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## Livingston County Summary\*

### General Overview

Livingston County, formed from parts of Genesee and Ontario counties in 1821, is home to some of the region's most picturesque Finger Lakes landscapes, as well as the highly ranked liberal arts college SUNY Geneseo.

Letchworth State Park, popularly referred to as the "Grand Canyon of the East", is a 14,000-acre destination that boasts a diverse range of terrain, hiking trails, and other outdoor activities.

In 2017, Letchworth was voted USA Today Reader's Choice for "Best Attraction in New York State".

Livingston County has had growth in some sectors of the economy, and falling crime rates over the past decade, despite the economic downturn caused by the recession of 2008. Livingston maintained a high graduation rate in 2019 at 89%, but once again, performance on state tests was mixed.

The teen pregnancy rate in the county was the lowest in the region at 1%. Livingston had one of the lowest mortality rates in the region.

### Demographic Overview

Livingston County experienced a comparatively small population change in 2018 with a decrease of 2.2%. This is in contrast to a 0.3% increase for the region, 3.0% for the state, and 16% for the nation. In 2018, Livingston was home to 63,227 residents, or about 5% of the total regional population.

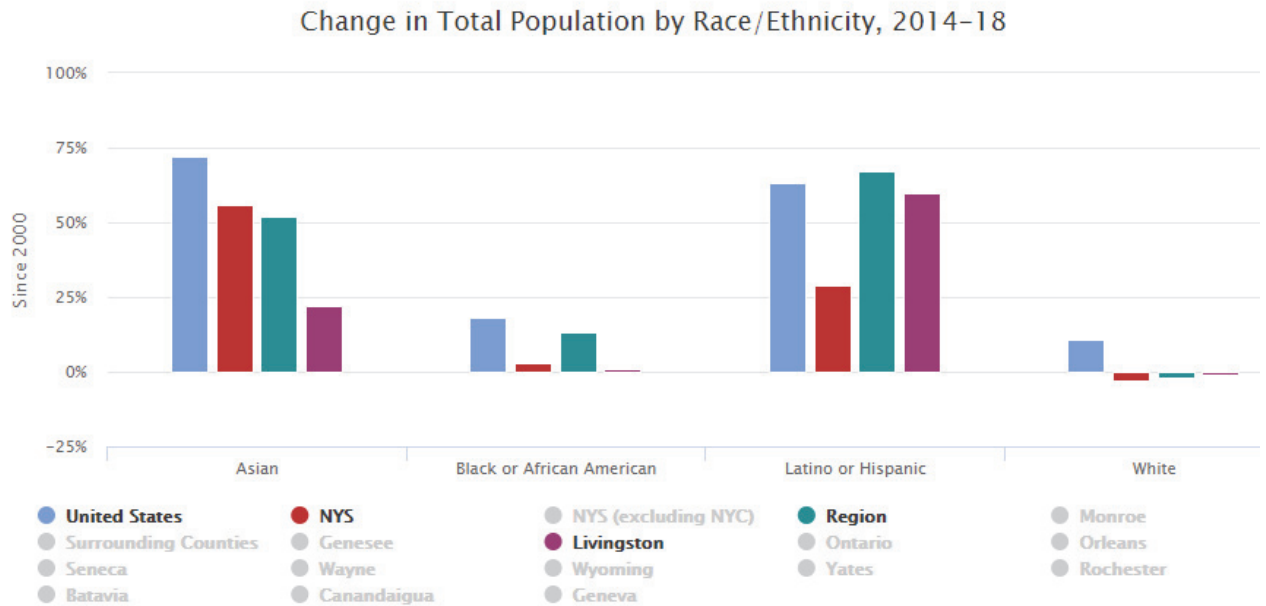
Similarly to other counties in the upstate region, Livingston County has an aging population:

- Between 2000 and 2014-18, the number of residents younger than 20 years declined 18%, and the 20-to-39 range declined 12%.
- The number of adults 85+ increased 53%, greater than the 37% for the region, 44% for the state, and 49% in the nation.
- The 40-to-59 age group was the largest in the county, accounting for 27% of the county's population.
- The 60-84 age group grew by 60% from 2000 to 2014-18, well above the region, state, and every other county besides Ontario.

*\*Please note, the indicator information included in this summary reflects the data available at the time of its composition. Some indicator data may have since been updated on our website. Visit [actrochester.org/all-indicators](http://actrochester.org/all-indicators) for updates.*

Despite an increase in the number of Hispanic and Asian residents, Livingston County remains predominately white:

- From 2000 to 2014-18, the Hispanic population grew by 60%, the Asian population by 22%, and the African American population by 1%. Over the same period, the white population decreased 1%.
- Whites made up 94% of the population in 2014-18, while African Americans and Hispanics each had a share less than 4%.



## Community Vitality

Livingston County attracted less tourism spending per capita (\$24) than all other counties in the region besides Orleans and Wayne. In 2018, tourism spending amounted to \$905 per resident, for a countywide total of approximately \$57 million. In percentage terms, this was a 36% increase from 2005 levels. Livingston’s 2018 rate was below the region (\$1,419) and state excluding NYC (\$2,259).

In 2018, only one county, Wayne (\$23), had lower recreational spending per resident than Livingston. Livingston spent less than a third of the region’s rate (\$80), and far less than the state excluding New York City (\$162).

In 2018, voter registration in Livingston County (81%) was below the regional rate (83%), but was similar to the state rate.

Livingston’s turnout rate for the 2018 midterm elections was 47%, higher than the past four midterm elections and above the state (26%). In the 2016 presidential election, voter turnout was 58%, a higher rate in Livingston than the 2012 presidential elections but on par with 2008.

In 2017, residents in Livingston County gave 1.2% of their income to benefit charitable causes, a stabilized rate since 2011. The county did, however, increase its total contribution amount by 4% since 2011.

Livingston County's registered library borrowers was the second lowest in the region:

- In 2017, 38% of residents of Livingston's county library system were registered borrowers, below the state (56%) and region (61%), and every county in the region except Wyoming.
- The number of library visits have more than doubled since 2000, a much bigger increase than the state, region, and all counties in the region in that timeframe.

In 2014-18, Livingston had a lower share of households without a vehicle (8%) than the nation (9%), as well as the region and the state excluding New York City (both 10%). Though Livingston's rate increased 2 points from 2000, it has remained relatively low and on par with many other regional counties.

### **Children and Youth**

From 2000 to 2017, the share of mothers receiving prenatal care in the first trimester decreased by 1 point to 79%. It currently stands above the state and regional rates (both 77%).

While not as severe as the state, nation, and region, the child poverty rate in Livingston County has risen from 10% in 2000 to 16% in 2014-18:

- Livingston's rate increase of 6 points from 2000 was a larger increase than the state (1 point) and nation (3) and every other county in the region except for Genesee.

Single parent families have also been on the rise in Livingston:

- The proportion of families raised by single parents rose by 7 points from 28% in 2000 to 35% in 2014-18, similar to the increase in the region but greater than the state and national increase of 3 and 5 points respectively.
- In 2014-18, Livingston's rate was similar to the state (35%), and nation (34%), but lower than the region (39%).

Livingston's rate of child abuse and neglect in 2018 (21 per 1,000 children) was higher than the state and region but lower than all of the counties in the region except Wyoming and Monroe. The rate has increased by 41% since 2000, above the regional increase of 39%.

The proportion of babies born with low birth weights has remained steady – between 5% and 7% - between 2000 and 2017. The 5.8% rate in Livingston is similar to rates in 2000. This rate is below the region, state and nation (all about 8%).

In 2017, Livingston County had among the lowest teen pregnancy rates in the region (0.9%). In the years since 2000 – during which the rate fell 2 points - Livingston's rate has consistently been below the state, region, and most other counties in the region.

Livingston County also had among the lowest teen birth rates in the region. In 2017, there were 6 live births per 1,000 females 15 to 19 years old in the county, much lower than the regional (13), statewide (12) and national (19) rates, and a 71% decrease from Livingston's rate in 2000 (21).

## **Economy**

Livingston's unemployment rate 2018 was well below its peak of 8.4% in 2009:

- Unemployment jumped from 4.9% in 2007 to a high of 8.4% in 2009, but has since returned to 4.3% in 2018. Similar to the 4.1% rate in 2000.
- Livingston's rate in 2018 was similar to the region (4.2%) and most other individual counties.

Livingston experienced the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest job growth rate in the region in 2018. Livingston saw a 1.5% increase in total jobs from 2017 to 2018, similar to the region (1.3%) but less than the state and nation (2.3% and 2.0% respectively).

- Livingston's total number of jobs fell less in the Manufacturing sector (10%) compared to the nation (20%), state (34%), and region (36%).
- Livingston grew more than the state, nation, and region in Construction, and more than the region in Health Care and Social Assistance and Financial Activities sectors.
- The largest decline of job growth in Livingston was seen in Professional and Business Services (29%), in contrast to gains of 29% for the state, 18% for the region and 35% for the nation.

Average salaries in Livingston County have grown at a rate similar to the nation and state and above the region:

- The average salary, adjusted for inflation, grew by 11% from 2000 to 2018 on par with the statewide and national rates.
- Livingston's average salary in 2018 was \$41,614, well below the state (\$72,902), and nation (\$57,265).

## **Education**

Livingston County has made significant progress in prekindergarten participation, but still lags behind the state and region:

- Livingston County's prekindergarten participation increased dramatically from 19% in 2008 to 40% in 2018. The county's increase of 21 points was lower than the state and region (33 and 25 points).
- Livingston's rate of participation was lower than the state (52%) and region (45%) in 2018.

Passing rates for the Common-Core aligned tests were generally lower than the state but above the region in English and math:

- Livingston's 48% pass rate in 2019 for 3rd grade English was lower than the state but higher than the region, similar to the 3rd grade Math passing rate of 51%.
- Livingston had a 44% passing rate for 8th grade English and 60% passing rate for 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math which was above state and regional rates (52% and 49% respectively).
- Livingston students passed Common Core-aligned Regents tests at higher rates than the state and region, with 85% passing English and 89% passing Common Core Algebra 1 in 2019:

We note that a substantial number of students did not take state exams in 2019 due to parent concerns about testing in schools. In our region in 2019, 15% of 3rd-8th graders in the region opted not to take the English exam and 16% opted not to take the Math exams.

Livingston had a high graduation rate in 2019 at 89%; this is an increase of 5 points from 2009. The graduation rate in 2019 was above the state (83%) and region (86%).

Fewer adults attended college in Livingston County than the state and region:

- In 2014-18, 57% of adults had attended at least some college, below the state and national rate of 60% and 61% and the regional rate of 62%.
- Livingston's most educated – those with a bachelor's degree or higher – made up just 25% of the population, as compared to 35% for the nation, 36% for the state and 33% for the region.

Per-student spending on education (this includes instruction, administration, transportation, etc.) has risen by 57% since 2000 to \$22,827 in 2018. This was similar to the region (\$22,703) and below the state (\$25,845).

In 2018, Livingston County spent \$15,591 per student on instructional expenses (spending directly related to a student's classroom experience), below the region (\$16,363) and the state (\$19,637). Livingston's instructional spending per student has increased 51% since 2000, more than the region (45%), but less than the state (60%).

## **Economic Security**

Livingston has seen its median household income drop since 2000:

- From 2000 to 2014-18, Livingston's median household income fell by 12% to \$56,071 compared to a 5% national decline and little change statewide. Within the region, only Wayne and Monroe counties had larger decreases in their income over that period.
- Livingston's median household income in 2014-18 was below the national (\$60,293), state (\$65,323) and regional (\$57,350) levels.

Livingston's poverty rate has increased steadily since 2000:

- In 2014-18, the poverty rate in Livingston was 14%, on par with the nation and region, and below the state (15%).
- The total increase of 4 points since 2000 was above the national, state and regional increases.

The percentage of people receiving temporary assistance in 2018 is below the state and the region:

- Livingston's rate of 1.8% in 2018 is lower than the state (2.7%) and region (2.3%) but higher than many of the counties surrounding Monroe.

In 2014-18, 13% of households in Livingston County participated in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). This rate was 2 points higher than 2009-13, this is higher than most regional counties.

## Health

The rate of uninsured have fallen, and is lower than the state and nation:

- In 2018, 5% of Livingston residents were uninsured, well below the national (10%) and state (6%) rates and on par with the region.
- Livingston's rate has fallen by 7 points from 2008, in-line with rate decreases in the nation, state and region.

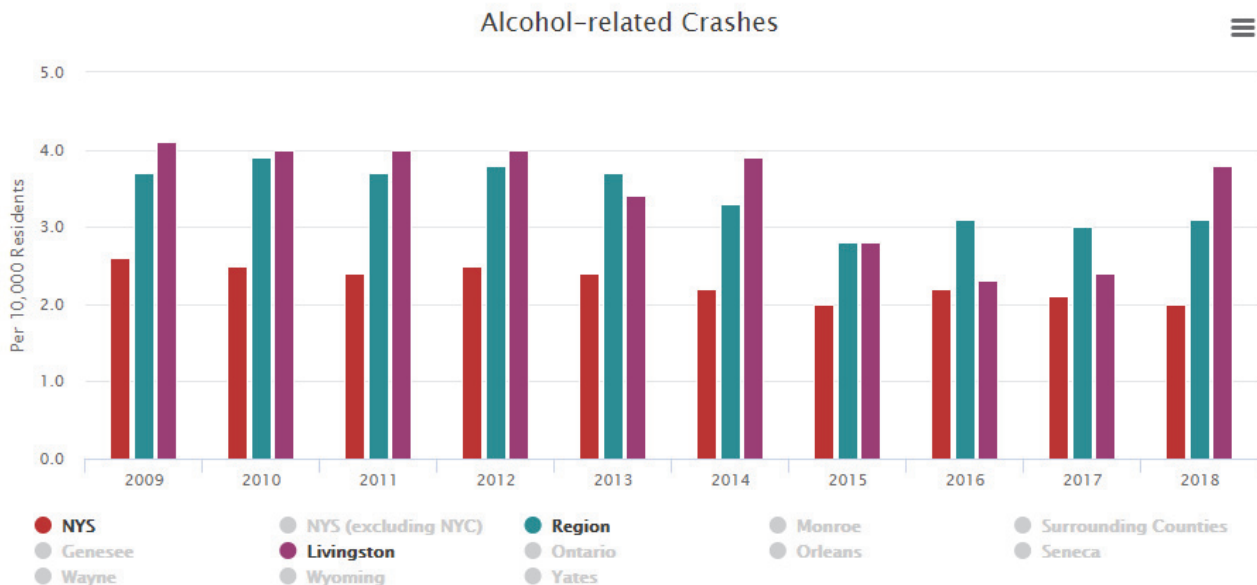
Livingston's mortality rate is higher the region and state:

- In 2017, the mortality rate was 711 per 100,000 residents, above the state rate of 610 and regional rate of 700.
- The rate fell by 21% since 2000, a steeper drop than in the region and any county in the region except Wayne.

In 2018, Livingston County reported one of the lowest rates of gonorrhea cases in the region. At 3 reported cases per 10,000 residents, Livingston's rate was much lower than the region and the state (18 and 19 per 10,000 residents respectively).

Crashes involving alcohol was higher in Livingston County than in the region and state:

- In 2018, the rate was 3.8 per 10,000 residents, above the state rate of 2.0 and regional rate of 3.1 per 10,000 residents.



Source: New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee

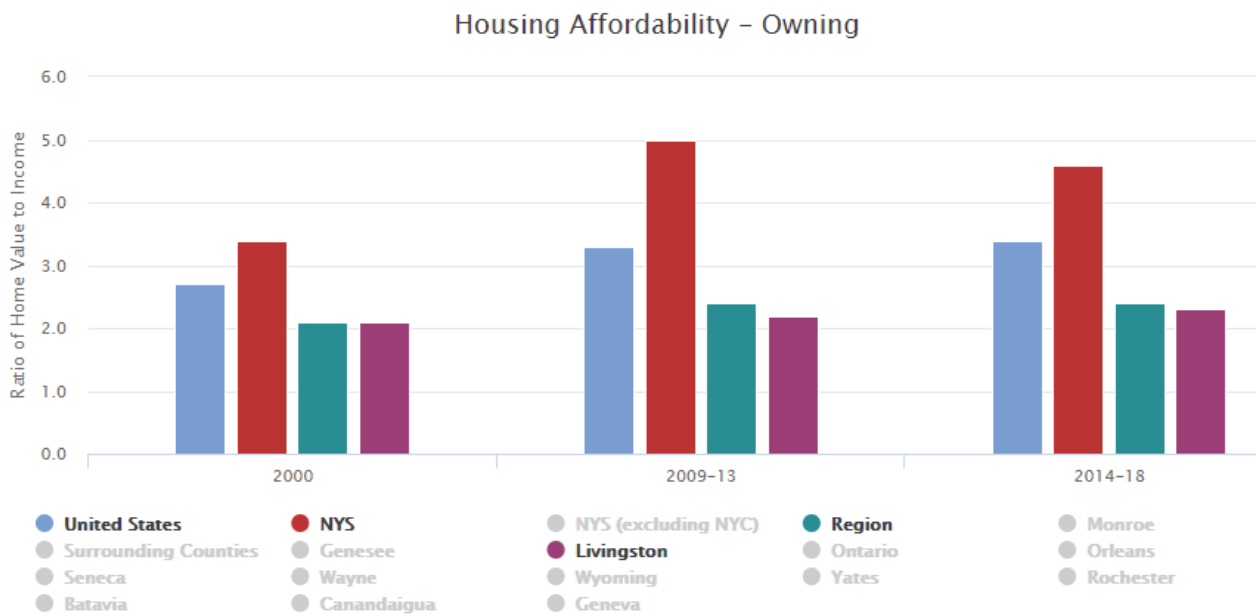
## Housing

Median home values decreased slightly in Livingston, in contrast to large increases for the state and nation:

- From 2000 to 2014-18, the median home value in Livingston dropped 3% from \$130,075 to \$126,700. This compares to a 22% increase nationally and a 36% increase statewide during the same period.
- The regional median and most county medians fell slightly from 2000 to 2014-18.

Housing is particularly affordable in Livingston:

- Despite rising by 10% since 2000, in 2014-18 Livingston had a 2.3 ratio of median home value to median household income (which is a measure of housing affordability).
- Livingston's ratio was similar to the region (2.4), but notably lower than the state (4.6) and nation (3.4).
- The ratio rose less in Livingston from 2000 to 2014-18 than it did in the nation (28%), state (36%), and region (12%).



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The median rent in Livingston County has fallen by 4% since 2000. In 2014-18, the median rent was \$781, compared to \$1,023 nationally, \$1,240 for the state, and \$855 for the region.

The share of household income that went to rent was 36% in 2014-18, above the nation (32%) and region (34%), and on par with the state. Livingston's rate rose 7 points from 2000 to 2014-18 similar to the state and nation.

In 2014-18, Livingston's homeownership rate was 73%, similar to rates in surrounding counties, but higher than the rates for the state (54%), nation (64%) and region (68%).

The rate of vacant housing units was 11% in Livingston County for 2014-18, a 3 point increase from 2000:

- Livingston’s vacant housing rate is higher than the region as a whole (10%), but lower than the state and nation (both 12%).

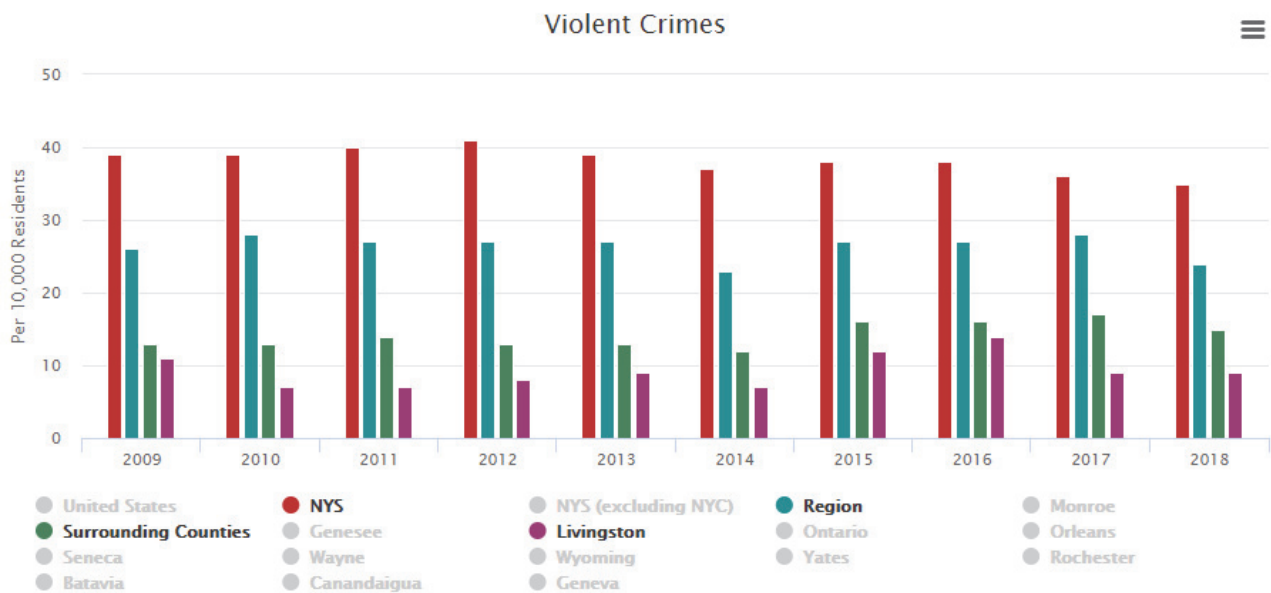
## Public Safety

Serious crimes have fallen and remain relatively low in Livingston County:

- From 2000 to 2018, the rate of serious crimes in the region dropped 58% - more than the nation, region and the state - to 100 per 10,000 residents.
- In 2018, Livingston’s rate was below the national rate of 257, the state rate of 178, and the regional rate of 190.

Livingston reported the second lowest violent crime rate in the region for 2018:

- The rate of 9 per 10,000 residents in 2018 was a 33% decrease from 2000, similar to the statewide decrease (37%), and a greater decrease than the nation (27%). Livingston’s drop in violent crime was in contrast to the region that saw an increase of 8% for this period.



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

Livingston County had approximately 180 arrests per 10,000 residents in 2018. Arrests in the county decreased 20% from 2000 (224), and was below the region (188) and the state (209).

Livingston County had an incarceration rate of approximately 21 per 10,000 residents in 2018, the second highest in the region after Seneca (22), and higher than the state (12) and the region (13). Incarcerations in Livingston for 2018 were 47% higher than in 2008 making it one of the few counties in the region to experience an increase during this period (the others being Genesee, 44%, and Seneca, 48%).

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