

Access to Quality Care

Data Analysis

Insurance coverage across all NYS

Over the 10-year period from 1994–2003, the percent of New York State residents under age 18 years without medical insurance has declined nearly 40 percent from a 1997 high. In 2003 fewer than two-in-twenty NYS children were uninsured.

However, when the data includes all ages in NYS, the trend is less encouraging with the number of uninsured remaining essentially flat across the years at about 3-in-20 NYS residents. (*See Figure 21, page 49.*)

Health insurance coverage

Percent, age 18–64 years	
BRFSS, 2003	
Cayuga-Seneca	
-Wayne	85.3
Chemung-Schuyler	
-Tioga.....	82.1
Cortland	
-Tompkins.....	86.6
CNY	86.4
NYS	83.0
HP2010 target	100.0

Closer to home, a survey sample combining Tompkins and Cortland County residents age 18–64 years indicates about 13 percent have no health insurance coverage.

Information on insurance coverage is collected by NYS through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) surveys. In order to establish consistent sample sizes and help control sampling error many rural counties — such as Cortland and Tompkins — are surveyed together as one. The fact that our two counties are dissimilar in many socio-economic ways should be taken into account when using these data.

Also, sampling error remains a factor when using the data for comparative analyses. Thus, even though our regional comparison suggests that coverage for individuals age 18–64 in Tompkins–Cortland is better than for the state as a whole, strict interpretation would probably show no statistically significant difference. (*See Figure 22, page 50.*)

Demographic profile of those with insurance

Percent age 18–64, Cortland–Tompkins, 2003	
Age 18–34	81.2
Age 35–54	92.2
Age 55+	93.0
High school or less	70.5
More than HS	93.1
Avg. 95% CI =	5.7

A review of the demographic profile of those age 18–64 in Cortland–Tompkins who report having health insurance coverage reveals differences which are likely to be statistically significant for both age and education level. While it is probably safe to conclude that those age 18–34 are less likely to have health insurance coverage than those in either of the 35–54 or the 55+ groups, there is little doubt that those with only a high school education or less are much less likely to be insured than those with educational attainment beyond high school.

The difference between the percent of females covered and the percent of males covered is not significant. (*See Figure 23, page 50.*)

Type of coverage in Tompkins County

Pct of those with insurance coverage, age 18+.	
Private.....	80.5

A survey of Tompkins County residents age 18+, conducted in June 2004 for the Tobacco Control Program, included two questions about health insurance coverage. Of particular interest is the consistency of the responses with the BRFSS data discussed above. The to-

Medicare.....11.7
 Medicaid.....4.0

bacco survey recorded 87 percent of respondents as having coverage and 13 percent without, the same as the BRFSS with rounding. Note that the latter case is reporting ages 18–64 only, while the tobacco survey was all ages 18 and over. (See *Figure 24, page 51.*)

The Tompkins County tobacco survey also asked those who stated that they do have coverage what type it is. Four-out-of-five adults covered in Tompkins County have private insurance. A little over half of the non-privately insured are covered under Medicare, with the remainder split between Medicaid and other forms. (See *Figure 25, page 51.*)

**CMC patients age 0–17
 with no insurance**

The Tompkins County Health Planning Council draws data from many sources for its publication, “Tracking the Impact of Health Care Reform in Tompkins County.” The edition released April 2004 covers the years 1997–2003.

Tracking the Impact, 2004 includes records from Cayuga Medical Center (CMC) showing three years of patients age under 18 who did not have health insurance. See *Table 5, page 52* for the raw data. To compare the trends across the years 2001–2003, *Figure 26, page 52* graphs the percent change by venue. In all venues except same day surgery the number of children without insurance coverage has declined during the period, with the decline greatest for the inpatient category. The almost 80 percent rise of uninsured children in same day surgery is misleading by comparison since the number count is so small — 4 individuals in 2001, 6 in 2002 and 7 in 2003.

Uncompensated care

Another indicator of access to care is self-pay visits to a medical center. The trend at CMC shows a moderate decline in self-pay visits to both the emergency room and the Convenient Care Center located in the Town of Ithaca’s growing population center known as the “North-east.” Self-pay for inpatient visits showed a decline over the last years of the 1990’s, but crept up again from 2002–2003. (See *Figure 27, page 53.*)

The trend in uncompensated care at CMC is displayed in *Figure 28, page 54*. In 2002 and 2003, uncompensated care at CMC returned to the level seen in 1994–1995 after a rapid spike and gradual decline starting in 1996–1997. This trend coincides with major changes in how hospitals negotiated with insurance providers, including a number of months when CMC was not accepting Blue Cross & Blue Shield.

**Medicaid eligibles as a
 percent of the total
 population**

Among the counties cited for comparisons throughout this document, Tompkins County has the lowest rate of Medicaid eligibles, expressed as a percent of the population. Still, like other counties in our region, the rate increased over the period 2000–2003 — 28 percent for

Tompkins County. To our east in Cortland County, the increase was 47 percent. (See Figure 29 and Figure 30, page 54.)

The total number of individuals on Medicaid in Tompkins County slid from 1996–2000, but then turned up again increasing by almost 1,000 from 2002–2003. (See Figure 31, page 55.) Meanwhile, the percentage of local primary care practices accepting new Medicaid patients without restrictions fell dramatically from 2001–2003, to 13 percent as of November 2003. Twenty-two percent were accepting new Medicaid patients with restrictions at that time. (See Table 7, page 56.)

Medicaid and self-pay births

Across all of Upstate New York, the rate of Medicaid and self-pay births remained relatively flat over the 10-year trend period 1993–2002. Tompkins County saw evidence of an upward trend in this indicator over the same time period. (See Figure 33, page 57.)

The MOMS program at the Tompkins County Health Department (TCHD) reported that of the live births at CMC 64 percent were covered by Medicaid in 2002, 62 percent in 2003 and 59 percent of live births were covered by Medicaid in 2004. These residents are below 195 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL.) For a family of three, income at 195 percent of the FPL is \$29,289.

Figures and Tables

Figure 21 — Percent uninsured, NYS, trends by age

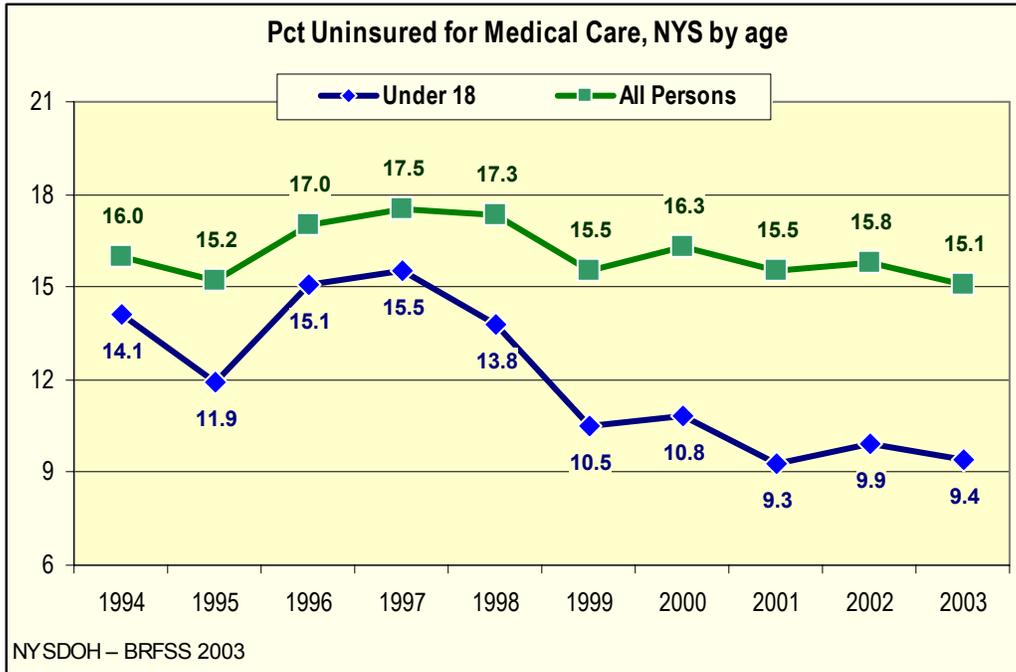


Figure 22 — Insurance coverage, regional comparisons

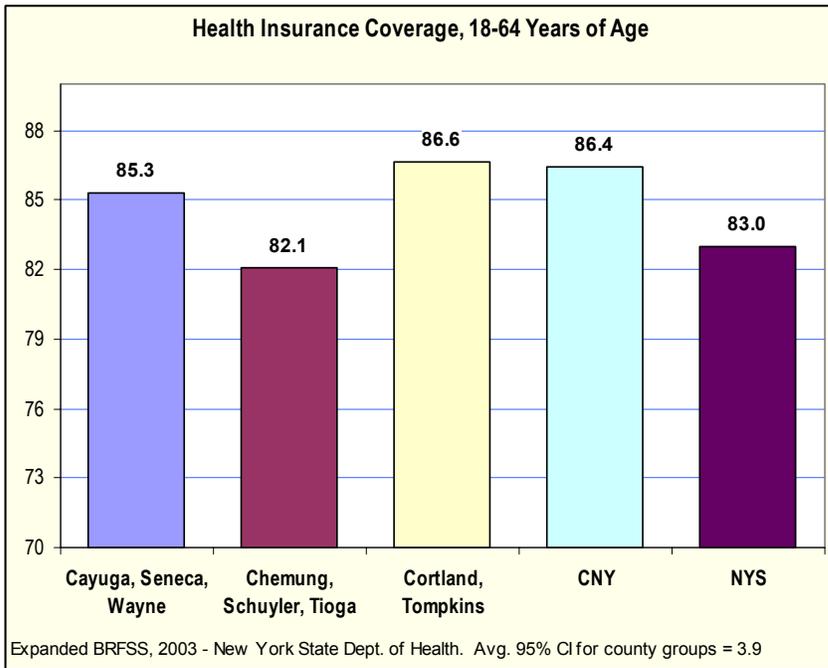


Figure 23 — Insurance coverage, demographic comparison, Cortland–Tompkins

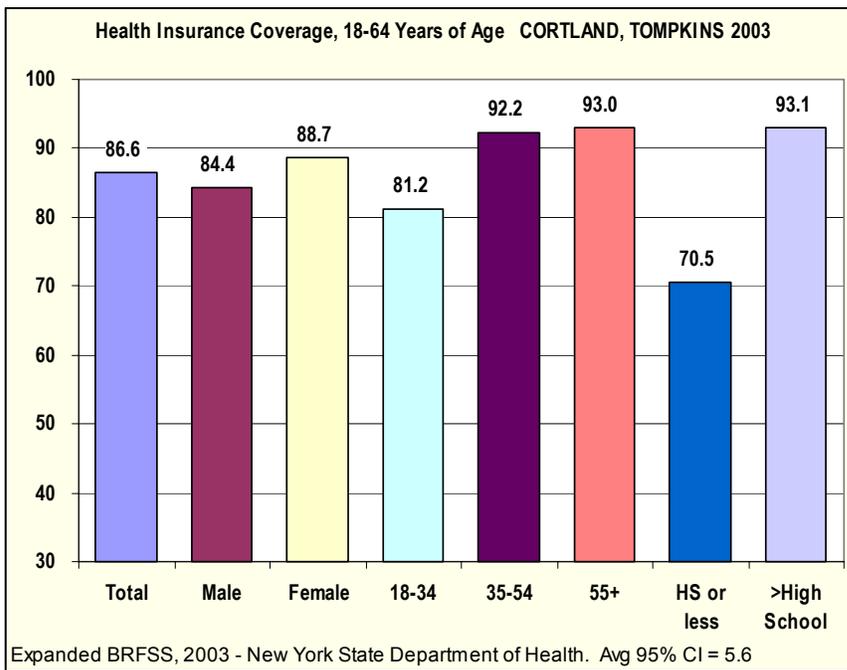


Figure 24 — Insurance coverage, Age 18+ years, Tompkins County

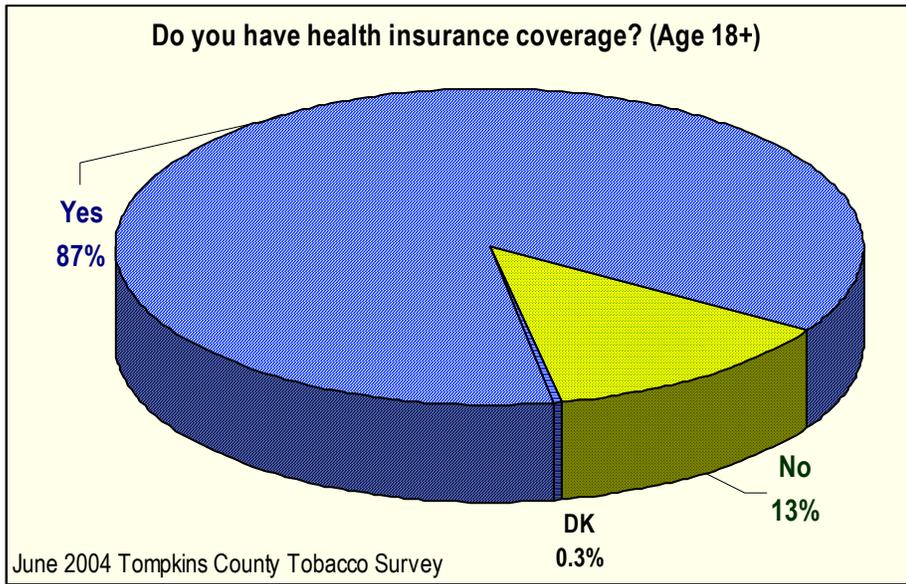


Figure 25 — Type of insurance coverage among those with coverage, Tompkins County

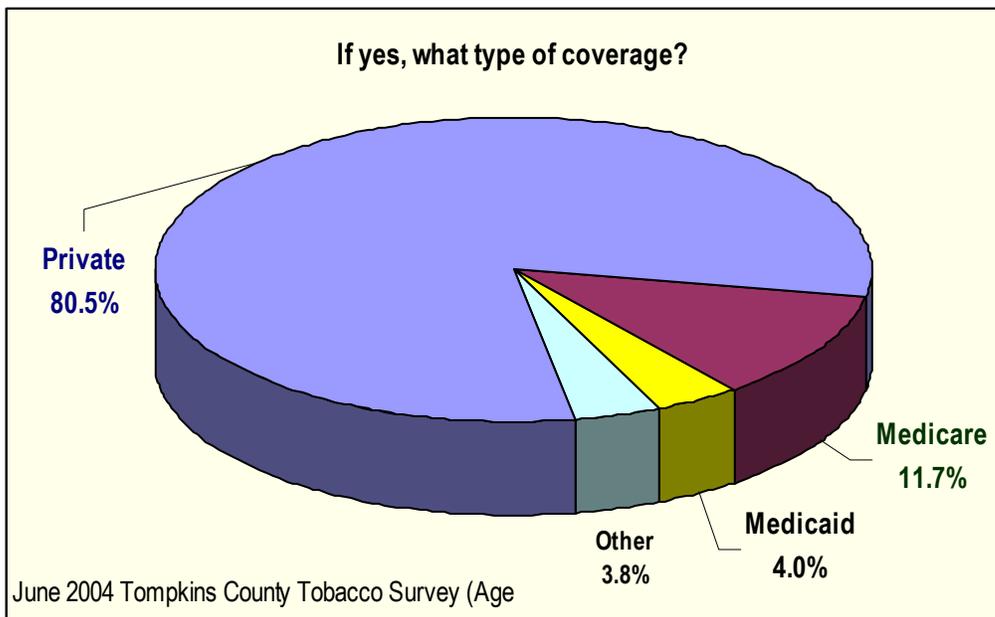


Table 5 — Children without medical coverage, CMC

Children and Health Coverage

Patients Age 0--17 at Cayuga Medical Center

Unduplicated # of children (age<18) with no insurance

	2001	2002	2003
Clinic (incl. OBV)	301	341	285
Emergency Room	146	132	124
Referred	225	194	184
Same day surgery	4	6	7
Inpatient	28	17	17
TOTAL	704	690	617

SOURCE: TC Health Planning Council,
Tracking the Impact 1997-2003

Figure 26 — Children without medical coverage, CMC, percent change over 3 years

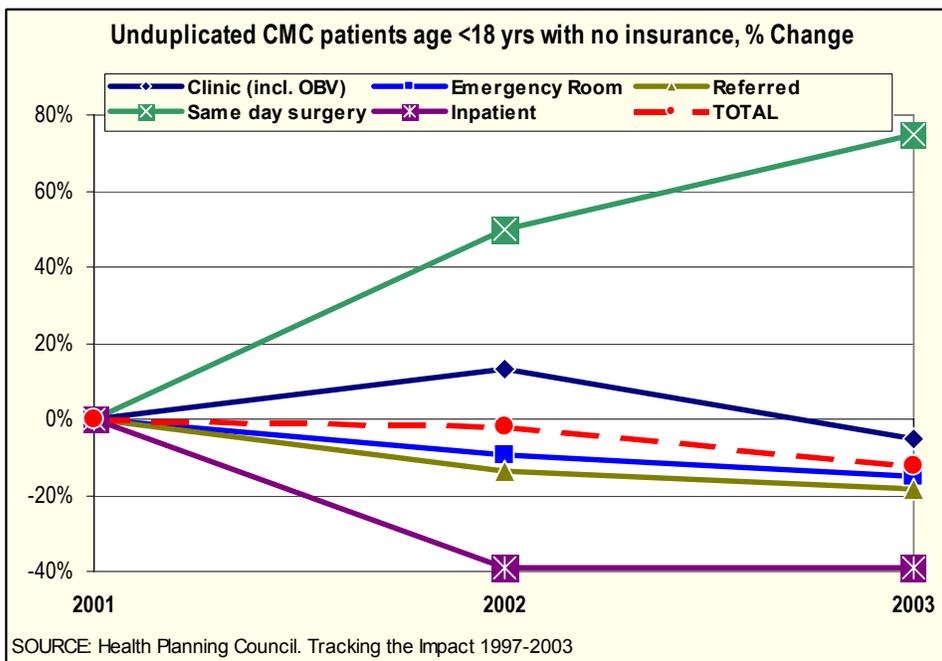


Table 6 — HP 2010 targets for insurance and primary care

DATA2010 ...the Healthy People 2010 Database - November, 2004 Edition - 01/05/05 - 10:45:38AM

http://wonder.cdc.gov/DATA2010/focus.htm

Focus area:01-Access to Quality Health Services

Code	Objective	Base Yr	Base-line	Target 2010
01-01	Persons with health insurance (age adjusted, aged under 65 years)	1997	83%	100%
01-05	Persons with a usual primary care provider	1996	77%	85%

Figure 27 — Self-pay visits, CMC trend 1998–2003

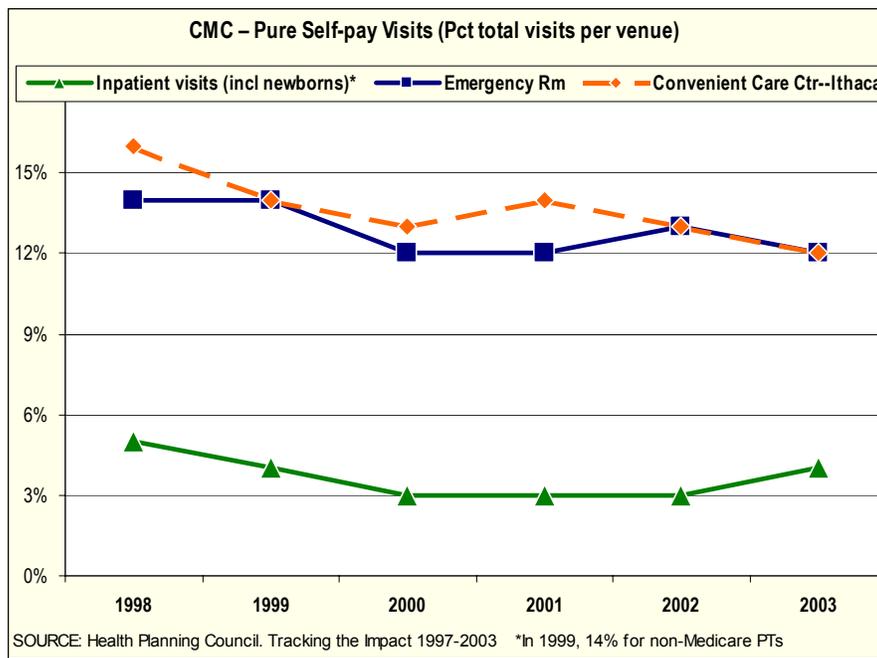


Figure 28 — Uncompensated care, CMC trend 1994–2003

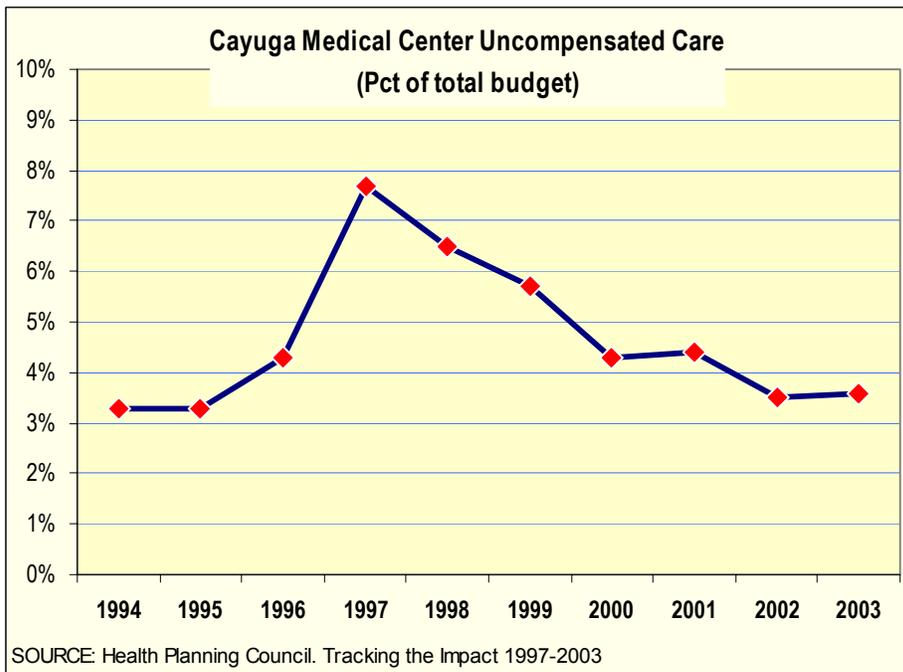


Figure 29 — Medicaid eligibles as percent of population, regional comparison

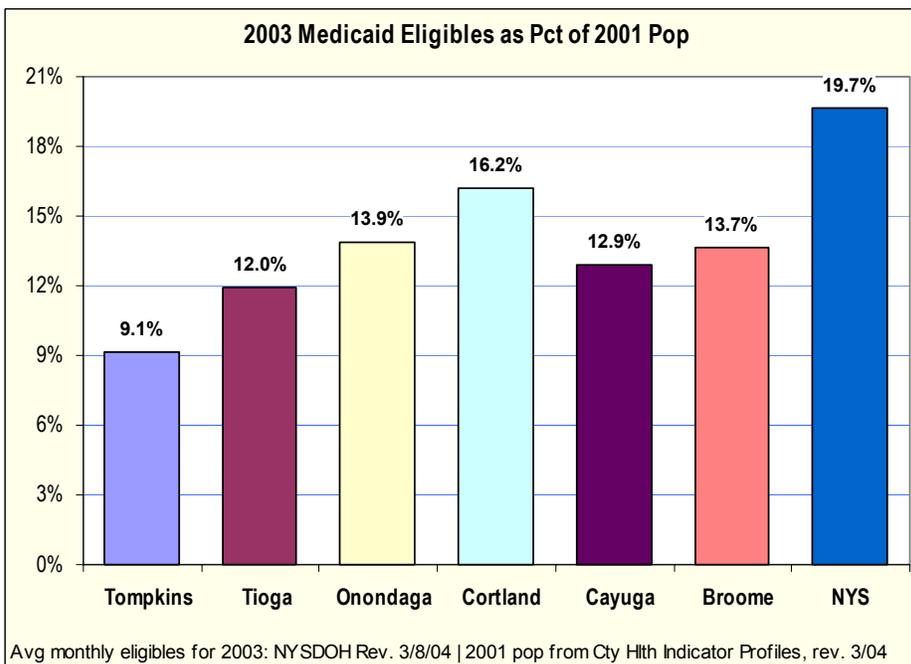


Figure 30 — Medicaid eligibles as percent of population, regional trends, 2000–2003

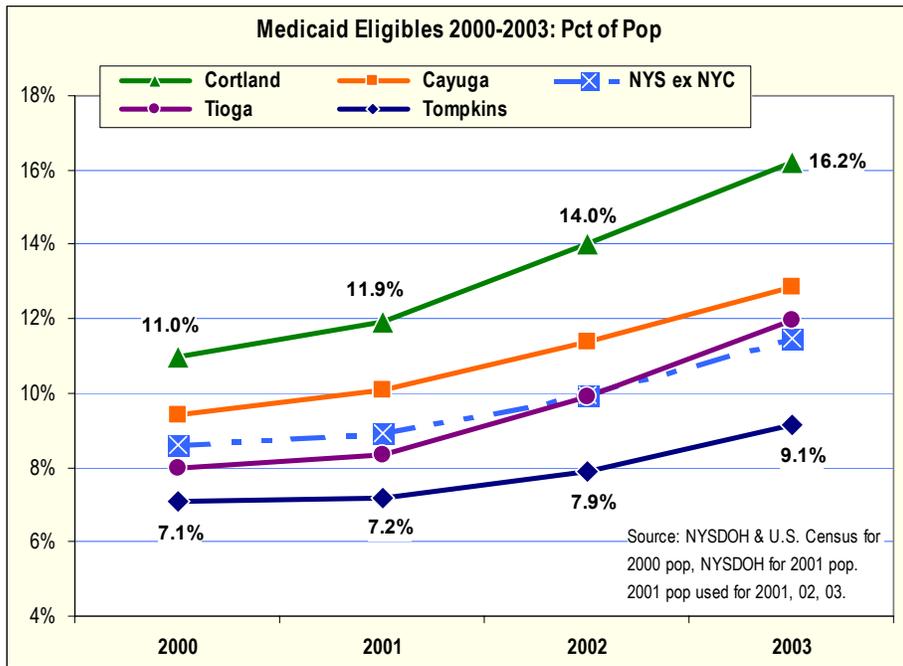


Figure 31 — Total on Medicaid, Tompkins County trend 1996–2003

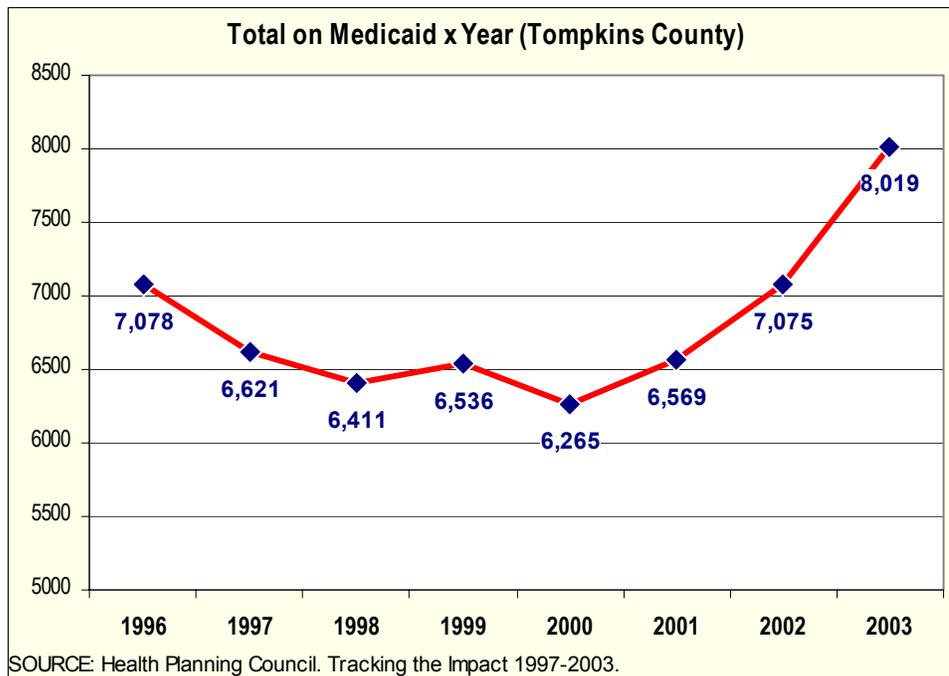


Table 7 — Primary care practices accepting new Medicaid patients, Tompkins County

Primary Care Practices Accepting New Medicaid Patients

(includes family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN)

Year	Primary Care Physicians/ Practices	Pct. Practices taking ANY new patients	Pct. practices taking new Medicaid patients		
			Unrestricted	Yes, with restrictions	
1998	65 / 24	95%	54%	0.04 *	
1999-May	60 / 23	82%	0% *	0%	
2000-June	60 / 24	79%	33%	17%	
2001-Oct	60 / 24	70%	38% **	13%	
2003-Nov	59 / 23	78%	13%	22% **	

*1999 - at this time there were NO primary care physicians taking new Medicaid PTs

Unrestr. **2001 - of the 22 physicians, 9 are in OB/GYN, 6 in Peds. Only 7 are in GP.

Restrict'd *1999 - Geographic restrictions **2003 - 22% geographic and 22% other

SOURCE: Health Planning Council. Tracking the Impact 1997-2003

Table 8 — Total individuals on Medicaid, Tompkins County

Total Individuals on Medicaid (Tompkins County)

Average per month	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
MA (Medicaid only)	4,513	3,147	3,161	3,456	3,347	3,657	4,099	4,867
MA SSI (on MA due to SSI)	2,417	1,522	1,521	1,527	1,515	1,503	1,528	1,532
Total PA (on MA due to cash)		1,806	1,576	1,419	1,260	1,170	1,200	1,356
ADC-FC (foster care/ adoptive)	146	146	153	134	143	239	248	264
Total on Medicaid	7,078	6,621	6,411	6,536	6,265	6,569	7,075	8,019

SOURCE: Health Planning Council. Tracking the Impact 1997-2003.

Figure 32 — Medicaid /Self-Pay births, regional comparison

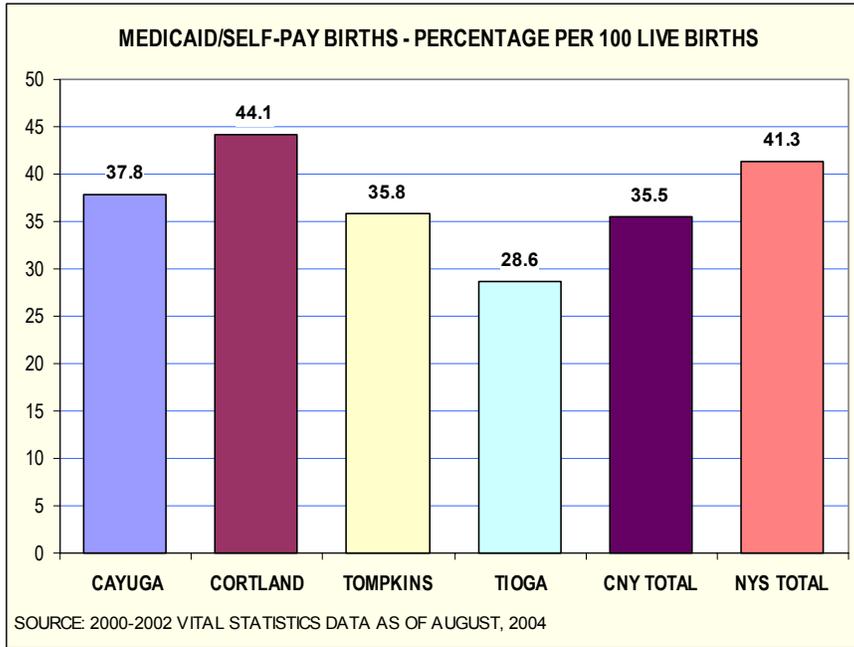


Figure 33 — Medicaid /Self-Pay births, trends

