Community Foundation for South Central New York Needs Assessment Delaware County

A report summarizing the primary needs and gaps in service
in Delaware County including recommendations for funding priorities.

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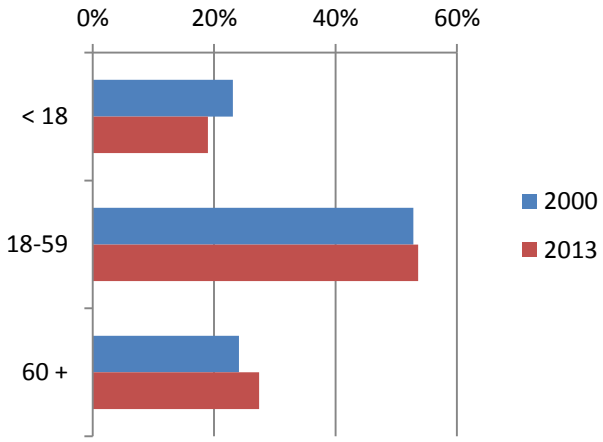
Population Shift

The population in County has been decreasing by small, but steady amounts over the past several years. Between 2000 and 2013, the total population decreased by 564 people. In addition to an overall loss in population, the age demographics of Delaware County have shifted significantly with a reduction in the number of children under age 18 declining from 23% to 19% of the total population.

Table 1 Population Change by Township[1]

Township	2000	2013	Percent Change
Delaware County	48,055	47,491	-1.2%
Andes	1,356	1,066	-21.4%
Bovina	664	539	-18.8%
Colchester	2,042	2,057	+0.7%
Davenport	2,774	2,943	+6.1%
Delhi	4,629	5,006	+8.1%
Deposit	1,687	1,976	+17.1%
Franklin	2,621	2,246	-14.3%
Hamden	1,280	1,278	0.0%
Hancock	3,449	3,192	-7.5%
Harpersfield	1,603	1,606	0.0%
Kortright	1,633	1,471	-9.9%
Masonville	1,405	1,511	+7.5%
Meredith	1,588	1,608	+1.3%
Middletown	4,051	3,737	-7.8%
Roxbury	2,509	2,479	-1.2%
Sidney	6,109	5,718	-6.4%
Stamford	1,943	2,508	+29.1%
Tompkins	1,105	1,037	-6.2%
Walton	5,607	5,513	-1.7%

Figure 1 Demographic Change 2000 to 2013[2]



[1] Decennial Census 2000 (DP-1) & ACS 5-year estimates, 2013 (S0101)
[2] Decennial Census 2000 (DP-1) & ACS 5-year estimates, 2013 (S0101)

Poverty

The percent of the population with incomes below the federal poverty level has increased slightly in Delaware County from 12.9% in 2000 to 14.2% in 2013, but the percent of children in poverty has more than doubled from 10.1% to 21.8%. The highest rates of childhood poverty are found in the townships of Davenport, Roxbury and Walton. The poverty rate among seniors has decreased slightly in the county and is considerably lower than the overall poverty rate. However, there are a few areas with higher levels of poverty among seniors including Tompkins at 19.2% and Deposit at 13.2%. Households led by single mothers are significantly more likely to be poor with 47.1% of all households with incomes below the federal poverty level compared to 33.3% of households led by single males and 11.5% of two parent households.

Table 2 Percent below Poverty by Township and Year[3]

	All Individuals		Under 18		65 and older	
Township	*2000*	*2013*	*2000*	*2013*	*2000*	*2013*
Delaware County	12.9%	14.2%	10.9%	21.8%	8.6%	7.2%
Andes	9.4%	13.3%	8.4%	27.2%	6.8%	4.3%
Bovina	5.7%	10.6%	5.7%	11.0%	2.6%	11.9%
Colchester	12.7%	17.2%	10.1%	28.9%	7.8%	9.7%
Davenport	10.1%	16.0%	9.6%	33.8%	3.8%	9.6%
Delhi	9.8%	13.0%	8.6%	7.3%	5.9%	6.5%
Deposit	15.8%	14.3%	11.4%	24.6%	8.3%	13.2%
Franklin	10.4%	5.9%	9.2%	5.7%	5.3%	3.7%
Hamden	10.4%	14.6%	10.2%	14.9%	7.9%	11.3%
Hancock	14.3%	13.8%	12.7%	20.4%	13.4%	8.4%
Harpersfield	18.3%	12.2%	12.2%	7.5%	7.4%	10.8%
Kortright	12.6%	11.9%	9.2%	21.3%	5.9%	3.7%
Masonville	14.4%	7.8%	12.6%	10.0%	10.1%	10.6%
Meredith	14.2%	5.1%	11.2%	0.0%	8.8%	7.9%
Middletown	16.8%	14.4%	13.1%	21.6%	9.6%	6.3%
Roxbury	13.4%	12.6%	11.4%	29.3%	6.7%	7.0%
Sidney	14.3%	12.2%	12.3%	18.9%	10.3%	1.5%
Stamford	12.0%	16.8%	10.3%	27.1%	11.2%	6.7%
Tompkins	8.9%	18.8%	9.5%	24.2%	17.3%	19.2%
Walton	12.1%	23.0%	11.4%	35.1%	8.6%	6.4%

Table 3 Poverty Rates by Family Type[4]

	Incomes Below Poverty	
Family Type	*N*	*Percent*
Married	686	11.5%
Male HOH/no female	286	33.3%
Female HOH/no male	900	47.1%

[3] ACS 2013 5-year averages, Table DP03; CENSUS2000, Table QT-P34

[4] ACS 2013 5-year averages, Table B17006

Funding Recommendations:

Support and treatment services for mental health and chemical dependencies

In-home respite for families with members with developmental disabilities

Support for programming that ensure early identification of youth/adolescents health issues

Support for anti-obesity programming for youth

Support for suicide prevention services

Access to Care

An important aspect of access to care is the availability of health care providers. The ratio of population to providers places Delaware County in the bottom quarter of all counties in NYS for primary care physicians, dentists, and mental health providers.

In addition, Delaware County has been designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area for primary care, low-income primary care, mental health, and dental health.

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas

- Primary Care
- Low Income Primary care
- Mental Health
- Low Income Dental Health

Table 4 Ratio of Population to Number of Providers[5]

Provider Type	Delaware County	New York State
Primary Care Physicians	2,364:1	1,210:1
Dentists	2,920:1	1,580:1
Mental Health Providers	954:1	552:1

Table 5 Number of Mental Health Programs by Type[6]

Program Type	Number
Care Coordination	6
General Support	5
Vocational	5
Self-Help	3
Unlicensed Housing	3
Treatment Program	2
Clinic Treatment	1
Crisis	1

Four organizations provide mental health services in Delaware County through a total of 26 programs. The most frequently available programs are care coordination and general support programs. Information from the county mental health needs assessment suggests that the lack of mental health providers is a problem. The report also noted that prevention resources are minimal in the county around mental health wellness.

Delaware County has provides outpatient clinic treatment for chemical dependency in four different locations in the county. In addition, Delaware Valley Hospital offers inpatient rehabilitation and Phoenix Houses provides intensive residential treatment. The mental health department noted that the outpatient and inpatient programs have been inundated with individuals with opiate disorders. Other stakeholders noted a

[5] University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/

[6] State of New York Open Data, Local Mental Health Programs, https://data.ny.gov/

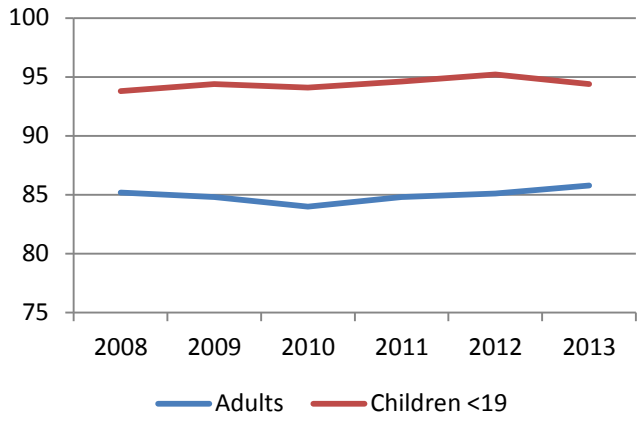
current gap in the addiction and recovery services that will continue to grow as the number of addicted people rises.

Four organizations currently provide services to people with developmental disabilities in Delaware County across a range of services. The mental health department reported staffing hiring delays due to challenges dealing with the bureaucracy of the Justice Center process for background checks on potential employees. They also noted a need for in-home respite services and difficulty finding providers who are willing to provide services in the home due to low reimbursement rates.

Table 6 Developmental Disabilities Programs by Type[7]

Program type	Number
Family support services	3
Individual residence alternative	3
Community habilitation	2
Day habilitation	3
Work shop	1
Prevocational	1
Supported Employment Enrollments	1

Figure 2 Percent of Residents with Health Insurance



Delaware County has not seen any improvement in the percent of the adult population with health insurance over the past 5 years. It surpasses the NYS rate as a whole, but has yet to meet the Prevention Agenda 2017 goal of 100% coverage. Delaware is behind NYS in the percent of adults who have seen a dentist and the percentage of early stage cancer diagnoses for colorectal cancer.

Table 7 Access to Care Indicators[8]

Indicator	Prevention Agenda 2017 Objective	NYS	Delaware County
Percent of adults with health care coverage	100%	84.7%	85.8%
Percent of adults with regular health care providers	90.8%	84.4%	81.8%
Percent of adults who have seen a dentist in the past year	83%	72.5%	65.8%
Early stage cancer diagnosis (2008-2012)[9]			
Breast	80%	64.8%	70.4% (F)
Cervical	65%	42.0%	Cannot be calculated
Colorectal	50%	43.6%	34.6%(M) 30.6% (F)

[7] State of New York Open Data, Directory of Developmental Disabilities Service Provider Agencies, https://data.ny.gov/

[8] NYS Dept of Health, County Health Assessment Indicators, https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/indicators/index.htm#chai

[9] New York State Cancer Registry, http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/cancer/registry/table3/tb3county.htm

Behavioral Health

Data from the New York State Department of Health (DOH) suggest that Delaware County has a potential area for concern related to tobacco use. Rates of tobacco use, COPD hospitalization and lung cancer among males exceed both NYS as a whole and the Prevention Agenda objectives by wide margins. However, reducing tobacco use was not identified as a priority area in the Delaware County Community Health Assessment 2013-2017 (CHA). The percentage of adults who consume one or more sugary drinks per day is considerably higher than the NYS rate. Sexually transmitted disease rates are lower than the state and the Prevention Agenda Objectives. Delaware County slightly trails NYS in many of the disease screening and management activities such as colorectal screening, flu immunizations, and cholesterol checks.

Table 8 Key Behavioral Health Indicators[10]

Indicator	Prevention Agenda 2017 Objective	NYS	Delaware County
TOBACCO USE			
Percent cigarette smoking in adults	15%	15.9%	22.9%
Percent of adults with HH income <$25,00 who are current smokers	-	24.2%	41.3%
COPD hospitalizations among adults (per 10,000)	31.0 (2013)	41.3 (2010)	66.8 (2010)
Lung cancer incidence (per 100,000) – Male	62.0 (2013)	75.8 (2010)	117.3 (2010)
Lung cancer incidence (per 100,000) – Female	41.0 (2013)	53.9 (2010)	51.8 (2010)
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY/NUTRITION			
Percent of adults engaged in some type of leisure time physical activity	80%	72.9%	78.6%
Percent of adults who consider their neighborhood suitable for walking and physical activity	-	91.3%	92.6%
Percentage of adults who consume fast-food three or more times per week	-	5.9%	-
Percentage of adults who consume one or more sugary drinks per day	-	24.7%	34.5%
STDs			
Newly diagnosed HIV case rates per 100,000	16.1	19.1	2.8
Gonorrhea rate per 100,000 women age 15-44	183.4	188.6	26.5
Gonorrhea rate per 100,000 men age 15-44	199.5	267.7	0.0
Chlamydia rate per 100,000 women age 15-44	1458.0	1536.0	1113.2

[10] NYS DOH Open Data, Expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/Expanded-Behavioral-Risk-Factor-Surveillance-Surve/jsy7-eb4n and NYS Prevention Agenda Dashboard, https://health.ny.gov/preventionagendadashboard

Indicator	Prevention Agenda 2017 Objective	NYS	Delaware County
Disease Screening/Management			
Percent of adults who received a colorectal cancer screening, age 50-75	71.4%	69.3%	63.4%
Percent of adults with cholesterol checked	-	83.4%	80.7%
Percent of adults with flu immunization	-	46.0%	41.0%
Percent of adults who had a test for high blood sugar or diabetes within the past three years	-	59.1%	60.6%
Percent of adults who have taken class to learn how to manage their chronic health disease or condition	-	9.7%	7.2%
Percent of adults diagnosed with high blood pressure taking medication	-	55.5%	43.3%

Chronic Disease

The Delaware County DOH has identified preventing chronic disease as a local health priority in the CHA primarily through the reduction of obesity in children and adults. Data regarding current rates of obesity show that the percentage of Delaware County adults and children who are obese is only slightly above the Prevention Agenda Objective. Additionally, the rates of obesity related chronic diseases such as diabetes, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure are lower than or comparable to NYS rates. The area with the highest level of concern is the heart attack hospitalization rate which is 55% higher than the Prevention Agenda Objective.

Table 9 Key Chronic Disease Indicators[11]

Indicator	Prevention Agenda 2017 Objective	NYS	Delaware County
CHRONIC DISEASE			
Percent of obese children 2–4 Years (WIC)	11.6%	13.1%	15.6%
Percent of children and adolescents who are obese	16.7%	17.6%	19.3%
Percent of adults who are obese (BMI>30)	23.2%	24.6%	24.3%
Percentage of adults with HH income <$25,000 who are obese	-	28.5%	18.1%
Diabetes prevalence in adults	5.7%	10.4%	6.0%
Diabetes short-term complication hospitalization rate (per 10,000)			
Age 6-17 years	3.1	3.1	-
Age 18+ years	4.9	6.3	4.27
Age adjusted heart attack hospitalization rate (per 10,000)	14.0	14.2	21.8
Hypertension emergency department visit rate (per 10,000)	-	32.3	24.0
Percentage of adults with physician diagnosed pre-diabetes		5.9%	3.4%
Percentage of adults with elevated cholesterol	-	34.5%	27.7%
Percentage of adults with physician diagnosed high blood pressure	-	27.3%	28.6%

Mental Health

Data from the NYS DOH shows that Delaware County has a higher than average suicide mortality rate which has been increasing over time. The 3-year average rate increased from 9.0 in 2008-2010 to 17.2 in 2011-2013. The Delaware County CHA identified preventing suicide among youth and adults as a focus area in promoting mental health. In addition, the Local Services Plan (LSP) of the county mental health department prioritized a county-wide system approach to suicide prevention in their goals. The percent of Delaware County residents reporting 14 or more days with poor mental health in the last month has decreased slightly from 12.9% to 11.7% between the 2008-2009 and 2013-2014 data collection periods. The county mental health department noted that the outpatient mental health clinic does not have the capacity or prescribers available to deal with the mental health needs of county.

[11] NYS Dept of Health, County Health Assessment Indicators, https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/indicators/index.htm#chai

Table 10 Key Mental Health Indicators[12]

Indicator	Prevention Agenda 2017 Objective	NYS	Delaware County
Suicide mortality rate (per 100,000)	5.9	8	17.2
Percent of adults reporting 14 or more days with poor mental health in last month	10.1%	11.2%	6.6%

Chemical Dependency

Indicators from the NYSDOH on substance abuse in Delaware County show that the percent of adults who engaged in binge drinking slightly exceeds both the Prevention Agenda and the NYS rate and the alcohol related motor vehicle injuries and deaths is nearly double the NYS rate. Delaware County also had higher drug-related hospitalizations than the NYS (excluding NYC) rate. The county mental health department reported that the county has minimal prevention resources available and that the outpatient and inpatient programs are inundated with opiate disorders. They also noted concern about the lack of medically assisted treatment. The Delaware County CHA identified a focus area of strengthening the infrastructure for mental, emotional and behavioral health promotion & disorder prevention. The mental health department's LSP recommends a focus on a county-wide approach to opiate epidemic will involve prevention, treatment & recovery.

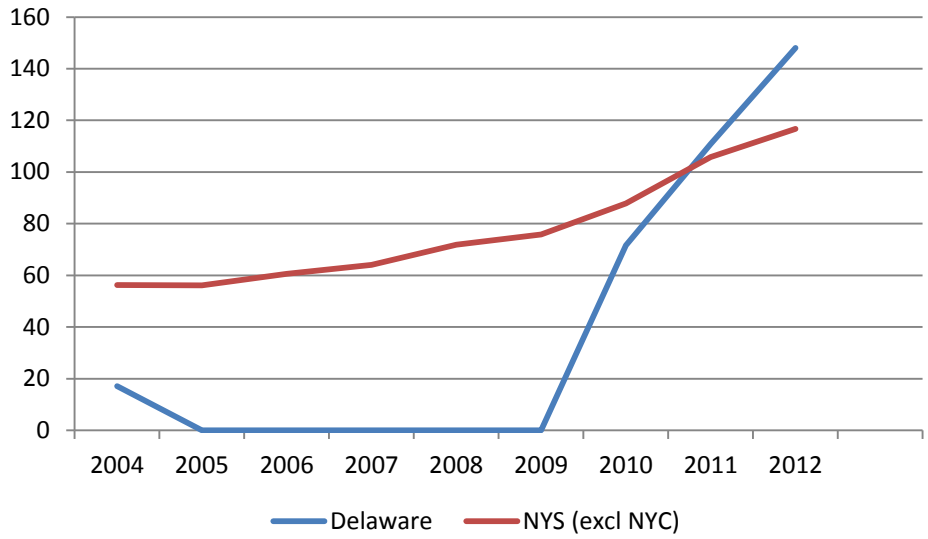
Table 11 Key Substance Abuse Indicators

Indicator	Prevention Agenda 2017 Objective	NYS exc. NYC	Delaware County
Drug-related hospitalizations (per 10,000)	26.0	21.6	23.3
Percent binge drinking past 30 days (5 + drinks in a row)	18.4	17.8	18.5
Alcohol related motor vehicle injuries and death per 100,000	-	33.9	59.5

Of particular note is the growing rate of newborns with a drug-related diagnosis. In Delaware County, the three-year average rate increased 766% from 17.1 per 10,000 newborn discharges in 2003-2005 to 148.1 in 2011-2013 (Figure 3). This was significantly higher than the upstate NYS rate increase of 81.5%.

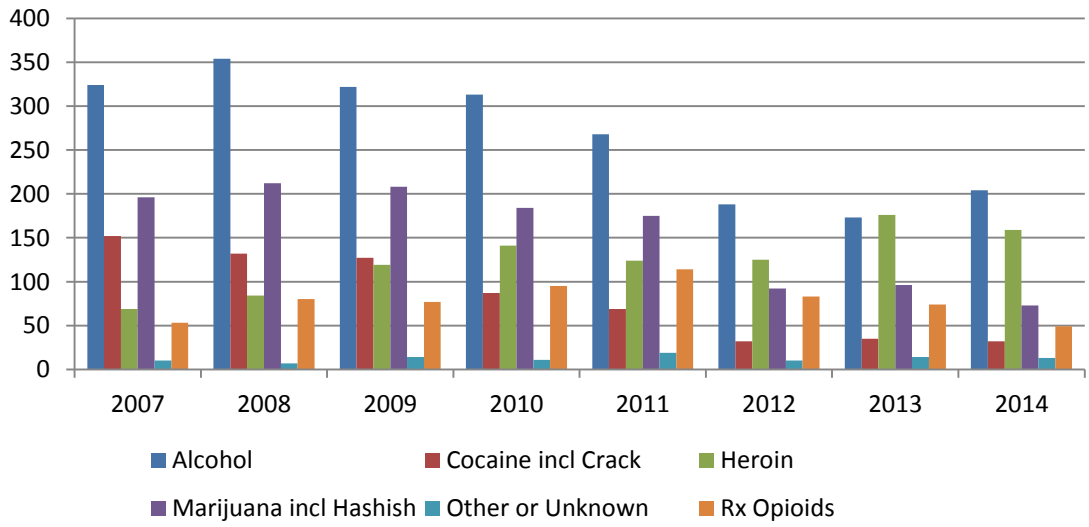
[12] NYS Dept of Health, County Health Assessment Indicators, https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/indicators/index.htm#chai

Figure 3 Newborn Drug-Related Diagnosis Rate (per 10,000 newborn discharges)



Another key indicator supporting the perception of the opioid epidemic is the number of admissions to treatment by substance type. In Delaware County, the admissions for heroin treatment increased by 130% from 69 in 2007 to 159 in 2014 (Figure 4).

Figure 4 Admissions to Treatment by Primary Substance Type



Children's Health

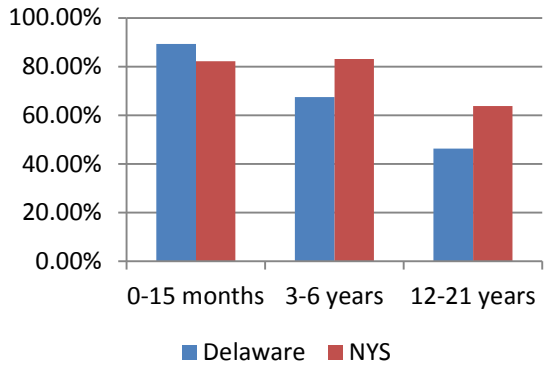
Data from the NYS DOH shows that Delaware County experienced a substantial improvement over time for lead screenings and incidence of confirmed blood lead levels among children with a 3-year average of 22.8 in 2003-2005 to 11.2 in 2010-2012, but is still trailing NYS.

Table 12 Lead Screening in Children

Indicator	NYS excl NYS	Delaware County (2009 birth cohort)
Lead Screening and Poisoning		
Percent of children with at least one lead screening by 9 months	2.9%	1.7%
Percent of children with a lead screening 10-17 months	68.3%	63.1%
Percent of children with a lead screening 18-35 months	66.2%	53.1%
Percent of children with at least two lead screenings by 36 months	50.6%	40.4%
Incidence of children <72 months with confirmed blood lead level >= 10 µg/dl (per 1,000 children tested)	7.5	11.2

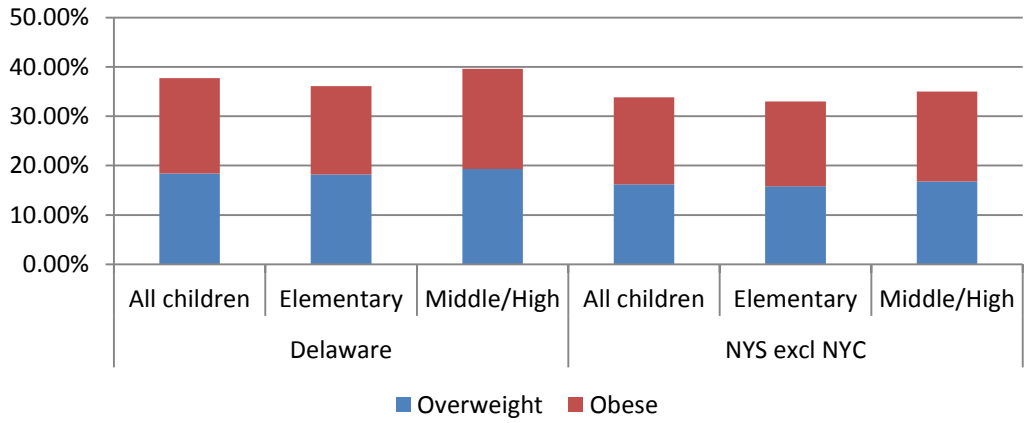
More children in Delaware County not going to the doctor regularly as they reach middle and high school (Figure 5). This lack of medical attention may prevent health issues from being identified in a timely manner and lead to worse health problems over time.

Figure 5 Percent of children who have had the recommended number of well visits (Medicaid/CHP)



Data also indicate that the prevalence of obesity increases significantly as children move into middle and high school (Figure 6).

Figure 6 Percent of Children who are Overweight and Obese



Primary Needs/Gaps in Services Identified by Community Stakeholders

- Obesity rates in children and adults
- Increased suicide rates
- Police department training on mental health outdated, lack of receptiveness to training
- Outpatient mental health clinic doesn't have sufficient capacity to deal with mental health needs of county
- Lack of prescribers available
- Minimal prevention resources available for mental health wellness
- Outpatient and inpatient treatment programs inundated with opiate disorders
- No medically assisted treatment
- Developmental disabilities providers need in-home respite
- Transportation issues for people to get to appointments
- Workforce development and hiring challenges for developmental disabilities positions

Priority Areas Identified by Community Organizations/County Departments

Community Health Assessment by Delaware County Department of Health

1. Prevent chronic disease:
    a. Expand role of public/private employers in obesity prevention
    b. Increase breastfeeding
    c. Reduce obesity in children & adults
    d. Create community environments that promote and support healthy beverage choices and physical activity
2. Promote mental health and prevent substance abuse:
    a. Prevent suicides among youth & adults
    b. Strengthen infrastructure for MEB health promotion & disorder prevention

A.O. Fox/Bassett Hospital Assessment Priorities

1. Improve access to quality health care
2. dental
3. Reduce chronic disease
4. Improve mental health

Local Services Plan for Mental Hygiene Services by Delaware County Community Mental Health Services

1. County-wide approach to opiate epidemic will involve prevention, treatment & recovery
2. Patient centered and integrated operations
3. County-wide cross system approach to suicide prevention will improve early intervention efforts and impact suicide rates
4. Delaware County will have a well-trained health professional workforce adequately meets needs of community
5. Delaware County will support strong prevention and engagement networks which are essential for improving population health

Funding Recommendation:

Supportive housing for the developmentally delayed population

Supportive housing options for people with mental health disabilities

Funding to support affordable housing

Financial assistance for seniors for weatherization, repairs and home modifications to age in place

Financial assistance for low-income families to make needed repairs

Availability[13]

Overall, Delaware County has a relatively low occupancy rate at 63.6% of the total housing units in the county (Figure 8) and the vacancy rate for home ownership is moderate at 3.3% and 6.5 % for renters. However, nearly 30% of total housing units are seasonal or recreational suggesting that the occupancy rates may be misleading and that residents may have trouble relocating. Nearly three quarters of households in Delaware County own their homes. The majority of homes in Delaware County are single family homes (75%) and mobile homes (12%) (Figure 9).

Figure 8 Total Housing Units (31,126) by Occupancy

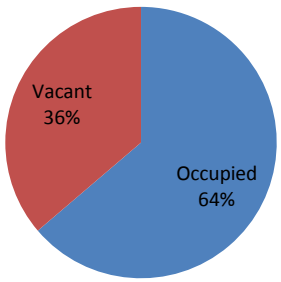


Figure 7 Ownership Status and Vacancy Rates

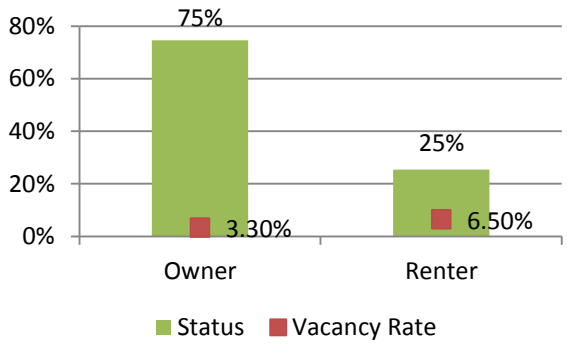
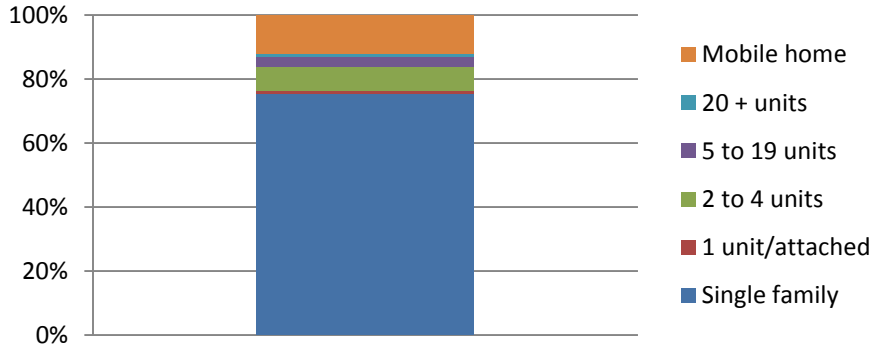


Figure 9 Total Housing Units (31,126) by Type



[13] ACS 5-year averages, 2013, Table DP04

Quality

Data on housing quality on the county level is not widely available, however, only approximately 7% of the unoccupied housing stock, and 2.5% of the total housing in Delaware County has an "other vacant" status according to the American Community Survey. "Other vacant" can mean homes that are in the process of being repaired, foreclosed homes, homes being used exclusively for storage, and abandoned or condemned homes.

Table 13 Unoccupied Units by Status[14]

Status	Number	Percent
Total unoccupied units	11,282	
For rent	355	3.1%
Rented, not occupied	63	0.6%
For sale only	508	4.5%
Sold, not occupied	136	1.2%
For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	9,410	83.4%
Other vacant	806	7.1%

Affordability

On average, the cost of homes in Delaware County is moderate with a median value of owner occupied homes of $133,200, but there is clearly a wide variation in the affordability of homes in the County. Over a third of homes in the county are low cost homes (less than $99,999) and a significant portion (26.8%) valued more than $200,000.

Table 14 Value of Owner-Occupied Homes[15]

Home Value	Number	Percent
Median	$133,200	
Less than $50,000	1,855	12.5%
$50,000 to $99,999	3,407	23.0%
$100,000 to $149,999	2,885	19.5%
$150,000 to $199,999	2,687	18.2%
$200,000 to $299,999	2,284	15.4%
$300,000 to $499,999	1,154	7.8%
$500,000 to $999,999	337	2.3%
$1,000,000 or more	187	1.3%

With a large proportion (53.1%) of owner occupied units without a mortgage, a substantial portion of the county have very affordable housing costs. Homeowners with a mortgage, however, have a high percentage of annual housing costs (30.7%) as a proportion to median income. In general, rental prices in Delaware County are low with the median rent being $662 and the majority are well below the HUD Fair Market Rent Guidelines. Gross rent as a proportion of median income ($44,470) is moderate (17.9%) (Figure 10), however, nearly half (48.2%) of renters spend more than 30% of their income on housing in Delaware County (Figure 12). This indicates a relatively large sub-group of the population for whom housing is generally unaffordable.

[14] ACS 5-year average, 2013, Table B25004
[15] ACS 5-year average, 2013, Table DP04

Table 15 Monthly Housing Costs[16]

Monthly Costs	Owner with Mortgage	Owner without Mortgage	Renter
Median	$1,138	$472	$662
Less than $300	0.0%	19.6%	8.6%
$300 to $499	5.7%	35.9%	15.5%
$500 to $699	8.4%	23.1%	40.2%
$700 to $999	24.5%	21.4%	24.2%
$1,000 to $1,499	35.7%	-	10.9%
$1,500 or more	25.7%	-	0.7%

Figure 10 Housing Costs as a Proportion of Median Income

Median Annual Housing Costs (with Mortgage)
$13,656
30.7% of Median Income

Median Annual Housing Costs (no Mortgage)
$4,664
12.7% of Median Income

Median Annual Housing Costs (Gross Rent)
$7,944
17.9% of Median Income

Figure 12 Housing Costs as a Proportion of Household Income

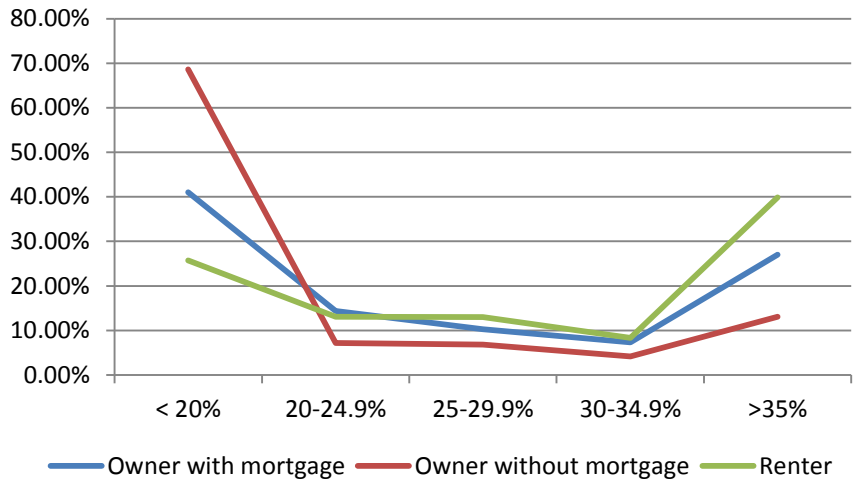
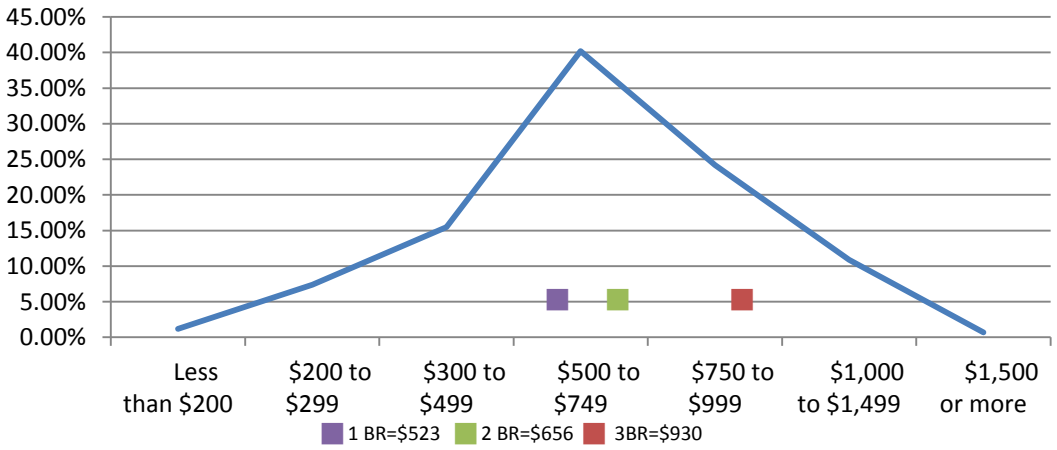


Figure 11 Percent of Households by Rent Costs with HUD Fair Market Rent Guidelines



[16] ACS 5-year averages, 2013, Table DP04

Senior Housing

According to information from the Delaware County Office for the Aging (COFA), Delaware County has nine locations dedicated to senior housing. In addition to senior apartments, Delaware County has two residential health care facilities providing nursing home and rehabilitation services to seniors providing 202 beds. The NYS DOH estimates that the 2016 need for beds in Delaware County will be 511 suggesting that the county has an unmet need of 133 beds.

The vast majority of Delaware County seniors (84.9%) own their homes indicating a preference for aging in place. A survey completed by Delaware COFA found that 82.5% of survey participants live in their own home, 9.5% rent, and 5.1% live in senior or subsidized housing. With nearly a third of seniors having a disability and 43% of houses built prior to 1960, many seniors may require assistance with home modifications to remain independent and in their homes. The COFA survey confirms this with 34% of respondents indicated a concern with the ability to financially afford home maintenance and repairs and 35.8% concerned about their ability to pay for home heating.

Housing for Special Needs

The county's LSP for mental health identified a need for sober housing for individuals in treatment and recovery. Data regarding the occupancy rate of Delaware County residential programs suggest supported housing for people with mental health disabilities may also be needed. Delaware County only has 27 supported housing beds which have a 100% occupancy rate and median lengths of stay approaching 2 years.

Table 16 Occupancy Rate – MH Residential Programs[17]

	Congregate Treatment	Apartment Treatment	Supported Housing
Number of beds	10	10	27
Beds/10,000 adult pop	2.6	2.6	7.2
Percent occupancy rate	80.6%	96%	100.1%
Median Length of Stay (LOS) (days)	158	418	651
Percent LOS greater than 2 years	30%	33.3%	44.4%

[17] NYS Office of Mental Health County Profiles, http://bi.omh.ny.gov/cmhp/index

Primary Needs/Gaps in Services Identified by Community Stakeholders

- Lack of housing presents challenges for recruiting employees
- Large amounts of land under easement or targeted under Land Acquisition Program increases competition for remaining buildable land.

Priority Areas Identified by Community Organizations/County Departments

Delhi Town and Village Comprehensive Plan

- Consider development of a phased tax exemption for first time homebuyers earning less than 80% of the area's median income.
- Consider adoption of a density bonus that allows additional residential units to be constructed if the sponsor sets aside a percentage of units that is affordable to homeowners earning between 80-120% of area median income.
- Explore opportunities to partner with local housing providers to secure NYS funds to offer grants and loans to first time home buyers
- Encourage rehabilitation and improvement of rental properties
- Address the need for accessible and affordable senior housing
- Explore the feasibility of locating a retirement community and/or assisted living community in Delhi
- Adopt design standards for new multi-family housing

Town of Stamford Comprehensive Plan

- Affordable and well-maintained housing - To provide for housing that meets the needs of people who work and live here. To encourage well-maintained streets, homes, and properties.
    - Consider developing a density bonus incentive. When coupled with a regulation of density, such incentives can promote provision of affordable housing opportunities.
    - Seek grants to build homeownership opportunities, rehabilitation of older or sub-standard homes and work with Western Catskill Revitalization Council in this effort.
    - Encourage development of senior housing opportunities, especially near the villages.
    - Ensure that any future multi-family dwelling is carefully designed so that it is in scale and consistent with the Town of Stamford's rural character.
    - Allow for use of accessory apartments (granny flats).

Town of Hamden Comprehensive Plan

- Allow for new planned unit developments that reflect the physical diversity of small towns by mixing housing types, lot sizes and shapes
- The Town needs to ensure that its land use regulations do not unnecessarily raise the cost of moderate income housing by requiring excessive lot sizes or adding too many regulatory oversight costs. This can be accomplished using cost-effective Conservation Subdivision designs. The Town would also benefit from a housing rehabilitation loan/grant program to help Hamden homeowners upgrade units. The Community Development Block Grant program is a potential source of funding and should be pursued in cooperation with the County.
- Ensure a high quality housing stock at various price ranges by upgrading the Town's Mobile Home Ordinance.
- The Town should also consider using Community Development Block Grant funds to finance a housing rehabilitation program for homeowners and landlords.

CHILD CARE/EARLY EDUCATION/K-12

Funding Recommendations:
Support for increasing child care options, particularly for children under 3

Support for additional child care providers serving non-traditional hours

Subsidies for child care for both parents and providers

Programming which support positive social development to fill the after-school gap

Training support for child care providers to meet the social-emotional developmental needs of children (e.g. mental health consultants to support child care programs)

Availability

The majority of parents in Delaware County are in the labor force indicating a large demand for child care. Two-thirds of two parent households have both parents in the workforce while 79.8% of female headed single-parent households are in the labor force.[18] Delaware Opportunities provides child care coordination and referral services to Delaware County. Data from Delaware Opportunities regarding the regulated capacity of child care providers (N=874) in the county along with Census data indicates that an estimated 2,554 children are either in unregulated care or are not being served at all.

Table 17 Regulated Child Care Providers

Type	Number of Providers
Child Care Centers	3
Family Child Care	37
Group Family Child Care	6
School Age Child Care	2

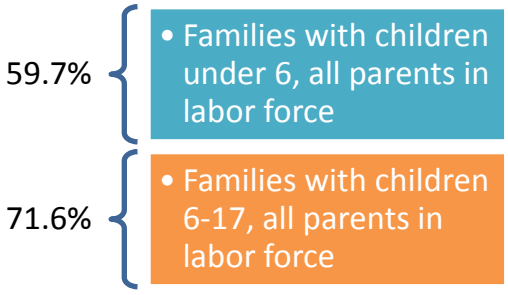


Table 18 Unmet Need for Child Care[19]

Indicator	Under 5	5-12 Years
Number of Children	2,417	3,956
Demand for Child Care[20]	(60%) 1,450	(50%) 1,978
Regulated Capacity	542	332
Total Unmet Need/Unregulated Care	908	1,646

[18] ACS 5-year averages, 2013, Table S2302
[19] Family Enrichment Network Community Assessment, 2014
[20] Based on percent of children in families with all parents in the workforce and number of children in age groups

Early Education Options

In addition to child care, Head Start is available to some families. Delaware Opportunities provides Head Start in nine locations in the county with 221 Head Start slots. These Head Start slots provide only half-day care however and parents would need an additional care option in order to meet full-day child care needs. In addition, Delaware County has 72 full-day Universal Pre-K (UPK) slots and 129 half-day UPK slots in area schools. Delaware County does not have any Early Head Start options for 3 year olds. Based on data from the American Community Survey, Delaware County has a potential surplus of 105 Head Start slots and a potential unmet need for 115 Early Head start slots and a need for 202 UPK slots.

Table 19 Early Education Supply and Demand Data[21]

Early Head Start	**Number**
3 year olds in 2013	427
Potential 3 year olds eligible for Early Head Start (based on children < 6 in poverty = 26.9%)	115
Early Head Start slots	0
Potential unmet need for Early Head Start	115
Universal Pre-K	
4 year olds in 2013	478
UPK full and half-day slots	201
Estimated number of 4 year olds not served by UPK/not eligible for Head Start	202
Head Start	**Number**
4 year olds in 2013	478
Potential 4 year olds eligible for Head Start (based on children < 6 in poverty = 26.9%)	129
Head Start slots	234
Potential surplus slots for Head Start	105

Based on their analysis of provider data and the questions fielded by their resource coordinator, Delaware Opportunities identified three high need categories of care. These categories included needing more: providers for children aged 0-5, before and after school age child care options, and expanded care in Roxbury, Stamford, Margaretville and Hancock.

[21] Decennial Census Data, 2010, Table QTP2; ACS 5-year data, Table B17024, Kids' Well-Being Indicators Clearing House, KWIC Maps

Cost of Care

The cost of child care represents a significant portion of a family's income. The average annual cost of care for a child under age 6 is approximately $8,400 and $7,800 for a school age child. For a family of four with two parents and two children, child care costs can rival other household costs such as mortgages and taxes. And while most (68.5%) of households with children under age 18 have two parents, nearly 23% of households are led by single mother who have substantially lower incomes and are significantly more impacted by the high cost of child care.[22]

Table 20 Household Types

Household Type (with children <18)	Number	Percent
Two parent household	5,597	69.7%
Single father	739	9.2%
Single mother	1,698	21.1%

Figure 14 Yearly Cost of Child Care per Child by Age Group

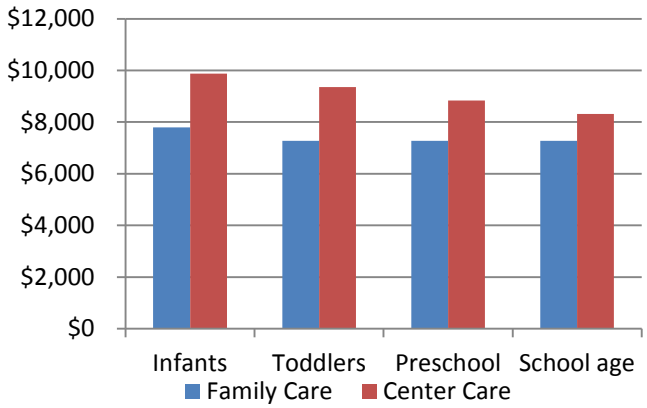


Figure 13 Cost of Child Care as a Percent of Median Income by Family Type

High Cost of Care Insufficient to Maintain Child Care Centers/Providers

Despite the high cost of care for parents with respect to income, the cost of care provides a limited income for family care providers which may prevent potential care providers from moving into the field. As previously noted, Delaware County has three child care centers. Information from other counties indicates that child care centers typically cannot cover overhead and personnel costs through parent tuition alone, which is also likely to be a challenge for Delaware County.

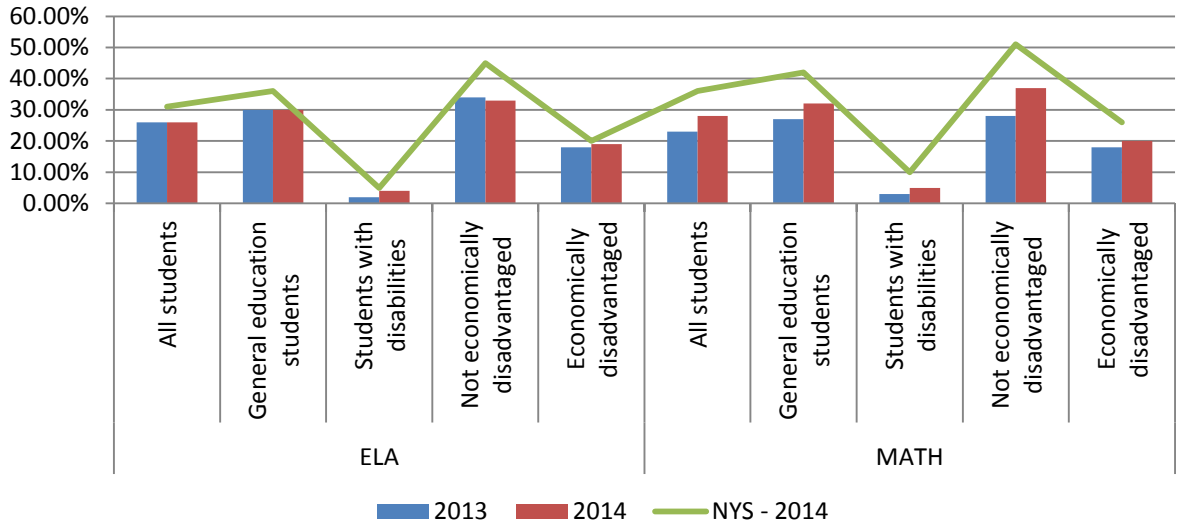
NYS Regulations for Family Day Care	Average Gross Weekly Income	Average Gross Hourly Income
6 children under school age	$140 x 6 = $840	$21
2 children under age 2	$150 x 2 = $300	$7.50

[22] ACS 5-year, 2013, Table B09002; ACS 5-year, 2013, Table B19126

K-12 Education

Overall, the proficiency of public school students in Delaware County in English language arts (ELA) and math is below the proficiency of students in NYS as a whole. Delaware County students have seen increased proficiency scores in math between 2013 and 2014, but no improvement in ELA. Students with disabilities and economically disadvantaged students lag far behind NYS rates in math but are comparable to ELA scores. The very low proficiency in both math (20%) and ELA (19%) for economically disadvantaged students is particularly concerning due to the sheer number of students in this category (53%).

Figure 15 Proficiency of Public School Grades 3-8 by Type of Student[23]



Graduation rates have held steady in Delaware County over recent years and are higher than NYS, but the Regents with Advanced Designation rate is substantially lower than the NYS rate. However, the drop-out rate is higher than NYS, most notably among students with disabilities.

Table 21 Graduate Rates

Type of Diploma	2013	2014	NYS (2014)
Public school graduation rate	84%	84%	76%
Regents with Advanced Designation	24%	20%	31.0%
ELA/Math APM (Aspirational Performance Measure/College Readiness)	33%	32%	38.0%

[23] NYS Report Cards

Figure 16 Percent of Public School Students

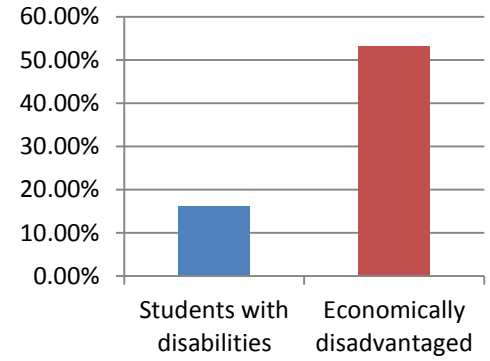
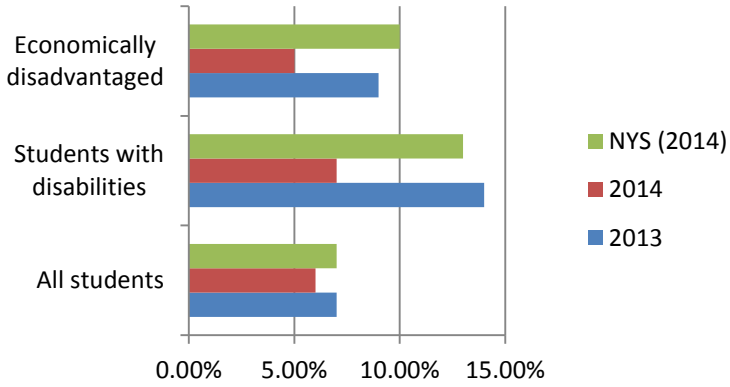
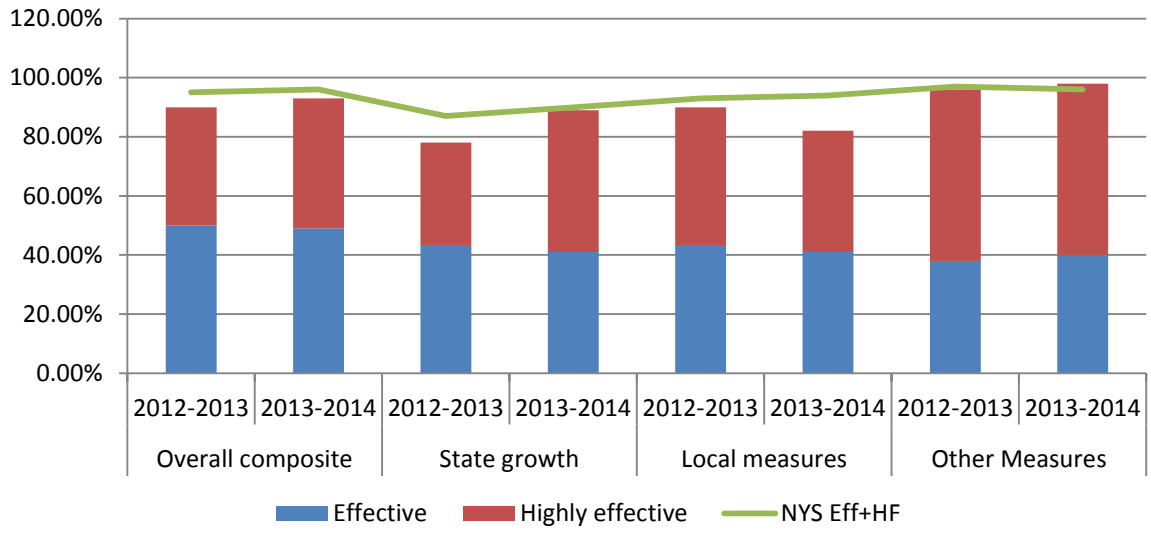


Figure 17 Drop Out Rate by Type of Student



The vast majority of teachers in Delaware County were rated either effective or highly effective in the annual performance review ratings and have improved between the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years.

Figure 18 Annual Professional Performance Review Ratings



Primary Needs/Gaps in Services Identified by Community Stakeholders

- There is an inadequate supply of slots for children ages 0-5 years old based on demand.
- There may be a lack of knowledge about Delaware Opportunities child care referral service in some areas such as Margaretville (low referral requests despite population size).
- Concern of quality and safety of informal care because legally exempt providers do not have to conform to the regulations required of regulated providers.
- Lack of slots in the Roxbury school district.
- Lack of child care slots in Stamford.
- Possible lack of child care slots in Margaretville and Hancock
- Need for before and after school care.
- Without reliable childcare, it is nearly impossible for someone to keep a job

Priority Areas Identified by Community Organizations/County Departments

Delaware Opportunities

To meet the gap in child care slots the Delaware Opportunities staff will:

- Recruit child care providers through outreach events such as the Delaware Opportunities Inc. Annual Children's Festival.
- Educate the public about the importance of quality child care through outreach events, press releases, email blasts, the CCRR's quarterly Family Pages and the Delaware Opportunities Inc. Annual Children's Festival and the Delaware Opportunities Facebook page.
- Speak to legally exempt providers about becoming registered during Intensive technical assistance visits and inspections.
- Target the Stamford and Roxbury area for recruitment of child care providers and educating the public about quality child care.
- Will develop a survey to be used in canvasing the Margaretville community organizations and local representatives to determine what Margaretville's child care needs are. The organizations will include: the library, school officials, M-Ark Project, hospital, nursing home, mayor, county supervisor and the local chamber of commerce.
- Host trainings that will focus on programing for school-age child care in order to encourage more regulated programs to care for this age group.

Funding Recommendations:

Support for anti-drug programming

Arrests and Crimes[24]

Adult arrests in Delaware County have remained flat or decreased between 2005 and 2014 with the exception of drug arrests and property crime. Felony drug arrests increased by 126% and misdemeanor drug arrests increased 210% between 2005 and 2014. Misdemeanor property crimes have also increased dramatically with rates nearly doubling in the past 10 years. Crime rates in Delaware County have remained flat over the past 5 years as well and are well below the NYS (excluding NYC) rates. Juvenile arrests have decreased in recent years and are overall very low. Domestic violence crimes have increased by 25% in recent years.

Table 22 Adult Arrests by Category and Year

Arrest Category	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Arrests	1,025	1,073	1,128	1,132	1,054	1,044	968	1,052	1,052	1,025
Felony Total	270	238	258	299	250	238	240	266	276	281
Drug	23	22	25	43	29	24	28	49	65	52
Violent	60	61	40	55	45	51	72	49	56	48
DWI	36	26	31	39	39	36	26	38	27	27
Other	151	129	162	162	137	127	114	130	128	154
Misdemeanor Total	755	835	870	833	804	806	728	786	776	744
Drug	21	19	35	37	37	61	67	61	79	65
DWI	238	251	251	237	232	185	174	188	152	128
Property	180	177	181	211	175	208	173	223	233	267
Other	316	388	403	348	360	352	314	314	312	284

[24] New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, Statistics
http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/stats.htm

Figure 19 Index Crime Rate by Type (per 100,000 population)

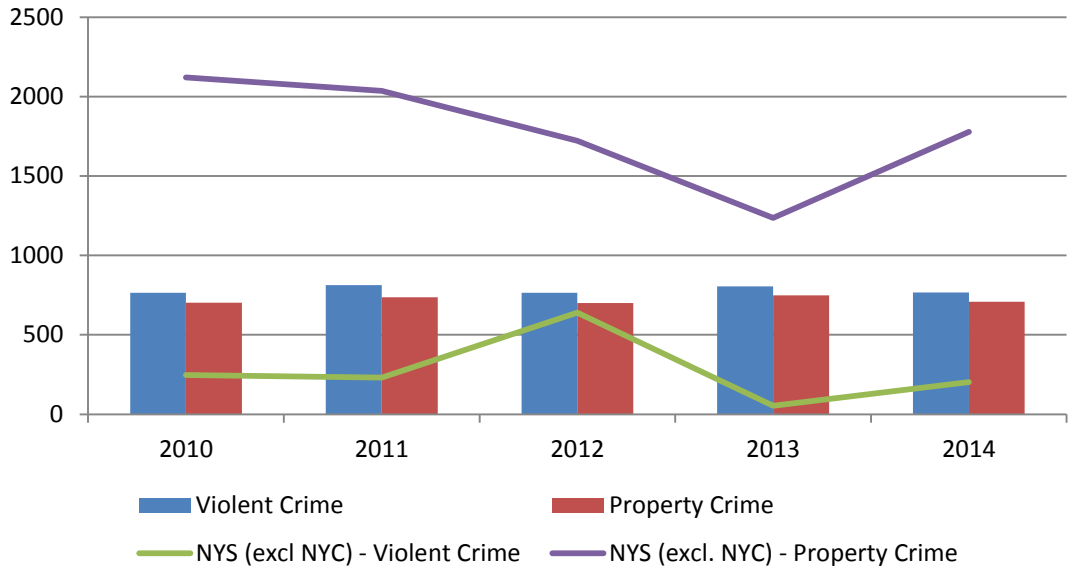


Figure 21 Domestic Violence Crimes by year

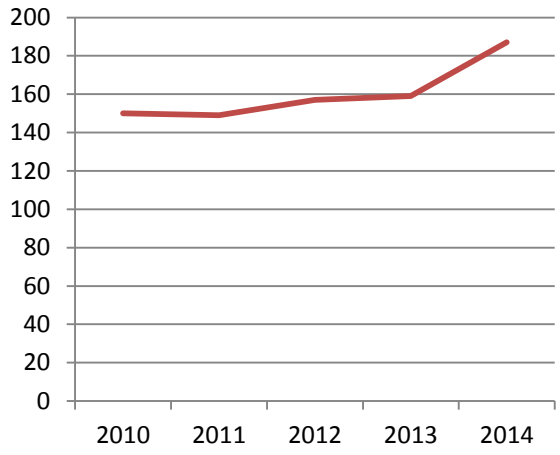
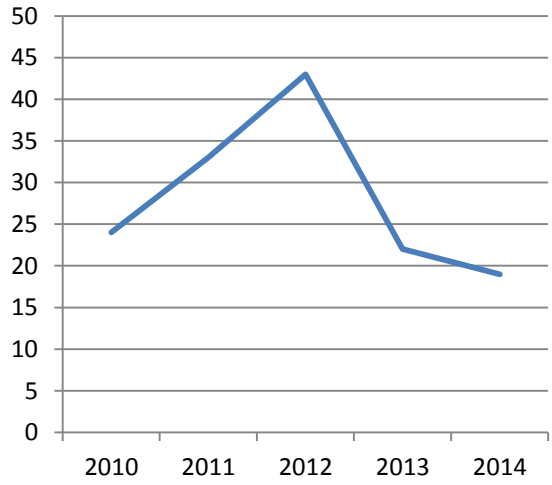


Figure 20 Juvenile Arrests by Year



Primary Needs/Gaps in Services Identified by Community Stakeholders

- Increasing drug addiction leading to increased property crimes

Priorities Identified by Community Organizations/County Departments

Delaware County Sheriff

- Development of Drug Task Force including DSS, schools, and non-profit agencies

Funding Recommendations:

Support for transportation options serving vulnerable populations (seniors, people with disabilities, low-income) needing to reach services and appointments

Support for transportation coordination efforts

Subsidies for bus fares for those with low and fixed incomes

Access to Vehicles

While transportation was noted as a problem by many stakeholders, data from the American Community Survey indicated the vast majority of households (91.5%) in the county have access to at least one vehicle which is slightly higher than the NYS (excluding NYC) rate of 90.2%.[25] The majority of workers drive to work alone in their own vehicle (71.0%) or carpool (11.0%.) Very few workers (1.4%) rely on public transportation to get to work in Delaware County. Only 4.3% of workers aged 16 and over live in households without vehicle access.[26]

Figure 23 Percent of Households with No Vehicles

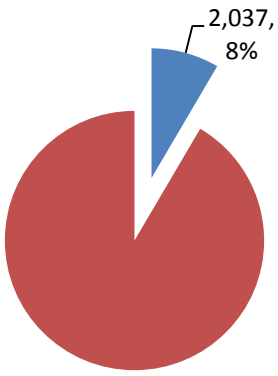
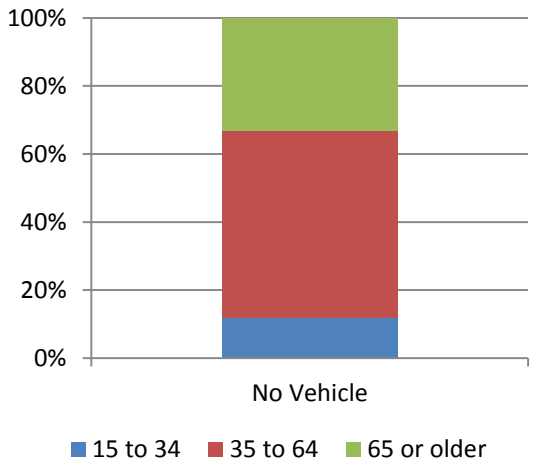


Figure 22 Percent of Individuals without Access to a Vehicle by Age Group



Public Transportation

Delaware County does not have a public transportation system, but several agencies provide transportation to specific populations including the County Office for Aging which provides a coach-type bus with handicapped accessibility on fixed routes to provide transportation for shopping, medical and social needs for seniors. In addition, COFA provides non-emergency health related transportation to seniors who are not on Medicaid. The service requires a minimum of 5 days advance notice and clients are restricted to four requests per year. Delaware Opportunities provides transportation to health related appointments for individuals receiving Medicaid benefits. Delaware County ARC provides transportation services to their consumers with disabilities from residential services to work and living skills programs. In its analysis of the expenses incurred by all the agencies providing transportation

[25] ACS 5- year average, 2013, Table B08201
[26] ACS 5-year average, 2013, Table S0802

options to residents, the Delaware County Consolidated Transportation Plan found that for a total of 135,360 passenger trips the cost was $3,564,583 resulting in an average cost per trip of $49.06.

Ridership Data	Total Passengers
Delaware County ARC	101,526 (2011)
COFA Coach	2,756 (2008)
COFA Medical Transportation	418 (2008)
Delaware Opportunities	10,800 (2009)

Primary Needs/Gaps in Services Identified by Community Stakeholders

- Due to limited transportation provided by human service agencies, the cost of public taxi service, and lack of public transportation in Delaware County, individuals with disabilities, and older adults have a difficult time accessing medical appointments, employment opportunities, educational facilities, shopping and quality of life resources.
- Access to medical specialists and dialysis treatment is very poor in Delaware County. Delaware County has no dialysis treatment centers. Generally speaking, medical specialists are only available at hospitals and offices in neighboring counties and transportation is limited to those areas.
- Individuals with low incomes, people with disabilities, and the general public need transportation to and from Family Court, Divorce Court, and other court-related appointments.
- College students need transportation for employment and social activities.
- Transportation is provided for Medicaid eligible individuals going to medical appointments. However, the demand is very high and trips must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance.
- There is no low-cost public transportation available for the general public who are not eligible for Medicaid. According to the United Way Community Needs Assessment Survey, (2005) transportation was the biggest barrier to accessing community resources and gaining or maintaining employment.
- Delaware County human service agencies need more affordable options for non-emergency transportation for individuals with low incomes, people with disabilities, and older adults. The limited service that these agencies provide today has limited capacity and cannot meet the transportation needs of all clients.
- Unnecessary duplications in transportation are occurring because of the eligibility restrictions placed on the individual human service agencies.
- The scheduling software utilized by Delaware Opportunities, the primary Medicaid transportation provider in Delaware County, is not sufficient because it does not have the capacity to suggest grouped trips and has limited reporting capabilities.
- Employers, including Nursing Homes, in Delaware County could have a larger workforce to hire from if more people had an option for transportation to and from work.
- Limited parking in downtown Delhi is a challenge for employees as well as visitors and people who come downtown for human service agency and court appointments.
- Delaware County has had an influx of white collar people moving here to retire. The county is a naturally occurring retirement community. Potentially, more older adults who could live in their homes for an extended time if transportation options were available.

- Coordinated public transportation could let older adults live at home longer before moving into nursing homes and retirement centers by providing access to medical appointments, shopping, and social activities.
- Taxi service is cost prohibitive for people with low incomes.
- Older adults need a safe transportation alternative to driving at night and in inclement weather.
- Older adults who have family or spouses in nursing homes need transportation to visit.
- The United Health Services 2010-2012 Community Services Plan (September 2009) found that Delaware County ranked among the worst counties in New York for access to quality care. This statistic is related to the lack of specialists in Delaware County and signifies a need for transportation to medical facilities and specialists in neighboring counties.
- Hospitals in Broome County see large volumes of patients from Delaware County. Many do not come for treatment as often as necessary because they have no transportation.
- Many patients of Broome County hospitals and clinics have a fear of driving in areas in which they are not familiar and need an alternative mode of transportation.
- A need exists for formal transportation services in Delaware County that are affordable, reliable, available to the public, and include out-of-county destinations.

Priorities Identified by Community Organizations/County Departments

Delaware County Coordinated Transportation Plan, 2011

1. Coordinate existing human service agency transportation services
2. Coordinate existing human service agency transportation services and open seats to the general public
3. Establish formal transfer points
4. Community shuttles for Delaware County
5. Corridor service along route 10 between Walton and Delhi – extend to Stamford on demand
6. Subscription Trips to Support 2nd and 3rd Shift Employment
7. Coordinated Transportation with SUNY Delhi

Funding Recommendations:
Increased funding for programming staff, marketing, and general operating support

Recreational equipment and repair/renovation for recreational spaces

Support for low-income children to participate in recreational activities

Delaware County has extensive state protected lands available for outdoor recreation activities. In addition, there are a handful of arts venues and museums in main population centers in the county.

Very little information was available regarding specific needs for Delaware County in terms of arts and recreation, but it is likely that as with other counties in the region that money is the primary need including more funding for programming, overhead and marketing for tourism. The New York State Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2014-2019 indicated that Delaware County has a moderate need for recreational facilities compared to demand. In particular, the highest rated needs included park, camping, fishing, skiing, and snowmobiling facilities.

Primary Needs/Gaps in Services Identified by Community Stakeholders

- Greater access to arts and recreational opportunities for residents
- Increased tourism opportunities

Priorities Identified by Community Organizations/County Departments

Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council, Strategic Economic Development Plan: 2011-2016

Tourism and Waterfront Development: The region is known for its vast natural resources and its many tourism and cultural destinations, as well as its natural beauty. Growing the tourism industry and enhancing the waterfronts has been established as a priority by the Council.

Delhi Comprehensive Plan, 2014
Promote a high quality of life including a full array of cultural and recreational resources and community services that match the needs and interests of residents of all ages and abilities.

a. Provide and continually improve a variety of recreational resources that are accessible to youth, adults and seniors on municipal lands and facilities and through partnerships with other organizations.

b. Strive to increase opportunities for residents to access recreational facilities at Delaware Academy and at SUNY Delhi.
c. Educate the public about existing municipal recreational resources and cultural events.
d. Create linkages and trails. Extend existing pedestrian walkways to create continuity throughout the community, providing connections to existing and planned mixed use areas, amenities and recreational resources. Expand bicycling amenities to benefit residents and cycling enthusiasts by designating, developing, and maintaining bicycle routes, safe roadways, and bicycle racks.
e. Support arts and cultural activities and organizations to enrich the lives of local residents.
f. Advocate for increased access to NYCDEP-owned land for recreation.

Town of Stamford Comprehensive Plan, 2011
To enhance opportunities for hiking, walking, hunting, and other outdoor activities. To promote our recreational opportunities for local residents and visitors. To increase art and cultural opportunities.

1. Establish a Recreation Committee.
2. Support the activities of artists, artisans and local talent.
3. Identify existing public trails and seek locations suitable to expand and link these areas especially in State-owned forests and NYC DEP lands.
4. Support existing youth commission, library and senior citizen's efforts to promote and address social and recreational needs.
5. Work with sport and youth groups to support and expand their activities such as roller-blading and skateboarding.
6. Coordinate marketing and promotion of local events with the Village of Stamford and Hobart, and other nearby communities.
7. Support the Headwaters Trail effort and the West Branch Recreation Initiative.

Town of Walton Comprehensive Plan, 2006
Goal: Clearly Identify Recreational Activities and Promote them to Benefit all Potential Participants

1. Inventory Recreational Opportunities in the Community Including Snowmobile Trails, and Hunting and Fishing Areas

Funding Recommendations:

Financial support for those who wish to take adult education/job training programs at BOCES in high-need job categories

Support for entrepreneurship programming

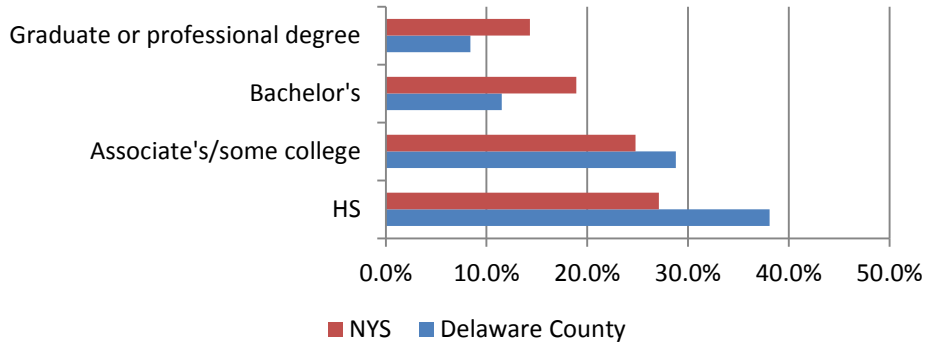
Support for marketing the region to potential employers and employees, particularly young professionals

Funding to assist businesses to meet watershed rules

Educational Attainment

The educational attainment of Delaware County residents lags behind NYS considerably with only 19.4% of residents having a bachelor's or graduate degree compared to 33.2% in NYS overall .[27]

Figure 24 Educational Attainment of Population 25 and Older



[27] ACS 5-year estimates, 2013, Table S1501

Availability of Adult Education Opportunities

Delaware County is home to SUNY Delhi, a public university part of the SUNY system offering both bachelor's and associate's degrees. In addition to the college, BOCES offers several adult education courses to support vocational learning. DCMO BOCES offers several adult education courses to support vocational learning. BOCES currently offers:

- ESL
- TASC & Adult Basic Ed
- Automotive Collision &
- Automotive Technology
- Barbering
- Carpentry & Building Construction
- CDL Training/Certification
- Computer Repair/Networking Tech
- Conservation & Equipment Tech
- Certified Nurses Aide
- Cosmetology
- Culinary
- Early Childhood Development
- OSHA Forklift Operator
- Phlebotomy
- Plumbing
- Practical Nursing
- Security & Law Enforcement
- Small Engine Repair
- Welding
- Visual Communications

The majority of classes are held in both the Sidney campus in Delaware County and the Norwich campus in Chenango County. Stakeholders noted that BOCES classes are not eligible for Federal financial aid and may not be affordable for many individuals who might be interested in attending.

Employment

Overall, Delaware County's unemployment rate (6.3%) was higher than the NYS rate (5.4%) in June, 2015. In addition, the percentage of people aged 25-64 not participating in the workforce (25.5%) is higher than NYS (21.6%) and is up from the 23.4% rate in 2007. The majority of the people not in the labor force are aged 60-64, but Delaware County has a much higher non-participation rate for both men and women aged 25-29 and 54-59.[28]

Table 23 Percent Not in Labor Force by Geography, Age and Sex

	Male		Female	
Age	*Delaware County*	*NYS*	*Delaware County*	*NYS*
25-29	16.8%	13.9%	32.7%	21.2%
30-34	13.8%	11.2%	22.2%	23.9%
35-44	11.7%	10.7%	18.9%	23.6%
45-54	16.3%	14.3%	24.8%	23.1%
54-59	25.6%	22.1%	36.2%	30.3%
60-61	34.3%	31.2%	45.0%	40.1%
62-64	51.4%	45.2%	59.2%	52.6%

[28] ACS 5-year estimates, 2013 & 3-year estimates, 2007, Table B23001

Having a high school education has a significant impact on employment and labor force participation rates in Delaware County (Figure 25). People with higher educational attainment have much higher employment rates and are much more likely to be participating in the workforce.

There has been a significant increase in the number of people without a high school diploma that are not participating in the workforce jumping from 32.5% in 2007 to 49.8% in 2013 Table 24.

Figure 25 Educational Attainment by Status in Workforce, Ages 25-64

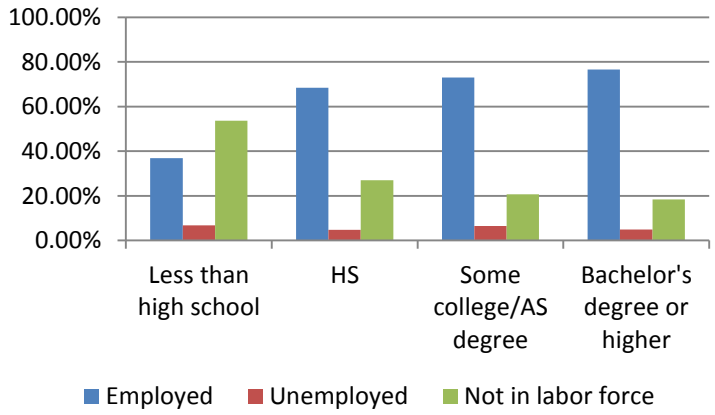


Table 24 Not in the Labor Force by Educational Attainment and Year, Age 25-64

	2013		2007	
	Number	*Percent*	*Number*	*Percent*
Less than high school	1,322	49.8%	803	32.5%
HS	2,220	25.3%	2,331	25.3%
Some college/AS degree	1,619	21.1%	1,309	19.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher	947	19.3%	1,108	20.6%
Total not in labor force	6,108	25.5%	5,551	23.4%
Total Population	23,990		23,692	

The number of employees in Delaware County has decreased steadily over the past 7 years (Figure 27) . The private sector employs the vast majority of Delaware County's work force, but has also seen the greatest drop in employment (Figure 26).

Figure 27 All Employees across All Industries

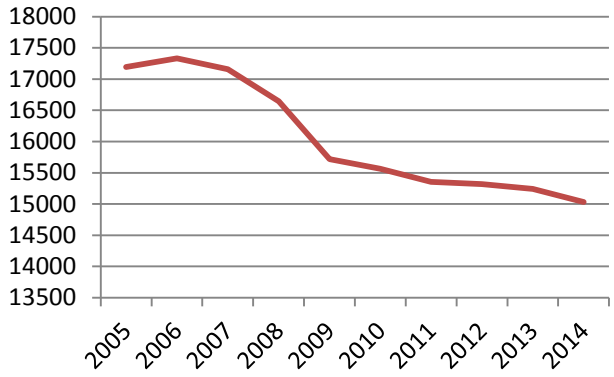
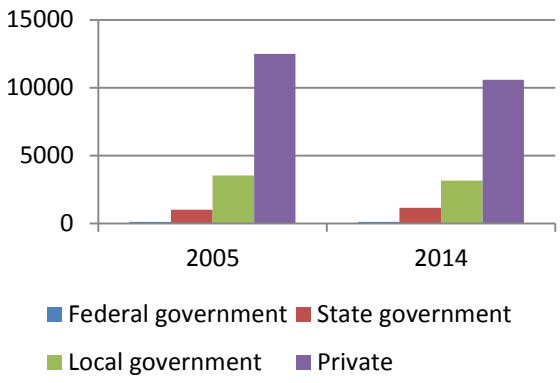


Figure 26 Number of Employees by Sector



The transportation and utilities, health and education, and hospitality industries are the three largest employers in Delaware County (Figure 28). The manufacturing and financial industries have seen the greatest job loss in Delaware County with mining seeing the greatest job growth Table 25).

Real wages have increased slightly in Delaware County from $40,205 in 2004 (adjusted to 2014 dollars) to $41,747 in 2014. All sectors except local government have seen wages decline in this time period (Figure 29). The industries with real wage increases between 2004 and 2014 included construction, manufacturing, financial services, and education and health services (Figure 30).

Figure 28 Percent of Employees by Industry (Private Sector Only)

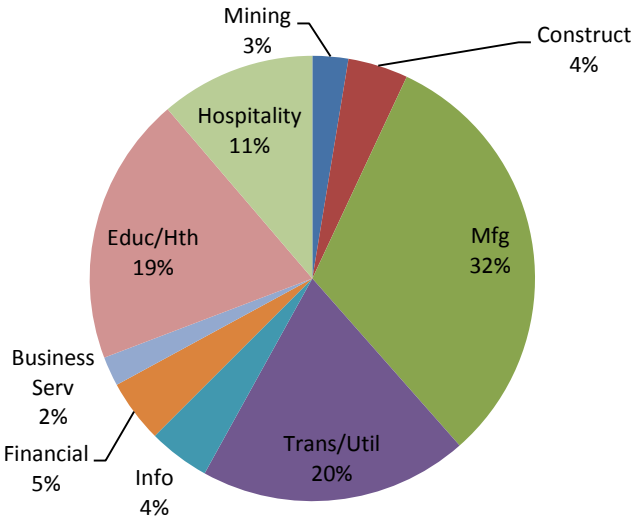


Figure 29 Average Real Wage by Sector

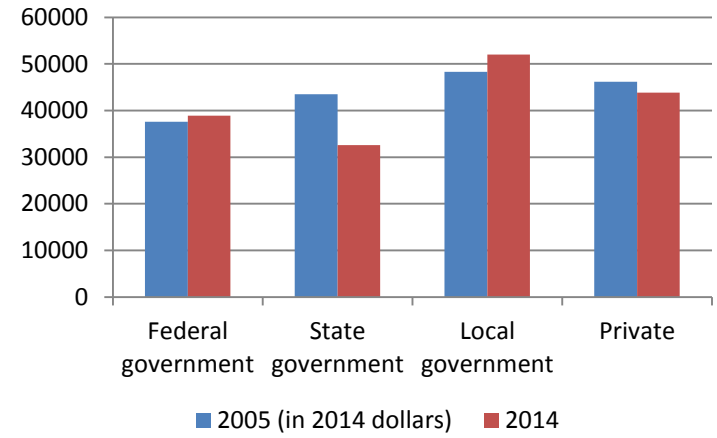
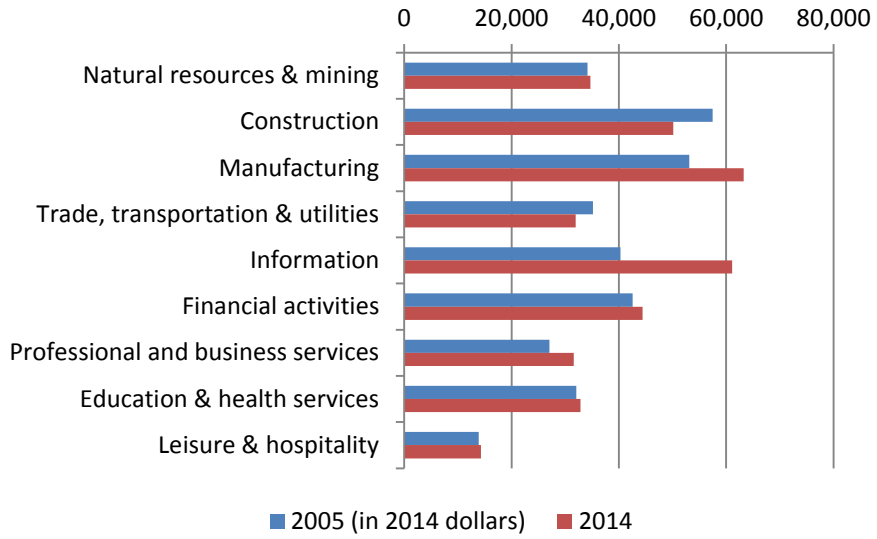


Table 25 Industry by Percent Job Growth/Loss and Average Wage

Industry	Percent Job Growth/Loss 2005-2014	Average Wage 2014
Mining	18.1%	$34,678
Construction	-32.3%	$50,148
Manufacturing	-30.3%	$63,276
Transportation /Utilities	-16.6%	$31,931
Information	51.7%	$61,104
Financial	-17.5%	$44,385
Business Services	-45.8%	$31,595
Education/Health	5.1%	$32,853
Hospitality	6.7%	$14,305

Figure 30 Average Real Wage by Industry (Private Sector Only)



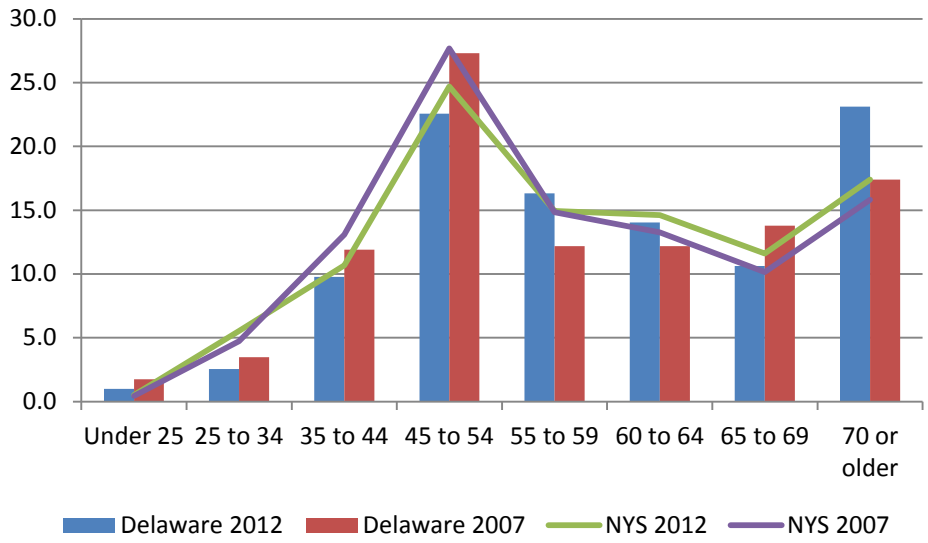
Agriculture

Agriculture has been declining in total number of operations in Delaware County (Table 26). Between 2007 and 2012, Delaware County has seen a decrease of 2.9% in the number of farms and 11.3% decrease in the number of acres of harvested cropland. There has been a substantial increase in both the total farms with organic product sales (37.5%) and the value of those sales (2,727%) suggesting that Delaware County may be successfully optimizing on the current increase in interest in organic foods. Overall, Delaware County farmers are older than the State average suggesting that as farmers age out, the number of farms may continue to decrease unless more efforts are engaged to participation in farming by younger workers (Figure 31).

Table 26 Key Agricultural Indicators

Indicator	Percent change 2007 to 2012
Number of farms	-5.8%
Acres in farms	-12.1%
Acres of harvested cropland	-7.3%
Total woodland acres	-6.8%
Total pastureland acres	-22.7%
Total farms with organic sales	+37.5%
Value of organic crop sales	+2,727%
Value of crop sales	+18.0%
Value of livestock/poultry and products sales	-18.8%
Acres treated by commercial fertilizer	-26.0%
Acres treated by manure	-16.3%
Farms receiving government payments	-5.6%
Total government payments in dollars	0%
Primary occupation as farming	59% to 62%

Figure 31 Percent of Owners by Age Group



Economic Development Challenges

Delaware County sits squarely within the area supplying New York City with water and as a result the residents and businesses in the county must comply with rules protecting the quality of the water supply. In 2007, it was determined that the NYC Land Acquisition Program would need to increase substantially from the 1997 plan of $30 million to $300 million. To assess the economic impacts of such a large increase in land acquisition, Delaware County conducted an extensive study of the potential economic impacts. The results of the study found a loss of jobs in the natural resources and manufacturing industries along with potential job increases in the tourism industry. It also predicts an overall decline in income and wages across the county an increase in part-time, seasonal, and low wage jobs with the loss of higher paying jobs. In addition, the availability of land for development will potentially inhibit economic growth and artificially inflate land values. The report detailed a number of recommendations for amendments to the Land Acquisition Program and for Delaware County to strategically map out plans for future development.

The Delaware County Action Plan (DCAP) is a county wide watershed management program run by the Delaware County Department of Watershed Affairs. DCAP's mission is to assist Delaware County's residents, farmers, businesses and communities in meeting water quality restrictions and objectives without loss of economic vitality. In the most recent progress report, DCAP noted the following economic development accomplishments:

- Increased the capacity of the Industrial Development Agency (IDA) and Local Development Corporation (LDC) to affect business development by increasing high risk, small business loan capacity from less than $2M in 2006 to roughly $4.5M today (including write-offs);
- Established site development capacity with $1.2M in new funds (plus $1M already invested in projects);
- The IDA and LDC provided nearly $6M in loans to 77 businesses to support the creation of 460 new jobs and the retention of 693 jobs;

- Secured over $1.6M in Main Street program grants and financing; and • Provided specific flood recovery funds for businesses impacted by flood events in 2006 and 2011, restoring Main Streets and making businesses more resilient for any future event.
- Nearly $37.3M in funding was awarded to assist almost 150 small businesses, fostering a total additional investment nearing $63 million. These businesses have pledged to retain or create approximately 1,700 full-time jobs.

Primary Needs/Gaps in Services Identified by Community Stakeholders

- Training for manufacturing skills like blueprint reading, welding, CNC operators
- Need more for personal care aids, CNAs and other direct care staff
- Lightly populated, but large geographic area makes it difficult for training providers to serve the needs in a cost effective way
- Transportation
- Child care
- Access to and availability of proper infrastructure to comply with watershed rules
- No funding for businesses to connect to infrastructure in order to expand
- Not enough equity/capital in county to fund ideas – projects not large enough to attract outside dollars
- Limited pool of funds for low interest loan programs

Priority Areas Identified by Community Organizations/County Departments

DCAP Progress Report, 2015
Goal 1: Site development and building redevelopment for commercial parks in Sidney, Hancock and Deposit, as well as building redevelopment within the Watershed, will establish available space for business relocation or creation in Delaware County. With this infrastructure, the County will be better positioned for State referrals for businesses.

Goal 2: Actively promoting Delaware County to expanding or relocating businesses, particularly small businesses or those filling a specific community need.

Goal 3: Prioritize small agriculture for micro and direct lending and working with agricultural entrepreneurs on larger value-added projects. (An awarded agricultural microenterprise matching grant program will provide $200,000 in matching funds to assist up to ten small businesses, fostering a total investment of approximately $400,000 in agricultural development. These businesses may retain or create approximately 20 jobs.)

Goal 4: Maintain focus on existing small businesses seeking direct lending for start-ups and expansions, outside grants/incentives/financing for job-creating expansions, and meeting infrastructure needs as they arise.

Delhi Town & City Comprehensive Plan, 2012

Build a resilient economy that grows local businesses, provides quality jobs, protects historic main streets and strengthens the social fabric of our community.

Increase resident knowledge about grant, loan, marketing, workforce development, and business planning programs, available from Delaware County Industrial Development Authority, Delaware County Economic Development, the Small Business Administration, the Chambers of Commerce, and the Catskill Watershed Corporation.
b. Target business attraction initiatives to specific businesses that are likely to succeed in Delhi.
c. Work with Delaware County's Industrial Development Agency to develop "shovel ready" locations and flexible space for start-up companies and plan for development of appropriate infrastructure to support business expansion.
d. Work with local Chambers of Commerce and SUNY Delhi to inventory nearby attractions and amenities and conduct market analysis to identify a strategic position for Delhi in the regional tourism market.
e. Adopt design standards to ensure that buildings and sites are consistent and compatible with the architectural character of the surrounding Town and Village environment.
f. Identify and market Delhi's assets through brochures, web sites, and face-to-face education.
g. Identify and revitalize underutilized sites and encourage streetscape and building rehabilitation to improve the physical environment of business areas.
h. Consider development of local incentives, perhaps through adoption of performance standards or use of development bonuses to encourage commercial building rehabilitation and downtown revitalization.

Actively support and promote sustainable agriculture as a vital component of our community and our local and regional economy.

a. Develop an Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan that supports local farms.
b. Advocate for changes in Watershed Agricultural Council policies that will increase flexibility in easement programs, and make it easier for land under WAC or DEP easement or ownership to be leased for farming.
c. Encourage community-supported agriculture and support a buy-local food campaign that focuses on local produce, meats and dairy, value-added products, farm stands and farmers' markets.
d. Consider allowing and encouraging a wider range of on-farm businesses to help farmers diversify their operations.
e. Support the development of regional, community-scaled value-added agriculture enterprises including processing facilities.
f. Evaluate the costs and benefits of providing additional tax incentives for farming.
g. In anticipation of development pressure, consider enacting a Community Preservation Fund Law to protect agricultural land, open spaces, habitat and other natural resources.
h. Increase resident knowledge about agricultural resources available from the Delaware County Watershed Affairs, Watershed Agricultural Council, Soil and Water Conservation District, National Resource Conservation Service and USDA Farm Service Agency.

Town of Walton Comprehensive Plan, 2006

1. Encourage Organic Agriculture in the Town
2. Encourage Alternative Agriculture in the Town
3. Support Development of Small and Home-based Businesses
4. Encourage Second Homeowners to Relocate Businesses to Walton
5. Encourage Second Home Ownership
6. Continue to Support Well-managed Forestry and Logging
7. Continue to Support Bluestone Production

Town of Stamford Comprehensive Plan, 2011

Goal: To increase the availability and support of local products and services. To promote small business growth that provides sustainable jobs. To develop programs and policies that support revitalizing our main streets. To promote year-round tourism that is oriented towards our Town's character, recreational opportunities, main streets, and agriculture.

Delaware County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan, 2014

1. Enhance the profitability and economic vitality of farms, agribusinesses, and natural resource-based businesses in Delaware County.
2. Increase educational programs for farmers, agribusinesses, natural resource-based businesses, county government, community leaders, residents and youth.
3. Protect this county's active farmland through supportive land use policies, incentives and programs