

## CHEMUNG COUNTY, NEW YORK

### A Statistical Outline

**This document, prepared by members of *Your 23rd*, is meant to provide voters of Chemung County in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District with the necessary information and data to effectively counter the generalities and misstatements Congressman Tom Reed so frequently offers as fact. We hope that voters in the district, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike, will find it useful when talking with family and friends, when questioning Tom Reed at town hall meetings and campaign events, and in drafting letters to the editor and/or editorial comments for local newspapers**

**The major source for this data sheet is “Chemung County Profile, 2017: A Collection of recent demographic, social and economic data.”**

Accessible at: <https://pad.human.cornell.edu/profiles/Allegany.pdf>

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**POPULATION**

	<u>County</u>	<u>City of Elmira</u>
2000:	91,070	30,940
2010:	88,830 (-2.5%)	29,200 (-5.6%)
2016:	86,322 (-2.5%) Estimate	28,213 (-3.5%) Estimate

\*The loss of population in Chemung, and throughout the Southern Tier is worrisome. Are the jobs themselves moving? Is technological innovation reducing the numbers of employees needed to achieve a company’s goals? How has Congressman Reed responded? What legislation has he proposed to help stem the declining population? Has he worked across the aisle with Democrats, especially those from districts with very similar problems? We need to publicly engage him on the best ways to address this critical issue.

Vital Statistics, 2014:

- Births: ~1,000
- Deaths: ~900

Race:

- White: 87.4%
- Black: 6.2%
- Hispanic/Latino (any race): 2.5%
- 2 or more races: 2.3%
- Asian: 1.2%
- Some other race: 0.06%

Households, 2014: (35,622)

- Family households (two parents, children) 62.8%
- Female-headed households: 12.8%
- Single-person household: 30.5%

## EDUCATION

Level achieved by residents, 25+ (60,733 individuals)

(As estimated by 2011-2015 American Community Survey)

- Less than 9<sup>th</sup> grade: 2.3%
- 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, no diploma: 8%
- High School grad 35.6%
- Some college, no degree: 18.3%
- Associate's degree: 12.3%
- Bachelor's degree: 12.8%
- Graduate/professional degree 10.7%

### Percent:

- High school or higher: 89.7%
- Bachelor's or higher: 23.4%

**ECONOMY**

**Non-Agricultural**

Labor Force, employed/unemployed, 2015:

<u>Estimated # by age:</u>	<u>In labor force:</u>	<u>Employed:</u>	<u>Unemployed</u>
• 16-19: 4,519	36.5%	31.0%	15.2%
• 20-24: 5,815	68.3	62.9	7.9
• 25-29: 5,251	75.7	71.1	6.0
• 30-34: 5,464	73.6	69.3	5.8
• 35-44: 10,430	74.2	71.2	3.9
• 45-54: 12,862	74.4	71.3	4.2
• 55-59: 6,515	71.9	69.0	4.0
• 60-64: 5,818	47.8	45.1	5.5
• 65-74: 7,560	21.8	20.3	7.0
• 75+: 6,833	5.8	5.7	1.0

Employment by Educational Attainment, ages 25-64:

	<u>In labor force:</u>	<u>Employed</u>	<u>Unemployed</u>
• Total (46,340):	70.7%	67.4%	4.6%
• No HS degree (4,096):	38.4	33.8	11.8
• HS graduate (15, 831):	65.3	61.7	5.5
• Some college/ Associates (15, 352):	74.3	71.0	4.3
• Bachelors or higher (11,061):	85.5	83.1	2.8

\*As of June 2017, NY State calculated the unemployment rate in Chemung County (not seasonally adjusted) as between 5-5.9%.

\*The term, labor force, includes both employed and unemployed but looking for work. The unemployed and no longer looking for work, the so-called “discouraged worker,” are not represented in this data.

Poverty and Educational Attainment (2016):

[NY State Community Action Association, *New York State Poverty Report, 2016*, p.15]

<u>Educational level</u>	<u>Living in poverty</u>
• No HS degree (5,258):	30.1% (1,583)
• HS graduate (19,984):	13.5% (2,690)
• Associates degree (18,372):	12.0% (2,201)
• Bachelor’s or higher (13,708):	3.5% (482)
• <u>Total county poverty rate:</u>	16.0%

Household Income and Occupations (35,167 households):

Income (Selected brackets)	# of Households	% of Households
• Less than \$10,000 to \$19,999	7,033	19.9%
• \$20,000 to \$29,999:	3,955	11.2%
• \$30,000 to \$39,000	3,555	10.1%

\*As the tables above indicate, education beyond high school, whether it be at a community college, a four-year college, or skilled training in a craft or technology, is increasingly needed in the modern American economy. What has Congressman Reed done to address this central issue for the county?

\*What is Congressman Reed’s plan for assisting those in poverty to return to economic health? What is his plan for assuring current students in the 23<sup>rd</sup> District that they obtain the training and skills to successfully enter this high-tech world? His reliance in the past on the cure-all of self-help is simply inadequate in this work culture that demands more sophisticated skills.

**Agricultural**

[Data from 2012-13, in Deidre A. Gaquin and Mary Meghan Ryan (eds.), *2015 County and City Extra, Annual Metro, City, and County Data Book*, 23<sup>rd</sup> edition, pp. 469-470]

- 372 farms in county
- Average size: 156 acres
  - 27.2% are 50 acres or less
  - 4.3% are 500 acres or more
- For 53.8% of farmers it is their principle occupation
- 28.5% of farms generated \$10,000+ in sales
- 8.6% generated \$100,000+ in sales

\*The NY State Department of Conservation flatly states that climate change will bring both droughts and severe storms to the Southern Tier. What steps is Congressman Reed taking to encourage the growth of renewable energy sources based on solar, wind, and local hydro resources?

\*Our farmers remain very dependent on undocumented immigrants to grow our crops and care for livestock. What steps in the Congressman taking to insure a steady source of farm workers in the Southern Tier?

## SOCIAL SERVICES, SOCIAL NEEDS

### Poverty

- 18.2% of families have a yearly income at or up to 50% below the poverty line.
- 15.7% have an income up to 25% above the poverty line
- 18.2% have an income up to 50% above the poverty line
- As of 2013:
  - 5,948 individuals under 65 years old were without health insurance
  - 5,944 enrolled in Medicaid Advantage
  - 8,201 enrolled in Medicare prescription drug plan
- As of 2014:
  - 6.3% of the civilian labor force (2,407 individuals) were unemployed.

According to Governor Andrew Cuomo's press release (January 4, 2017) on the consequences of repealing the Affordable Care Act, Chemung County would have 9,160 citizens taken off the rolls of Medicaid, Child Health Plus, Exclusive Provide and QHP.

The figure for the state of New York, if ACA had been repealed, is 3,634,793 citizens.

### Heroin & Opioid Addictions:

Prescription opioids and heroin are chemically similar, but often regarded quite differently; heroin carries a social stigma, while opioid addiction is often viewed as a private addiction. Since 2010, Chemung County has experienced a fairly consistent rise in the number of drug-related deaths, caused primarily by overdose of prescription, opioid pain relievers, and heroin. According to New York State data ( [https://health.ny.gov/statistics/opiod/data/d7\\_7.htm](https://health.ny.gov/statistics/opiod/data/d7_7.htm) ), using a "crude rate per 100, 000 population" for its analysis, the rolling, three year average of these deaths between 2010-2015 has ranged between 21.9 and 29 for victims between 18-44 years old. For those between 45-64 years old, the crude rate has ranged between 14.9 and 21.2.

The populations at higher risk of addiction are: males, 18-35; pregnant and parenting women; vets with post-traumatic stress disorder; subjects of domestic violence and child abuse; those with untreated mental health conditions; and those with prescribed opioids for pain management. [*Olean Times Herald*, November 11, 2016.]

\*Given these realities, how could Congressman Reed fully and persistently support the Trumped effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act and still return to the District claiming to support its citizens? Had the repeal succeeded, a significant number of families would have found themselves without medical coverage for any illness more serious than the common cold. How can he defend this record?

**POLITICS**

**Presidential**

2016

	<u>Chemung County</u>	<u>Elmira</u>
Donald Trump (R)	20,097 (55%)	3,692 (44.3%)
Hillary Clinton (D)	13,757 (37.2%)	3,952 (47.4%)
Jill Stein (Green)	463 (1.2%)	136 (1.6%)
Gary Johnson (Ind.)	1,447 (4.5%)	357 (4.2%)

2012

Barack Obama	16,797 (46.1%)
Mitt Romney (R)	17,612 (48.3%)
Jill Stein (Green)	151 (0.004%)
Gary Johnson (Liberty)	310 (0.008%)

**U.S. Senate**

2016

Chuck Schumer (D)	18,775 (51.4%)	5,551 (66.6%)
Wendy Long (R)	14,994 (41.4%)	2,340 (28%)

**House of Representatives**

2016

John Plumb (D)	13,766 (37.7%)	3,866 (46.4%)
Tom Reed (R)	21,125 (57.8%)	3,966 (47.6%)

2014

Martha Robinson (D)	7,509 (32.1%)	2,089 (42.9%)
Tom Reed (R)	15,176 (64.9%)	2,624 (53.6%)

2012

Nate Shinagawa (D)	16,462 (46.7%)
Tom Reed (R)	17,771 (50.1%)

**NY Gubernatorial**

2014

Andrew Cuomo (D)	8,535 (36.5%)
Rob Astorino (R)	13,540 (58%)

**NYS Senate (58<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District)**

2016

		<u>District-wide</u>
Leslie Danks Burke (D)	14,125 (38.8%)	59,113 (48.7%)
Tom O'Mara	20,903 (57.4%)	63,279 (52.1%)