



# Tech Valley Trends

A Basis for Civic Change

NEW YORK'S  
**TECH**  
VALLEY

May 2009

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The talents, commitment, and generosity of many people are necessary for a project of this magnitude to come to fruition in a relatively short time. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the members of the Metrics for Success Task Force whose names are listed in the Introduction. For well over a year, Task Force members representing government, nonprofits, business, and education from across the Capital Region met at the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) to conceive and develop this baseline publication. The discussions were lively, inclusive, heated at times but always productive. For your commitment, persistence, and creativity, we are most grateful.

This report could not have been written without the exceptional and competent assistance of the CDRPC's graduate intern, Joanna Harps King, a UAlbany Master's student in the Department of Planning. We thank her for her enthusiastic engagement in this project, her skillful data analysis and presentation, and remarkable good will in dealing with a large cast of characters. Our appreciation also goes to Susan Appe, Cara Long, and Carolyn Ehrlich, staff members of the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society, who took comprehensive notes at our meetings and distributed them to the Task Force in a timely manner. We also thank the CDRPC staff members who made substantial contributions to this report and the civic planning process from which it emerged.

We have especially enjoyed our collaboration as Co-Conveners on this project and are grateful to the Tech Valley Civic Forum for creating the opportunity for collaboration to flourish on many levels.

We also acknowledge with appreciation the generosity of two special Tech Valley partners: the Center for Economic Growth (CEG) and the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce. The Center for Economic Growth and its President and CEO, F. Michael Tucker, provided timely and meaningful support for the producing and printing of this report. CEG is also the founding sponsor of the Tech Valley Civic Forum. Mike's early and continued investment in this initiative has been vital to its success. Mark Eagan, President and CEO of the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce, also offered his enthusiastic support for the Tech Valley Civic Forum process and generously made available the talents of the Chamber's graphics designer, Christopher Iula.

Thank you all for your enthusiastic support and input!

Rocco Ferraro and Denise Sheehan, Co-Conveners, Metrics Task Force

## PREAMBLE

The *Tech Valley Trends – A Basis for Civic Change* is a product of the Tech Valley Civic Forum, created through collaboration between the Center for Women in Government and Civil Society and the Nonprofit Executive Roundtable at the University of Albany's Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy. The Tech Valley Civic Forum was launched in September of 2007 as a unique and inclusive cross-sector initiative to enhance community vitality and sustainability.

New York's Capital Region, otherwise referred to as Tech Valley, is experiencing high-tech driven economic changes that offer opportunities and challenges for the Region. The Tech Valley Civic Forum was established following the release of *High-Tech Growth and Community Well-being: Lessons Learned from Austin, Texas*, a case study prepared by the Nonprofit Executive Roundtable. The case study included insights shared by business, nonprofit and higher education leaders in Austin about their community's experiences as their economy shifted to a more high-tech focus. The lessons they described shed light on the need for a civic visioning process here in Tech Valley to better ensure that the direct and indirect benefits of economic expansion are broadly shared.

The Tech Valley Civic Forum has been designed to work in partnership with current efforts already underway to plan for Tech Valley's success, with the goal of engaging business, government, nonprofit, community and education leaders in identifying opportunities connecting high tech growth to community well being. The goal of the Forum has been to build the foundation for--and commitment to--an inclusive pro-active planning process based on the common interests and the over-arching vision of successful collaboration.

The Tech Valley Civic Forum is comprised of four task forces: Tech Valley Community Outreach; New Economy and P-16 Education; Tech Valley Workforce Network; and the Metrics for Success Task Force. The *Tech Valley Trends – A Basis for Civic Change* is a product of the Metrics for Success Task Force. The goal of the Metrics for Success Task Force is to develop a vision of the kind of regional community we want to be, gather and share data on a range of indicators that, together, provide evidence of progress, status quo and backsliding with respect to the vision. The Report represents our first effort to articulate a vision for the Capital Region and reflects the status of the Region's health and quality of life. Our goal is to continue this effort and provide on-going information on trends in the Region as well as to prompt additional research and study that will guide our decision-making and ensure that we are headed in the right direction.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary .....	1
Introduction.....	5
Demographic Trends in the Capital Region.....	9
I. Social Welfare.....	13
II. Education .....	21
III. Housing .....	27
IV. Economic .....	35
V. Transportation .....	45
VI. Environment.....	55
VII. Health.....	61
VIII. Recreation, Arts and Culture.....	73
IX. Public Safety .....	81
X. Youth at Risk .....	87



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

New York’s Capital Region, otherwise referred to as Tech Valley, is a growing and diverse Region of over 821,000 residents residing in four counties (Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady) and 79 communities. The Region has and will continue to experience greater diversity in the makeup of its population, including increases in the number of non-white and Hispanic persons, the number of older residents, and more varied household types.

The *Tech Valley Trends – A Basis for Civic Change* is a product of The Tech Valley Civic Forum, which was created to ensure that as we grow and evolve as a community, we have the information and tools we need to be successful. The Report was designed and developed by the Forum’s Metrics for Success Task Force, comprised of a diverse group of nonprofit, government, business and community organizations and volunteers.

The Report identifies indicators for ten different categories: Social Welfare; Education; Housing; Economic; Transportation; Environment; Community Health; Recreation, Arts, and Culture; Public Safety; and Youth at Risk. For each category, a number of statistics were collected from a variety of sources representing the latest available for the Capital Region, its counties, and the four central cities that make up the metropolitan area: Albany, Schenectady, Troy and Saratoga Springs.

For each of the categories, the Metrics for Success Task Force prepared a vision statement reflecting the ideals and goals we hope to achieve as a Region. Each of the following vision statements serve as the basis for monitoring progress over time to assure a sustainable future and opportunities for all the residents in the Capital Region regardless of where they live and their socioeconomic status.

### **Vision Statements**

#### **I. Social Welfare**

*Promote diversity and fairness to assure community well-being and an enhanced social environment; ensure equal access to opportunities and services to all residents of the Capital Region.*

#### **II. Education**

*Assure a comprehensive, inclusive education system that guarantees equal access to high-quality education and learning opportunities, includes requirements to ensure competency, accommodates the workforce needs of the Region, and incorporates early childhood, traditional and technical training, professional trades training and retraining, and adult and re-entry education.*

### **III. Housing**

*Ensure access to affordable housing across all communities to meet present and prospective housing needs, with particular attention to provisions for low and moderate income housing, workforce housing, and accessibility to public transportation and employment centers.*

### **IV. Economic**

*Build a sustainable and diverse Regional economy based on innovation and adaptability to volatile global demands to ensure living wage jobs in all sectors in order to raise the living standards for all the Capital Region's residents.*

### **V. Transportation**

*Plan, create, and manage an integrated multi-modal transportation network that makes it easy to get from one place to another safely and reliably; more thoroughly link transportation and land use planning.*

### **VI. Environment**

*Promote strategies and institute measures to improve and maintain a healthy ecosystem as well as a safe, appealing, and functionally built environment in order to enhance the quality of life of all residents and to maximize the enjoyment of the Region's built and natural resources.*

### **VII. Community Health**

*Provide access to affordable, quality health care to improve the physical and mental well being of all the Capital Region's residents.*

### **VIII. Recreation, Arts, and Culture**

*Protect and improve the quality of parks, historic, cultural and artistic venues and resources throughout the Region; promote and expand their availability to ensure access to a variety of well-maintained, affordable, and enjoyable cultural and artistic enrichment opportunities and recreational, leisure, and entertainment activities.*

### **IX. Public Safety**

*Enhance the desirability of the Region by proactively providing adequate public safety and emergency response services and facilities that contribute to the overall sense of safety, equal justice, and confidence of the public.*

### **X. Youth at Risk**

*Create a culture of caring by enhancing and establishing opportunities to improve the condition of young people with respect to health, safety, education, economic well-being, and family support, through mentoring, civic engagement, and social and economic advancement.*



## **Indicator Summary**

As the statistical abstract for each category indicates:

- Our standard of living is good, but there is still a high incidence of poverty, in particular in our cities.
- The Region is home to a large number of public and private two and four-year colleges and universities, but we need to do more to improve the connections between our lower and higher education systems and retain highly educated talent in the Capital Region.
- The Region has not witnessed the same significant increases in housing values experienced in other parts of the country, but the gap between housing value and wage increases continues to grow resulting in housing becoming less affordable for an increasing number of households.
- Our employment is concentrated in some of the more stable sectors of government, education, and health services, but with a changing economy there is a growing mismatch between employer needs and workforce skills.
- Traffic congestion in the Region is manageable, but our continued dispersed development patterns makes it difficult to accommodate the transportation needs for a growing number of persons, particularly lower income city residents and those who do not have access to an automobile.
- We have become more environmentally conscious, but some of our individual actions appear to contradict this increased awareness.
- We are a generally safe and healthy community, but the public safety and human resources safety nets have holes that need to be mended.
- We have a large number of recreation, arts and cultural attractions, but we need to focus on the arts and human capital to provide creative and enjoyable outlets to retain and attract future residents.
- Our children represent the future, but we must establish a strong foundation today to assure them a better tomorrow.

The *Tech Valley Trends – A Basis for Civic Change* is primarily designed to represent a snapshot in time. As more data become available, we can better understand the trends and measure progress as well as compare our measurements to other standards and/or other regions, state and national averages. We also hope to explore, more deeply, the conditions within specific neighborhoods in the Capital Region, particularly distressed neighborhoods, to identify where deviations from the regional trends exist and to assist policy-makers and community leaders to craft solutions to address these issues. This Report offers an opportunity to help the Region to act and think regionally in moving forward on bending the trend lines and improving the quality of life for all residents.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Mission Statement**

***Create a Community Progress Report with key indicators of the quality of life, community well-being and long-term sustainability in the Capital Region.***

### **Definition**

Community Indicators or metrics are measurements that provide information about past and current trends. They are quantitative measurements of the quality of community life that reflect the interplay between social, environmental, and economic factors affecting the Region's well being. The Indicators reflect a combination of idealism and pragmatism that, taken together, provide a roadmap for the regional community showing where we have been, where we are now, and what areas need attention to achieve our mission and vision.

The *Tech Valley Trends – A Basis for Civic Change* provides the baseline to track measures of success in the Capital Region; for if we do not know where we are now, how do we know where we are going.

### **Report Objectives**

The Report focuses on the human side of economic development and includes indicators reflecting key social equity, economic, and environmental factors affecting the community's well-being and long-term sustainability. The Report is designed to provide for an on-going analysis of the State of the Region by:

- Providing focus and attention on critical needs, encouraging discussion of solutions, and keeping track of progress toward achieving sustainability;
- Creating a basis for tracking positive and negative trends; and
- Assisting community leaders in making decisions that affect outcomes in the community.

The indicators are explicitly designed to compare the community to itself but not to evaluate the Capital Region against the progress of other regions, the state, or nation. In addition, the data provide only numerical indicators of selected demographic/social data that can have perceived impacts on the Region's quality of life. Some important dimensions may be omitted because quantitative measurements are not available. Finally, the indicators by themselves do not explain why trends move as they do or what should be done to make improvements. Rather, they provide the information needed to generate partnerships and encourage collaboration to improve trends.

## **Indicator Selection Criteria**

Indicator selection is not a one-time proposition, just as creating a healthy and sustainable community is not a short-term project but one that takes decades if not generations to accomplish. The indicators need to be treated as a living report card that will be adjusted over time as the community learns how to apply this tool.

Not every indicator chosen for inclusion in the Report can meet all the criteria, but they can guide the overall selection and the chosen indicators do satisfy at least some of the following criteria\*:

- **Relevant.** Data must exist that are relevant to the geographic area. The indicator tells something about the system you need to know, and is meaningful to the community.
- **Valid.** Understandable rationales exist for using the specific indicator and for drawing general conclusions from it. Is the indicator well-grounded and founded in fact? Can it be supported, defended and justified?
- **Credible.** Does the data source for each indicator help reinforce credibility or detract from it?
- **Measurable.** A practical method of data collection or measurement must be possible
- **Consistent and Reliable.** The data for the indicator need to be reliably researched over time.
- **Comparable.** Many indicators from different communities will not be exactly alike, but the intent and spirit of them will be close enough for some comparison to be made.
- **Understandable.** A community indicator is only as useful as its interpretation and use by the stakeholders in the community.
- **Leading.** Good “leading” indicators forewarn you, whenever possible, of developing problems well before they become dangerous or impossible to solve.
- **Compelling, Interesting, Exciting.** Indicators that communicate information that resonates with their intended audience(s). Also, interest by the press to publicize the indicator.
- **Accessibility and Affordability.** How easily can the data be obtained and how much does it cost to accomplish this work cost effectively and efficiently?

\* American Planning Association. “Community Indicators” Planning Advisory Service Report Number 517.

## **Task Force Members**

The Metrics Task Force represents a cross section of stakeholders in the Capital Region from the business community, non-profit sector, education, and government. This collaborative partnership provided each of us the insight necessary to help understand ourselves as a community. The following are the members of the Metrics Task Force who are responsible for the preparation of this report:

### **Co-Conveners:**

Rocco Ferraro Executive Director, Capital District Regional Planning Commission

Denise Sheehan Eastern Regional Director, The Climate Registry

### **Participants:**

Dominick Calsolaro Common Council Member- First Ward City of Albany, Albany Common Council, City of Albany

Kathleen Cloutier Executive Director, Albany Community Action Partnership

Edward Cupoli Head, Nanoeconomics Constellation; Professor of Nanoeconomics, College of Nanoscale Science & Engineering, Ualbany

Albert DeSalvo Community Reinvestment Officer, M & T Bank

Steve Feeney County Planner, Schenectady County Department of Economic Development and Planning / Town of Guilderland Planning Board Chair

Reverend Joyce Hartwell Justice and Re-Entry Chair, ARISE

Catherine Hedgeman Attorney at Law, Law Office of Catherine M. Hedgeman, Past Chair and Founder of GenNext

Doug Kallenburg Board Member, Capital District Community Loan Fund

Jason Kemper Director of Planning, Saratoga County

Lawrence Knappek Certified Public Accountant, Knappek, Gabriele & Bottini, LLP

David Lewis Assistant Professor, University at Albany

Katherine Pelham Chief Executive Officer, United Way of the Greater Capital Region

Eric Peterson Community Volunteer

Raymond Schimmer Executive Director, Parsons Child & Family Center

Paula Dalotto Simpson President, Dot2Dot People / Youth and Education Chair, ARISE

Deb Stacey Senior Transportation Planner, Capital District Transportation Committee

Elizabeth Staubach Economic Development Planner, Albany County

Lava Thimmayya Director for Economic Development, Workforce Development Institute

Linda von der Heide Principal Planner, Rensselaer County Economic Development & Planning

Arnie Will NYS Empire State Development

### **Where Do We Go From Here?**

The indicators in this report offer an opportunity to think regionally and to consider solutions to those issues. For those of us who live in one community and work in another, who shop in one area and participate in recreation or cultural activities elsewhere, building a better regional community is just as important as building a better local community. This report is designed to help each of us make a difference for a stronger, healthier, Capital Region regardless of where we live, work, or recreate.

The Capital Region is a special place. Those of us who live here have a great deal to celebrate but there is work to be done. By working collaboratively, we can assure a sustainable future to preserve and enhance our quality of life while providing opportunities for everyone to achieve their individual goals for success.

*Tech Valley Trends – A Basis for Civic Change* provides the benchmark to monitor change over time. As updated and new quantitative and qualitative measurements become available, they will be included in the report to assist us in measuring our progress for success. Keep in mind, the numbers provide the snapshot, it is all of us working together that will result in successful outcomes.

## DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN THE CAPITAL REGION

Drawing on the Census data from the decennial census and updated data from the American Community Survey, the following is a statistical overview of the Capital Region. The data sets and narrative that follow describe changes in the Region's population, racial and Hispanic origin, age distribution and household type. The population projections prepared by CDRPC are also included.

The Capital Region is located in the east central New York at the confluence of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers. Encompassing a total land area of approximately 2200 square miles, the core of the Capital Region is comprised of Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady counties. Centrally located in the Northeast, the Capital Region is 150 miles north of New York City, 190 miles south of Montreal 165 west of Boston, and 290 miles east of Buffalo.

The Capital Region includes four central cities: Albany, the Capital of New York State, Schenectady, Troy, and Saratoga Springs. While the 79 communities of the Capital Region exist as independent entities, the close proximity between the four central cities and the area's strong transportation network have made it possible for a vibrant, interdependent urban region to emerge.

### Population

The July 1, 2007 population of the four counties was estimated at 821,295, an increase of 27,000 or 3.4% since 2000. As noted on the table below, though each of the four counties has experienced growth since 2000, the largest increase occurred in Saratoga County at 7.6%.

	2000	July 1, 2007	Percent Change
Capital Region	794,293	821,295	3.4%
Albany	294,565	299,307	1.6%
Rensselaer	152,538	155,318	1.8%
Saratoga	200,635	215,852	7.6%
Schenectady	146,555	150,818	2.9%

While the population of each of the four counties has increased, with the exception of the City of Saratoga Springs, each of the remaining Central Cities (Albany, Schenectady, Troy) has lost population since 2000. However, the rate of decline has slowed considerably since 1950 when the population of the three cities was at their peak. Since 1950, each has witnessed dramatic declines in population while the City of Saratoga Springs population almost doubled. During that same time period, the population of the Region grew by more than 50%.

	1950	2000	July 1, 2007	Percent Change
Capital Region	531,249	794,293	821,295	54.6%
City of Albany	134,995	94,301	94,172	-30.2%
City of Schenectady	87,549	61,821	61,531	-29.7%
City of Troy	72,311	49,170	47,744	-32.0%
City of Saratoga Springs	13,705	26,186	28,782	92.8%

## Race & Hispanic Origin

Although the population is primarily white (86.0% in 2007), the Region has seen some dramatic increases in the non-white and Hispanic population. While the overall population increased by 3.4% between 2000 and 2007, the non-white population increased by 29.2% and the Hispanic population by 35.4%.

	2000	2007	Percent Change
White	705,272	706,285	0.1%
Black	52,449	57,384	9.4%
Asian	15,661	24,923	59.1%
Other	20,911	32,703	56.4%
Total	794,293	821,295	3.4%
Hispanic Origin*	19,777	26,773	35.4%

\*Can be of any race

## Household Characteristics

Since 1970 there have been significant changes in household type in the Capital Region with an increasing number of single parent and non-family households and a much smaller proportion of married couple households with children.

	1970		2007	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Married Couple w/Children	86,201	37.4%	60,787	19.1%
Single Parent w/Children	9,911	4.3%	28,961	9.1%
Family Households w/o Children	84,588	36.7%	107,252	33.7%
Non-Family Households	49,784	21.6%	121,255	38.1%
Total	230,484	100.0%	318,255	100.0%

## Population Projections

In 2003, the Capital District Regional Planning Commission prepared population projections for each of the counties and municipalities to the Year 2030. These numbers reflect trends evidenced by population estimates released by the Census Bureau, local building permit data, school enrollment data, migration data from the Internal Revenue Service, and birth and death information from the New York State Department of Health.

Population Projections	2000	2010	2020	2030	Percent Change 2000-2030
Capital Region	794,293	826,094	848,107	867,000	9.2%
Albany County	294,565	302,162	301,201	311,707	5.8%
City of Albany	94,301	94,741	94,740	94,846	0.6%
Rensselaer County	152,538	156,602	158,579	159,895	4.8%
City of Troy	49,170	49,568	48,558	47,599	-3.2%
Saratoga County	200,635	219,391	233,633	246,647	22.9%
City of Saratoga Springs	26,186	29,300	31,228	33,058	26.2%
Schenectady County	146,555	147,939	148,694	148,751	1.5%
City of Schenectady	61,821	60,922	60,104	59,450	-3.8%



The population of the Region, following national trends, is projected to get older during the next 30 years. Though representing nearly 14% of the population in 2000, it is projected that the population 65+ will represent 19% of the Region's population by 2030.

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2030</b>
Under 20	26.9%	26.0%	24.7%	24.8%
20 to 44	35.9%	32.6%	32.9%	33.6%
45 to 64	23.2%	27.5%	25.7%	22.6%
65 and Over	13.9%	13.8%	16.8%	18.9%
Total	794,293	826,094	848,107	867,000



## I. Social Welfare

### **Vision Statement:**

*Promote diversity and fairness to assure community well-being and an enhanced social environment; ensure equal access to opportunities and services to all residents of the Capital Region.*

### **Indicators:**

- 1.1 Median Household Income
- 1.2 Percent of Households by Income Range
- 1.3 Percent of Households by Income Range and Race & Hispanic Origin
- 1.4 Overall Poverty Rate
- 1.5 Poverty Rate by Age Group

### **Summary:**

- The 2005-07 median household income for the Region was \$54,945. In New York State, it was \$52,944, and in the U.S. it was \$50,007.
- In 2005-07, 54.5% of the households in the Capital Region made more than \$50,000, versus 52.6% in New York State and 50.0% nationwide.
- In 2005-07, 1 in 5 households in the Capital Region made less than \$25,000, versus one in four in both New York State and the U.S.
- With the exception of Asians, non-whites and Hispanics tended to have many more low-income households than whites. Overall, non-whites and Hispanics had fewer high-income households than whites and Asians.
- In 2005-07, the Capital Region's overall poverty rate was 10.5%, versus 14.0% in New York State, and 13.3% in the U.S.

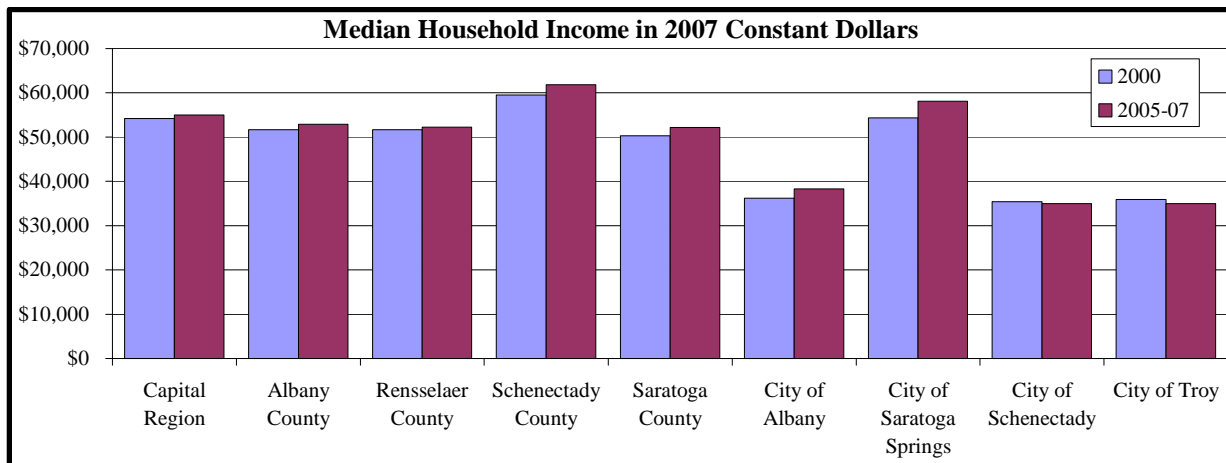
### 1.1 Median Household Income

**Definition:**

The mid-point at which half the households have incomes above the median, and half the households have incomes below the median. Median household income is often considered a better indicator of income than mean or average income. The 2000 Census and 2005-07 ACS data should be compared with some caution. In a comparison study in 2000, the US Census Bureau discovered income reported in Census 2000 was about 4% higher than income in the 2000 ACS.

**Significance:**

The median household income is one of the best tools available to understand income levels in a region. Geographies with higher median incomes are likely to have higher home values, higher educational attainment levels, and lower levels of unemployment.



**Data Highlights:**

- Between 2000 and 2005-07, there was a slight increase in the median household income for the Region’s residents.
- Saratoga County had the highest median household income of the four counties in both 2000 and 2005-07. Albany, Rensselaer, and Schenectady Counties had similar median household incomes.
- The median household income in the cities of Schenectady and Troy dropped from 2000 to 2005-2007.
- The cities of Saratoga Springs and Albany both saw relatively large increases in the median household income (7.0% and 5.9% respectively).

Median Household Income in 2007 Constant-Dollars	2000	2005-07
Capital Region	\$54,174	\$54,954
Albany County	\$51,687	\$52,871
Rensselaer County	\$51,650	\$52,257
Saratoga County	\$59,542	\$61,825
Schenectady County	\$50,247	\$52,185
City of Albany	\$36,164	\$38,290
City of Saratoga Springs	\$54,329	\$58,113
City of Schenectady	\$35,366	\$34,982
City of Troy	\$35,927	\$34,981

Source: US Bureau of Commerce, Department of Census, 2000 Census and 2005-2007 American Community Survey (ACS)

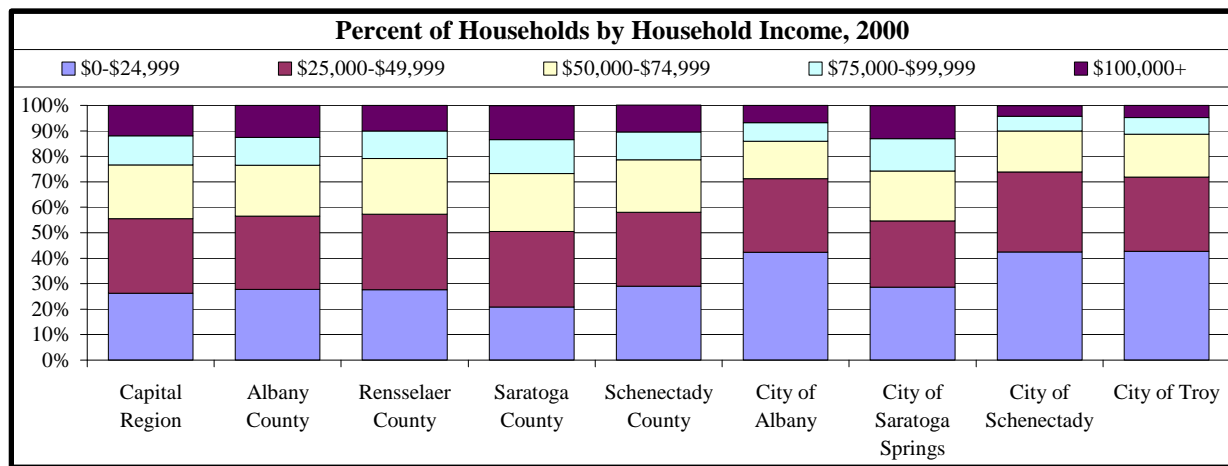
## 1.2 Households by Income Range

### Definition:

The percent of households in a given household income range, by geography. The 2000 Census and 2005-07 ACS data should be compared with some caution. In a comparison study in 2000, the US Census Bureau discovered income reported in Census 2000 was about 4% higher than income in the 2000 ACS.

### Significance:

An equitable income distribution is a key component of a regionally successful economy. Urban households are often disproportionately affected by lower incomes.

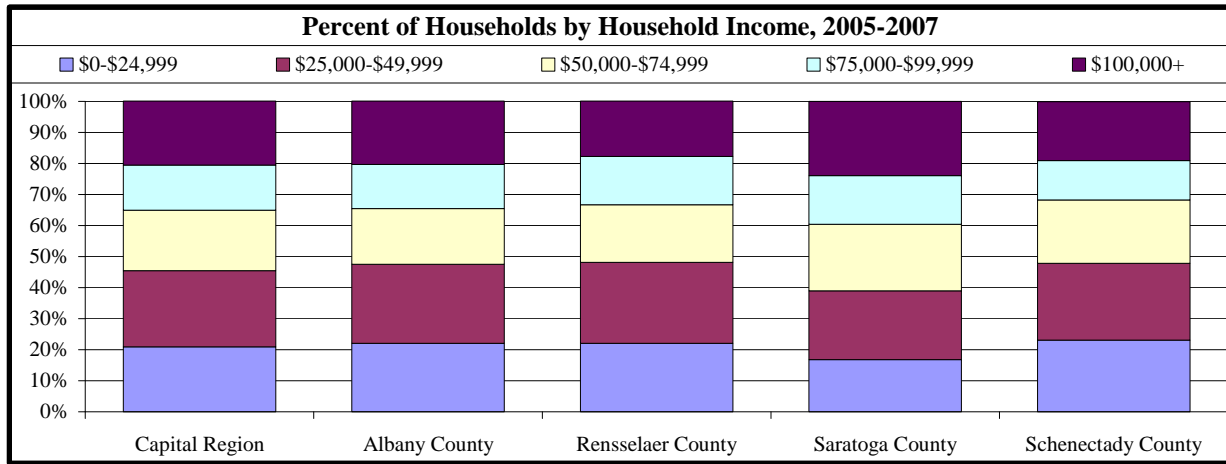


% Distribution of Household Income, 2000	\$0-\$24,999	\$25,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$74,999	\$75,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
Capital Region	26.3%	29.2%	21.1%	11.5%	11.9%
Albany County	27.8%	28.7%	20.0%	10.9%	12.6%
Rensselaer County	27.7%	29.6%	21.8%	10.9%	10.0%
Saratoga County	20.9%	29.6%	22.7%	13.4%	13.3%
Schenectady County	29.0%	29.1%	20.6%	10.9%	10.5%
City of Albany	42.3%	28.9%	14.7%	7.3%	6.8%
City of Saratoga Springs	28.7%	25.9%	19.6%	12.7%	13.0%
City of Schenectady	42.5%	31.4%	16.1%	5.7%	4.2%
City of Troy	42.7%	29.2%	16.8%	6.5%	4.8%

### Data Highlights:

- In 2000, the City of Saratoga Springs had a much larger percent of high-income households than the three other selected cities, and a much smaller percent of low-income households. The same held true for Saratoga County.
- Among the counties, Schenectady County had the highest percent of low-income households; among the cities, Albany, Schenectady, Troy had comparable percentages with slightly over 42% of the households making less than \$25,000.

### 1.2 Households by Income Range, 2005-07



\*The 2005-2007 ACS data margin of error was above 10% for the cities and was therefore not included.

% Distribution of Household Income, 2005-07	\$0-\$24,999	\$25,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$74,999	\$75,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
Capital Region	20.9%	24.6%	19.4%	14.6%	20.6%
Albany County	22.1%	25.4%	18.0%	14.2%	20.4%
Rensselaer County	22.1%	26.0%	18.6%	15.6%	17.8%
Saratoga County	16.8%	22.2%	21.4%	15.7%	23.9%
Schenectady County	23.1%	24.7%	20.4%	12.7%	19.0%

**Data Highlights:**

- In 2005-07, Saratoga County had the largest share of high-income households of the four counties, and the smallest share of low-income households of the four counties.
- In 2005-07, Schenectady County had the highest percent of low-income households of the four counties. Rensselaer County had the lowest percent of high-income counties.

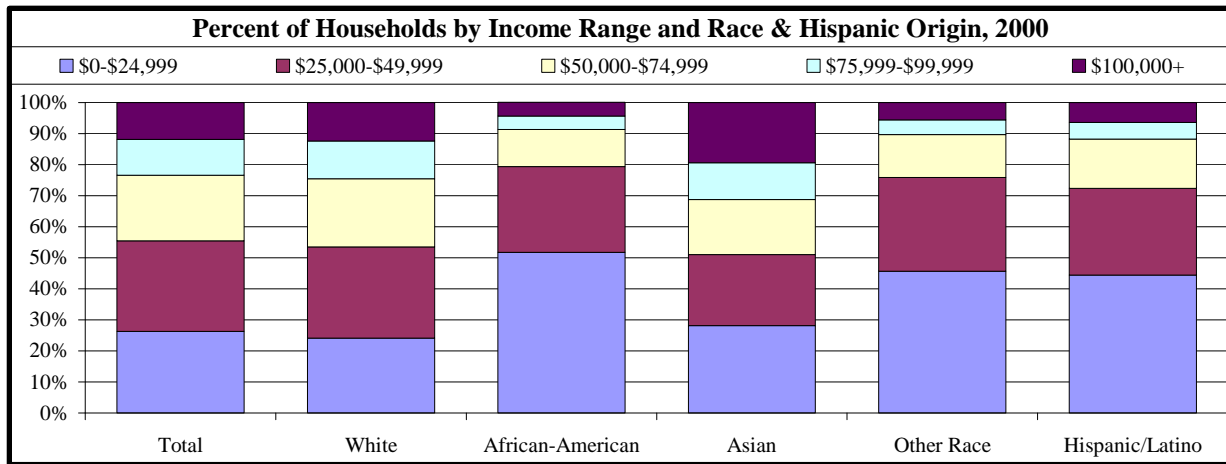
### 1.3 Percent of Households by Income Range and Race & Hispanic Origin

**Definition:**

The number of households with householder of specified race, by income range, divided by the total number of households with household of that race.

**Significance:**

The distribution of income can differ greatly across racial lines. Racial wealth inequality occurs throughout the US, and the Capital Region is no exception. Income is one portion of the wealth equation, though not the largest, and is a key factor in reducing economic inequality.



\*The 2005-2007 ACS data margin of error was above 10% for the cities and was therefore not included.

% of Capital Region Households by Income Range/Race, 2000	Total	White	African-American	Asian	Other Race	Hispanic/Latino
\$0-\$24,999	26.3%	24.1%	51.8%	28.1%	45.7%	44.4%
\$25,000-\$49,999	29.2%	29.4%	27.6%	22.9%	30.2%	28.0%
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.1%	22.0%	11.9%	17.8%	13.8%	15.8%
\$75,999-\$99,999	11.5%	12.1%	4.4%	11.8%	4.7%	5.4%
\$100,000+	11.9%	12.4%	4.4%	19.4%	5.6%	6.4%

**Data Highlights:**

- With the exception of Asians, non-whites and Hispanics tended to have many more low-income households than whites. Overall, non-whites and Hispanics had fewer high-income households than whites and Asians.
- Whites and Asians had fairly comparable distributions of low-income households, though Asians had the highest percentage of high-income households.

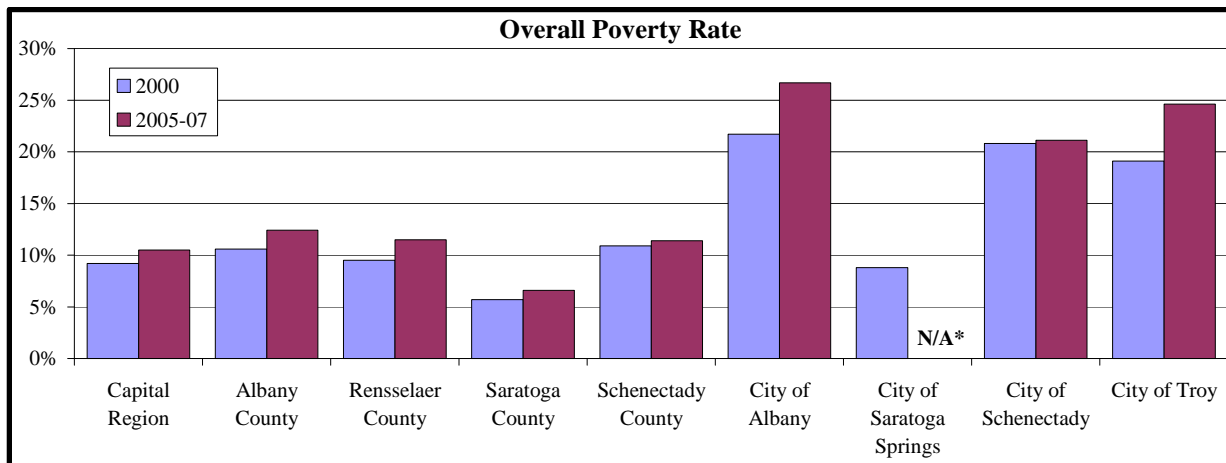
### 1.4 Overall Poverty Rate

**Definition:**

The total number of people living below the poverty threshold, divided by total population. Poverty thresholds vary by household size. The 2000 Census and 2005-07 ACS data should be compared with some caution. In a comparison study in 2000, the US Census Bureau discovered income reported in Census 2000 was about 4% higher than income in the 2000 ACS.

**Significance:**

The overall poverty rate measures the percentage of the population considered to have too little income to meet basic needs. Poverty has a significant impact on the quality of life of those directly and indirectly affected by it. Families and individuals living below the poverty threshold are constantly faced with financial troubles, and are forced to make difficult decisions about the necessities of life.



\*2005-07 margin of error greater than 10%

**Data Highlights:**

- Of the four counties, Albany had the highest overall poverty rate in 2005-07; Saratoga County had a much lower overall poverty rate.
- The City of Albany’s overall poverty rate was the highest of the selected cities for both the 2000 and 2005-07 periods.
- The City of Troy experienced a large increase in the poverty rate between the 2000 Census and the 2005-07 ACS (28.7%): the largest increase of the selected cities.

Overall Poverty Rate	2000	2005-07
Capital Region	9.2%	10.5%
Albany County	10.6%	12.4%
Rensselaer County	9.5%	11.5%
Saratoga County	5.7%	6.6%
Schenectady County	10.9%	11.4%
City of Albany	21.7%	26.7%
City of Saratoga Springs	8.8%	N/A*
City of Schenectady	20.8%	21.1%
City of Troy	19.1%	24.6%
*Margin of error greater than 10%		



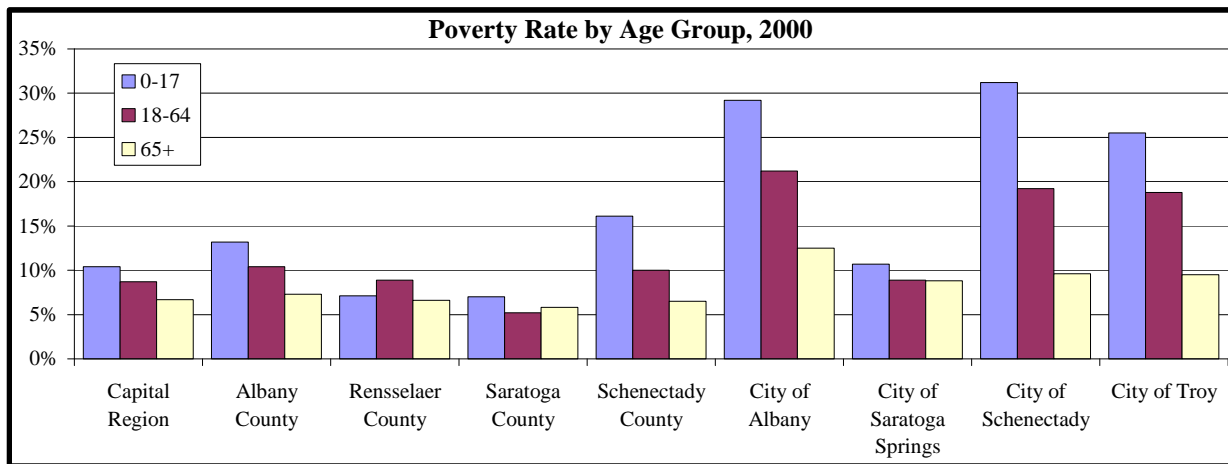
### 1.5 Poverty Rate by Age Group

**Definition:**

The percentage of the population, broken into three age groups, considered to have too little income to meet basic needs. Only 2000 Census data is used since the 2005-2007 ACS data margin of error was greater than 10%.

**Significance:**

Children who live in poverty are more likely than others to go without necessary food, be retained in grade, and drop out of school. The elderly who live in poverty may struggle to pay for quality nutrition, good housing, and proper medical care.



**Data Highlights:**

- Overall, relatively few elderly live in poverty in the Capital Region (6.7%).
- Saratoga County had, overall, the lowest percentage of impoverished residents in each age group.
- Of the four studied cities, Schenectady had the most impoverished children (31.2%). However, Albany had the most impoverished adults and elderly (21.2% and 12.5%, respectively).
- The City of Saratoga Springs had the lowest poverty rates across all age groups of the four studied cities.

Poverty Rate by Age Group 2000	0-17	18-64	65+
Capital Region	10.4%	8.7%	6.7%
Albany County	13.2%	10.4%	7.3%
Rensselaer County	7.1%	8.9%	6.6%
Saratoga County	7.0%	5.2%	5.8%
Schenectady County	16.1%	10.0%	6.5%
City of Albany	29.2%	21.2%	12.5%
City of Saratoga Springs	10.7%	8.9%	8.8%
City of Schenectady	31.2%	19.2%	9.6%
City of Troy	25.5%	18.8%	9.5%



## II. EDUCATION

### **Vision Statement:**

*Assure a comprehensive, inclusive education system that guarantees equal access to high-quality education and learning opportunities, includes requirements to ensure competency, accommodates the workforce needs of the Region, and incorporates early childhood, traditional and technical training, professional trades training and retraining, and adult and re-entry education.*

### **Indicators:**

- 2.1 Educational Attainment
- 2.2 Elementary Achievement Scores
- 2.3 Middle School Achievement Scores
- 2.4 Attendance Rates

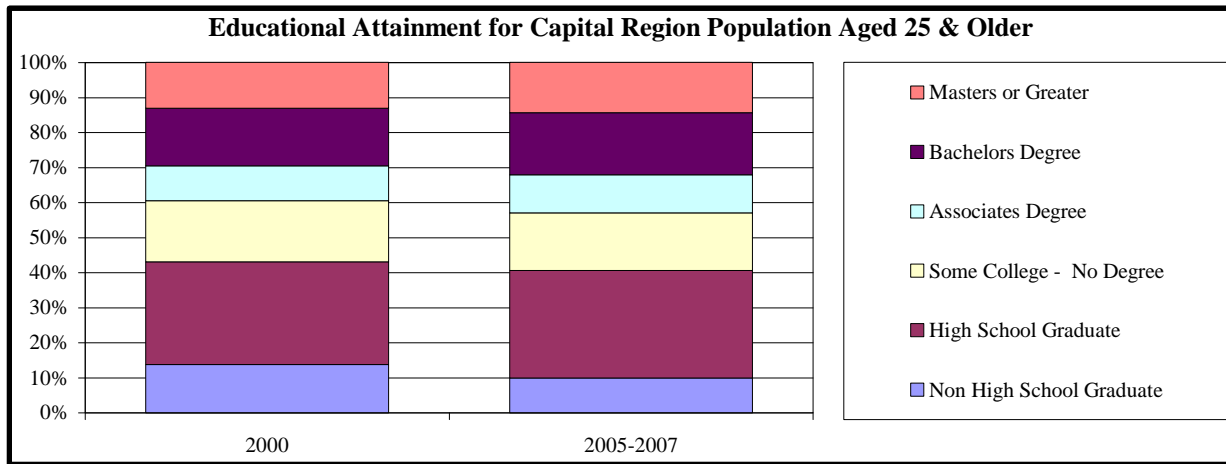
### **Summary:**

- In 2005-07, the percent of the population with at least an Associates degree in the Capital Region was 42.6%, versus 39.2% in New York State and 34.4% in the U.S.
- Overall, the proportion of the population that is highly educated (Associates degree or greater) has risen since 2000 in the Region, and the proportion of non-high school graduates has dropped.
- Overall, the percentage of elementary students meeting or exceeding standards has gone up since 2000.
- Region-wide, the percentage of middle school students meeting or exceeding both math and ELA standards has gone up since 2000.
- There is very little deviation in attendance rates among the four counties between the 1999-2000 school year and the 2004-2005 school year.

## 2.1 Educational Attainment

**Definition:**

The percentage of adults 25 and older with various levels of education. Less than high school indicates no high school or equivalency diploma; high school indicates a high school or equivalency diploma; some college indicates those who attended college but did not earn a degree; masters or greater indicates holders of master’s degrees, doctorates, and other advanced degrees (JD, MD, etc.).



**Significance:**

A skilled and educated workforce is a critical factor of success in today’s competitive global economy. The availability of educated and skilled employees is essential to attract quality jobs, and can help foster innovation and increase productivity for existing employers.

Educational Attainment, 2005-2007	Non High School Graduate	High School Graduate	Some College - No Degree	Associates Degree	Bachelors Degree	Masters or Greater
Capital Region	10.0%	30.6%	16.5%	10.8%	17.8%	14.4%
Albany County	8.9%	28.3%	15.7%	10.6%	19.2%	17.3%
Rensselaer County	12.1%	34.1%	17.5%	10.8%	14.0%	11.6%
Saratoga County	9.7%	30.0%	16.8%	10.7%	19.6%	13.2%
Schenectady County	10.3%	32.4%	16.6%	11.1%	16.3%	13.3%
Albany School District	11.9%	27.6%	16.6%	8.8%	18.0%	17.1%
Saratoga Springs School District	9.3%	23.0%	13.0%	8.4%	27.1%	19.2%
Schenectady School District	16.8%	39.7%	16.6%	8.6%	10.2%	8.1%
Troy School District	16.8%	34.4%	18.8%	9.1%	10.8%	10.2%

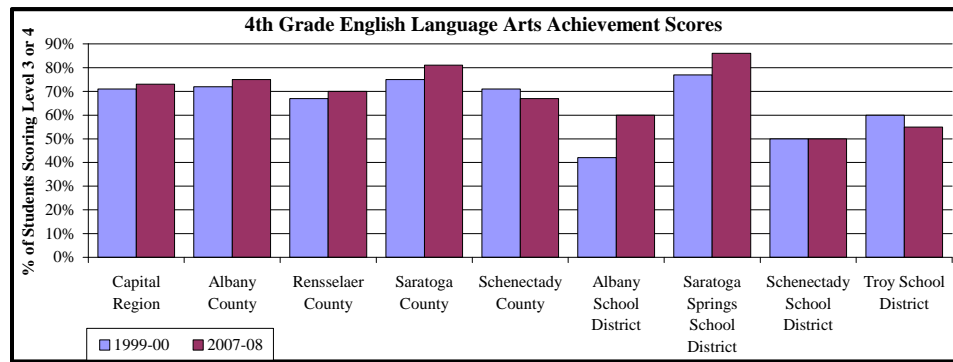
**Data Highlights:**

- Overall, the proportion of the population that is highly educated (Associates degree or greater) has risen since 2000 in the Region, and the proportion of non-high school graduates has dropped.
- Saratoga Springs has by far the highest educational attainment, and Troy and Schenectady the lowest, of the selected cities.

## 2.2 Elementary Achievement Scores

### Definition:

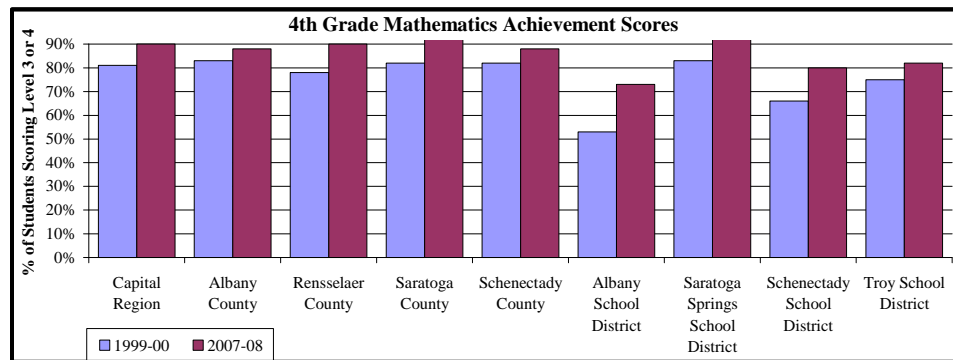
The percentage of tested students scoring at or above Level 3 on Board of Regents-approved standards-based English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics exams



in grade 4. Students achieve one of four levels: level 4 (exceed standards, moving toward high performance on high school Regents exam), level 3 (meet standards, with steady growth should pass Regents exam), level 2 (below standards, need help to pass Regents exam), and level 1 (serious academic deficiencies). All students, with the exception of those with disabilities and those with limited English language proficiency, are required to take these exams.

### Significance:

4<sup>th</sup> grade Regents exams test students’ language and mathematical skills. The scores are also indicative of a school’s ability to teach those subjects. Student



performance data can inform decision making about instructional programs. These decisions can ultimately help students meet the State learning standards.

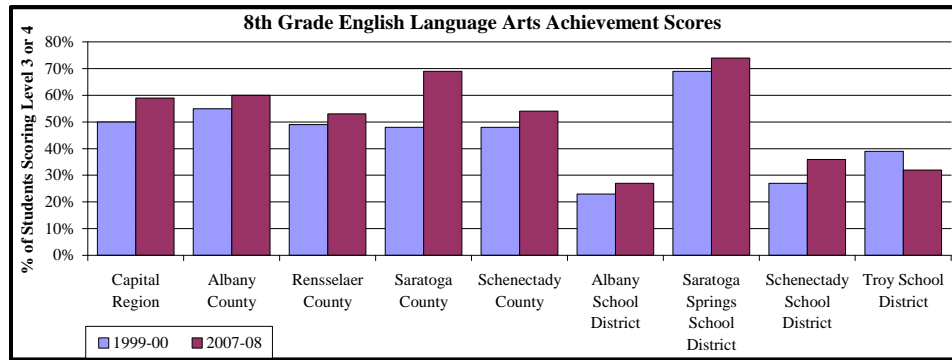
### Data Highlights:

- Overall, the percentage of elementary students meeting or exceeding standards has gone up since 2000. The Troy School District is a notable exception, with an 8% decline in ELA. Schenectady County also experienced a decline, though it was not as pronounced (5% in ELA).
- The Schenectady School District has among the lowest scores of students meeting ELA standards. The Albany School District has the lowest percentage of students meeting math standards, despite experiencing a 37% increase.
- The Saratoga Springs School District has the highest percentage of students meeting standards – 88% in ELA and 93% in math. Scores have increased 14% and 12% respectively from 2000 to 2008.

### 2.3 Middle School Achievement Scores

**Definition:**

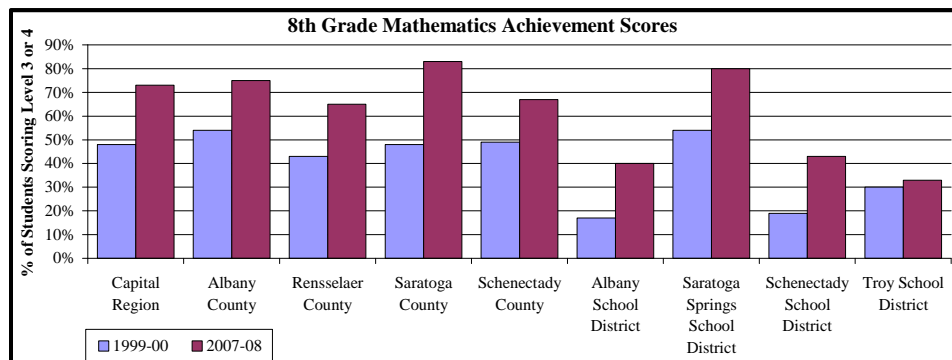
The percentage of tested students scoring at or above Level 3 on Board of Regents-approved standards-based English Language Arts and Mathematics exams



in grade 8. Students achieve one of four levels: level 4 (exceed standards, moving toward high performance on high school Regents exam), level 3 (meet standards, with steady growth should pass Regents exam), level 2 (below standards, need help to pass Regents exam), and level 1 (serious academic deficiencies). All students, with the exception of those with disabilities and those with limited English language proficiency, are required to take these exams.

**Significance:**

By the time they've reached the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students have spent nearly a decade in the educational system. 8<sup>th</sup> grade exams are an opportunity to verify achievement and students' ability to successfully complete high school.



**Data Highlights:**

- Region-wide, the percentage of students meeting or exceeding both math and ELA standards has gone up since 2000.
- The Albany and Schenectady School Districts more than doubled the percent of students meeting standards in math from 2000 to 2008.

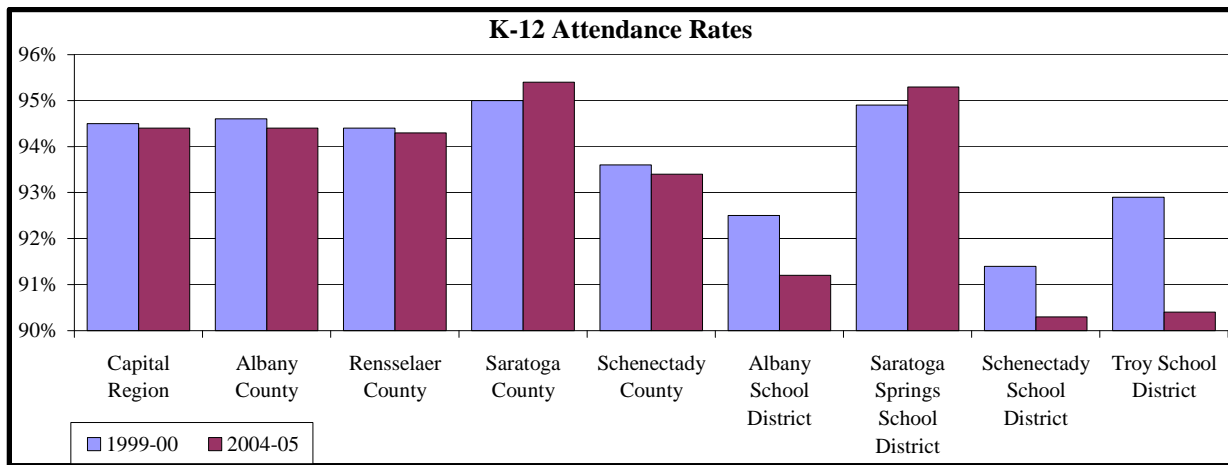
## 2.4 Attendance Rates

### Definition:

The annual attendance rate is determined by dividing the school district’s total actual attendance by the total possible attendance for a school year. Due to reporting changes related to the 2006 No Child Left Behind Act, the most recent reliable data for attendance rates dates to the 2004-2005 school year.

### Significance:

Students who attend school consistently tend to be more disciplined, more likely to complete high school, and have higher rates of achievement. Frequent absences make it more difficult for the student to keep up with the class and pose a serious challenge to teachers’ ability to instruct the class. Additionally, repeated absences starting as early as kindergarten have been linked to adolescent delinquency and high school dropouts.



Note: chart begins at 90%, to highlight differences in rates.

### Data Highlights:

- There is very little deviation in attendance rates among the four counties.
- The Saratoga Springs School District has the highest attendance rates, and the Schenectady School District the lowest attendance rates, of the studied school districts.

Attendance Rates	1999-00	2004-05
Capital Region	94.5%	94.4%
Albany County	94.6%	94.4%
Rensselaer County	94.4%	94.3%
Saratoga County	95.0%	95.4%
Schenectady County	93.6%	93.4%
Albany School District	92.5%	91.2%
Saratoga Springs School District	94.9%	95.3%
Schenectady School District	91.4%	90.3%
Troy School District	92.9%	90.4%





### III. Housing

**Vision Statement:**

*Ensure access to affordable housing across all communities to meet present and prospective housing needs, with particular attention to provisions for low and moderate income housing, workforce housing, and accessibility to public transportation and employment centers.*

**Indicators:**

- 3.1 Housing Tenure
- 3.2 Gross Rent Relative to Household Income for All Incomes
- 3.3 Housing Costs Relative to Household Income for All Incomes
- 3.4 Gross Rent Relative to Household Income for <\$35,000
- 3.5 Housing Costs Relative to Household Income for <\$35,000
- 3.6 Increase in Sales Prices Relative to Wage Increases
- 3.7 Housing Starts/Building Permit Issuances

**Summary:**

- Overall, rates of homeownership have risen across the Region.
- In 2005-07, slightly over 50% of all renters in the cities of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy were cost-burdened.
- In the Capital Region, more than one-quarter of homeowners were cost-burdened in 2005-07
- In 2005-07, 3 out of 4 renter households with household income less than \$35,000 spent over 30% of their household income for rent.
- In the Region, roughly one in two homeowner households with household incomes less than \$35,000 were cost-burdened in 2005-07.
- In constant dollars, home sales prices outpaced wage increases significantly in the Capital Region.
- Capital Region new residential building permit issuances peaked in 2005, with a total of 3,488 units. Conversely, 2006 had the fewest permit issuances since 2000, 2,259 units.

### 3.1 Housing Tenure

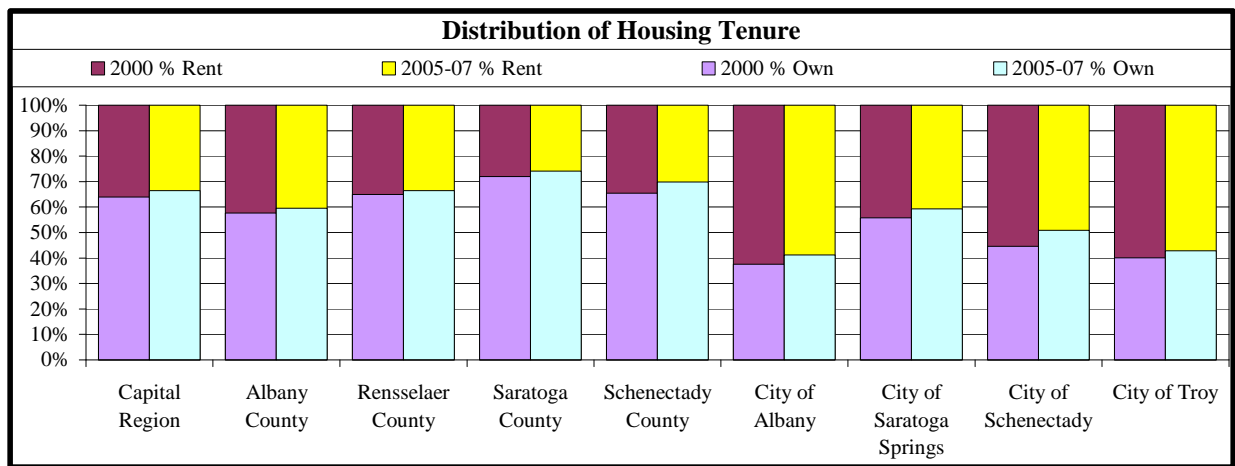
**Definition:**

The percent of occupied housing units that are rented or owner-occupied.

**Significance:**

Americans tend to place a high value on owning a home, and historically government policies have supported this goal.

Homeownership provides a variety of benefits to individuals and the community, including improving neighborhood stability. Further, a high homeownership rate indicates that the housing stock is affordable and in acceptable condition.



**Data Highlights:**

- Overall, rates of homeownership have risen across the Region.
- Of the four studied cities, Schenectady saw the largest increase in homeownership (14.1%).
- Saratoga County had the highest rates of owner-occupied housing in 2000 and 2005-07, while Albany County had the lowest.

Housing Tenure	2000		2005-07	
	% Own	% Rent	% Own	% Rent
Capital Region	64.0%	36.0%	66.5%	33.5%
Albany County	57.7%	42.3%	59.6%	40.4%
Rensselaer County	64.9%	35.1%	66.5%	33.5%
Saratoga County	72.0%	28.0%	74.1%	25.9%
Schenectady County	65.4%	34.6%	69.9%	30.1%
City of Albany	37.6%	62.4%	41.2%	58.8%
City of Saratoga Springs	55.8%	44.2%	59.3%	40.7%
City of Schenectady	44.6%	55.4%	50.9%	49.1%
City of Troy	40.1%	59.9%	42.9%	57.1%

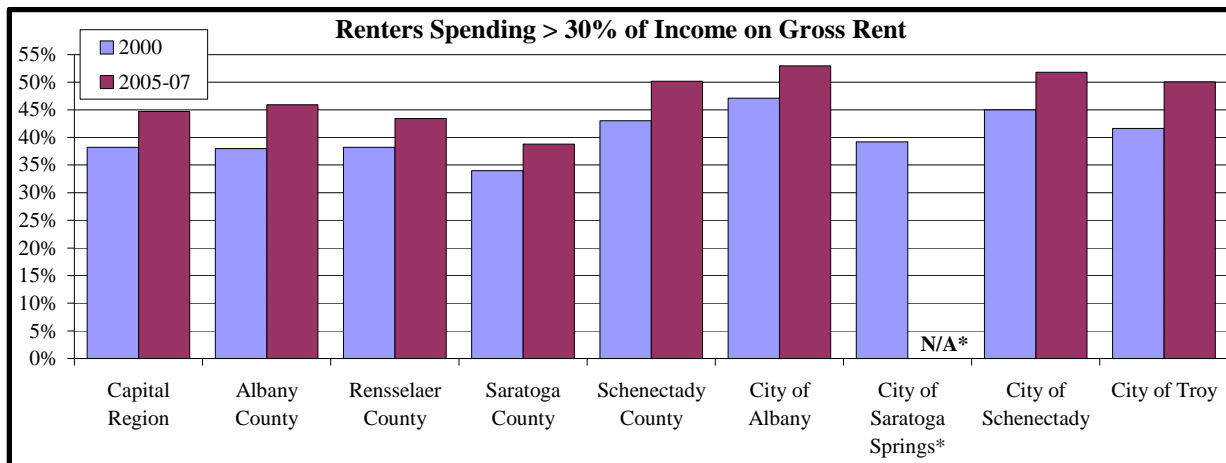
### 3.2 Gross Rent Relative to Household Income for All Incomes

**Definition:**

The percent of renter households spending more than 30% of household income on gross rent, which includes utilities if paid by the renter. The 2000 Census and 2005-2007 ACS data should be compared with some caution. In a comparison study in 2000, the US Census Bureau discovered income reported in Census 2000 was about 4% higher than income in the 2000 ACS.

**Significance:**

This indicator illustrates housing affordability in relation to household income. The Federal Housing and Urban Development Department guideline for affordability is that housing costs should consume no more than 30% of household income. Households spending more than 30% of their income on housing are considered cost-burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care.



\*Margin of error greater than 10% for 2005-07 ACS data

**Data Highlights:**

- Over one-third of the Region’s renters were cost-burdened in 2000. In 2005-07, the percent increased to nearly 45%.
- In 2005-07, slightly over 50% of all renters in the cities of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy were cost-burdened.

Renters Spending > 30% of Income on Gross Rent	2000	2005-07
Capital Region	38.2%	44.7%
Albany County	38.0%	45.9%
Rensselaer County	38.2%	43.4%
Saratoga County	34.0%	38.8%
Schenectady County	43.0%	50.2%
City of Albany	47.1%	53.0%
City of Saratoga Springs*	39.2%	N/A*
City of Schenectady	45.0%	51.8%
City of Troy	41.6%	50.1%

\*Margin of error greater than 10%

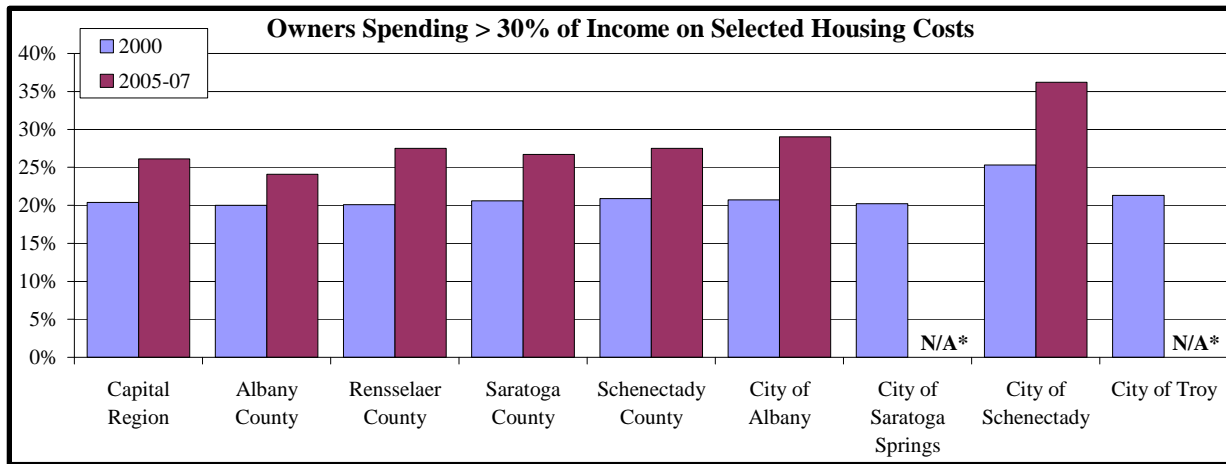
### 3.3 Housing Costs Relative to Household Income for All Incomes

**Definition:**

The percent of homeowner households spending more than 30% of household income on selected housing costs, which includes taxes, insurance, and utilities. The 2000 Census and 2005-2007 ACS data should be compared with some caution. In a comparison study in 2000, the US Census Bureau discovered income reported in Census 2000 was about 4% higher than income in the 2000 ACS.

**Significance:**

This indicator illustrates housing affordability in relation to household income. The Federal Housing and Urban Development Department guideline for affordability is that housing costs should consume no more than 30% of household income. Households spending more than 30 percent of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care.



\*Margin of error greater than 10% for 2005-07 ACS data

**Data Highlights:**

- In 2000, the City of Schenectady had the largest share of cost-burdened homeowners of the four selected cities.
- Overall, more than one-quarter of homeowners were cost-burdened in 2005-07.
- Rensselaer and Schenectady Counties had the largest share of cost-burdened homeowners in 2005-07.

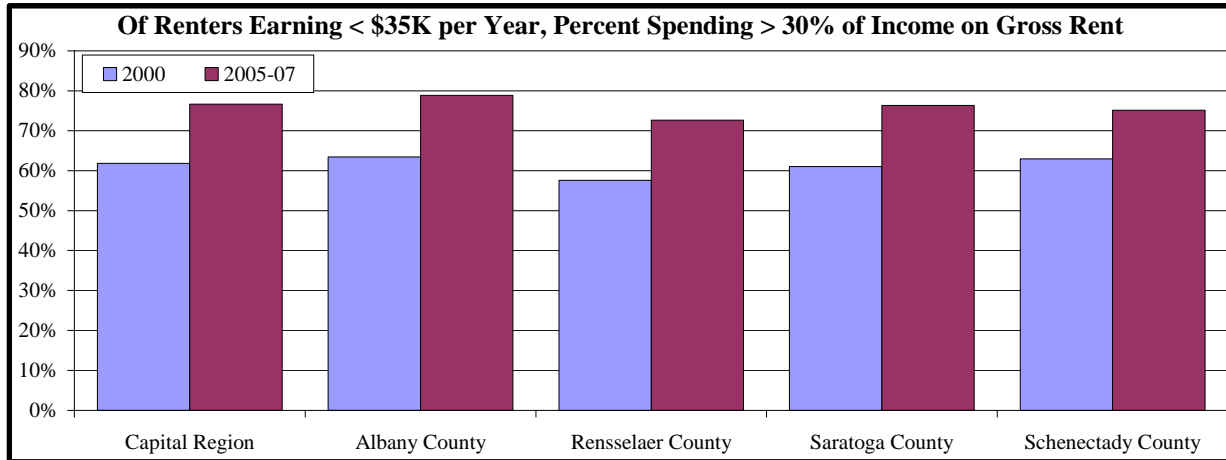
Owners Spending > 30% of Income on Selected Housing Costs	2000	2005-07
Capital Region	20.4%	26.1%
Albany County	20.0%	24.1%
Rensselaer County	20.1%	27.5%
Saratoga County	20.6%	26.7%
Schenectady County	20.9%	27.5%
City of Albany	20.7%	29.0%
City of Saratoga Springs	20.2%	N/A*
City of Schenectady	25.3%	36.2%
City of Troy	21.3%	N/A*

\*Margin of Error greater than 10%

### 3.4 Gross Rent Relative to Household Income for <\$35,000

**Definition:**

The percent of renter households with an income of less than \$35,000 spending more than 30% of household income on gross rent, which includes utilities if paid by the renter. The 2000 Census and 2005-2007 ACS data should be compared with some caution. In a comparison study in 2000, the US Census Bureau discovered income reported in Census 2000 was about 4% higher than income in the 2000 ACS.



**Significance:**

This indicator illustrates housing affordability in relation to household income. The federal Housing and Urban Development Department guideline for affordability is that housing costs should consume no more than 30% of household income. Households spending more than 30 percent of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care.

Of Renters Earning < \$35K per Year, Percent Spending > 30% of Income on Gross Rent	2000	2005-07
Capital Region	61.8%	76.6%
Albany County	63.4%	78.9%
Rensselaer County	57.6%	72.6%
Saratoga County	61.0%	76.3%
Schenectady County	62.9%	75.1%
City of Albany	65.9%	N/A*
City of Saratoga Springs	63.2%	N/A*
City of Schenectady	62.3%	N/A*
City of Troy	57.9%	N/A*
*Margin of Error greater than 10%		

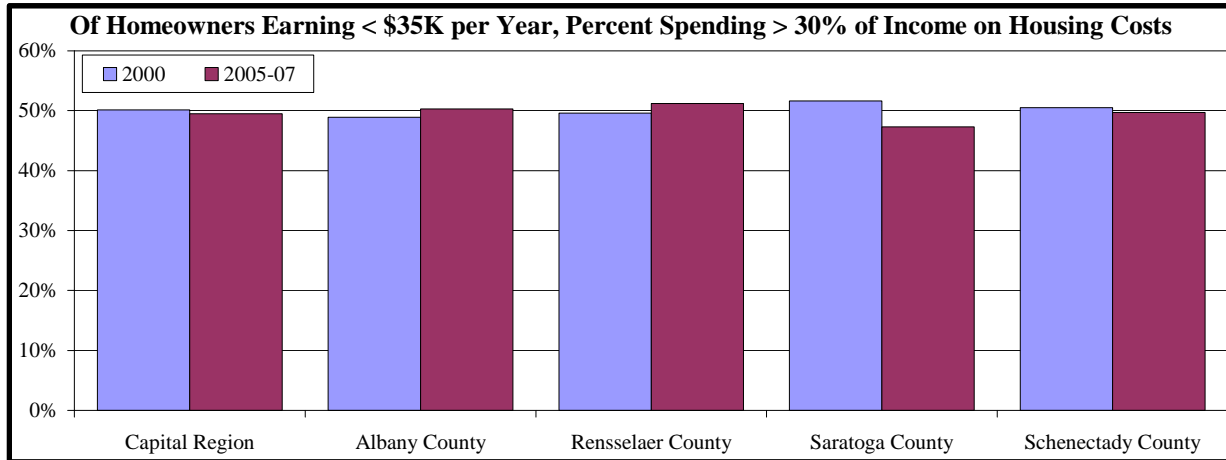
**Data Highlights:**

- In 2005-07, 3 out of 4 low-income renter households spent over 30% of their household income for rent.
- The City of Albany had the highest percentage of cost-burdened low-income renters of the four studied cities in 2000, and Albany County had the highest percentage of the four counties.

### 3.5 Housing Costs Relative to Household Income for <\$35,000

**Definition:**

The percent of homeowner households with an income of less than \$35,000, spending more than 30% of household income on selected housing costs, which includes taxes, insurance, and utilities. The 2000 Census and 2005-2007 ACS data should be compared with some caution. In a comparison study in 2000, the US Census Bureau discovered income reported in Census 2000 was about 4% higher than income in the 2000 ACS.



**Significance:**

This indicator illustrates housing affordability in relation to household income. The Federal Housing and Urban Development Department guideline for affordability is that housing costs should consume no more than 30% of household income. Households spending more than 30 percent of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care.

**Data Highlights:**

- Roughly one in two low-income homeowners in the Region were cost-burdened in 2005-07.
- In 2000, the City of Saratoga Springs had a larger share of cost-burdened low-income homeowners than the other selected cities. The City of Albany had the smallest share of the four cities.

Of Homeowners Earning < \$35K per Year, Percent Spending > 30% of Income on Housing Costs	2000	2005-07
Capital Region	50.1%	49.5%
Albany County	48.9%	50.3%
Rensselaer County	49.6%	51.2%
Saratoga County	51.6%	47.3%
Schenectady County	50.5%	49.7%
City of Albany	50.8%	N/A*
City of Saratoga Springs	58.2%	N/A*
City of Schenectady	56.2%	N/A*
City of Troy	53.0%	N/A*
*Margin of Error greater than 10%		

### 3.6 Increase in Housing Sales Prices Relative to Wage Increases

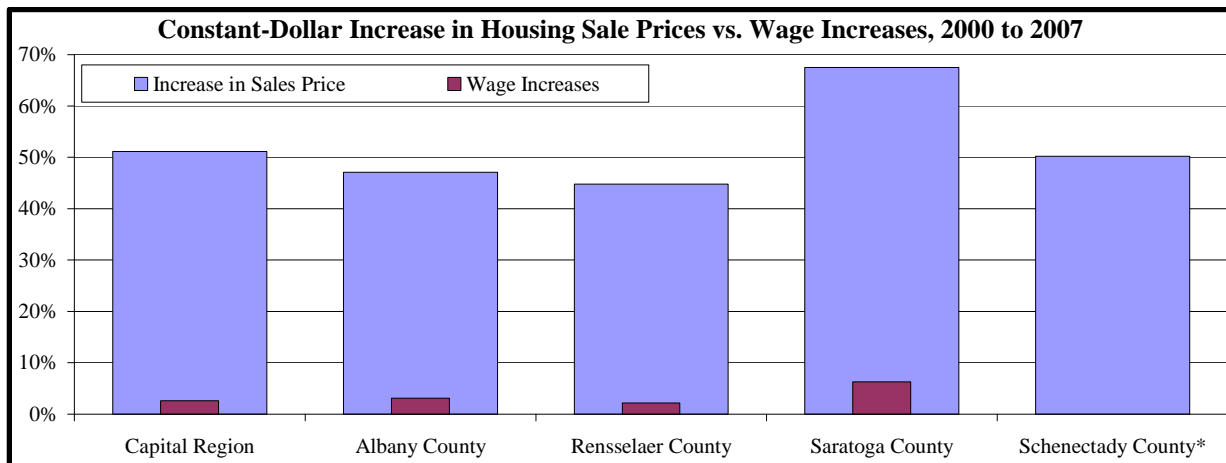
**Definition:**

Increase in the median sales price of single-family homes from 2000 to 2007, compared to wage increases from 2000 to 2007. Both median sales price and wages were adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to 2007 constant dollars.

**Significance:**

The relationship of the increases in housing sales prices to wages indicates the ability of the housing market to keep pace with incomes. Large discrepancies between the two can be a sign of an inflated housing market, also known as a housing bubble.

It is important to note that the latest available data for sales prices is from 2007. Nationwide, the housing market has changed significantly since that time.



\*Schenectady County saw no wage increase

**Data Highlights:**

- In constant dollars, home sales prices significantly outpaced wage increases in the Capital Region.
- Saratoga County saw the largest increases in both housing sales prices and wages; sales prices increased nearly eleven times more than wages.
- Schenectady County saw no wage increases, but experienced a 50% increase in home sales prices.

Constant-Dollar Increase in Sales Prices vs. Wage Increases, 2000 to 2007	Increase in Sales Price	Wage Increases
Capital Region	51.1%	2.6%
Albany County	47.1%	3.1%
Rensselaer County	44.8%	2.2%
Saratoga County	67.5%	6.3%
Schenectady County*	50.2%	0.0%
*Saw no wage increase		

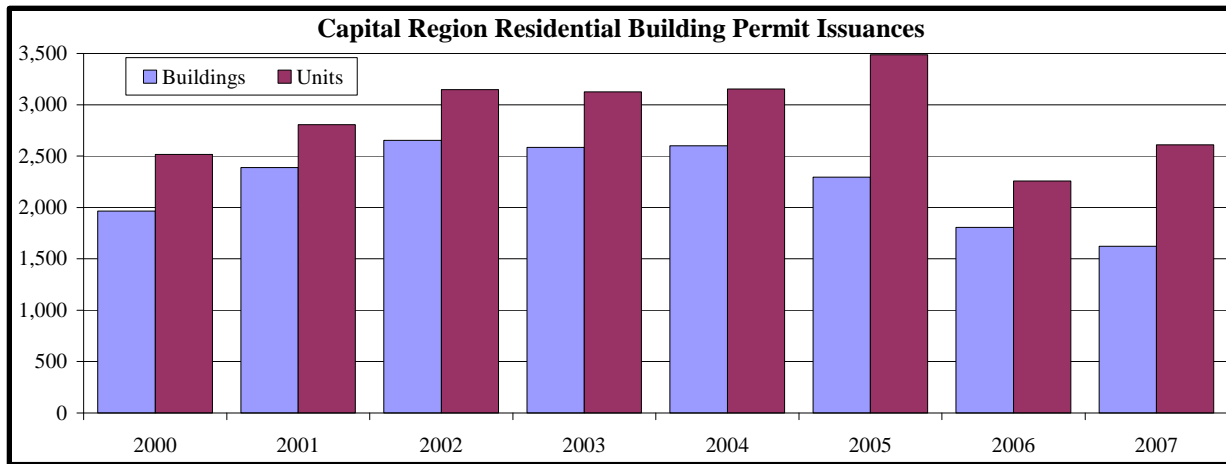
### 3.7 Housing Starts/Building Permit Issuances

**Definition:**

The number of annual housing unit approvals.

**Significance:**

Residential building activity can be an indicator of a community’s growth and prosperity: when the community has sufficient wealth, the construction industry can meet changing residential demands with ease. In addition to being a barometer for community growth and wealth, building activity is a measure of the vitality of a sector of the local economy.



Building Permit Issuances	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Total Bldgs	Total Units	Total Bldgs	Total Units	Total Bldgs	Total Units	Total Bldgs	Total Units	Total Bldgs	Total Units	Total Bldgs	Total Units	Total Bldgs	Total Units	Total Bldgs	Total Units
Capital Region	1965	2517	2388	2805	2654	3148	2584	3126	2600	3154	2296	3488	1805	2259	1623	2608
Albany County	408	735	668	955	654	773	604	793	642	912	534	850	445	525	400	447
Rensselaer County	337	380	392	395	484	536	448	703	472	596	466	896	373	510	291	300
Saratoga County	1015	1152	1125	1211	1276	1379	1262	1332	1177	1279	1010	1379	819	987	764	1243
Schenectady County	205	250	203	244	240	460	270	298	309	367	286	363	168	237	168	618
City of Albany	16	84	17	80	23	102	20	112	25	146	29	185	25	31	33	48
City of Saratoga Springs	154	208	159	160	133	198	112	174	96	184	115	309	59	169	53	96
City of Schenectady	3	3	6	6	3	3	4	4	6	6	6	6	5	5	4	4
City of Troy	19	57	17	19	27	62	36	36	24	57	29	73	14	53	14	14

**Data Highlight:**

- Capital Region new residential building permit issuances peaked in 2005, with a total of 3,488 units. Conversely, 2006 had the fewest permit issuances since 2000, 2,259 units.



## IV. Economics

### Vision Statement:

*Build a sustainable and diverse regional economy based on innovation and adaptability to volatile global demands to ensure living wage jobs in all sectors in order to raise the living standards for all the Capital Region's residents.*

### Indicators:

- 4.1 Labor Force Participation
- 4.2 Unemployment Rates
- 4.3 Employment by Sector
- 4.4 Average Pay by Sector
- 4.5 Relationship of Wages to Change in Employment
- 4.6 Employment by Occupation
- 4.7 Business Establishments
- 4.8 Cargo Tonnage at Port of Albany

### Summary:

- Overall labor force participation rates in the Capital Region were virtually unchanged at approximately 66% in 2000 and 2005-07. In 2005-07, the labor force participation rate in New York State was 62.6%, and 64.5% in the U.S.
- The Regional 2008 unemployment rate was 5.0%, a full percentage point higher than it was in 2007. The 2008 unemployment rate in New York State was 5.4% and 5.8% in the U.S.
- Nearly one-quarter (23.9%) of Capital Region workers are employed in the government sector.
- Salaries in a majority of sectors in the Capital Region have for the most part kept up with inflation. The educational services, government, and professional & technical services sectors are the exception.
- Overall, there was a 5.4% increase in employment by occupation between 2000 and 2005-07.
- Growth in the number of business establishments occurred in each of the four counties in the Region with an overall increase of 9.4% from 2000 to 2007.
- Total tonnage decreased significantly for the two-year period between 2001, its peak year, and 2003, then increased steadily to 2006 before declining slightly in 2007.
- For the period 2000 through 2007, outbound cargo tonnage at the Port of Albany was at its highest level, 648,034 tons, in 2007.

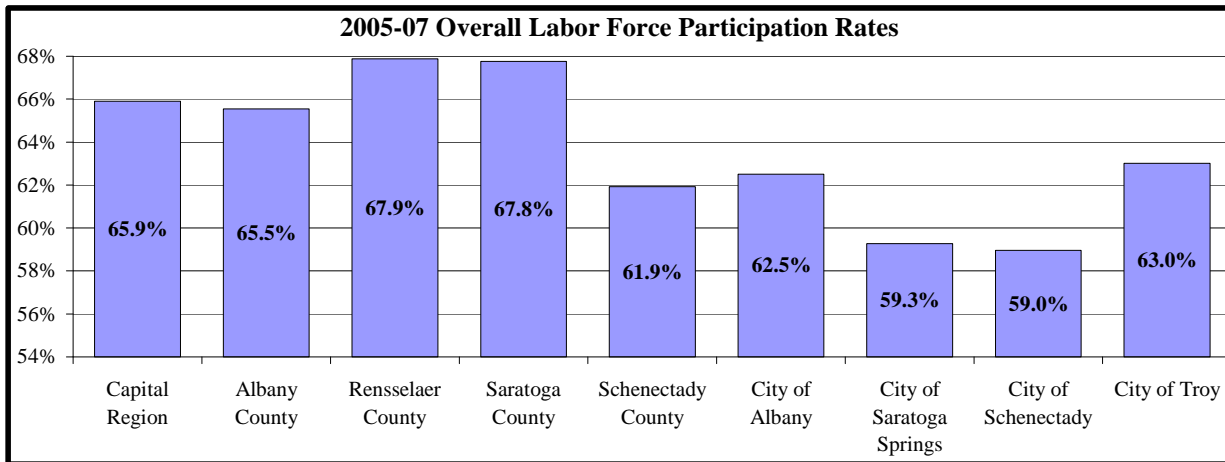
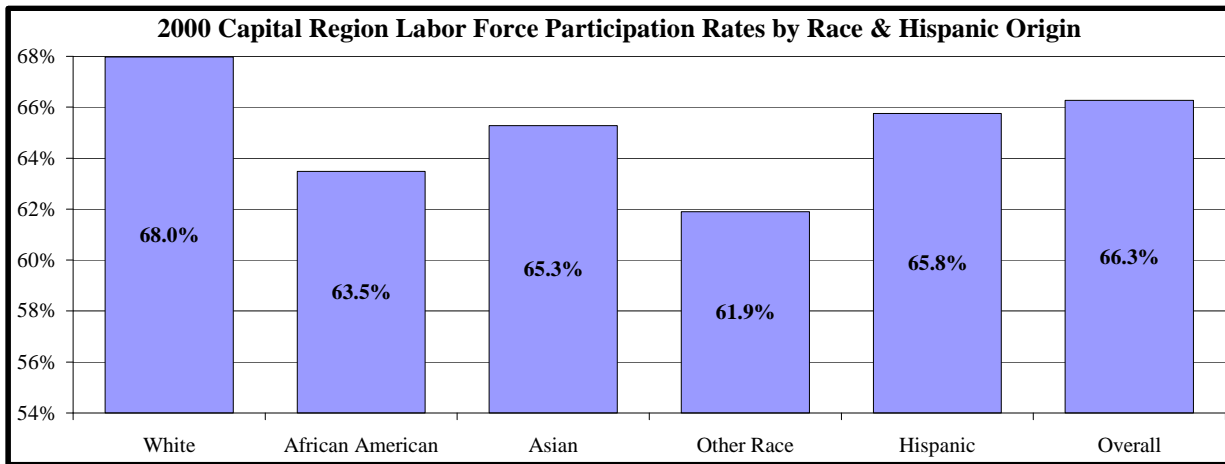
### 4.1 Labor Force Participation

**Definition:**

The rates of labor force participation, by race and Hispanic origin. Labor force participation includes those who are employed or unemployed but looking for a job, and is expressed as a percentage of the total labor force.

**Significance:**

Labor force participation rates are a measure of an individual’s ability and willingness to work outside the home. It includes individuals who are working and those who are actively looking for work as defined by the Department of Labor. For 2005-07, the data are not available by race.



Note: charts begin at 54%, to highlight differences in rates.

**Data Highlights:**

- The Region’s overall labor force participation rate decreased very slightly from 2000.
- In 2000, whites had higher labor force participation rates than the other races; other race respondents had the lowest participation.
- In 2005-07, Rensselaer County had the highest overall labor force participation rate of the counties, while the City of Troy had the highest rate of the cities.

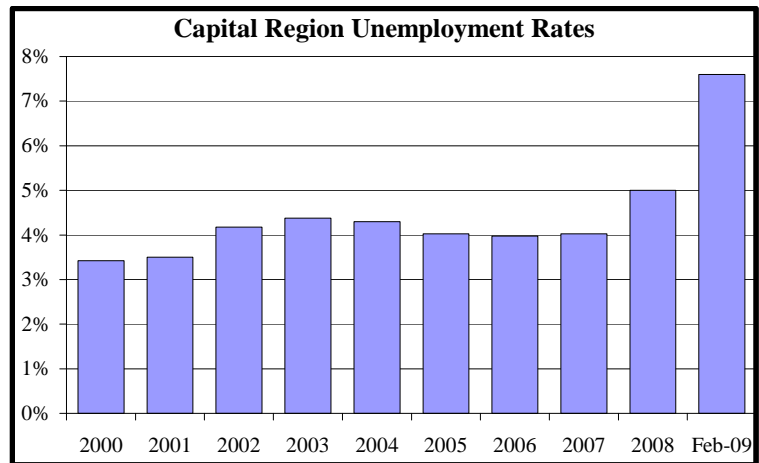
## 4.2 Unemployment Rates

### Definition:

The number of unemployed people as a percentage of the total labor force. Civilian unemployment includes individuals who were not working, but were able, available, and actively looking for work. The total labor force includes civilians aged 16 years or older who are not in institutions such as prisons, mental hospitals, or nursing homes. Rates represent the annual average.

### Significance:

Unemployment rates function as a rough measurement of local economic conditions, and can indicate the availability of employment opportunities. Unemployment may lead to individual difficulties in meeting financial obligations as well as a loss in health benefits. It can also affect a community as a whole, both via unemployment insurance costs and via lost revenues for local businesses.



Unemployment Rates	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008*	Feb-2009*
Capital Region	3.4%	3.5%	4.2%	4.4%	4.3%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	5.0%	7.6%
Albany County	3.3%	3.4%	4.0%	4.3%	4.2%	4.0%	3.9%	3.9%	4.9%	7.0%
Rensselaer County	3.6%	3.8%	4.6%	4.7%	4.6%	4.2%	4.2%	4.3%	5.3%	8.2%
Saratoga County	3.3%	3.4%	3.9%	4.0%	3.9%	3.7%	3.6%	3.7%	4.6%	7.4%
Schenectady County	3.5%	3.4%	4.2%	4.5%	4.5%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%	5.2%	7.8%
City of Albany	3.7%	3.8%	4.6%	5.0%	5.0%	4.6%	4.7%	4.6%	5.7%	7.5%
City of Saratoga Springs	3.4%	3.3%	3.8%	3.9%	3.9%	3.5%	3.4%	3.5%	4.3%	6.4%
City of Schenectady	3.9%	4.0%	4.8%	5.3%	5.5%	5.1%	5.0%	5.2%	6.4%	9.6%
City of Troy	4.3%	4.5%	5.6%	5.7%	5.6%	5.1%	5.2%	5.4%	6.5%	9.1%

\*Data are preliminary and subject to revision

### Data Highlights:

- 2008 unemployment rates were, on average, more than a percentage point greater than 2007 rates. February 2009 rates, though preliminary and not seasonally adjusted, reveal significant increases in unemployment rates across the board.
- The City of Saratoga Springs has consistently had lower unemployment rates than the Regional average, while the Cities of Albany, Schenectady and Troy have tended to have higher rates.

### 4.3 Employment by Sector

**Definition:**

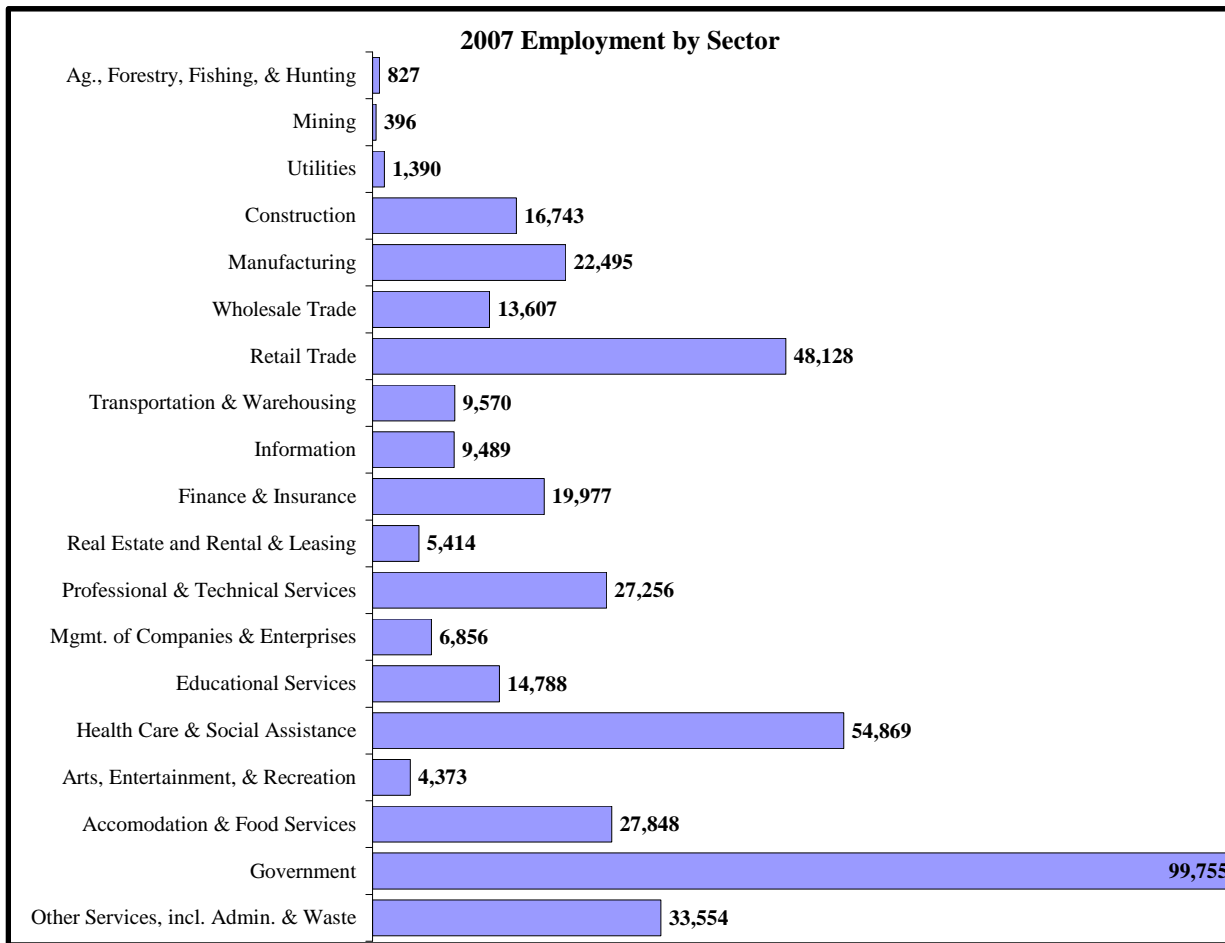
The percentage of workers employed by various sectors of the economy. The data include only workers covered by unemployment insurance laws. Employment by sector data is collected by **place of work**, and is based on North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes.

**Significance:**

Building and maintaining a diverse regional economy is one of the best methods to remain competitive in today’s global economy. A diverse economy provides options for employment, and can help protect the Region from the ill effects of the loss of a major industry.

**Data Highlights:**

- 2007 total employment in the Capital Region was 418,020.
- Nearly one-quarter (23.9%) of Capital Region workers are employed in the government sector. The health care and social assistance sector employs 13% of workers, and the retail trade sector employs 11%.
- Relatively few workers are employed by the mining, utilities, and agriculture sectors.



### 4.4 Average Pay by Sector

**Definition:**

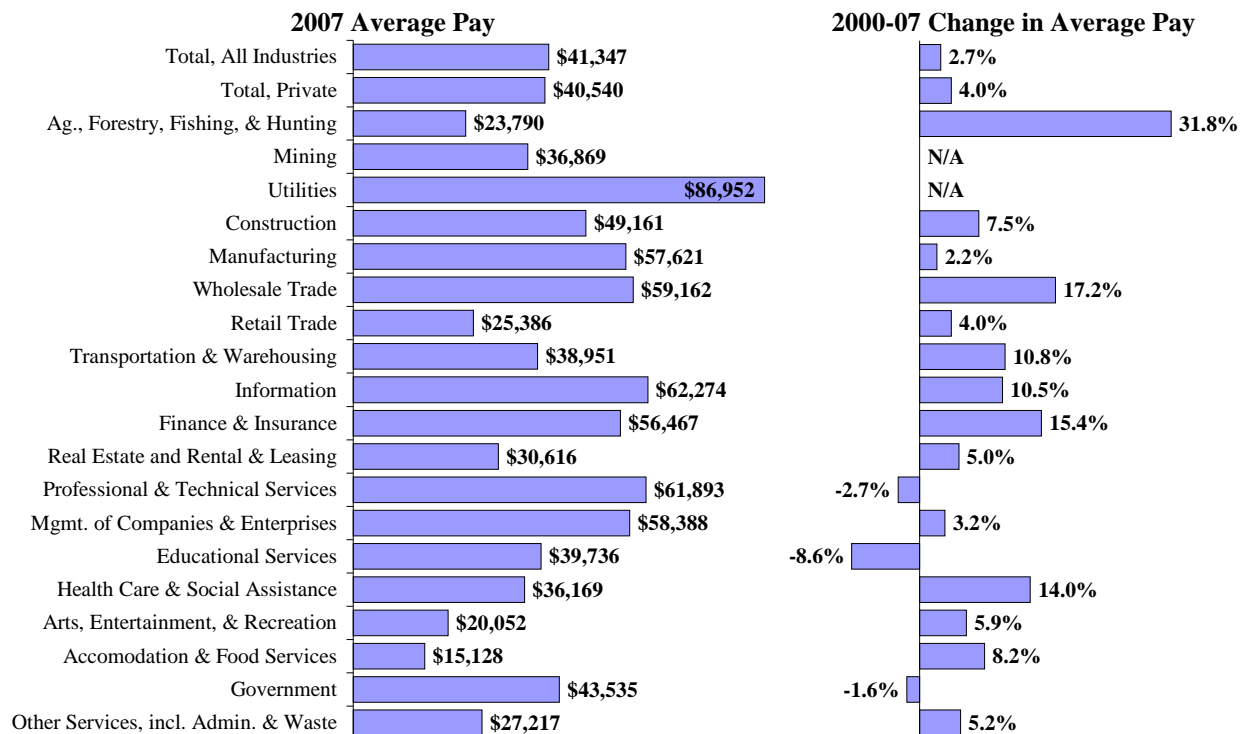
Average pay by economic sector, adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to 2007 constant-dollar. The data include only workers covered by unemployment insurance laws. Some data are suppressed by the New York State Department of Labor when there are very few workers in a category. Wages by sector data is collected at the place of work, and is based on North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes.

**Significance:**

Wages are an important indicator of a region’s economic health. Increases in pay can buoy an economy, while decreases can have the opposite effect. Wages by sector can give an idea of how much employees of various industries share in regional prosperity. Additionally, data over time indicates how well wages adjust to inflation.

**Data Highlights:**

- Salaries in a majority of sectors in the Capital Region have for the most part kept up with inflation. The educational services, government, and professional & technical services sectors are the exception.
- The utilities sector had the highest average pay of the sectors (\$86,952) in 2007. Since the 2000 data were suppressed, there is no time series comparison available for that sector.
- Accommodation and food services had the lowest average pay (\$15,128), but experienced an 8.2% increase between 2000 and 2007.



### 4.5 Relationship of Average Pay to Employment Growth by Sector

**Definition:**

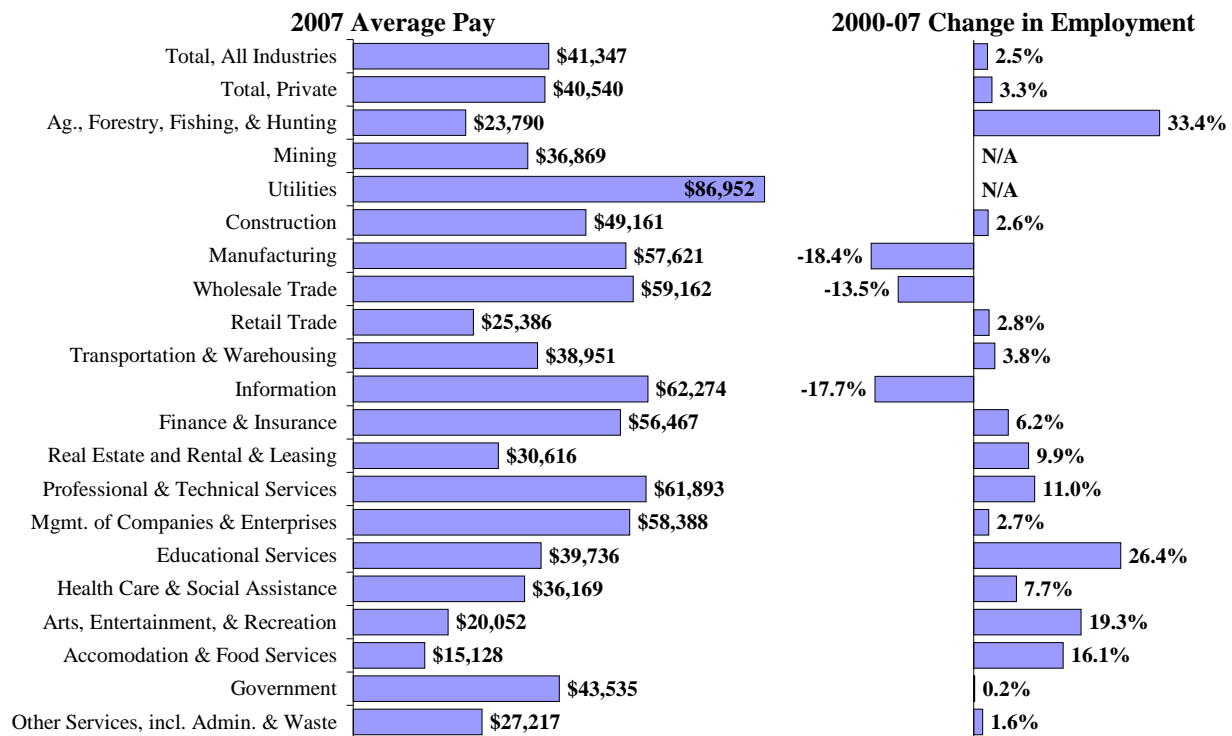
See definitions for indicators 4.3 and 4.4

**Significance:**

Employment growth in sectors with a higher average pay can indicate that more higher-paying jobs have opened up. This can increase the opportunities for workers to share in regional economic prosperity.

**Data Highlights:**

- The sectors with relatively high wages, Manufacturing, Wholesale Trade, and Information, experienced employment losses between 2000 and 2007.
- Conversely, several of the lower paying sectors experienced some of the largest employment increases.



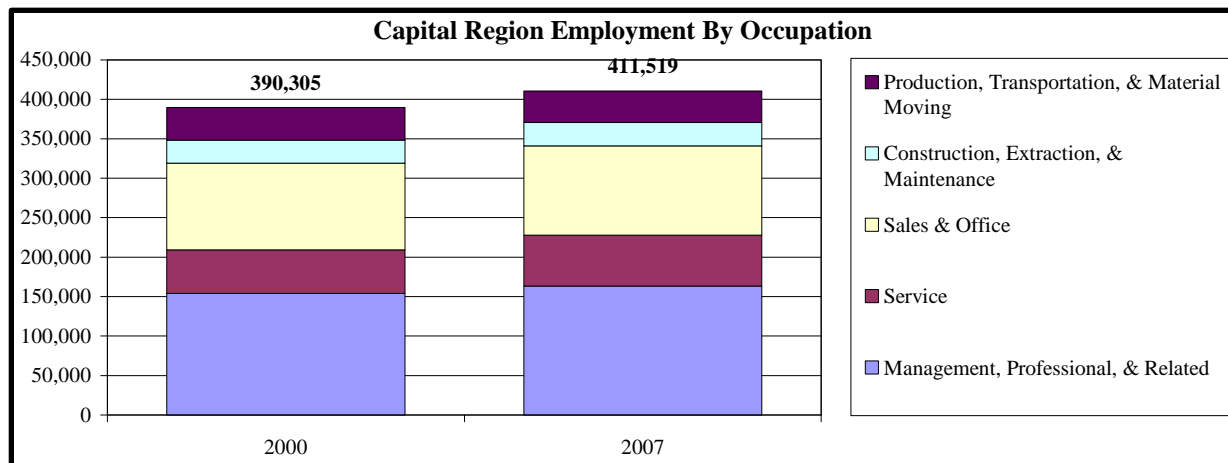
## 4.6 Employment by Occupation

### *Definition:*

Employment by occupation for the employed civilian population aged 16 and older. An occupation is a set of activities or tasks that employees are paid to perform. Employees performing the same tasks are in the same occupation, whether or not they are in the same industry. Occupation data is collected by place of residence of the worker, and is provided by the Census Bureau and not the New York State Department of Labor, **explaining the difference in total employment between sector counts and occupation counts.**

### *Significance:*

Like the employment by sector data, employment by occupation is an indicator of a region's economic diversity. The data illustrate the occupational composition of the Region's economy, and can be used to help identify growing and shrinking industries, which can be useful for workforce training and job placement programs.



*Farming, Fishing, and Forestry employed only 788 in 2000, and 676 in 2007.*

### *Data Highlights:*

- Overall, there was a 5.4% increase in employment by occupation between 2000 and 2007.
- From 2000 to 2007, service occupations saw the largest increase (16.9%), followed by: management, professional, & related occupations (6.3%); sales & office occupations (2.5%); construction, extraction, & maintenance occupations (1.7%). Declines occurred in the following occupations: production, transportation, & material moving occupations (-2.3%); and farming, fishing, & forestry occupations (-14.2%).

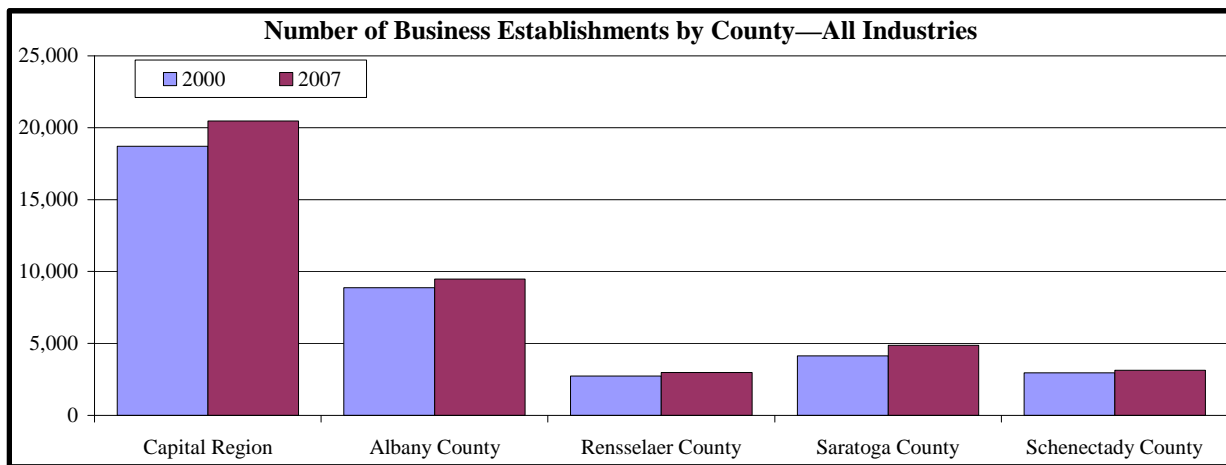
### 4.7 Business Establishments

**Definition:**

The number of business establishments is derived from quarterly reports filed by employers covered under New York State’s Unemployment Insurance Law. A business establishment is defined as a physical location at which business is conducted or where services or industrial operations are performed. It is not necessarily identical with a company or enterprise, which may consist of one establishment or more.

**Significance:**

The number of business establishments in all industries is an indicator of the business climate of the Region. Large numbers of business establishments can increase employment opportunities, and can be a sign of a healthy business environment.



**Data Highlights:**

- Growth in the number of business establishments occurred in each of the four counties in the Region with an overall increase of 9.4% from 2000 to 2007.
- Saratoga County experienced the greatest increase in business establishments from 2000 to 2007. Schenectady County experienced the smallest increase for the same time period.

Number of Business Establishments by County—All Industries	2000	2007	% Change
Capital Region	18,705	20,467	9.4%
Albany County	8,876	9,479	6.8%
Rensselaer County	2,730	2,982	9.2%
Saratoga County	4,137	4,864	17.6%
Schenectady County	2,962	3,142	6.1%



### 4.8 Cargo Tonnage at Port of Albany

**Definition:**

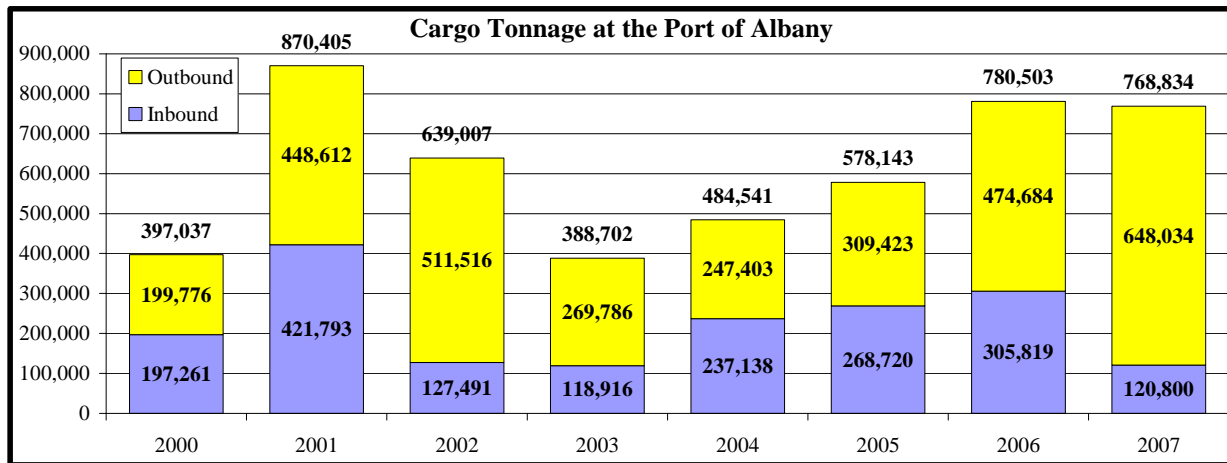
Total cargo tonnage handled at the Port of Albany, broken into inbound and outbound cargo.

**Significance:**

The Port of Albany is a year-round, deep-water inland port. The Hudson River channel leading to the Port is 600 feet wide from New York City to Kingston and 400 feet wide to Albany, widening at bends. A turning basin, located on the Rensselaer side of the River, is 700 feet wide and 1,200 feet long. The channel depth is 32 feet in soft material and 34 feet in rock, to a point just north of the Port property.

The port provides a connection with New York City and the Atlantic Ocean via the Hudson River. Its location at a crossroads of highway and rail transportation networks connects it to Northeastern and Midwestern states as well as Canada.

An increase in outbound tonnage can suggest a growing demand for goods produced in the Upstate Region.



**Data Highlights:**

- Total tonnage handled by the Port of Albany increased 93% from 2000 to 2007.
- In that same seven-year period, inbound tonnage decreased 38%, while outbound tonnage increased 224%. Outbound cargo tonnage at the Port of Albany was at its highest level, 648,034 tons, in 2007.
- Total tonnage decreased significantly for the two-year period between 2001, its peak year, and 2003, then increased steadily to 2006 before declining slightly in 2007.



## V. Transportation

### Vision Statement:

*Plan, create, and manage an integrated multi-modal transportation network that makes it easy to get from one place to another safely and reliably; more thoroughly link transportation and land use planning.*

### Indicators:

- 5.1 Mode to Work
- 5.2 Travel Time to Work
- 5.3 Household Vehicle Availability
- 5.4 Ridership on CDTA
- 5.5 Miles of Critically Congested Roadways
- 5.6 Pavement Condition
- 5.7 Mileage of Multi-Use Trails on the Priority Network
- 5.8 Vehicle Crashes
- 5.9 Albany Airport Enplanements

### Summary:

- Driving alone continues to be the predominate mode used to commute to work in the Capital Region.
- The average commute time between 1990 and 2005-07 in the Capital Region increased from 20.3 to 23.4 minutes, indicating increased congestion and/or sprawl.
- Average vehicle availability has increased from 1.6 vehicles per household in 2000 to 1.7 in 2005-07.
- Until 2005, the public transit ridership trend was flat or slightly down, with total ridership on the fixed route system between 11-12 million passengers per year. However, since 2006 ridership has increased steadily, to nearly 14 million passengers per year in 2008.
- Critical congestion miles increased from 101 miles in 2000 to 118 miles in 2007, on a network with 2,250 miles of federal aid system roadways.
- The average pavement rating in the Capital Region in 2002 was 7.02, on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being excellent. By 2007, the average had declined to 6.76.
- The Region's 74 miles of multi-use paths constitute 21 percent of the Priority Network.
- In the Capital Region, the number of fatal and personal injury crashes has decreased significantly from 7,100 to just over 5,700 in seven years.
- Enplanements at the Albany International Airport have followed state and national trends of increasing during good economic times and retreating noticeably during recessions.

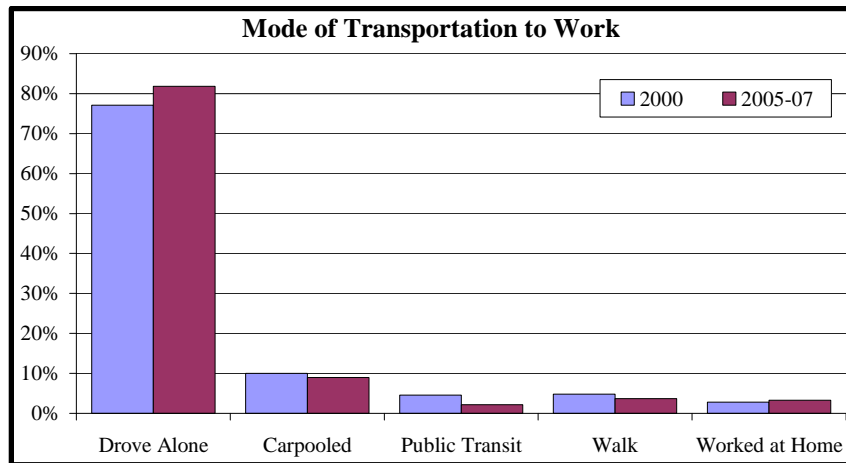
### 5.1 Mode to Work

**Definition:**

The 2000 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey asks a sample of households to indicate the “mode to work” for each worker residing in the household. Respondents were instructed to indicate the mode used for most of the distance if this person usually used more than one method of transportation during the trip.

**Significance:**

Mode to work provides a snapshot of how people generally travel to and from work on a given day. While driving alone can be a measure of affluence and independence, it also shows how much an area is dependent on the automobile for making trips. In addition, a high percentage of drive alone trips can be an indicator of



congestion and greenhouse gas pollution. On the flip side, a healthy proportion of transit trips to work can signify a positive image of transit service, transit availability and effectiveness. More transit ridership also equates with less pollution and congestion.

**Data Highlights:**

- Driving alone continues to be the most prominent mode used to commute to work in the Capital Region. Ample parking, relatively uncongested highways and the suburban nature of many of the residential communities all contribute to this trend.
- The transit mode to work for people residing in cities is more predominant, while the drive alone mode share is significantly lower than the county averages.

Mode of Transportation to Work, 2005-07	Drove Alone	Public Transit	Walk
Capital Region	81.9%	2.2%	3.7%
Albany County	78.5%	4.2%	4.8%
Rensselaer County	78.9%	3.1%	4.4%
Saratoga County	82.9%	N/A*	N/A*
Schenectady County	81.6%	N/A*	N/A*
City of Albany	64.6%	11.2%	11.2%
City of Saratoga Springs	76.0%	N/A*	N/A*
City of Schenectady	71.9%	N/A*	N/A*
City of Troy	64.7%	N/A*	N/A*

\*Margin of error greater than 10%

- More than 1 in 10 workers in the city of Albany walk to work, three times the Regional rate.
- Region-wide, more people walk than take public transit to work.

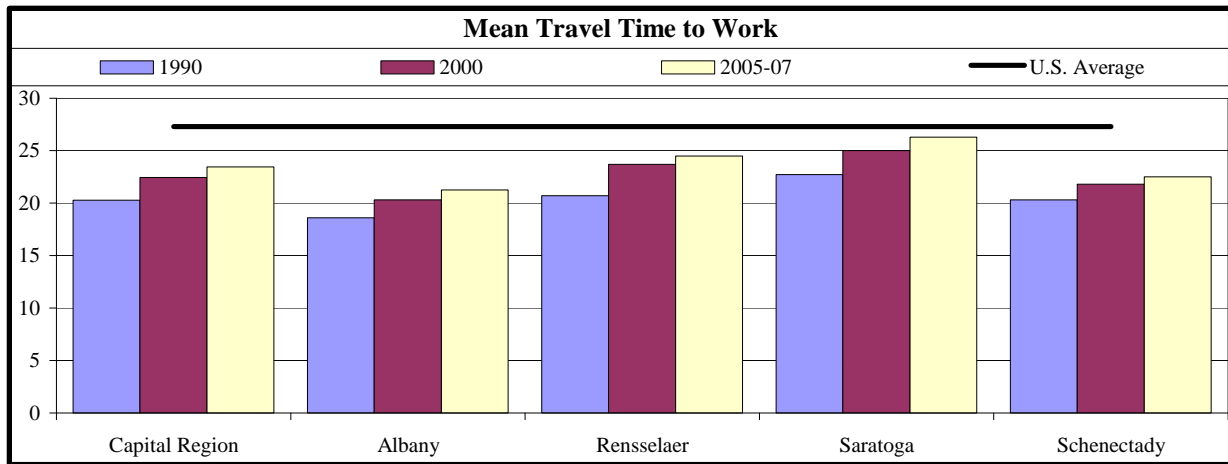
## 5.2 Travel Time to Work

### Definition:

The 2000 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey asks a sample of households to indicate the “travel time to work” for each worker age 16+ residing in the household, for the week prior to completion of the Census form.

### Significance:

American workers are spending more time than ever getting to work. In 2000, the national average travel time to work was 25.5 minutes, an increase of over two minutes compared to 1990. Statistics are similar for the Capital Region, the average travel time to work increased from 20.3 minutes in 1990 to 23.4 minutes in 2007. Travel time is unproductive, wasted time in-between ‘real’ activities and should be minimized. The increase in travel time during the 1990s and continuing into 2007 may be a reflection of the shift to private vehicles and the continued dispersal of residences and jobs.



### Data Highlights:

- Though lower than national averages, the average commute time between 1990 and 2005-07 increased in each of the four counties in the Capital Region, indicating increased congestion and/or sprawl.
- The longest commute, time-wise, is by residents living in Saratoga County. Residents in Albany County spend the least amount of time commuting to their place of employment.

### 5.3 Household Vehicle Availability

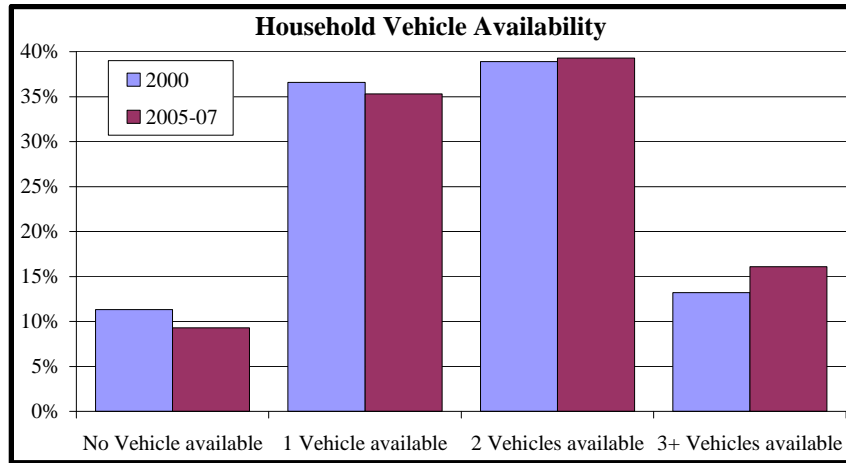
**Definition:**

The 2000 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey asks a sample of households: How many automobiles, vans, and trucks of one-ton capacity or less are kept at home for use by members of this household? The responses to this question are not quite the same as registered vehicles per household, since a company car or relative’s vehicle would be counted in the Census definition.

**Significance:**

There are a number of factors pushing the increase in households with at least one vehicle. There is an increase in longevity of the auto fleet, creating a large stock of viable used vehicles available at a reasonable price. The increasing affordability of cars means more low-income households can own one. Suburban

development and sprawl also affect the need for a car to work and shop. Higher levels of vehicle availability, however, add to congestion and air pollution. People living in households with no vehicles available are typically more dependent on transit service than those in households that have one or more vehicles at their disposal.



**Data Highlights:**

- Average vehicle availability has increased from 1.6 vehicles per household in 2000 to 1.7 in 2007.
- In the Capital Region, an average of 0.8 vehicles is available to every person aged 16+ residing in households.

Capital Region Vehicle Availability	2000	2007
Population	794,293	818,516
Population Aged 16+	627,300	662,900
Households	318,255	325,199
Vehicles Available in Households	510,815	553,411
Vehicle Availability per Person Aged 16+	0.81	0.83
Vehicles Availability per Household	1.6	1.7

## 5.4 Ridership on CDTA

### *Definition:*

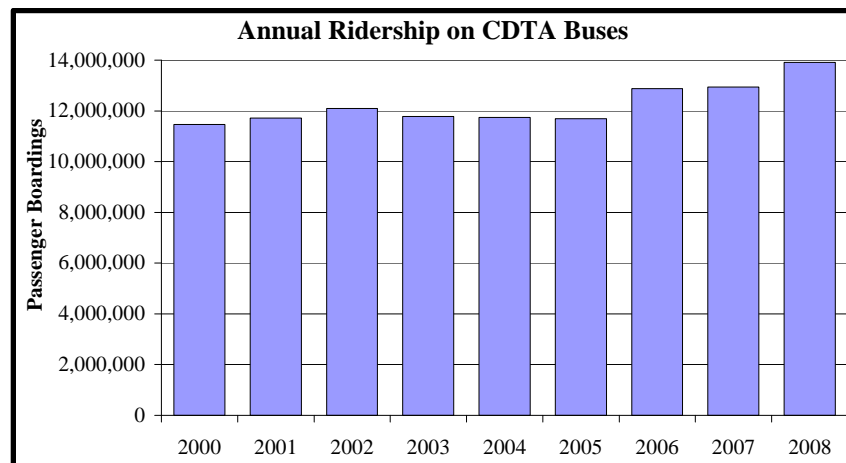
The Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) counts the number of passengers that board each bus daily through the use of Automatic Passenger Count (APC) electronic technology. Every time a fare is paid or a pass swiped, the ridership count is increased by one.

### *Significance:*

CDTA, as the Capital Region's Transit Authority, plays a vital role in enhancing quality of life. It provides basic mobility and expanded opportunities to people without access to a car; provides broader transportation choices to people with cars; and allows reduced travel times and road congestion in major transportation corridors. It also facilitates economic growth and development, and supports environmentally sustainable and safe communities.

### *Data Highlights:*

- The ridership trend during the last 20 years was flat or slightly down, with total ridership on the fixed route system between 11-12 million passengers per year. However, since 2006 ridership has increased steadily, to nearly 14 million passengers per year in 2008.



- Most of the increase in ridership since 2006 is attributable to a major fare-restructuring program implemented in 2005. New bus routes and expanded frequencies on others have also contributed to the increases, as has a focused effort on corporate outreach. High fuel costs and concern for the economy and environmental issues have also influenced recent spikes in CDTA transit ridership.
- CDTA operates 55 regular routes. 50% of CDTA ridership is on 6 routes; 75% is on 16 routes.
- Strong peaks in ridership over the course of the day are related to work times and corresponding increases in service provision during those periods (6am-9am, 3pm-6pm).
- About 60% of CDTA riders have limited or no access to a car.

## 5.5 Miles of Critical Congestion

### **Definition:**

The Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) has defined critical congestion based on severity of congestion. Several measures of congestion have been developed. One is “excess vehicle hours of delay,” which is based on estimates of driving time in congestion versus driving time in free flow traffic. Another measure is the ratio of delay to vehicle miles of travel (VMT). This measure was used to estimate the number of miles of critical congestion in 2000 and 2007.

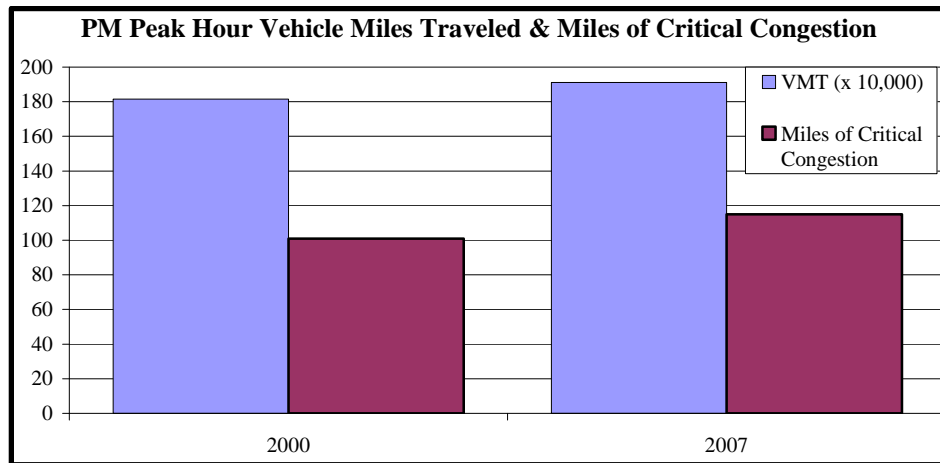
### **Significance:**

Congestion can impact a region by snarling highways, which interferes with on-time delivery and wastes productive hours sitting in traffic. As a non-productive activity for most people, congestion reduces regional economic health.

Delays related to congestion may result in late arrival for employment, meetings, and education, resulting in lost business, disciplinary action or other personal losses. Wasted fuel from increased idling and driving in stop and go conditions increases air pollution and carbon dioxide emissions.

### **Data Highlights:**

- Critical congestion miles increased from 101 miles in 2000 to 118 miles in 2007, on a network with 2,250 miles of federal aid system roadways.
- Congestion levels in the Capital Region are not nearly as severe as many metropolitan areas in the United States, and congestion is only typically experienced a total of two or three hours per day.
- “Non-recurring” delay—delay related to traffic incidents or weather conditions—represents a significant amount of the congestion experienced by drivers in our Region.
- Analysis of the data and discussions with the public have led to the conclusion that unpredictable, incident related delay is a greater hardship for the traveling public than predictable, recurring delay. A significant amount of incident related congestion is experienced on the expressway system, especially on the Northway in Albany and Saratoga Counties, I-90 in Albany County, and I-787.





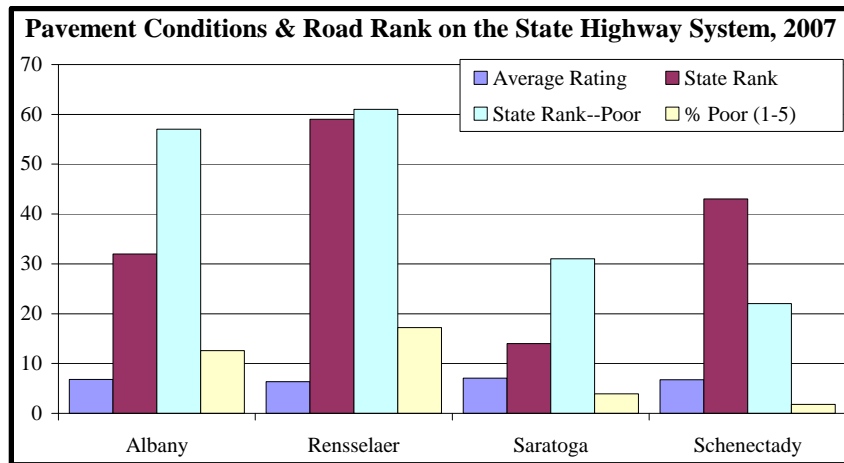
## 5.6 Pavement Conditions

### Definition:

The New York State Department of Transportation annually conducts an assessment of the pavement surface rating of the New York State highway network (NYS Highways include Interstates State Highways, State-DOT Parkways, and state owned service roads). The survey data is collected by regional rating teams who are trained in the use of carefully developed photographic scales of pavement surface ratings. The survey is conducted during the late spring and early summer. The surface rating scale is a 1 to 10 point scale (10 being excellent) based on the prevalence of a surface - related pavement distress (e.g., cracking). Pavements rated 7 and below are in need of treatment; Pavement in fair (rating of 6) condition is usually rehabilitated, rather than replaced. Poor pavement is considered any pavement with a pavement rating of less than 6; they are generally in need of major repair or replacement.

### Significance:

A growing number of pavements rated 7 generally indicates a need for more preventive maintenance paving. If left untreated, these pavements will begin to fall to the Fair surface rating. This trend has emerged in the Region’s surface ratings. The percent of poor pavement in the Capital Region rose from 8.96 percent in 2000 to 9.55% in 2007.



Rank: Out of 62 NYS Counties. A rank of 1 is the best, 62 the worst.

### Highlights:

- The average pavement rating in the Capital Region in 2002 was 7.02. In 2007, the average declined to 6.76.
- In Region 1, which includes the Capital Region and Essex, Warren, Washington and Greene Counties, the average pavement rating declined from 6.87 in 2000 to 6.67 in 2007.
- The Capital Region’s highway infrastructure is aging, which means that more and more streets and highways are in need of repair.

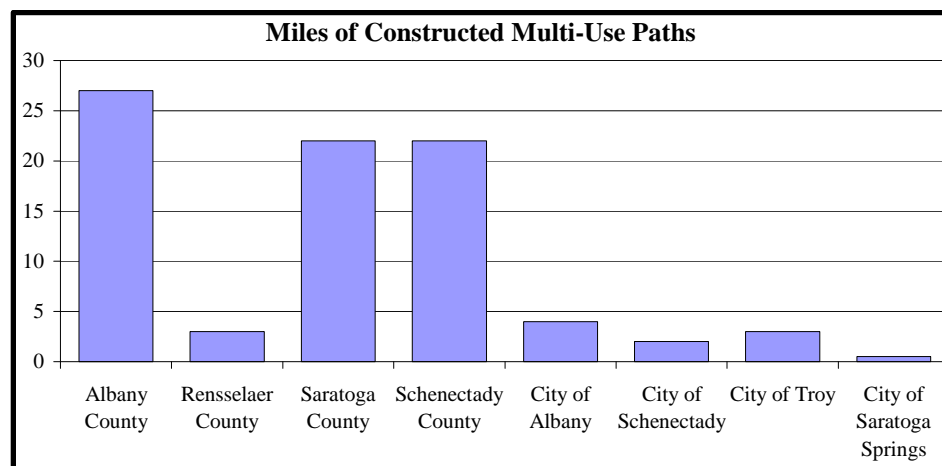
## 5.7 Mileage of Multi-Use Trails on the Priority Network

### **Definition:**

A multi-use trail allows walking, bicycling, rollerblading and skating. On-road bicycle routes, nature and/or hiking trails are not included in this definition as they are not considered multi-use. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Network as defined by the Capital District Transportation Committee is a network of roads and paths that connect the four counties with each other through safer and welcoming routes. The miles of multi-use trails are an integral part of the Priority Network. The Priority Network helps to identify desirable bicycle and pedestrian travel corridors, provides a “model” to get a sense of the magnitude of resource needs at the regional level, serves as an official plan for bicycle and pedestrian travel, offers a starting point for local planning, and lends additional legitimacy to cycling and walking.

### **Significance:**

Bicycling and walking are not just leisure activities; they are viable modes of transportation and mobility for many people throughout the Capital District. Most people agree that walking and bicycling help reduce pollution, traffic delays, and fuel usage. The benefits of walking and bicycling do not end there. In addition to enhancing quality of life measures, walking and bicycling have proven to provide important and much needed health benefits, as well as having a positive impact on economic development.



### **Data Highlights:**

- There are 84 priority network facilities and 41 (49%) of those facilities have undergone some improvements 1995.
- The Region’s 74 miles of multi-use paths constitute 21 percent of the Priority Network. Major trails include the Mohawk-Hudson Bike Hike Trail (Albany and Schenectady Counties), the Zim Smith Trail (Saratoga County) and the Uncle Sam Bikeway (Rensselaer County).
- The 42-mile Mohawk-Hudson Bike Hike Trail (MHBHT) is considered the ‘spine’ of the Capital Region’s bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and hosts approximately 241,000 individual user sessions per year.

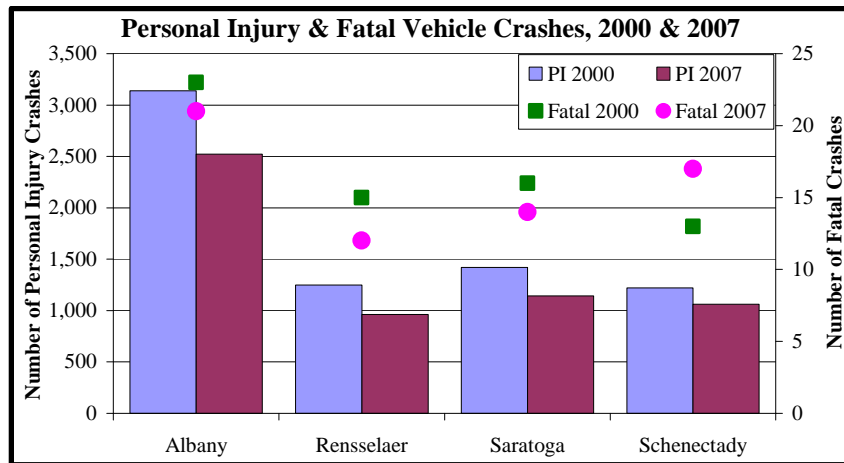
### 5.8 Vehicle Crashes

**Definition:**

New York State motor vehicle accident data are compiled annually by the DMV from the accident reports submitted by police agencies and by motorists. Vehicle accidents or crashes are defined as vehicle-to-vehicle impacts, vehicle-to- roadside structure impacts, vehicle-to-bicycle impacts or vehicle to pedestrian impacts. Fatal crashes include crashes when deaths occur within thirty days following injury in a motor vehicle accident. Personal injury crashes include crashes where one or more occupants receive medical treatment as a result of the crash.

**Significance:**

The goal of New York State’s Statewide Highway Safety Program is to prevent motor vehicle crashes, save lives and reduce the severity of injuries suffered in crashes. Vehicle crashes are caused by many factors—weather, driver inexperience, inattention, alcohol consumption. No matter the cause, the impacts are far reaching. Loss of lives, productivity and the cost of each crash are significant results.



Vehicle Crash Fatality and Injury Rates	Albany		Rensselaer		Saratoga		Schenectady	
	2000	2007	2000	2007	2000	2007	2000	2007
Fatality & Injury Rate per 10,000 Population	151.17	111.99	118.46	84.28	102.42	72.18	113.27	93.42
Fatality & Injury Rate per 10,000 Licensed Drivers	233.20	163.40	171.68	115.16	137.99	92.86	150.69	119.40

**Data Highlights:**

- In the Capital Region, the number of fatal and personal injury crashes has decreased significantly from 7,100 to just over 5,700 in seven years.
- The fatality and injury rate per 10,000 people and per 10,000 licensed drivers has declined steadily in all four counties.
- The New York State fatality and injury rate per 10,000 licensed drivers in 2007 was 172.02, higher than the rate experienced in all four counties of the Capital Region. NYS fatality and injury rate per 10,000 people in 2007 was 101.34.

## 5.9 Albany Airport Enplanements

### *Definition:*

An enplanement is defined as a revenue passenger boarding an aircraft. The Albany International Airport (AIA) is the major air center for the Capital Region, Northeastern New York, and Western New England. In 2007, the Albany International Airport was served by Air Canada, American Eagle, Continental, Continental Connection, Delta, Delta Connection, Northwest, Southwest, United/United Express, and USAirways/USAirways Express.

### *Significance:*

An active airport provides easy movement into and out of a region. It also facilitates commerce and makes a region a more attractive business location. In addition, an active airport with affordable fares improves the quality of life by providing more recreational travel opportunities. In 2000, Southwest Airlines brought its low-cost service to Albany. This resulted lower fares from all the airlines with service to Albany International Airport. With the arrival of Southwest Airlines and the completion of the new terminal in 2000, enplanements at AIA increased dramatically.



### *Data Highlights:*

- Enplanements at the Albany International Airport have followed the state and national trends of increasing during good economic times and retreating noticeably during recessions.
- September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001 influenced enplanements at the airport, resulting in a two year decline through 2003.
- The downturn in enplanements between 2005, 2006 and early 2007 was a result of the Continental Connection drastically reducing service, discontinuance of Independence Air and the changes in aircraft size by most of the airlines from full size jets to regional jets and/or turboprops.

## VI. Environment

### **Vision Statement:**

*Promote strategies and institute measures to improve and maintain a healthy eco-system as well as a safe, appealing, and functionally built environment in order to enhance the quality of life of all residents and to maximize the enjoyment of the Region's built and natural resources.*

### **Indicators:**

- 6.1 Air Quality Non-Attainment Days
- 6.2 Recycling and Waste
- 6.3 Land Consumption Relative to Population Growth

### **Summary:**

- In the Capital Region, half the years in the study period saw an increase in air quality non-attainment days, while half saw a decrease in non-attainment days.
- The amount of waste generated has gone up 41% from 1998 to 2005, while the amount of waste recycled has decreased 17%. The proportion of waste recycled has declined 41% in that time.
- During the period between 1986 and 1997, the Region developed land at 4.65 times the rate of population growth.

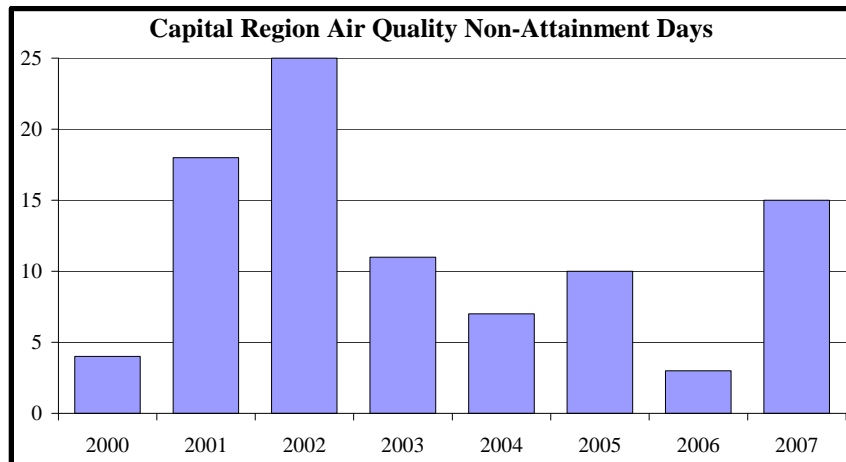
### 6.1 Air Quality Non-Attainment Days:

**Definition:**

Total days that the Air Quality Index is greater than 100 (a measure of the concentration of pollutants in the air developed by the EPA). Capital Region data is the number of days on which at least one monitor recorded high levels. For example, if all four counties measured high levels on the same day, the Region total for that day is one, not four.

**Significance:**

Clean, safe air positively impacts quality of life. The Environmental Protection Agency monitors the Air Quality Index, a nationally standardized measure of air quality in relation to its effects on health. Five major air pollutants are measured: ground-level ozone, particle pollution, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. Non-attainment days indicate that air quality is unhealthy.



Unhealthy air quality first affects sensitive groups such as children, asthmatics, and the elderly, and as the levels of pollutants rise, everyone may feel health effects.

Ground-level ozone, the leading pollutant on a majority of days, is formed when emissions from power plants, vehicles, etc. react with heat and sunlight. Particularly warm years usually bring higher levels of ground-level ozone to urban and suburban areas, but it can be carried hundreds of miles by wind, affecting rural environs. It damages vegetation and ecosystems, can cause and exacerbate breathing difficulties, and can even damage man-made materials.

Air Quality Non Attainment Days: 100+	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Capital Region	4	18	25	11	7	10	3	15
Albany County	3	13	18	5	3	7	2	6
Rensselaer County	N/A	N/A	23	7	5	8	1	6
Saratoga County	2	15	12	9	5	7	2	13
Schenectady County	1	11	9	5	3	4	0	2

**Data Highlights:**

- There was a monitor installation in 2002 at Grafton Lake State Park in Rensselaer County. In its first year, Rensselaer County reported 23 non-attainment days.
- In the Capital Region, half the years in the study period saw an increase, while half saw a decrease in non-attainment days.
- Non-attainment days peaked in 2002, declining steadily to 2006 before increasing again in 2007.

## 6.2 Recycling and Waste Management

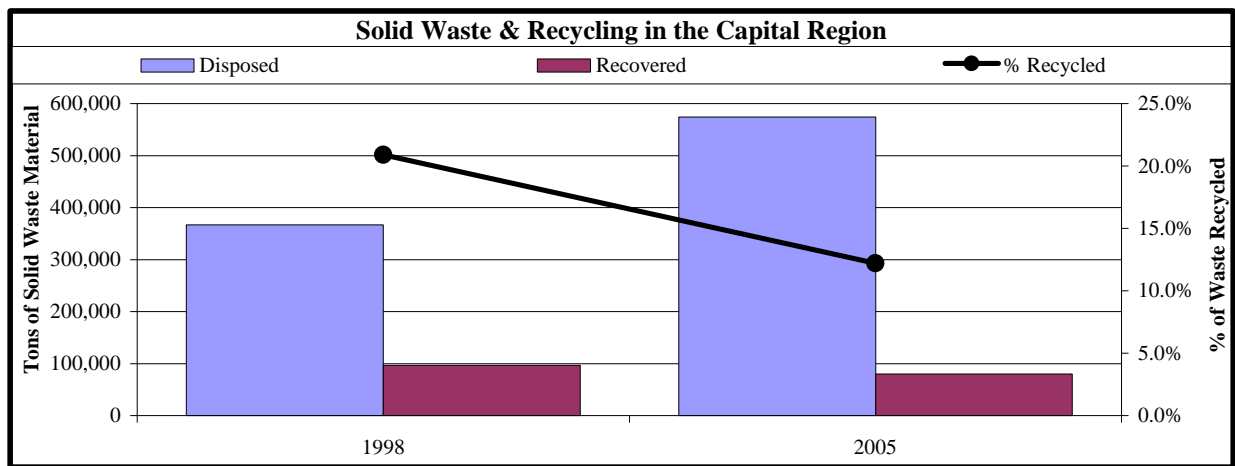
### Definition:

The number of tons of waste disposed or recovered by waste planning units. The number or tons recycled includes yard waste, tires, batteries, wood, etc. The number of tons disposed includes industrial waste.

### Significance:

According to the Northeast Recycling Council, waste reduction strategies, including recycling, are a crucial part of protecting the world’s environment. Recycling helps keep materials out of landfills, where air and water contamination can occur. Recycling also saves energy in the production process, as it takes less energy to supply recycled materials to industry than it does to supply virgin materials.

Due to municipal overlaps in waste management services, only aggregated Capital Region data is available. It bears noting that the Troy Solid Waste Management Authority did not submit an annual recycling report for 1998.



Capital Region Tons of Solid Waste Material	Generated	Disposed	Recovered	% Recycled
1998	463,239	366,548	96,690	20.9%
2005	654,431	574,452	79,979	12.2%

### Data Highlight:

- The amount of waste generated has gone up 41% from 1998 to 2005, while the amount of waste recycled has decreased 17%. The proportion of waste recycled has declined 41% in that time.

Source: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Solid and Hazardous Materials, The New York State Recycling Bulletin 1999 Edition and customized report via personal communication, received 3/30/09.

### 6.3 Land Consumption Relative to Population Growth

***Definition:***

The amount of new development which occurred on previously undeveloped land between 1986 and 1997, compared to the increase in population. CDRPC analyzed Landsat TM satellite imagery for 1986 and 1997. Land use types were determined through extensive field checks, USGS orthography, and interviews with municipal planning officials.

***Significance:***

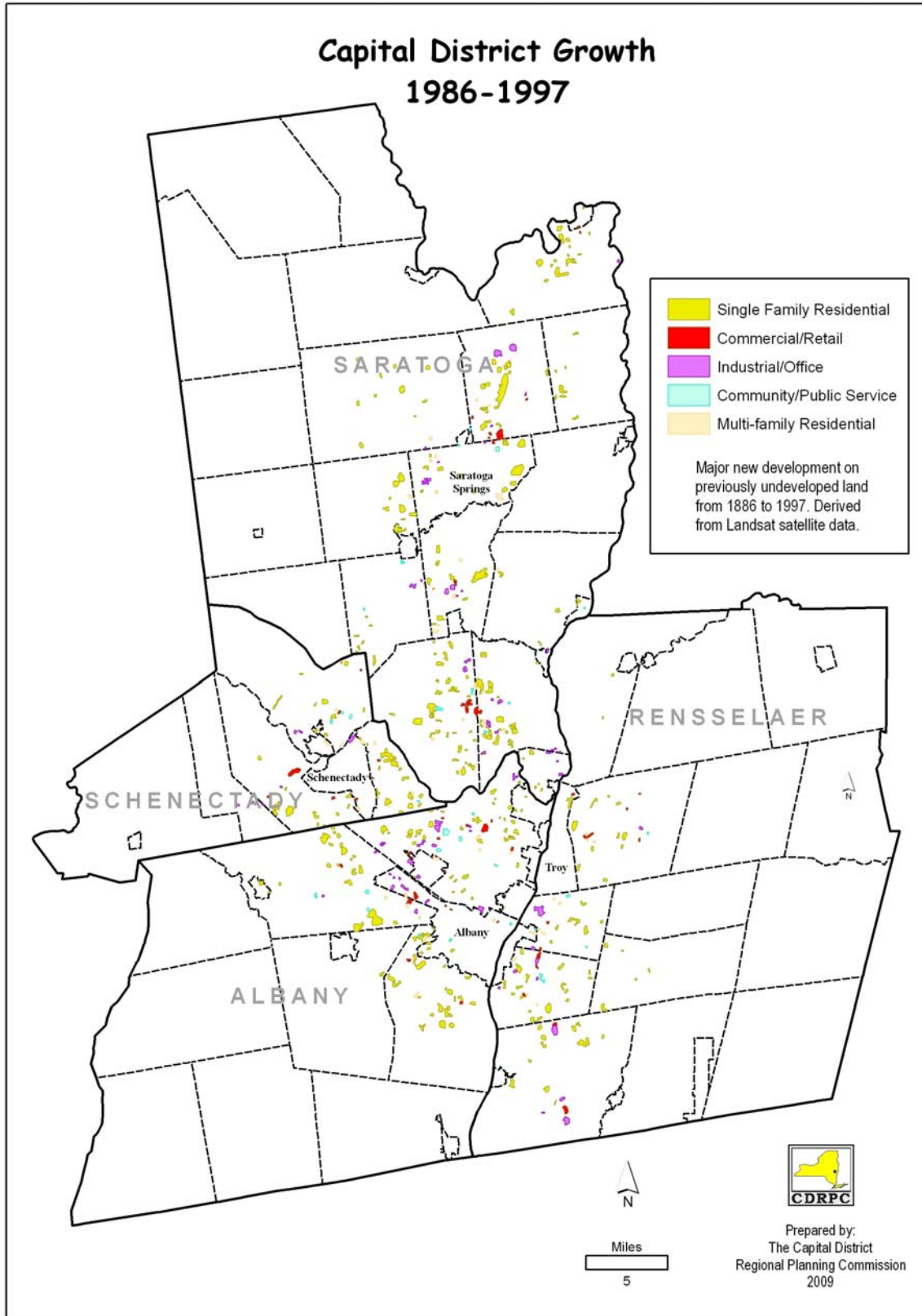
Suburban growth in the Capital Region has largely followed a sprawl pattern of development. Sprawl tends to be land intensive, auto-dependent, isolated or unconnected, and segregated by use. Such development patterns are criticized for wasting land, increasing traffic on local roads and highways, reducing infrastructure and service efficiency, fueling the obesity epidemic, and adding to air and water pollution concerns. The infrastructure required to develop previously undeveloped land, such as water, sewer, roads, and utilities, can be very costly. Residents of sprawling development are often not served by public transportation, resulting in more vehicles on the roads. This in turn can lead to increased air and water pollution. Sprawl is often blamed for the physical degradation of historic urban centers and the concentration of poverty therein. Slowing the development of previously undeveloped land may help protect our air and water, preserve farmland and open space, and help revitalize our urban centers.

A similar study will be undertaken by CDRPC in the second half of 2009, analyzing satellite imagery from 1997 and 2007.

***Data Highlights:***

- Analysis of satellite imagery from 1986 and 1997 indicated that during this period approximately 15,000 acres of previously undeveloped land were developed – a 15.8 percent increase in land consumption. There was an approximately 3.4 percent increase in population during the same period (~26,210 persons).
- The Region developed land at 4.65 times the rate of population growth during this period.





Source: Capital District Regional Planning Commission.



## VII. Community Health

### **Vision Statement:**

*Provide access to affordable, quality health care to improve the physical and mental well being of all the Capital Region's residents.*

### **Indicators:**

- 7.1 Access to Health Services
- 7.2 Low Birth Weight
- 7.3 Premature Births
- 7.4 Elevated Lead Level Incidences
- 7.5 Diabetes Hospitalizations
- 7.6 Asthma Hospitalizations
- 7.7 Coronary Heart Disease Hospitalizations
- 7.8 HIV Case Rate
- 7.9 AIDS Case Rate
- 7.10 Drug and Alcohol Related Hospitalizations

### **Summary:**

- 13.2% of Capital Region residents lacked health insurance in 2005.
- The rate of low birth weight babies in the Capital Region has hovered between 7% and 8% since 2000.
- Premature birth rates in the Region have hovered between 10.0% and 11.5% from 2000-2006.
- Despite sizeable declines in lead poisoning rates, all of the counties are above the national Healthy People 2010 goal of no children with exposure to lead.
- Diabetes hospitalization rates are on the rise across the Region.
- Childhood asthma hospitalization rates increased in all four counties in the Capital Region between the two reporting periods.
- Coronary heart disease hospitalization rates declined Region-wide from 2000-02 to 2004-06.
- In the Capital Region, HIV case rates declined 32.6% from 2002-04 to 2005-07.
- The Region's AIDS case rates increased 9.1% from 2000-02 to 2004-06.
- Between 2000-02 and 2004-06, drug and alcohol hospitalization rates have increased by 31% Region-wide.

## 7.1 Access to Health Services

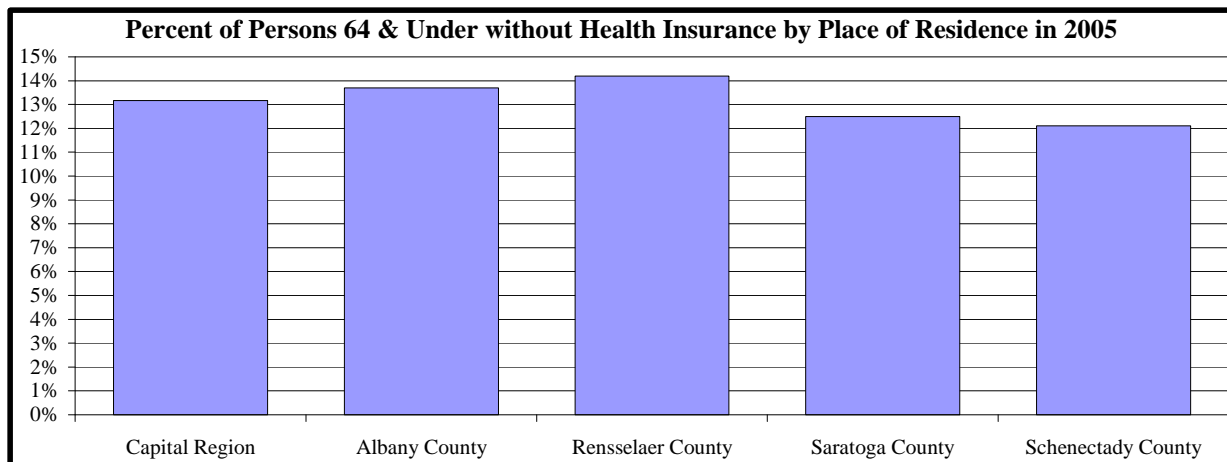
### **Definition:**

The percent of the population aged 0-64 lacking health insurance. Individuals 65 and older receive Medicare and are not included.

### **Significance:**

The negative impacts of an uninsured population are great. The financial costs to the uninsured individual can be substantial, and the community as a whole is also financially affected.

According to a 2009 report by the Institute of Medicine, “America’s Uninsured Crisis: Consequences for Health and Health Care,” people without health insurance may not receive timely health care, particularly preventative care, which has the potential to reduce morbidity and improve the quality of life for these individuals. Uninsured individuals are also less likely to recover fully from medical events such as heart attacks, strokes, and injuries. The report goes on to note that relatively high rates of the uninsured can lead to difficulties for insured individuals in receiving health care.



### **Data Highlights:**

- 13.2% of Capital Region residents lacked health insurance in 2005.
- Over 14% of Rensselaer County residents lacked health insurance in 2005, more than any other county in the Region. Schenectady County had the lowest percentage of uninsured residents (12.1%)

## 7.2 Low Birth Weight

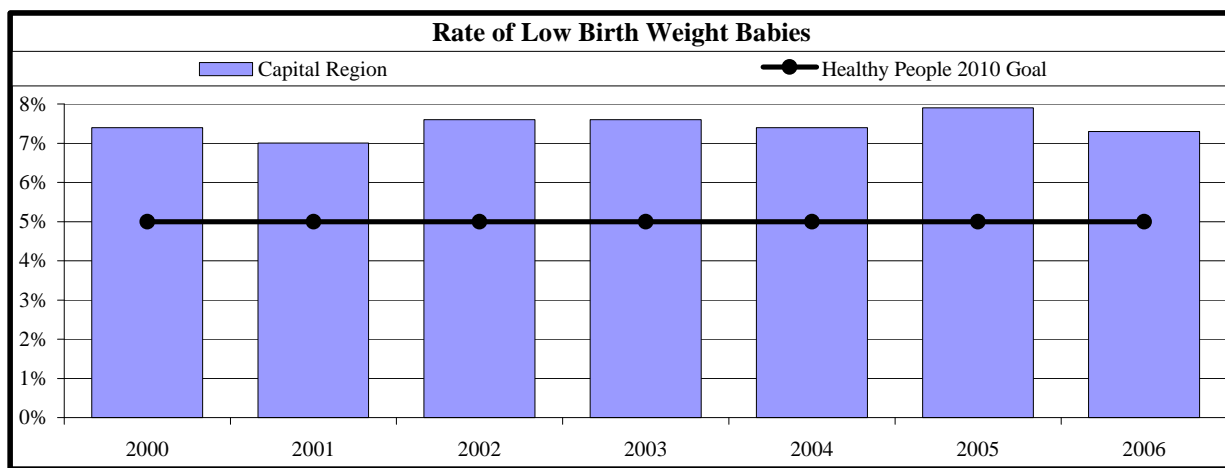
### Definition:

Infants weighing fewer than 2.5 kilograms (5.5 pounds) at birth, expressed as a percentage of live births. The data are presented by the mother’s place of residence.

### Significance:

Low birth weight is a major cause of infant mortality and increases an infant's chances for dying in infancy. Socioeconomic disadvantage is closely related to low birth weight. Low birth weight infants are at risk for serious health problems such as blindness, deafness, mental retardation, mental illness, and cerebral palsy. Ten percent of all health care costs for children can be attributed to low birth weight. The national Healthy People 2010 target rate for low birth weight babies is 5%.

In 1996, the New York State Public Health Council identified healthy births as a priority area for public health action and set an objective to reduce low birth weight births to no more than 5.5% by 2006.



Low Birth Weight (< 2.5 kg or 5.5 lbs.)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Capital Region	7.4%	7.0%	7.6%	7.6%	7.4%	7.9%	7.3%
Albany County	7.9%	7.4%	8.5%	8.8%	8.1%	7.2%	7.8%
Rensselaer County	7.0%	8.4%	7.5%	7.6%	7.5%	8.4%	7.0%
Saratoga County	6.6%	5.5%	6.1%	6.3%	6.1%	7.2%	6.7%
Schenectady County	8.3%	6.7%	8.2%	7.8%	7.9%	9.0%	7.6%

### Data Highlights:

- The rate of low birth weight babies in the Capital Region has hovered between 7% and 8% since 2000.
- Saratoga County has the lowest rates of low birth weight babies (between 5.5% and 7.2% annually), while Schenectady County has the highest rates (between 6.7% and 9.0% annually).

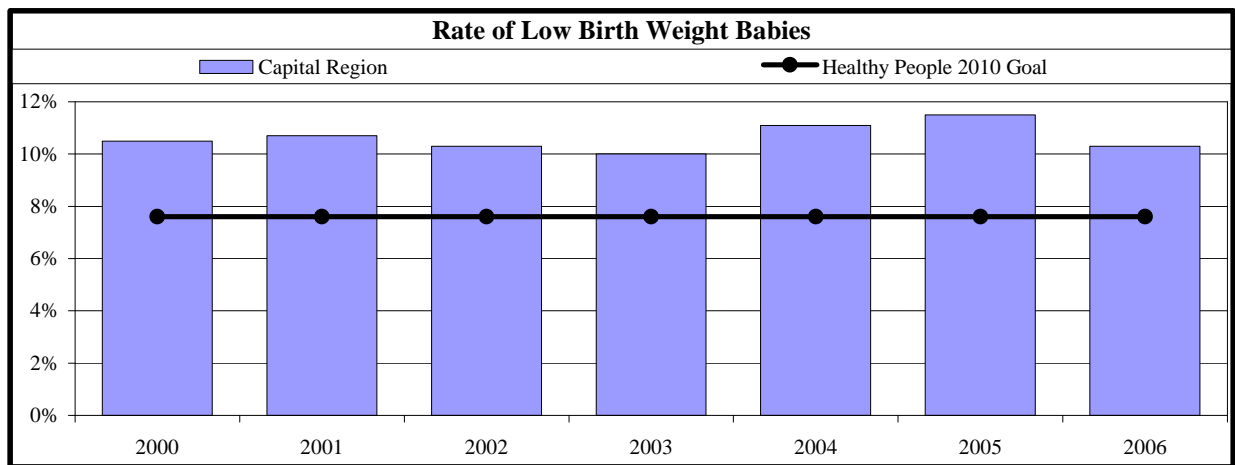
### 7.3 Premature Births

**Definition:**

Infants born with fewer than 37 weeks gestation are premature births. The premature birth rate is the number of premature births per 100 live births for which gestation is known. The data are presented by the mother’s residence.

**Significance:**

Preterm delivery underlies most low birth weight births. While the cause of premature birth remains unknown, several factors are associated with preterm births. Lifestyle behaviors - such as cigarette smoking, insufficient weight gain or nutritional intake during pregnancy and use of other drugs - are known risk factors. The national Healthy People 2010 target for premature births is 7.6%.



Premature Births (< 37 weeks)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Capital Region	10.5%	10.7%	10.3%	10.0%	11.1%	11.5%	10.3%
Albany County	11.0%	11.1%	11.1%	10.9%	11.6%	10.8%	11.0%
Rensselaer County	10.8%	11.2%	9.2%	9.4%	10.3%	12.3%	9.1%
Saratoga County	9.4%	9.8%	9.9%	9.2%	10.3%	11.3%	11.3%
Schenectady County	11.1%	10.8%	11.1%	10.4%	12.2%	11.8%	9.7%

**Data Highlights:**

- Premature birth rates in the Region have hovered between 10.0% and 11.5% from 2000-2006.
- With the exception of Albany County, the counties experienced somewhat significant increases between 2003 and 2005; in Albany County there was an increase between 2003 and 2004 before it declined back to 2003 levels in 2005.
- Saratoga County has seen steady increases since 2003, recording the highest rate of premature births in the Capital Region in 2006 at 11.3%.

### 7.4 Elevated Lead Level Incidences

**Definition:**

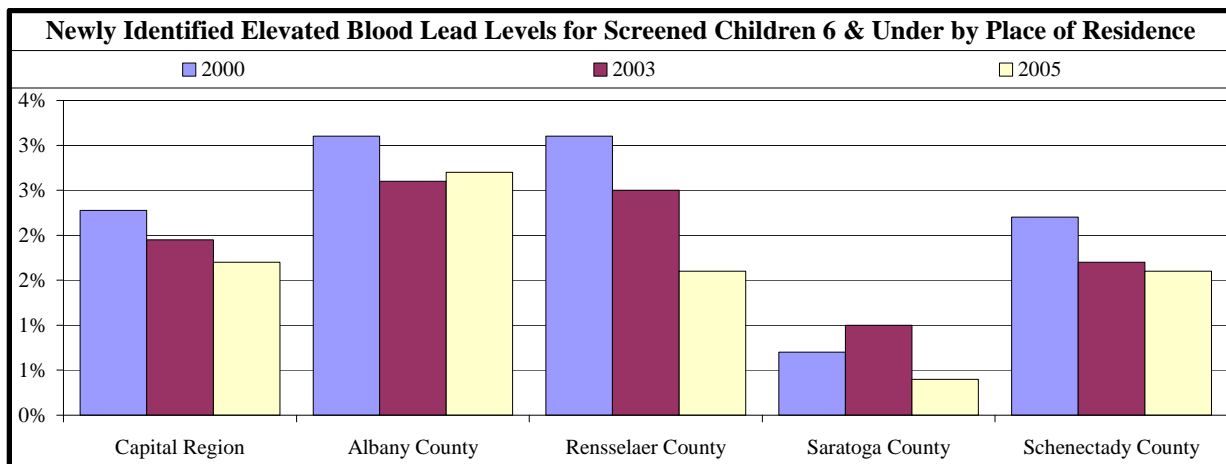
The proportion of children under 6 years of age with a confirmed elevated blood lead level of 10 micrograms per deciliter or greater per 100 children screened in the given time frame, by county of residence.

**Significance:**

Abnormal blood levels of 10 µg/dl or greater can be indicative of low-level lead exposure. Lead poisoning builds up slowly over time, and occurs from repeated exposure to small amounts of lead. Lead can affect children’s developing nerves and brains. For younger children, interacting with lead in the environment is more dangerous. In children, even low-level exposure can contribute to behavior problems, learning disabilities, and lowered intelligence. People with higher lead levels have a greater risk of long-lasting health problems, and must be followed carefully.

Children living in cities or older houses are more likely to have high lead levels. Screening and prompt and effective intervention have been shown to prevent some of the more advanced effects of lead poisoning.

The national Healthy People 2010 (HP 2010) goal is no children with exposure to lead.



**Data Highlights:**

- Albany County continues to have the highest rate, and has experienced the least reduction in newly identified cases of lead poisoning (12.9%); Rensselaer and Saratoga experienced the sharpest declines (48.4% and 42.9% respectively).
- Despite sizeable declines in the rates, all of the counties are above the HP 2010 goal.

Source: New York State Department of Health: Report of Lead Exposure Status Among New York Children - 2000-2001, 2002-3003 Supplement; Eliminating Childhood Lead Poisoning in New York State: 2004-2005 Surveillance Report

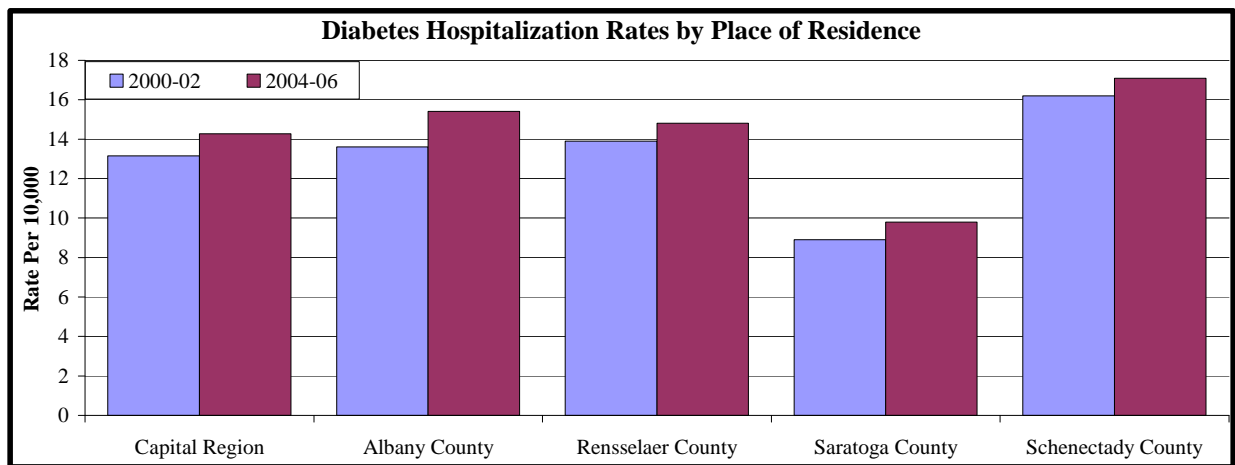
### 7.5 Diabetes Hospitalizations

**Definition:**

The number of hospitalizations due to diabetes per 10,000 people, by county of residence. Only hospitalizations with diabetes as the primary diagnosis are included.

**Significance:**

Diabetes is a chronic (lifelong) disease marked by high levels of sugar in the blood. There are three major types of diabetes: gestational diabetes results in high blood glucose at any time during pregnancy in a woman who does not have diabetes; Type 1, usually diagnosed in childhood, results in little or no insulin production; Type 2, more common than Type 1, results in insufficient insulin production, often because the body does not respond well to insulin. Type 2 diabetes is becoming more common due to increasing obesity and failure to exercise. Risk factors for Type 2 diabetes include: age, heredity, gestational diabetes, heart disease, high blood cholesterol levels, obesity, insufficient exercise, polycystic ovary disease, and previously impaired glucose tolerance. Some ethnic groups are more likely than others to be affected by diabetes, particularly African Americans, Native Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Hispanic Americans.



**Data Highlights:**

- Schenectady County had the highest rates, but Albany County experienced the greatest increase (13.2%) from 2000-02 to 2004-06. Saratoga County had considerably lower rates, but showed a 10.1% increase.
- Diabetes hospitalization rates are on the rise across the Region.



## 7.6 Asthma Hospitalizations

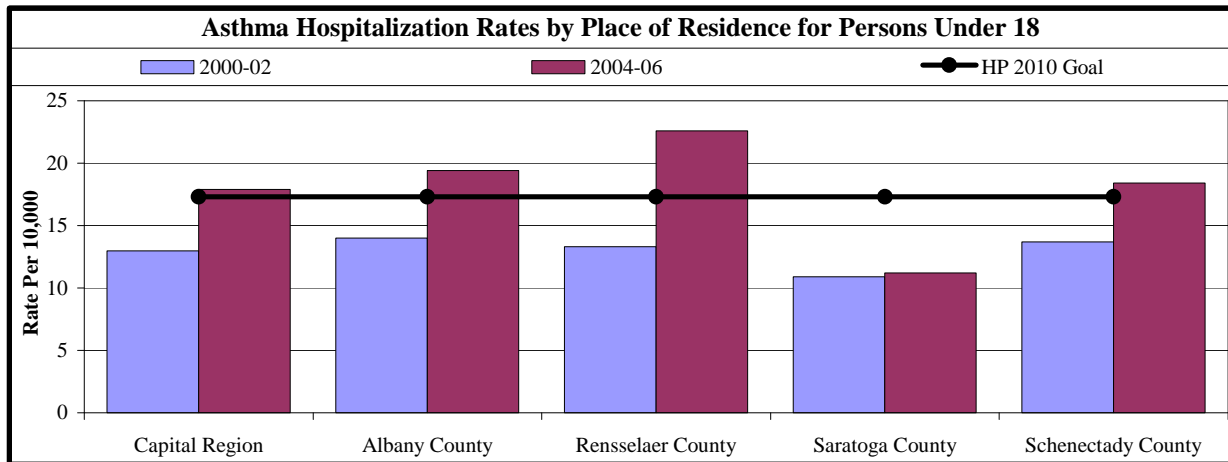
**Definition:**

The number of hospitalizations for asthma in a particular age group per 10,000 people in that age group, by county of residence. Asthma is an inflammatory disorder of the airways, which causes attacks of wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, and coughing.

**Significance:**

Asthma symptoms can be triggered by a host of factors. Triggers include pet dander, dust mites, cockroach allergens, molds, pollens, respiratory infections, exercise, cold air, tobacco smoke, pollutants, stress, food, or drug allergies. Asthma may be fatal.

Even though asthma cannot be cured, it can almost always be controlled or managed. For this reason, the American Lung Association has chosen control of childhood asthma as one of its top priorities. The national Healthy People 2010 goal for childhood asthma hospitalization rates is 17.3 per 10,000.



**Data Highlights:**

- Childhood asthma hospitalization rates increased in all four counties in the Capital Region between the two reporting periods.
- With the exception of Saratoga County, all the counties are currently higher than the Healthy People 2010 Goal for childhood asthma hospitalization rates.

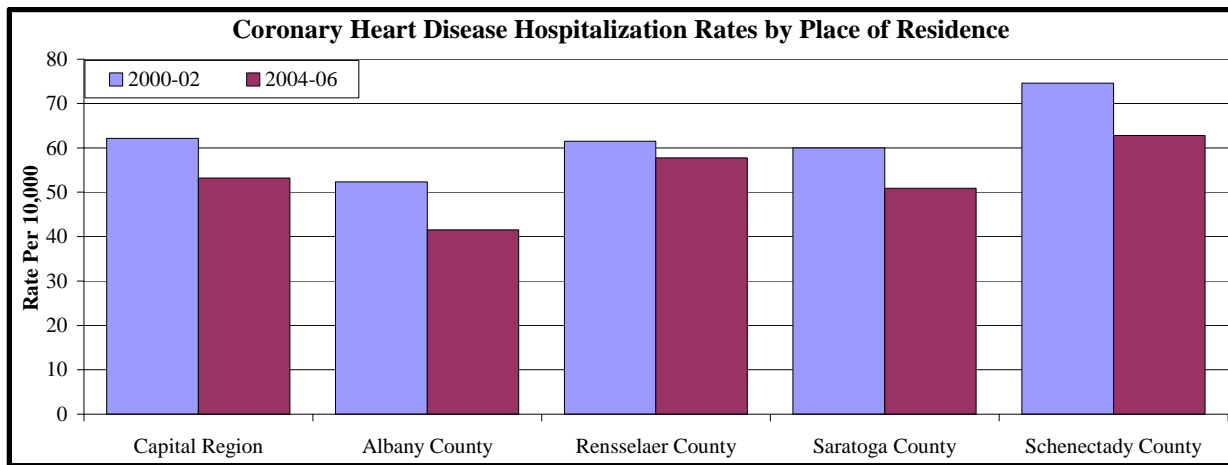
### 7.7 Coronary Heart Disease Hospitalizations

**Definition:**

The number of hospitalizations for coronary heart disease per 10,000 people, by county of residence. Coronary heart disease is the most common type of heart disease, and is the leading cause of death in the United States in both men and women.

**Significance:**

In addition to heredity and age, an array of other factors may increase the risk, as can the following factors: diabetes, high blood pressure, high LDL (‘bad’) cholesterol, low HDL (‘good’) cholesterol, menopause, insufficient physical activity or exercise, obesity, and smoking. While early detection generally results in a better outcome, lifestyle changes are very important in the prevention and management of coronary heart disease. Early detection generally results in a better outcome.



**Data Highlight:**

- While all counties saw a decrease from 2000-02 to 2004-06, Albany County had the greatest decline in coronary heart disease hospitalization rates (20.7%). Rensselaer County experienced the smallest decline at 6.2%.

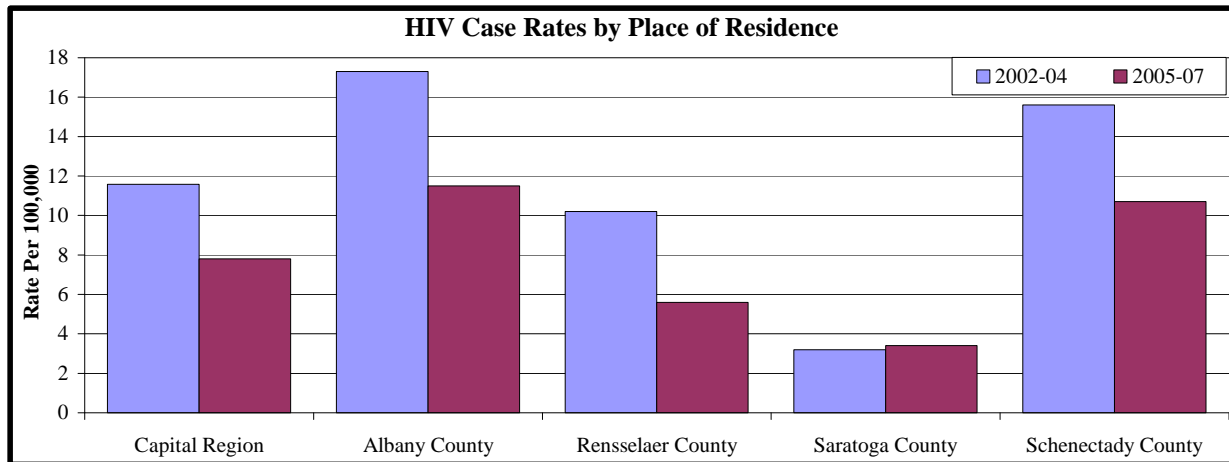
### 7.8 HIV Case Rate

**Definition:**

The HIV case rate includes all newly diagnosed HIV infections, regardless of concurrent or subsequent AIDS diagnosis, by county of residence. HIV and AIDS case rates are presented as rates per 100,000 people. Data are based on the year of diagnosis and exclude prison inmates. Reliable HIV case rate data reporting began in 2002.

**Significance:**

HIV gradually destroys the immune system, making it harder for the body to fight off infection. HIV can be spread by the following: contaminated blood transfusions, contact with contaminated blood products, intimate sexual contact, and the use of contaminated needles and syringes. The virus may also spread from a mother to her baby during pregnancy, delivery or nursing. HIV is a chronic medical condition that can be treated, but not cured. There are effective ways to prevent complications and delay, but not prevent, progression to AIDS: a late stage of HIV disease. Almost all people infected with HIV will develop AIDS if not treated.



**Data Highlights:**

- In the Capital Region, HIV case rates declined 32.6% from 2002-04 to 2005-07.
- All the counties with the exception of Saratoga saw at least 30% decreases in HIV rates from 2002-04 through 2005-07. Rensselaer County experienced a 45% decrease, the greatest decrease in the Region.
- Saratoga County experienced a slight increase (6.2%), though its rates are still lower than the other counties in the Region.

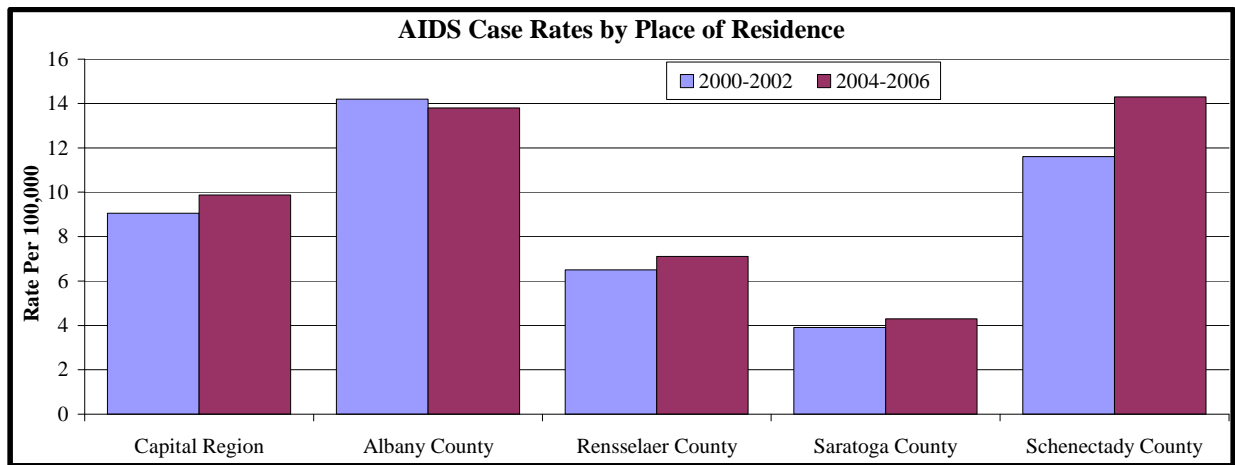
### 7.9 AIDS Case Rate

**Definition:**

The AIDS case rate includes all newly diagnosed AIDS cases, by county of residence. AIDS case rates are presented as rates per 100,000 people. Data are based on the year of diagnosis and exclude prison inmates.

**Significance:**

AIDS is the final phase of the HIV disease. People with AIDS are extremely susceptible to infection, as the HIV disease has by this point considerably weakened the immune system. Once an HIV-positive person has an AIDS-defining illness, or has specifically abnormal blood test results, s/he is considered to have AIDS. While AIDS is fatal, people with AIDS are very likely to die from an AIDS-related illness, such as cancer or infection, rather than succumbing to the disease itself.



**Data Highlights:**

- Despite Albany County’s 2.8% decrease in AIDS case rates, the Region’s AIDS case rates increased 9.1% due to higher rates within the other counties. Schenectady County saw a significant increase (23.3%).
- Though Albany County had the highest rates in 2000-02, Schenectady County experienced the highest rates in 2004-06.

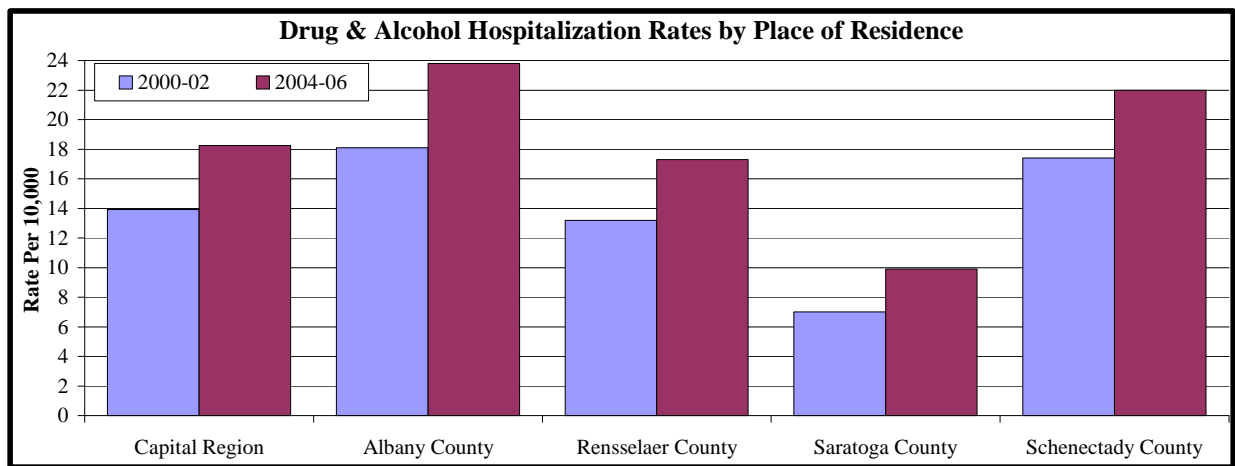
### 7.10 Drug and Alcohol Related Hospitalization Rate

**Definition:**

The number of drug and alcohol related hospitalizations per 10,000 people, by county of residence. Data on hospitalizations are collected through the inpatient discharge data system, Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS). Data are not available on events that did not result in a hospitalization, such as cases only treated in an emergency room.

**Significance:**

From prescription drugs to alcohol, cocaine to marijuana, substance abuse affects all age, race, ethnic, and income groups. Drug and alcohol abuse is linked with unemployment, crime, and domestic violence.



**Data Highlights:**

- Between 2000-02 and 2004-06, drug and alcohol hospitalization rates have increased 31% Region-wide.
- Schenectady County had the smallest increase (26%), and Saratoga County, while still having the lowest rates in the Region, had the largest increase (41.4%) since 2000-02.



## VIII. Recreation, Arts, and Culture

### **Vision Statement:**

*Protect and improve the quality of parks, historic, cultural and artistic venues and resources throughout the Region; promote and expand their availability to ensure access to a variety of well-maintained, affordable, and enjoyable cultural and artistic enrichment opportunities and recreational, leisure, and entertainment activities.*

### **Indicators:**

- 8.1 Acres of Parkland
- 8.2 Park Attendance
- 8.3 Library Usage
- 8.4 Library Internet Availability
- 8.5 Financial Support of Arts and Cultural Organizations
- 8.6 National Register Listings

### **Summary:**

- Overall, the Capital Region has over 40,000 acres of parkland, approximately 55 acres/1,000 residents.
- Attendance at state parks in the Capital Region rose significantly in 2006 and 2007. By 2007, the Region had experienced a 42.2% increase over 2002 attendance.
- Library circulation increased 38% in the Capital Region from 2000 to 2007.
- The number of internet terminals available for public use in the Region's libraries jumped significantly from 2000 to 2001, and has continued to show increases, albeit at a slower rate.
- Program revenues and government funding for arts and cultural organizations increased, while public support slightly decreased. Total revenues increased 3.6%.
- The Capital Region as a whole has 398 listings on the National Register of Historic Places.

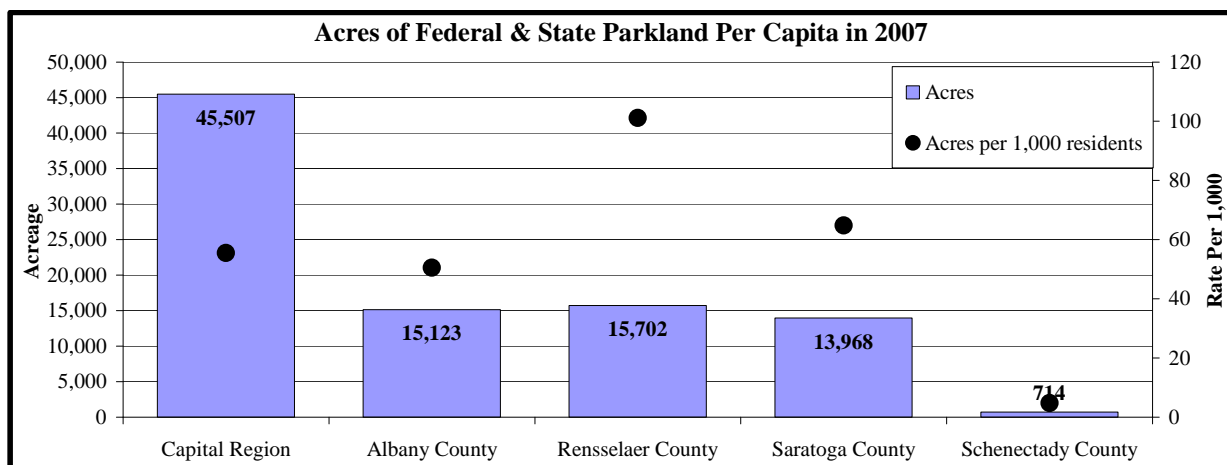
## 8.1 Acres of Parkland

### Definition:

Federal parks and State parks, wildlife management areas, forests, education centers, historic sites, and nurseries are included in this indicator. Privately held preserves and open space, county parks, and municipal parks are not included. Two measures are included in this indicator: the amount of federal and state parkland and open space acreage per county, and the acreage per 1,000 residents per county.

### Significance:

The Capital Region's state and federal parkland assets range from beaches to cliffs to sites of Regional and national historic significance. The Region's park systems provide extensive and diverse year-round opportunities for passive and active recreation. The Capital Region is home to Moreau Lake State Park, which has received national recognition for premier park facilities by Reserve America's 2005 Top Outdoor Locations and Top 100 Campgrounds. The breadth of activities available at Regional parks allows all residents to enjoy the area's natural and historic beauty, and the Region benefits greatly from access to these resources. The amount of parkland available in a region indicates the willingness of the State and Federal governments to set aside resources specifically for recreation and conservation.



### Data Highlights:

- Overall, the Capital Region has over 45,000 acres of parkland, approximately 55 acres/1,000 residents.
- Rensselaer County has more park acres than any other county, and more park acres per 1,000 residents than the other counties in the Region. Schenectady County has by far the fewest park acres of the counties, but is the smallest geographically.



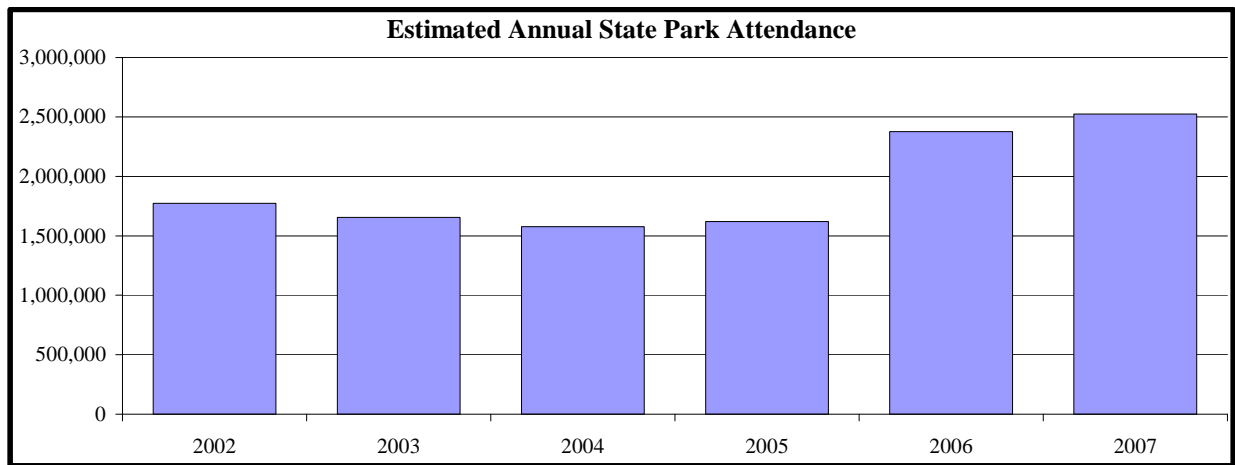
## 8.2 Park Attendance

**Definition:**

The total annual estimated attendance at selected State parks within Albany, Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties. Schenectady County has no state parks, only a state forest, for which attendance data is not collected.

**Significance:**

The high-quality facilities available in the Capital Region attract large numbers of visitors, from both the Region and throughout the northeast. Parks and open space play a major part in promoting healthy lifestyles for residents and visitors, provide low-cost physical activity and educational opportunities, and allow children to connect with nature. They can also have environmental benefits, boosting air and water quality and providing wildlife habitat. Visitors to state parks can also be important contributors to local economies.



State Park Estimated Attendance	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	% Change 02-07
Capital Region	1,774,024	1,654,839	1,577,750	1,620,686	2,376,215	2,522,690	42.2%
Albany County	274,756	345,546	349,721	328,459	314,810	349,290	27.1%
Rensselaer County	268,811	228,528	234,762	254,715	259,184	279,590	4.0%
Saratoga County	1,230,457	1,080,765	993,267	1,037,512	1,802,221	1,893,810	53.9%

**Data Highlight:**

- Attendance at state parks in the Capital Region rose significantly in 2006 and 2007. By 2007, the Region had experienced a 42.2% increase over 2002 attendance.

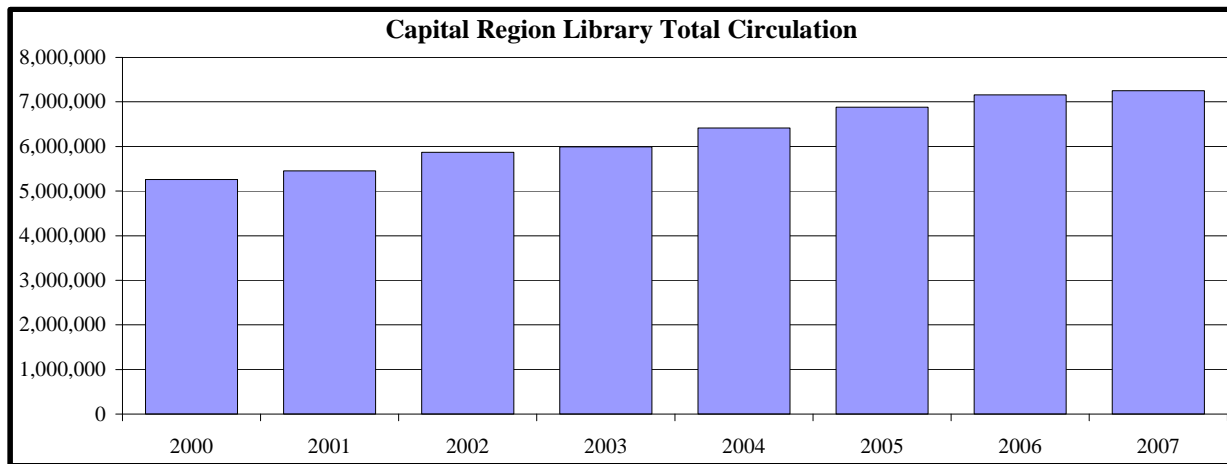
### 8.3 Library Usage

**Definition:**

The total resources circulated by public libraries, by county. These resources include books, videotapes, audiotapes, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and other materials.

**Significance:**

Public libraries provide opportunities for resident to enjoy free use of books, videotapes, audiotapes, CDs, DVDs, the Internet, and other materials. The Capital Region is home to 41 library systems. Three systems, the cities of Albany and Troy and Schenectady County, are large enough to have multiple branches, bringing the total number of libraries to 54. The City and County of Schenectady share a library system.



Total Library Circulation (Books, DVDs, etc.)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	% change, 00-07
Capital Region	5,258,085	5,454,080	5,870,064	5,989,106	6,413,749	6,882,868	7,157,256	7,253,773	38.0%
Albany County	2,367,080	2,452,880	2,601,359	2,596,672	2,794,187	3,105,428	3,289,086	3,217,339	35.9%
Rensselaer County	625,781	670,494	758,318	777,763	856,181	918,115	944,597	981,361	56.8%
Saratoga County	1,394,946	1,411,631	1,517,531	1,588,207	1,631,814	1,604,134	1,671,490	1,813,928	30.0%
Schenectady County	870,278	919,075	992,856	1,026,464	1,131,567	1,255,191	1,252,083	1,241,145	42.6%
City of Albany	644,367	681,283	683,201	712,727	812,126	991,442	1,111,134	1,013,576	57.3%
City of Saratoga Springs	623,197	616,815	637,992	652,580	664,202	661,098	667,144	666,591	7.0%
City of Troy	132,458	123,911	136,859	136,072	155,238	186,964	192,837	185,661	40.2%

\*County numbers include the appropriate city numbers

**Data Highlights:**

- Library circulation increased 38% in the Capital Region from 2000 to 2007.
- In the same period, the City of Albany saw a 57% increase in library circulation, the largest increase of the selected geographies. The library was re-chartered in 2002, leading to a significant increase in available materials.
- The City of Saratoga Springs experienced the smallest increase in circulation, 7.0%.

Source: Annual Report for Public and Association Libraries, Federal State Cooperative System, Public Library Data Service: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libs/index.html#BibliostatConnect>

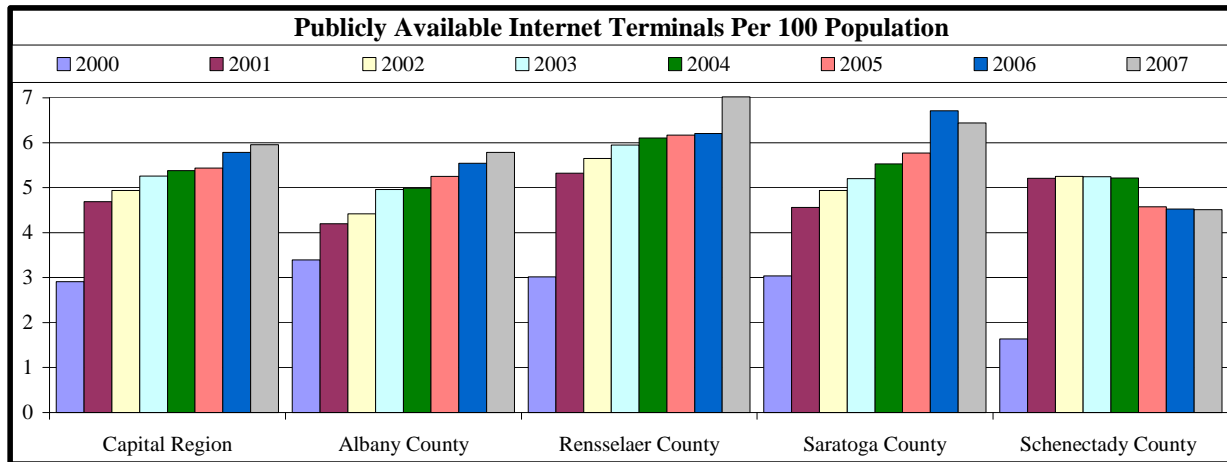
### 8.4 Library Internet Availability

**Definition:**

The number of internet terminals available for public use in a library.

**Significance:**

Library internet terminals are helpful for those who may not have internet access at home, and are used by a wide range of library patrons. For students doing research, or job seekers sending out resumes, these terminals are indispensable. Public libraries are a key player in efforts to provide equitable access to the internet, helping to bridge the digital divide for those who may not have internet access at home. The City and County of Schenectady share a library system.



Number of internet terminals available to public	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Capital Region	231	374	396	425	437	443	474	489
Albany County	100	124	131	148	149	157	166	173
Rensselaer County	46	81	86	91	94	95	96	109
Saratoga County	61	93	102	109	117	123	144	139
Schenectady County Public Library	24	76	77	77	77	68	68	68
City of Albany	41	54	57	70	68	69	68	68
City of Saratoga Springs	16	27	27	30	37	40	40	36
City of Troy	14	19	20	22	22	23	23	23

\*County numbers include the appropriate city numbers

**Data Highlights:**

- The number of internet terminals available for public use in the Region’s libraries jumped significantly from 2000 to 2001, and have continued to show increases, albeit at a slower rate.
- The City of Saratoga Springs has the highest number of public-use internet terminals per 1,000 population of the selected cities, but experienced a smaller increase than the two other selected city libraries between 2000 and 2007.

### 8.5 Financial Support of Arts and Cultural Organizations

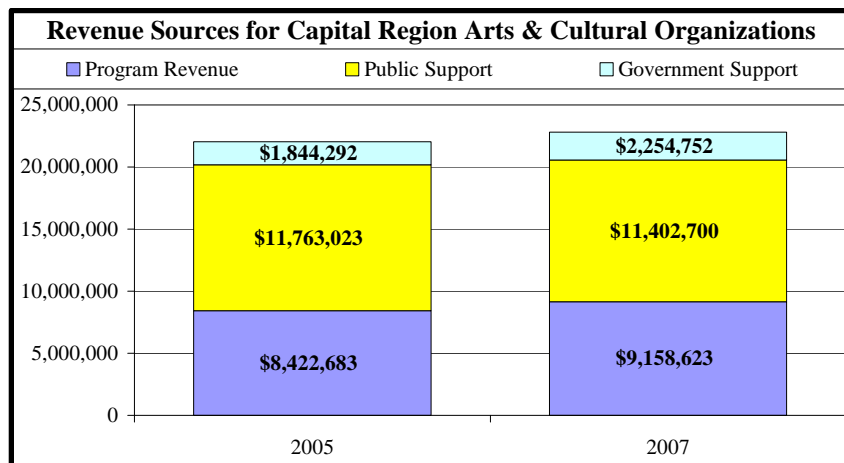
**Definition:**

The total amount of financial support for 18 selected arts and cultural non-profit organizations that have filed 990PF forms with the IRS. The following types of organizations are represented: arts councils, historic/preservation organizations, museums/galleries, and performing arts organizations. The organizations are: Saratoga County Arts Council; Arts Center of the Capital Region; USS Slater; Old Songs, Inc.; Historic Albany Foundation; Rensselaer County Historical Society; Albany Institute of History and Art; Children’s Museum at Saratoga; Children’s Museum of Science and Technology; National Museum of Dance & Hall of Fame; National Museum of Racing & Hall of Fame; New York State Museum; Saratoga Auto Museum; The Schenectady Museum and Planetarium; Albany Symphony Orchestra; Capital Rep; Palace Theater; SPAC; Troy Savings Bank Music Hall.

There are three main sources of revenue for arts and cultural organizations: program revenue (tickets, admissions, etc.); governmental support (local, state, and federal grants, not including government contracts); and public support (memberships, individual donations, and corporate or foundation grants).

**Significance:**

Financial support of arts and cultural organizations indicates the level of interest taken by the community and government in such organizations. The long-term success of these providers of arts and cultural opportunities depends upon their ability to attract and maintain community investment.



Government support may fluctuate strongly from year to year, depending upon grant cycles and policy changes. Additionally, public support may fluctuate depending on fundraising cycles.

Revenue Sources for Capital Region Arts & Cultural Organizations in 2007 Constant Dollars	Public Support	Government Support	Program Revenue	Total
2005	\$11,763,023	\$1,844,292	\$8,422,683	\$22,029,998
2007	\$11,402,700	\$2,254,752	\$9,158,623	\$22,816,075
2005-07 % Change	-3.1%	22.3%	8.7%	3.6%

**Data Highlight:**

- Government funding and program revenues increased, while public support slightly decreased. Total revenues increased 3.6%.

Source: Individual IRS 990PF forms, via [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org)

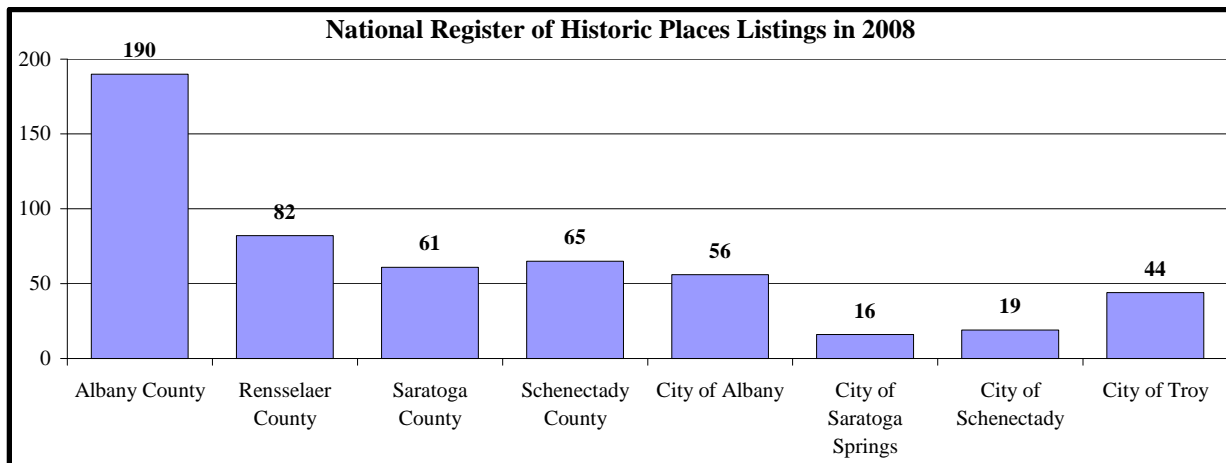
## 8.6 National Register Listings

### **Definition:**

The number of historic buildings and districts listed in the US Department of the Interior's National Register of Historic Places. City listings are included in the county totals.

### **Significance:**

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. The National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources. A National Register listing provides opportunities for federal preservation grants and tax credits, as well as alternatives to International Building Code safety codes. It also provides New York State Rehabilitation Tax Credit opportunities.



\*County numbers include the appropriate city numbers

### **Data Highlights:**

- The Capital Region has 398 listings on the National Register.
- Albany County has the largest number of listings of the four counties, and the City of Albany has more listings of the selected cities.
- The City of Saratoga Springs has the fewest listings of the selected cities, while Saratoga County has the fewest listings of the selected counties.



## **IX. Public Safety**

### **Vision Statement:**

*Enhance the desirability of the Region by proactively providing adequate public safety and emergency response services and facilities that contribute to the overall sense of safety, equal justice, and confidence of the public.*

### **Indicators:**

- 9.1 Violent Crime Reports
- 9.2 Property Crime Reports
- 9.3 Drug Offenses
- 9.4 Fire Incidents

### **Summary:**

- The Region experienced an increase of approximately 4% in violent crime rates between 2000 and 2007.
- The Region experienced a decline of approximately 19% in property crime rates between 2000 and 2007.
- Overall, the Region experienced a spike in drug-related arrests in 2006 that has since dropped close to 2000 levels.
- Fire incidents have been generally on the rise across the Region, though a decline has occurred since a peak in 2005.

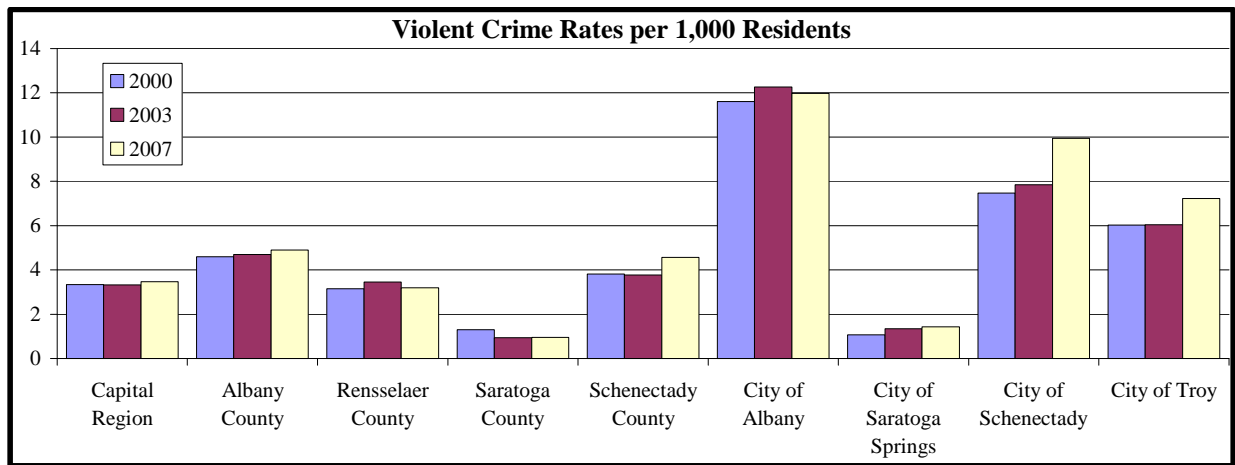
### 9.1 Violent Crime Reports

**Definition:**

The rate of reported serious crimes defined as Part I violent crimes, per 1,000 residents. Part 1 crimes are defined by the FBI for consistent reporting purposes across jurisdictions and are recorded by law enforcement agencies in Uniform Crime Reports. Part 1 violent crimes include: murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

**Significance:**

Crime statistics are basic indicators of public safety. Violent crime not only affects victims and witnesses, it can also have a psychological negative effect on the general public’s sense of personal and neighborhood safety. Lowering crime rates can have a positive effect on social connections and the appeal of a community. Not all crimes are reported; rape in particular is underreported.



**Data Highlights:**

- The Region as a whole saw an increase of approximately 4% in violent crime rates between 2000 and 2007.
- The City of Saratoga Springs experienced a 33% increase in violent crime rates from 2000 to 2007, but has significantly lower violent crime rates than the other central cities.
- The City of Albany saw only a 3% increase, but continues to have the highest rates in the Region.



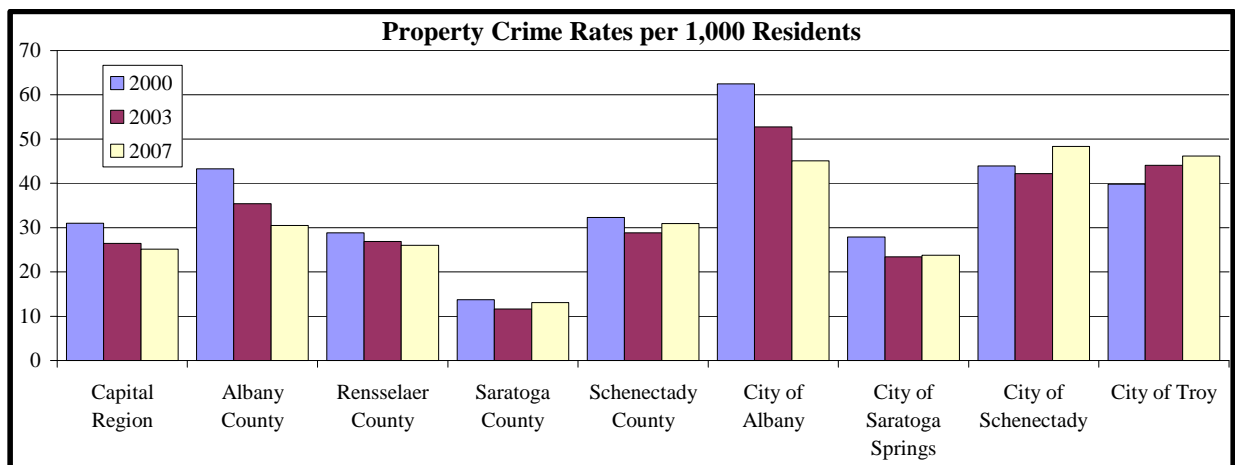
## 9.2 Property Crime Reports

### **Definition:**

The rate of reported serious crimes defined as Part I property crimes, per 1,000 residents. Part I property crimes are defined by the FBI for consistent reporting purposes across jurisdictions and are recorded by law enforcement agencies with Uniform Crime Reports. Part I property crimes include: burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.

### **Significance:**

Property crimes can result in financial loss and higher homeowners, renters, and automobile insurance rates. Though property crime does not involve violence directly against individuals, it can have a profound impact on the sense of personal and neighborhood security. Lowering property crime rates can have a positive effect on the appeal of the community as a place to live and work. Not all crimes are reported.



### **Data Highlights:**

- Overall, property crime rates decreased from 31.0/1,000 persons in 2000 to 25.2/1000 persons in 2007.
- Though the City of Albany had the highest property crime rates in 2000 and 2003, the Cities of Schenectady and Troy had higher rates in 2007.
- The City of Saratoga Springs has the lowest property crime rates of the cities (23.8 per 1,000 persons in 2007), and Saratoga County the lowest rates of the counties (13.1 in 2007).
- Only the Cities of Schenectady and Troy have experienced increases from 2000 to 2007 (10% and 15.9% respectively); all other selected geographies have experienced declines.

### 9.3 Drug Offenses

**Definition:**

Drug-related arrests for all ages, by county of arrest. Drug-related arrests include all arrests where a drug offense was the most serious charge in the arrest event, including controlled substance and marijuana offenses. A hierarchy whose first factor is the class of the offense determines the most serious charge.

**Significance:**

Illicit drug use and other drug-related activity can have far-reaching social, economical, and physical consequences. Its effects reach past the individual drug user to their families, neighborhoods, and communities. Additionally, the sale and use of drugs can be a factor in both violent and property crimes.

It bears noting that not all crimes result in arrests; arrest statistics are also affected by changing political and social philosophy as well as law enforcement staffing levels and focus.

Drug-related Arrests	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Capital Region	2,469	2,558	2,297	2,664	2,484	2,737	3,643	3,113	2,477
Albany County	1,437	1,586	1,243	1,361	1,335	1,566	2,192	1,890	1,351
Rensselaer County	300	297	266	307	350	355	329	348	279
Saratoga County	177	174	226	303	222	204	296	258	311
Schenectady County	437	384	393	441	406	469	621	441	318
City of Albany	1,035	1,203	832	931	855	1,051	1,539	1,184	749
City of Saratoga Springs	59	57	57	51	51	61	91	82	93
City of Schenectady	367	298	285	312	269	288	385	284	195
City of Troy	207	178	158	200	256	233	195	219	143

**Data Highlights:**

- Overall, the Region experienced a spike in drug-related arrests in 2006 that has since dropped close to 2000 levels.
- With the exception of the City of Saratoga Springs and Saratoga County, there are no apparent trends in the number of drug –related events from one year to the next.
- Saratoga County and the City of Saratoga Springs were the only two geographies to experience an increase between 2000 and 2008. Though the City of Saratoga Springs had the lowest number of drug-related arrests, it had a high increase from 2000-2008 (57%). Saratoga County experienced a 75% increase from 2000 to 2008.
- Over half of all drug-related arrests in the Capital Region occurred in Albany County in 2000, a pattern that has continued through 2008.

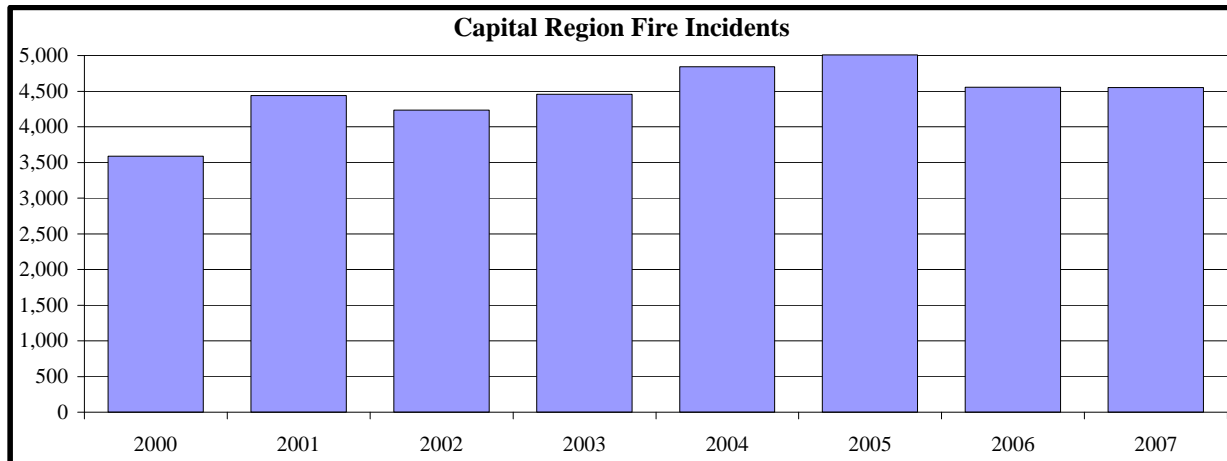
### 9.4 Fire Incidents

**Definition:**

The total number of fire incidents reported to fire departments. The data include structure, vehicle, brush, and other fires, but not explosions or EMS/rescue calls.

**Significance:**

Whether unintentional or not, fires cause significant financial losses. They are also responsible for civilian and firefighter injury and even death.



Fire Incidents	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	% Change from 2000-07
Capital Region	3,587	4,440	4,231	4,456	4,841	5,011	4,556	4,550	26.8%
Albany County	1,136	1,549	1,377	1,639	1,688	1,491	1,184	1,236	8.8%
Rensselaer County	1,153	1,352	1,242	1,235	1,440	1,523	1,519	1,403	21.7%
Saratoga County	603	753	869	650	756	976	862	916	51.9%
Schenectady County	695	786	743	932	957	1,021	991	995	43.2%
City of Albany	641	653	545	548	491	495	194	229	-64.3%
City of Saratoga Springs	N/A (data not available at time of publication)								
City of Schenectady	495	465	519	558	646	672	582	554	11.9%
City of Troy	554	580	558	470	477	477	490	439	-20.8%

**Data Highlights:**

- Fire incidents have been generally on the rise across the Region, though a decline has occurred since a peak in 2005. In 2007, fire incidents in the cities of Albany and Troy were lower than in 2000, while all the counties and the City of Schenectady experienced increases.
- Saratoga County experienced an almost 52% increase in fire incidents from 2000 to 2007; Schenectady County fire incidents increased 43% over the same period. The City of Albany experienced the greatest decline in fire incidents from 2000 to 2007 (64%).

Source: New York Department of State, Office of Fire Prevention and Control customized report received 2/20/09; City of Schenectady Fire Department customized report received 2/25/09



## X. Youth at Risk

### **Vision Statement:**

*Create a culture of caring by enhancing and establishing opportunities to improve the condition of young people with respect to health, safety, education, economic well-being, and family support, through mentoring, civic engagement, and social and economic advancement.*

### **Indicators:**

- 10.1: High School Drop-Out Rates
- 10.2: Juvenile Delinquency Intakes
- 10.3: Youth Arrests
- 10.4: Drug-Related Youth Arrests
- 10.5: PINS Complaints
- 10.6: PINS Petitions
- 10.7: Teen Pregnancy

### **Summary:**

- Region-wide, drop-out rates declined from 2.7% in 1999-00 to 2.4% in 2003-04.
- In the Capital Region, juvenile delinquent intakes increased 2.4% between 2000 and 2006.
- In the Capital Region, all youth arrests aged 16-18 experienced a slight increase since 2000.
- In the Capital Region, felony youth arrests as a percent of all youth arrests increased from 28.0% in 2000 to 29.0% in 2007.
- In the Capital Region, drug-related youth arrests as a percent of all youth arrests declined 11.4% between 2000 and 2007.
- The number of PINS complaints has dropped 31.4% Region-wide between 2003 and 2006.
- The number of PINS petitions has dropped 36% Region-wide between 2004 and 2006.
- Rates of teen pregnancy have dropped across the Region, but are still below national the Healthy People 2010 goal.

### 10.1 High School Drop Out Rates

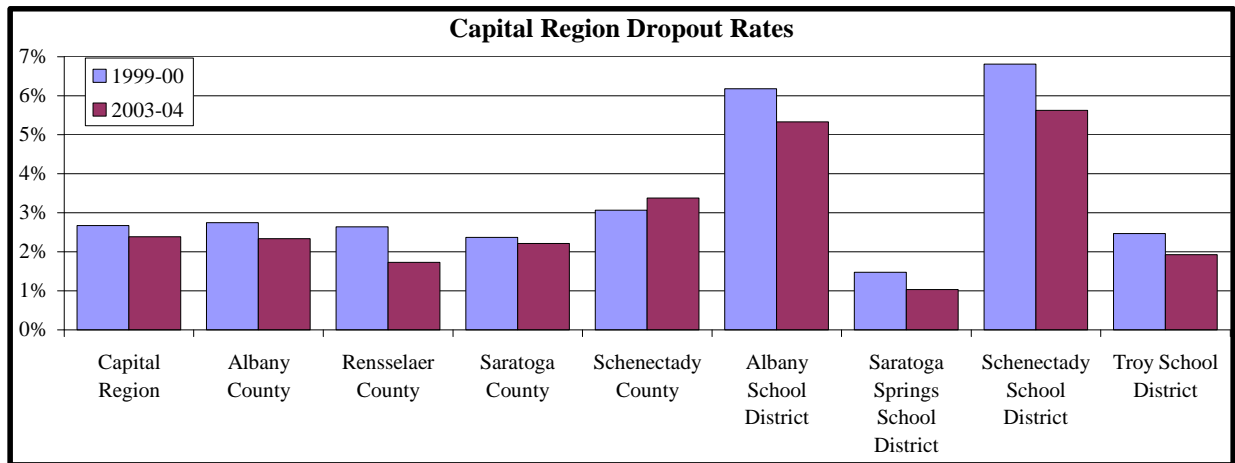
**Definition:**

The annual dropout rate refers to the proportion of students in grades 9 through 12 (including the portion of any ungraded secondary enrollment for that year that can be attributed to grades 9 through 12) who left school prior to graduation for any reason except death, and did not enter another school or high school equivalency preparation program. Rates are calculated by dividing the number of students who drop out during a single year by the enrollment in grades 9 through 12 and multiplying by 100.

The latest reliable data is for the 2004-2005 reporting year, which provides dropout rates for the 2003-2004 school year.

**Significance:**

A high school diploma is necessary to be competitive in today’s global economy. Dropouts have higher unemployment rates and earn less when employed than high school graduates. High school dropouts are also more likely to require costly public assistance than high school graduates.



**Data Highlights:**

- Region-wide, drop-out rates declined from 2.7% in 1999-00 to 2.4% in 2003-04.
- Each of the four cities experienced a decline in their dropout rates from 1999-00 to 2003-04.

High School Drop Out Rates	1999-00	2003-04
Capital Region	2.7%	2.4%
Albany County	2.7%	2.3%
Rensselaer County	2.6%	1.7%
Saratoga County	2.4%	2.2%
Schenectady County	3.1%	3.4%
Albany School District	6.2%	5.3%
Saratoga Springs School District	1.5%	1.0%
Schenectady School District	6.8%	5.6%
Troy School District	2.5%	1.9%

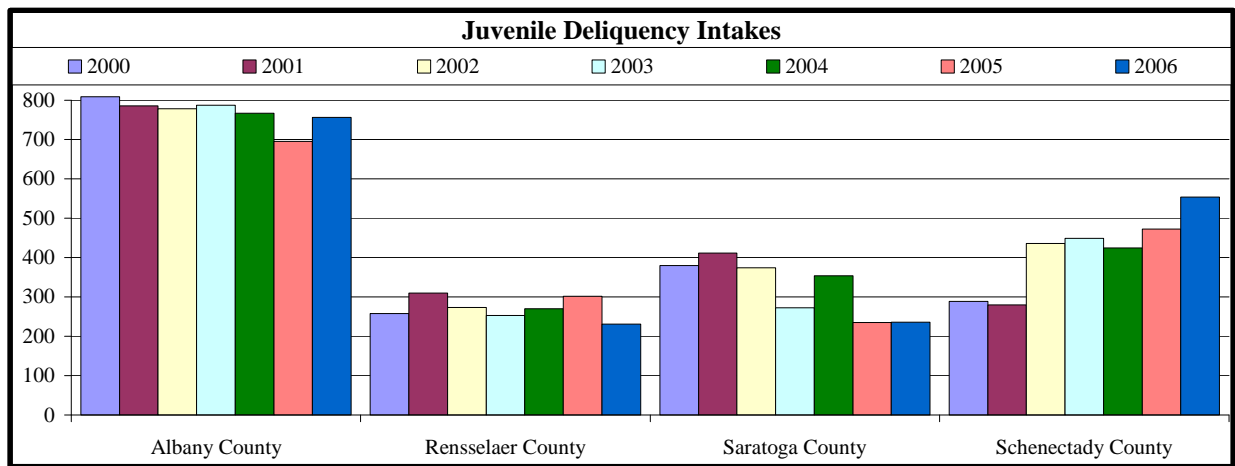
## 10.2 Juvenile Delinquency Intakes

### Definition:

The total number of juvenile delinquent intakes. A juvenile delinquent is a 7-15 year old who committed an act that would constitute a crime if committed by an adult. An intake is defined as a juvenile referral to the county probation department. The county probation department is the gateway to the justice system for juvenile delinquents. New York State data on juvenile delinquency intake rates exclude 7-9 year olds as fewer complaints are filed for this category.

### Significance:

Juveniles who commit crimes tend to be more likely to commit other offenses once they reach adulthood. The number of juvenile delinquency intakes is dependent upon many factors such as community standards, law enforcement concerns, the probation department’s philosophy, and the availability of alternatives to filing a juvenile delinquency complaint. Not all intakes become adjudicated juvenile delinquency cases; some are diverted to correctional alternatives.



### Data Highlights:

- With the exception of Schenectady, all the counties experienced a decline in juvenile delinquency intakes. Schenectady has shown a nearly 100% increase in intakes since 2000.
- Overall, between 2000 and 2006 juvenile delinquency intakes went up 2.4% in the Capital Region.

### 10.3 Youth Arrests

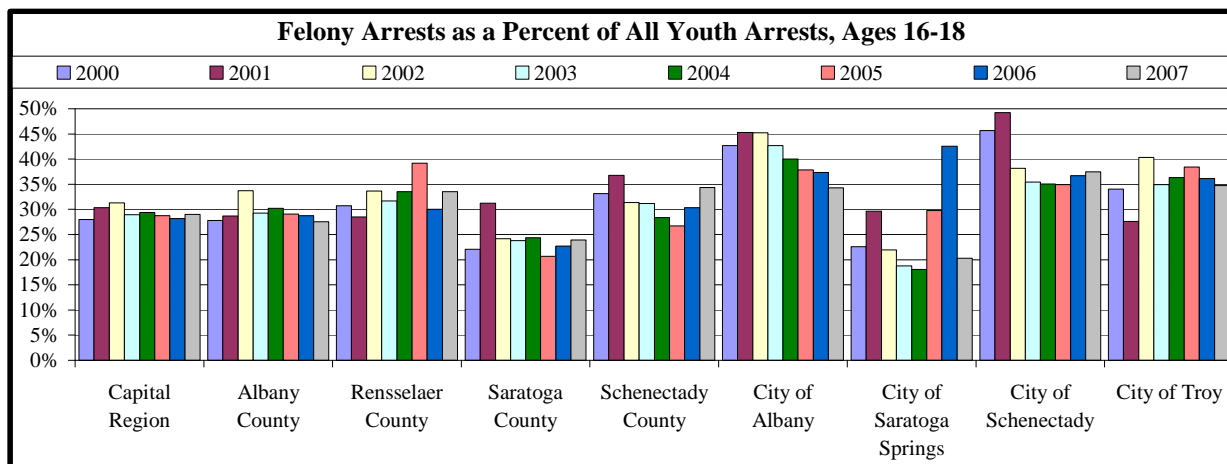
**Definition:**

Counts of 16-18 year olds arrested, by offense type and county of arrest. A felony is an offense for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment in excess of one year may be imposed. A misdemeanor is a lesser offense, excluding administrative or regulatory infractions, for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment up to one year may be imposed. Serious reporting problems with the arrest statistics for 10-15 year olds were recently uncovered, preventing the use of those data at this time.

**Significance:**

Youth arrests indicate the extent to which teens are involved in illegal activities. Not all crimes result in arrests; arrest statistics are also indicative of evolving concerns of law enforcement and the community as well as fluctuations in staffing.

<b>% Change from 2000</b>								
<b>All Youth Arrests Aged 16-18</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Capital Region	3,085	-3.6%	-1.8%	1.2%	-5.4%	-8.3%	2.7%	3.4%
Albany County	1,544	-7.7%	-11.6%	-4.7%	-12.3%	-4.0%	-4.3%	-1.5%
Rensselaer County	498	-2.8%	-2.2%	-3.6%	-1.2%	-23.7%	-1.6%	1.2%
Saratoga County	575	13.0%	10.8%	3.8%	-10.8%	-27.7%	-0.3%	3.1%
Schenectady County	468	-11.1%	15.2%	22.6%	19.7%	17.5%	33.8%	22.0%



**Data Highlights:**

- In the Capital Region, all youth arrests aged 16-18 experienced a slight increase since 2000.
- In the Capital Region, felony youth arrests as a percent of all youth arrests increased from 28.0% in 2000 to 29.0% in 2007.
- The cities of Albany, Schenectady and Troy have higher percentages of felony youth arrests than the Capital Region as a whole, while Saratoga Springs, despite a spike in 2006, has tended to have lower percentages of felony youth arrests.

Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, Computerized Criminal History System customized report, received 3/12/09.



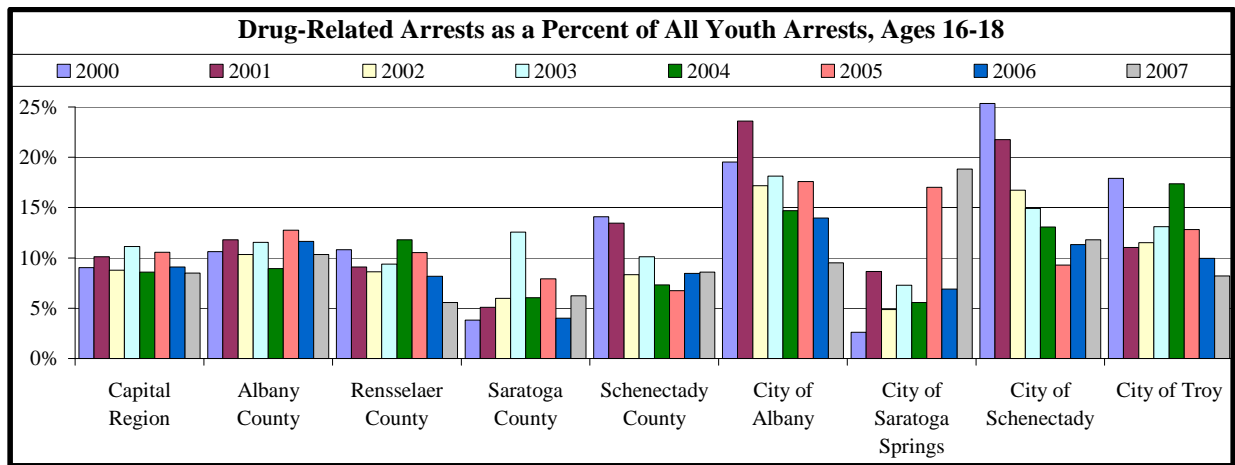
### 10.4 Drug-Related Youth Arrests

**Definition:**

Counts of 16-18 year olds arrested for drug-related offenses, by county of arrest. The data includes both felonies and misdemeanors. A felony is an offense for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment in excess of one year may be imposed. A misdemeanor is an offense, excluding administrative or regulatory infractions, for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment up to one year may be imposed. Serious reporting problems with the arrest statistics for 10-15 year olds were recently uncovered, preventing the use of those data at this time.

**Significance:**

Drug-related youth arrests indicate the extent to which teens are involved in drug-related illegal activities. Not all crimes result in arrests; arrest statistics also indicate evolving concerns of law enforcement and the community and fluctuations in staffing.



Drug -Related Arrests as a Percent of All Youth Arrests Aged 16-18	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Capital Region	9.0%	10.1%	8.8%	11.1%	8.6%	10.6%	9.1%	8.5%
Albany County	10.6%	11.8%	10.3%	11.6%	8.9%	12.7%	11.6%	10.3%
Rensselaer County	10.8%	9.1%	8.6%	9.4%	11.8%	10.5%	8.2%	5.6%
Saratoga County	3.8%	5.1%	6.0%	12.6%	6.0%	7.9%	4.0%	6.2%
Schenectady County	14.1%	13.5%	8.3%	10.1%	7.3%	6.7%	8.5%	8.6%

**Data Highlight:**

- The cities of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy have higher percentages of drug related youth arrests than the Capital Region as a whole, though they have been declining. The City of Saratoga Springs, however, has experienced generally increasing drug-related youth arrests as a percent of all youth arrests.

Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, Computerized Criminal History System customized report, received 3/12/09.

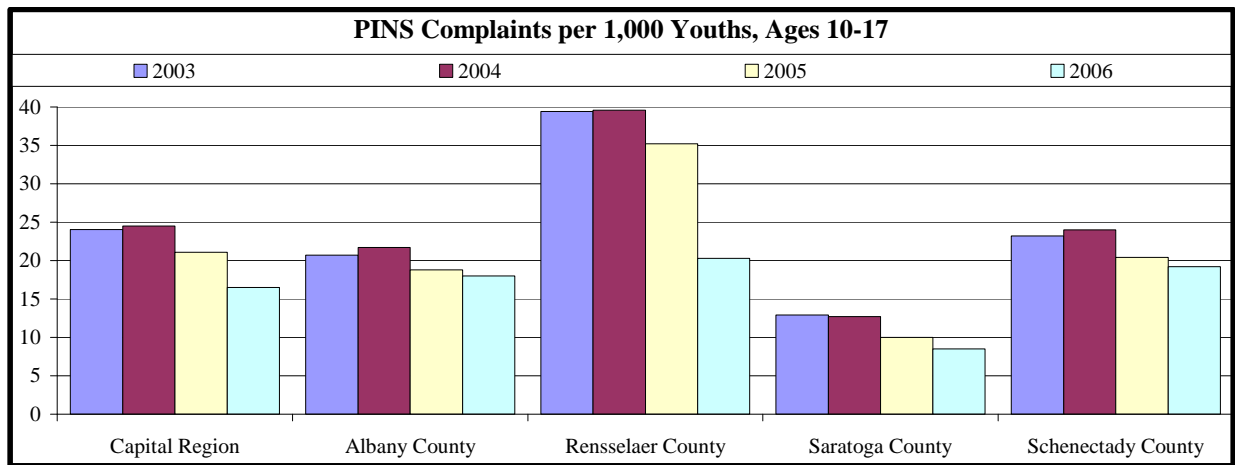
### 10.5 PINS Complaints

**Definition:**

Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) are juveniles (aged 10-17) for whom complaints were filed with local probation departments because of non-criminal misconduct, including truancy, disobedience, and general uncontrollability. Complainants are generally parents or school officials who are seeking the formal intervention of the Family Court to control a juvenile's misconduct. Not all PINS complaints/cases develop into petitions; alternatives to adjudication are explored for each complaint.

**Significance:**

The number of PINS cases opened by local probation departments indicates the level of non-criminal misconduct among youth that is perceived as sufficiently serious by parents, school officials or other authorities to warrant court intervention.



**Data Highlights:**

- Due to reporting changes, consistent PINS complaints data are only available from 2003 forward.
- The number of PINS complaints has dropped 31.4% Region-wide; the individual counties showed decreases ranging from 13% to over 48% between 2003 and 2006.

Source: Extrapolated from the New York State Kids' Well-being Indicator Clearinghouse, from data from the New York State Department of Probation and Correction Alternatives

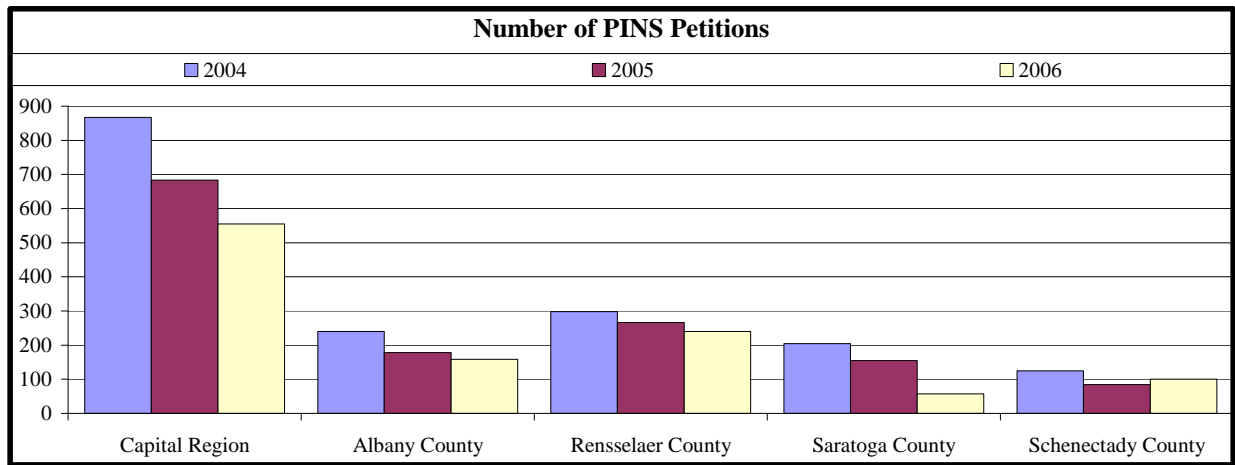
### 10.6 PINS Petitions

**Definition:**

Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) are juveniles (aged 10-17) for whom complaints were filed with local probation departments because of non-criminal misconduct, including truancy, disobedience, and general uncontrollability. PINS petitions indicate that non-court alternatives (such as diversion services) have failed.

**Significance:**

The number of PINS petitions indicates how often alternatives to court intervention have failed. Interventions such as counseling and school-based diversions are tried before a formal filing is made with the court system. The indicator does not explain the disposition of the petitions, however, and some may have been withdrawn or dismissed, or resulted in probation.



**Data Highlights:**

- Due to reporting changes, petition data is only available from 2004 onward.
- The number of PINS petitions has dropped 36% Region-wide. Saratoga County showed the largest decline from 2004-06 (72%), while Rensselaer showed the smallest at 19%.

### 10.7: Teen Pregnancy

**Definition:**

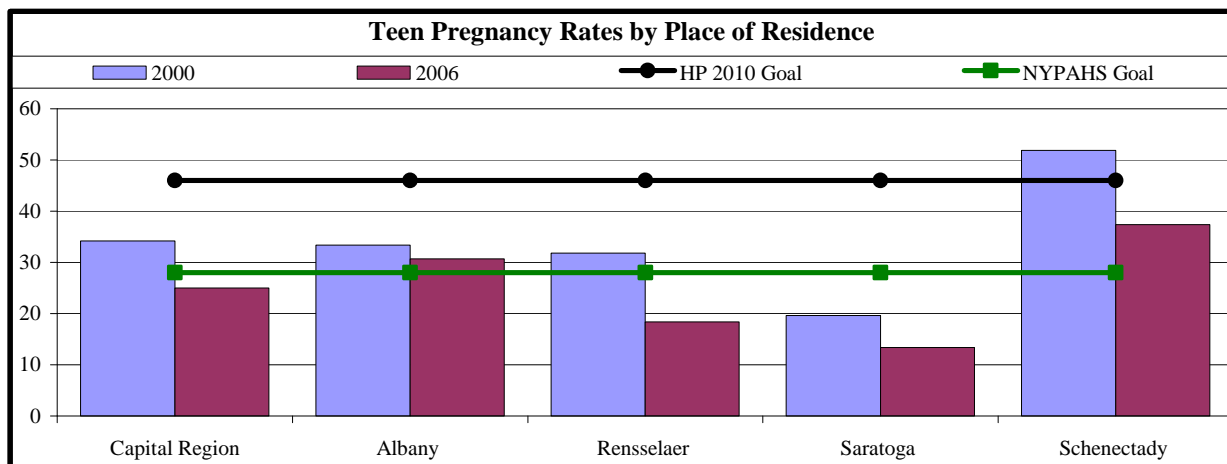
Pregnancies are the sum of the number of live births, reported induced terminations of pregnancies and reported fetal deaths of all gestations. The adolescent pregnancy rate is the number of pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15-17.

**Significance:**

Teen pregnancy has far-reaching impacts on the child, the parents, and the extended family. Teen mothers are more likely to live in poverty and less likely than their peers to finish high school; their children are more likely to experience poor health, behavioral difficulties, and neglect than children of older mothers.

The national Healthy People 2010 (HP 2010) goal for the adolescent pregnancy rate is 43 pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15-17. The 1996 baseline was 68/1000 females aged 15-17.

New York’s Prevention Agenda for the Healthiest State (NYPAHS) identified teen pregnancy as a priority area for public health action, and set an objective to reduce teen pregnancies to no more than 28 pregnancies per 1,000 females ages 15 through 17 by the year 2013. The goal was set in 2005.



**Data Highlights:**

- Rates of teen pregnancy have dropped across the Region. Rensselaer County experienced a 40% reduction, while Albany County saw a 5% decrease.
- Schenectady County continues to experience the highest rates of teen pregnancy in the Region, though by 2006 its rates were below the HP 2010 goal.



Printing of this report was made  
possible with funds from:



**Center for Women in Government & Civil Society**  
**Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy**  
**University at Albany**  
**State University of New York**  
ph: 518/591-8762 :: [www.cwig.albany.edu](http://www.cwig.albany.edu)

**Capital District Regional Planning Commission**  
One Park Place, Suite 102 :: Albany, New York 12205 :: ph 518/453-0850 :: [www.cdrpc.org](http://www.cdrpc.org)