
II. Demographic Profile of Tompkins County

In order to provide context for what follows in the rest of the report, this chapter offers a brief summary of key descriptive characteristics of the population of Tompkins County residents. The chapter is intended to be just that: a brief demographic profile of the County's overall population, and not a detailed treatise on each topic raised. The implications of many of the key issues summarized in overview fashion in this chapter – such as future projections, age, race/ethnicity, poverty – for the current and projected future makeup of the jail population are spelled out in greater detail in subsequent chapters of the report.

Population

Unlike most other counties of its size or in upstate New York, the population in Tompkins County has increased since 1990 (up 10.4 percent, including a 7.6 percent increase since 2000). However, according to Cornell University's widely respected Program on Applied Demographics population projections, the population (as shown in Table 1 below) is projected to experience a gradual decline in subsequent five-year intervals from now through 2040, when the overall population is projected to be about 5 percent lower than in 2015.²

² Population projections are not guarantees for the future, and many unknown variables will likely influence the future population of the county, including enrollment in higher education institutions, the attractiveness of the post-college job market, and affordability in the region. Cornell's PAD population projections model, which relies primarily on birth rates, mortality rates, along with domestic and international migration patterns, projects a modest decline over the next 25 years.

Woods & Poole Economics, a firm that specializes in long-term county economic and demographic projections, projects a 12% increase in Tompkins' population between 2015 and 2040. However, the Woods & Poole population projections also include a great deal of troubling inter-period variability. For example, the Woods & Poole model expects the number of 30 to 34 year old women to grow from a projection of 3,107 in 2020 to 4,154 in 2025, and then fall to 2,675 in 2030. This seems unlikely. The Cornell model anticipates a modest decline from 3,239 in 2020 to 3,225 and 2,935 in 2025 and 2030 respectively. For these and related reasons, and given our historical confidence in the Cornell PAD population projection model, CGR is relying on Cornell's estimates in this report.

Table 1

Year	Population	Change from Previous
1990	94,097	
2000	96,501	2.6%
2010	101,564	5.2%
2011-15	103,855	2.3%
2020*	101,732	-2.0%
2025*	101,538	-0.2%
2030*	100,893	-0.6%
2035*	99,844	-1.0%
2040*	98,606	-1.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial and American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

*Projected data from Cornell Program on Applied Demographics

The table includes those in college and university student housing, which was just under 12,000 according to the 2010 U.S. Census, or approximately 12 percent of the total County population. Such on-campus residents are in addition to students living in off-campus housing.

Subsequent chapters of the report will address the implications of the projected future changes in the County's total population on the average daily census likely in the County jail in future years.

As indicated in Table 2 below, the City of Ithaca and the nine towns of Tompkins County and their villages have each contributed to the growth in population since 2000.

Table 2

	2000	2011-15	Change	% Change
Tompkins County	96,501	103,855	7,354	7.6%
Town of Caroline	2,910	3,358	448	15.4%
Town of Danby	3,007	3,462	455	15.1%
Town of Dryden	13,532	14,840	1,308	9.7%
Town of Dryden (TOV)	11,195	12,302	1,107	9.9%
Village of Dryden	1,832	2,014	182	9.9%
Village of Freeville	505	524	19	3.8%
Town of Enfield	3,369	3,614	245	7.3%
Town of Groton	5,794	6,097	303	5.2%
Town of Groton (TOV)	3,324	3,561	237	7.1%
Village of Groton	2,470	2,536	66	2.7%
City of Ithaca	29,287	30,565	1,278	4.4%
Town of Ithaca	18,198	20,254	2,056	11.3%
Town of Ithaca (TOV)	14,925	16,465	1,540	10.3%
Village of Cayuga Heights	3,273	3,789	516	15.8%
Town of Lansing	10,521	11,347	826	7.9%
Town of Lansing (TOV)	7,104	7,718	614	8.6%
Village of Lansing	3,417	3,629	212	6.2%
Town of Newfield	5,108	5,292	184	3.6%
Town of Ulysses	4,775	5,026	251	5.3%
Town of Ulysses (TOV)	3,194	3,389	195	6.1%
Village of Trumansburg	1,581	1,637	56	3.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial and American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

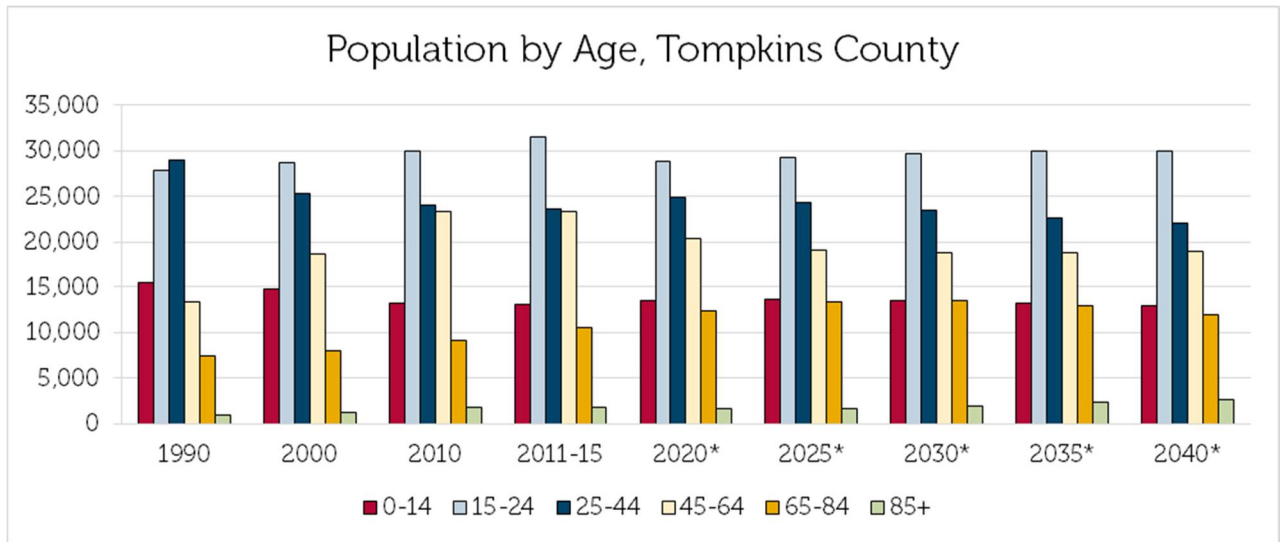
TOV = Town outside village.

Population by Age

A reflection of the large student population and desirability to reside in Tompkins County, the largest share of residents are consistently between 15-24 years of age, as reflected in Graph 1 below. Going back to 1990, and projected to remain about the same over the next 25 years, this age group consistently accounts for about 30 percent of the total County population. Combined with residents up to age 44, residents aged 15-44 consistently comprise over 50 percent of the County's population historically and going forward, based on Cornell Applied Demographic projections. However, the 25-44 segment of that age cohort has been declining, and is projected to continue to do so, both in total numbers and as a share of the overall population. From a high of 31 percent of the population in 1990, this age group currently represents about 23 percent of the total population, and is expected to range

between a high of 25 percent in 2020 to a low of 22 percent by 2040. The implications of these trends for the probable jail populations of the future are spelled out later in the report.

Graph 1



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial and American Community Survey 5-year estimates.
*Projected data from Cornell Program on Applied Demographics

As shown in Table 3, the County's median age was 30 in 2015 – the lowest in the state – also a reflection in large part of the significant college and university student population in the County.

Table 3

Five Lowest and Highest Median Age, NY 2011-15	
Tompkins County	30
Jefferson County	32
Cortland County	36
Rockland County	36
Orange County	37
Schuyler County	46
Essex County	46
Delaware County	46
Columbia County	47
Hamilton County	52

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Population by Race and Ethnicity

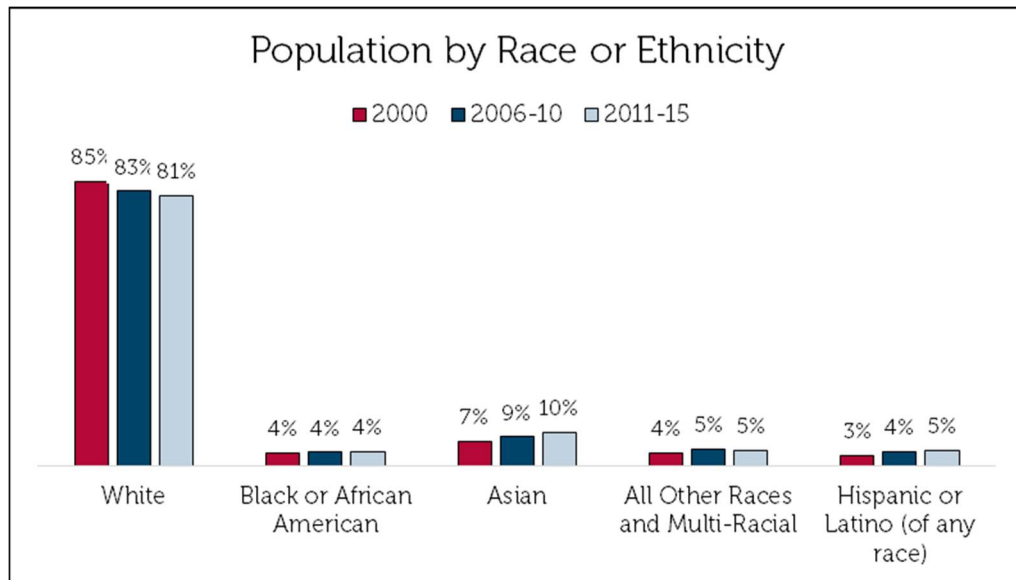
Although the population of all the major racial and ethnic groups among Tompkins County has increased since 2000, their respective shares of the population have for the most part remained relatively steady, as shown in Table 4 and Graph 2 below. Although the white population increased slightly over the past 15 years, it declined by four percentage points as a proportion of the total population over that period. The largest growth, both numerically and as a proportion of the population, has been among Asian residents, many of them with college/ university connections. Hispanic/Latino residents increased by more than 60 percent, and increased from 3 percent to 5 percent of the overall population. The black or African American population increased by 23 percent, while remaining a constant 4 percent of the total County population. Multi-racial residents and those of all other races increased by 33 percent, increasing slightly from 4 percent to a total of 5 percent of the total population.³

Table 4

	2000	2006-10	2011-15	2000	2006-10	2011-15
Total population	96,501	101,564	103,855	% of Population		
White	82,507	83,941	84,393	85%	83%	81%
Black or African American	3,508	4,020	4,315	4%	4%	4%
Asian	6,943	8,737	10,433	7%	9%	10%
All Other Races and Multi-Racial	3,543	4,866	4,714	4%	5%	5%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	2,968	4,264	4,818	3%	4%	5%

³ The US Census Bureau uses the terms Black or African American when asking respondents to self-identify themselves by race. Similarly, respondents are offered a choice of Hispanic or Latino in describing their ethnicity. Accordingly, we have used these various terms interchangeably, though leaning more often to use of the term Hispanic, since it refers more broadly to people of Spanish-speaking origin, versus Latino, which typically refers to persons of Latin American ancestry. The category "All other races and multi-racial" includes Native American/American Indian, other races, and those with mixed-race parents.

Graph 2



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial and American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Note: The Census Bureau asks people to identify their race (white, African-American, etc.) separate from their ethnicity (Hispanic or non-Hispanic). The totals for these categories cannot be added together, as people show up in both a racial and ethnic group.

Multi-racial residents with African American or Asian ancestry may share similar life experiences with those identified strictly as African American or Asian. Thus it is important to include their data when considering the total number of African American and Asian residents of the county. Adding mixed-race blacks adds about 1,400 to the total in Table 4 of about 4,300 African Americans, raising the total to more than 5,700, and the proportions of county residents who identify as having a black "lived experience" to about 5.5 percent. Similar increases among mixed-race Asians increase the total number of residents with Asian ancestry to almost 12,000, representing about 11.5 percent of the total county population.

Overall, Tompkins County remains primarily white, but with growing non-white populations comprising just under one-fifth of the total population. The implications of overall race/ethnicity proportions in the population for the makeup of the jail census are addressed later in the report.

Economics

Employment

As indicated in Table 5 below, 55 percent of the working age population in Tompkins County was employed in 2011-15, and just under four percent of residents were unemployed. Fifty-eight percent were in the labor force, somewhat lower than in the rest of the state – in large part a reflection of the large student population within the County. Among those ages 20-24, only 49 percent were in the labor force, compared with 70 to 80 percent in most counties among that age range. By contrast, for all age ranges beginning 35 and up, Tompkins work participation rates were consistently higher by several percentage points than in the rest of the state (NYC excluded).

Table 5

Employment Status, 2011-15	
Population 16 years and over	89,862
Employed	55%
Unemployed	3.5%
Armed Forces	0%
Workforce Participation Rate	58%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey
5-year estimates*

As shown in Table 6, the Educational Services, Health Care and Social Assistance industry employs almost half of the working residents in the county, including 35.5 percent in Educational Services and 10.8 percent in Health Care and Social Assistance.

Table 6

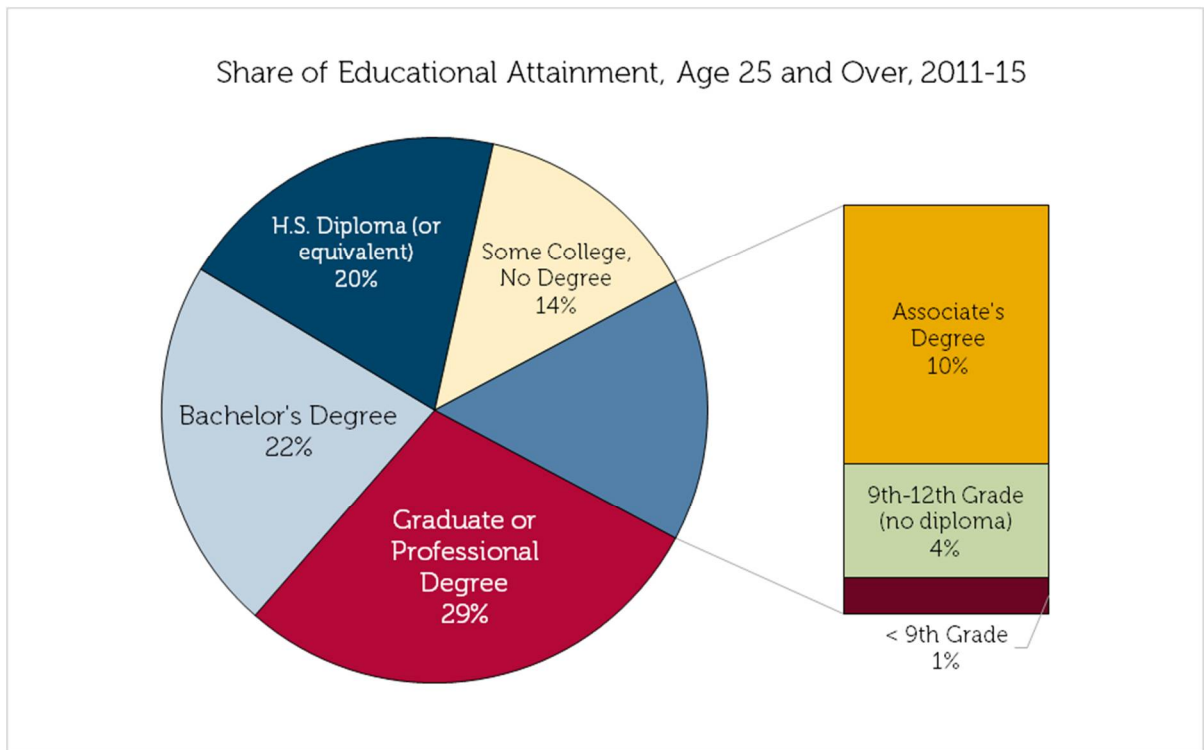
Employment Sector, 2011-15	Share
Educational Services, Health Care and Social Assistance	46.3%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services	9.7%
Professional, Scientific, and Waste Management Services	9.1%
Retail Trade	8.7%
Manufacturing	5.8%
Other Services, Except Public Administration	4.3%
Finance and Insurance, Real Estate Rental and Leasing	3.9%
Construction	3.2%
Public Administration	2.8%
Transportation and Warehousing, Utilities	2.7%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, Mining	1.8%
Information	1.3%
Wholesale Trade	0.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Educational Attainment

It has been said that an educated population represents a region's investment in human capital and preparation for long-term growth. If so, Tompkins County would appear to be well positioned for the future, as just over half of all residents over the age of 25 have attained a graduate or professional degree (29 percent) or a Bachelor's degree, as indicated in Graph 3 below. When combining this with those holding an Associate's degree, over 60 percent of the population over the age of 25 are college educated, with an additional 14 percent reporting at least some college experience. Later in the report, these overall rates are contrasted with educational attainment levels within the jail population.

Graph 3



Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Income and Poverty

Household Income

Per capita income in the county is \$28,460. Of the 38,400 households in Tompkins County, just over one-fourth had incomes below \$25,000⁴ in 2011-15, and a similar proportion (just under one-fourth) had incomes above \$100,000, as indicated in Graph 4. Just under 17 percent of the households have annual incomes under \$15,000 a year, including 11 percent under \$10,000 a year.⁵ Average household size is 2.35 persons, and average family size is 2.91.

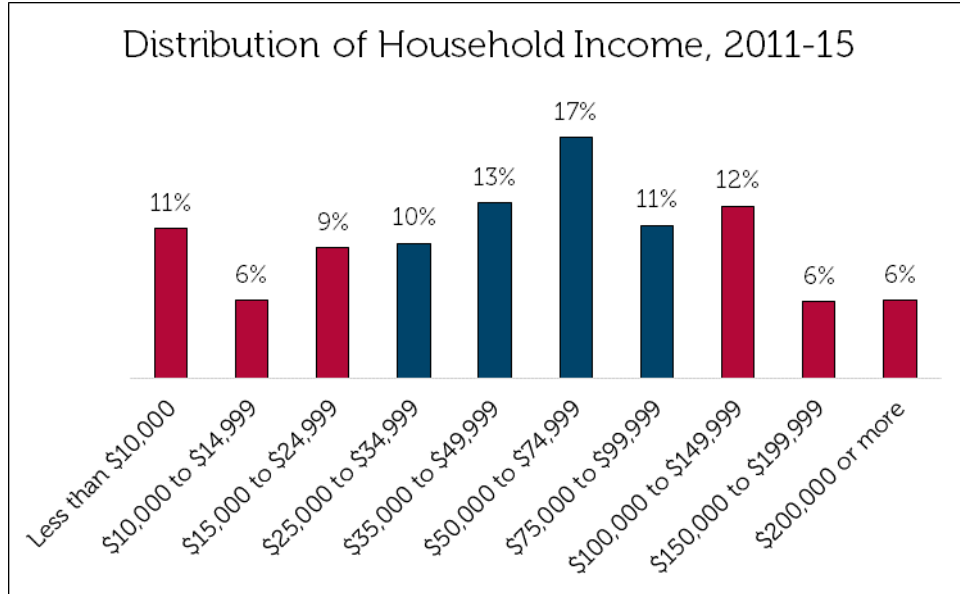
Compared to the rest of the state, household income in Tompkins County has remained relatively stable over the past 15 years. Overall, median household income in the County was \$52,624 in 2011-15, a 0.8 percent decline since 2000. By contrast, there was a 6.9 percent decline over those same years in upstate New York (NYS

⁴ The poverty threshold for a family of four with two children in 2015 was \$24,036.

⁵ Requests to provide proportions of households or individuals earning particular hourly rates could not be met by Census data.

minus NYC). Family households had a median income of \$74,524 and nonfamily households had a median income of \$30,660.

Graph 4



Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Poverty

As indicated in Table 7, the overall Tompkins County poverty rate for individuals is among the highest counties in the state: almost 21 percent, compared to 16 percent for the rest of the state minus NYC. This appears to be largely driven by the high poverty rates among the area’s large proportion of college and university students (see below). Although students living in dormitories are not included in census counts for poverty, individuals living off-campus are.

Table 7

Individuals Living in Poverty	2000	2011-15
Tompkins	18%	21%
NYS (excluding NYC)	10%	16%
United States	12%	15%

It is important to note, by contrast, that among families, the poverty rate was much less, at 9.5 percent, and only 4 percent for married-couple families, as indicated in Table 8.

Table 8

Percentage of Population Type Whose Incomes Are Below the Federal Poverty Level Tompkins County, 2011-15	
Individuals	20.5%
All families	9.5%
Married couple families	4.0%
18 years and over	21.1%
Unrelated individuals 15 years and over	41.3%
65 years and over	5.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Poverty and Race or Ethnicity

As shown in Table 9, the share of both Asian and white residents whose incomes were below the federal poverty level has remained higher than the state (excluding NYC), and relatively unchanged since 2000. The high Asian poverty rate is likely influenced to a great extent by the high proportion of “temporarily poor” Asian college and university students. While the Census Bureau does not estimate the college student poverty rate by race and ethnicity, it does estimate college enrollment by race and ethnicity and, separately, the poverty rate by school enrollment. Sixty percent of all Asian residents of Tompkins County are enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program. Nearly 57 percent of undergraduate and graduate students in the County who reside off-campus have incomes below the poverty threshold. Thus it is reasonable to assume that the high Asian poverty rate is driven largely by the large number of Asian post-secondary students in the community.

Due to a small population, County poverty rates for Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino residents are subject to a high margin of error. The rate for Black or African American residents (48 percent) has a margin of error of 10%, meaning the population poverty rate is likely between 38 percent and 58 percent. Similarly, the rate among Hispanic or Latino residents (33 percent) has a margin of error of plus or minus 7 percent.

Table 9

Share of Race/Ethnicity in Poverty	Race	2000	2011-15
Tompkins County	Asian	42%	45%
	Black or African American	20%	48%
	Hispanic or Latino (any race)	33%	33%
	White	15%	16%
New York State (excluding NYC)	Asian	10%	13%
	Black or African American	23%	24%
	Hispanic or Latino (any race)	19%	19%
	White	8%	10%
United States	Asian	13%	13%
	Black or African American	25%	27%
	Hispanic or Latino (any race)	23%	24%
	White	9%	13%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial and American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Note: The Census Bureau asks people to identify their race (white, African-American, etc.) separate from their ethnicity (Hispanic or non-Hispanic). The totals for these categories cannot be added together, as people show up in both a racial and ethnic group.

CGR also analyzed Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamp) enrollment data (from July, 2017) provided by Tompkins County DSS. County residents in households with income less than 130% of the federal poverty threshold are eligible to receive assistance through this program. SNAP has higher participation rates than other means-tested public assistance programs such as temporary assistance or HEAP, and therefore is the best administrative data measure of poverty at the County level in New York State.

As indicated in Table 10, American Indians/Native Americans, at 33%, and black residents at 27%, had the highest rates of enrollment in the SNAP program. While only 7% of white residents in the County receive SNAP benefits, due to its proportion of the overall population, whites comprise 75% of the total recipients in the County.

Table 10

July, 2017 Tompkins County SNAP Enrollment, by Race/Ethnicity				
Race and Ethnicity	SNAP Recipients	County Population ⁶	Share of Group Receiving SNAP	Share of SNAP Recipients by Race/Ethnicity
American Indian	122	372	33%	1%
Asian	275	10,433	3%	3%
Black	1,144	4,315	27%	14%
Hispanic	479	4,818	10%	6%
Other	16	910	2%	0%
White	6,098	84,393	7%	75%
Total Population	8,134	103,855	8%	100%

The implications of poverty, race, employment and education on the jail population are addressed in more detail later in the report.

⁶ The sum of these population groups do not equal the total population in the County. County data treats Hispanics as a separate racial group, while Census data classifies Hispanics as an ethnicity that could be of any race. In this table, CGR added the total number of Hispanics (of any race). Those individuals are also included the counts of white and black residents in Tompkins County.