



**Monroe County/Rochester Community Indicators
As A Measure Of
Family Economic Success**

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for
Grantmakers Forum of New York
Family Economic Success Initiative**

**Data Source
ACT Rochester
www.ActRochester.org**

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1. Children and Youth:

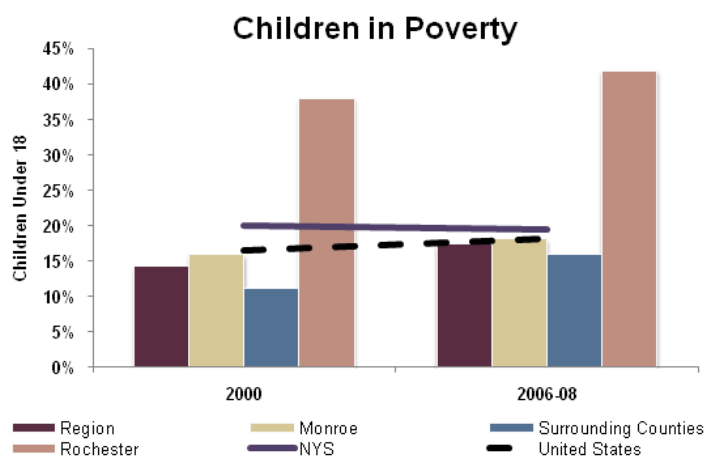
Children in Poverty:

What is being measured?

The number of children under 18 living below the federally defined poverty line, expressed as a percentage of all children under 18. Poverty thresholds vary by family composition and year. In 2008, the threshold for a four-person family with two children was \$21,834.

How is our region performing?

In 2006-08, about 17% of children in the region were living in poverty, an increase of 3 points since 2000, yet slightly below state and national figures. Child poverty is concentrated in the City of Rochester, where 42% of children were living in poverty in 2006-08. In the counties surrounding Monroe, the child poverty rate was 16%, up 5 points since 2000. Every county in the region experienced an increase in the proportion of children living in poverty, except for Orleans which remained flat at 16%.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Note: 2006-08 results are from rolling American Community Survey.

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Children in Poverty: Race and Ethnicity

In 2006-08, white children in the region were the least likely to be living in poverty, with a rate of 11%, slightly below the rates for the state and nation. Children of other races and ethnicities had poverty rates above 40%, and were several percentage points higher than the state and national rates. Poverty rates within the region were highest in Rochester, with a third of white children and almost half of all other children living in poverty.

Family Support : Children in Single-Parent Households:

What does this measure?

The number of children in single-parent households, as a percent of all children under 18.

Why is this important?

Children in single-parent households are far more likely to grow up in low-income households than those living with two parents. They are at greater risk of low academic performance and behavioral problems and may experience parental conflict and residential instability as well.

How is our region performing?

In 2006-08, a third of children in the region were living in single-parent households, an increase of 3 points since 2000 and on par with the state rate. The rate is highest in the City of Rochester, where 69% of children live with one parent. Rates in the surrounding counties were generally lower than Monroe, averaging 28%. Five of the region's counties experienced an increase in the proportion of single-parent households since 2000, while Wayne's rate remained flat and Livingston had a slight decline.

Family Support : Children in Single-Parent Households, Race/Ethnicity

What does this measure?

The proportion of children under 18 in various racial and ethnic groups who are living in single-parent households.

Why is this important?

Children in single-parent households are far more likely to grow up in low-income households than those living with two parents. They are at greater risk of low academic performance and behavioral problems and may experience parental conflict and residential instability as well.

How is our region performing?

In the seven-county Rochester region, African-American or black children were most likely to live in single-parent households in 2000, the latest year for which reliable racial and ethnic breakdowns are available. More than 70% of African-American children were in single-parent households, higher than the state and nation with just over 60%. By contrast, 58% of Hispanic children, 22% of white children and 14% of Asian children were being raised by single parents.

The City of Rochester's rates were higher than the region's in all racial and ethnic categories. In Rochester 75% of African-American children, 66% of Hispanic children, and 41% of white children lived in single-parent households.

2. Economy

Changes in Jobs by Sector

How is our region performing?

Total jobs in the region increased by just under 1% from 2001 to 2007, compared to over 5% in the state and 8% in the nation. The Information and Manufacturing sectors suffered the worst loss, each losing over one-fifth of its respective workforce. The region enjoyed a 30% growth of jobs in the Educational Services sector, larger than both New York State (20%) and the nation (25%). Employment in the Financial Services sector grew by nearly 10% with Orleans County employment more than tripling.

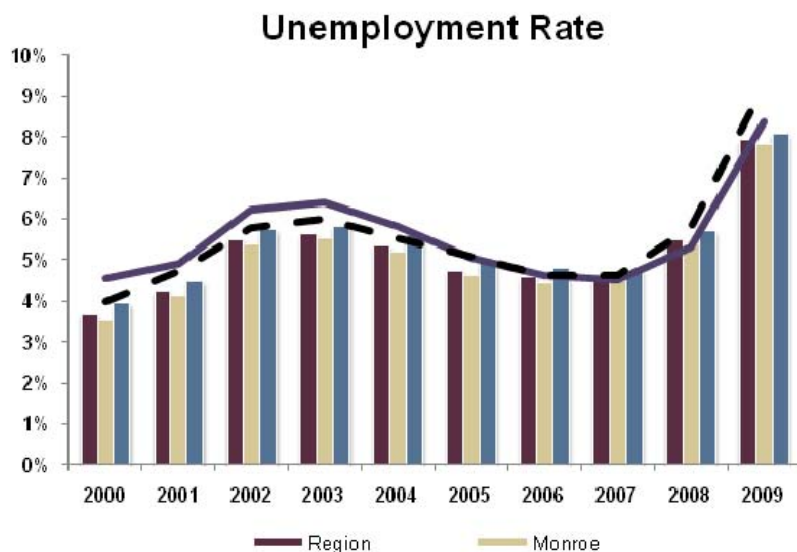
Unemployment Rate

What does this measure?

Unemployed individuals are those without jobs who are able, available and actively seeking work. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the total labor force (the total number of employed and unemployed individuals 16 or older and not living in prisons, mental hospitals or nursing homes).

How is our region performing?

In 2009, the unemployment rate for the 7-county Rochester region was 7.9%, the highest it has been in 10 years, yet lower than the 8.4% for the state and 9.3% for the nation. The regional rate was up from 5.5% in 2008, reflecting the depth of the national recession. Throughout the decade the region has fared better than New York State and the nation. Unemployment has generally been lower in Monroe County than in surrounding counties. Orleans and Wyoming had the highest unemployment rates in the region at 9% or above in 2009.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Change in Average Salary Since 2000

How is our region performing?

The total average salary in the region has been fairly flat since 2000, declining by less than half a percent. This compares to the growth of over 7% in the state and 3% in the nation. Each of the surrounding six counties experienced increases in total average salary with Wayne leading the pack with a 7% increase, followed by Wyoming at 5%, and Orleans at 4%.

Change in Average Salary Since 2000 by Sector

How is our region performing?

Salaries for workers in the region increased the most in the Government and Health sectors, by 13% and 8% respectively since 2000. Both rates were higher than the increases experienced by the state and nation. The Information sector declined by 11% during this time, while Manufacturing, Leisure and Education salaries decreased by about 2% each. The greatest increases in the surrounding counties occurred with Professional and Business Services (30%) and Information (18%) sectors.

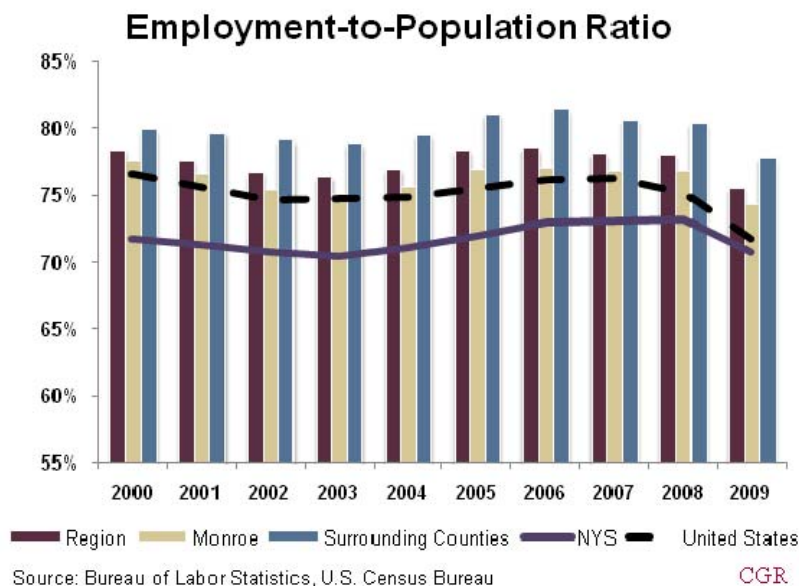
Employment to Population Ratio

What does this measure?

The number of employed people living in our region divided by the population of 16- to 64-year-olds.

How is our region performing?

The employment-to-population ratio for the region was about 75% in 2009, higher than the state (71%) and nation (72%). This number has decreased moderately from 2000 levels, similar to trends throughout the state and nation. Since 2000, Genesee County has had the highest annual ratio in the region, averaging about 81% over the ten-year period, and higher than both the state and nation.



3. Education

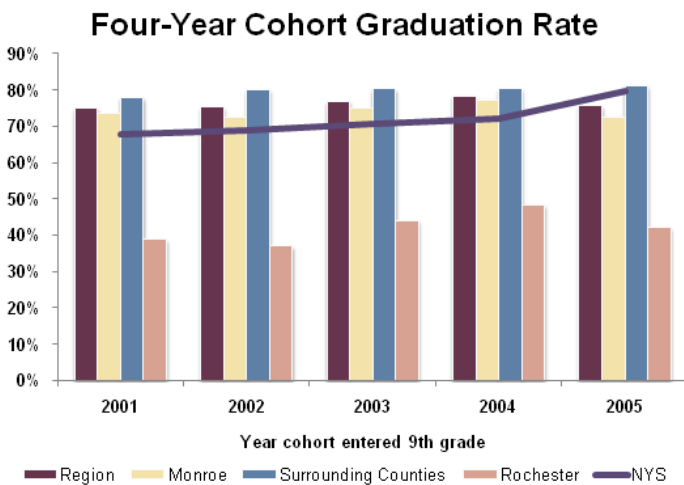
Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate

What does this measure?

The number of students graduating on time (after four years of high school), as a percentage of their cohort. The cohort is the class of ninth-graders beginning high school together.

How is our region performing?

About 76% of the 2005 cohort graduated on time (by 2009), compared to 80% statewide. The graduation rate was highest in Livingston County (84%) and lowest in the Rochester School District (42%). These figures reflect graduates in June; the state also presents and some districts highlight the figure for graduates through August, which includes students who made up courses during summer and graduated. The August 2009 rate for the Rochester School District was 46%. While the state rate increased 12 points in the last five years, rates in our region have generally changed by only a few points.



Source: New York State Education Department

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Cohort Graduation Rate, Beyond Four Years

What does this measure?

The number of students graduating after five years of high school, as a percentage of their cohort. The cohort is the class of ninth-graders beginning high school together.

How is our region performing?

About 83% of the 2004 cohort graduated within after five years of high school (by 2009), compared to 84% statewide. This shows the region gained 5 points after the fifth year of high school, as the four-year graduation rate for the 2004 cohort was 78%. In fact, the five-year graduation rates in our region have shown more improvement than the four-year graduation rates. This is best illustrated in the Rochester School District, where the five-year graduation rate increased 11 points over the past four years to 57% for the 2004 cohort.

Education Attainment Levels of People 25 and Older

What does this measure?

The number of residents with a particular level of education in a region, expressed as a percentage of all residents 25 and older.

How is our region performing?

In 2006-08, 58% of adults had attended at least some college, 3 points above the state and national figures. That was an increase from 54% in 2000. Thirty percent of the region's residents had a four-year degree or higher in 2006-08, compared to 26% in 1990. Just 12% of residents did not have a high school diploma. Monroe and Ontario counties had the highest education levels, with 62% attending at least some college. Levels were lowest in Wyoming and Orleans counties, where close to 60% of residents had not attended college. In the City of Rochester, about half of residents had attended some college, but the city had the highest proportion of residents who had not obtained a high school diploma at 22%.

Education Attainment by Race/Ethnicity

What does this measure?

The number of residents with a particular level of education in a region, expressed as a percentage of all residents 25 and older, broken down by race and ethnicity.

How is our region performing?

The proportion of residents attending at least some college was highest for Asians (66%) and whites (60%) in 2006-08. It was lower for black or African American residents (44%) and Hispanics (36%). Yet those figures reflect increases of 10 points for African Americans and 5 points for Hispanics from 2000. These disparities are similar to those at the state and national level. More than half of Asians in our region had a four-year degree or higher, compared to 31% of whites, 16% of Hispanics, and 14% of black or African American residents.

4. Financial Self-Sufficiency

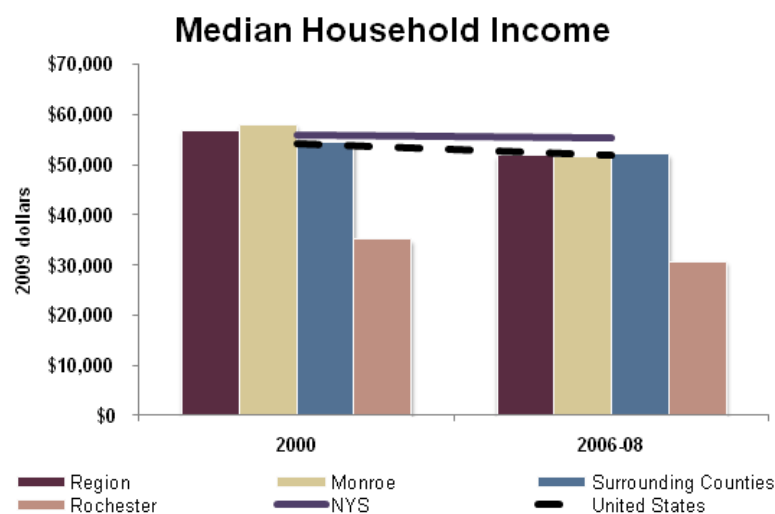
Median Household Income

What does this measure?

Median household income, inflated to 2009 dollars. Half of incomes are below the median and half are above.

How is our region performing?

The median household income in 2006-08 was about \$51,650 for the region, lower than the state but on par with the nation. Adjusted for inflation, income levels in each of the counties in the region have declined from 2000 levels. Although national and state medians have shown slight declines, dropping 4% and 1% respectively, Monroe's median has decreased by 11% since 2000, while the overall region has seen a 9% drop. The City of Rochester had both the lowest median income in 2006-08 (\$30,600) and the largest decline (12%) since 2000.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

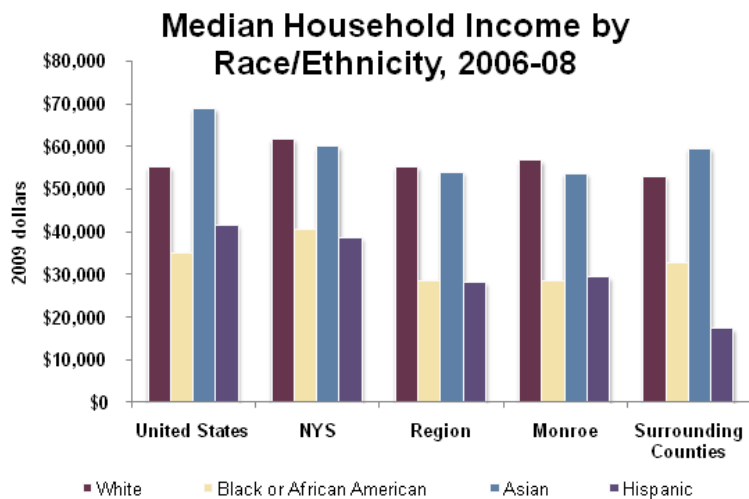
Note: Note: 2006-08 results are from rolling American Community Survey.

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Median Household Income, by Race/Ethnicity

How is our region performing?

In 2006-08, white and Asian residents in our region had the highest median incomes, at about \$55,000 and \$54,000, respectively. African American and Hispanic residents had the lowest median incomes at just over \$28,000, consistent with state and national distributions. Although median incomes (inflation-adjusted) dropped slightly from 2000 levels, there were no significant changes in income distribution.



Source: US Census Bureau
 Note: 2006-08 are results from rolling survey.

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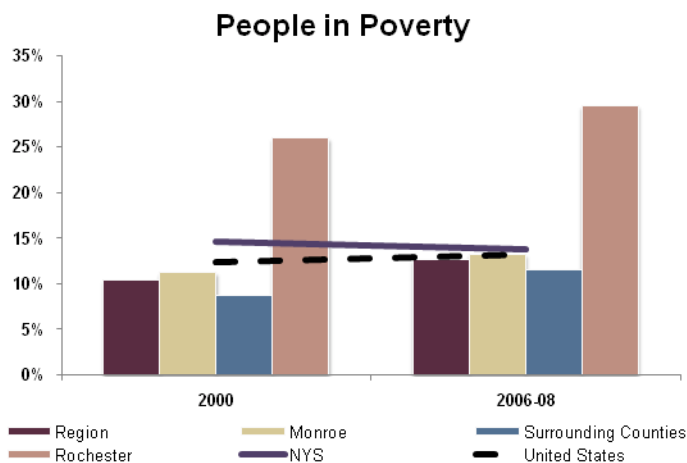
People in Poverty

What does this measure?

People with incomes below the poverty line, as a percentage of those for whom poverty status has been determined. Poverty thresholds vary by family composition and year. **In 2008, the threshold for a four-person family with two children was \$21,834.**

How is our region performing?

In 2006-08, about 13% of people living in the 7-county region were living in poverty, compared to 14% for the state, and 13% for the nation. Poverty rates have increased in each county in the region, up 3 points in the region overall from 2000 levels, mostly driven by increases in Monroe and the City of Rochester. Rochester had the highest poverty rate in the region at 29%, up from 26% in 2000. Orleans County had the highest poverty rate of the surrounding counties, matching Monroe and the region at 13%.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau
 Note: 2006-08 results are from rolling American Community Survey.

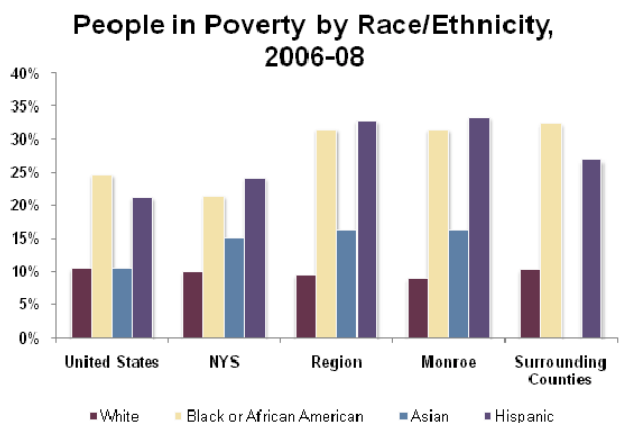
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People in Poverty, Race/Ethnicity

How is our region performing?

In 2006-08, one out of every three Hispanic residents of the region was living in poverty,

compared to one out of four statewide. African American residents in our region also had high poverty rates, with 31% in the region compared to 21% in the state living below the poverty line. Just 9% of white residents in the region were living in poverty, although the rate increases to 22% in the City of Rochester. Since 2000, all racial and ethnic groups experienced an increase in poverty rates throughout the region.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau
 Note: 2006-08 results are from rolling American Community Survey. CGR

Public Assistance Recipients

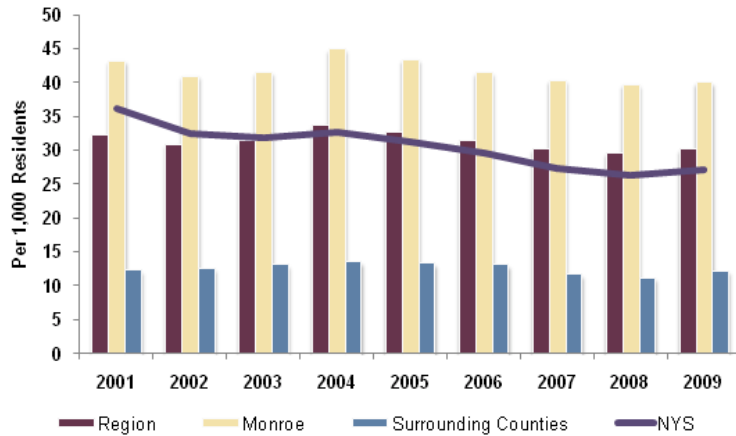
What does this measure?

The average number of people of all ages receiving public assistance each month, per 1,000 residents. This includes both major welfare programs: Family Assistance and Safety Net. Safety Net covers single adults, children living without their parents, and others not eligible for Family Assistance.

How is our region performing?

In 2009, there were 30 people per 1,000 residents receiving public assistance on average each month in the region, compared to 27 in the state. The rates of both the region and the state have declined since 2001, but the state rate decreased by three times as much. Monroe had the highest rate at 40 in 2009, and its rate has typically been at least three times higher than that of the surrounding counties. Only three counties, Genesee, Ontario, and Wayne, saw increases in public assistance recipients during this time period. Wyoming's numbers were the same in 2001 and 2009 and had the lowest average recipients in the last decade.

People Receiving Temporary Assistance



Source: New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, US Census [CGR](#)

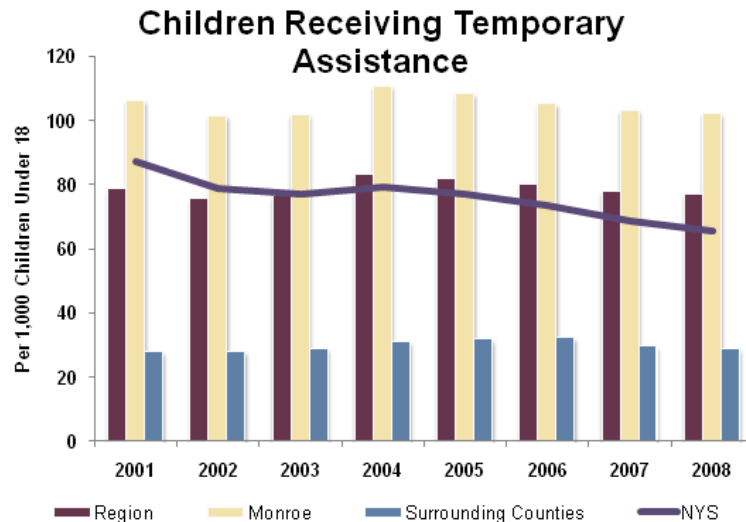
Rate of Children Receiving Public Assistance

What does this measure?

The average number of children receiving public assistance each month per 1,000 children under 18.

How is our region performing?

On average, 77 children per 1,000 in our region received public assistance each month in 2008, higher than the state rate of 66. Since their peak in 2004, the rates for the region have consistently declined, although the region's rate has slightly exceeded the state rate since that time. The largest reduction came in Livingston County, where the rate dropped by more than 20% since 2001. Conversely, Ontario's 20% increase was the largest of all the counties. Monroe had the highest rate at 102 children per 1,000 in 2008, significantly higher than the surrounding counties rate of 29.



Source: New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, US Census [CGR](#)

Tax Filer Receiving Earned Income Tax Credit

What does this measure?

The proportion of people filing taxes who receive the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

How is our region performing?

In 2007, 14% of tax filers in our region received the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), lower than the state rate of about 16%. The region's rate has consistently been about 2 to 3 percentage points lower than the state rate each year. The rate in our region slowly increased from 12% to 14% from 2000 to 2007. Orleans has consistently had the highest rate in the region, matching the state at 16% in 2007.

EITC Dollars

What does this measure?

Total dollars received from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), expressed as a rate per resident.

How is our region performing?

In our region, payments from this credit amounted to \$133 per resident in 2007, less than the state's rate of \$157 per resident. Over time, the region's average payment per resident has increased at a greater rate (51% between 2000 and 2007) than the statewide rate (up 42%). Monroe's average payments have consistently surpassed those in the surrounding counties, with the exception of Orleans. Payments were highest in the City of Rochester, almost double the regional rate at \$263 in 2007.

Percent of Children in Subsidized Care

What does this measure?

The percentage of children in subsidized child care, expressed as a rate of all children under 13.

How is our region performing?

In 2008, 4% of the region's children were in subsidized care, on par with the statewide rate, yet a decline from 6% in 2003. While the state's rates have remained flat since 2003, rates in each of our region's counties have declined by one to two points, except for Livingston which remained the same.

The declines may reflect various combinations of decreased need or changes in how the subsidy program is managed by local and state governments. Monroe County, for example, has modified the eligibility requirements up and down in recent years, and the proportion of applications that were approved has declined significantly. Thus, between 2003 and 2008, the average number of children receiving subsidized child care each month declined by almost 4,000 children in Monroe, dropping the overall rate from 7% to 5% over the six year period.

5. Housing

Affordable Housing:

Median Home Value

What does this measure?

The home value reported by the homeowner to the Census Bureau, adjusted for inflation. The median represents the mid-point of home values (half the values are above the median and half below).

How is our region performing?

In 2006-08, the median home value in the 7-county region was approximately \$119,000, a slight increase from 2000. The Rochester region has shown great stability in the real estate market, with the median home value for all counties in the region changing less than 10%. In contrast, the median home value rose 38% for the nation and 69% for the state. Median home value is lowest in the City of Rochester at roughly \$70,000 in 2006-08, and highest in Ontario County, at around \$123,000.

Median Home Value, by Race/Ethnicity

How is our region performing?

In 2000, Asian and white residents had the highest median home values in the region, with about \$143,000 and \$118,700 respectively. African Americans had the lowest median home values in the region at \$78,600, while Hispanic homeowners were just above at \$97,900 following the same trends as the state and nation. African American and Hispanic homeowners had higher median home values in the surrounding counties than they did in Monroe. The City of Rochester had the least amount of disparity between racial and ethnic groups, with all median home values falling within the range of \$69,000 to \$79,000.

Median Rental Prices

What does this measure?

The most recent monthly rent plus the average monthly payments for utilities and fuel, as reported to the Census Bureau, adjusted for inflation. The median represents the mid-point of monthly rents (half the values are above the median and half below).

How is our region performing?

In 2006-08, the median monthly rent in the region was \$714, lower than the \$938 for the state and \$816 for the nation. Wyoming had the lowest median rent at \$627 per month, while Monroe had the highest at \$745. Adjusting for inflation, since 2000 rents have increased 12% statewide and 9% in the nation, while rents in all counties in the region were more stable, fluctuating by less than 5%.

Median Gross Rent, by Race/Ethnicity

How is our region performing?

Asian renters in our region paid the highest in monthly rent, approximately \$800 in 2000 (the latest year data are available). However, there was much less variation by race at the regional level than at the state and national levels, where Asian renters paid over \$100 more than white

renters. In the counties surrounding Monroe, African American renters paid about \$100 less than those of other races/ethnicities, who all paid about \$675 per month.

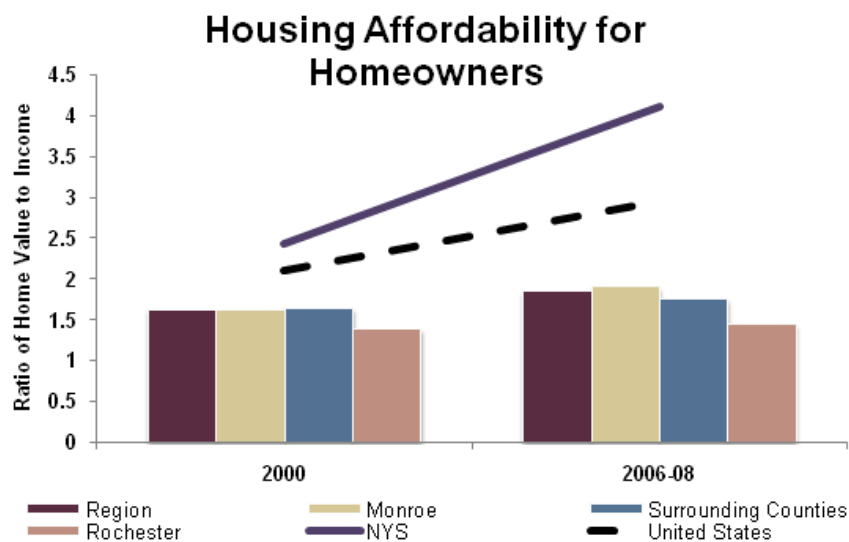
Housing Affordability for Homeowners

What does this measure?

The ratio of the median home value divided by the median household income, adjusted for inflation.

How is our region performing?

In 2006-08, housing in our region was considered much more affordable than housing in the rest of the state and nation with an affordability ratio of 1.84, about half of the state and a third of the national figures. Since 2000, the ratios for nearly all counties have increased, though not to the same degree as the state and nation, representing an overall decrease in affordability.



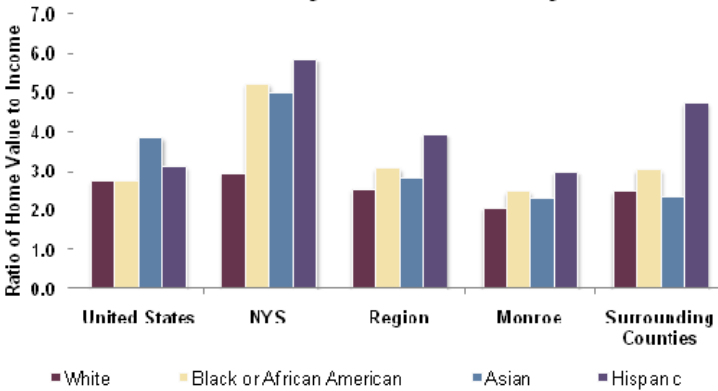
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Housing Affordability for Homeowners, by Race/Ethnicity

How is our region performing?

Housing in our region is least affordable for Hispanic homeowners at a ratio of 3.9, above the range considered affordable. Although this is comparable with national levels, it represents the highest affordability ratio for any race or ethnicity in our region. African American homeowners in the region were just above the affordability level at 3.1, while white and Asian homeowners were well below at 2.5 and 2.8 respectively. All racial/ethnic groups had more affordable housing in our region than compared to their respective groups in the state or nation.

Housing Affordability for Homeowners by Race/Ethnicity, 2000



Source: US Census Bureau

Notes: 2006-08 results are from rolling American Community Survey.

A ratio less than 2 or 3 is considered affordable.

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Housing Affordability for Renters by Race/Ethnicity

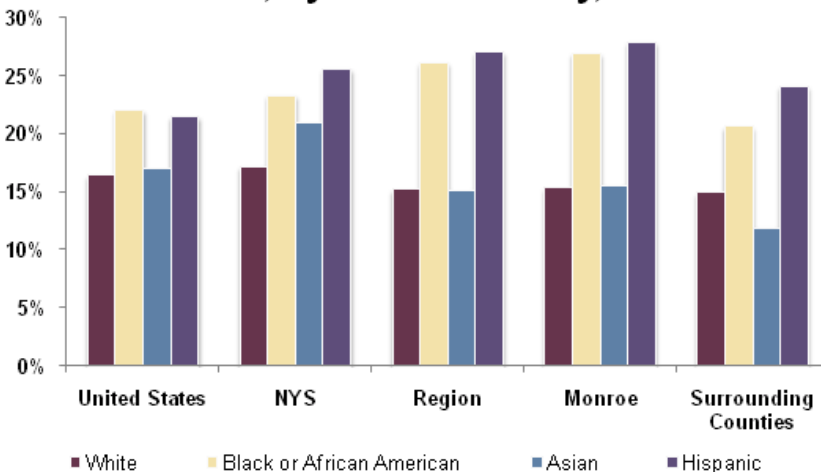
What does this measure?

The proportion of household income that goes towards monthly rent, utilities, and fuel, calculated by dividing median rent by median income, presented for renters of various racial and ethnic groups.

How is our region performing?

Housing in our region is least affordable for Hispanic and African American residents, with 27% and 28% of their income respectively going towards rent in 2000 (the latest year reliable data are available). These rates are higher than state and national levels, yet still fall within the range of "affordable" housing. By comparison, Asian and white renters have the lowest proportion of their income going towards housing at 15% for both groups. Renters in Rochester spent the greatest proportion of their income on housing for all racial/ethnic categories, with Hispanic and African American renters at or above the level that is considered affordable.

Rent as Percent of Household Income, by Race/Ethnicity, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Rent is considered affordable if less than 30% of income.

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Emergency Placements in Homeless Shelters

What does this measure?

The number of placements in Monroe County's emergency shelter facilities paid for by Monroe County government, presented separately for families and individuals.

How is our region performing?

In 2009, Monroe County funded placements for homeless families 2,629 times and paid for 6,556 individual placements. This total of 9,185 placements represents a 42% increase over the total number of emergency placements in 2000 (6,477). The number of placements of individuals has increased by 33% in the last decade, with the largest portion of that increase taking place between 2000 and 2001, after which placement actually fell by 4%. Family placements have risen by 68% over the decade, from 1,566 in 2000 to 2,629 in 2009.

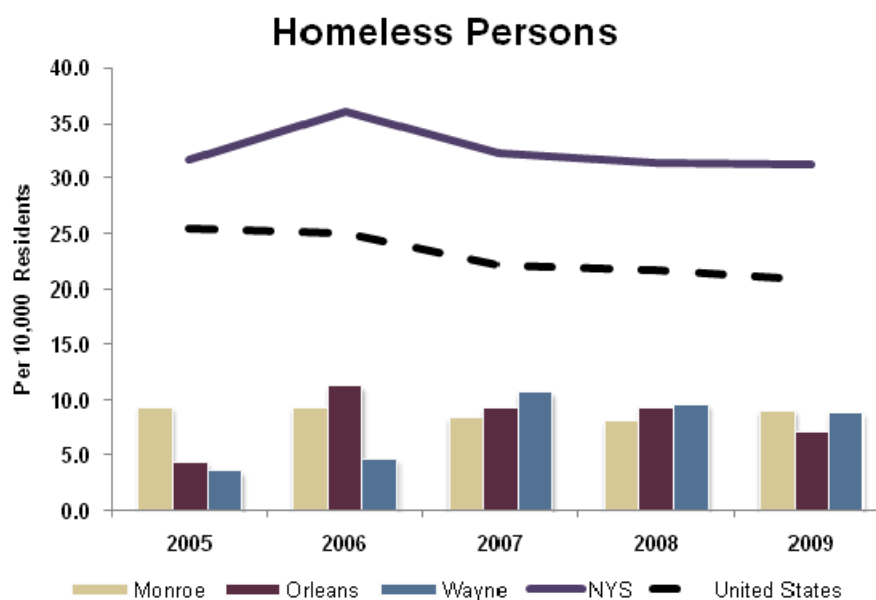
Homeless Persons

What does this measure?

The number of homeless people at a given point in time (usually one night in January), per 10,000 residents.

How is our region performing?

In 2009, Monroe's point-in-time count reported 9 homeless persons per 10,000 residents, the highest rate of the three reporting counties in the region. Monroe's rate has been steadily decreasing since 2005 to a low of 8.1 in 2008, before rising again to its 2009 level. Rates have increased in each of the two reporting surrounding counties since 2005, up 69% in Orleans and Wayne's rate growing by one-and-a-half times during this period. Despite the increases, the three reporting counties in our region are well below the rates for the state and nation, with nearly 31 and 21 homeless persons per 10,000 residents respectively.



Source: Department of Housing and Urban Development, US Census

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6. Technology

Science and Engineering Research, as Share of State Total

What does this measure?

The amount of federal, state, and local grant money spent on research and development by academic institutions in the region, as a share of the state total.

How is our region performing?

Our region's research and development funding increased as a share of the state total, from 10.4% in 2000 to 11.2% in 2008. However, that represented a slight decline from 11.4% in 2006 and 2007. The University of Rochester alone claimed 10.6% of the state total in 2008.

Technical Degrees Granted, as Share of Total

What does this measure?

The share of overall degrees awarded that were awarded in technologically focused areas.

Why is this important?

In an economy driven by technology, the ability of firms to succeed and the ability of the region to attract and retain firms requiring a technically trained workforce is critical. Institutions of higher learning with strong programs in science, technology, engineering and math disciplines are developing new workers for technically demanding fields. These institutions can also support the ongoing training needs of technology companies. New firms will locate near technological centers.

How is our region performing?

In 2006-07, 30% of all degrees were awarded in technological fields, higher than the state figure of 24% and up from 27% in 2002-03. The proportions of technological degrees were particularly high at Rochester Institute of Technology (54%), University of Rochester (44%), Everest Institute (57%), and Bryant & Stratton (44%).

7. Transportation

Means of Transportation to Work by Race/Ethnicity

What does this measure?

The type of transportation used on a daily basis by workers over the age of 16 who commute to work, reported by racial and ethnic groups and expressed as a percentage of all workers of each group who do not work at home.

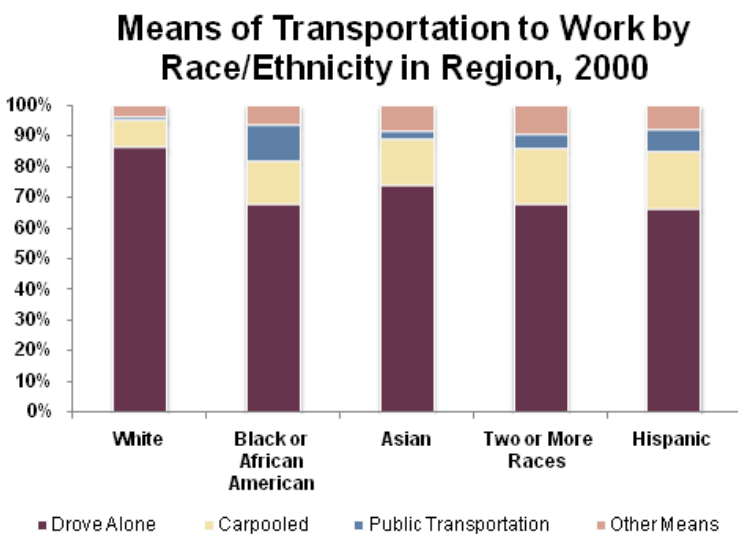
Why is this important?

Patterns of transportation usage impact environmental and transportation planning. These patterns may also reflect issues of poverty, location of employment, or environmental habits of residents.

How is our region performing?

In 2000, white commuters were the least likely in the region to use public transportation, with 1% taking the bus and 86% opting to drive alone. Roughly 20% of Hispanic and multiracial commuters chose to carpool, with even higher proportions in the surrounding counties. Black or

African American commuters were the biggest users of public transportation, with 12% in the region and nearly half statewide using public transit to get to work.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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8. Demographics

Household Types

What does this measure?

The percentage of households composed of married couples (with and without children), singles, and other variations.

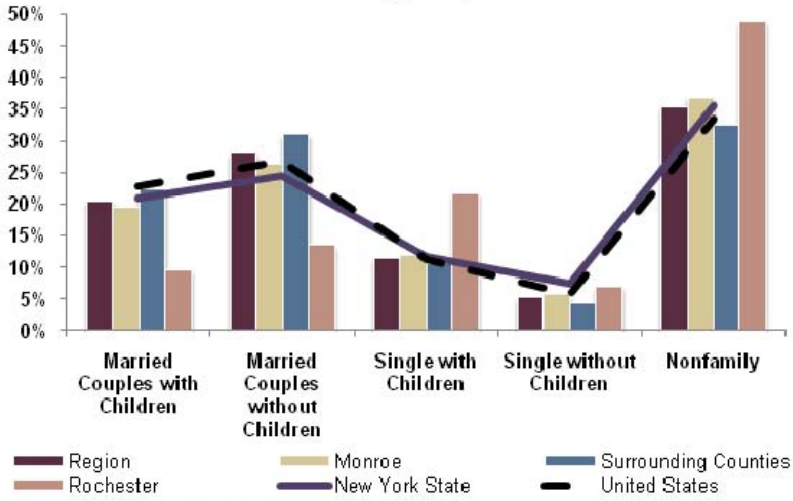
Why is this important?

Changes in the types of households in a community can provide insight into the changing structure of families and the proportions of singles living alone.

How is our region performing?

The composition of households didn't change much from 2000 to 2006-08. Nonfamily households of unrelated people living together continued to be the most common type of household, making up 35%, similar to state and national figures. Married couples without children under 18 were the second most frequent type, making up 28% of households in the region, while married couples with children made up 20%.

Household Types, 2006-08



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Note: 2006-08 results are from rolling American Community Survey.

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