

Family Economic Success - Monroe County Overview

Report Prepared by
Fe Maldonado, Intern
Triad Foundation
for
Grantmakers Forum of New York
Family Economic Success Initiative

Data Source: ACT Rochester (actrochester.org)

Monroe County, New York overall reflects the dominant trends that are occurring throughout the region. It is the most ethnically and racially diverse county in the area with poverty concentrated in the City of Rochester, Monroe County's administrative center. The economy and population are primarily stagnant and in Rochester, health and education rates are lagging and overall poverty rates for adults and especially children are considerably higher than the rest of region and state. Monroe County overall reflects most of the dominant regional trends.

Children and Youth:

In 2006-08, 17% of children in the region were living in poverty. However, child poverty is concentrated in Rochester where 42% of children were living in poverty during this time. The surrounding counties had a 16% average child poverty rate, up 5 points since 2000. In 2006-08 white children were the least likely to be living in poverty, with a rate of 11%, a rate below the state and national average. Children of other races and ethnicities, primarily African American and Hispanic, had poverty rates above 40%, and were several percentage points higher than the state and national rates.

Monroe County has experienced an increase in children in single-parent households similar to the rest of the state and nation. In 2006-08, 36% of children lived with one parent, up 4 points from 2000. The rate of children living in a single parent household 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%. 75% of African American children in Rochester lived in single-parent households

Economy:

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.

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.

Education:

Approximately 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%). 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.

Financial Self Sufficiency:

At \$51,500, the median household income in Monroe County was lower in 2006-08 than in the nation, state, and three surrounding counties (Ontario, Wayne, and Livingston). The figure was much lower in the City of Rochester at \$30,600. Racial disparities were very pronounced in Monroe County with median household incomes of Hispanics and African Americans half of that of whites.

In 2006-08, Monroe County had one of the highest poverty rates in the region at 13%, on par with the nation and slightly less than the state. Poverty was especially high in Rochester at 29%.

Monroe County also had the highest participation rate in programs to help the needy, including public assistance and subsidized care. Monroe had 40 recipients for every 1,000 residents in 2009, compared to 12 in surrounding counties. For children it was 102 for every 1,000, compared to 29 in surrounding counties. However it had the lowest approval rate of applications for public assistance, particularly low for children. Only 21% of applications were approved, down from 31% in 2000 and below the surrounding counties rate of 44%.

In 2007 14% of tax filers in our region received the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), lower than the state rate of about 16% but 2 points higher than 2000. This translates to \$133 per resident in 2007, less than the state's rate of \$157 per resident. Payments were highest in the City of Rochester, almost double the regional rate at \$263 in 2007.

Housing:

Homes in Monroe County are considered affordable with a ratio of home value to median household income at 1.9 in 2006-08 compared to ratio of 4.1 in the state and just under 3.0 in the nation. Housing is less affordable for renters who spend about 34% of their household income on rent in 2006-08, above the 30% level considered affordable. In the City of Rochester renters spent over 40% of their household income on rent in 2006-08.

Transportation:

89% of Monroe residents drove to work in 2006-08, 84% of which drove to work alone, higher than the nation and state. White commuters were least likely to use public transportation, at 1%, while African American commuters were the biggest users, at 12%.

Demographics:

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%.

For additional information about Family Economic Success in Monroe County, contact
Grantmakers Forum of New York
75 College Ave.
Rochester, NY 14607
585.232.2380
gfny@grantmakers.org
www.grantmakers.org