Mid-Hudson Valley Community Profiles

Regional Overview

June, 2024

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June, 2024

Prepared for:
Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan, Dyson Foundation, United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region

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Summary

The Mid–Hudson Valley Community Profiles project represents a commitment by four of the region's leading philanthropic organizations to provide the public with continuously updated comparative information regarding Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan and Ulster counties. The project is designed to provide government and nonprofits with an important tool for assessing and understanding the populations they serve.

The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan, Dyson Foundation, United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region jointly commissioned the Center for Governmental Research (CGR) to collect and analyze the data and maintain the website. With input from local health and human service providers, the four organizations selected 60 indicators within the following fields to be included on the site: Children & Youth, Community, Demographics, Economy, Education, Financial Stability, Health, Housing and Racial Equity.

Seven new indicators were added to the website as part of this year's update:

- Arrest Rates, by Race/Ethnicity
- Incarceration Rates, by Race/Ethnicity
- Households Receiving SNAP
- Food Insecurity
- People Newly Diagnosed with HIV
- Homeownership Rates, by Race/Ethnicity
- Cost of Rent, by Race/Ethnicity

This web-based project provides an "apples–to–apples" understanding of regional trends and comparative information that has been difficult to obtain in the past because of variations in how each county reports certain types of information. The project enables organizations to track community conditions, develop programs, and affect change that will ultimately contribute to the well–being of citizens in the Mid–Hudson Valley.

This Overview highlights findings from each of the nine topics for the Mid-Hudson Valley region.

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A Portrait of the Region

While the Mid-Hudson Valley continues to be a strong region of New York State with below average poverty and above average incomes, living there is becoming harder. The cost of housing and inflationary pressures more generally have pushed living expenses beyond what many residents can afford to pay.

Median household income has increased modestly over the last decade, rising 4% in the last decade to $87,100 in 2018-22. White residents had the highest median incomes ($105,500), while African American residents' median income ($66,300) was only 62% of that of White residents. The affordability ratio showed that homeownership was unaffordable for all at 3.6 (2-3 is considered affordable). However, homeownership rates were lower for Hispanic and African American residents (at 56% and 45% respectively) compared to White and Asian residents (75% and 73% respectively). Renters spent 32% of their median household income on rent, above the federal affordability guideline that housing should cost no more than 30% of household income. Rental housing was less affordable for African Americans, who spent 35% of their income on rent, compared to Asian and Hispanic renters (both 30%) and White renters (29%).

Other necessities such as food could also be unaffordable for some. The number of households facing food insecurity has decreased in the last decade, but remains a challenge for some. 8% of households in the region were considered food insecure, with the rate in Sullivan and Ulster county at the highest in the region, 10%, the same as the rate for both the state and the nation. In 2018-22, 9% of households reported receiving SNAP, less than both the national rate of 12% and state rate of 11%. Rates varied throughout counties with Sullivan reporting a rate of 16% and Putnam a rate of 4%.

And racial and structural inequity continues in the Mid-Hudson Valley, as it does throughout the U.S. Incomes are lower and poverty higher for African Americans and Latinos – for example, child poverty rates are 21% for Black children, 17% for Latino, 14% for White and 12% for Asian children. Both incarceration and arrest rates were also higher for African American and Hispanic residents compared to other racial and ethnic groups.

On the positive side, jobs in the region are increasing, and growing economic sectors include traditionally high-paying ones such as Financial Activities and Professional and Business Services. The population of the region continues to increase and is up 2.7% since 2010, with growing diversity include 11% of residents being foreign-born.

Note: In this report, comparisons to state statistics reflect the state excluding New York City.

Children and Youth

The challenges facing our community's children can diminish their chances for successful adult lives. In this section we review several indicators that describe family supports and risk exposure of our youngest residents.

There are slightly less children living in poverty in 2018-22 than in 2013-17, similar to state and national trends. In 2018-22, about 15% of children in the region were living in poverty, down 1 point since 2013-17 and lower than the national rate (17%). Putnam County had the lowest rate of child poverty in the region (6%), while Sullivan County had the highest percentage of children living in poverty (23%). Poverty was highest among African American (21%) and Hispanic (17%) children in the Mid-Hudson Valley region in 2018-22. White children (14%) were less likely to be living in poverty, though this represents a 1 point increase since 2008-12.

There are more single–parent families in the region, though still below the state and nation. The proportion of single–parent families in the region increased 2 percentage points from 2008-12, similar to state and national trends. In 2018-22, slightly less than one–third (30%) of families in the region were headed by single parents, below the rates for the state (excluding NYC) (31%) and nation (34%). Sullivan (40%), Ulster (37%), and Columbia (39%) counties had the highest proportion of single–parent families, while Putnam had the lowest (22%). Over half (57%) of African American families in the region were headed by single parents, the highest of any racial or ethnic group. This was below the rates for African American families throughout the state (excluding NYC) (65%) and nation (67%). In the region, 37% of Hispanic families and 27% of white families were headed by single parents.

Rates of child abuse and neglect have slowly decreased since 2010. In 2022, there were 10 abused children for every 1,000 children in the region, down 42% from 2010 and below the statewide rate of 14. Rates were lowest in Orange (8 per 1,000) and Putnam (7 per 1,000) counties and highest in Greene County (27 per 1,000 children under 18).

Foster care admissions are decreasing, though the regional rate is higher than the state's. The rate of children admitted to foster care declined to 1.5 children per 1,000 in 2022, from 2.6 in 2010. The rate is the same as the statewide rate of 1.5 children per 1,000. Admissions were greatest in Greene County, with 5.7 children per 1,000 admitted to foster care, followed by Sullivan and Columbia (both 2.1,).

The region has seen a dramatic decline in the teen pregnancy rate, which is similar to state-wide trends. In 2021, the last year data was available, the number of pregnancies among females 12-19 was 0.8%, a 58% decline over the previous decade. Teen pregnancy was highest in Sullivan County at 1.7% and lowest in Putnam County at 0.4%.

Community

Community engagement is the extent to which individuals take responsibility for addressing civic issues and improving the life of their community. In all cases, comparisons to state statistics reflect the state excluding New York City.

The region's voter registration rates have remained steady at above 80%, yet they are persistently a bit lower than the state.
Between 2010 and 2020, the average voter registration rate was 84% for the Mid-Hudson region and 84% for the state. Of the region's voting-age residents, 87% were registered in 2022, compared to 89% of the state overall.

Voter registration rates vary somewhat across the region. Columbia County's registration rate has been greater than the statewide rate in every year since 2010. In 2022, Columbia County (96%) had the highest registration rate of the seven counties.

Voter turnout in the region approaches 64% in presidential election years, and is about even with the state rate. The rates are lower in midterm election years.
In the 2022 midterm election, voter turnout in the region was on par with the state. Turnout was highest in Columbia (58%) and lowest in Sullivan County at 40%.

Violent crime rates have decreased across the region. In 2022, the Mid-Hudson Valley region had 17 violent crimes reported per 10,000 residents, below the state rate of 21 violent crimes per 10,000 residents. This was a 26% decrease in the rate of violent crimes since 2010, compared to a 12.5% decrease statewide. Greene (42) and Orange (18) had the highest rates in the region, while Putnam (6) had the lowest. All counties, except Greene, experienced a rate decrease since 2010.

The rate of domestic violence decreased in the Mid-Hudson Valley region. The region had a 16% decrease in the rate of reported domestic violence between 2010 and 2022. In 2022, there were 32 reports of domestic violence per 10,000 residents in the region, down from 38 in 2010 and below the state rate (44). The rate grew the most in Orange County, increasing 30%, in contrast to Greene and Putnam counties, which had decreases of 56% and 69%, respectively, since 2010.

Arrest rates in the region were below the state rate (excluding NYC) in 2022. Rates per 10,000 residents were highest amongst Black or African Americans (40), followed by Hispanics (20) and Whites (10). Rates for all racial groups were highest in Greene and lowest in Putnam (for Black and White residents) and Dutchess (for Hispanic residents).

In 2018, **Incarceration rates were above the state rate (excluding NYC) for most racial/ethnic groups.** Rates per 10,000 were highest amongst African American residents

(89), three points higher than the state rate. The next highest rate was Hispanics (26), followed by Native Americans (25), Whites (17) and Asians (10). Incarceration rates for all groups except Whites have decreased in the region since 2000.

Demographics

Population measures provide insight on the changing size and face of communities, and an area's needs and assets.

The total population of the Mid–Hudson Valley Region is growing. Counter to the population declines experienced in Western and Central New York, most of the seven counties in the Mid-Hudson Valley region have gained residents since 2010. From 2010 to 2022, the region gained 2.7% more residents, higher than the state (1.2%), yet below the rate for the nation (7.9%). Orange led the region with its 8.9% growth, followed by Sullivan (2.8%), while Columbia (-2.8%), Greene (-2.3%) and Putnam (-1.6%) all decreased.

The population over the age of 60 has been growing the fastest, while the population under 20 has been shrinking. All counties in the region are experiencing the "graying" phenomenon affecting much of the country. Since 2008-12, the 85 and over age group grew the fastest, at 48% for Greene and 19% for the region overall. The under 20 group shrank 9% throughout the region. Columbia and Greene had the largest declines in population under age 20 (both down 22%) while Orange increased (2%).

While the counties are gradually becoming more diverse in terms of race and ethnicity, they remain overwhelmingly white. Despite the percentage increases in minority populations and a modest decline in the white population (8%), the region remains predominantly white, representing 73% of total residents. Hispanics and African Americans were the region's fastest growing racial groups, both up 32% from 2008-12. Putnam had the greatest increase in Hispanic and African American population2, at 46% and 63% respectively. The Asian population was the next fastest growing group in the region, growing by 9%.

Regionally, married couples without children were the most common household type, similar to state and national trends. In 2018-22, 30% of households were made up of married couples without children and 20% were married couples with children. Among the counties, Sullivan and Ulster had the largest share of households composed of people living alone, both at 33%, and Orange had 26% of households made up of married couples with children.

The <u>foreign-born share of the population</u> in the region has increased since 2008-12 to 11%. Putnam County had the largest share of foreign-born population (14%) followed by Orange, at 12%, while Greene has the smallest share (6%) in 2018-22.

Economy

A vibrant economy is the foundation of a thriving community.

Regional <u>job growth</u> increased in 2022, recovering from pandemic lows.
The region's total number of jobs increased 4.6% in 2022 as it recovered from job losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a similar rate of increase as the state and nation. All of the region's counties experienced increases in total jobs from 2021 to 2022. Sullivan had the highest increase at 5.7%, followed by Orange at 5.3% and Putnam at 5.2%.

Some of the largest <u>employment sectors</u> in the region added and lost a significant number of jobs between 2001 and 2022.
Industries with the largest gains were Financial Activities (91%) and Educational Services (52%), while the Manufacturing and Information sectors experienced decreases of 33% and 25%, respectively. Orange and Putnam counties had the largest total gains at 33% and 32%, respectively while Dutchess and Ulster counties experienced 10% and 9% modest increases, respectively.

<u>Spending by county government,</u> after adjusting for inflation, grew 24% from 2010 to 2022.
County government spending per capita for the region was about $2,300 in 2022. From 2010 to 2022, per capita spending increased the most, 45%, in Dutchess and Putnam Counties followed by 40% in Greene. In 2022, Sullivan County had the highest county spending ($3,300), while Putnam had the least ($2,015).

<u>Tourism revenue</u> increased 63% in the region since 2010.
Tourism revenue rebounded from the COVID pandemic, increasing 54% from 2020 to 2021 and an additional 10% from 2021 to 2022. Per-resident revenue was highest in Sullivan ($11,200) and Greene ($5,900) counties on a per-capita basis. Adjusted for inflation, tourism revenue per capita declined after the Great Recession in 2008, rebounded from 2010 to 2019, declined in 2020, and recovered to its pre-pandemic levels in 2021.

Education

Quality educational opportunities are critical to helping our children develop to their maximum potential and to our community's ability to compete in the global economy.

The percentage of preschoolers receiving special education services has been increasing since 2000.
From 2000 to 2022, the share increased 1.9 percentage points, similar to the state percentage. In 2022, 6.4% of all 3- to 5-year-olds in the region and 6.3% in the state were receiving special education services.

Prekindergarten enrollment has risen since 2012 and has surpassed the rate for the state.
About 34% of the region's 4-year-olds were enrolled in publicly funded prekindergarten programs in 2022, above the 29% rate for the state. Participation was highest in Greene and Orange counties (48% and 40%, respectively), followed by Sullivan (37%). Ulster had the lowest enrollment, at 31%.

Per–student spending by school districts is slightly higher in the region than in the state.
In 2022, per-student spending by school districts in the region was approximately $31,200, more than the state at $28,800. Per-student spending in the region has increased 19% since 2010, even after adjusting for inflation. Spending in Sullivan County was the highest in the region, about $35,400 per student, followed by Columbia County school districts at $34,100 and Putnam County at $34,000. Dutchess and Orange counties were the lowest in the region, at about $29,500 and 29,900 per student, respectively.

The region has lower passing rates on fourth–grade English exams than the state.
The 2023 passing rate of 43% in English was 2 points below the state rate. Passing rates on state tests were significantly lower for low-income, English language learners, and students with disabilities than for their peers. In the region, 29% of low-income fourth graders passed the English exams and only 9% passed among English language learners and 11% students with disabilities. Sullivan and Ulster counties' economically disadvantaged students had the lowest proficiency rate among the counties at 19% and 26%, respectively. Dutchess had the highest at 33%.

The region has lower passing rates on fourth–grade math exams than the state.
The 2023, the region's passing rate of 47% in math was 6 percentage points below the state. Passing rates on state tests were significantly lower for low-income, English language learners, and students with disabilities than for their peers. In the region, 33% of low-income fourth graders passed the math exams, 13% of English language learners, and 15% of students with disabilities. Sullivan County had the lowest proficiency rate among economically disadvantaged students, at 24%, and Putnam had the highest, at 40%.

Both high school graduation and dropout rates are in line with statewide trends.
By 2023, 87% of the region's 2019 cohort graduated on time, similar to the state (88%). About 6% of the cohort dropped out, similar to the state rate.

Education levels among adults are rising, with more having a college education.
In 2018-22, 63% of adults had attended at least some college, up from 59% in 2008-12 and one percentage point above the nation. About 35% of the region's residents had a 4-year degree or higher in 2018-22, compared to 30% in 2008-12. Just 9% of residents in the region did not have a high school diploma in 2018-22. Educational attainment among counties in the region was highest in Putnam County, with 43% of residents possessing a 4-year degree or higher, compared to 28% in both Greene and Sullivan.

The share of residents with a bachelor's or higher was highest among Asians in the region (53%), followed by whites (37%), African Americans and Hispanics (both 23%). Still, those figures reflect increases of 3 percentage points for African Americans and 6 points for Hispanics from 2008-12.

Financial Stability

Indicators of financial stability are a critical benchmark of a community's well–being.

Regionally, median household income has increased modestly over the last decade or so. The region's 4% increase over this period was below the state (outside New York City) and the nation, which increased 6% and 11%, respectively.

The median household income in the Mid-Hudson Valley was $87,100 in 2018-22, higher than both the state (excluding NYC) and national medians of $83,800 and $75,100, respectively. Median incomes were higher than the region in Putnam ($121,000), Dutchess ($94,600) and Orange counties ($91,800), while Ulster ($77,200), Greene ($70,300) and Sullivan ($67,800) were lower.

Asian and White residents in the region had the highest median incomes, at $105,500 and $89,700, respectively. African American and Hispanic residents had the lowest median incomes at $66,300 and $80,500, respectively, though both exceeded rates for their respective groups in the state and nation.

Poverty rates in the region are below the nation.
In 2018-22, about 11% of the region's residents were living in poverty, on par with the state and lower than the nation (13%). Sullivan and Ulster County had the highest poverty rates in the region, at 15%. Putnam County had the lowest at 6%, followed by Dutchess at 9%.

Poverty rates were highest among Black or African American residents at 18%, and Hispanic residents at 14%, followed by White residents at 10% and Asian residents at 12%. About 8% of seniors and 5% of veterans were living in poverty in 2018-22. While poverty is relatively low at 11% for the region, another 13% of residents had incomes

between 100% and 199% of the poverty level, and 13% were between 200% and 299% of poverty.

The number of households facing food insecurity has decreased in the last decade, but remains a challenge for some. 8% of households in the region were considered food insecure, with the rate in Sullivan and Ulster county at the highest in the region, 10%, the same as the rate for both the state and the nation.

In 2018-22, 9% of households reported receiving SNAP, less than both the national rate of 12% and state rate of 11%. Rates varied throughout counties with Sullivan reporting a rate of 16% and Putnam a rate of 4%.

More students were economically disadvantaged in 2023 compared to 2013 in the region.
In 2023, 46% of students in the region were economically disadvantaged, representing over 68,400 children. This was slightly above the statewide (excluding NYC) rate of 44%. Sullivan County, at 60%, had the highest rate in the region, followed by Ulster at 51% and Columbia at 50%. The lowest rate was in Putnam, at 32%.

A low percentage of children are receiving subsidized child care.
In 2022, 0.9% of the region's children participated in subsidized child care, below the rate of 1.7% for the state. Since 2007, the region's rate of subsidized child care participation has decreased by nearly 53%.

A lower percentage of the region's population received the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) than nation.
In 2021, 15% of tax filers in the Mid-Hudson Valley received the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the same as statewide (excluding NYC) and less than 20% nationally. The rates for each county, the state (excluding NYC) and nation have remained relatively unchanged since 2011.

Health

Healthy communities are built on a foundation of healthy children, youth and adults.

The rate of individuals without health insurance fell between 2008 and 2021.
The percentage of residents under the age of 65 without health insurance in the region fell from 13% in 2008 to 5% in 2021. This puts the region on par with the statewide rate yet below the national rate (10%). Columbia, Greene, Ulster and Sullivan counties were on the higher end of rates of uninsured residents (6%), while Putnam had the lowest rate, at 4.7%.

Early prenatal care rates varied among racial and ethnic groups throughout the region, similar to statewide trends.
In 2021, the share of white mothers receiving early prenatal care ranged from 91% in Putnam County to 60% in Sullivan County. African American mothers' rates ranged from 86% in Putnam County to 17% in Greene County. Rates among Hispanic mothers ranged from 76% in Dutchess County to 57% in Sullivan County. Dutchess and Putnam counties were the only counties to surpass statewide rates for each racial and ethnic category.

The rate of low birth weight babies increased since 2000, similar to statewide trends.
In 2021, 7.2% of babies born in the region had low birth weights, below the state and national rates of 7.9% and 8.5% respectively, but up from 6.5% in 2000. Sullivan County had the lowest rate in 2021 (6.2%), while Greene County had the highest rate, at 8.5%, followed by Dutchess (8.3%).

Deaths from drug poisoning have increased in the region similar to statewide and national trends.
There were 35 drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 residents in the Mid-Hudson Valley region in 2021, an increase of nearly 750% since 2000. That put the region above the state and national rates of 27 and 34 respectively. Sullivan County had the highest rate of drug poisoning deaths in the region at 53, followed by Dutchess and Greene (both 37). Columbia and Putnam counties had the lowest rates (26 and 29 respectively).

The rate of people living with HIV has slightly increased since 2002 in the Mid-Hudson Valley region; however, the rate of newly diagnosed cases has decreased since 2016. In 2022, there were 103 people per 100,000 residents with HIV, slightly above the state rate of 94. The rate has increased by 2% in the region since 2002, in contrast to an increase in the state (21%). Columbia County had a rate of 148 per 100,000 residents While Putnam County had the lowest rate in 2022, at 70 people per 100,000 residents with HIV. The rate of newly diagnosed cases in the region has decreased by 64% from 2016 to 2022, going from 7.4 per 100,000 residents to 3.8 per 100,000 residents, below the state rate (excluding NYC). Putnam had the highest rate of new cases (5.1) while Greene had the lowest rates (0).

The region's rate of mental health clinic visits slightly increased since 2001. There were 6.1 mental health clinic visits per 1,000 residents in the region in 2022, compared to 6.0 in 2001. Putnam had the lowest rate (5.1), followed by Orange (5.7), and Greene County (10.2) had the highest rate. Dutchess and Sullivan counties had the largest decline (both 29%), compared to a 2% increase region-wide, while Greene County had the largest increase (80%).

Housing

Housing fulfills the basic human need for shelter and is a strong measure of a community's cost of living, relative wealth and general prosperity.

Homeownership rates have remained steady across the region and on par with the state at 71%.
Rates were similar across the Mid-Hudson Valley, except Putnam County with the highest rate at 84% in 2018-22. Rates varied greatly based on race/ethnicity with Whites and Asian rates at 75% and 73% respectively compared to 56% for Hispanics and 45% for African Americans.

The Mid-Hudson Valley experienced a decrease in the rate of homelessness since 2007.
In 2022, there were 15 homeless people per 10,000 residents in the region, or nearly 1,500 people. Among the counties, Ulster County had the highest rate at 22 homeless people per 10,000 residents, followed by Dutchess County (21). Orange County had the lowest rate at 8 homeless people per 10,000 residents in 2022. The region's rate of homelessness decreased by 21% between 2007 and 2022, more than the 19% decline in the national rate.

Owning a home in the Mid-Hudson Valley has become more affordable since 2008-12, but homeownership remains unaffordable for many.
The affordability ratio (median home value divided by household income) was 3.6 in the region in 2018-22, down from 4.2 in 2008-12. Across the region, ratios ranged from a low of 3.2 in Sullivan County to a high of 3.7 in Ulster, Dutchess and Orange counties - all approximately at or above the 3.0 considered affordable.

Rental housing has become more affordable between 2008-12 and 2018–22, similar to the state trend.
Region-wide, 32% of the median household income went to cover rent in 2018-22, above the federal affordability guideline that housing should cost no more than 30% of household income. Renters in Orange and Ulster had the highest shares of income going to rent (both at 35%) while Greene, Putnam, and Sullivan had the lowest at 30%. All counties were above the 27% spent statewide (excluding NYC). These shares remained fairly steady from 2008-12 in every county except Putnam and Sullivan, which saw 8 and 5 point decreases, respectively. Rental housing was considered less affordable for African Americans, who spent 35% of their income on rent, compared to Asian and Hispanic renters (both 30%) and White renters (29%).

Racial Equity

Addressing racial inequity is essential to improving quality of life for all and requires attention on the national, state, and local level. For our region, we examine a wide range of indicators that highlight racial and ethnic disparities in key indicators, spanning Education, Financial Stability, Health and other areas.

While racial disparities exist on a state and national level, it is important to understand how structural inequity impact residents of the Mid-Hudson Valley. While each indicator is illuminating and significant on its own, examining the indicators as a group tells a broader narrative about the effects of systemic racism. The differences we see in critical outcomes such as education achievement and homeownership can be traced back through our history in the United States of building systems and policies that oppress and harm Black, Latino, indigenous and other peoples.

These policies and systems, which have had compounding negative effects on people throughout generations, include housing policies such as redlining, employment discrimination, unequal access to opportunities to build wealth, education systems that fail to equitably serve all populations, inadequate health care delivery, and unjust policies and practices in policing and criminal justice leading to inequitable rates of incarceration.

We invite you to explore the data in this section in the context of the structural and systemic racism that underlies these disparities.

Please Note: Throughout this section, links provide further information on specific topics. All opinions and thoughts presented in these resources are those of the author(s) and do not constitute the opinions of the project sponsors.