

OCTOBER 2019 | HV OUT OF ALIGNMENT ISSUE BRIEF

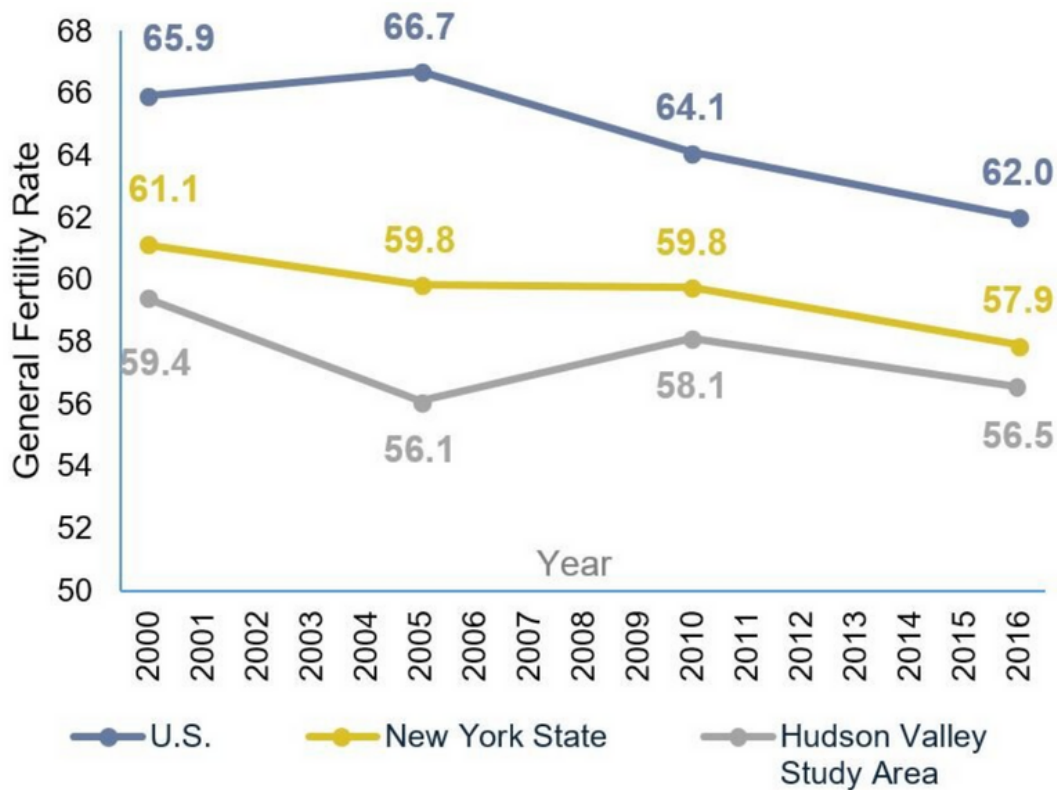
FERTILITY RATE: LOWEST IN DECADES

Fertility rate trends are a useful indicator for future population growth and prosperity because changing fertility rates have implications for family size, female labor force participation, and economic growth.[1] An analysis of two measures of fertility – general fertility rate and total fertility rate – indicates that fertility levels are dropping in the United States, New York State, and the Mid-Hudson Valley.[2]

General fertility rate is a measure of the number of live births per 1,000 women between the ages of 15 and 44 because these years are generally considered the primary childbearing years for women.

As depicted in this chart, the general fertility rate is higher in the United States than it is in New York State and the Mid-Hudson Valley.[3] Overall, the general fertility rate declined from 2000 to 2016 in all three geographies, with the largest decrease occurring in the United States. In the Mid-Hudson Valley, the general fertility rate dropped as low as 56.1 in 2005 before rising to 58.1 in 2010. From 2010 to 2016, the general fertility rate began to decline again, reaching a rate of 56.5 in 2016.

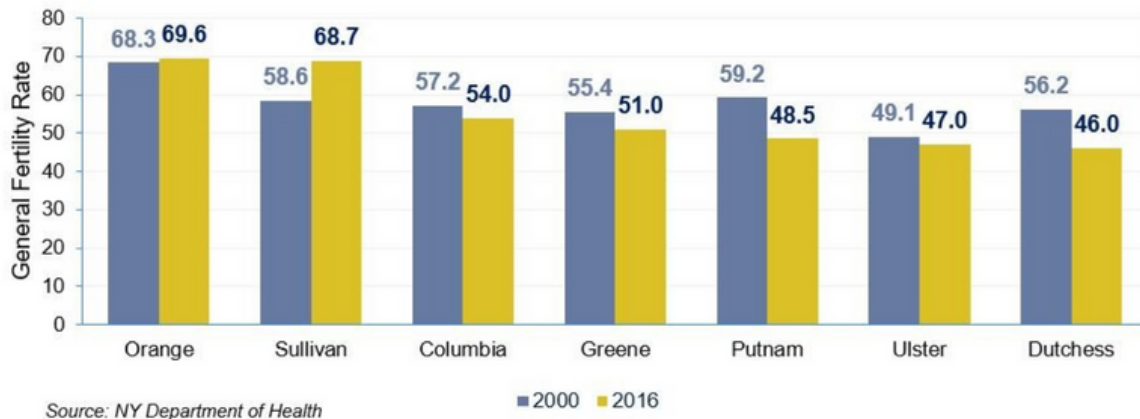
GENERAL FERTILITY RATE: 2000 TO 2016



Sources: U.S. Center for Disease Control; NY Department of Health

Among Mid-Hudson Valley counties, Orange had the highest general fertility rate in both 2000 and 2016. Orange and Sullivan were the only Mid-Hudson Valley counties that experienced an increase in general fertility rate from 2000 to 2016, with Sullivan experiencing a substantial increase from 58.6 in 2000 to 68.7 in 2016. Ulster County had the lowest general fertility rate (49.1) in 2000, and Dutchess County had the lowest general fertility rate (46.0) in 2016.

GENERAL FERTILITY RATE: 2000 VS. 2016



Total fertility rate is a measure of the number of children that are expected to be born to a woman over her lifetime based on age-specific birth rates. To sustain the existing population, a minimum total fertility rate of 2.1 is needed. This is called the **replacement rate**. It does not account for migration.

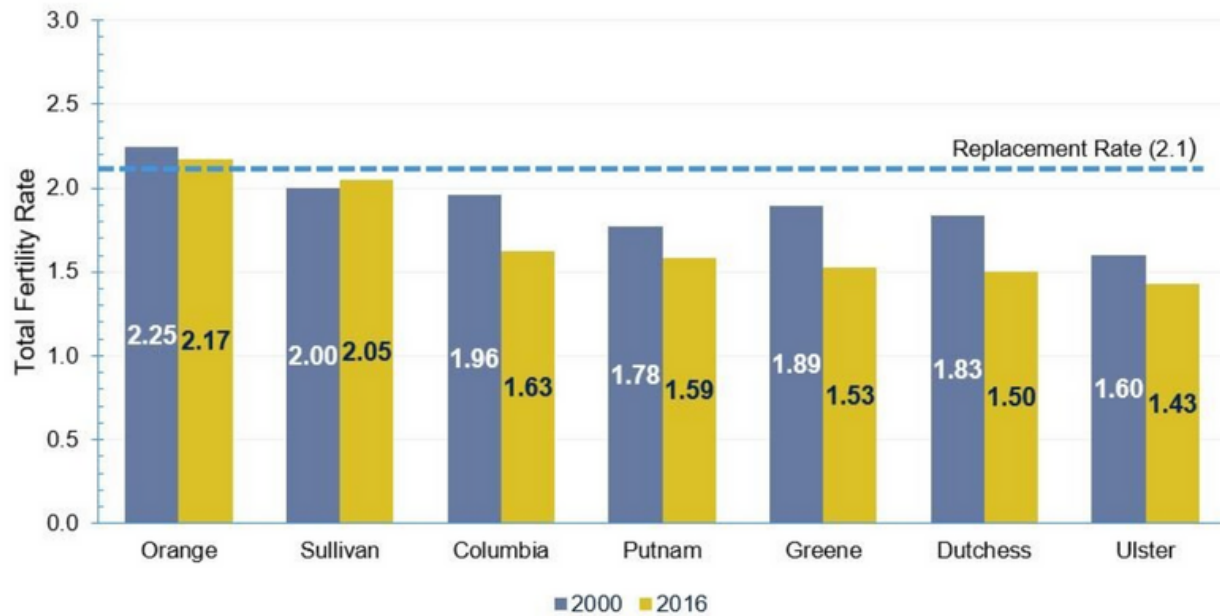
The total fertility rate in the United States has dipped below the replacement rate in recent years, a phenomenon that has been well documented in the media. This trend has also occurred in New York State and the study area, both of which have a total fertility rate lower than the United States, and well below the replacement rate.

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE: 2000 VS. 2016



Among the counties in the study area, Orange County had the highest total fertility rate in 2000 and 2016. Although that rate decreased from 2.25 in 2000 to 2.17 in 2016, Orange remained the only county in the study area whose total fertility rate remained above the replacement rate. This can be partially attributed to the Ultra-Orthodox community’s high fertility rate. Sullivan is the only county that experienced an increase in total fertility rate from 2000 to 2016, marginally rising from 2.00 to 2.05. However, total fertility rate remained just below the replacement rate. From 2000 to 2016, the greatest decrease in total fertility rate occurred in Dutchess and Greene, dropping by approximately .35 in both counties.

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE 2000 VS. 2016



Source: NY Department of Health

SOURCES

[1] Matthews; Hamilton, "Total Fertility Rates by State and Race and Hispanic Origin: United States, 2017," National Vital Statistics Report Vol. 68 No. 1, January, 2019

[2] For the purposes of this study, the Mid-Hudson region (study area) includes the counties of Greene, Columbia, Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam.

[3] The U.S. general fertility rate dropped to 59.1 in 2018, according to the CDC. County data is currently unavailable.