
Introduction

This is the 32nd edition of the *New York State Statistical Yearbook*, which the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government publishes annually in cooperation with the Office of the Governor and the Division of the Budget.

In New York and elsewhere, governments are studying numbers as never before. They're using statistics such as those in this book to assess their challenges and performance in areas as wide-ranging as education, health, transportation, economic development, public protection and environmental conservation. Voters and taxpayers, too, are giving heightened attention to such data — and asking for more, so that they might better understand the public policies and programs established on their behalf. Performance measurement, in other words, is increasingly indispensable both to government insiders and to regular citizens. We hope the statistics and sources in this *Yearbook* can help advance that important development.

Giant databases are now available via the Internet. Yet many citizens, students of government and public officials need a compendium such as this as an essential research tool and the best, quickest way to update a particular fact or trend that stands out from previous editions. Each table and figure provides a source (most often, a New York State agency), which in many cases can lead the reader to further sources of valuable information online.

Similar to the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, this *Yearbook* is organized into chapters focusing on specific governmental functions or subjects such as Education, Transportation and Finances. The beginning of each section provides "Highlights," some of the most useful or interesting numbers that follow, along with a complete list of tables for that section. Most of the tables include data for the five boroughs of New York City and the 57 counties outside the city. A map of New York State's counties, including the boroughs, appears on page xii. Standardized abbreviations

and symbols used through the book are explained on page vii. Any specialized terms or abbreviations are contained in the glossaries found at the end of certain sections.

Users should direct any questions regarding the information contained in the tables to the contact person at the source agency. Such individuals are listed in the directory of state agencies in the Appendix.

Rockefeller Institute staff review the material in the *Yearbook* each year to add information, improve the quality of the publication and make it as user-friendly as possible. Table E-19 provides detailed information on use of the earned income tax credit in New York City, while Figures E-4 and E-5 display new data on the state Lottery.

The *Yearbook* is published in hard copy for subscribers, libraries and state officials. For information about other Rockefeller Institute activities, or to view the *Yearbook* online, go to our website at www.rockinst.org.

The *New York State Statistical Yearbook* is made possible through the generous assistance of many State agencies. We thank the experts who spend hours working with us, providing data and answering our questions. Special thanks are due to the staff of the Publications Office of the Rockefeller Institute, who work year-round on this volume. Michael Cooper is the Director of Publications, and is ably assisted by Michele Charbonneau.

We invite users to suggest additions, deletions and modifications to the *Yearbook* at any time. Please contact us at cooperm@rockinst.org.

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