

Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board
Human Services Needs Assessment: Schuyler,
Steuben, and Chemung Counties, New York

May 2012

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Population and Selected Characteristics ¹

Schuyler County

Population: Schuyler County’s population is 18,720 and the population density in the county is 58.4. Males represent 50.5 percent of the population and females represent 49.5 percent. The very large majority (96.1 %) of the population considers itself white. The median age in Schuyler County is 42.22.

Income Characteristics: The median household annual income in Schuyler County is \$42, 442, so half of the county’s households earn less than that amount, and half earn more. Among all of Schuyler County’s families, 12.1 percent had incomes below the poverty level. For families with children under age 18, the figure was 19.3 percent with incomes below the poverty level. Information was not available for families with children under age 5 in the 2009 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates³. A less-current figure from the 2005-2009 American Community Survey shows the rate of poverty among Schuyler families with children under age 5 as 23 percent.

In addition, data on student eligibility for the free or reduced lunch program in schools is another indicator of local poverty. The table below summarizes these indicators for Schuyler County and shows that both school districts in the county have rates of free or reduced lunch lower than the state rate, but both have increased by a few percentage points year over year.

SCHOOL DISTRICT POVERTY INDICATORS							
COUNTY NAME	AGENCY NAME- MOST RECENT YEAR (DISTRICT)	High Need-to-Resource Rural District Y/N	Local Free & Reduced 08-09	Local Free & Reduced 09-10	+/- Percentage Points 08 to 09	NYS Free and Reduced 09-10	Difference Local & NYS Free & Reduced 09-10
Schuyler	ODESSA MONTOUR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	Y	38%	42%	4%	48%	-6%
Schuyler	WATKINS GLEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	N	29%	32%	3%	48%	-16%

Housing Characteristics⁴:

A little more than 40 percent of housing units in Schuyler County were built before 1950. The largest share overall (33.7 %) was built before 1939. The majority (69.2 %) of housing units are 1-unit detached structures. The next largest share (21.1 %) are mobile homes. The greatest share of homes (26.2%) heat with fuel oil; the next largest share (24%) use “bottled, tank or LP gas,” followed by utility gas at 20.3 percent and wood at 10.9 percent.

Housing is considered to be affordable if it consumes less than 30 percent of household income. In Schuyler County, costs are greater than this for 30.9 percent of owners with a mortgage, for 13.9 percent of owners without a mortgage, and for 51 percent of renters. It should be noted that these figures

¹ Except where noted, data in this section are sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, retrieved from <http://factfinder.census.gov>

² U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 – 2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, retrieved from <http://factfinder.census.gov>

³ U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/saippe/saippe.cgi>

⁴ 2005 – 2009 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

combined the categories “30.0 – 34.9” and “35 percent or more.” In all cases, a notably larger proportion of people experienced costs of 35 percent or more. This contrast is especially sharp for renters, since 39.1 percent of this group in Schuyler County must use 35 percent or more of its income on housing.

Steuben County

Population: Steuben County’s population stands at 96,552 and the population density is 70.9 persons per square mile⁵. Males represent 49.3 percent of the population and 50.7 percent of residents female. The very large majority of the population (96.3 %) considers itself to be white. The median age is 41.5 years. The average household size is 2.33.

Income Characteristics: The median annual income in Steuben County is \$42,635, so half of the county’s households earn less than that amount, and half earn more. Among all of Steuben County’s families, 11.4 percent had incomes below the poverty level in the year preceding the survey. Among families with children under 18, the figure was 18.3 percent, and among families with children under age 5, the rate was 40.7 percent.

In addition, data on student eligibility for the free or reduced lunch program in schools is another indicator of local poverty. The table below summarizes these indicators for Steuben County and shows that the county’s rate of students eligible for free and reduced lunch is higher than the state rate in all but four of its 13 school districts. The rate is 50 percent or higher in more than half of Steuben school districts and it grew since the previous school year in more than half as well.⁶

SCHOOL DISTRICT POVERTY INDICATORS							
COUNTY NAME	AGENCY NAME- MOST RECENT YEAR (DISTRICT)	High Need-to-Resource Rural District Y/N	Local Free & Reduced 08-09	Local Free & Reduced 09-10	+/- Percentage Points 08 to 09	NYS Free and Reduced 09-10	Difference Local & NYS Free & Reduced 09-10
Steuben	ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	Y	60%	61%	1%	48%	13%
Steuben	ARKPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	N	29%	28%	-1%	48%	-20%
Steuben	AVOCA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	Y	40%	51%	11%	48%	3%
Steuben	BATH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	Y	38%	49%	11%	48%	1%
Steuben	BRADFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	Y	58%	56%	-2%	48%	8%
Steuben	CAMPBELL-SAVONA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	Y	51%	49%	-2%	48%	1%
Steuben	CANISTEO-GREENWOOD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	Y	49%	52%	3%	48%	4%
Steuben	CORNING CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	N	41%	37%	-4%	48%	-11%
Steuben	HAMMONDSPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	N	46%	50%	4%	48%	2%
Steuben	HORNELL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	Y	65%	57%	-8%	48%	9%
Steuben	JASPER-TROUPSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	Y	53%	47%	-6%	48%	-1%
Steuben	PRATTSBURGH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	Y	49%	54%	5%	48%	6%
Steuben	WAYLAND-COHOCTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	Y	43%	45%	2%	48%	-3%

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau *State & County Quick Facts*, retrieved from <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/36/36097.html>

⁶ NYSED District Report Cards Steuben County – *Accountability and Overview Reports*, retrieved from <https://www.nystart.gov/publicweb/County.do?year=2010&county=STEUBEN>

Housing Characteristics: Just under 45 percent of Steuben County’s housing units were built before 1950. The majority of units (67.8 percent) are 1-unit, detached structures. The next largest share (14.6 %) are mobile homes. The majority of homes (53%) are heated by utility gas, followed by “gas” (12.8%) and wood (11.7%).

Housing is considered to be affordable if it consumes less than 30 percent of household income. In Steuben County, costs are greater than this for 25.8 percent of owners with a mortgage, for 15.1 percent of owners without a mortgage, and for 52.3 percent of renters. It should be noted that these figures combined the categories “30.0 – 34.9” and “35 percent or more.” In all cases, a notably larger proportion of people experienced costs of 35 percent or more. This contrast is especially sharp for renters, since 41.3 percent of this group in Steuben County must use 35 percent or more of its income on housing.

Chemung County

Population: Chemung County’s population rests at 88,161 and the population density is 223.2 persons per square mile. Males represent 49.6 percent of the population and 50.4 percent of residents female. The large majority of the population (90.4 %) considers itself to be white. The median age is 40.3 years. The average household size is 2.32.

Income Characteristics: The median annual income in Chemung County is \$42,420, so half of the county’s households earn less than that amount, and half earn more. Among all of Chemung County’s families, 12.7 percent had incomes below the poverty level in the year preceding the survey. Among families with children under 18, the figure was 23.2 percent, and among families with children under age 5, the rate was 30.8 percent.

In addition, data on student eligibility for the free or reduced lunch program in schools is another indicator of local poverty. The table below summarizes these indicators for Chemung County and shows that the county’s rate of students eligible for free and reduced lunch is higher than the state rate in one of its three school districts, the Elmira City School District, where the rate is 58 percent. The percentage of students eligible for these programs grew year-over-year by 8 percentage points in Elmira City School District and by 4 percentage points in Horseheads School District ⁷.

SCHOOL DISTRICT POVERTY INDICATORS							
COUNTY NAME	AGENCY NAME- MOST RECENT YEAR (DISTRICT)	High Need-to-Resource Rural District Y/N	Local Free & Reduced 08-09	Local Free & Reduced 09-10	+/- Percentage Points 08 to 09	NYS Free and Reduced 09-10	Difference Local & NYS Free & Reduced 09-10
Chemung	ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	Y	50%	58%	8%	48%	10%
Chemung	ELMIRA HEIGHTS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	N	40%	39%	-1%	48%	-9%
Chemung	HORSEHEADS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	N	23%	27%	4%	48%	-21%

Housing Characteristics: Nearly 48 percent of Chemung County’s housing units were built before 1950. The majority of units (66 percent) are 1-unit, detached structures. The next largest share (11.3 %) are 2-

⁷ NYSED District Report Cards Steuben County – Accountability and Overview Reports, retrieved from <https://www.nystart.gov/publicweb/County.do?year=2010&county=STEUBEN>

unit structures. The majority of homes (73%) are heated by utility gas, followed by electricity (8.7%) and fuel oil (7.8%).

Housing is considered to be affordable if it consumes less than 30 percent of the household budget. In Chemung County, costs are greater than this for 26.1 percent of owners with a mortgage, for 17 percent of owners without a mortgage, and for 53.1 percent of renters. It should be noted that these figures combined the categories “30.0 – 34.9” and “35 percent or more.” In all cases, a notably larger proportion of people experienced costs of 35 percent or more. This contrast is especially sharp for renters, since 44.5 percent of this group in Chemung County must use 35 percent or more of its income on housing.

Note: Economic, social, workforce and educational data follow in the relevant sections of the report.

Introduction and Human Services System Strengths

This report presents descriptive statistics and perceptual observations concerning needs in the three-county region comprising Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board’s (STC) coverage area: Schuyler County, Steuben County, and Chemung County. The descriptive statistics have been gathered from secondary sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. and NYS Department of Labor, NYS Department of Health, and New York State Kids Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse (KWIC), to name a few. In addition, the report summarizes the perceptions shared by members of STC’s human services committees in focus groups held with these teams in December 2010.

The focus groups, secondary data gathering, and this report have been organized according to four categories characterizing the relevant human services goals of the Appalachian Regional Commission. These categories are: Workforce Readiness and Participation; Child & Youth Care & Development; Health & Well-being, and Senior Care & Support.

The human services committees were first asked to consider the strengths of the system as a means to set a context for later reflecting on how the system can build on its strengths to address needs identified in this assessment. The attributes cited by each group are summarized below.

Human Services System Attributes - Schuyler: Participants in Schuyler County overwhelmingly cited organizations’ **collaborative propensity and activity** as one of the strengths of the local system. (This actually was the case in all three counties.) Participants mentioned good coordination, networking, referrals, sharing knowledge and information, and “working together to better serve clients,” when they pointed to collaboration as a system attribute. The other attributes mentioned fell into two categories: **system capacity** and **system resourcefulness / creativity**. With respect to capacity, participants noted that services are comprehensive even though the county is small and that they “function at a high level” suggesting a standard of professionalism and efforts to improve. Several comments celebrated the system’s resourcefulness. One participant noted that, “We are good at scrounging ... we’re good at finding something to fit the needs.” Other remarks echoed this sentiment by discussing the providers’ ability to “do more with less,” “stretch resources,” and “take an out-of-the-box approach.” There were also comments relating to the **mission and culture** of the system. For example, someone noted that

providers are compassionate, another participant called them “dedicated,” and someone else referred to the system’s responsiveness.

Human Service System Attributes - Steuben: Again, as in Schuyler County, the most popularly cited attribute of the system was its **collaborative character**. Participants pointed to coordination, communication, networking, working closely together, partnership, and mutually beneficial relationships as aspects of “collaboration.” One participant remarked, “Collaborations and partnerships; what we gain from each other is valuable.” This group also claimed the system’s **capacity** as a positive attribute, noting its dedicated professionals, comprehensiveness, reliability, professionalism, and leadership. Similarly, the group made several comments praising attributes associated with **mission and culture**. One participant said, “Everyone is dedicated, committed and caring.” Also noted were the high ethical standards of organizations as well as their inclusivity. Not as prominent, but still identified as a factor, was the system’s **resourcefulness**. One comment called out the ability to predict needs and find a way to coordinate. Another noted being “proactive to affect needs and seize opportunities and do what we can with resources.”

Human Service System Attributes – Chemung: Chemung County practitioners also rated **collaboration** among the local human service system’s positive attributes. Participants cited as examples of collaboration a willingness to share information and work together, the strength of network connections and relationships, and the quality of coordination and communication. In Chemung County, the system’s **capacity** ranked as high as collaboration in terms of the number of comments recognizing aspects of capacity as a positive attribute. For example, participants pointed to the system’s comprehensiveness, longevity of organizations, leadership, expertise, high standards, professionalism, and service variety as positive attributes relating to system capacity. The themes of **mission/culture** and **resourcefulness** also received a handful of comments in Chemung County. Participants called the system, “person-centered” and pointed out its high standards of performance excellence and its work ethic. With respect to resourcefulness, the group noted the ability of practitioners to “come together and problem-solve” and their “openness to being innovative.”

Workforce Readiness and Participation: Secondary Data Overview

Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board and the Appalachian Regional Commission are concerned with strengthening the capacity of people in Appalachia to compete in the global economy. A significant element of that capacity is individuals’ readiness to fill roles in the workforce. Current employment figures and educational indicators are summarized below:

Schuyler County Employment Figures

As of January, 2011, Schuyler County had an unemployment rate of 10.2 percent. Only 22 of New York’s other 61 Counties had a higher rate. The rate is down slightly from the January 2010 rate of 10.6 percent, but up considerably when compared with the rate of 6.9 percent five years earlier, in January of

2006.⁸ In addition, according to the NYS Bureau of Labor Statistics, Schuyler County has lost or seen no change in private sector jobs between February 2010 and February 2011.⁹

The 2005-2009 American Community Survey (2005-2009 ACS) reports that, on average during the five-year period, the largest share (31%) of employed civilians over age 16 in Schuyler County held management, professional and related occupations. Then next largest shares were sales and office occupations at 21.9 percent and service occupations at 19.8 percent. The industry in which the greatest share (29.5%) of jobs were held was Educational services, and health care and social assistance. The next greatest share (16%) of jobs belonged to the manufacturing sector followed by the retail trades sector with 11.6 percent of the jobs.

The large majority (80.8%) of those with jobs commute to work by driving alone in a car, van, or truck. The mean travel time to work in Schuyler County is 25.3 minutes (based on the 2005-2009 ACS). Incidentally, 6.8 percent of “occupied housing units” have no vehicle available to them and 30.9 percent have just one vehicle available. The greatest share of homes (40.2%) had 2 vehicles available.

Steuben County Employment Figures

As of January, 2011, Steuben County’s unemployment rate rested at 11.2 percent. Only 10 of New York’s 61 other counties had a higher rate. The rate is up from its position at 10.9 percent in the same period the previous year. The current rate exceeds the highest rate the county has seen in the past 10 years (11 percent), reached in February of 2010. Five years ago, in January of 2006, the rate was 4.5 percentage points lower at 6.7 percent. The NYS Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that Steuben County has lost or seen no change in private sector jobs between February 2010 and February 2011.¹⁰

The 2009 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (2009 ACS) reports that, on average during 2009, the largest share (32.6%) of employed civilians over age 16 in Steuben County held management, professional and related occupations. Then next largest shares were sales and office occupations at 21.4 percent and service occupations at 18.8 percent. The industry in which the greatest share (28.7%) of jobs were held was educational services, and health care and social assistance. The next greatest share (20.3%) of jobs belonged to the manufacturing sector followed by the retail trades sector with 11.5 percent of the jobs.

The large majority (82.3%) of those with jobs commute to work by driving alone in a car, van, or truck. The mean travel time to work in Steuben County is 22.5 minutes (2009 ACS). Incidentally, 7.3 percent of “occupied housing units” have no vehicle available to them and 35.1 percent have just one vehicle available. The greatest share of homes (39%) had 2 vehicles available.

Chemung County Employment Figures

As of January, 2011, Chemung County had an unemployment rate of 8.8 percent, and only 18 of the other 61 counties in New York had a *lower* rate. This is not quite a full percentage point lower than the rate of

⁸ U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Available at <http://www.bls.gov/data/>

⁹ NYS Department of Labor, Southern Tier Region Labor Statistics. Data retrieved from: http://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/PDFs/cesjobs_map.pdf

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Labor Statistics and NYS Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics

9.4 percent unemployment in Chemung County in January of 2010. It is 3.4 percentage points higher than the rate five years ago, in January 2005, of 5.4 percent. The NYS Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that Chemung County has gained private sector jobs faster than the statewide rate between February 2010 and February 2011. This growth and the comparatively low unemployment rate could be attributable to the opening of the CVS Distribution Center, which added an estimated 600 jobs in the county, and the Amtrak contract secured by CAF USA in the fall, which was expected to create 575 jobs.¹¹

The 2009 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (2009 ACS) reports that, on average during 2009, the largest share (33%) of employed civilians over age 16 in Chemung County held management, professional and related occupations. Then next largest shares were sales and office occupations at 25.9 percent and service occupations at 19.6 percent. The industry in which the greatest share (28.5%) of jobs were held was educational services, and health care and social assistance. The next greatest share (15.8%) of jobs belonged to the manufacturing sector followed by the retail trades sector with 12.1 percent of the jobs.

The large majority (80.8%) of those with jobs commute to work by driving alone in a car, van, or truck. The mean travel time to work in Chemung County is 19.5 minutes (2009 ACS). Incidentally, 10.1 percent of “occupied housing units” have no vehicle available to them and 37.1 percent have just one vehicle available. A slightly higher share of homes (37.8%) had 2 vehicles available.

Schuyler County Education Statistics

According to the 2005-2009 ACS, in Schuyler County, nearly 53.4 percent of the population over the age of 25 has attained *only high school graduation or less*. Only 17 percent has a bachelor’s degree or higher. Of the population over age 3 enrolled in school, 41.8 percent are in grades 1 through 8; 29.7 percent are in grades 9 through 12; 20.4 percent are in college or graduate school, and the remaining 8.2 percent are in kindergarten or preschool.

There are two school districts in Schuyler County: Odessa-Montour Central School District and Watkins Glen Central School District. Odessa-Montour operates two elementary schools and one middle/high school. Watkins Glen Central School District operates one elementary school, one middle school, and one high school. Selected enrollment and performance accountability information is summarized in Table 1 below¹²

DISTRICT	Enrollment 09-10	+/- Enroll since 07-08	Graduation Rate 09-10	Good Standing Y/N	Less Than Half of Students meet learning standards ELA	Less Than Half of Students meet learning standards Math
ODESSA-MONTOUR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	784 (K – 12)	-4.5%	76%	Yes	Grades: 4, 7, 8	Grades: 4, 6, 8

¹¹ U.S. Department of Labor Statistics and NYS Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics

¹² NYSED District Report Cards Schuyler County – Accountability and Overview Reports, retrieved from <https://www.nystart.gov/publicweb/County.do?year=2010&county=SCHUYLER>

WATKINS GLEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	1215 (PreK – 12)	-5.38%	81%	Yes	Grades: 3, 5, 8	Grades: 3, 8
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Table 1: Selected Enrollment and Performance Accountability Data for Schuyler County School Districts

Steuben County Education Statistics

According to the 2009 ACS, in Steuben County, nearly 48.6 percent of the population over age 25 has attained *only high school graduation or less*. Only 21.2 percent has a bachelor’s degree or higher. Of the population over age 3 enrolled in school, 43.9 percent are in grades 1 through 8; 26.5 percent are in grades 9 through 12; 20.2 percent are in college or graduate school, and the remaining 9.4 percent are in kindergarten or preschool.

There are 13 school districts in Steuben County. Combined, these districts operate 43 schools throughout the county. A summary of selected data from their NYSED District Report Cards appears in Table 2¹³:

DISTRICT	Enrollment 09-10	+/- Enroll since 07-08	Graduation Rate 09-10	Good Standing Y/N	Less Than Half of Students meet learning standards ELA	Less Than Half of Students meet learning standards Math
ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	1128 (PreK – 12)	-8%	92%	Yes	Grades: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Grades: 3, 5, 6, 7, 8
ARKPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	562 (PreK – 12)	-3%	94%	Yes	Grades: 5, 6, 7, 8	Grades: 5, 8
AVOCA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	561 (PreK – 12)	-3%	78% (Not AYP)	Yes	Grades: 7	Grades: 7, 8
BATH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	1668 (PreK – 12)	-5%	81%	Yes	Grades: 5, 8	Grade: 5
BRADFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	268 (PreK – 12)	-9%	88%	Yes	Grades: 6, 8	Grade: 7
CAMPBELL-SAVONA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	974 (PreK – 12)	-6%	94%	Yes	Grades: 3, 4, 6, 7	Grades: 3, 4, 6, 8
CANISTEO-GREENWOOD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	932 (PreK – 12)	-5%	82%	Yes	Grades: 3, 5, 7, 8	Grades: 3, 4, 6, 7, 8
CORNING CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	5300 (PreK – 12)	-3%	80%	Yes	N/A	N/A
HAMMONDSPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	505 (PreK – 12)	-10%	93%	Yes	Grade: 5	Grades: 4, 8
HORNELL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	1804 (PreK – 12)	-1%	80%	Yes	Grades: 3, 5, 6, 7, 8	Grades: 3, 6
JASPER-TROUPSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	583 (PreK – 12)	-4%	88%	Yes	Grades: 7, 8	Grades: 7, 8
PRATTSBURGH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	440 (PreK – 12)	-4%	89%	Yes	Grade: 5	N/A
WAYLAND-COHOCTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	1511 (PreK – 12)	-9%	79% (Not AYP)	Yes	Grades: 5, 7	N/A

Table 2: Enrollment and Performance Accountability Data for Steuben County School Districts

¹³ NYSED District Report Cards Steuben County – Accountability and Overview Reports, retrieved from <https://www.nystart.gov/publicweb/County.do?year=2010&county=STEBEN>

Chemung County Education Statistics

According to the 2009 ACS, in Chemung County, 50.6 percent of the population over age 25 has attained *only high school graduation or less*. Only 20.6 percent has a bachelor’s degree or higher. Of the population over age 3 enrolled in school, 38 percent are in grades 1 through 8; 25 percent are in grades 9 through 12; 26 percent are in college or graduate school, and the remaining 11 percent are in kindergarten or preschool.

There are three school districts in Chemung County: Elmira City School District, Elmira Heights Central School District, and Horseheads Central School District. Combined, these districts operate 23 schools. Selected enrollment and performance accountability information is summarized in Table 3 below¹⁴

DISTRICT	Enrollment 09-10	+/- Enroll since 07-08	Graduation Rate 09-10	Good Standing Y/N	Less Than Half of Students meet learning standards ELA	Less Than Half of Students meet learning standards Math
ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	6802 (PreK – 12)	-2%	65% (Not AYP)	Yes	Grades: 3, 5, 6, 7	Grades: 4, 7, 8
ELMIRA HEIGHTS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	1088 (PreK – 12)	+2%	70% (Not AYP)	Yes	Grades: 5, 6, 7, 8	N/A
HORSEHEADS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	4272 (PreK – 12)	+1%	85%	Yes	N/A	N/A

Table 3: Enrollment and Performance Accountability Data for Chemung County School Districts

Workforce Readiness and Participation: Perceptual Insights

Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board convenes a Human Services Committee in each of the three counties in its coverage area. Focus group conversations were held at the December 2010 meetings of these groups to gather perceptual insights from these groups about the nature of needs in each of four topic areas, and ideas for what would help.

The questioning route for the focus groups was designed to prompt attendees to think about community problems and solutions by asking a primary question and a probing question in each of four topic areas. The questions framing the discussion of *Workforce Readiness and Participation* follow:

Workforce Readiness & Participation

Primary: Thinking about your professional experience, what roadblocks do you see that prevent people from getting and keeping jobs?

Probe: What would help?

¹⁴ ¹⁴ NYSED District Report Cards Chemung County – Accountability and Overview Reports, retrieved from <https://www.nystart.gov/publicweb/County.do?year=2010&county=CHEMUNG>

The themes discussed in each county are summarized below. Some of the factors discussed were direct (such as the availability of jobs) while others were contextual (such as the availability of transportation.)

Human Service Committee Focus Group – Schuyler County

Roadblocks Preventing People from Getting and Keeping Jobs: The major themes emerging from the conversation on workforce roadblocks in Schuyler County were **transportation, availability and types of jobs, and skills / education**. Participants noted the lack of a **supportive transportation context** affecting both readiness for *and* participation in the workforce. They commented that the job training programs take place in Corning and public transportation options do not exist for traveling from Schuyler County to Corning. Secondly, commuting to and from work can be a challenge especially for those living in the “outer areas” because the public transportation system does not reach them. Naturally, participants discussed **low availability of jobs** as a factor presenting a roadblock to workforce participation. They cited the lack of full-time jobs specifically, with one participant saying, “We don’t have enough jobs that are decent paying, full-time, and year-round.” Finally, participants discussed a **lack of skills and education** as a key factor preventing workforce readiness and sustained participation. Comments stressed a “lack of marketable skills” and a “low level of education.” In addition to these three prominent themes, a participant pointed out that the high cost of working means that people “work just enough to stay poor.” She was referring to the fact that increased assets from working reduce a person’s eligibility for supports such as food stamps and HEAP ... while working adds new costs for transportation and child care that consume a significant portion of take-home pay. This one-two punch of decreased support and increased expenses raises a barrier to workforce participation. One person said, “You have three facets of the same problem: jobs, child care, transportation. It’s a vicious cycle.”

Things That Would Help People Get and Keep Jobs: Schuyler County participants focused on the **availability of jobs** and a **skilled workforce** as the factors that would help people to sustain workforce participation. In a way, these factors are co-dependent. A skilled workforce has the ability to attract businesses and jobs, but people might be reluctant to invest time in training for “a job that isn’t there.” Also, a comment was made about the need for workforce skills and employer needs to align. Another significant theme emerging in this conversation was the contextual factor of population flight as well as in- and out- commutation. Participants noted that school enrollment has been declining and the population of younger potential workers tends to move elsewhere for jobs. (This fact is corroborated by school district enrollment statistics presented above.) The group also briefly discussed the need for a **supportive housing context** in order for people to have the stability needed for workforce involvement.

Human Service Committee Focus Group – Steuben County

Roadblocks Preventing People from Getting and Keeping Jobs: The strongest theme to emerge in the Steuben County conversation on roadblocks to sustained workforce participation concerned a lack of **skills and education**. The group discussed the lack of “soft” skills as well as a mismatch between the skills developed in educational institutions and those needed by employers. There was a good bit of discussion about how businesses and educational institutions can better align. The group also cited as factors the general **lack of jobs, the lack of job diversity** and the **location of the jobs** that do exist. Someone said, “We need more job diversity. We have waves. The same type of jobs are all lost at once.”

Participants also noted that when jobs are far away, they don't pay enough to cover the increased cost of getting to them, and the distance creates difficulties with child care, too.

Things That Would Help People Get and Keep Jobs: The prominent theme in this portion of the conversation was **skills**, both their **alignment with “contemporary work processes”** and the **soft skills** needed to successfully sustain employment. In addition, it was noted that, “**Job diversity** would help, but that is not New York's strategy. They are focused on clusters and regions.”

Human Service Committee Focus Group – Chemung County

Roadblocks Preventing People from Getting and Keeping Jobs: The Chemung County group's dialogue about roadblocks preventing sustained workforce participation focused mainly on **jobs** and **skills/education**. Participants discussed a lack of concrete and soft job skills, and the perception that education isn't a value for some. Uniquely, this group pointed to a lack of youth employment opportunities as a possible reason young people have not developed such skills by adulthood. A participant in this group also noted a lack of jobs for the well-educated / college graduates. In addition, one participant talked about the contraction of jobs in the manufacturing sector and the need to shift skills to meet changing workforce dynamics.

Things That Would Help People Get and Keep Jobs: The Chemung County group suggested **community supports** that could boost workforce skills. Ideas included apprenticeships, supported employment, peer mentoring, job coaching, and “transitional supports” to deal with the cost of working and loss of benefits as assets rise. Also suggested was Employee Assistance Programs to help new workforce entrants cope with stress accompanying the transition to work.

Child and Youth Care and Development: Secondary Data Overview

The Appalachian Regional Commission aims to increase access to quality child care (including school-age child care) and early education. Data relating to the care and education of young children and youth care and development are presented in this section.

Child Care Demand and Supply Data

The following table shows the estimated demand and supply for early childhood care and school-age child care. It shows that there is a shortage of child care slots to meet the demand except for school-age care in Schuyler County.

To make matters worse, there is a concern among child care leaders about declining numbers of providers, particularly in the family child care category. For example, Steuben Child Care Project's 2010 Child Care Report shows a total of 73 family child care providers. At a meeting held April 18, 2011, the group reported that number at 65.

Estimated Child Care Demand and Supply: STC Region				
<i>Need, demand, and deficits are represented by negative numbers. Supply is represented in positive numbers. Chemung did not have supply data separated by age group.</i>				
	SCH	STB	CHEM	
Children Under 5* (Chemung ^)	-833	-5414	-5111	
Served by Public Programs	162	824	928	
Subtotal	-671	-4590	-4183	
% Kids < 6 with both parents working^	0.652	0.649	0.721	
Est. need for early childhood care unmet by public programs	-437	-2979	-3016	Chemung Total Demand
No. regulated slots to address need: Children < 5	346	1319		-8934
Deficit or Surplus	-91	-1660		
Est. Children Age 6 - 12* (Chemung ^)	-1681	-7310	-7998	
% Kids 6 -17 with both parents working^	0.679	0.73	0.74	Chemung Total Supply
Est. need for school-age care	-1141	-5336	-5919	2459
No. regulated slots to address need: Children 6 -12	1319	1516		
Deficit or Surplus	178	-3820		
Overall surplus / deficit of regulated slots	86	-5480		-6475
*Estimated by County Child Care Resource and Referral Agency in its most recent annual report				
^Based on estimate in the most recent Census Bureau American Community Survey for that county.				

Child Care Affordability Data

The following table shows the fee burden for middle income families based on average fees for child care in New York in 2011¹⁵. This fee burden is compared with that carried by families paying tuition at a SUNY School, showing that sending a child to day care consumes a considerably higher share of family income for middle income families than sending a child to a state college.¹⁶ And, for most families with young children, they have not had the benefit of many years of working and saving for the expense.

Child Care Parent Fee Burden				
		Percent of median Steuben County Income (\$43, 397)	Percent at median Schuyler County Income (\$44,575)	Percent at median Chemung County Income (\$42,420)
NYS Avg 4 yo (avg of naccrra figures for center and family care - one child)	\$10,008	23%	22%	24%
NYS Avg infant (avg of naccrra figures for center and family care-one child)	\$11,909	27%	27%	28%
NYS Hypothetical: 1 infant & 1 4 y.o.	\$21,916	51%	49%	52%
SUNY undergraduate annual tuition, student fees, books	\$7,430	17%	17%	18%

Fee burden for child care compared with fee burden to attend SUNY college at county median-incomes

Child Care Fee Assistance Overview

¹⁵ National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. Child Care In the State of New York 2011. Retrieved from <http://www.naccrra.org/publications/naccrra-publications/publications/SFS-NewYork.pdf>

¹⁶ Estimated tuition and fees retrieved from http://www.suny.edu/student/paying_tuition.cfm

As of February 2011, the threshold to receive a child care subsidy in Schuyler County and Steuben County was 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). In Chemung County the threshold was at 175 percent FPL. At these thresholds, median income-earning households in Steuben and Schuyler Counties would have to have at least four members to qualify for subsidy fee assistance, and in Chemung County would have to have at least five members.

Youth Development Data

New York State sponsors the Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearing House (KWIC)¹⁷. Selected indicators of child well-being in the STC region are described below.

Adolescent Births (Age 15 – 19): The rate of births to adolescent women in 2008 was 29.6 per thousand in Steuben, 38.8 per thousand in Chemung, and 40.5 per thousand in Schuyler. These figures, particularly for Chemung and Schuyler seem high compared with the NYS rate 25.1 per thousand.

Self-inflicted Injuries / Suicide Mortality: The three-year average of suicide mortality rests at one such mortality in Chemung and Steuben, in 2003 – 2005, as well as in 2006 – 2008. In Schuyler County, the number is zero.

High School Drop-out rate: The percentage of students dropping out of high school increased between 2007-08 and 2008-09 in Chemung County by 1.7 percentage points. The rate declined in Schuyler County during the same period by 1.3 points and in Steuben County by about a half of a percentage point.

Percentage of High School Graduates Intending to Enroll in College: The percentage of public high school graduates intending to enroll in college as of the 2008-09 school year in Chemung County was 83.7%, in Schuyler County was 82.4%, and in Steuben County was 81%. These rates reflect relatively steady trends in Chemung and Steuben but a marked increase of 11.2 points for Schuyler County compared with the rate in the 2003-04 school year. They compare with a NYS average rate of 82.5%.

Number of Young Adults Arrested for Drug Use/Possession/Sale: In Chemung County and Steuben County the rate of drug arrests for young adults aged 16 – 21 declined between 2005 and 2007. In Schuyler County, the rate increased by 10.7 between 2005 (23.8 per 10,000) and 2007 (34.5 per 10,000). The statewide rate in 2007 was 211.5 per 10,000.

Number of Young Adults Driving While Intoxicated: The rate of arrests among 16 – 21 year-olds for driving while intoxicated has declined steadily in Schuyler County since 2004 while it has fluctuated in Chemung and Steuben. In Chemung it peaked (of the years compared) at 98.3 per 10,000 in 2004, and rested at 85.7 per 10,000 in 2009. In Steuben, the rate was highest in 2007 at 102.6 per 10,000 and lowest in 2009 at 79 per 10,000. The New York State rate is 39.2 per 10,000.

Incidence of Child Abuse / Maltreatment: The incidence of children in indicated reports of abuse and maltreatment fluctuated between 2004 and 2009 in the three-county area. The rates in 2009 were: Chemung County, 31.4 per 1,000; Schuyler County, 29.8 per 1,000; Steuben County, 27.0 per 1,000. These rates compare with a current statewide rate of 18.8 per thousand.

Number of Children in Foster Care: In 2009, the rate of children and youth aged 0 -21 placed in foster care in 2009 was as follows: Chemung County, 5.1 per 1,000; Schuyler County, 2.5 per 1,000; Steuben County, 3.4 per 1,000. These rates compare with a state rate of 4.2 per thousand.

¹⁷ NYS Kids Wellbeing Indicators Clearinghouse retrieved from http://www.nyskwic.org/get_data/county_report.cfm

In addition to these data from NYS KWIC, a local “risk and preventive” survey report¹⁸ undertaken in Steuben County shows that alcohol use among middle school students declined, while it just slightly fell among high school students, between 2008 and 2010. Meanwhile, tobacco and marijuana use increased among these age groups during the same period.

Child and Youth Care and Development: Perceptual Insights

The STC human service committee focus groups discussed child and youth care and development based on the following guiding questions:

Primary: What is your greatest hope for the babies, children, and youth in our area?

Probe: What stands in their way.

The themes discussed in each county are summarized below. Some of the factors discussed were direct (such as physical health) while others were contextual (such as family support & stability,) and others were cultural, (such as societal values or community norms.)

Human Services Committee – Schuyler County

Greatest Hope for Children: Schuyler County participants expressed a desire for children to become **self-sufficient** and to have a level of **education** allowing them to be “competitive,” including early childhood education. In addition, they hoped that children would have, **parental relationships**, and **community supports** available to them when needed, and that children and youth would choose to access those supports. They want children to have **healthy lifestyles**, and a **hope and confidence** that “they can do better ... they have options ... they have a chance.”

What Stands in Their Way: In discussing barriers to children experiencing what we hope for them, Schuyler County participants emphasized three primary themes: **family support and stability**, **community supports, and cultural factors**. Participants expressed their perception there is a **lack of support and role modeling from parents**. One person remarked, “Many people say ‘these parents’ have lost the personal responsibility and parenting skill set.” They pointed out cyclical issues that become multigenerational norms within some families. Others followed up this sentiment by suggesting a role for **community supports** in the development of parenting skills and the provision of role modeling for children. In addition, the group discussed the broader **cultural and societal context** that they see challenging the wellbeing of children and youth. Participants mentioned, “higher economic standards” and “mass produced commodities.” They saw these as linked to a societal value and normative standard that a college degree is almost a base requirement, and that skilled trades are not valued by society. They said that parents and schools need to “recognize that not all kids go to college” and that “trades are a respectable way to go.”

Human Services Committee – Steuben County

Greatest Hope for Children: Steuben County participants expressed a desire for children to have their **basic needs** for safety and health met while also being loved, nurtured and supported by their **families**

¹⁸ Steuben County Schools Student Risk and Protective Factor Survey 2010 retrieved from http://www.steubenhcn.org/Files/files/steuben_countywide_2010f1.pdf

and communities. One participant summed it up by saying, “That they are happy, healthy, and whole.” Also mentioned were good (and safe) schools, healthcare, and a sense of civic duty. The group expressed a desire for children and youth to have “Good, sound, moral and ethical role models” such as parents, educators and other adults in the community. One participant wished for less availability of drugs and another hoped they would stay in the area and be able to find jobs here.

What Stands In Their Way: The Steuben County group predominantly discussed themes associated with **cultural factors** and a **supportive family context** when thinking about barriers to youth wellbeing. For example, participants mentioned, “pressures” on youth; “the adultification” of kids that leads to high expectations and a mentality that they “should know better;” exposure to risk on the Internet; competitiveness in academic performance and college entrance; and the expectation that all kids will go to college. In terms of family support, participants said that children and youth are challenged by stressful family situations, parents’ competing priorities, divorce, family financial stability, and the pressure their parents feel to provide them with a college education. Like their counterparts in Schuyler County, the Steuben County group talked at some length about the cultural factor of college admissions competitiveness and the normative standard for a college education, concluding that it leads to pressure felt by students to perform academically. Someone said, “Parents and society need to learn it’s okay if your child doesn’t go to college” and the group discussed how communities can do a better job of “showing kids a range of options and other visions of the good life.” They mentioned that society needs to better value traditional trades.

Human Services Committee – Chemung County

Greatest Hope for Children: The Chemung County group expressed a desire for children and youth to have their **basic needs** met, to **develop their potential**, and to **use the community supports** available to them. Participants said they hoped children would have their **basic needs** met for “health,” “safe, adequate housing,” and “food security.” With respect to developing the potential of youth, participants said things like, “That they have an investment in their lives” and that they develop “their own potential, not a box painted for them,” and that they “be viewed as assets.” One participant hoped they would become good citizens, another that they would be self-sufficient, and another that they would have a good education. Someone expressed a hope for children, “To be able to play.” The group discussed at some length the need for a shift to a **culture in which it is acceptable to reach out for help**. Someone felt that young people did not have the motivation to change their behaviors, while someone else suggested they don’t have a high standard for themselves. Another participant mentioned normative family values that resist outside help and that pass from one generation to the next.

What Stands in Their Way: Given some of the cultural factors the Chemung County group brought up when discussing a hope for youth to better access community supports, it is not surprising that their discussion of barriers to wellbeing emphasized the variance in priorities, norms and standards held by different demographic groups. They felt that there was an essential lack of understanding between the human service providers and the populations they serve about what kinds of living conditions, etc., are acceptable. Some participants discussed a lack of trust among populations when it comes to interventional services from government or nonprofit providers. Someone else pointed out that struggling families are most focused on the basics in the hierarchy of needs, which may account for what appears to

providers to be a lower standard. There was a sense that providers are in a difficult position because they “don’t want to judge” but they “have a different view” of what seems to be a desirable standard of living.

Health and Wellbeing: Secondary Data Overview

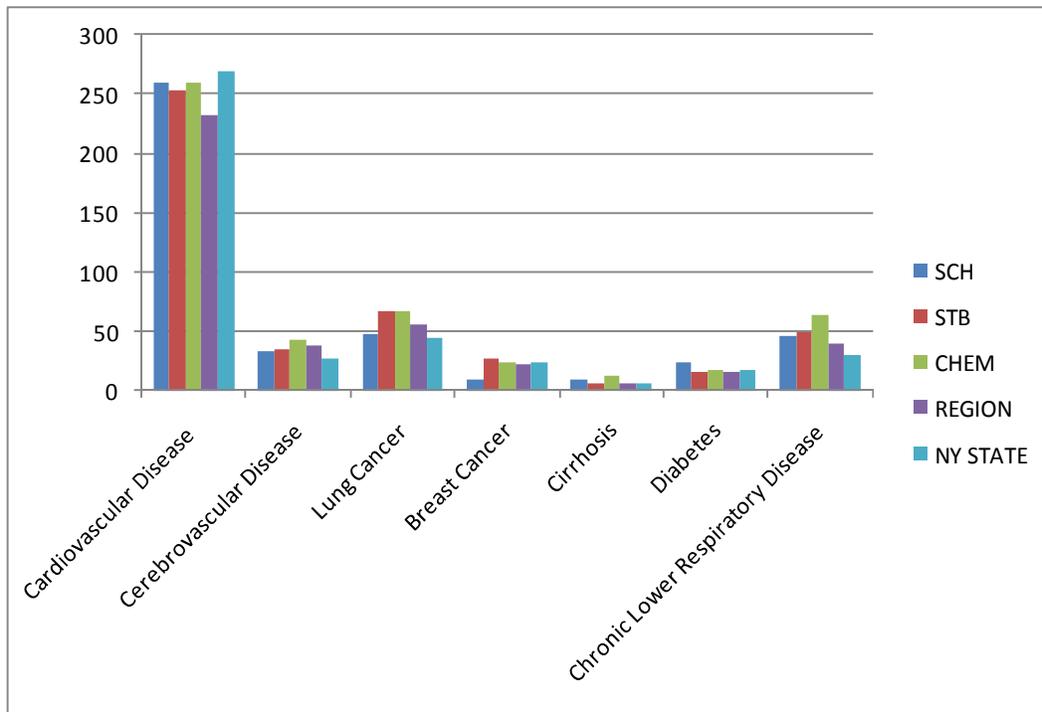
STC Planning works to support the Appalachian Regional Commission’s strategic objectives to provide access to healthcare professionals and to promote health through wellness and prevention. Secondary data relating to community health and well-being, as well as access to healthcare, have been compiled in this section. These data are presented as descriptive statistics; differences have not been analyzed for statistical significance.

It is notable that a web-based health mechanism that ranks New York’s 62 counties based on outcomes and factors ranks Schuyler County at number 3 in *outcomes* but number 35 in *factors*. Steuben County ranked at number 52 on both health *outcomes* and health *factors*. Chemung ranked 59th in *outcomes* and 45th in *factors*. In this ranking method, health outcomes are based on morbidity and mortality figures while health factors weighed are: health behaviors, clinical care, social & economic factors, and physical environment.¹⁹

Health & Wellbeing Secondary Data

The following chart shows **mortality rates from common diseases** in Schuyler, Steuben, and Chemung counties as compared with the Finger Lakes Region and with the whole state of New York²⁰.

Mortality Rates per 100,000 Residents From Selected Common Diseases 2006 – 2008 (Cancer Rates are 2004 – 2008)

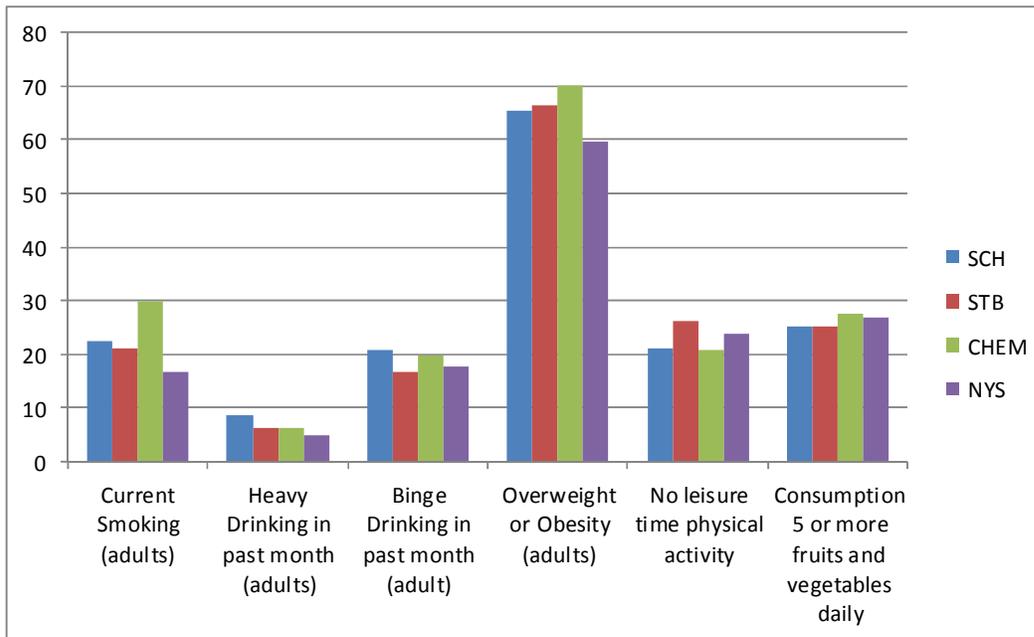


¹⁹ County Health Rankings. Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health. Retrieved from <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/new-york/overall-rankings>

²⁰ NYS Department of Health, Community Health Data Set, retrieved from <http://www.health.state.ny.us/statistics/chac/chds.htm#dis>

The following chart shows the prevalence of selected health risk / preventive behaviors in the STC Region as compared with NY State.²¹

Health Behaviors in the STC Region Compared with NY State (Percentage of Survey Respondents)



The NYS Department of Health’s Community Health Data Sets²² show that alcohol-related motor vehicle deaths for the period of 2007 through 2009 occurred at a rate per 100,000 residents as follows: Chemung, 50.5; Schuyler, 98.8; Steuben, 80.4. The region’s rate per 100,000 was 52.4 and the state’s rate was 37.6 per 100,000. In addition, drug-related hospitalizations during the period 2007 through 2009 occurred in Chemung County at a rate of 30.1 per 10,000 population, in Steuben at 17.7 per 10,000, and in Schuyler at 13.6 per 10,000. The rate of drug related hospitalizations per 10,000 population in the region was 17.0 and in the state was 28.0. Over the same period and beyond, drug arrests in the region did not follow a steady pattern. The following table shows the number of drug-related arrests in the three counties in the region based on statistics from the NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services²³ (felony and misdemeanor drug arrests are combined.)

Drug arrests in the region 2007 through 2011

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Chemung	219	169	201	202	195
Schuyler	15	19	33	20	38
Steuben	149	110	156	159	152

²¹ Expanded Behavioral Risk Surveillance System, NYS Department of Health, County-Specific Reports July 2008 – June 2009, retrieved from <http://www.health.state.ny.us/statistics/brfss/expanded/2009/county/>

²² NYS Department of Health, Community Health Data Sets <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/chds.htm>

²³ NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services statistics retrieved from <http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/stats.htm>

Healthcare Access Secondary Data

Access to Quality Health Care in Schuyler County: The New York State Department of Health reports that there is one hospital in Schuyler County: Schuyler Hospital in Montour Falls (25 beds).²⁴ Schuyler Hospital is designated by the State of New York as a Level 1 Perinatal Center.

The Center for Health Workforce Studies at University at Albany's School of Public Health publishes the *Annual New York Physician Workforce Profile*²⁵. The 2010 edition of this publication shows that there are 31 physicians in Schuyler County, or 162 per 100,000 population. Thirteen of these physicians, or 71 per 100,000, are primary care physicians. The concentration of primary care physicians in urban counties across the NY State was 110 per 100,000 while the concentration in New York's rural counties was 76 per 100,000.

The 2009 American Community Survey does not include health insurance coverage estimates for Schuyler County because the population is less than 65,000. However, the Census Bureau does provide Small Area Health Insurance Coverage estimates, with the most recent year reported being 2007. At that time, an estimated 18.4 percent of residents between ages 18 and 64, and 10.1 percent of those under age 19, was not insured.

Access to Quality Health Care in Steuben County: The New York State Department of Health reports that there are four hospitals in Steuben County: Corning Hospital in Corning (99 beds); Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital in Bath (38 beds); St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell (157 beds), and St. James Mercy Hospital Mercy Care in North Hornell (20 beds)²⁶. Both Corning Hospital and St. James Mercy Hospital are designated by the state as Primary Perinatal Centers, and Corning Hospital is designated as a Stroke Center, too.

The 2010 edition of the *Annual New York Physician Workforce Profile* shows that there are 195 physicians in Steuben County, or 203 per 100,000 population. Seventy-eight of these physicians, or 81 per 100,000, are primary care physicians. The concentration of primary care physicians in urban counties across the NY State was 110 per 100,000 while the concentration in New York's rural counties was 76 per 100,000.

The 2009 American Community Survey estimates that 14.0 percent of Steuben County residents between ages 18 and 64, and 9.5 percent of those under age 19, was not insured. For the unemployed, the rate is 37.5 percent.

Access to Quality Health Care in Chemung County: The New York State Department of Health reports that there are two hospitals in Chemung County: Arnot Ogden Medical Center (216 beds) and St. Joseph's Hospital (224 beds). Arnot Ogden Medical Center is designated by New York State as a Level 3

²⁴ NYS Department of Health, New York State Hospital Profile, retrieved from <http://hospitals.nyhealth.gov/>

²⁵ Center for Health Workforce Studies, University at Albany, *Annual New York Physician Workforce Profile*, retrieved from <http://chws.albany.edu/index.php?nyphysicians>

²⁶ NYS Department of Health, New York State Hospital Profile, retrieved from <http://hospitals.nyhealth.gov/>

Perinatal Center and as a Stroke Center. St. Joseph's Hospital is designated as a Burn Center and as a Stroke Center. It should be noted that these two hospitals in 2010 announced a decision to merge.

The 2010 edition of the *Annual New York Physician Workforce Profile* shows that there are 280 physicians in Steuben County, or 320 per 100,000 population. Seventy-eight of these physicians, or 89 per 100,000, are primary care physicians. The concentration of primary care physicians in urban counties across the NY State was 110 per 100,000 while the concentration in New York's rural counties was 76 per 100,000.

The 2009 American Community Survey estimates that 6 percent of Chemung County Residents under the age of 19 are uninsured and 11.9 percent of those aged 18 – 64 are uninsured. Fully 42 percent of adults in the labor force who are unemployed do not have health insurance.

Health and Wellbeing: Perceptual Insights

The STC human service committee focus groups discussed health and well-being based on the following guiding questions:

Primary: Close your eyes and picture yourself walking through the crowd at the local fireworks display on July 4th. What do you see that concerns you about the health and well-being of the community?

Probe: What resources does a healthy person have that an unhealthy person lacks?

The themes discussed in each county are summarized below. Some of the factors discussed were direct (such as physical health) while others were contextual (such as family support & stability,) and others were cultural, (such as societal values or community norms.)

Human Services Committee – Schuyler County:

What Concerns You: The dialogue in Schuyler County emphasized concerns about wellbeing associated with the **supportive context of family support and stability**. Participants cited as concerns the way parents discipline children, “irresponsible parenting,” and family lifestyles not perceived to be healthy, such as kids being seen out on errands with parents late at night. **Direct health** factors discussed included: frequent use of alcohol, the presence of alcohol at so-called family events, poor nutrition, and the number of overweight or obese individuals seen in the community. One person noted that a positive about community events was that parents and children attend them together.

What Resources Do the Unhealthy Lack: Participants mentioned among the resources lacking by those living unhealthy lifestyles two in particular: **knowledge and time**. There was a perception that some families lacked knowledge about healthy food preparation and cooking, and that community supports could help, especially if they reached families “earlier.” In addition, the group discussed how the demands of today’s busy lifestyles use so much time that families often cannot prepare meals at home or eat together. Someone noted that even families in which one parent is not working face time constraints when their children have to take a bus to school very early, and then return home on a “late bus” after participating in extra-curricular activities after school.

Human Services Committee – Steuben County

What Concerns You: The discussion in the Steuben group started off addressing **direct physical factors**, and proceeded to the **cultural or contextual factors** that may be underlying the concerning conditions they notice in the community. For example, participants mentioned being concerned about: unsupervised and mistreated children, poor nutrition, obesity, poor hygiene, poor dental health, smoking and substance use/abuse. One participant expressed a belief that all of these direct factors seemed to her to fit into a category of a lack of self-respect. The group also discussed **cultural and contextual** factors, such as the concerning ways that parents interact with their children such as, “yelling, swearing, condemning, ignoring” and the exploitation of children in contests, pageants, etc. Some expressed concerns about the

provocative way some young women dress, and about “not-nice sayings” they see on t-shirts that some people wear.

What Resources Do the Unhealthy Lack: The Steuben group emphasized primarily **contextual factors** along with **knowledge / skills**, **access the affordable healthy foods**, and **motivation toward healthy behavior**. With respect to **knowledge** and skills the group referred to access to the Internet and other information repositories that would help people learn more about healthy living. Someone also mentioned that some people lack the knowledge of how to prepare healthy food. In addition, participants noted that **healthier food is more expensive and therefore not as accessible** to those with very limited financial resources. There was some discussion about **good mental health leading people to adopt healthy behaviors**. One participant said, “How to make everyone valued so they stay healthy. Self-worth is a resource of the healthy.” In the same vein, the group touched on cultural norms and standards that allow people to accept their overall health condition and persist in unhealthy behaviors. Finally, the group discussed at some length the **contextual factors** that can serve as positive health resources. These included: events like farmer’s markets, transportation options, EMS systems, health insurance, opportunities for healthy family activities, convenient ways to incorporate physical activity into daily life (such as walkable towns, trails, and safe, accessible parks), youth groups, youth sports, and community events/activities.

Human Services Committee – Chemung County

What Concerns You: In Chemung County, the focus group dialogue started out by identifying **direct factors** that the group has noticed and perceives as concerning. These include: **smoking, obesity, and stress**. They also touched on some **contextual factors** including the increasing level of **poverty, access to health insurance**, and **parental mistreatment of children**. The group discussed **cultural factors** at length. Participants expressed concern about **changing societal standards** about what is acceptable to do or say in public, and they linked this to the idea that behaviors seen on television become normalized in society. They also discussed the **variance in cultural understandings** about standards among different socio-economic groups. Some participants seemed to find it difficult to traverse these variances without being judgmental or “imposing your class” on others. Others seemed to feel frustrated about how “no societal standards” prevents people from intervening or challenging what they see as questionable behavior.

What Resources Do the Unhealthy Lack: It is not surprising after the emphasis placed on culture in the discussion of concerns that the Chemung conversation about resources also focused on **cultural factors**. The participants expressed a belief that people have “instilled habits from parents” and “do what they learned from their parents example.” They touched on the topic of **family norms** that model being proactive and planning versus being reactive to crisis. Someone said, “Seeing cause and effect; many people don’t connect their behavior with consequences.” If translated into resources, these might fall under the headings of (1) **good mental health** that motivates the adoption of healthy behaviors and (2) **knowledge** about planning and predicting future effects of present behavior. In addition, the group again discussed the role of media and “idols” in modeling and normalizing unhealthy behaviors. Someone pointed out that the sway of these celebrities might present an opportunity for them to become **messengers and exemplars of healthy behaviors**.

Senior Care and Support – Secondary Data Overview

Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board is concerned with structuring a community that is supportive of all ages.

Aging Population

Aging Population in the Finger Lakes Region: The Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency published the *Sage Commission First Year Report* in June of 2010. This report projects that the percentage of older adults in the Finger Lakes region will grow by 38 percent between 2007 and 2025 until this group represents 21 percent of the population, compared with about 14 percent, where it stood in 2010²⁷. These figures pertain to the region encompassing the following counties: Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates. The report says that a “perfect storm” is brewing based on the converging factors of the growing population of older residents, a decline in informal care giving, financial instability in health care, and a shortage in the health care provider work force.

Aging Population in Schuyler, Chemung, and Steuben Counties: The following table shows the current^{28,29} and projected³⁰ population of those aged 60 and above in the three-county STC Regional Planning and Development Board service area:

Population Age 60 and Above									
	60-64	65-74	75-84	>85	Total >60	Total Current Population	Projected 2015 Total Pop	Projected 2015 >60 Pop	
Schuyler									
Number	1175	1642	990	338	4,145	18,896	18,941	4,903	
% of Total Population	6.2%	8.7%	5.2%	1.8%		21.9%		25.9%	
Chemung									
Number	4,573	6,369	5,154	2,091	18,187	88,161	82,756	19,848	
% of Total Population	5.2%	7.2%	5.8%	2.4%		20.6%		24.0%	
Steuben									
Number	6,448	7,799	5,347	1,536	21,130	96,552	94,569	25,018	
% of Total Population	6.7%	8.1%	5.5%	1.6%		21.9%		26.5%	
Regional Number	12,196	15,810	11,491	3,965	43,462	203,609	196,266	49,769	
Regional Percent of Population	6.0%	7.8%	5.6%	1.9%		21.3%		25.4%	

Poverty and Social Characteristics

Poverty among Seniors in STC Region: The ACS 5-year estimates for Schuyler County indicate that 5.7 percent of county residents age 65 and above have incomes below the Federal Poverty Level. The ACS

²⁷ Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency, Sage Commission First Year Report, retrieved from <http://www.flhsa.org/Sage/Sage%20First%20Year%20Report%20%28Final%29.pdf>

²⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 – 2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, retrieved from <http://factfinder.census.gov>

²⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, retrieved from <http://factfinder.census.gov>

³⁰ Empire State Development, Project 2015 Population Characteristics by County, retrieved from <http://www.aging.ny.gov/2015/2015PopulationCharacteristicsByCounty.pdf>

2009 1-year estimates show the poverty rate for the same age group in Chemung and Steuben counties as 7.5 percent and 7.8 percent, respectively.

Isolation: In Schuyler County³¹, 805 householders over age 65 live alone. In Chemung County³², 4,594 householders over age 65 live alone and in Steuben County³³, the number is 4,097 older householders living alone.

Responsibility for Grandchildren: The ACS 5-year estimates for Schuyler County suggest that there are 198 grandparents who live with their grandchildren under the age of 18, and 49 of these grandparents are responsible for the grandchildren. In Steuben County, the ACS 1-year estimate of grandparents living with their grandchildren is 1,561, with 1,250 of these having responsibility for the grandchildren. In Chemung County, an estimated 1,322 grandparents live with their grandchildren under 18, and 729 of these grandparents have responsibility for the grandchildren.

Health Data for Regional Population Age 65 and Over

Health Risk Factors Among Residents Age 65 and over in Schuyler County: According to the *Expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System report*³⁴ for Schuyler County for FY 2009, 26.6 percent of residents over age 65 were in poor or fair health. About 42.5 percent of older adults in Schuyler County have a disability. Some 8.4 percent of seniors in the county experienced poor mental health for a period of 14 or more days in the month prior to responding to the survey. Some 63.4 percent of Schuyler seniors have high blood pressure while 25.2 percent have cardiovascular disease and 20.1 percent have coronary heart disease. Just under 7 percent are every-day smokers. More than one in five Schuyler County seniors has been diagnosed at some point in their life with diabetes, while 71.1 percent are overweight or obese. More than 60 percent have chronic joint symptoms and just under 60 percent have arthritis. While 21.6 percent of seniors report having had a fall in the past three months, only 4.6 percent report a fall that caused in injury in that time period. The BRFSS report states that 37.6 percent of Schuyler residents over age 65 report activity limitations because of physical, mental, or emotional problems. A small fraction (4.4%) report binge drinking within the past month, while the numbers were too small to report on heavy drinking. More than 84% of adults age 65 or over had permanent teeth extracted due to tooth decay or gum disease and nearly one in four older adults had *all* of their permanent teeth extracted for these reasons.

Health Preventive Factors Among Residents Age 65 and over in Schuyler County:

Most seniors (98.2%) in the county have health insurance. A significant majority (84.3%) of those over age 65 visited a doctor for a routine check-up within the prior year, while a smaller majority (59%) had visited a dentist in the prior year. About 64 percent had received a flu shot or flu vaccine sprayed in the nose in the year prior to the survey and nearly 69 percent had received a pneumonia vaccine. Healthy majorities have received routine screenings such as mammograms among females (93.8 % “ever” and 78.1% past two years); prostate screenings among males (83.1% “ever” and 77.5 % past two years);

³¹ 2005 – 2009 American Community Survey

³² 2009 American Community Survey

³³ 2009 American Community Survey

³⁴ NYS Department of Health, *Expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System County Reports*, retrieved from <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/brfss/expanded/2009/county/>

cholesterol checks (97.1% “ever” and 95.3% past five years.) A good deal fewer residents but still a majority (65%) have ever received a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy. Among those age 65 or older, 31.8 percent report no leisure time activities and just 23.5 percent report eating five or more fruits and vegetables daily.

Health Risk Factors Among Residents Age 65 and over in Chemung County: According to the *Expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System report*³⁵ for Chemung County for FY 2009, 25.5 percent of residents over age 65 were in poor or fair health. About 39.3 percent of older adults in Chemung County have a disability. Some 5.5 percent of seniors in the county experienced poor mental health for a period of 14 or more days in the month prior to responding to the survey. Some 56.6 percent of Chemung County seniors have high blood pressure while 25.7 percent have cardiovascular disease and 21.5 percent have coronary heart disease. Just over 7 percent are every-day smokers. Just over 23 percent of Chemung County seniors has been diagnosed at some point in their life with diabetes, while 65.8 percent are overweight or obese. More than 57 percent have chronic joint symptoms and 62.4 percent have arthritis. While 17.8 percent of seniors report having had a fall in the past three months, only 6.2 percent report a fall that caused in injury in that time period. The BRFSS report states that 34.3 percent of Chemung residents over age 65 report activity limitations because of physical, mental, or emotional problems. A small fraction (6.8%) report binge drinking within the past month, while an even smaller portion of seniors (4%) report heavy drinking. Approaching 83% of adults age 65 or over had permanent teeth extracted due to tooth decay or gum disease and more than one in five older adults had *all* of their permanent teeth extracted for these reasons.

Health Preventive Factors Among Residents Age 65 and over in Chemung County:

Most seniors (97%) in the county have health insurance. A significant majority (84.7%) of those over age 65 visited a doctor for a routine check-up within the prior year, while a smaller majority (61.6%) had visited a dentist in the prior year. About 75.4 percent had received a flu shot or flu vaccine sprayed in the nose in the year prior to the survey and almost 72 percent had received a pneumonia vaccine. Healthy majorities have received routine screenings such as mammograms among females (94.9 % “ever” and 84.4% past two years); prostate screenings among males (87.3% “ever” and 81.7 % past two years); cholesterol checks (97.3% “ever” and 96.7% past five years.) A good deal fewer residents but still a majority (77.1%) have ever received a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy. Among those age 65 or older, 33.7 percent report no leisure time activities and 30.9 percent report eating five or more fruits and vegetables daily.

Health Risk Factors Among Residents Age 65 and over in Steuben County: According to the *Expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System report*³⁶ for Steuben County for FY 2009, 30.8 percent of residents over age 65 were in poor or fair health. About 37.4 percent of older adults in Steuben County have a disability. The portion of seniors in the county who experienced poor mental health for a period of 14 or more days in the month prior to responding to the survey does not meet reporting criteria. Some 67.5 percent of Steuben County seniors have high blood pressure while 24 percent have cardiovascular disease and 19.8 percent have coronary heart disease. Just over 5.3 percent are every-day smokers. Just

³⁵ NYS Department of Health, *Expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System County Reports*, retrieved from <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/brfss/expanded/2009/county/>

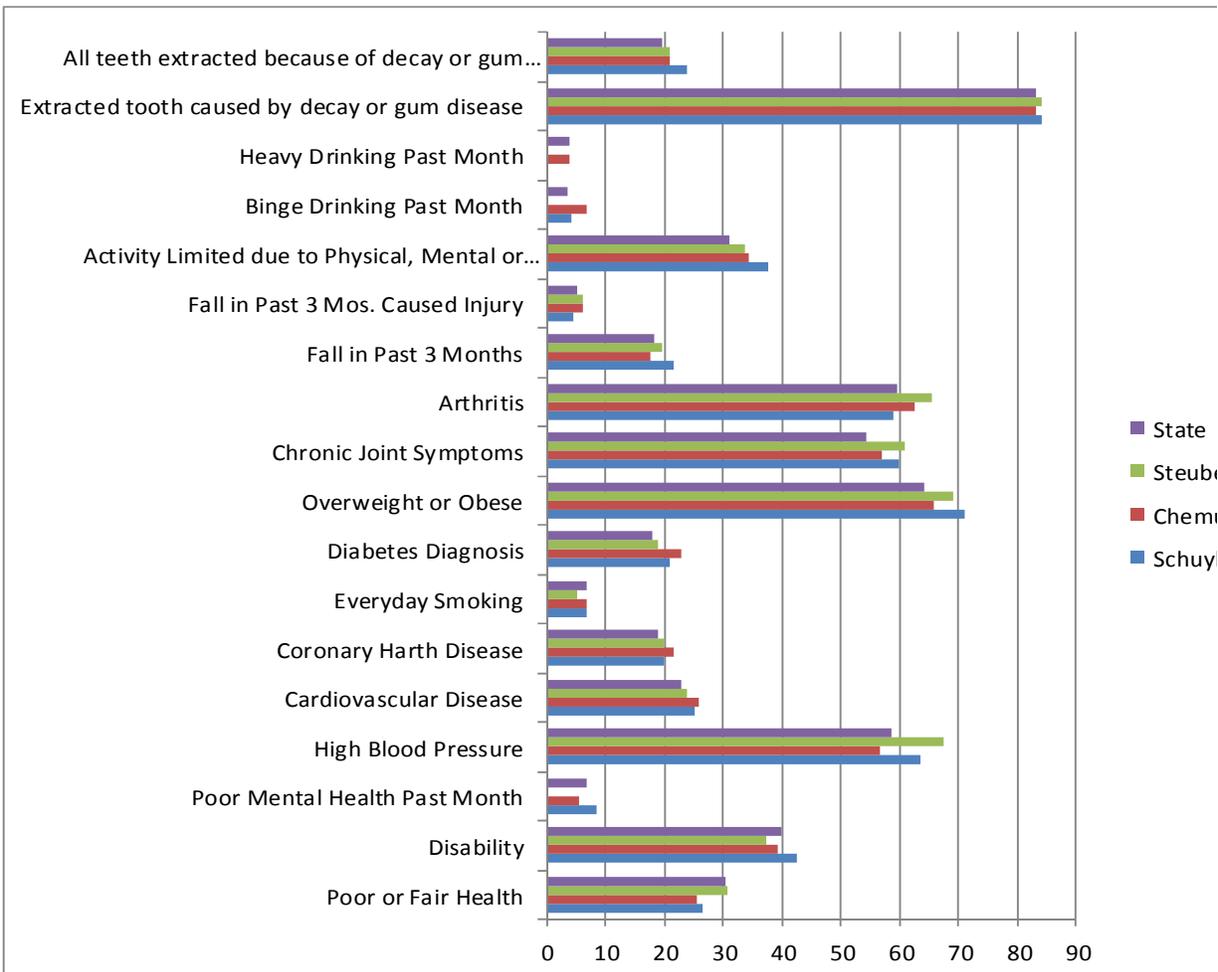
³⁶ NYS Department of Health, *Expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System County Reports*, retrieved from <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/brfss/expanded/2009/county/>

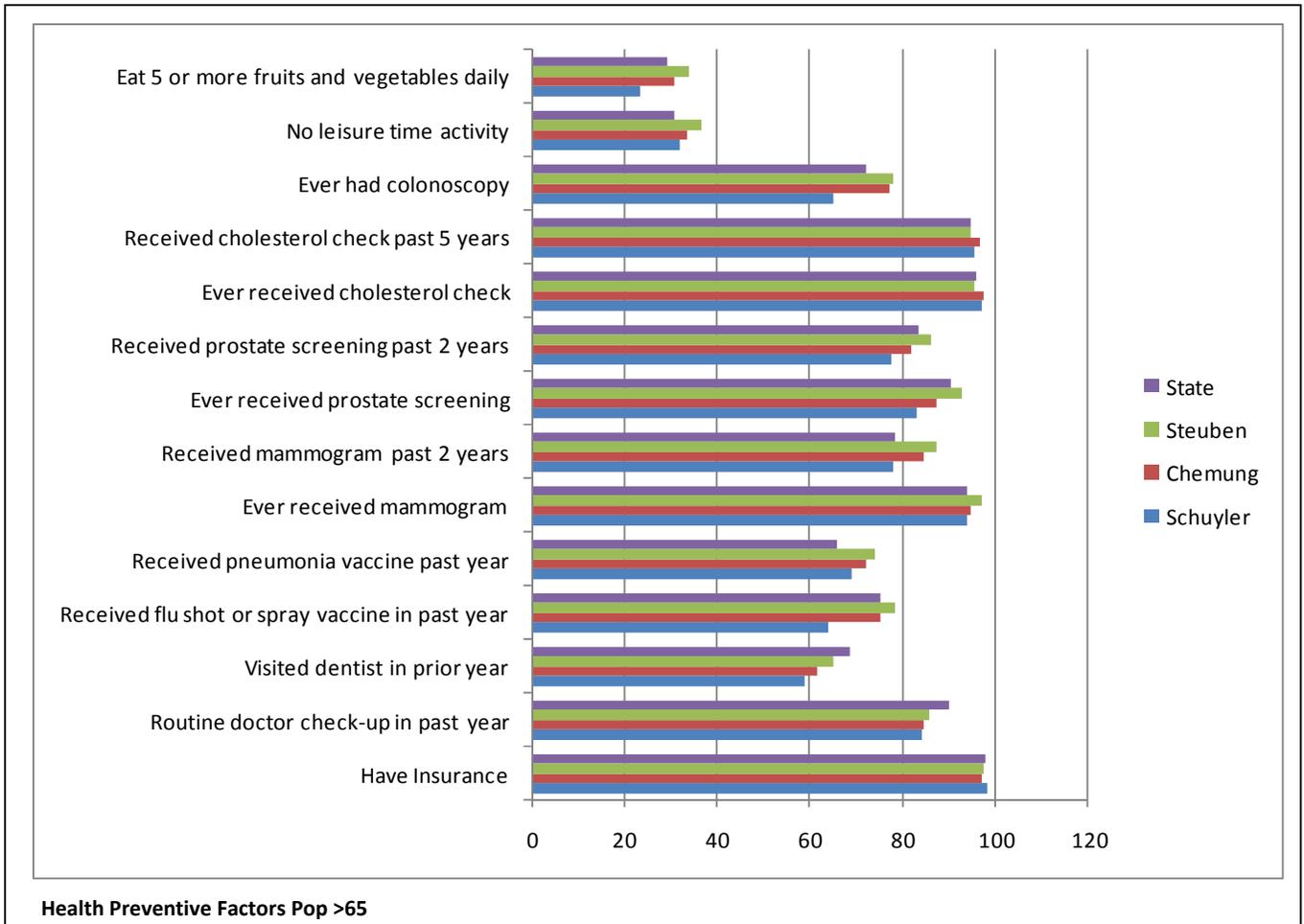
over 18.9 percent of Steuben County seniors has been diagnosed at some point in their life with diabetes, while 68.9 percent are overweight or obese. More than 61 percent have chronic joint symptoms and 65.6 percent have arthritis. While 19.6 percent of seniors report having had a fall in the past three months, only 6.3 percent report a fall that caused in injury in that time period. The BRFSS report states that 33.6 percent of Steuben residents over age 65 report activity limitations because of physical, mental, or emotional problems. Unreportable numbers of older Steuben County residents report binge drinking or heavy drinking within the past month. Just more than 84% of adults age 65 or over had permanent teeth extracted due to tooth decay or gum disease and more than one in five older adults had *all* of their permanent teeth extracted for these reasons.

Health Preventive Factors Among Residents Age 65 and over in Steuben County:

Most seniors (97.3%) in the county have health insurance. A significant majority (85.6%) of those over age 65 visited a doctor for a routine check-up within the prior year, while a smaller majority (64.9%) had visited a dentist in the prior year. About 78.4 percent had received a flu shot or flu vaccine sprayed in the nose in the year prior to the survey and almost 74 percent had received a pneumonia vaccine. Healthy majorities have received routine screenings such as mammograms among females (97.1 % “ever” and 87.2% past two years); prostate screenings among males (92.6% “ever” and 86.1 % past two years); cholesterol checks (95.3% “ever” and 94.9% past five years.) A good deal fewer residents but still a majority (77.9%) have ever received a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy. Among those age 65 or older, 36.8 percent report no leisure time activities and 33.8 percent report eating five or more fruits and vegetables daily.

Health Risk and Preventive Factors Summary Charts





Local Plans Addressing Senior Needs

Chemung County: In January 2011, Chemung County published the *Chemung County Community Empowerment Action Plan* which is a plan to promote successful aging and improve quality of life for all ages. The steering group brought together people representing diverse community groups to assess the community’s assets and needs. Following that process, they developed the action plan, which identifies strategies to address the three common themes uncovered in the assessment process: (1) build a stronger sense of community; (2) improve access to existing services, and (3) coordinate the planning and delivery of services for better effectiveness and efficiency³⁷. Most relevant to this report are the goals and strategies contained in the plan that relate to the coordination of services and communication among service providers for better access, effectiveness, and efficiency in service delivery. It is also noteworthy, however, that the STC Human Services Committee focus groups also discussed “sense of community” in a number of contexts throughout the focus group process.

³⁷ Chemung County Community Empowerment Action Plan, retrieved from <http://www.chemungcounty.com/usr/PDF/AGING/CE%20Action%20Plan%202-17.pdf>

Steuben County: In October 2010, the Steuben Senior Services Fund and the Steuben County Office for Aging published the *Feasibility Study of Services Needed for Aging in Place in Steuben County*³⁸. For this study, a random sample of 3,038 recipients of the OFA's *Second Season* newsletter were surveyed about needs and services in categories including: daily living/home services, health assistance services, specialized services, organized physical activities, organized social activities, continuing education, financial services, and remaining in their own home. It concluded that the top ten services of importance to seniors wishing to age in place were: transportation, transportation to medical services, shopping (groceries), entertainment trips, house cleaning, home health care/personal care aides, home delivered meals, Lifeline (personal emergency response), general handyman services, medical equipment (wheelchairs, beds, walkers, etc.). Incidentally, this study indicates that it is partially funded by a "Community Empowerment Grant" and therefore may have a similar purpose as the Chemung County study cited above. The NYS Office for Aging Web site indicates that the purpose of the Community Empowerment grants was to "support the creation of communities in which older adults can successfully age in place"³⁹

³⁸ Steuben County Office for Aging, *Feasibility Study of Services Needed for Aging in Place in Steuben County*, retrieved from <http://www.steubencony.org/ofa/AAAAFinalStudypaper.pdf>

³⁹ NYS OFA, Community Empowerment Initiative, retrieved from <http://www.aging.ny.gov/NYSOFA/Programs/Volunteer/CommEmpowermentInt.cfm>

Senior Care and Support – Perceptual Insight

The Human Services Committees discussed senior care and support based on the following guiding questions.

Primary: What do you see as the best ways for a society to honor and support its oldest citizens?

Probe: In what ways have we fallen down on the job?

The themes discussed in each county are summarized below. Some of the factors discussed were direct (such as physical health) while others were contextual (such as family support & stability,) and others were cultural, (such as societal values or community norms.) *Please note: In all three conversations, there was not a clear division between the discussion of challenges facing seniors and supports that would help. Therefore, the summaries below reflect a single conversation rather than two summaries for separate dialogues responding to the primary and probe questions.*

Human Services Committee - Schuyler County

Challenges Facing Seniors and Supports That Would Help: The discussion among the Schuyler County group about how best to honor and support older citizens emphasized a **supportive family context**. Participants expressed a **sense of loss for the informal care giving** typical of times gone by. They touched on the overall contextual factors giving rise to the loss of informal care giving in families: divorce, limited income of children to care for parents, children moving and living farther away from parents. Participants also expressed **concern about isolation** and mentioned community supports that could support older citizens, such as conjugate meal programs. Participation in these would depend on other contextual supports such as **transportation**. Someone mentioned that seniors are finding themselves with **fewer financial resources** than they had before the economic decline, and that providers are noticing what they **perceive as a higher incidence of depression and alcoholism** among older residents.

Human Services Committee - Chemung County

Challenges Facing Seniors and Supports That Would Help: The discussion among the Chemung County practitioners emphasized **community supports** as a way to honor older citizens. For example, one participant linked volunteer care giving programs directly to the ability of the elderly to “stay in their own homes as long as safely possible.” The group also discussed at some length a cultural factor of **respect and value for the wisdom and contributions of seniors**. Concern was expressed that supports are needed to “allow elders to become elders” rather than not “getting a break” before becoming caregivers to grandchildren or spouses. One participant mentioned that society could honor older citizens by **protecting them from abuse** and another said honor would be demonstrated by **ensuring dignity** for the aging no matter the setting. The group lamented that **resources for community supports are shrinking** and expressed concern that certain services could be lost. Someone suggested “tapping into” the local

pool of people who could be **trained as caregivers**. Another participant called for **stronger advocacy** on behalf of seniors. Praise was expressed for the RSVP program.

Human Services Committee - Steuben County

Challenges Facing Seniors and Supports That Would Help: The Steuben County group discussed at some length the idea of a **cultural context of respect for elders** and the suggestion of building that context by providing opportunities for unrelated youth and seniors to interact in meaningful, educational ways. The group also discussed the **practical needs** concerning seniors such as “good, clean, safe housing,” safety, health, and assistance with household upkeep. On a related note, a participant invoked the **aging in place** concept and cited the need for “services that aid independent living.” The Steuben practitioners also touched on the need for socialization among seniors through **community supports** such as exercise programs, trust groups, neighborhood and church groups, and natural gathering places. Concern was expressed about **caregiver fatigue** and the **undignified conditions** that exist in many long-term care institutions.

Action Plan

Introduction

After the needs assessment was presented to the committees (in two separate segments), each committee identified conditions of concern, rated their importance, and answered guiding questions designed to determine: (1) if the human service sector has responsibility for preventing or treating the problem, and can effectively do so; (2) if the problem is already fully addressed or if current efforts need reinforcement, and (3) whether better service integration or a new initiative is needed.

The results of this prioritization exercise were then presented back to the groups for further discussion, and the following issue areas were identified as priorities for action. Other areas of concern are also noted. These include issues that rated high in importance, but they may already be partly addressed or did rate high on relevance for human service sector responsibility for the problem.

Priorities for Action: Schuyler County

In Schuyler County, the human services committee identified the following priorities for action, other areas of concern:

Schuyler: Priorities for Action

- Lack of early intervention providers
- Obesity / Nutrition
- Lack of Access to Dental Care
- High adolescent births / unplanned pregnancy
 - *Recent data suggest that adolescent births per se are not higher in Schuyler than in the state, although Schuyler women have babies younger than women across the state. In addition, women in Schuyler have babies within 24 months of each other at higher rates than women across the state. Births at younger ages and this soon after a previous pregnancy are less likely to be planned.*
- Family supportive environments / parenting
- Substance use (including smoking)
- Basic economic stability

Schuyler: Other Areas of Concern

- Education / “push” for college
- Unaffordable housing
- Inadequate emergency response capacity in the county
- Senior isolation
- Low levels of physical activity

Schuyler: Preferred Type of Action

While the committee expressed a belief that some group or groups in the community were already working to address these needs, it still recognized a considerable need for action. Also, on some issues, the human service sector may have a role to play, but is not solely responsible for the scope of action needed to address these problems. Therefore, the committee expresses a preference for action in which human services organizations add value by reinforcing existing efforts within the region.

Priorities for Action: Steuben County

In Steuben County, the human services committee identified the following priorities for action and other areas of concern:

Steuben: Priorities for Action

- Child care
 - Slot shortage (lack of availability of regulated programs) and unaffordability
- Workforce Participation: job scarcity / lack of educational attainment / lack of workforce readiness / poor alignment of workforce skills and employer needs
 - Resulting lack of insurance
 - Resulting low wages and income
- High cost of housing
- Cardiovascular Issues / Overweight and Obesity
- Substance Abuse
 - *This issue did not surface in the original assessment as an area of concern for the county, but those attending the meeting to review and discuss the prioritization rankings believed it is a growing problem locally that should be called out as a priority for action. Data on this issue have since been added to the assessment document in the appropriate sections.*
- Needs of the population aged 80 and over
 - *This issue did not surface as an area of concern in the early steps of prioritization, but was raised in the last review and discussion meeting and added as a priority for action.*

Steuben: Other Areas of Concern

- Transportation, especially for seniors
- Dental health and access to dental care
- Lack of supportive family context

Steuben: Preferred Type of Action

While new initiatives may be called for to address some of the issues listed above, the committee for the most part believed that some group or groups in the community were already working to address these needs, but might require more resources or better service integration. Also, on some issues, the human service sector may have a role to play, but is not solely responsible for the scope of action needed to address these problems. Therefore, the committee expresses a preference for action in which human services organizations add value by reinforcing existing efforts within the region.

Priorities for Action: Chemung County

In Chemung County, the human services committee identified the following priorities for action and other areas of concern:

Priorities for Action

- Workforce Participation: job scarcity / lack of educational attainment / lack of workforce readiness / poor alignment of workforce skills and employer needs
 - Resulting low wages and income
- Smoking and lung health
- Obesity and nutrition
- Psychological wellbeing

Other Areas of Concern

- Foster care rate
- Adolescent births
- Disconnect between high rates of high school students intending to go to college and residents with college degrees
- Healthcare access
- Heart Health
- Dental Care

Chemung: Preferred Type of Action

While new initiatives may be called for to address some of the issues listed above, the committee for the most part believed that some group or groups in the community were already working to address these needs, but might require more resources or better service integration. Also, on some issues, the human service sector may have a role to play, but is not solely responsible for the scope of action needed to address these problems. Therefore, the committee expresses a preference for action in which human services organizations add value by reinforcing existing efforts within the region. In addition, in its final meeting to review priorities, the committee expressed a need for environmental or policy interventions to reinforce activities aimed at helping people change their behavior.

Regional Priorities At-A-Glance

The following chart depicts the complete list of priorities and other areas of concern identified in the three counties. In some cases, they are combined when terms for similar issues differed slightly. The issues identified in all three counties are shaded.

Priorities for Action and Areas of Concern	Schuylers	Steuben	Chemung
Lack of early intervention providers	X		
Obesity / Nutrition /Cardiovascular Issues / Heart Health	X	X	X
Lack of Access to Dental Care	X	X	X
High adolescent births / unplanned pregnancy	X		X
Family supportive environments / parenting	X	X	
Substance use (including smoking)	X	X	X
Basic economic stability / low income	X	X	X
Workforce Participation: job scarcity / lack of educational attainment / lack of workforce readiness / poor alignment of workforce skills and employer needs	Note: low income / economic stability were linked to workforce participation in all cases.	X	X
Lack of insurance / healthcare access		X	X
Child care: Slot shortage (lack of availability of regulated programs) and unaffordability		X	
High cost of housing	X	X	
Needs of the population aged 80 and over	X	X	
Psychological wellbeing			X
Education / “push” for college	X		
Inadequate emergency response capacity in the county	X		
Low levels of physical activity	X		
Transportation, especially for seniors		X	
Foster care rate			X
Disconnect between high rates of high school students intending to go to college and residents with college degrees			X