

Family

Household Composition

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

The family and the household are the most fundamental socioeconomic institutions in human society. The principal social function of the family is to bring children into the world and to care for them until they can support themselves.

While two parents in a household may be biological, step, or adoptive, their presence does not guarantee a child's success, it generally indicates a greater level of resources available to children and to their well-being (America's Children, 2002, p.7). Children living in households with only one parent are much more likely to have families whose incomes fall below the poverty line. In addition, marital status affects the resources available to both women with children and women alone at any age. (Source: The Status of Women: A Portrait of Women and Girls in Oneida & Herkimer Counties, December 2003 - Women's Fund)

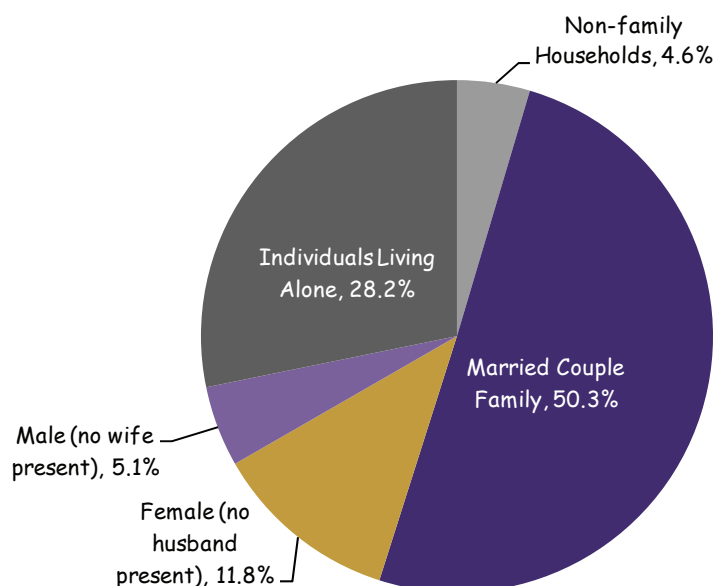
WHERE WE STAND

Family and Household Demographics

According to the 2006-2008 ACS, there are 62,346 people, 25,352 households, and 17,031 families residing in Herkimer County. Household demographics are identified in the chart below. 32.6% of all households had children under the age of 18 living with them, and 12.3% had someone living alone who is 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.43 persons and the average family size was 2.94 persons.

Households in Herkimer County 2006-2008

Graph 100



Source: 2006-2008 U.S. Census American Community Survey

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The 2006–2008 U.S. Census American Community Survey reports a 3.2% decline in overall population and a slight decline in total households, families and married couples living together. The 2006–2008 ACS also shows an increase in male and female householders (no spouse present) and individuals living alone.

Table 118

Herkimer County Households and Families	2000	2006-2008
Population	64,427	62,346
Households	25,734	25,352
Average Household Size	2.46	2.43
Families	17,101	17,031
Average Family Size	2.99	2.94
Households With Children < 18	32.8%	32.6%

Source: 2000 US Census, 2006–2008 American Community Survey

When compared to NYS and US Census data, Herkimer County has a higher percentage of married couples living together and male-headed households (no spouse present), and a lower percentage of female-headed households (no spouse present) and non-family households.

Table 119

Households in Herkimer County NYS and US	2000	2006 - 2008	NYS (2006-2008)	US (2006-2008)
Total Households	25,734	25,352	7,111,130	112,386,298
Married Couple Family	51.2%	50.3%	45.2%	49.6%
Female (no Husband Present)	10.3%	11.8%	14.5%	12.5%
Male (no Wife Present)	5%	5.1%	4.8%	4.6%
Individuals Living Alone	27%	28.2%	29.5%	27.5%
Non-Family	6%	4.6%	6%	5.9%

Source: 2000 US Census, 2006–2008 American Community Survey

Family Structure

The structure of families in the County has changed over the last 40 years, as reflected in the table on the next page. As a percentage of all families, fewer are two-parent and more are single-parent, both female- and male-headed. Two-parent families comprised 88% of all families in 1960; by 2000 they dropped to only 77%.

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One in ten (10%) families were female-headed in 1970, they increased to 16% of all families by 2000. Male-headed families made up about 4% of all families from 1969 to 1990, but by 2000 they increased to 7% of all families.

Herkimer County Two Parent and Female-Headed Families, 1960-2000

Table 120

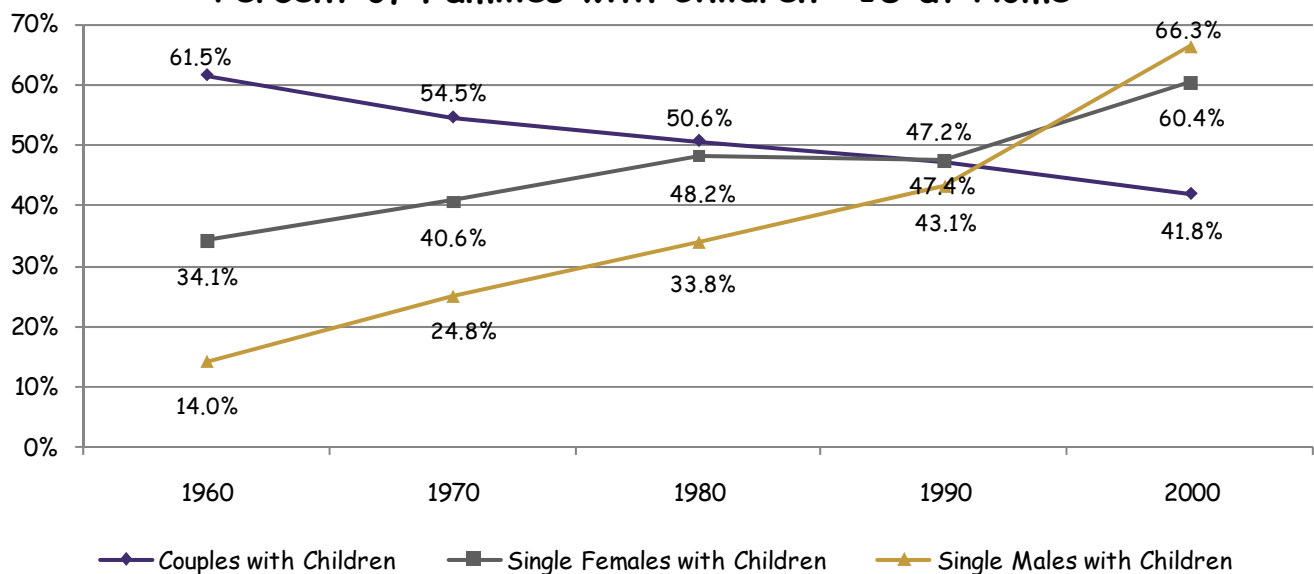
	1960		1970		1980		1990		2000	
	# of families	% of families	# of families	% of families	# of families	% of families	# of families	% of families	# of families	% of families
2 Parent Families	15,169	88%	14,975	87%	14,864	85%	14,511	82%	13,183	77%
w/ children	9,331	62%	8,156	55%	7,518	51%	6,843	47%	5,509	42%
Female-Headed Families	1,365	8%	1,657	10%	2,071	12%	2,350	13%	2,648	16%
w/ children	466	34%	672	41%	999	48%	1,114	47%	1,600	60%
Total Families	17,310	100%	17,185	100%	17,565	100%	17,714	100%	17,101	100%

Source: Herkimer Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program—graph and table this page

Also, since 1960 as a percentage, fewer two-parent families, while more single-parent families, have children under age 18 at home. For two-parent families, the percentage that had children at home dropped every census since 1960 from 62% to 42% in 2000. During this same period,

**Herkimer County Family Structure:
Percent of Families with Children <18 at Home**

Graph 101



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the percentage of all female-headed families that have children increased from 34% in 1960 to 60% in 2000. And, the percentage of all male-headed families that have children climbed even faster from 14% in 1960 to 66% in 2000.

The family unit not typically included in the data is single male headed families. While recognizing these familial units within the census is only a recent phenomenon, it is possible, or at least reasonable, to make some assumptions about how they have grown. While single male headed families comprise a relatively small proportion of familial units (5% in 2000), they are one of the fastest growing. In 1990, there were 853 single dad families in Herkimer County. By 2000, that number had increased to 1,270.

2006—2008 American Community Survey

The 2006—2008 American Community Survey estimates that 67.2% of all households in Herkimer County are comprised of families. Half of all families (50.2%) are traditional two-parent families, a decline from 51.2% in 2000. This percentage is higher, however, than both NYS and US percentages. Female-headed families with no male present have increased as a percent of all families in Herkimer County, from 10.1% in 2000 to approximately 12% in 2006-2008. This percentage is lower, however, than both NYS and US percentages.

Table 121

Households By Type , ACS 2006 - 2008	Herkimer County	HC %	NYS %	US %
Total households	25,352	100%	7,111,130	112,386,298
Family households (families)	17,031	67.2%	64.5%	66.6%
With own children under 18 years	7,667	30.2%	29.7%	31.0%
Married-couple family	12,754	50.3%	45.2%	49.6%
With own children under 18 years	4,939	19.5%	19.8%	21.4%
Male householder, no wife present, family	1,296	5.1%	4.8%	4.6%
With own children under 18 years	708	2.8%	2.0%	2.3%
Female householder, no husband present, family	2,981	11.8%	14.5%	12.5%
With own children under 18 years	2,020	8.0%	7.9%	7.4%
Nonfamily households	8,321	32.8%	35.5%	33.4%
Householder living alone	7,158	28.2%	29.5%	27.5%
65 years and over	3,122	12.3%	10.4%	9.3%
Households with one or more people under 18 years	8,260	32.6%	32.9%	34.3%
Households with one or more people 65 or over	7,065	27.9%	25.4%	23.5%

Source: 2000 US Census, 2006—2008 American Community Survey

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Male householders comprise 5.1% of all households in Herkimer County, which is higher than the percentage found in NYS and the US. In addition, 27.4% of all households in Herkimer County have someone in the household that is 65 years old or over, which is higher than the percentage found in both NYS and the US.

Herkimer County Teen Assessment Project (TAP) Survey

This change in family structure can also be seen from the results of the Herkimer County TAP Survey when students in 7th, 9th and 11th grade were asked about their family composition in 1997, 2001, 2005 and 2007 (See table below).

Family Composition of Herkimer County TAP Survey Participants 1997, 2001, 2005 and 2009

Question: Who do you live with most of the time?

Table 123

Response	1997	2001	2005	2009
Two Parents (biological or adoptive)	63.7%	59.4%	57.0%	57.9%
A Parent and a Step-parent	12.4%	15.4%	16.3%	17.2%
Father most of the time	3.6%	3.7%	4.8%	4.3%
Mother most of the time	14.4%	13.8%	14.4%	12.3%
Mother part of the time, father part of the time	N/A	3.9%	3.9%	4.5%
With relatives (aunt, uncle, grandparents, etc.)	2.0%	2.4%	2.6%	2.7%
Group home or foster home	N/A	0.5%	0.3%	0.5%
Alone or with friends only	1.5%	0.9%	0.7%	0.6%

Source: Herkimer County TAP Survey

As seen in the table above, 57.9% of the TAP Survey participants in 2009 indicated that they lived with both of their natural or adoptive parents. This is lower than found either in the 1997 (64%) or in the 2001 (59%) TAP Survey, and slightly higher than reported in 2005 (57%). Over the twelve year period of the four TAP Surveys, there has been a slight, but steady, increase in the percent of those who lived in either a parent/step-parent household —1997 (12%), 2001 (15%), 2005 (16%), and 2009 (17%) or lived in a single-parent household —1997 (18%), 2001 (21%), and 2005 (23%), however, a slight decline was noted in 2009 (21.1%). Less than 4% of youth indicated that they lived with other relatives, in a foster home or alone.

Divorces

As seen in the chart on the next page, the number of divorces both with and without children has remained relatively stable between 2001 to 2007. However, in 2004 the number of total

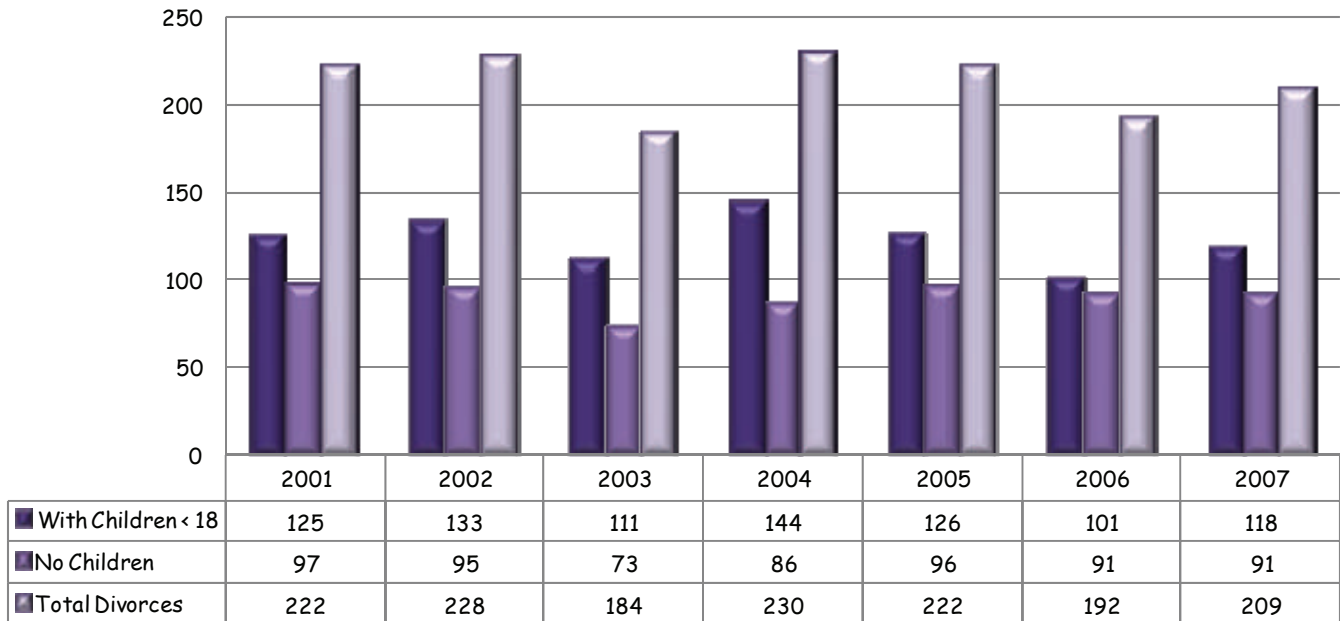
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divorces and those with children reached 230 and 144 respectively, the highest mark for those years. The divorce rate per 1000 persons in Herkimer County is about 3.3, which is just under the rate for New York State (3.4) and well below the rate for the U.S. (4.95).

Graph 102

**Herkimer County Divorces
2001 to 2007**



Source: NYS Department of Health, Vital Statistics

Parents in the Workforce

The chart on the next page depicts the percentage of children in Herkimer County, New York State and the United States that have all parents in the labor force in 2000 (US Census) and 2006-2008 (US Census ACS estimates). As reported in the 2006-2008 American Community Survey, Herkimer County has seen a decline in the percentage of children below the age of 18 that have all parents in the labor force (from 69% to 63.4% for children under age 6, and from 74% to 69.4% for children ages 6 to 17). During this time period, NYS percentages for both age groups have increased. When compared to New York State and the US, children below the age of six in Herkimer County are still more likely to have their parents working. Percentages are relatively similar for HC, NYS and the US for the 6 to 17 year old age group.

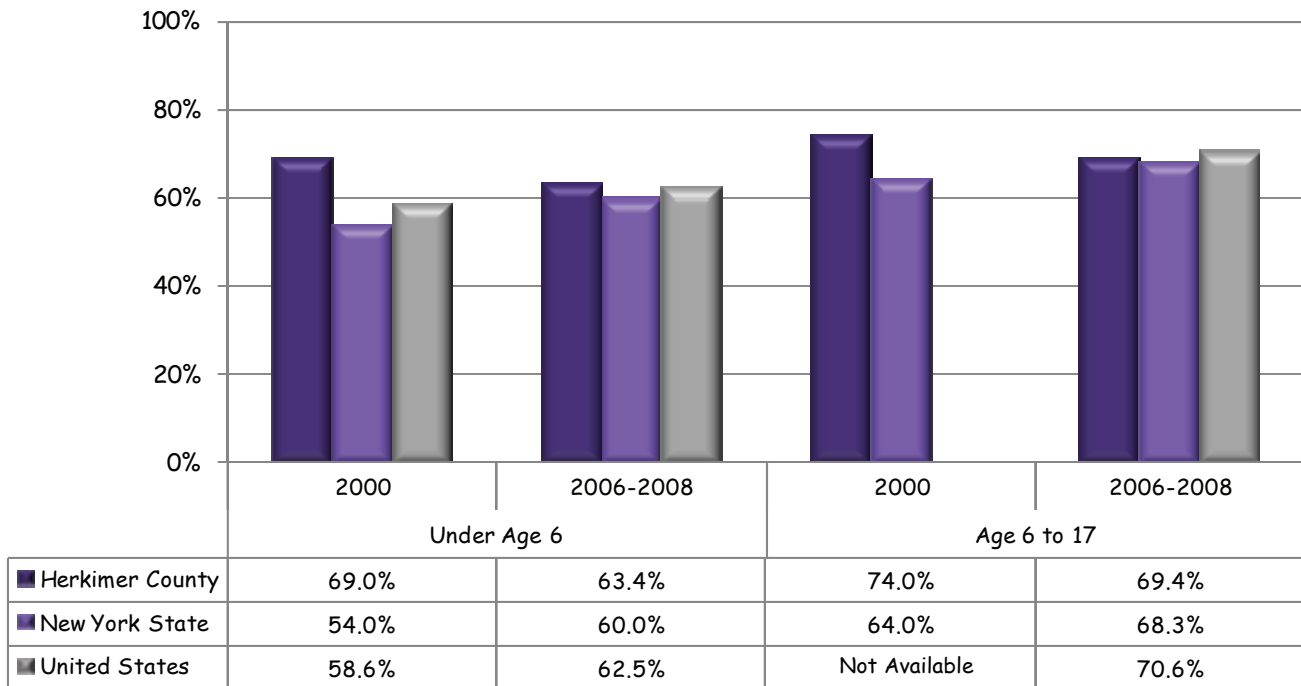
For families in which both parents are working, there is a concern that family time for leisure and recreation may get pushed aside by the demands of daily activities (Maine Marks), which may increase stress.

Family

Household Composition

Children Having All Parents in the Labor Force

Graph 103



Source: 2000 US Census, 2006–2008 American Community Survey

Senior Population

The chart on the next page depicts the percentage of seniors (over 65) that reside in a household with others or alone (in a one person household) for 2000 and 2006-2008 (ACS estimates). Herkimer County ACS data estimates that the percentage of seniors in both categories has declined slightly. The 2006-2008 ACS reports that a higher percentage of seniors live with others or alone in Herkimer County (27.9%, 12.3%) than in NYS (25.4%, 10.4%) or the US (23.5%, 9.3%).

Herkimer County has a high percentage of senior citizens (age 60+). Since 1960, the total County population has decreased by 3,676 while the senior population has increased by 2,132. The percentage of seniors, as a portion of the total County population, increased from 17% in 1960 to 22% with the 2005-07 ACS. Also, during this time period, the number of those aged 85 and older has nearly tripled.

Herkimer County Senior Population 60+ and 85+

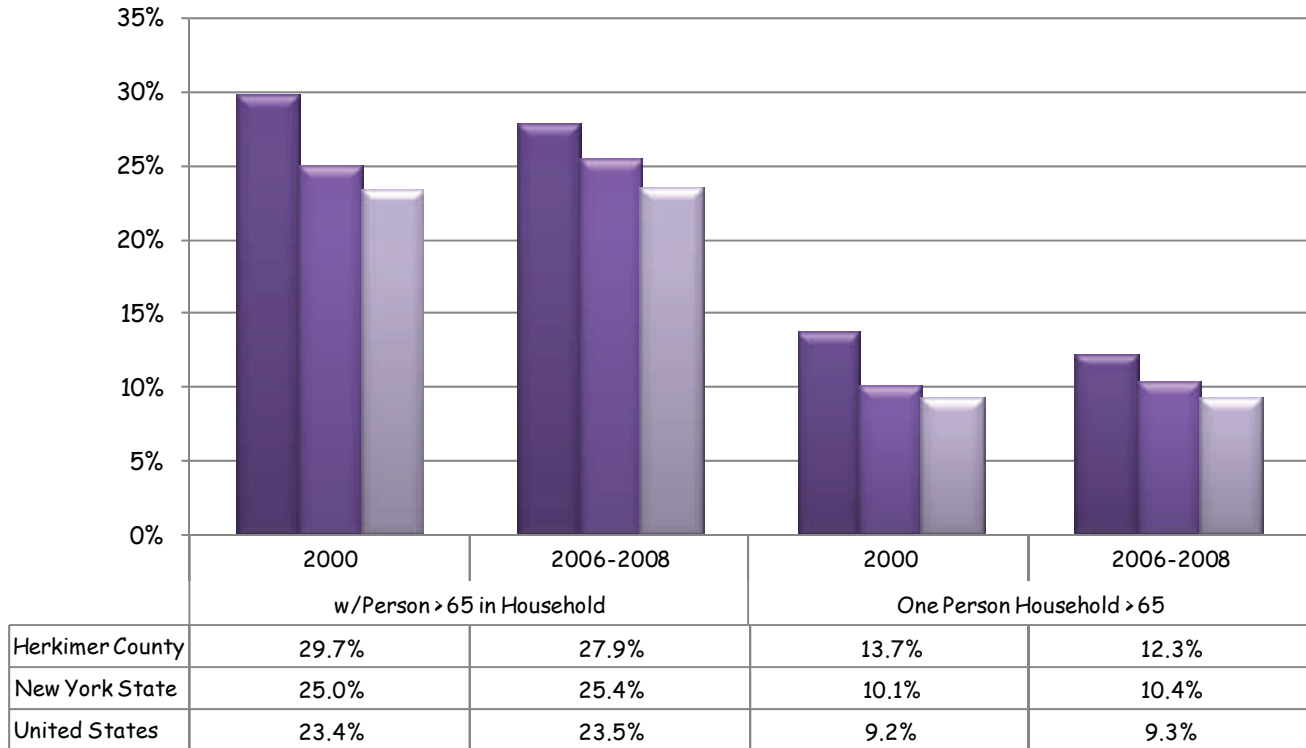
Herkimer County has a growing population of older senior citizens and they comprise an increasing proportion of the total population. This older population generally requires the most care, and often the care giving responsibilities fall upon family members.

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Households With Persons Age 65 and Over



Source: 2000 US Census, 2006–2008 ACS

It has been estimated that in the United States, family members provide approximately 80% of the necessary care for the elderly. However, with the rapid increase in the oldest segment of the population, the pool of available family caregivers is shrinking. This invariably is causing issues for the elderly regarding the lack of appropriate care.

Especially with the growing 85+ population, these seniors are much more likely to be in need of services in order to keep them at home and out of a nursing home. Care for the elderly, and assistance with access to services, very often falls to their adult children, who may also have the responsibility for providing care for their own children and/or grandchildren. This phenomenon is often referred to as the "sandwich generation."

One way to assess the pressure the sandwich generation may experience in caring for elderly parents is the parent support ratio, which is the number of oldest old (age 80+) per 100 people age 50-64. The higher the ratio, the fewer people age 50-64 are available to help care for those aged 80 plus. For the United States this ratio, based on Census figures, increased from 21 in 1990 to 22 in 2000. For Herkimer County the ratio has been steadily increasing as follows: 1970 - 16; 1980 - 18; 1990 - 26; 2000 - 31; 2005-07 - 28.

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Herkimer County Senior Population 60+ and 85+

Table 123

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005-2007
	# Persons	# Persons	# Persons	# Persons	# Persons	# Persons
Total Population	66,370	67,633	66,714	65,797	64,427	62,694
Population age 60 +	11,588 (17% of total)	11,545 (17% of total)	13,164 (20% of total)	14,243 (2.2% of total)	13,781 (21% of total)	13,720 (22% of total)
Population age 85 +	547 (4.7% of total)	740 (6.4% of total)	910 (6.9% of total)	1,157 (8.1% of total)	1,443 (10.5% of total)	1,518 (11.1% of total)

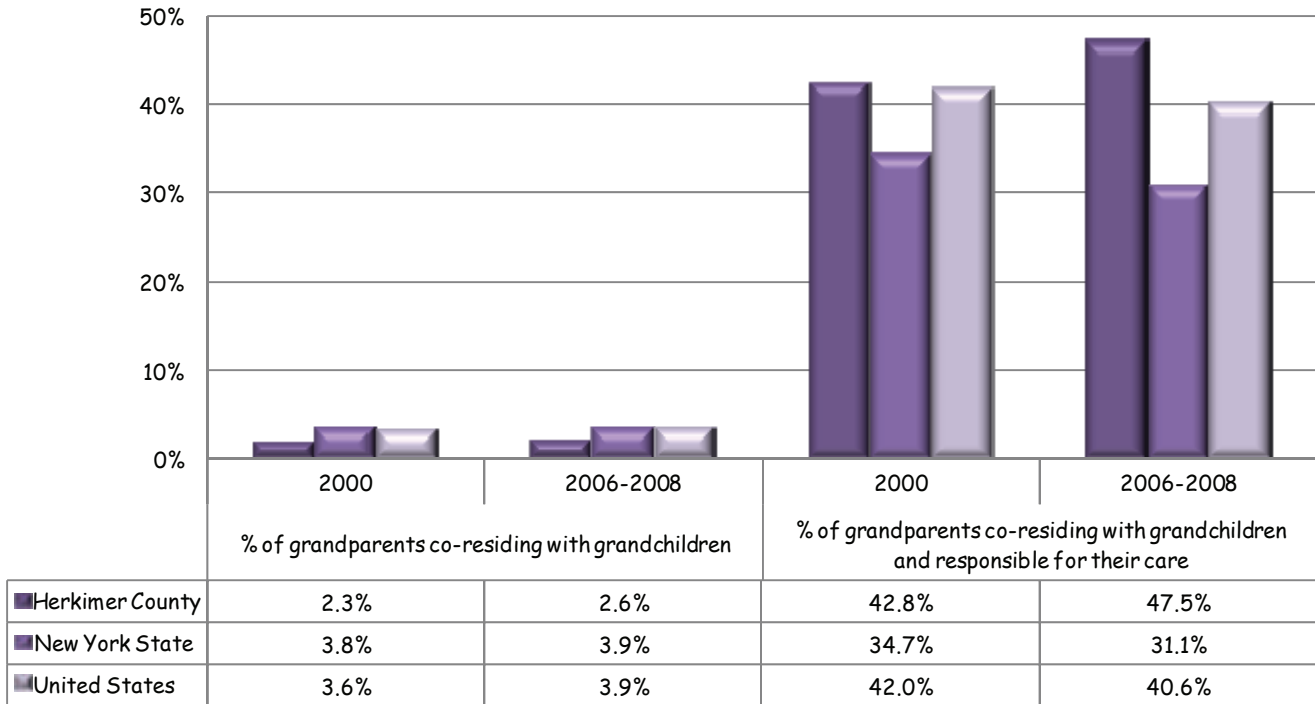
Source: U.S. Census 1960-2000, 2005-2007 American Community Survey

Grandparents as Care Givers

The 2000 Census asked for the first time questions about grandparents living with their grandchildren and grandparents responsible for the care of their grandchildren. This means it is possible to compare Herkimer County to other regions, but there is limited trend data. Below are the percentages of persons over age 35 who live with their grandchildren and the percentage of those that co-reside with grandchildren that are responsible for the care of their grandchildren for Herkimer County, New York State and the U.S.

In Herkimer County, approximately 2.6% of all persons are grandparents co-residing with their grandchildren. This is below the percentage for both New York State and for the U.S. (3.9%) respectively. However, when compared to all the counties in New York State in 2000, Herkimer County, at 2.3%, is just below the median of 2.4%. What this shows is that Herkimer County is similar to other upstate counties in that fewer grandparents are living with their grandchildren than is evident in the larger counties in the state and the counties around New York City. Of those grandparents that live with their grandchildren, in Herkimer County approximately 47.5% care for their grandchildren; this is above the NYS and US percentage (31.1% and 40.6% respectively). Though a higher percentage of grandparents in Herkimer County are caring for their grandchildren than is true for New York State as a whole, again, Herkimer County is near the median for all counties in the state.

Grandparents Living With Grandchildren



Source: 2000 US Census, 2006–2008 ACS

There is no data available that would indicate how many grandparents, not residing with their grandchildren, provide care for their grandchildren for a significant period of time each day.

DATA SOURCES

Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program, Herkimer County Retrospective: 1950-2000.

Herkimer County Teen Assessment Project (TAP) Survey

The Status of Women: A Portrait of Women and Girls in Oneida & Herkimer Counties, December 2003 - Women's Fund

2000 US Census

<http://www.census.gov/population/cen2000/phc-t13/tab12.xls>

2005-2007 and 2006–2008 U.S. Census American Community Survey

http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en

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New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Maine Marks

Herkimer County Office for the Aging

<http://www.aging.state.ny.us/explore/population/Census2000/mcd/043/0840.txt>

<http://www.aging.state.ny.us/explore/population/Census2000/mcd/043/0850.txt>



Rensen Falls—McKeever

Family

Family Management

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Poor family management practices include a lack of clear expectations for behavior, failure of parents to monitor their children (knowing where they are and whom they are with), and excessively severe and inconsistent punishment. Poor family management, as a risk factor, has been shown to increase the risk of drug use, delinquency, violence, teen pregnancy and school dropout.

Studies have shown that the strength and warmth in the parent-child relationship is related to positive outcomes for children including higher self-esteem, better parent-child communication, and fewer psychological and behavior problems. Conversely, receiving insufficient levels of parental support can foster feelings of alienation, expressions of hostility and aggression, diminished self-esteem, and antisocial and risk behaviors.

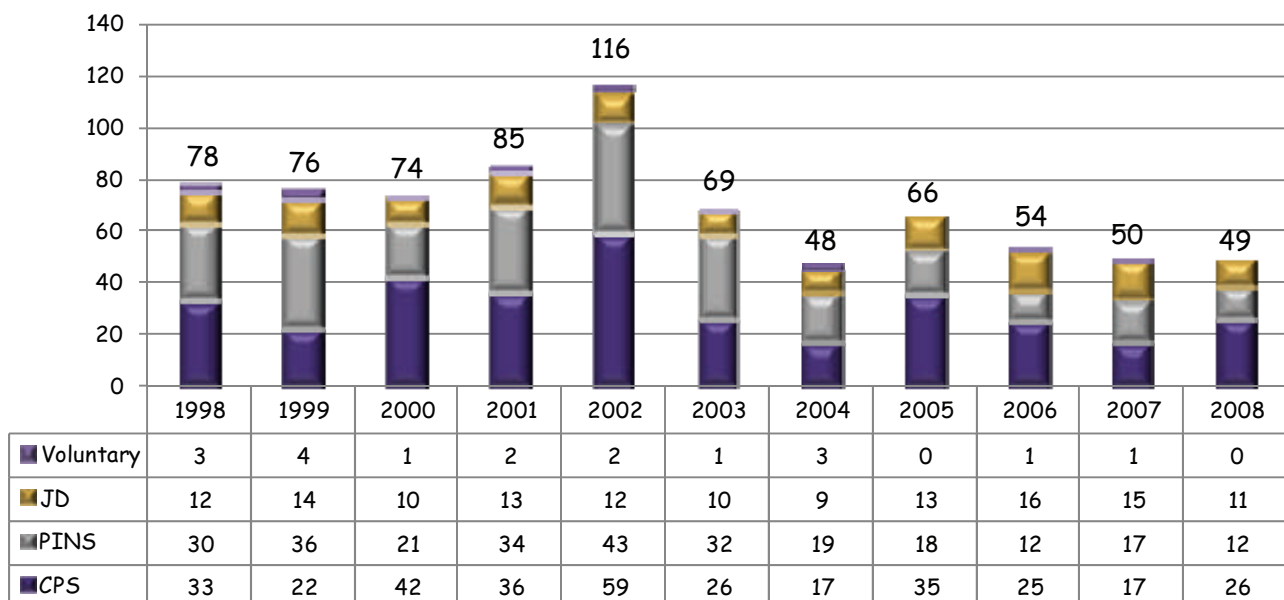
WHERE WE STAND

Foster Care Placements

The chart below shows the number of placements into foster care by source from 1998 to 2008. The total admissions into foster care have fluctuated during this period of time, peaking in 2002 at 116, and decreasing in 2004 to a low of 48 admissions. Overall, there has been a 38% reduction in the number of placements during this eleven-year timeframe.

Graph 106

Herkimer County: Number of Foster Care Admissions by Source: 1998 - 2008



Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

Family

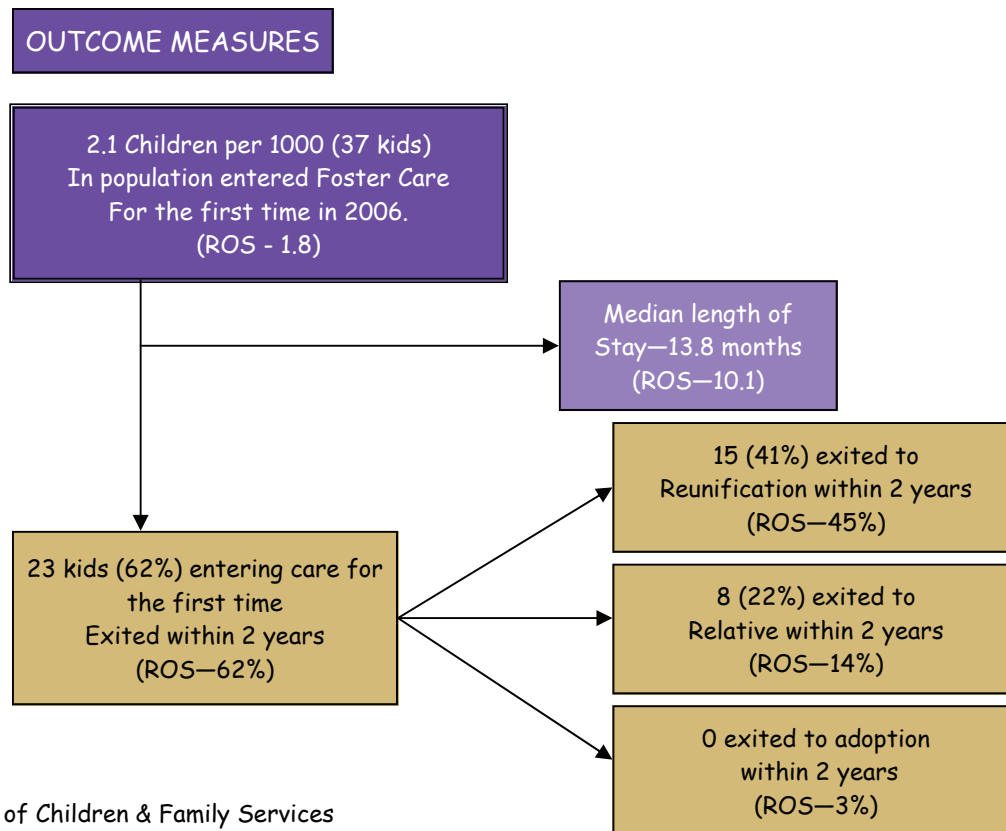
Family Management

The biggest drop in admissions since 2002 can be attributed to a reduction in Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS) placements. With the implementation of the Family Support/ PINS Diversion Unit, the number of admissions from the PINS population decreased from a high of 43 in 2002 to a low of 12 in 2008. Child Protective Services admissions have also dropped in recent years, from a high of 59 in 2002, to 17 admissions in 2007 and 26 admissions in 2008.

More boys than girls have consistently been admitted into foster care. When broken down by age categories, over half (58%) are generally over the age of 12; about one in five (20%) are ages 6-11; and about a quarter (24%) are age 0-5.

Herkimer County Foster Care Admissions Compared to Rest of State

Graph 107



Source: Office of Children & Family Services

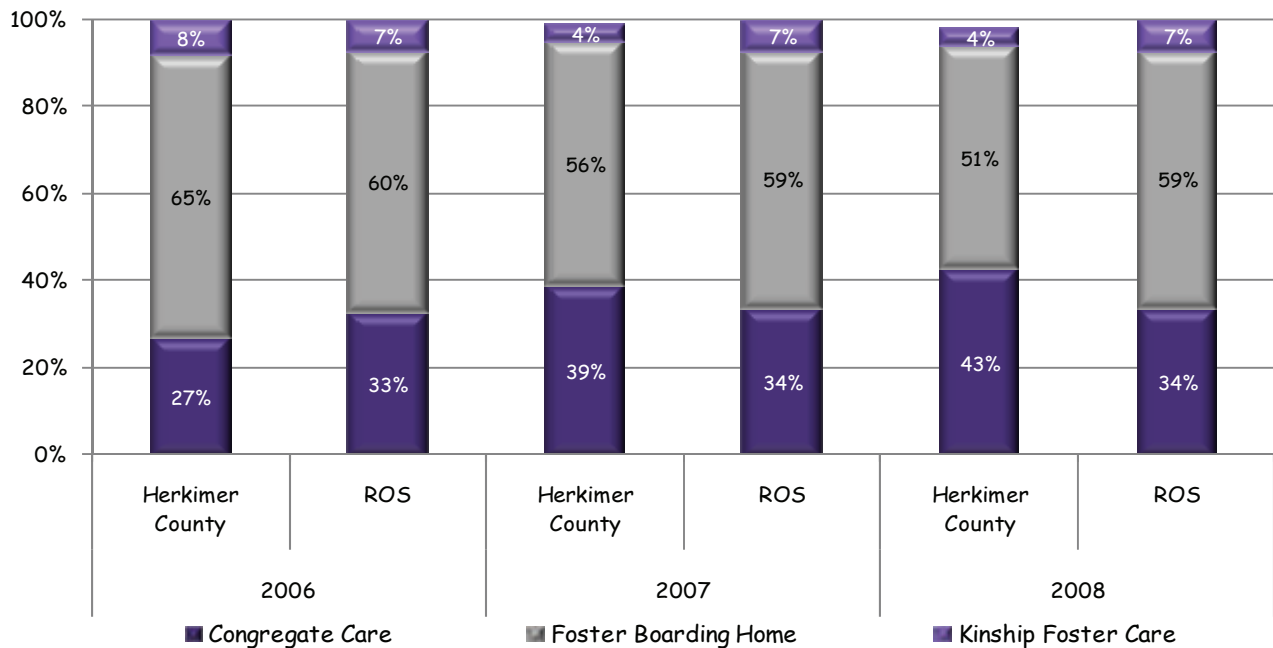
Herkimer County, when compared to the Rest of the State (ROS, NYS minus NYC) in 2006, had a higher rate of placements per 1000 children in the county (2.1 per 1,000 vs. 1.8 per 1,000). This same disparity has been evident since 2000. Median lengths of stay in foster care have also been higher in Herkimer County than in the ROS (13.8 months vs. 10.1 months in 2006). The percentage of children exiting care within two years of admission are similar for Herkimer County and the Rest of State.

The chart on the next page illustrates the primary placement type for all youth in care for

Family

Family Management

Primary Placement Type All Ages Herkimer County & ROS Graph 108



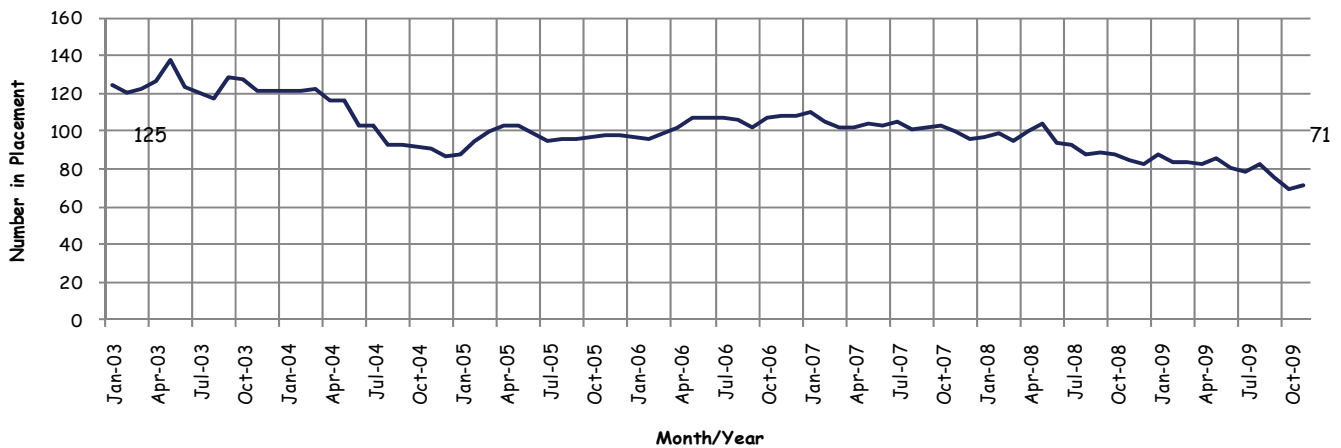
Source: Office of Children & Family Services

Herkimer County and the Rest of State. For youth in placement on December 31, 2008, 40% of Herkimer County children in care spent 50% or more time in Congregate Care. Herkimer County ranked in the "High" range when compared with other counties in the state for its use of Congregate Care beds.

The chart below illustrates the number of youth that were in care on the first day of each month from January 2003 to November 2009. As the chart illustrates, there has been a 43% overall reduction in census between these two dates.

Graph 109

Number of Youth in Foster Care Placement
2003 to 2009



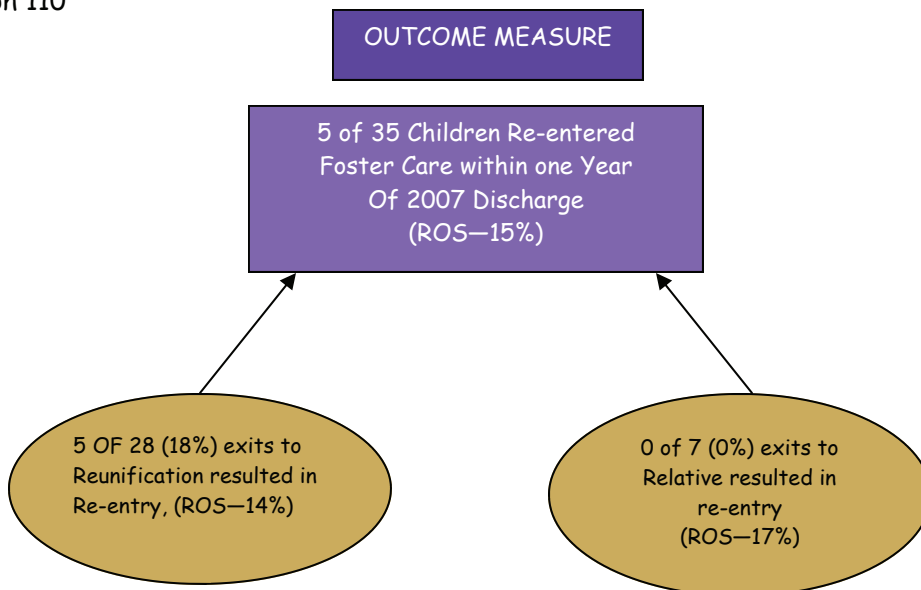
Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

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Herkimer County & ROS Children Re-Entering Foster Care within One Year

Graph 110



In 2007, thirty-five children were discharged from placement. Twenty-eight children were reunified with their parent(s), and seven were discharged to a relative's care. Five of the thirty-five youth re-entered Foster Care within one year of discharge (14%). This percentage is slightly lower than the percentage seen in the Rest of State (15%).

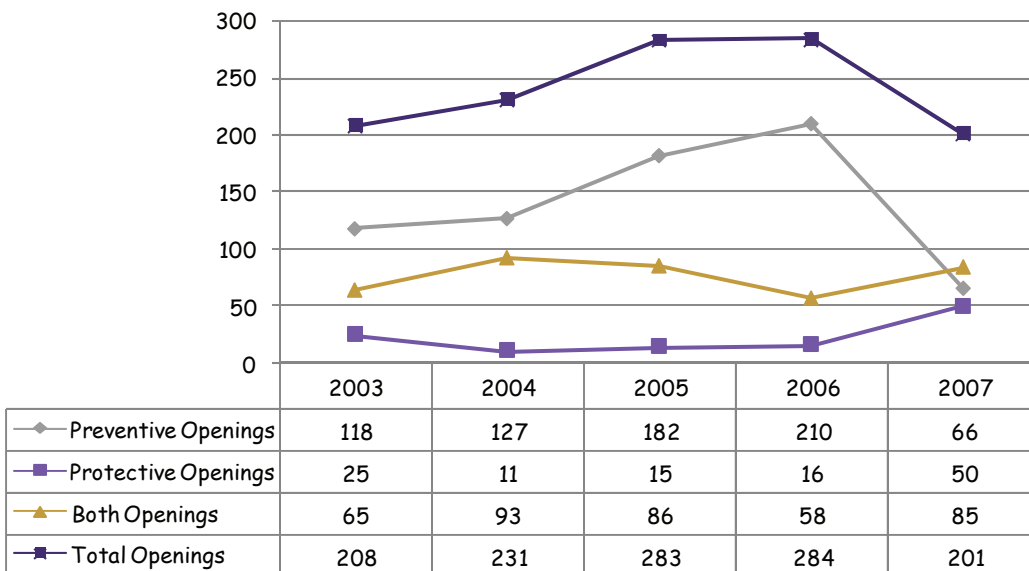
Source: Office of Children & Family Services

Graph 111

Support Services for Youth and their Families

As more youth are diverted or discharged from placement, the need for enhanced family and youth supports in the home, school and community are of critical importance. The chart to the right illustrates the number of families that received Preventive,

Herkimer County Preventive & Protective Openings 2003-2007



Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

Family

Family Management

Protective or a combination of both services from 2003 to 2007. In Herkimer County, families received Protective and Preventive services at a higher rate than families in the Rest of State in 2007 (HC Rate = 9.5 per 1000, ROS = 6.8 per 1000). Herkimer County's rate ranked 16th of all counties in New York State.

The Foster Care Diversion Program was created in 2007 to provide enhanced support services to youth and their families in order to prevent placement, replacement, or subsequent child abuse/ maltreatment reports. As of June 2009, the program has served 89 families comprised of 140 parents and 177 children. Of those families served, 97% were diverted from first placement, 92% with prior placements were diverted from replacement, and 97% did not have a subsequent substantiated/indicated CPS report within 6 months of the initial report.

Runaway & Homeless Youth

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Program (RHYP) serves young people under the age of 21 who have either run away, been kicked out of their home, or are homeless.

Table 124

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Calls Received	85	91	86	82	93	110	101	96	103	121
Intakes:										
Males	11	8	7	19	31	38	26	32	37	37
Females	22	12	16	26	35	40	39	51	58	52
Total Intakes:	33	20	23	45	66	78	65	83	95	89
Major Problems Faced:										
Parental Conflict	33	20	22	41	79	81	75	71	85	83
Police Involvement	1	0	4	10	14	17	15	13	16	10
School	7	5	15	26	34	41	39	62	29	53
Status at Discharge:										
With Parent	19	11	11	20	32	42	37	40	65	58
Independent Living	3	4	2	4	15	15	14	12	8	10
Friend / Relative	6	1	3	10	8	5	4	16	10	14

Source: Runaway and Homeless Youth Annual Reports (1998 - 2008)

Note: Youth can indicate more than one problem. Only the top three discharges are indicated

Runaway & Homeless Youth Program Statistics, 1999 - 2008

The trend continues of serving older youth (age 18+) who do not have skills to live successfully on their own. Many end up "couch-surfing" and living "hand-to-mouth", and contact the program when they have exhausted all of their resources. There are no transitional residential programs in the county, and limited space in neighboring Oneida County, with the transitional programs there for females only.

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The RHYP does offer temporary, emergency shelter in a network of six community volunteer homes, but many older youth opt to not enter a "host home" because of the 24-hour supervision and household rules. Program staff work with the youth on obtaining housing and provide on-going case management to assist with stabilizing them.

The award of a federal grant from the United States Dept. of Health and Human Services in 2005 has allowed for the expansion of staffing and services, so there has been a steady increase in the number of youth served over the past four years. The RHY Program has a "community youth room" where youth can come after school for help with schoolwork or attend various groups such as anger management or independent living skills training. During the school year, staff are available at two local high schools (Ilion High School and Owen D. Young), working with youth who have been identified as high risk for running away.

Healthy Families

Table 125

Healthy Families Home Visiting Program — Program Statistics 10/1/2007 to 9/30/2009

Healthy Families Program	Number	Percent
Total Screens	1044	100%
Positive Screens Referred	558	54%
Positive Screens Not Referred	218	21%
Kempes Assessment Completed	292	28%
Enrolled in Healthy Families Program	82	8%
Total Screens—Type	1044	100%
Hospital	404	39%
WIC	358	34%
Health Clinic	222	21%
Home Visiting Program	21	2%
Other	39	4%
Unduplicated Screens	811	

Healthy Families Program	Number	Percent
Total Screens	1044	100%
Risk Factors		
Single, Separated, Divorced or Widowed	683	65%
Inadequate Income	487	47%
Partner Unemployed	260	25%
Education Under 12 Years	188	18%
Late or no Prenatal Care	135	13%
History of or Current Depression	109	10%
Unstable Housing	73	7%
History of Abortions	73	7%
Marital or Family Problems	49	5%
Inadequate Emergency Contacts	35	3%
History of Psychiatric Care	31	3%
History of Substance Use	17	2%

Source: Herkimer County Healthy Families Visiting Program

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Demographics of Families Enrolled in the Healthy Families Program

Table 126

Healthy Families Program	Number	Percent
Total Families Enrolled	76	100%
Marital Status		
Married	9	12%
Unmarried	65	86%
Unknown	2	3%
Education		
Less than 12th	26	34%
HS/GED	33	43%
More than 12th	15	20%
Unknown	2	3%
Employed		
Yes	25	33%
No	51	67%
Biological Father in Home		
Yes	35	46%
No	41	54%
Primary Caregiver (PC) Issues		
Domestic Violence	1	1%
Mental Health	33	43%
Substance Abuse	3	4%
Families Receiving Benefits at Enrollment		
TANF	15	20%
Food Stamps	40	53%
PC on Medicaid	65	86%
Child on Medicaid	56/60	93%

Herkimer County was selected to receive Office of Children and Family Services, Healthy Families funding in 2007. Selection was made on the basis of multiple risk indicators present in our communities. These indicators include high teen pregnancy and birth rates, out of wedlock births, low birth weight infants, Medicaid births and late or no prenatal care.

The Healthy Families program is voluntary. It is designed as a primary prevention, education and referral program that strives to provide universal risk screening of all pregnant women, a more in-depth review of history, strengths and needs for selected families and intensive, long term home visiting for a smaller targeted group of families. The focus for families receiving home visiting is on reducing parent stress, improving self-sufficiency and maximizing parent/child interactions.

This program provides a new opportunity to know and understand our resident families in their formative years. Out of the 1257 births to Herkimer County mothers during the first two years of program operation, 811 pregnancies were screened, and 75% were found to have at least one risk factor present. Some factors that put a family and child at risk of abuse and/or neglect and other poor outcomes include; unmarried status, inadequate income, education under 12 years and maternal depression.

The information gathered from universal screening and targeted group interventions indicates that more of our families are now forming under risk conditions than are not. This may have both social and financial implications for the community. James Heckman, Nobel laureate, University of Chicago says, "Early advantages accumulate, just as early disadvantages do." And, "Schools can only work with what families give them. School comes too late in the life cycle of child development to be the main locus of remediation for the disadvantaged."

Source: Herkimer County Healthy Families Home Visiting Program

Family

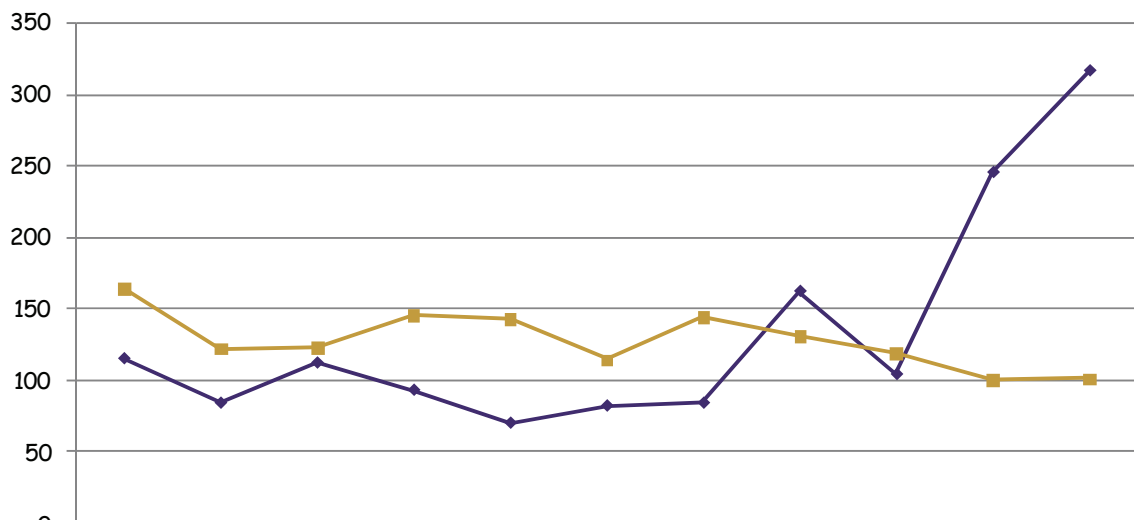
Family Management

Vulnerable Adults

Protective Services for Adults (PSA) helps adults, 18 years or older, who may need protection either because they can no longer care for themselves and thus endangered or because they are being abused or threatened by others. The graph below shows the number of cases PSA staff handled annually from 1998 to 2008. Some cases require a PSA assessment to assess risk; others require just information and referral services. Since 2007, the number of cases needing information and referral services has increased because the data included referrals received from local utility companies informing PSA of pending terminations.

Graph 112

Protective Services for Adults Cases 1998-2008



	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Info and Referral	115	84	112	93	70	82	84	162	104	245	316
PSA Assessments	164	122	123	145	143	114	144	131	119	100	101

Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services

In 2007, 62 referrals, and in 2008, 125 referrals were received on households that had received a disconnect notice.

The following two graphs provide a breakdown of the total population of open Protective Services for Adults (PSA) cases. The first graph looks at the percent with certain impairments, and the second shows the percent with certain risks or unmet needs.

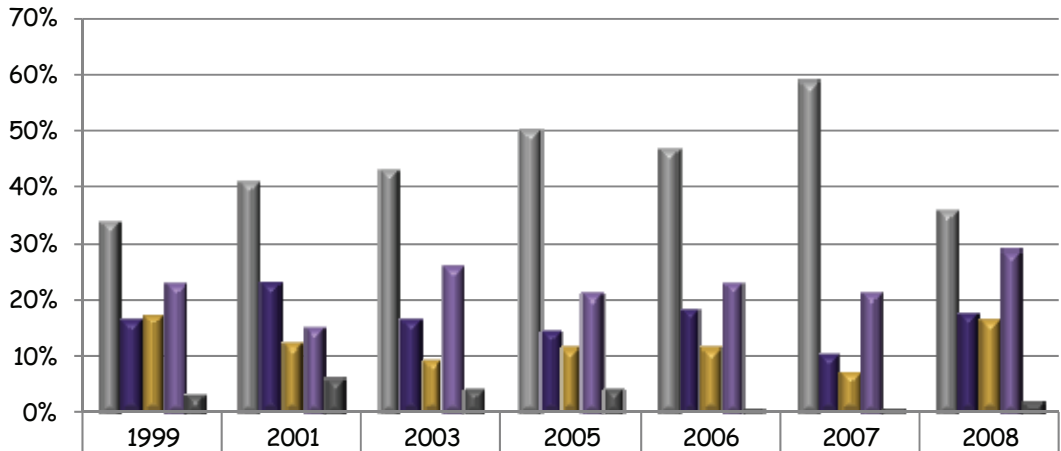
The graph over the period 1999-2008, indicates the prevailing impairment of this population has been medical in nature. In 2008, 36% of the impairments were medical. Three in ten (29%) of the impairments were Alzheimer's/ Dementia, and one in six (17%) involved mental illness. The second graph shows that in 2008, 35 percent of the open PSA cases had neglected their own needs; 9 percent had an untreated medical condition; and 22 percent were living in unsafe accommodations (environmental hazards).

Family

Family Management

Graph 113

Protective Services for Adults by Impairment

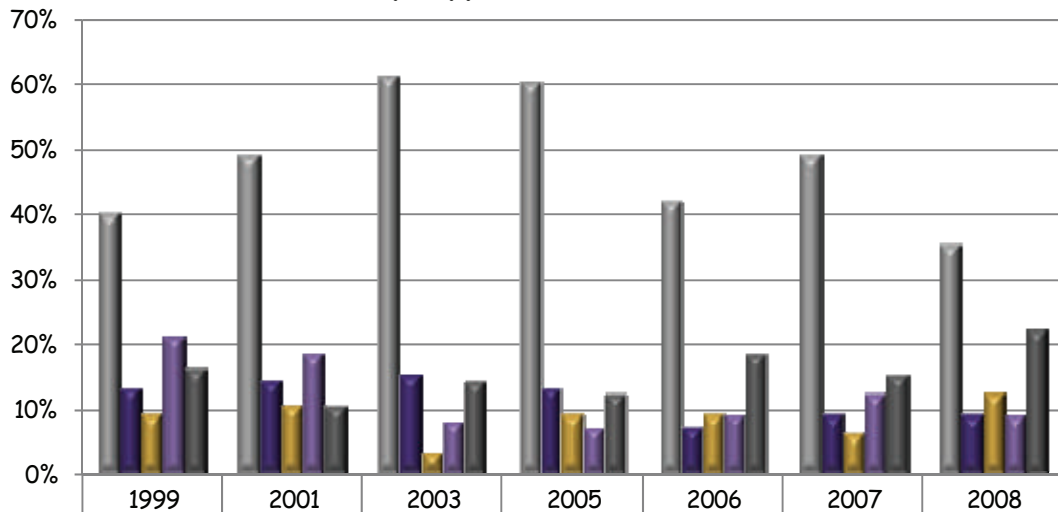


	1999	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007	2008
Medical	34%	41%	43%	50%	47%	59%	36%
Mentally Ill	16%	23%	16%	14%	18%	10%	17%
Developmentally Delayed	17%	12%	9%	11%	11%	7%	16%
Alzheimer's/Dementia	23%	15%	26%	21%	23%	21%	29%
Substance Abuse	3%	6%	4%	4%	1%	1%	2%

Source: Herkimer County Department of Social Services both graphs this page

Graph 114

Protective Services for Adults by Type of Risk of Harm/Unmet Need



	1999	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007	2008
Neglect of Their Own Needs	40%	49%	61%	60%	42%	49%	35%
Untreated Medical Condition	13%	14%	15%	13%	7%	9%	9%
Self-Endangering Behavior	9%	10%	3%	9%	9%	6%	12%
Unable to Manage Finances	21%	18%	8%	7%	9%	12%	9%
Environmental Hazards	16%	10%	14%	12%	18%	15%	22%

DATA SOURCES

Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program

Herkimer County Teen Assessment Project Survey

Child Trends Databank

Communities That Care, Developmental Research and Programs, Inc.

Herkimer County Department of Social Services

New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Program Improvement Plan Data

Herkimer County Runaway and Homeless Youth Program

Herkimer County Healthy Families Home Visiting Program



Barto Hill—Fairfield

Family

Family Conflict

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Persistent and serious conflict between primary caregivers or between caregivers and children increases risks for children. Conflict between family members appears to be more important than family structure. Whether two biological parents, a single parent, or some other primary caregiver heads the family, children raised in families high in conflict appear to be at risk.

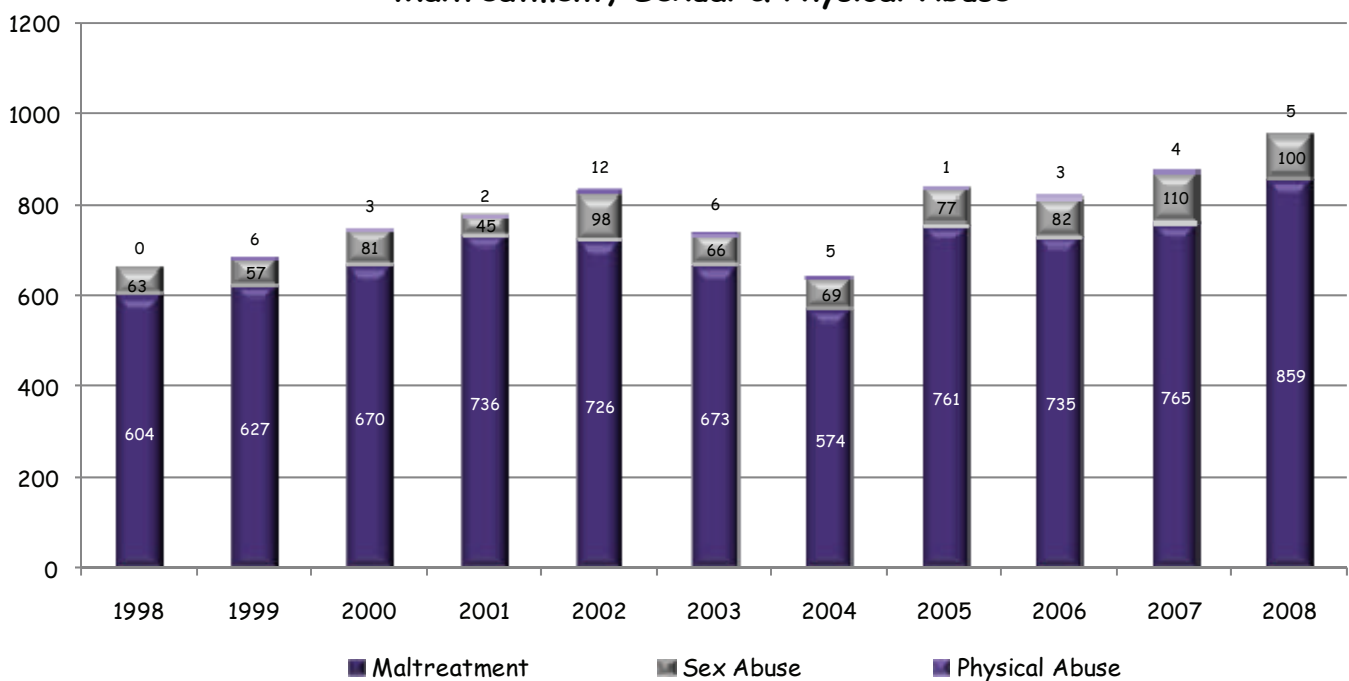
Child abuse is linked to an increased risk of substance abuse, eating disorders, obesity, depression, suicide, and sexual promiscuity later in life. Child abuse or neglect is often associated with physical injuries, delayed physical growth, and even neurological damage. Child maltreatment is also associated with psychological and emotional problems such as aggression, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Women who were victims of physical assault as children are twice as likely to be victims of physical assault as adults. Victims of child maltreatment are more likely than others to abuse children themselves in adulthood. (SOURCE: Child Trends Databank)

WHERE WE STAND

One indicator of family conflict is child abuse and neglect reports. The State Central Registry (SCR) is the New York State central hotline for people to report suspicions of child abuse or neglect. Once a call is made to the SCR, the case is transferred to the county of origin for an

Herkimer County CPS Report Numbers for Maltreatment, Sexual & Physical Abuse

Graph 115



Family

Family Conflict

investigation. The chart below illustrates the number of CPS reports by year in Herkimer County from 1998 to 2008.

Over the eleven-year period 1998-2008, the total number of SCR Reports in Herkimer County has fluctuated. This fluctuation is also evident for the type of reports, i.e. neglect/ maltreatment, physical abuse and sexual abuse. In 2001, the Herkimer County Department of Social Services received for the first time over 800 reports. This was repeated in 2002 when there was a record number of reports of sexual abuse (98). In 2003 and 2004, the total number of SCR reports dropped down, but then in 2005 the number reached a new high (839). Since 2005, CPS reports have been increasing. The highest number of reports in the eleven year period was in 2008 (964) reports. Overall, CPS reports have increased by 45% between 1998 and 2008.

The table below shows numbers generated by the New York State Management Information System. *The total number of reports shown here is not consistent with the numbers from Herkimer County DSS exhibited in the previous table primarily because New York State does not count secondary reports, which are reports Herkimer County DSS investigated but then transferred to another county.* The annual rate of SCR Reports per 1000 children ages 0-18 in Herkimer County has consistently been below the rate found in comparable counties, which are counties similar in size and composition to Herkimer County. Indicated reports are those that upon investigation there was credible evidence that a child experienced abuse or maltreatment. The percentage of indicated reports per total reports in Herkimer County has been slightly lower than the rate for comparable counties.

**Number & Rate-SCR Reports & Indicated Reports:
Herkimer County and Comparable Counties**

Table 127

Year	Reports	Annual Rate	Comp Rate	Indicated Reports	% Indicated	Comp Rate
2000	695	44.4	45.7	179	25.8	29.3
2001	691	45.1	50.7	183	26.5	27.7
2002	703	46.6	52.8	193	27.5	27.9
2003	659	44.4	51.7	183	27.8	28.8
2004	608	41.6	50.8	178	29.3	28.8
2005	688	38.9	44.9	188	27.3	28.0
2006	657	37.4	47.2	160	24.4	28.4
2007	673	38.9	48.2	168	25.0	28.5
2008	688	40.3	52.0	182	28.5	29.0

SOURCE: NYS Office of Children and Family Services, 2008 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles With Selected Trend
N: Number of reports received during the calendar year.

Rate: Number of reports received during the calendar year for every 1000 children in the district.

Family

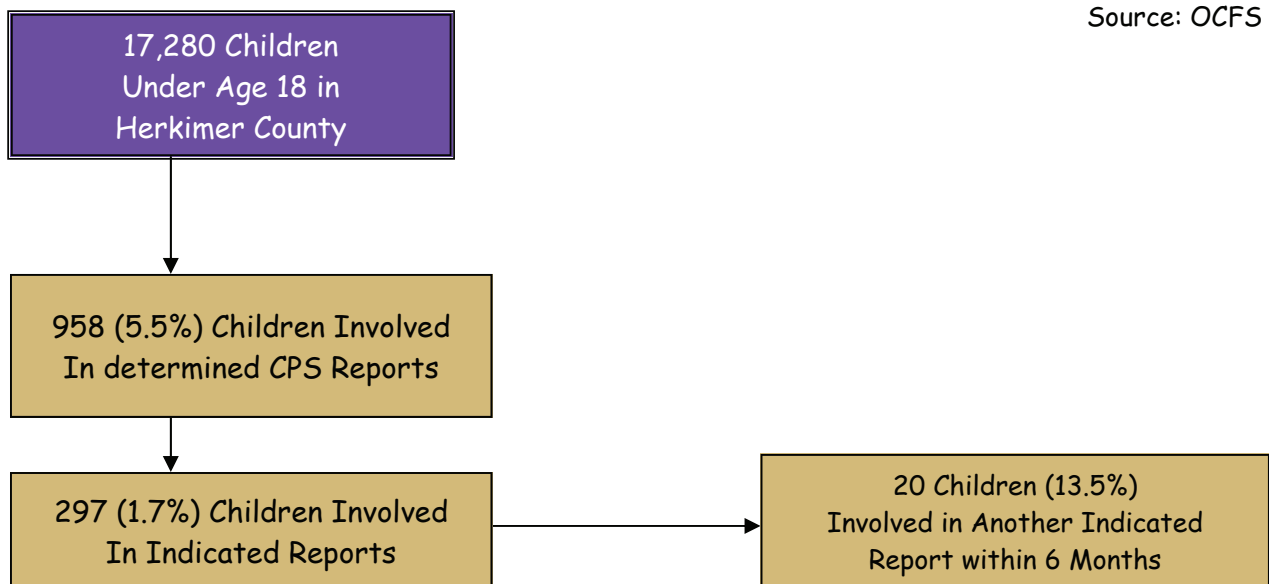
Family Conflict

The chart below illustrates the number of children in Herkimer County that were involved in determined, indicated and repeated indicated CPS reports in 2007. This number is then compared to the percentage of children involved in determined and indicated CPS reports in the Rest of State. The percentage of reports per 1,000 youth in all categories in Herkimer County were slightly higher than those found in the rest of NYS. In addition, 63.2% of Families with a Determined CPS Report between July & December 2005 had another Determined Report within 2 Years (ROS - 53.5%).

Summary of Herkimer County Safety Measures for 2007 Compared to Rest Of State (ROS)

Graph 116

Source: OCFS



Domestic Violence

The table on the next page includes the annual statistics from the Herkimer County Domestic Violence Program at Catholic Charities for the years 1999-2008. Over this period there has been a continual increase in the number of calls to the Domestic Violence Hotline. These numbers have increased dramatically since 2002. The number of adult victims of domestic violence receiving services has remained over 400 since 2004. The Director of the Program attributes some of these increases to the growing awareness about their services.

During this period there continues to be a consistent demand for program services. One area that there does seem to be an increase is teenagers receiving services for their own relationships due to dating violence. During 2008, 19 teens received services due to violence in their relationships. Some of the services received include supportive individual counseling, assistance through the criminal justice system, information/referral and follow up services. There continues to be a need for the offender to be held accountable and affordable housing remains a problem area.

Family

Family Conflict

Domestic Violence Program Annual Statistics (1999 – 2008)

Table 128

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Calls to domestic violence twenty-four hour hotline	238	248	221	188	334	342	460	1425	1365	1245
Adult Victims of domestic violence receiving services	305	364	374	374	399	459	508	489	434	421
Child victims/witnesses of domestic violence receiving services	118	119	76	86	50	86	87	66	76	81
Children sheltered in Safe House	39	35	27	57	14	27	26	29	21	18
Assistance with emergency orders of protection and/or custody	55	54	68	88	21	33	34	111	102	78
Reports made by Domestic Violence Program staff to NYS Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline	20	22	19	14	12	17	13	3	2	6

Source: Herkimer County Domestic Violence Program

According to the 2009 Herkimer County Teen Assessment Project Survey, 6% of 7th graders, 7% of 9th graders, and 10% of 11th graders report that they have been in an abusive relationship with a boyfriend or girlfriend.

Dispute Mediation

Catholic Charities provides custody and visitation mediation for parents to resolve custody and visitation disagreements, discuss parenting plans, schedules, transportation and other areas that relate to the needs of the children. The program provided services to 229 families in 2005, 293 families in 2006, 177 families in 2007 and 156 families in 2008.

Conflict in the Home

The Herkimer County Teen Assessment Project (TAP) Survey includes several questions that broach the issue of possible conflict in the home environment. The responses to two of the questions are illustrated in the graphs on the next page. When asked how much they worry about getting along with their parents, the percent of teens that said they worry a "fair amount" to "a lot" went from 52% in 1997 to 59% in 2001. About 58% said they had this level of concern in 2005, but by 2009 the percent that worried a "fair amount" to "a lot" dropped to only 32% of all teens.

Family

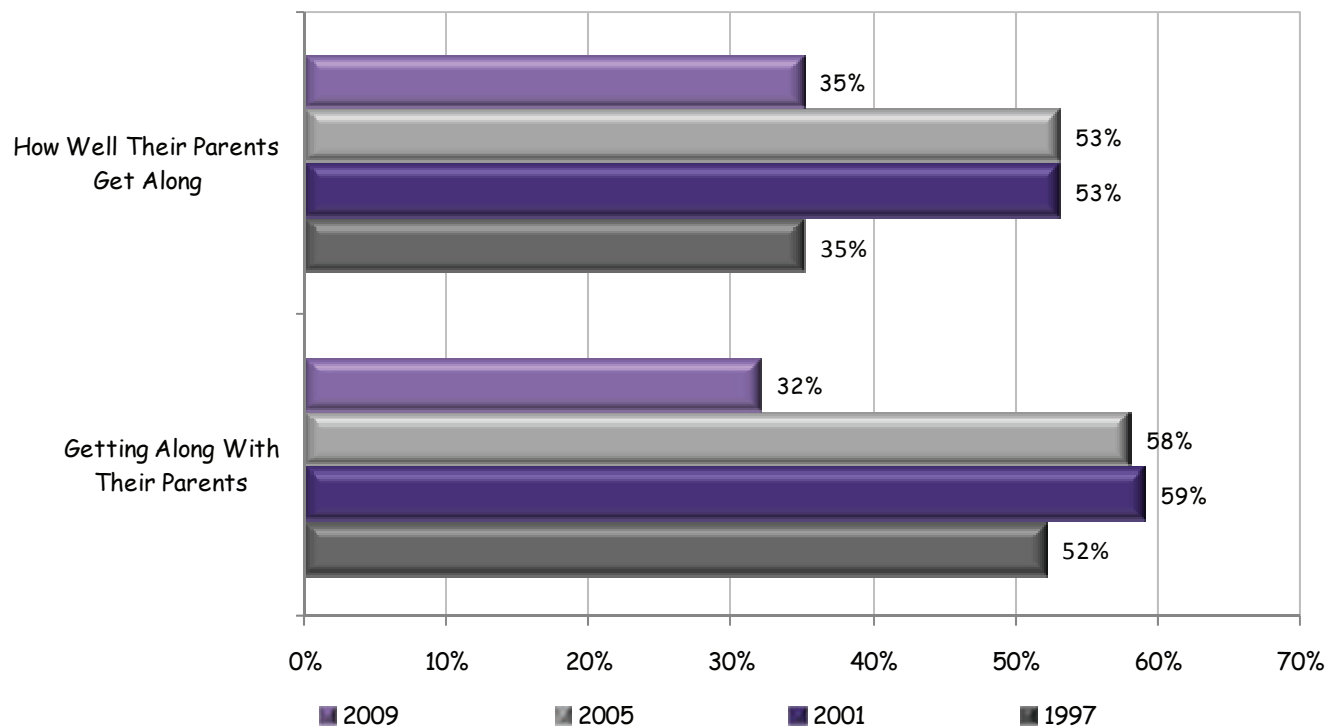
Family Conflict

When asked how much they worry about how well their parents get along with each other, the percentage of teens who worried a "fair amount" to "a lot" about this increased from 35% in 1997 to 53% in 2001. In 2005, the percentage remained close to the 2001 TAP result. In 2009, the percent of teens who worry about how well their parents related to one another dropped significantly to only 28%.

In another question, youth were asked if an adult in their home had made a serious threat in the past year to another family member, including themselves. In 2009, 8% said yes; whereas, 18% indicated yes in 2005. A related question asked youth if they had been physically hurt by an adult at home in the past year, and, as the graph below shows, the percentage of teens that indicated they had been hurt increased from 5% in 1997 to 13% in 2005 and then dipped down to 9% in 2009.

Graph 117

Percent of Teens That Said They Worry a Fair Amount to a Lot About . . .



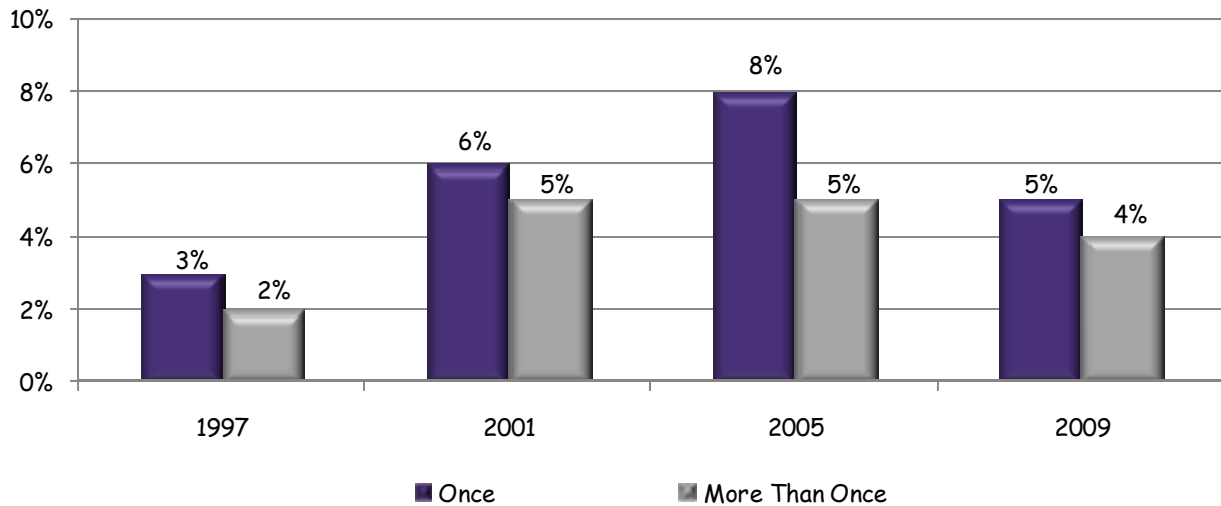
Source: Herkimer County Teen Assessment Project (TAP) Survey

Family

Family Conflict

Graph 118

Percent of Teens That Said They Have Been Physically Hurt by an Adult at Home in the Past Year



Source: Herkimer County Teen Assessment Project (TAP) Survey

The TAP Survey also asks a question about how safe youth feel in their home.

I feel safe in my home.

Table 129

	Total				2009				
	1997	2001	2005	2009	Male	Female	7 th	9 th	11 th
Strongly agree	58.9%	61.3%	64.2%	67.9	70.0	66.0	70.5	65.3	68.0
Agree	34.3%	33.8%	29.8%	27.1	26.3	28.3	24.5	28.9	28.6
Disagree	3.0%	2.7%	3.8%	3.4	2.1	4.3	3.7	3.5	2.5
Strongly disagree	3.7%	2.2%	2.2%	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.3	2.2	.9
N =	2275	2151	2174	1875	867	978	616	678	553

Source: Herkimer County Teen Assessment Project (TAP) Survey

More seventh and ninth graders appear to be concerned about home safety than eleventh graders (5%, 6% versus 3%). Also, females seem more likely to be concerned for their safety than males (6% versus 3%).

Family

Family Conflict

In an analysis of the 2005 Herkimer County TAP Survey results, those teens that felt unsafe at home versus those that felt safe at home:

53% versus 18% have had someone at home threatened by an adult in the home in the past year;

49% versus 13% have personally been physically hurt by an adult in the home in the past year;

59% versus 23% felt unsafe at school;

35% versus 12% missed school in the past year because they felt unsafe;

41% versus 22% have changed schools in the past 5 years;

58% versus 19% felt unsafe in their communities;

53% versus 31% have been sexually harassed in past year

It was also found for those students who indicated that they felt unsafe at home that they were more likely to be involved in risky behaviors than the rest of the survey respondents. For instance, for those teens that felt unsafe at home versus those that felt safe at home:

53% versus 30% have ever smoked cigarettes;

60% versus 49% have ever used alcohol;

32% versus 19% had gone binge drinking in the past month;

40% versus 21% had ever used marijuana;

18% versus 5% had tried cocaine;

26% versus 9% have tried someone else's prescriptions;

37% versus 15% have misused over the counter drugs;

36% versus 16% reported attending school high during the past 12 months;

29% versus 10% reported having been suspended from school during past year;

50% versus 19% had seriously considered suicide in the past year;

34% versus 10% had attempted suicide in the past year;

39% versus 17% were more likely to have used physical force to get their own way in the past year; and

33% versus 11% were more likely to have carried a weapon with the intent to harm someone else or to protect themselves in the past year.

Family

Family Conflict

Family, School and Community Integration Relationship to Risk Behaviors 2009 TAP Survey

Premise: Youth involved in bullying and violent behavior toward others lack family integration. They tend to be the same youth that appear in family court and other legal jurisdictions in need of services. These kids seem to come from troubled families and homes.

Inquiry 1: Do teens that have negative family integration tend to be more involved in risk behaviors than teens with positive family integration ?

Inquiry 2: Do teens that have positive family integration tend to be less involved in risk behaviors than teens with positive school and community integration ?

Measurement Tool: Simple measures of family integration, school integration and community integration were constructed as follows:

Family - The responses to whether a youth felt safe at home and whether they felt they could turn to their parents if they had a serious personal problem were combined to create a dichotomy for positive and negative family integration.

School - The responses to whether a youth felt safe at school and whether they felt teachers in their school cared about them were combined to create a dichotomy for positive and negative school integration.

Community - The responses to whether a youth felt safe in their community and whether they felt adults in their community valued and cared about them were combined to create a dichotomy for positive and negative community integration.

Findings: Based on these integrations measures, then, the following relationships were observed:

There was no relationship to the strength of integration into families, schools or the community based on sex or grade/age. Similar percentages of youth were positively integrated in each grade and regardless of whether they were male or female as with the general population.

Parents/Families had the highest rate of overall positive integration at 94%. Schools had the next highest level of overall positive integration among teens at 87%. Communities had a positive integration rate of 80%.

Generally, youth with negative integration patterns are more likely to participate in various risk behaviors. (see table on back)

Youth with positive community integration were least likely to participate in many risk behaviors.

Family

Family Conflict

Positive community integration was a better predictor of risk behavior avoidance than was family or school integration for all examined behaviors except suicide and depression.

Negative Integration Crosswalk

Table 130

Issue	Negative Family Integration	Negative School Integration	Negative Community Integration
Feel Bullied	2X as likely	2.5X as likely	2.5X as likely
Bullied Others	2X as likely	2X as likely	2X as likely
Had Violent Relationship GF/BF	3X as likely	2.5X as likely	2X as likely

Source: Herkimer County Teen Assessment Project (TAP) Survey

DATA SOURCES

Child Trends Databank

Communities That Care, Developmental Research and Programs, Inc.

Herkimer County Department of Social Services

NYS Office of Children and Family Services, 2008 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles

Catholic Charities Domestic Violence Program Annual Statistics (1999 - 2008)

Catholic Charities Dispute Resolution Program

Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program

Herkimer County Teen Assessment Project (TAP) Survey

Family

Parental Attitudes & Family Norms

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Parental attitudes and behaviors influence the attitudes and behavior of children. Children of parents who approve or excuse the children for breaking the law are more likely to develop problems. Children whose parents engage in violent behavior inside or outside the home are at greater risk for exhibiting violent behaviors. Parental approval of a child's moderate drinking, even under parental supervision, increases the risk of the use of alcohol and other drugs.

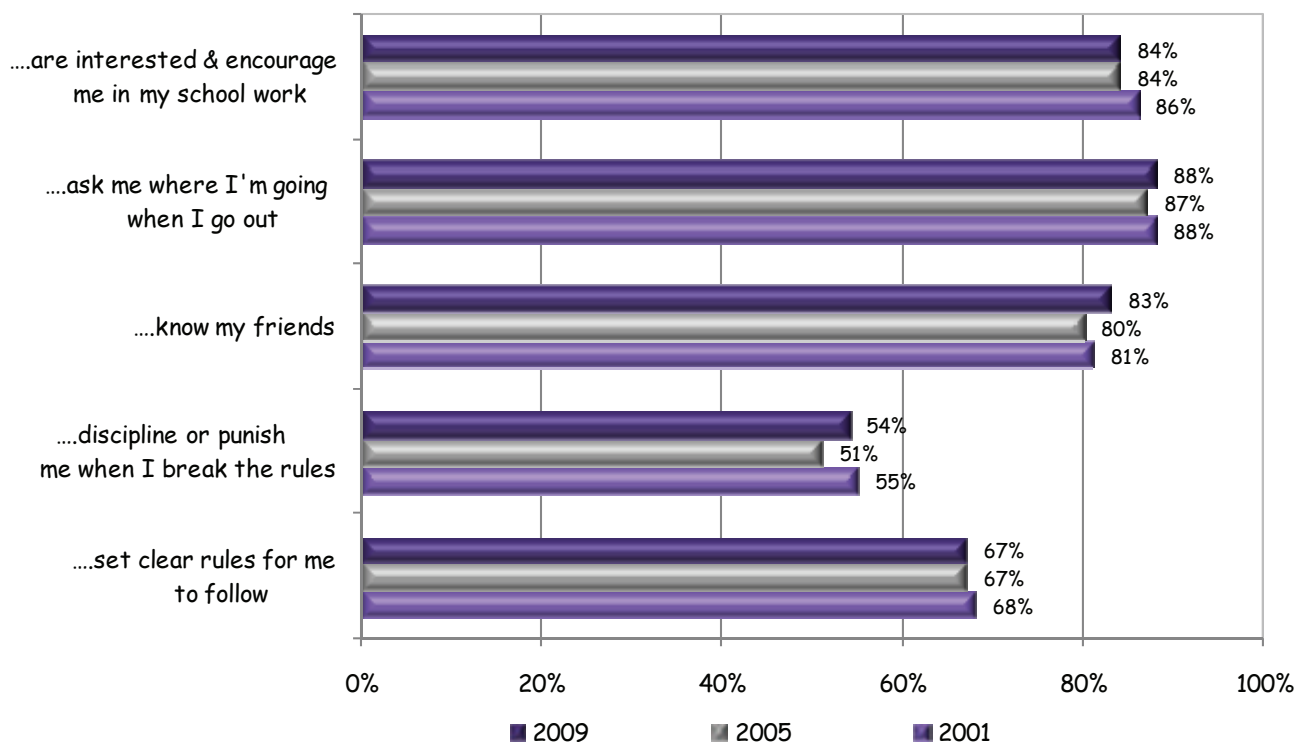
Parents that monitor their children's behavior, hold them accountable for their actions, and are generally engaged in their children's lives help to protect them against involvement in problem behaviors.

WHERE WE STAND

There are several questions from the Herkimer County Teen Assessment Project Survey that examine the relationship that teens feel they have with their parents. By looking at their responses from the last three TAP Surveys in 2001, 2005, and 2009 it appears that most youth have a good relationship with their parents.

Teens That Said Their Parents Either Often or Always. . .

Graph 119



Source: Herkimer County TAP Survey

Family

Parental Attitudes & Family Norms

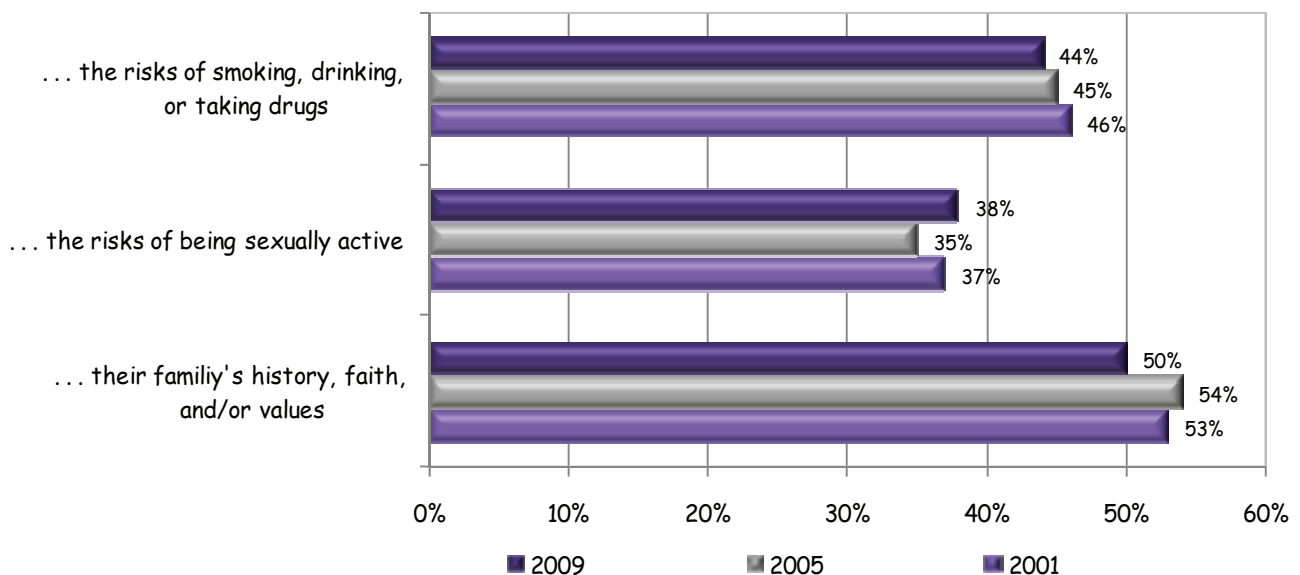
Parents, for the most part, seem to be monitoring their children's behavior, holding them accountable and are generally engaged in their children's lives. For example, when asked if their parents set clear rules for them to follow, the percent of teens that said that they did often or always, versus never or occasionally, was 68% in 2001, 67% in 2005, and 67% again in the most recent survey in 2009. And, the percent that said their parents often or always disciplined or punished them when they broke the rules was 55% in 2001, 51% in 2005, and 54% in 2009 - a slight drop which then increased almost to the previous level.

There are several other questions that explore whether parents are engaged in their children's lives, and based on their children's response to these question, it appears that the great majority of parents are engaged. The 2009 TAP Survey results indicated that 83% of parents often or always know their teen's friends; 88% often or always ask them where they are going when going out; and, 84% often or always encourage them in their schoolwork. These numbers are very similar to the results of the previous survey.

According to how teens responded in both the 2001 and 2005 TAP Survey, fewer than half (45%) of parents talked at least sometimes to their children about the dangers of drinking, smoking, using drugs; in 2009 the number remained relatively stable at 44%. In past surveys, just over a third (35%, 37%) reported that their parents talked at least sometimes to them about being sexually active; in 2009 that number increased slightly to 38%.

Graph 120

Percent of Teens That Said That Their Parents at Least Sometimes Talk to Them About . . .



Source: Herkimer County TAP Survey

Family

Parental Attitudes & Family Norms

The degree to which teens appear to be concerned about getting along with their parents has increased since 1997, but seems fairly level since 2001. In 1997 about 72% of all teens worried at least a little about how they got along with their parents.

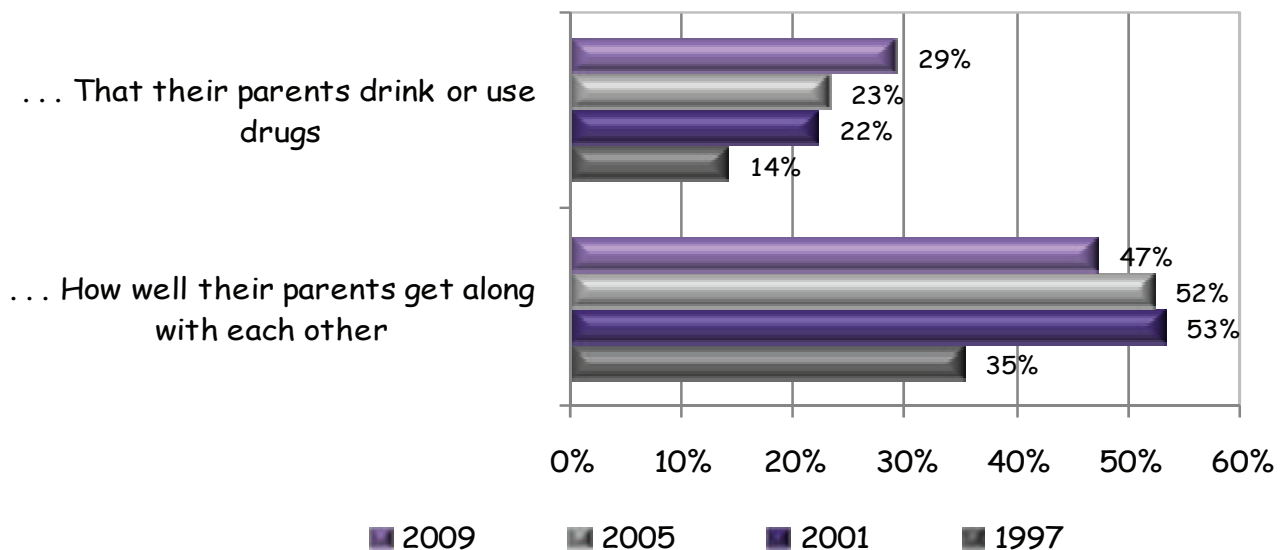
By 2001, this percentage had increased to as much as 79% of all teens. In the 2005 TAP Survey, 78% of all teens said they were at least a little concerned about how well they were relating to their parents. However, of the teens who took the survey in 2009, the number who worried about getting along with their parents dropped to 55%.

Almost 80% of all teens in 2005 said they could turn to their parents with a serious problem, this number remained steady for the 2009 survey. This percentage remains just under 80% regardless of gender or age. What is interesting to note, however, is that when asked who they generally talk to when they have a problem, most said a friend, though the percentage relying on friends has decreased (1997 - 53%, 2001 - 49%, 2005 - 47%, 2009 - 48%), and fewer said their parent, though that percentage has increased (1997 - 21%, 2001 - 22%, 2005 - 24%, 2009 - 24%).

A question was asked about what teens did when faced with a serious problem, with a focus on thoughts about suicide. Disturbingly, the results from the 2009 survey show a dramatic decrease in the number of youth who talk to their parent or another caring adult when they had thoughts of committing suicide. These numbers were low in 1997 (2%) and in 2001 (1%) but

Graph 121

Percent of Teens That Said They Worry A Fair Amount or a Lot About . .



Source: Herkimer County TAP Survey

Family

Parental Attitudes & Family Norms

increased to 7% in 2005. In 2009, less than 1% of teens indicated they would talk to a parent or another caring adult when thinking about suicide. The number who said they would talk to a friend had been decreasing (1997 - 7%, 2001 - 5%, 2005 - 3%) but remained at slightly over 3% in the 2009 survey.

Youth appear to be increasingly worried about how well their parents got along with each other. Thirty five percent (35%) of all teens worried about their parents' relationship to one another in 1997, but slightly more than half (53% and 52% respectively) worried about this in 2001 and 2005. This number dropped to 46.7% in the 2009 survey. Youth also appear to be concerned about whether their parents are using drugs or alcohol. About one in four teens (23%) said they were worried a fair amount or a lot about parental use of drugs or alcohol in 2005, up from 14% that were concerned in 1997. In the 2009 survey, this number increased again to 29%.

Finally, more youth seem to feel safe at home. The percent that indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement that they feel safe in their home has steadily increased (1997 - 59%, 2001 - 61%, 2005 - 64%, 2009 - 68%). While overall the number of teens who felt safe at home had not changed significantly (93% in 1997, 94% in 2005, and 95% in 2009), the strength of their sense of being safe HAS in fact significantly increased. When asked in 1997 if they agreed with the statement that they felt safe at home, about 59% stated that they strongly agreed with that statement. In 2005, the number of students that strongly agreed with that statement was 64%. The number who strongly agreed in 2009 was 68% - another increase. This represents a significantly stronger sense of home safety in the 2009 TAP Survey for teens than in previous surveys.

Family Meals

According to the Child Trends Data Bank, research has shown a positive relationship between frequent family dinners and positive teen behavioral outcomes. Teens who regularly have meals with their family not only get better nutrition and develop healthier eating habits, they also are less likely to get into fights, think about suicide, smoke, drink, use drugs, and are more likely to have later initiation of sexual activity, and better academic performance than teens who do not. Even after controlling for family connectedness, more frequent family meals have been found to be associated with less substance use, fewer depressive symptoms, and less suicide involvement, and with better grades.

Based on the Herkimer County TAP Survey, the percentage of teens in 7th, 9th and 11th grades that said they sit down to dinner with their family at least five times a week decreased from 47% in 2001 to 43% in 2005. That number remained stable at 43% for 2009. According to a national survey by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, the percentage of 12- to 17-year-olds that said they ate dinner with their families at least five times weekly increased from 47% in 1998 to 58% in 2005. So, over these last several years whereas nationally the percentage of adolescents that eat dinner together with their families at least five times per week increased, in Herkimer County it has decreased.

Family

Parental Attitudes & Family Norms

DATA SOURCES

Herkimer County Teen Assessment Project (TAP) Surveys, 1997, 2001, 2005 and 2009

Communities That Care, Developmental Research and Programs, Inc.

Herkimer County Youth Bureau



Adirondack Scenic Railroad

Family

Key Findings & Commentary

- When compared to NYS and US Census data, Herkimer County has a higher percentage of married couples living together (50.2%) and male-headed households (no spouse present - 5.1%), and a lower percentage of female-headed households (no spouse present—12%).
- The 2006-2008 ACS reports that a higher percentage of seniors live with others or alone in Herkimer County (27.9%, 12.3%) than in NYS (25.4%, 10.4%) or the US (23.5%, 9.3%).
- The divorce rate per 1000 persons in Herkimer County is about 3.3, which is just under the rate for New York State (3.4) and well below the rate for the U.S. (4.95)
- When compared to New York State and the US, children below the age of six in Herkimer County are more likely to have their parents working. Percentages are relatively similar for HC, NYS and the US for the 6 to 17 year old age group.
- Between 1960 and 2005/2007, the total County population has decreased by 3,676 while the senior population has increased by 2,132. The percentage of seniors, as a portion of the total County population, increased from 17% in 1960 to 22% with the 2005-07 ACS. Also, during this time period, the number of those aged 85 and older has nearly tripled.
- One way to assess the pressure the sandwich generation (adult children caring for their elderly parents as well as their own children/grandchildren) may experience is the parent support ratio, which is the number of oldest old (age 80+) per 100 people age 50-64. The higher the ratio, the fewer people age 50-64 are available to help care for those aged 80 plus. For the United States this ratio, based on Census figures, increased from 21 in 1990 to 22 in 2000. For Herkimer County the ratio has been steadily increasing as follows: 1970 - 16; 1980 - 18; 1990 - 26; 2000 - 31; 2005-07 - 28.
- Of those grandparents that live with their grandchildren (2.6%), in Herkimer County approximately 47.5% are responsible for the care of their grandchildren; this is above the NYS and US percentage (31.1% and 40.6% respectively).
- Overall, there has been a 38% reduction in the number of Foster Care placements between 1998 and 2008.
- The number of Foster Care admissions from the PINS population decreased from a high of 43 in 2002 to a low of 12 in 2008. Child Protective Services admissions have also dropped in recent years, from a high of 59 in 2002, to 17 admissions in 2007, and 26 admissions in 2008.
- Herkimer County, when compared to Rest of State (NYS minus NYC) in 2006, had a higher rate of placements per 1000 children in the county (2.1 per 1,000 vs. 1.8 per 1,000). This same disparity has been evident since 2000. Median lengths of stay in foster care have also been higher in Herkimer County than in the Rest of State (13.8 months vs. 10.1 months in 2006).
- For youth in placement on December 31, 2008, 40% of Herkimer County children in care spent 50% or more time in Congregate Care. Herkimer County Ranked in the "High" range when compared with other counties in the state for its use of Congregate Care beds.

Family

Key Findings & Commentary

- The number of youth that were in care on the first day of each month from January 2003 to November 2008 has decreased by 43% (125 vs. 71).
- As more youth are diverted or discharged from placement, the need for enhanced family and youth supports in the home, school and community are of critical importance. In Herkimer County, families received Protective and Preventive services at a higher rate than families in the Rest of State in 2007 (HC Rate = 9.5 per 1000, ROS = 6.8 per 1000).
- Older youth (age 18+) who do not have skills to live successfully on their own are found to contact the Runaway and Homeless Youth program more frequently in recent years. Many do not have anywhere to live and end up "couch-surfing" and living "hand-to-mouth" and contact the program when they have exhausted all of their resources.
- Out of the 1257 births to Herkimer County mothers between 10/1/07 and 9/30/09, 811 pregnancies were screened by the Healthy Families program, and 75% were found to have at least one risk factor present.
- In 2008, 36% of the impairments identified upon referral to Adult Protective services were medical in nature.
- Since 2005, Child Protective Services reports have been increasing. Overall, CPS reports have increased by 45% between 1998 and 2008. The highest number of reports in the eleven year period was in 2008 (964) reports.
- The annual rate of abuse/neglect Reports per 1000 children ages 0-18 in Herkimer County has consistently been below the rate found in comparable counties, which are counties similar in size and composition to Herkimer County. The percentage of indicated reports per total reports in Herkimer County has also been slightly lower than the rate for comparable counties (indicated reports are those that upon investigation there was credible evidence that a child experienced abuse or maltreatment).
- The number of adult victims of domestic violence receiving services has remained over 400 since 2004. During 2008, 19 teens received services due to violence in their relationships.
- According to the 2009 Herkimer County Teen Assessment Project Survey, 6% of 7th graders, 7% of 9th graders, and 10% of 11th graders report that they have been in an abusive relationship with a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- The percent of teens who worry about how well their parents related to one another dropped from 35% in 1997 to 28% in 2009.
- Youth were asked if an adult in their home had made a serious threat in the past year to another family member, including themselves. In 2009, 8% said yes; whereas, 18% indicated yes in 2005. A related question asked youth if they had been physically hurt by an adult at home in the past year. The percentage of teens that indicated they had been hurt increased from 5% in 1997 to 13% in 2005 and then dipped down to 9% in 2009.

Family

Key Findings & Commentary

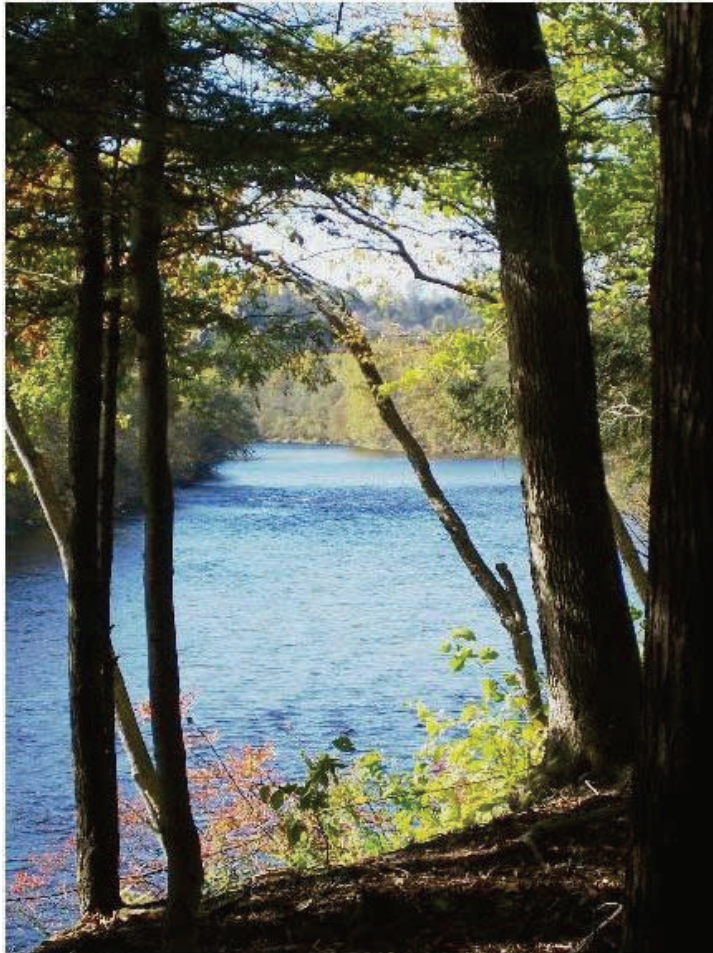
- Youth appear to be concerned about whether their parents are using drugs or alcohol. About one in four teens (23%) responding to the TAP Survey said they were worried a fair amount or a lot about parental use of drugs or alcohol in 2005, up from 14% that were concerned in 1997. In the 2009 survey, this number increased again to 29%.
- A focus group of parents who have children receiving services from various service providers in Herkimer County reported that the array of services available to assist youths and families has increased in both quantity and quality in recent years. Some families expressed frustration, however, that some programs and services were not as “strength-based” as others, and recommended that all services train their staff on strength-based family-centered practices that support families to be the key decision makers in their own lives. Navigating the system for “newcomers” to services was also cited as an issue, and “being treated with respect and dignity” was reported as being very important when accessing services and working with programs.
- A focus group comprised of key stakeholders in the areas of government, human and social services, law enforcement and education met to discuss the information included in the Family Section of the 2009 Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile. Key issues and trends identified by this group included:
 - Herkimer County's aging population
 - Increase in the 85+ population
 - More elderly requiring assistance
 - Grandparents raising grandchildren
 - Impact on the “sandwich generation”
 - More unmarried women are having children
 - Impact of increased divorce rates
 - The decrease in two-parent families
 - More teens in dating violence relationships
 - Lack of offender accountability for domestic crimes
 - The impact of high-risk youth that are not being placed and are remaining in their schools and communities
 - Parents that are overwhelmed and increasingly call police to settle family disputes
 - The impact of families moving into NYS and Herkimer County with special needs
 - The increased number of kids diagnosed with special needs
 - Limited mental health services for children
 - The need for additional drug treatment services
 - The number of youth ages 16-24 (@ 5,000) not in school or not working
 - Barriers to completing high school (and drop-out) - Disabilities, services aren't there, parents provide limited support, possible educational neglect
 - Key factors in placements - Domestic violence, drug/alcohol abuse, inadequate parenting skills

Family

Key Findings & Commentary

When asked *"How can we better serve youth and families?"* the group suggested the following:

- Improve coordination of services
- Improve communication between county and schools
- Youth 16 to 24 - Provide alternative to high school (GED programs, etc.)
- Get to students at younger ages, while in school to help them to stay on track academically
- Encourage/continue use of services such as Project ReConnect, Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, RCIL, Probation/PINS, Community Maternity Services
- Publicize concerns over illegal (not registered) childcare providers
- Provide a transitional living residence and mentoring for youth ages 17 to 21



West Canada Creek