Appendix I: Capital Region Comparisons

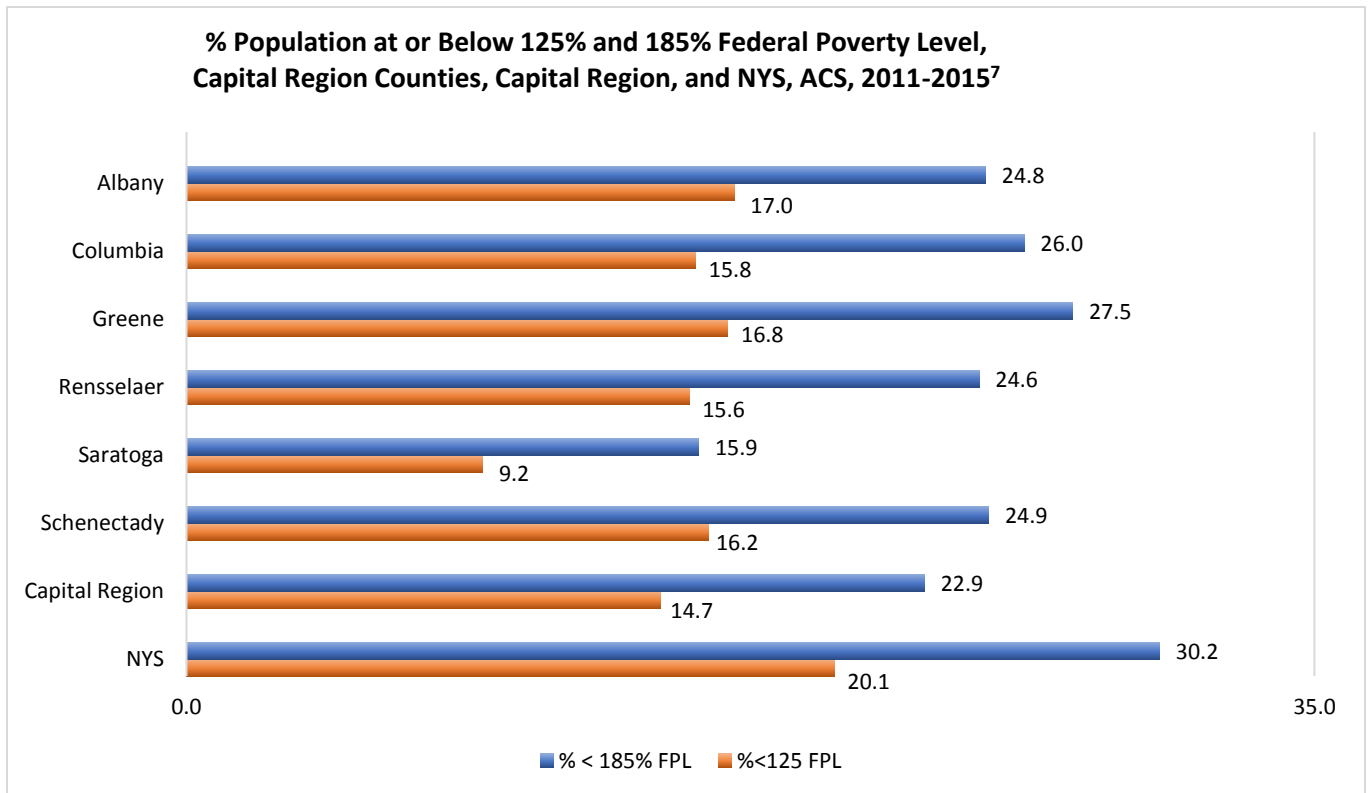# Contents

Food Subsidy Target Population

Highlights:

- About 135,307 (15%) of Capital Region residents were at or below 125% FPL, the best available proxy for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and free lunch eligibility. Albany (17.0%) and Greene (16.8%) had the highest percentages in the Capital Region.
- About 211,000 (23%) of Capital Region residents were at or below 185% FPL, a good proxy for reduced-price lunch eligibility. Greene (27.5%) and Columbia (26.0%) had the highest percentages in the Capital Region.

% Population at or Below 125% and 185% Federal Poverty Level, Capital Region Counties, Capital Region, and NYS, ACS, 2011-2015[7]

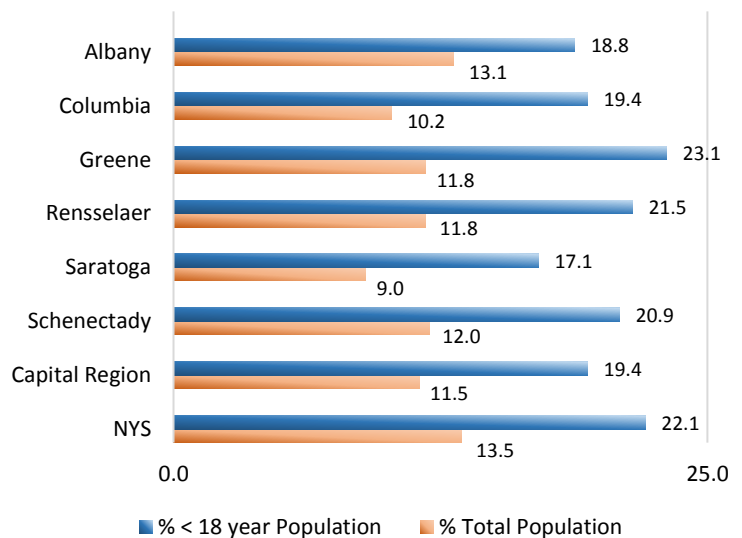| County	% < 185% FPL	%<125 FPL
Albany	24.8	17.0
Columbia	26.0	15.8
Greene	27.5	16.8
Rensselaer	24.6	15.6
Saratoga	15.9	9.2
Schenectady	24.9	16.2
Capital Region	22.9	14.7
NYS	30.2	20.1

0.0   35.0

■ % < 185% FPL   ■ %<125 FPL

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is an economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food during the past year.
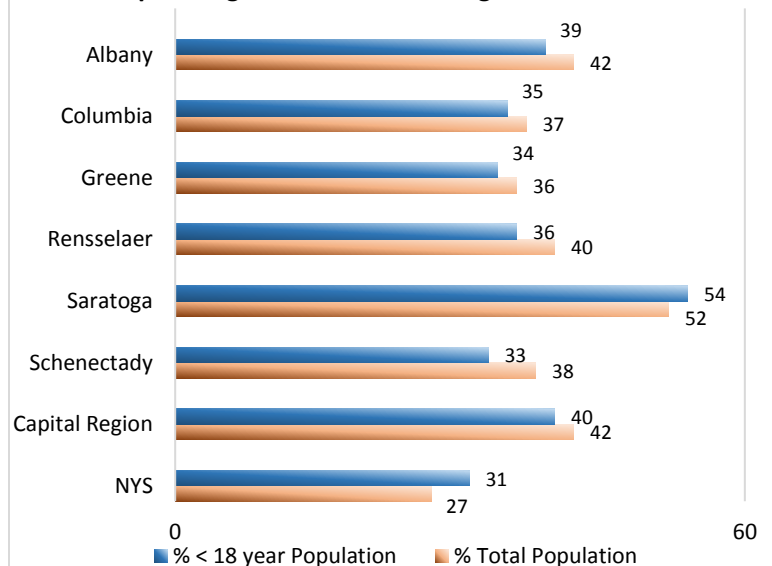
Highlights:

- Approximately 110,000 (11.5%) Capital Region residents were "Food Insecure". Albany had the highest number (n=40,000) and rate (13.1%) in the Capital Region.

- About 38,600 children (< 18 years) in the Capital Region (19.4%) were considered "Food Insecure." Greene (23.1%) and Rensselaer (21.5%) had the highest childhood rates.

- Over 48,200 "food insecure" Capital Region residents (42%) were ineligible for food assistance; over 15,400 of the "food insecure" children < 18 years of age (40%) were ineligible. Saratoga had the highest rates for total population (52%) and children (54%) in the Capital Region.

% Food Insecurity, Total Population and Children < 18 Years of Age, Capital Region Counties, Capital Region, and NYS, Feeding America 2014[7]

County	% < 18 year Population	% Total Population
Albany	18.8	13.1
Columbia	19.4	10.2
Greene	23.1	11.8
Rensselaer	21.5	11.8
Saratoga	17.1	9.0
Schenectady	20.9	12.0
Capital Region	19.4	11.5
NYS	22.1	13.5

% Food Insecure Population Ineligible for Assistance, Total Population and Children < 18 Years of Age, Capital Region Counties, Capital Region, and NYS, Feeding America 2014 [7]

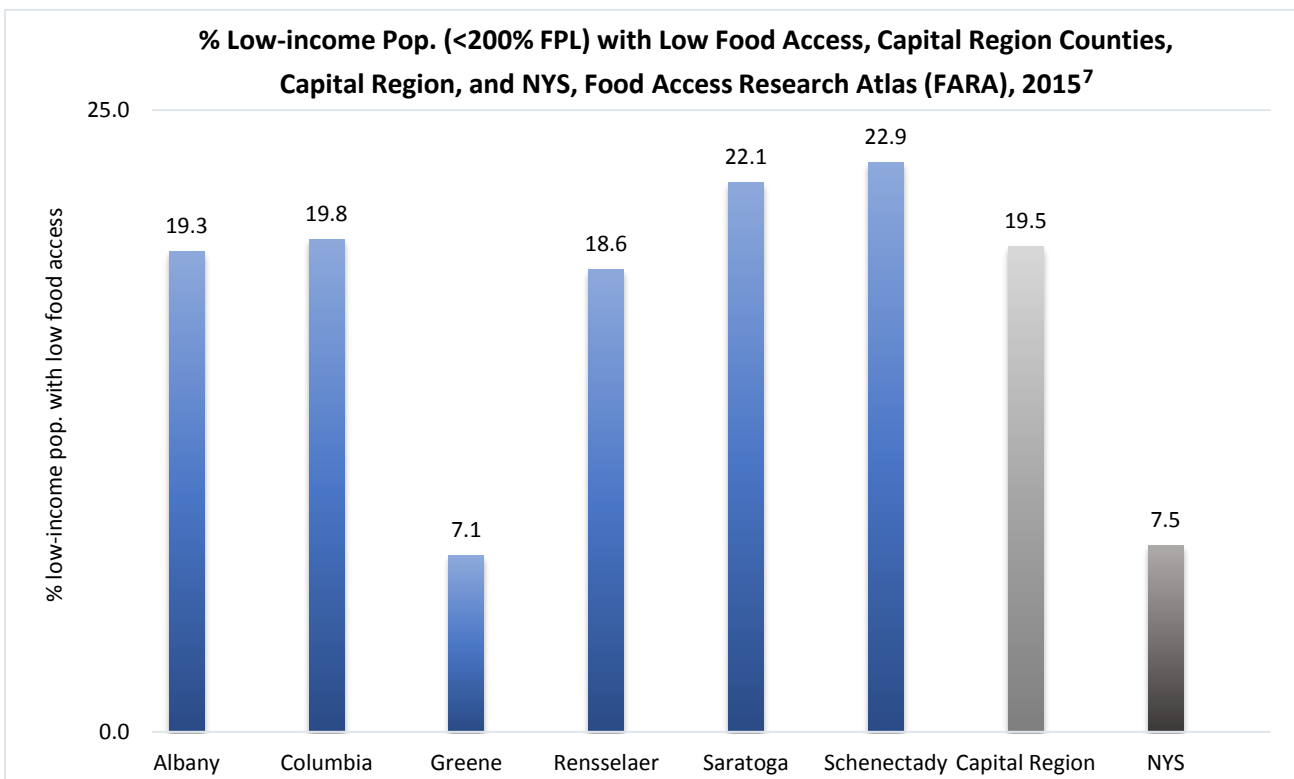| County	% < 18 year Population	% Total Population
Albany	39	42
Columbia	35	37
Greene	34	36
Rensselaer	36	40
Saratoga	54	52
Schenectady	33	38
Capital Region	40	42
NYS	31	27

Low-income Healthy Food Access

Limited healthy food access is estimated by the percentage of the low-income population (<200% FPL) who do not live close to a grocery store. Proximity is defined in rural (living < 10 miles from store) and non-rural (< 1 mile from store) areas.

> *Highlights:*
>
> - An estimated 44,700 Capital Region low-income residents had low healthy food access. The Capital Region rate of 19.5% was 2.5 times higher than the NYS rate of 7.5%. Schenectady (22.9%) and Saratoga (22.1%) had the highest rates in the Region.

% Low-income Pop. (<200% FPL) with Low Food Access, Capital Region Counties, Capital Region, and NYS, Food Access Research Atlas (FARA), 2015[7]

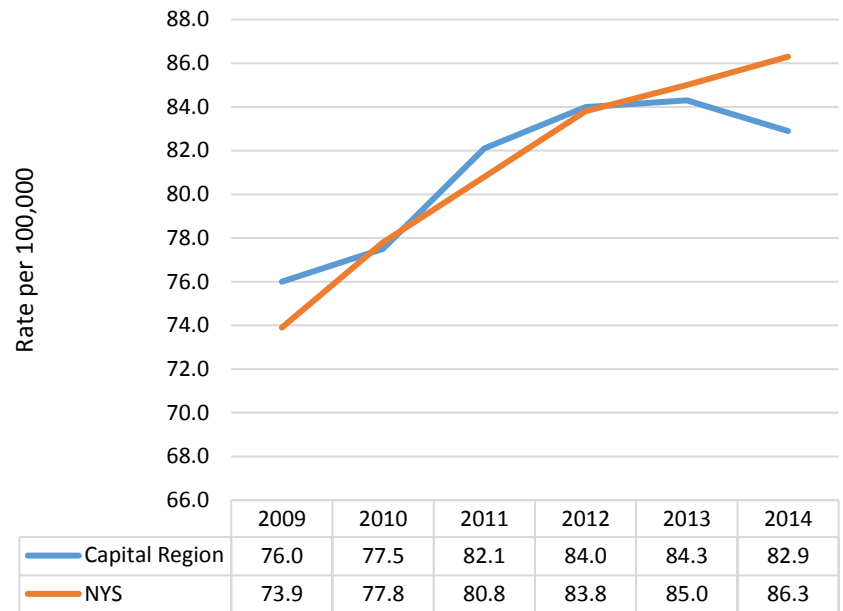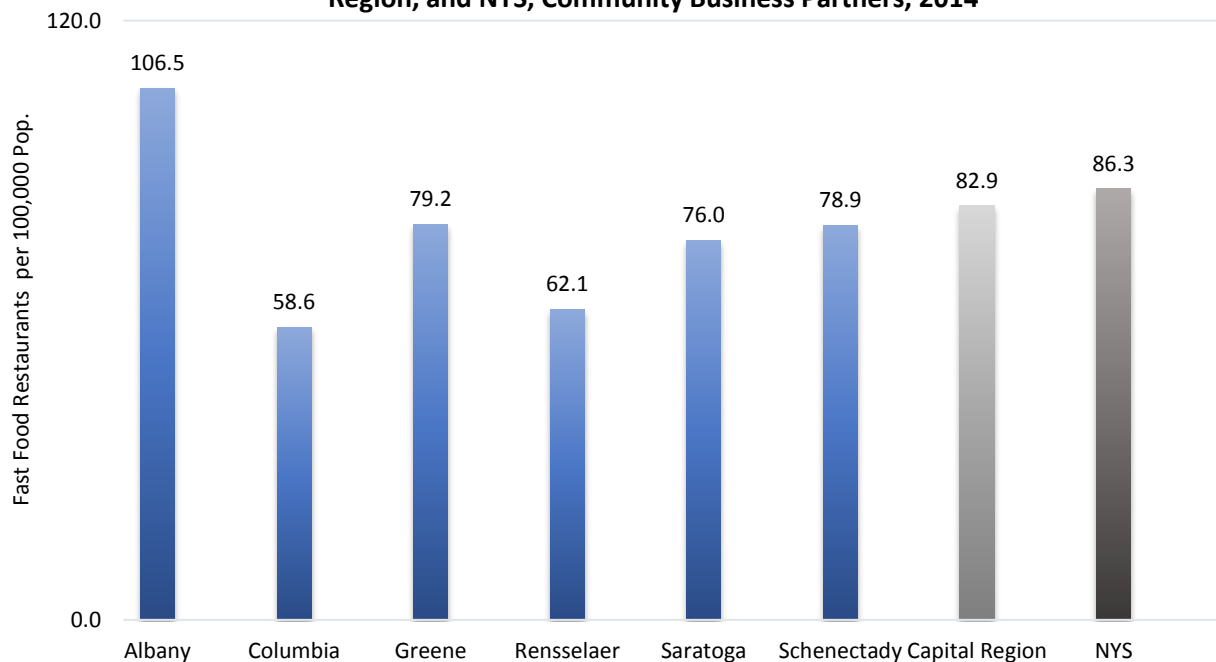| County	% low-income pop. with low food access
Albany	19.3
Columbia	19.8
Greene	7.1
Rensselaer	18.6
Saratoga	22.1
Schenectady	22.9
Capital Region	19.5
NYS	7.5

Fast Food Restaurant Access

Highlights:

- The Capital Region had 788 fast food restaurants in 2014, for a rate of 82.9/100,000 population. Albany had the highest number (n=324) and rate (106.5) in the Region. Columbia had the lowest rate (58.6).

- The Capital Region's Fast Food Restaurant rate increased 9.1% from 76.0/100,000 in 2009 to 82.9 in 2014.

Fast Food Restaurant Rate per 100,000 population, Capital Region Counties, Capital Region, and NYS, 2009-2014[7]

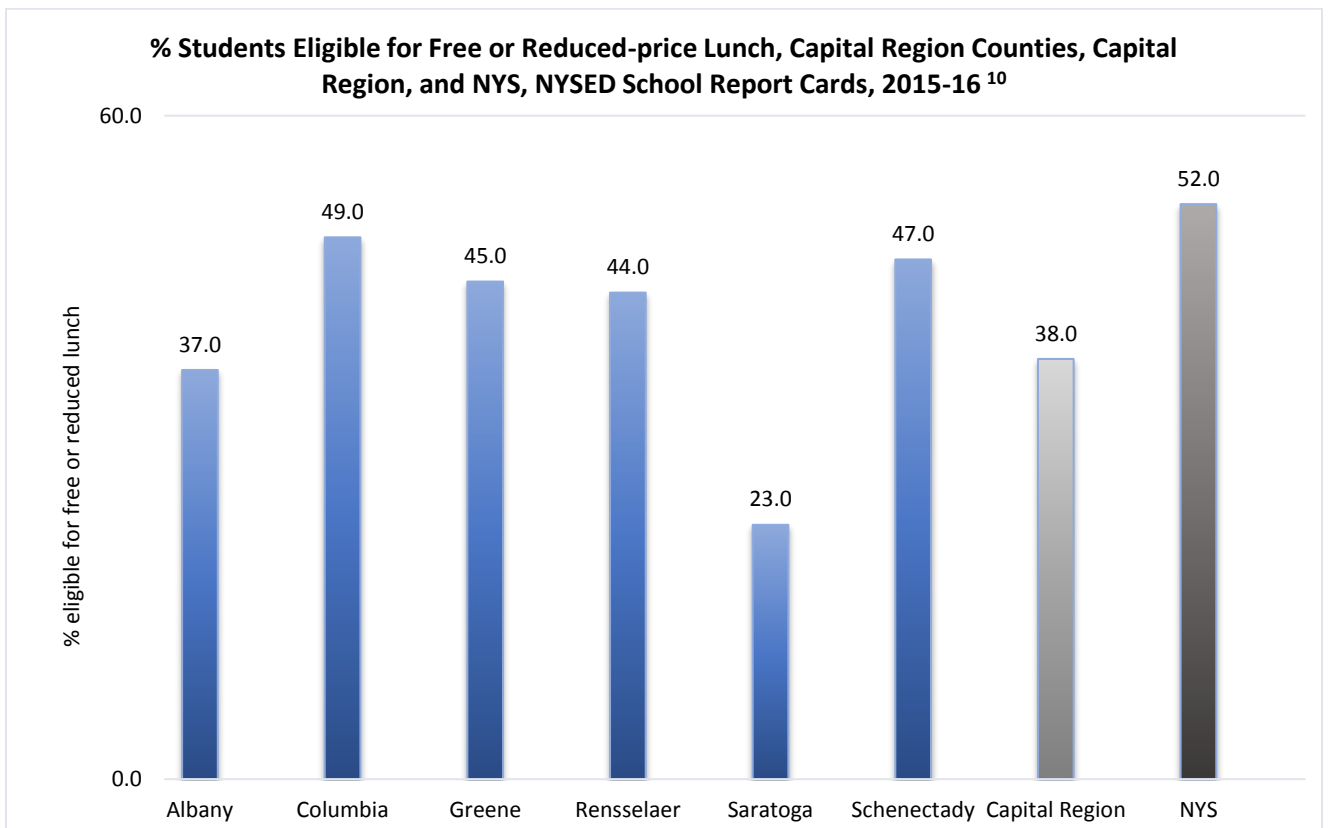|	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Capital Region	76.0	77.5	82.1	84.0	84.3	82.9
NYS	73.9	77.8	80.8	83.8	85.0	86.3

Fast Food Restaurants per 100,000 Population, Capital Region Counties, Capital Region, and NYS, Community Business Partners, 2014[7]

Albany: 106.5
Columbia: 58.6
Greene: 79.2
Rensselaer: 62.1
Saratoga: 76.0
Schenectady: 78.9
Capital Region: 82.9
NYS: 86.3

Food Subsidy Programs

Highlights:

- Approximately 38% of the Capital Region's school children, or 47,000 students, were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. Columbia (49%) and Schenectady (47%) had the highest rates in the Region.
- About 40,000 Capital Region households (10.6%) received SNAP benefits. Schenectady (13.3%) and Rensselaer (12.0%) had the highest Regional rates.
- In 2016, there were 902 authorized SNAP retailers in the Capital Region, for a rate of 22.5/1,000 SNAP households. Rensselaer (19.3) and Albany (20.9) had the lowest rates in the Region.

% Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-price Lunch, Capital Region Counties, Capital Region, and NYS, NYSED School Report Cards, 2015-16 [10]

Bar chart with y-axis labeled "% eligible for free or reduced lunch" ranging from 0.0 to 60.0:
- Albany: 37.0
- Columbia: 49.0
- Greene: 45.0
- Rensselaer: 44.0
- Saratoga: 23.0
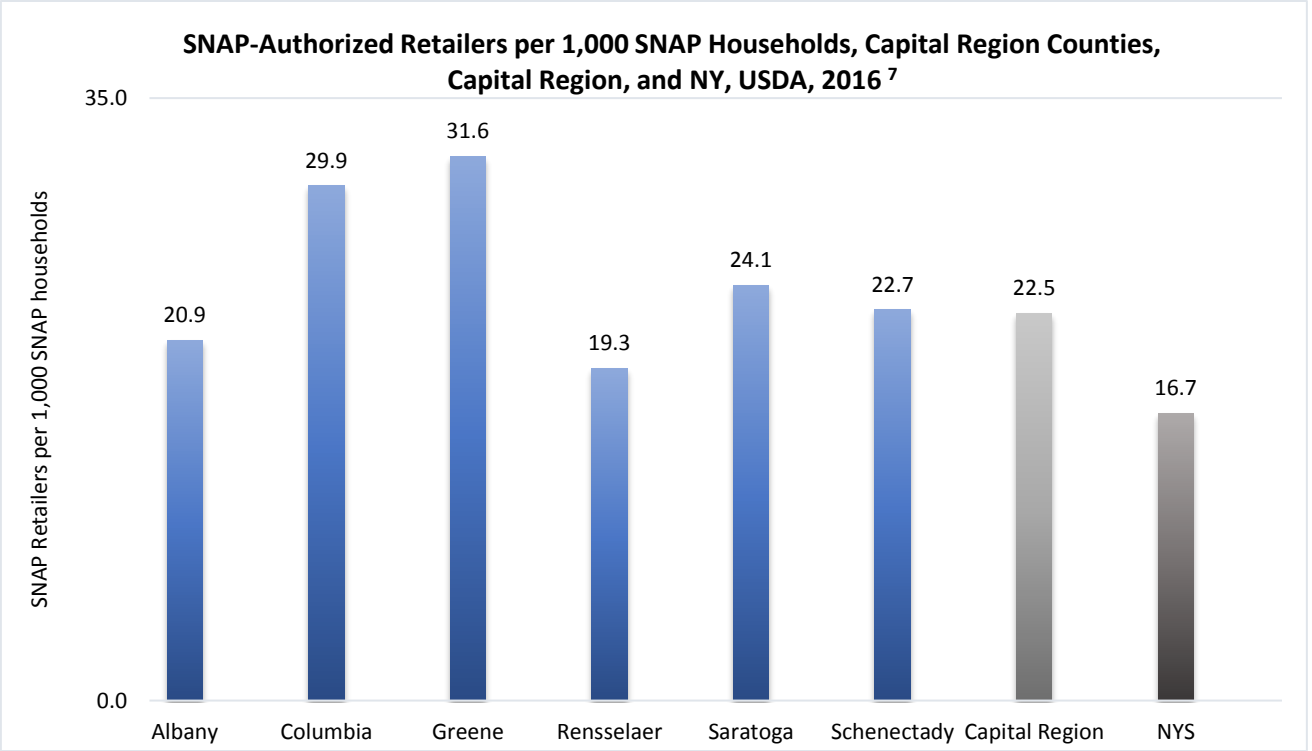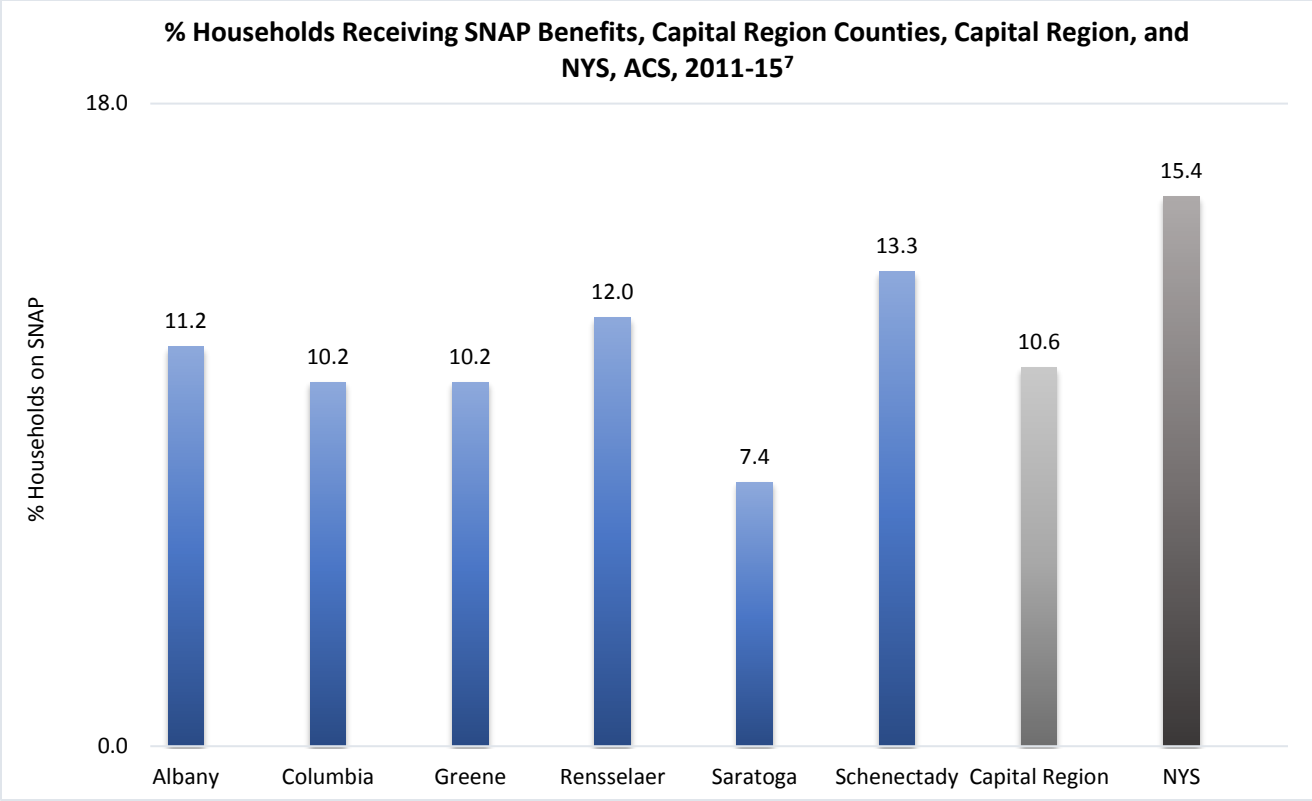- Schenectady: 47.0
- Capital Region: 38.0
- NYS: 52.0

Percentage of Students Receiving Free or Reduced-Price Lunch, by School
District and Capital Region Quartile, 2015-2016
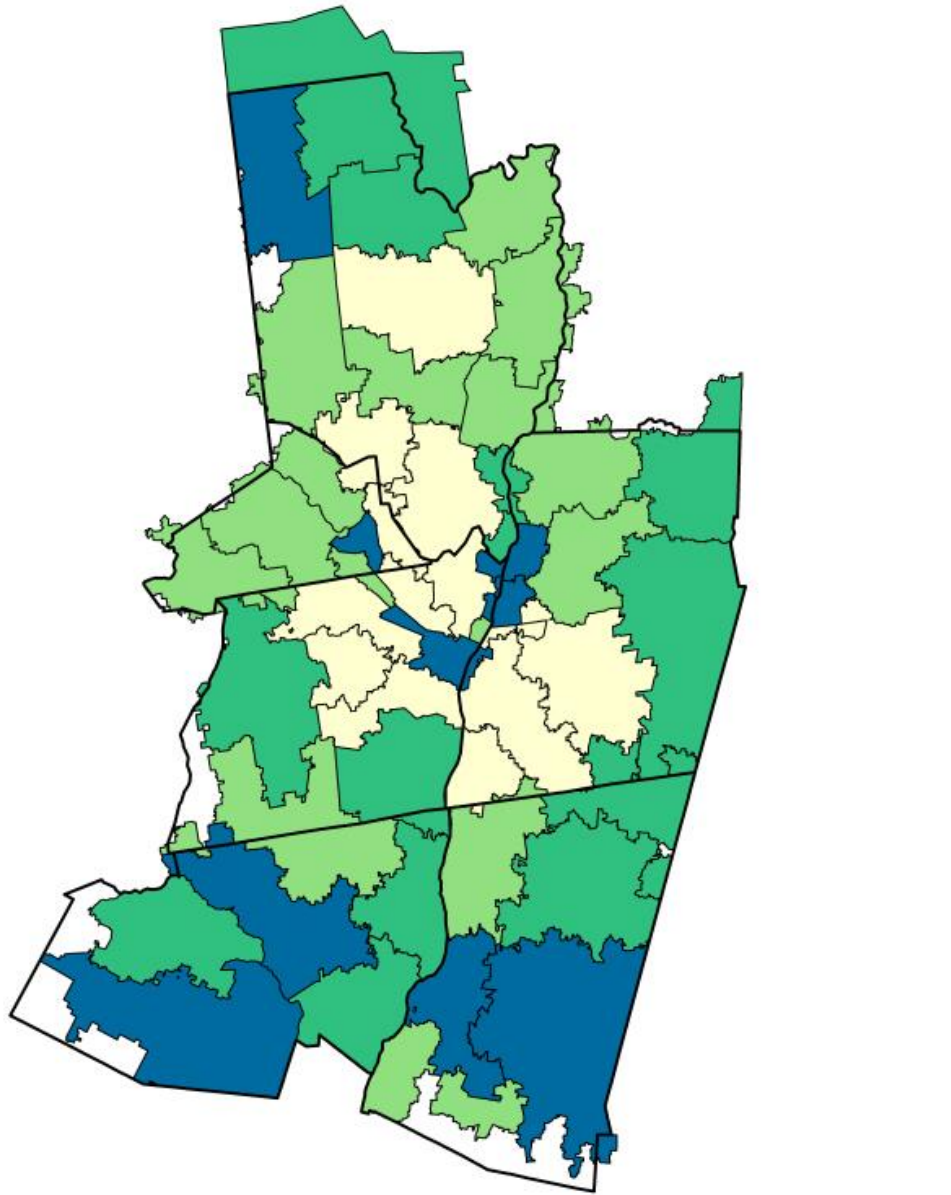
Percentage of Students Receiving Free or Reduced Lunch
By Capital Region Quartile

- 55.0 to 78.0
- 38.0 to <55.0
- 25.0 to <38.0
- 0.0 to <25.0

Capital Region: 38.0%

% Households Receiving SNAP Benefits, Capital Region Counties, Capital Region, and NYS, ACS, 2011-15[7]

Location	% Households on SNAP
Albany	11.2
Columbia	10.2
Greene	10.2
Rensselaer	12.0
Saratoga	7.4
Schenectady	13.3
Capital Region	10.6
NYS	15.4

SNAP-Authorized Retailers per 1,000 SNAP Households, Capital Region Counties, Capital Region, and NY, USDA, 2016 [7]

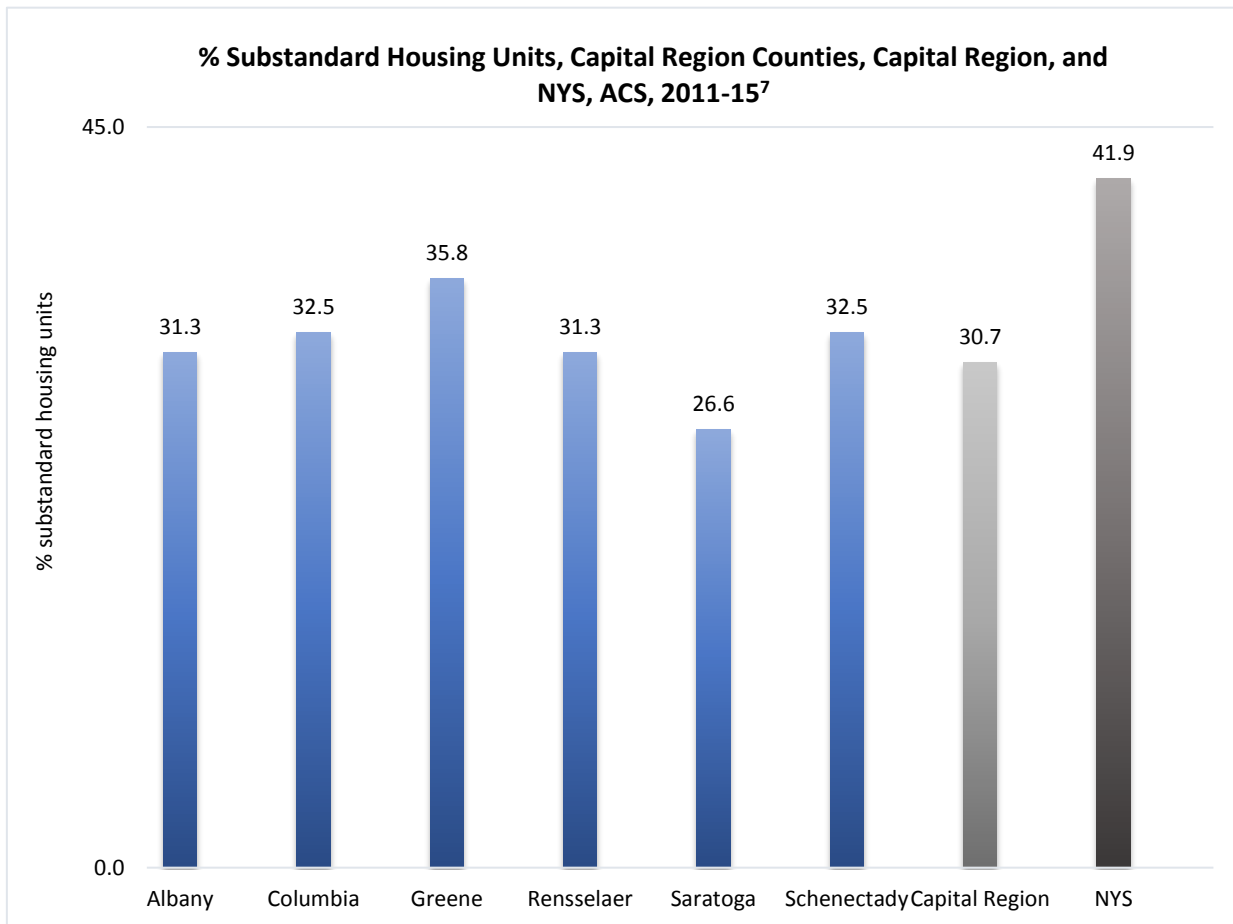| Location	SNAP Retailers per 1,000 SNAP households
Albany	20.9
Columbia	29.9
Greene	31.6
Rensselaer	19.3
Saratoga	24.1
Schenectady	22.7
Capital Region	22.5
NYS	16.7

Substandard Housing

To be considered substandard, the housing unit must have one of the following conditions: lacking complete plumbing facilities; lacking complete kitchen facilities; 1.01+ occupants per room; housing costs > 30% of household income.

> *Highlights:*
>
> - Over 115,000 (30%) of Capital Region occupied housing units were considered substandard. Greene had the largest percentage (35.8%, n=6,300), while Albany had the largest number (n=38,700, 31.1%) of substandard housing units in the Capital Region.

% Substandard Housing Units, Capital Region Counties, Capital Region, and NYS, ACS, 2011-15[7]

County	% substandard housing units
Albany	31.3
Columbia	32.5
Greene	35.8
Rensselaer	31.3
Saratoga	26.6
Schenectady	32.5
Capital Region	30.7
NYS	41.9

Overcrowded Housing

Highlights:

- Only 3,700 (1.12%) of occupied housing units averaged 1.01+ persons per room. Schenectady (1.44%, n=681) and Rensselaer (1.38%, n=794) had the highest rates of overcrowding in the Region.

% Overcrowded (1.01+ persons/room) Housing Units, Capital Region Counties, Capital Region, and NYS, ACS, 2011-15[7]

Bar chart: % substandard housing units. Albany 1.14, Columbia 1.30, Greene 1.15, Rensselaer 1.38, Saratoga 0.71, Schenectady 1.44, Capital Region 1.12, NYS 7.22. Y-axis ranges from 0.00 to 8.00.
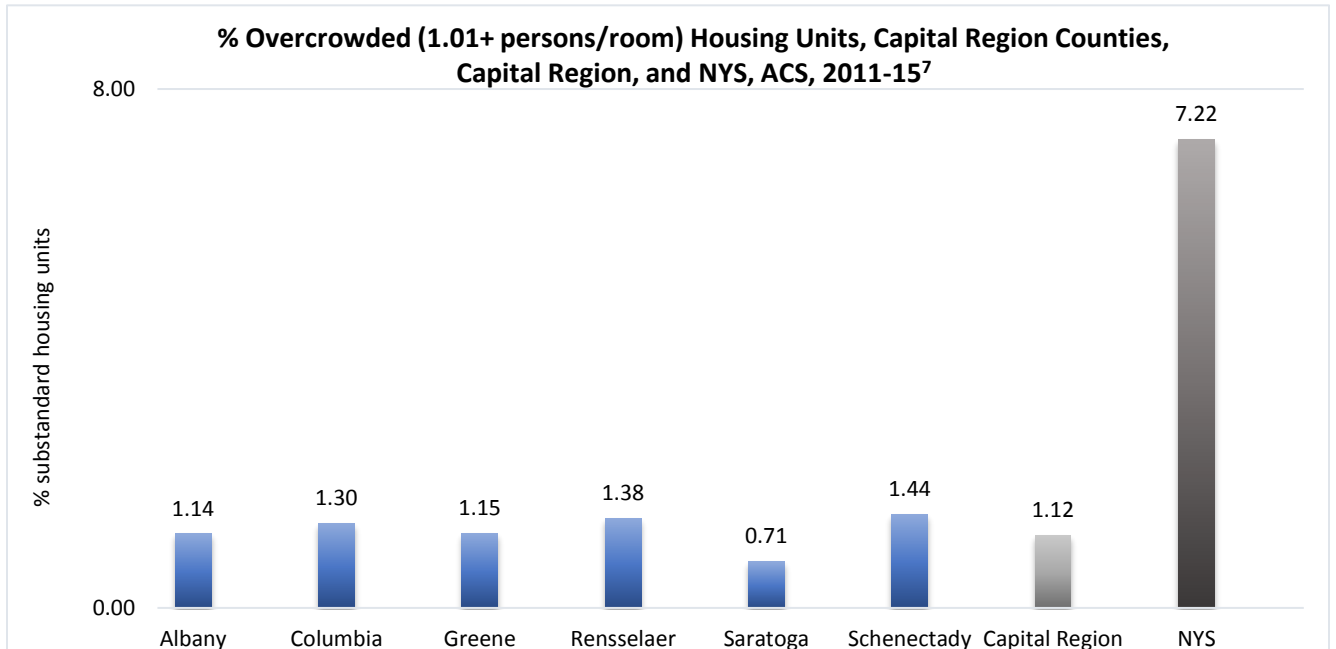
Cost-Burdened Households

Highlights:

- Almost one third of Capital Region households were "cost-burdened" (31.4%, n=118,200), contributing over 30% of their income for housing cos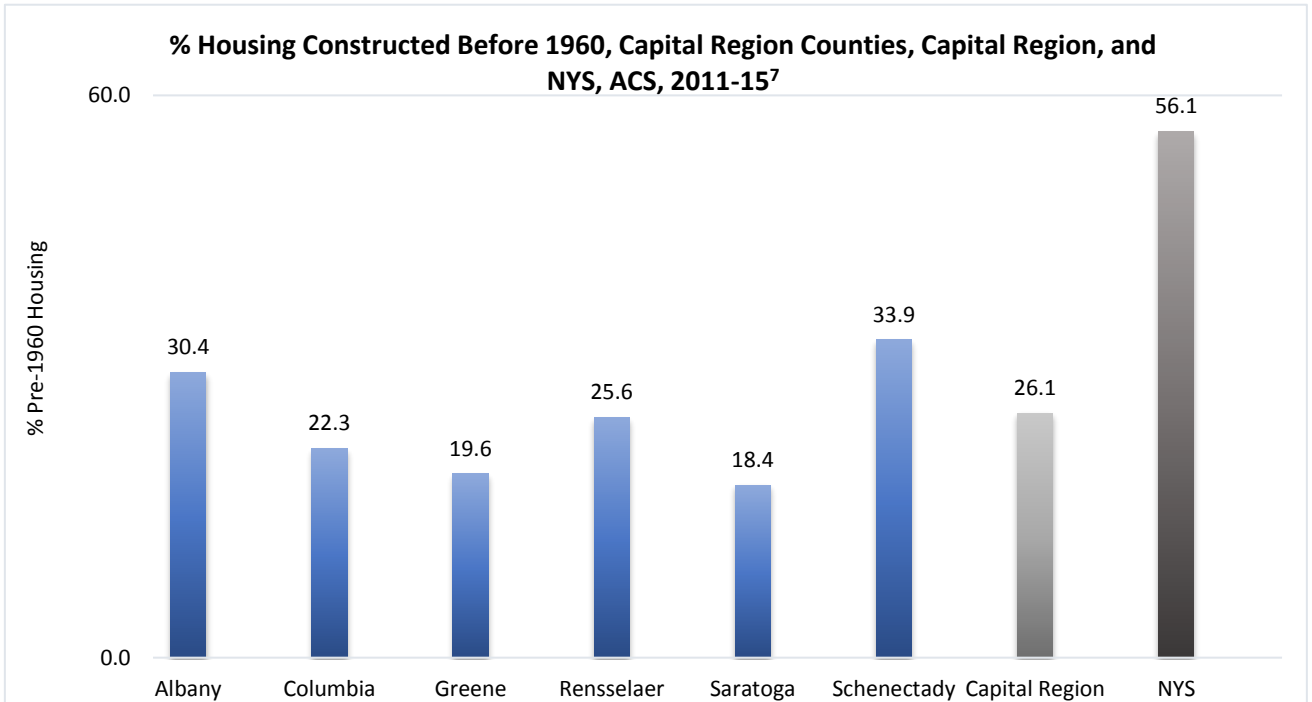ts, while 13.9% (n=52,160) of households were considered "severely cost-burdened" dedicating over 50% of their income for housing.
- Greene had the highest rate of cost-burdened (36.7%) and severely cost-burdened (16.0%) households in the Capital Region.

% Cost-Burdened Households (>30% and > 50% of income on housing), Capital Region Counties, Capital Region, and NYS, ACS, 2011-15[7]

County	% >50% income	% >30% income
Albany	14.9	32.2
Columbia	14.0	33.2
Greene	16.0	36.7
Rensselaer	13.8	31.9
Saratoga	11.4	27.5
Schenectady	14.9	32.9
Capital Region	13.9	31.4
NYS	20.6	40.7

0.0   45.0

■ % >50% income   ■ % >30% income
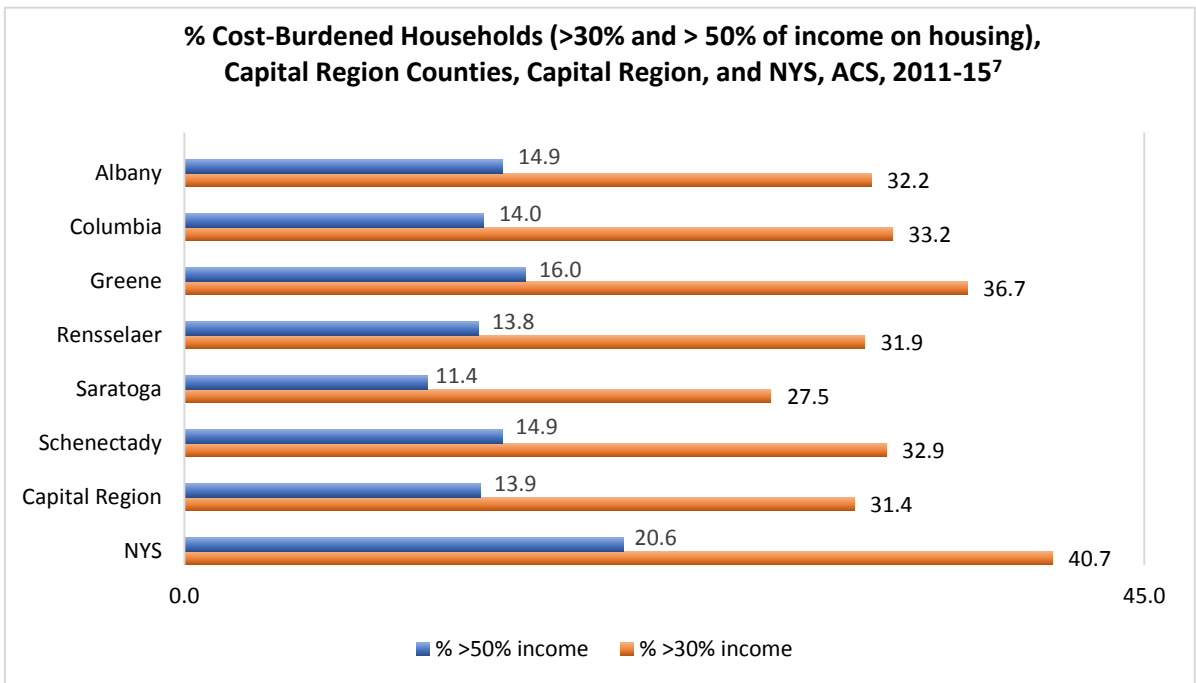
Pre-1960 Housing

> *Highlights:*
> - About 115,000 Capital Region housing units (26.1%) were built before 1960. Schenectady (33.9%, n=23,100) had the highest percentage of pre-60 housing, while Albany (n=42,000, 30.4%) had the highest number of housing units in the region.

% Housing Constructed Before 1960, Capital Region Counties, Capital Region, and NYS, ACS, 2011-15[7]

County/Region	% Pre-1960 Housing
Albany	30.4
Columbia	22.3
Greene	19.6
Rensselaer	25.6
Saratoga	18.4
Schenectady	33.9
Capital Region	26.1
NYS	56.1

HUD-Assisted Housing

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Highlights

- In 2015, the Capital Region had 20,000 HUD-assisted housing units for a rate of 45.6/1,000 housing units. Albany had the highest number (n=8,590) and rate (62.4/1,000) of HUD-assisted housing in the Capital Region.
- The distribution of HUD-assisted housing in the Capital Region by Program includes: Housing Choice Voucher- 45%, n=9418; Public Housing- 28%, n=5,583; Project-based section 8- 21%, n=4114; Section 202 (elderly) - 25, n=419; Section 811 (disabled) - <1%, n=61.

</div>

HUD-Assisted Housing Units per 1,000 Housing Units, Capital Region Counties, Capital Region, and NYS, HUD, 2015[7]

Assisted Housing Units by HUD Program, Capital Region, 2015 (N=19,996)[7]