East North Street, Ilion
Russell Park	Park Road, Ilion
Sixth Avenue & Montgomery Street Playground	Ilion
Dave Whalen Community Park	East Street, Ilion
Village Park	Park Street, Middleville
Fisher Elementary School	10 Fisher Avenue, Mohawk
Village Playground	7536 East Street, Newport
Recreational Park	Nellis Road, Ohio
Town of Russia Playground	26 Cold Brook Street, Poland
Town Park	State Route 29, Salisbury Center
Woods Lane Park	Woods Lane, Schuyler
North Street Playground	North Street, Old Forge
McCauley Mountain Playground	McCauley Road, Old Forge
Town of Webb School Playground	3002 Main Street, Old Forge
Waterfront Playground	Municipal Beach, Old Forge
Owen D. Young School	State Route 80, Van Hornesville
Town Park	U.S. Highway 20, West Winfield
Mount Markham Elementary	Fairground Road, West Winfield

Table 38 *Source: Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc.*

Community Quality of Life

Herkimer County Public Beaches

Name	Location	Phone
Baker's Beach	Lake Road, Richfield Springs	(315) 858-2043
Hinckley Day Use Area	281 Stormy Hill Road, Cold Brook	(315) 826-3800
Nick's Lake Campground	278 Bisby Road, Old Forge	(315) 369-3314
Town of Webb Beach	Lakeview Lane, Old Forge	(315) 369-2039

Table 39 *Source: Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc.*

Herkimer County Tennis Courts

Name	Location
Dolgeville Central School	28 Slawson Street Ext., Dolgeville
Frankfort Schuyler School	Palmer Street, Frankfort
Herkimer Central School	801 West German Street, Herkimer
Herkimer County Community College	100 Reservoir Road, Herkimer
East Herkimer Elementary School	Pine Grove Road, Herkimer
Central Valley Academy	111 Frederick Street, Ilion
Little Falls Veterans Park	Burwell Street, Little Falls
Lou Ambers Tennis Court	Marginal Road, Herkimer
Mt. Markham Central School	500 Fairground Road, West Winfield
Old Forge	Main Street, Old Forge
Town Park	State Route 29, Salisbury Center
West Canada Valley Central School	5447 State Route 28, Newport

Table 40 *Source: Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc.*

Community Gardens

The **Frankfort Community Garden** located on Village of Frankfort-owned land near the village library on South Frankfort Street, is in its second year having received village approval in March 2022. The Frankfort Community Garden's mission is to empower, educate, and promote organic agriculture to improve the well-being of the community, the environment, and people facing food insecurity. Food insecurity and lack of access to good, nourishing foods that many people face, are among the reasons for starting the garden. This year, the garden is growing high-yield vegetables like tomatoes and peppers, as well as herbs, a tea garden, and plants that can be used to make natural dyes. Through different events like story time, a workshop to learn how to use plants to create and use natural dyes, and the Community Garden Appreciation Celebration from last October, the garden offers hands-on learning opportunities

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while providing community members the space, education and skills related to sustainable gardening practices and land stewardship, and of course community camaraderie.

The **Herkimer Community Garden** came into existence in February of this year and is getting settled in at the location at the Tony Baggetta Mini Park on the corner of Smith and William Streets in Herkimer, NY. The garden will offer hands-on learning opportunities for Herkimer community residents, provide fresh, local produce, and create a space to learn about sustainable gardening techniques and healthy eating strategies. The garden will hold flowers, herbs, and vegetables, as well as a space for shared experiences among community members.

The **Ilion Community Garden** is located on a grassy section of village-owned land on the corner of E. Main Street and E. State Street in Ilion, NY. The community garden was first proposed in 2017, with the village giving it the greenlight and deciding on a location in 2018. The purpose of the garden within the village is to allow residents to grow fresh, organic, seasonal produce and create a public space where community members can work together to practice their gardening skills and grow crops to feed their families and community. The Ilion Community Garden has expanded over the years to include several raised garden beds, fruit trees, a cut flowers garden, and the new “3 Sisters Patch.” They also host a variety of workshops from building your own garden beds, to seed starting, and growing your own cut flower garden.

Farmers Markets

Nutrition is key to quality of life. Herkimer County prides itself in its diverse seasonal farmers’ markets, located in Dolgeville, Frankfort, Herkimer, Ilion, Little Falls, Mohawk, Old Forge and Salisbury.

Eating locally grown and raised foods increases your awareness of where your food comes from, local growing seasons, and the importance of supporting local agriculture. Local food freshness is greater than that of imported food.

Additionally, Farmers’ Market business provides economic benefits alongside health benefits. When you buy directly from local farmers, your dollars stay within your community, strengthening local economy. This helps to preserve farming as a livelihood and rural landscapes as farmland.

Days of operation, hours, and an interactive map of Herkimer County’s market locations can be found at either [Farmers’ Markets | Herkimer County Healthnet, Inc. \(healthnetinc.org\)](https://www.healthnetinc.org/) or <https://blogs.cornell.edu/cceherkimer/programs/local-foods/herkimer-county-local-foods-map/>

The Arts

The arts are an important social component to the quality of life of Herkimer County. The arts not only help promote an attractive physical environment, they also play a role in shaping the resilience and mental well-being of a community. The arts help people learn to express themselves and to develop soft-skills such as adapting to change and thinking outside the

Community Quality of Life

box. The arts provide a social link to our shared history, and lead us to healthy and thoughtful conversations and cultural and social disparities.

Table 41 outlines the list of New York State Council of the Arts grantees in Herkimer County.

**NY State Council of the Arts Grantees - Herkimer County
2018**

Name	Program	Funding Category	City	Grantee Type
Old Forge Library Association	Presenting	Project Support - Presentation	Old Forge	Direct Grantee
Mohawk Valley Choral Society	State & Local Partnerships	N/A	Little Falls	Regrantee
Mohawk Valley Center for the Arts	State & Local Partnerships	N/A	Little Falls	Regrantee
Little Falls Family YMCA	State & Local Partnerships	N/A	Little Falls	Regrantee
Laurie Crockett	State & Local Partnerships	N/A	Jordanville	Regrantee
Friends of the Old Forge Library	State & Local Partnerships	N/A	Old Forge	Regrantee
Arts Guild of Old Forge, Inc.	State & Local Partnerships	N/A	Old Forge	Direct Grantee

Table 41 *Source: NY*



Center for the Arts, Little Falls

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Data Sources

Cornell Cooperative Extension. (2022). Herkimer County Local Foods Map. Retrieved from <https://blogs.cornell.edu/cceherkimer/programs/local-foods/herkimer-county-local-foods-map/>

Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc. (2015). Herkimer County Trails Map / Guide. Retrieved from <https://www.healthnetinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2015-Trails-Guide.pdf>

NYSCA grantees list | NYSCA. (n.d.). Retrieved March 9, 2023, from <https://arts.ny.gov/programs-grants/nysca-grantees/list>



Photo courtesy of HealthNet

Why this is important

Employment is important for youth for various reasons. It provides a youth development opportunity which can help youth develop into productive adults, allows a chance for personal growth, and serves as a skill building opportunity. Youth learn to interact with adults and peers in a professional capacity, learn appropriate work related skills such as dress, promptness, and performance expectations that they will take with them throughout life. From an economic standpoint it provides the opportunity to earn a paycheck which can help families in difficult financial situations and provides a chance for youth to learn to manage their own funds.

Employment assistance for adults to help them enter or re-enter the workforce, improve their work-related skills and learn about resources available is an important service that promotes the economic well-being of individuals, families and communities.

Where we stand

Summer Youth Employment Program

The Herkimer County Youth Bureau Summer Employment Program employs youth aged 16 - 21 for a seven week time period each summer. Youth must initiate the process of obtaining a job by calling their individual county legislator and requesting an application for employment. As there are a limited number of applications available, generally the first youth to call are the ones who receive jobs. County Legislators maintain “waiting lists” after filling all their job slots in the event that there are job openings at a later point in the program.

Whenever possible, youth are placed in jobs they request, especially when they have chosen a career path and are interested in gaining experience in that field. Over the years, the number of jobs available has fluctuated, in part, due to the increase in minimum wage. These youth, while in this program, have traditionally been paid the federal minimum wage (lower than New York State’s minimum wage). In recent years the county has tried to be more in line with the state rate, but find it is a balancing act, trying to increase wages and still provide jobs for as many youth as possible.

It is never a problem finding worksites to place the young workers, as the salary is paid by Herkimer County. Our young workers gain work experience and employers are able to utilize our staff during the summer months.

Figure 20 on the next page illustrates the number of youth that have participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program from 2015 to 2021. More females than males have been employed in the program in all years recorded, except in 2021. In 2020, COVID-19 shut down most of the employers who typically work with the program and there were few jobs available for youth. Additionally, many youth opted not to participate in the program due to COVID-19 in the year 2020.

Community

Youth Development & Adult Employment Assistance

**Herkimer County Summer Youth Employment Program
2015 - 2021**

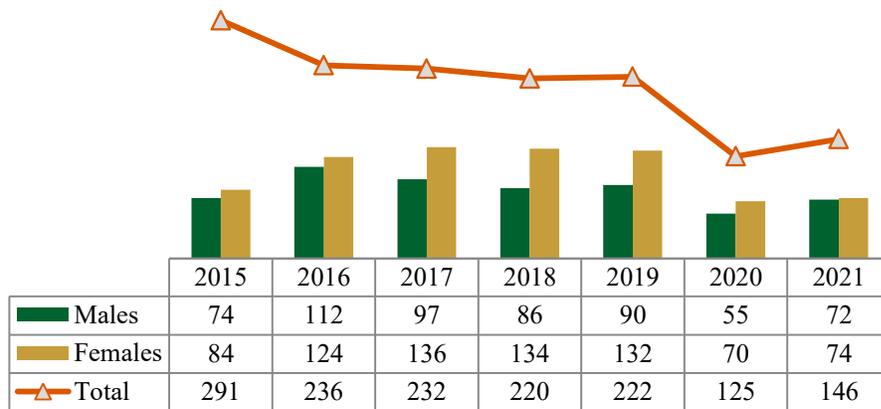


Figure 20 Source: Herkimer County Youth Bureau

Figure 21 below illustrates the number of youth that have participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program from 2016 to 2021 by age. The majority of youth who take advantage of this program are between 16 and 17 years old. With the exception of 2019, there are typically very few 21 year old participants.

**Herkimer County Summer Youth Employment Program by
Age of Youth 2016 - 2021**

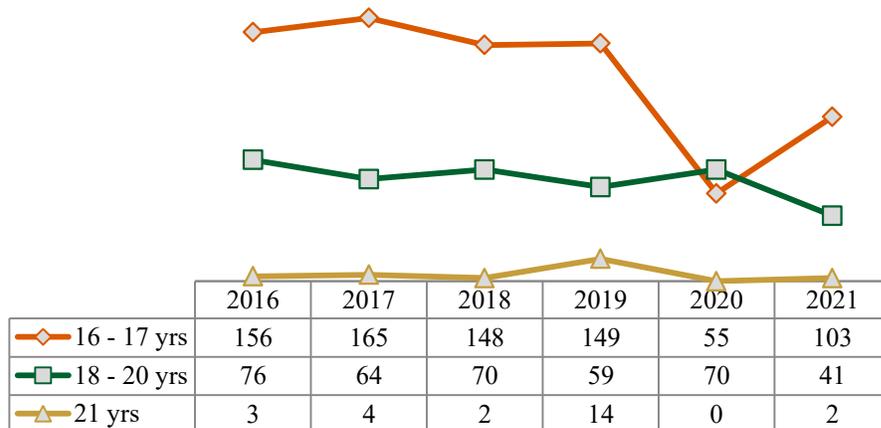


Figure 21 Source: Herkimer County Youth Bureau

Old Forge Transportation Program

The Old Forge Transportation Program (bus program) provides free transportation to youth who have summer jobs in the northern region of Herkimer County. For some youth, this commute is more than an hour from home and the cost of driving back and forth daily would negate much of the salary they earn at their jobs.

Table 42 illustrates the number of youth that have utilized the bus program from 2017 to 2022 by pick up site.

**Old Forge Transportation Program 2017 to 2021
Youth Served by Pick Up Site**

	Herkimer	Newport	Poland	Middleville	Total
2017	80	7	12	8	107
2018	74	8	15	19	116
2019	61	10	27	9	107
2020	64	15	1	7	103
2021	72	17	11	12	111

Table 42 Source: Herkimer County Youth Bureau

The buses pick up youth in four areas: the villages of Herkimer, Middleville, Newport, and Poland. Geographically, the highest numbers of program participants access the Herkimer pick-up point. This is most likely due to the fact that this is centrally located for the “Valley Corridor”—Frankfort, Ilion, Mohawk, Herkimer, and Little Falls. It is simply closer for youth from these villages to meet the buses in Herkimer than the other 3 designated pick up spots.

Overall usage of the Old Forge Transportation Program has declined between 2017 and 2022. The summer of 2020 was difficult due to the pandemic. Amusement/water parks were not allowed to open as usual. Water Safari hired over 120 youth to work at the water park; this was more than usual as they were not able to hire international students due to travel restrictions so they hired more local youth. Of these youth, 103 were processed through the Youth Bureau for applications and photo ID badges. The Youth Bureau also provided youth with masks and hand sanitizer, along with a sheet with health and safety tips. Youth employees were bused to Water Safari one day, in anticipation of opening, but the park was prohibited from opening for business in 2020. Employers had a hard time finding enough workers in 2021; a possible contributing factor is that due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, international students were still not allowed to travel into the country for employment at Enchanted Forest Water Safari. Even with the many job openings, youth did not take advantage of the employment and bus program. The summer of 2022 saw similar declines.

Table 43 on the next page illustrates the number of youth that have utilized the bus program from 2017 to 2021 by age. Data indicate that the majority of youth taking advantage of this transportation program are between the ages of 16–17. While the 2020 COVID pandemic did not seem to impact youth ages 18 and 19, there was a sharp decline in 2021.

Community

Youth Development & Adult Employment Assistance

**Old Forge Transportation Program Participant by Age
2017-2021**

Age	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
14	4	4	7	5	16
15	22	28	21	30	20
16	34	31	41	31	37
17	16	20	20	24	23
18	15	11	9	9	8
19	19	11	3	2	6
20	4	8	5	2	1
21	4	3	1	0	1

Table 43 *Source: Herkimer County Youth Bureau*

Herkimer County Employment and Training Administration

The Herkimer County Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has been 100% federally funded under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) since 1999.

On 7/22/14, President Obama signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). This law, passed with overwhelming bipartisan majorities, is helping transform federally funded job training programs across the country to ensure everyone can get the skills and training they need to obtain employment. WIOA went into effect on 7/1/15.

The goals of WIOA are as follows:

- Increase access to education, training and employment, particularly for people with barriers
- Create a high quality workforce development system by aligning workforce investments and education
- Improve the quality of labor market relevance
- Promote improvement in the structure and delivery of services
- Increase the prosperity of workers and employers
- Reduce dependency, meet employer needs, enhance productivity and competitiveness in the nation

Table 44 on the next page illustrates the amount of federal funding allocated to the Herkimer County Employment and Training Administration. Funding for these programs are on a federal fiscal year (example: October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017).

A steady increase in funding for the program can be observed from 2016 until 2020, when a decrease of funding was noted in the program's budget. However, the 2021-22 budget amount rebounded to nearly the levels seen in 2019-20. These increases are related, in part, to the rise in the unemployment rate in our area over these years. The decrease in the 2020-21 budget is due to government spending cuts across the board to redirect funding to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community

Youth Development & Adult Employment Assistance

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Funding Allocation to Herkimer County (WIOA)

2016-17	2018-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
\$408,807.12	\$415,765.74	\$450,148.36	\$554,285.14	\$456,597.03	\$527,782.18

Table 44 *Source: Herkimer County Employment and Training*

Youth Programming

Under the WIOA Act, the Herkimer County Employment & Training Administration receives funding to provide services to youth, ages 16-24. WIOA requires that at least 75% of the funds are focused on out of school youth and places a new priority on work-based learning by also requiring that at least 20% of funds be used for work experiences that have academic and occupational education as a component. WIOA also links services to the attainment of secondary school diplomas, entry into post-secondary education and career readiness, and to the attainment of post-secondary credentials aligned with in-demand industry sectors or occupations. Additional allowable activities include financial literacy education and entrepreneurial skills training. Since WIOA began on 7/1/15, over 100 Herkimer County youth have been served with WIOA funds.

Table 45 illustrates the number of youth that participated in the youth employment programs operated by ETA.

Number of Youth in ETA Summer Youth Programs in Herkimer County 2015 to 2022

ETA Programs	College Corps	SYEP
2015	24	92
2016	24	80
2017	19	90
2018	20	83
2019	19	73
2020	7	53
2021	7	76
2022	7	97

Table 45 *Source: Herkimer County Employment and Training Administration*

The **SYEP-Summer Youth Employment Program** is funded with TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) money that DSS assigns to ETA. The purpose of this program is to provide a summer workplace experience to TANF-eligible youth ages fourteen to twenty. Youth are placed at worksites throughout the county where they gain valuable job skills and also earn state minimum wage. ETA summer counselors visit the worksites periodically throughout the summer to provide career-related information. Each youth leaves the program with a résumé and some valuable experience.

College Corps Internship Program is a program administered by ETA with funds

Community

Youth Development & Adult Employment Assistance

approved through the Herkimer County Legislature. Youth entering their junior or senior year of college can participate in a two-hundred hour internship with an area employer. The internship should be closely related to the student's major. The costs of the youth wages are shared by the county and the employer. This program has been successful in helping students realize that there are opportunities available for them in the Mohawk Valley after graduation.

Adult Programming

The On the Job Training (OJT) program helps unemployed people re-enter the workforce. It gives businesses an incentive to hire and train them in full-time skilled or semi-skilled occupations. The OJT program matches businesses with qualified job seekers who are eager to work, but need the specialized training only an employer can supply. In OJT programs, the business agrees to hire workers and train them in measurable skills. In exchange, the government agrees to reimburse the business for a portion of their wages. The government repays the business from 50 to 90 percent of the trainee's starting wage, for a set period that the trainee needs to master the required occupational skills. As part of the OJT program, businesses may receive funds to help cover part of their training expenses. Over the last few years WIA funding has been supplemented by other state or federal grants in order to expand these services.

Table 46 illustrates the number of adults that have participated in the employment programs operated by ETA.

Number of Individuals whose employers received On the Job Training funds to assist with their initial training

Period	WIOA Funded	Other Funds
7/1/15–6/30/16	17	
7/1/16–6/30/17	29	16
7/1/17–6/30/18	11	5
7/1/18–6/30/19	1	20
7/1/19–6/30/20	6	15
7/1/20–6/30/21	9	10
7/1/21-6/30/22	1	12

Table 46 Source: Herkimer County Employment and Training Administration

**Other funds came through additional grants at the Workforce Development Board. WIOA staff time was still used*

Classroom Training (CRT)

The CRT program offers training assistance to eligible individuals who have been formally accepted into full-time vocationally certified training programs offered by area vocational technical colleges, community colleges, some four year colleges and universities, and other accredited public and private training institutions. Training must be aligned with in-demand industry sectors or occupations and all providers must be registered on the local

Community

Youth Development & Adult Employment Assistance

Workforce Investment Area eligible provider list. Table 47 illustrates the number of Herkimer County adults and dislocated workers that have participated in the classroom training programs.

**Number of Adults and Dislocated Workers in CRT Programs
in Herkimer County: 2015–2022**

Period	WIOA Funds	Trade Act**
7/1/15–6/30/16	15	4
7/1/16–6/30/17	29	
7/1/17–6/30/18	12	1
7/1/18–6/30/19	4	
7/1/19–6/30/20	13	11
7/1/20–6/30/21		115
7/1/21–6/30/22	26	110

Table 47 Source: Herkimer County Employment and Training Administration

**Trade Act funds were the result of the Remington Arms layoff. These are separate funds from WIOA which are accessed directly from NYS.

It is important to note that over the last few years, there has been more funding allocated to serve dislocated workers. These are workers who have been laid off due to a reduction in workforce at their company. They typically are receiving or have received Unemployment Insurance.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program, known as the “Trade Act,” helps workers who have lost or may lose their jobs as a result of foreign trade. This program seeks to provide adversely affected workers with opportunities to obtain the skills, credentials, resources, and support necessary to become reemployed. If determined eligible, an affected worker can receive benefits and services such as job training, income support payments, job search assistance, and moving allowances. A wage supplement may be available for those aged 50 or over who find a job in a new career. Although this program is administered through ETA, funding for these services comes directly from the state.

Herkimer Working Solutions Career Center

In 2001, federal legislation mandated that the Herkimer County Employment & Training Administration enter into a partnership arrangement with the New York State Department of Labor as well as other agencies to create a One Stop Career Center. The idea behind this was for a customer to come to one location and be able to access a variety of services and programs. Other agencies who have staff co-located at the Herkimer Working Solutions are the Herkimer County Department of Social Services, Herkimer College, Herkimer County BOCES, and the Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR).

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Youth Development & Adult Employment Assistance

Convenient, no cost services of the Career Center include:

- **Career Counseling:** Counselors help assess needs, skills and interests and guide a customer through a step-by-step approach to job search and re-entry into the workforce.
- **Resume Development:** Expert staff helps write and design a resume that gets results and show how to tailor a resume for firms that use resume scanning software.
- **Career Workshops:**
 - Job Search Strategies
 - Networking
 - Motivational Issues
 - Transferring Skills
 - Resume Preparation
 - Managing Stress
 - Finances and Budgeting
 - Practice Interviewing
 - Obtaining a Job and Keeping It
 - Moving Up with Your Employer
- **Computers/Internet Access:** Job seekers can use computers, equipped with high-speed Internet connections. There is also hardware and software for the visually impaired.
- **Computer Workshops:** The Career Center offers referrals to workshops in Microsoft Office Applications, QuickBooks, Internet Applications and various graphics programs.
- **Adult Basic Education/English as a Second Language:** The Career Center can refer customers to free courses to obtain a high school equivalency diploma (GED) and/or to improve their English-language skills.
- **Phones, Faxes and Copiers:** The Career Center has telephones that allow people to speak privately to prospective employers, both locally and throughout the United States. There are faxes and copiers for use at no charge, as well as a TDD/TTY line.
- **Career Resource Library:** The Career Center library has books, videos, newspapers, special directories and other materials related to careers, as well as job search and labor market information.
- **Job Search Resources and Job Placement Assistance:** Employers throughout New York State list diverse job openings with the Labor Department.

Many employers use One Stop Career Centers to conduct onsite interviews.

Table 48 on the following page illustrates the number of individuals that have utilized the Herkimer Working Solutions One Stop Career Center from 2016-2021.

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Youth Development & Adult Employment Assistance

Herkimer Working Solutions Career Center Use by Year 2016-2021

Year	Number of Active Career Center Customers*
2016	1,539
2017	1,480
2018	1,672
2019	904
2020	591
2021	1,087

Table 48 Source: Herkimer County Employment and Training Administration

It is important to note that both the numbers of new customers as well as the numbers of active customers has decreased over time. ETA representatives report that this may be due to a positive change in the economy. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the economy in severe ways that changed the landscape for employment and employment services. Despite this, 2021 utilization rates show a tentative return to previous levels.



Herkimer Working Solutions Career Center

Community

Youth Development & Adult Employment Assistance

Data Sources

Herkimer County Employment and Training Administration Program Data

Herkimer County Youth Bureau Program Data



Little Falls, NY

Community

Childcare

Why this is important

Quality child care is not only important for positive youth development, but also for social welfare and economic reasons. It is widely accepted that early childhood education can play a positive role in long-term human development, but the importance of good quality, reliable and affordable child care for families, workers, and for broader economic development is sometimes less obvious and acknowledged within traditional systems. Today's children are tomorrow's workforce.

Child care is particularly scarce in Herkimer County. The majority of child care programs exist in the southern portion of the county and Herkimer County's child care supply is the lowest in the region compared to the population. Additionally, care for infants is particularly difficult to find, with many of the licensed child care programs not serving infants.

Where we stand

In NY State, 64% of the population lives in a child care desert, including Herkimer County families. There are several different types of childcare services:

- **Child Care Center** - care for a group of children for more than three hours per day, not in a personal residence, which must meet NYS Office of Children and Family Services licensing regulations for facility, health, safety, staffing and educational programming. In this setting, children are cared for in groups separated by age (infants -6 weeks to 18 months; toddlers - 18 to 36 months; preschoolers - 3 & 4 year olds; school-age - 5-12 year olds).
- **Registered Family Child Care** - child care provided in the child care professional's personal residence (or other home setting) for up to 6 children including the provider's own (if not yet enrolled in kindergarten)- and no more than two children can be under two years of age with an expanded capacity to serve two additional school-age children. Family child care programs must be registered by the NYS Office of Children & Family Services.
- **Licensed Group Family Child Care** - child care provided in the home setting by a primary child care professional and an assistant for up to 12 children including the provider's own (if not yet enrolled in kindergarten) and there must be one adult for every two children under two years of age in care, with an expanded capacity to serve two to four additional school-age children (depending on their licensed capacity). Group family child care providers are licensed by the NYS Office of Children & Family Services.
- **School-Age Child Care Program** - care for a group of school age children from kindergarten through age 12 before and after school and at times when school is not in session. Many school-age programs provide care during school vacations and holidays. School-age care may be provided by child care centers, family/group family child care homes, public schools, youth recreation groups, religious organizations and other community groups. Depending on the sponsoring organization, school-age care programs are regulated by NYS Office of Children and Family Services or the NYS Department of Education.
- **Head Start/Early Head Start** - a federally funded program for three to five year-olds (six-weeks to three-year olds for Early Head Start) for families who meet established household income criteria. Head Start offers a comprehensive child development

Community Childcare

program, including health, nutrition and family support services. Parent involvement is an integral part of the program. Head Start programs can be part-day, full-day or home-based.

Childcare Supply in Herkimer County

The following data is provided by the 2018 – 2020 Child Care Needs Assessment published by the Child Care Council of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Table 49 below illustrates the types of childcare centers and their capacity in Herkimer County. Figure 22 below demonstrates the percentage of the capacity that is available, by child’s age. The majority of the childcare supply is available for school-age children, but only 10.3% of the supply is available for infants.

Child Care Supply, Herkimer County, by Type and Capacity

Type	Number of Centers	Capacity
Child Care Center	7	182 children
School-Age Child Care Center	5	226 children
Family Child Care Program	25	200 children
Group Family Child Care Program	16	254 children

Table 49 *Source: 2020 Child Care Needs Assessment*

**Percent of Supply by Age of Child,
Herkimer County**

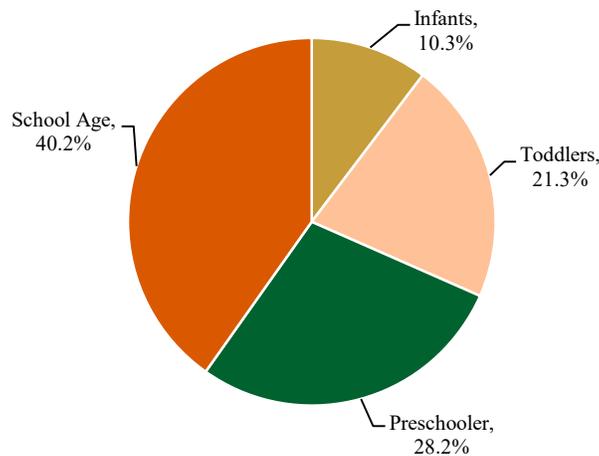


Figure 22 *Source: 2018-2020 Child Care Needs Assessment*

Community Childcare

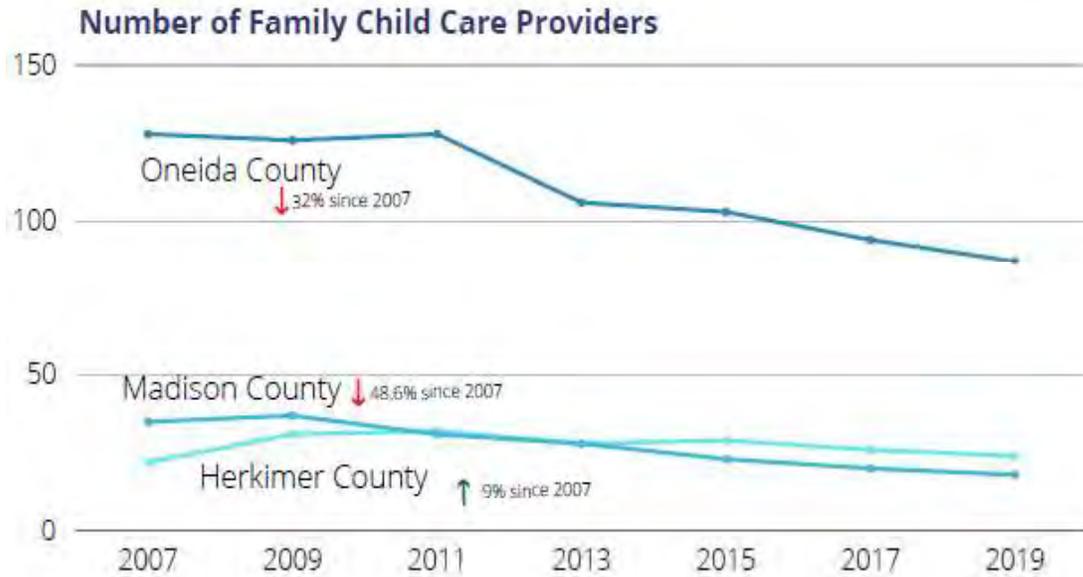


Figure 23 Source: 2018-2020 Child Care Needs Assessment/Child Care Council of Cornell Cooperative Extension

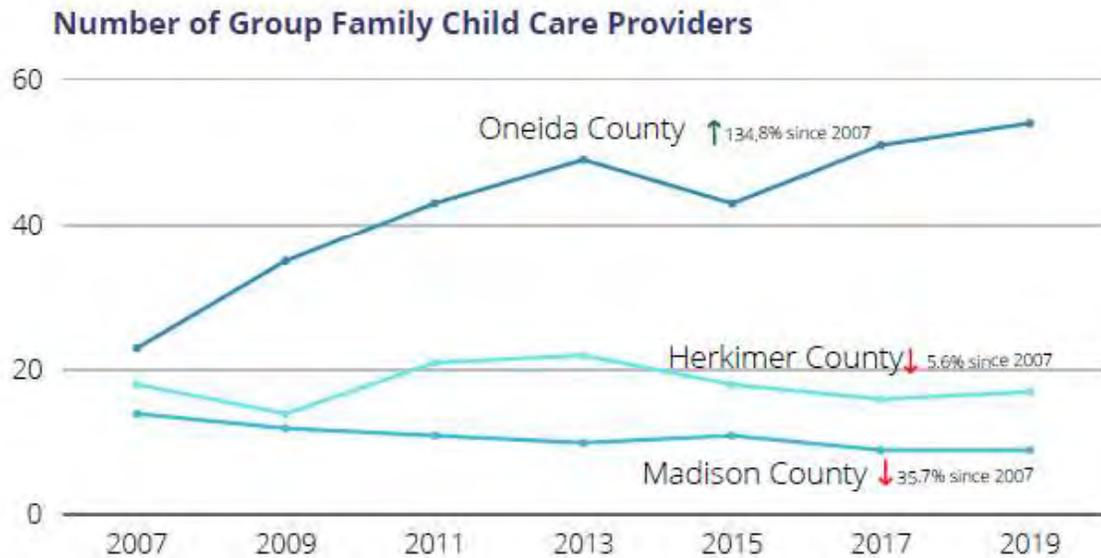


Figure 24 Source: 2018-2020 Child Care Needs Assessment

Community Childcare

Unmet Child Care Need

There is no data available to determine the approximate percentage of children who are cared for by resources other than regulated child care. To estimate the unmet need for childcare, estimates are drawn by looking at the number of slots available and the number of children who could potentially fill them. Figure 25 below demonstrates Herkimer County’s potential unmet need.

**Potential Unmet Need for Child Care for Children
in Herkimer County**



Figure 25 Source: 2018-2020 Child Care Needs Assessment

Community Childcare

Data Sources

Child Care Council. (2018). Child care needs assessment. Retrieved from <https://cceoneida.com/resources/-2018-2020-child-care-needs-assessment>



Community

Information and Referral

Why this is important

People needing answers and help often do not know where to begin. They may spend a lot of time searching through various websites or calling multiple places with mixed results. Information and Referral systems help individuals receive the information they need in one simple step.

Information and referral may be the main service of an agency or a separate program within an organization. Some Information and Referral agencies are comprehensive in nature, providing information about all human services programs within a geographic area, while others are specialized, providing in-depth information about resources for specific population groups such as older adults, children and families or individuals with disabilities.

Where we stand

Herkimer County Supportive Services Directory for Children and Families

The Supportive Services Directory for Children and Families was created as a reference for residents to inform the community about programs and services available to them, and includes descriptions and contact information for programming. All programs provided by the organization are listed alphabetically by organization. The Directory can be found on the Herkimer County Youth Bureau's website (<https://www.herkimercounty.org/services-and-departments/youth-bureau.php>). Organizations wishing to be added to the directory can contact Herkimer County Integrated County Planning for inclusion.

New York Connects

The Herkimer County Office for the Aging (OFA) and the Department of Social Services (DSS) are partners in a New York (NY) Connects project. New York Connects offers links to Long Term Services and Supports in Herkimer County and Information and Assistance to

NY Connects/OFA Information and Assistance

Year	# Information and Assistance Units	# of Clients
2015 - 2016	4,651	4,100
2016 - 2017	5,778	5,001
2017 - 2018	5,928	5,307
2018 - 2019	2,800	2,341
2019 - 2020	2,510	2,001
2020 - 2021	3,561	3,020
2021 - 2022	4,500	2,812

individuals of any age. New York Connects began in Herkimer County in 2006.

Table 50 illustrates the number of clients served and information calls received between 2015 and 2022. During the period of April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022, 2,812 people were served through New York Connects. A total of

Table 50 Source: Herkimer County Office for the Aging

information about home based services. Home based services include companionship, home delivered meals, home health care, personal care such as bathing, personal emergency response systems, private duty nursing and telephone reassurance.

68% of these people requested

Community

Information and Referral

OFA/NY Connects uses several methods to educate the public about services available including press releases, paid radio ads, paid ads in local newspapers, a quarterly newsletter, distribution of information directly to clients, the public library system, urgent care & the local emergency room, public speaking, mailings to senior clubs, distribution of brochures, and the internet. Word of mouth is probably the most effective tool for public education.

New York Connects utilizes the OFA/NY Connects Advisory Council as public educators and to reinforce to Council members that their job is primarily 2-fold: to know enough about the OFA/NY Connects so they can refer people when someone needs assistance and to keep the OFA/NY Connects informed of aging concerns as they hear them. Each of these public education tools helps to reach people so that they know who to contact when they have concerns.

All educational publications produced by the OFA/NY Connects such as brochures and newsletters use techniques to make them more easily readable (i.e. large font size).

The internet is a very cost-effective way to reach the public. The OFA/NY Connects has been committed to making the most of this medium and provides a very large amount of information on its website and on its Facebook page. This web site and Facebook is an effective way to reach the adult children of seniors more so than the seniors themselves, as many seniors served do not have computer access. The OFA/NY Connects website is part of the County of Herkimer website. The OFA/NY Connects portion of the website consistently reaches over 700 people per month. Despite this, the NY Connect website is seeing a significant decrease in web hits since 2015 (Table 51).

NY Connects/OFA Information and Assistance Web Hits

Year	Web Hits
2015	50,231
2016	61,256
2017	24,073
2018	20,607
2019	10,500
2020	10,135
2021	8,216
2022	8,523

Table 51 *Source: Herkimer County Office for the Aging*

2-1-1 Mid-York

2-1-1 Mid-York is a program of the United Way of the Valley and Greater Utica Area, Inc. For Madison, Oneida and Herkimer Counties, 2-1-1 Mid-York connects residents with up-to-date information about health and human services programs. The service is free, confidential and multi-lingual. 2-1-1 Mid-York provides a staffed contact center where trained call specialists are available to speak with callers 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year.

Callers can learn about many different resources such as: food, housing, health services, managing finances, job assistance, childcare, elder care, mental health or substance abuse

Community

Information and Referral

resources, tax help, transportation, education and volunteer opportunities.

2-1-1 Mid-York call specialists use a database that has been developed by surveying local agencies, government offices and healthcare organizations.

2-1-1 Mid-York became operational in February 2015, and in February 2016 www.211midyork.org began to provide internet access to the 2-1-1 Mid-York database.

2-1-1 Mid-York 2022 Call Statistics

	Herkimer County	Oneida County	Madison County
Housing and Shelter	20.70%	22.70%	34.00%
Food	2.10%	5.60%	4.30%
Utilities	3.60%	2.70%	5.70%
Healthcare & COVID-19	7.90%	4.20%	9.10%
Mental Health & Addictions	5.70%	3.50%	5.70%
Employment & Income	13.60%	10.90%	2.40%
Clothing & Household	3.60%	4.60%	<1.00%
Childcare & Parenting	0.00%	<1.00%	1.40%
Government & Legal	5.70%	4.70%	8.60%
Transportation Assistance	9.30%	3.00%	2.90%
Education	0.00%	<1.00%	<1.00%
Disaster	0.00%	<1.00%	<1.00%
Other*	27.90%	37.00%	23.90%
Total Number of Calls	140	3,612	209
Percent Calls with unmet needs	5.70%	6.40%	9.10%

*Other includes agency contact information, community development and enrichment, volunteering and donations, support and advocacy, complaints, special population services, special populations, and requests classified as all other requests.

Table 52 Source: Mid-York 2-1-1, www.211counts.org

Community

Information and Referral

Table 52 (previous page) illustrates, by location, the number of calls received by 2-1-1 Mid-York in 2022 and the number of referrals recommended in response to those calls. Figure 26 illustrates the percentage of referrals by type made for Herkimer County callers in 2022.

2-1-1 benefits the community by streamlining access and referral inquiries, reducing the time it takes for individuals to find the information and assistance they are seeking or connecting them before they give up and stop seeking help. It also takes the burden of non-emergency calls from 9-1-1 call centers.

2-1-1 Mid-York also has a specialty database of resources for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

2-1-1 call specialists can be reached by dialing 2-1-1 or 844-DIAL-211. Both numbers are toll free and can be accessed by anyone, whether calling for themselves or to assist someone else. Professionals often use 2-1-1 at their job to help others.

2-1-1 Mid-York, Percent Unmet Needs by Call from Herkimer County, 2022

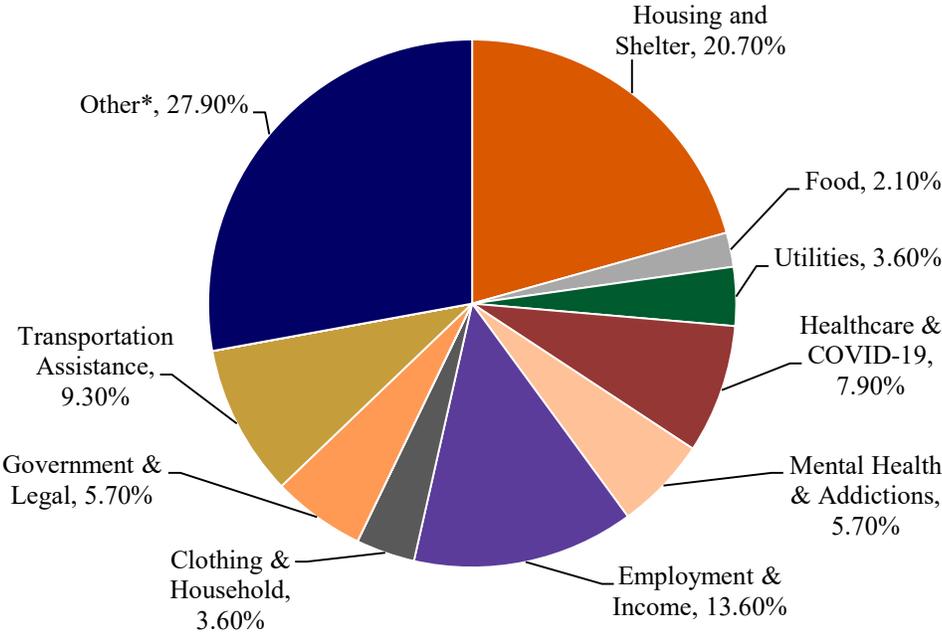


Figure 26 Source: Mid-York 2-1-1, www.211counts.org
 *Services, complaints and information

Community

Information and Referral

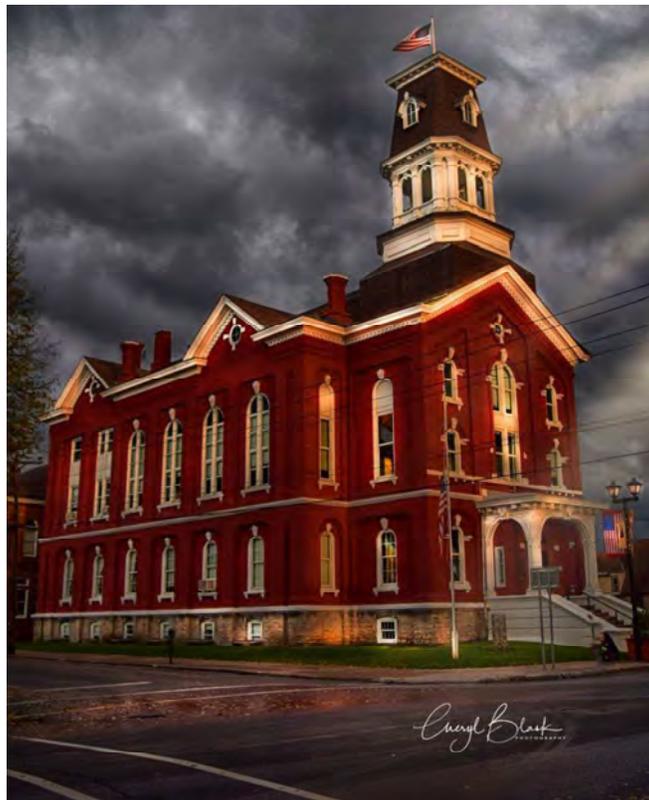
Data Sources

211 Mid-York 211 Counts. (n.d.). Retrieved March 24, 2023 from <https://211midyork.211counts.org/#>

211 Mid-York Human Services Information. (n.d.). Retrieved March 24, 2023, from <https://211midyork.org/>

Herkimer County Office for the Aging Program Data

Herkimer County Supportive Services Directory for Children and Families. (2021). Retrieved from <https://www.herkimercounty.org/services-and-departments/youth-bureau.php>



Citizenship

Voting

Why this is important

Representation in government and the right to vote for that representation are at the core of our fundamental beliefs as a nation. From the White House to the Herkimer County Courthouse, the structure of our government is based on citizens voting for that representation. Despite this, national voter turnout is dismally low. The 2020 election saw a record voter turnout of the 21st century, with only 66.8% of eligible voters casting a ballot nationally. New York State, as a whole, was lower than the national average, with only 63.6% of eligible voters casting a ballot. Herkimer County was on par with National turnout, with 66.6% of eligible voters casting a ballot.

Local elections attract even fewer eligible voters. On average, only 39% of eligible voters in Herkimer County cast ballots in local elections. In contrast, 62.8% of eligible voters in Herkimer County cast ballots in Presidential elections.

Where we stand

Figure 27 and Table 53 depict the number of eligible voters, the number of votes cast, and the percentage of eligible voters that have cast votes in each election from 2008 to 2021 in Herkimer County. Eligible voters are those individuals over the age of 18 that are legally registered to vote and meet voting criteria.

Figure 27 illustrates the disparity between those individuals that are registered to vote and those that actually vote in elections in Herkimer County. This change is consistent with both state and national trends.

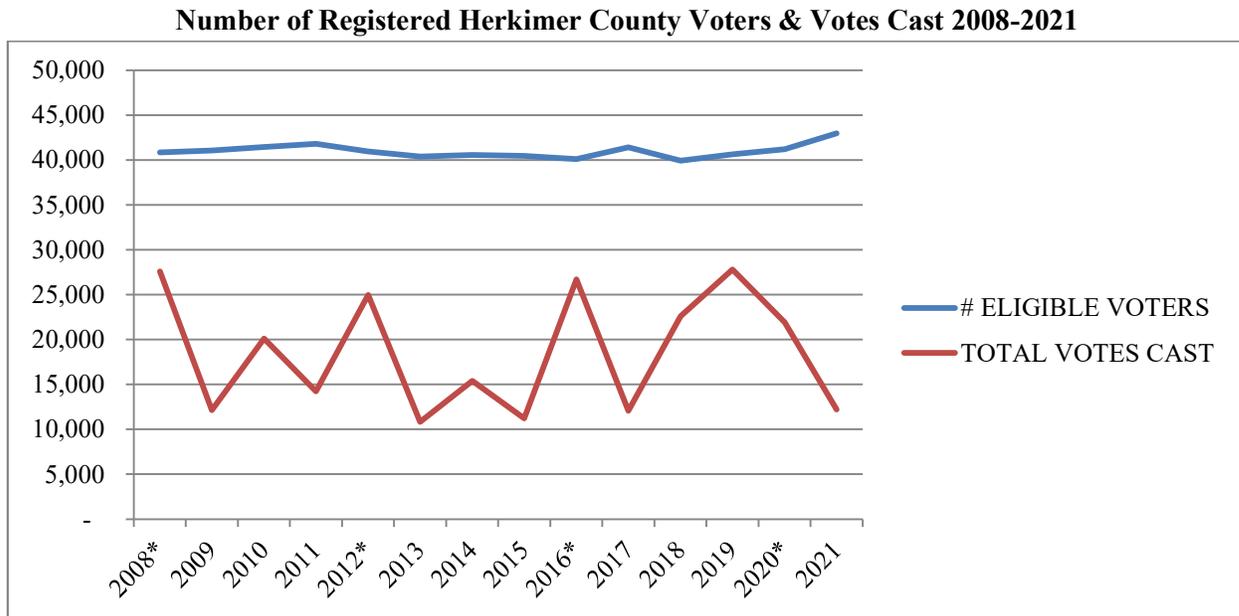


Figure 27 Source: Herkimer County Board of Elections *denotes Presidential election year

Citizenship

Voting

Herkimer County Voter Turnout 2008-2021

Year	# eligible voters	Total votes cast	Percent of eligible voters who cast votes
2008*	40,862	27,600	67.5%
2009	41,058	12,132	29.5%
2010	41,447	20,099	48.5%
2011	41,804	14,214	34.0%
2012*	40,942	24,975	61.0%
2013	40,377	10,821	29.5%
2014	40,565	15,409	41.0%
2015	40,457	11,204	28.9%
2016*	40,085	26,697	66.6%
2017	41,419	12,058	29.1%
2018	39,918	22,592	56.6%
2019	40,638	27,795	68.4%
2020*	41,202	21,932	53.2%
2021	42,985	12,225	28.4%

Table 53 Source: Herkimer County Board of Elections *denotes Presidential election year

The greatest percentage of votes cast by eligible voters between 2008 and 2021 in Herkimer County occurred during the 2019 local election, when 68.4% of eligible voters cast ballots. The lowest percentage occurred in the 2021 local election, when 28.4% of eligible voters cast ballots. Turnout rates for midterm elections and local elections are traditionally lower than those for presidential elections. It is surmised that the reason why the 2019 local election saw such high voter turnout was because there were several high-level local positions open, including Family Court Judge and Sheriff.

Political Party Affiliation

In February of 2022, nearly half (47.63%) of all active registered voters in Herkimer County were Republican and nearly one quarter (24.10%) were Democrats. Of the remaining active, voters, 1.84% were registered Conservatives, 6.85% were categorized as “Other”, and 19.57% were Blank. The “Other” category includes the Working Families Party, Independence Party, Libertarian, Green, etc. The “Blank” party includes those who are not registered with any particular party. Figure 28, on the next page, illustrates the breakdown of Herkimer County political party affiliation in 2021.

Citizenship

Voting

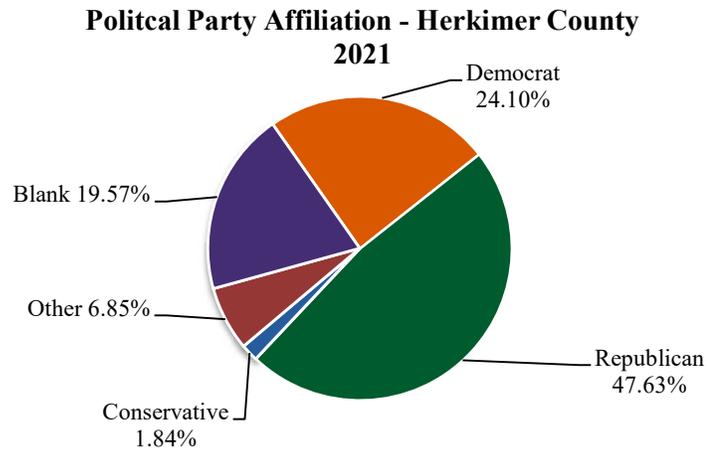


Figure 28 *Source:* New York State Board of Elections, Enrollment Statistics



Fort Herkimer Church

Citizenship

Voting

Data Sources

Herkimer County Board of Elections. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.herkimercounty.org/government/board-of-elections/>

New York State Board of Elections. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.elections.ny.gov/EnrollmentCounty.html>



Woodhull Mountain Trail



Photos courtesy of Herkimer HealthNet

Citizenship

Engaged and Informed Citizens

Why this is important

Media products inform us, entertain us and help us stay connected to our community and the world. However, not all is positive. Public relations spin, hyper commercialization, violence packaged as “entertainment,” news bias, digital photo and video manipulation, and other issues provide many reasons why media literacy skills are essential for children and adults. This need has been accelerated with the recent dominance of social media in the lives of American citizens.

A major worry in this age of the Internet is whether children and adults will want to read books for pleasure and information. In addition, as more and more people rely on the Internet to become informed, engaged, and entertained, the “digital divide” between those with access to the Internet and those without access takes on significant importance.

COVID-19 and subsequent social distancing, lockdowns, and virtual education has placed a social microscope on both media literacy and the digital divide. One important lesson learned concerning the Digital Divide is that economics is not the only barrier to advancement in American society. Rural living, while wonderful and healthy in so many ways, comes with its own set of barriers and challenges, including internet connectivity.

While rural areas have made gains in shrinking the digital divide, only 72% of rural Americans report having broadband internet service in their homes. There is negligible difference between income-levels in internet access in rural areas. Internet accessibility, in rural areas, is more a function of availability rather than affordability.

This lack of availability of internet and broadband access has become the topic of national attention since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lockdowns and social distancing forced many Americans to work or learn remotely, leaving rural residents in a predicament; how can someone work or go to school virtually if there is no internet access from their home?

During the height of the pandemic, Herkimer County schools offered mobile hotspots to families for their children to attend school virtually. Libraries expanded their Wi-Fi service provisions to accommodate youth and adults accessing the internet from the parking lot. Local businesses and churches also offered the use of their Wi-Fi when feasible.

Where we stand

Library Use

Historically, libraries have served as community hubs that promote literacy among all members of their community. They provide community members with access to valuable information for education, resource, and leisure purposes. Herkimer County’s 13 public libraries are members of the Mid-York Library System, which comprises 43 libraries from Herkimer, Oneida, and Madison counties. Borrowers have access to materials and services from all Mid-York libraries. Borrowers may utilize any of Mid-York’s libraries, or they may request materials be delivered to their local library.

Table 54 (on the next page) displays the number of registered borrowers in 2020 and the number of visits made to public libraries in Herkimer County from 2016 to 2020. As the chart illustrates, Herkimer County libraries have nearly 28,000 registered borrowers. This is a significant decrease from 2015, which had slightly over 46,000 registered borrowers. Library visits decreased as well, from an average of 287,302 visits from 2012-2015 to an average of 219,608 visits from 2016-2020. Library visits dropped dramatically in 2020, which is most likely due to lockdowns and social distancing.

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Registered Borrowers and Library Visits 2016-2020 Herkimer County Libraries

	Registered Borrowers		Library Visits			
	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Dolgeville-Manheim Public Library	1,985	9,885	9,269	8,718	8,764	2,175
Frank J. Basloe Public Library	5,786	87,335	88,129	84,975	79,862	58,858
Frankfort Free Library	2,096	22,854	20,750	21,995	23,878	4,185
Ilion Free Public Library	5,784	32,242	43,000	45,000	46,000	34,501
Jordanville Public Library	567	4,064	4,251	3,146	2,975	1,863
Kirby Free Library Of Salisbury	665	2,664	2,253	2,743	2,397	1,153
Little Falls Public Library	4,841	55,000	16,000	15,500	15,000	11,200
Middleville Free Library	491	5,843	6,045	6,347	4,550	1,448
Newport Free Library	656	2,915	2,851	2,968	3,156	1,659
Old Forge Library	1,370	17,777	17,453	17,980	18,250	4,550
Poland District Public Library	866	10,000	9,500	9,300	9,410	1,825
Weller Library	1,011	12,350	9,693	2,402	2,559	589
West Winfield Library	1,688	10,140	9,342	10,608	10,125	3,820
Herkimer County	27,806	273,069	238,536	231,682	226,926	127,826

Table 54 Source: Mid-York Library System

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Library Circulation

Table 55, below, displays the total circulation rates of Herkimer County libraries from 2016-2020.

**Herkimer County Total Library Circulation
2016-2020**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Dolgeville-Manheim Public Library	9,454	9,485	9,696	13,154	6,485
Frank J. Basloe Public Library	47,281	47,494	44,416	40,160	34,640
Frankfort Free Library	9,586	7,621	9,532	9,685	5,031
Ilion Free Public Library	43,919	34,514	36,527	45,868	37,846
Jordanville Public Library	4,851	5,420	4,179	3,895	2,882
Kirby Free Library Of Salisbury	2,504	2,108	2,218	1,754	1,261
Little Falls Public Library	41,807	39,729	35,326	34,621	26,693
Middleville Free Library	4,815	5,245	4,999	5,830	3,270
Newport Free Library	3,224	2,742	3,139	4,184	3,113
Old Forge Library	14,979	13,993	13,168	16,830	12,096
Poland District Public Library	26,891	22,198	24,845	24,354	15,008
Weller Library	7,689	5,977	4,850	4,760	4,118
West Winfield Library	19,815	17,841	17,030	16,913	10,233
Herkimer County	236,815	214,367	209,925	222,008	162,676

Table 55 Source Mid-York Library System

As the chart depicts, cumulative circulation rates for Herkimer County libraries declined by approximately 30% from 2016 to 2020. Library circulation is the measure of the number of all physical and electronic library materials utilized by the public. All but two of the Herkimer County libraries reported a decrease in circulation rates.

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Reference & Research Transactions

In addition to providing circulation materials, library professionals often assist patrons with obtaining reference and research materials. Table 56 displays the number of reference and research transactions recorded in Herkimer County libraries from 2016-2020.

**Herkimer County Library Reference Transactions
2016-2020**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Dolgeville-Manheim Public Library	3,687	3,003	2,920	3,178	5,864
Frank J. Basloe Public Library	3,107	2,598	2,376	1,497	494
Frankfort Free Library	1,634	1,436	1,507	1,692	389
Ilion Free Public Library	5,123	5,320	5,000	4,988	3,750
Jordanville Public Library	1,380	1,156	985	270	145
Kirby Free Library Of Salisbury	78	93	297	314	156
Little Falls Public Library	2,512	2,107	2,011	1,958	1,000
Middleville Free Library	731	748	770	829	383
Newport Free Library	165	150	165	236	50
Old Forge Library	269	338	456	480	288
Poland District Public Library	3,800	3,500	3,400	3,360	2,500
Weller Library	392	327	1,200	1,350	985
West Winfield Library	1,650	981	895	720	284
Herkimer County	24,528	21,757	21,982	20,872	16,288

Table 56 Source Mid-York Library System

As the chart depicts, cumulative reference and research transactions for Herkimer County libraries from 2016 through 2019 demonstrated a slow, but steady decline. In 2020, there was a sharp decline, likely a result of COVID-19 lockdowns and social distancing.

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Circulation of Electronic Materials

While total circulations declined across Herkimer County libraries, the number of electronic material circulations, such as E-books and Audiobooks, has increased across all county libraries. As shown in Table 57, in 2016 the total number of electronic materials circulations was 18,018, more than doubling by 2020 to 37,850. This increase could be due to the COVID 19 lockdown in 2019.

**Herkimer County Total Library Circulation of Electronic Materials
2016-2020**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Dolgeville-Manheim Public Library	882	902	1,115	1,262	1,594
Frank J. Basloe Public Library	3,024	3,706	4,256	5,493	8,800
Frankfort Free Library	853	828	1,339	1,399	1,744
Ilion Free Public Library	3,010	3,161	3,175	4,305	5,863
Jordanville Public Library	278	259	419	635	935
Kirby Free Library Of Salisbury	399	297	388	217	317
Little Falls Public Library	2,737	2,277	2,522	4,054	6,149
Middleville Free Library	224	325	443	789	838
Newport Free Library	292	359	535	645	1,077
Old Forge Library	2,430	1,938	2,378	2,651	4,132
Poland District Public Library	1,579	1,608	1,416	1,670	1,985
Weller Library	803	932	778	892	1,153
West Winfield Library	1,447	1,426	1,690	2,197	3,263
Herkimer County Total	17,958	18,018	20,454	26,209	37,850

Table 57 Source Mid-York Library System

Library Programs and Attendance

Libraries provide programs and services which promote literacy and provide educational opportunities for children and adults in their communities. Table 58, on the following page, lists the

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number of programs offered in Herkimer County libraries and the number of individuals attending these programs from 2016 to 2020.

**Total Number of Herkimer County Library Programs and Program Attendance
2016-2020**

	Total Programs					Program Attendance				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Dolgeville-Manheim Public Library	217	226	199	154	48	2,209	2,197	1,955	1,661	274
Frank J. Basloe Public Library	193	163	212	156	118	2,387	2,062	2,570	1,830	1,571
Frankfort Free Library	392	293	277	254	97	3,387	4,133	4,121	3,780	992
Ilion Free Public Library	177	333	373	500	364	1,865	2,688	5,299	6,803	4,440
Jordanville Public Library	111	118	85	55	9	929	1,340	543	476	96
Kirby Free Public Library	5	53	60	60	13	30	472	522	441	200
Little Falls Public Library	234	360	320	365	241	1,440	1,809	3,170	3,533	2,664
Middleville Free Library	39	90	67	81	47	471	633	781	678	245
Newport Free Library	30	20	28	36	9	255	250	215	711	297
Old Forge Library	138	166	163	186	80	3,446	3,331	3,825	3,894	977
Poland District Public Library	24	26	27	30	4	545	741	869	875	12
Weller Library	35	50	23	20	0	125	400	190	225	0
West Winfield Library	135	148	114	125	35	1,019	1,638	1,325	1,615	308
Herkimer County Total	1,730	2,046	1,948	2,022	1,065	18,108	21,694	25,385	26,522	12,076

Table 58 Source Mid-York Library System

As the table above illustrates, the cumulative number of library programs offered in Herkimer County remained relatively stable from 2016 through 2019, sharply decreasing in 2020. This decrease is not

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unexpected due to COVID-19 restrictions. Program attendance had steadily increased from 2016 through 2019, then again sharply decreased in 2020.

Public Computer and Wireless Internet Usage

Public computers are available for use at all Herkimer County public libraries. Table 59 displays the public computer usage statistics for Herkimer County libraries from 2016 to 2020. Numbers represent each time that a patron signs in and uses a library-owned computer.

**Total Number of Herkimer County Library Public Computer Sessions
2016-2020**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Dolgeville-Manheim Public Library	1,791	1,865	1,629	2,238	623
Frank J. Basloe Public Library	5,152	9,872	10,242	9,307	7,007
Frankfort Free Library	8,140	7,900	8,073	7,867	559
Ilion Free Public Library	6,047	5,904	5,957	8,185	2,095
Jordanville Public Library	852	634	259	393	190
Kirby Free Library Of Salisbury	1,622	1,707	1,764	1,749	690
Little Falls Public Library	9,438	10,254	8,710	8,590	4,269
Middleville Free Library	1,325	1,059	1,352	626	189
Newport Free Library	1,560	1,420	1,450	1,510	273
Old Forge Library	2,388	2,152	1,978	690	312
Poland District Public Library	3,500	350	520	260	80
Weller Library	1,000	1,000	600	625	400
West Winfield Library	1,393	1,184	976	747	51
Herkimer County Total	44,208	45,301	43,510	42,787	16,738

Table 59 Source Mid-York Library System

When calculated as a percentage of the visits, library owned computer usage remained stable (approximately 16%) between 2016 and 2019, declining to 13% in 2020. This demonstrates that while library visits may be declining, the percentage of patrons utilizing library-owned computers remained relatively unchanged between 2016 and 2019.

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In recent years, libraries have begun to offer wireless internet connections to those patrons who wish to access the Wi-Fi using their own electronic devices. Table 60 shows the number of wireless internet connections made at public libraries in Herkimer County from 2016 to 2020. Utilization of the wireless internet occurred in approximately 11% of library visits from 2016-2019. In 2020, wireless internet sessions increased to 16%. This increase in usage may be due to COVID-19 and the subsequent increase in the need for internet access.

**Total Number of Herkimer County Library Public Wireless Internet Sessions
2016-2020**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Dolgeville-Manheim Public Library	3086	2,736	1,606	1,458	811
Frank J. Basloe Public Library	5,191	6,973	5,113	6,029	4,602
Frankfort Free Library	3786	1,671	1,104	1,439	756
Ilion Free Public Library	2,873	4,459	4,706	3,459	3,119
Jordanville Public Library	1642	962	663	486	285
Kirby Free Library Of Salisbury	280	1,891	2,324	3,479	1,827
Little Falls Public Library	4,741	4,269	4,036	3,057	2,601
Middleville Free Library	1073	942	678	874	209
Newport Free Library	150	480	604	604	237
Old Forge Library	4384	5,330	5,780	4,584	4,451
Poland District Public Library	283	480	520	750	700
Weller Library	1186	1,049	1,457	457	400
West Winfield Library	56	1,204	614	1,127	929
Herkimer County Total	28,731	32,446	29,205	27,803	20,927

Table 60 *Source Mid-York Library System*

Internet Use

Internet access and availability can have significant positive impacts on a community. A robust broadband infrastructure can lead to higher economic gains such as increased property values, increased job growth, attracting new businesses, and lower unemployment. Socially, broadband access provides opportunities in education, telehealth, and can help isolated or marginalized individuals and communities connect.

Figure 29 on page 90, illustrates the percentage of households in Herkimer County that have internet access based on participation in an internet subscription of any kind (cellular, broadband, dial-up, etc.).

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Herkimer County household internet access rose from 68% 2014 to 80% in 2019. This is in part due to efforts from local, state, and federal programs designed to increase access to this much needed resource.

In 2020 the Broadband DATA Act was passed by the federal government to improve broadband access and speeds by 2025. This offered economic support to existing NYS legislation put in place in 2015 to expand broadband service statewide. In September of 2021, NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli released a statement highlighting the economic inequities that prevented low-income families from accessing the internet. This is commonly referred to as the “digital divide”.

Research and interventions to narrow the digital divide are often hampered by the conflicting reports from the FCC and the American Community Survey. The American Community Survey uses Census data to show where households lack internet service, either because the service is not available or the household cannot afford it. Using data which originates from service providers, the FCC measures where internet connections exist currently or could be made available. The American Community Survey better represents the accessibility issues faced by residents of Herkimer County.

COVID-19 has proven that access to the internet has become as essential to families as electricity. The pandemic shut down schools, healthcare facilities, workplaces, recreational facilities, and people were restricted to their homes. Whether it was through telehealth, virtual education for children, Zoom meetings, or online social gatherings, Americans began utilizing the internet in ways they never had before. According to a 2021 Pew Research survey, 90% of Americans surveyed reported that internet access was essential or important for them personally during the pandemic.

Despite the importance of internet access for the community, the Digital Divide is slow to close in Herkimer County. Figure 30, from the American Community Survey, demonstrates how access is

Percentage of households who have an internet connection by income level

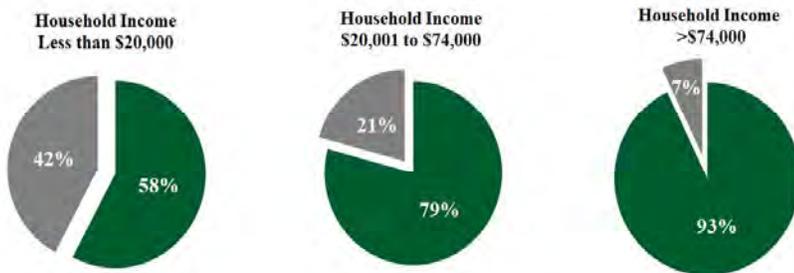


Figure 30 Source: 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Review

Percentage of Herkimer County Households with Internet Access

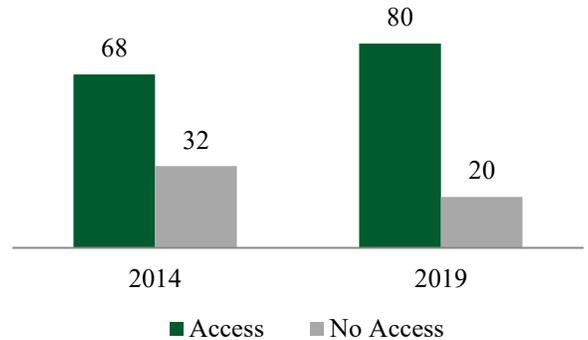


Figure 29

Source: County Health Rankings

unequal among those households with a lower income in Herkimer County. Households with an income of less than \$20,000 per year are nearly evenly split between those who have internet access and those who do not. For those households with an income of \$20,000 - \$74,000 per year, only 21% do not have an internet subscription, and for those households with an income of greater than \$74,000 per year, only 7% do not have internet access. This inequity has the potential for long-term consequences for youth and communities.

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Data Sources

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Citizenship

Youth Citizenship

Why this is important

Community attachment and citizenship are aspects of a youth's social-emotional health. Social emotional health (SEH) is defined as the ability to understand and manage one's own emotions, reactions, and relationships. SEH is linked to academic success, healthy relationships, responsible decision making, and future success in adulthood.

The effects of exposure to violence, whether it is through witnessing, being a victim of, or engaging in violent behaviors, can have life-long consequences in all domains of life. These consequences include health outcomes, economic outcomes, mental health outcomes, and even length of life. Violence can also negatively impact school attendance, academic scores, substance use, suicidal ideation, youth mental health concerns, and obesity.

Teenagers are often exposed to more than one type of violence such as bullying, sexual violence, dating violence, or physical fighting. Female and sexual minority teens are more likely to experience three or more types of violence. Research reviewed by the Child Trends Data Bank shows risk factors that predict youth violence include substance use and misuse, conflict and abuse in the home, harsh or inattentive parenting, antisocial and delinquent peers, and neighborhoods where crime and substance use are prevalent. There is often a direct correlation between a youth's exposure to violence and their participation in violent behaviors.

Where we stand

In previous years Herkimer County participated in the Teen Assessment Project (TAP) Survey, which surveyed all 7th, 9th, and 11th grade students in Herkimer County every four years. However, in 2017 Herkimer County began using the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (YRBS), a validated survey instrument created by the CDC and disseminated across the United States. New York State conducts this survey as well, choosing several districts across the state to create a representative sample of NY youth. By conducting a local YRBS, Herkimer County can compare local youth responses to state and national youth responses. For more information or data from the TAP Survey, please refer to the 2016 Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey is traditionally administered every three years to students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. This survey asks youth to respond to questions about violence, sexual behaviors, substance use, smoking, vaping, and social-emotional behaviors such as community attachment, food insecurity, and mental health.

COVID-19 was the catalyst for schools to close their buildings and move to remote learning. This has created a significantly different environment for Herkimer County youth. It is more than reasonable to assume that the youth surveyed in 2016 will have such significantly different experiences that Herkimer County opted to forego trend level data. The 2020-2021 school year Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey will serve as the baseline for trend data. The data presented in this document is from the survey conducted during the 2021-2022 school year.

Bullying

Bullying can lead to many negative consequences as well. The CDC defines bullying as unwanted aggressive behavior by another youth who is not a sibling or a dating partner. Bullying involves a power imbalance, either observed or perceived. This behavior is often highly repeated, or likely to be repeated. Bullying often increases the risk for depression, suicidal ideation, poor academic achievement, and substance use. Victims may feel anger, personal hurt and betrayal, a sense of

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powerlessness and isolation, loneliness, depression and low self-worth. This can lead to withdrawal from pro-social activities that can build SEH (social emotional health) such as extracurricular activities, school and community events, and academic supports.

In 2020, 20% of Herkimer County youth in grades 9-12 reported being bullied by someone in the 30 days prior to the survey (Figure 31). Female youth were significantly more likely than males to report being bullied. This difference is statistically significant.

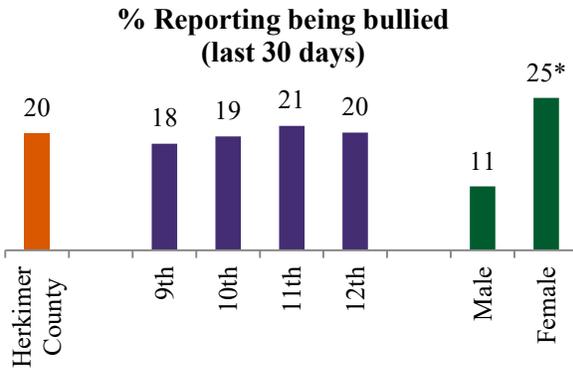


Figure 31
Source: 2021-2022 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Survey

*Denotes statistically significant difference.

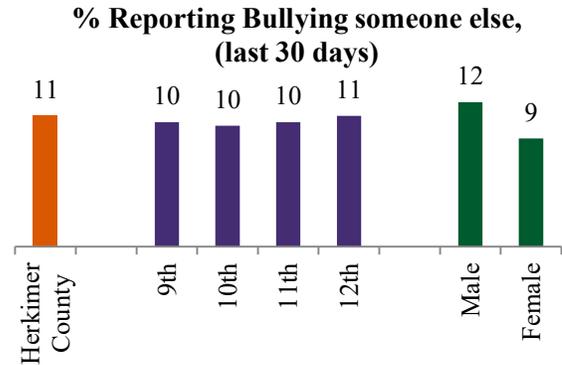


Figure 32
Source: 2021-2022 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Survey

When asked about bullying behaviors towards another, 11% of Herkimer County youth report bullying someone else (Figure 32). There was no significant difference between males and females.

In Herkimer County, 19% of youth reported being electronically bullied in the 12 months prior to the survey (Figure 33, next page). Female youth were significantly more likely to report being electronically bullied (25%) than males (12%).

Youth across the nation are active on social media and Herkimer County youth are no exception. Unfortunately, with the use of social media come negative consequences such as electronic bullying. Electronic bullying includes sending, posting, or sharing false, mean, or other harmful content across social media platforms, through text, online forums, or over gaming platforms. Electronic bullying has the same negative outcomes as in-person bullying, but also presents its own unique challenges. Electronic bullying allows the bully to immediately and continuously communicate harmful behavior to a large number of people, 24-hours per day making it difficult for the victim to find relief from the bullying. Much of the electronic content is difficult to remove if it is not reported. It is also difficult to notice by teachers and parents because it is not occurring in obvious ways. Both the bully and the one being bullied can be negatively impacted by this harmful content. A person's online presence is often visible to college admissions and potential employers, which can affect the young person's chance at admission or hiring.

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Youth Violence

Violence is completely preventable. The effects of exposure to violence, whether it is through witnessing, being a victim of, or engaging in violent behaviors, can have life-long consequences in all domains of life. These consequences include health outcomes, economic outcomes, mental health outcomes, and even length of life. Violence can also negatively impact school attendance, academic scores, substance use, suicidal ideation, youth mental health concerns, and obesity.

Bringing a weapon on to school property is a concerning aspect of youth violence. Fortunately, only 2% of Herkimer County youth report bringing a weapon on to school property in the 12 months before the survey (Figure 34). The survey defined a weapon as, “a gun, knife, or club”. It is important to note that many students who use a knife for morning farm chores have had trouble answering this question in the past. The survey does not ask about intent to use the gun, knife, or club. Administrators of the survey are not permitted to assist the youth in clarifying this question and the youth must respond to the best of their ability.

% Reporting Being Electronically bullied, (last 12 months)

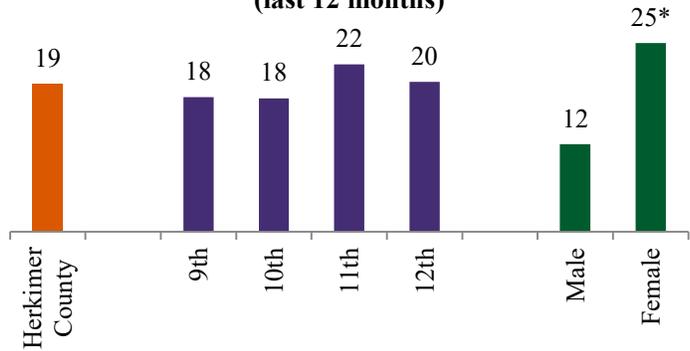


Figure 33
Source: 2021-2022 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Survey

*denotes statistically significant difference.

% Who carried a weapon on school property, last 30 days

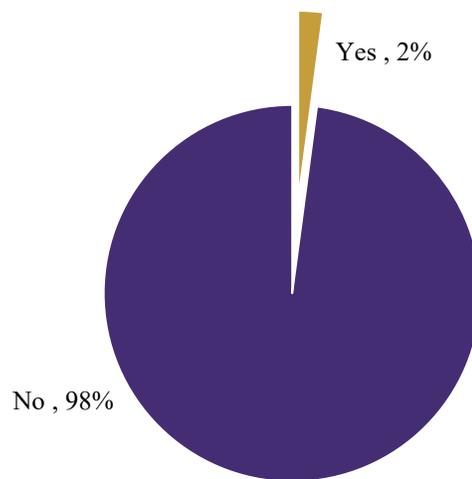


Figure 34
Source: 2021-2022 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Sexual and Dating Violence

The CDC states that dating and sexual violence are adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs. ACEs can have profound impacts on health, both physical and mental, and can have lifelong consequences. Nearly 1 in 11 female and 1 in 14 male US youths report experiencing dating violence annually.

Regrettably, 19% of Herkimer County youth report having been the victim of unwanted sexual contact such as kissing, touching, or sexual intercourse. Female youth are more likely to report experiencing unwanted sexual contact than males (Figure 35).

When it comes to dating, 67% of Herkimer County youth report having dated someone in the last 12 months. Of those who dated, 29% reported experiencing an emotionally abusive or controlling relationship (Figure 37 next page), and 5% report experiencing physical dating violence (Figure 36 next page). Females are statistically more likely than males to report experiencing any form of sexual violence. However, there was no difference noted between the genders for physical dating violence.

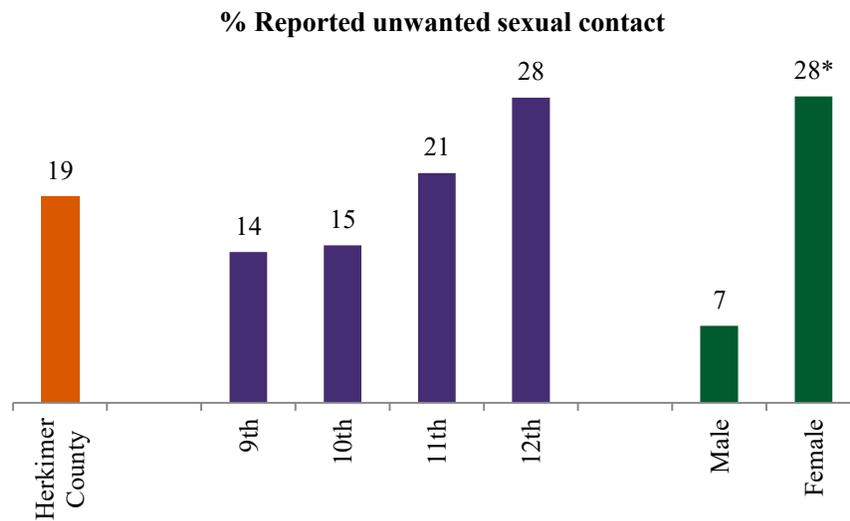


Figure 35 Source: 2021-2022 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Survey
*denotes statistically significant difference.

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Experienced physical dating violence, last 12 months

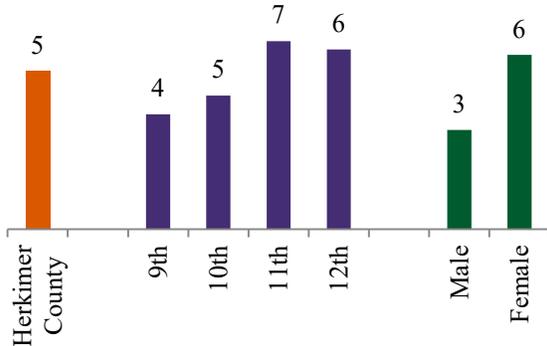


Figure 36

Source: 2021-2022 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Experienced controlling or emotionally abusive relationship, last 12 months

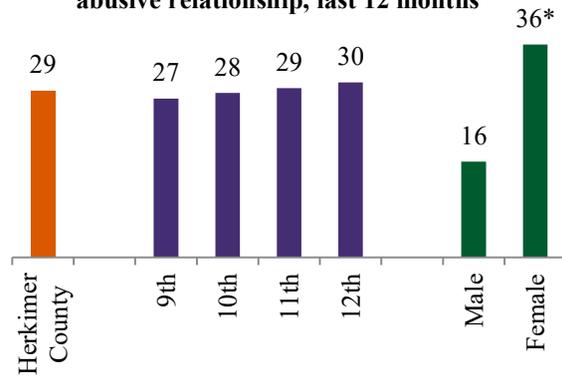


Figure 37

Source: 2021-2022 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Survey

*denotes statistically significant difference.

Community Attachment

Community attachment is another important factor for social emotional health. An attachment to place is associated with more positive outcomes for youth. Whether these positive outcomes are because the youth is attached in an emotionally healthy way to their environment, or that the environment is significantly healthy enough to foster healthy growth and emotional development through positive role modeling is still being investigated. In Herkimer County, 49% of youth reported they agreed or strongly agreed that they mattered to people in their community, while 32% were unsure, and 19% disagreed or strongly disagreed (Figure 38). Youth who have at least one adult they feel comfortable reaching out to if they have a problem increases a youth's resilience and helps them feel supported during life's inevitable challenges. In Herkimer County, 44% of youth reported that there was at least one adult they felt they could talk about their feelings with always or most of the time. An equal amount, 43% stated they sometimes or rarely had an adult they felt they could discuss their feelings with, and 13% felt they never had such an adult (Figure 39, next page).

Youth Perceptions: You matter to people in your community

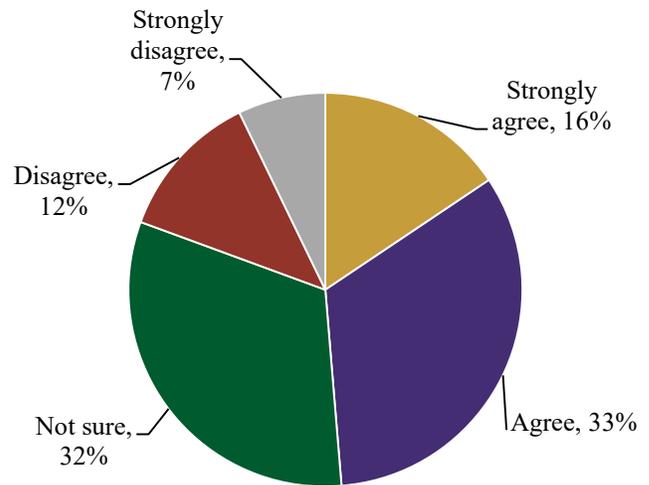


Figure 38

Source: 2021-2022 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Survey

How often have you felt that there was at least one caring adult you could speak to about your feelings

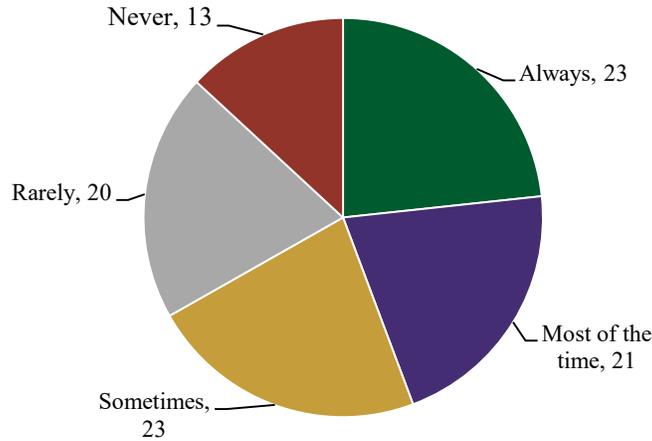


Figure 39
Source: 2021-2022 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Screen Time

Screen time is defined by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry as the amount of time children and youth spend watching any screen for entertainment. This includes TV, smartphones, tablets, computers, and gaming consoles.

Computers and smartphones have become common tools for society, including schools, families, and businesses. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the benefits and positive aspects of the internet and computer technology to keep us connected and to help keep our society functioning when we are unable to be together in person. These benefits still come with drawbacks and negative outcomes that must be recognized and understood if we as a society are to integrate screen time into our lives in a healthy way. For youth, these negative outcomes can include exposure to violence and risk-taking behaviors, sexual content, challenges or stunts that inspire unsafe behavior, and cyberbullying. Too much youth screen time can also lead to physical and emotional health concerns such as too little physical activity, weight problems, sleep problems, social isolation, lower grades in school, and poor self-image.

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey asked Herkimer County youth to elaborate on how much time they spent playing video or computer games, or using a computer for something that is not school work on the average school day (Figure 40, next page). A large percentage (42%) of youth reported spending 5 or more hours using a screen, while 9% reported spending 1 hour or less. Nearly half (48%) reported spending 2-4 hours on screen time.

Citizenship

Youth Citizenship

Hours played video or computer games or use a computer for something that is not school work, average school day

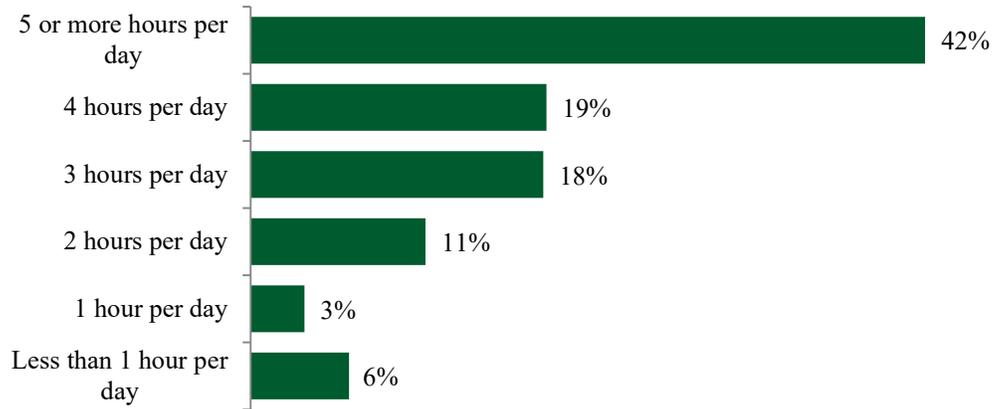


Figure 40 Source: 2021-2022 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Survey



A beautiful sunset on the Ilion Marina

Citizenship

Youth Citizenship

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Bub and Sis Trail photo courtesy of Herkimer HealthNet

Citizenship

Firearms

Why this is important

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), injuries related to firearms are a serious public health concern. In the United States, there were 39,707 firearm-related deaths in 2019 alone. Six out of every 10 firearm deaths were self-inflicted firearm deaths, and 3 out of every 10 were firearm homicides. Firearm-related injuries are among the 5 leading causes of death for people ages 1-64 in the United States. There is a significant gender-related disparity in both firearm injury and death. Males are significantly more likely to be injured or die from a firearm injury. Males make up 86% of all victims of firearm death, and 87% of all nonfatal firearm injuries.

Firearm violence affects the community as a whole, not just the victims. Mass shooting incidents in schools, houses of worship, or shopping areas can affect the feelings of safety and community wellbeing. This can have serious consequences on everyone in the community.

Index crimes are seven specific crimes that are used by the FBI to standardize crime reporting across the United States. These specific crimes were chosen based on the seriousness and frequency of occurrence and are used to gauge trends in the overall rate and volume of crime. There are two classifications of Index Crime; Violent Crime and Property Crime. Violent index crimes defined by the FBI are murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crimes are burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. The number of violent index crimes involving guns that are known to the police is the best official indicator of the frequency with which deadly weapons are used to commit serious violent crimes.

Where we stand

Availability of Firearms

The possession of a handgun in New York State requires a NYS Pistol Permit. New York does not recognize permits issued by other states. Figure 41 illustrates the number of new pistol permits that have been issued in Herkimer County from 2010-2021. It is difficult to determine the total number of pistols in the county because a single permit can have multiple pistols registered. Additionally, other factors such as the unreported death of a pistol permit holder, surrendered pistol permits, revoked

Pistol Permits in Herkimer County 2010-2021

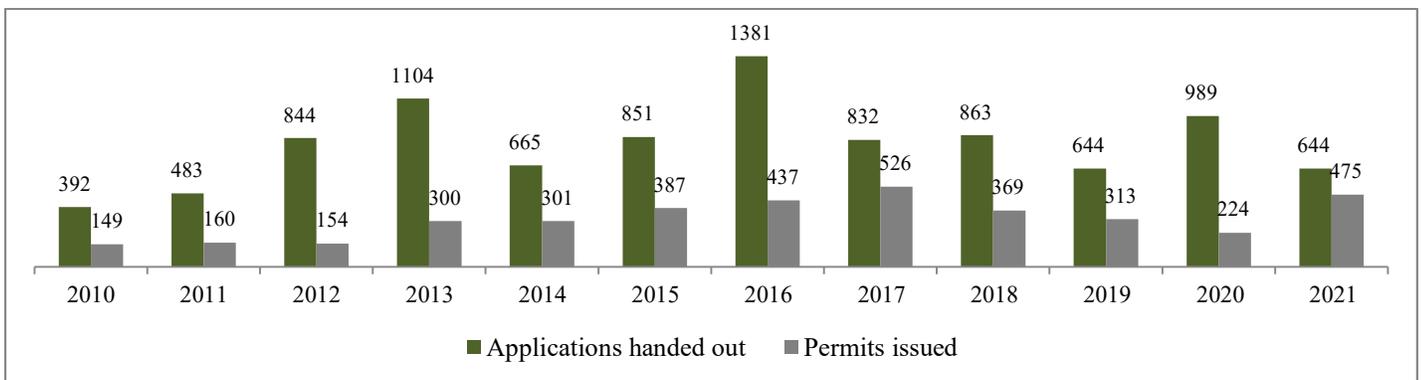


Figure 41 Source: Herkimer County Sheriff's Department

Citizenship

Firearms

permits, and permit holders who have moved out of Herkimer County can influence the total number of pistols and pistol permit holders in the county.

There was a significant uptick in the number of applications handed out from 2013 through 2015. During these years, the NY SAFE Act was being implemented and this caused a surge in the number of people interested in obtaining permits. Since 2010 there has been an increase in the number of pistol permits, aside from the uptick due to the NY SAFE Act. The Herkimer County Sheriff's Department believes this is due in part to (1) people exercising their rights under the Second Amendment, (2) women getting involved with target shooting, gun clubs, hiking and hunting, and (3) employment purposes.

Hunting is a sport that is very popular in Herkimer County. Hunting rifles do not fall under NYS licensing requirements and therefore the number of hunting rifles is not available. However, background checks are still conducted on those wishing to purchase a hunting rifle or shotgun. Anyone who has been convicted of a felony or other serious offense, or has been "certified not suitable to possess a rifle or shotgun" is prohibited from possessing one.

Generally, it is unlawful for anyone under the age of 16 to possess any firearm; however, a rifle or shotgun may be possessed by a person between the ages of 12 and 16 who is engaged in supervised target shooting on a range or who is accompanied by an adult while hunting.

Firearm Crimes

Table 61 illustrates the number of violent crimes committed with a firearm in Herkimer County, Non-NYC and NYS from 2012 to 2020. 2019 saw a significant increase in crimes committed with a firearm in Herkimer County from 2 crimes committed in 2018 to 18 crimes committed in 2019.

Violent crimes with firearms 2015 - 2020

	Herkimer County	NY State, excluding NYC	New York State
2015	4	4,394	10,971
2016	5	4,638	10,031
2017	8	4,065	8,812
2018	2	3,658	7,903
2019	18	3,607	7,912
2020	7	4,657	11,099

Table 61 *Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services*

The rate of crimes committed with a firearm is a much more efficient way of looking at whether or not Herkimer County is different in any way from the rest of NY State. When calculating for rate, data scientists account for the differences in population in order to make accurate comparisons between two groups that are different in size. Figure 42 on the next page demonstrates that Herkimer County has

Citizenship

Firearms

historically had fewer violent crimes committed with a firearm than other areas across NY State, even when we remove New York City from the equation. In 2019, the significant increase in violent crimes committed with a firearm in Herkimer County brought the rate up so that it was almost at the same rate as the rest of NY State, excluding New York City.

**Rate of violent crimes committed with a firearm, per 100,000
2015-2020**

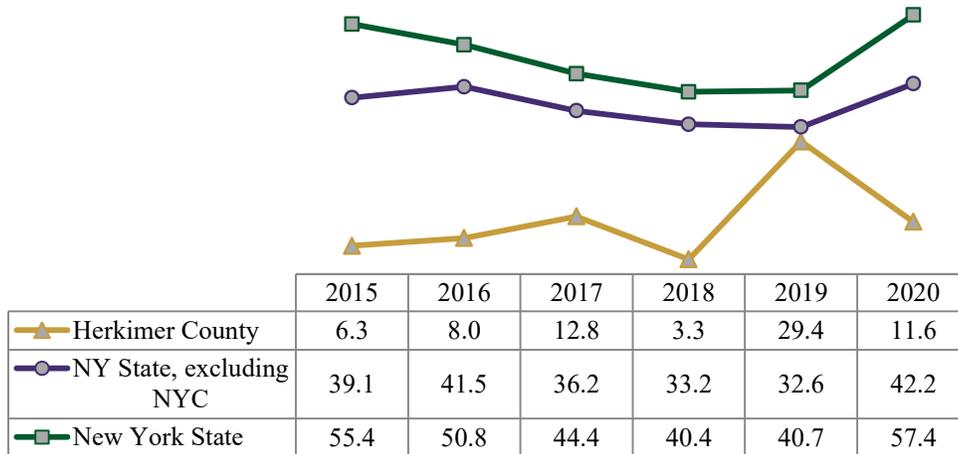
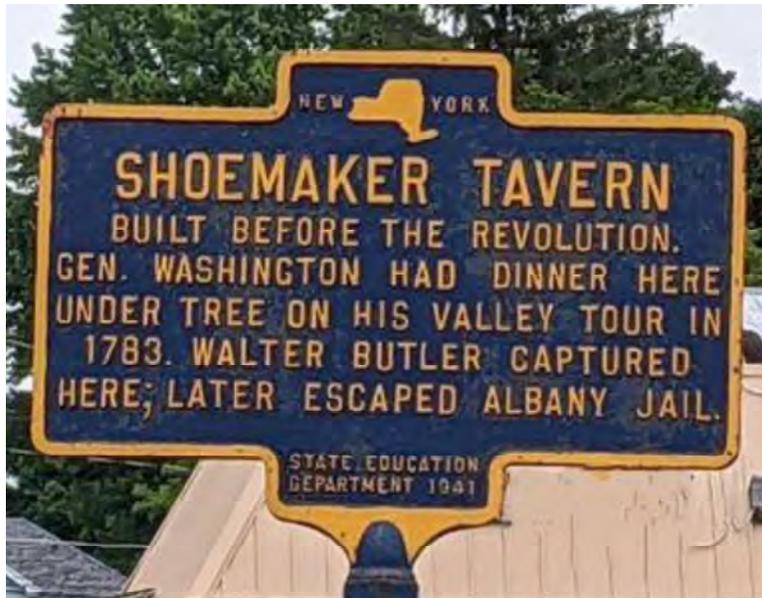


Figure 42 Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services



Located on Main and Catherine Streets, Mohawk, NY

Citizenship

Firearms

Data Sources

Firearm Violence Prevention |Violence Prevention|Injury Center|CDC. (n.d.). Firearm Violence Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/firearms/fastfact.html>

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Salisbury Center, NY

Citizenship

DWI

Why this is important

The adolescent brain is much different than that of an adult. Statistics and scientific research have shown that the human brain doesn't mature until the age of 21+, thereby, resulting in key developmental differences between youth and adults. Specifically affected are those impulse control and decision-making areas. Many youths who are brought before the juvenile justice system have experienced or witnessed violence and trauma. This type of exposure has proven to create adverse effects on the developing brain and can negatively influence choices made. While this doesn't mean youth should not face consequences for their actions, it does present the opportunity that youth are capable of change and rehabilitation.

Where we stand

Table 62 illustrates the number of youth arrests for Index and Non-Index crimes from 2016 through 2020. Index crimes are categorized to help standardize reporting across the United States. Index crimes include: murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. Non-Index crimes include those offenses which do not fall into one of those seven categories.

**Under 18 Juvenile Arrests/Criminal Activity: 2016-2020
(Herkimer County)**

	Total	Index Total	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	MV Theft	Non-Index Total
2016	103	26	0	2	0	1	8	13	2	77
2017	85	13	0	1	0	0	3	9	0	72
2018	93	25	0	0	0	5	13	7	0	68
2019	90	23	0	3	2	4	3	9	2	67
2020	65	22	0	1	1	3	7	9	1	43

Table 62 Source: NYS Uniform Crime Reporting Program

Due to the large geographic area of Herkimer County, it is important to look at data that is specific to the different towns and villages when available. Table 63 on the following page illustrates youth arrests by Police Department within Herkimer County.

Citizenship

DWI

Under 18 Juvenile Arrests/Criminal Activity: 2016-2020

Agency	Year	Total	Index Total	Non-Index Total
Dolgeville Village PD	2016	7	0	7
Dolgeville Village PD	2017	4	1	3
Dolgeville Village PD	2018	4	1	3
Dolgeville Village PD	2019	1	0	1
Dolgeville Village PD	2020	1	0	1
Frankfort Town PD	2016	2	0	2
Frankfort Town PD	2017	1	1	0
Frankfort Town PD	2018	2	0	2
Frankfort Town PD	2019	1	0	1
Frankfort Town PD	2020	1	1	0
Frankfort Village PD	2016	7	1	6
Frankfort Village PD	2017	10	5	5
Frankfort Village PD	2018	8	5	3
Frankfort Village PD	2019	7	3	4
Frankfort Village PD	2020	1	0	1
Herkimer County Sheriff	2016	0	0	0
Herkimer County Sheriff	2017	0	0	0
Herkimer County Sheriff	2018	0	0	0
Herkimer County Sheriff	2019	1	0	1
Herkimer County Sheriff	2020	0	0	0
New York State Police	2016	31	8	23
New York State Police	2017	23	2	21
New York State Police	2018	24	7	17
New York State Police	2019	35	3	32
New York State Police	2020	21	9	12
Herkimer Village PD	2016	12	7	5
Herkimer Village PD	2017	7	2	5
Herkimer Village PD	2018	9	6	3
Herkimer Village PD	2019	10	4	6
Herkimer Village PD	2020	11	4	7

Table 63 Source: NYS Uniform Crime Reporting Program

Citizenship

DWI

Under 18 Juvenile Arrests/Criminal Activity: 2016-2020

Agency	Year	Total	Index Total	Non-Index Total
Ilion Village PD	2016	24	5	19
Ilion Village PD	2017	26	1	25
Ilion Village PD	2018	38	5	33
Ilion Village PD	2019	21	7	14
Ilion Village PD	2020	11	2	9
Little Falls City PD	2016	17	5	12
Little Falls City PD	2017	13	1	12
Little Falls City PD	2018	5	1	4
Little Falls City PD	2019	13	6	7
Little Falls City PD	2020	10	2	8
Mohawk Village PD	2016	1	0	1
Mohawk Village PD	2017	0	0	0
Mohawk Village PD	2018	0	0	0
Mohawk Village PD	2019	0	0	0
Mohawk Village PD	2020	9	4	5
Webb Town PD	2016	2	0	2
Webb Town PD	2017	1	0	1
Webb Town PD	2018	3	0	3
Webb Town PD	2019	1	0	1
Webb Town PD	2020	0	0	0

Table 63, continued Source: NYS Uniform Crime Reporting Program

Raise the Age

Figure 43 illustrates the number of youth ages 16 and 17 years old who were processed under the Raise the Age legislation in 2020 and 2021.

In 2018, New York State passed legislation which increased the age of criminal responsibility to 18 years of age. Previously, youth as young as 16 and 17 years of age were considered adults under the law. This prevented these youth from having equal opportunity for rehabilitation and services needed for re-integration into the community. Raise the Age legislation allows youth ages 16 and 17 who commit non-violent offenses to receive age-appropriate housing and programs to reduce their risk of re-offending. These youth may be placed in specialized juvenile detention facilities certified by NY State Office of Children and Family Services and the State Commission of Corrections. This legislation was phased in over a two-year period and fully implemented in October 2019.

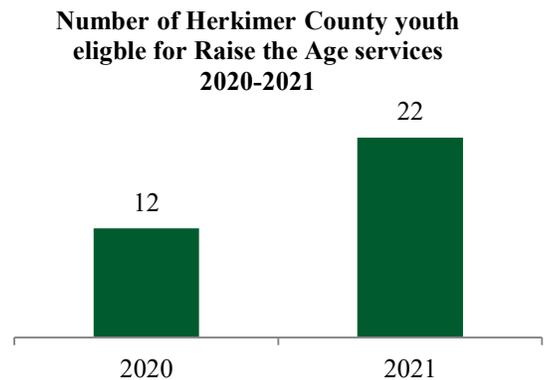


Figure 43 Source: Herkimer County Department of Probation

Citizenship

DWI

Data Sources

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Citizenship

DWI

Why this is important

Having a safe place to live, work and raise a family is an important part of an individual's health and well-being. Effective crime control is a key element in ensuring that our communities are safe.

Where we stand

Index Crimes and Rates

Tables 64 and 65 display the number of index crimes reported for Herkimer County, Rest of State (New York State excluding New York City) and New York State between 2015 and 2020. Index crimes are crimes that are categorized and tracked by the FBI in order to standardize reporting across the United States. Index crimes include murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. Non-index crimes are any crime that does not fall into the category of index crime such as vandalism, drug possession, or trespassing.

Total number of index crimes in Herkimer County, 2015-2020

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1,021	1,107	1,162	802	782	900

Table 64 Source: NYS Crime Uniform Crime Reporting Program

**Index Crimes Numbers - Herkimer County, New York State, and NY State excluding NYC:
2015-2020**

Year	Violent Crime			Property Crime		
	NYS Total	NYS exc. NYC	Herkimer County	NYS Total	NYS exc. NYC	Herkimer County
2015	74,811	24,723	98	313,920	184,060	923
2016	74,124	25,000	123	303,863	178,585	984
2017	70,694	24,261	159	292,444	167,629	1,003
2018	68,563	22,450	90	280,511	152,460	712
2019	69,869	22,048	141	266,944	144,645	641
2020	70,543	22,584	106	271,910	142,550	794

Table 65 Source: NYS Uniform Crime Reporting Program

The direct count of crimes in Herkimer County is one way to measure and discuss crime in the county. If a researcher wants to understand how crimes in Herkimer County compare to NY State as a whole, or to NY State excluding New York City, they must calculate the rate. A rate helps researchers

Citizenship

DWI

make comparisons as if the two different size populations were equal in size. Table 66 below displays the Index crime rates for Herkimer County, NY State excluding NYC, and NY State as a whole.

In 2015, Herkimer County index crime rates were lower than NY State and NY State excluding NYC. In 2016, Herkimer County property crime rates exceeded NY State rates (1,576.4 per 100,000 and 1,539.3 per 100,000 respectively). In 2016, Herkimer County total index crime rates (1,860.5 per 100,000) were higher than both NY State and NY State excluding NYC (1,708.9 per 100,000 and 1,829.9 per 100,000 respectively). In 2018, Herkimer County rates were lower than NY State and NY State excluding NYC. In 2019, Herkimer County violent crime rates exceeded NY State excluding NYC rates. In 2020, Herkimer County property crime rates exceeded NY State excluding NYC rates.

**Index Crime Rates - Herkimer County, NY State excluding NYC, and NY State:
2015-2020**

		Index Crime Rate per 100,000	Violent Crime Rate per 100,000	Property Crime Rate per 100,000
2015	Herkimer County	1,609.20	154.5	1,454.80
	NYS excl. New York City	1,870.90	220.9	1,650.00
	New York State	1,971.80	378.5	1,593.30
2016	Herkimer County	1,773.50	197.1	1,576.40
	NYS excl. New York City	1,821.90	223.7	1,598.20
	New York State	1,914.70	375.5	1,539.30
2017	Herkimer County	1,860.50	254.6	1,605.90
	NYS excl. New York City	1,708.90	216.1	1,492.90
	New York State	1,829.90	356.2	1,473.60
2018	Herkimer County	1,319.80	148.1	1,171.70
	NYS excl. New York City	1,588.00	203.8	1,384.20
	New York State	1,786.70	350.9	1,435.70
2019	Herkimer County	1,278.30	230.5	1,047.80
	NYS excl. New York City	1,505.80	199.2	1,306.60
	New York State	1,731.80	359.2	1,372.50
2020	Herkimer County	1,485.30	174.9	1,310.40
	NYS excl. New York City	1,496.80	204.7	1,292.10
	New York State	1,771.40	364.9	1,406.50

Table 66 Source: NYS Uniform Crime Reporting Program

Citizenship

DWI

Figure 44 illustrates the number of Herkimer County Index crimes reported from 2015 to 2020. These offense categories were developed by the FBI to standardize reporting across states. The seven index crimes were chosen on the basis of their seriousness and frequency of occurrence, and are used to gauge trends in the volume and rate of crime across the nation. As the data reflects, larceny far outpaces all other crimes in Herkimer County.

Herkimer County Index Crimes by Type, 2015-2020

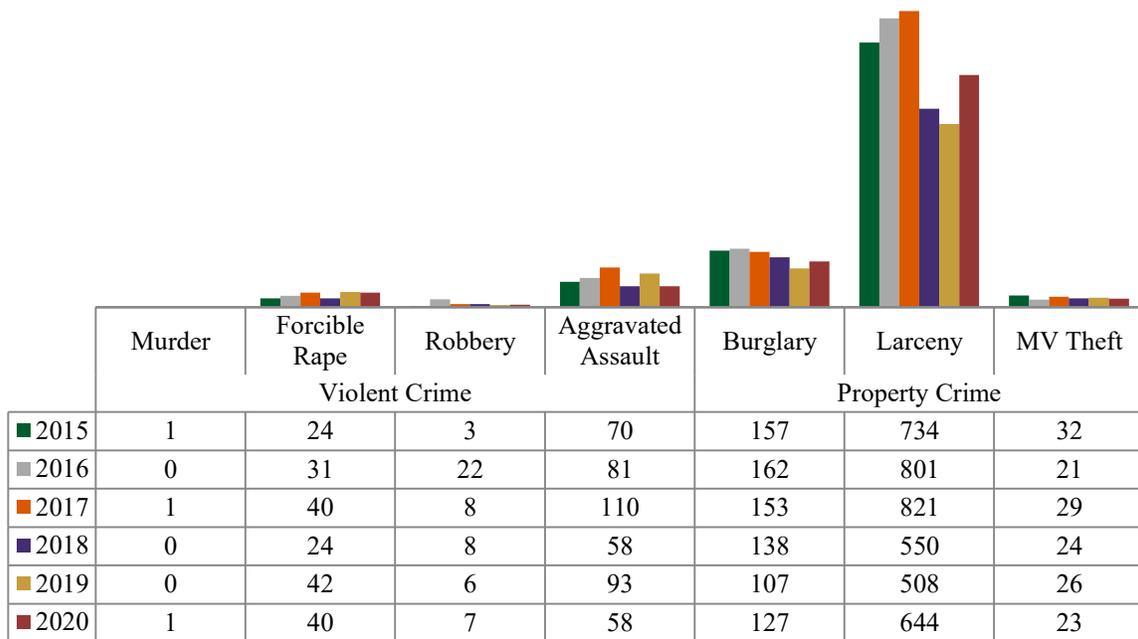


Figure 44 Source: NYS Uniform Crime Reporting Program

Adult Arrests

Table 67 illustrates the number of adult arrests (ages 18 and older and juvenile offenders prosecuted in adult courts) in Herkimer County for the period 2015 to 2020. Felony and misdemeanor offenses, along with subcategories for each, are listed.

Adult Arrests by Category in Herkimer County 2000-2021

Year	Total	Felony	Drug	Violent	DWI	Other	Misdemeanor	Drug	DWI	Property	Other
2015	1,195	305	39	46	38	182	890	70	184	302	334
2016	1,099	239	15	34	37	153	860	58	155	339	308
2017	1,108	287	23	63	34	167	821	78	152	253	338
2018	1,048	251	19	54	34	144	797	107	199	216	275
2019	959	274	17	55	41	161	685	77	188	170	250
2020	759	173	7	30	23	113	586	66	138	186	196

Table 67 Source: NYS Uniform Crime Reporting Program

Citizenship

DWI

Adult arrests continue to decline in Herkimer County (Figure 45). Overall, arrests have declined by 36% since 2015. Felony arrests have declined by 43% since 2015, and misdemeanor arrests have declined by 34% since 2015.

Adult arrests in Herkimer County 2015-2020

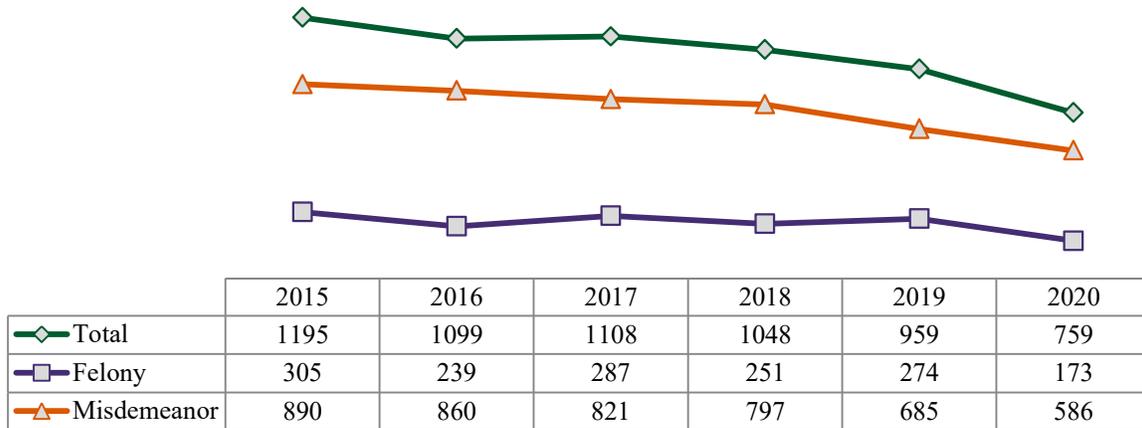


Figure 45
Source: NYS Uniform Crime Reporting Program

Table 68, below, displays the number of arrests by police department in Herkimer County.

Adult arrests by police department, Herkimer County 2016-2020

Police Department	Violent Crime					Property Crime				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Dolgeville Village PD	2	2	1	1	1	19	16	7	7	21
Frankfort Town PD	25	25	14	23	25	22	23	11	20	21
Frankfort Village PD	15	31	14	18	11	14	29	14	12	8
Herkimer County Sheriff	2	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Herkimer County State Police	28	46	25	34	44	257	199	188	171	172
Herkimer Vg PD	54	50	29	41	10	332	324	247	201	289
Ilion Village PD	14	32	21	37	28	161	253	163	163	195
Little Falls City PD	17	16	11	15	14	131	123	60	39	62
Mohawk Village PD	2	3	0	3	2	43	31	22	24	25
Webb Town PD	0	0	0	1	0	5	5	0	3	1
County Total	123	159	90	141	106	984	1003	712	641	793

Table 68 Source: NYS Uniform Crime Reporting Program

Citizenship

DWI

Conviction and Incarceration Rates

Table 69 and Table 70 provide a summary of the outcomes of adult felony arrests and adult misdemeanor arrests in Herkimer County from 2015 to 2020. The summaries are displayed according to the year in which the disposition occurred, regardless of when the arrest actually occurred. For example, a 2015 arrest that resulted in a conviction in 2016 is displayed in the 2016 column.

The conviction rate includes all convictions that resulted from plea bargains or trials and may include convictions for offenses other than that charged at arrest (e.g., a felony arrest may result in a misdemeanor conviction). The incarceration rate represents the number of sentences involving prison, jail, time served, or jail plus probation as a proportion of the total number of convictions.

**Felony Arrests Disposed, Conviction and Incarceration Rates in Herkimer County
2015 to 2020**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Conviction Rate (percent of disposed)	89.2%	93.3%	91.5%	90.1%	87.2%	85.5%
Incarceration Rate (percent of convicted)	42.7%	35.4%	41.0%	28.5%	26.5%	30.8%
Percent Convicted of Felonies	38.4%	40.5%	43.2%	34.2%	44.9%	40.2%
Percent convicted of misdemeanors	40.5%	42.1%	41.9%	50.0%	37.8%	42.7%
Percent convicted of lesser offenses	6.0%	10.8%	6.4%	5.9%	4.6%	2.6%

Table 69 Source: NYS Crime Uniform Crime Reporting Program

**Misdemeanor Arrests Disposed, Conviction and Incarceration Rates in Herkimer County
2015 to 2020**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Conviction Rate (percent of disposed)	81.2%	82.4%	83.7%	85.5%	84.9%	75.5%
Incarceration Rate (percent of convicted)	11.5%	13.9%	10.9%	9.9%	7.1%	2.5%
Percent Convicted of Felonies	0.9%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	1.2%	0.9%
Percent convicted of misdemeanors	36.2%	39.4%	41.7%	40.4%	38.5%	32.2%
Percent convicted of lesser offenses	42.3%	42.9%	41.8%	45.0%	45.2%	42.5%

Table 70 Source: NYS Crime Uniform Crime Reporting Program

Citizenship

DWI

Data Sources

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Citizenship

DWI

Why this is important

Driving while intoxicated is dangerous, and drivers with high blood alcohol content (BAC) are at an increased risk of car accidents, highway injuries and vehicular deaths. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that 29 people in the United States are killed in motor vehicle accidents that involve an alcohol-impaired driver every day.

In 2016, 10,497 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes, accounting for 28% of all traffic-related deaths. More than 1 million drivers were arrested for DWI in 2016, accounting for only 1.3% of the self-reported episodes of impaired driving among U.S. adults that year. These statistics reinforce that impaired driving remains a serious national problem.

Where we stand

DWI Arrests

Table 71 illustrates the total number of DWI arrests in Herkimer County from 2015 through 2020. Total DWI arrests decreased in 2016 and 2017, but returned to 2015 levels in 2018 and 2019. 2020 saw the lowest number of total DWI arrests recorded since 2003.

DWI Arrests in Herkimer County

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Misdemeanor DWI	190	156	151	199	188	138
Felony DWI	43	37	35	34	41	23
Total DWI	233	193	186	233	229	161

Table 71 Source: NYS DCJS Criminal Justice Statistics

STOP-DWI

The Herkimer County Special Traffic Options Program for Driving While Intoxicated (STOP-DWI) is supported entirely by driving while intoxicated fines. The goal of the program is to provide a plan for coordination of county, town, city, and village efforts to reduce alcohol-related traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities and educating the youthful drinker/driver. Each year, the Herkimer County STOP-DWI Program invests DWI fines collected into local programs and services to achieve this goal.

Automobile Crash Fatalities and Injuries

Table 72, on the next pages, illustrates the number and rates of automobile crash fatalities that were alcohol related in Herkimer County and neighboring counties in 2016 through 2019. Rates and percentages were calculated locally. This data comes from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality and Injury Reporting System. NY State offers data on alcohol-related motor vehicle injuries and deaths, rates per 100,000.

NY State does not separate injuries from fatalities; this data is illustrated on the following page in Figure 46. This data looks at how Herkimer County compares to NY State in both injuries and fatalities in alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents. NY State level data does not include NYC.

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Automobile crash fatality data for NY State and Select Counties
2016-2019

Alcohol Impaired Driving Fatalities 2016

	Alcohol impaired						Rate per 100,000
	BAC = 0.00		BAC=.01+		Total Killed		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Fulton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hamilton	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	100%	n/a
Herkimer	6	75%	2	25%	8	100%	3.20
Lewis	1	33%	2	67%	3	100%	7.50
Madison	2	67%	1	33%	3	100%	1.40
Montgomery	4	80%	1	20%	5	100%	2.03
Oneida	12	55%	10	45%	22	100%	4.34
Onondaga	17	61%	11	39%	28	100%	2.36
Otsego	1	25%	3	75%	4	100%	4.98
St. Lawrence	7	70%	3	30%	10	100%	2.73
NY State Total	694	67%	347	33%	1,041	100%	1.76

Alcohol Impaired Driving Fatalities 2017

	Alcohol impaired						Rate per 100,000
	BAC = 0.00		BAC=.01+		Total Killed		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Fulton	2	33%	4	67%	6	100%	7.43
Hamilton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Herkimer	8	80%	3	20%	10	100%	1.61
Lewis	2	40%	3	60%	5	100%	11.27
Madison	6	86%	1	14%	7	100%	1.40
Montgomery	4	80%	1	20%	5	100%	2.03
Oneida	9	53%	8	47%	17	100%	3.47
Onondaga	26	72%	10	28%	36	100%	2.16
Otsego	4	67%	2	33%	6	100%	3.33
St. Lawrence	8	73%	3	27%	11	100%	2.75
NY State Total	668	66%	338	34%	1,006	100%	1.72

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Alcohol Impaired Driving Fatalities 2018

	BAC = 0.00		Alcohol impaired BAC=.01+		Total Killed		Rate per 100,000
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
	Fulton	1	50%	1	50%	2	
Hamilton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Herkimer	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	100%	n/a
Lewis	2	100	n/a	n/a	2	100%	n/a
Madison	4	67%	2	33%	6	100%	2.80
Montgomery	2	67%	1	33%	3	100%	2.05
Oneida	12	55%	10	45%	22	100%	4.35
Onondaga	19	56%	14	41%	34	100%	3.03
Otsego	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	100%	n/a
St. Lawrence	5	71%	2	29%	7	100%	1.84
NY State Total	581	60%	380	40%	964	100%	1.94

Alcohol Impaired Driving Fatalities 2019

	BAC = 0.00		Alcohol impaired BAC=.01+		Total Killed		Rate per 100,000
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
	Fulton	5	77%	1	23	6	
Hamilton	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	100%	n/a
Herkimer	1	60%	1	40	2	100%	1.62
Lewis	n/a	n/a	1	100	1	100%	3.79
Madison	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	100%	n/a
Montgomery	2	67%	1	33%	3	100%	2.02
Oneida	6	60%	4	40%	10	100%	1.75
Onondaga	14	61%	9	39%	23	100%	1.95
Otsego	2	67%	1	33%	3	100%	1.68
St. Lawrence	7	58%	5	42%	12	100%	4.63
NY State Total	614	66%	315	34%	931	100%	1.61

Table 72 Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

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DWI

**Alcohol-related motor vehicel injuries and deaths per 100,000
2015-2019**

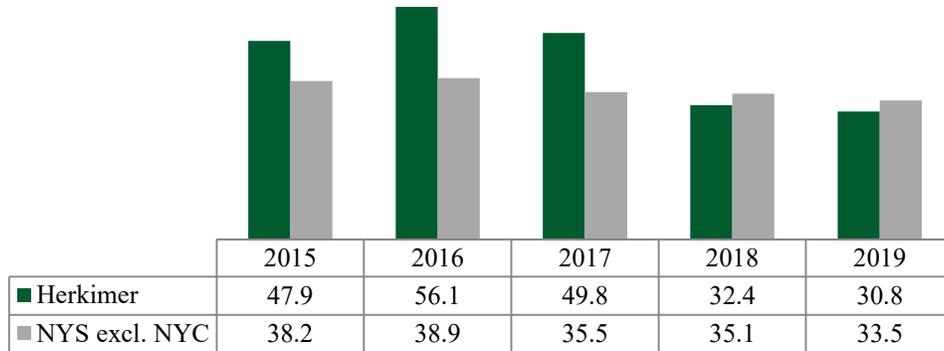


Figure 46 Source: NY State Community Health Indicators Reports Herkimer County Dashboard

Ignition Interlock Devices (IID)

On August 15, 2010 a NY State Law was enacted, mandating any DWI conviction to be sentenced to a minimum of a Conditional Discharge, and all sentences must impose the restriction of an Ignition Interlock Device (IID) in any vehicle registered, owned or operated by the offender. The IID is a tool installed in a motor vehicle that forces the operator to blow into the mouthpiece of the device, ensuring the operator is not impaired by alcohol prior to starting/ driving the vehicle. If a measure of alcohol via breath sample is detected (0.025% Blood Alcohol Content or more), the IID will not allow the vehicle to start.

The Herkimer County Probation Department is the designated monitoring agency of IIDs for Herkimer County. Therefore, the department monitors all DWI offenders impaired with an IID restriction (including state prison, conditional discharge dispositions, and those placed on term of probation supervision). Table 73 (next page) displays the number of IID orders, devices and dispositions in Herkimer County from 2016 to 2021.

If the convicted offender does not own or have a vehicle registered, those individuals are not required to have an IID installed during the court ordered disposition. However, they still may not operate a vehicle without an IID installed. If an offender attempts to start a vehicle in an impaired condition or if they have been found to operate a vehicle without an IID installed (as required)—this results in a violation and the matter is then returned to the court for further action. Those offenders who complete their court ordered term of the IID without any significant incidents or violations are considered successful.

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Ignition Interlock Devices (IID) in Herkimer County 2016-2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
IID Orders Received	77	58	61	64	30	47
Sentenced to a Term of Probation	25	24	17	30	8	21
Conditional Discharge	52	34	44	34	22	26
IID Installed	21	21	27	8	9	20
Violations	9	9	10	8	2	3
Successful completions	19	6	12	12	3	8

Table 73 Source: Herkimer County Probation



Canal Place, Little Falls

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DWI

Data Sources

Criminal justice reports & statistics. (n.d.). NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services. Retrieved April 14, 2022, from <https://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/stats.htm>

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Why this is important

Changes to policing and the implementation of NY State bail reform have significantly changed the probation and correctional alternatives landscape. Due to these changes, the number of offenders being supervised by county probation departments has been steadily decreasing in Herkimer County and across New York State. As the Division of Criminal Justice Services in NY State moves towards addressing social, racial, and ethnic inequities that lead to crime and recidivism, more resources and interventions are required of Probation Officers for them to perform their duties effectively.

While NY State had recognized the interconnectedness of disparities and crime, the primary safety and security of the general public remains paramount. Providing successful alternatives to incarceration is one way Herkimer County is addressing perceptions of individuals, consequences, and other disparities. Alternatives also help Herkimer County better manage its jail population while advancing public safety.

Where we stand

Court Investigations

New York State Criminal Procedure Law requires a Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI) be conducted for the court prior to sentencing in all cases where an offender has been convicted of a felony. In cases where an offender has been convicted of a misdemeanor, a PSI is required before a sentence of probation or a sentence of imprisonment in excess of 179 days is imposed. Pre-Plea Investigations (PPI) are also ordered routinely when an offender fails to provide a plea to a specific criminal offense (felony or misdemeanor). Other investigations incorporate supplemental information and/or Certificate of Relief matters. Herkimer County Probation also routinely conducts investigations for Family Court in regard to juvenile delinquency, PINS related matters, Pre-dispositional investigations, private adoption, custody, and visitation matters. Table 74 illustrates the number of court ordered investigations conducted by the Herkimer County Probation Department from 2016 through 2021.

Probation Investigations Completed in Herkimer County: 2016 to 2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Family Court– PDIs	1	1	0	4	0	3
Family Court– Other	107	90	68	61	27	5
Criminal Court– PSI/PPI/Other	302	348	336	318	121	192
Total Number of Investigations Completed	410	439	404	383	148	200

Table 74 Source: Herkimer County Probation Program Data

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Probation Supervisions

Figure 47 lists the total number of adult criminal supervisions that occurred in each calendar year from 2016 to 2020. This data includes new probationers opened in that year plus individuals served that were opened in previous years. The number of adult criminal Probation Supervisions has decreased during this time period.

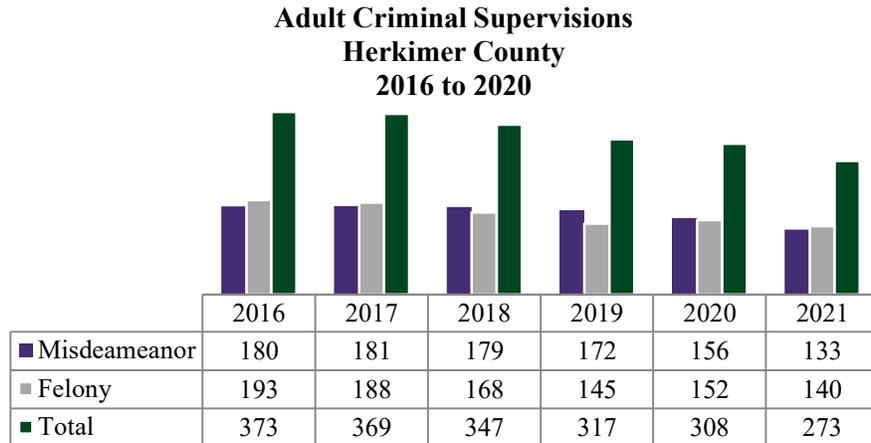


Figure 47 Source: Division of Criminal Justice Services, Criminal Justice Statistics

Figure 48 illustrates the total number of new probationers supervised as a result of a Family Court order (including Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS), Juvenile Delinquents (JD) and other individuals) in Herkimer County each year from 2016 through 2020. All of the Family Court ordered supervisions in Herkimer County during this time period were for either JD or PINS.

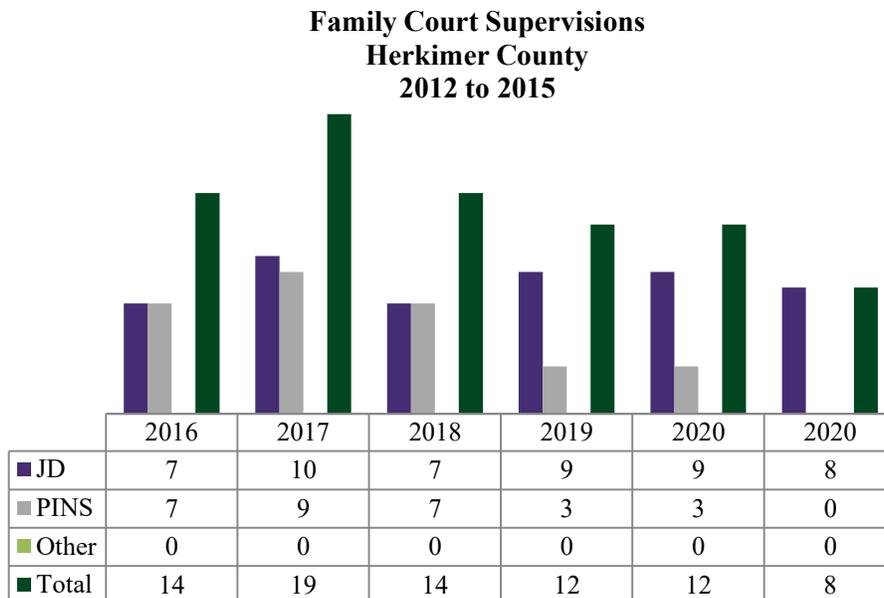


Figure 48 Source: Division of Criminal Justice Services, Criminal Justice Statistics

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Table 75 lists the total number of adult probationers supervised in Herkimer County, contiguous, and comparable counties in NYS (NYS data varies slightly from local data).

**Adults Under Supervision, 2016 – 2020
(Select Counties)**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Herkimer	367	353	314	315	287
Columbia	320	336	333	335	283
Fulton	373	396	431	365	323
Genesee	444	450	425	448	398
Hamilton	22	14	7	9	13
Lewis	171	183	189	184	149
Montgomery	398	388	428	410	334
Oneida	1,539	1,460	1,409	1,192	992
Otsego	190	181	172	197	157
St Lawrence	622	486	444	501	487
Washington	476	452	428	408	372
New York State	98,644	96,794	94,878	89,174	76,008

Table 75 Source: DCJS Integrated Probation Registrant System (IPRS) File

Alternatives to Incarceration

There are programs in existence in Herkimer County that help to reduce the incarceration rate in the Herkimer County Correctional Facility. New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) have authorized and approved an annual Alternative to Incarceration (ATI) plan through the Herkimer County Probation Department. The plan consists of a Pre-Trial Release Program, which can incorporate Electronic Monitoring (EM) via a GPS ankle bracelet, and a Community Service Program - all operated through the Herkimer County Probation Department. New York State bail reform has significantly impacted pre-trial EM cases. Prior to bail reform, 95% of EM orders were for Pre-trial release. Now, there are limited offenses for which someone can be incarcerated pre-trial as well as changes to state law pertaining to qualifications for the EM program. Electronic Monitoring is now only ordered at the discretion of the judge.

The Herkimer County Pre-Trial Release Program targets justice involved individuals confined to the Herkimer County Correctional Facility prior to disposition. The program (operated through the Probation Department) screens, assesses and interviews these individuals to determine the appropriateness for eligibility for Release on Own Recognizance (ROR) or Release Under Supervision (RUS) - often utilizing electronic monitoring. Notification of those considered eligible is submitted to the jurisdictional court and, if applicable, any release is court ordered. The courts have the option to use ROR or RUS on any of the released eligible individuals. Electronic Monitoring affords the opportunity for specific cases to be supervised in the individual's community. Table 76 on the next page illustrates the number of individuals who were screened for Pre-Trial Release, the number and types of releases granted, and the number of incarceration (jail) days saved as a result of the program. Effective in 2015 all offenders incarcerated in the Herkimer County Correctional Facility are considered eligible for Pre-

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Trial Release, and counted as screened in the Program total, even those individuals who have been released/bailed out prior to being interviewed are counted as screened in the Program total. Therefore, the number of screened individuals often differs from the number of those interviewed.

Pretrial Release and Jail Time Saved: 2008-2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
# Defendants Screened	238	310	245	369	66	131
Defendants Interviewed	109	310	245	369	10	34
Defendants Rated Eligible	67	63	94	18	11	41
Defendants Rated Not Eligible	42	247	151	351	54	90
Defendants Released (Total)	65	77	118	70	8	25
Release on Recognizance (ROR)	1	1	0	1	0	0
Release Under Supervision (RUS)	65	30	59	39	8	0
RUS with Electronic Monitoring	65	30	59	39	8	0
Jail Time Saved (Days)	5,760	4,380	7,755	3,660	1,343	1,666

Table 76 Source: Herkimer County Probation Department

The Community Service Program provides a sentencing option for criminal courts by having selected offenders perform unpaid community work in lieu of incarceration in the County Correctional Facility. Offenders are screened for program eligibility and risk to public safety. Each offender assigned to the program is monitored by the Coordinator of the program via the Herkimer County Probation Department. Routine compliance and status reports are made to the sentencing court for each offender assigned.

As Table 77 (next page) illustrates the number of offenders sentenced to a term of Community Service, the number of hours completed and the number of incarceration (jail) days saved as the result. Between 2016 and 2021 the number of offenders sentenced to community service as an alternative to incarceration has decreased. Around 2,625 hours of community service were performed and 5,955 jail days have been saved during this 6-year time period.

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Community Service and Jail Time Saved: 2016 to 2021 Herkimer County

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Offenders Sentenced	22	18	9	17	8	9
Community Service Hours Ordered	1100	618	345	465	455	375
Community Service Hours Completed*	650	599	415	196	195	570
Jail Days Saved	1,740	1,095	750	900	720	750

Table 77 Source: Herkimer County Probation Department

Electronic Monitoring

The Electronic Monitoring (EM) Program via the Herkimer County Probation Department was established in 2003. The program provides the sentencing courts an option for selected Pre-Trial Release defendants as an alternative to incarceration in the County Correctional Facility. Courts may also utilize a term of EM as a condition of sentence or a sanction in regard to a period of probation supervision. Family Court has also used the program to aid in the management of juvenile cases in an effort to reduce residential and/or detention placement. The program's primary focus is to advance public safety and enhance offender control in the community.

Since 2007, the program has monitored offenders via an ankle bracelet using Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology. This unit allows the department to remotely monitor an offender's movement safely and discreetly, providing immediate feedback if an offender is in non-compliance. The EM Program has been used by nearly every court in Herkimer County to maintain appropriate offenders in the community and help reduce reliance on jail staff, thereby providing a significant cost saving to the County.

Table 78 (next page) illustrates the total number of offenders that are court ordered on EM. The number of adults placed on EM has fluctuated, trending upwards from 2015 through 2019, dramatically decreasing in 2020 and increasing slightly in 2021. Pre-trial use of EM also increased during this time period, decreasing dramatically in 2020 and increasing slightly in 2021. During this 7-year time period, Herkimer County has saved approximately 40,000 jail days.

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Adult Electronic Monitoring Program 2015 to 2021: Herkimer County

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Orders	98	95	82	127	127	15	30
Pre-Trial Release	76	67	65	113	108	9	23
Sentenced Offenders	20	33	22	14	23	8	11
Days Served/Jail Days saved	5,085	7,750	8,278	7,564	6,906	2,197	2,221

Table 78 Source: Herkimer County Probation Department

As Table 79 illustrates, the number of youths placed on the Juvenile Electronic Monitoring Program has fluctuated between 2015 and 2021. During this 7-year time period, Herkimer County has saved 2,874 days of detention/placement.

Juvenile Electronic Monitoring Program 2015 - 2021: Herkimer County

		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Court Ordered to Electronic Monitoring	JD	0	1	6	2	3	2	2
	PINS	3	8	8	2	6	5	0
Pre-adjudication		3	6	14	3	8	2	2
As disposition		0	3	0	1	1	5	0
Detention days saved		188	587	697	299	692	375	36

Table 79 Source: Herkimer County Probation Department

Herkimer County Treatment Court (HCTC)

The Herkimer County Treatment Court seeks to diminish substance abuse, crime, and recidivism through intense supervision, treatment, and judicial monitoring of Court participants. This program

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strives to end the cycle of addiction for each participant by providing a balance between therapeutic intervention and judicial accountability.

HCTC is designed for those individuals with a substance abuse problem, which has led to their repeated, non-violent criminal behavior. This is a long-term, highly structured, intensive program. Those participants who remain alcohol/drug-free are more likely to become productive members of the community, thereby benefitting all aspects of the criminal justice system and society.

The Herkimer County Treatment Court Program has been in existence since 2003. As of December 2021, HCTC has served over 150 offenders to date with over 75% of those successfully graduating the program. About 25% of the total participants served have terminated their cases—willfully withdrawing or by violating program rules.

Overall, this program has proven to be an effective solution for those individuals willing to sacrifice and put in the work to gain sobriety and, hopefully, end their involvement with the criminal justice system.

For information you can reach the Herkimer County Treatment Court Coordinator (Robert Fuller) at 315-619-3431



Moss Island, Little Falls

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Data Sources

Division of Criminal Justice Statistics. (n.d.). Criminal justice reports & statistics. NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services. Retrieved May 2, 2022, from <https://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/stats.htm>

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Herkimer County Treatment Court. (2022).



Salisbury Center

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Juvenile Delinquency

Why this is important

New York State defines a Juvenile Delinquent as “a child over 7, but under 18 years of age, who commits an act that would be a crime if it had been committed by an adult”. Juvenile Delinquency is a challenging problem that takes a substantial toll on our society. Explaining crime and delinquency is a complex task. A multitude of biological, psychological and social factors exist that may lead a youth to engage in delinquent behavior.

The prevention of delinquency rests on the principle of identifying individuals and environments at risk for delinquent activity before the behavior has occurred, and then either removing risk factors or strengthening resistance to the risk factors. The impact of this approach depends upon the risk factors identified and the choice of when and where to direct the intervention.

Where we stand

The number of JD intakes remained relatively stable until 2019 with a steady increase beginning in 2020. It is important to note that until April 2020 the Probation Department and the County PINS Diversion / Family Services Unit had a collaborative agreement, which helped to provide specific services to both JD and PINS cases. Collectively, and through County officials, it was determined best to dissolve this agreement. Thereby, JD services remained the exclusive responsibility of the Probation Department. PINS Diversion matters continue to be the responsibility of the Department of Social Services. Despite the separation, the two departments continue to collaborate to help ensure youth have access to all opportunities for diversion from further entry into the juvenile justice system.

Not all JD Intakes received result in a probation case being opened. When appropriate, and the behavior which brought the youth to this department has been addressed/corrected, a case can be *adjusted* and closed without further intervention. The NY State Department of Criminal Justice Services defines an adjusted JD case as, “matters resolved at the initial probation conference, after a period of adjustment services or after being returned to probation Intake either by the presentment agency or Family Court”.

Figure 47 illustrates the number of JD Intakes, the number of cases opened, the number of cases adjusted, and the percentage of cases that were adjusted for 2015 through 2021.

As the Figure 49 demonstrates, the number of Intakes remained relatively stable between 2015 and 2019 and cases began to steadily increase in 2020 and 2021. However, the percentage of cases that have been successfully adjusted has remained stable. There was a sharp decline in successfully adjusted cases in 2018, with rates returning to baseline in 2019.

**Intakes, cases opened, cases adjusted
2015-2021**

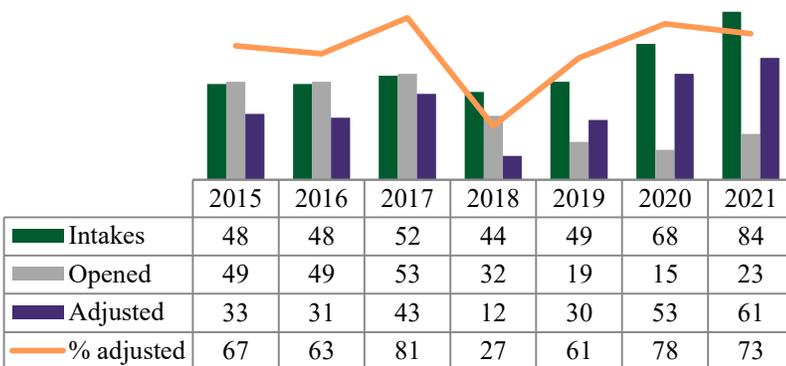


Figure 49 Source: Herkimer County Probation

Placements

Figure 50 illustrates the number of

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placements recorded for Juvenile Delinquent (JD) youth in Herkimer County from 2015 to 2021. JD placements have remained in the single digits, with an increase from 2017 through 2019. Placements returned to 2016 levels beginning in 2021.

Figure 51 illustrates the percentages of open cases that resulted in a youth being placed out of their home. The rate of placements steadily increased from 4% in 2015 to 19% in 2018 with a dramatic increase to 47% in 2019. Placement rates began a steady decline beginning in 2020.

**JD Youth Placed: Herkimer County
2015-2021**

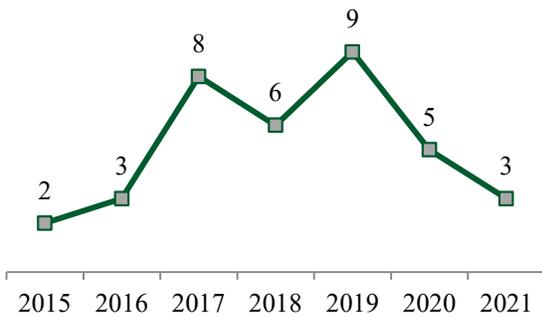


Figure 50
Source: Herkimer County Probation Results
Based Accountability

**Percent of JD placed: Herkimer
County 2015-2021**

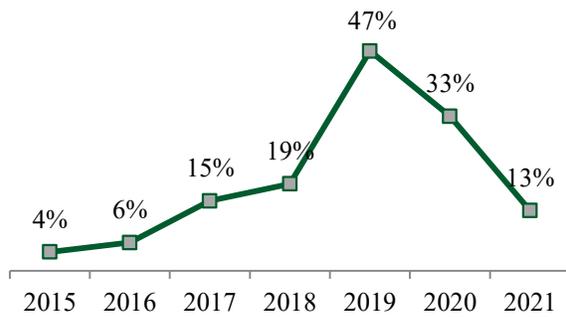


Figure 51
Source: Herkimer County Probation Results
Based Accountability

JD youth tend to require more intensive levels of care than traditional Foster Care homes can provide and, as a result, the majority of JD placements are in costly alternatives such as institutions, group homes, and detention facilities.

Figure 52 displays the number of residential and detention care days used for JD youth from 2015 to 2021. Not surprisingly, the number of days in care increased sharply in 2019, which aligns with the increase in placement rates for that year.

JD Residential and Detention Care Days

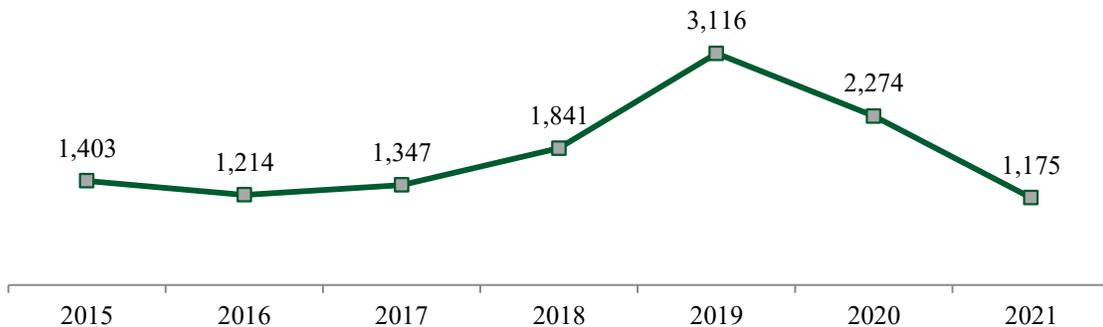


Figure 52 Source: Herkimer County Probation Results Based Accountability

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Raise the Age

New York State implemented Raise the Age (RTA) Legislation in 2017, raising the age of criminal responsibility to 18 years of age. This legislation was phased in over two years, with the law taking effect for 16-year-olds in 2018, and for 17-year-olds in 2019. All 16 and 17-year olds who commit non-violent crimes will receive evidence-based treatment and intervention. Youth 16 or 17 years-old who are accused of committing a felony-level crime are considered Adolescent Offenders (AO) and their cases may be heard in the Youth Part of criminal court (Herkimer County Court).

In addition, as the result of the new Legislation, youth ages 16 or 17 years old are no longer permitted to be housed in adult facilities or correctional facilities. Those youth are to be placed in specialized juvenile detention facilities located at specific areas around the state.

In Herkimer County, there were 12 RTA youth in 2020 and 22 RTA youth in 2021.



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Data Sources

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New York State Unified Court System. (n.d.). Crimes committed by children between 7–18. Retrieved May 2, 2022, from <https://www.nycourts.gov/Courthelp/Criminal/crimesbyChildren.shtml>

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Town of Fairfield

Citizenship

Incarceration

Why this is important

New York State Family Court defines a Person in Needs of Supervision (PINS) as a child under the age of 18 who behaves in a way that is dangerous or out of control, or often disobeys his or her parents, guardians or other authorities. The criteria for PINS include substance use. The Family Support PINS Diversion Program began in February 2003 and is the point of entry for PINS Diversion services in Herkimer County. Services provided include a formal assessment, in-home counseling, case management, family support, respite and mentoring for at-risk youth.

Providing access to strength-based and family-centered services is essential to help reduce risks and improve outcomes for youth and families in need.

Where we stand

The Herkimer County Family Support PINS Diversion Program provides adjustment services for all Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) referrals made in Herkimer County. All potential PINS cases are screened and offered services to help address these behaviors and prevent further involvement in the social welfare and criminal justice systems. Families are provided with services prior to filing a formal PINS complaint in Family Court and youth can continue to receive services once adjudicated.

Family First Prevention Services Act

In February 2018, the Family First Prevention Services Act was passed into law. This act is intended to reform the child welfare system with the intent of keeping children safely with their families to avoid out-of-home placement trauma. The law provides families with more access to mental health services, substance use treatment services, parenting programs, and other community-based supports that help keep the family unit safely intact. It also expands the ability of local child welfare programs to help families identify and utilize natural resources for support. If a child must be placed out of the home, family members or fictive kinships are given top priority and support for placement. Fictive kin is someone that is not related to a child by birth, marriage or adoption, but has an emotionally significant relationship with the child.

PINS Reform

In 2017, NY State enacted legislation raising the age of criminal responsibility to age 18. This legislation was phased in over a 2-year period. In October of 2018 the age was raised to 17, and in October of 2019 the age was raised to 18. This legislation included provisions to eliminate state funding for PINS placements and detention as of January 2020. Family Courts continue to be able to order a PINS youth for placement or detention with 100% of the cost being a local responsibility.

PINS Reform legislation emphasizes community-based supports and services. All opportunities and possibilities for diversion must be explored before placement can be considered. This includes natural resources, family resources, gender-responsive and trauma-informed interventions, and positive youth development support. This legislation preserves a youths' connection to their community, family and culture, and supports an individualized approach to preventing a youth's further entry into the juvenile justice system.

For those youth who require an out-of-home placement, this legislation limits the settings in which this can occur and outlines time-limited placements combined with immediate and

Citizenship Incarceration

youth-focused permanency planning.

Table 80 illustrates the number of youth in the PINS Diversion program. It is important to note that in 2018 the reporting criteria for PINS Diversion youth was changed to include significantly more in-depth reporting of social determinants that provide more opportunity to intervene and better meet the needs of the youth. Prior to 2018, all youth who were referred to this voluntary program were reported.

Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) Diversion youth by age 2016-2021

Year	7 to 10	11 to 15	16 and 17	Total
2016	22	139	39	200
2017	21	123	24	168
2018*	10	80	14	104
2019	6	49	9	64
2020	0	19	6	25
2021	3	30	7	40

Table 80 Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services Management By Objective

The majority of youth receiving services are between the ages of 11 and 15. In 2020, there was a significant decline in open PINS Diversion cases. This is likely due to a combination of the voluntary nature of the program and the pandemic. Additionally, with schools being held virtually, qualifying referrals from the school districts decreased.

Placements

Placements out of the home have a negative impact on youth. These impacts include a loss of connection to family, educational continuity, and natural supports. Youth who are placed out of the home are at increased risk for trafficking. Placements should be avoided as much as possible.

Figure 53 illustrates the number of PINS out of home placements recorded in Herkimer County from 2016 to 2021. PINS placements have significantly decreased and every effort is made to reach the goal of all PINS Diversion youth remaining in their homes with supports for themselves and their families to be successful in the diversion program.

Herkimer County PINS Diversion youth placements 2016-2021

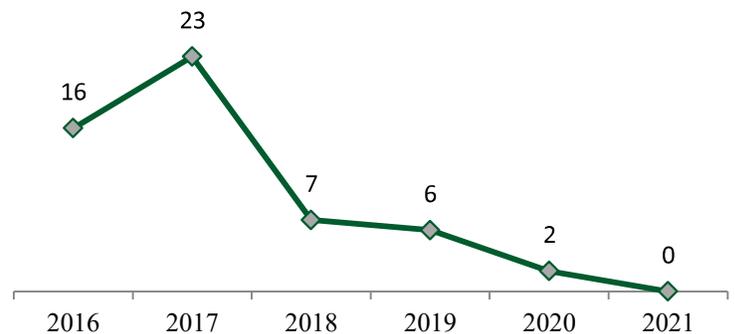


Figure 53
Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

Citizenship Incarceration

Table 81 illustrates the number of residential and detention care days used by PINS youth from 2016 to 2021. The Family First Prevention Services Act was passed in 2018 and its full implementation took two years to roll out. 2020 was the first year in which this program was fully implemented, but as the table indicates, detention and residential care days for PINS Diversion youth significantly decreased.

In 2008, Herkimer County entered into a contract with Kids Herkimer to provide Return Home Early home-based wraparound services for PINS Diversion Youth. This program evolved into what is known in 2020 as Early Intervention Diversion Program for PINS Diversion youth.

Herkimer County PINS Diversion Residential & Detention Care Days 2016 to 2021

	Detention days	Residential Days
2016	107	3491
2017	218	5355
2018	145	3659
2019	161	2487
2020	127	1306
2021	29	425

Table 81 *Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services Management By Objective*

Juvenile Electronic Monitoring Program

In 2008, Herkimer County began to use Electronic Monitoring for PINS youth as an alternative to placement. The Electronic Monitoring (EM) Program is operated by the Herkimer County Probation Department and is used by Family Court to aid in the management of juvenile cases in an effort to reduce residential and/or detention placement.

Respite

Since 2003, respite services have been available to PINS youth as an alternative to placement. Table 82 illustrates the number of Herkimer County youth served by the respite program and the number of bed care days utilized from 2016 – 2021. Both the number of youths utilizing respite services and the number of respite days utilized has decreased steadily since 2016. Much of this is due to the efforts of caseworkers to support families in utilizing natural resources to prevent the need for placement or respite services.

**Herkimer County PINS Diversion respite use—
2016 to 2021**

	Number of Youth	Respite Days
2016	43	409
2017	32	289
2018	34	319
2019	12	75
2020	2	7
2021	1	41

Table 82 *Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services Management By Objective*

Preventive Services Agreement Suspension

In 2005 The PINS Diversion Unit and Probation entered into a collaborative partnership which included full-time probation officers co-located in the PINS Diversion unit. This partnership provided enhanced collaboration of inter-departmental and community-based service delivery, a standard assessment model, and created a more cohesive and supportive model for youth and families to prevent further entry into the juvenile justice system.

In April of 2020, the partnership between the PINS and Probation units was suspended and probation took on the JD and adjudicated PINS youth independent of the Preventive Services unit. These services were replaced by a Preventive Services contract with a local community-based organization to provide two Preventive Services Workers.



Dolgeville Greenway Trail

Citizenship

Incarceration

Data Sources

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McCauley Mountain, Old Forge

Citizenship

Incarceration

Why this is important

Incarceration, while important for community safety, can negatively impact family, employment prospects, and feelings of self-worth. The costs of incarceration not only take their toll on the person incarcerated and their family, but create economic, societal, and cultural impacts in the community as a whole.

Having a relative or caretaker who is incarcerated is considered one of the 10 Adverse Childhood Experiences, or ACEs. ACEs increase the risk for adulthood struggles with substance abuse, depression, obesity, employment difficulties, chronic health issues such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or cancer, and a higher risk of suicidal ideation. Children of incarcerated parents also face an increased risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

Where we stand

Figure 54 depicts the number of Herkimer County Correctional Facility (Jail) inmates from 2015 to 2021. The number of inmates remanded to the Correctional Facility (Jail) has steadily decreased during this time period. The sharp decline in 2020 is likely related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the changes to bail reform in 2019.

Herkimer County Jail Inmates 2015-2021

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
643	577	638	525	494	151	206

Figure 54 Source: Herkimer County Sheriff's Department

Bail Reform

In 2019, NY State Legislature passed bail reform legislation eliminating cash bail for most misdemeanor and non-violent felony charges. This legislation enacted in 2020, allows the Judge to consider an individual's ability to pay bail, when set. The purpose of this reform is to reduce the number of individuals who are incarcerated based upon their ability to pay their bail.

Since the enactment of this legislation, numerous attempts to "reform" Bail Reform and Law Enforcement Reform, in general, in New York State have been proposed. 2023 saw some positive changes in the law that allow Judges to make critical decisions from the bench in regard to imposing bail based upon the individual's criminal history, current offense, financial status, etc.

Individuals who commit a second felony or Class A misdemeanor while out on release are eligible for bail. This includes non-bail eligible offenses if the individual repeats harmful conduct towards a person or property.

Table 83 on the next page illustrates the number of adults that have been incarcerated in the county jail from 2016 to 2021. The total number of adults in the Herkimer County Correctional Facility has decreased by approximately 59% during this time period. There has been a 56% decrease in total number of males incarcerated and a 72% decrease in females incarcerated.

It is important to note that the total number of inmates and the number of individuals incarcerated in the county jail differ slightly. This is due to the origination of the sentencing. Some of the inmates in the facility are sentenced from federal or state courts. These individuals

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Incarceration

are documented in the total number of inmates, but not counted in the sex/age breakdown as their sentence did not originate in Herkimer County Courts.

Adults in Herkimer County Jail by age and sex: 2016-2021

Adults in Jail		21-29	30-39	40-54	55+	All Ages	Total
2016	Male	159	152	67	20	398	488
	Female	44	30	14	2	90	
2017	Male	162	124	110	15	411	532
	Female	41	56	23	1	121	
2018	Male	129	136	88	11	364	460
	Female	28	48	17	3	96	
2019	Male	133	104	96	14	347	427
	Female	20	41	18	1	80	
2020	Male	33	38	27	1	99	123
	Female	8	10	6	0	24	
2021	Male	52	68	42	12	174	199
	Female	3	15	7	0	25	

Table 83 Source: Herkimer County Sheriff's Department

Table 84 displays the number of youth (16-21) that have been incarcerated in the Herkimer County Correctional Facility from 2016 to 2021 by age and sex. Changes made in the Raise the Age legislation have decreased the number of youth ages 16 to 18 who are eligible for incarceration in an adult facility.

Youth in Herkimer County Jail by age and sex: 2016-2021

Youths in Jail		<16	16-18	19	20	All Ages	Total
2016	Male	0	24	12	12	48	50
	Female	0	1	0	1	2	
2017	Male	0	17	12	23	52	59
	Female	0	0	2	5	7	
2018	Male	0	12	3	8	23	28
	Female	0	1	1	3	5	
2019	Male	0	14	8	5	27	34
	Female	0	5	1	1	7	
2020	Male	0	3	5	5	13	13
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	
2021	Male	0	0	3	3	6	7
	Female	0	0	0	1	1	

Table 84 Source: Herkimer County Sheriff's Department

Citizenship

Incarceration

Average Daily Census

Table 85 illustrates the yearly average daily census of the Herkimer County jail population between 2016 and 2021. The average daily census is calculated by the NY State Department of Corrections. It is based on the daily counts submitted by the facility. It accounts for every individual the facility is responsible for, including those who are boarded out and those who are in-house.

Boarded out refers to those individuals who are residing at a different facility but are the responsibility of Herkimer County.

In-House refers to individuals who are residing at the correctional facility and may include individuals from other jurisdictions that are housed in the facility.

Those individuals who are in federal custody and who are residing at the facility are not counted in the Average Daily Census.

Yearly Average Daily Census of Jail Population: 2016 to 2021

Year	Census	Boarded Out	In House	% Boarded Out
2016	64	32	32	50.0%
2017	70	38	31	54.3%
2018	62	34	28	54.8%
2019	52	29	23	55.8%
2020	29	1	27	3.4%
2021	40	4	35	10.0%

Table 85 Source: NY State Department of Corrections

In 2018, work began on the construction of a new correctional facility in order to increase the capacity for population. This facility is approximately 74,000 square feet and includes three inmate pods, medical suite, visiting area, and jail administration area. The pods accommodate 130 beds with room for expansion if necessary. The new facility was in full-operation in 2020. This expansion has decreased the number of individuals who need to be boarded out by 87.5%.

Jail Transports

Table 86 on the next page displays the total number and percentage of transports made to/from various courts for Herkimer County inmates both in-house and boarded out from 2016 to 2021.

Citizenship Incarceration

Herkimer County Sheriff's Department - Court Transports 2016-2021

Municipality	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Total	%										
Town of Columbia	3	0.36%	1	0.10%	1	0.12%	8	1.01%	2	0.97%	1	0.25%
Town of Danube	7	0.85%	4	0.41%	1	0.12%	3	0.38%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Town of Fairfield	2	0.24%	7	0.72%	0	0.00%	2	0.25%	1	0.49%	2	0.49%
Town of Frankfort	31	3.75%	49	5.02%	35	4.12%	28	3.54%	4	1.94%	10	2.46%
Village of Frankfort	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	0.12%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Town of German Flatts	17	2.06%	21	2.15%	27	3.18%	41	5.19%	5	2.43%	14	3.44%
Herkimer County Court	329	39.78%	369	37.77%	289	34.04%	295	37.34%	116	56.31%	215	52.83%
Herkimer County Family Court	87	10.52%	102	10.44%	113	13.31%	104	13.16%	13	6.31%	19	4.67%
Town of Herkimer	48	5.80%	16	1.64%	14	1.65%	13	1.65%	3	1.46%	4	0.98%
Village of Herkimer	94	11.37%	156	15.97%	141	16.61%	113	14.30%	47	22.82%	78	19.16%
Village of Ilion	94	11.37%	103	10.54%	101	11.90%	63	7.97%	3	1.46%	23	5.65%
Town of Litchfield	0	0.00%	1	0.10%	2	0.24%	1	0.13%	1	0.49%	0	0.00%
City of Little Falls	68	8.22%	101	10.34%	85	10.01%	76	9.62%	11	5.34%	32	7.86%
Town of Little Falls	2	0.24%	2	0.20%	7	0.82%	5	0.63%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Town of Manheim	3	0.36%	0	0.00%	3	0.35%	2	0.25%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Village of Middleville	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Town of Newport	2	0.24%	9	0.92%	1	0.12%	2	0.25%	0	0.00%	4	0.98%
Town of Ohio	4	0.48%	2	0.20%	1	0.12%	4	0.51%	0	0.00%	1	0.25%
Town of Russia	2	0.24%	6	0.61%	3	0.35%	4	0.51%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Town of Schuyler	12	1.45%	7	0.72%	9	1.06%	13	1.65%	0	0.00%	1	0.25%
Town of Stark	0	0.00%	1	0.10%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Town of Norway	0	0.00%	2	0.20%	2	0.24%	1	0.13%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Town of Salisbury	6	0.73%	1	0.10%	3	0.35%	2	0.25%	0	0.00%	1	0.25%
Town of Warren	1	0.12%	2	0.20%	3	0.35%	3	0.38%	0	0.00%	1	0.25%
Town of Webb	11	1.33%	14	1.43%	6	0.71%	7	0.89%	0	0.00%	1	0.25%
Town of Winfield	4	0.48%	1	0.10%	1	0.12%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%

Table 86 Source: Herkimer County Sheriff's Department

Citizenship

Incarceration

The Herkimer County Sheriff's Department is also tasked with transporting inmates to Courts, medical appointments and to NYS Department of Corrections Facilities (once an inmate is sentenced). Table 87 illustrates these transports for 2015 through 2021.

Transports for Herkimer County Jail Inmates: 2015 - 2021

Destination	Number of Transports						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
County Court	352	331	298	283	129	116	215
Local Criminal Courts (Includes Little Falls City Court)	526	409	449	421	182	81	166
Family Court	91	81	72	115	79	13	21
State Prison	96	82	86	72	46	23	23
Pickups at Other Facilities	1,575	1,059	917	1,295	604	176	44
Medical (Hospital, Medical & Dental Appointments)	359	312	287	209	171	96	202
Mental Health	77	76	82	78	73	59	86
Others (Order to Produce, funeral/deathbed visits, etc.)	129	110	142	136	152	101	21

Table 87 Source: Herkimer County Sheriff's Department

New Herkimer County Correctional Facility

In April 2021, the new correctional facility was approved to begin housing individuals who are incarcerated, whether they are awaiting trial, are convicted and sentenced locally, are boarded in Herkimer by another facility, or are awaiting transfer to another facility.

New York State mandates had deemed the previous jail inadequate in size to properly house inmates, causing significant transportation and boarding costs to be incurred at neighboring facilities. Prior to the buildout, the administration had to overcome barriers such as budget concerns, infrastructure and local zoning requirements, but, the new, state of the art, Herkimer County Correctional Facility is now fully functional. The new facility is approximately 74,000 square feet and comprises three inmate housing units or pods, a kitchen, a medical suite, a visiting area, and jail administration. The maximum facility capacity is 130, with room for expansion if necessary in the future. The Herkimer County Correctional Facility serves the public by providing a safe, secure, efficient, and humane environment for those persons ordered to be held or sentenced by the court system. Our new facility offers incarcerated individuals an opportunity to better themselves through programs in a safe environment that

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Incarceration

were not available in our previous facility. The use of modern correction innovation and technology makes the facility more efficient and safer for the public, employees, and incarcerated individuals.



Herkimer County Correctional Facility

Citizenship

Incarceration

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Moss Island, Little Falls

Family

Family Management

Why this is important

The family and the household are the most fundamental socioeconomic institutions in human society. The principal social function of the family has historically been to bring children into the world and to care for them until they can support themselves.

Household composition may have an impact on well-being. Children living in households with only one parent are much more likely to have families whose incomes fall below the poverty line. In addition, marital status can significantly affect the resources available to both women with children and women alone at any age.

Where we stand

Family and Household Demographics

According to the 2020 U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS), there are 61,738 people, 25,093 households, and 15,791 families residing in Herkimer County. Figure 55 illustrates the percentage of each type of household in Herkimer County. As illustrated, almost half (48%) of all households in Herkimer County are married couple families, one in ten (10%) are female headed households, and one in twenty households (5%) are male headed (no wife present).

Table 88 compares the household and family demographics in Herkimer County in 2000, 2011-2013, and 2020. Although the number of households and families increased during the time period 2011-2013, ultimately, the number of households has decreased between 2000 and 2020. Additionally, the average household size, family size, and the number of households with children under the age of 18 have decreased as well.

Households in Herkimer County, 2020

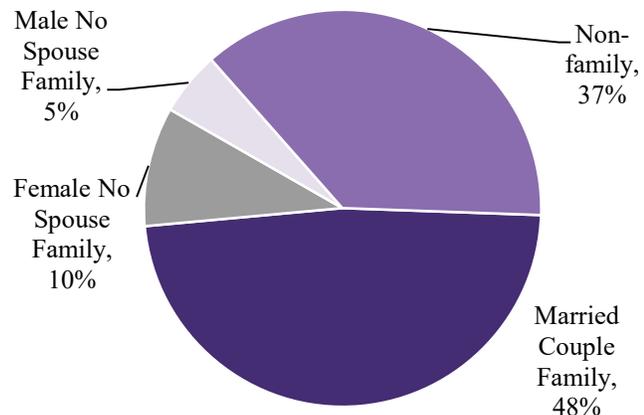


Figure 55
Source: 2020 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Herkimer County Households and Families: 2000, 2011-2013, 2020

	2000	2011-2013	2020
Population	64,427	64,442	61,738
Households	25,734	26,910	25,093
Average Household Size	2.46	2.34	2.41
Families	17,101	17,647	15,791
Average Family Size	2.99	2.84	3.02
Households With Children < 18	32.8%	25.5%	25.7%

Table 88 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census & 2011-2013 American Community Survey & 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Family

Family Management

Table 89 compares household demographics in Herkimer County in 2011-2013 and 2020 with NYS and the U.S. comparisons. As the table illustrates, the 2020 ACS shows a decrease in the number of households and percentage of female householders (no spouse present) in Herkimer County. An increase in the percentage of non-family households is also identified.

When compared to ACS data for New York State, Herkimer County has a higher percentage of married couples living together, a comparable number of non-family households, and a lower percentage of female-headed households (no spouse present).

Households in Herkimer County, NYS and US: 2011-2013, 2020

	Herkimer County 2011-2013	NYS 2011-2013	US 2011-2013	Herkimer County 2020	NYS 2020	US 2020
Total Households	26,910	7,214,163	115,731,304	25,093	7,417,224	122,354,219
Married Couple Family	48.10%	43.80%	48.20%	47.99%	43.95%	48.06%
Female Family Household (no Spouse Present)	12%	14.80%	13.10%	9.74%	14.02%	12.33%
Male Family Household (no Spouse Present)	5.00%	5.00%	4.80%	5.19%	5.00%	4.87%
Non-Family Household	35%	36.30%	33.90%	37.07%	37.04%	34.74%

Table 89 Source: 2011-2013 American Community Survey & 2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Households by Type

Table 90 on the next page compares households by type in Herkimer County, NYS and the U.S. in 2020. The 2020 American Community Survey estimates that 62.93% of all households in Herkimer County are comprised of families. Almost half of all families (47.99%) are traditional two-parent families, a decline from 51.2% in 2000. This percentage is higher than NYS percentages, but nearly equal to US percentages.

Female-headed families with no male present have decreased as a percent of all families in Herkimer County from 10.3% in 2000 to approximately 9.74 in 2020%. This percentage is lower than both NYS and US percentages. Male householders comprise 5.19% of all households in Herkimer County in 2020, which is higher than the percentage found in NYS and the US.

In 2020, 47.5% of all households in Herkimer County have someone in the home that is 60 years old or over, which is higher than the percentage found in both NYS and the US.

Family

Family Management

Herkimer County Households By Type, ACS 2020

	Herkimer County	HC %	NYS %	US %
Total households	25,093	100%	7,417,224	122,354,219
Family households (families)	15,791	62.93%	62.96%	65.26%
With own children under 18 years	5,868	23.39%	40.68%	27.31%
Married-couple family	12,043	47.99%	43.95%	48.06%
With own children under 18 years	3,837	15.29%	17.30%	18.66%
Male householder, no spouse present, family	1,303	5.19%	5.00%	4.87%
With own children under 18 years	729	2.91%	1.90%	2.26%
Female householder, no spouse present, family	2,445	9.74%	14.02%	12.33%
With own children under 18 years	1,302	5.19%	6.42%	6.39%
Nonfamily households	9,302	37.07%	37.04%	34.74%
Householder living alone	7,603	30.30%	29.80%	28.00%
Householder living alone, 65 years and over	3,839	15.30%	12.40%	11.30%
Households with one or more people under 18 years	6,449	25.70%	29.00%	30.70%
Households with one or more people 60 or over	11,919	47.50%	42.00%	40.20%

Table 90 Source: US Census, 5-Year ACS 2020, S1101

Family Structure 1960 - 2020

The Herkimer Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program provided information on the structure of families in Herkimer County over the last 60 years utilizing decennial U.S.

Family

Family Management

Census data, as reflected in Figure 56.

Herkimer County Two Parent and Female-Headed Families, Percent of Households, 1960 - 2020

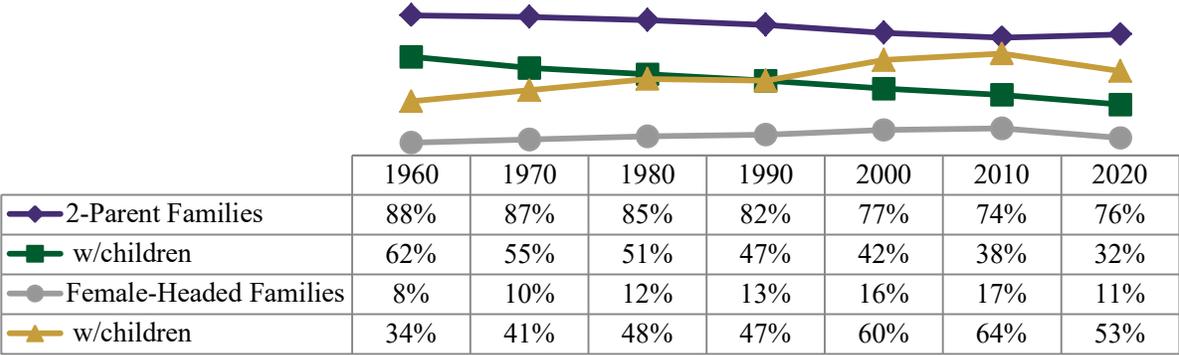


Figure 56 Source: US Decennial Census, 2020 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Data indicates that as a percentage of all families, fewer families are two-parent and more are single-parent, both female- and male-headed. Two-parent families comprised 88% of all families in 1960; by 2020 they dropped to only 76%. Eight percent (8%) of families were female-headed in 1960, and increased to 11% of all families by 2020. In addition, male-headed families made up about 4% of all families from 1969 to 1990, but by 2020, they increased to 5.19% of all families.

Since 1960, two-parent families have seen a steady decline in the percentage that have children under the age of 18 in the home, while single-parent families have seen a steady increase, as illustrated in Figure 57.

Herkimer County Family Structure: Percent of Families with Children Under 18 Present at Home, 1960 - 2020

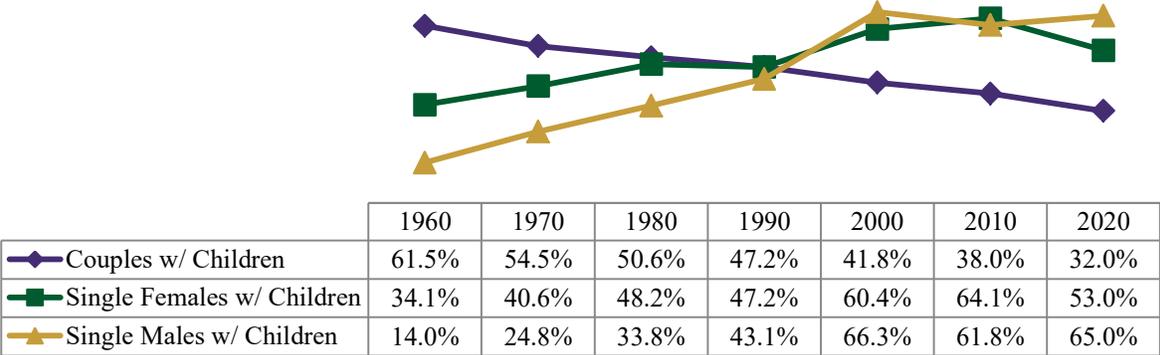


Figure 57 Source: US Decennial Census, 2020 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

For two-parent families, the percentage that had children at home dropped from 61.5% in 1960 to 32% in 2020. During this same period, the percentage of all female-headed families that have children under 18 in the home increased from 34.1% in 1960 to 53% in 2020.

Family

Family Management

In addition, the percentage of all male-headed families that have children climbed even faster from 14% in 1960 to 65% in 2020.

Births by Marital Status

Figure 58 illustrates the percentage of births to married and unmarried mothers in Herkimer County between 2010 and 2019. Despite minor fluctuations, the overall percentage of births to unwed mothers has remained relatively stable since 2010, with the 10-year average holding at 51%. In 2019, the percentage of births to unwed mothers was 50%.

It is important to know the percentages of births to unwed mothers because households headed by single mothers, on average, have a lower median household income than both single, male-headed households and households with two parents.

Herkimer County Births by Marital Status: 2010 to 2019



Figure 58 Source: NYS State Vital Statistics Tables 7 and 10

Divorces

Figure 59 on the following page illustrates the number of divorces, both with and without children, between 2010 to 2019. The total number of divorces decreased by 45.8% between 2010 and 2019 to the lowest number recorded during this time period.

Divorces in families without children below the age of 18 decreased by 18% between 2001 and 2014, while divorces in families with children below the age of 18 declined by nearly two-thirds.

Family

Family Management

Herkimer County Divorces 2010 - 2019



Figure 59 Source: NYS State Vital Statistics Table 5
*2018 data not available

Parents in the Workforce

Figures 60 and 61 on the next page illustrates the percentage of children in Herkimer County, New York State and the United States that have all parents in the labor force for the years 2000 (US Census), 2011-2013 (US Census, ACS estimates), and 2020 (ACS5-Year Estimates).

The percentages of children below the age of 18 that have all parents in the labor force in Herkimer County have increased during this timeframe, from 69.0% in 2000 to 73.5% in 2020 for children under age 6 (Figure 60), and from 74% in 2000 to 81.5% in 2020 for children ages 6 to 17 (Figure 61).

The percentages of New York State and U.S. children having all parents in the labor force have also increased between 2000 and 2020 for all age groups. For children under the age of 6, Herkimer County percentages are lower than NY State, but higher than the national percentages. For children between the ages of 6 and 7 years, Herkimer County percentages are higher than both NY State and national percentages.

For families with all parents in the workforce, there is a concern that the demands of activities of daily living may increase stress and interfere with family time for leisure and socialization.

Family

Family Management

Children Under Age 6 Years Having All Parents in the Labor Force

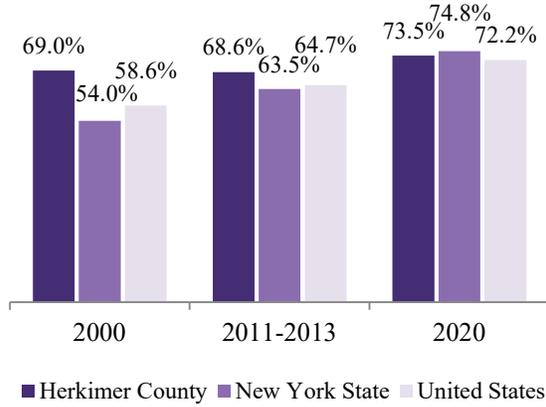


Figure 60
Source: US Census Data, S2301, 2020 5-Year ACS

Children Ages 6 - 17 Years Having All Parents in the Labor Force

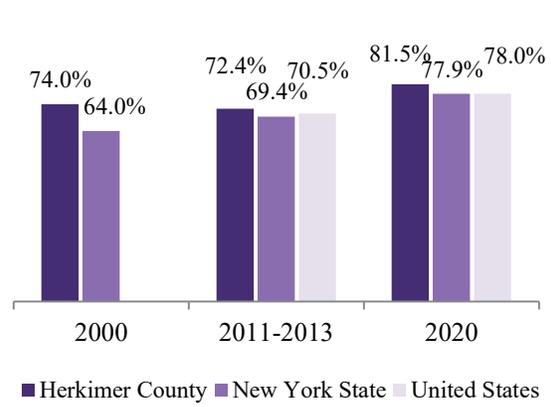


Figure 61
Source: US Census Data, S2301, 2020 5-Year ACS

Senior Population

Figure 62 illustrates the percentage of households in Herkimer County, New York State, and the U.S. that include a person over age 60 for the 2020 ACS 5-Year Estimate. In the past, this variable has been age 65+, however, the 2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates have elected to look at ages 60+. Therefore, trend data is not available for this table.

Households with persons age 60 and over

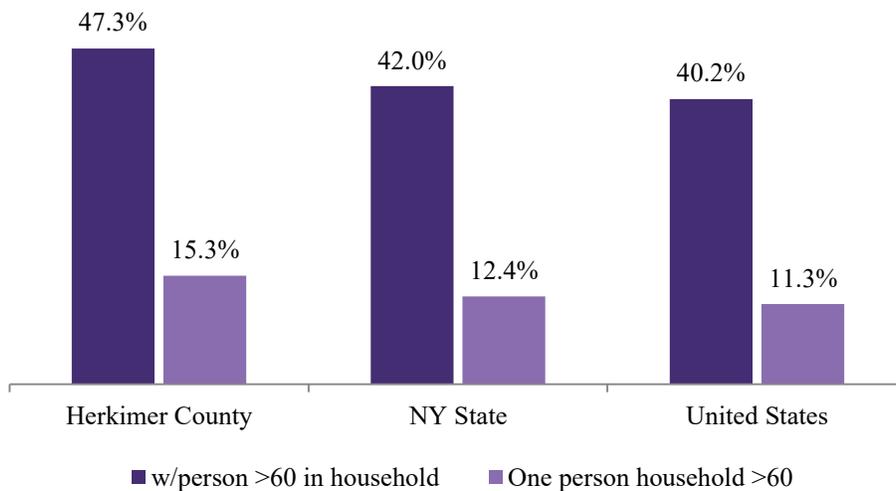


Figure 62 Source: 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Family

Family Management

The percentage of households in Herkimer County with a person over age 60 (either living with others or alone in own household) is significantly higher than both NY State and national percentages.

Herkimer County has a growing population of older senior citizens, and they comprise an ever-increasing proportion of the total population. Table 91 illustrates the number of seniors over the ages of 60 and 85 and the percentage of the total population in Herkimer County in these demographic groups.

Herkimer County Senior Population 60+ and 85+

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	# Persons	# Persons	# Persons	# Persons	# Persons	# Persons	# Persons
Total Population	66,370	67,633	66,714	65,797	64,427	64,519	61,738
Population age 60+	11,588	11,545	13,164	14,243	13,781	15,022	17,307
	(17.5% of total)	(17.1% of total)	(19.7% of total)	(21.6% of total)	(21.4% of total)	(23.3% of total)	(28% of total)
Population age 85+	547	740	910	1,157	1,443	1,737	1,684
	(4.7% of 60+)	(6.4% of 60+)	(6.9% of 60+)	(8.1% of 60+)	(10.5% of 60+)	(11.6% of 60+)	(9% of 60+)

Table 91 Source: US Census Data, 2020 5-Year AC

Herkimer County has a high percentage of senior citizens (age 60+). Since 1960, the total County population has decreased by 4,632 while the senior population has increased by 5,719. The percentage of seniors, as a portion of the total County population, increased from 17.5% in 1960 to 28% in 2020. Also, during this time period, the number of those aged 85 and older has more than tripled.

This older population may require care and assistance to meet daily needs, and very often the caregiving responsibilities fall upon family members. However, with the rapid increase in the oldest segment of the population, the pool of available family caregivers is shrinking. This is invariably causing issues for the elderly regarding lack of appropriate care. Couple this with a lack of healthcare options in Herkimer County and the concern for elder care in Herkimer County is increasing.

This is especially true for the growing 85+ population; these seniors are much more likely to be in need of services in order to keep them at home and out of a nursing home. Care for the elderly and assistance with access to services, very often falls to their adult children, who may also have the responsibility for providing care for their own children and/or grandchildren. This phenomenon is often referred to as being in the “sandwich generation.”

Family

Family Management

Grandparents as Caregivers

The U.S. Census asks a series of questions about grandparents living with their grandchildren and grandparents responsible for the care of their grandchildren. Figure 63 illustrates the percentage of persons over age 35 that live with their grandchildren, and Figure 64 illustrates the percentage of those grandparents that co-reside with their grandchildren and are responsible for their care in Herkimer County, New York State and the U.S.

Percent of grandparents co-residing with grandchildren



Figure 63 Source: 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Percent of grandparents residing with grandchildren and responsible for their care



Figure 64 Source: 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

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Family Management

The 2020 ACS reports that in Herkimer County, approximately 2.4% of all persons over age 35 are grandparents co-residing with their grandchildren. This is below the percentage for both New York State (4.1%) and for the U.S. (3.9%).

According to the 2011-2013 ACS, of those grandparents that lived with their grandchildren in Herkimer County (2.4% of the total population over age 35), nearly one-fifth (19.8%) were responsible for the care of their grandchildren; this is above the NYS percentage (18.2%) and the percentage for the U.S. (14.5%).

Declines were noted between 2000 and 2011-2013 for the percentage of grandparents in Herkimer County, NYS and the U.S. that are either co-residing with their grandchildren or who are co-residing with grandchildren and responsible for their care.

There is no data available that would indicate how many grandparents that are not residing with their grandchildren provide care for their grandchildren for a significant period of time each day.



Moreland Park, Little Falls

Family

Family Management

Data Sources

Herkimer County Office for the Aging Program data

New York State Department of Health, Vital Statistics of New York

http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/

U.S. Census Bureau (2020). American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from

<https://data.census.gov/>



Cold Brooke Feed Mill

Family

Family Management

Why this is important

Poor family management practices can negatively impact a child's life. Family dysfunction (severe and inconsistent parenting and discipline, alcohol and substance abuse, and/or a chaotic home environment), the inability of the adult/family system to meet basic needs (i.e. medical, economic, safety), and the absence of a positive parent/child relationship (one that is supportive but sets clear rules and expectations for behavior) can have lasting negative consequences. These negative practices are termed Adverse Childhood Experiences or ACEs.

Adverse Childhood Experiences are defined as “traumatic events that occur before a child reaches the age of 18. ACEs include all types of abuse and neglect, such as parental substance use, incarceration, and domestic violence. ACEs can also include situations that may cause trauma for a child, such as having a parent with a mental illness or being part of a family going through a divorce” (Child Welfare Information Gateway, n.d.).

Children who have high ACEs exposures can have lasting effects on their ability to bond and form secure attachments to their caregivers leading to negative physical and emotional outcomes for youth throughout their lifespan. The more ACEs a child is exposed to, the greater their likelihood of negative and lasting outcomes.

While the presence and exposure to ACEs can increase the likelihood of negative outcomes, protective factors can help to mitigate these risks and increase resiliency. Improving family relationships, enhancing parenting skills, developing mechanisms to cope with stress in a positive way, building supportive relationships with caring adults beyond the immediate family, and obtaining supports and resources to better meet needs can help families improve functioning and foster a healthy and caring environment.

Where we stand

Family First Prevention Services Act

The Family First Prevention Services Act was signed into law on February of 2018. The purpose of the act is to change the focus of child welfare services and prevent the trauma of removing a child from their families. The law provides families with greater access to social and behavioral health services, parenting classes, and life skills classes that can better help them through times of stress and transition. The law also prevents children in foster care from being placed in congregate care settings unnecessarily. The law also provides increased support for youth transitioning out of foster care into adulthood.

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Family Management

Foster Care Placements

Figure 65 illustrates the number of placements into foster care by source from 2015 to 2021. There are minor differences in the number of youths reported in foster care by database. This is due to internal delays in reporting at both the state and local level. The dates at which any given report is run can demonstrate fluctuations in data. This is why it is important to remain consistent when citing data. This document, whenever possible, utilizes data from either local records or the *Monitoring and Analysis Profiles with Selected Trend Data: 2017-2021*.

Local data shows the total admissions into foster care have fluctuated during this period of time, peaking in 2017 at 92, and decreasing in 2021 to a low of 35 admissions.

Table 92 below displays the number and rates of foster children admitted to care in Herkimer County and rates for comparable counties for the years 2015 to 2021. Comparable counties include: Cayuga, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Madison, Montgomery, Ontario, Sullivan, Tompkins, Warren, Washington, and Wayne.

Herkimer County: Number of foster care admissions by source: 2015 - 2021

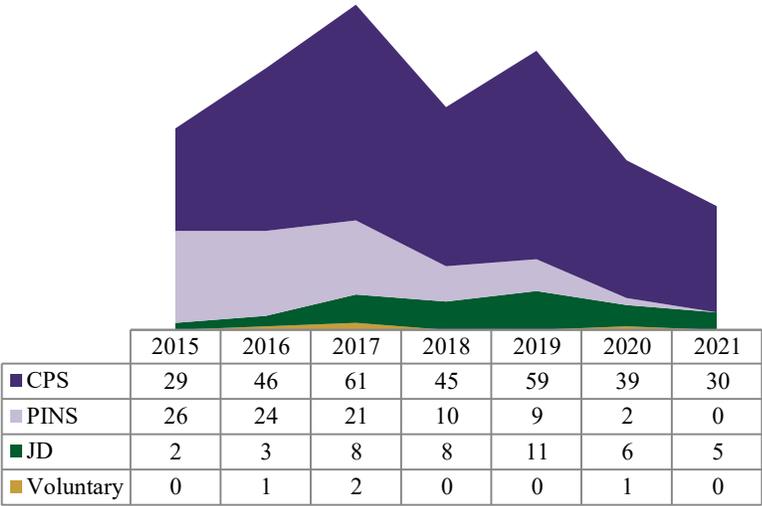


Figure 65 Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

**Number and Rates of Foster Children Admitted
Herkimer County and Comparable Counties 2015-2021**

	Herkimer County Total	Herkimer County Annual Rate per 1,000	Percent Change in Rate	Comparable Counties Rate	Percent Change in Comparable Counties Rate
2015	48	2.8	-2.2%	2.4	-9.1%
2016	61	3.7		2.3	
2017	81	5.0	33.6%	2.4	6.0%
2018	54	3.3	-33.4%	2.3	-3.3%
2019	71	4.4	31.5%	2.1	10.9%
2020	44	2.8	-35.1%	2.1	-1.0%
2021	32	2.1	-26.5%	1.9	-7.0%

Table 92 Source: *Monitoring and Analysis Profiles with Selected Trend Data: 2017-2021*

Although there were fluctuations in the number and admission rates per 1,000 youth to foster care in Herkimer County between 2015 and 2021, foster care admission rates in Herkimer County remained higher than the rates for comparable counties in all years listed.

Table 93 on the following page illustrates the percentage of each primary placement type

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Family Management

(congregate setting or non-congregate setting) for all youth placed in care in Herkimer County and the Rest of State (excludes New York City) from 2017 to 2021. Congregate Care Settings include Institutions, Group Homes, Group Residences, Agency Operated Boarding Homes, and other group settings. Kinship Foster Homes are approved relative homes, in compliance with the Family First Preventions Services Act.

Between 2017 and 2021, the majority of children in Herkimer County and in the Rest of State were placed in non-congregate care settings such as foster care homes, adoptive homes or relative care homes. When compared with the Rest of State, Herkimer County typically has a higher percentage of children placed in congregate care settings such as institutions and group homes. From 2017 through 2021, Herkimer County's percentage of youth placed in Kinship Foster Homes has increased significantly from 2.2% in 2017 to 37.7% in 2021.

Primary Placement Type: Herkimer County 2017 - 2021

	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Herkimer County	ROS								
Congregate Care	27.70%	26.80%	23.80%	25.30%	30.20%	23.70%	32.30%	20.60%	28.30%	18.30%
Foster Boarding Home	70.00%	61.40%	67.70%	61.10%	61.60%	59.60%	47.10%	58.70%	34.00%	58.00%
Kinship Foster Care	2.20%	11.90%	8.50%	13.60%	8.20%	16.70%	20.70%	20.70%	37.70%	23.70%

Table 93 Source: 2021 New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Bureau of Research, Evaluation and Performance Analytics Monitoring and Analysis Profiles

Days in Care

Tables 94, on the following page, and 95 (on page 159) illustrate: 1) the total number of care days used by youth admitted to foster care by level of care in Herkimer County from 2016 to 2021 (Table 94), 2) the percent of care days used each year in Herkimer County by the level of care from 2016 to 2021 (Table 95), and 3) the percent change in usage over the previous year by level of care in Herkimer County from 2016 to 2021 (Table 95).

As Table 94 illustrates, overall care day usage has rose from 24,024 days in 2016 to a peak in 2018 of 31,898 days, but decreased to 25,741 days by 2021. The utilization of approved relative homes has increased by 2,552% since 2016, rising from 366 days in 2016 to 9,706 days in 2021. The utilization of congregate care has decreased by 45%, declining from 15,824 days in 2016 to 8,752 days in 2021. The utilization of Foster Boarding Homes / Adoptive Homes has remained relatively stable between 2016 and 2021.

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**Number of Care Days by Level of Care:
Herkimer County 2016 to 2021**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Foster Boarding Home/ Adoptive Home	7,834	8,697	7,597	8,233	8,101	7,283
Congregate Care	15,824	21,961	21,587	16,783	11,811	8,752
Approved Relative Home	366	693	2,714	2,228	5,182	9,706
Total	24,024	31,351	31,898	27,244	25,094	25,741

Table 94 Source: 2021 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles with Selected Trend Data: 2017-2021

Figure 66 illustrates the percentage of care days by level of care for each year. In 2016, the use of approved relative homes was only 1.5% of total yearly bed care days. Through policy change and significant efforts on the part of the DSS staff and administration, by 2021 the use of approved relative homes increased to 37.7% of the total yearly bed care days. As depicted in Table 95, this increase represents a 1300.6% positive change from 2017 to 2021.

**Percent of Care Days by Level of Care:
Herkimer County 2016 to 2021**

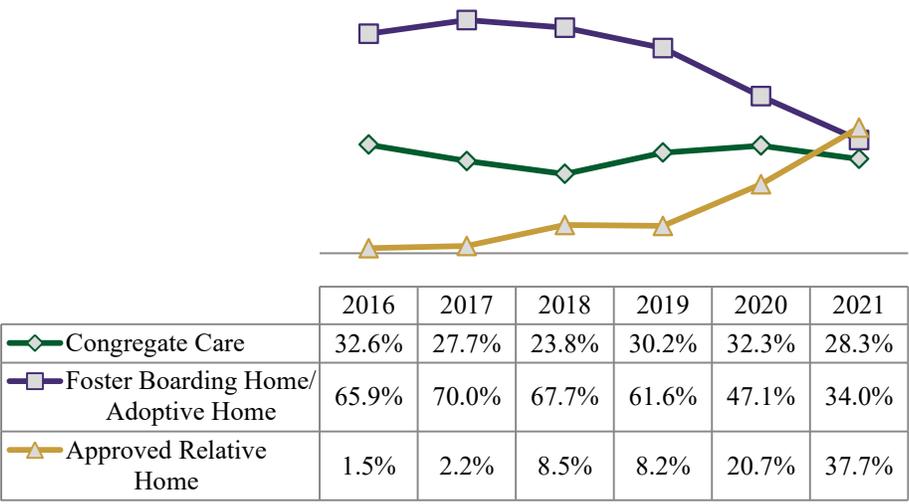


Figure 66 Source: 2021 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles with Selected Trend Data: 2017-2021

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Percent Change in Care Days Over Previous Year: Herkimer County 2016 to 2021

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2017-2021
Congregate Care	11.0%	-12.6%	8.4%	-1.6%	-10.1%	-16.3%
Foster Boarding Home/Adoptive Home	38.7%	-1.7%	-22.3%	-29.6%	-25.9%	-60.1%
Approved Relative Home	89.3%	291.6%	-17.9%	132.6%	87.3%	1300.6%
Total	2.3%	1.7%	-14.6%	-7.9%	2.6%	-17.9%

Table 95 Source: 2021 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles with Selected Trend Data: 2017-2021

Out of Home Placement Census

Figure 67 illustrates the number of Herkimer County youth that were in foster care placement on the last day of each year from December 2015 to December 2021. The number of children in foster care placement at the end of the year includes the total number of children residing in any level of Foster Care placement. This number includes children who entered care due to abuse, neglect, a PINS or Juvenile Delinquency petition, or on a voluntary basis.

The number of youths in placement at the end of the year increased by 23% between 2015 (60) and 2021 (74), then experienced a 25% decline between 2017 (87) and 2018 (65).

Table 96, on the next page, displays the number of foster children in placement on the last day of the year in Herkimer County, and the rate per 1,000 of children in care in Herkimer County and comparable counties for the years 2016 to 2021. Comparable counties include: Cayuga, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Madison, Montgomery, Ontario, Sullivan, Tompkins, Warren, Washington, and Wayne.

Herkimer County’s rate per 1,000 children in care at the end of each year exceeded the rate for comparable counties from 2016 to 2021.

Number of Youth in Foster Care Placement Herkimer County 2015-2021

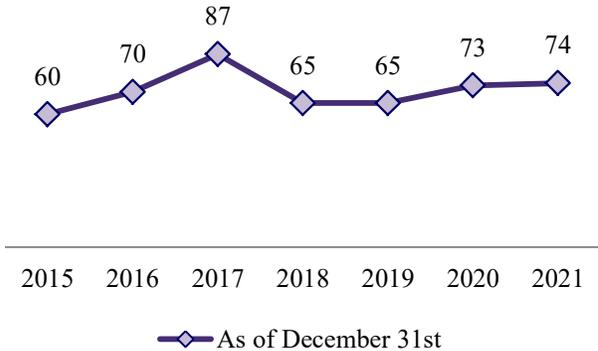


Figure 67
Source: 2021 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles with Selected Trend Data: 2017-2021

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Herkimer County Foster Children in Care Rate per 1,000 and Comparable Counties Rate 2016-2021

	Total # of children in care as of 12/31	Herkimer County Annual Rate	Percent Change in Rate	Comparable Counties Rate	Percent Change in Comparable Counties Rate
2016	78	4.8		3.8	
2017	83	5.1	7.0%	3.8	-1.0%
2018	70	4.3	-15.8%	3.7	-3.0%
2019	62	3.8	-11.4%	3.5	-3.6%
2020	72	4.7	21.7%	3.9	11.3%
2021	72	4.7	1.1%	3.9	-0.8%

Table 96 Source: 2021 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles with Selected Trend Data: 2017-2021

Permanency

New York State, using rules provided by the Federal Children's Bureau, measures the length of time it takes a child in foster care to achieve Permanency, which is defined as a discharge from foster care to reunification with the child's parents or primary caregivers, living with a relative, guardianship, or adoption.

Table 97, on the next page, compares yearly permanency outcomes achieved in Herkimer County with those in New York State and the United States for the years 2015 to 2021 according to the following variables:

- The percent of all children who entered foster care during a one-year period that were discharged to permanency within one year of entry before turning 18. A higher percentage is better on this measure, meaning that a high percentage of children were discharged from foster care within one year of entry.
- The percent of all children in foster care who had been in foster care between 12-23 months that were discharged to permanency within 12 months. A higher percentage is better on this measure, meaning that a high percentage of children who had been in care for one to two years were discharged to a permanency placement within the year.
- The percent of children who had been in foster care for 24 months or longer and were discharged to permanency within 12 months. A higher percentage is better on this measure, meaning that a high percentage of children who had been in care for at least two years were discharged to a permanency placement within the year.

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Children who Entered Foster Care and Were Discharged Within Certain Time Frames

	(P1) Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care			(P2) Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12 –23 months			(P3) Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more		
	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8
Herkimer County	35.9%	33.8%	62.5%	39.1%	33.3%	30.8%	25.0%	56.3%	23.8%
NY State	34.1%	34.4%	33.3%	31.0%	29.0%	23.3%	31.8%	31.2%	20.5%
National Average	38.6%	38.7%	38.5%	47.5%	47.1%	42.7%	38.5%	39.3%	35.4%

	Wave 6 Dates	Wave 7 Dates	Wave 8 Dates
P1	4/1/16 - 3/31/17	4/1/17 - 3/31/18	4/1/18 - 3/31/19
P2 & 3	4/1/18 - 3/31/19	4/1/19 - 3/31/20	4/1/20 - 3/31/21

Table 97 Source: Safety and Permanency Performance Indicators, 2022

As the table illustrates, the percent of all children who entered foster care during a one-year period that were discharged to permanency within one year of entry before turning 18 in Herkimer County was lower than both state and national averages for Waves 6 and 7, then significantly increased during Wave 8. (Wave-a period of time)

The percent of all children in foster care who had been in foster care between 12-23 months that were discharged to permanency within 12 months in Herkimer County remains higher than state averages, but lower than national averages. This percentage has declined in Herkimer County from Wave 6 to Wave 8.

The percent of children who had been in foster care for 24 months or longer and were discharged to permanency within 12 months in Herkimer County was consistently lower than both state and national averages from Wave 6 through Wave 8.

Adoption

Table 98 illustrates the number and percent of children that are freed for adoption in Herkimer County and the percent of children freed from comparable counties for the years 2015 to 2021. "Freed" is defined as the number of all children in foster care that became legally eligible to be adopted during that calendar year.

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Children Freed for Adoption: Herkimer County and Comparable Counties 2016 - 2021

	Herkimer County Total	Percent of All Children in Care	Percent Change from Previous Year	Comparable Counties Percent	Percent Change from Previous Year Comparable Counties
2016	6	4.7%		10.5%	
2017	9	5.6%	22.3%	8.7%	-17%
2018	16	11.9%	113.6%	12.2%	39.8%
2019	14	9.70%	-19.1%	9.3%	-24.0%
2020	9	7.90%	-18.2%	6.1%	-34.3%
2021	14	13.50%	70.5%	9.0%	47.4%

Table 98 Source: 2021 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles with Selected Trend Data: 2017-2021

Table 99 illustrates the number and percent of children that are discharged to adoption in Herkimer County and the percent of children discharged to adoption for comparable counties for the years 2016 to 2021. As the table shows, with the exception of 2019, Herkimer County had a lower rate of discharge to adoption than found in comparable counties. In 2019, Herkimer County had 62.9% of children discharged to adoption while comparable counties had 55.5%.

Comparable counties include: Cayuga, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Madison, Montgomery, Ontario, Sullivan, Tompkins, Warren, Washington, and Wayne.

Figure 68 on the following page illustrates the percent of children in Herkimer County and Comparable Counties that achieved adoption milestones during 2021.

Children Discharged to Adoption: Herkimer County and Comparable Counties 2016 - 2021

	Herkimer County Total	Percent of All Children Freed for Adoption	Percent Change from Previous Year	Comparable Counties Percent	Percent Change from Previous Year Comparable Counties
2016	5	29.4%		45.5%	
2017	8	40.0%	36	43.6%	-4.3%
2018	10	33.3%	-16.7%	44.9%	2.8
2019	22	62.9%	88.6	55.5%	23.5
2020	4	19.0%	-69.7	31.9%	-42.5
2021	6	22.2%	16.7	49.6%	55.7

Table 99 Source: 2021 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles with Selected Trend Data: 2017-2021

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Children Who had an Adoption Milestone Occur During 2021

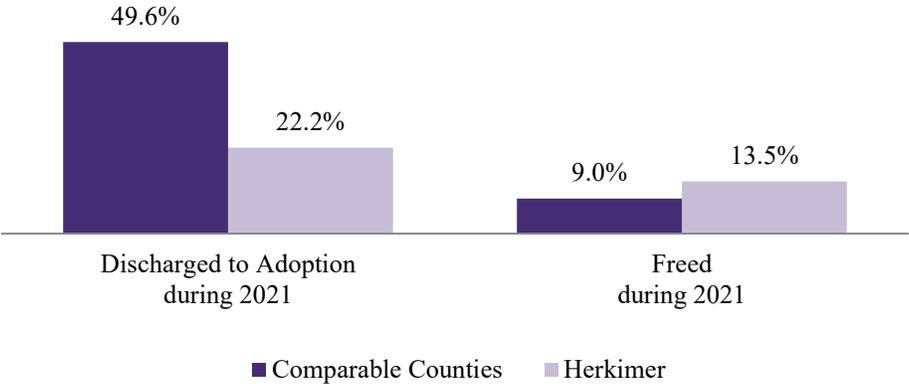


Figure 68 Source: Source: 2021 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles with Selected Trend Data: 2017-2021

Children Re-Entering Foster Care

New York State, using rules provided by the Federal Children’s Bureau, measures the percentage of children who were discharged from foster care in 12 months to reunification, relative or guardianship and re-entered foster care within 12 months of that discharge. For this measure, a lower percentage is better, meaning that fewer children who were discharged came back into care in a 12-month period. Any children that entered foster care in a 12-month period who were discharged to adoption have been excluded from this measure as they cannot be tracked for re-entry.

Table 100 compares the percentage of children who re-entered foster care within 12 months of discharge in Herkimer County with those in New York State and the United States. As the table illustrates, Herkimer County had a higher percentage of children re-enter foster care than found in NYS and the U.S. Herkimer County reduced its rates of re-entry for children discharged from foster care by 28% since 2016.

(P4) Children Who Exited Foster Care and Re-entered Care Within 12 Months

	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8
Herkimer	23.1%	20.7%	16.7%
New York State	9.7%	10.2%	9.6%
National Average	7.2%	7.5%	6.8%

	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8
P4	4/1/16 – 3/31/17	4/1/17 - 3/31/18	4/1/18 - 3/31/19

Table 100 Source: 2021 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles with Selected Trend

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Support Services for Youth and Their Families

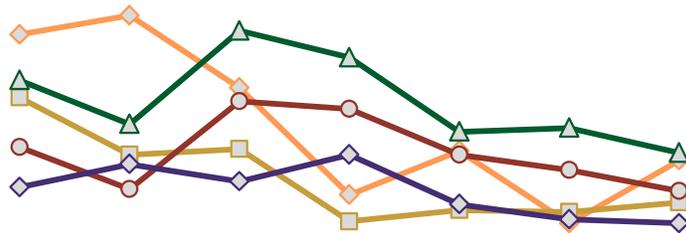
The need for family and youth supports in the home, school and community are of critical importance to help improve family functioning and prevent out of home placements. The Department of Social Services (DSS) operates Preventive Services programs to help children and their families address needs, reduce risks and improve health and well-being. Eligibility for Preventive Services is determined by criteria established through the Child Welfare Reform Act of 1979. Eligibility is based on need, not income, and the child must be under 18 years of age.

The Mandated Preventive Services Program provides supportive assessment and referral services for children at-risk of placement and their families. Services may also include caseworker counseling, day care, homemaker services, transportation, clinical services, and 24-hour access to emergency services.

The School Intervention Partnership (SIP) Program provides a single point of entry for at-risk youth and families in need of assessment and intervention. Schools identify children in need of services through school Child Study or Pupil Personnel Support Services Teams. These children (and their families) are then referred to a SIP caseworker placed at participating Herkimer County school districts.

Figure 69 illustrates the number of Mandated Preventive & SIP referrals received between 2015 and 2021. SIP referrals have trended downward beginning in 2016. SIP referrals saw a 34% decrease from 2016 to 2021. In 2023, due to staffing issues, DSS was unable to continue placing preventive workers in our school districts.

Herkimer County Department of Social Services Preventive and SIP Services Caseload 2015 - 2021



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
◆ # of SIP Referrals	139	149	111	55	78	40	73
■ # of SIP Cases Opened	106	76	79	41	47	46	51
▲ # of Preventive Referrals	115	92	141	127	88	90	77
● # of Mandated Preventive Cases Opened	80	58	104	100	76	68	57
◇ # of End of the Year Mandated Preventive Cases	59	71	62	76	50	42	40

Figure 69 Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

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Runaway and Homeless Youth

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Program (RHYP) serves young people under the age of 21 who have either run away, been kicked out of their homes, or are homeless. Table 101 displays RHYP statistics for the years 2015-2021.

The numbers of intakes (cases opened) fluctuated from 2015 through 2021, with a significant decrease in intakes during 2020 and 2021. This is presumably due to COVID and the restrictions on meeting in-person and in available programs. Regardless of year, more females are served than males.

Of the three main problems faced by youth served (parental conflict, police involvement, and school), there has been a steady increase of problems at school, a steady decrease in police involvement, and a varied rate of parental conflict. In 2015, 15% of youth reported police involvement as a major problem faced. This problem decreased to 10% by 2021. In 2015, 31% of youth served reported school as being a major problem faced. This has steady and rapidly increased 87.5% in 2021. Parental conflict has fluctuated since 2015 with no discernable trajectory.

Runaway & Homeless Youth Program Statistics 2015-2021

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Intakes:							
Males	22	29	20	27	23	13	18
Females	39	43	24	37	32	25	22
Total intakes	61	72	44	64	55	37	40
Major Problems Faced**:							
Parental Conflict	57	51	35	Unavailable	32	24	35
Police Involvement	9	14	5	Unavailable	7	5	4
School	19	32	26	Unavailable	39	33	35
Status at Discharge:							

Table 101 *Source: Runaway & Homeless Youth Program annual reports 2015-2021*

*Private residence includes data previously reported in the With Parent and Friend/Relative categories

**Youth can indicate more than one problem. Only the top three discharges are indicated

Older youth are more difficult to serve; due to their age they may not be appropriate for the host home program model used in Herkimer County. The host homes are volunteers who offer temporary, emergency shelter in their homes, and may not be as comfortable with older youth. Many times, older youth are not willing to follow the strict restrictions in place for the host home (no cell phone use, 24-hour supervision, and keeping their location private from friends while in the program). Many end up “couch-surfing” with friends and contact the program when they have exhausted all of their resources.

Family

Family Management

For youth not appropriate for host homes, there are no homeless shelters within Herkimer County. Program staff must find a shelter in another county with space available and transport the youth there for services. There are no transitional residential programs in the county, and limited space is available in neighboring Oneida County. Program staff works with the youth to obtain housing and provide on-going case management to assist with stabilizing them.

The RHY Program has a community youth room where youth can come after school for help with schoolwork or to attend various groups such as anger management or independent living skills training. This venue does provide youth with a safe supportive environment, where they interact with program staff and receive additional services.

The RHY Program has a high success rate, with the majority of youth served (under 18 years old) remaining in stable housing for at least 3 months after exiting the program (Figure 70).

The program saw a significant increase in referrals coming from the PINS/Foster Care units beginning in 2018, and this presented difficulty in following up with youth and families from these referrals. This made for a lower percentage of youth whose housing stability was unable to be verified. The program director made changes to the referral processes and this issue was resolved. This resolution resulted in percentages of youth remaining in stable housing return to baseline.

As demonstrated by program statistics, the years 2020 and 2021 overall saw the lowest numbers of youth served since 2015. This is very likely due to the COVID pandemic and the resulting shut down of schools, and curtailed interaction at various agencies the program normally collaborates with. While RHY services continued during the pandemic, the ability to meet one on one with youth or hold group life skills sessions, was severely impacted.

Percent of youth who remained in stable housing 3 months after closing or remained with family if under 18 years old

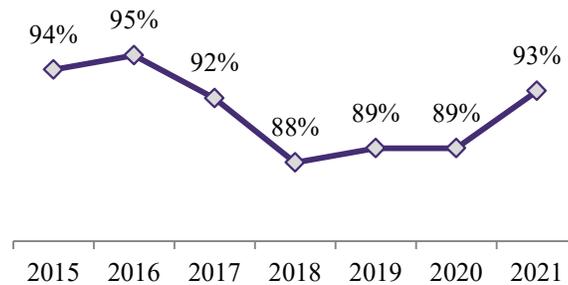


Figure 70

Source: Herkimer County Runaway and Homeless Youth Program data

Healthy Families of Herkimer County

Healthy Families of Herkimer County is a voluntary program that offers services to expectant parents and families with newborns less than three months old, residing in all zip codes within Herkimer County who have screened positive on the universal screening tool.

The universal screening tool measures four risk areas for child abuse and neglect: marital status, late or no prenatal care, inadequate income and being under 21 years old at the time of screening. The majority of the screens that are collected come from Bassett Healthcare. A positive screen allows families the opportunity to have an in-home visit with the Family

Family

Family Management

Resource Specialist, who completes a FROG (Family Resiliency and Opportunities for Growth) Assessment and offers referrals to community resources; which may include home visiting services through the Healthy Families Program.

Table 102 shows the number of Healthy Families screenings completed from 2015 to 2021. The numbers of yearly screenings completed have significantly decreased between 2015 and 2021, but the numbers of screenings deemed eligible for an assessment have increased.

Healthy Families screenings completed by Year: 2015-2021

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Screens Completed	620	619	595	332	324	354	252
Screens referred for assessment	278	248	250	185	172	190	146

Table 102 Source: Herkimer County Healthy Families Program Data

The FROG Scale (Family Resource and Opportunities for Growth Scale) is a tool that is used to determine the risks that overburdened families face and their level of risk for child abuse and neglect. Select families that score positive on the assessment are offered home visiting services when possible. Table 103 shows the number of assessments completed between 2016 and 2021 and the number and percentage of those screenings that were determined to be positive.

FROG Assessments 2016 - 2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
FROG Scales Completed	87	71	69	56	51	49
Positive FROG	81 (93%)	67 (94%)	68 (99%)	48 (86%)	51 (100%)	47 (96%)

Table 103 Source: Herkimer County Healthy Families Program Data

The Healthy Families home visiting service is considered to be a voluntary and comprehensive program that has different levels of intensity. The program is designed to help parents balance the demands of parenting along with other responsibilities. Families are provided a Family Support Specialist who visits their home and provides support, education, information, referrals, and on occasion, incentives. The focus for families receiving home visiting is to reduce parental stress, improve self-sufficiency and maximize parent-child interactions. This is accomplished by developing trusting relationships, focusing on accomplishments and using strengths to develop areas of need.

Table 104 on the following page illustrates the percentage of primary caretakers open to home visiting services who self-reported that they experienced particular issues upon program enrollment and at the end of each year. Areas/levels of concern decreased in the majority of areas with the exception of smoking. It is believed that the increase in this number is directly related to the families learning to trust their Family Support Specialist over time, which allowed primary caretakers to disclose openly about issues.

Family

Family Management

Herkimer County Healthy Families Home Visiting Program Primary Caretaker Issues 2016 to 2021

Issues	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	%	End of Year										
Substance Abuse	5%	2%	6%	3%	13%	5%	11%	3%	10%	3%	10%	0%
Physical Disability/ Health Problems	8%	8%	6%	8%	4%	8%	4%	10%	3%	9%	5%	10%
Mental Health	46%	27%	51%	30%	56%	32%	60%	33%	66%	40%	65%	39%
Stress/ Emotional Difficulties	61%	25%	68%	22%	76%	29%	81%	30%	91%	31%	86%	34%
Developmental Disability	9%	10%	9%	5%	10%	5%	11%	6%	11%	7%	13%	8%
Domestic Violence	7%	7%	8%	4%	7%	4%	7%	3%	7%	3%	7%	3%
Marital/ Relationship Difficulties	26%	11%	29%	11%	29%	13%	31%	13%	29%	11%	35%	12%
Legal Issues	6%	1%	3%	0%	5%	2%	8%	2%	6%	1%	9%	2%
Resource Issues	27%	21%	28%	16%	43%	22%	48%	18%	55%	21%	62%	22%
Homelessness/ Inadequate Housing	4%	3%	5%	2%	16%	7%	19%	8%	18%	5%	16%	3%
Social Isolation	17%	7%	25%	5%	16%	6%	15%	5%	15%	5%	19%	8%
Smoking	19%	34%	18%	31%	27%	37%	31%	35%	31%	31%	27%	26%

Table 104 Source: Herkimer County Health Families Program Data

Healthy Families Program services are individualized to meet the needs of the families served in Herkimer County. A strength-based, solution-focused approach is used to best address the particular needs of each family. Data from 2016- 2021 shows that 78% of mothers that enrolled in the program were first time mothers, 80% being over the age of 20 years old. 94% of children that were included in the home visiting program were on Medicaid, with 18% of their parents being married. Father participation is highly encouraged and welcomed in program services. Workers have contact with non-custodial parents and make every effort to involve these parents with program services.

The program performance targets focus on three main areas: health and development, parent-child interaction, and family life course. Table 105 on the following page displays the Healthy Families of Herkimer County Program Outcomes, by quarter (3 months), from 2016 to 2021.

Family

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Healthy Families of Herkimer County Program Outcomes 2016 to 2021

Targets		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Explanation
At least 90% of target children will be up to date on immunizations as of first birthday	Q1	100%	100%	89%	100%	94%	100%	Family Support Specialists (FSSs) track each target child's immunizations to ensure children's immunizations are up to date.
	Q2	100%	100%	90%	100%	100%	100%	
	Q3	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
	Q4	100%	90%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
At least 98% of target children will demonstrate age appropriate developmental milestones on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire or be referred for further services if delays are detected.	Q1	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	FSSs assist parents with administrating the ASQ, a tool utilized to measure children's developmental level. Workers work closely with the Early Intervention Program to ensure children are referred to appropriate services when needed.
	Q2	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	
	Q3	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
	Q4	98%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
30% of primary care takers will breast feed their target children for at least 3 months from the birth of the child.	Q1	44%	71%	31%	43%	58%	45%	During home visiting, FSSs provide families with information about the benefits of breast feeding. Many mothers begin breast feeding but quit before the 3-month mark which is required to meet the target.
	Q2	45%	71%	37%	54%	64%	40%	
	Q3	61%	54%	39%	60%	50%	40%	
	Q4	70%	36%	45%	68%	42%	36%	
75% of families will be enrolled in an education program, job training or job placement program or will be employed by the target child's second birthday.	Q1	76%	100%	67%	94%	75%	91%	As the data indicates, most of the families involved in the program see the value in becoming educated and employed.
	Q2	71%	85%	70%	93%	70%	100%	
	Q3	58%	75%	86%	88%	100%	93%	
	Q4	77%	80%	94%	74%	90%	73%	
At least 50% of families who were receiving TANF benefits at intake will no longer be receiving TANF benefits on the target child's first birthday.	Q1	50%	100%	50%	75%	50%	100%	Once again, most of the families want to be employed and successful.
	Q2	100%	75%	100%	75%	0%	50%	
	Q3	33%	50%	67%	100%	0%	50%	
	Q4	50%	33%	100%	67%	50%	50%	

Table 105 Source: Herkimer County Healthy Families Program

Family

Family Management

Vulnerable Adults – Adult Protective Services

Adult Protective Services (APS) helps adults, 18 years or older, who may need protection because they (1) can no longer care for themselves and, thus, are endangered or (2) they are being abused or threatened by others.

Figure 71 illustrates (1) the number of information and referral calls (minus fuel

emergency calls); (2) the number of referrals regarding concerns of homelessness; and (3) the number of Protective Services for Adults (PSA) assessments that assess risk for the Protective Services for Adults Program from 2015 to 2021. As depicted in the Figure, from 2015 to 2020 the number of information and referral calls to the program remained relatively stable, demonstrating a slight decrease. However, from 2020 – 2021 the number of information and referral calls increased by 288%, from 236 to 916. This is likely due to the social, emotional, physical, and financial stresses created and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

From 2017 to 2020 the number of referrals for homelessness decreased from 222 in 2017 to 109 in 2020. However, the number of calls increased by 48%, likely due to the lifting of the moratorium on evictions in 2021.

PSA assessments have remained relatively stable during this time.

Figures 72 and 73 on the next page provide information on the total population of open Protective Services for Adults (PSA) cases from 2015 through 2021. Figure 72 looks at the percent with certain impairments, and Figure 73 shows the percent with certain risks or unmet needs.

Figure 72 on the following page indicates the prevailing impairment of this population has been medical and health related. While medical and developmental impairments have remained relatively stable from 2015 to 2021, Mental Illness and Alzheimer’s / Dementia impairments have increased 100% and 106% respectively from 2015 to 2021.

Figure 73 also shows that the majority of open PSA cases during this time period received services due to a neglect of their own needs. From 2015 through 2021 there has been a decrease in services for untreated medical conditions; however, this remains the second highest presenting need despite the decline. There has been a 133% increase in the need for services for adults who are unable to manage their finances from 2015 to 2021.

Adult Protective Services Referrals 2015- 2021

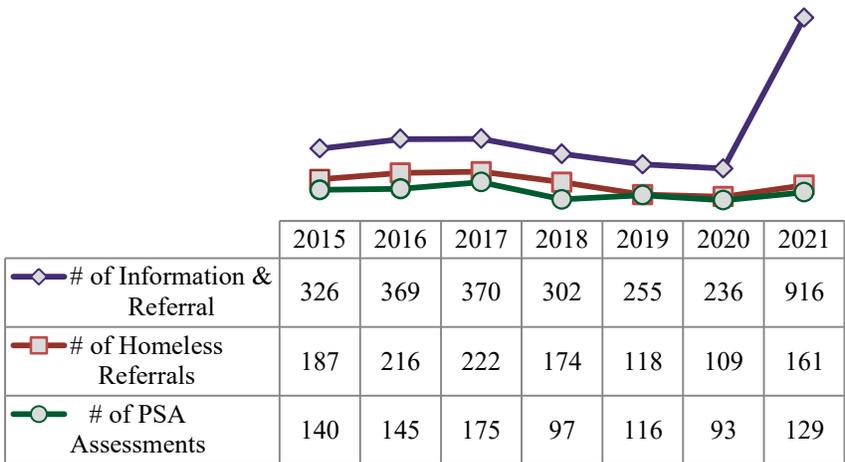


Figure 71 Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

Family

Family Management

Protective Services for Adults by Impairments

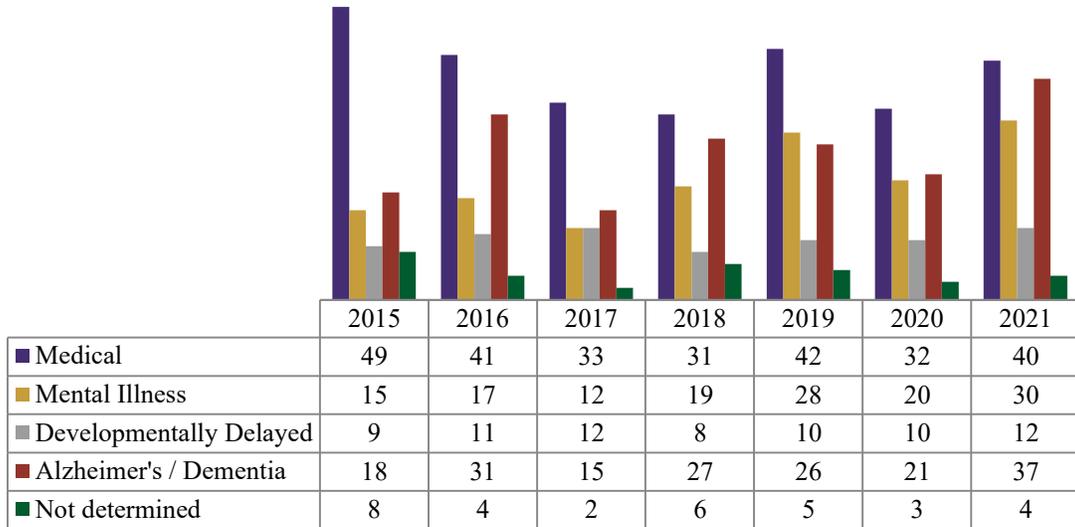


Figure 72 Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

Protective Services for Adults by Type of Risk of Harm / Unmet Need 2015-2021

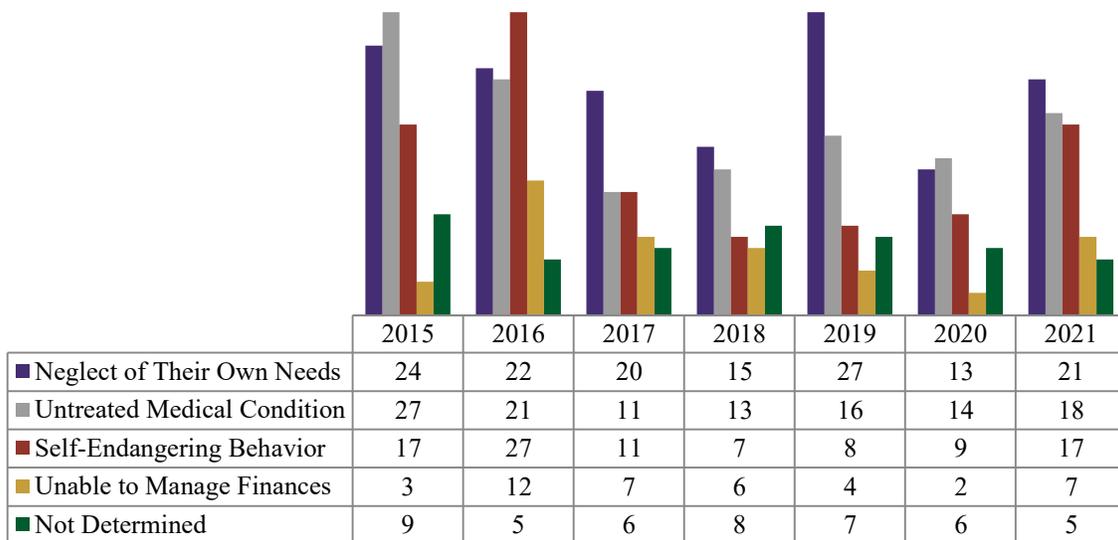


Figure 73 Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

Family

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Data Sources

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) - Child Welfare Information Gateway. (n.d.). Child Welfare Information Gateway. Retrieved August 9, 2022, from <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/overview/framework/aces/#:%7E:text=ACEs%20are%20traumatic%20events%20that,%2C%20incarceration%2C%20and%20domestic%20violence.>

Herkimer County Department of Social Services

Herkimer County Healthy Families Home Visiting Program

Herkimer County Runaway and Homeless Youth Program

New York State Office of Children and Family Services Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Development Bureau of Research, Evaluation and Performance Analytics. (2021). 2021 monitoring and analysis profiles with selected trend data: 2017–2021. <https://ocfs.ny.gov/reports/maps/counties/Herkimer.pdf>



Bench along the canal, Little Falls

Family Housing

Why this is important

Across the country, the nature of homelessness has changed. Thirty years ago, homelessness was mostly comprised of single adults. Now, families and children make up a larger and larger share of the homeless. Homelessness causes serious disruptions in the lives of the children, families, and adults and triggers a heavy cost on society.

Poverty and the lack of affordable housing are major factors in homelessness. Similar to national trends across the country, Herkimer County has experienced job losses, underemployment and an increase of low-wage jobs while the cost of living and housing costs have increased. Other underlying factors, both nationally and locally, are domestic violence, substance abuse, and mental illness.

There is little difference in the causes of homelessness between urban and rural populations. What is different in rural areas is the limited availability and access to resources such as shelters, transitional, or supported housing. Due to remoteness, the lack of transportation options and fewer services, it is generally harder for people in rural areas facing housing insecurity to find the help that may solve their housing issues or related factors. Generally speaking, in rural areas there are fewer homeless using shelters and fewer on the streets. Rural homeless tend to find shelter in cars, tents, campers or barns, and more tend to rely on extended families or a network of friends that they can double-up with in housing. Some, particularly young people, will couch-surf, moving from the house of one friend or acquaintance to another. Also, compared to the urban population, more rural households tend to live in substandard housing. (Rural Homeless, N. C. (2009), Rural Homelessness, <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/rural.html>.)

Why this is important

Unhoused Adults

The best local source of data on adults appears to be the monthly number of homeless adults referred by the Herkimer County Department of Social Services (HCDSS) Intake Office to the Protective Services for Adults Unit. There is also the annual account of emergency payments HCDSS spends each fiscal year for emergency shelter both for adults and for families. In addition, the Herkimer County Office for Aging keeps records on calls for housing assistance.

Figure 74 shows the monthly count of homeless single adults referred by the Intake Office to Protective Services for Adults from 2015 through 2021. Based on the trend line, the number of referrals increased from 187 in 2015 to 222 in 2017. The referrals began a downward trend to a low of 118 in 2019. While 2020 dipped to 109, there was a statewide moratorium on evictions

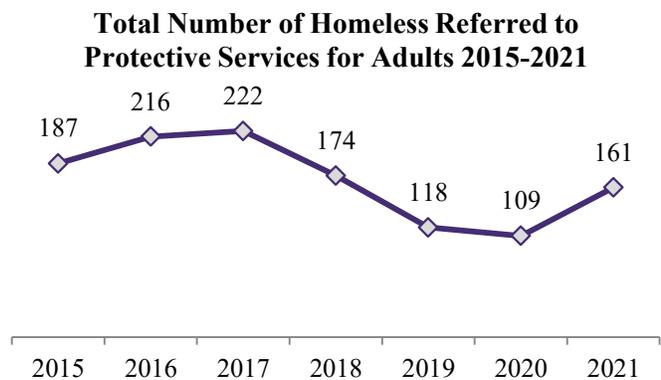


Figure 74 Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

Family Housing

due to the COVID-19 pandemic and these numbers likely reflect that. Although there was a clear jump in the number of referrals in 2021 to 161, this is likely the consequence of the expiration of the moratorium (1/15/21) and the inability for renters to make up their owed rents.

Table 106 illustrates the amount the HCDSS expends each fiscal year (September through August) from 2015 to 2021 on emergency payments to prevent adult homelessness. The combined stacked bars show the total amount expended annually and each section of the stacked bars breaks down the spending by the type of emergency aid, i.e. Shelter – Emergency Aid to Adults (EAA), Shelter – Emergency Safety Net (ESN), Hotel/Motel, Fore stall Eviction - EAA, Fore stall Eviction – ESN, Emergency Shelter and Domestic Violence (DV) Shelter.

**Amount of Emergency Aid Annually to Adults to Prevent Homelessness
by Type of Aid (2015-2021)**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Shelter - EAA	\$0	\$2,263	\$9,049	\$5,610	\$12,635	\$5,518	\$2,933
Shelter - ESN	\$9,470	\$24,449	\$4,030	\$41,864	\$21,030	\$23,088	\$10,301
Hotel/Motel	\$3,325	\$9,857	\$27,320	\$54,256	\$120,185	\$172,980	\$162,181
Fore stall Eviction - EAA	\$2,088	\$1,025	\$493	\$7,588	\$11,852	\$3,380	\$12,940
Fore stall Eviction - ESN	\$8,663	\$400	\$4,823	\$8,063	\$7,936	\$5,723	\$3,849
Emergency Shelter	\$1,975	\$27,132	\$42,610	\$41,954	\$35,429	\$18,230	\$6,956
DV Shelter	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,736	\$35,564	\$69,571
Overall Total	\$25,521	\$65,126	\$88,325	\$159,335	\$213,803	\$264,483	\$268,731

Table 106 Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

The most notable change over these six years is the jump in payments directed to DV Shelters. In 2019, Herkimer County began allotting an increasing amount of money to house victims of domestic violence.

Figure 75 illustrates the number of people that call the Herkimer County Office for Aging each year for housing assistance. This would include such things as needing an apartment, seeking Section 8 Housing, facing tax or mortgage foreclosure or fearing homelessness for some other reasons.

There has been a steady increase in calls to the Office for the Aging for housing assistance since 2016. In 2018 there was a significant increase in calls, and while the number decreased in 2019, it has begun to steadily increase again. This is a clear upward trend in the need for housing among senior residents in Herkimer County.

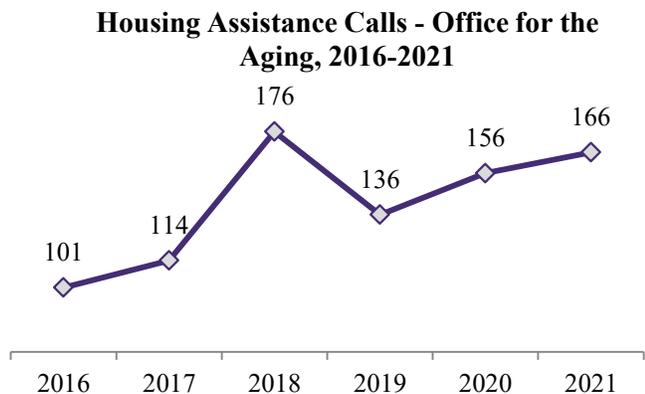


Figure 75 Source: Herkimer County Office for the Aging

Family Housing

Local Data on Homeless Families

The best local source of data on homeless families, just as with homeless adults, is the HCDSS Intake Office. For families, it is the number of cases they refer to the Preventive Services for Children Unit. Also, as with homeless adults, there are the same two other sources: the Point-In-Time Survey that HCDSS submits to the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) Bureau of Shelter Services and the annual account of HCDSS payments for emergency shelter for families.

Figure 76 shows the monthly count of families the DSS Intake Office refers to the Preventive Services Unit for the years 2015 through 2021, due to housing insecurity or homelessness, the trend line suggests that the number of referrals has been steadily decreasing.

Total Number Monthly of Homeless Families Referred to Preventive Services 2015–2021

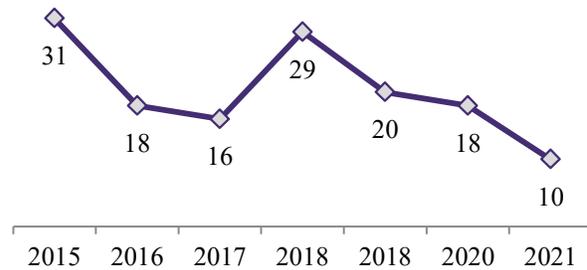


Figure 76 Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

Looking at the amount of emergency payments to prevent family homelessness from 2016 to 2021, as seen in Table 107, there has been variability in the overall totals. The highest overall amount was in 2019, with \$12,741 of aid given. The next highest year was 2021, with \$8,922 of aid given.

Totaling the expenditures over these six years by type of shelter assistance, the largest expenditures were for emergency shelter—\$12,050; next largest was for emergency allowance for Hotel/Motel stays —\$9,785.

Amount of Emergency Aid Annually to Families to Prevent Homelessness by Type of Aid (2016 - 2021)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total Amount
Shelter	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Private Rent	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Hotel/Motel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,835	\$2,470	\$2,480	\$9,785
Forefall Eviction	\$725	\$0	\$0	\$5,177	\$1,775	\$1,265	\$8,942
Emergency Shelter	\$2,350	\$0	\$1,094	\$2,729	\$700	\$5,177	\$12,050
Overall Total	\$3,075	\$0	\$1,094	\$12,741	\$4,945	\$8,922	

Table 107 Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

Runaway and Homeless Youth

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Program of Herkimer County provides short-term crisis services for young people under the age of 21 who are at risk of running away, have run

Family Housing

away, have been thrown out of their home or are homeless. They also provide a hotline for crisis calls and support a network of three Runaway and Homeless Youth host homes.

Since 2011, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program reports program data to the Herkimer County Results Based Accountability Program. Data reported includes the number of youths they help place by the type of placement, i.e. shelter, emergency hotel or host home.

As can be seen in Figure 77, the program consistently has youth in placement. The Director of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program has noted that finding beds can often be a challenge. They have just three host homes with a total of five beds. These beds tend to be utilized more by younger youth, first because the host homes shy away from older teens and second because older teens often are less interested in structured, supervised settings. The host home model for Herkimer County requires youth to follow household rules and refrain from disclosing the location of the home or leaving the residence to be with friends. Because of these rules, there are potentially older youth who do not reach out to the program because they will not agree to follow the rules.

There are no shelters located in Herkimer County. For older youth, over age 18, who need a shelter placement, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program can refer them to shelters in Utica, such as the Rescue Mission, Emmaus House, or the Johnson Park Center, and to the shelter in Rome, the Rome Rescue Mission.

For youth under age 18, if they cannot be placed in the host home, then they might be referred to a runaway and homeless youth shelter somewhere across New York State – the closest being the Booth House in Syracuse.

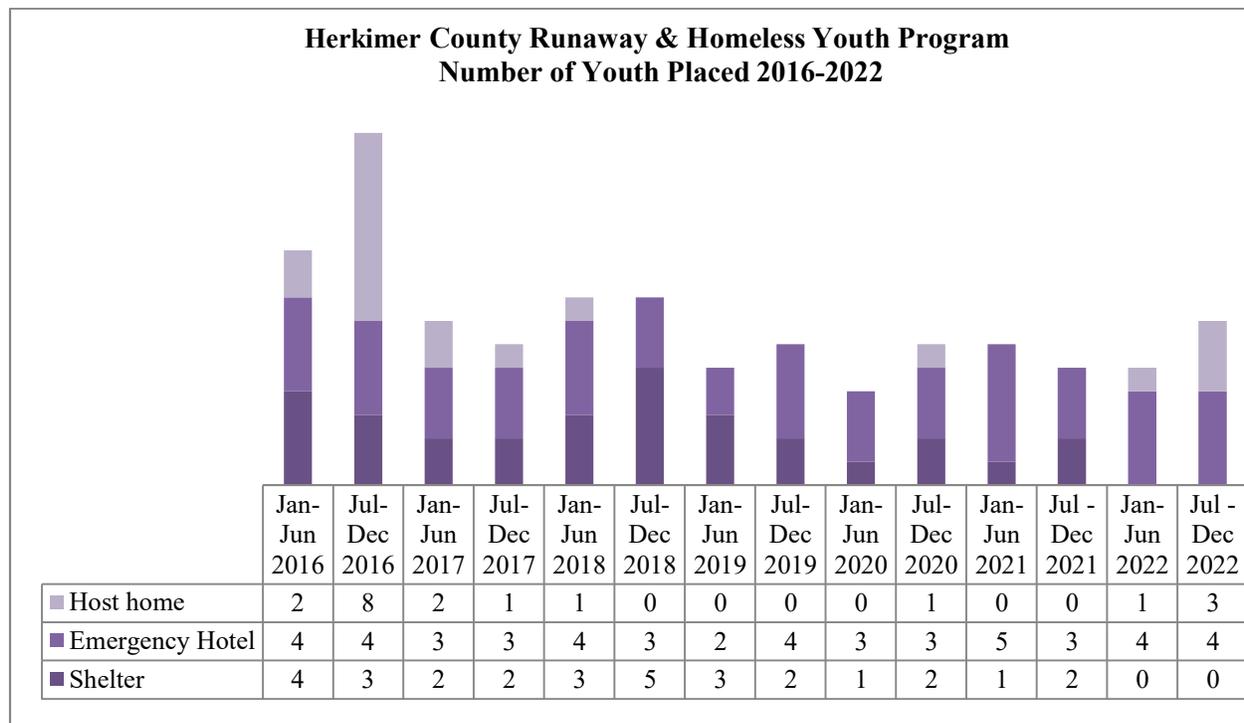


Figure 77 Source: Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Data

Valley Housing Coalition

The Valley Housing Coalition (VHC) offers financial assistance, advocacy and case management services to help individuals and families so they can quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. The VHC met throughout 2018 to decide if the county was going to create their own Continuum of Care (CoC), join an existing CoC, or join the Balance of State with Fulton, Schoharie, Montgomery, and Putnam counties. In August 2018, a board was formed, and in December 2018, a decision was made to join the Balance of State, which allowed the counties to tap into potential HUD funding. The VHC meets on a monthly basis, even during COVID-related complications and social distancing.

Catholic Charities received a grant for \$212,000 to use for rapid re-housing purposes. The core components of a rapid re-housing program are housing identification, move-in and rental assistance, rapid re-housing case management and services to meet short-term housing needs that lead to permanent housing.

Catholic Charities began serving homeless individuals through the NYS OTDA funded CoC-Rapid Rehousing Program and served over 20 individuals and families in the first few months. Funds were used for rental assistance and case management services. In 2020, they served 28 households under this program.

In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, NY State put a moratorium on evictions. To help tenants get back on track when the moratorium was lifted, NY State put into place the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). ERAP provides significant economic relief to help low and moderate-income households at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability by providing rental arrears, temporary rental assistance and utility arrears assistance. Households approved for ERAP were eligible for;

- Up to 12 months of rental arrears payments for rents accrued on or after March 13, 2020
- Up to 3 months of additional rental assistance if the household is expected to spend 30 percent or more of their gross monthly income to pay for rent
- Up to 12 months of electric or gas utility arrears payments for balances that accrued on or after March 13, 2020

Catholic Charities and Herkimer County assisted 149 tenants with ERAP services. ERAP services were extended through June 30, 2022

The Landlord Rental Assistance Program (LRAP) was developed to provide rental assistance to landlords whose tenants were unwilling or unable to apply for ERAP services, including for those tenants who had already vacated the property. Landlords must have documentation of unpaid rents beginning March 1, 2020. Unlike ERAP, LRAP only covers rental arrears payments. No future rental assistance is offered. Catholic Charities and Herkimer County provided 19 landlords with LRAP services.

The Valley Housing Coalition is a part of Herkimer County's Coordinated Entry team. Coordinated Entry (CE) is an important part of gauging the need of the individual or family who presents at DSS for housing services. The CE committee meets at the end of the Valley Housing Plenary each month as a collaborative effort to streamline services to individuals presenting as homeless. CE uses the Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) tool to gather information and to assess the needs of the individual. The tool ensures

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that the communication between DSS and Catholic Charities is comprehensive and allows for quicker access to needed services.

This tool allows the committee to collaborate and determine (by score) the most in need of safe housing and also to share what would be the best fit by agency. The CE meeting members consist of Catholic Charities housing, DSS, UCP, VA, and Veterans Outreach.

Point-in-Time Counts

Point-in-time Counts, or PIT Counts, are a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. Every CoC is required to conduct annual counts of people experiencing homelessness and those sheltered in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or Safe Havens (HUD Exchange, n.d.). Every odd year, each CoC is required to conduct a count of unsheltered individuals. Figure 78 illustrates the number of individuals receiving assistance to avoid homelessness at the time of each PIT Count from 2019-2022. Since Herkimer County joined the Balance of State CoC, we have not had any unsheltered individuals. Table 108 illustrates the PIT counts by program type in Herkimer County beginning in 2019, the first PIT count conducted with the Balance of State Continuum of Care.

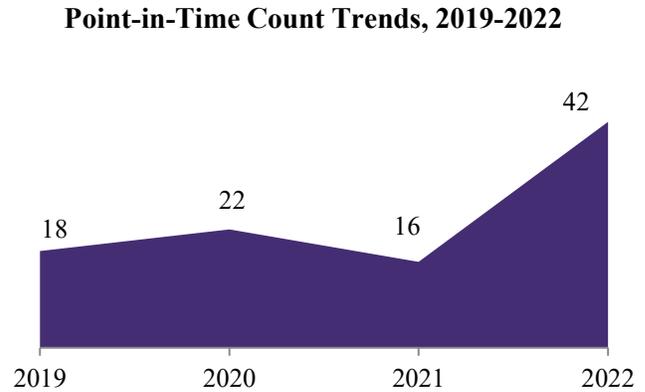


Figure 78
Source: NYS BoS CoC 2022 Point-in-Time Count Report

As illustrated in the Table 108 below, there were no unsheltered individuals on any of the designated PIT count nights. The total number of individuals counted has increased by 33% since 2019. This is an alarming trend, placing burdens on both individuals and the systems serving them.

Point-in-Time Counts by Program, 2019-2022

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Catholic Charities DV Shelter	4	2	0	5
Herkimer DSS Hotel Vouchers	14	20	15	37
Catholic Charities RHY Host Homes	0	0	1	0
Unsheltered	0	0	0	0
Total	18	22	16	42

Table 108 Source: NYS DoS CoC 2022 Point-in-Time Count Report

Family Housing

The rate of increase in the need for emergency shelter services means that there is greater need for all safety net services such as SNAP benefits and Medicaid.

Figures 79 through 83 illustrate the demographics of the PIT Counts in 2022. In total there were 42 individuals, receiving services to avoid homelessness, on the night the PIT Counts were conducted. Adults aged 24 and older (27) account for 64% of the utilization. Children less than 18 years of age (11) make up 26%, and young adults ages 18-24 (4) make up 10% (Figure 78).

Of the 42 individuals, there were 21 households, and 5 of the households had at least one adult and one child (Figure 79).

2022 Point in Time by Age Groups

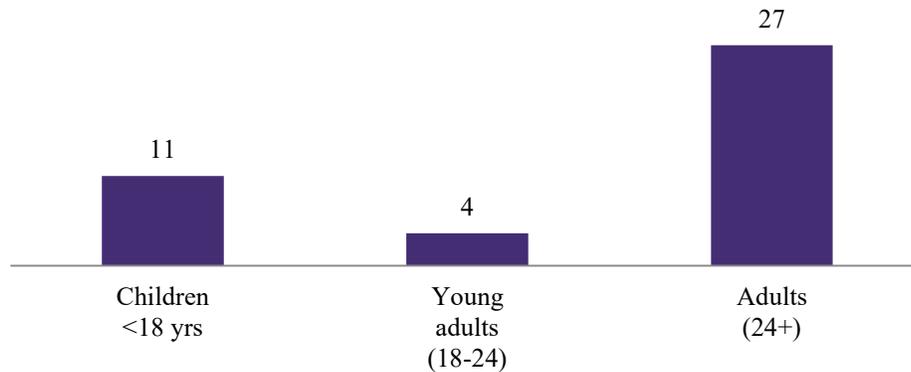


Figure 79 Source: NYS BoS CoC 2022 Point-in-Time Count Report

2022 Point-in-Time Counts by Household Type

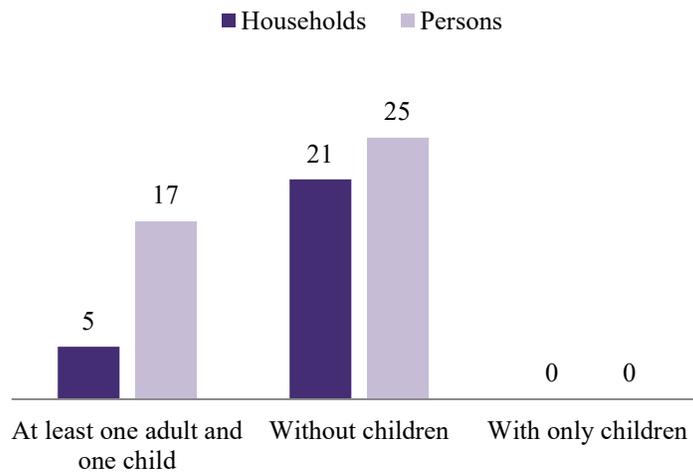


Figure 80 Source: NYS BoS CoC 2022 Point-in-Time Count Report

Family Housing

Males account for the majority of individuals in emergency shelter, with 67% of individuals sheltered being male, and 33% being female (Figure 81).

Emergency shelter utilization demonstrates a disproportionate rate for Black or African American individuals and individuals who identify as two or more races. Black or African American individuals make up 10% of the PIT Counts (Figure 82), but only make up 1.6% of the county population. Similarly, individuals who are two or more races make up 21% of the PIT Counts, but only 1.7% of the county's population, and 12% of the PIT Counts are Hispanic/Latino (Figure 83), but make up only 2.6% of the county population (US Census QuickFacts, 2021).

Point-in-Time Counts by Sex, 2022

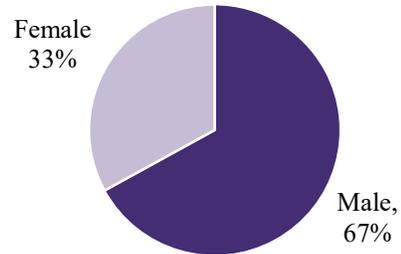


Figure 81
Source: NYS BoS CoC 2022 Point-in-Time Count Report

Point-in-Time Counts by Race, 2022

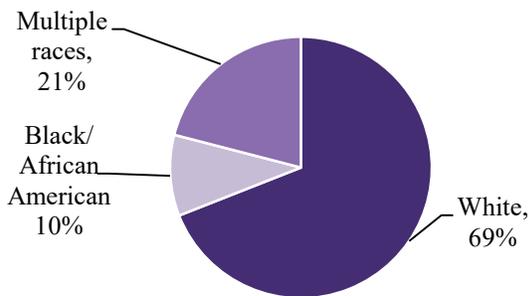


Figure 82
Source: NYS BoS CoC 2022 Point-in-Time Count Report

Point-in-Time Counts by Ethnicity, 2022

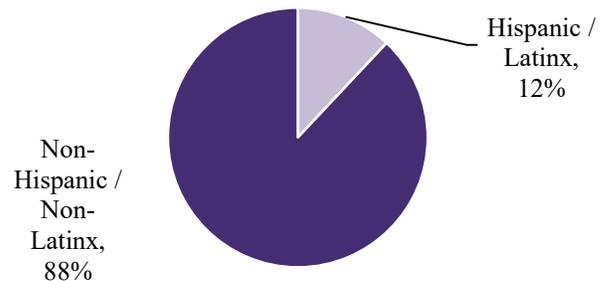


Figure 83
Source: NYS BoS CoC 2022 Point-in-Time Count Report

PIT Counts also look at subpopulations such as adult victims of domestic violence, adults with serious mental illness, or adults with a substance use disorder. Table 109 on the next page illustrates the breakdown of utilization by subpopulation. As noted, there were no unsheltered individuals reported on the PIT Counts in 2022. Herkimer County did not report any homeless veterans in 2022.

Family Housing

Point-in-Time Counts by Subpopulation and Shelter Type

	Emergency shelter	Unsheltered	Total
Adults with serious mental illness	10	0	10
Adults with a substance use disorder	10	0	10
Adults with HIV/AIDS	0	0	0
Adult victims of domestic violence	2	0	2
Chronically homeless (adults and children)	8	0	8
Veterans	0	0	0
Unaccompanied youth (aged 24 or younger)	2	0	2
Parenting youth (number of households)	1	0	1
Parenting youth (number of people)	4	0	4

Table 109 Source: NYS DoS CoC 2022 Point-in-Time Count Report



Family Housing

Data Sources

Catholic Charities Runaway and Homeless Youth Program

Catholic Charities Valley Housing Coalition

Herkimer County Department of Social Services

Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program

HUD Exchange. (n.d.). Point-in-Time Count and Housing Inventory Count. Retrieved August 26, 2022, from <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/pit-hic/>

NYS Balance of State Continuum of Care. (2022). 2022 Point-in-time count report. NYS Office of Temporary Disability Administration. Retrieved August 26, 2022, from <https://otda.ny.gov/resources/continuum-of-care/documents/NYS-BoS-CoC-PIT-Report-by-County-2022.pdf>

New York State Technical & Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students. Data on Student Homelessness. (2022). Retrieved 12 August 2022, from <https://www.nysteachs.org/data-on-student-homelessness>

QuickFacts Herkimer County, New York. (2022). Retrieved 30 August 2022, from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/herkimercountynewyork>

Rural Homeless, N. C. (2009), Rural Homelessness, <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/rural.html>

Family

Family Conflict

Why this is important

Persistent and serious conflict between primary caregivers or between caregivers and children increases risks for children. Conflict between family members appears to be more important than family structure, and children raised in families high in conflict appear to be at high risk. These conflicts are considered an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE).

Adverse Childhood Experiences are defined as, “traumatic events that occur before a child reaches the age of 18. ACEs include all types of abuse and neglect, such as parental substance use, incarceration, and domestic violence. ACEs can also include situations that may cause trauma for a child, such as having a parent with a mental illness or being part of a family going through a divorce” (Child Welfare Information Gateway, n.d.). Studies have shown that the more ACEs an adult experienced as a child, the greater the negative health and well-being outcomes experienced across the life span. These negative outcomes include disease, disability and social problems (i.e. depression, heart disease, poor work and academic performance, financial stress), the adoption of health risk behaviors (i.e. alcohol/substance abuse, smoking), and early death.

Where we stand

Child Protective Services (CPS)

One indicator of family conflict is the number of child abuse and neglect reports. The State Central Registry (SCR) is the NYS central hotline to report suspicions of child abuse or neglect. Table 110 on the following page compares the number, rates and outcomes of CPS reports received in 2021 in Herkimer County with comparable counties in New York State. Comparable counties include: Cayuga, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Madison, Montgomery, Ontario, Sullivan, Tompkins, Warren, Washington, and Wayne.

The rate of reports received in Herkimer County (the number of reports received during the calendar year for every 1,000 children in the district) was slightly higher than the rate for comparable counties in 2015, but was lower than comparable counties in 2021. The percentage of reports received from mandated reporters (individuals who are trained and required to report incidences of suspected abuse/neglect) increased from 2015 to 2021, but still remains slightly lower than comparable counties.

Herkimer County, when compared with comparable counties, had a lower indication rate (a case is “indicated” when an investigation into the allegation yields evidence supporting a risk of abuse/neglect) in 2015 (18%), but increased to comparable levels (25.5%) in 2021.

The percentages of reports that were registered in calendar year 2015 and had no determination by March 2016 were similar for both Herkimer County and comparable counties in 2015. However, this percentage increased significantly in 2021 to 45% in Herkimer County and 9.8% in comparable counties. This is likely due to the challenges created by COVID lockdowns and restrictions that created significant barriers for caseworkers. COVID-related staffing absences and shortages also delayed report findings.

Family

Family Conflict

Child Protective Services Statistics: Herkimer County and Comparable Counties 2015 and 2021

	Herkimer County 2015		Comparable Counties 2015	Herkimer County 2021		Comparable Counties 2021
	#	Rate per 1,000	Rate per 1,000	#	Rate per 1,000	Rate per 1,000
Initial Reports Received	802	56.9	54.9	706	56.9	68.9
	#	%	%	#	%	%
Reports by Mandated Reporter	454	56.6%	61.7%	442	62.6%	67.3%
Of Reports Determined:						
Reports Indicated	142	18.00%	30.70%	99	25.5%	25.4%
Reports Unfounded	646	82.00%	69.30%	289	74.5%	74.6%
Of Reports Registered:						
Not Determined	14	1.7%	1.9%	318	45.0%	9.8%

Table 110 Source: 2021 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles with Selected Trend Data 2017-2021

Figure 84 illustrates the total number of Child Protective Services (CPS) reports received in Herkimer County from 2016 to 2021, including both initial reports received and subsequent/secondary reports. A subsequent report is when a report is received on a family that already has an open CPS investigation. A secondary report is a report that the county does not

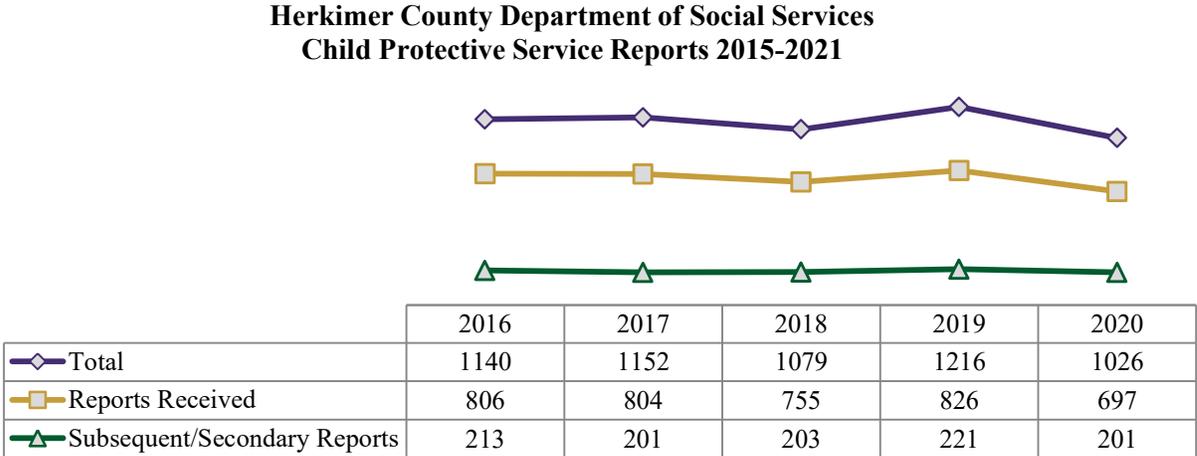


Figure 84 Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

Family

Family Conflict

have primary investigative or determination responsibility but is involved because someone named in the report is in the county at the time the report was made. The total number of reports received in Herkimer County has decreased by 10% between 2016 and 2021.

Figure 85 illustrates the types of Child Protective Services Reports received in Herkimer County from 2016 to 2021 on all initial, secondary and subsequent reports. The majority of CPS reports received involve neglect; these reports have increased by 45% between 2016 and 2021. CPS reports of sexual abuse trended upward from 2016 to 2021, representing 12% of all CPS reports received in 2021, and increase of 193% since 2016. The number of physical abuse reports has consistently been much lower than sexual abuse or neglect reports. As the Figure shows, they are generally in the single digits and have decreased since 2017.

**Herkimer County Department of Social Services
Child Protective Services Report Types 2016-2021**

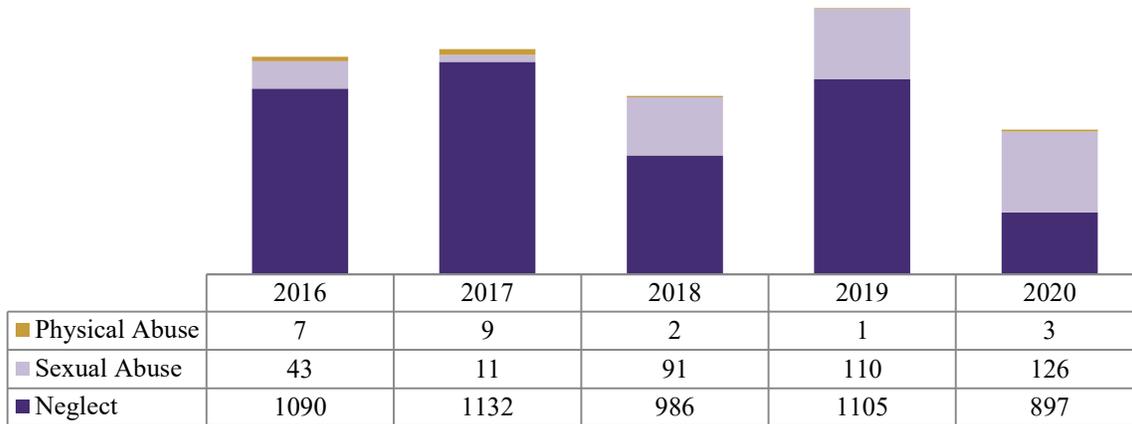


Figure 85 Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

Table 111 includes the number and rate (per 1,000 children) of Herkimer County Child Protective Services initial reports received from 2016-2021 (does not include secondary and subsequent reports). As the table illustrates, the rate of initial reports received during this time period has decreased from 61.0 per 1,000 children to 56.9 per 1,000 children. These numbers do not include secondary/subsequent reports.

**Herkimer County Child Protective Services
Reports Received* 2016-2021**

	Total	Annual Rate per 1,000	Percent Change In Rate
2016	806	61.0	not avail
2017	804	61.2	0.3
2018	755	57.7	-5.7
2019	826	63.3	9.7
2020	697	55.6	-12.1
2021	706	56.9	2.3

Table 111 Source: 2021 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles with Selected Trend Data 2017-2021

Family

Family Conflict

Reports Determined

Figure 86 illustrates the determinations made for all initial CPS reports received by Herkimer County from 2016 to 2021. A CPS report is either found to be indicated (valid), unfounded, or, in the case of year end data, still an open investigation and not yet determined. As the Figure shows, the number of indicated reports has declined during this time period.

Child Protective Services Report Determinations 2016 - 2021

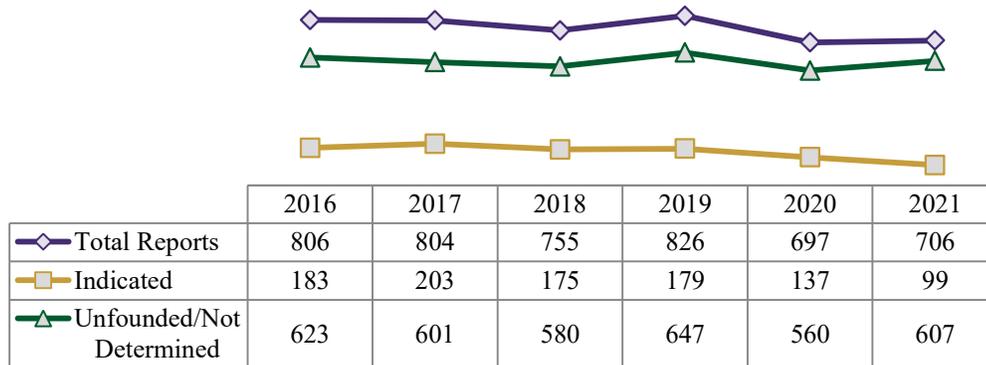


Figure 86

Source: 2021 Monitoring and Analysis profiles with Selected Trend Data 2017 - 2021

Table 112, on the following page, includes the number and rate (per 1,000 children) of Herkimer County Child Protective Services initial reports that were found to be indicated (valid) from 2016-2021 (does not include secondary and subsequent reports). As the table illustrates, the indication rate during this time period has increased from 22.7 per 1,000 children to 25.5 per 1,000 children.

Herkimer County Child Protective Services Reports Indicated 2016–2021

	Total	Annual Rate per 1,000	Percent Change in rate
2016	183	22.7	Not available
2017	203	25.2	11.2
2018	175	23.2	-8.2
2019	179	21.7	-6.5
2020	137	22.0	1.5
2021	99	25.5	16.0

Table 112 Source: 2021 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles with Selected Trend Data 2017-2021s and 2016-2020s

Family

Family Conflict

Court Filings

Figure 87 illustrates the number of abuse/neglect petitions filed by the Department of Social Services in Family Court.

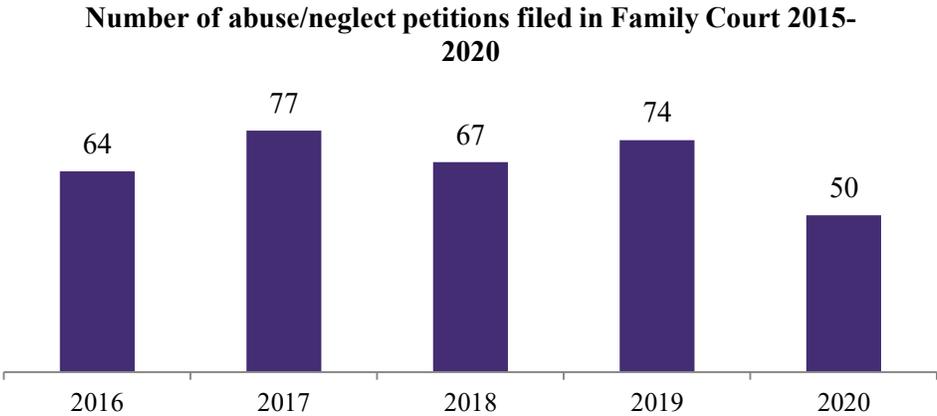


Figure 87
Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

Placements

Figure 88 illustrates the number of Herkimer County children placed in foster care due to concern for their safety from 2016 to 2020. This number mildly fluctuated, with a high of 57 placements in Foster Care recorded in 2019. Overall, placements have declined sharply in 2020.

Figure 88 also illustrates the number of children from 2016 to 2020 that were taken out of the home of their parent or primary caregiver and placed with a relative due to concern for that child’s safety. Placing the child with a relative ensures a safe living arrangement while diverting these children from foster care placement.

**Herkimer County Department of Social Services
Children placed due to Protective Removals 2016-2020**

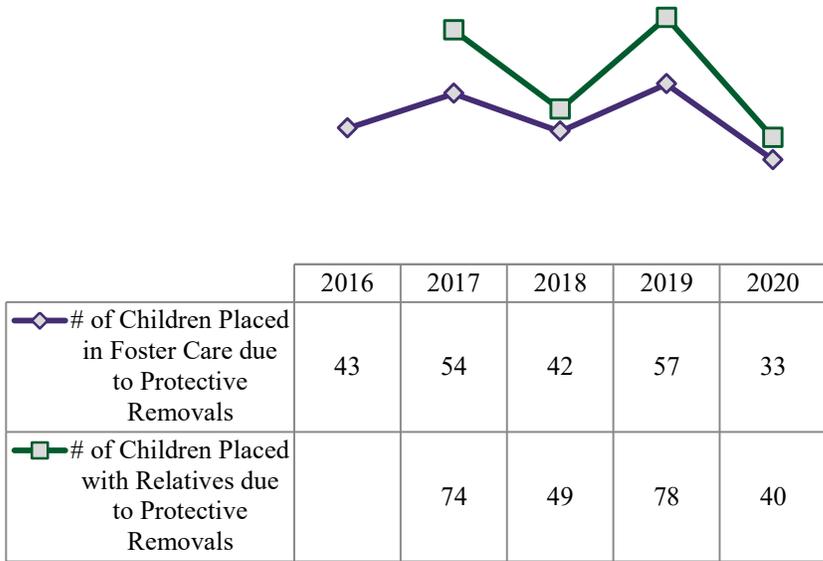


Figure 88 Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

Family

Family Conflict

The number of relative placements has fluctuated between 2016 and 2020. Relative placements reached a high of 78 children in 2019, and surpassed foster care placements in two of the five years measured (2016 and 2020).

Recurrence of Maltreatment

A national performance measure for child welfare services, as well as a measure for family conflict, is the rate of “Recurrence of Maltreatment”. Using rules provided by the Federal Children’s Bureau, New York State measures the number of children with at least one indicated report of maltreatment in a 12-month period who had another indicated report of maltreatment within 12 months of the initial report. A lower percentage is better for this measure.

Table 113 compares the percentage of children in Herkimer County with those in New York State and the United States who have had at least one indicated report of maltreatment in a 12-month period and another indicated report of maltreatment within 12 months of the initial report.

As the table illustrates, Herkimer County’s percentage of children that had a second indicated report of maltreatment within 12 months was higher than both the NY State and national averages for all three waves of reporting.

Recurrence of maltreatment
Percent of children with one indicated report and another within 12 months

	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8
National Average	7.2%	7.5%	6.8%
NYS Total	9.7%	10.2%	9.6%
Herkimer County	23.1%	20.7%	16.7%

Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8
4/1/2016 - 3/31/2017	4/1/2017 - 3/31/2018	4/1/2018 - 3/31/2019

Table 113 Source: Office of Children and Family Services -Bureau of Research, Evaluation and Performance Analytics

Domestic Violence

Figure 89 illustrates the number of domestic violence arrests by category in Herkimer County for the years 2015 to 2021. Total domestic violence arrests have fluctuated but decreased overall by 47.5% from 2015 to 2021. The downward trend began in 2018 and steadily decreased. All arrest types demonstrated this decrease. Violation of an Order of Protection showed the most decreased by trending downward by 75% from 2015 to 2021. Aggravated Assaults were the next highest with a 50% decrease followed by Simple Assaults (46%). Sexual offenses demonstrated the least improvement, however still declined by 30%.

Family

Family Conflict

Herkimer County Domestic Violence Arrests 2015-2021

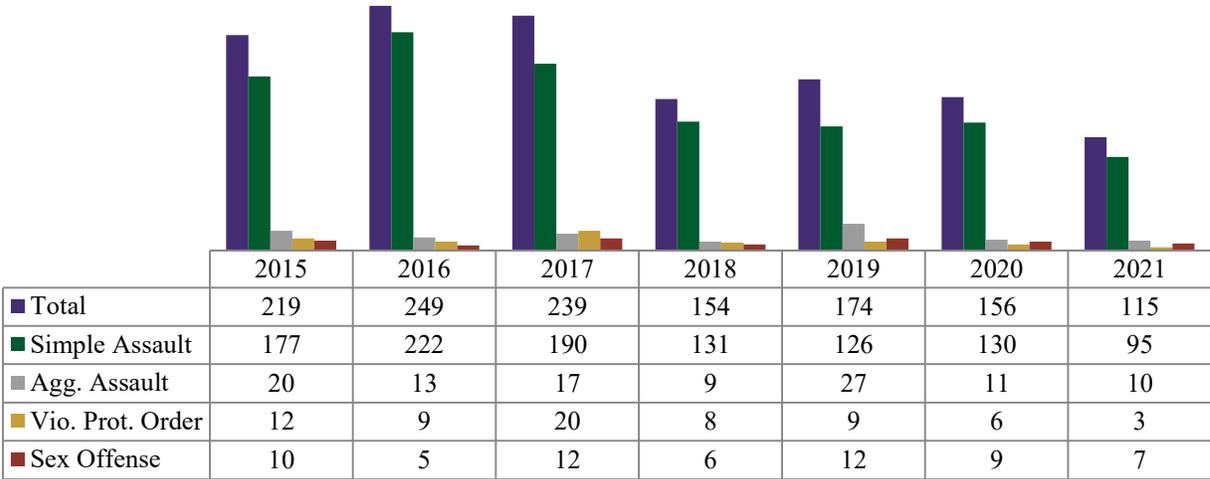


Figure 89
 Source: DCJS, Uniform Crime Reporting System

Figure 90 displays the number of domestic violence arrests by police department from 2016 - 2021. The majority of the arrests come from population dense areas of the county including Ilion, Herkimer, and Little Falls.

Herkimer County Domestic Violence Arrests by Police Department 2016-2021

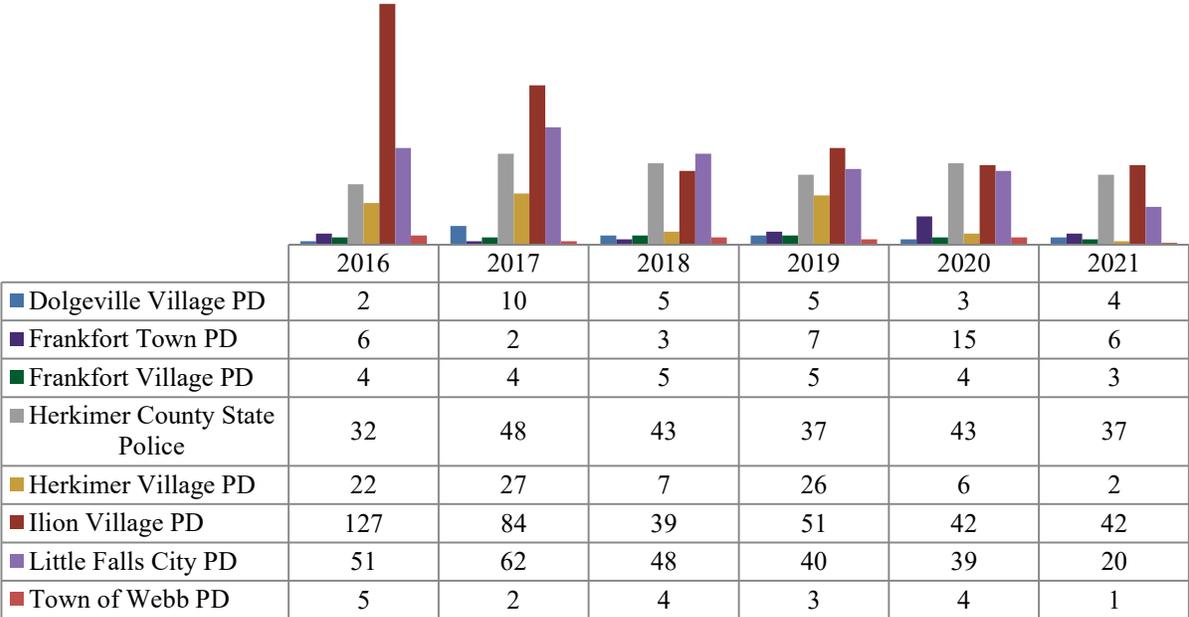


Figure 90 Source: DCJS, Uniform Crime Reporting System

Family

Family Conflict

Table 114 displays the annual statistics for the Herkimer County Domestic Violence Program at Catholic Charities for 2015 to 2021. COVID restrictions created an anomalous year for all human service agencies, and Domestic Violence was no exception. When looking at only 2015 to 2019, there was an overall decrease in the utilization of domestic violence services (DV). Overall, calls to the DV hotline decreased by 12%, adult victims of DV receiving services decreased by 30%, child victims/witnesses of DV receiving services decreased by 49%, children sheltered in safe houses decreased by 72%, and assistance with emergency orders of protections and/or custody decreased by 34%. However, reports made by the Domestic Violence Program staff to the NYS Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline increased by 250%.

Domestic Violence Program Annual Statistics 2015–2020

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Calls to the Domestic Violence 24-hr. Hotline	1307	1305	1053	1059	1154	681
Adult victims of domestic violence receiving services	461	441	444	367	323	268
Child victims/witnesses of domestic violence receiving services	63	54	48	34	32	17
Children sheltered in the Safe House	36	21	29	12	10	10
Assistance with emergency orders of protection and/or custody	249	234	116	101	164	64
Reports made by Domestic Violence Program staff to the NYS Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline	2	11	3	5	7	0

Table 114 Source: Herkimer County Domestic Violence Program

The domestic violence program director reports that there continues to be a consistent demand for program services, and that there continues to be a need for the offender to be held accountable legally for their actions. Accessing mental health services and finding affordable housing options when relocating remains a problem area.

COVID-19 pandemic certainly took its toll on providing services. If we learned anything from this – it is that we are capable and able to adjust and respond appropriately to assist victims with what they needed. The learning curve for being prepared for this new uncharted pandemic

Family

Family Conflict

had been fast and ever changing. Safety remained paramount in providing services to victim/survivors. Staff working remotely adjusted to providing supportive counseling over the phone instead of in-person. Staying aware of ever-changing resources available to clients and connecting them to those resources, since most service providers were also working remotely. Even with all the precautions taken and modification to accessibility, we did see a decline in both residential and non-residential services.



Canal Place, Little Falls

Family

Family Conflict

Data Resources

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) - Child Welfare Information Gateway. (n.d.). Child Welfare Information Gateway. Retrieved August 9, 2022, from

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/overview/framework/aces/#:%7E:text=ACEs%20are%20traumatic%20events%20that,%2C%20incarceration%2C%20and%20domestic%20violence.>

Herkimer County Department of Social Services

Herkimer County Healthy Families Home Visiting Program

Herkimer County Runaway and Homeless Youth Program

New York State Office of Children and Family Services Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Development Bureau of Research, Evaluation and Performance Analytics. (2021). 2021 monitoring and analysis profiles with selected trend data: 2017–2021.

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/reports/maps/counties/New%20York%20State.pdf>



Bike Trail, German Flatts

Family

Parental Attitudes and Family Norms

Why this is important

Parental attitudes and behaviors influence their children's attitudes and behaviors. Early adolescence is a critical period when parental involvement in behavior management and positive habits is crucial to the prevention of delinquent behaviors (Kapetanovic, Boele, and Skoog, 2019). Research on the exact links between parental attitudes, family routines, and delinquency are mixed, but one common theme is clearly supported; families who have open and continuous communication have adolescents who engage in fewer delinquent behaviors (Kapetanovic, Boele, and Skoog, 2019). Research also supports that parental support and involvement has positive effects on academic performance, physical activity, and other healthy habits (Moral-García, Urchaga-Litago, Ramos-Morcillo, and Maneiro, 2020).

Where we stand

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Persistent and serious conflict between primary caregivers or between caregivers and children increases risks for children. Conflict between family members appears to be more important than family structure, and children raised in families high in conflict appear to be at high risk. These conflicts are considered an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs).

Adverse Childhood Experiences are defined as, “traumatic events that occur before a child reaches the age of 18. ACEs include all types of abuse and neglect, such as parental substance use, incarceration, and domestic violence. ACEs can also include situations that may cause trauma for a child, such as having a parent with a mental illness or being part of a family going through a divorce” (Child Welfare Information Gateway, n.d.). Studies have shown that the more ACEs an adult experienced as a child, the greater the negative health and well-being outcomes experienced across the life span. These negative outcomes include disease, disability and social problems (i.e. depression, heart disease, poor work and academic performance, financial stress), the adoption of health risk behaviors (i.e. alcohol/substance abuse, smoking), and early death.

Figure 91 illustrates the number of Herkimer County Youth in grades 9 through 12 who report two or more and four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences.

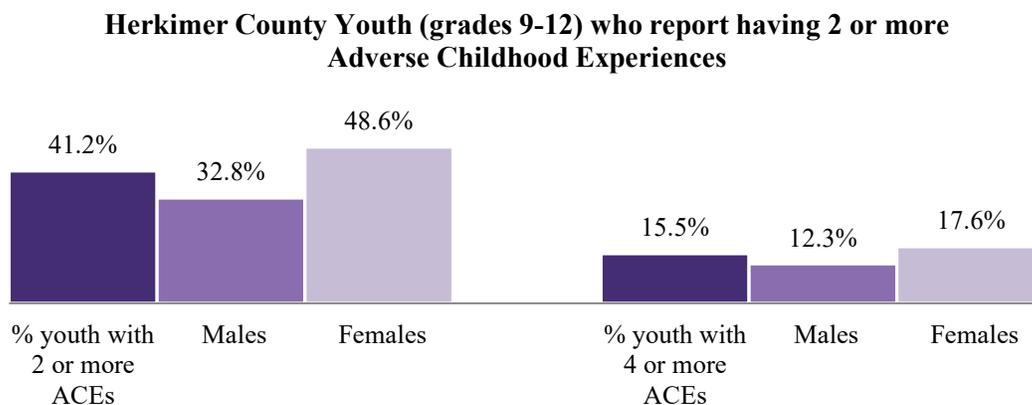


Figure 91 Source: 2020 – 2021 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Family

Parental Attitudes and Family Norms

A large percentage of Herkimer County youth (41.2%) report two or more ACEs. Female youth were more likely to report two or more ACEs than males, 48.6% and 32.8% respectively. A smaller percentage of youth reported 4 or more ACEs (15.5%). Female youth were slightly more likely (17.6%) than their male counterparts (12.3%) to report 4 or more ACEs.

Substance Use

Research on peer pressure indicates that younger teens' perceptions of risk or harm are heavily influenced by the views (or perceived views) of older teens. One thing to note about this research is that older teens were more heavily influenced by adult perceptions while younger adolescents were more heavily influenced by older teens. This is an important nuance. If the adult exposure does not perceive risk, the older teens will not perceive risk; subsequently the younger teens will not perceive risk. This demonstrates a very important synergy between prevention efforts, parental influence, and youth perceptions.

Figure 92 examines youth responses to questions about how they believe their parents feel about tobacco use, vaping, alcohol, marijuana, and prescription medications. Recreational use of marijuana was fully legalized in 2021. It is too soon to tell if this has any bearing on youth or parental perceptions about marijuana use. Alcohol use was the least likely to be reported as wrong or very wrong (67.3%).

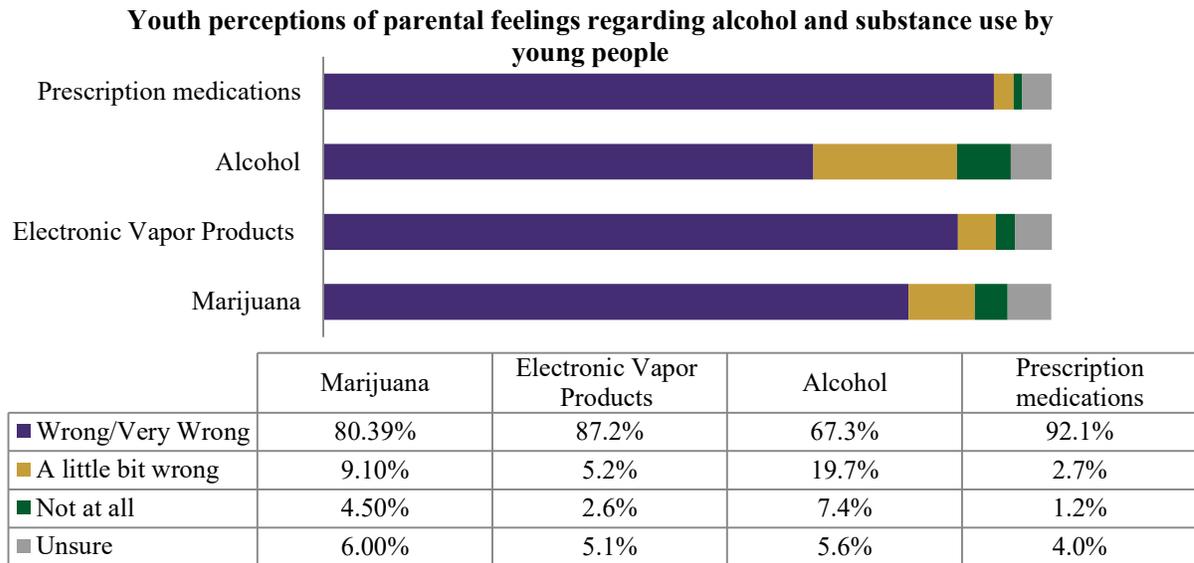


Figure 92 Source: 2021-2022 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey

Family

Parental Attitudes and Family Norms

Social-Emotional Norms

A youth's sense of well-being and security at home are other aspects of development. Having one's primary needs such as shelter and food met is a predictor of a youth's ability to manage their own feelings and reactions as well as being able to empathize and relate to others.

Figure 93 illustrates the number of Herkimer County youth who went hungry due to lack of food in the 30 days before the survey. Nearly 15% (14.6%) of Herkimer County youth report going hungry.

Figure 94 illustrates how often youth ate dinner at home with at least one parent during the 7 days prior to the survey. The majority (45.7%) of youth ate dinner at home with at least one parent on all 7 days prior to the survey.

Went hungry due to a lack of food at home (past 30 days)

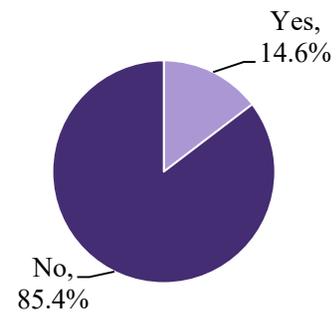


Figure 93
Source: 2021-2022 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey

Days spent eating dinner at home with at least one parent (past 7 days)

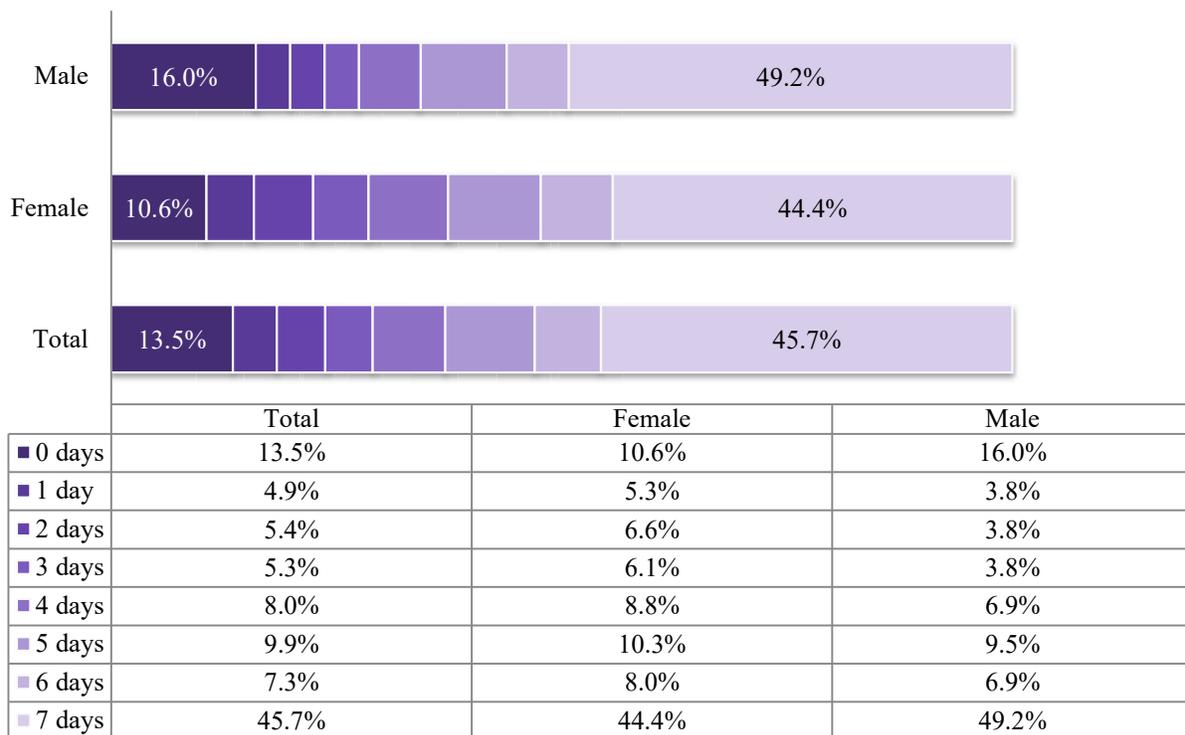


Figure 94 Source: 2021-2022 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey

Family

Parental Attitudes and Family Norms

Figure 95 illustrates the percentage of youth who report that their parents or guardians know where they are going when they go out or with whom they will be. The majority of youth (85.6%) report that their parents or guardians most of the time, or always, know where they are going and with whom they will be.

Figure 96 illustrates the percentage of youth who report there are clear rules and consequences in their home. Three quarters (76%) of youth reported having clear rules and consequences for their behavior.

Parents or guardians know where you are going or with whom you will be

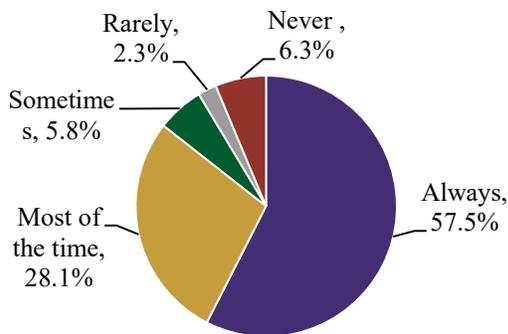


Figure 95
Source: 2021-2022 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey

Your home has clear rules and consequences for behavior

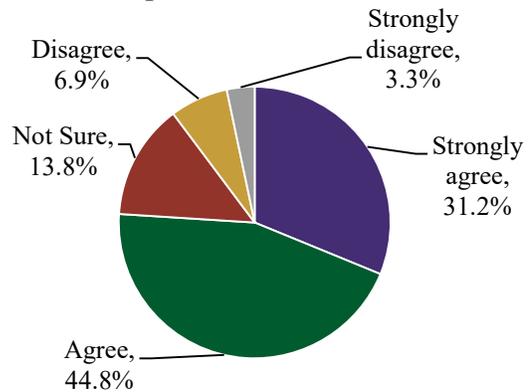


Figure 96
Source: 2021-2022 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey

Communicating about feelings within the family is very important to helping youth understand and manager their emotions. It also helps teach empathy and builds bonds between caregivers and youth (Pickhardt, 2017). Figure 97 on the next page demonstrates that 44.3% of Herkimer County youth have frequent conversations about their feelings with a trusted adult. Unfortunately, 33.2% reveal they rarely or never discuss their feelings with a trusted adult.

Family

Parental Attitudes and Family Norms

How often have you felt that you were able to talk to a caring adult about your feelings?

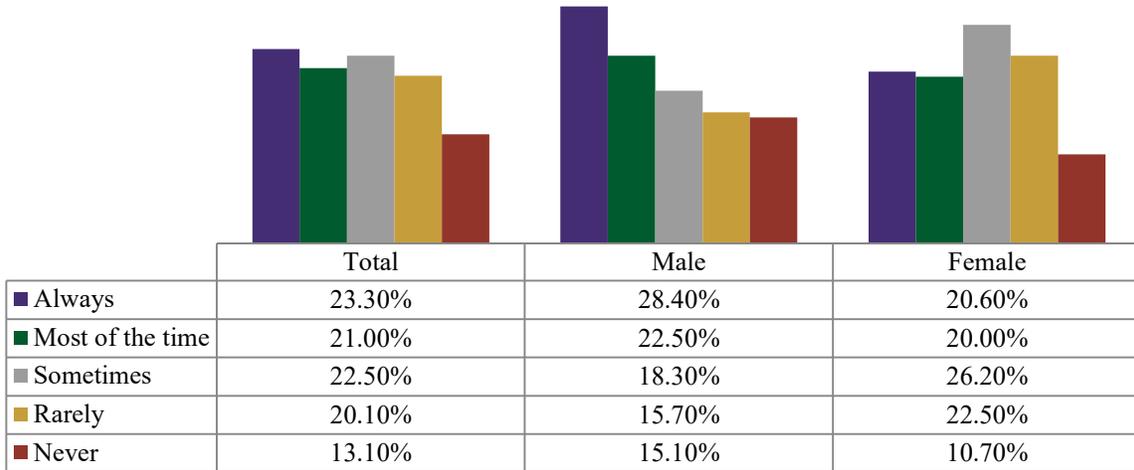


Figure 97 Source: 2021-2022 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey



McCauley Trail, Old Forge

Family

Parental Attitudes and Family Norms

Data Resources

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) - Child Welfare Information Gateway. (n.d.). Child Welfare Information Gateway. Retrieved August 9, 2022, from <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/overview/framework/aces/#:%7E:text=ACEs%20are%20traumatic%20events%20that,%2C%20incarceration%2C%20and%20domestic%20violence>.

Herkimer County System of Care. (2022). Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey. Retrieved from <https://www.herkimercounty.org/services-and-departments/youth-bureau.php>

Kapetanovic, S., Boele, S., & Skoog, T. (2019). Parent-Adolescent Communication and Adolescent Delinquency: Unraveling Within-Family Processes from Between-Family Differences. *Journal of youth and adolescence*, 48(9), 1707–1723. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-019-01043-w>

Moral-García, J. E., Urchaga-Litago, J. D., Ramos-Morcillo, A. J., & Maneiro, R. (2020). Relationship of Parental Support on Healthy Habits, School Motivations and Academic Performance in Adolescents. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 17(3), 882. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17030882>

Pickhardt, C. (2017). Communicating About Emotion Between Parent and Adolescent. Retrieved 14 September 2022, from <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/surviving-your-childs-adolescence/201705/communicating-about-emotion-between-parent-and>

Economic Security

Income & Employment

Why this is important

Employment and household income can be used as indicators for individual and family well-being. If individuals are unemployed or are not earning a high enough wage to support themselves and their dependents, they may either live without basic necessities or depend on some form of public assistance to meet needs. This can have a negative impact on families, put a strain on community resources and be a detriment to the economic growth of a region.

Where we stand

Table 115 illustrates the median household income in Herkimer County, New York State and the United States for 2000 (U.S. Census), 2010 and 2020 (ACS 5-year estimates). Household income is defined as the total income received by all household members over age 15 and may include earnings from employment, Social Security benefits, pensions and other income sources. During this time period, the median household income in Herkimer County has consistently been lower than the median household income reported in New York State and the United States.

Median Household Income: Herkimer County, New York State, and the United States

	Herkimer County			New York State			United States		
	2000	2010	2020	2000	2010	2020	2000	2010	2020
Median Income	\$45,303	\$45,998	\$58,438	\$59,282	\$60,438	\$71,117	\$57,604	\$56,428	\$64,994
<\$10,000	11.40%	7.70%	4.30%	11.50%	8.10%	6.40%	9.50%	7.20%	5.80%
<\$25,000	38.30%	28.30%	20.20%	29.50%	23.40%	19.10%	28.70%	23.50%	18.40%
<\$100,000	96.30%	89.50%	77.40%	84.70%	75.00%	64.20%	87.70%	79.00%	69.00%
\$100,000+	3.70%	10.50%	22.50%	15.30%	25.00%	35.90%	12.30%	21.00%	31.00%

Table 115 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census SF3; 2010 and 2020 5-Year ACS Estimates

Note: Households Incomes Inflation Adjusted to 2020 Dollars

Tables 116a and 116b, on the following two pages, display the per capita income, median family income and median household income for all New York State counties in 2020.

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Income & Employment

2020 Per Capita Income, Median Family Income and Median Household Income New York State Counties (Ni-Y)

Population Rank	County	Per Capita Income	Median Family Income	Median Household Income	Population	Number of Households
49	Albany	\$38,592	\$95,923	\$68,327	306,165	288,751
11	Allegany	\$26,030	\$65,372	\$51,227	46,304	41,506
58	Bronx	\$22,749	\$49,624	\$41,895	1,427,056	1,381,186
44	Broome	\$29,721	\$69,596	\$52,237	192,042	182,048
28	Cattaraugus	\$26,797	\$62,587	\$50,700	76,750	74,137
29	Cayuga	\$30,996	\$73,590	\$57,985	76,958	72,597
40	Chautauqua	\$27,061	\$62,366	\$48,315	127,584	122,022
31	Chemung	\$29,959	\$70,617	\$54,883	84,115	79,502
13	Chenango	\$28,780	\$65,537	\$51,756	47,527	46,848
30	Clinton	\$29,960	\$73,838	\$59,510	80,320	72,584
21	Columbia	\$40,475	\$84,096	\$68,750	60,016	57,564
14	Cortland	\$28,407	\$71,430	\$59,194	47,618	44,149
10	Delaware	\$28,139	\$65,755	\$49,945	44,676	42,398
48	Dutchess	\$42,309	\$103,200	\$81,842	293,524	275,363
55	Erie	\$35,050	\$80,437	\$59,464	918,873	891,659
7	Essex	\$33,906	\$66,262	\$58,109	37,281	34,554
17	Franklin	\$26,886	\$65,693	\$52,905	50,389	44,810
18	Fulton	\$29,984	\$63,988	\$51,663	53,452	52,292
19	Genesee	\$30,846	\$76,818	\$60,635	57,554	56,775
12	Greene	\$30,970	\$76,110	\$56,681	47,335	44,046
1	Hamilton	\$28,758	\$74,306	\$60,625	4,454	4,319
23	Herkimer	\$29,540	\$75,594	\$58,438	61,738	25,093
38	Jefferson	\$28,120	\$66,711	\$54,726	111,454	104,958
62	Kings	\$36,295	\$71,985	\$63,973	2,576,771	2,535,280
4	Lewis	\$27,770	\$65,238	\$56,192	26,456	26,116
24	Livingston	\$30,523	\$75,384	\$60,248	63,218	57,172
26	Madison	\$32,443	\$78,812	\$61,176	70,990	65,803
54	Monroe	\$35,339	\$82,439	\$62,087	743,084	715,993
16	Montgomery	\$27,346	\$63,989	\$50,146	49,294	482,422
57	Nassau	\$53,363	\$139,459	\$120,036	1,355,683	1,336,372
60	New York	\$78,771	\$114,659	\$89,812	1,629,153	1,568,296

Table 116a Source: 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

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Income & Employment

2020 Per Capita Income, Median Family Income and Median Household Income New York State Counties (Ni-Y)

Population Rank	County	Per Capita Income	Median Family Income	Median Household Income	Population	Number of Households
45	Niagara	\$31,762	\$75,900	\$57,252	210,145	206,333
46	Oneida	\$30,678	\$74,796	\$59,113	229,074	216,847
52	Onondaga	\$34,600	\$82,368	\$62,668	461,591	442,072
37	Ontario	\$37,044	\$83,153	\$64,795	109,774	106,133
51	Orange	\$35,616	\$97,542	\$80,816	381,077	371,662
9	Orleans	\$26,894	\$64,898	\$52,958	40,624	37,615
39	Oswego	\$30,026	\$71,285	\$59,070	117,630	112,880
20	Otsego	\$30,223	\$71,686	\$56,171	59,593	54,087
34	Putnam	\$47,533	\$122,394	\$107,246	98,714	96,268
61	Queens	\$33,626	\$81,193	\$72,028	2,270,976	2,242,880
42	Rensselaer	\$37,011	\$91,355	\$72,510	159,013	153,201
53	Richmond	\$38,096	\$102,502	\$85,381	475,596	468,890
50	Rockland	\$39,923	\$112,034	\$94,840	325,213	318,942
47	Saratoga	\$45,624	\$106,258	\$85,224	229,313	225,678
41	Schenectady	\$33,379	\$86,124	\$66,488	155,086	150,403
5	Schoharie	\$32,352	\$71,211	\$58,926	31,189	29,843
2	Schuyler	\$28,844	\$69,650	\$53,291	17,845	17,633
6	Seneca	\$28,703	\$70,915	\$54,865	34,295	31,199
36	St. Lawrence	\$26,676	\$66,843	\$52,071	108,352	96,822
33	Steuben	\$30,844	\$68,744	\$55,349	95,843	94,114
59	Suffolk	\$46,466	\$123,117	\$105,362	1,481,364	1,454,492
27	Sullivan	\$32,346	\$72,302	\$60,433	75,329	71,696
15	Tioga	\$32,298	\$75,656	\$61,965	48,431	47,897
35	Tompkins	\$34,194	\$87,977	\$61,361	102,237	88,810
43	Ulster	\$35,816	\$87,034	\$65,306	178,371	166,738
25	Warren	\$38,740	\$86,250	\$64,658	64,187	63,281
22	Washington	\$29,014	\$69,659	\$59,613	61,304	58,054
32	Wayne	\$32,513	\$76,002	\$62,003	90,103	88,486
56	Westchester	\$57,953	\$126,992	\$99,489	968,738	943,450
8	Wyoming	\$29,734	\$71,579	\$58,746	40,027	37,607
3	Yates	\$28,001	\$70,455	\$55,307	24,981	23,729

Table 116b Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

Table 117 displays the median household, family and per capita incomes in Herkimer County municipalities in 2000, 2015, and 2020.

**Herkimer County Municipalities
Median Household, Family and Per Capita Income**

City	Median Household Income			Median Family Income			Per Capita Income		
	2000	2015	2020	2000	2015	2020	2000	2015	2020
Little Falls	\$32,985	\$38,897	\$43,665	\$47,600	\$51,796	\$60,913	\$20,837	\$21,652	\$25,956
Towns									
Columbia	\$50,594	\$55,667	\$64,310	\$60,374	\$65,481	\$67,500	\$21,459	\$24,329	\$31,859
Danube	\$43,790	\$52,120	\$72,768	\$44,733	\$67,589	\$80,000	\$18,681	\$24,080	\$24,326
Fairfield	\$55,199	\$58,173	\$64,766	\$62,033	\$66,983	\$80,000	\$21,476	\$28,937	\$29,585
Frankfort	\$52,852	\$50,047	\$59,484	\$60,003	\$63,345	\$71,422	\$23,012	\$24,407	\$32,172
German Flatts	\$45,107	\$42,421	\$62,732	\$54,203	\$55,573	\$76,373	\$20,467	\$23,003	\$27,788
Herkimer	\$39,589	\$44,349	\$54,324	\$58,216	\$53,589	\$88,030	\$23,689	\$22,302	\$31,036
Litchfield	\$58,365	\$60,677	\$64,107	\$67,100	\$72,734	\$71,333	\$22,616	\$31,593	\$25,975
Little Falls	\$53,508	\$58,487	\$74,050	\$59,726	\$59,539	\$89,728	\$28,055	\$25,573	\$36,733
Manheim	\$43,701	\$41,958	\$46,027	\$53,724	\$50,592	\$68,661	\$21,236	\$19,915	\$25,095
Newport	\$51,340	\$54,044	\$54,583	\$58,185	\$63,864	\$77,941	\$23,459	\$24,120	\$28,944
Norway	\$50,540	\$54,375	\$61,607	\$56,777	\$58,750	\$76,974	\$21,191	\$25,459	\$28,084
Ohio	\$41,035	\$35,833	\$56,094	\$50,468	\$43,594	\$68,438	\$18,775	\$19,358	\$29,482
Russia	\$48,983	\$45,671	\$68,984	\$56,222	\$60,795	\$77,031	\$24,174	\$25,106	\$34,557
Salisbury	\$44,690	\$45,740	\$56,406	\$50,079	\$48,750	\$67,426	\$17,400	\$18,606	\$22,171
Schuyler	\$48,690	\$47,083	\$58,672	\$58,497	\$61,838	\$83,519	\$25,057	\$24,639	\$33,291
Stark	\$43,381	\$52,000	\$63,333	\$47,548	\$54,375	\$75,179	\$19,446	\$23,574	\$30,139
Warren	\$50,305	\$48,750	\$62,917	\$53,842	\$54,712	\$62,917	\$19,049	\$19,678	\$24,321
Webb	\$48,919	\$64,000	\$88,750	\$59,895	\$86,643	\$92,623	\$27,404	\$40,359	\$43,079
Winfield	\$48,983	\$61,667	\$48,750	\$58,966	\$67,262	\$55,729	\$23,136	\$25,460	\$27,742

Table 117 Source: U.S. Census, 2000 SF3 and 2015, 2020 Five Year ACS Estimates

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Table 118 displays the income levels of all Herkimer County households by type of household and income level in 2020. The mean income of all Herkimer County households according to ACS estimates in 2020 was \$71,313. Non-family households earned the lowest in 2020, with a mean income of \$44,815. Families in Herkimer County had a mean income of \$84,767 and of those, married couple families had the highest mean income recorded at \$95,166.

Herkimer County Income Levels by Household Type 2020

	Herkimer County			
	Households	Families	Married-couple Families	Nonfamily Households
Total Number	25,093	15,791	12,043	9,302
Income				
Less than \$10,000	4.30%	2.70%	0.90%	9.60%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	5.00%	2.20%	1.10%	10.00%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	10.90%	7.00%	3.50%	19.30%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	9.80%	7.40%	5.70%	13.10%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	14.40%	14.10%	12.40%	15.70%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	16.60%	15.90%	17.50%	16.10%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	16.40%	19.70%	22.10%	9.90%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	14.60%	20.20%	23.10%	3.90%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	5.40%	7.70%	9.70%	1.00%
\$200,000 or more	2.50%	3.10%	3.90%	1.50%
Median Income	\$58,438	\$75,594	\$83,722	\$32,590
Mean Income	\$71,313	\$84,767	\$95,166	\$44,815

Table 118 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 5-Year ACS Estimates

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Income & Employment

Income Growth

According to the Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Programs (HOCCPP), income increases are only beneficial if they outpace the rising costs of living. By only matching the rising costs of living, a family is only able to maintain a level of fiscal consistency and cannot provide an increase in the ability to save for major purchases or prepare for unexpected expenses. Growth of income, in terms of real purchasing power, probably provides a more accurate picture of the financial health of families.

Table 119 illustrates the real income growth in Herkimer County families by quintile between 1960 and 2020. As the table illustrates, from 1960 to 1980 income levels provided true real income growth for all families within Herkimer County. While those families in the middle and upper middle groups (3rd and 4th quintiles) saw real income growth in excess of 50%, each quintile saw their purchasing power grow. The group experiencing the least growth was, in fact, those making the most money—those families in the top quintile. They experienced real income growth of about 28%.

The period 1980–2000 saw a shift in real income growth. Families in the top quintile were the only ones to see an increase in real income in excess of what they experienced from 1960 to 1980. The top quintile experienced a growth of 40.6% from 1980–2000 compared to the 28.1% experienced during the previous twenty years. Compare this to the growth of the bottom two quintiles of 0.3% for Herkimer County’s poorest families and 8% for the 2nd quintile. From 2000 to 2014 the bottom quintiles saw decreases in their purchasing power. Total growth for this time frame was minimal all around with the 4th quintile seeing the largest growth at 6%. From 2014 to 2020, the bottom quintile saw the most growth at 2.26%, and both the 2nd and the top quintiles lost purchasing power.

Real Income Growth by Herkimer County Families 1960–2020

	Bottom Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	Top Quintile
1960–1980	31.9%	39.6%	52.1%	59.2%	28.1%
1980–2000	0.3%	8.0%	17.0%	28.7%	40.6%
2000–2014	-15.0%	-0.7%	3.3%	6.0%	3.2%
2014-2020	2.26%	-0.82%	1.79%	0.16%	-0.70%

Table 119 Source: HOCCPP/U.S. Census Bureau, 1960–2000 Censuses, 2014, 2020 U.S. Census 5 Year Estimates

Unemployment Rates

Unemployed persons are all persons who had no employment during the month, were available for work except for temporary illness, and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period. Persons who were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not have been looking for work to be classified as unemployed.

The unemployment rate for all civilian workers represents the number of unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force. The unemployment rate is by residence. For example, the unemployment rate for Herkimer County is the percentage of Herkimer County residents that are

Economic Security

Income & Employment

unemployed out of the number of Herkimer County residents in the labor force. It doesn't matter where the residents work, but only where they reside.

For information and data regarding unemployment in Herkimer County, please refer to pages 42 and 43 in the Community section.

Average Annual Wages and Types of Industries

Unlike the unemployment rate, "Average Annual Wages of Public and Private Industry Employees Covered by the New York State Unemployment Insurance", as displayed in Table 120 on the following page, is by place of work instead of by place of residence. For example, private sector employees who worked in Herkimer County in 2021, had an average annual wage of \$45,070. This is an important statistic because it shows the average wage of public and private sector jobs in the county. Of the comparable-sized counties, Herkimer had the lowest average annual wage each year from 2014 - 2021. Herkimer County's growth rate over the period was 29.66%, with only Washington and Madison counties showing lower growth rates.

For data related to types of employment and industry changes, please refer to page 45 in the Community section.

**Average Annual Wages of Public & Private Industry Employees
Covered by NYS Unemployment Insurance New York State & Selected Counties
2014-2021**

County	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Columbia	\$38,216	\$39,746	\$40,423	\$40,807	\$40,992	\$42,298	\$45,988	\$49,396
Genesee	\$37,032	\$38,544	\$38,825	\$40,030	\$41,232	\$42,692	\$47,195	\$49,498
Livingston	\$35,788	\$36,870	\$36,947	\$40,407	\$41,622	\$42,526	\$45,406	\$48,754
Madison	\$37,465	\$38,259	\$38,488	\$40,300	\$41,566	\$43,725	\$46,688	\$48,261
Otsego	\$38,495	\$40,050	\$40,902	\$42,204	\$43,354	\$44,582	\$49,733	\$52,966
Warren	\$38,727	\$39,565	\$40,930	\$42,566	\$44,072	\$45,665	\$49,700	\$51,575
Washington	\$41,995	\$42,883	\$42,357	\$42,938	\$43,790	\$45,787	\$49,154	\$53,975
Herkimer	\$34,760	\$36,268	\$36,239	\$37,465	\$38,722	\$40,034	\$42,909	\$45,070
Mohawk Valley	\$38,385	\$39,392	\$39,961	\$41,231	\$42,504	\$43,983	\$47,826	\$50,904
New York State	\$65,903	\$67,527	\$67,945	\$70,683	\$72,896	\$75,365	\$83,103	\$88,035

Table 120 Source: NYS Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

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Data Resources

Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program.

New York State Department of Labor, Research and Statistics Division and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. Retrieved from <https://dol.ny.gov/quarterly-census-employment-and-wages>

U.S. Census Bureau, 1960-2010 Census, 2015 and 2020 5-Year ACS Estimates retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/table?g=050XX00US36043>

US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Retrieved from www.bls.gov



Lock 17 – Little Falls

Economic Security

Poverty (Extreme Economic Deprivation)

Why this is important

Poverty impacts homes, schools, neighborhoods and communities. It is linked with negative conditions such as substandard housing, homelessness, food insecurity, inadequate child care, lack of access to health care, unsafe neighborhoods, and under-resourced schools.

The American Psychological Association reports that living in poverty has a wide range of negative effects on the physical and emotional health of adults and children alike. Children living in poverty are at greater risk of developing behavioral, emotional, academic, and health related problems. Families exposed to chronic stress may experience depression, marital distress and exhibit harsher parenting behaviors. Unsafe neighborhoods may expose children and adults to violence which places them at greater risk of trauma, injury, and entry into the justice system.

Where we stand

In January or February of each year the federal government releases Federal Poverty Income Guidelines, an official income level for poverty often referred to as the Federal Poverty Level. Table 121 (right) displays the federal poverty levels established for one person and a family of four from 2015 to 2021. The benefit levels of many low-income assistance programs are based on this poverty guideline.

Table 122 (below) displays the percentage of Herkimer County children, adults and seniors living in poverty from 2010 to 2020. According to the estimates, the percentage of children living below the poverty threshold has increased during this timeframe, while the percentage of seniors in poverty has decreased. The percentage of adults (age 18-64) in poverty declined between 2010 and 2020.

As of 2020, 20.7% of children under the age of 18, 13.3% of adults (18-64) and 7.4% of seniors in Herkimer County are currently estimated to live below the Federal Poverty Level.

Federal Poverty Levels 2015 - 2021

Year	Single Person	Four Person Family
2015	\$12,082	\$24,257
2016	\$12,228	\$24,563
2017	\$12,488	\$25,094
2018	\$12,784	\$25,701
2019	\$13,011	\$26,172
2020	\$13,171	\$26,496
2021	\$12,880	\$26,500

Table 121 Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

**Percent of Herkimer County Persons Living Below Poverty
2010, 2015, 2020**

	2010	2015	2020
Children (<18)	18.2%	22.2%	20.7%
Adults (18-64)	11.4%	13.8%	13.3%
Seniors (65+)	10.4%	8.3%	7.4%

Table 122 Source: 2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Economic Security

Poverty (Extreme Economic Deprivation)

Figure 98 below illustrates the percentage of families with children in the home that were living in poverty in Herkimer County from 2000 to 2020. According to figure, the percentage of families with children present living in poverty has increased during this timeframe. Among male-headed single-parent families (with no female present), one in five (20.4%) are currently estimated to live in poverty. Among female-headed single-parent families (no male present) the rate has almost doubled from 2000 to 2015, climbing to 43.1%, but has decreased to nearly 2000 levels by 2020. The rate of married couples with children has also increased between 2000 and 2020.

Among Those in Each Group in Poverty, Percent With Children Present, 2000 - 2020

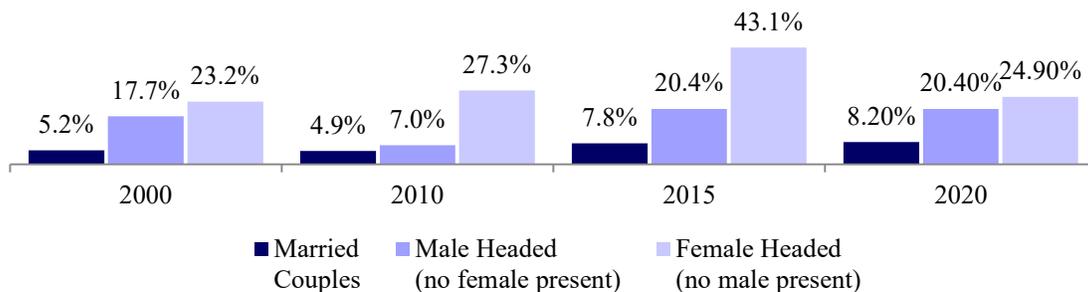


Figure 98 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000–2010 Censuses, 2015 & 2020 Five Year ACS Estimates

The majority of single females in poverty in Herkimer County have children present in the home that are below the age of 18. Figure 99 below illustrates the percentage of Herkimer County females in poverty with children present between 1970 and 2015.

In 1970, about 7 out of 10 of single females (71%) in poverty had children under the age of 18 present. The percentage of single females in poverty with children present in the home increased steadily over the next three decades, reaching a high of 91% in 2000. The percentage then declined slightly to four out of five single females (81%) in 2015. By 2020, that percentage had decreased to nearly three out of four (78%).

Herkimer County Single Women in Poverty, Percent with Children Present 1970–2020

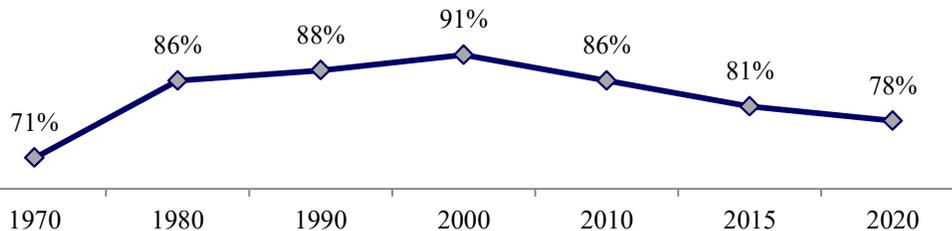


Figure 99 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000–2010 Censuses, 2015 & 2020 Five Year ACS Estimates

The percentage of those in poverty in Herkimer County varies by age and geographic location, as reflected in Table 123. Percentages for residents in each municipality vary from 0.0% to 50%. For families with children below the age of 18, percentages in poverty ranged from 0.0% to 39.6% (20.2% for Herkimer County). For families with children below age five, percentages in poverty ranged from 0.00% to as high as 50%. The percentage of those age 65 and above in poverty varied from 1.8% to 22%.

Poverty by Age Group in Herkimer County Municipalities—2020

	Poverty			Population in Poverty Age <5		Population in Poverty Age <18		Population in Poverty Age >64	
	Population in Poverty	Total Persons in Poverty	As % of All	# in Poverty	As % of All those < 5	# in Poverty	As % of Age <18	# in Poverty	As % of All those >64
Herkimer County	60,700	8,261	13.6%	946	30.4%	2,570	20.2%	909	7.1%
City									
Little Falls	4593	1163	25.3%	114	50.0%	443	39.6%	25	3.2%
Towns									
Columbia	1445	161	11.1%	14	20.0%	57	23.2%	19	6.8%
Danube	921	98	10.6%	4	4.2%	24	10.8%	26	15.0%
Fairfield	1709	125	7.3%	0	0.0%	41	6.9%	12	4.5%
Frankfort	7256	689	9.5%	427	36.8%	295	19.9%	28	1.8%
German Flatts	12,299	1,824	14.8%	88	13.5%	494	16.7%	275	12.2%
Herkimer	9078	1,115	12.3%	49	48.5%	181	16.3%	181	8%
Litchfield	1474	121	8.1%	24	20.7%	31	18.7%	25	9.4%
Little Falls	1798	75	4.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	31	11.6%
Manheim	3180	472	14.8%	39	22.9%	165	25.30%	26	3.6%
Newport	1977	290	14.7%	10	10.3%	116	25.9%	20	4.9%
Norway	868	90	10.4%	6	16.2%	28	23.0%	9	7.4%
Ohio	1061	128	12.1%	9	27.3%	54	30.9%	10	4.5%
Russia	2490	393	15.8%	45	17.7%	137	26.0%	21	4.7%
Salisbury	2275	361	15.9%	28	25.5%	214	32.6%	19	5.9%
Schuyler	3330	331	9.9%	29	30.9%	99	20.5%	77	10.5%
Stark	646	76	11.8%	20	41.7%	22	18%	16	10.4%
Warren	1191	263	22.1%	21	30.4%	21	11.0%	31	22.0%
Webb	1220	93	7.6%	0	0.0%	30	37.5%	14	2.7%
Winfield	1,889	393	20.8%	19	18.4%	118	29.9%	44	11.5%

Table 123 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey Five Year Estimate

Economic Security

Economic Assistance for Basic Needs

Low Income Households

Most researchers agree that income above the poverty level is sometimes not sufficient to support most working families. The Center for American Progress (CAP) states that the calculations used to develop Federal Poverty Guidelines have remained unchanged since the 1960's and have only changed due to inflation. They do not consider childcare, health care, housing, or transportation costs that have significantly changed since 1960. The CAP estimates that 43% of Americans cannot afford basic necessities and 40% would struggle to find \$400 in an emergency (CAP, 2020).

The United Way of New York State did research on these Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) households that have income above the Federal Poverty Level but not high enough to afford basic necessities that include housing, child care, food, transportation, and health care. They developed an ALICE Threshold that describes the average level of income that a household needs to afford the basics. The number of households in poverty combined with the number of ALICE households equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs.

The United Way of New York State concluded that, in 2018, 42% of all Herkimer County households were struggling to meet basic needs, above the 31% recorded for New York State. Fourteen percent of Herkimer County households were identified as being in poverty and 28% of Herkimer County households met ALICE Thresholds (AT), as illustrated in Figure 100 below.

Table 124 on the following page displays the percentage of households struggling to meet basic needs in each Herkimer County town and city. The percentages of households in each municipality that were at poverty level or met ALICE criteria ranged from 29% to 58%.

Struggling Households in Herkimer County, 2018

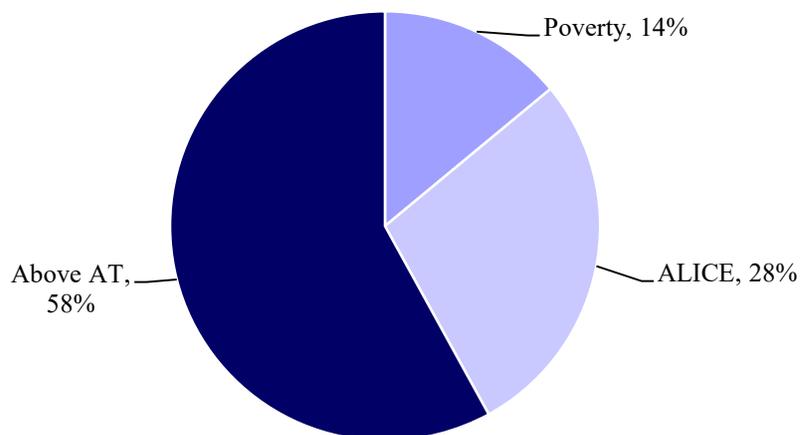


Figure 100 Source: United Way, 2018 ALICE Report

Economic Security

Economic Assistance for Basic Needs

Households Struggling to Meet Basic Needs Herkimer County Municipalities, 2021

Town of	Total Households	% Below ALICE Threshold
Columbia	547	35%
Danube	295	42%
Fairfield	507	29%
Frankfort	3,017	39%
German Flatts	4,960	40%
Herkimer	4,212	43%
Litchfield	480	35%
Little Falls, City of	1,743	55%
Little Falls	620	32%
Manheim	1,294	50%
Newport	776	38%
Norway	324	30%
Ohio	480	46%
Russia	918	24%
Salisbury	870	43%
Schuyler	1,384	47%
Stark	257	37%
Warren	351	39%
Webb	624	25%
Winfield	782	52%

Table 124 Source: United Way of New York State, 2023 ALICE Report

The United Way of New York State also created an Economic Viability Dashboard to evaluate three important economic conditions in each county in New York State. The ALICE Report scored Herkimer County as Good for Housing Affordability, Poor for Job Opportunities, and Poor for Community Resources.

The ALICE Report developed a Household Survival Budget which calculates the actual costs of basic necessities in different counties and household types. Table 125 on the next page displays the cost of these basic necessities and the household income required to afford these by household type in Herkimer County.

Economic Security

Economic Assistance for Basic Needs

Household Survival Budget, Herkimer County 2021

Monthly Costs and Credits	Single Adult	One Adult, One Child	One Adult, One In Child Care	Two Adults
Housing - Rent	\$433	\$386	\$386	\$386
Housing - Utilities	\$154	\$239	\$239	\$239
Child Care	\$0	\$352	\$938	\$0
Food	\$411	\$697	\$626	\$753
Transportation	\$358	\$456	\$456	\$535
Health Care	\$226	\$522	\$522	\$522
Technology	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$110
Miscellaneous	\$166	\$273	\$324	\$255
Tax Payments	\$268	\$500	\$647	\$346
Tax Credits	\$0	(\$614)	(\$932)	\$0
Monthly Total	\$2,091	\$2,886	\$3,281	\$3,146
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$25,092	\$34,632	\$39,372	\$37,752
Hourly Wage	\$12.55	\$17.32	\$19.69	\$18.88
	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults, Two In Child Care	Single Senior	Two Seniors
Housing - Rent	\$504	\$504	\$433	\$386
Housing - Utilities	\$292	\$292	\$154	\$239
Child Care	\$703	\$1,979	\$0	\$0
Food	\$1,228	\$1,120	\$379	\$695
Transportation	\$835	\$835	\$311	\$441
Health Care	\$784	\$784	\$535	\$1,070
Technology	\$110	\$110	\$75	\$110
Miscellaneous	\$446	\$562	\$189	\$294
Tax Payments	\$856	\$1,187	\$332	\$631
Tax Credits	(\$1,393)	(\$1,865)	\$0	\$0
Monthly Total	\$4,365	\$5,508	\$2,408	\$3,866
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$52,380	\$66,096	\$28,896	\$46,392
Hourly Wage	\$26.19	\$33.05	\$14.45	\$23.20

Table 125 Source: United Way of New York State, 2023 ALICE Report

Economic Security

Economic Assistance for Basic Needs

Data Resources

American Community Survey (2020). U.S. Census Bureau. Explore Census Data. Retrieved October 9, 2022, from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/all?q=Herkimer+County,+New+York>

American Psychological Association . (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/pi/families/poverty.asp>

Haider, A. and Schweitzer, J. A. (2020, March 5). The poverty line matters, but it isn't capturing everyone it should. Center for American Progress. Retrieved April 24, 2023, from <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/poverty-line-matters-isnt-capturing-everyone/>

Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program

United Way of New York Stat. (2020). 2018 ALICE Report NY State. Retrieved from <https://www.unitedforalice.org/state-overview-mobile/new-york>

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. (n.d.). retrieved from <https://aspe.hhs.gov/2021-poverty-guidelines>



Veteran's Park, Little Falls

Home of the Diamond Dawgs

Economic Security

Economic Assistance for Basic Needs

Why this is important

Unemployment and underemployment, disability and the rising costs of goods and services have left families, seniors and other vulnerable populations with fewer resources to provide for basic necessities such as food, shelter and utilities. The availability of financial assistance and support services are essential to helping these poor and low-income populations obtain the resources they need to make ends meet.

Where we stand

Home Energy Assistance program (HEAP)

In an effort to help income-eligible home owners and renters cope with the higher fuel bills of winter, New York State participates in the federally funded Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). If eligibility requirements are met, HEAP will make a lump-sum payment directly to the energy supplier on the clients' behalf. This payment is known as a grant and appears as a credit on their fuel account.

HEAP benefits are also authorized for emergencies such as impending fuel shut offs, furnace replacement or repair, and cooling assistance (added in 2013). HEAP may also be provided to income eligible renters that have their utilities included in their rent payment as a one-time direct payment.

Table 126 on the following page displays the number of households that utilized HEAP benefits and the amount of benefits authorized by category in Herkimer County from 2015 - 2021. HEAP benefits authorized in Herkimer County have increased steadily since 2015, but nearly doubled between 2020 and 2021.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Utilization: Herkimer County 2015-2021

		Non-Emergency	Emergency Benefits	Emergency Furnace Replacement	Furnace Repair	Totals
10/1/14–9/30/15	# of Households	7,120	2,234	13	7	9,374
	\$ Amount Authorized	\$2,697,003	\$1,162,200	\$38,092	\$9,428	\$3,906,723
10/1/15–9/30/16	# of Households	6,214	1,202	17	52	7,485
	\$ Amount Authorized	\$2,338,021	\$600,690.00	\$60,788.00	\$34,374	\$3,033,873
10/1/16–9/30/17	# of Households	6,152	1,223	57	36	7,468
	\$ Amount Authorized	\$2,289,509	\$620,830.00	\$169,623	\$26,774	\$3,106,736
10/1/17–9/30/18	# of Households	6197	1966	54	48	8265
	\$ Amount Authorized	\$2,457,485.00	\$1,130,060.00	\$155,798.00	\$14,968.00	\$3,758,311
10/1/18–9/30/19	# of Households	5,962	2,001	28	71	8,062
	\$ Amount Authorized	\$2,379,807	\$1,180,960	\$77,453.00	\$24,571	\$3,662,791
10/1/19–9/30/20	# of Households	5,928	2,171	20	111	8,230
	\$ Amount Authorized	\$2,383,728	\$1,234,195	\$69,713.00	\$36,332	\$3,723,968
10/1/20–9/30/21	# of Households	5,896	2,215	32	169	8,312
	\$ Amount Authorized	\$4,183,701	\$1,781,300	\$134,518.00	\$71,498	\$6,171,017

Table 126 Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

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Economic Assistance for Basic Needs

The Herkimer County Office for the Aging (OFA) processes HEAP applications for individuals ages 60+ and adults eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) living in their own household. Figure 101 below illustrates the number of these applications processed between 2009-10 and 2020-21 seasons.

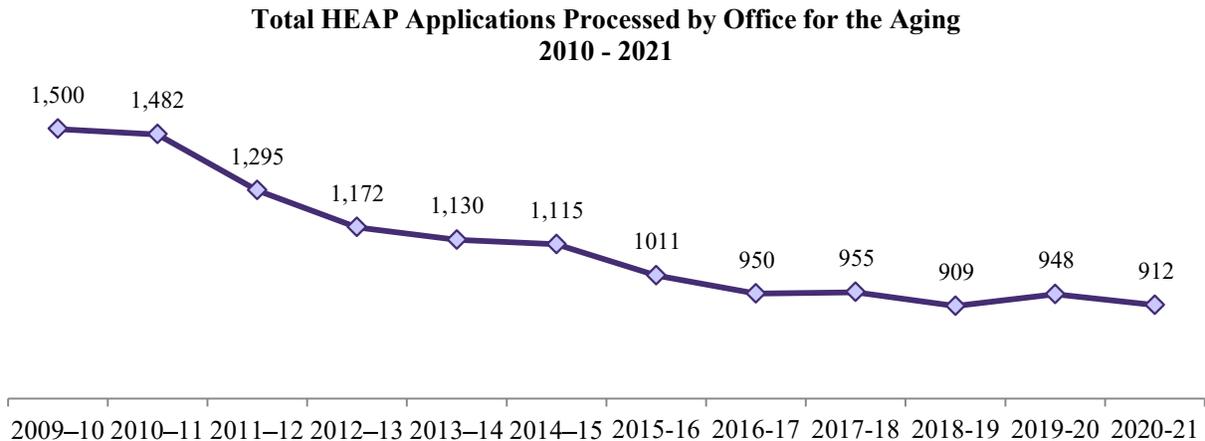


Figure 101 *Source: Herkimer County Dept. of Social Services*

Income eligibility for HEAP extends beyond the poverty level and does not count assets. The percentage above Federal Poverty Level is set by HEAP each heating season. So, someone can have assets (savings & investments) and still be eligible for HEAP as only the interest and dividends are counted as income. However, for Emergency HEAP, there is an asset test.

As Figure 101 depicts, there has been a decrease in OFA HEAP applications since 2009 which is believed to be due to the fact that more and more seniors are receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. These individuals automatically receive HEAP benefits and do not need to apply through OFA.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Safety Net

TANF and Safety Net are temporary assistance entitlement programs for adults (and their children) that are unable to work, can't find a job, or that have a job that does not pay enough to cover basic expenses.

TANF provides cash assistance to eligible needy families that include a minor child living with a parent or a caretaker relative. Eligible adults are limited to receiving benefits for a total of 60 months in their lifetime, including any TANF-funded assistance granted in other states. Parents and other adult relatives receiving benefits who are determined to be able to work must comply with federal work requirements.

As clients come off of the TANF program they are legislatively entitled to five months of guaranteed SNAP benefits and six months of Medicaid if the case is closed due to earned income. Under the continuous coverage guarantee children are eligible for an additional year of Medicaid coverage.

Economic Security

Economic Assistance for Basic Needs

Safety Net provides cash assistance to single adults, children living apart from any adult relative, families of persons found to be abusing drugs or alcohol, and persons who have exceeded the 60-month TANF limit on assistance. Eligible persons can receive cash Safety Net benefits for a maximum of two years in a lifetime. After that it is provided in non-cash form. Recipients who are determined to be able to work must also comply with work requirements.

Figure 102 below illustrates the average monthly number of adults and children that received TANF and Safety Net benefits in Herkimer County from 2015 - 2021. The monthly average adult TANF caseload has decreased by 86% and the monthly average number of children receiving TANF benefits has declined by 49% between 2015 and 2021.

The monthly average number of both adults and children that received Safety Net benefits in Herkimer County decreased between 2015 and 2021. The monthly average number of adults decreased by 32% and the monthly average number of children decreased by 23%.

**TANF/Safety Net Monthly Average Eligible Individuals
2015 - 2021**

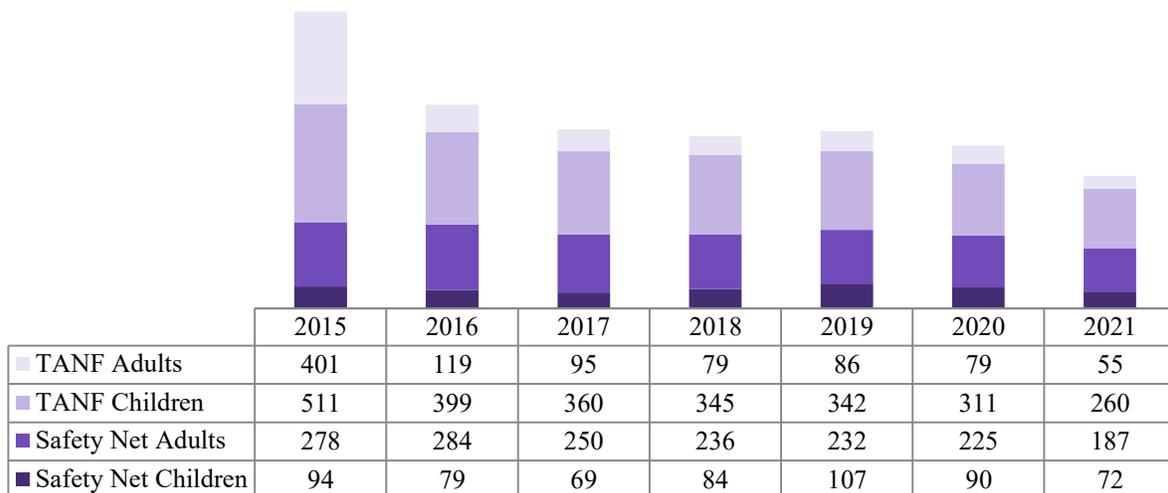


Figure 102 Source: Herkimer County Dept. of Social Services

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the new name for the Food Stamp Program (effective August 29, 2012). SNAP issues monthly electronic benefits that can be used like cash to purchase food at authorized retail food stores. SNAP benefits help low-income working people, seniors, the disabled and others feed their families. Eligibility and benefit levels are based on household size, income, assets and other factors.

There are two categories of SNAP benefit recipients: Temporary Assistance recipients who meet TANF/Safety Net eligibility (usually with little or no income) and Non-temporary Assistance recipients who meet SNAP financial eligibility requirements (may include working families, disabled individuals and seniors).

Figure 103, on the next page, illustrates the average monthly number of individuals (adults and children) that received SNAP benefits by case type in Herkimer County from 2015 to 2021. The

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Temporary Assistance SNAP average monthly caseload has declined between 2015 and 2021 and has experienced an overall decrease of 41% during this time period. The Non-Temporary Assistance average monthly caseload has also decreased by 19% during this timeframe, from a monthly average of 9,386 recipients in 2015 to 7,620 recipients in 2021.

**Average Monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Individuals by Type, 2015 - 2021**

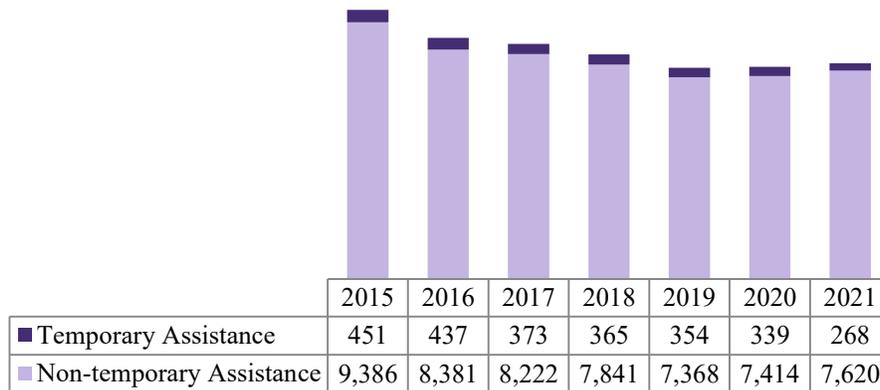


Figure 103 Source: Herkimer County Dept. of Social Services

Nutrition Outreach & Education Program (NOEP)

NOEP is funded by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and the USDA and provides information, confidential pre-screening, and application assistance to those who may potentially be eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. NOEP services began in 2004 and are provided by Catholic Charities of Herkimer County.

Home visits are provided for consumers unable to access the office. NOEP's on-going public relations campaign is designed to eliminate the stigma associated with receiving SNAP benefits and emphasizes the benefits to consumers and the community alike. Changes in financial guidelines beginning in 2008, coupled with the sluggish economy, have made more individuals eligible for the program. NOEP pre-screens saw an increase during early 2020 due to COVID 19 and an increased amount in benefit during this time. Figure 104 on the following page shows the number of households prescreened for assistance, and the number of households self-reporting they had received SNAP benefits.

Economic Security

Economic Assistance for Basic Needs

Herkimer County Nutrition Outreach & Education Program Cases

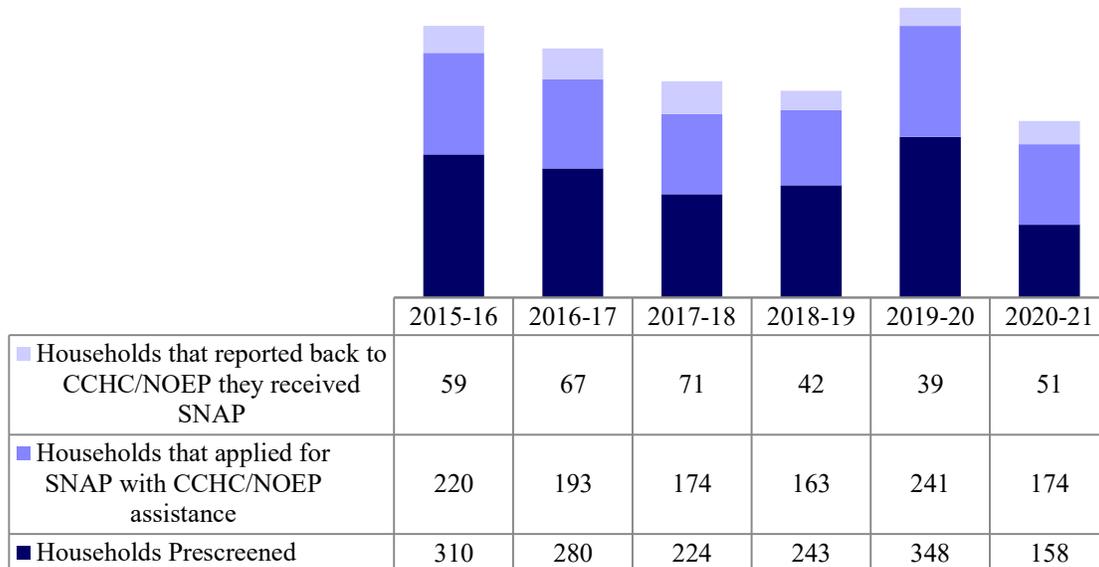


Figure 104 Source: Catholic Charities of Herkimer County

Catholic Charities of Herkimer County Emergency Assistance Program

The Emergency Assistance Program acts as a safety net to catch those county residents who have fallen through the cracks of the other systems in place. To be eligible for Emergency Assistance, it must be determined that the applicant has exhausted all other available resources from agencies such as the Department of Social Services, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Veterans Administration, HEAP, FEMA, and including assistance from family members.

No cash is dispensed by the program. All transactions are completed by a voucher system and direct payment from Catholic Charities of Herkimer County is made to the relevant entity. The Emergency Assistance Program provides assistance in the following areas:

- Shelter (motels, utilities, heating fuel, household appliances, etc.)
- Transportation (Gas vouchers, bus tickets, emergency auto repairs, etc.)
- Food/Formula (Food vouchers, meal vouchers, formula, etc.)
- Clothing/Diapers
- Medical (Emergency medications, Medicaid spend-downs, adaptive equipment repair, etc.)

The Emergency Assistance Program was initially funded by donations, foundations and agency fund-raising. In 2018 Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany received a grant from the Cabrini Foundation for financial assistance and EA Navigation. Utility assistance is also a part of the EA Program and that is funded through the National Grid Foundation. A donation from the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida County aided with flood victims.

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Economic Assistance for Basic Needs

Since 2016 we have seen a marked increase in requests for EA, with a larger increase during COVID.

Table 127 below displays the number of households served by the Emergency Assistance Program in Herkimer County and the amount budgeted and disbursed by category from 2016 to 2021. As the chart shows, the number of households helped by the Program has varied but has experienced an overall increase of 400% between 2015/2016 and 2020/2021. Expenditures have consistently surpassed budgeted amounts each year. The amount that has been dispersed to households from 15-16 to 20-21 has quadrupled.

Households Served by Emergency Assistance Program & Amount Budgeted & Disbursed by Category 2015-2021

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Number of Households	125	117	291	392	513	645
Amount Budgeted	\$35,230	\$26,839	\$24,525	\$24,701	\$97,293	\$116,834
Total Disbursed	\$24,387	\$33,886	\$45,789	\$48,619	\$106,153	\$113,172
Shelter*	\$2,080	\$4,273	\$2,740	\$2,280	\$3,670	\$4,390
Transportation	\$952	\$978	\$845	\$1,171	\$628	\$687
Food/Formula/Diapers	\$1,110	\$550	\$1,166	\$1,066	\$1,048	\$822
Clothing/ Christmas/Toys	\$9,280	\$12,870	\$15,209	\$16,620	\$21,420	\$1,847
Utilities	\$6,482	\$6,875	\$5,101	\$7,824	\$4,322	\$4,324
Medical	\$362	\$354	\$309	\$0	\$45	\$115
Household	781	1458	885	381	\$9,352	\$18,719
Flood Victims						\$14,912

Table 127 Source: Catholic Charities of Herkimer County

There are nine community-based food pantries in Herkimer County that are affiliated with the Food Bank of Central New York. Nearly all pantries are supervised and operated by volunteers, many of whom are affiliated with the RSVP Program of Catholic Charities. Each food pantry must raise local revenue greater than the grants that they receive in order to keep the shelves stocked. For each of the larger pantries, annual food costs run between \$23,000 and

Economic Security

Economic Assistance for Basic Needs

\$29,000. With the cuts in FEMA funding that provide support to the food pantries and the rise in food prices, pantries are paying more as well as raising more funds to keep pace. The demand for emergency food programs has continued to climb. The increase can be attributed to the elevated unemployment and poverty rates; service industry jobs continuing to replace manufacturing positions; single head of households; high transportation, medical and utility costs; and the increased publicity and education regarding the availability of assistance programs.

Tables 128, 129 (on this page) and 130, 131 (on the following page) display the Herkimer County food pantry and soup kitchen usage by individuals, households, location and meals provided from 2015 to 2021.

Herkimer County Food Pantry/Soup Kitchen Usage Individuals, Households and Total Meals 2018-2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children	7,914	7,491	7,042	3,895
Adults	15,915	15,999	12,550	8,273
Seniors	3,858	3,713	3,382	2,913
Total People	27,695	26,991	22,628	15,032
Total Households	10,589	10,715	8,935	5,906
Total Meals	367,874	362,934	313,537	223,296

Table 128 Source: Catholic Charities of Herkimer County

2015 - 2021 Food Pantry Clients by Site

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
St. Bartholomew	1,166	832	827	881	974	362	106*
Kuyahora	5,011	4,298	3,723	2,653	2,556	2,982	2123
Little Falls	6,679	6,203	5,790	5,688	5,369	3,815	2012
Dolgeville	6,950	5,735	6,339	5,743	4,701	4,413	2827
Frankfort/ Ilion	4,440	4,349	4,292	4,192	3,822	3,121	2241
Herkimer/ Mohawk	5,092	4,533	4,354	3,105	4,144	3,007	1287
West Winfield*	4,781	4,542	4,460	4,333	4,589	3,624	3467
Van Hornesville/ Jordanville	1,245	1,081	1,137	1,100	1,109	1,304	969

Table 129 Source: Catholic Charities of Herkimer County

*only 6 months of data was provided for this site in 2021, however, utilization of this site has been historically low.

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Economic Assistance for Basic Needs

Herkimer County Food Pantry Use by Site 2018-2021

	Total Individuals				Total Households				Total Meals			
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021
Dolgeville	5,743	4,701	4,413	2,827	1,993	1,666	1,753	1,088	74,535	63,591	54,021	41,263
Frankfort/ Ilion	4,192	3,822	3,121	2,241	1,521	1,426	1,208	791	62,880	57,330	50,835	33,630
Herkimer/ Mohawk	3,105	4,144	3,007	1,287	1,330	1,735	1,321	578	46,575	62,175	45,105	19,305
Kuyahooraa	2,653	2,556	2,982	2,123	1,040	1,018	1,198	903	35,165	37,834	52,149	47,714
Little Falls	5,688	5,369	3,815	2,012	1,921	1,886	1,363	782	85,320	80,535	57,225	30,180
St. Bartholomew	881	974	362	362	622	701	219	73	7,902	7,341	3,258	954
Van Hornesville/ Jordanville	1,100	1,109	1,304	969	300	317	358	289	16,500	12,827	18,328	12,225
West Winfield*	4,333	4,589	3,624	3,467	1,862	1,966	1,515	1,402	38,997	41,301	32,616	38,025
Totals**	27,695	27,264	22,628	15,288	10,589	10,715	8,935	5,906	367,874	362,934	313,537	223,296

Table 130 Source: Catholic Charities of Herkimer County

2010–2015 Food Pantry Meals Distributed by Site

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
St. Bartholomew	9,870	6980	6847	7902	7341	2664	954*
Kuyahooraa	62,289	52362	46349	35165	37834	47124	47714
Little Falls	97,539	93045	86850	85320	80535	43395	30180
Dolgeville	99,414	86025	81153	74535	63591	47736	41263
Frankfort/ Ilion	66,570	65235	64350	62880	57330	40965	33630
Herkimer/ Mohawk	76,350	67995	61446	46575	62175	34545	19305
West Winfield*	67,245	55083	40140	38997	41301	25362	38025
Van Hornesville/ Jordanville	18,675	16215	17015	16500	12827	15403	12225

Table 131 Source: Catholic Charities of Herkimer County

Without volunteers, food pantry operations could cease. 274 RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) contributed 51,288 hours of service assisting at food co-op and emergency feeding programs throughout Herkimer County.

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Local stores supplement the pantries food supply. Farmers also donate produce to local pantries, and many stores and organizations conduct annual food drives that aid in stocking food. The Herkimer County Hunger Coalition acts as the safety-net for Herkimer County Pantries in the event of funding shortages.

Food Co-ops continue to offer an alternative to clients. Catholic Charities' Food Sense Program provides wholesome foods at lower-than-retail prices.

Food Sense Program

Food Sense is a food co-op program affiliated with the Food Bank of Central New York. The cost per month of the program is \$20.50 per food package, paid in cash or SNAP benefits at the time of registration. Multiple packages of food can be purchased by an individual or family and at times bonus items are also offered. Currently, Old Forge and Ilion are the two sites for registrations and distribution of Food Sense packages in Herkimer County. There are no income eligibility requirements.

Figure 105 illustrates the number of Food Sense packages purchased by year in Herkimer County from 2010 to 2021.

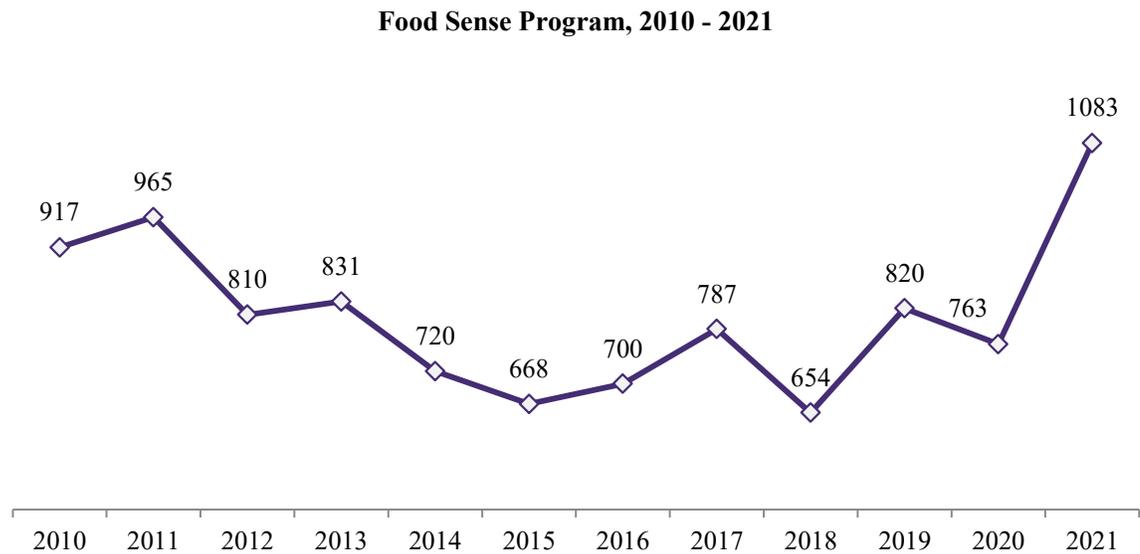


Figure 105 Source: Catholic Charities of Herkimer County

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Economic Assistance for Basic Needs

Data Resources

Catholic Charities of Herkimer County program data

Herkimer County Department of Social Services



Vista Trail



Vista Trail Trailhead

Economic Security

Healthcare Coverage Assistance

Why this is important

People with inadequate or no health insurance often forego routine preventive care. As a result, some health problems may not be treated until they become more serious. This adds tremendous cost to an already costly health care system, and can add stress to families' lives.

Preventive care for children is especially important for lifelong health. Children with adequate health insurance are more likely to receive required immunizations, fall ill less frequently, obtain necessary treatment when they do get sick, and perform better at school.

Having good health insurance also lowers barriers to accessing care, which is likely to prevent the development of more serious illnesses.

Many individuals, seniors, and families who have health insurance coverage struggle with the cost of increasing health insurance premiums and co-pays, which in itself can be a barrier to accessing preventive care, medical treatment, and prescription drugs.

Where we stand

Health Care Coverage

The NY State Community Health Indicators Reports estimates that in 2020, 96.3% of all Herkimer County children below the age of 19 and 97.3% of Herkimer County adults age 18 to 64 have some type of health insurance coverage.

A large proportion of these individuals obtain health insurance coverage privately, usually through their employer, but many rely on assistance programs to obtain and afford health care coverage.

The NY State of Health, which began in 2012 as part of the Affordable Care Act, helps people shop for and enroll in health insurance coverage. Individuals, families and small businesses can compare insurance options, calculate costs, select coverage, and see if they qualify for financial assistance. Applicants can also see if they are eligible for health care programs like Medicaid, Child Health Plus, and the Essential Plan, a new low-cost option for low income individuals.

Table 132 on the following page describes the different options available to individuals who are not enrolled in a healthcare coverage plan through their employer. The options are available on the NY State Health of Health Marketplace; www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov. Table 133 shows the number of Herkimer County enrollees in the different programs.

Between 2017 and 2021 there was a 74% increase in the number of Medicaid enrollees, a 25% increase in Child Health Plus enrollees, a 34% increase in Essential Plan enrollees, and a 4% increase in Qualified Health Plan enrollees.

Economic Security

Healthcare Coverage Assistance

NYS Healthcare Coverage Options

Child Health Plus	A free or low-cost health insurance plan for children under the age of 19 who do not qualify for Medicaid and do not have other health coverage.
Medicaid	A comprehensive health coverage program for low-income qualifying individuals providing a range of services. Some services may require a small copay.
NY State of Health Essential Plan	A comprehensive health benefit plan includes comprehensive benefits with no monthly premium and very low cost sharing for qualified individuals. This plan covers comprehensive benefits including dental and vision, inpatient and outpatient hospital care, prescription drugs, and free preventive care such as routine exams and screenings.
Qualified Health Plan	An insurance plan that is certified by the Health Insurance Marketplace, provides essential health benefits, follows established limits on cost-sharing (like deductibles, copayments, and out-of-pocket maximum amounts), and meets other requirements under the Affordable Care Act.

Table 132 Source: NY State of Health

Health Care Coverage Enrollees by Program, 2017 - 2021

	Medicaid	Child Health Plus	Essential Plan	Qualified Health Plan
2021	12,725	1,656	1,749	609
2020	10,331	1,838	1,507	732
2019	10,603	1,834	1,542	726
2018	10,835	1,734	1,443	632
2017	7,326	1,320	1,309	586

Table 133 Source: NY State of Health, Enrollees by Program and County

Economic Security

Healthcare Coverage Assistance

Health Insurance Information, Counseling & Assistance Program (HIICAP)

HIICAP is federally-funded by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and also receives funding from and is administered by the New York State Office for the Aging. HIICAP of Herkimer County is operated by Catholic Charities of Herkimer County. The program has been in existence in Herkimer County since 2006. HIICAP counselors provide information, education and counseling about Medicare and other health insurances. Trained staff and volunteers answer questions and facilitate enrollments. The services provided are free.

HIICAP helps clients understand the Medicare prescription drug benefit (Medicare Part D) and how to select the best plan; facilitate Medicare Part D, Medigap, and Medicare Advantage Plan enrollments; complete applications for the Medicare Savings Plan and Extra Help programs; apply for assistance through the Patient Assistance Programs; assist with enrollments into EPIC; choose between original Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans including HMOs, PPOs, Special Needs Plans and Private Fee-for-Service-Plans; discover ways to fill in Medicare’s gaps in services; explore New York State Partnership for Long Term Care options; file insurance claims and deal with paperwork; and advocate on behalf of the client with suppliers and providers regarding healthcare billing and coverage.

Figure 106 below illustrates the number of individuals that received HIICAP services in Herkimer County from 2010 to 2020 and the total number of counseling sessions provided in each year. The growing number of Medicare beneficiaries and the complexity of the Medicare system make the HIICAP program an invaluable resource for our community.

The HIICAP program has focused on educating Medicare beneficiaries so they can make educated decisions regarding their health insurance coverage and the cost savings programs they may be eligible for. Over the past 10 years the HIICAP program has also made process improvements to improve their efficiency. Through these improvements they have been able to reduce the number of contacts needed to resolve issues.

**Herkimer County HIICAP Clients and Counseling Sessions
2010 - 2020**

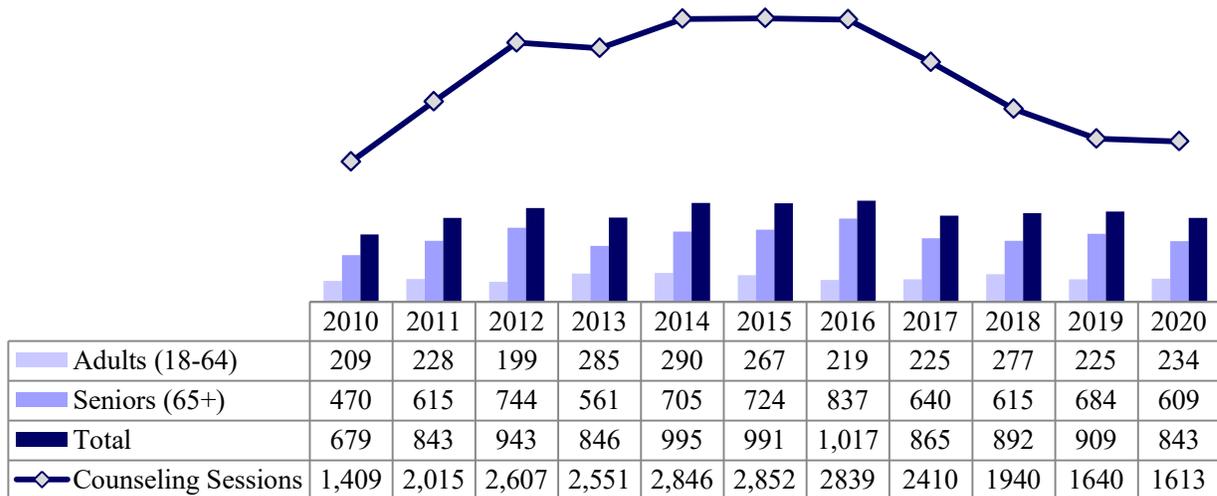


Figure 106 Source: Catholic Charities of Herkimer County

Economic Security

Healthcare Coverage Assistance

Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage Program (EPIC)

The Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program is a New York State program for seniors administered by the Department of Health. EPIC is a program that provides secondary drug coverage for those enrolled in Medicare Part D drug plans throughout the year. This results in additional savings for members to purchase needed medications. Over 300,000 New York State Seniors are enrolled in the EPIC Program.

To be eligible to join the NYS EPIC program Senior citizens must be a NYS resident, 65 years of age or older, have annual income below \$75,000 single or \$100,000 married, be enrolled in a Medicare Part D drug plan and not receiving full Medicaid benefits. Seniors may apply for EPIC at any time during the year even if they do not have a Medicare Part D Plan. When eligible seniors become EPIC members, they will receive a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) from Medicare allowing them to join a Medicare Part D drug plan. If a senior has union or retiree benefits, they should contact their benefit office to see if they are eligible to join a Part D drug plan.

EPIC members must be enrolled in a Medicare Part D drug plan in order to receive benefits. EPIC provides secondary prescription coverage for Medicare Part D and EPIC-covered drugs purchased after any Medicare Part D deductible is met. EPIC copayments range from \$3, \$7, \$15, and \$20 based on the out-of-pocket cost after the Medicare Part D plan has been billed. EPIC has two plans based on income. The Fee plan is for members with income up to \$20,000 if single or \$26,000 if married. Members will pay an annual EPIC fee (from \$8 to \$300, based on prior year's income) for coverage and will pay EPIC co-payments for drugs. The Deductible plan is for members with incomes ranging from \$20,001 to \$75,000, if single or \$26,001 to \$100,000 if married. Members must meet an annual EPIC deductible before paying EPIC co-payments for drugs.

For many seniors, it is less expensive to enroll in EPIC and Medicare Part D than just Medicare Part D alone. EPIC will pay the Part D premium up to the benchmark amount per month for members with incomes up to \$23,000 if single or \$29,000 if married. Higher income members are responsible for paying their Medicare Part D premiums but will receive Part D premium assistance in the form of a reduced EPIC deductible.

For more information, please call the toll-free EPIC Helpline at 1-800-332-3742 or visit the EPIC website at http://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/epic/ to download the EPIC application. You can also request an application by email nysdohepic@magellanhealth.com or call the EPIC Helpline.

Figure 107 on the next page illustrates the most recent data on EPIC enrollments in Herkimer County.

Economic Security

Healthcare Coverage Assistance

EPIC Enrollment, Herkimer County, 2013 - 2021

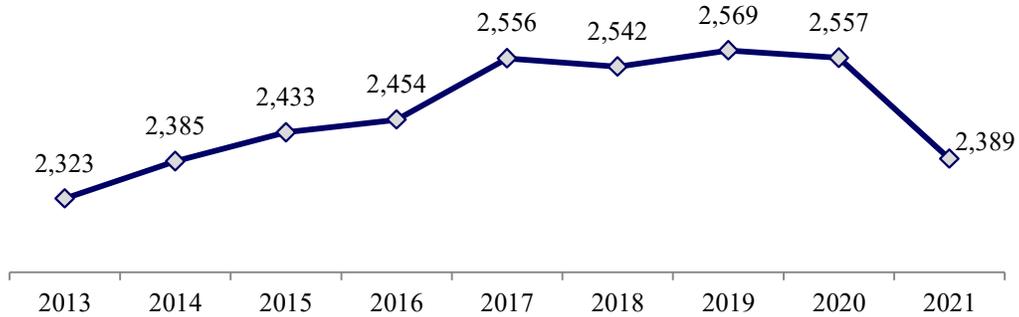


Figure 107 Source: NYS Dept. of Health



Economic Security

Healthcare Coverage Assistance

Data Resources

Catholic Charities of Herkimer County program data

Herkimer County Department of Social Services

New York State Department of Health, Community Health Indicator Reports Dashboard

https://webbi1.health.ny.gov/SASStoredProcess/guest?_program=%2FEBI%2FPHIG%2Fapps%2Fchir_dashboard%2Fchir_dashboard&p=ch&cos=21

New York State of Health, Enrollment Data

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



Canal Place in Little Falls

Physical & Emotional Health

New York State Prevention Agenda

Why this is important

The Prevention Agenda 2019-2024 is New York State’s health improvement plan, the blueprint for state and local action to improve the health and well-being of all New Yorkers and to promote health equity in all populations who experience disparities. In partnership with more than 100 organizations across the state, the Prevention Agenda is updated by the New York State Public Health and Health Planning Council at the request of the Department of Health. This is the third cycle for this statewide initiative that started in 2008. New to this 2019-2024 cycle is the incorporation of a *Health Across All Policies* approach, initiated in 2017, which calls on all State agencies to identify and strengthen the ways that their policies and programs can have a positive impact on health. It embraces Healthy Aging to support New York's commitment as the first age-friendly state.

The Table 134 (pages 215 -217) outlines the Priorities, Focus Areas, and Goals of the 2019 – 2024 NYS Preventions Agenda.

NY State Prevention Agenda Priorities, Focus Areas, and Goals 2019 - 2024

Prevent Chronic Diseases	
Focus Area	Goal
Healthy Eating and Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase access to healthy and affordable foods and beverages Increase access to healthy and affordable foods and beverages Increase food security
Physical Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve community environments that support active transportation and recreational physical activity for people of all ages and abilities Promote school, child care and worksite environments that increase physical activity Increase access, for people of all ages and abilities, to indoor and/or outdoor places for physical activity
Tobacco Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent initiation of tobacco use Promote tobacco use cessation Eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke
Chronic Disease Preventive Care and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase cancer screening rates Increase early detection of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, prediabetes and obesity Promote evidence-based care to prevent and manage chronic diseases including asthma, arthritis, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and prediabetes and obesity In the community setting, improve self-management skills for individuals with chronic diseases, including asthma, arthritis, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and prediabetes and obesity

Physical & Emotional Health

New York State Prevention Agenda

Promote a Healthy and Safe Environment	
Focus Area	Goal
Injuries, Violence and Occupational Health	<p>Reduce falls among vulnerable populations</p> <p>Reduce violence by targeting prevention programs particularly to highest risk populations</p> <p>Reduce occupational injury and illness</p> <p>Reduce traffic related injuries for pedestrians and bicyclists</p>
Outdoor Air Quality	Reduce exposure to outdoor air pollutants
Built and Indoor Environments	<p>Improve design and maintenance of the built environment to promote healthy lifestyles, sustainability and adaptation to climate change</p> <p>Promote healthy home and school environments</p>
Water Quality	<p>Protect water sources and ensure quality drinking water</p> <p>Protect vulnerable waterbodies to reduce potential public health risks associated with exposure to recreational water</p>
Food and Consumer Products	<p>Raise awareness of the potential presence of chemical contaminants and promote strategies to reduce exposure</p> <p>Improve food safety management</p>

Promote Healthy Women, Infants and Children	
Focus Area	Goal
Maternal & Women's Health	<p>Increase use of primary and preventive health care services among women of all ages, with special focus on women of reproductive age</p> <p>Reduce maternal mortality & morbidity</p>
Perinatal & Infant Health	<p>Reduce infant mortality & morbidity</p> <p>Increase breastfeeding</p>
Child & Adolescent Health	<p>Support and enhance children and adolescents' social-emotional development and relationships</p> <p>Increase supports for children and youth with special health care needs</p> <p>Reduce dental caries among children</p>
Cross Cutting Healthy Women, Infants, & Children	Reduce racial, ethnic, economic, and geographic disparities in maternal and child health outcomes, and promote health equity for maternal and child health populations

Physical & Emotional Health

New York State Prevention Agenda

Promote Well-Being and Prevent Mental and Substance Use Disorders	
Focus Area	Goal
Promote Well-Being	<p>Strengthen opportunities to build well-being and resilience across the lifespan</p> <p>Facilitate supportive environments that promote respect and dignity for people of all ages</p>
Mental and Substance Use Disorders Prevention	<p>Prevent underage drinking and excessive alcohol consumption by adults</p> <p>Prevent opioid and other substance misuse and deaths</p> <p>Prevent and address adverse childhood experiences (ACES)</p> <p>Reduce the prevalence of major depressive disorders</p> <p>Prevent Suicides</p>

Prevent Communicable Diseases	
Focus Area	Goal
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	<p>Improve vaccination rates</p> <p>Reduce vaccination coverage disparities</p>
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	<p>Decrease HIV morbidity (new HIV diagnoses)</p> <p>Increase viral suppression</p>
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)	<p>Reduce the annual rate of growth for STIs</p>
Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)	<p>Increase the number of persons treated for Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)</p> <p>Reduce the number of new HCV cases among people who inject drugs</p>
Antibiotic Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections	<p>Improve infection control in healthcare</p> <p>Reduce infections caused by multidrug resistant organisms and <i>C. difficile</i></p> <p>Reduce inappropriate antibiotic use</p>

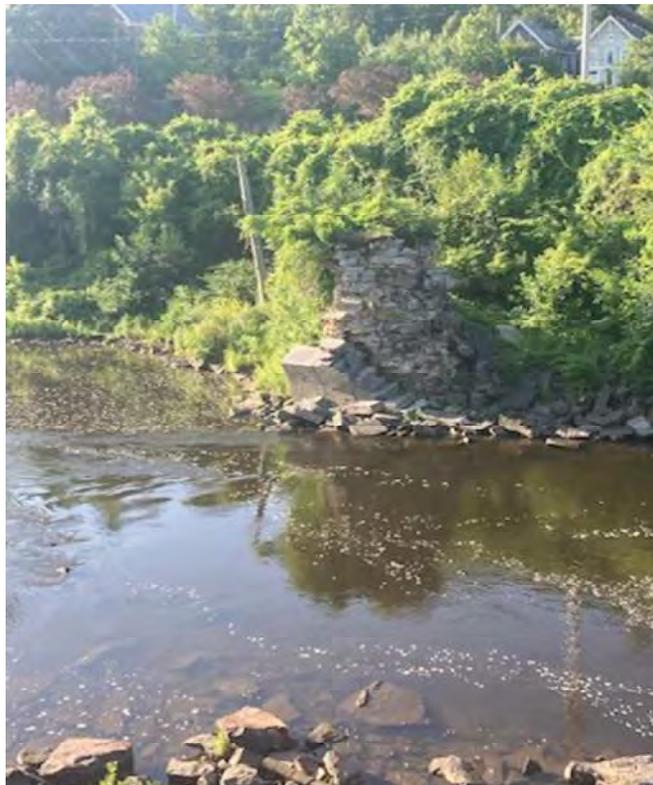
Table 134 Source: NYS Prevention Agenda

Physical & Emotional Health

New York State Prevention Agenda

Data Resources

Department of Health. Prevention Agenda 2019-2024: New York State's Health Improvement Plan. (n.d.). Retrieved April 9, 2023, from https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/prevention_agenda/2019-2024/



Remains of the Little Falls Aqueduct

Physical & Emotional Health

Community Health Assessment

Why this is important

The Community Health Needs Assessment provides the hospital, local county health department, and key informants with data and responses so that they may identify, prioritize, and address healthcare challenges facing their communities. The Bassett Healthcare Network Population Health Department (BHNPHD) collaborated with Herkimer County Public Health (HCPH) to compile a list of key informants in the service region. Those key informants represent a broad range of sectors, community interests, and organizations representing the medically underserved, low-income, and minority populations. Informants were invited to complete an electronic survey regarding the state of health for the community. Additionally, they were invited to attend a data presentation and give feedback on their priority focus areas based on the 2019-2021 New York State Prevention Agenda Action Plans. Furthermore, the assessment includes quantitative data collected by Federal, State, and specialized organizations. The Community Health Needs Assessment can be found online on the Herkimer County Public Health website; <https://www.herkimercounty.org/download/document.php?docid=1895>

This document is a collection of data from various sources, including federal and state databases and surveys collected from community members and community service organizations. The surveys, Community Engagement and Stakeholder Engagement, were offered electronically during the dates of June 29, 2022 to August 6, 2022. Information collected reflects the current county status and problems related to significant health needs or Social Determinants of Health (SDOH).

In addition to the surveys, an in-person focus group was conducted in the Old Forge library on July 19, 2022, where the survey was a focus of discussion.

BHN and HCPH also presented to the town board of representatives in person on September 23, 2022, offering an overview of data and listening to feedback on additional concerns from the local government's perspective.

After the collection of data was complete, the collaboration of partners held a stakeholder focus group to discuss potential interventions and decide what areas should be addressed in this NYS Prevention Agenda Cycle 2022-2024. The stakeholder focus group was held through Zoom on September 12, 2022.

Based on the key information collected, Priorities were defined, and interventions developed. Table 135 on the next pages illustrate these priorities and the actions associated with them.

Physical & Emotional Health

Community Health Assessment

Community Health Needs Assessment Priority Areas, 2022

Priority Area	Promote Well-Being and Prevent Mental and Substance Use Disorders
Focus Area	Prevent Mental and Substance Use Disorders
Goal	Prevent and address adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
Target Demographic	Pediatric population
Intervention	Create a community pediatric mental health clinic in the Ilion Children Center to increase access to mental health services and reduce the impact of ACEs
Process Measure	Count the number of visits
Evidence-Based Support	<p>Mental Health Patient to Provider Ratios</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herkimer County 1,270:1 • New York State 310:1
Priority Area	Promote Well-Being and Prevent Mental and Substance Use Disorders
Focus Area	Promote Well-Being
Goal	Strengthen opportunities to build well-being and resilience across the lifespan
Target Demographic	Middle school-aged females (6th, 7th, and 8th graders)
Intervention	<p>A summer day camp targeting females in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade to give exposure to emergency services careers. Bassett Healthcare Network, Little Falls Hospital, and Herkimer County Public Health will partner with local organizations in the areas of Police, Fire, EMS, 911 Dispatch, Life Flight, Search and Rescue, and Emergency Rooms to provide hands-on experience in these fields. Participants will walk away with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased health literacy • Exposure to volunteer opportunities • Exposure to emergency services careers • Training in CPR, First Aid, and AED use
Process Measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre and Post assessment of participant health literacy • Pre and Post assessment of future career and volunteer plans • Post-measurement of the number of individuals completing CPR, AED, and First Aid certification
Evidence-Based Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar program to Rescue Divas, WI: https://rescuedivas.org/

Priority Area	Promote Well-Being and Prevent Mental and Substance Use
Focus Area	Cross-Cutting Healthy Women, Infants, & Children
Goal	Reduce racial, ethnic, economic, and geographic disparities in maternal and child health outcomes and promote health equity for maternal and child health populations.
Target Demographic	Pregnant Women
Intervention	Referral workflow, if given permission by the patient, the name, due date, and phone number of pregnant women will be sent to Herkimer County Public Health (HCPH) prior to delivery. HCPH will contact those patients to offer the various programs they have to support new mothers and infants.
Process Measure	Count the number of successful contacts by HCPH
Evidence-Based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower SES

Physical & Emotional Health

Community Health Assessment

Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher rates of children below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) • No public transportation • Population density
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Priority Area	Promote Well-Being and Prevent Mental and Substance Use
Focus Area	Built and Indoor Environments
Goal	Promote healthy home and school environments.
Target Demographic	Elderly and Low educated
Intervention	Skill-building classes in home maintenance and upkeep; the capstone of the class is to perform maintenance and upkeep on the home of an elderly individual.
Process Measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Count the number of participants who successfully complete the class curriculum • Count the number of homes whose level of maintenance has increased due to the program
Evidence-Based Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower SES • Higher rates of children below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) • No public transportation • Population density

Table 135 Source: 2022 Herkimer County Community Health Needs Assessment

Little Falls Hospital Service Area

Little Falls Hospital is the only acute care facility in Herkimer County. It provides 25 acute, swing, and special care beds, 24/7 Emergency Services, and an array of primary, medical/surgical, acute, and extended care medical services, including Bassett Health Centers in Dolgeville and Newport.

Little Falls Hospital serves the following areas:

Town	Zip Code	County
Fultonville	12072	Montgomery
Johnstown	12095	Fulton
Canajoharie	13317	Montgomery
Cold Brook	13324	Herkimer
Dolgeville	13329	Herkimer
Fort Plain	13339	Montgomery
Frankfort	13340	Herkimer
Herkimer	13350	Herkimer
Ilion	13357	Herkimer
Little Falls	13365	Herkimer
Middleville	13406	Herkimer
Mohawk	13407	Herkimer
Newport	13416	Herkimer
Palatine Bridge	13428	Montgomery
St. Johnsville	13452	Montgomery
Stratford	13470	Fulton
West Winfield	13491	Herkimer

Physical & Emotional Health

Community Health Assessment

Herkimer County Health Department

The Herkimer County Public Health team is dedicated to protecting and promoting residents' health through the provision of high-quality, comprehensive, individualized services in all phases of the life cycle. Objectives shall include surpassing community standards and striving to meet the needs and expectations of the people in Herkimer County. Staff will utilize all available resources to ensure the department carries out its mission statement. Open and continuous quality improvement will be encouraged and recognized

Percent Total Population with Disability

The disabled population should be considered a vulnerable population that may require targeted services; by knowing the stage of life and location, community health interventional work can be more inclusive of the needs of the target population. Data suggests that the most significant population of disabled individuals is among the 65 and older group living in more urban areas of Herkimer County (Table 136, Figure 108).

Herkimer County Population with Disability

Report Area	Total Disabled	>18 yrs Disabled	18-64 yrs Disabled	+65 yrs Disabled
Herkimer County	16.0%	7.9%	3.9%	34.5%
New York	11.5%	3.9%	8.8%	32.4%
United States	12.6%	4.2%	10.3%	30.7%

Table 136 Source: American Community Survey

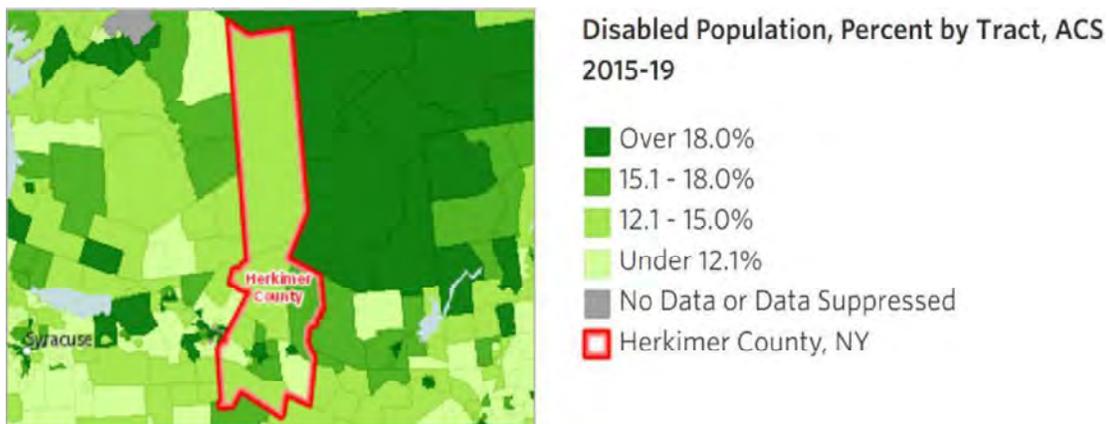


Figure 108 Source: 2020 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Physical & Emotional Health

Community Health Assessment

Access to Clinical Care

Access to clinical care providers for preventative and maintenance care has a large impact on the overall health of a population. A common problem for rural communities such as Herkimer County is a lack of a sufficient quantity of clinical providers to give quality care. The lack of clinical care providers decreases the population's overall health status and often results in a higher rate of E.R. visits and hospital admissions, which only strains an already understaffed health system. Herkimer County is no exception to the lack of providers for rural communities. The County Health Rankings show the patient-to-provider ratio is significantly higher than that of New York State as a whole. Herkimer County's patient-to-Primary Care physician ratio is nearly 3 times higher than that of New York State. For Dentistry, the patient-to-provider ratio is over 2 times higher than in New York State. For Mental Health providers, the patient-to-provider ratio is 4.1 times higher than in New York State (Table 137).

Patient-to-Provider Ratios, Herkimer County and NY State, 2020

Provider Type	Herkimer County Ratio	NY State Ratio
Primary Care Physician	3,410:1	1,180:1
Dentist	2,540:1	1,190:1
Mental Health Provider	1,270:1	310:0

Table 137 *Source: 2020 County Health Rankings*

Access to Healthy Food

Access to healthy foods that support healthy eating patterns contributes to an individual's overall health throughout their life. Healthy eating habits can help lower the risk for chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and cancer. Increased access to healthy foods through grocery stores that include fresh fruits and vegetables contributes to a healthy eating lifestyle. Data from 2012—2013 shows that the average distance from U.S. households to the nearest supermarket was 2.1 miles (Healthy People 2030, n.d.).

When discussing access to food, income and distance to a grocery store (supermarket) are often the greatest determinants. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has defined an individual of low income (LI) as being a "poverty rate of 20% or greater, or median family income at or below 80% of the statewide or metropolitan area median family income." The USDA goes on to define low-access (L.A.) to food as "a low-income [Census] tract with at least 500 people or 33% of the tract's population living more than 1 miles (urban areas) or more than 10 miles (rural areas) from the nearest supermarket or grocery store" (USDA, 2021).

Notably, the more southern areas of Herkimer County are impacted with areas of low food access and low income, according to the USDA Food Access Research Atlas. However, the German Flatts area meets the criteria for both L.I. and L.A. (USDA, 2021). Acknowledging the higher population density in German Flatts, the reported population is more likely to meet urban criteria. With that being said, the same areas meet LI, and again the German Flatts area meets the criteria for having low access to a vehicle, which is noted in the below image referencing access to limited access to a vehicle in the fuchsia color. Low access to a vehicle is defined by the USDA as "more than 100 households have no access to a vehicle and are more than 1/2 mile from the nearest supermarket, or a significant number or share of residents are more than 20

Access to Food/Low Income Areas

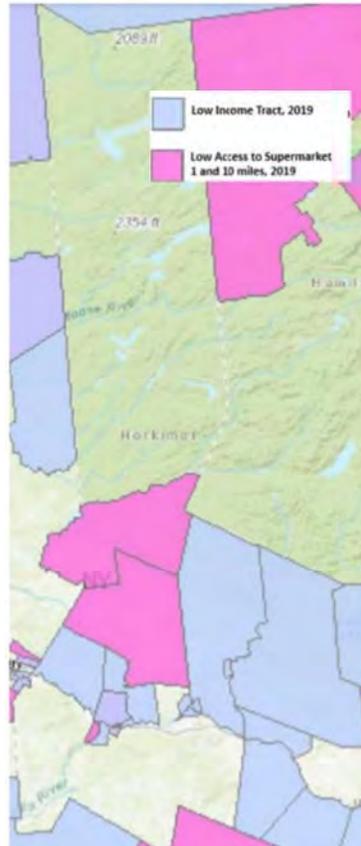


Figure 109
Source: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA),
Low Income & Low Access 2019 (2020)

miles from the nearest supermarket” (USDA, 2020). Figure 109 above shows the relationship between low income areas and low access to a supermarket.

With a large rural area in the county, it is important to note the presence of farms that also provide direct sales to residents who may not otherwise have access to food. According to the USDA Food Environment Atlas, in 2012, a reported 101 farms were providing direct sales in Herkimer County. Furthermore, USDA reports show 5 Farmers’ markets that service a ratio of .080863 per 1,000 people in the area, adding to the overall food accessibility. Regarding affordability, 80% (4) of the farmers’ markets accept WIC, SNAP, and credit cards (USDA, 2020).

Health Behaviors

The morbidity and mortality rates related to specific health behaviors provide insight into the community culture and link the community Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and health outcomes. For example, poor community walkability, which limits the ability to exercise, can be connected to a high prevalence of obesity.

Physical & Emotional Health

Community Health Assessment

The CDC regularly conducts the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), which evaluates the population's health status and behaviors based on personal responses through a telephone call.

Adult Smoking

Cigarette smoking continues to be the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States. The CDC reports 480,000 deaths per year can be attributed to smoking cigarettes. Smoking has been linked to cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung disease, diabetes, eye disease, and increased risk of immune system problems (CDC, 2020).

According to the 2022 County Health Rankings database, 21% of adult Herkimer County residents smoke, which is higher than the New York State rate of 13%. Reviewing GIS mapping from 2019 CDC BRFSS PLACES Project, the greatest concentration of adult smokers is in the more southern area of the county. Figure 110 below shows the concentration of adult smokers.

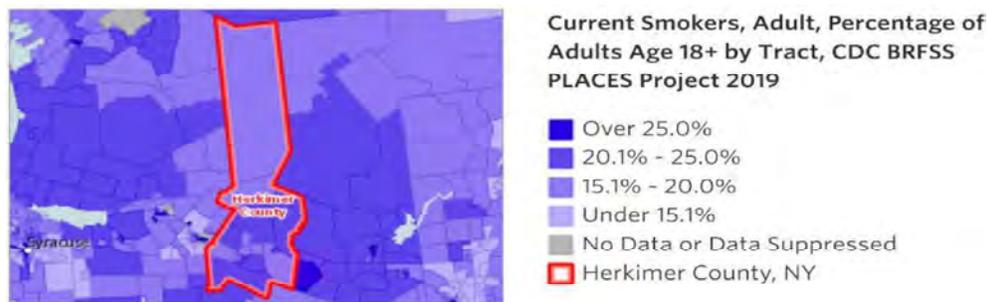


Figure 110 Source: 2020 County Health Rankings

Adult Obesity

Obesity is a common and costly chronic disease throughout the United States. The defined criteria for adult obesity is 18 years of age or older, with a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30 kg/m². This disease can be caused by numerous factors, such as eating patterns, physical activity, sleep routines, genetics, and certain medications. Furthermore, various areas of SDOH impact obesity rates. Limited access to healthy foods, educational programs, and transportation can all be correlated to obesity. Consequences of obesity are numerous: high blood pressure, Type 2 Diabetes, breathing problems, joint problems, gallbladder disease, psychological problems, etc. (CDC, 2022c).

Data collection from the County Health Rankings shows 34% of Herkimer County residents are obese, which tops the New York State rate of 27% (Figure 111 on the next page).

Physical & Emotional Health

Community Health Assessment

New York State Obesity Rankings

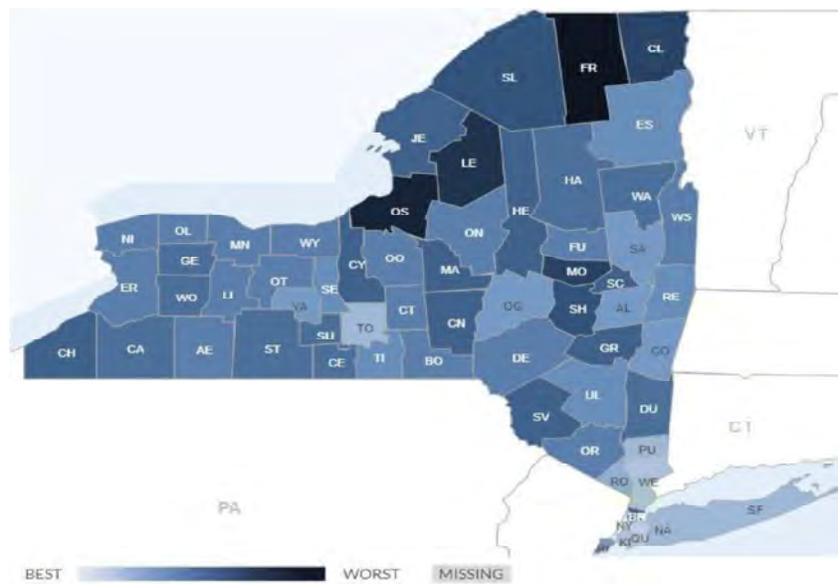


Figure 111 Source: 2020 County Health Rankings

Adult Diabetes

Diabetes is a chronic disease associated with blood glucose (blood sugar) levels being too high. Glucose in the blood comes from eating food. The body creates a hormone called Insulin to facilitate the glucose into cells which convert the glucose into energy. With Type 1 Diabetes, the body does not make insulin. In Type 2 Diabetes, the more common type, the body does not use insulin well, and therefore cannot maintain a normal blood sugar level. Risk factors for diabetes include obesity, inactivity, age (over 45 years), and heredity (CDC, 2022a).

The NHIS collected data on the number of adult respondents who are 20 years of age and older over several years. In 2019, Herkimer County residents reported an 8.9% rate of diabetes in individuals over the age of 20 years, matching the rate of New York State (8.9%) and the United States (9%). Table 138 below illustrates the rate of adults with a Diabetes diagnosis in Herkimer, NY State, and the US in 2019.

Rate of Adults with a Diabetes Diagnosis, 2019

Report Area	Population ≥ 20 years	Adults with Diagnosed Diabetes	Adults with Diagnosed Diabetes
Herkimer County	47,097	5,322	8.9%
New York	14,925,032	1,501,666	8.9%
United States	239,919,249	24,189,620	9%

Table 138 Source: CDC National Health Interview Survey, 2019

Physical & Emotional Health

Community Health Assessment

Adult Diabetes, obesity and physical activity rates reflect an upward trend among Herkimer County residents. Data suggests a potential intervention is needed to increase community walkability and health education along with a needed evaluation of health literacy for targeted planning. Table 139 (below) examines adult diabetes, obesity, and physical inactivity rates for 2004 – 2019.

**Adult Diabetes, Obesity, and Physical Inactivity rates,
Herkimer County 2004 - 2019**

Year	Adult Diabetes	Obese	Physically Inactive
2004	5.9%	20.9%	21.7%
2005	6.3%	24%	15.7%
2006	6.7%	20%	22.7%
2007	7.1%	22.4%	21.2%
2008	7.8%	25.1%	22.7%
2009	6.9%	27.7%	23.3%
2010	7.4%	30.1%	22.3%
2011	7.3%	24.6%	20.8%
2012	7.7%	20.9%	17.0%
2013	6.7%	25.2%	19.6%
2014	6.8%	24.9%	19.3%
2015	8.5%	28.8%	29.8%
2016	9.2%	29.7%	25.2%
2017	9.1%	28.3%	25.2%
2018	8%	33.7%	24.1%
2019	8.9%	33.9%	24.2%

Table 139 Source: CDC National Health Interview Survey, 2019

Communicable Diseases

Reportable Communicable Diseases are diseases that are considered to be important to public health. The reports help public health researchers detect trends, predict outbreaks, and deploy health resources quickly. Table 140 on the next page shows the number of Herkimer County reports.

Physical & Emotional Health

Community Health Assessment

Herkimer County Reportable Communicable Diseases, 2019 – 2021

Disease	2019	2020	2021
Anaplasmosis	23	4	23
Babesiosis	0	0	3
Campylobacter	24	10	11
Chlamydia	184	288	153
C-Diff	0	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis	7	7	11
Dengue	1	0	0
E Coli (not 157)	2	2	7
Ehrlichiosis	1	110	0
ESBL	0	0	0
GAS (G A Strep)	4	2	0
Giardia	14	9	14
Gonorrhea	18	38	37
Group B Beta Strep	3	4	0
Hepatitis A	1	4	0
Hepatitis B (Chronic)	11	1	0
Hepatitis C	11	7	0
Hepatitis C (Chronic)	14	33	33
Hib Influenza	1	0	0
Legionella	5	0	5
LIBI	1	0	0
Lyme	63	17	71
Perinatal Infant Track	0	0	0
Pertussis	2	0	0
Salmonella	9	0	4
Strep Group B	2	1	1
Strep A	1	0	0
Strep Pneumonia	7	0	1
Syphilis	7	5	2
Syphilis (Late Latent)	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	1	0	0
Yersiniosis	1	2	3

Table 140 Source: Herkimer County Public Health

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Maternal Health Services

Herkimer County's maternal mortality rate is higher than New York State. While women can access pre-partum health services in Herkimer County, Herkimer County does not have a delivery hospital within the county limits. Women travel to nearby counties in the Mohawk Valley region to deliver their babies, such as Bassett Medical Center in Otsego, Nathan Littauer Hospital in Fulton, St. Mary's Healthcare in Montgomery, or Mohawk Valley Health System in Oneida. Depending on where they reside, it can be a burden to travel to other counties to deliver.

If the mothers have high-risk pregnancies, those women have fewer options for delivery hospitals and often have to travel to Onondaga or Albany counties, which can be over an hour's drive for residents. According to Herkimer County & Little Falls Hospital, Community Health Needs Assessment 42 to a February 16, 2017 article in Scientific American, "Pregnant women often have to travel an hour or more to deliver in rural America," public mortality data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found in 2015 the maternal mortality rate in large metropolitan areas was 18.2 per 100,000 live births, and in most rural areas it was 29.4. The exact causes for this health disparity have not been identified, and further research is being conducted.

A low incidence of maternal deaths within a small population contributes to unstable rates, as evidenced by the erratic fluctuations in maternal mortality rates in Herkimer County over time. (Figure 112 on the next page) Despite the fact that maternal mortality in the county has consistently remained below the NYS objective levels since 2015, it is noteworthy that the percentage of births with early prenatal care in Herkimer County has persistently remained low and continues to fall below the NYS objective levels. (Figure 113 on next page)



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Herkimer County - Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births

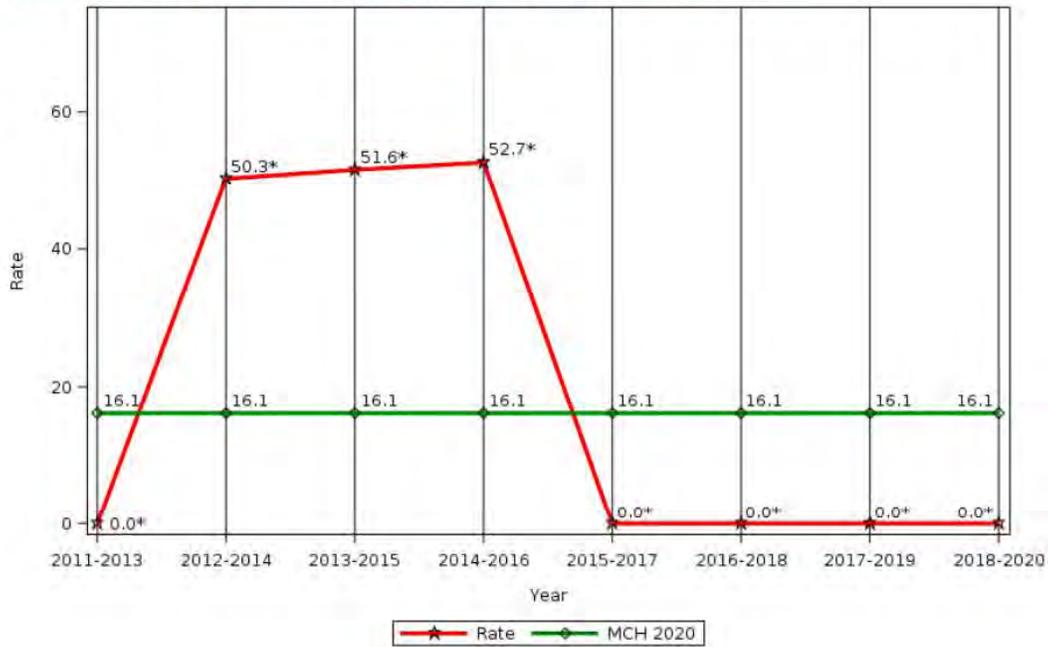


Figure 112 Source: NYS Vital Statistics Event Registry as of November 2022

Herkimer County - Percentage of births with early (1st trimester) prenatal care



Figure 113 Source: NYS Vital Statistics Event Registry as of November 2022

Physical & Emotional Health

Community Health Assessment

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Physical & Emotional Health

COVID-19 Pandemic

Why this is important

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a new, highly infectious respiratory virus that transmits from person to person; it is caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The virus, COVID-19, was identified in Wuhan, China during December 2019 and quickly spread into a pandemic event (CDC, 2021b). Symptoms range in severity from mild to severe and can appear 2-14 days after exposure. Some common symptoms include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Sore throat
- Congestion
- Nausea or vomiting
- Muscle or body aches

Transmission occurs from person to person in three main ways:

1. Breathing infected respiratory droplets in the air
2. Having infected droplets land in one's eyes, nose, or mouth
3. Touching eyes, nose, or mouth with hands that have COVID-19 on them

While social distancing and quarantine protocols were put in place, the worldwide health system was overwhelmed by the number of moderately to severely ill infected patients. As COVID-19 continues to mutate into different strains, often bringing more virulence, the health systems continue to strain under a lack of resources and staffing.

In 2020, the FDA provided emergency use authorization for two mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, the Pfizer-BioNTech and the Moderna, for limited populations based on age and comorbidities. Each vaccine provided success in limiting the severity of the virus and the number of cases. In 2021, a new vaccine was approved under the same emergency use authorization, Janssen/Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, again with limitations on individual variables. In 2022, COVID-19 vaccines became available to individuals 6 months and older (Mayo Clinic, 2022).

Where we stand

Considerable progress has been made in controlling the spread of COVID-19 through measures like widespread vaccination campaigns, mask mandates, social distancing guidelines, and increased testing and contact tracing efforts. The number of cases and hospitalizations have decreased compared to the pandemic's peak, thanks to the collective efforts of healthcare professionals, essential workers, and the public. On June 24, 2022, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in New York, signaling a

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COVID-19 Pandemic

positive milestone in the state's response to the pandemic. In addition to the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in New York, it is worth noting that the federal public health emergency for COVID-19 ended on May 11, 2022, as announced by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This reflects a significant turning point in the nationwide response to the pandemic. However, specific measures and guidelines may continue to be implemented at state and local levels to address specific regional needs and circumstances moving forward.

COVID-19 Case Count

Herkimer County saw consistently lower case counts than other more urban counties in New York State. The lowered population density, compliance with vaccination, compliance with quarantine protocols, and the geographic nature of the county assisted in case counts staying relatively consistent with a larger spike occurring in January 2022. Figure 116 on page 250 reflects the 7-day rolling average COVID-19 case counts for Herkimer County from data available on the COVID-19 data tracker (CDC, 2022e).

**COVID-19 Positive Cases,
Herkimer County 2020 - 2022**

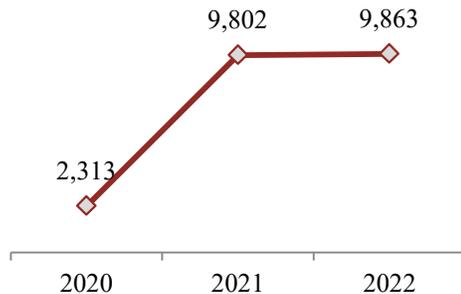


Figure 114
Source: Herkimer County Public Health

**Confirmed Deaths from
COVID-19, Herkimer County
2020 - 2022**

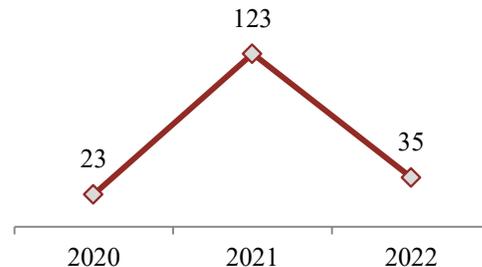


Figure 115
Source: Herkimer County Public Health

Figure 114 (above) demonstrate the actual number of positive cases of COVID-19 in Herkimer County residents. The number of positive cases rose by 326.4% between the initial outbreak in 2020 and 2022.

Figure 115 (above) demonstrate the number of confirmed deaths from COVID-19. The limitation of this data is that Herkimer County Public Health is only made aware of deaths from COVID-19 from either personal report or death certificates. Confirmed death rates spiked in 2021, but have gone down significantly in 2022. Figure 116 on the next page illustrates the 7-day rolling average in Herkimer County from February 2020 to June 2022.

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Overall Vulnerability Scores

Indicator	Score
Overall Vulnerability	0.56
Socioeconomic Status	0.41
Minority Status & Language	0.27
Household & Transportation	0.61
Epidemiological Factors	0.48
Healthcare System Factors	0.83
High-Risk Environments	0.64
Population Density	0.50

Figure 117 Source: CDC Social Vulnerability Index

COVID-19 Vaccinations

The COVID-19 vaccine was developed to protect individuals from being infected by COVID-19 or at least reduce the severity of the virus. Currently, those who are ≥ 6 months are approved to be vaccinated (CDC, 2022d). Overall, Herkimer County has a 65.5% of residents who are fully vaccinated (received all vaccines in the series appropriate for the brand), and 55.4% have also received their first booster shot (Table 141 below). The New York State resident rate of vaccine compliance is 97.6% (CDC, 2022e).

In the fall of 2022, bivalent boosters were introduced to target emerging COVID-19 Omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5. The updated FDA-approved bivalent boosters are available from both Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna to provide additional protection against severe illness and death.

	Herkimer County COVID-19 Vaccination Rates		
	One Dose	Fully Vaccinated	First Booster Dose
Total	40,145	36,903	20,428
% of Population	65.5%	60.2%	55.4%
Population >5 Yrs	40,085	36,898	20,428
% Population >5 Yrs	68.8%	63.3%	55.4%
Population >12 Yrs	39,000	35,898	20,365
% Population >12 Yrs	73.1%	67.3%	56.7%
Population >18 Yrs	36,528	33,609	19,733
% Population >18 Yrs	74.9%	68.9%	58.7%
Population >65 Yrs	12,180	11,168	8,348
% Population >65 Yrs	93.6%	85.8%	74.7%

Table 141 Source: CDC COVID-19 Integrated County View

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Data Resources

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Physical & Emotional Health

Mental Health and Substance Use and Misuse

Why this is important

Mental health and substance use disorders negatively affect physical and emotional well-being. They may occur at all ages among individuals from different socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, and in both genders. There is growing evidence that poor mental health frequently co-occurs with many chronic conditions and may worsen related health outcomes and lead to higher morbidity and mortality. The U.S. Surgeon General estimates that one in five Americans suffers from a mental health disorder each year.

Poor behavioral health is another pervasive problem that affects our society. It includes smoking, alcohol use, and substance use and misuse, all of which frequently accompany mental health problems as well as aggravate common chronic diseases.

When mental health, behavioral health and substance use disorders remain unaddressed, it inevitably results in heavy human and economic costs. Decreased productivity, work and school absenteeism, poor quality of life, negative health outcomes and an increased burden on the health care system can result.

It is important to discuss mental health as a continuum rather than a static state of being. This is especially true in children and youth.

Mental health is more than the absence of a mental disorder. Children and youth who do not have a mental disorder can experience difficulties reaching developmental and emotional milestones that impact their ability to cope with problems, learn healthy social skills, and learn resilience.

Poor mental health can impact education, physical health, social health, and decision-making skills. It is also linked to substance use, risky sexual behaviors, and exposure to violence. Many health behaviors and habits are formed in adolescence, including mental health and substance use. It is important to promote and support good behavioral health habits in adolescence, which can carry over into adulthood.

Where we stand

Figures 118 and 119 on the next page illustrates the percentage of adults that reported poor mental health in the last 14 days of the last month in Herkimer County, the Mohawk Valley Region, and New York State in 2021, and compares this with the NYS Prevention Agenda goal for 2024. As the figures show, a higher percentage of Herkimer County residents reported 14 or more poor mental health days within a one-month period than the percentages reported in NYS. However, Herkimer County percentages were lower than the Mohawk Valley overall. All were above the NYS Prevention Agenda (PA) goal of 10.1%. Figure 117 demonstrates that the rates of adults reporting poor mental health decreased between 2016 and 2018, but are trending upwards in 2021.

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Mental Health and Substance Use and Misuse

Age Adjusted % of Adults with Poor Mental Health in the Last 14 Days in the Last Month, 2021

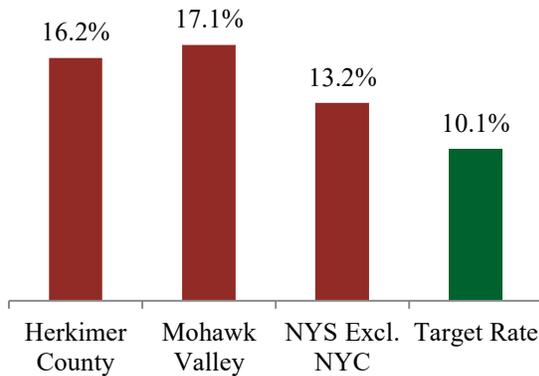


Figure 118
Source: NYS Prevention Agenda Dashboard

Herkimer County Age Adjusted % of Adults with Poor Mental Health in the Last 14 Days in the Last Month, 2016 - 2021

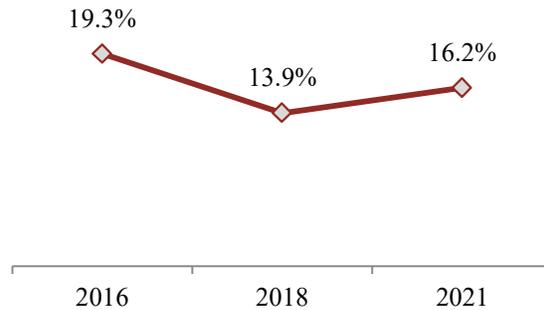


Figure 119
Source: NYS Prevention Agenda Dashboard

Table 142 displays the estimated number of youth and adults that are diagnosed with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) in New York State and the Central NY Region, which includes Herkimer County. As the table shows, over 39.8% of children, 54.9% of adults between the ages of 21 and 64 years in Central NY are estimated to have serious mental health needs which may require treatment and support services.

2020 Estimated SED and SMI Prevalence—NYS, Central NY Region, and Herkimer County

Region	Age 0 - 20	Age 21 - 64	Age 65 and Older
	Est. SMI Population	Est. SMI Population	Est. SMI Population
Statewide	31.9%	58.9%	9.1%
Central NY	39.8%	54.9%	5.3%

Table 142 Source: 2020 OMH Patient Characteristics Survey

Table 143 on the following page displays the ratio of available mental health providers to the general population of residents in 2021 in Herkimer County, New York State and in top performing U.S. Counties. A lower ratio is better and means that there are ample professionals available to meet needs. Providers include psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, counselors, marriage and family therapists and advanced practice nurses specializing in

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Mental Health and Substance Use and Misuse

mental health care. In 2015, marriage and family therapists and mental health providers that treat alcohol and other drug abuse were added to this measure.

Availability of Mental Health Providers 2021

Herkimer County	New York State	Top US Performers*
1,200:1	300:1	340:1

Table 143 Source: 2020 County Health Rankings

As the table shows, there is one mental health services provider available for every 1,200 residents in Herkimer County. The availability of mental health providers is significantly better in New York State as a whole and in high-performing communities across the United States. Herkimer County has been identified as a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for mental health providers. Adults and children from Herkimer County requiring outpatient care sometimes travel out of county to obtain services. Children or adults requiring inpatient care are served solely by facilities outside Herkimer County.

Figure 120 illustrates the number of clinic visits made to the Herkimer County Mental Health Clinic each year from 2007 to 2022. As the graph illustrates, yearly clinic visits have increased by 48.8% during this time frame. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Herkimer County Mental Health Clinic continued to provide services via telephone or virtual clinic sessions.

Herkimer County Mental Health Clinic Visit 2007 - 2022

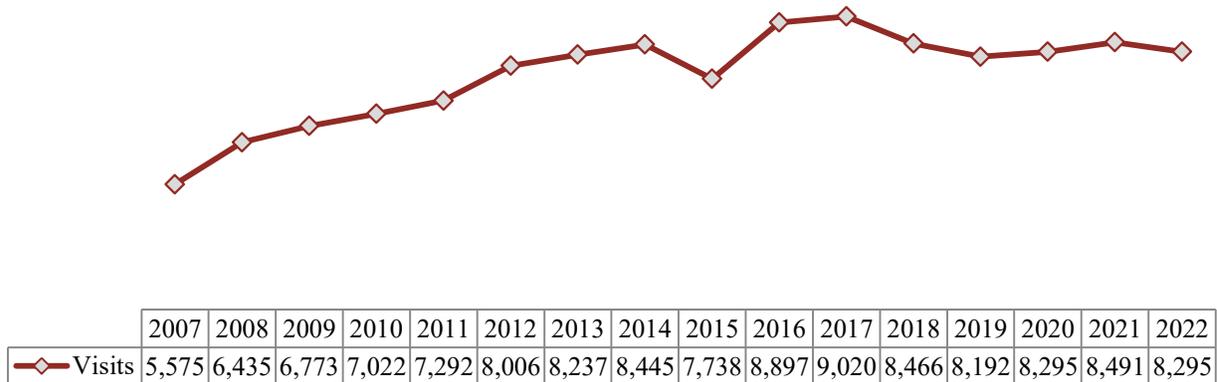


Figure 120 Source: Herkimer County Mental Health Clinic program data

Physical & Emotional Health

Mental Health and Substance Use and Misuse

Herkimer County Mental Health Jail Visits 2010 - 2022



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
—◆— Visits	679	700	764	719	700	834	870	890	692	565	499	549	569

Figure 121
 Source: Herkimer County Mental Health Clinic program data

Figure 121 (above) illustrates the number of visits made to inmates in the Herkimer County Jail each year from 2010 to 2022. As the graph illustrates, jail visits have decreased by 16.2% during this time frame. All individuals who are booked into the correctional facility are given a mental health screening upon arrival. Those who are identified as high-risk are placed on Constant Watch for their safety. Figure 122, (right), illustrates the number of inmates placed on Constant Watch and the number of Constant Watch visits made from 2015 – 2021. The 63.6% decrease in inmates placed on Constant Watch and the corresponding decrease in visits can be correlated with NYS Bail reform and the drop in the number of individuals who are incarcerated pre-trial.

Herkimer County Jail 2016 - 2021

Inmates Screened by a Mental Health Professional for Mental Health Needs

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Inmates Screened	360	374	311	270	123	168
Constant Watch Visits	194	177	128	100	113	72

Table 144 on the following page shows adult and child average daily census for inpatient mental health services in 2020 and the rate per 10,000 persons in Herkimer County and New York State. As the table shows, rates for inpatient hospital use in Herkimer County are below NYS rates for adults. For children, the Herkimer County rates for State Psychiatric Center and Residential Treatment Facilities are higher than for NY State. In 2020, an average rate of 1.1 per 10,000 Herkimer County children were in a State Psychiatric facility, compared to 0.5 per 10,000 of NY State children overall.

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Mental Health and Substance Use and Misuse

Mental Health Inpatient Use Profile for Herkimer County and NYS 2020

	Herkimer County		New York State	
	Daily Census	Rate/10,000 Pop	Daily Census	Rate/10,000 Pop
Adults (age 18+)				
General Hospital	5.10	1	3,291.30	2.1
Private Hospital	0	0	346	0.2
State Psychiatric Center	0.90	0.20	2,194.50	1.4
Children (age 0–17)				
General Hospital	0.30	0.20	243.20	0.6
Private Hospital	0	0	246.90	0.60
State Psychiatric Center	1.30	1.10	219.10	0.5
Residential Treatment Facility (RTF)	2.10	1.60	369.70	0.90

Table 144 Source: NYS Office of Mental Health Dashboard

Substance Use Prevalence: Alcohol

Binge drinking (5 or more drinks on one occasion for men, 4 or more drinks on one occasion for women) is associated with many health problems; including unintentional injury, alcohol poisoning, poorly controlled diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases.

Figures 123 and 124 (both on the next page) displays the percent of adults that report on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) that they engaged in binge drinking during the past month of responding to the survey in Herkimer County and New York State (excluding NYC), and compares this percentage with the benchmark established by the Department of Health, NYS Prevention Agenda. Herkimer County exceeds the Prevention Agenda 2024 Benchmark, and at 19.1%, is higher than the percentage of adult binge drinking reported in New York State, and is higher than the Mohawk Valley rates.

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Mental Health and Substance Use and Misuse

Herkimer County Age Adjusted % of Adults Reporting Binge Drinking in the Last Month 2016 - 2021

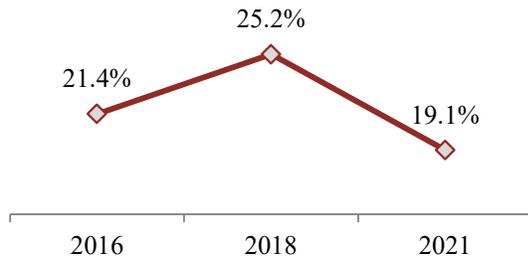


Figure 123

Source: NYS Prevention Agenda Dashboard

Age Adjusted % of Adults Who Reported Binge Drinking in the Last Month, 2021

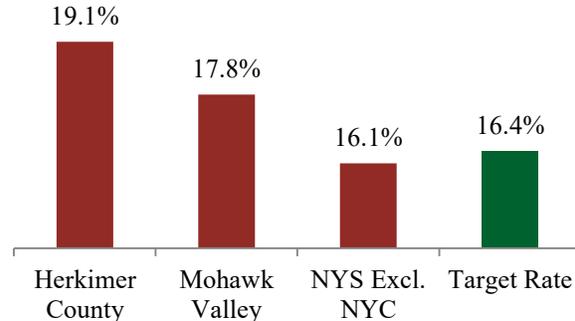


Figure 124

Source: NYS Prevention Agenda Dashboard

When comparing 2016 to 2021 rates in Herkimer County, despite the spike in binge drinking rates in 2018, there has been an 11.4% decrease in adults reporting binge drinking behaviors.

Youth Alcohol Consumption

In 2020 and in 2021, the Herkimer County System of Care and Herkimer County Integrated County Planning conducted a Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey to youth in grades 9 – 12 in several of the Herkimer County High Schools. To access the full report, visit the Herkimer County Youth Bureau's home page or go to,

<https://www.herkimercounty.org/services-and-departments/youth-bureau.php>

Underage drinking is a significant public health problem. Youth alcohol consumption is linked to educational problems such as high absenteeism, low grades, and memory problems. Socially, alcohol use is linked with withdrawal from youth-related activities, legal problems, unwanted or unprotected sexual activity, physical and/or sexual violence, increased risk of suicide, and increased risk of unintentional injuries from motor vehicle crashes, falls, burns, or drowning. Underage drinking is also linked to alcohol use disorder in adulthood.

Youth reported an increase in alcohol consumption between 2020 and 2021 (Figure 125, on the next page). In 2020, 24% of youth in grades 9-12 reported consuming alcohol in the 30 days prior to taking the survey. In 2021, that percentage rose to 28.4%. Female students were statistically more likely to report alcohol consumption than male students.

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Mental Health and Substance Use and Misuse

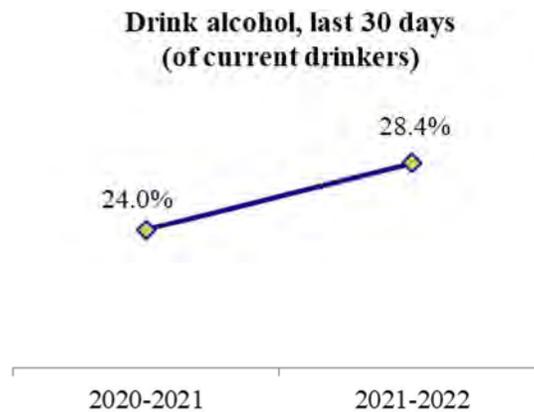


Figure 125
Source: 2021 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey

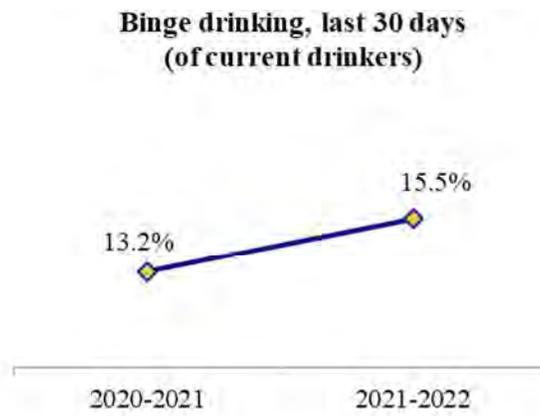


Figure 126
Source: 2021 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey

Binge drinking has also increased from 2020 to 2021, with rates rising from 13.2% to 15.5% in just one year. Female students were also statistically more likely to report binge drinking behaviors than their male counterparts (Figure 126, above).

Substance Use Prevalence: Opioids and other Substances

Sadly, prescription drug misuse is the fastest growing drug problem in the US. Figure 127 on the next page displays the opioid death and Emergency Department (ED) rates in Herkimer County for 2015 - 2020. Death rates have increased in Herkimer County since 2015 but remain lower than the rates found in NY State. ED visit rates are decreasing in Herkimer County and remain lower than NY State rates.

Physical & Emotional Health

Mental Health and Substance Use and Misuse

**Herkimer County and NY State Opioid Overdose Rates per 100,000
Population 2015–2020**

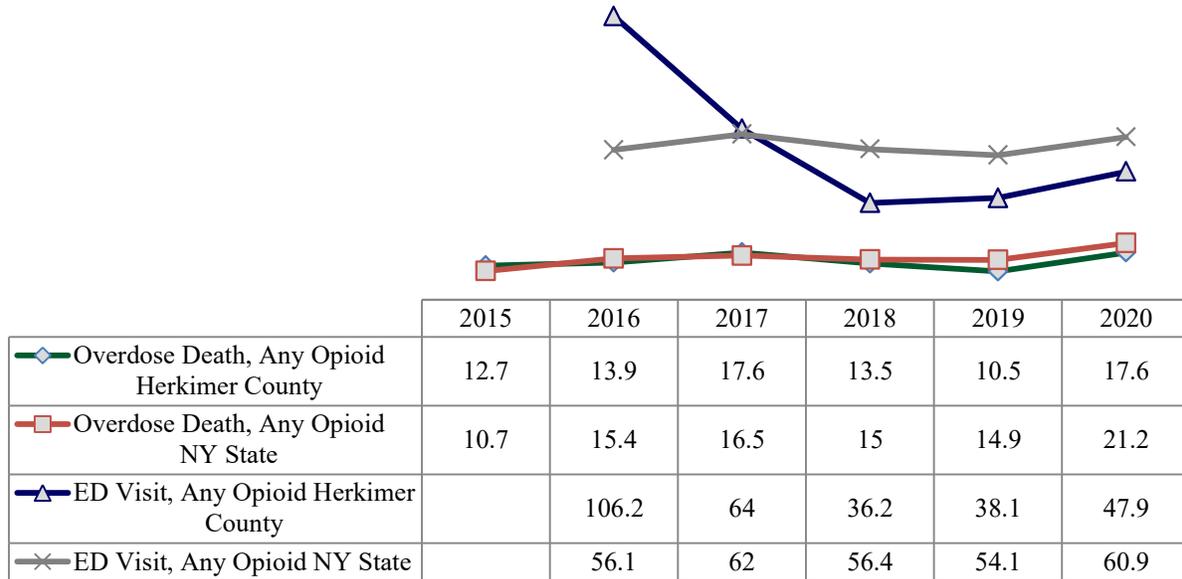


Figure 127 Source: NYS Prevention Agenda Dashboard

Overdose Mapping

Overdose Mapping (ODMAP) is an online resource that provides real-time suspected overdose data to participating jurisdictions. This online tool is operated and supported by High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), a program created by Congress in 1988 to aid state and local agencies, including law enforcement, to areas designated as critical drug-trafficking areas. Herkimer County is not one of the 33 counties across the United States considered a critical drug-trafficking county. However, neighboring Oneida County is one of the 33 counties.

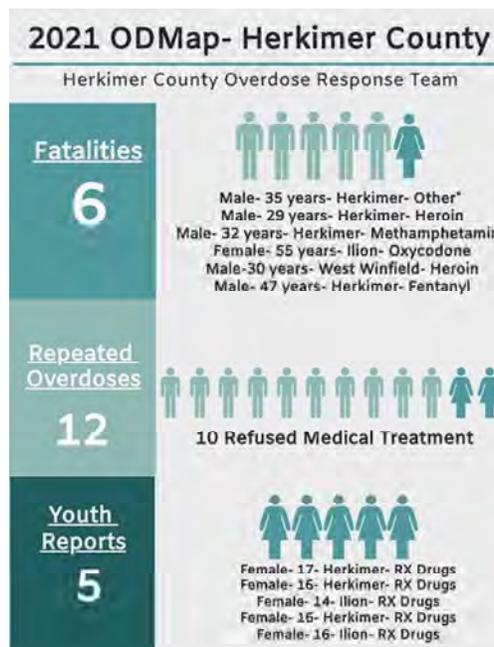
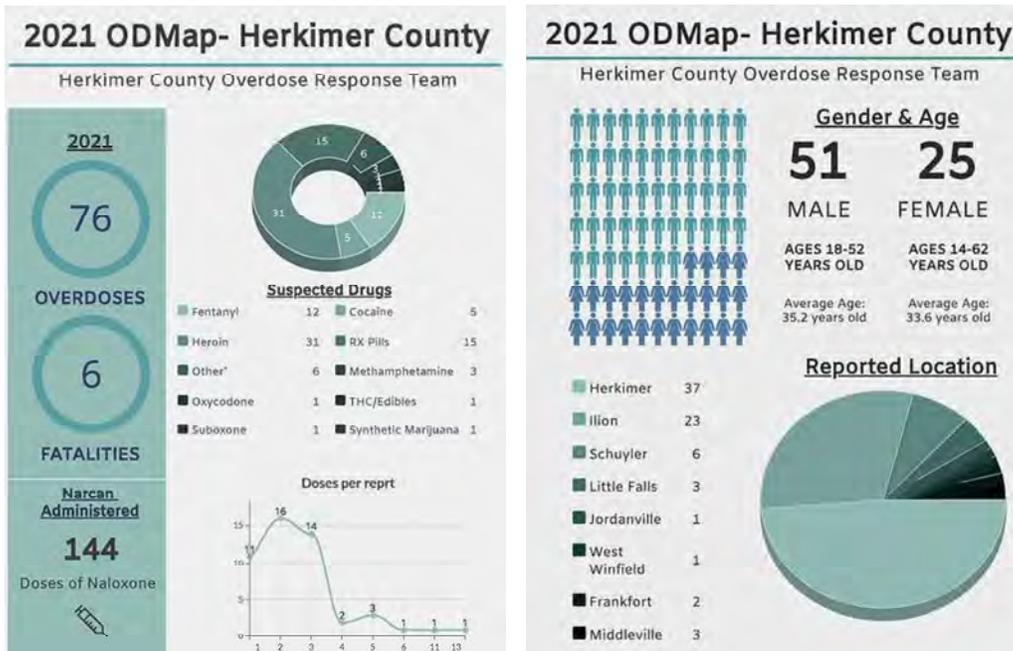
A jurisdiction does not need to be one of the 33 HIDTA counties to access ODMAP services. To access the mapping services, a jurisdiction only needs to sign a partnership agreement and be a government agency to qualify.

In Herkimer County, the Herkimer County Prevention Council and the Herkimer County Sheriff's Department work closely with first responders to respond in real-time to suspected overdoses. Local data can be found on the Prevention Council dashboard (<https://www.cpchc.org/copy-of-what-we-do>).

The images on the following page are taken from the Prevention County ODMAP dashboard;

Physical & Emotional Health

Mental Health and Substance Use and Misuse



Youth Substance Use

Teen substance use, marijuana, the misuse of prescription drugs, or other substance use, has a big impact on their physical and mental health. Substance use has significant repercussions on the lives of youth. The following tables examine youth responses to questions about their behaviors related to substance use on the 2020 and 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey.

Physical & Emotional Health

Mental Health and Substance Use and Misuse

Figure 128 demonstrates an increase in high school youth reporting they have used marijuana on one or more days in the 30 days prior to the survey. Figure 129 illustrates a concerning upward trend of youth attending school under the influence of an illegal substance.

**Marijuana use, last 30 days
(current marijuana users)**

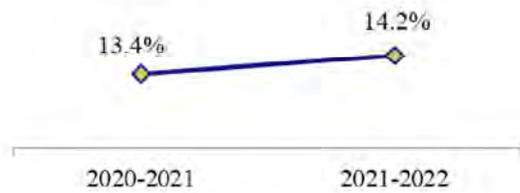


Figure 128
Source: 2021 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey

Youth who attended school under the influence of alcohol or other illegal drugs, last 12 months

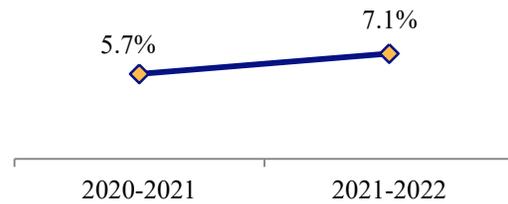


Figure 129
Source: 2021 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey

Figure 130 below illustrates the different substances Herkimer County youth are reporting having used in the 30 days prior to taking the survey. Prescription pain medications are the most highly reported substance youth report using. Inhalants and prescription stimulants are second and third, respectively.

2021 High School Youth Substance Use (last 30 days)

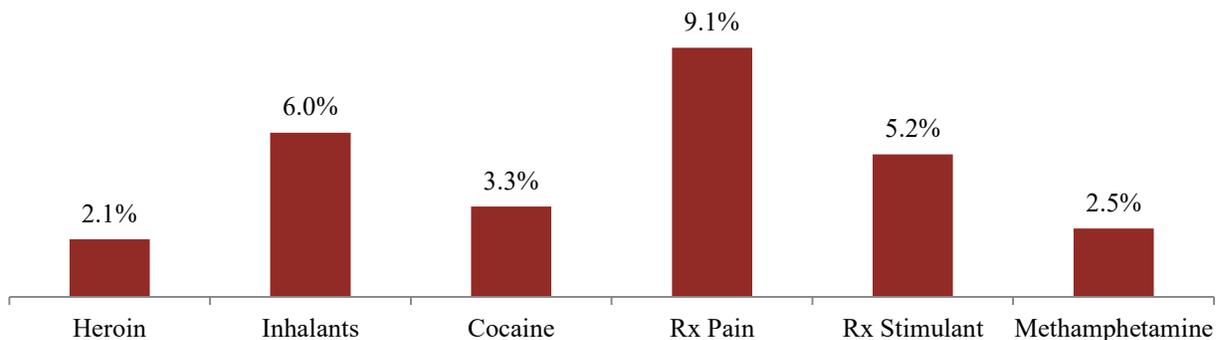


Figure 130 Source: 2021 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey

Physical & Emotional Health

Mental Health and Substance Use and Misuse

Prevention Services

Prevention Services are provided by the Herkimer County Prevention Council (HCPC), a program of Catholic Charities of Herkimer County, and include classroom education, Kindergarten - College, prevention counseling, brief intervention, information and referral, community education, and training. Figure 131 illustrates the number of youth and adults that have received educational services from HCPC from 2009 to 2015.

The HCPC utilizes evidence-based programs in local schools including educational and awareness outreach targeting middle school youth through the annual Herkimer County Drug Quiz Show, and educates parents through environmental strategies. Additional educational awareness campaigns include Red Ribbon Week, National Drug Facts Week and Unity Day.

Youth & Adults Receiving Education Services from the Herkimer County Prevention Council 2018 - 2021

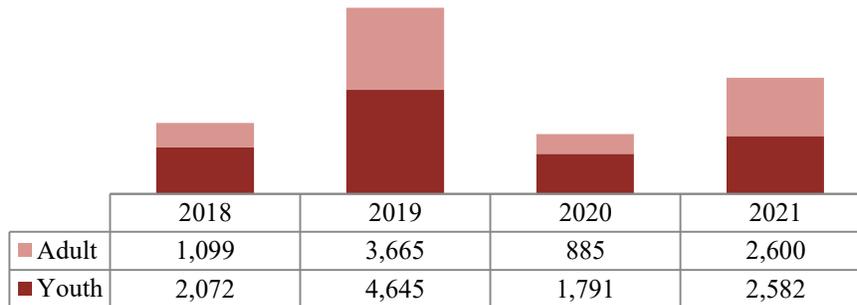


Figure 131 Source: Herkimer County Prevention Council Program Data

Prevention Counseling is provided in grades 6-12 in six school districts and at Herkimer College. Figure 132 on the following page illustrates the number of youth and adults in Herkimer County that have received counseling services from the HCPC from 2018 to 2021.

HCPC has a website that provides resources for individuals, schools, parents and the community. Information is available on current drug trends, support group meeting schedules and referral sources for prevention and treatment.

HCPC formed the Community Partnership Coalition of Herkimer County in May of 2012. The Partnership consists of 52 members from law enforcement, school /college personnel, health care, media, religious/fraternal organizations and various human service agencies. The Partnership's mission is to prevent alcohol and substance abuse, focusing on youth and including adults through the collaboration and mobilization of community members. The partnership has addressed issues surrounding underage drinking, synthetic drugs, prescription drug abuse, and heroin and methamphetamine abuse.

Physical & Emotional Health

Mental Health and Substance Use and Misuse

Youth & Adults Receiving Counseling Services from the Herkimer County Prevention Council 2018 - 2021

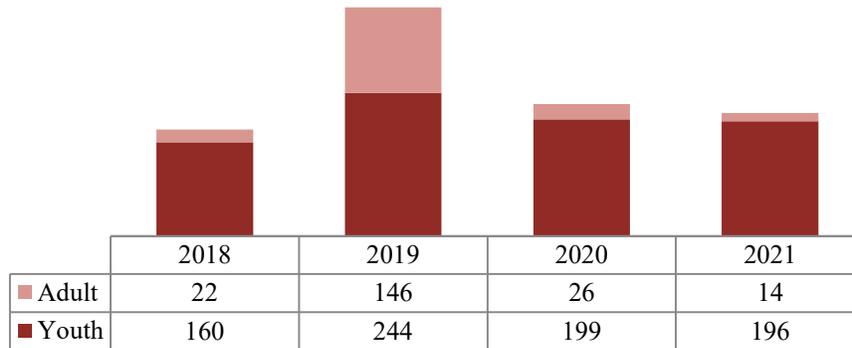


Figure 132 Source: Herkimer County Prevention Council Program Data



Keyser Lake/East Canada Creek

Physical & Emotional Health

Mental Health and Substance Use and Misuse

Data Resources

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (n.d.). Retrieved April 12, 2023, from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/new-york/herkimer?year=2023>

Herkimer County Mental Health Clinic Program Data

Herkimer County Prevention Council Program Data

Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey. (2021). Retrieved from <https://www.herkimercounty.org/services-and-departments/youth-bureau.php>

New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). (Apr 2021). The New York State Prevention Agenda 2019-2024. Retrieved from https://webbi1.health.ny.gov/SASStoredProcess/guest?_program=%2FEBI%2FPHIG%2Fapps%2Fdashboard%2Fpa_dashboard&p=ch&cos=21

New York State Office of Mental Health. (2020). Patient Characteristics Survey. Retrieved from <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/tableau/pcs.html>

New York State Office of Mental Health. (2020). County Planning Profiles. Retrieved from <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/tableau/county-profiles.html>

Physical & Emotional Health

Suicide & Intentional Self-Inflicted Injury

Why this is important

Suicide is no longer one of the leading causes of death in the U.S. overall, which is very encouraging. However, it is the second leading cause of death for adults ages 25-34 and the fourth leading cause of death for adults ages 35 -44. For children, the numbers are different. Completed suicides are the second leading cause of death for children ages 10-14, and the third leading cause of death for youth and young adults ages 15-24. It ranks as the 10th leading cause of death for children ages 5-9 years.

Suicide and intentional self-inflicted injury continue to be a major, preventable public health problem. Nearly 46,000 people completed suicide in 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Those who survive an attempt may have serious injuries, in addition to having depression and/or other mental health issues. Other repercussions of suicide include medical and “lost work” costs on the community, which total over \$70 billion for all suicides in a year, and the emotional toll on family and friends. Men are about four times more likely than women to die by suicide, but three times more women than men report attempting suicide.

Risk factors include depression, physical/mental illness, alcohol/substance abuse, incarceration, and other stressful life events. Addressing psychiatric illness through early recognition, intervention, and treatment is an effective way to combat suicide.

Where we stand

Figure 133, below, illustrates the number of suicides in Herkimer County and the rate per 100,000 population from 2010 to 2019. Rates have fluctuated but have experienced an overall 36.4% decrease since 2010. The Herkimer County rate in 2019 (11.4 per 100,000) was higher than the rate for NYS and the Rest of State (8.7 and 10.5 per 100,000 respectively) in that year.

**Suicide Deaths and Rates per 100,000
Herkimer County 2010-2019**

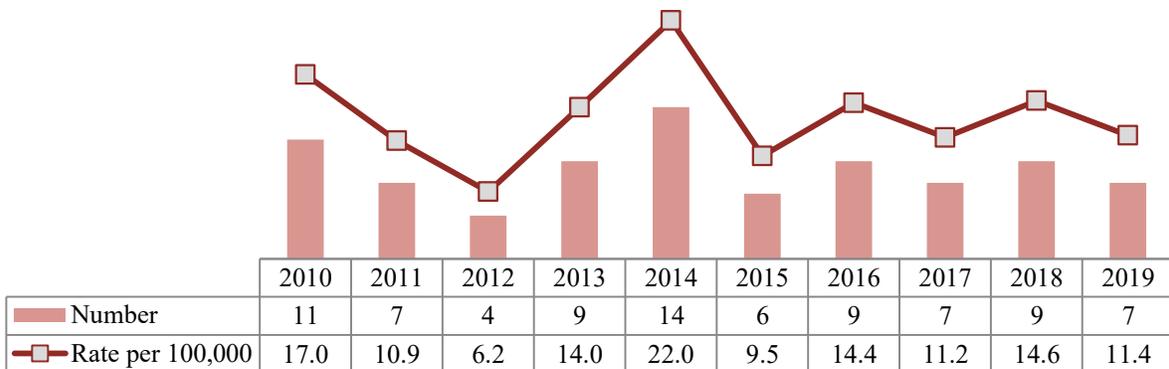


Figure 133 Source, NY State Vital Statistics, Tables 38 and 39

Physical & Emotional Health

Suicide & Intentional Self-Inflicted Injury

Youth Depression, Anxiety, and Suicidal Ideation

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (YRBS) conducted in 2020 and in 2021 asked youth in grades 9-12 to report on several mental health questions. The YRBS revealed a concerning level of depression and anxiety among youth. Among all indicators, female youth were statistically more likely to report the behavior than male youth.

The Figures 134 - 138 below illustrate youth responses to the YRBS questions regarding depression, suicidal ideation, and help-seeking outcomes.

Youth reporting they felt sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more, last 12 months

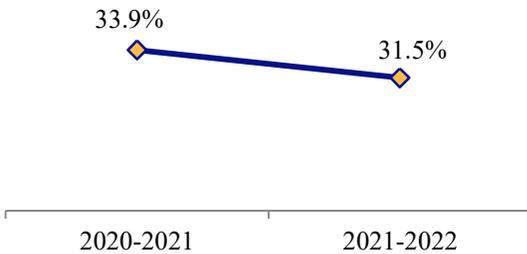


Figure 134
Source: 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance

Youth reporting they purposely hurt themselves without wanting to die, last 12 months

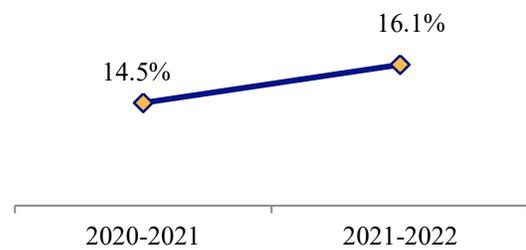


Figure 135
Source: 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance

Made a plan about how you would attempt suicide, last 12 months

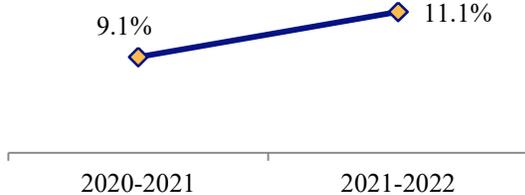


Figure 136
Source: 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance

Attempted suicide, last 12 months

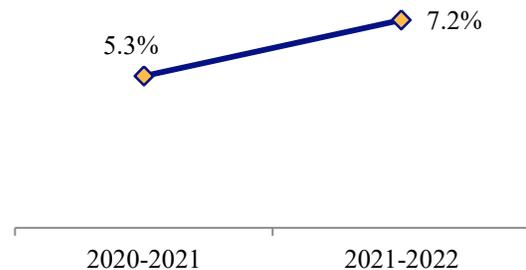


Figure 137
Source: 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance

Physical & Emotional Health

Suicide & Intentional Self-Inflicted Injury

Received the help you needed when you experienced sad, empty, angry, or anxious feelings

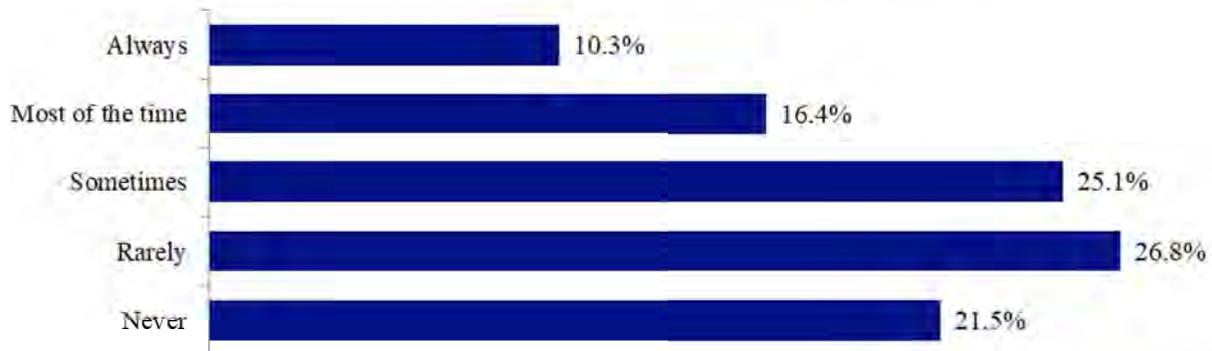


Figure 138 Source: 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey

Despite a decline in the percentage of youth reporting feeling sad or hopeless for more than two weeks (Figure 134, previous page), the percentage of youth who report purposely hurting themselves without wanting to die has increased from 14.5% to 16.1% (Figure 135, previous page). Similar increases were noted in both making a plan about how they would attempt suicide, 9.1% to 11.1% (Figure 136, previous page) and following through with an attempt to complete suicide, 5.3% to 7.2% (Figure 1375, previous page).

A new question on the survey, asked youth to report how often they received the help they needed when they were experiencing negative emotions such as sad, angry, or anxious emotions (Figure 138). Nearly half, 48.3%, reported never or rarely receiving the help they needed. The combination of rising rates in suicide and suicidal ideation and nearly half of youth reporting being unable to get help, is very concerning.

Crisis Assessment and Intervention

The Mobile Crisis Assessment Team (MCAT) is available to anyone seeking crisis intervention services in Herkimer County. MCAT has the ability to respond to crises where they occur and provide 24 Hour, 7 Days/Week Intervention; Mental Health Assessment; Crisis De-Escalation and De-Briefing; Linkage and Follow-up to Services; Alerts to identify and assist those at an increased risk; and Coordination with schools, medical/mental health providers and other agencies to provide crisis intervention and to help monitor clients who are at-risk. Calls to their 24-hour hotline can be made by individuals in crisis, their families, law enforcement, school personnel or the general community. MCAT is also the program that responds to calls from 988, the National Suicide Prevention Hotline in Herkimer County.

Table 145 on the following page displays the number of individuals served by the MCAT Program from 2019 to 2021 by service received, age, action, and recommended dispositions.

Physical & Emotional Health

Suicide & Intentional Self-Inflicted Injury

Mobile Crisis Assessment Team (MCAT) Service Utilization Herkimer County 2019-+2021

	Face to Face Assessments	Total Number of Telephone Assessments	Total Number of Wellness / Alert Calls	Total Number of Consult Calls
2019				
Client Age 0-17	54	45	15	143
Client Age 18+	58	963	272	242
Recommended Disposition: Remain in Community	86			
Recommended Disposition: Inpatient Hospitalizations	26			
2020				
Client Age 0-17	44	80	113	149
Client Age 18+	41	1,897	331	208
Recommended Disposition: Remain in Community	69			
Recommended Disposition: Inpatient Hospitalizations	16			
2021				
Client Age 0-17	74	75	201	163
Client Age 18+	69	1,323	322	187
Recommended Disposition: Remain in Community	114			
Recommended Disposition: Inpatient Hospitalizations	28			

Table 145 Source: Mobile Crisis Assessment Team Annual Program Data

Physical & Emotional Health

Suicide & Intentional Self-Inflicted Injury

Data Resources

Herkimer County Mental Health Clinic Program Data

The Neighborhood Center, Mobile Crisis Assessment Team Program Data

Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey. (2021). Retrieved from <https://www.herkimercounty.org/services-and-departments/youth-bureau.php>

NY State Vital Statistics. (2019). NY State Department of Health. Retrieved from https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2019/



Education

Pre-K to 12 Demographics & Environment

Why this is important

Our public schools are mandated to serve all children in grades K–12, and many local districts provide a Pre-K experience or send children to a BOCES Pre-K program. Studying the demographics and enrollment trends in our region is an important step in predicting staffing and program needs and school district budgets.

Providing adequate programs and services is critical to the education process. Reduced financial resources significantly affect school districts' ability to provide essential programs for students. School districts receive aid from the state according to their income and property wealth. Poorer schools receive a higher percentage of aid. As state support for schools fell in recent years local tax bases struggled to absorb the shortfall.

With the revisions to education accountability and instructional standards as set forth in the Elementary & Secondary Education Act's (ESEA) Reauthorization (a.k.a. "No Child Left Behind", 2001) and as of December 2015 the "Every Student Succeeds Act", there are even greater pressures on schools to account for the effectiveness of their curricular, instructional, and assessment practices.

Understanding issues regarding poor attendance (chronic absenteeism), attitudes towards school, safety concerns and graduation rates is vital to identifying at-risk behaviors that might interfere with successful completion of an educational program. This has become especially important with the addition of Section 804 to NY Education Law:

“All schools shall ensure that their health education programs recognize the multiple dimensions of health by including mental health and the relation of physical and mental health so as to enhance student understanding, attitudes and behaviors that promote health, well-being and human dignity” (New York State Education Department, 2018 – NYSED)).

Where we stand

Table 146 on the following page displays the number of students enrolled by grade level (Pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade) in all Herkimer County school districts from the 2015–16 to the 2021-22 school years. During this time period, total enrollment in Herkimer County school districts decreased by 8.1%.

Enrollment data are collected as part of the New York State Education Department's (NYSED's) Basic Educational Data System (BEDS), a web-based system which collects district/school student enrollment and staff counts. Enrollment is typically a count of the number of students enrolled in the district as of the first Wednesday in October. Enrollment counts for public and charter school students by various demographics are available. Data by district or county can be found at www.data.nysed.gov.

Education

Pre-K to 12 Demographics & Environment

It is important to note that enrollment sharply declined in the 2020-21 school year, presumably due to the COVID-19 pandemic and virtual learning environments

Enrollment by Grade, Herkimer County

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Pre-K	361	413	407	441	413	216	336
Kindergarten	692	645	653	605	655	576	623
Grade 1	638	702	629	665	601	626	585
Grade 2	692	625	679	608	662	573	642
Grade 3	686	698	623	674	600	631	580
Grade 4	634	701	702	620	670	584	635
Grade 5	659	651	701	713	614	673	601
Grade 6	697	657	651	706	705	616	680
Ungraded Elementary	22	24	21	16	11	8	8
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Grade 7	743	719	674	658	717	691	621
Grade 8	686	736	719	664	650	698	696
Grade 9	729	679	748	694	659	648	734
Grade 10	720	687	653	746	677	624	608
Grade 11	670	680	644	607	685	650	596
Grade 12	678	660	670	646	606	681	640
Ungraded Secondary	31	38	38	39	25	22	23
Total Enrollment Pre-K-12	9,338	9,315	9,212	9,102	8,950	8,517	8,608

Table 146 Source: NY State Education Dept. data.nysed.gov

Table 147 on the following page reflects the K–12 enrollment for all Herkimer County School Districts for each school year from 2015-16 through 2021-22. This data does not include Pre-Kindergarten enrollment. In Herkimer County, K–12 enrollment declined by 4.2% during this time frame.

Figure 139 on the following page illustrates the number of K–12 students that were classified as economically disadvantaged in each Herkimer County school district from 2015-16 through 2021-22. Overall, the percentage of Herkimer County students identified as economically disadvantaged has increased from 55.1 % to 58.7%. Despite the overall trend, three school districts (Dolgeville, Mount Markham, and Poland) saw decreases in economically disadvantaged student enrollment. Three districts (Frankfort-Schuyler, Town of Webb, and West Canada Valley) saw no change in the percentage of economically disadvantaged student enrollment.

Education

Pre-K to 12 Demographics & Environment

Kindergarten – 12th Grade Enrollment by District, Herkimer County

	2015–16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Central Valley	2,224	2,342	2,284	2,208	2,201	2,101	2,090
Dolgeville	865	935	907	937	850	788	805
Frankfort-Schuyler	950	967	976	942	921	879	850
Herkimer	1,138	1,126	1,087	1,094	1,110	1,050	1,099
Little Falls	1,072	1,136	1,157	1,124	1,119	1,093	1,116
Mount Markham	1,049	1,087	1,076	1,103	1,091	1,039	1,070
Owen D. Young	176	176	181	187	181	166	172
Poland	548	576	550	552	523	490	508
Town of Webb	272	250	243	251	272	257	257
West Canada Valley	683	720	751	704	682	654	641
Herkimer County	8,977	9,315	9,212	9,102	8,950	8,517	8,608

Table 147 Source: NY State Education Dept. data.nysed.gov

**Herkimer County 2015 -2021
K–12 Enrollment: % Economically Disadvantaged**

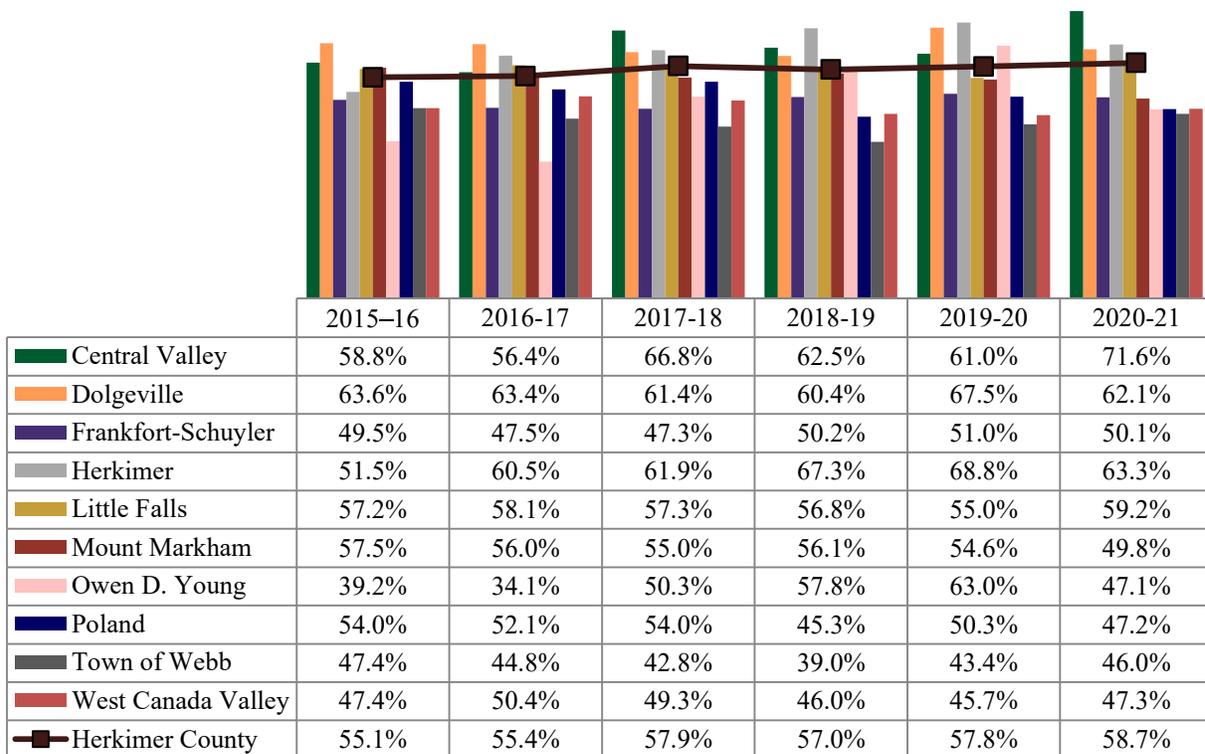


Figure 139 Source: NY State Education Dept.

Education

Pre-K to 12 Demographics & Environment

Percent of Herkimer County Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch Program

	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
	Free	Reduced								
Central Valley	50%	6%	57%	7%	56%	4%	58%	4%	66%	3%
Dolgeville	54%	8%	54%	7%	50%	6%	60%	5%	56%	4%
Frankfort-Schuyler	38%	8%	36%	8%	40%	6%	38%	9%	36%	8%
Herkimer	53%	6%	54%	5%	60%	5%	57%	8%	56%	8%
Little Falls	50%	7%	49%	8%	49%	7%	51%	6%	55%	5%
Mt. Markham	48%	7%	45%	6%	45%	7%	47%	6%	43%	5%
Owen D. Young	35%	14%	39%	12%	49%	9%	53%	9%	42%	5%
Poland	43%	8%	41%	10%	38%	6%	42%	9%	33%	11%
Town of Webb	34%	10%	0%	9%	29%	8%	31%	11%	36%	8%
West Canada Valley	38%	8%	40%	6%	39%	6%	37%	6%	39%	5%
Herkimer County	44%	8%	42%	8%	46%	6%	47%	7%	46%	6%
NYS	48%	5%	52%	4%	51%	4%	52%	3%	53%	3%

Table 148 Source: NY State Education Dept.

Table 148 above displays the percentage of Herkimer County students, by school district, that are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch from the 2016-17 to 2020-21 school years. As the table shows, eligibility percentages have fluctuated during this time period, but have ultimately increased for those youth eligible for free lunch but decreased for youth eligible for reduced lunch. Herkimer County rates remain lower than the NYS rate.

Education

Pre-K to 12 Demographics & Environment

Pre-Kindergarten Programs and School Readiness

Table 149 (right) identifies the number of Pre-Kindergarten students that were enrolled in a Pre-K program in Herkimer County by full day or half day enrollment. As the table displays, Pre-K enrollment has increased by 13.4% between 2015-16 and 2019-20. Enrollment sharply declined in the 2020-21 school year, presumably due to the COVID-19 pandemic and virtual learning environments.

For children with special learning-related needs, being ready to enter school, partly depends upon having had early intervention services and supports. Table 150 below displays the number of Herkimer County children that received preschool special education services from 2015-16 to 2020-21.

Preschool Special Education Services are provided to children ages 3 and 4 that are found to be qualified after a multidisciplinary evaluation. Services range from in-home therapies to intensive facility-based programs.

Pre-K Students in Herkimer County

	Half Day	Full Day	Total
2015-16	204	157	361
2016-17	172	241	413
2017-18	169	238	407
2018-19	132	309	441
2019-20	183	230	413
2020-21	132	84	213

Table 149
Source: NY State Education Dept.

Special Education Pre-K Students, Herkimer County

	In County		1:1 Aide	Out of County		Referrals	
	Half Day	Full Day		Full Day UCP	Promise Program	Total Referrals	Early Intervention Referral
	BOCES	BOCES					
2015-2016	5	28	8	3	7	56	36
2016-2017	10	21	1	5	6	91	1
2017-2018	4	33	6	4	3	126	30
2018-2019	0	31	10	11	5	155	31
2019-2020	0	31	11	12	6	85	60
2020-2021	0	30	7	9	6	113	46

Table 150 Source: Herkimer BOCES and Herkimer County Public Health Program Data

Many educators and community agencies have expressed concerns about the readiness of children who are entering kindergarten. There has been no actual data on student readiness available because there was no consistent tool used to measure kindergarten readiness. The

Education

Pre-K to 12 Demographics & Environment

Literacy Coalition of Herkimer County and the United Way devised a simple data-collecting tool to obtain information on kindergarten readiness in Herkimer BOCES districts. This tool was used for the first time in the beginning of the 2015–2016 school year; 695 assessments were conducted for 350 females and 342 males (three assessments did not identify gender). Since then, the program, R4K, has changed agencies and is now part of Perch Place, LLC.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and changes to school and Pre-K curriculum from in-person to virtual, there have been significant barriers to performing assessments in classrooms. Due to these restrictions, data for this program is only available for the fall of 2021.

Table 151 (right) displays the aggregate results of the 2021 Herkimer County Kindergarten readiness skills analysis by gender and preschool attendance. As the table shows, approximately three-quarters of children were determined to be ready for Kindergarten. Readiness percentages were higher for females that attended preschool, but males were more likely to be ready for Kindergarten without preschool attendance. Females without preschool were less likely than their male counterparts to be ready for Kindergarten. However, in aggregate, more females than males were determined to be ready for Kindergarten.

**Kindergarten Readiness Skills Analysis by Gender and Preschool Attendance
Herkimer County Fall 2021**

		Males		Females	
		#	%	#	%
With Known Preschool	Not Ready	61	38%	20	12%
	Ready	99	62%	150	88%
Without Preschool	Not Ready	24	15%	39	21%
	Ready	136	85%	145	79%
Total	Not Ready	85	27%	59	17%
	Ready	235	73%	295	83%

Table 151 Source: Perch Place, LLC R4K program data

Per Pupil Expenditures and State Foundation Aid

Table 152 on the following page displays the per pupil expenditures by district and county-wide for both general and special education in Herkimer County school districts from 2016-17 to 2020-21 school years. The per pupil expenditure is the ratio of instructional expenditures to pupils and does not include transportation and district-wide administration costs. Instructional expenditures for general education include K–12 expenditures for classroom instruction (excluding Special Education), plus a proration of building-level administration and instructional support services. Special Education expenditures include K–12 expenditures for students with disabilities (including summer Special Education expenditures) plus a proration of building-level administration and instructional support services. Per-pupil expenditure figures do not include expenses related to Pre-K. Data for Special Education was not available for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years.

Education

Pre-K to 12 Demographics & Environment

Per Pupil Expenditures by District—Herkimer County and NYS

	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
	General	Special	General	Special	General	Special	General	Special	General	Special
Central Valley	\$9,947	\$20,785	\$10,435	\$16,806	\$9,535	\$22,796	\$15,522		\$17,919	
Dolgeville	\$11,066	\$19,022	\$11,688	\$24,101	\$12,668	\$23,278	\$17,451		\$18,932	
Frankfort	\$9,026	\$26,548	\$8,907	\$22,831	\$9,276	\$23,053	\$17,334		\$17,103	
Herkimer	\$8,383	\$20,852	\$8,804	\$21,074	\$9,673	\$25,474	\$17,756		\$17,756	
Little Falls	\$10,147	\$23,123	\$10,287	\$20,238	\$10,695	\$22,448	\$19,878		\$19,414	
Mount Markham	\$10,213	\$22,187	\$10,509	\$21,672	\$10,159	\$21,282	\$19,200		\$20,789	
Owen D. Young	\$10,158	\$24,010	\$11,157	\$27,807	\$11,388	\$27,512	\$23,918		\$28,855	
Poland	\$11,099	\$27,708	\$12,208	\$29,459	\$12,809	\$32,115	\$23,870		\$24,324	
Town of Webb	\$15,557	\$19,167	\$15,939	\$34,014	\$15,932	\$34,092	\$26,873		\$29,962	
West Canada Valley	\$10,145	\$30,566	\$10,696	\$26,522	\$10,175	\$24,459	\$21,997		\$23,111	
Herkimer County	\$10,574	\$23,397	\$11,063	\$24,452	\$11,231	\$25,651	\$20,380		\$21,817	
New York State	\$12,615	\$31,423	\$12,692	\$32,794	\$13,367	\$32,359	\$22,835		\$23,468	

Table 152 Source: NY State Education Dept., Fiscal supplement

Special education costs, on average, were more than two times higher than per pupil expenditures for general education in all school years recorded. Herkimer County Schools, on average, have had a lower per-pupil expenditure rate for both general and special education than NYS.

Figures 140 and 141 on the following page compare the average per-pupil general education expenditures for Herkimer County school districts and New York State for both general education (Figure 138) and special education (Figure 139) for the academic years 2016-17 through 2018-19.

Education

Pre-K to 12 Demographics & Environment

General Education Per Pupil Expenditures Herkimer County and NYS

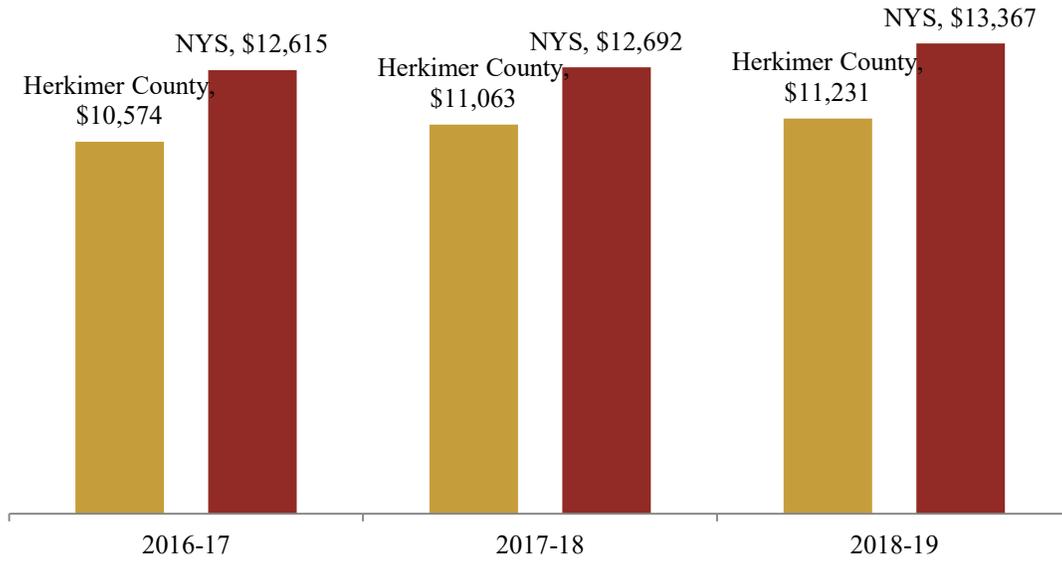


Figure 140 Source: NY State Education Dept., Fiscal Supplement

Special Education Per Pupil Expenditures Herkimer County and NYS

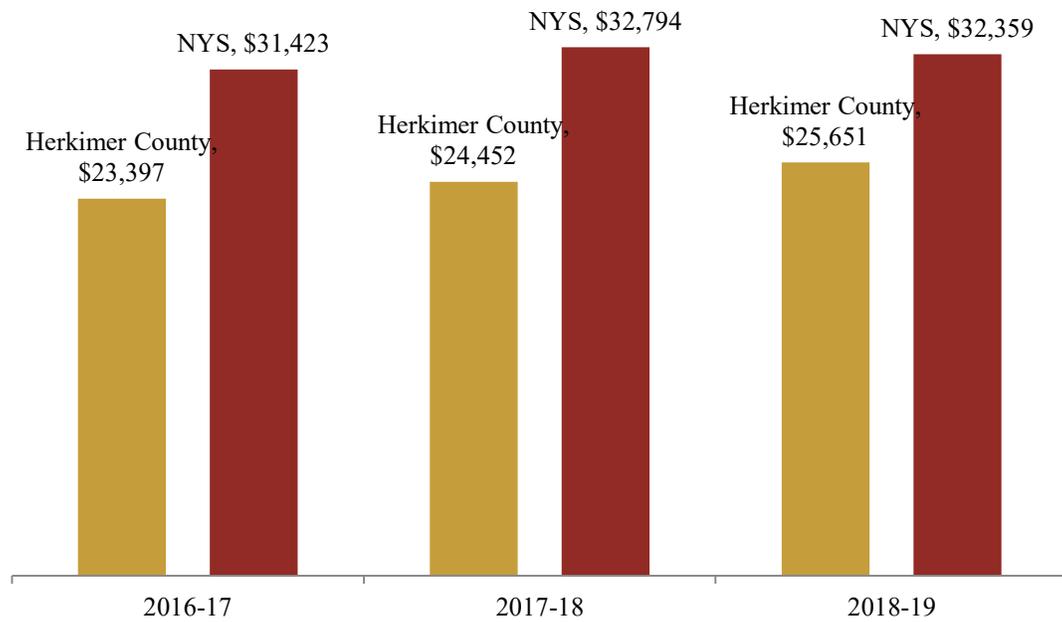


Figure 141 Source: NY State Education Dept., Fiscal Supplement

Education

Pre-K to 12 Demographics & Environment

School districts in New York receive aid from the state in proportion to their income and property wealth, with poorer schools receiving a higher percentage of aid and wealthier schools receiving less. The bulk of the remaining cost of education is borne by local property tax payers. While income wealth measures in all of the County's schools are below average, property wealth propels Poland Central to within the average range and the Town of Webb to the above average range. All other schools are between one third and one half of the state average wealth.

Table 153 details state aid by district for each year of the GEA. In prior school years, there was a Gap Elimination deduction, which has since been restored and is reflected in the data presented.

Foundation Aid Payable by Year in Herkimer County Districts

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Central Valley	20,342,487	20,861,549	21,433,155	21,860,518	22,192,483
Dolgeville	8,706,701	9,056,566	9,359,961	9,612,414	9,870,234
Frankfort-Schuyler	6,357,525	6,696,801	6,921,144	7,178,322	7,332,514
Herkimer	7,451,793	7,985,635	8,225,859	8,383,113	8,569,895
Little Falls	8,275,187	8,673,848	9,035,877	9,974,134	9,974,134
Mount Markham	11,561,667	11,894,409	12,292,872	12,706,543	13,000,880
Owen D. Young	2,126,298	2,187,428	2,260,707	2,383,323	2,470,140
Poland	4,273,775	4,396,749	4,544,040	4,730,806	4,910,773
Town of Webb	540,518	561,941	577,338	601,805	606,319
West Canada Valley	6,750,511	6,944,438	7,134,716	7,339,166	7,537,063
Herkimer County	76,386,462	79,259,364	81,785,669	84,770,144	86,464,435

Table 153 Source: NYSED Said aid Management Public Reports
<https://eservices.nysed.gov/publicsams/reports.do>

Figure 142 on the following page illustrates the cumulative changes for Herkimer County in total when compared with previous years' Foundation Aid. As the figure illustrates, despite no longer being subject to a Gap Elimination deduction, the amount of Foundation Aid to Herkimer County schools is in decline. This places the cost burden on the local taxpayer, and creates a gap in services available based on the wealth of a district. Districts with greater taxpayer generated wealth are able to offer more to their students than districts with less taxpayer generated wealth.

Education

Pre-K to 12 Demographics & Environment

Cumulative Changes in Foundation Aid—Herkimer County

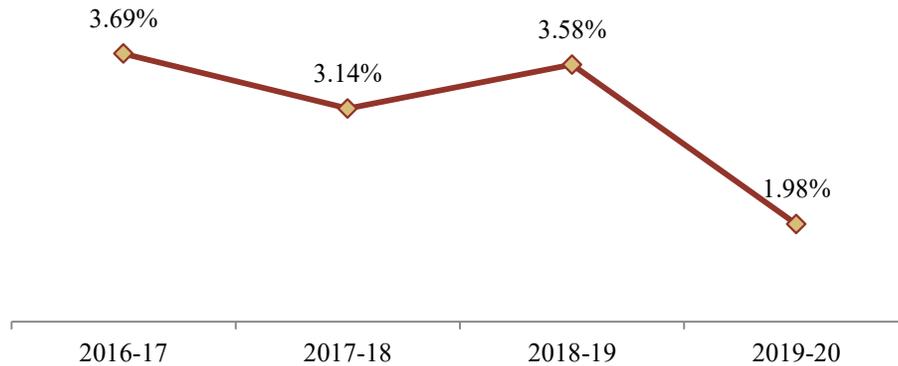


Figure 142 Source: NY State Education Dept., Fiscal Supplement

School Safety and Educational Climate

In the 2017-18 school years, NY State Education Department combined and revised two previous reporting programs, the Violent and Disruptive Incidence Reporting (VADIR) system and the Dignity for All Students (DASA) into one School Safety and Educational Climate report. This new report also updated reporting to better reflect the intent of the VADIRR and the DASA; to inform policies and procedures for reducing violence in schools (NYSED, 2020).

Table 154 on the following page displays the total number of reported incidences (not number of students) in Herkimer County schools for each of the categories for the School Safety and Educational Climate report.

As the table shows, there has been a decrease in the overall number of infractions reported during this time period. Harassment and bullying infractions appear to be the most common reportable event in Herkimer County. It is important to note that for much of the 2020-21 school year, classes were held virtually and therefore much of the reportable offenses did not occur. Whether this is strictly due to the COVID-19 virtual learning environment or a result of school responses and programs to prevent or disrupt inappropriate behaviors is not known.

Education

Pre-K to 12 Demographics & Environment

School Safety and the Educational Climate - Herkimer County

Category	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Sexual Offenses: Forcible Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0
Sexual Offenses: Other Sex Offenses	3	3	3	0
Assault - Physical Injury: Total Number of Incidents	7	12	4	3
Assault - Serious Physical Injury	0	1	0	0
Weapons Possession: Routine Security Check	7	8	2	0
Weapons Possession: Other	7	4	1	0
Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying	103	86	63	39
Cyberbullying	26	18	12	9
Bomb Threat	1	0	3	0
False Alarm	6	0	0	0
Use, Possession, or Sale of Drugs	16	28	10	8
Use, Possession, or Sale of Alcohol	4	6	7	2
TOTAL Infractions	180	166	105	61

Table 154 Source: NY State Education Dept., School Safety and the Educational Climate

Education

Pre-K to 12 Demographics & Environment

Attendance and Suspension Rates

Table 155 on the following page displays the Attendance rates (percentage of students that attended school) and Suspension rates (number and percentage of all students that were suspended in any given year) for all Herkimer County school districts for the 2017-18 through 2020–21 academic years.

Herkimer County’s average attendance rate (and every individual school district rate) was at or above New York State’s average attendance rate for each academic year during this time period. The average suspension rate for Herkimer County was consistently above that of the New York State rate in all years.



Poland Central School

Education

Pre-K to 12 Demographics & Environment

Attendance & Suspension Rates Herkimer County and NYS

District	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
	%Attend	% Susp.	% Attend	% Susp.	% Attend	% Susp.	%Attend	%Susp.
Central Valley	93%	10%	92%	9%	93%	5%	97%	1%
Dolgeville	95%	5%	95%	3%	96%	3%	97%	1%
Frankfort-Schuyler	94%	4%	95%	6%	94%	2%	94%	1%
Herkimer	94%	2%	94%	3%	94%	1%	90%	1%
Little Falls	94%	4%	94%	6%	94%	4%	95%	1%
Mt. Markham	95%	3%	95%	5%	95%	3%	94%	4%
Owen D. Young	95%	1%	95%	2%	95%	2%	96%	1%
Poland	95%	4%	95%	5%	95%	2%	96%	3%
Town of Webb	94%	0%	95%	0%	94%	1%	92%	2%
West Canada Valley	95%	3%	96%	1%	95%	2%	97%	1%
Herkimer County Average	94%	4%	95%	4%	95%	3%	95%	2%
New York State Average	94%	3%	94%	3%	94%	2%	90%	1%

Table 155 Source: NY State Education Dept.

Education

Academic Proficiency: Regents Exams

Data Sources

D'Agati, J. (2020). Proposed Amendment to Sections 100.2(cc), (gg) and 120.3(a) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the Uniform Violent or Disruptive Incident Reporting System, Also Known as the School Safety and Educational Climate Report. In *The New York State Center for School Safety*. Retrieved April 22, 2023, from https://2fbfaf3a-ed30-4b35-9fb20fef7ecc39a7.filesusr.com/ugd/10c789_3405912eacb74b77aa94db5e1d5ddc3a.pdf

NYSED Data Site. (n.d.). <https://data.nysed.gov/>

NYSED: IRS:School Safety Data Reporting. (n.d.). https://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/school_safety/school_safety_data_reporting.html

NYSED State Aid Management System (SAMS) Information. (n.d.). <https://stateaid.nysed.gov/sams/>



Mount Markham Middle School

Education

Academic Proficiency: Regents Exams

Why this is important

Children who fall behind in core subjects are not only at higher risk of failing to graduate from high school and succeed in college or a career, they are also at risk of developing a poor self-image and may be more likely to engage in high risk behaviors. Reading fluency is a particularly critical milestone. Research finds that children who struggle to read in grade 3 will continue to struggle in high school, and students who are not reading at grade level in middle school are likely to have more disciplinary problems, fail classes, or drop out as they may struggle to attain grade level or graduate on time. Difficulties in basic literacy (reading, writing and math skills) also correlate with lifelong economic issues and hardships.

Where we stand

Testing Proficiency

The New York State Department of Education requires that every student be tested in grades 3 through 8 in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, and in grades 4 and 8 in Science.

For each grade, there are students performing along a proficiency continuum with regard to the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the demands of grade-specific Common Core Standards. There are students who are above proficiency, students who are proficient, students who are not quite proficient, and students who are well below proficient at each grade level. New York State assessments are designed to classify students into one of four proficiency categories:

NYS Level 4 Exceeds Proficiency

Student is exceeding grade-level expectations and demonstrating a deep understanding of the subject area. Students can apply the content in new and innovative ways, and may have a passion for the subject area.

NYS Level 3 Proficient

Student is demonstrating proficiency in the subject area and is meeting grade-level expectations. For the most part, students at this level have a solid understanding of the content and are able to apply it in a variety of contexts.

NYS Level 2 Partially Proficient

Student is demonstrating some proficiency in the subject area, but may still have some significant gaps in their understanding. The student at this level may be meeting some grade-level expectations in some areas but lacking in other areas. There most likely needs to be additional support for the student.

NYS Level 1 Below Standard

Student is not yet demonstrating proficiency in the subject area. This means that they have significant gaps in their understanding of the content and are not yet meeting grade-level expectations. Students at this level need immediate intervention to address their areas of weakness so they can improve.

Education

Academic Proficiency: Regents Exams

The tables and figures on the next few pages describe the results of the proficiency tests for students in Herkimer County School Districts, Herkimer County and New York State for 2013, 2014, and 2015. This data is arranged by grade level, and includes the percentage of students in Herkimer County, New York State and individual Herkimer County school districts that met proficiency standards (Level 3 or Level 4). For individual school districts, percentages are shaded if proficiency standards identified by the state were met or exceeded.

Individual district report cards can be found on the NYSED public website; www.data.nysed.gov

Assessments were not conducted in the 2019 -2020 school year due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Tables include:

Table 156—Percent proficient in ELA, 3rd Grade, Herkimer County District

Table 157—Percent proficient in ELA, 3rd Grade, Herkimer County and NYS

Table 158—Percent proficient in ELA, 4th Grade, Herkimer County Districts

Table 159—Percent proficient in ELA, 4th Grade, Herkimer County and NYS

Table 160—Percent proficient in ELA, 5th Grade, Herkimer County Districts

Table 161—Percent proficient in ELA, 5th Grade, Herkimer County and NYS

Table 162—Percent proficient in ELA, 6th Grade, Herkimer County Districts

Table 163—Percent proficient in ELA, 6th Grade, Herkimer County and NYS

Table 164—Percent proficient in ELA, 7th Grade, Herkimer County Districts

Table 165—Percent proficient in ELA, 7th Grade, Herkimer County and NYS

Table 166—Percent proficient in ELA, 8th Grade, Herkimer County Districts

Table 167—Percent proficient in ELA, 8th Grade, Herkimer County and NYS

Table 168—Percent proficient in Math, 3rd Grade, Herkimer County District

Table 169—Percent proficient in Math, 3rd Grade, Herkimer County and NYS

Table 170—Percent proficient in Math, 4th Grade, Herkimer County Districts

Table 171—Percent proficient in Math, 4th Grade, Herkimer County and NYS

Table 172—Percent proficient in Math, 5th Grade, Herkimer County Districts

Table 173—Percent proficient in Math, 5th Grade, Herkimer County and NYS

Table 174—Percent proficient in Math, 6th Grade, Herkimer County Districts

Table 175—Percent proficient in Math, 6th Grade, Herkimer County and NYS

Table 176—Percent proficient in Math, 7th Grade, Herkimer County Districts

Table 177—Percent proficient in ELA, 7th Grade, Herkimer County and NYS

Education

Academic Proficiency: Regents Exams

Table 178—Percent proficient in Math, 8th Grade, Herkimer County Districts

Table 179—Percent proficient in Math, 8th Grade, Herkimer County and NYS

Table 180—Percent proficient in Science, 4th Grade, Herkimer County School Districts

Table 181— Percent proficient in Science, 8th Grade, Herkimer County School Districts

Table 182— Number and percent proficient in Science, 4th and 8th Grade, Herkimer County and New York State

English Language Arts

**Percent Proficient in ELA, by District,
Grade 3**

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Central Valley	48%	49%		60%
Dolgeville	29%	35%		42%
Frankfort-Schuyler	40%	24%		49%
Herkimer	23%	30%		53%
Little Falls	42%	36%		62%
Mt. Markham	44%	44%		49%
OD Young	42%	50%		67%
Poland	42%	31%		79%
Town of Webb	57%	33%		86%
West Canada	33%	42%		61%

Table 156

**Percent Proficient in ELA
Grade 3**

	Herkimer County	NYS
2017-18	40%	51%
2018-19	37%	52%
2019-20		
2020-21	61%	60%

Table 157

Education

Academic Proficiency: Regents Exams

**Percent Proficient in ELA, by District,
Grade 4**

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Central Valley	41%	47%		36%
Dolgeville	8%	22%		42%
Frankfort-Schuyler	20%	19%		34%
Herkimer	23%	28%		45%
Little Falls	27%	36%		50%
Mt. Markham	35%	26%		63%
OD Young	33%	45%		62%
Poland	24%	17%		55%
Town of Webb	35%	62%		75%
West Canada	21%	27%		54%

Table 158

**Percent Proficient in ELA
Grade 4**

	Herkimer County	NYS
2017-18	27%	47%
2018-19	33%	48%
2019-20		
2020-21	52%	62%

Table 159

**Percent Proficient in ELA, by District,
Grade 5**

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Central Valley	27%	18%		21%
Dolgeville				18%
Frankfort-Schuyler	24%	19%		39%
Herkimer	17%	22%		43%
Little Falls	24%	24%		31%
Mt. Markham	11%	20%		34%
OD Young	29%	25%		67%
Poland	13%	21%		50%
Town of Webb	50%	13%		45%
West Canada	32%	31%		61%

Table 160

Education

Academic Proficiency: Regents Exams

Percent Proficient in ELA Grade 5

	Herkimer County	NYS
2017-18	25%	37%
2018-19	21%	38%
2019-20		
2020-21	41%	47%

Table 161

Percent Proficient in ELA, by District, Grade 6

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Central Valley	43%	41%		41%
Dolgeville	20%	14%		40%
Frankfort-Schuyler	53%	46%		50%
Herkimer	48%	22%		43%
Little Falls	26%	28%		36%
Mt. Markham	32%	21%		55%
OD Young	44%	64%		64%
Poland	22%	32%		48%
Town of Webb	57%	58%		75%
West Canada	39%	36%		70%

Table 162

Percent Proficient in ELA Grade 6

	Herkimer County	NYS
2017-18	38%	49%
2018-19	36%	47%
2019-20		
2020-21	52%	62%

Table 163

Education

Academic Proficiency: Regents Exams

**Percent Proficient in ELA, by District,
Grade 7**

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Central Valley	31%	17%		26%
Dolgeville	14%	36%		21%
Frankfort-Schuyler	39%	48%		40%
Herkimer	26%	29%		32%
Little Falls	29%	26%		32%
Mt. Markham	21%	24%		33%
OD Young	20%	27%		38%
Poland	33%	19%		35%
Town of Webb	33%	29%		29%
West Canada	14%	25%		19%

Table 164

**Percent Proficient in ELA
Grade 7**

	Herkimer County	NYS
2017-18	26%	40%
2018-19	28%	40%
2019-20		
2020-21	31%	49%

Table 165

**Percent Proficient in ELA, by District,
Grade 8**

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Central Valley	34%	28%		48%
Dolgeville	8%	38%		62%
Frankfort-Schuyler	22%	41%		66%
Herkimer	38%	58%		27%
Little Falls	39%	40%		44%
Mt. Markham	20%	8%		43%
OD Young	50%	33%		60%
Poland	45%	47%		33%
Town of Webb	47%	50%		
West Canada	44%	23%		44%

Table 166

Education

Academic Proficiency: Regents Exams

Percent Proficient in ELA Grade 8

	Herkimer County	NYS
2017-18	35%	48%
2018-19	37%	48%
2019-20		
2020-21	47%	59%

Table 167

Math

Percent Proficient in Math, by District, Grade 3

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Central Valley	57%	61%		63%
Dolgeville	55%	62%		13%
Frankfort-Schuyler	40%	37%		32%
Herkimer	28%	41%		61%
Little Falls	48%	44%		69%
Mt. Markham	62%	56%		52%
OD Young	54%	36%		67%
Poland	72%	37%		85%
Town of Webb	79%	55%		62%
West Canada	67%	67%		63%

Table 168

Percent Proficient in Math Grade 3

	Herkimer County	NYS
2017-18	56%	54%
2018-19	50%	55%
2019-20		
2020-21	57%	53%

Table 169

Education

Academic Proficiency: Regents Exams

**Percent Proficient in Math, by District,
Grade 4**

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Central Valley	53%	50%		35%
Dolgeville	50%	36%		17%
Frankfort-Schuyler	17%	43%		14%
Herkimer	38%	29%		47%
Little Falls	49%	48%		24%
Mt. Markham	38%	41%		51%
OD Young	22%	45%		54%
Poland	49%	39%		55%
Town of Webb	47%	86%		25%
West Canada	35%	54%		35%

Table 170

**Percent Proficient in Math
Grade 4**

	Herkimer County	NYS
2017-18	40%	48%
2018-19	47%	50%
2019-20		
2020-21	36%	47%

Table 171

**Percent Proficient in Math, by District,
Grade 5**

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Central Valley	41%	40%		22%
Dolgeville	17%	18%		18%
Frankfort-Schuyler	29%	18%		10%
Herkimer	31%	51%		45%
Little Falls	41%	39%		12%
Mt. Markham	41%	33%		32%
OD Young	46%	8%		70%
Poland	33%	58%		66%
Town of Webb	29%	29%		33%
West Canada	49%	42%		67%

Table 172

Education

Academic Proficiency: Regents Exams

Percent Proficient in Math Grade 5

	Herkimer County	NYS
2017-18	36%	44%
2018-19	34%	40%
2019-20		
2020-21	38%	42%

Table 173

Percent Proficient in Math, by District, Grade 6

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Central Valley	41%	7%		16%
Dolgeville	20%	12%		14%
Frankfort-Schuyler	30%	27%		7%
Herkimer	58%	19%		38%
Little Falls	28%	30%		8%
Mt. Markham	33%	27%		29%
OD Young	44%	43%		22%
Poland	33%	35%		41%
Town of Webb	57%	36%		
West Canada	59%	66%		56%

Table 174

Percent Proficient in Math Grade 6

	Herkimer County	NYS
2017-18	40%	44%
2018-19	34%	43%
2019-20		
2020-21	26%	39%

Table 175

Education

Academic Proficiency: Regents Exams

**Percent Proficient in Math, by District,
Grade 7**

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Central Valley	41%	44%		36%
Dolgeville	14%	27%		4%
Frankfort-Schuyler	40%	53%		24%
Herkimer	35%	27%		19%
Little Falls	31%	22%		23%
Mt. Markham	18%	27%		23%
OD Young	18%	18%		46%
Poland	39%	22%		57%
Town of Webb	29%	25%		20%
West Canada	19%	38%		30%

Table 176

**Percent Proficient in Math
Grade 7**

	Herkimer County	NYS
2017-18	28%	41%
2018-19	30%	43%
2019-20		
2020-21	28%	40%

Table 177

**Percent Proficient in Math, by District,
Grade 8**

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Central Valley	7%	9%		3%
Dolgeville				3%
Frankfort-Schuyler	33%	4%		21%
Herkimer	5%	34%		14%
Little Falls	14%	24%		2%
Mt. Markham		12%		2%
OD Young	29%	11%		38%
Poland	39%	7%		18%
Town of Webb	7%	8%		22%
West Canada	8%	25%		21%

Table 178

Education

Academic Proficiency: Regents Exams

Percent Proficient in Math Grade 8

	Herkimer County	NYS
2017-18	18%	30%
2018-19	15%	33%
2019-20		
2020-21	14%	20%

Table 179

Science

Percent Proficient in Science, by District, Grade 4

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Central Valley	89%	83%		77%
Dolgeville	98%	98%		75%
Frankfort-Schuyler	83%	93%		84%
Herkimer	88%	86%		80%
Little Falls	91%	92%		91%
Mt. Markham	91%	94%		82%
OD Young	90%	91%		85%
Poland	92%	93%		91%
Town of Webb	94%	100%		94%
West Canada	91%	95%		82%

Table 180

Percent Proficient in Science, by District, Grade 8

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Central Valley	37%	48%		48%
Dolgeville	61%	66%		38%
Frankfort-Schuyler	74%	56%		53%
Herkimer	53%	72%		46%
Little Falls	75%	68%		33%
Mt. Markham	50%	50%		45%
OD Young	78%	58%		60%
Poland	70%	48%		44%
Town of Webb	77%	71%		40%
West Canada	53%	36%		62%

Table 181

Education

Academic Proficiency: Regents Exams

Percent Proficient in Science

	Grade 4		Grade 8	
	Herkimer County	NYS	Herkimer County	NYS
2017-18	91%	88%	63%	58%
2018-19	93%	83%	57%	55%
2019-20				
2020-21	84%	82%	47%	

Table 182



West Canada Valley School

Education

Academic Proficiency: Regents Exams

Data Sources

NYSED Data Site. (n.d.). <https://data.nysed.gov/>



Benton Hall Academy, Little Falls

Education

Academic Proficiency: Regents Exams

Why this is important

Regents Exams are achievement tests that are aligned with New York State’s learning standards. Prepared by teacher examination committees and Department subject and testing specialists, Regents Exams provide schools with a basis for evaluating the quality of instruction and learning that have taken place. They are used by school personnel to identify major learning goals, offering both teachers and students a guide to important understandings, skills, and concepts. The exams also provide students, parents, counselors, administrators, college admissions officers, and employers with objective and easily understood achievement information for use in making sound educational and vocational decisions. Passing scores on the Regents Exams in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies satisfy the State testing requirements for a high school diploma.

Where we stand

Tables 183 and 184 on the following two pages represent the percent of Herkimer County students attaining Mastery (85–100%) on a Regents exam (Figure 183) and the percent of Herkimer County students earning a passing score of 65–84% on a Regents exam (Figure 184) by exam and year.

For each Regents Exam subject area, there are students performing along a proficiency continuum with regard to the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the demands of Common Core Learning Standards for ELA and Mathematics (CC Algebra 1, CC Geometry). There are students who exceed the expectations of the standards (Level 5), students who meet the expectations (Level 4), students who partially meet the expectations (Level 3 and 2), and students who do not demonstrate sufficient knowledge or skills required for any performance level (Level 1).

Herkimer County: Regents 2016-2020
% Mastery (85-100)

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*
CC Algebra 1	8%	13%	
CC Algebra 2	14%	16%	
Geometry	20%	13%	
Global History	30%	17%	
US History	44%	36%	
CC ELA	39%	41%	
Living Environment	38%	37%	
Earth Science	32%	34%	
Chemistry	10%	15%	
Physics	42%	48%	

Table 183

Source: NY State Education Dept.

*No Regents exams were given in 2020

Education

Academic Proficiency: Regents Exams

Herkimer County: Regents 2017-2020 % Students Earning 65 - 84

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*
Algebra 1	67%	64%	
Algebra 2	67%	70%	
Geometry	57%	58%	
Global History	32%	54%	
US History	38%	40%	
CC ELA	40%	47%	
Living Environment	47%	49%	
Earth Science	41%	43%	
Chemistry	51%	53%	
Physics	39%	32%	

Table 184

Source: NY State Education Dept.

*No Regents exams were given in 2020



Herkimer BOCES

Education

Academic Proficiency: Regents Exams

Data Sources

NYSED Data Site. (n.d.). <https://data.nysed.gov/>



Frankfort Schuyler – Reese Road Elementary School

Education

Graduation Rates and College & Career Readiness

Why this is important

College and career readiness is rapidly supplanting high school graduation as a key priority of the K–12 education system. As workforce demands change, it has become increasingly apparent that students will benefit greatly from at least some postsecondary education or training as they prepare to participate in today’s global economy.

With the growing complexity of the world and the increasing demands of the 21st-century workforce, there is little question that all students should graduate from high school fully prepared for college AND careers.

From an academic perspective, college and career readiness means that a high school graduate has the knowledge and skills in English and mathematics necessary to qualify for and succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing postsecondary coursework without the need for remediation—or put another way, a high school graduate has the English and math knowledge and skills needed to qualify for and succeed in the postsecondary job training and/or education necessary for their chosen career (i.e. community college, university, technical/vocational program, apprenticeship, or significant on-the-job training).

To be college- and career-ready, high school graduates must have studied a rigorous and broad curriculum, grounded in the core academic disciplines, but also consisting of other subjects that are part of a well-rounded education. Academic preparation alone is not enough to ensure postsecondary readiness, but it is clear that it is an essential part of readiness for college, careers, and life in the 21st century.

Where we stand

Table 185 on the following page shows the graduation rate for academic years 2017-18 through 2020-21 for Herkimer County, individual districts, and NY State. In total, Herkimer County graduation rates meet or exceed NY State graduation rates.



Central Valley Academy

Education

Graduation Rates and College & Career Readiness

Graduation Rate, Herkimer County School Districts, 2017-2021

	2017-18				2018-19			
	Regents w/ Advanced Designation	Regents	Local Diploma	Total Grad. Rate	Regents w/ Advanced Designation	Regents	Local Diploma	Total Grad. Rate
Central Valley	24%	40%	9%	73%	21%	50%	9%	80%
Dolgeville	28%	52%	4%	85%	21%	60%	7%	88%
Frankfort	27%	60%	7%	93%	46%	37%	6%	89%
Herkimer	22%	49%	11%	82%	15%	52%	11%	79%
Little Falls	28%	46%	12%	86%	31%	48%	7%	86%
Mt. Markham	35%	44%	12%	91%	33%	44%	8%	85%
Owen D. Young	16%	37%	32%	84%	29%	57%	5%	90%
Poland	26%	55%	8%	89%	36%	45%	12%	93%
Town of Webb	52%	44%	0%	96%	28%	60%	12%	100%
West Canada Valley	32%	49%	9%	89%	55%	25%	3%	83%
Herkimer County	29%	48%	10%	87%	32%	48%	8%	87%
New York State	33%	43%	6%	83%	34%	44%	6%	83%
	2019-20				2020-21			
	Regents w/ Advanced Designation	Regents	Local Diploma	Total Grad. Rate	Regents w/ Advanced Designation	Regents	Local Diploma	Total Grad. Rate
Central Valley	30%	49%	8%	87%	29%	51%	5%	86%
Dolgeville	20%	57%	10%	87%	31%	55%	5%	92%
Frankfort	37%	47%	6%	90%	32%	42%	4%	78%
Herkimer	22%	54%	6%	82%	26%	54%	4%	84%
Little Falls	23%	54%	3%	79%	31%	56%	0%	87%
Mt. Markham	21%	55%	11%	86%	39%	49%	2%	89%
Owen D. Young	23%	50%	18%	91%	14%	57%	0%	71%
Poland	31%	51%	11%	93%	52%	33%	4%	89%
Town of Webb	46%	46%	8%	100%	28%	69%	3%	100%
West Canada Valley	33%	60%	4%	96%	40%	44%	4%	88%
Herkimer County	29%	52%	9%	89%	32%	51%	3%	86%
New York State	39%	43%	3%	85%	42%	42%	2%	86%

Table 185 Source: NY State Education Department

Education

Graduation Rates and College & Career Readiness

Career & Technical Education (CTE)

New York State’s Career and Technical Education studies are organized in New York State in the following content areas: Agricultural education, Business & Marketing education, Family & Consumer Sciences education, Health Occupations education, Technology education, and Trade, Technical & Industrial education.

CTE services are provided with federal funding support from the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education grant which is allocated to states to support Career and Technical Programs.

CTE students (“concentrators”) must meet all requirements set forth by New York State for graduation, and are measured on the following criteria:

Reading/Language Arts Regents—The percentage of CTE concentrators who have met the proficient or advanced level on the Statewide high school reading/language arts assessment [i.e., New York State English Regents examination] administered by the NYS.

Mathematics Regents—The percentage of CTE concentrators who have met the proficient or advanced level on the Statewide high school mathematics assessment [i.e., New York State Regents examination in mathematics] administered by NYS.

Technical Skill Endorsement—The percentage of CTE concentrators who passed technical skill assessments that are aligned with industry-recognized standards, if available and appropriate, during the reporting year.

Secondary School Completion and Graduation Rate—The number and percentage of CTE concentrators who earned a secondary school diploma and/or graduated with their group.

Table 186 illustrates the percentage of Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego (HFHO) BOCES CTE students that graduated (any diploma type) and compares this with the NYS Target Rate. HFHO BOCES has exceeded the NYS Target rate for all years measured.

Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego (HFHO) BOCES Career & Technical Education Program 2017–2020

		Reading/Language Arts Regents	Math Regents	Technical Skill Endorsement	Secondary School Completion
2017-18	HFHO BOCES %	88.02%	86.01%	49.51%	100.00%
	NYS Target %	85.61%	78.45%	75.50%	84%
2018-19	HFHO BOCES %	88.36%	89.42%	69.00%	98.41%
	NYS Target %	85.00%	83.00%	0.00%	82%
2019-20	HFHO BOCES %	86.60%	83.40%	88.00%	88.00%
	NYS Target %	85.00%	83.40%	81.80%	81.80%

Table 186 Source: Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES Report Card <https://www.herkimer-boces.org/documents/information/boces-report-card/92278>

Education

Graduation Rates and College & Career Readiness

Dropout Rate

Students are identified as dropouts if, during the school year, they reached maximum legal age and have not earned a Diploma or Certificate, transferred to a High School equivalency preparation program, had a permanent expulsion, and/or left school with no documentation of transfer.

Table 187 below displays the percentage of dropouts in all Herkimer County school districts from 2017-18 to 2020-21, and compares them to Herkimer County and NYS averages.

As the table shows, the dropout rate for Herkimer County schools range from a low of 0.0% to a high of 21%. Average dropout percentages for Herkimer County are consistently higher than those for NY State.

Percentage of High School Dropouts—Herkimer County & NYS

District	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total
	Dropout	Enrollment	Dropout	Enrollment	Dropout	Enrollment	Dropout	Enrollment
Central Valley	16.0%	615	11.0%	605	5.0%	609	6.0%	629
Dolgeville	3.0%	280	7.00%	268	9.0%	261	3.0%	239
Frankfort-Schuyler	3.0%	300	7.0%	281	1.0%	273	14.0%	266
Herkimer	12.0%	300	11.0%	283	9.0%	299	7.0%	306
Little Falls	12.0%	320	7.0%	342	17.0%	331	11.0%	336
Mount Markham	5.0%	339	5.0%	361	8.0%	351	8.0%	347
Owen D. Young	5.0%	67	5.0%	64	5.0%	51	21.0%	40
Poland	3.0%	167	3.0%	169	7.0%	151	2.0%	145
Town of Webb	4.0%	104	0.0%	99	0.0%	96	0.0%	94
West Canada Valley	4.0%	223	8.0%	221	2.0%	205	7.0%	201
Herkimer County Average	9.0%	2,715	8.0%	2,693	7.0%	2,627	7.0%	2,603
NYS Average	6.0%	808,150	6.0%	800,570	5.0%	796,201	4.0%	788,658

Table 187 Source: NY State Education Dept.

Education

Graduation Rates and College & Career Readiness

Data Sources

NYSED Data Site. (n.d.). <https://data.nysed.gov/>

Owen D. Young School



Education

Youth Perceptions of School

Why this is important

The National Center on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments reports that a positive school environment is linked to higher test scores, graduation rates, and attendance rates. Peer support for positive behaviors, such as studying or participating in class, is also strongly tied to positive school climate and academic achievement.

Academic achievement is an important determinant of physical and emotional health. Higher levels of education are associated with higher incomes in adulthood and those ancillary benefits that come with higher paying jobs. These benefits include health insurance, access to quality healthcare, and the ability to afford healthier diets and to live in safer neighborhoods with well-funded school systems for their children to attend. These ancillary benefits are associated with generational wealth-building, more positive health outcomes, and the disruption of generational poverty and trauma.

Additionally, a youth's sense of well-being, security, healthy attachment to their community, and establishing a healthy relationship with a caring adult are important aspects of development. Youth who feel like a valued member of their school community are better able to take advantage of the positive benefits of education and are less likely to engage in risky or antisocial behaviors.

Where we stand

To better understand how youth perceive the educational environment, Herkimer County conducted a Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years to Herkimer County students in grades 9 through 12. These responses are especially important because these years were a mix of virtual and in-person learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The majority of students (62%) reported that their school work was more difficult to complete during the pandemic and virtual learning (Figure 143 below).

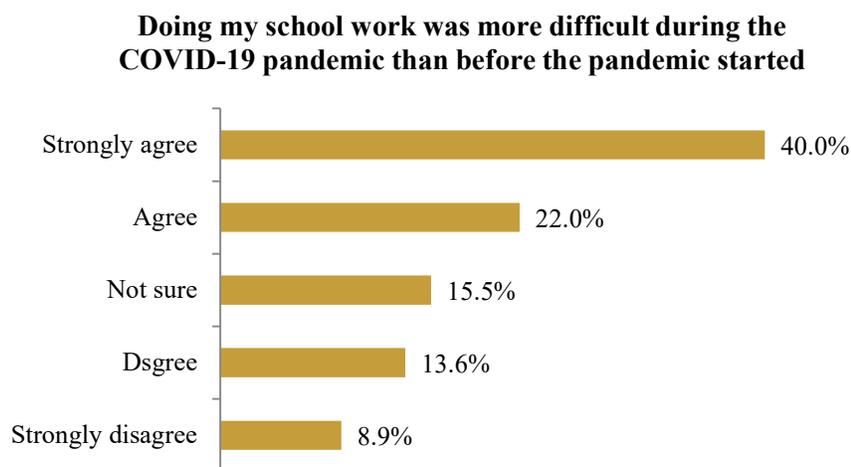


Figure 143 Source: 2021-22 Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey

Education

Youth Perceptions of School

Did not go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or on your way to or from school, last 30 days

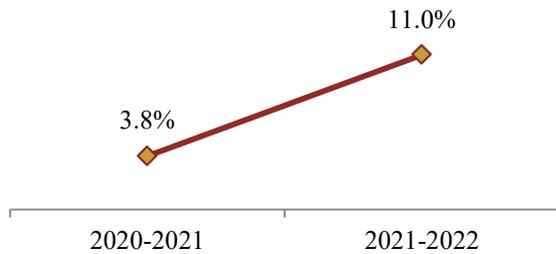


Figure 144
Source: 2021-22 Herkimer County YRBS

Agree their school has clear rules and consequences for behavior

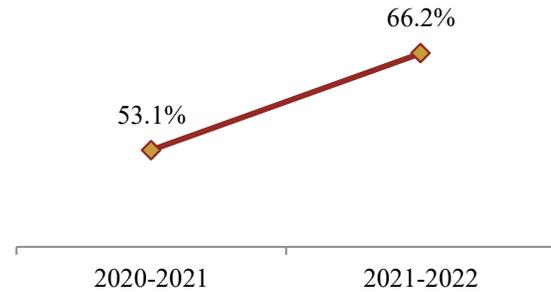


Figure 145
Source: 2021-22 Herkimer County YRBS

Figure 144 (above, left) demonstrates a significant increase in youth who reported not going to school because they felt they would be unsafe at school. This question did not differentiate between personal safety and safety from COVID-19 exposure.

Figure 145 (above, right) illustrates that youth are increasingly reporting that their school has clear rules and consequences for behavior. Consistency in consequences for disruptive behavior is important to developing relationships between youth and educational staff as well as creating safe environments for youth who have experienced past trauma.



Herkimer Elementary School

Education

Youth Perceptions of School

Data Sources

Herkimer County System of Care. (2022). Herkimer County Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey. Retrieved from

<https://www.herkimercounty.org/services-and-departments/youth-bureau.php>



Town of Webb Union Free School District

Education

Continuing Education: Community College

Why this is important

America's community colleges create a significant positive impact on the national economy and generate a return on investment to students, society, and taxpayers.

According to the American Association of Community Colleges, nearly half of all undergraduates in the United States attend community colleges. From recent high school graduates to adult learners, the affordability and flexibility offered by community colleges can help put any person's educational and career goals within reach.

Students that have studied at community colleges have gone on to further their education at other institutions of higher learning, and have entered or re-entered the workforce with newly-acquired skills.

Where we stand

Herkimer College, formerly Herkimer County Community College, was founded in 1966, and plays a vital role in providing accessible and affordable higher education and training.

Table 188 below displays the enrollment for the academic years 2017-18 to 2020-21 and includes information on full and part time enrollment and degrees awarded during that time period.

Herkimer College Enrollment Statistics

Year	Enrollment			# of Degrees and Certificates Awarded	
	Total #	Part-time	Full-time	Degrees	Certificates
2017-18	2,632	1,636	996	415	21
2018-19	2,398	1,396	1,002	433	21
2019-20	2,396	1,128	1,268	349	68
2020-21	2,224	1,035	1,189	283	81

Table 188

Source: SUNY System Administration Office of Institutional Research—SUNY Data Dashboard

Table 189 on the following page displays the retention and graduation rate for full-time students in the academic years 2017-18 to 2020-21 and includes rates on students who graduate in two or three years.

Education

Continuing Education

Retention and Graduation Rates of First-time Full-time Students in an Associate Degree Program, Entering Fall 2016 - Fall 2020

	First-Year Retention Rate	2-Year Graduation Rate	3-Year Graduation Rate
Fall 2016 / Spring 2017	56.10%	24.10%	35.00%
Fall 2017 / Spring 2018	55.70%	24.10%	32.70%
Fall 2018 / Spring 2019	60.40%	29.90%	30.20%
Fall 2019 / Spring 2020	54.40%	30.20%	37.10%
Fall 2020 / Spring 2021	49.50%	22.30%	37.20%

Table 189 Source : SUNY System Administration Office of Institutional Research—SUNY Data Dashboard

Herkimer County Community College



Education

Continuing Education

Data Sources

SUNY Campus Data Dashboard (n.d.). Retrieved from

https://tableauserver.suny.edu/t/IRPublic/views/CampusFactSheets_FinalDraft/FactSheet?%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aorigin=card_share_link

Dolgeville Central School District



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