

Percent Leaseholders Compared to Total Residents in Tompkins County:

Tompkins County Census Data:

U.S. Census Bureau estimates 101,136 residents in Tompkins County as of July 1, 2008. This number includes college students. 15.5 % of the residents are under 18, by the 2007 US Census Bureau estimate. (So 84.5% are over 18.)

From: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/36/36109.html>

Adults:

84.5% of 101,136 is 85,460 adult residents of Tompkins County.

College Students:

At Cornell, 2008-2009 enrollment was 19,639 (13,562 undergrads and 6,077 grads and professional students)

(From: <http://www.cornell.edu/visiting/ithaca/>)

At Ithaca College, Fall 2008 enrollment was 6,323 (5,951 undergrads and 372 grad students)

(From: http://www.ithaca.edu/ir/facts/Ithaca_College_Facts_in_Brief_2008-09.pdf).

Total College Students in Tompkins County: $19,639 + 6,323 = 25,962$

So, $85,460 - 25,962 = 59,498$ adult, non-college-student residents.

From our data gathered at the Tompkins County Clerk's Office: (Counted only leases signed between 1/1/2005 and 9/30/2009).

2,332 different names appear as the principal name on a lease:

Note that this number includes organizations, such as churches, school districts, cemeteries, towns, and clubs, who have leased their land. There are only 68 of these, so they are only 2.9 % of the total. For this purpose, each organization was counted as 1 individual. In some cases this overcounts because the same individuals also have personal leases. In other cases it undercounts because more than one person may share the royalties (although the more people sharing royalties, the smaller they are, of course).

1.6 adults signed per lease (calculated from a sample of 140 leases):

3,731 lease holders: $3,731/59,498 = 6.3$ % of non-college-student, adult population (local voters)

Leases from Years Prior to 2005:

There were 744 gas leases signed in Tompkins County between 1/1/2000 and 12/31/2004. Some of these are still in effect, and some have expired. Some are for tax parcels that also are included in our database of leases signed between 2005 and the present (because new leases were signed on these parcels). When a lease expires, it is not usually recorded in the Tompkins County Clerk's office, so we have no way to determine how many of these leases are active. Below is the number of leases recorded at the Clerk's Office for each of these years:

2000:	75 leases
2001:	250 leases
2002:	193 leases
2003:	60 leases
2004:	166 leases

At the Tompkins County Clerk's Office for 2005 to 2009, there were 2,673 leases recorded. That number, after misfiled documents were taken out and duplicate names were omitted, translated to 2,332 different names on leases, which is 87 % of the total recorded.

If we assume the same percent reduction in leaseholders for the years 2000 to 2004, there are potentially 647 more leaseholders. If these were all different people with different parcels from the 2005 to 2009 data, and all the leases were still in effect, it would only increase the percent of leaseholders to 8.0 % (assuming 1.6 people per lease, so 1,035 more people ($1,035 + 3,731 = 4,766$), and thus $4,766/59,498$). In reality, the increase is probably much smaller than that, as many leases have expired and others are for the same people who signed leases between 2005 and 2009.

There are 1,159 leases recorded at the Tompkins County Clerk's office for the years between 1900 and 2000. Because so many of these have expired or are for lands that have been re-leased in the last 5 years, we will not consider them.