

# **Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment Addendum for Delaware County, New York**

As Prepared By:



As approved by the Delaware Opportunities Head Start Policy Council on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 and the Delaware Opportunities Board of Directors on Tuesday, March 19, 2019.

## **Executive Summary: Causes and Conditions of Poverty**

Understanding poverty is critical to the work Delaware Opportunities does each and every day. Poverty can have cascading effects on many aspects of an individual's life. Poverty can constrain an individual's ability to provide opportunities for their children and may impact the type of care their children receive. Poverty can impact decisions on where to live, perhaps leading to a choice to live in a less safe neighborhood. Poverty can mean having to work multiple jobs or working overtime. It can mean less time spent with the family unit. Poverty can impact access to health care or mental health services. Overall, it impacts all aspects of an individual's life.

There are several methods used to explore root causes of poverty in Delaware County. Within the Community Needs Assessment there is quantitative poverty data as well as quantitative and qualitative data collected from customers, potential customers, community partners, Board members, staff and volunteers. The root causes of poverty identified in the Delaware Opportunities Community Needs Assessment are:

- Lack of job skills
- Job skills that don't match with the jobs available
- Unable to retain a job
- Lack of education
- Low literacy skills
- Minimum wage's inability to cover cost of living; insufficient to meet basic needs of life
- Inability/lack of skills to manage work-life balance
- Inability to manage money wisely
- Substance abuse
- (Unaddressed) Mental health challenges
- Poor work ethic
- Lack of workplace and life skills
- Teen pregnancy
- Lack of affordable and safe child care
- Lack of transportation
- Poor parenting skills
- Childhood poverty

The conditions of poverty, in Delaware County, identified by those who were surveyed include:

- Food insecurity
- Inability to receive affordable health care
- Lack of affordable health care providers
- Heating and utility needs
- Many individuals with significant home repair needs
- Overwhelming need for adult and youth mental health services
- Lack of transportation; no public transportation in county
- Low literacy rates for young children (particular Kindergarten aged)
- Lack of safe and affordable housing

- Abundant need for substance abuse services; lack of enough providers

Delaware Opportunities, since 1965, strives to address both the causes and conditions of poverty through its programs and services. Delaware Opportunities believes that it necessary to address the causes of poverty first and foremost because if and when the causes can be addressed the conditions that individuals are experiencing as a result of poverty can be minimized or even eliminated. It is, after all, Delaware Opportunities' mission to help everyone become self-sufficient and/or attain a better quality of life.

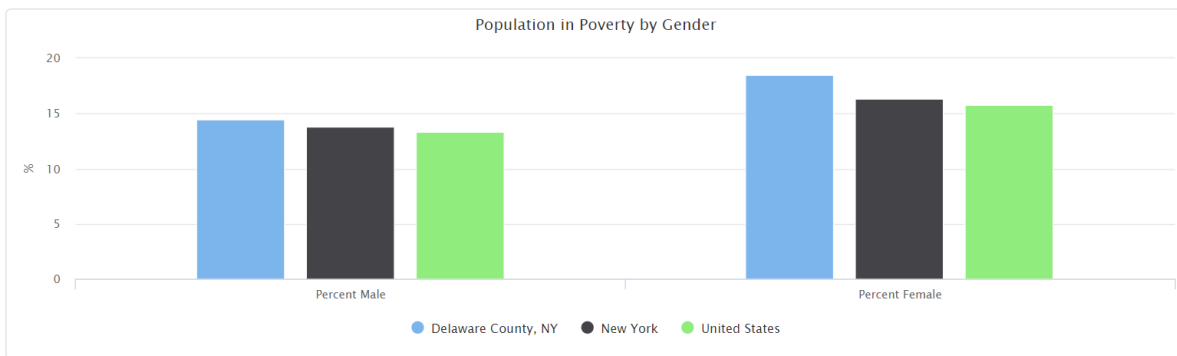
## Poverty, 2013-2017

The following data charts show estimates for specific populations, based on gender, ethnicity, and/or race living in poverty for the reported area. All data provided below comes from the American Community Survey's 5-year estimates (2013-2017).

## Poverty, By Gender, 2013-2017

Population in Poverty by Gender

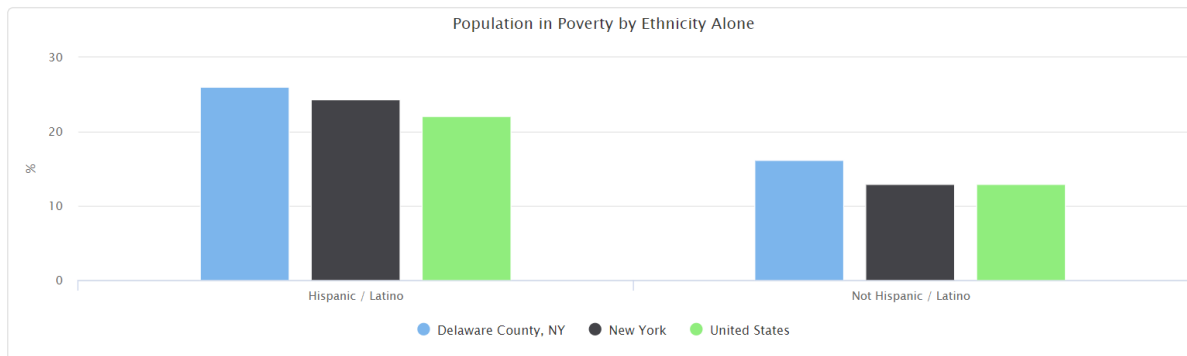
Report Area	Total Male	Total Female	Percent Male	Percent Female
Delaware County, NY	3,171	4,016	14.49%	18.52%
New York	1,284,016	1,624,455	13.77%	16.31%
United States	20,408,626	25,241,719	13.31%	15.8%



## Poverty, By Ethnicity, 2013-2017

Population in Poverty by Ethnicity Alone

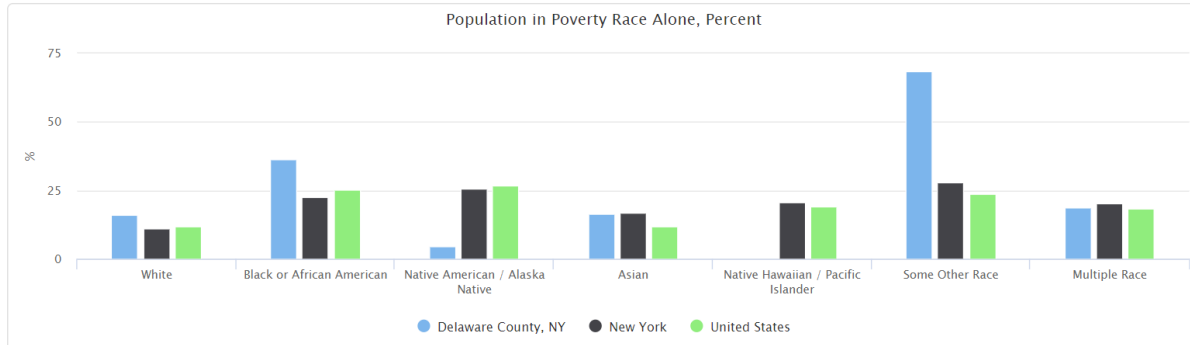
Report Area	Total Hispanic / Latino	Total Not Hispanic / Latino	Percent Hispanic / Latino	Percent Not Hispanic / Latino
Delaware County, NY	347	6,840	26.11%	16.19%
New York	889,328	2,019,143	24.4%	12.91%
United States	12,269,452	33,380,893	22.15%	12.96%



## Poverty, By Race, 2013-2017

Population in Poverty Race Alone, Percent

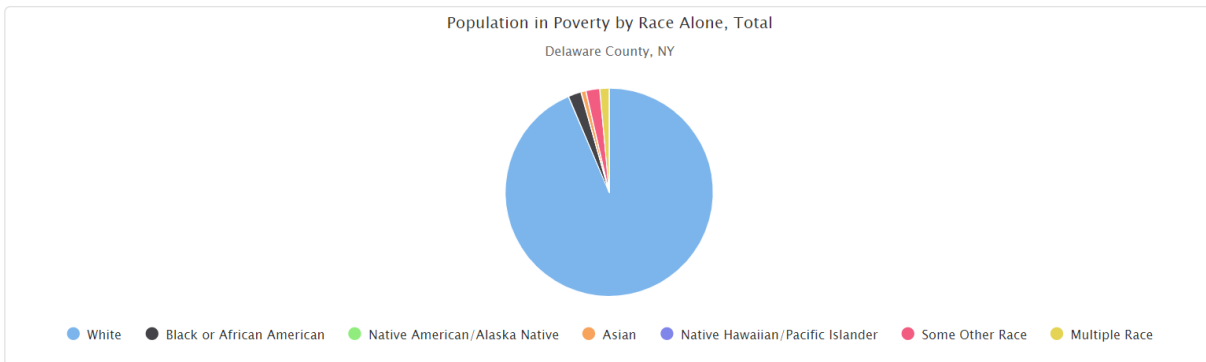
Report Area	White	Black or African American	Native American / Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Delaware County, NY	16.01%	36.32%	4.48%	16.56%	No data	68.42%	18.9%
New York	10.98%	22.46%	25.59%	16.83%	20.74%	27.91%	20.44%
United States	12.05%	25.19%	26.78%	11.93%	19.01%	23.85%	18.43%



## Poverty, By Race, 2013-2017

Population in Poverty by Race Alone, Total

Report Area	White	Black or African American	Native American / Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Delaware County, NY	6,727	146	3	52	0	156	103
New York	1,352,714	670,972	19,164	272,582	1,570	474,676	116,793
United States	27,607,156	9,807,009	681,207	2,011,217	104,944	3,638,390	1,800,422



## **Introduction to Surveys**

The first section of Delaware Opportunities Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment provides a collection and analysis of data to establish a statistical basis for determination of needs. The collection of data, however, is insufficient to establish needs as perceived by the local population. To support and enhance the findings from the statistical review, Delaware Opportunities conducted a series of opinion surveys. Part II of the Community Needs Assessments presents the results.

The first set of surveys were distributed to customers served by the agency in the 2017-2018 program year (October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018). These were client satisfaction surveys. Everyone was asked to respond to three standard questions:

1. Were you treated with respect?
2. Were you treated professionally?
3. Did the services meet your needs?

Individual program surveys did delve into additional questions as well including demographic type questions.

The results of the customer satisfaction surveys is presented starting on page 55 of the Community Needs Assessment.

Questionnaires were then distributed to customers via email, social media, and in-person at various service locations around the county. Board members, staff and volunteers and community partners were also provided with a similar survey.

The questionnaires for customers and potential customers were used to provide information in Part II of the Community Needs Assessment as well as fed into decision-making for the strategic planning process. Feedback from community partners, Board members, staff and volunteers was not shared specifically in Part II but was used to drive the strategic planning process. Both qualitative and quantitative data was collected through this survey process.

Part III of the Community Needs Assessment utilizes the results from Parts I and II to establish needs and to relate these needs to Community Services Block Grant assurances.