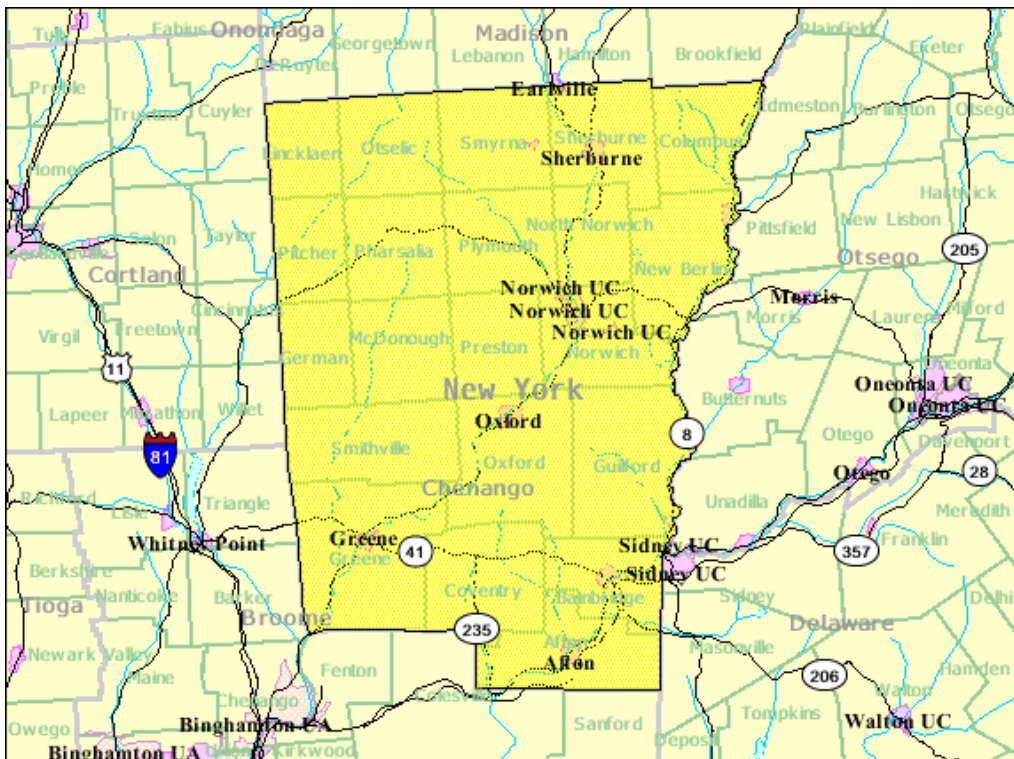


Chenango County

Community Needs Assessment

2009

A Partnership between the Chenango United Way
The Upstate Institute at Colgate University



Data collected and analyzed during the summer of 2009
and written by
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The Upstate Institute Summer Field School

Table of Contents

Letter to the Community	page 3
Executive Summary and Findings	page 4
Chenango County Needs Assessment Data	
Population	page 6
Household Structure	page 8
Educational Attainment	page 8
Income and Poverty	page 10
Employment and Opportunity	page 10
Health Profile	page 11
Housing	page 13
Transportation	page 13
Child and Adolescent Well-being	page 14
Supplemental Tables and Data	appendix A
Bibliography	appendix B



Letter to the Community

April 2010

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share with you Chenango United Way's Community Needs Assessment. This report contains information and data obtained from a variety of sources in the county in the hopes that its results will be useful not only to us but to you as community leaders, United Way donors, health and human service professionals and other providers in making decisions about where to target our collective energies and influence in Chenango County.

With the generous help of The Upstate Institute at Colgate University, we again embarked on a community-wide needs assessment to determine the highest priority community health and human service needs in Chenango County where United Way funding can make a significant and sustainable impact. We will use the results of this project to set our agenda over the next five to eight years.

We are committed to making a difference in the lives of Chenango County residents and the Chenango United Way will use these identified priorities to guide our efforts and direction for the next several years. We invite you also to use the information in this report to help make decisions that will make a measurable difference in people's lives. Working together as community partners, we can truly address our community's most challenging issues.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Monaco

Executive Director and Chief Professional Officer

Executive Summary and Findings

Chenango United Way commissioned this report in an effort to better fulfill its mission of making a measurable difference in people's lives and building a stronger, more vibrant community. As the United Way, we have worked over the last six years to meet the challenge of transitioning to a more sustainable model of community impact and to better understand what the health and human service priorities are here in Chenango County

As was done with our 2005 needs assessment, the concept of this current assessment was not to conduct another, independent study of the health and human service needs in Chenango County but to extract the priority needs in recent studies and data conducted by others, and to then identify the highest priorities among all of them. In 2005, four areas of critical community concern were developed that focused on the ongoing and emerging needs of Chenango County. The areas were: Aging of the Population; Opportunities for Young People; The Poverty Issue of Hunger and Homelessness; and Access to Healthcare. Through updating the Community Needs Assessment in 2009, it has been observed that these focus areas continue to remain as strong indicators of where the needs of our community exist. However, it is recommended that these focus areas become more defined and strategic in order to best address the specific challenges facing the families of Chenango County and to align with the national United Way goals for advancing the common good: income, education and health.

Summary of Results

National Goal: Health

Local Focus Area: Access to Healthcare

Data from this need area focused on increasing the availability of health care options and overcoming obstacles in obtaining adequate local care, such as addressing insufficient health insurance, increasing access to mental health care, increasing providers that will accept Medicaid and obtaining more frequent dental care. Significantly, in Chenango County, there is a high rate of a number of types of heart disease mortality, as well as high rates of heart disease risk factors such as obesity, smoking, drinking alcohol, high blood pressure, and low rates of adults who exercise sufficiently, eat fruits and vegetables sufficiently and have their cholesterol checked regularly. Chenango County sees higher than average instances of oral/pharynx cancer which is linked to tobacco use, making it another disease with the potential to be decreased with prevention and education measures. Additionally, Chenango County sees higher rates of unintentional injury mortality, work related hospitalizations and alcohol related motor vehicle injuries and death suggesting high incidences of generally defined "risky behavior". Based on the findings from the 2009 Community Needs Assessment, it is recommended that the Chenango United Way look for opportunities to improve people's health by increasing efforts toward disease prevention, managing risk factors and increasing awareness in order to specifically address the issue of the high rates of heart disease, obesity, and oral/pharynx cancer.

National Goal: Education

Local Focus Area: Opportunities for Children and Youth

Data from this area focused on the development, well-being and economic security of children and youth in Chenango County. An important statistic to note is that child abuse reports have increased from 188 reports in 2000 to 289 in 2007, making up 40.4% of all abuse reports in Chenango County, which emphasizes the need for an outlet for children, better education for parents and overall increased education about safety. Additionally there has been an increase in the number of disabled youths receiving SSI, which is one of the highest in the state, indicating a relatively large disabled youth demographic in Chenango County. Lastly, the tests scores of the 3rd and 8th graders were all below average and the number of students graduating with Regent's Diplomas was below average highlighting the need for youth education programs. Based on the findings from the 2009 Community Needs Assessment, it is recommended that the Chenango United Way focus on opportunities to increase the safety of youths, provide services for the disabled youth demographic and increase the school readiness and school completion rates of youths in Chenango County in order to help all youth achieve their full potential.

National Goal: Income

Local Focus Area: Financial Stability and Self Sufficiency

Data from this area focused on meeting the needs of those struggling with poverty, hunger and/or homelessness by both meeting basic needs and promoting financial stability and self-sufficiency. While the demographic of those living below the poverty level in Chenango County has not substantially changed in recent years, it is expected that the current economic recession will increase the number of people in Chenango County facing poverty issues specifically related to housing, hunger and employment instability. Based on the findings from the 2009 Community Needs Assessment, it is recommended that the Chenango United Way continue to collect data on this emerging issue and continue to focus on opportunities that help promote the long term financial security and self sufficiency of Chenango County families.

Local Focus Area: Aging of the Population

Data from this area focused on the needs of those in our community aged 65 and older population. Based on the 2009 Community Needs Assessment data and projections for the future, the senior demographic will continue to be a growing population. Implications of this population growth are widespread. In conjunction with healthcare, seniors are a target demographic for increased critical health issues, including diseases such as influenza and pertussis (whooping cough), both of which are generally preventable through immunizations and/or vaccinations. Additionally, Medicaid has seen a marked increase from 2000 with more seniors now living in low-income situations and needing community services. Based on the findings from the 2009 Community Needs Assessment, it is recommended that the Chenango United Way focus more specifically on the healthcare and financial stability of the aging population, rather than on the general population of seniors as a demographic.

Next Steps

The Chenango United Way plans to use this report as it strives to continue to transition to a strategy of greater long-term community impact by promoting measurable, sustainable change in Chenango County. The priorities revealed through this project will form the backdrop against which our United Way funding and community impact initiative involvement decisions will be made.

Chenango County Community Needs Assessment Data

Population

Population and Growth

In 2008, the population of Chenango County was estimated by the US Census Bureau to be 50,898, a 1% decrease from the 2000 population of 51,401. The population of New York State as a whole has increased 2.7% and the United States has seen an 8% increase since 2000. This stagnant growth of Chenango and nearby counties, while the national population increases, is a continuing trend for Upstate New York that began in the early 1990's (1, 2) (Table 1).

Age Distribution

The age distribution of Chenango County deviates from the distribution for the entirety of the New York and the United States as seen below (Figure 1). The three age ranges that differ the greatest for Chenango County when compared to New York State and United States population are 35-44, 65-74 and under 5. Chenango County has a smaller 35-44 year old age range with 12.4% of the population compared to 14.3% for New York State and 14.0% for the United States. Conversely, Chenango County has an increased percentage of 65-74 year olds, 8.3% of the population, compared to 6.8% for New York State and 6.6% for the United States. Finally, Chenango County has a smaller percentage of the population, 5.2%, younger than 5 years old, compared to 6.2% for New York State and 6.9% for the United States (3).

The 2008 total senior population (65 and older) in Chenango County is 15.9% compared to 13.4% for NYS and 12.8% for the nation. In 2000 the senior population was 14.9% indicating an increasing trend. In addition, the age groups 45-54, 55-59 and 60-64 are also each over represented in Chenango County in comparison to both NYS and the nation. Therefore, if trends remain consistent, the percentage of the population consisting of seniors will remain overrepresented or likely increase for at least the next 20 years (3) (Table 2-4).

Geographical Distribution

Chenango County is a predominantly rural community with approximately 83% of the population living outside an urban area (4). The county is becoming slightly more urbanized with the urban population growing from 14.7% in 1990 to 17.0% in 2000. The incorporated areas within Chenango County with the greatest populations are, from largest to smallest, Norwich, Greene, Oxford, Sherburne, Bainbridge, New Berlin and Afton. Each of these areas has experiences a slight decrease between 2000 and 2005 (5) (Table 5).

Diversity

The US Census Bureau estimates that in 2008 Chenango County has 97.3% of the population classified as White compared to 73.4% of New York State and 79.8% of the United States, making Chenango County a relatively homogenous with regards to race (3) (Tables 2-4). In addition, 2.4% of the population was born outside of the United States compared to 21.5% of New York State and 12.5% of the United States. Of the foreign-born population in Chenango County 55.9% are currently naturalized United States citizens (6).

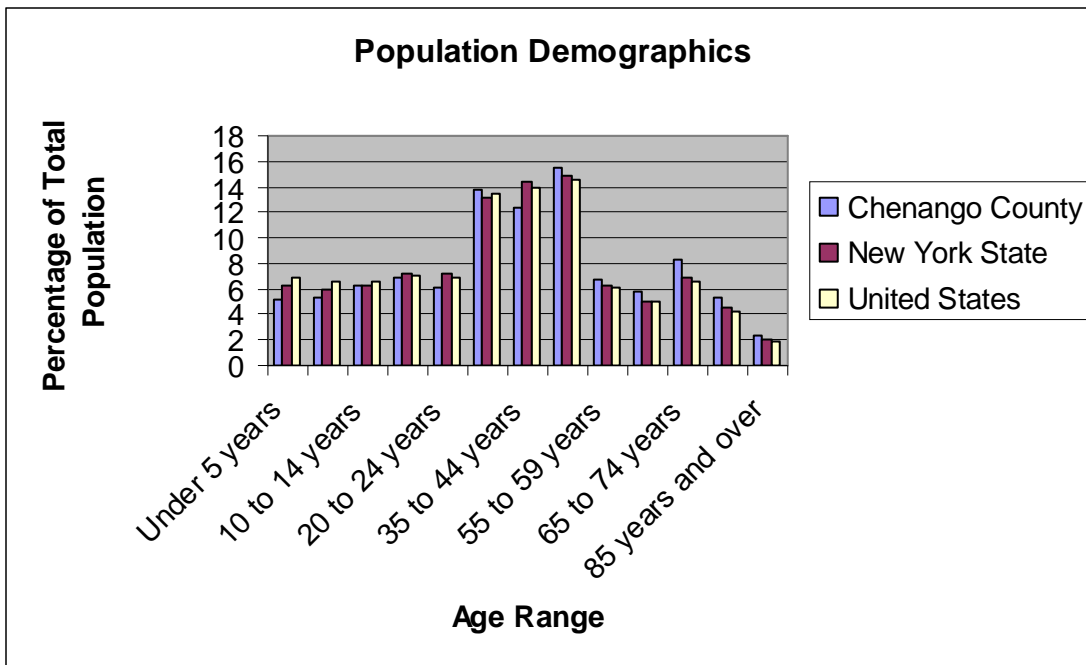


Figure 1: 2008 Population Demographics of Chenango County, New York State, United States. Determined by data from the US Census Bureau Population Finder (3)

Household Structure

Size

According to 2007 US Census Bureau estimates, the average family (defined as two or more related individuals living together) size in Chenango County is 2.97 persons compared to 3.30 for New York State and 3.19 for the nation. The average household size, is 2.50 compared to 2.63 for New York State and 2.60 for the nation (6).

Relationship Status

Married couple families make up 51.2% of the population compared to 49.8% for the United States. Female householders with no husband present with minors make up 6.4% of the household population compared to 7.4% of the nation's families and households with male householders with no wife present with minors is 4.9% compared to 2.3% in the United States. In 2007, 10% of Chenango County residents over the age of 15 were divorced compared to 10.5% in 2000 indicating little change and closeness to the national average of 9.2% (6).

Language

In Chenango County 95.1% of the population speaks only English at home compared to 71.4% of New York State and 80.5% of the United States. Of those people speaking languages other than English, 814 people or 1.7% of Chenango County, speak English "less than very well" compared to 13.0% for New York State and 8.6% for the United States (6).

Educational Attainment

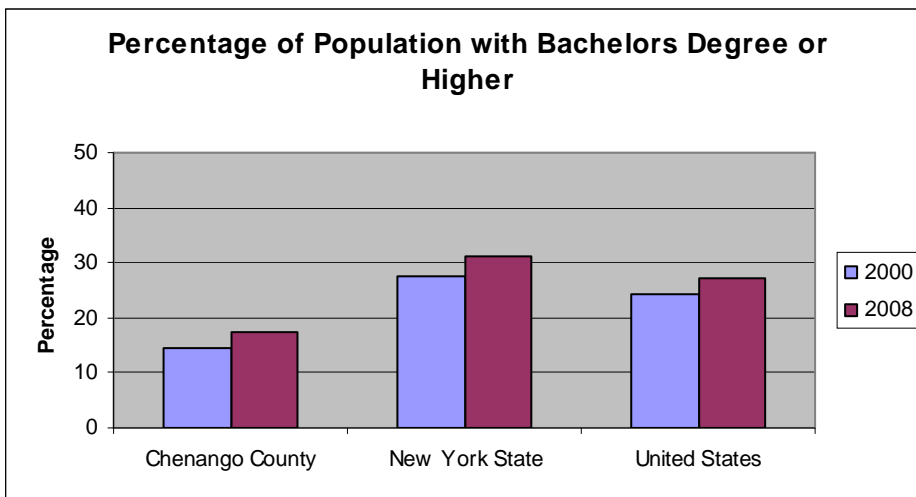
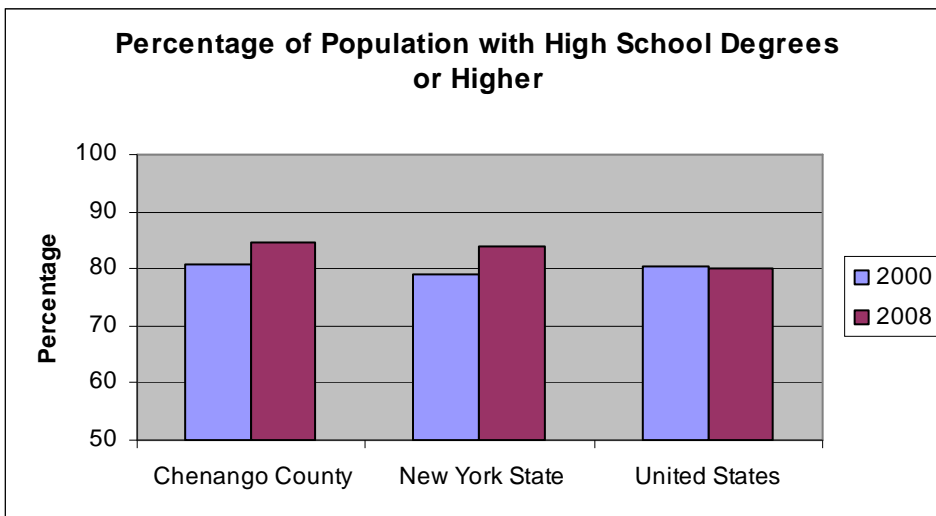
Primary Education

Chenango County consists of nine public school districts, Afton Central School District, Bainbridge Central School District, Georgetown-South Otselic Central School District, Greene Central School District, Oxford Academy and Central School District, Norwich City School District, Sherburne-Earlville Central School District, Unadilla Valley Central School District and a portion of the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District. There are a total of six private schools serving various age groups (7). In Chenango County, 84.6% of the population has at least a high school degree compared to 83.9% for New York State to 84.0% for the United States. This is an increase from 81% for Chenango County in 2000 following a national trend of an increasing number of high school graduates (6).

Secondary Education

There is one two-year college in Norwich, which is a satellite campus for Morrisville State College. There are no four-year colleges or universities. Chenango County has an underrepresented population with bachelor degrees or higher at 17.4% compared to 31.2% for New York State and 27.0% for the United States. This population has seen also seen an increase from 14.4% in 2000 following an increasing national trend of college graduates (6) (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Educational Attainment of Chenango County Residents (6).



Income and Poverty

Income

According to 2007 US Census data, the median household income for Chenango County is estimated to be \$42,150 compared to \$53,994 for New York State and \$50,007 for the United States. Social Security income is distributed to 30.9% of the residents of Chenango County, 5.1% of residents receives Supplemental Security Income, 2.4% are receives cash public assistance and 9.6% of the residents receives Food Stamps, each assistance value slightly higher than the national rate. The per capita income is \$21,561 (Table 8)(6).

Poverty

In 2007, 11.1% of all residents in Chenango County were living below the poverty level compare to 14.0% for New York State and 13.3% for the United States. The poverty level percentage in Chenango County increases with the presence of children under the age of 18 in families, at 13.1%, and under the care of female householders, 28.5%. This percentage increases yet again with the presence of children under the age of 5. Living below the poverty level are 18.0% of families with children under the age of 5 as well as 30.1% of families with a female householder and no husband present with children under the age of 5 (6) (Table 9). Each of these values is a decrease from the 2000 poverty rates in Chenango County. Additionally, in some of the county's smaller communities, more than 25 percent of the residents live below poverty, and in outlying areas many of these residents live as much as 50 to 60 percent below the poverty level (8).

Employment and Opportunity

Occupations and Industry

The top occupations for residents of Chenango County are management, professional and related occupations, sales and office occupations and production, transportation and material moving occupations. The top industries in Chenango County are educational services, health care and social assistance, manufacturing and retail trade. The class of workers in Chenango County is broken down into private wage and salary works, making up 72.5% of the population, government worker making up 17% and self-employed workers in a non-incorporated business making up 10.4% (Table 7) (6).

According to 2007 US Census Data, of all Chenango County residents 16 years of age and older, 62.3% are in the labor force. The unemployment rate is 6.7% of the civilian labor force compared to 6.6% for the United States. Noticeably different since 2007 is that, in the first half of 2009, unemployment rates have been as high as 12.5% and are currently at 8.6%. With regards to workers commute, the mean travel time to work is 23.0 minutes (6, 8).

Health Profile

Health Care

Chenango Memorial Hospital in Norwich is the major health service provider in Chenango County with 58 hospital beds and 8- nursing home beds. Inpatient and outpatient medical services include 24-hour emergency room, critical care, surgical services, family-centered obstetrics and gynecology, oncology, cardiology, pediatrics, dentistry, radiology, respiratory therapy, and nutrition services. Basset Health Care provides primary and preventative care with locations in Norwich and Sherburne. In Chenango County there are eight dental service providers (9). In Chenango County 86.2% adults were covered by health insurance and 5.2% of adults did not receive health care because of the costs, which is close to the New York State average with and without New York City (10). Notably, Chenango County has experienced a 65% increase in Medicaid participation since 2000 (5).

Cancer

In 2008, the Department of Health of New York found that the incidences of cancer in Chenango County were not statistically significant relative to New York State with the exception of low incidence of breast cancer and high instances of oral cavity and pharynx cancer and prostate cancer. Oral cavity and pharynx cancer has risk factors such as tobacco use, excessive alcohol consumption and poor nutrition (13). Prostate cancer has risk factors such as poor diet and exercise (14). Chenango County has reached the Department of Health Goal for 70% of women over the age of 40 receiving a mammogram at 76% but has not reached the 90% goal for women 18 and over receiving pap smears with only an 85% rate in Chenango County (10).

Child and Adolescent Health

Chenango County has below the state average childhood mortality, most significantly among children ages 10-14 years, although because of the small population the rate is considered unstable. Incidents of Asthma among children of all ages are all significantly lower than the New York State average (10).

Family Planning

The fertility rate and the pregnancy rate in Chenango County are significantly lower than New York State, with and without the inclusion of New York City. In Chenango County, significantly more women have births within 24 months of a previous pregnancy and a significantly lower percentage of births are to women 35 years and older than the New York State average. The induced abortion rate all ages is significantly lower in Chenango County than in New York State and Upstate New York (10).

Health Behaviors

In Chenango County 29.3% of adults smoke cigarettes, higher than the New York State average of 20.3% and the Upstate New York average of 22.1%. Fewer adults in Chenango County, 20.6%, eat five or more servings of fruits and vegetables compared to 25.8 of New York State. In Chenango County 62.0% of adults are overweight or obese adults a compared to 56.7% of New York State and 57.6% of Upstate New York as well as fewer adults participating in leisure time physical activity (10).

Heart Disease, Stroke, HIV/AIDS and STDs

Compared to the State of New York, Chenango County has significantly higher rates of overall mortality and pre-transport mortality and significantly lower hospitalization rates related to cardiovascular disease. For all diseases of the heart and coronary heart disease Chenango County also has significantly higher rates of overall mortality, pre-transport mortality and premature death and lower hospitalization rates. Chenango County has overall lower mortality, pre-transport mortality and hospitalization rates of cerebro-vascular disease (stroke) than New York State. For Chenango and Madison County the risk indicators were measured with fewer adults getting checked for high cholesterol in the past five years, with 70.5% checked locally, compared to 76.5% in New York State. Additionally, Chenango and Madison Counties have a higher rate of high blood pressure and adults diagnosed with heart attack, stroke or angina. Chenango County has significantly lower rates of HIV and AIDS cases and mortality rates as well as significantly lower rates of early syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhea (10).

Immunizations, Infectious Diseases and Respiratory Diseases

Despite higher than a higher than average rate of flu and pneumonia shots in Chenango County when compared to New York State, there are also significantly higher than average hospitalization rates for flu/pneumonia. There is also a significantly higher rate of incidences of pertussis/whooping cough, a contagious disease for which there is a vaccine. While the number of adults diagnosed with asthma is higher in Chenango County than New York State, the hospitalization rate and mortality rate due to asthma is significantly lower than the state average (10).

Injury Mortality and Morbidity Indicators and Occupational Health

Chenango County has a significantly higher unintentional injury mortality rate and non-motor vehicle mortality rate compared to New York State. In Chenango County there are significantly higher alcohol related motor vehicle injuries and deaths than in New York State. Chenango County has a significantly higher rate of work-related hospitalizations (10).

Maternal and Infant Health Indicators

In Chenango County 44.2% of births are out of wedlock which is higher than the New York State averages with and without New York City, 40% and 35%. Chenango County has a significantly higher rate of births with early and adequate prenatal care although the rate of women in WIC with early prenatal care is significantly lower than New York State. The maternal mortality rate in Chenango County is significantly lower in Chenango County than in New York State, with and without New York City (10).

Housing

Occupancy

In Chenango County, 81.9% of the housing units are occupied and the remaining 18.1% are vacant. In 2000, almost half of the unoccupied housing units were because they are for seasonal, recreational or occasional use. The other half is made up of housing units for migrant workers, for sale, and for rent. Of the occupied housing, 77.6% are owner occupied and 22.4% are renter occupied. Making up the majority of the housing units, 60.7% are 1-unit detached units. The next largest category of housing is the 23.7% that are mobile homes (6).

Affordability and Homelessness

In Chenango County, 26.6% of renter occupied units and 15.3% of owner occupied units with a mortgage and 7.3% without a mortgage are spending 30% or more of their income on rent, which is above the range that is considered affordable housing (6). In addition, the Department of Social Services Emergency Services Coordinator reports that her program serves approximately 600 homeless and at-risk customers per year (9).

Transportation

Vehicle Availability

According to 2007 US Census data, vehicles available in occupied housing units are as follows; no vehicles available for 6.5% of households, 1 vehicle available for 32.1% of households, 2 vehicles available for 40.2% of households and 3 or more vehicles available in 21.1% of households. Important to note is that this data does not include county residents that do not occupy a housing unit (6).

Public Transportation

Public bus transportation is operated by Chenango County Public Transit and runs daily around the county offering affordable transportation. Shortline buses run every day from Binghamton to Utica on State Route 12 and have stops along the way. In addition, DIAL-A- RIDE provides transportation in those areas that do not have fixed route stops (9).

Child and Adolescent Well-being

Education

From 2006 to 2007, in each of the grade levels measured; 3rd & 4th, 5th & 6th, 7th & 8th, Chenango County public school students performed below Upstate New York average in English Language Arts and Mathematics. From 2006 to 2007, in grades 5th & 8th, students' performance in Social Studies and Science were below the Upstate New York average. The annual dropout rate for Chenango County public schools has decreased from 3.1% in 2000 to 2.9% in 2007, which is lower than the New York State average of 3.1% but higher than the Upstate New York average of 2.3%. Following an increasing state-wise trend, the number of graduates receiving Regents diplomas in Chenango County has increased from 53.4% in 2000 to 84.4% in 2007, which is again higher than the New York State average but lower than the Upstate New York average. The percentage of high school graduates intending to enroll in college has seen an increase from 72.3% in 2000 to 81% in 2007. New York State as a whole has seen a jump from 77.6% in 2000 to 83% in 2007 indicating the increase in Chenango County is following a statewide trend (11).

Poverty and Assistance

According to 2007 US Census data, in Chenango County 13.6% of individuals under the age of 18 and 15.9% of children under five years old are living below the poverty level (6). The percentage of youth (birth-17 years) receiving public assistance in Chenango County decreased slightly between 2000 and 2007 from 2.5% to 2.3% and is lower than the New York State average with and without New York City, following a decreasing state trend. Despite this, Chenango County has a higher rate of youth receiving food stamps than the New York State average (excluding New York City) with 16.7% compared to 11.9%. This percentage of youth receiving food stamps in Chenango County is an increase from 9.3% in 2000 following state-wide trend of increasing food stamps among youth (11). In 2007, the percentage of children receiving free or reduced-price school lunch is 49.1% is an increase from 41.7% in 2000. The Chenango County percentage is also higher than the Upstate New York average of 32.3%. The percentage of youth (birth-19 years) in Chenango County receiving Supplemental Security Income, federal support for people with disabilities, is higher than the New York State average with and without New York City and tied for the third highest in the state at 2.7% in 2007, an increase from 1.5% in 2000 (11).

Pregnancies and Births

Following a state-wide decreasing trend of adolescent births, Chenango County has seen a slight decrease from 39.2 per 1,000 females aged 15-19 in 2000 to 34.6 which remains higher than both New York State and Upstate New York. In line with the adults in Chenango County, teen pregnancies have a higher rate of receiving early prenatal care than New York State and Upstate New York (11).

Youth Arrests

While declined from 2000 to 2007, the juvenile delinquent intake rate in Chenango County of 20.3 per 1,000 youth (10-15 years) is higher than New York State, 16.2, and Upstate New York, 16.1. The percentage of young adults (16-21 years) arrested for driving while intoxicated has declined from 77.2 per 10,000 young adults in 2000 to 41.8 in 2007, bringing it below the New York State and Upstate New York average. The percentage of young adults arrested for drug use is has declined slightly from 2000 to 2007 and is one of the lowest in the state. Chenango County has a higher rate than Upstate New York of young adult arrest for property crimes. Additionally, Chenango County has one of the lowest rates of young adults arrested for violent crimes, a number that declined from 15 arrests in 2000 to 4 arrests in 2007 (11).

Safety

Chenango County only had one youth hospitalization resulting from assault between 2004 and 2006 resulting in one of the lowest rates in the state and well below the average. The county did see an increase in reports of child abuse and mistreatment from 26.6% of reported abuse cases in 2000 to 40.4% in 2007, bringing the number above the New York State and Upstate New York rates of 32.4% and 28.3% respectively. The rate of youth (birth-21 years) in foster care, despite a state-wide decline, has remained fairly stagnant in Chenango County from 2000 to 2007 to 3.6 per 1,000 youth and slightly above the Upstate New York rate of 3.1 (11).

