



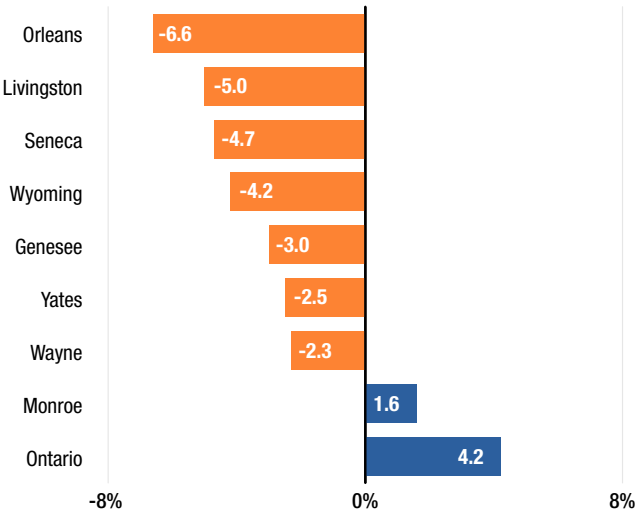
Rural Roundtable

NOVEMBER 22, 2024

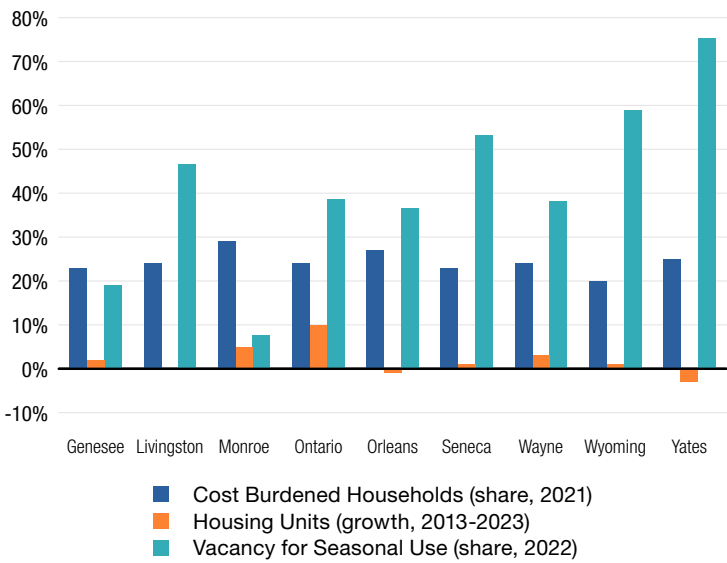
New York State Comptroller
THOMAS P. DiNAPOLI

Finger Lakes Data Points

Population Change, 2012-2022



Housing Challenges



Medically Underserved Areas and Populations



NY Medically Underserved Areas

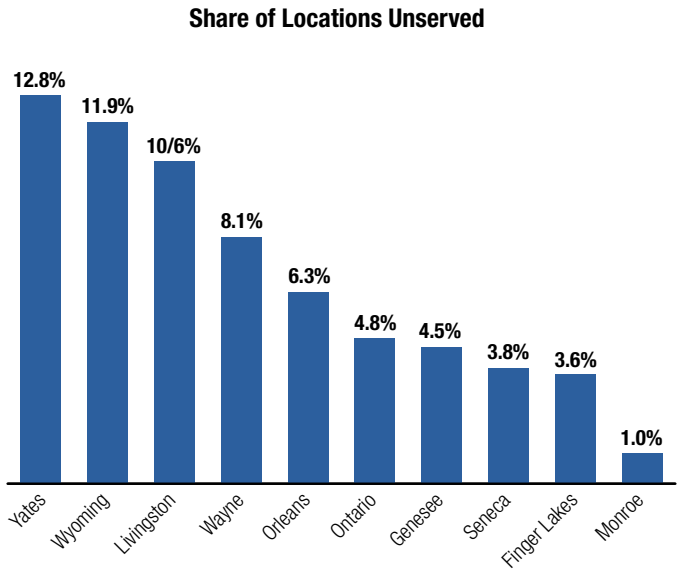
Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas



NY Mental Health Health Professional Shortage Areas

Source: U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration

**Broadband Still Unavailable in
More than 18,000 Addresses**





17.5%

decline in NYS EMS
practitioners, 2019-2022

Orleans, Monroe, Ontario
and Seneca do not
provide EMS services,
but Seneca has started
a feasibility study.

Information about Agriculture

Finger Lakes Region Farms and Farmland (2022)

County	Farms	Percent Change in Farms From 2017	Farmland (Acres)	Percent Change in Farmland from 2017	Farmland as Percent of Total Area	Average Farm Size (Acres)
Genesee	435	-10%	176,887	0%	56%	407
Livingston	612	-7%	196,542	4%	49%	321
Monroe	511	-3%	93,901	-12%	22%	184
Ontario	815	-2%	174,577	-13%	42%	214
Orleans	444	-11%	130,055	0%	52%	293
Seneca	422	-18%	103,156	-13%	50%	244
Wayne	863	4%	167,220	5%	43%	194
Wyoming	638	-12%	203,915	-13%	54%	320
Yates	838	-3%	117,491	2%	54%	140
Finger Lakes	5,578	-6%	1,363,744	-5%	46%	—

Source: USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture

\$2.3 Billion in Total Sales in 2022

County	Total Sales (in millions)	Sales Change from 2017
Genesee	\$359.7	53%
Livingston	\$288.1	57%
Monroe	\$101.1	32%
Ontario	\$293.6	43%
Orleans	\$233.6	50%
Seneca	\$110.4	22%
Wayne	\$381.5	72%
Wyoming	\$421.0	37%
Yates	\$152.4	33%





The Finger
Lakes region
leads the State
in agritourism
income.



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the QR code for
Agriculture report.

Selected Recent Reports

AGRICULTURE & RURAL COMMUNITIES

A Profile of Agriculture in New York State (November 2024)

This report takes a detailed look at farming in every county in New York State, explores losses in farms and farmland, and documents increases in sales and expenses on the State's farms. Farms comprise 21.6 percent of the State's area, contribute \$2.7 billion to the State's gross domestic product, and support more than 163,000 jobs in New York.

Rural New York: Challenges and Opportunities (September 2023)

While many of the issues faced by rural New Yorkers are similar to those faced by residents of more urban areas, solutions that are effective in urban communities may not be well suited to rural ones. This report identifies challenges, including population decline and aging, housing, health care availability, food insecurity, and broadband access, and opportunities for addressing these issues through increased connectivity, both physical and digital.

Oversight of the Nourish New York Program (September 2023)

The audit objective was to determine if the Department of Agriculture and Markets and the Department of Health are ensuring the Nourish New York Program (Nourish NY) provides adequate access to the program for farmers and connects citizens across the State to surplus agricultural products. It found that both agencies should strengthen controls to ensure only eligible products and expenses are funded by Nourish NY.

Oversight of the Farm-to-School Program (April 2021)

This audit examined if the Department of Agriculture and Markets is adequately overseeing the Farm-to-School Program (Program) to ensure funds are used as intended and program goals are achieved. The Program was established to increase school districts' and individual schools' purchase of local specialty crops by developing existing strengths while building additional relationships between schools. The audit found the Department needed to improve monitoring of both Program expenditures and recipient performance to ensure recipients use funds as intended and achieve Program goals.



Protection of Managed Pollinators (Honey Bees) (January 2023)

This audit aimed to determine whether the Department of Agriculture and Markets is adequately monitoring the health of honeybee pollinators to prevent and mitigate harmful effects to their populations. The follow-up to this audit attempted to determine the extent of implementation of the two recommendations included in the initial audit report.

NEW YORKERS IN NEED

The New York Children in Need: The Urgency of Lifting Children Out of Poverty (May 2024)

Despite unstable economic conditions during the pandemic, the child poverty rate dropped by half, thanks largely to the extraordinary but temporary influx of federal relief, including expanded tax credits for families with children and stimulus payments. Since 2011, child poverty rates in New York have been higher than the national rate, and the 2022 data show New York's rate was 18.8 percent, one of the worst in the nation. The report called for the renewal of the federal child tax credit expansion and recommended State policymakers be guided by the time-sensitive nature of this problem and the high concentrations of child poverty in certain communities in the State.

Food Insecurity Persists Post-Pandemic (March 2023 and May 2024)

Extraordinary federal assistance programs resulted in reduction in food insecurity in the 2019-2021 period in New York State; as they expired, food insecurity grew to 11.3% in New York. The use of food assistance programs remained elevated as well. The report recommended further expansions to key food benefit programs, improving outreach and access, and promoting State nutritional programs like Nourish NY.

The Housing Insecurity Crisis (February 2024)

Almost 3 million New York households live in housing insecurity and do not have access to safe, stable, adequate and affordable housing. The report calls for an increase in federal funding and discretion, and for State policymakers to improve the transparency and effectiveness of current programs, spur local action and mitigate evictions and homelessness.

A Look at Poverty Trends in New York State for the Last Decade

(December 2022)

This report examines poverty trends from 2012 to 2022 in the State, finding that under the Official Poverty Measure, 13.9 percent of New Yorkers — or nearly 2.7 million people — lived in poverty in 2021, compared to 12.8 percent of all Americans. Alleviating poverty in a sustained manner must be an intergovernmental effort, with the federal government continuing to play the largest and most important part. The State should supplement federal efforts by making poverty reduction a cross-agency priority and targeting services more equitably.

BROADBAND

Availability, Access and Affordability: Understanding Broadband Challenges in New York State (September 2021)

While New York has made great progress in making high-speed connections available across the state, more than 1 million, or 13.8 percent of, New York households did not have subscriptions to broadband internet in 2019. The “digital divide” affected primarily rural areas, which did not have broadband infrastructure available, and low-income households, which did not have the means to access it. The report recommended using new federal infrastructure dollars to accelerate universal availability of the highest-speed connections in every part of the state, including in rural areas; enhancing access for low-income households; and improving affordability, particularly for low-income residents. The report called for a detailed plan and regular reporting on metrics to ensure progress and accountability.

Making Strides on Broadband Affordability (May 2023)

Two federal pandemic-era programs established to facilitate broadband access to low-income households demonstrated positive results in New York, with the share of low-income households with a broadband subscription climbing from 64 percent to 76 percent between 2019 and 2021. Funding for this purpose has not been reauthorized by Congress, putting connectivity at risk for many New York households.



New Federal Dollars for Broadband Deployment (July 2023)

New York will receive nearly \$665 million as part of recent federal investments to improve broadband data, affordability, access and availability. New federal funds present an opportunity for the State to improve the availability of reliable, high-speed service to unserved and underserved areas, and the State must craft a plan that is ambitious, actionable and accountable for meeting this objective.

Empire State Development: New NY Broadband Program (July 2022)

This audit investigated whether Empire State Development effectively monitored and managed the new NY Broadband Program (Program) and whether the Program achieved its overall goals. The audit recommended that the Broadband Program Office work with Internet Service Providers to complete outstanding projects as soon as practical and ensure any future State-funded projects are based on reliable and accurate broadband availability data and that they utilize technologies providing reliable high-speed Internet.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Growing Role of Counties in Emergency Medical Services

(March 2024)

In New York State, emergency medical services (EMS) are provided by an assortment of public and private entities. This report examines the growing role that counties are playing in EMS provision and highlights the lack of available information to appropriately assess the quality of EMS provision throughout the State.



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