

Section I
Description of the Capital Region Service Area

Population and Land Area

Community Cradle's service area covers three counties: Albany, Rensselaer, and Schenectady. The 603,228 individuals who live in the Capital Region comprise 3.1% of the State's population, and 2.9 % of the state's land area (Table 1). Overall, all the counties of our service area experienced population growth, with Schenectady County having the highest growth at 2.65%.

**Table 1
Population and Land Area**

	Albany	Rensselaer	Schenectady	Capital Region	NYS
Population	297,556	155,292	150,440	603,288	19,306,183
Land Area (sq miles)	523	654	206	1,383	47,214
Population Density(1)	568	237	723	436	401

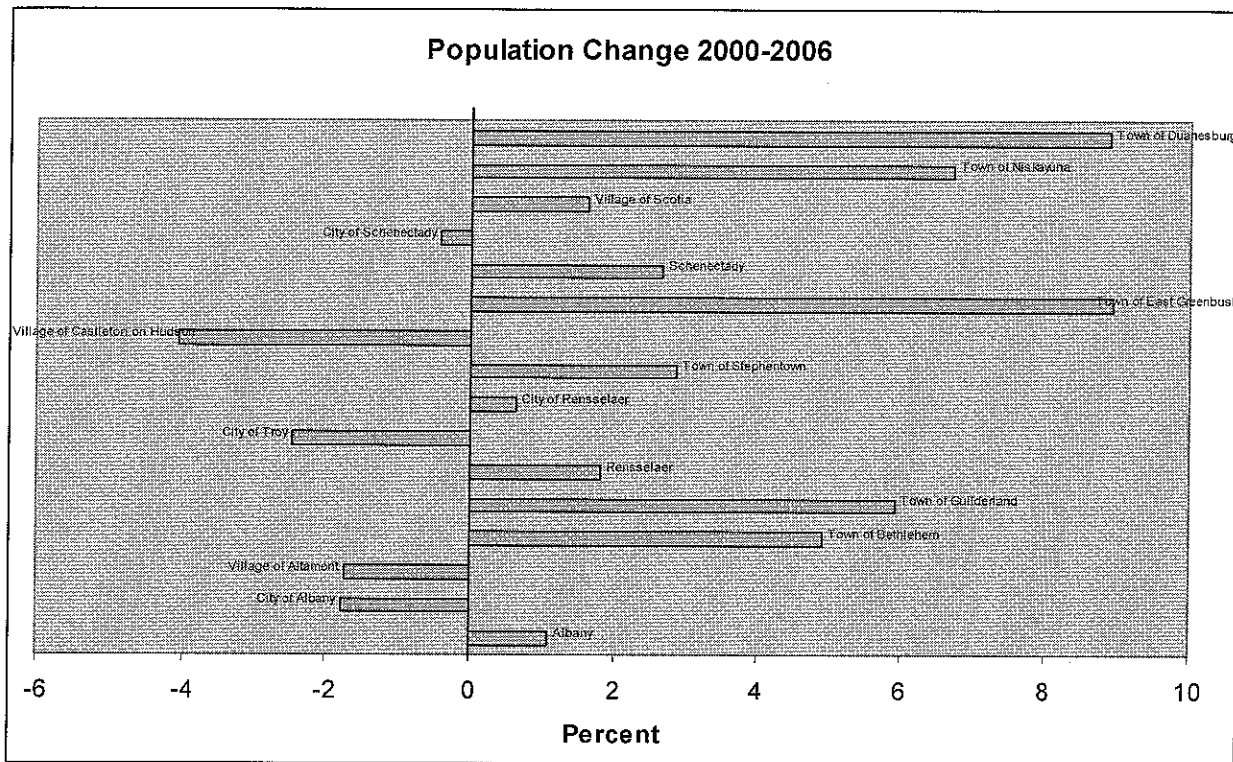
Source: Census Bureau

(1) Population Density = persons per square mile

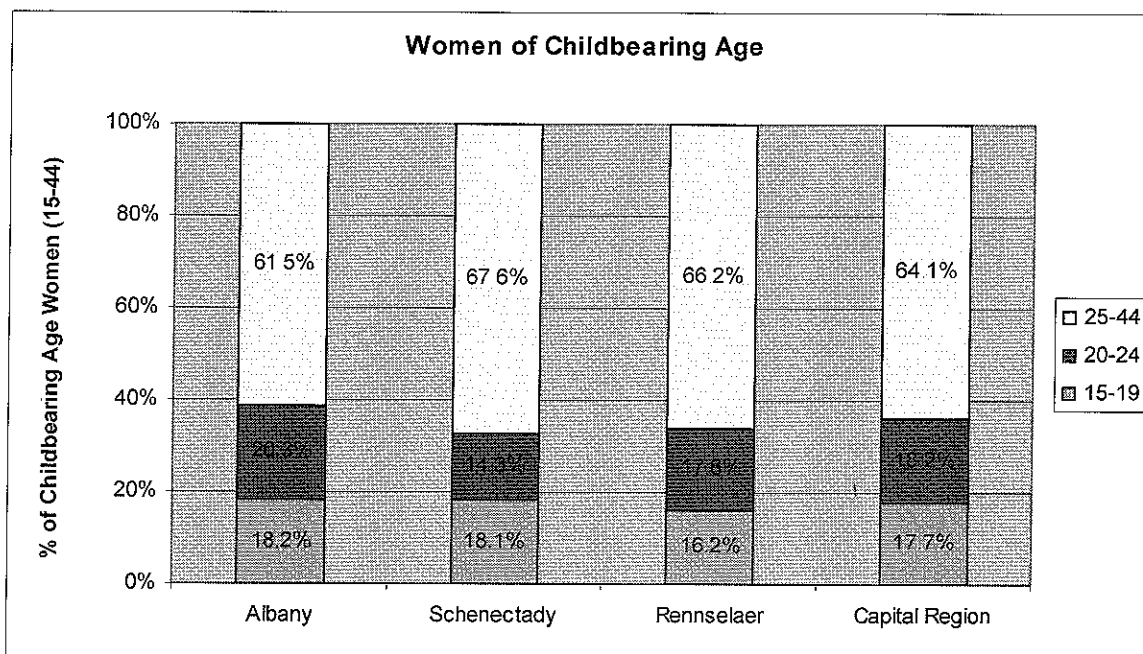
**Table 2
Change in Population, 2000-2006**

County	2000	2006	Net Change	% Change
Albany	294,565	297,556	2,991	1.105
City of Albany	95,658	93,963	-1,695	-1.772
Village of Altamont	1,737	1,707	-30	-1.727
Town of Bethlehem	31,304	32,844	1,540	4.919
Town of Guilderland	32,688	34,630	1,942	5.941
Rensselaer	152,538	155,292	2,754	1.805
City of Troy	49,170	47,952	-1,218	-2.477
City of Rensselaer	7,761	7,812	51	0.657
Town of Stephentown	2,873	2,955	82	2.854
Village of Castleton on Hudson	1,619	1,553	-66	-4.077
Town of East Greenbush	15,560	16,950	1,390	8.933
Schenectady	146,555	150,440	3,885	2.651
City of Schenectady	61,821	61,560	-261	-0.422
Village of Scotia	7,957	8,086	129	1.621
Town of Niskayuna	20,295	21,662	1,367	6.736
Town of Duanesburg	5,808	6,324	516	8.884

Source: Census Bureau



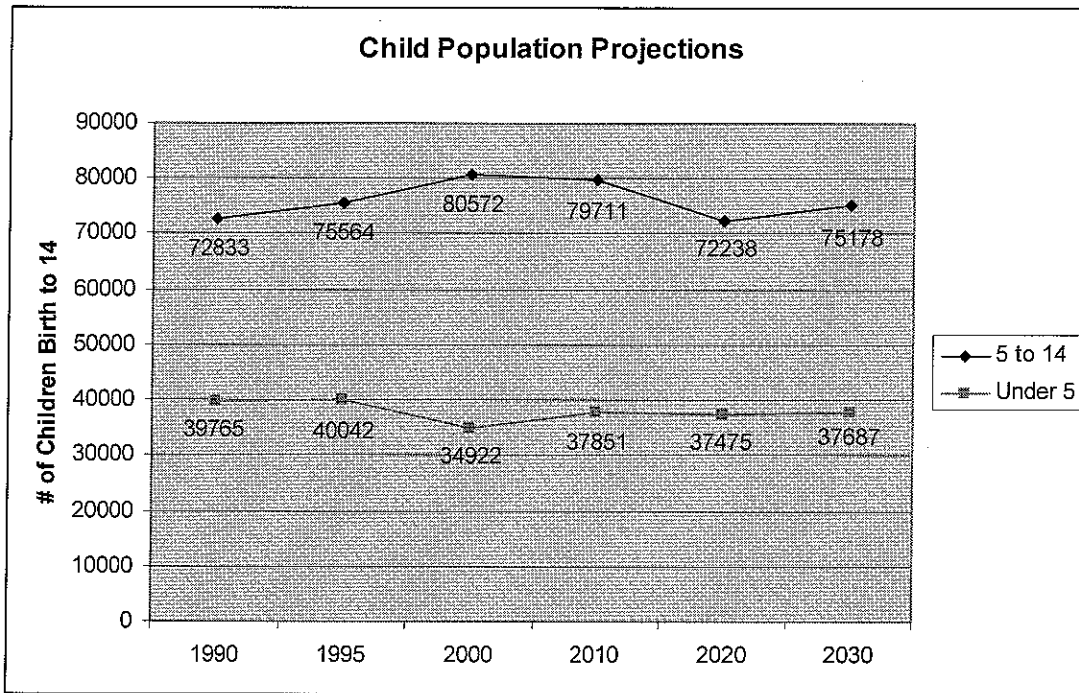
Women of childbearing age (i.e., 15-44 years old) comprise 43% of the total female population, and around one quarter (25.4%) of the total Capital Region population. Teen (ages 15-19) and young adult women (ages 20-24) account for over one-third of all childbearing-age women (17.7% and 18.2%, respectively).



Source: Census Bureau

There were 128,235 women of childbearing age in the Capital Region in 2006, an increase of 8.8% from 2005 when there were 117,889 women in this age range.

Children are also a focal point of CC's services. Children under 5 years old comprise about 5.5% of the region's population. Children from birth to age fourteen totaled 105,458 in 2006, a decrease of 8.7% since 2000. The number of young children (0-5) is projected to remain fairly stable through 2030, while the number of children 5-14 is expected to fluctuate over the next three decades.



Source: CDRPC

Nearly half of all families (49.4% in Albany, 46.7 in Schenectady, and 46.8% in Rensselaer) live in poverty. Additionally, there are a total of 22,220 female headed households within the three counties, of which 74.9% have related children under the age of 18 years. Of these households, 27.3% live at or below poverty level.

	Households	Female Headed Households	Female HOH with children ¹	In Poverty	Percentage
Albany	71287	14639	11253	3185	28.3
Schenectady	37159	7872	5814	1570	27.0
Rensselaer	37857	7154	5153	1319	25.6
Capital Region	146303	29665	22220	6074	27.3

Source: Census Bureau

¹ These are households with related children younger than 18

Having over a quarter of female headed households with children living in poverty is a significant health concern. For example, people in poverty are less likely to have a regular health care provider or to visit a health care provider on a regular/preventative basis; have higher rates of smoking and related health effects; have higher incidences of chronic illnesses such as asthma; and are more likely to live in older housing where there is a higher lead exposure risk. Access to services is particularly challenging to the poor who may not have a car; who may be fearful or suspicious of formal service delivery systems; who may lack insurance; or are simply unaware of available services.

Some of this poverty is explained by the rate of unemployment in the region. Comparing our region to New York State, we can see that Rensselaer County is the only county trending towards a decrease in unemployment. Schenectady County rates have decreased overall, but have shown an increase from 2006 to 2007. Rates in Albany County have increased over time. However, Capital Region counties continue to have lower unemployment rates than the State average.

