

# **HERKIMER COUNTY RISK ASSESSMENT PROFILE**



Remsen Falls - McKeever, Photo by Herkimer County HealthNet

## **2016 Update**

Herkimer County Integrated County Planning

Herkimer County Public Health



## 2016 HERKIMER COUNTY RISK ASSESSMENT PROFILE

March 31, 2017

Dear Agency Director,

Presented here is a copy of the 2016 Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile, a data-based assessment of community strengths and challenges that affect the health and well-being of Herkimer County residents. The data included in the Profile gives a snapshot of the level of risk that exists in the community. These risk factors help to identify areas in which there is a need to work collaboratively to improve outcomes.

The 2016 Profile was developed by Herkimer County Integrated County Planning and Herkimer County Public Health, in collaboration with the members of the Comprehensive Assessment Task Force. It is the sixth edition of the Profile; the first edition was printed in 2000.

The Profile is organized utilizing the six Life Areas of the New York State Touchstones model: Community, Citizenship, Family, Economic Security, Physical and Emotional Health, and Education, and incorporates the New York State Department of Health's Prevention Agenda's Priority Health Areas into the Physical and Emotional Health section of the document.

We hope that the 2016 Risk Assessment Profile provides information that will help your agency assess the scale and scope of community needs. We also hope that it can be used as a resource as you plan for services that impact the health and well-being of Herkimer County's residents.

The 2016 Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile is available for download in PDF format from the Herkimer County website, [www.herkimercounty.org](http://www.herkimercounty.org).

If you have any questions or comments regarding the 2016 Risk Assessment Profile, please contact Herkimer County Integrated County Planning at (315) 867-1425 or Herkimer County Public Health at (315) 867-1176.

Sincerely,



Darlene Haman  
Strategic Planning Coordinator  
Herkimer County Integrated County Planning  
Co-Chair Comprehensive Assessment Task Force



Christina Cain  
Director  
Herkimer County Public Health  
Comprehensive Assessment Task Force



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- The Herkimer County Legislature and James Wallace, County Administrator, for their leadership, vision and support of this initiative.
- The ICP Human Resource Planning Team for their leadership and support.
- The members of the Comprehensive Assessment Task Force for steering the development of the document.
- The many individuals, agencies and organizations that graciously provided the data, narrative, and commentary included in the Profile.
- Matthew Clark, Herkimer County Information Services, for his hard work, dedication, and assistance on all aspects of Profile document development.
- Nancy Wind, ICP Clerk, for her editing assistance and expertise.
- Cara Bas, ICP Clerk, for her assistance with developing and formatting the document.
- Hannah Phillips, Herkimer County College Corps Program student intern, for her assistance organizing data for the document.
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- Phyllis Spinner, retired Interim Director of Herkimer County HealthNet, for her hard work and dedication to all aspects of this project.
- Herkimer County Health Net, Inc. for their financial support and assistance.

Without the support and collaboration of all the individuals and agencies listed above, the development of the 2016 Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile would not have been possible. Thank You.

## Herkimer County Comprehensive Assessment Task Force (CATF)

<p><b>Darlene Haman, Co-Chair</b> Strategic Planning Coordinator Herkimer County Integrated County Planning</p>	<p><b>Christina Cain</b> Director Herkimer County Public Health</p>
<p><b>Phyllis Spinner, Co-Chair (retired)</b> Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc.</p>	<p><b>Mark Barbano</b> Regional Economist New York State Department of Labor</p>
<p><b>Chip Bassett</b> Principal Planner Herkimer Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program</p>	<p><b>Elyse Enea</b> Program Coordinator Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc.</p>
<p><b>Christopher Farber</b> Herkimer County Sheriff</p>	<p><b>Kathy Fox</b> Director Herkimer County Office for the Aging</p>
<p><b>Gina Giacobelli</b> Director Herkimer County Youth Bureau</p>	<p><b>Mary Kline</b> Director Adult, Early Childhood and Outreach Education Herkimer BOCES</p>
<p><b>Rae Raffle Maxson</b> Program Director RSVP and Health and Assistance Programs Catholic Charities of Herkimer County</p>	<p><b>Dale Miller</b> Principal Planner Herkimer Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program</p>
<p><b>Garry Murphy</b> Director Herkimer County Probation</p>	<p><b>Maureen Petrie</b> Executive Director Catholic Charities of Herkimer County</p>
<p><b>Karin Piseck</b> Director Herkimer County Employment &amp; Training Adm.</p>	<p><b>Linda Robbins</b> Assistant Director Cornell Cooperative Extension of Herkimer County</p>
<p><b>Robin Robinson</b> Director of Community Investment United Way of the Valley and Greater Utica Area</p>	<p><b>Tim Seymour</b> Commissioner Herkimer County Department of Social Services</p>
<p><b>Carolyn Trimbach</b> Community Representative Town of Webb</p>	<p><b>Mark Vivacqua</b> Superintendent (retired) Herkimer County BOCES</p>

# Introduction

The 2016 Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile is an update to the previous Risk Assessment Profiles published every three years since 2000 (2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, and 2012).

The 2016 document is the result of the collaboration between Herkimer County Integrated County Planning (ICP), Herkimer County Public Health and the various agencies that make up the Comprehensive Assessment Task Force. The data collected within the Profile gives a snapshot of the level of risk that exists in Herkimer County and the areas in which there is a need to work collaboratively to improve outcomes.

The 2016 Profile is organized in accordance with the six Life Areas of the *New York State Touchstones* model: Community, Citizenship, Physical and Emotional Health, Family, Economic Security, and Education. This format, used since 2006, has allowed Herkimer County agencies and providers to take a comprehensive look at the needs of Herkimer County residents across a variety of domain areas. The 2016 Profile also incorporates the *New York State Department of Health's Prevention Agenda's Priority Health Areas* into the Physical and Emotional Health section of the document.

## Background

From 1999 to 2015, Herkimer County Integrated County Planning, in existence since 1998, and Herkimer County HealthNet (HCHN), a Rural Health Network in existence since 1990, worked collaboratively to provide a comprehensive assessment of health and human service needs in Herkimer County. They created and co-chaired the Comprehensive Assessment Task Force, a diverse group of stakeholders from government, health, education, and human services, and tasked that group with conducting a comprehensive needs assessment and facilitating comprehensive long term planning geared to improve the quality of life for children, youth and families in Herkimer County.

In 2000, data-based predictors were collected and organized into the *Communities That Care* format of risk and resource assessment, focusing on the risk factors in the areas of community, family, school, and individual/peer that contribute to youth problem behaviors. Focus groups were held with community stakeholders, including youth, to review the data collected and identify priority needs. Out of the Risk Assessment process in 2000, five risk factors emerged as priorities for Herkimer County: Extreme Economic Deprivation, Family Conflict, Family Management, Early and Persistent Antisocial Behavior, and Early Initiation of Problem Behaviors. In October 2000, the first Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile was published.

In 2001, Herkimer County departments, service providers and various community groups began to discuss ways to better support children, youth and families in order to reduce risks and address identified needs. A Resource Inventory was created to identify gaps in services, and promising approaches were researched that would reduce risks. Resources were allocated to address the issues identified, and various grants were pursued to address major service gaps.

In March 2003, ICP again partnered with HCHN to update the data collected within the original profile. An analysis of the 2003 Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile confirmed the need to address the five priority risk factors identified during the 2000 planning process. In addition, other risk factors were identified in 2003 as emerging areas of concern: the Availability of Drugs, Lack of Commitment to School, and Alienation and Rebelliousness. Herkimer County planning groups continued to meet to address these concerns.

In 2006, HCHN and ICP partnered for the third time to create an updated Risk Assessment Profile. The *Touchstones* format was used, which expanded the scale and scope of the document and allowed for a more comprehensive look at the needs of Herkimer County residents, particularly in the areas of community demographics, physical and emotional health, the elderly, and children from birth to five. Herkimer County planning groups utilized the information presented to establish goals and identify strategies that reduced risks, addressed needs, and improved outcomes in their specific areas of focus.

In 2009, the *Touchstones* format was utilized again with slight changes. The NYS Department of Health, in partnership with federal, state and local partners, unveiled a new "Public Health Prevention Agenda for the Healthiest State" in 2009 which identified ten priorities for improving the health of all New Yorkers and asked communities to work together to address them. These ten priorities were used to organize the data in the Physical and Emotional Health Life Area of the Profile.

In 2012, the New York State Public Health Prevention Agenda was updated for the 2013-2017 period. The updated *Prevention Agenda* served as a guide to local health departments as they worked with their community to develop mandated Community Health Assessments. The Prevention Agenda's ten priority areas were condensed into the following five areas: Prevent chronic diseases; Promote healthy and safe environments; Promote healthy women, infants and children; Prevent HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, vaccine-preventable diseases and healthcare-associated infections; and Promote mental health and prevent substance abuse. A locally identified priority area, Access to Healthcare, was added to the five Prevention Agenda priority areas and included in the 2012 document.

In addition to these changes in 2012, a series of six Profile Life Area Focus Groups were held to review the information included in the 2012 Risk Assessment Profile and to identify priority areas of need. A new section was added to the 2012 Risk Assessment Profile summarizing these Focus Group results.

Due to staffing changes, the Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile was not able to be published in 2015. In 2016, work on the document resumed, with ICP steering the development of the Community, Citizenship, Family, Economic Security and Education sections of the document. Herkimer County Public Health took the lead in developing the Physical and Emotional Health section of the document, again utilizing the NYS Prevention Agenda structure used in 2012 and including the Access to Healthcare priority area. In addition, the areas of Medicaid Reform and Suicide & Intentional Self-Inflicted Injury were added as priority areas based on current locally identified needs.

In 2017, the 2016 Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile will be utilized by Herkimer County departments to again identify priority areas of need. With support from the Clear Impact Group, creators of the Results Based Accountability (RBA) system that Herkimer County currently utilizes to measure program strategies that work to reduce risks, Herkimer County will match identified Profile priority risk areas with the programs designed to reduce those risks, and will measure those outcomes over time.

