

Profile of Town of Ithaca (including Village of Cayuga Heights)



Prepared by Tompkins County Youth Services Department
Spring 2021

Achieving Youth Results (AYR): Tompkins County Youth Services Department worked with our community to develop goals for our county’s young people and indicators (data) to track progress toward these goals. The six goals are listed in the boxes starting on page 2. For more information on Achieving Youth Results, please visit <http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/youth/AYR>.

Population and Demographics

Town of Ithaca Population, All Ages – 19,847, including V. Cayuga Heights, whose population is 3,689. T. Ithaca has the second largest population in Tompkins County. Population decreased 1.3% since 2010.

Median Age – 28.8 (Tompkins median age – 31.1)



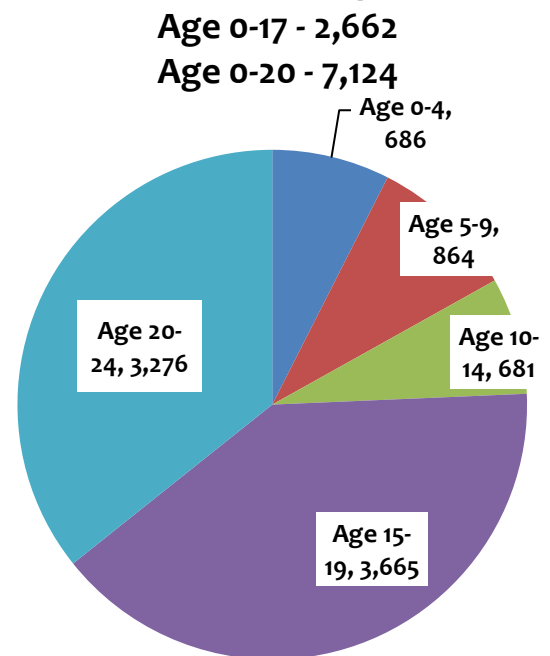
Town of Ithaca Youth Population

T. Ithaca’s 0-17 youth population decreased 1.6% since 2010. 17% of Tompkins youth ages 0-17 reside in T. Ithaca.

T. Ithaca’s 0-20 youth population declined 1.2% since 2010. 23% of Tompkins youth ages 0-20 reside in T. Ithaca.

36% of T. Ithaca’s population is under age 21.

T. Ithaca Youth Population



Race, All Ages

White	74.7%
Black/African American	4.7%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.5%
Asian	13.1%
Other	2.5%
Two or more races	4.4%

Hispanic/Latino 5.6%

Data Source: 1 (See p. 9)

Community

AYR Goal: Our Community (Tompkins County) will provide children, youth, and families with healthy, safe, and thriving environments.

Total Number of T. Ithaca Households – 6,917

T. Ithaca Poverty

People of all ages below poverty level – 14.6% (Tompkins County rate – 18.9%)

People below age 18 below poverty level – 8.1% (Tompkins County rate – 13.9%)

T. Ithaca Adults (age 25+) with high school degree or higher (2019) – 96.5%

T. Ithaca Housing

Number of owner occupied houses: 3,644

Percent of housing units that are owner occupied – 49.0%

Median value of owner occupied houses: \$272,500

Percent of housing units (7,440) that are mobile homes: >1%

For rental units, median rent – \$1,236



Occupied T. Ithaca Housing Units with No Vehicle Available – 930 (13.4%)

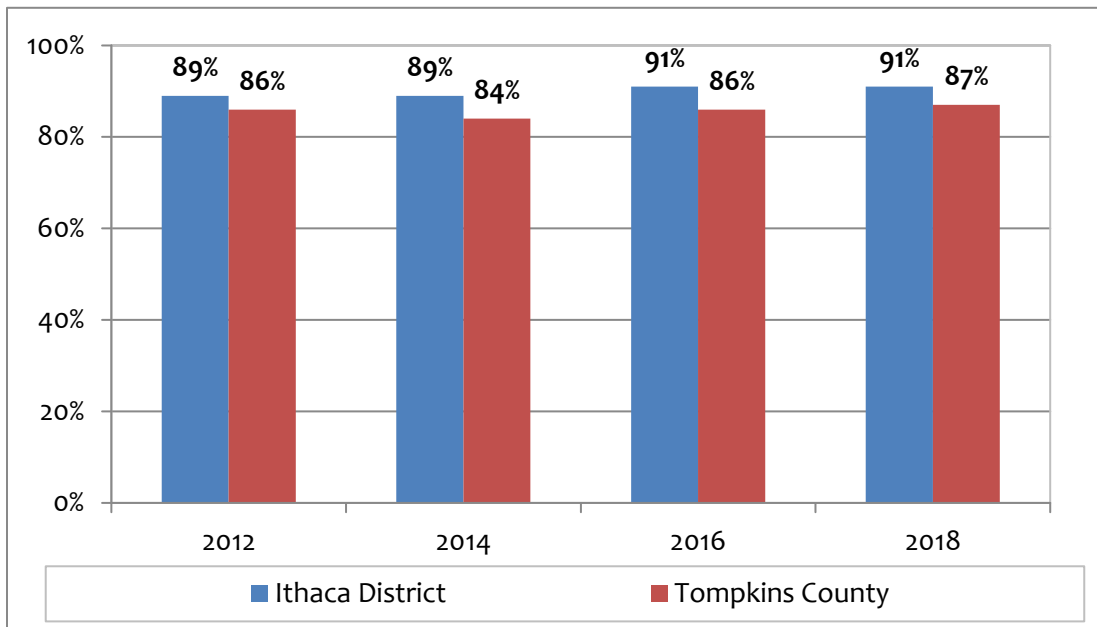
Free or Reduced Lunch Participation

	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced
Cayuga Hts. Elem.	32%	3%	31%	3%	33%	1%
Northeast Elem.	25%	11%	22%	13%	26%	8%
Boynton M.S.	29%	5%	29%	3%	31%	3%
DeWitt M.S.	31%	6%	33%	6%	35%	5%
IHS	25%	5%	25%	4%	27%	4%
LACS	26%	10%	30%	9%	33%	5%
Ithaca District	32%	6%	32%	5%	33%	4%
Tompkins Co.	34%	6%	35%	5%	35%	5%

Notes: Eligibility for a family of four (July 2019) – Free lunch - \$33,475; Reduced lunch - \$47,638

This table shows participation rates and does not reflect those youth who are eligible but do not apply and do not participate.

Students Who Report Feeling Safe in Their Neighborhood



Data Sources: 1, 2, 5 (See p. 9)

Economic Security

AYR Goal: Youth will be prepared for their eventual self-sufficiency.

T. Ithaca Unemployment Rate (2019 5 Year Average) for Population Age 16-19: 5.0%

T. Ithaca Unemployment Rate (2019 5 Year Average) for Population Age 20-24: 6.1%

Tompkins County Unemployment Rate (2019 5 Year Average) for Population Age 16-19: 7.0%

Tompkins County Unemployment Rate (2019 5 Year Average) for Population Age 20-24: 5.1%

T. Ithaca Labor Force Participation Rate (2019 5 Year Average): 55.5%

Ages 16-19: 38.9%

Ages 20-24: 44.1%

Tompkins County Labor Force Participation Rate (2019): 59.3%

Ages 16-19: 35%

Ages 20-24: 52.5%

ICSD Progress Toward High School Completion

Year entered 9 th grade	Progress after 4 years			Progress after 5 years		
	Graduated	Still enrolled	Dropped out	Graduated	Still enrolled	Dropped out
2014	94%	3%	3%	91%	1%	6%
2015	87%	5%	6%	89%	2%	6%
2016	87%	7%	3%			

New York State's standard is 80% graduating after 5 years.

This table tracks progress by student cohort. The cohort groups all the first-time 9th graders who start school during the same school year and tracks the cohort's progress toward high school completion after 4 and 5 years.

"Graduated" includes students with a Regents Diploma, Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation, or Local Diploma. The graduation month is August for these reporting purposes.

Data Sources: 1, 2 (See p. 9)

Education

AYR Goal: Youth will leave school prepared to live, learn, and work in their community.

Data are for the entire Ithaca District, not just the area serving T. Ithaca students.

School Enrollment

	School Enrollment		Students with Disabilities		ELL* Students		Homeless Students	
	2018-19	2019-20	2018-19	2019-20	2018-19	2019-20	2018-19	2019-20
Cayuga Hts. Elem.	352	343	64 (18%)	55 (16%)	8 (2%)	12 (3%)	0	0
Northeast Elem	462	418	54 (12%)	60 (14%)	60 (13%)	59 (14%)	0	0
Boynton M.S.	523	546	88 (17%)	67 (12%)	5 (1%)	0	0	0
DeWitt M.S.	479	501	68 (14%)	74 (15%)	18 (4%)	22 (4%)	10 (2%)	10 (2%)
IHS	1,353	1,354	133 (10%)	126 (9%)	9 (1%)	12 (1%)	7 (1%)	7 (1%)
LACS	291	283	45 (15%)	53 (19%)	0	0	0	0
Ithaca District	5,092	5,052	722 (14%)	697 (14%)	191 (4%)	212 (4%)	42 (1%)	45 (1%)
Tompkins Co.	10,489	10,356	1,691 (16%)	1,649 (16%)	225 (2%)	253 (2%)	53 (1%)	75 (1%)

*ELL = English Language Learners

School Performance

Ithaca 3 rd Grade Student Performance on Spring Standardized Tests – Percentage Meeting State Standards						
	Cayuga Heights Elementary		Northeast Elementary		ICSD	
	ELA*	Math	ELA*	Math	ELA*	Math
2016-17	31%	50%	55%	89%	38%	58%
2017-18	49%	59%	62%	87%	53%	63%
2018-19	41%	44%	62%	84%	55%	64%



Ithaca 8 th Grade Student Performance on Spring Standardized Tests – Percentage Meeting State Standards								
	Boynton		DeWitt		LACS		ICSD	
	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math
2016-17	64%	21%	63%	26%	44%	14%	60%	23%
2017-18	63%	35%	69%	39%	50%	26%	64%	35%
2018-19	63%	19%	58%	22%	46%	27%	57%	21%

*ELA = English Language Arts

NYS Education Dept.'s goal is for schools to have 90% of students at or above standards.

School Life (Students, grades 7-12)

	ICSD	Tompkins
Feels welcomed and appreciated by school adults	48%	46%
Has a trusted adult in school who can help with problems	44%	51%
Feels safe at school	79%	79%
Feels school rules are fairly enforced	33%	35%
Says students treat each other with respect	29%	29%
Someone said something hurtful to them in past 30 days at school	18%	25%
Was physically bullied in past 30 days at school	3%	4%

% of Households in T. Ithaca Lacking Broadband Internet Connection: 15.4%

Data Sources: 1, 2, 5 (See p. 9)

Family

AYR Goal: Families will provide children safe, stable and nurturing environments

Living Arrangements of T. Ithaca Children 0 – 17

Number of households – 6,917

Number of family households with own children under age 18 –1,509 (21.8%)

1,206 are married couple families (80.0%)

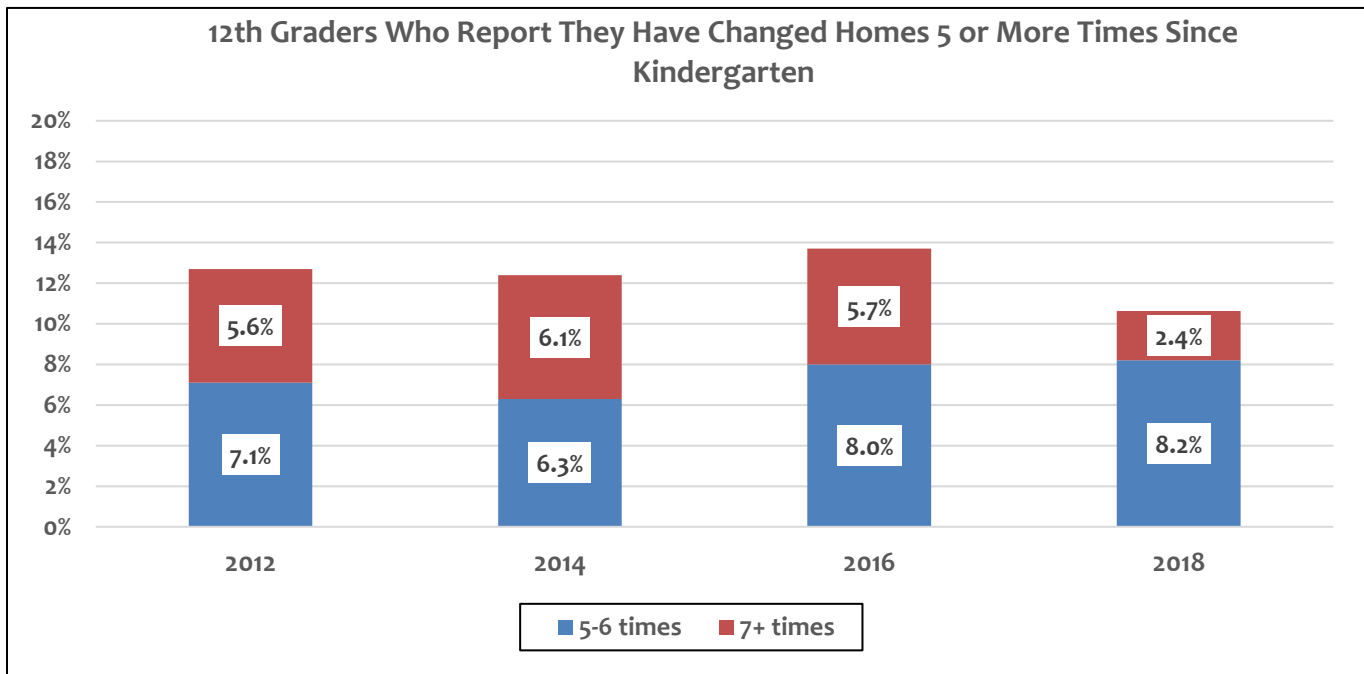
14 are cohabiting couple families (<1%)

20 are single male householder families (1.3%)

199 are single female householder families (13%)



Stability of Living Situation – Ithaca City School District



Data Sources: 1, 5 (See p. 9)

Physical & Emotional Health

AYR Goal: Children and youth will have optimal physical and emotional health.

Health Insurance – 660 (3.4%) T. Ithaca residents lack health insurance.
 94 (2.2%) of T. Ithaca youth under age 19 lack health insurance.

Youth Substance Use, grades 7-12 – Any Use Within the Past 30 Days (“Current use”)

	2014		2016		2018	
	ICSD	County	ICSD	County	ICSD	County
Alcohol	22%	19%	15%	14%	17%	16%
Marijuana	18%	15%	11%	11%	16%	13%
Cigarettes	3%	5%	2%	3%	3%	3%
Electronic Vaping					14%	16%

Overweight and Obese* Students by Grade Level

(Note that this indicator is not a reliably objective determination of individual physical health of youth, and other factors such as age, sex, race, fitness level, etc. need to be considered. TCYSD is working to identify better indicators for physical health in partnership with TC Health Dept.)

		Elementary		Middle/high		All grades	
		% over-weight	% obese	% over-weight	% obese	% over-weight	% obese
School years 2016-2018	Ithaca district	14.2%	11.8%	14.1%	12.9%	14.2%	12.1%
	NYS excl. NYC	15.7%	16.0%	17.4%	18.8%	16.5%	17.2%
School years 2014-2016	Ithaca district	13.5%	7.7%	12.1%	12.2%	12.9%	9.6%
	NYS excl. NYC	15.9%	16.3%	17.3%	18.5%	16.5%	17.3%

*Overweight = 85th to 94th percentile; obese = 95th+ percentile calculated body-mass index for age

Mental Health of ICSD Students – Students (grades 7-12) reporting:

	2014	2016	2018
I felt sad or depressed most days in the past year	30%	27%	35%
Sometimes I think life is not worth it	19%	24%	32%
At times I think I’m no good at all	33%	34%	42%
All in all, I am inclined to think I’m a failure	19%	20%	26%

Data Sources: 1, 4, 5 (See p. 9)

Civic Engagement

AYR Goal: Children and youth will demonstrate commitment to their community as contributing members of their families, schools, and neighborhoods.

Grade 7-12 Student Participation in Extracurricular Activities in Past 12 Months (school or community)

	2012	2014	2016	2018
Ithaca District	84%	86%	86%	87%
Tompkins County	81%	83%	83%	83%

Grade 7-12 Student Participation in Sports in Past 12 Months

(school or community)

	2012	2014	2016	2018
Ithaca District	74%	74%	72%	72%
Tompkins County	78%	77%	75%	75%



Pre-PINS and PINS Referrals to Probation by Schools

	2017		2018		2019	
	Pre-PINS	PINS	Pre-PINS	PINS	Pre-PINS	PINS
Cayuga Hts. Elem.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northeast Elem.	0	1	0	0	0	0
Boynton M.S.	0	2	0	7	0	3
DeWitt M.S.	2	12	3	6	1	6
LACS	0	1	2	1	0	1
Ithaca H.S.	0	13	0	14	0	6

*A Person in Need of Supervision (PINS) is a youth under the age of eighteen who is showing a pattern of habitual disobedience, running away, curfew violations, substance abuse, violent behavior, or school truancy problems. Pre-PINS Diversion Services attempt to resolve the conflicts that brought a youth to the attention of the Probation Department by offering supervision, guidance, and referrals to community resources, thus preventing the need for formal Family Court intervention. Pre-PINS Diversion is a mandatory prerequisite prior to filing a formal PINS petition in Family Court.

Data Sources: 5, 6 (See p. 9)

Data Sources

- 1) American Community Survey 2019 (5 year estimates)
<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>
- 2) NYS Dept. of Education School Report Cards
<https://data.nysed.gov/>
- 3) NYS Dept. of Health Student Weight Status Category Reporting System
www.health.ny.gov/prevention/obesity/statistics_and_impact/student_weight_status_data.htm
- 4) NYS Department of Health Vital Statistics
www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/index.htm
- 5) Tompkins County Communities that Care Youth Survey
www.healthyyouth.org/publications.php
- 6) Tompkins County Probation Department
www.tompkinscountyny.gov/probation Detailed reports not available online