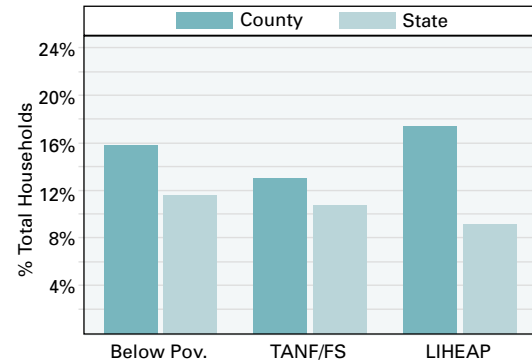


Piscataquis County

Piscataquis County's people are poorer, older, and have lower levels of educational attainment than the state average. The county has seen a decrease in employment opportunities with the closure of a number of large manufacturing plants, and a decrease in population, especially of younger people. This out-migration impacts on figures related to employment, poverty, and the overall demographic profile of the county. As reported in Census 2000:

- Income is considerably below the state average: per-capita income is 26% lower, and median household income is 24% lower.
- The household poverty rate is considerably higher than in the state as a whole. Compared with the statewide totals, a higher proportion of below-poverty households consists of married-couples.
- Older persons (age 65 and up) represent a higher proportion of the population, both below and above poverty, than in the state as a whole.
- A considerably smaller proportion of the Piscataquis population has college degrees (Associate or Bachelor's) than in the state as a whole, and a considerably greater proportion has less than a high school education.



Employment figures for the county are worse than state averages.

- The average unemployment rate for 2002 was 7.0% in Piscataquis County, compared with the state average of 4.4%. This was the third highest rate of any county.
- Compared to the state as a whole, a higher proportion of Piscataquis households (Census 2000) reported that no one in the household worked in the past year. This may be due to the higher proportion of older persons in the county.

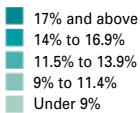
Housing is considerably more affordable than in the state as a whole. As reported in Census 2000:

- The proportion of people in lower income brackets paying more than 35% of their monthly income for housing is among the lowest in the state, both for owners and renters.
- There is a higher proportion of home ownership in Piscataquis County than the state as a whole.

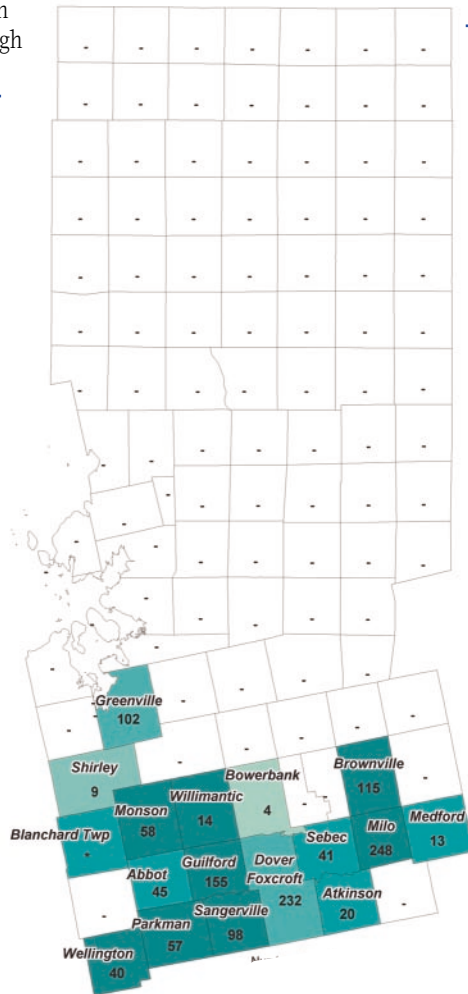
Piscataquis County residents were above the state average in participation in DHS benefits programs (TANF and food stamps) and considerably above in overall participation in the LIHEAP program in the last fiscal year (October 1, 2001-September 30, 2002).

- The LIHEAP program served a higher proportion of county households and the overall population than in most other counties and the state as a whole. It also served a higher proportion of households with older persons; 21.7% of all households with persons age 65 or over received LIHEAP benefits in Piscataquis County, compared with 13.2% of such households statewide.
- Compared with LIHEAP households statewide, a somewhat smaller proportion in Piscataquis had food stamps or supplemental security income (SSI), and a higher proportion had social security or social security disability income.

Households Receiving LIHEAP



Number shows LIHEAP households  
 \* Towns with fewer than 50 households (Census 2000)  
 - No households or no data



**Population Poverty Status, by Age**

	Below Poverty		Above Poverty	
	County (2,522)	State (135,501)	County (14,489)	State (1,105,392)
(Number)				
<b>Age</b>				
Under 18	28.9%	29.6%	22.2%	23.0%
18-64	55.3%	57.2%	60.8%	62.8%
65 and over	15.7%	13.2%	17.0%	14.2%

**Education Levels**

	County	State
(Population age 25 and over)	(12,240)	(869,893)
Less than high school	19.7%	14.6%
High school	43.7%	36.2%
Some college, no degree	16.6%	19.0%
Associate degree	6.7%	7.4%
Bachelor's or higher	13.3%	22.9%

**Income**

	County	State
<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$28,250</b>	<b>\$37,240</b>
<b>Per-capita Income</b>	<b>\$14,374</b>	<b>\$19,533</b>
(Number households)	(7,272)	(518,372)
<b>Household Income, by ranges</b>		
Under \$20,000	35.7%	25.0%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	16.6%	14.9%
\$30,000 and above	47.7%	60.2%

**Household Poverty Status, by Household Type (as percent of all households)**

	County		State	
	Below	Above	Below	Above
(Number households)	(7,272)		(518,372)	
<b>Poverty Status</b>				
<b>Family Households</b>				
Married-couple	3.8%	49.8%	2.1%	51.3%
Female householder, no spouse	2.7%	5.8%	2.6%	6.6%
Male householder, no spouse	1.0%	3.6%	0.5%	3.0%
<b>Other Households</b>				
Single person, under age 65	3.9%	10.3%	3.0%	13.1%
Single person, age 65 or over	3.1%	10.5%	2.1%	8.7%
Other non-family	1.2%	4.3%	1.2%	5.8%
<b>Total households</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>84.3%</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>88.5%</b>

**Household Poverty Status and Employment**

	Percent of Households Below Poverty			Percent of Households Above Poverty		
	Full-time work	Less than full-time	Did not work	Full-time work	Less than full-time	Did not work
<b>Family Households</b>	12.9%	42.2%	44.9%	62.5%	19.7%	17.9%
<b>Other Households</b>	3.3%	22.0%	74.8%	39.6%	21.0%	39.4%

**Unemployment Rate (2002 monthly average)**

	County	State
Labor force	8,150	686,200
Percent unemployed	7.0%	4.4%

**Percent of Households with Income Below \$35,000 Paying More Than 35% of Monthly Income for Housing**

Income	County			State		
	Renters	Owners	All Households	Renters	Owners	All Households
Under \$10,000	50.1%	70.1%	59.6%	68.6%	75.5%	70.7%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	32.8%	21.1%	25.0%	52.1%	39.6%	46.4%
\$20,000 - \$34,999	7.8%	6.8%	7.0%	12.8%	23.6%	19.1%

**Households Lacking Access to Vehicle**

(Number)	County			State		
	Renters (1,499)	Owners (5,779)	All Households (7,278)	Renters (147,280)	Owners (370,920)	All Households (518,200)
%	17.6%	3.8%	6.7%	18.5%	3.3%	7.6%

**TANF/Food Stamps and LIHEAP Benefits\***

	County		State	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>TANF &amp;/or Food Stamps</b> (monthly avg unduplicated count)				
Cases	939	12.9%	55,445	10.7%
Recipients	1,902	11.0%	108,767	8.5%
<b>LIHEAP</b>				
Households	1,258	17.3%	46,994	9.1%
Recipients	2,621	15.2%	98,825	7.8%
Hslds age 65 and over	475	21.7%	16,937	13.2%

\*Percentage cases or households is % of total county or state households; percentage recipients is % of county or state population.

**LIHEAP Client Household Characteristics\***

	County	State
(Number households)	(1,258)	(46,994)
Average household income	\$10,934	\$11,209
Single person households	46.0%	45.5%
% Receiving food stamps	47.8%	49.7%
% Medicaid	57.8%	57.5%
% SSI	20.3%	22.9%
% SS/SSD	56.4%	52.8%
% With wages or self-employment	9.5%	8.6%
% LIHEAP applicants age 65 and over	37.8%	36.0%

\*Percentage is % of LIHEAP households

People

Income and Employment

Housing and Transportation

Benefits and Assistance