Syracuse University

SURFACE

2010

2010 Onondaga County Community Indicators

Syracuse University. Maxwell School. Community Benchmarks Program

Recommended Citation

2010 ONONDAGA COUNTY
COMMUNITY INDICATORS

"Community Indicators promote and monitor progress toward sustainable vitality and measure a community's well-being"

Onondaga County strives to be a sustainable community where every decision is determined on the interdependence and integration of economic vitality, social equity, and environmental stewardship. We are a community of people of many colors, ethnicities, ages, religious affiliations, and economic levels. We take pride in the place where we live, work, play, and raise a family. Our basic creed is Be+ (be positive).

The Onondaga County Community Indicators Report is a snapshot of Greater Syracuse, portraying trends of the time and opportunities for the future. Community Indicators 2010 measures where we are advancing as a community and where we are not. This report is intended to stimulate public discussion to find solutions to critical challenges while celebrating our accomplishments. Members of the Community Benchmarks class at Syracuse University's Maxwell School collected the data over a period of a semester. Carol Dwyer, Director of the Community Benchmarks Program, teaches the class. She supervised the data compilation. FOCUS Greater Syracuse and the Community Benchmarks Program are partners for this report.

The goals of the Community Indicators report are to:
1. Inform the people of Onondaga County of trends and issues facing our community.
2. Generate discussion, debate and action around aspects of our community's sustainability and quality of life that need improvement.
3. Celebrate areas where we are excelling or are working hard to improve.
4. Stimulate interest in collecting and reporting data to inform community change.

It is with enthusiasm and pride that we present the Community Indicators Report 2010. We hope you will find it useful to build a sustainable community for this and future generations.

Charlotte (Chuckie) Holstein
FOCUS Greater Syracuse, Inc.

Overview

The 2010 Community Indicators Report is a snapshot that highlights how Onondaga County measures up when compared to the past and/or other geographic areas. Where metrics are not available, a descriptive overview is provided.

In addition to the city of Syracuse, Onondaga County has 19 towns, 15 villages and 18 school districts. There is an estimated population of 452,633 that includes people of many colors, ethnicities, ages, religious affiliations and economic status.

One of the main economic engines supporting the county is the abundance of Eds and Meds. The county is home to Syracuse University (SU), State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, LeMoyne College, State University of New York Upstate Medical University and Onondaga Community College. The State University of New York at Oswego has a Metro center in downtown Syracuse, Bryant and Stratton College offers certification and licensing in professional skill areas and the Onondaga • Cayuga • Madison Board of Cooperative Extension provides vocational training for high school students and adults in the three-county area. Nursing schools are housed in both St. Joseph's and Crouse hospitals. Their combined annual enrollments serve over 41,000 students from around the world. There are another 35 schools of higher learning within a 100-mile radius of Onondaga County.

There are close to 1,500 physicians in the county, which translates into three physicians for every 1,000 residents. A number of these doctors have been recognized nationally and globally. Most are affiliated with one of four hospitals: Community General, Crouse, St. Joseph's and SUNY Upstate.

The county is rich in recreational and cultural activities with events, venues and performing arts companies such as the Syracuse Symphony, New York State Fair, Alliance Bank Stadium—home of the Syracuse Chiefs—the SU Dome and the Oncenter Complex, which includes a conference center, war memorial and civic center and museums. Throughout the county there is a wealth of golf courses, skating rinks, community centers and over 50 local, county and state parkland as well as a zoo featuring over 1,000 animals. Almost every weekend in the summer, free entertainment, arts and crafts and ethnic festivals are free in downtown Syracuse and throughout the county. This report allows viewers to see how the county has changed and to identify what is in need of improvement.

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Acknowledgments

The Community Benchmark Program researchers would like to thank those who provided encouragement and data important to the completion of this project.

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Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the trends and issues facing county residents to generate discussion, celebrate success and stimulate interest in collecting and reporting data. The information is not exhaustive and is anticipated to grow over time as more data become available.

Community Indicator Report Background

The report was first created in 2000 by F.O.C.U.S. of Greater Syracuse, Central New York Technology Development Organization, United Way of Central New York and Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce to educate and inform individuals about how the community was doing in various important areas.

Indicators were selected because they met the following criteria:
1. The indicator measures something that can be changed by community effort
2. The information comes from a reliable source
3. The indicator is clear and understandable
4. Most people would agree whether the indicator should move up or down

In 2005, F.O.C.U.S. partnered with the Community Benchmarks Program (CBP) at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University to update and expand the report.

The current report is the result of the same alliance and is supported by the Central New York Community Foundation, which is partnering with the CBP, FOCUS and other area organizations to continue to work by posting information on the Web.

F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse

F.O.C.U.S. (Forging Our Community's United Strength) is a citizen-driven organization that has used a visioning process developed to make Syracuse a better place to live and work. Founded in 1998, FOCUS seeks to engender a feeling of pride and a future of promise. It engages in research, public policy advocacy, public education and public outreach to promote intelligent, inclusive and sustainable decision making.

focussyracuse.org

Central New York Community Foundation, Inc.

Founded in 1927, the Community Foundation of Central New York connects the generosity of donors with community needs. The goal of the foundation is to enhance the quality of life of area residents in various ways:

- Encouraging the growth of permanent charitable endowments to meet the community's changing opportunities and needs;
- Providing vehicles for donors with diverse philanthropic interests;
- Serving as a catalyst, neutral convener and facilitator and promoting collaborations among various organizations to accomplish common objectives;
- Carrying out a strategic grantmaking program that is flexible, visionary and inclusive.

Annually, the foundation makes more than $5 million in grants while also providing leadership support in the fields of arts and culture, community and economic development, education, environment, health and human services.

cnycf.org/cnycf

Community Benchmarks Program Background

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation established the CBP in The Maxwell School at Syracuse University in 1996. The program was institutionalized in The Maxwell School's Policy Studies program in 2000 by former Dean John Palmer. The mission of the CBP is to support local governments, nonprofits and educational institutions through the use of comparative measures to improve performance and accountability as part of a continuous improvement effort. This is accomplished through classes offered each semester to researchers interested in identifying ways to help organizations and communities improve. Most of the reports produced by the CBP are available on the program's website.

maxwell.syr.edu/benchmarks

Methods

Starting with the original Community Indicators project created in 2000 and updated in 2005, Community Benchmarks Program (CBP) researchers added and removed sections and indicators to create a more comprehensive report. They conducted research through the Internet and by looking at other areas that post Community Indicators to determine what to include in the report. Eleven critical areas identified as the most important data to assess:

- Aging
- Arts, Culture & Recreation
- Economy
- Education
- Environment
- Government
- Health
- Housing
- Public Safety
- Transportation
- Youth

Various indicators were then selected in each of these categories to convey a snapshot of Onondaga County.

In compiling the indicators from public and private-sector sources, the Community Benchmarks Program (CBP) has made every effort to present reliable data that informs readers. CBP researchers contacted experts, community organizations and government agencies through online databases, websites, e-mail messages and phone calls to retrieve critical data. The goal was to gather statistical information for Onondaga County dating back to 2000, and use comparative data for the city of Syracuse, New York State and the United States, when available. In some cases, information for other geographic areas were included.

Indicators were then selected in each of these categories, using the following criteria:

1. The indicator measures something that can be changed by community effort.
2. The information comes from a reliable source.
3. The indicator is clear and understandable.
4. Most people would agree on whether the indicator should move up or down.

County Profile

The county has a land area of 793.5 square miles and is comprised of multiple municipalities, the largest of which is the city of Syracuse. The county also includes 19 towns, 15 villages and the Onondaga Indian Nation.

Onondaga County is located in the heart of Central New York, with Oswego County to the North, Madison to the East, Cortland to the South, and Cayuga to the West. County residents live within a 350-mile radius of all major cities in the Northeast: Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Toronto and Montreal.

According to the Onondaga County website, the county was established in 1794. The name derived from one of the Five Nations of the Haudenosaunee and means *People of the Hills*.

The Central New York region houses the third largest concentration of colleges and universities in the nation. According to the Onondaga County website, roughly 32,000 students live in Onondaga County. The centers of higher education include Syracuse University, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, LeMoyne College, State University of New York Upstate Medical University, and Onondaga Community College. SUNY Upstate Medical University and Syracuse University. They are also the county's largest employers.

Syracuse Symphony, the New York State Fair, Carousel Center Mall, The Rosamond Gifford Zoo, Syracuse Stage and the Alliance Bank Stadium are all located in the county. The Oncenter Complex is an integrated convention center that includes a 207,000-square-foot convention hall, a 6,200-seat arena, performing arts theaters, and a 1,000-car parking garage. Since its opening in 1993, the complex has attracted nearly 10 million visitors.

Onondaga County has a population of 452,633, according to the US Census Bureau 2006-08 population estimates. The population includes the 138,068 residents in the city of Syracuse, which was called "The Emerald City" by former city mayor Matt Driscoll for the efforts by government and other partners to create a sustainable city.

Population

Population change can be caused by various factors. An increase in population over time may indicate job growth or higher birth rates. Conversely, a decrease in population may be due to a struggling economy, increased death rates, or urban sprawl into communities surrounding cities.

	1990	2000	2006-08e
Onondaga County	468,973	458,336	452,633
City of Syracuse	163,860	147,306	138,068
Syracuse MSA	724,177	732,117	644,214

Source: US Census Bureau, 1990, 2000, 2006-2008e

Comment: The Syracuse Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) consists of the following counties: Cayuga, Madison, Onondaga and Oswego.

Distribution

CNY Town/City	2006-08e
Auburn	27,138
Camillus	23,301
Cicero	30,059
Clay	58,558
Cortland	18,434
DeWitt	24,424
Elbridge	6,006
Fabius	1,959
Geddes	16,835
LaFayette	4,935
Manlius	32,194
Marcellus	6,276
Onondaga	21,589
Oswego	17,351
Otisco	2,508
Pompey	6,704
Salina	32,498
Skaneateles	7,309
Syracuse	138,068
Tully	2,692
Van Buren	12,531

CNY County	2006-08e
Cayuga	79,823
Cortland	48,302
Madison	69,766
Onondaga	452,633
Oswego	121,395

Onondaga County Villages	2006-08e
Baldwinsville	7,247
Camillus	23,301
East Syracuse	2,972
Elbridge	1,059
Fabius	334
Fayetteville	4,110
Jordan	1,307
Liverpool	2,343
Manlius	4,579
Marcellus	1,814
Minoa	3,281
Skaneateles	6,570
Solvay	2,539
Tully	867

Poverty

Following the Office of Management and Budget's
(OMB) Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses the family
size and composition determined by OMB to identify who
is below the poverty level. If the total income for a an
individual falls below the poverty threshold, the individual
is classified as living below the poverty level.

2006 - 08 Individuals Below Poverty Level

New York State — 13.8%
Onondaga County — 12.7%
Syracuse — 29.4%
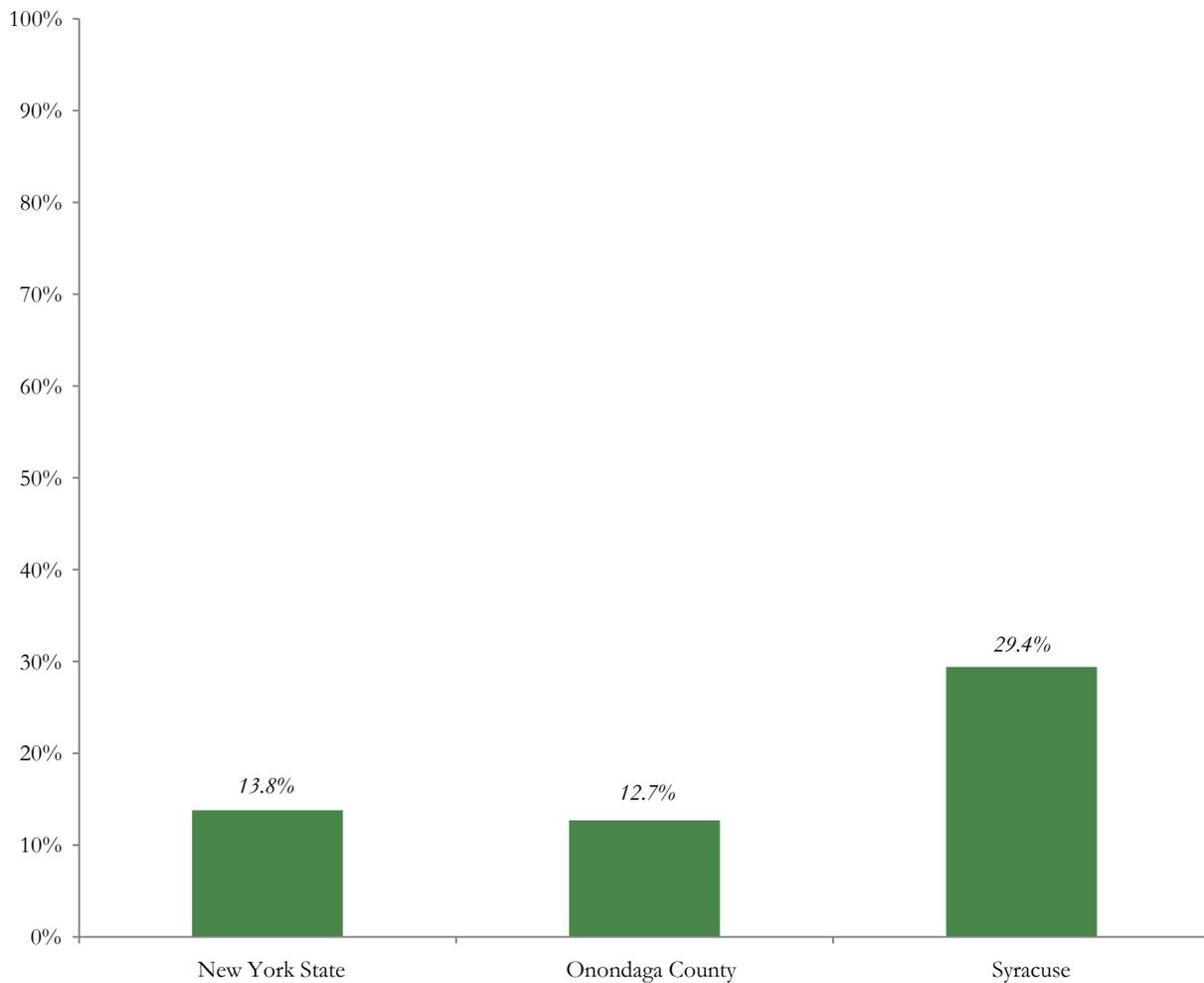
Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-2008 est.

Race & Ethnicity

In the US Census, a respondent is asked to self-identify with a racial and/or ethnic group. Ethnicity relates to an individual's association with a particular culture or heritage. The US Census identifies only two categories of ethnicity: those who are Hispanic or Latino, and those who are not. Being Hispanic or Latino is not indicative of belonging to a particular race because the government differentiates between race and Hispanic origin. Although identified as two separate concepts, census data reports race and ethnicity within the same data tables as reflected to the right.

Comment: All percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth. Percentages were not available for 2000 Syracuse MSA data.

Onondaga County	2000	2006-08e
White	84.8%	83.7%
Black or African American	9.4%	9.9%
Hispanic or Latino	2.4%	3.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.9%	0.7%
Asian	2.1%	2.5%
Native Hawaiian	0.0%	0.1%
Some other race	0.9%	0.6%
Two or more races	2.0%	2.5%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 & 2006-2008 est.

Syracuse MSA	2006-08e
White	61.0%
Black or African American	27.5%
Hispanic or Latino	6.2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	10.0%
Asian	4.2%
Native Hawaiian	0.1%
Some other race	1.0%
Two or more races	5.1%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-2008 est.

Median Household Income

According to the US Census Bureau, median household income represents the annual income of all household members aged 15 and older. The median household income is an important indicator because it helps show income differences between geographic areas while not being susceptible to extremes.
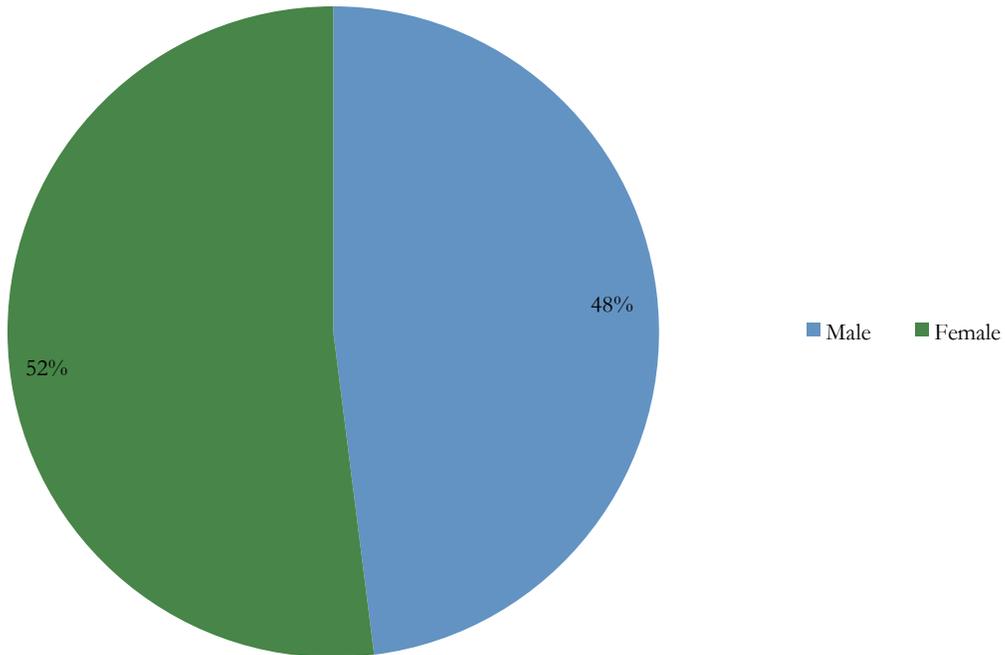
2006 - 08 Median Household Income

Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-2008 est.
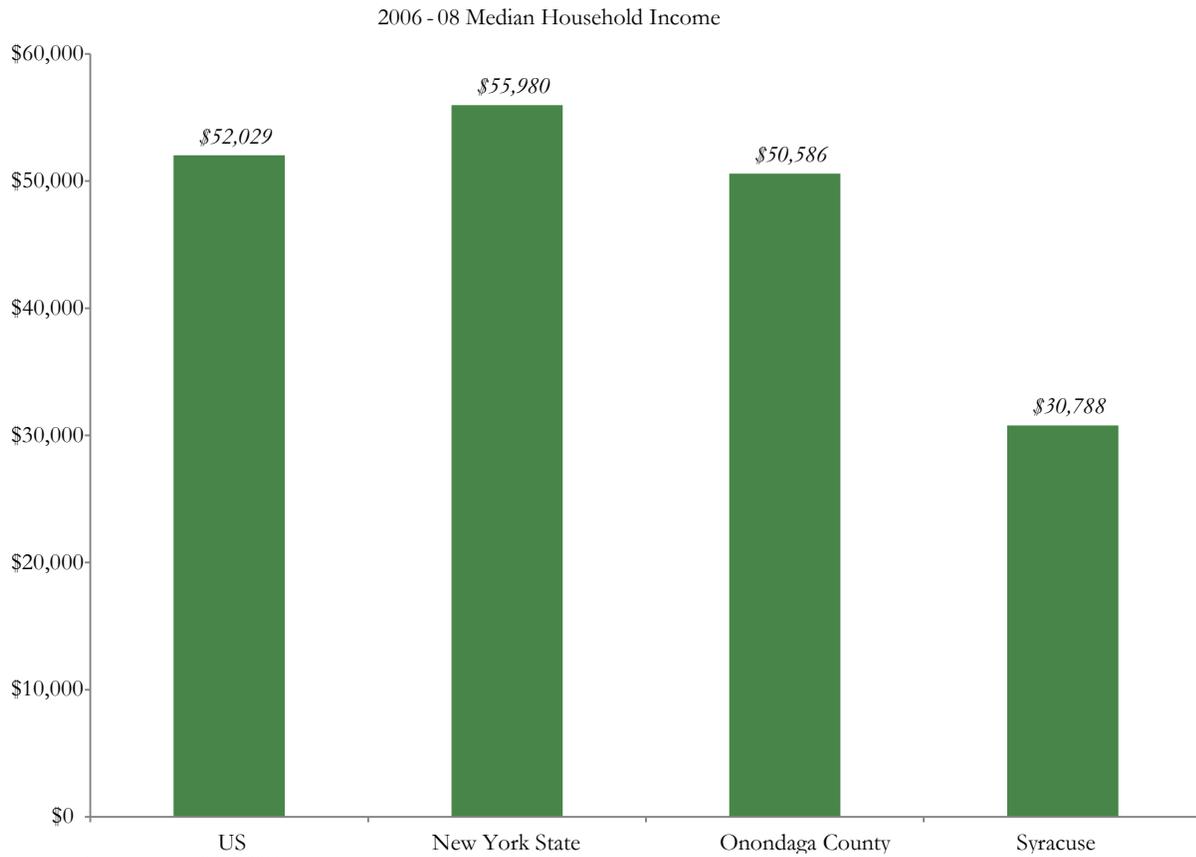
Gender

2006-08e	Male	Female
New York State	49%	52%
Syracuse MSA	49%	52%
Onondaga County	48%	52%
City of Syracuse	48%	52%

Source: US Census Bureau

Comment: All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

2006 - 08e Onondaga County Gender Breakdown

48%

52%

■ Male   ■ Female

Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-2008 est.

Age

Little change can be seen in the age distribution during this time period.

Syracuse MSA

Age in Years	2000	2006-08e
Under 5	6.3%	5.7%
18 and over	74.2%	77.2%
65 and over	13.3%	13.3%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 & 2006-2008 est.

Onondaga County

Age in Years	2000	2006-08e
Under 5	6.5%	6.0%
18 and over	74.2%	73.5%
65 and over	13.8%	17.2%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 & 2006-2008 est.

Marital Status

The US Census asks adults 15 years and older to define their marital status according to one of the following categories: never married, married, separated, widowed, or divorced. The US Census Bureau lists marital status by sex.

2000

	New York State	Onondaga County	Syracuse MSA
Male, Never Married	35%	33%	32%
Male, Married except Separated	53%	54%	55%
Male, Separated	3%	2%	3%
Male, Widowed	3%	3%	3%
Male, Divorced	7%	7%	8%
Female, Never Married	29%	28%	27%
Female, Married except Separated	47%	48%	50%
Female, Separated	4%	3%	3%
Female, Widowed	11%	11%	11%
Female, Divorced	9%	10%	10%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000

	New York State	Onondaga County	Syracuse MSA
Male, Never Married	39%	37%	37%
Male, Married except Separated	49%	50%	50%
Male, Separated	2%	2%	2%
Male, Widowed	3%	3%	3%
Male, Divorced	7%	8%	9%
Female, Never Married	33%	32%	31%
Female, Married except Separated	43%	44%	45%
Female, Separated	4%	2%	3%
Female, Widowed	10%	10%	10%
Female, Divorced	10%	11%	11%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-2008 est.

Aging

Onondaga County is a location that should attract young families and new investment, and viewed as a place that is comfortable for its long-time residents. Senior citizens should value their community as continuing to offer them a high quality of life after retirement.

After working in and contributing to a region for much of their lives the aging want certain amenities upon retirement or when they are no longer physically capable of working. If they are living in poverty, having proper housing or health care is important to their well-being and quality of life.

Seniors living in Onondaga County are faring well in various areas. There is an abundance of housing options and many nursing home beds are available for those who need them. There are also programs such as the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage in place to help seniors pay for medication.
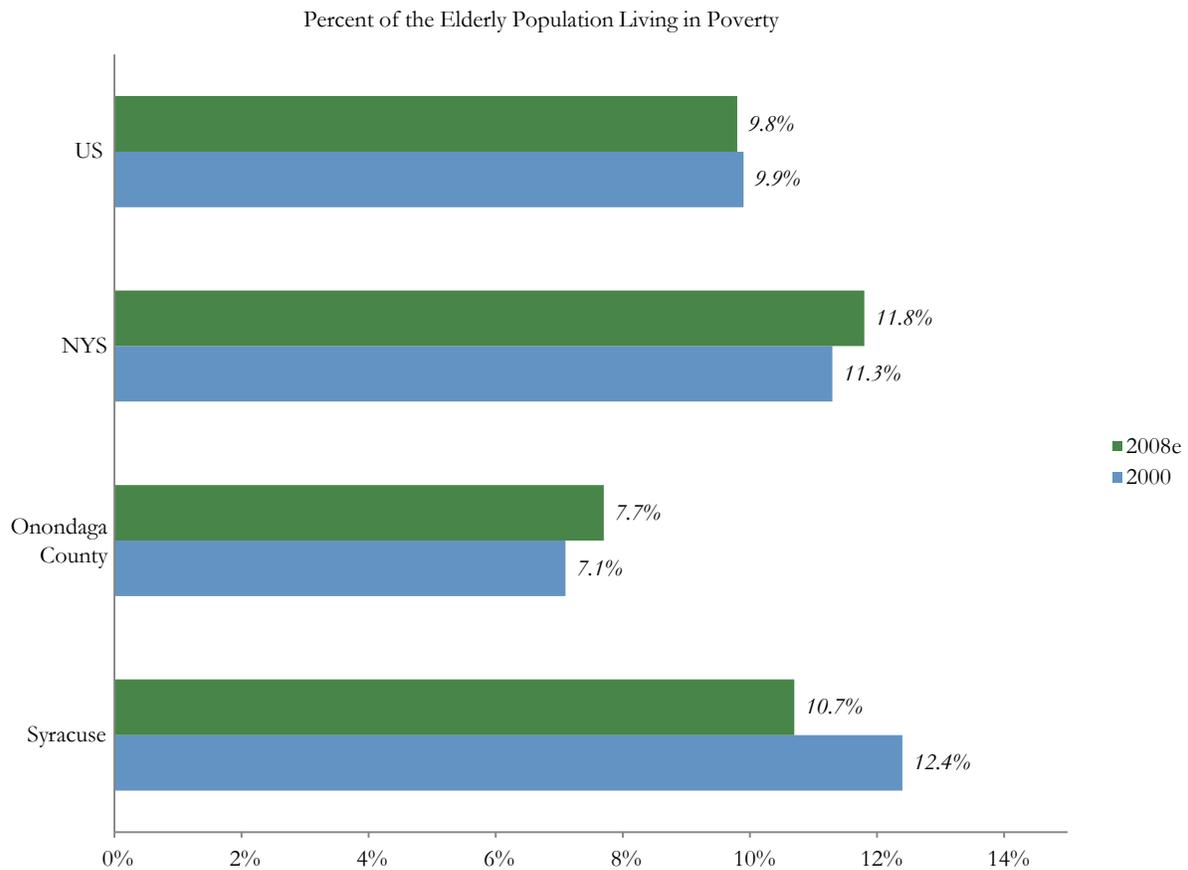
Along with the positive, Onondaga County is faring poorly in some areas. The death rate in Onondaga County is higher than in New York State or the US and seniors in the city of Syracuse are more likely to have disabilities than those throughout the state.

65+ in Poverty

The US Census identifies the percentage of individuals 65 and over who are poor, according to Directive 14 of the Office of Management and Budget. When the total income for an individual falls below the poverty threshold, the person is classified as being "below the poverty level."

Comment: This graph is not to 100% to preserve the visible trends displayed.

While the national poverty rate for seniors has remained steady over the past eight years, New York State and Onondaga County have shown increases since 2000. By contrast, the percentage of seniors living in poverty in the city of Syracuse is decreasing, yet it still remains higher than the national rate and significantly higher than the county.

Percent of the Elderly Population Living in Poverty

- US: 9.8% (2008e), 9.9% (2000)
- NYS: 11.8% (2008e), 11.3% (2000)
- Onondaga County: 7.7% (2008e), 7.1% (2000)
- Syracuse: 10.7% (2008e), 12.4% (2000)

Legend: ■ 2008e ■ 2000

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 & 2005-08 est.

65+ with a Disability

An individual is considered disabled if they have difficulties in one or more of four basic areas of functioning: vision, hearing, ambulation (the ability to walk) and cognition.

The city of Syracuse has a higher percentage of seniors with disabilities than the national average. These higher numbers may have to do with the various factors that link urban poverty with health problems. On the other hand, Onondaga County has a significantly lower percentage than both New York State and the United States.

Seniors (65+) with a Disability

	2007e	2000
US	41%	42%
NYS	39%	40%
Onondaga County	35%	37%
Syracuse	42%	43%
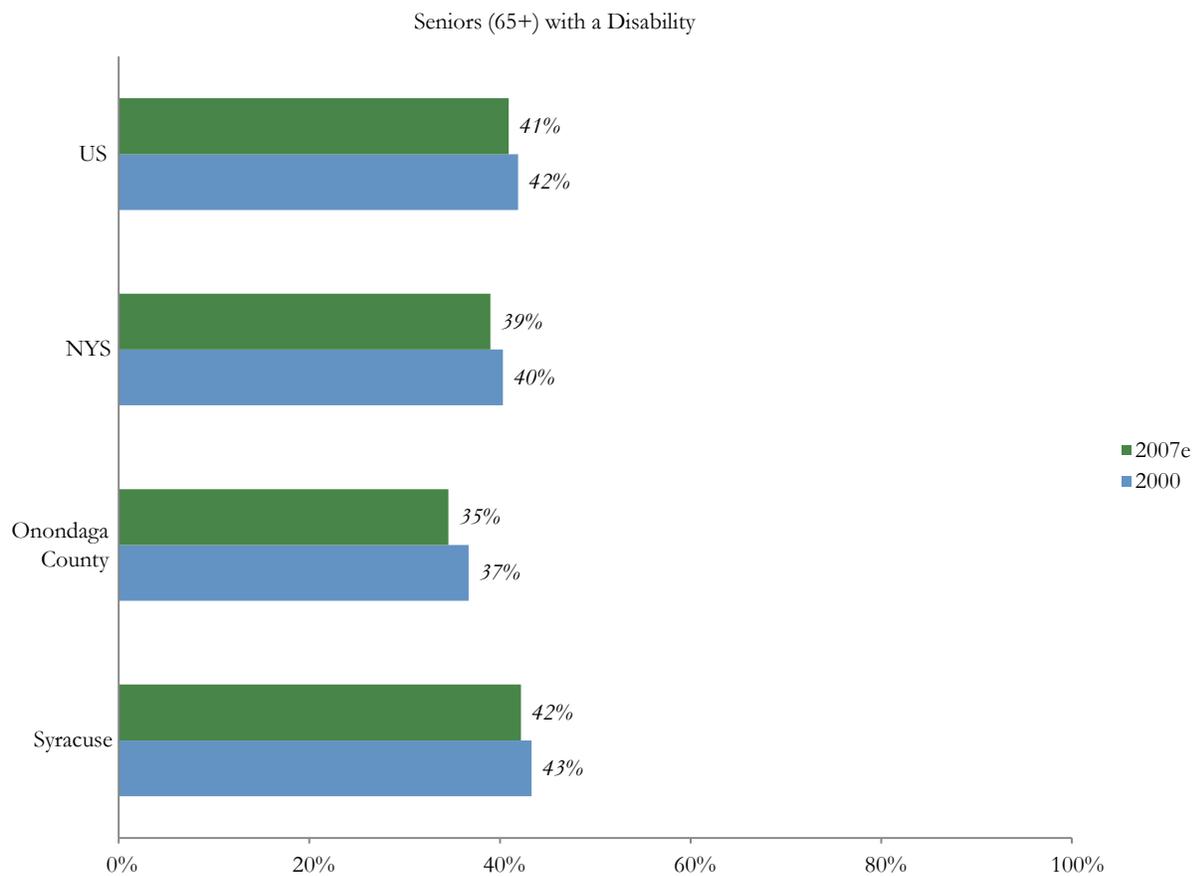
Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 & 2006-08 est.

Senior Housing Options

There are seven different housing options for seniors in Onondaga and Syracuse. They are as follows:

Independent Living: Apartments that generally have income requirements and can be mixed-ages.

Adult homes: For adults of all ages and are licensed by New York State. They provide residential/personal care with meals and supervision to five or more adults.

Family type homes: Similar to adult homes, but for four or fewer adults. They are certified by Onondaga County and operated by homeowners.

Enriched Housing Program: Five or more adults in community integrated settings resembling independent apartments.

Assisted Living Program: Certified by the New York Department of Health (NYSDOH). They are similar to enriched living programs, but help with some medical needs.

Retirement Communities: These are independent living communities that offer social activities, security and transportation.

Nursing Homes: These are licensed and regulated by NYSDOH and provide skilled nursing services.

**Senior Housing Options in Syracuse and Onondaga County, 2007**

	City of Syracuse	Onondaga County
Senior-Friendly Independent Living	34	86
Adult Homes	6	12
Family Type Homes	2	3
Enriched Housing	5	11
Assisted Living Programs	3	4
Retirement Communities	2	9
Nursing Homes	8	14

Source: Onondaga County Department of Youth and Aging, 2007

Nursing Home Beds

The number of nursing home beds refers to the number of beds available seniors in facilities licensed and regulated by NYSDOH.

The availability of nursing home beds is very high in Syracuse, with over three times the number of beds per 1,000 seniors than in the United States, New York State and Onondaga County.

Nursing Home Beds for Seniors , 2008

Beds per 1,000 residents
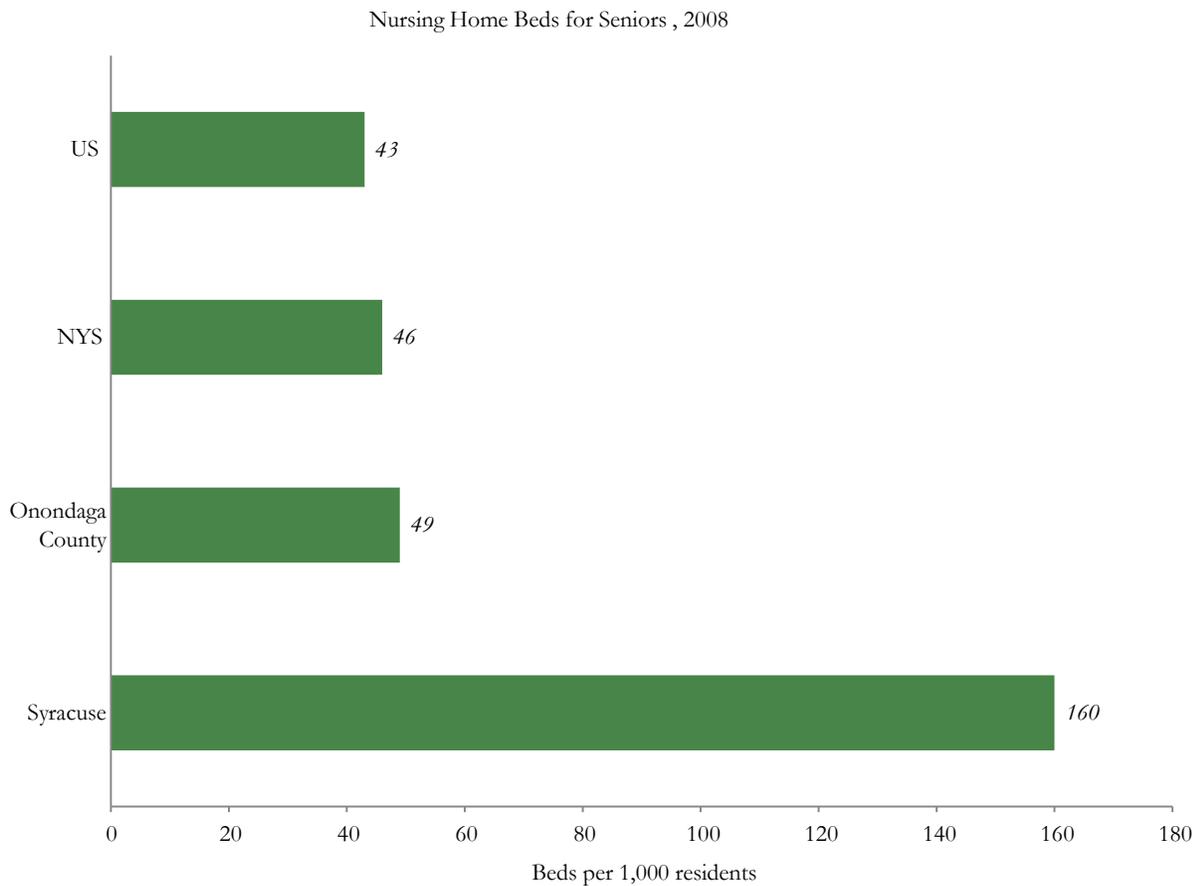
Source: Statehealthfacts.org and US Census Bureau, 200-08 est.

Medicare Enrollees

The Medicare program provides health insurance for people 65 years and older. It is divided into two parts: Hospital Insurance (HI) or Part A and Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI) or Part B. Seniors are eligible for Medicare if they are eligible for, or currently receiving Social Security.

Aged Medicare Enrollees with HI and/or SMI

	Onondaga County	**New York State**	**USA**
2004	58,518	2,359,435	35,407,060
2005	60,631	233,513	35,817,558
2006	61,710	2,358,995	36,316,768
2007	62,160	n/a	36,843,251

Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, 2004-2007

Medicare Enrollees
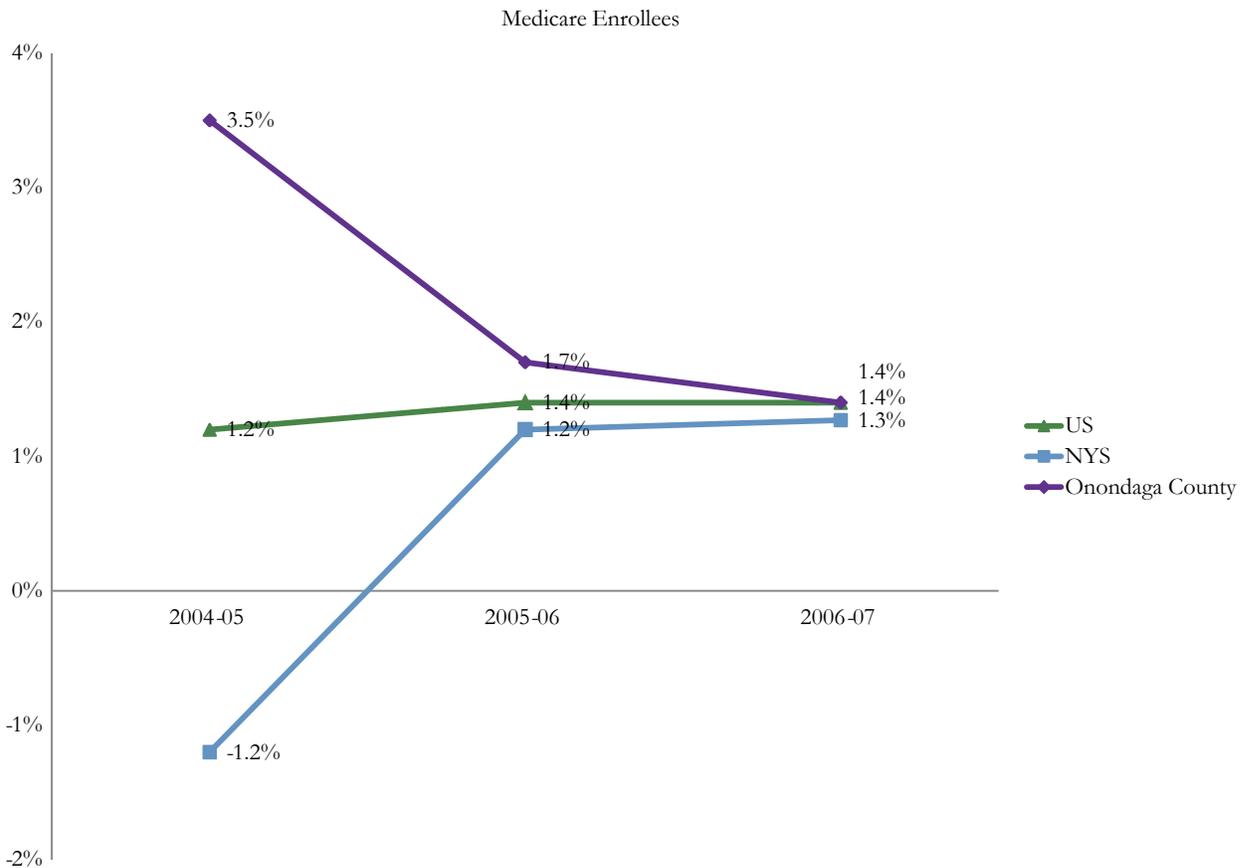
Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, 2004-2007

EPIC Enrollment

The New York State Department of Health, Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) is a program that helps seniors pay for their prescription drugs. Most of the enrollees in the program have Medicare Part D or other drug coverage and EPIC lowers their drug costs even more by assisting them in paying for deductibles and co-payments required by other drug plans. It also helps members pay for Medicare Part D premiums.
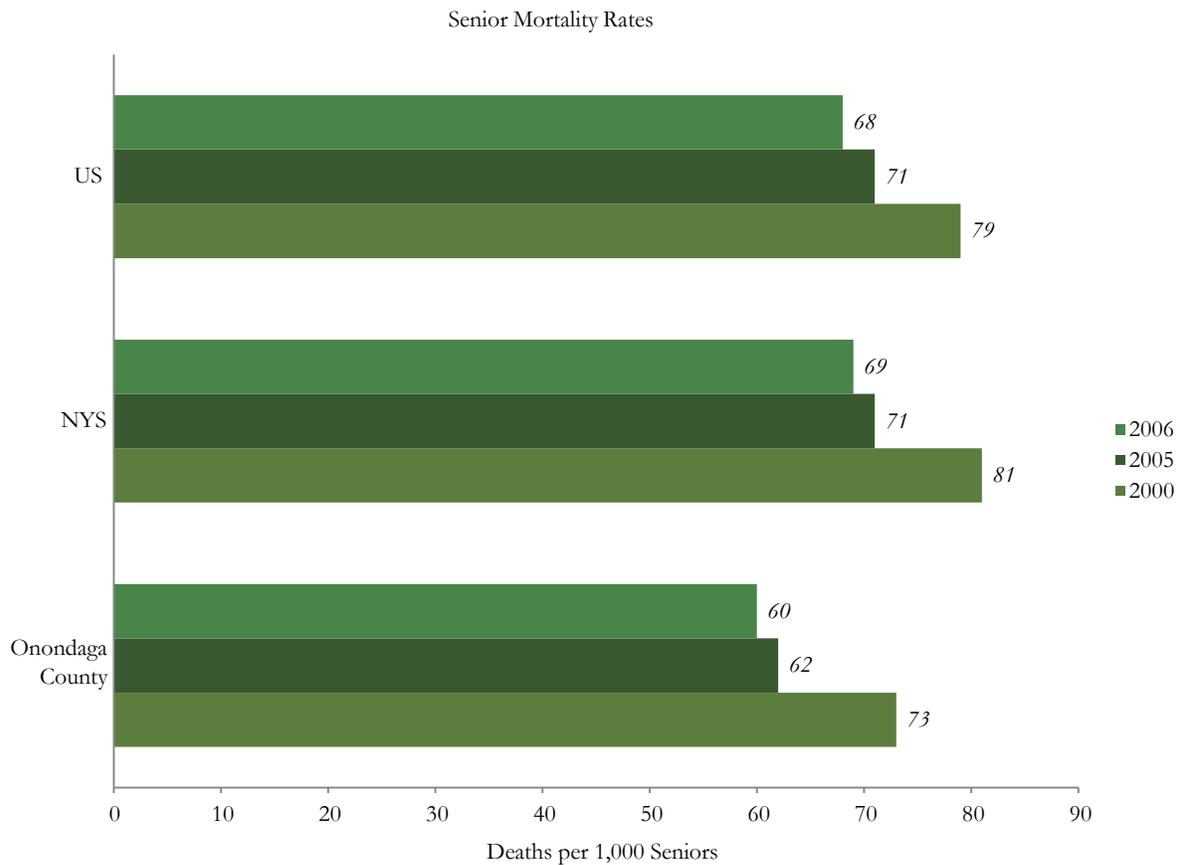
Enrollment increased in Onondaga County from 2000 to 2006, but has been decreasing since then.

EPIC Enrollment
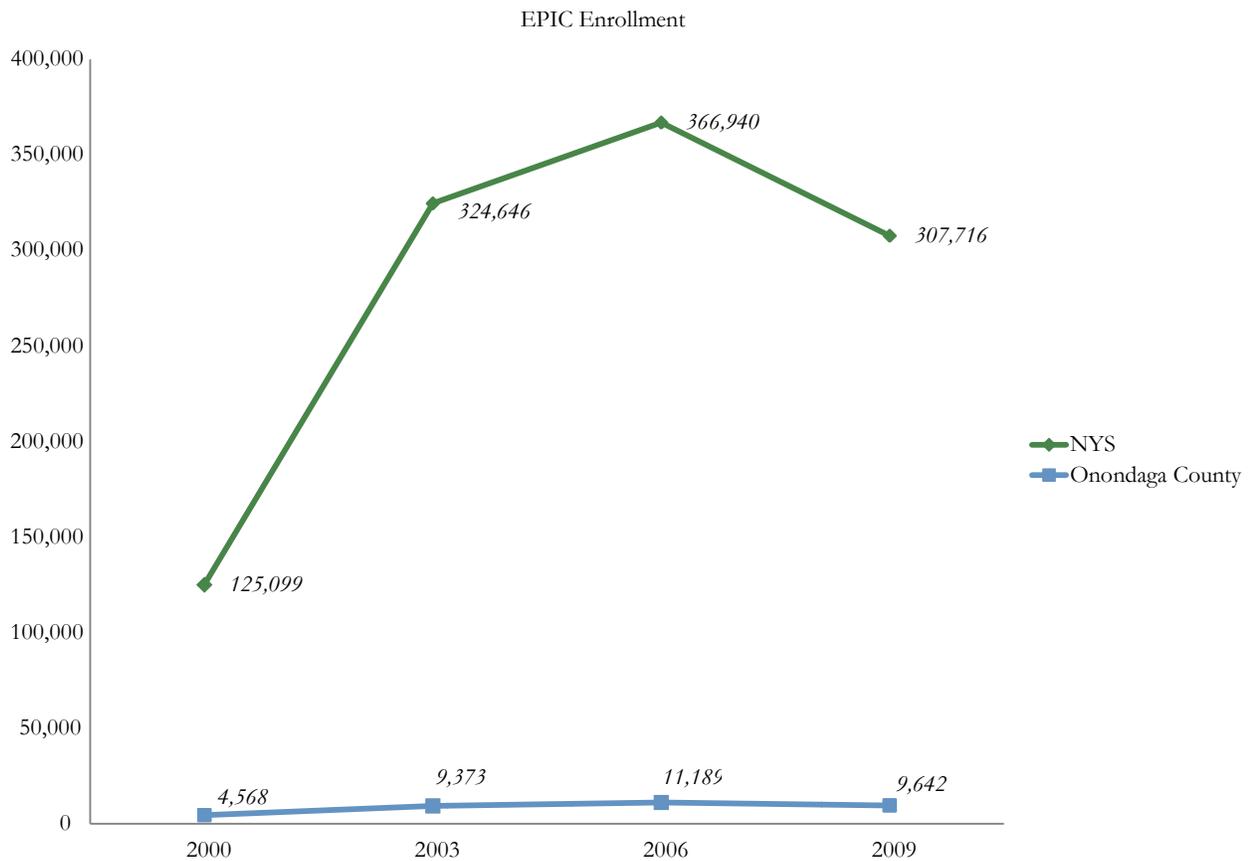
Source: NYS Dept. of Health, EPIC Program

Elderly Mortality

Death rates in the United States and
Onondaga County have dropped for seniors,
aged 65 and over.

Senior Mortality Rates

	2006	2005	2000
US	68	71	79
NYS	69	71	81
Onondaga County	60	62	73

Deaths per 1,000 Seniors

Source: New York State Department of Health, Death Statistics (New York) and The Centers for Disease; Control National Vital Statistics Report (US)

Community Spotlight:
Loretto Skilled Nursing Facilities

Loretto is a nonprofit organization committed to the mission of improving the quality of life of the elderly in Central New York through inclusive community involvement and a patient-centered approach. Initially organized by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse in 1926, Loretto became the first diocesan home for the aged in North America. In 1976, Loretto was reorganized as a community-based organization in order to serve a wider geographical area. It is now run by a board of volunteer trustees from the community and is composed of roughly 2,300 full- and part-time staff. Loretto is the largest elderly care provider in Upstate New York, serving an average of 4,000 individuals every year through its 22 programs at 17 sites in CNY. There are five main categories of Loretto programs: Home and Community Based Care, Senior Living Operations, Rehabilitation, Skilled Nursing, and Specialized Programs (including Alzheimer's care). Specific services include, but are not limited to, Medical Day Programs, a Health Support Lifeline, dental and podiatry care at McAuliffe Health Center, and a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). Living operations range from independent living to enriched housing to assisted living at nine sites.

The most recent set of health care challenges have been a source of worry and frustration for many CNY residents, especially the elderly. But, Loretto has successfully responded to those challenges and served more than 6,000 residents in 2008. Loretto's latest project will be the construction of a community of Green House residences located in Cicero. The Green House model includes replacing traditional nursing home facilities with small, home-like environments housing an average of ten residents. Focusing on the quality of resident life, Green Houses feature patios, gardens, private rooms and bathrooms, and open kitchens. This model of elder care is taking hold across the nation. There are only four Green Houses in New York, but Loretto received $12 million as part of a HEAL NY grant in 2009 from New York. Loretto received $12 million as part of a Health Care Efficiency and Affordability (HEAL NY) state grant in 2009 to construct 13 of these homes and to renovate existing facilities.

Source: loretto-cny.org

Culture & Recreation

Arts and cultural activities are important indicators of a community's quality of life, encouraging tourism and fostering economic growth. Onondaga County boasts numerous art galleries, festivals, museums, theaters and a zoo.

Syracuse has the artistic and cultural luxuries of a much larger city. The Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, the Everson Museum of Art, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo and the Great New York State Fair bring in patrons from around New York State and the country. The following pages include some of the many arts and cultural activities available.

Onondaga County also provides many recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Professional sports teams, including the Syracuse Chiefs, Syracuse Crunch and the local collegiate teams, bringing exciting competitive entertainment to the area. Attendance at sporting events at Syracuse University, the Chiefs, and the Crunch reached 1.4 million in 2009 alone.

The many parks in Onondaga County provide opportunities for camping, miles of trails for hiking, winter and water sports. All these options allow people in Onondaga County to be active year-round. The following lists some of the sport facilities and information about the area's parks.

Art Galleries

There are many diverse art galleries in Onondaga County, highlighting work from a range of local and international artists. For example, the Community Folk Art Center, Inc. collects, exhibits and interprets the arts. The center's public programming includes exhibitions, film screenings, lectures, workshops and courses. Punto de Contacto/Point of Contact, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to publishing, producing and documenting international scale projects in contemporary verbal and visual arts.

Art galleries in Onondaga County include: Armory Art Associates, ArtRage, The Norton Putter Gallery, Caldwell Gallery, Clayscapes Pottery Inc., Company Gallery, Contemporary Gallery, Dobb's Glassworks, Edgewood Galleries, Eureka Crafts, Everson Museum of Art, Gallery One Fourteen Art & Framing, Genet Gallery, Gernhardt Gallery, Joan Lukas Rothenberg Art Gallery, John D. Barrow Art Gallery, Light Work, Limestone Art & Framing Gallery, Long Lake Gallery, Lowery Art Gallery, Lucas Gallery, Museum of Young Art, Oneida Lake Artisans & Brick House Café, Orange Line Gallery, Redhouse Arts Center, Robert B. Menschel Media Center, Skaneateles Artisans, Snake Oil Glassworks, Spark Contemporary Art Space, Stone Harp Studios, SUArt Galleries, Tav-Designs Art Gallery, The Warehouse Gallery, Westcott Community Center, Wilson Art Gallery.

Festivals

Onondaga County welcomes many festivals throughout the year. The Skaneateles Festival provides world-class music on the shores of Skaneateles Lake each summer. The Syracuse International Film Festival presents contemporary, international film for special events. The annual festival culminates by airing films throughout the community for four days. In 2009, the festival was attended by 4,804 people. The Syracuse Jazz Fest is the largest of its kind in the Northeast, providing free entertainment from world-renown musicians, such as Natalie Cole, Kenny G, Chaka Khan and Aretha Franklin. The Great New York State Fair brings hundreds of thousands of visitors to the area each summer. The fair highlights local vendors and farming, while bringing in carnival games, rides and entertainment for all ages.

Additional festivals in Onondaga County include: Bavarian Fest, CNY Pride Parade Festival, CNY Scottish Games & Celtic Festival, Empire Brewfest, Jewish Music and Cultural Festival, Middle Eastern Cultural Festival, Native American Dance Festival, NYS Blues Festival, Empire Brewfest, Syracuse Arts & Crafts Festival, Taste of Syracuse.

Zoo

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is ranked among the top 10% of zoos nationwide and is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The zoo is situated on 43 acres of land and is home to more than 900 animals including Asian elephants, Humboldt penguins and Amur tigers. The zoo welcomed 343,645 visitors in 2009.

Museums

The museums in Onondaga County emphasize the cultural, historical and scientific ties to the area. The Erie Canal Museum is located in the 1850 Syracuse Weighlock Building, which is on the National Historic Register and is chartered by the New York State Education Department. Over 25,000 people visit the museum each year. The Everson Museum of Art, an international landmark and the first museum designed by I.M. Pei, features acclaimed collections of ceramics and American art. In 2009, the museum welcomed 80,000 visitors, many of whom came to view the acclaimed Turner to Cezanne exhibit of nationally acclaimed Impressionist masterpieces from the 19th and 20th centuries. The Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science and Technology (MOST) has New York State's only IMAX-Dome theater. The MOST provides a range of hands-on experience for all ages, with over 200 exhibits and displays. The Onondaga Historical Association Museum & Research Center (OHA) is Onondaga County's only comprehensive, general history museum. It houses over 200 years of local history in exhibit galleries, a research library and a museum store. In 2009, 15,811 people visited the OHA.

Additional museums in Onondaga County include: The Creamery, Skaneateles Historical Society, International Mask and Puppet Museum, Jamesville Community Museum, Liverpool Willow Museum, Manlius Historical Museum, Ner-A-Car Museum of Syracuse, Sainte Marie Among the Iroquois, Shacksboro School House Museum, Stone Arabia Schoolhouse Museum & Block House Museum, Town of Cicero Historical Society, Tully Historical Society Museum, Wilcox Octagon House.

Theater & Music

There are extensive theater and music opportunities in Onondaga County. The CNY Jazz Arts Foundation is the region's primary provider of jazz programming in concert, cabaret, scholastic and festival settings. It operates downtown's Jazz Central Theater, serving an audience of 80,000. The Open Hand Theater, located on the Northside of Syracuse has entertained youth and adult audiences since 1980 through the use of masks, puppets, music, and actors. Parents Promoting Dance at One Village Dance Centre, is a place for the study, creation and performance of dance and drum in Central New York. It is dedicated to nurturing and developing cultural dance traditions and providing space for artists to create new work.

Syracuse City Ballet, formerly Upstate New York Ballet, has brought classical ballet to Central New York since 1997. It welcomed 3,950 patrons in 2009. Syracuse Friends of Chamber Music, presents a seven-concert series of the world's finest chamber music groups. Attendance in 2009 reached 1,925. Syracuse Stage, Central New York's leading nonprofit professional theater, offers a six-play season.

Also under the performing arts are the Landmark Theatre, Syracuse Opera, Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, YMCA of Greater Syracuse Arts Branch

Impact

- Arts and Culture economic impact: $70 million
- Arts and Culture reach: 1.8 million people
- Arts and Culture student reach: 160,000 students
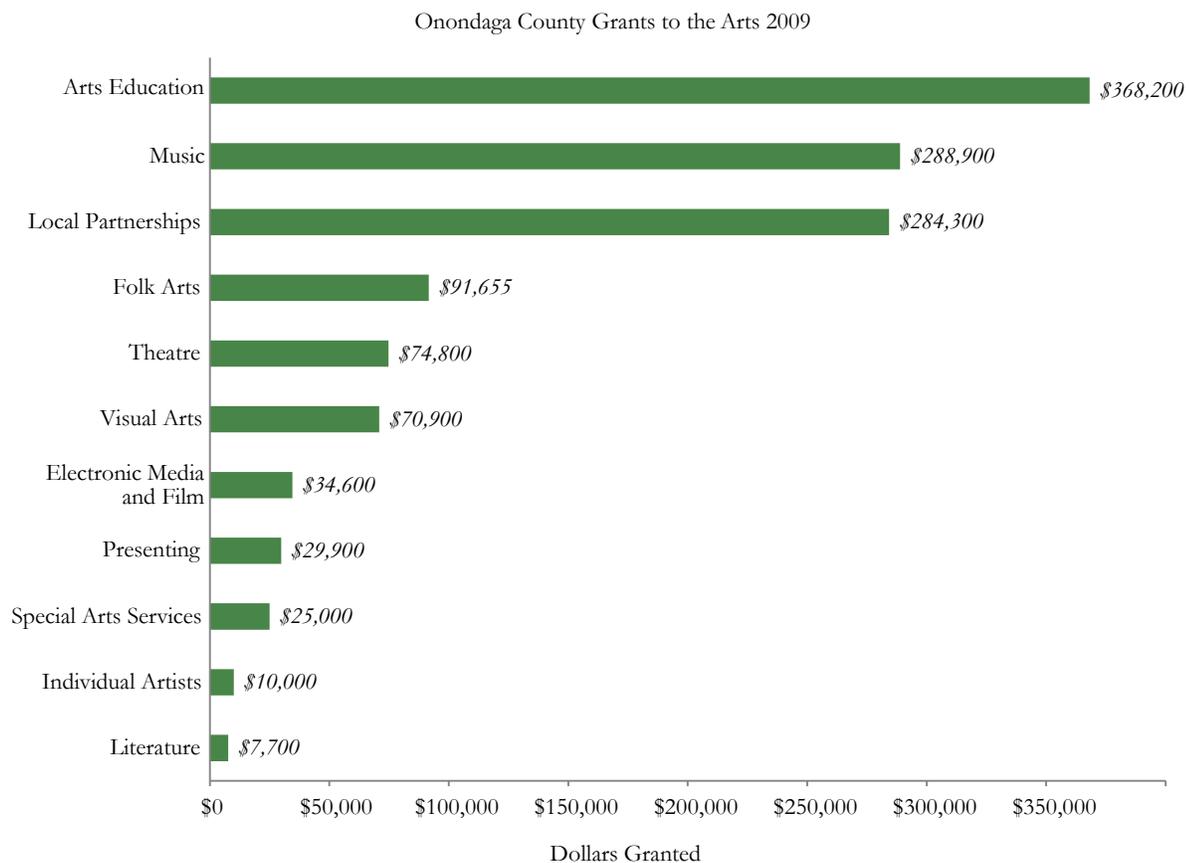- Arts and Culture employment: 1,060 people

Art Grants

Spending on the arts allows an area to build its cultural identity and pride. Art growth has the potential to provide additional tourism and income to an area.

NYS Grant Spending Per 1,000 Residents

Onondaga County	Albany County	NYS
$2,839	$2,134	$2,043
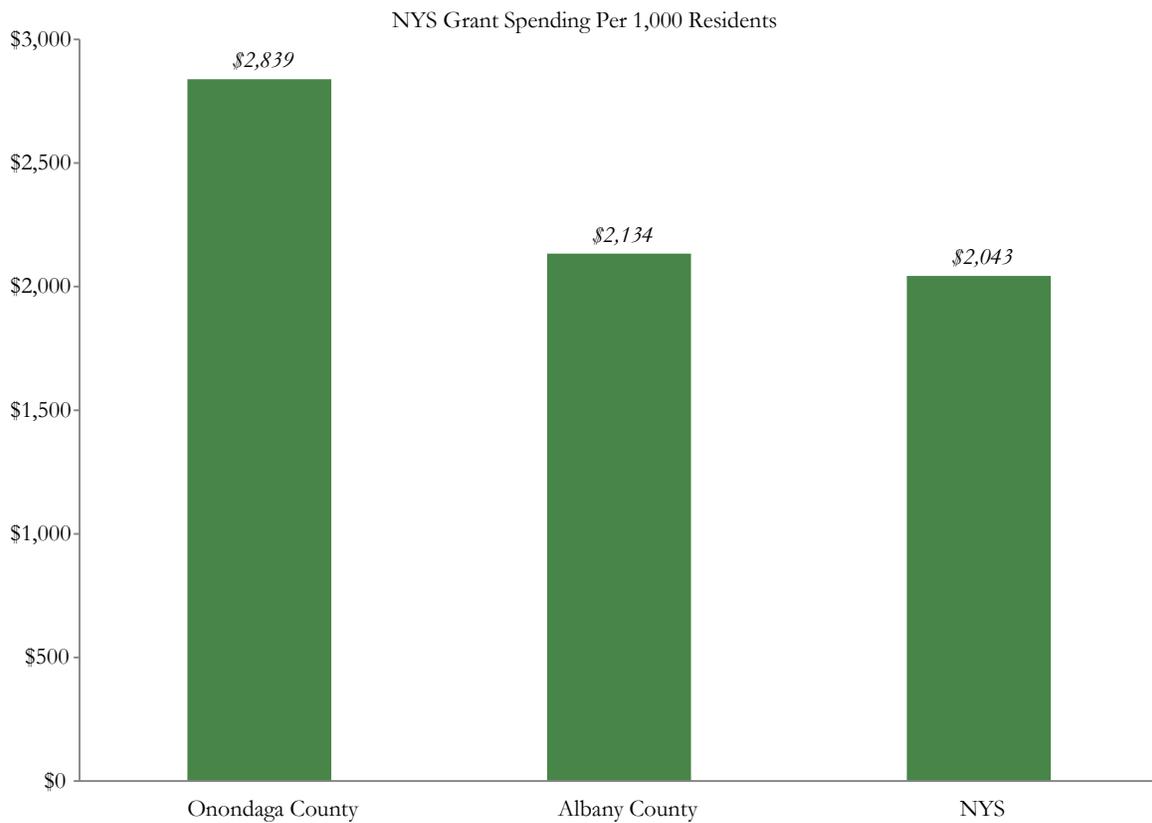
Source: New York State Council on the Arts, 2010, nysca.org

In 2009, Onondaga County provided more arts grants per 1,000 residents than the State of New York. Over $1 million was allocated to music, local partnerships, arts education, and folk arts alone.

Onondaga County Grants to the Arts 2009

Category	Dollars Granted
Arts Education	$368,200
Music	$288,900
Local Partnerships	$284,300
Folk Arts	$91,655
Theatre	$74,800
Visual Arts	$70,900
Electronic Media and Film	$34,600
Presenting	$29,900
Special Arts Services	$25,000
Individual Artists	$10,000
Literature	$7,700

Dollars Granted

Source: New York State Council on the Arts, 2010, nysca.org

Recreation

Hall of Fame
- International Boxing Hall of Fame

Hiking & Recreation
- Baltimore Woods Nature Center
- Green Lakes State Park
- Highland Forest County Park
- Jamesville Beach County Park
- Onondaga Lake Park

Recreation Facilities
- Alliance Bank Stadium, Syracuse Chiefs
- Carrier Dome, Syracuse University Orange
- Syracuse Crunch Hockey
- Tsha'Hon'nonyen'dakhwa (Onondaga Nation Lacrosse Arena)
- Ultimate Goal Family Sports Center

Speedways
- Brewerton International Speedway
- Fulton Speedway
- Oswego Speedway, Inc.

Winter Facilities
- Four Seasons Golf & Ski Center
- Greek Peak Ski Resort
- Labrador Mountain
- Ski Areas of New York
- Song Mountain
- Toggenburg Mountain Winter Sports Center

Source: http://www.visitsyracuse.org/attractions/activity/sports

Onondaga County Parks
- Alliance Bank Stadium
- Beaver Lake Nature Center
- Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery
- Erie Canalway/Jordan Level Trail
- Highland Forest
- Hopkins Road Softball Park
- Jamesville Beach Park
- Oneida Shores Park
- Onondaga Lake Park
- Griffin Visitor Center
- Long Branch Park
- Onondaga Lake Skate Park
- Salt Museum
- Wegmans Good Dog Park
- Willow Bay
- Pratt's Falls Park
- Rosamond Gifford Zoo
- Sainte Marie among the Iroquois
- Spafford Forest

Source: http://onondagacountyparks.com/activities

Park Attendance

The attendance represents the number of people who visited Onondaga County parks from 2006-07. Recreation levels are an indicator of quality of life and can be a reflection on public health. Parks and recreation facilities offer an escape from urban life and provide a place for area residents to be active.

The attendance in Onondaga County Parks since 2006 has stayed consistent, welcoming more than 2.5 million visitors each year.

Onondaga County Annual Park Attendance
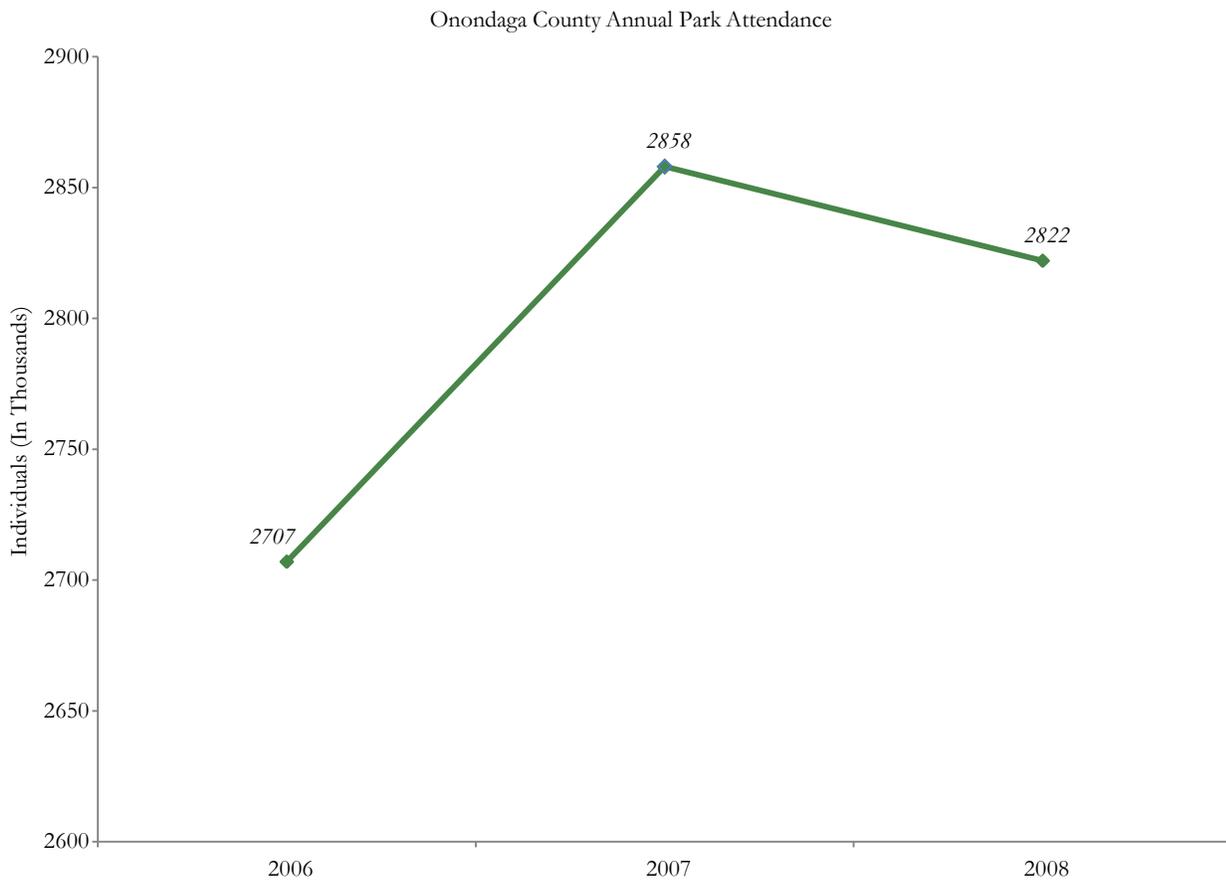
Source: Onondaga County Parks Annual Report, 2006-08

Park Volunteerism

The volunteer hours at the county's parks represents the total number of hours that people volunteered at Onondaga County Parks. It is an indicator of the support of the local community in maintaining and sustaining the area's parks.

Onondaga County Parks' volunteer hours decreased by 9,000 hours from 2007-08.

Comment: The Onondaga County Parks volunteers could work at are Alliance Bank Stadium, Beaver Lake Nature Center, Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery, Erie Canalway/Jordan Level Trail, Highland Forest, Hopkins Road Softball Park, Jamesville Beach Park, Oneida Shores Park, Onondaga Lake Park, Griffin Visitor Center, Long Branch Park, Onondaga Lake Skate Park, Salt Museum, Wegmans Good Dog Park, Willow Bay, Pratt's Falls Park, Rosamond Gifford Zoo, Sainte Marie among the Iroquois and Spafford Forest

Volunteer Hours at Onondaga County Parks
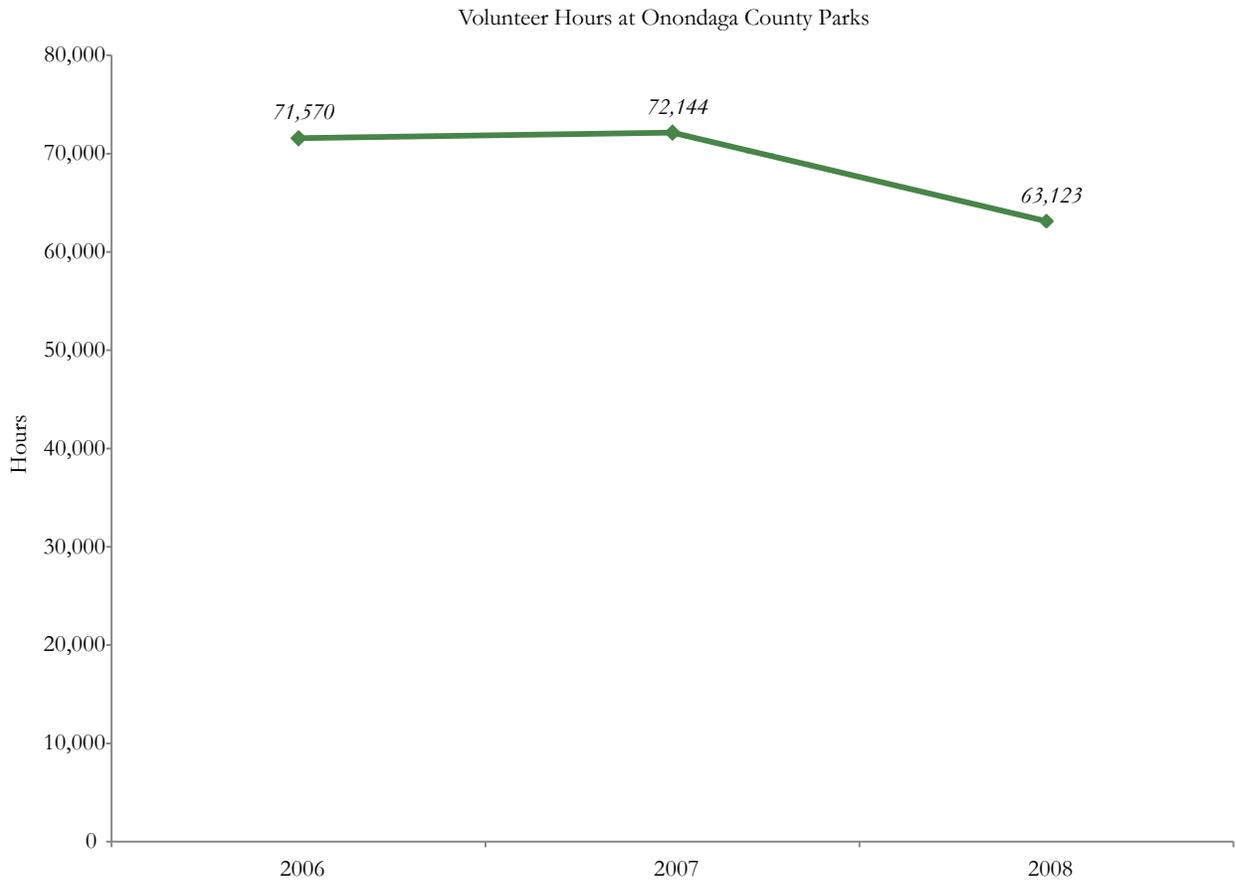
Source: Onondaga County Parks Annual Report, 2006-08

Community Spotlight:
Syracuse Symphony Orchestra

The Syracuse Symphony Orchestra (SSO) has come a long way from its beginnings as a community orchestra. Started in 1961, the Orchestra has grown into a fully professional residential orchestra with internationally acclaimed conductors and a talented group of over 80 musicians. The orchestra has a 39-week season, in which it reaches an audience of over 225,000 people. SSO performs concerts throughout Central and Northern New York, and in other areas such as Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire and Connecticut. Daniel Hege, the current music director, has also led the SSO in their fifth performance at Carnegie Hall. 2010 marks the 50th anniversary of the SSO. To celebrate their long history, the orchestra invited past music directors and conductors and featured new guest artists. The 2010 season is meant to embody the music and spirit of the past, incorporating pieces that have had historical significance to the group. In addition, the SSO will be performing in the M&T Bank Pops Series, the Central New York Community Foundation Family Series, and the Stained Glass Series, each of which will feature local musicians.

The Syracuse Symphony Orchestra is a positive force in the region's arts environment. They are involved in educational youth programs, and they put on free summer parks concerts. The SSO also operates two youth ensembles, the Syracuse Symphony Youth Orchestra and Syracuse Symphony Youth String Orchestra. The nonprofit organization is supported in part by its volunteer organization, the Syracuse Symphony Association and by generous donations from members of our community. For the city's size, it is quite extraordinary that Syracuse can call a symphony orchestra its own. The Syracuse Symphony Orchestra is a source of pride in our community.

Economy

The economy was one of the central issues in the 2008 presidential election. Central New York's economic climate has been particularly dire for many years, according to New York State Assemblyman Brian M. Kolb. The indicators in this section highlight the status of the greater Syracuse area.

Both Onondaga County and the Syracuse MSA saw slight increases in their labor force. While unemployment rates have increased since 2001, the Syracuse MSA has not gone up to the same degree as has New York State and the United States.

Sector employment in the Syracuse MSA has remained largely unchanged since 2001. The manufacturing and information industries showed some of the largest annual declines in employment. The largest increases in employment are in the arts/recreation and administrative/waste industries.

Sales tax revenue in Onondaga County was gradually increasing, but with the onset of the global recession, this revenue has rapidly declined. Debates have begun about the distribution of these dwindling funds with at least two proposals pending before the county legislature that will reduce or eliminate the portion of sales tax revenues that—up until now—has been shared with the towns, villages, and school districts. The result will be that most or all of the proceeds being divided between the county and city governments.

The region's consumer price index experienced an overall downward trend, despite a small increase from 2005 to 2008. This means the cost of living in the region has decreased since 2001 in the aggregate, making the Syracuse MSA a more affordable region.

Labor Force

As defined by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the labor force "is the sum of the employed and the unemployed" in the economy. This figure represents all individuals who are working and who are looking for work in a given geographical area. An increasing labor force may be an indicator of an improving economy, unless unemployment is increasing at the same rate.

Onondaga County and the Syracuse MSA both showed net growth in the region's labor force. Although these annual increases are relatively small, it is a positive sign for the area.

Labor Force
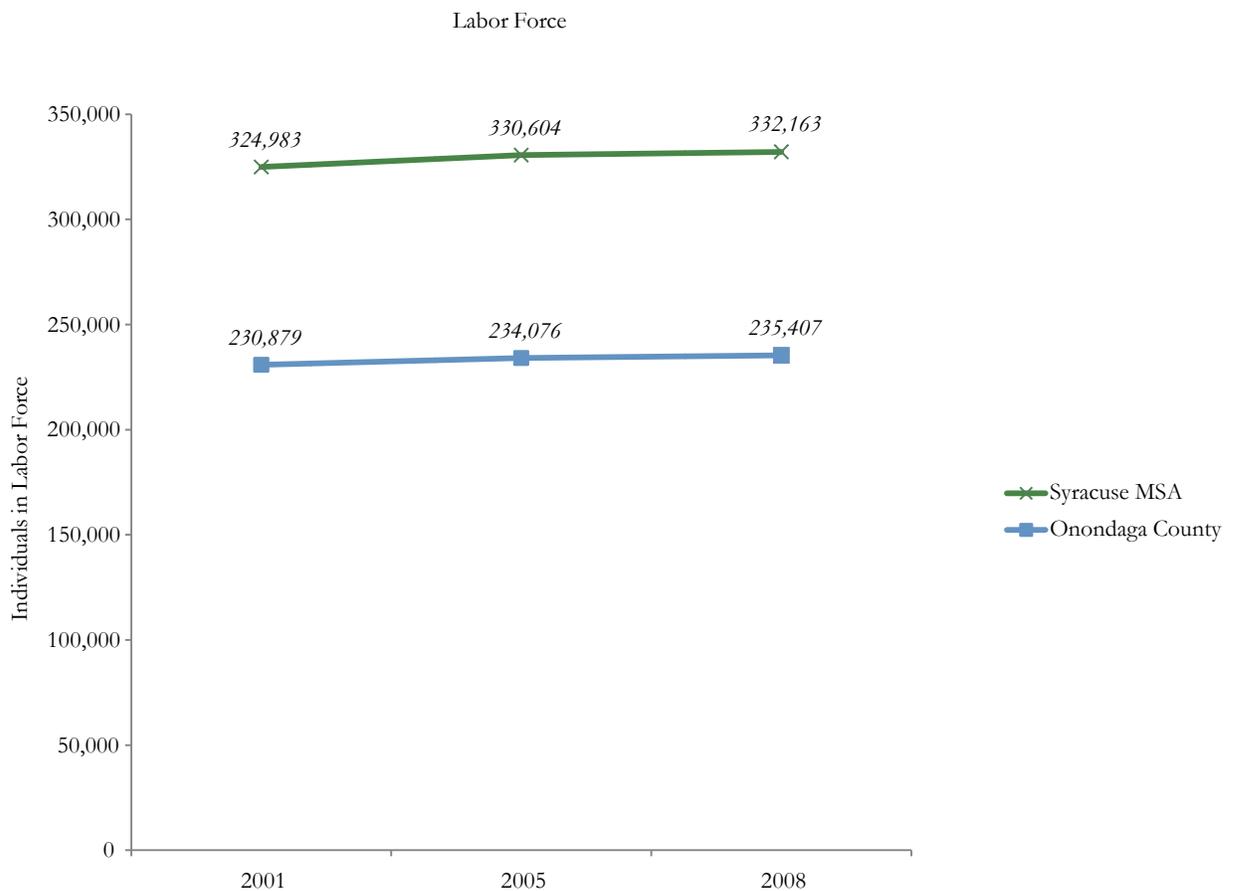
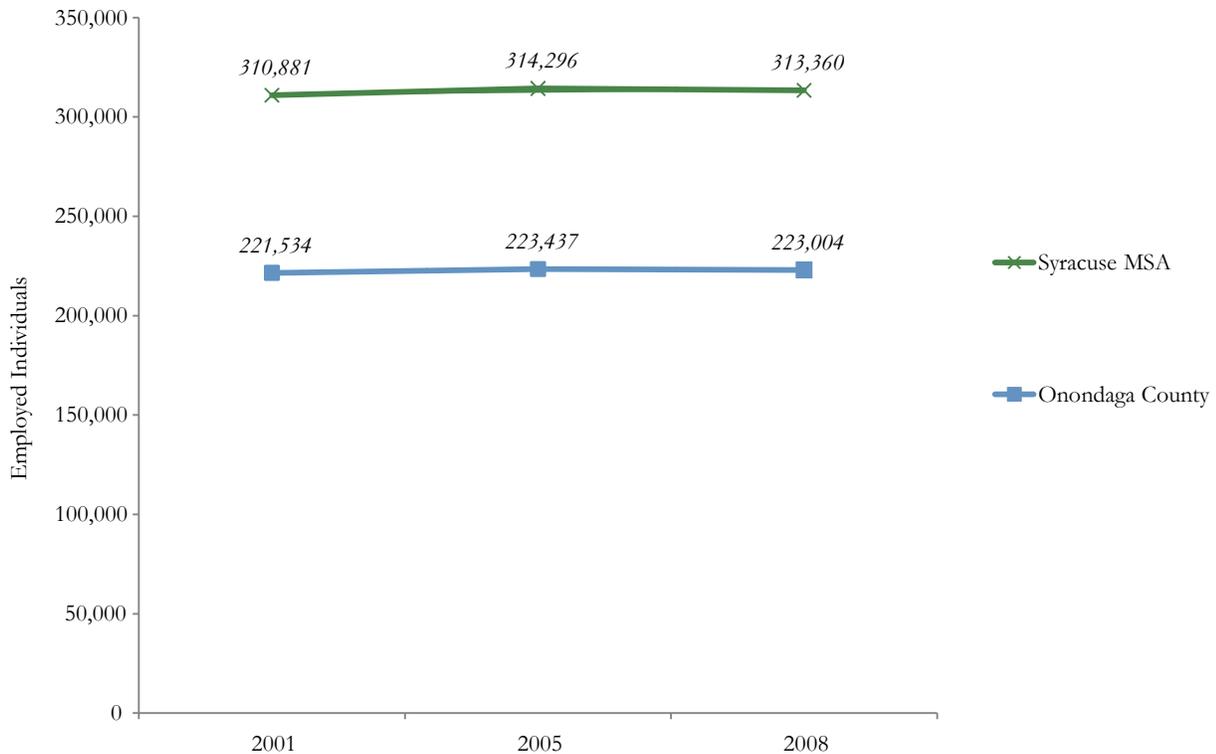*Source: New York State Department of Labor*

Employment

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics defines employment as "those persons who during the reference week did work for at least one hour as paid employees, worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a family member. Those temporarily absent from work but who had jobs or businesses to return to are also counted as employed." The employment level is an important indicator when compared alongside the labor force since the difference represents the unemployed in the geographic area who are looking for jobs. It is important to note that this number may not be indicative of the actual number of jobs in the area since the seasonally employed or those who work in family operations are included.

Total employment in the region has remained relatively constant from 2001 to 2008. While there were decreases, the levels are generally stable.

Employment Levels

Source: New York State Department of Labor

Unemployment Rate

The Bureau of Labor Statistics defines the unemployment rate as the ratio of "the total aggregated unemployed to the labor force." This means that the unemployment rate is the percentage of people in the labor force who do not have jobs and are eligible and still looking for employment. The rate also includes people who have been temporarily laid off.

Comment: National unemployment data were aggregated into an arithmetic mean from data spanning a 12-month period. Please note graph is not drawn to scale.

The Syracuse MSA unemployment rate is lower than New York State and the United States in each of the three years reported. While the 2005 rates are and the 2009 Syracuse MSA rate is almost on par with the state average, the fact that the unemployment rate in Syracuse is lower is a positive reflection of the regional economy. While the 2009 increase can be attributed to the global economic recession, because the Syracuse MSA remains lower than the national average, it suggests that the area did not suffer as much as other regions of the country.
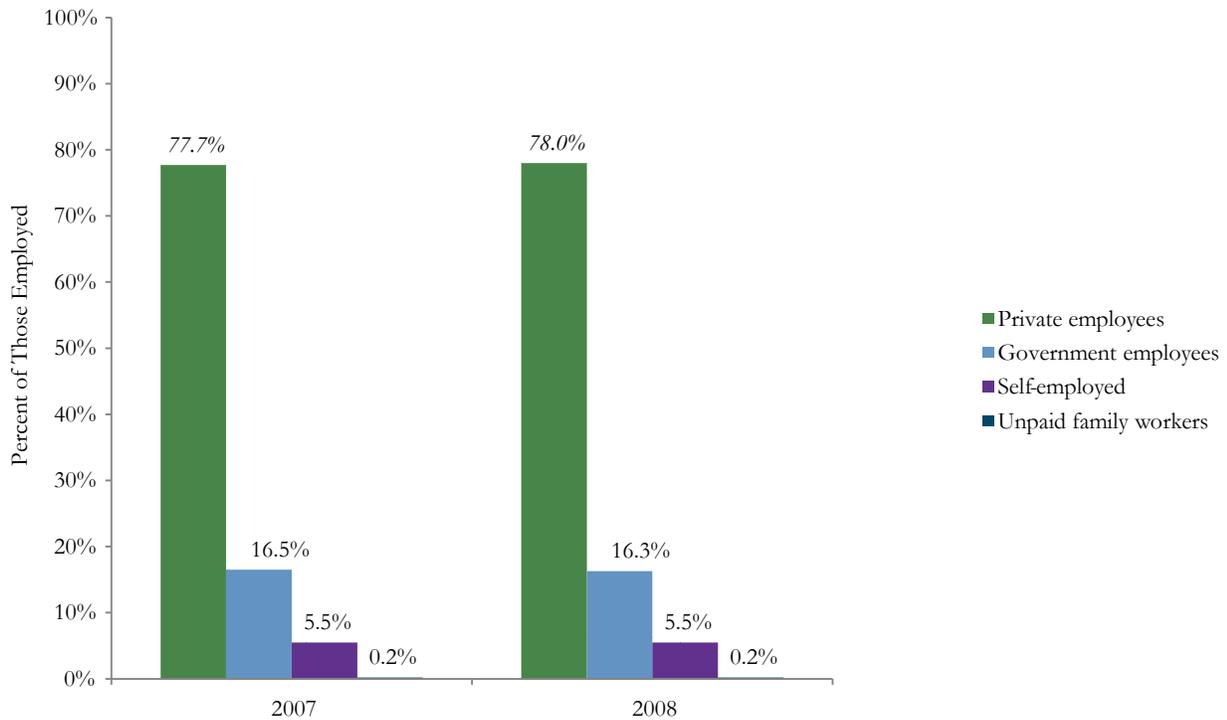
Unemployment Rates
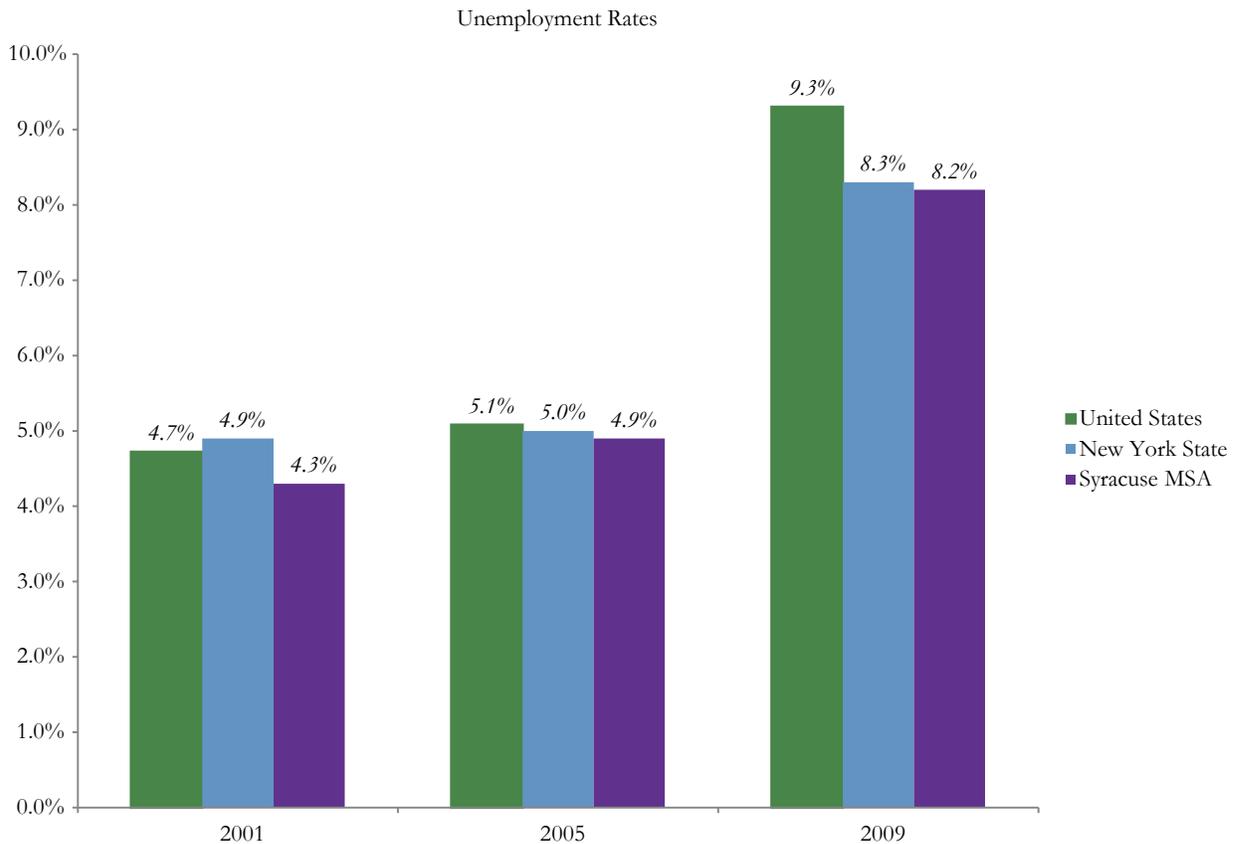
Source: New York State Department of Labor, US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment by Sector

Employment by sector is the division of the labor force into specific categories that illustrate the type of employment.

The Syracuse MSA shows a strong percentage of private employment relative to other sectors.

Syracuse MSA Employment by Sector

Legend:
- Private employees
- Government employees
- Self-employed
- Unpaid family workers

2007: Private employees 77.7%, Government employees 16.5%, Self-employed 5.5%, Unpaid family workers 0.2%

2008: Private employees 78.0%, Government employees 16.3%, Self-employed 5.5%, Unpaid family workers 0.2%

Y-axis: Percent of Those Employed

Source: US Census Bureau: 2005-07 and 2006-08 American Community Survey

Employment by Industry

The following charts show changes in the number of people employed in major industrial categories over time. Each industry is defined according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). This ensures that the classification of businesses is standard across the continent and employment figures are easily comparable over all geographic areas. These data are important because they show where the greatest growth and downsizing has occurred. This information is helpful for government as well as those entering the workforce.

Employment for Construction, Manufacturing and Trade Sectors in Syracuse MSA
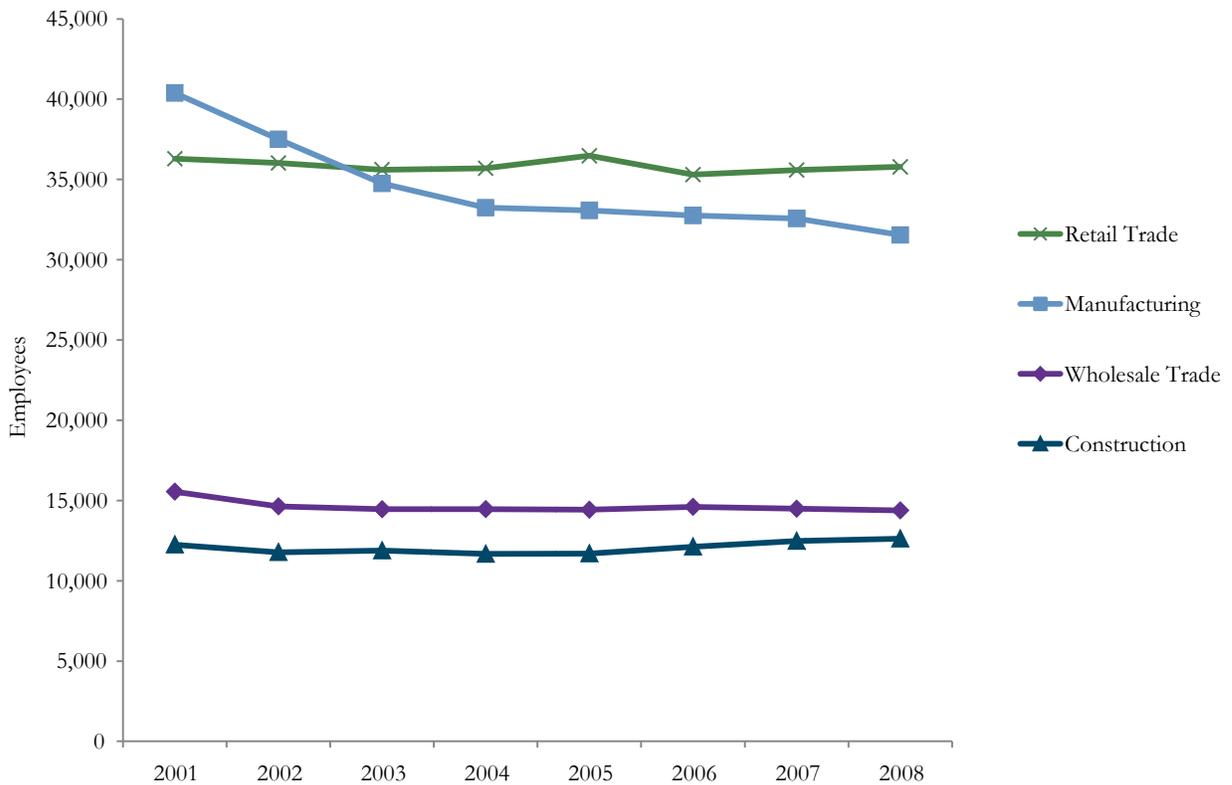
2001-08 Employment Sector Percent Change

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Construction	-3.84%	0.88%	-1.79%	0.24%	3.63%	2.90%	1.17%
Manufacturing	-7.13%	-7.36%	-4.35%	-0.49%	-0.95%	-0.58%	-3.16%
Wholesale Trade	-5.87%	-1.22%	0.05%	-0.26%	1.23%	-0.79%	-0.71%
Retail Trade	-0.73%	-1.17%	0.24%	2.20%	-3.22%	0.81%	0.55%

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Industry employment in the Syracuse MSA has not experienced dramatic changes over the six-year period displayed. The manufacturing industry saw the largest decline, which is a consistent trend across the country as automated machines replace factory workers (Reich, 2009). Some of the biggest average increases were in the arts/entertainment/recreation and administrative/waste industry categories.

Employees for Management, Real Estate, Information and Finance Sectors in the Syracuse MSA
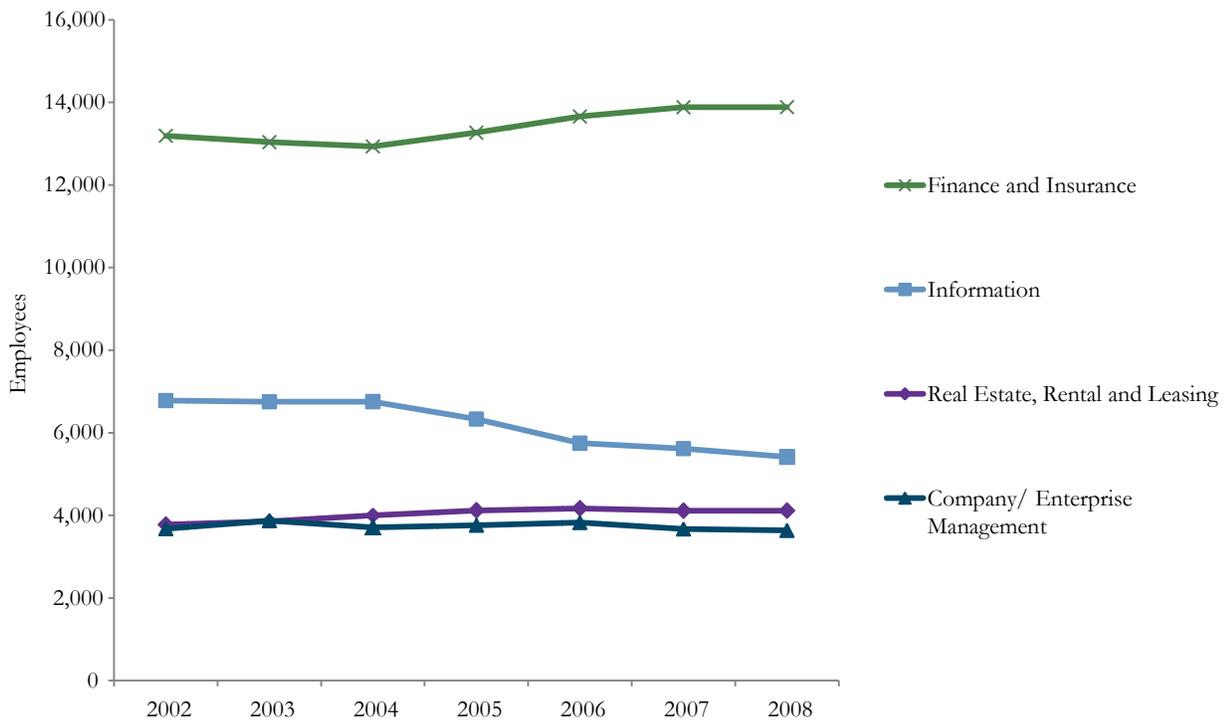
2002-08 Employment Sector Percent Change

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Information	-0.41%	0.03%	-6.25%	-9.22%	-2.26%	-3.59%
Finance	-1.16%	-0.80%	2.58%	2.95%	1.64%	0.01%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	2.12%	3.68%	3.05%	1.21%	-1.41%	0.05%
Company Management	5.30%	-4.21%	1.40%	1.75%	-4.07%	-0.98%

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment by Industry

Employees in the Service Sectors of the Syracuse MSA
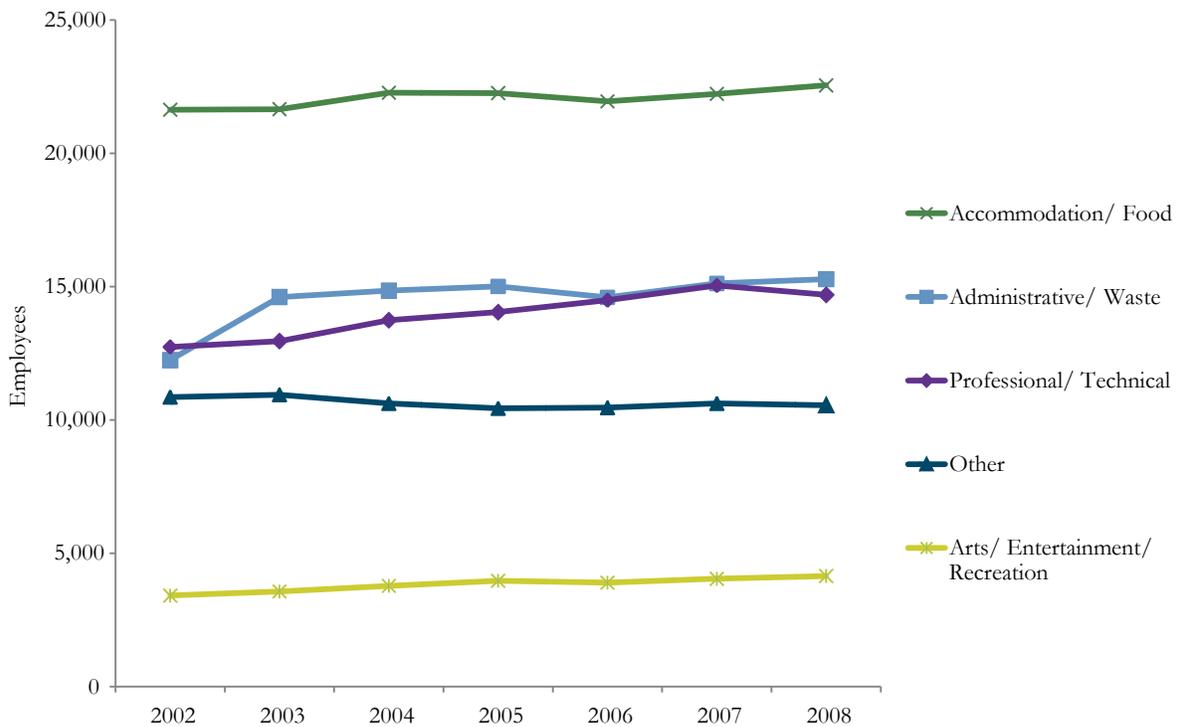
2002-08 Employment Sector Percent Change

|	**2002-03**	**2003-04**	**2004-05**	**2005-06**	**2006-07**	**2007-08**
Profession/Technical	1.74%	6.05%	2.20%	3.20%	3.82%	-2.35%
Administrative/Wasted	19.33%	1.62%	1.08%	-2.74%	3.58%	1.06%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	4.45%	5.86%	5.16%	-1.76%	3.69%	2.55%
Accommodation/Food	0.10%	2.85%	-0.07%	-1.39%	1.29%	1.43%
Other	0.83%	-2.99%	-1.74%	0.24%	1.52%	-0.68%

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

New Business Growth

Business growth in a community is an important indicator of economic health. A net growth in companies with a large number of employees could be indicative of department stores, food outlets or food franchises. Equally as important is the growth among businesses with less than 20 employees. Small business growth and start-ups are often an indicator of the ingenuity that can benefit a local economy.

Since 2001, the Syracuse MSA experienced overall positive gains in new business growth. While there have been years where business have closed, those numbers have been consistently outweighed by increases elsewhere.

Syracuse MSA Net New Business Growth by Size
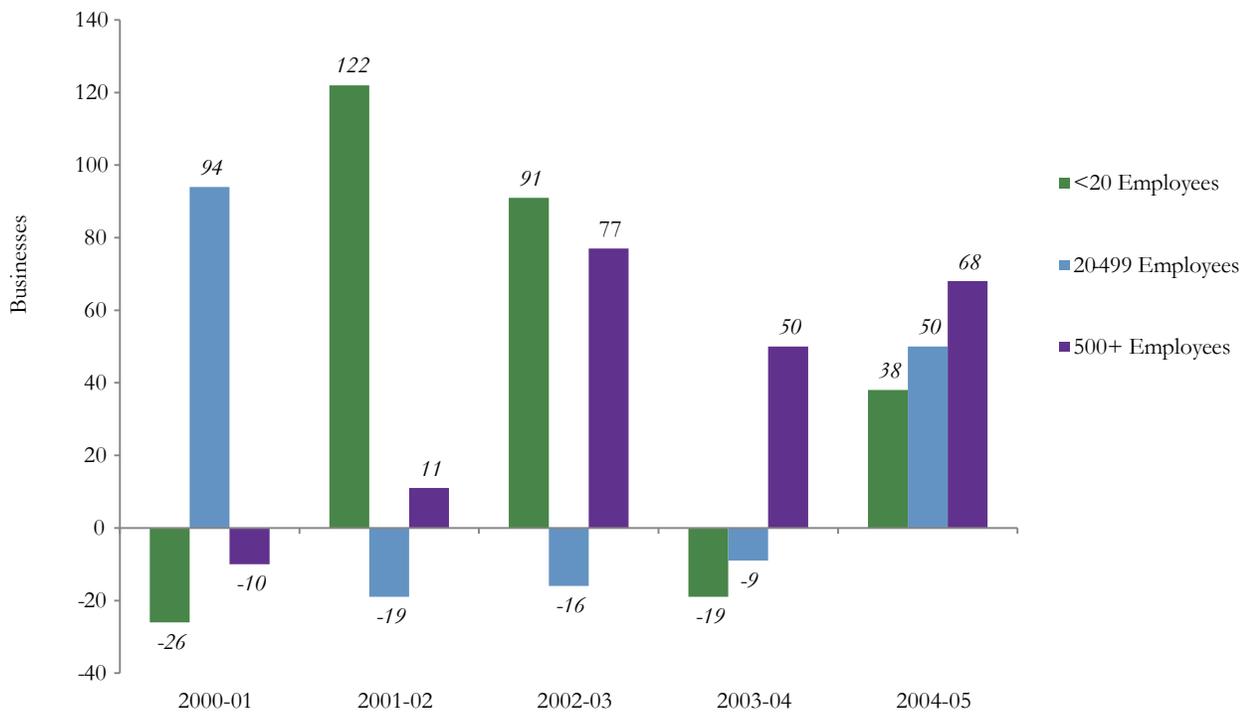
Source: Small Business Administration

Median Annual Income

As defined by the US Census Bureau, income includes wages or salary, self-employment earnings, interest, dividends, net rental income, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, public assistance, retirement, survivor or disability income, or other regulated revenue such as child support and unemployment. The aggregation of these funds before taxes represents income.

There is an increase in income for both men and women in the Syracuse MSA between 2007 and 2008. The disparity in wages shows that men earn $1.35 for every dollar made by a woman.

2007-08 Median Annual Income for Syracuse MSA by Gender
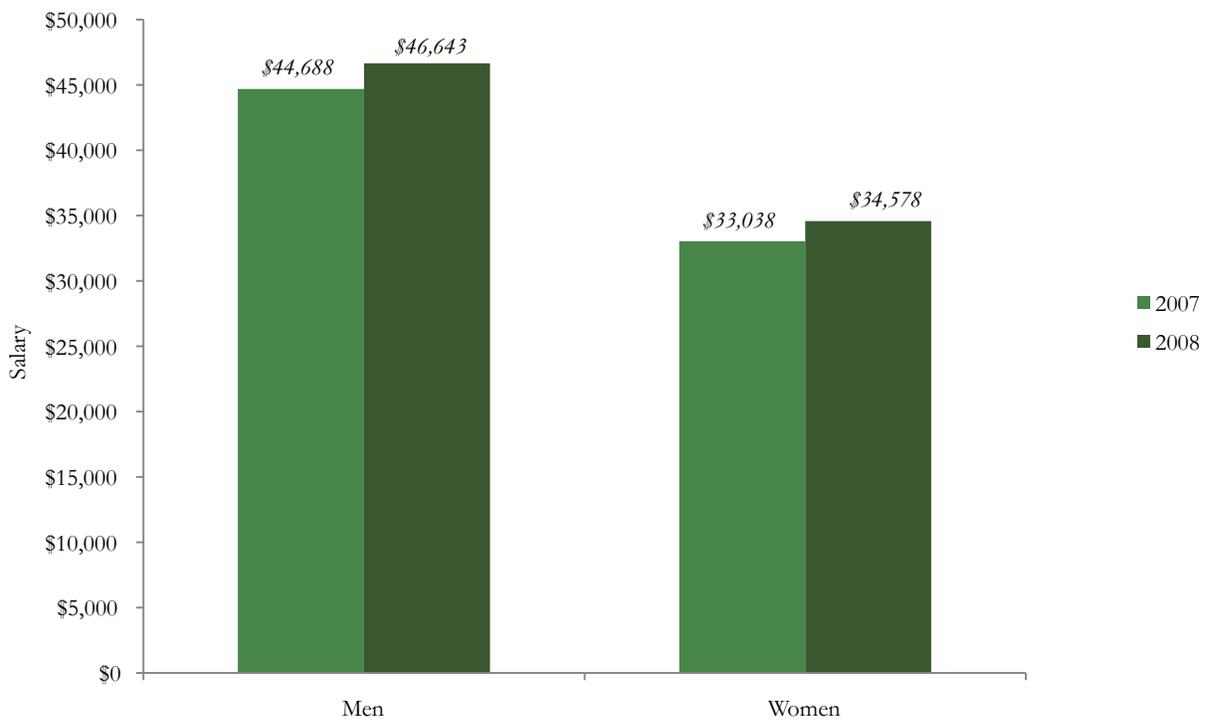
Source: US Census Bureau: 2005-07 and, 2006-08 American Community Survey

Per Capita Spending

Per capita federal spending measures the amount the federal government contributes to services and programs for each person in Onondaga County.

Per capita federal spending in Onondaga County rose by 61% between 2000 and 2008.

Per Capita Federal Spending in Onondaga County
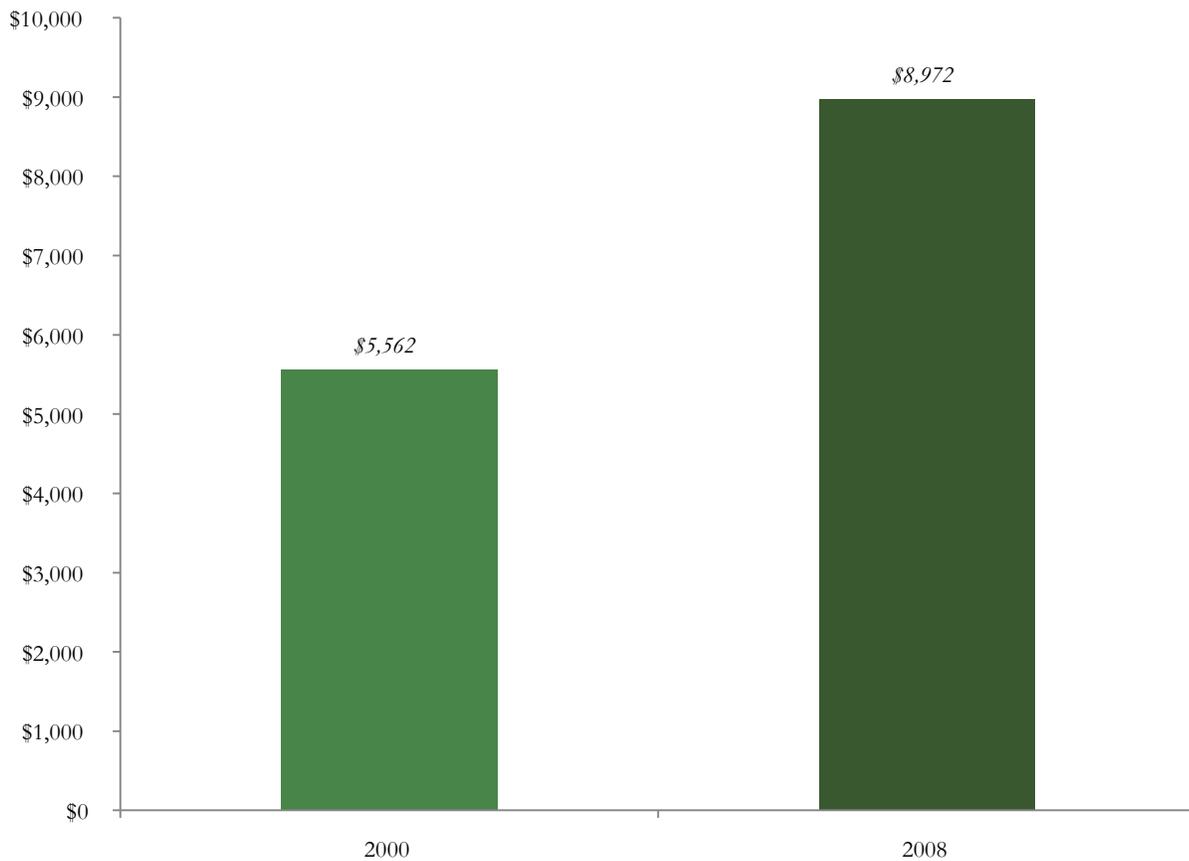
Source: US Census Bureau: Consolidated Federal Funds Report: Fiscal Year(s) 2000 and 2008 and 2006-08 American Community Survey

Sales Revenue

Sales tax revenue is the amount paid to Onondaga County for goods and services purchased in the county.

While sales tax revenue increased from 2007 to 2008, the impact of the global recession on Onondaga County can be seen in the large decline in revenue for fiscal 2009, which is characteristic of what is occurring across the state (Spector, 2010). Reduced revenue means the county is considering program cuts, employee layoffs and a change in how the county shares sales tax revenues with municipalities within the county.

Onondaga County Sales Tax Revenue
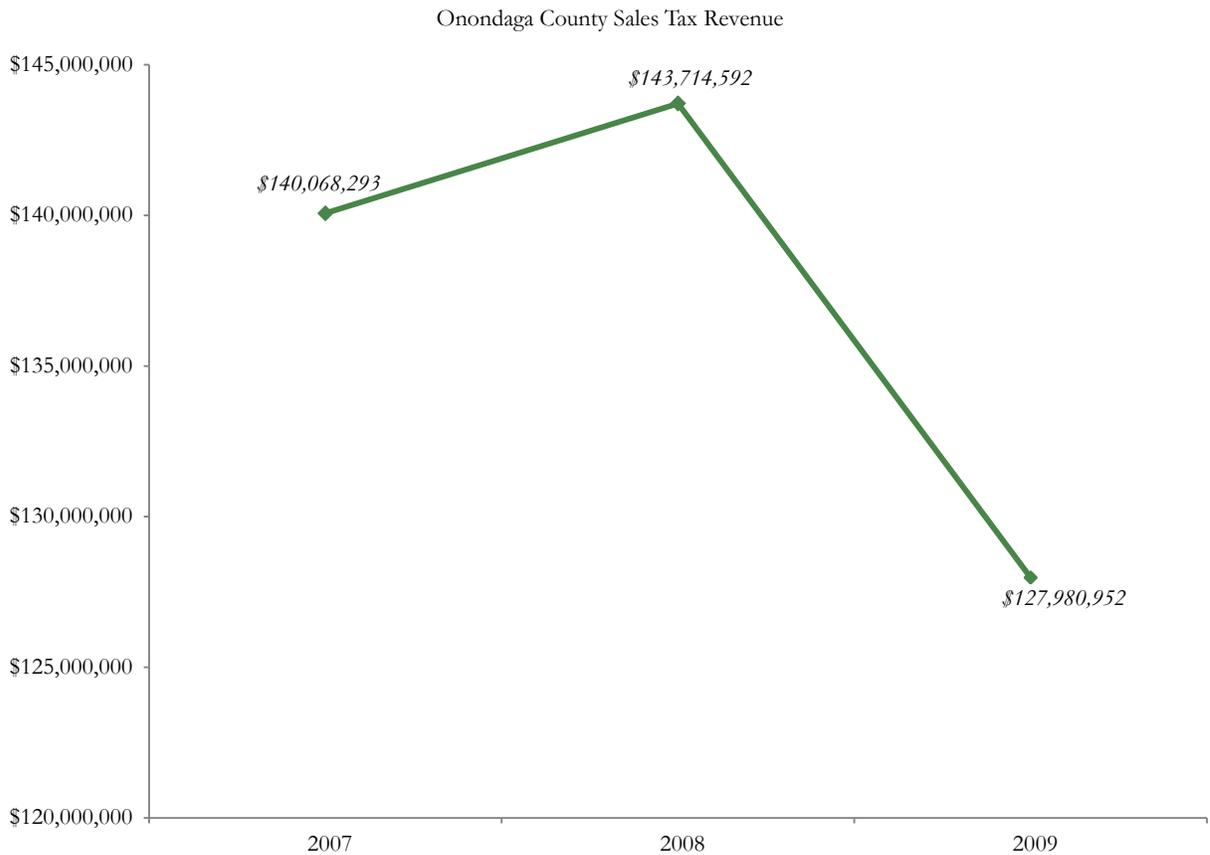
Source: New York State Office of the State Comptroller

Cost of Living

Cost of Living Index measures the aggregate average price for goods sold in a region. The baseline for the Cost of Living Index is the national level, which is always 100. Thus, a region's composite average is measured relative to the national baseline. If the Cost of Living Index is above the average, this indicates that, generally, the included goods are more expensive than the national level.

The Cost of Living Index for the Syracuse MSA has typically been below the national average, which suggests that the price of goods in the region is cheaper than elsewhere.
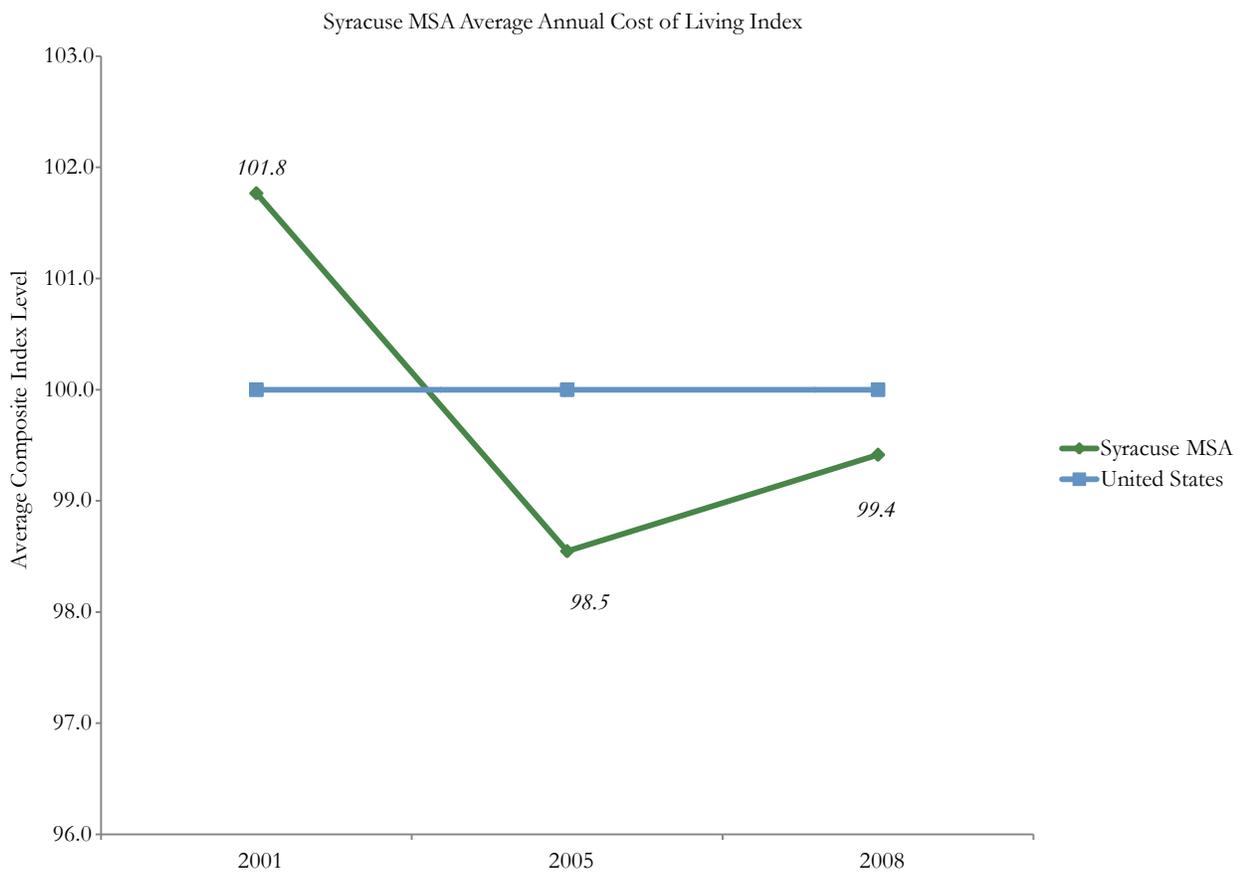
Syracuse MSA Average Annual Cost of Living Index

Source: New York State Office of the State Comptroller

Nathan Hoffman
SCSD Student Teacher

Education

Education is a vital part of every community. Every day children and adults attend academic and vocational institutions to gain knowledge and skills that they will use in the future.

Significant steps are being taken to improve education at the elementary and high school levels in the Syracuse City School District (SCSD). Say Yes to Education is a new initiative to enrich student learning coupled with the promise of a free college education to those who succeed.

The Literacy Coalition of Onondaga County is another new organization dedicated to helping raise education levels in Onondaga County. The goal of the organization is to achieve "100% Literacy through 100% Community Engagement." Over 200 community organizations have become coalition members since the Literacy Coalition was founded in the fall of 2008.

The group has identified the following indicators that will be measured over time to determine success:

1. Percentage of children prepared for kindergarten
2. Percentage of students meeting proficiency standards on NYS English and Language Arts assessments
3. Percentage of students graduating from high school
4. Percentage of adults making educational gains
5. Percentage of children who read or are read to daily
6. Percentage of literacy and community programs using evidence-based practices to serve people with diverse learning needs and styles
7. Percentage of increased funding and community support for literacy-related programs and services
8. Percentage of adult learners entering or retaining employment

readahead.org

The coalition is working with Imagination Library, a nonprofit organization founded by singer/actress Dolly Parton in 1996. The organization partners with local communities to mail a book every month to children under the age of five.
imaginationlibrary.com

The Central New York region houses the third largest concentration of colleges and universities in the nation. According to the Onondaga County website, over 38,000 students are enrolled in Onondaga County colleges and universities. The centers of higher education include Syracuse University, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF), LeMoyne College, SUNY Upstate Medical University, and Onondaga Community College. St. Joseph's and Crouse hospitals each have schools of nursing, Bryant and Stratton offers certification and licensing in professional skills programs and SUNY Oswego has a Metro Center in the city of Syracuse. There are another 35 institutions of higher education within 100 miles of Onondaga County.

This section of the report focuses on the results of elementary and secondary education in the region. In Onondaga County and the SCSD, elementary school scores on English Language Arts and Math exams have risen slightly. Onondaga County has seen the most improvement, while the SCSD is still below county and statewide averages. While Onondaga County high school Regents exam scores are consistently above state averages, overall passing rates are decreasing. The city of Syracuse lags further behind county passing rates by at least 15 percent.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment measures the highest degree or the highest level of education completed for residents 25 and older. Obtaining a high school diploma or college degree opens the door to many job opportunities. Educational attainment is important as a well-educated and diverse work force may attract more employers to the area.

The percentage of residents with a high school diploma or higher and Bachelor's degree or higher increased in all geographic areas. New York State had a larger increase in residents with higher levels of educational attainment than Onondaga County and the city of Syracuse, but increases across the board are a positive sign for this area.

Comment: Data are unavailable for 2000 Syracuse MSA statistics. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.
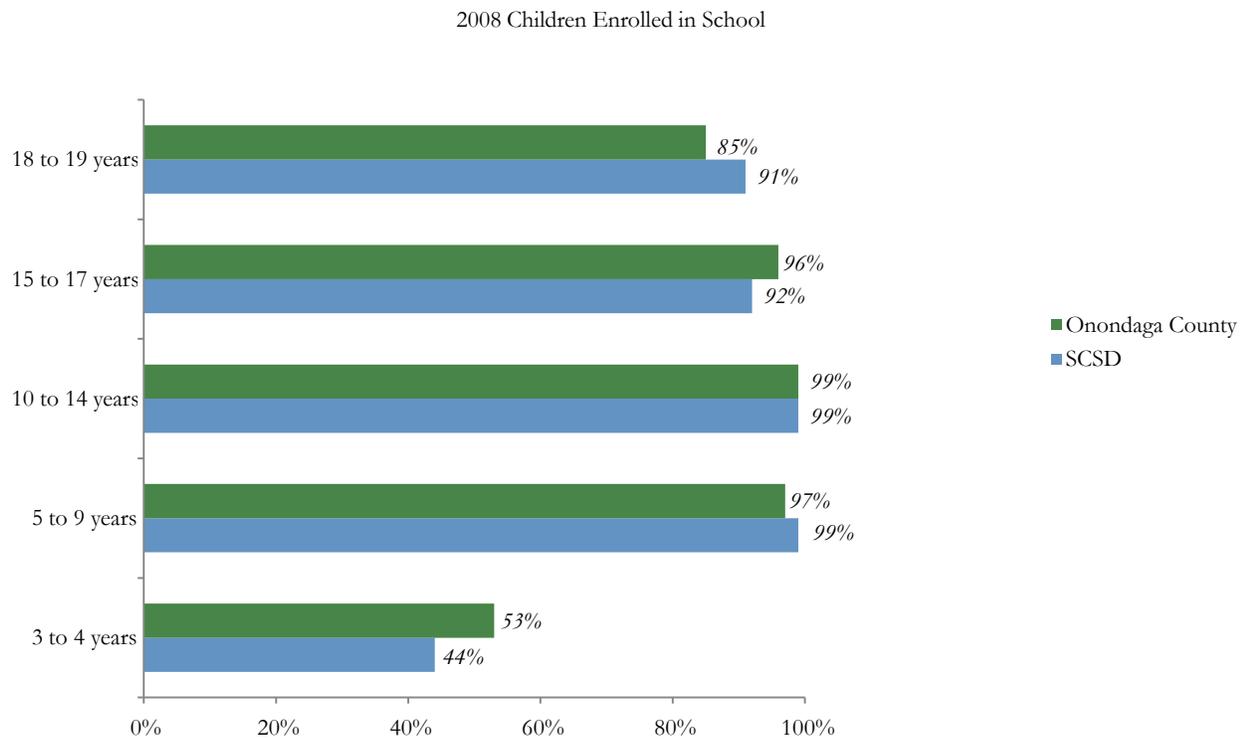
	2000	2006-08e
New York		
high school diploma or higher	79%	84%
bachelor's degree or higher	27%	32%
Syracuse MSA		
high school diploma or higher	N/A	89%
bachelor's degree or higher	N/A	29%
Onondaga County		
high school diploma or higher	86%	89%
bachelor's degree or higher	29%	32%
City of Syracuse		
high school diploma or higher	76%	80%
bachelor's degree or higher	23%	26%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 & 2006-08 est.

School Enrollment

School enrollment shows the percentage of persons, aged three to 19, enrolled in school. In addition to showing a community's dedication to education, high enrollment rates suggest fewer children without supervision.
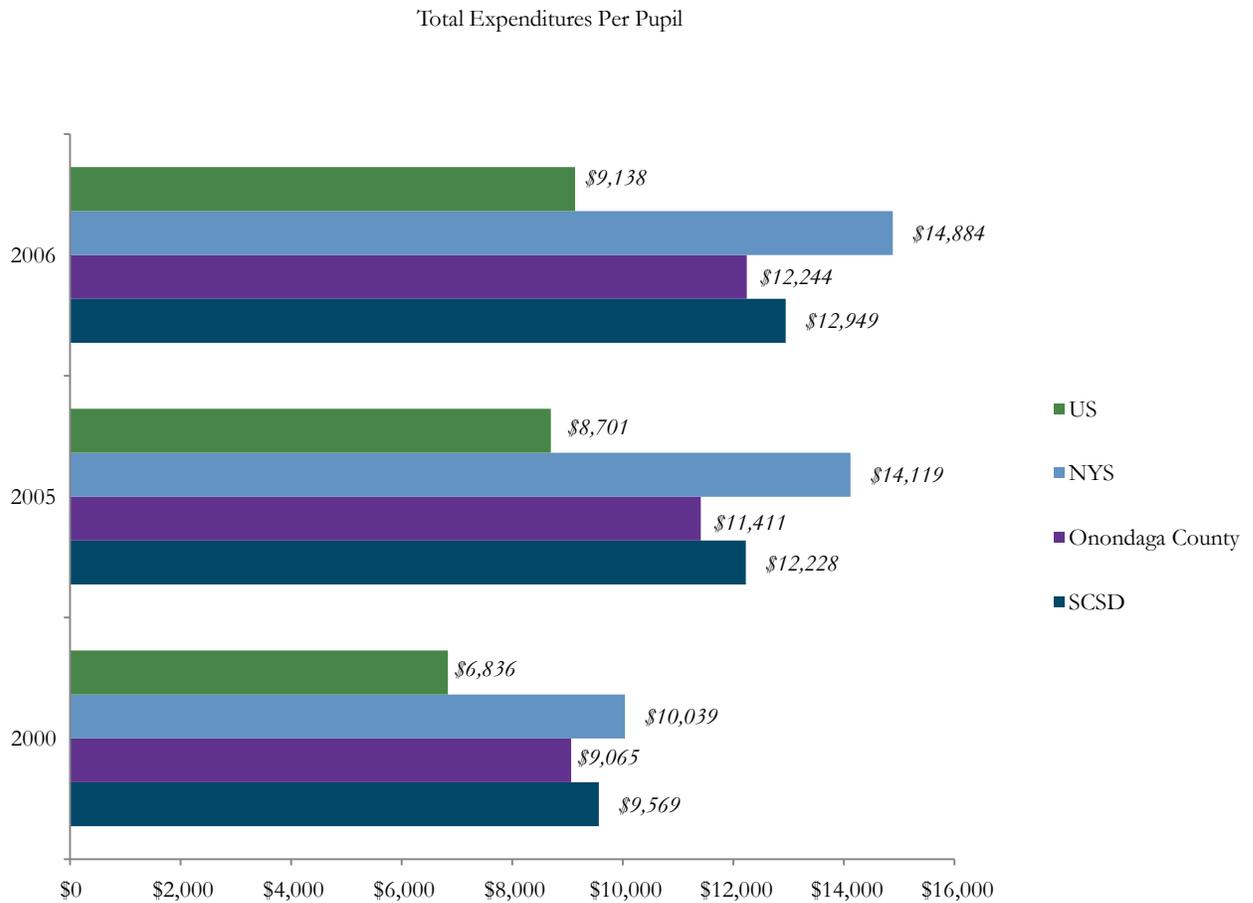
Onondaga County and the SCSD have similar enrollment rates. For both geographic areas, the enrollment rate begins to decrease in the 15-17 year age group. In the 5-9 year and 10-14 year categories, the SCSD has a slightly higher percentage of enrolled students than Onondaga County. As the age increases to the 15-17 age group, the percentage of enrolled students decrease.

2008 Children Enrolled in School

Age Group	Onondaga County	SCSD
18 to 19 years	85%	91%
15 to 17 years	96%	92%
10 to 14 years	99%	99%
5 to 9 years	97%	99%
3 to 4 years	53%	44%

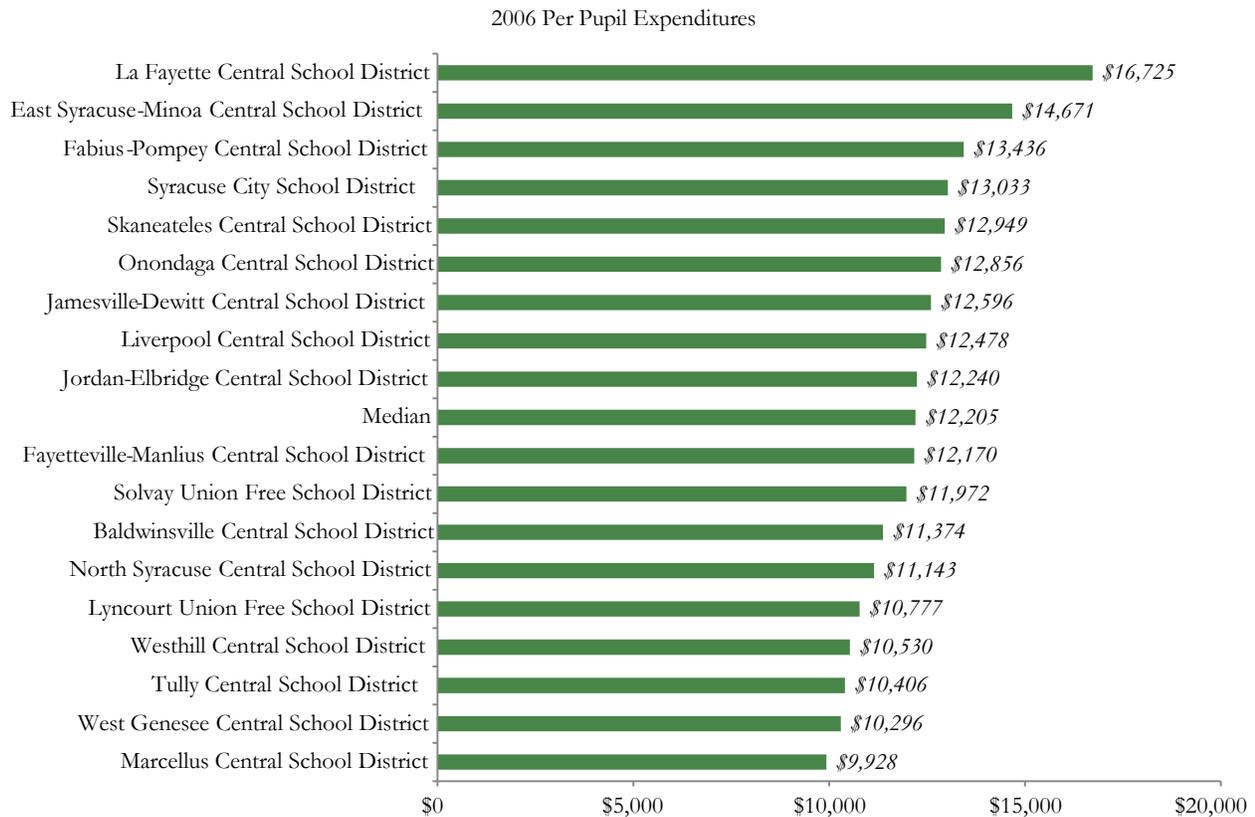*Source: US Census Bureau. 2006-08 est.*

Per Pupil Spending

This indicator represents the average amount that each geographic area spends on students. The amount of funding in New York State is based on average daily attendance. The monies are allocated to resources and programming services.

Total Expenditures Per Pupil

2006
- US: $9,138
- NYS: $14,884
- Onondaga County: $12,244
- SCSD: $12,949

2005
- US: $8,701
- NYS: $14,119
- Onondaga County: $11,411
- SCSD: $12,228

2000
- US: $6,836
- NYS: $10,039
- Onondaga County: $9,065
- SCSD: $9,569

Legend:
- US
- NYS
- Onondaga County
- SCSD

Source: New York State Education Department, 655 Report

New York State ranks among the highest in the nation in per pupil spending, according to the US Census Bureau's Public Education Finances report issued in July 2009. Onondaga County and New York State have consistently spent more per pupil than the nation as a whole. In 2006, most Onondaga County school districts spent between $10,000 and $13,000 per pupil.

2006 Per Pupil Expenditures

District	Expenditure
La Fayette Central School District	$16,725
East Syracuse-Minoa Central School District	$14,671
Fabius-Pompey Central School District	$13,436
Syracuse City School District	$13,033
Skaneateles Central School District	$12,949
Onondaga Central School District	$12,856
Jamesville-Dewitt Central School District	$12,596
Liverpool Central School District	$12,478
Jordan-Elbridge Central School District	$12,240
Median	$12,205
Fayetteville-Manlius Central School District	$12,170
Solvay Union Free School District	$11,972
Baldwinsville Central School District	$11,374
North Syracuse Central School District	$11,143
Lyncourt Union Free School District	$10,777
Westhill Central School District	$10,530
Tully Central School District	$10,406
West Genesee Central School District	$10,296
Marcellus Central School District	$9,928

Source: New York State Education Department, 655 Report

Attendance

Annual attendance rate is determined by dividing each school district's total actual attendance by the total possible attendance for a school year according to the New York State Education Department (NYSED). A district's actual attendance is the sum of the number of students in attendance for each day the district's schools were open during the school year.

Possible attendance is defined by the NYSED as the total number of enrolled students who should have been in attendance on each day schools were open during the school year. Data from the districts were then averaged for county and statewide statistics. New York State allocates education funding to schools based on attendance rates, thus ensuring student attendance is a priority for school districts.

Onondaga County has maintained an attendance rate of 94 percent from 1999-06. The county rate has been one percent higher than the state average and two percent higher than schools in the city of Syracuse.

School Attendance Rates
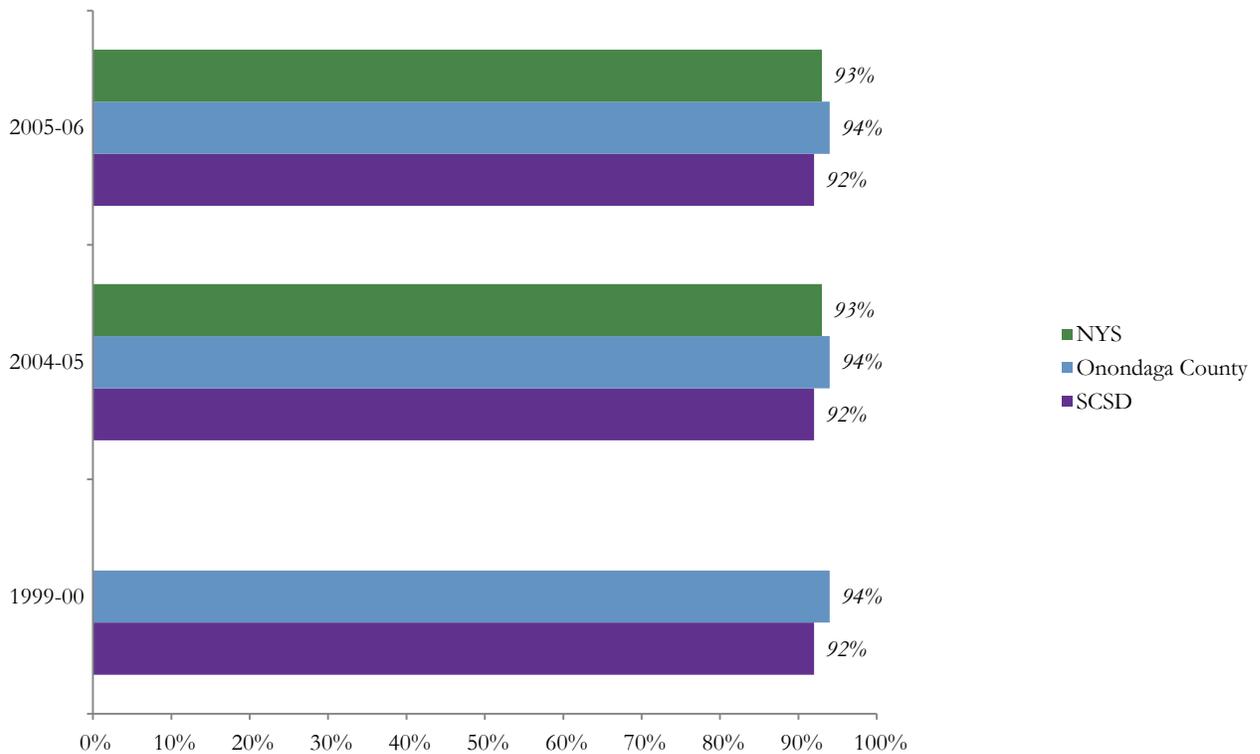
Source: NYS Report Cards, Accountability and Overview Report, 2000-06.

Suspension

According to New York State Accountability Overview Reports, student suspension rate is determined by dividing the number of students who were suspended from school for one full day or longer during the school year, based on enrollments for the same school year. A student is counted only once, regardless of whether the student was suspended multiple times during the school year. Districts were then averaged to obtain county and statewide statistics.

Suspension from school is a common disciplinary method used to punish students who commit serious offenses in school, such as violent behavior or drug abuse.

The school suspension rate in Onondaga County has been consistently higher than that of New York State. The rate of suspension in the city of Syracuse has increased from 14 percent in 1999-2000 to 22 percent in 2004-05, while Onondaga County and New York State percentages decreased from 2004-05 to 2005-06.

Student Suspension Rate
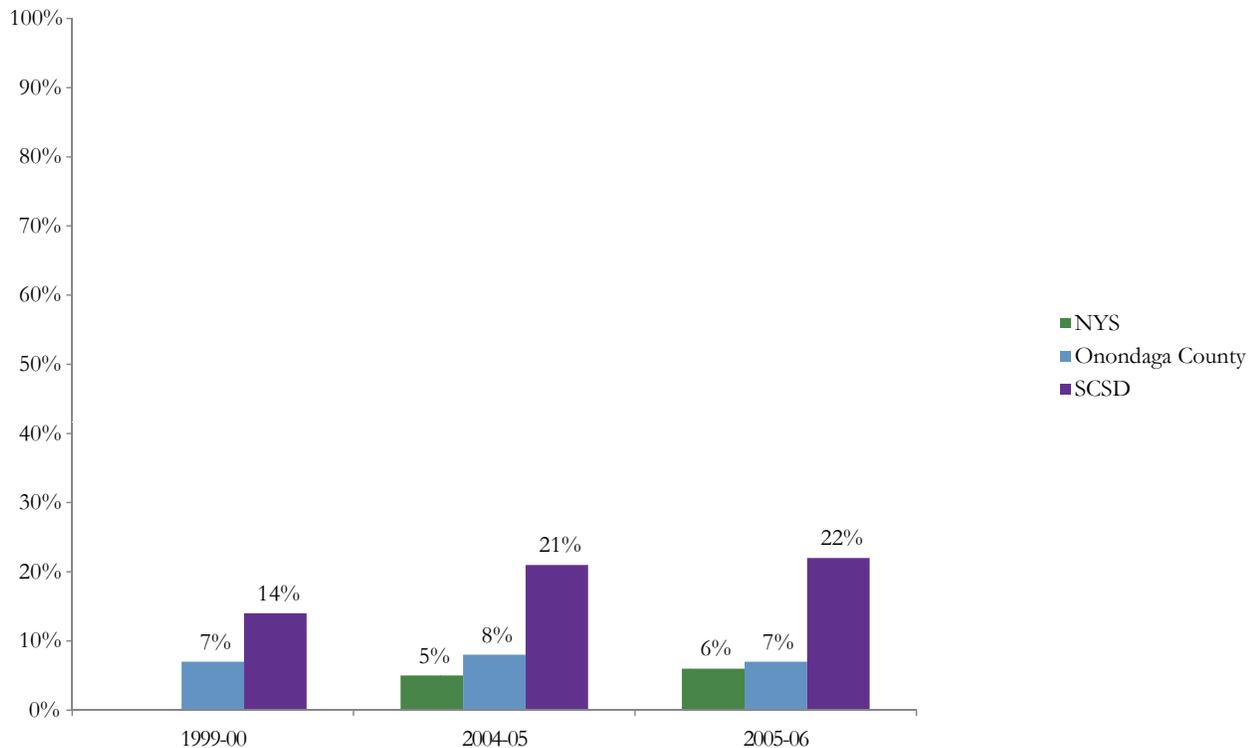
Source: NYS Report Cards, Accountability and Overview Report, 2000-06.

Graduation

Graduation rates represent the percentage of students who began ninth grade in 2005 and graduated by the summer of 2009. Schools with higher graduation rates will likely attract more students and better teachers.

Graduation Rates, 2009

School	Rate
Fabius-Pompey	99%
Skaneateles	96%
Westhill	93%
Fayetteville-Manlius	93%
Marcellus	92%
Jamesville-Dewitt	92%
Lafayette	89%
West Genesee	87%
Baldwinsbille	87%
Tully	85%
North Syracuse	85%
East Syracuse-Minoa	85%
Onondaga	82%
Syracuse Academy of Science	81%
Liverpool	81%
Jordan-Elbridge	80%
Solvay	78%
Corcoran	53%
Nottingham	51%
Henninger	47%
Fowler	33%
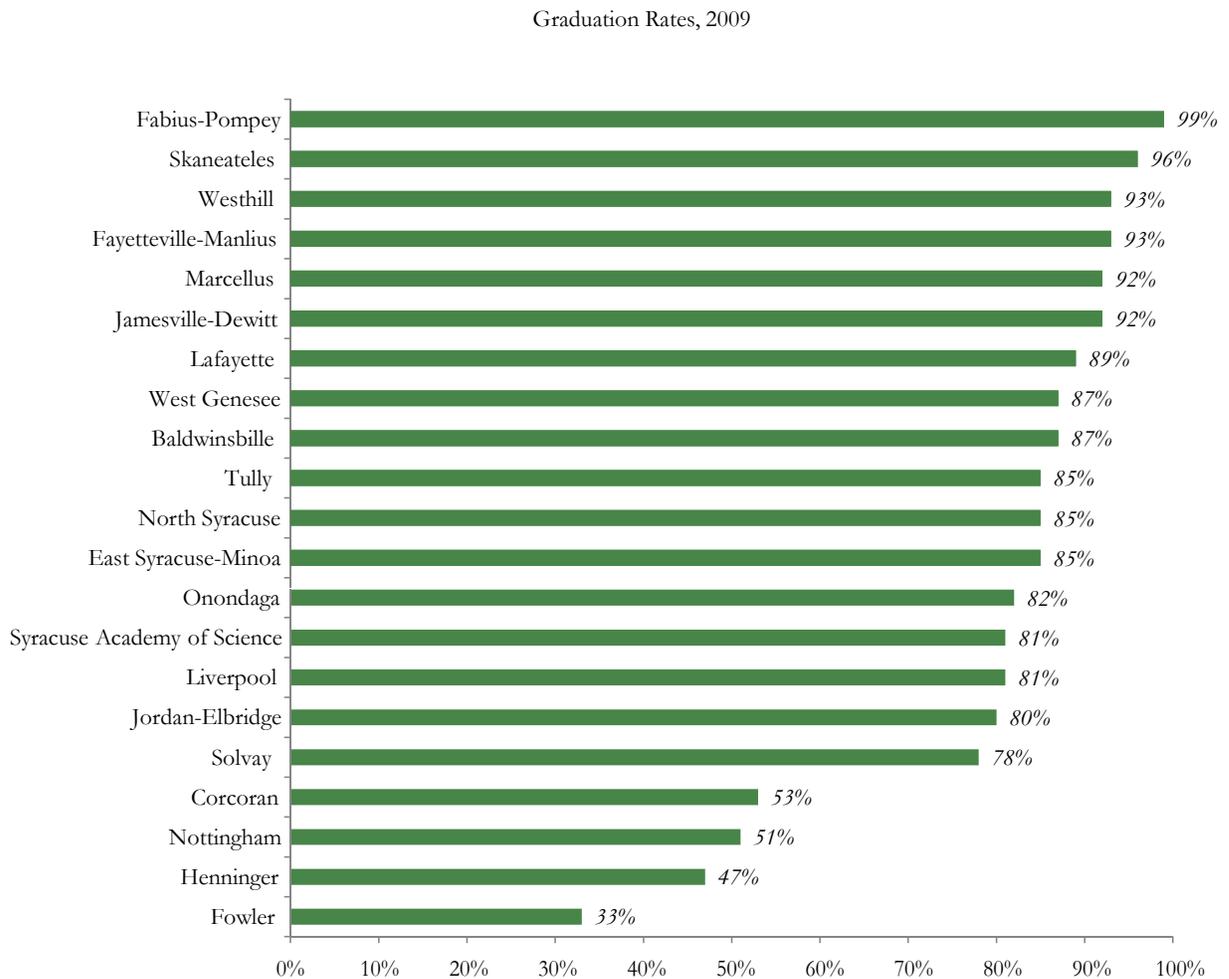
Source: Syracuse Post-Standard, "High School 2009 Graduation Rate," 10 March 2010

The majority of high schools in Onondaga County in 2009 have over 75 percent of their students graduating within four years. Only 50 percent of SCSD students graduated the same year. While the SCSD six-year graduation rate is higher, at 57 percent, the rate is still significantly lower than other schools in the county.

Graduation Rates

High School	2006	2007	2008	2009
Onondaga County				
Baldwinsville	85	84	88	87
East Syracuse-Minoa	83	84	84	85
Fabius-Pompey	77	94	92	99
Jamesville-Dewitt	90	92	91	92
Jordan-Elbridge	71	68	74	80
LaFayette	93	77	86	89
Liverpool	78	78	82	81
Marcellus	89	89	90	92
North Syracuse	80	78	81	85
Onondaga	83	83	78	82
Skaneateles	97	95	94	96
Solvay	74	79	74	78
Syracuse Academy of Science	N/A	77	54	81
Tully	91	91	88	85
West Genesee	85	92	86	87
Westhill	89	92	88	93
City of Syracuse				
Corcoran	50	53	51	53
Fowler	38	40	36	33
Henninger	55	53	52	47
Nottingham	50	51	52	51

Source: Syracuse Post-Standard, "High School 2009 Graduation Rate," 10 March 2010

English and Mathematics Regent Exams

This indicator measures the percentage of high school students who have passed the New York State Mathematics and English Regents exams in the city of Syracuse, Onondaga County and New York State. A score of 65 percent or higher is required to pass.

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) develops and administers Regents exams to students across the state. Regents measure student growth and achievement in accordance with state learning standards.

Students Passing NYS Regents English Exams
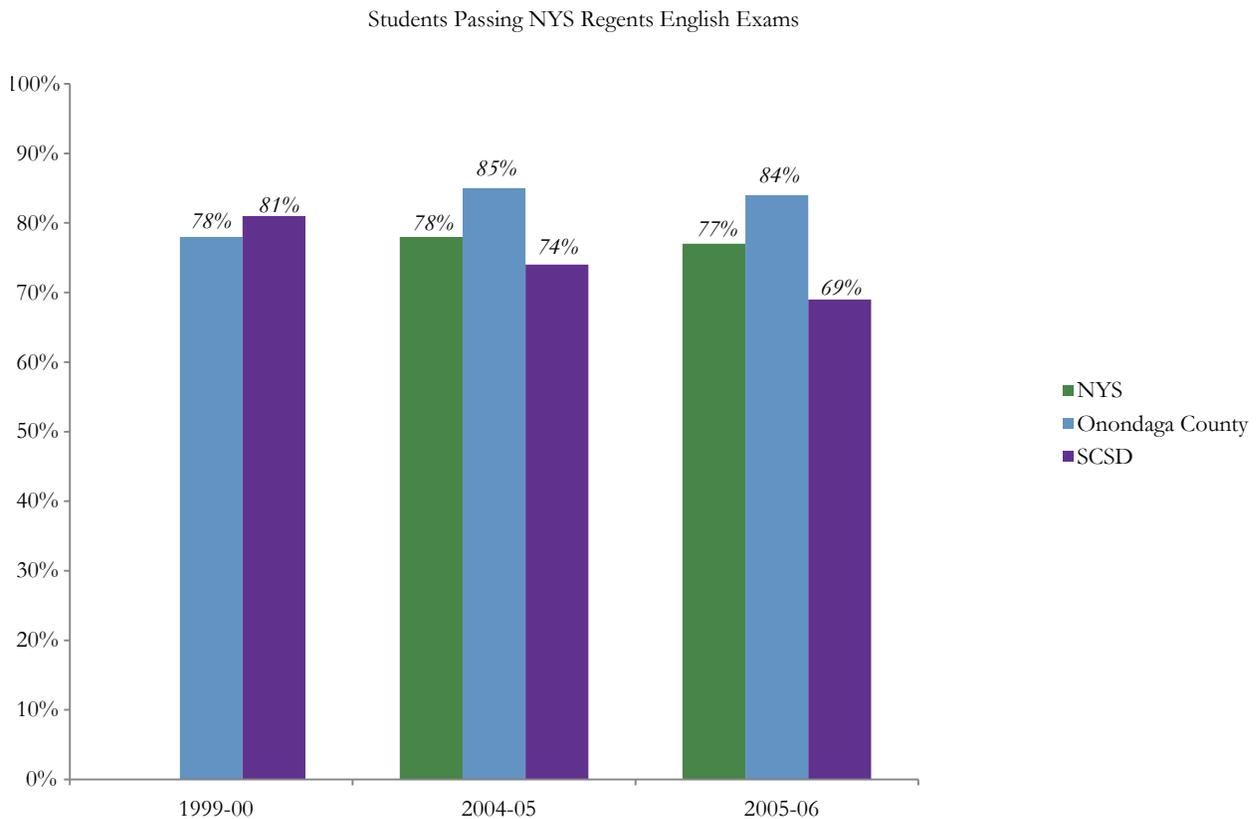
Source: NYSED 655 Report, 2006

Onondaga County is consistently above the New York State average in passing rates for math Regents exams. In the 2004-05 school year, Onondaga County surpassed the state average by six percent. In the 2005-06 school year, Onondaga County surpassed the state by three percent. Although Onondaga County consistently surpasses NYS, Syracuse is equally constant in lagging behind. In 2006, the city was behind both the county and state by about 20 percent.

Students Passing NYS Regents Math Exams
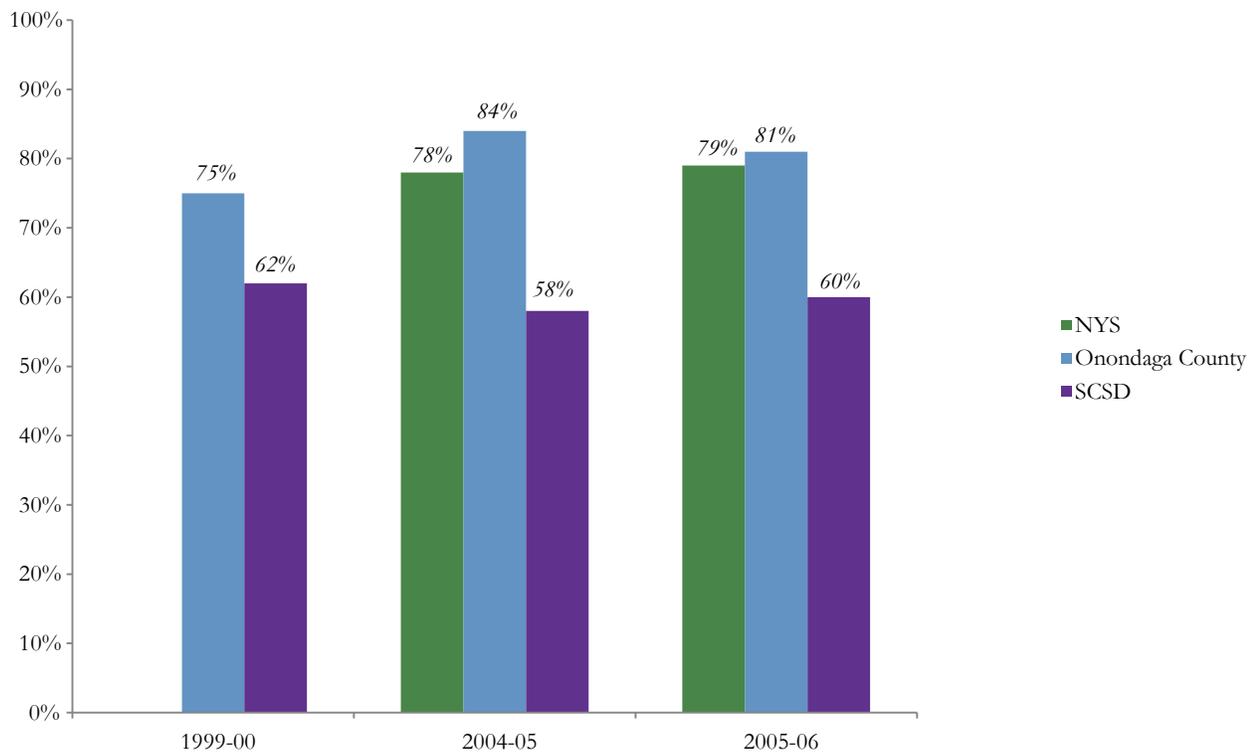
Source: NYSED 655 Report, 2006

English Language Arts Exam

The English Language Arts (ELA) exam measures a student's ability to read and comprehend different texts. Students must take the exam each year, in grades three through eight, but only fourth and eighth grade results are displayed in this report. The test is graded on a scale of one to four; students need to score at least a three to pass the exam, which means students have met the state's learning standards.

According to the New York State Education Department, "Success in school and in life is determined in large part by competence in language. As a significant means for developing students' abilities to use their minds well, language is a central factor in learning for all students and in all disciplines." ELA exams are a good way of measuring the quality of our schools as well as student progress.

Students Passing Fourth Grade ELA Exam
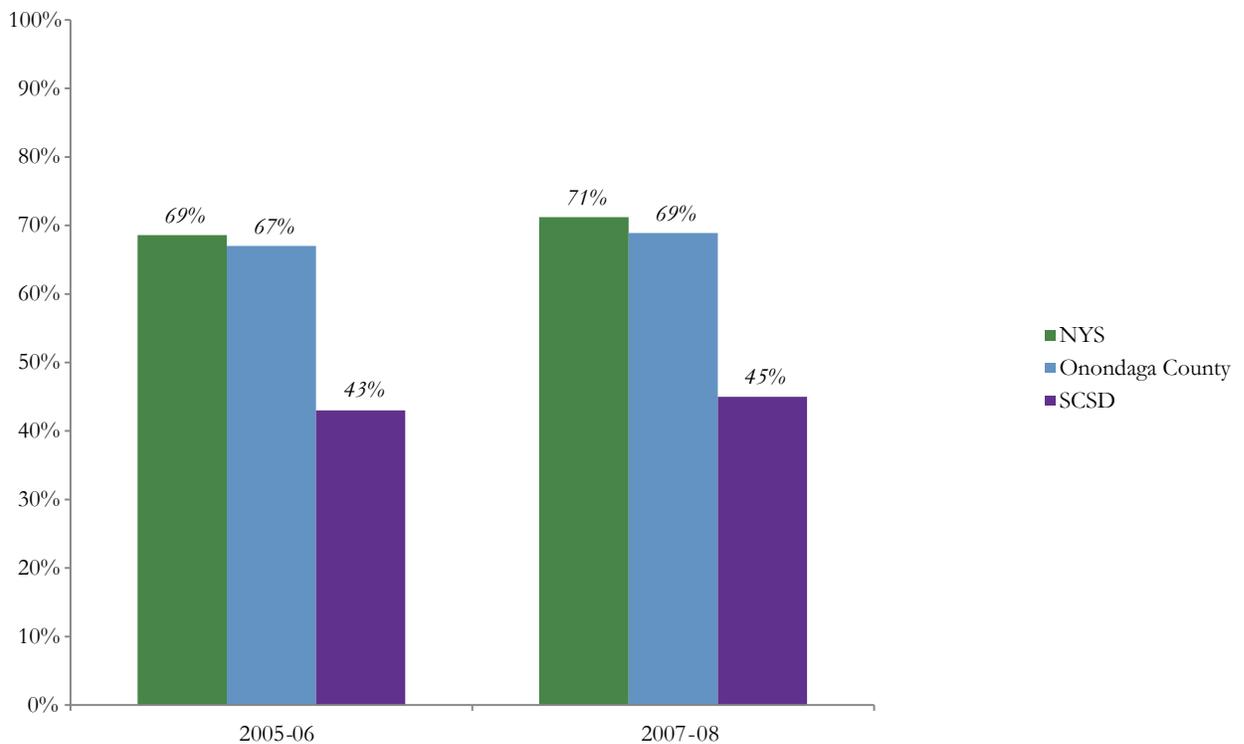
Source: NYS Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse (KWIC) 2010

Despite remaining below the state average, Onondaga County has seen a two percent increase from the 2005-06 school year to 2007-08 school year in the number of students passing the fourth grade ELA exam. While SCSD had a 10 percent increase between the 2005-06 school year and the 2007-08 school year in grade 8, the district is still far behind state and county averages.
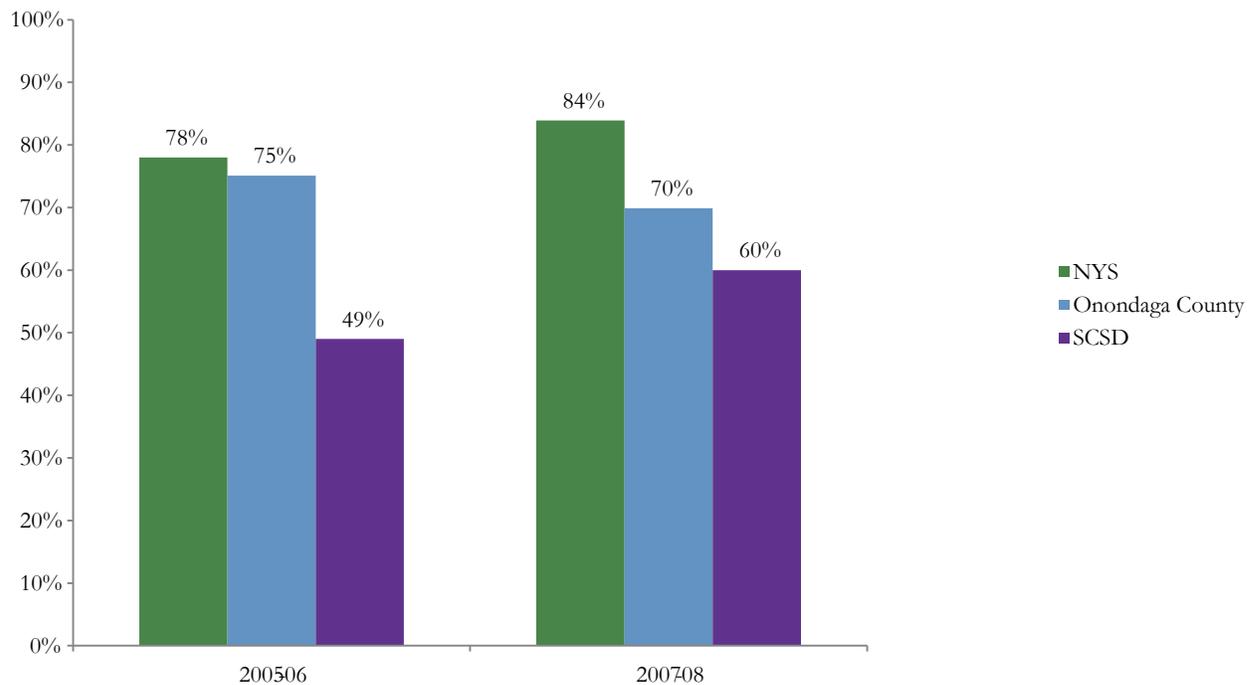
Students Passing Eighth Grade ELA Exam

Legend:
- NYS
- Onondaga County
- SCSD

Data:
	2005-06	2007-08
NYS	49%	56%
Onondaga County	51%	60%
SCSD	21%	31%
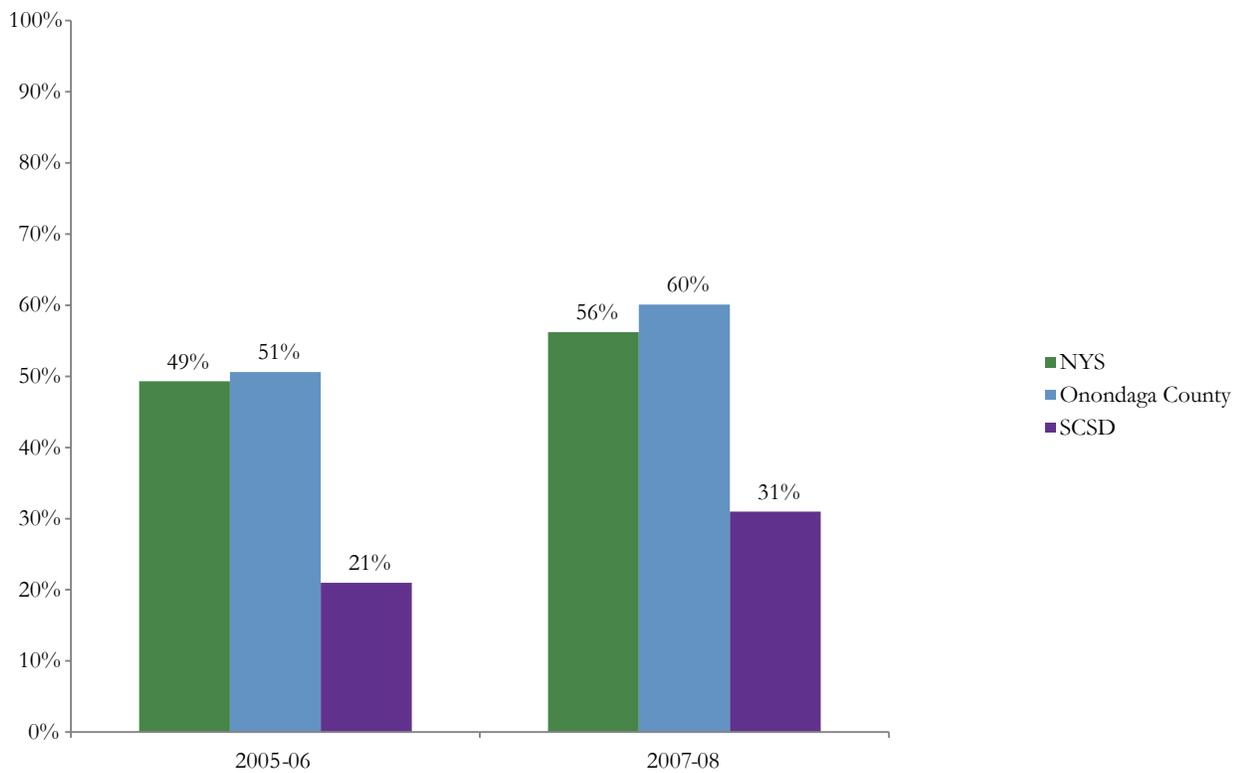
Source: NYS Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse (KWIC) 2010

Mathematics Exam

Like the ELA, The Mathematics Exam is a standardized test designed to measure a student's academic achievement. Students must take the exam at different grade levels, but only fourth and eighth grade results are examined here. The test is graded on a scale from one to four; students need to score at least a three to meet state standards.

According to the US Department of Education, knowledge of mathematics is critical "to complete in the global economy of the 21st Century." NYSED uses these math exams to measure the success of math programs in states as well as the success of students.

Students Passing Fourth Grade Math Exam

Legend: NYS, Onondaga County, SCSD

200506: NYS 78%, Onondaga County 75%, SCSD 49%
200708: NYS 84%, Onondaga County 70%, SCSD 60%

Source: NYS KWIC 2010

Onondaga County has seen a slight decrease in percentage of students passing the math exam in the fourth grade, but a significant increase in the percentage who passed in eighth grade. In the SCSD, the percentage of students passing in both fourth and eighth grades increased, but is still significantly lower than New York State and Onondaga County rates.

Percent of Students Passing Math Exam
Grade 8

■ NYS
■ Onondaga County
■ SCSD
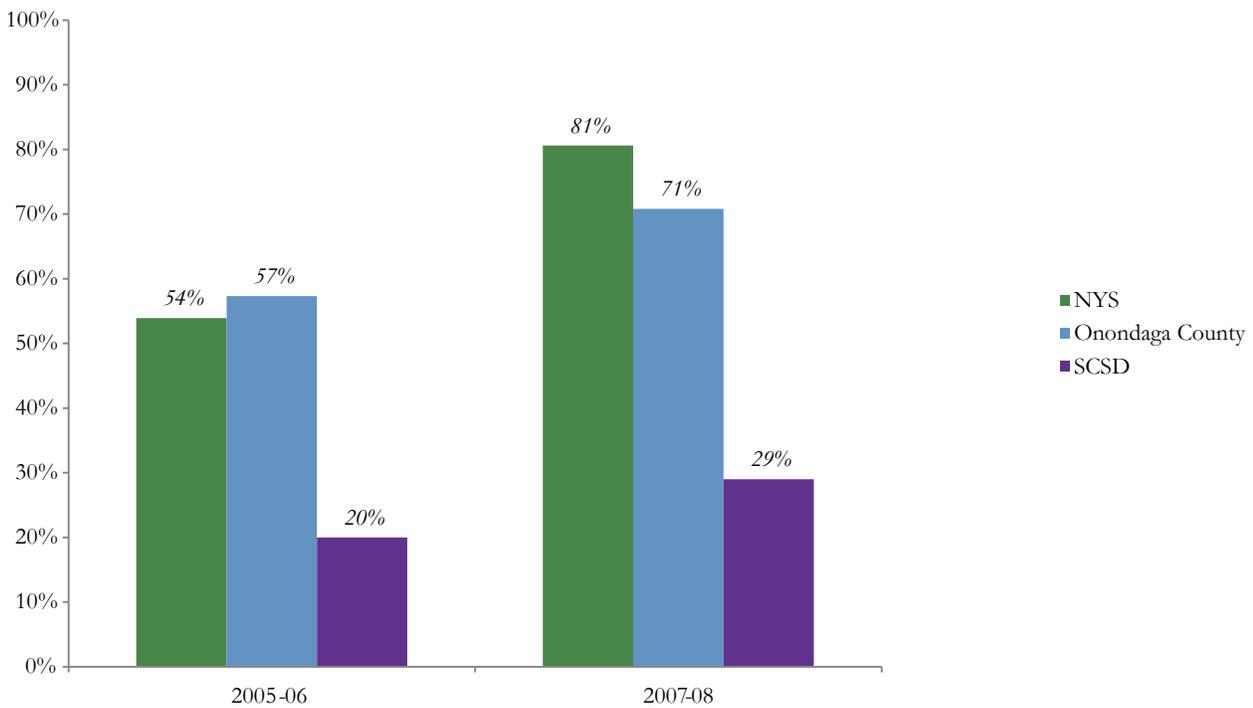
Source: NYS KWIC 2010

Limited English Learners

This indicator shows the percentage of students classified as Limited English Learners (LEP) in grades Pre-K through 12.

The LEP rate in Onondaga County has stayed consistent since 2000, but the percentage increased from 2005-06.

The SCSD had a consistently high percentage of English language learners between 2000 and 2005. In 2006, there was a two percent increase in the number of English language learners attending schools within the district.

LEP Rate

Year	Onondaga County	SCSD
2000	2%	5%
2005	2%	5%
2006	3%	7%
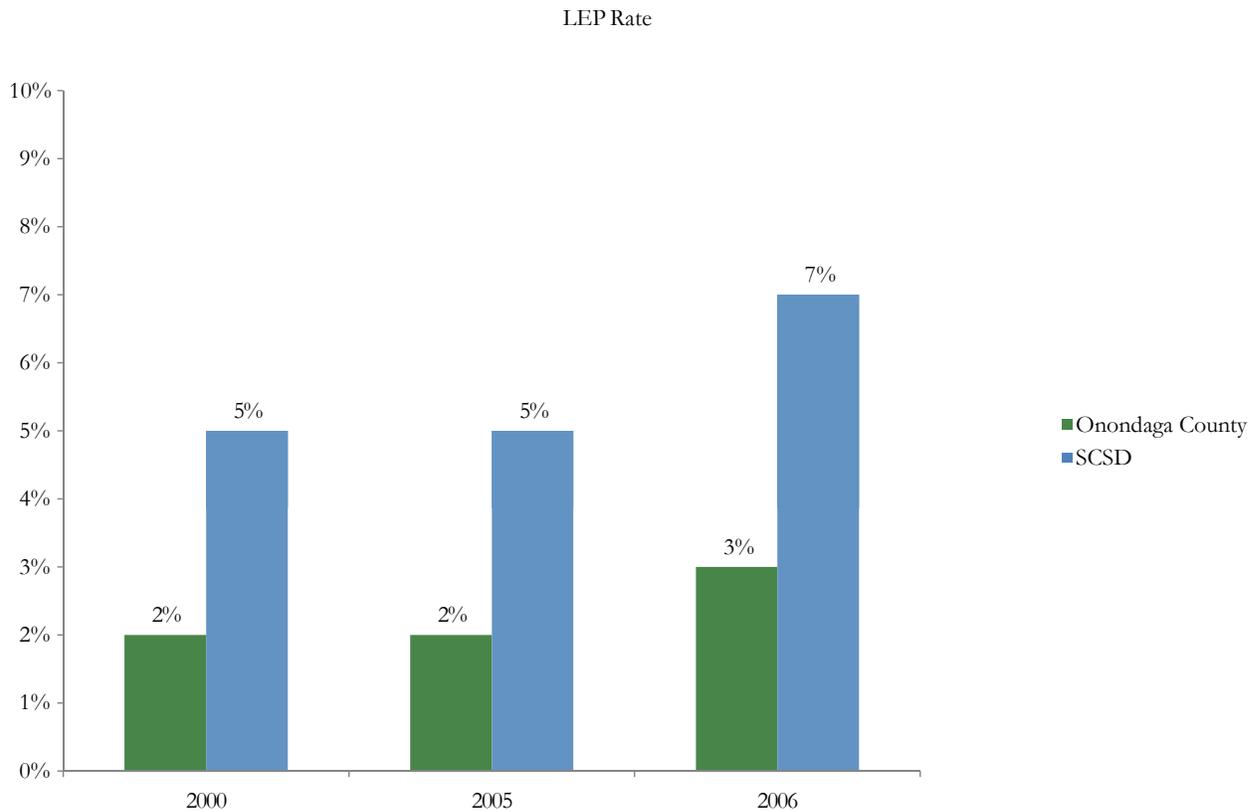
Source: New York State Education Department, 655 Report

Community Spotlight:
Say Yes to Education

Say Yes to Education is a non-profit foundation committed to improving high school, college and vocational graduation rates in inner city youth through the provision of intensive support starting in kindergarten. The first Say Yes chapter was founded in Philadelphia two decades ago. "Chapters include everything from after-school and summer programming, mentoring, tutoring, and in-school academic support to family outreach, scholarships, and social work/ psychological services. Additionally, Say Yes partners provide high-quality health care and legal assistance."

Established in Syracuse in 2007, the Say Yes partners with the SCSD include Syracuse University, the City University of New York, State University of New York and the POMPCO Group. The local chapter, expanded to 14 elementary schools in the SCSD, offers students after school and summer programs, family support, health and wellness programs and legal clinics. Eligible students will have access to close to 100 institutions of higher education with all tuition expenses paid.

In its first year, 600 students in the SCSD became Say Yes graduates, but it is still too early to determine the program's effectiveness. The Say Yes initiative proves to be an exciting opportunity with many possibilities. *sayyessyracuse.org*

Myron J. Mitchell
SUNY-ESF Professor

Environment

Syracuse has become known as 'The Emerald City' through efforts towards the increasing use of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) buildings, innovations from Syracuse University and SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry and area environmental firms.

Not only is The Emerald City going green by incorporating more environmentally-friendly projects into policy and everyday life, but also by celebrating decades of environmental innovation in the city.

This section of the report will strive to portray an accurate image of environmental awareness and quality as well as our community's progress towards promoting environmentally friendly practices.

Pesticide Use

A pesticide is defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest. Pesticide use is an important indicator to measure the amount of chemicals used in agricultural activities. According to the Washington State Department of Health, chemicals in pesticides can have negative effects on both an individual's health and the ecosystems where they are applied.

Pesticide use in Onondaga County has increased between 2003 and 2005 by 30,928 pounds. This represents a 21% increase over three years.
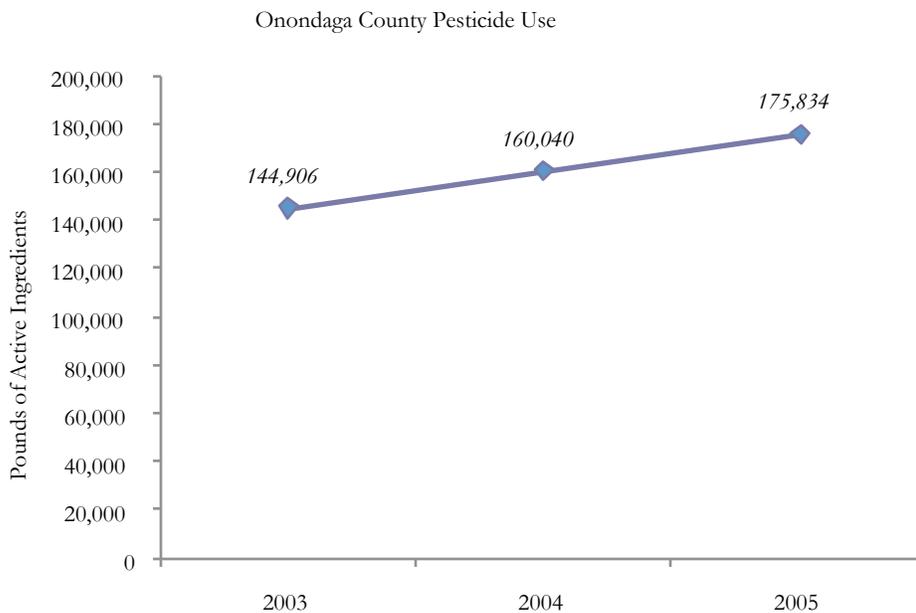
Onondaga County Pesticide Use

Source: Environmental Protection Agency: Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling and Disposal in the United States

Municipal Solid Waste

Per capita Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) refers to the annual average amount of non-recycled waste produced by an individual according to the EPA. This indicator is important because it shows how much non-reusable waste people produce.
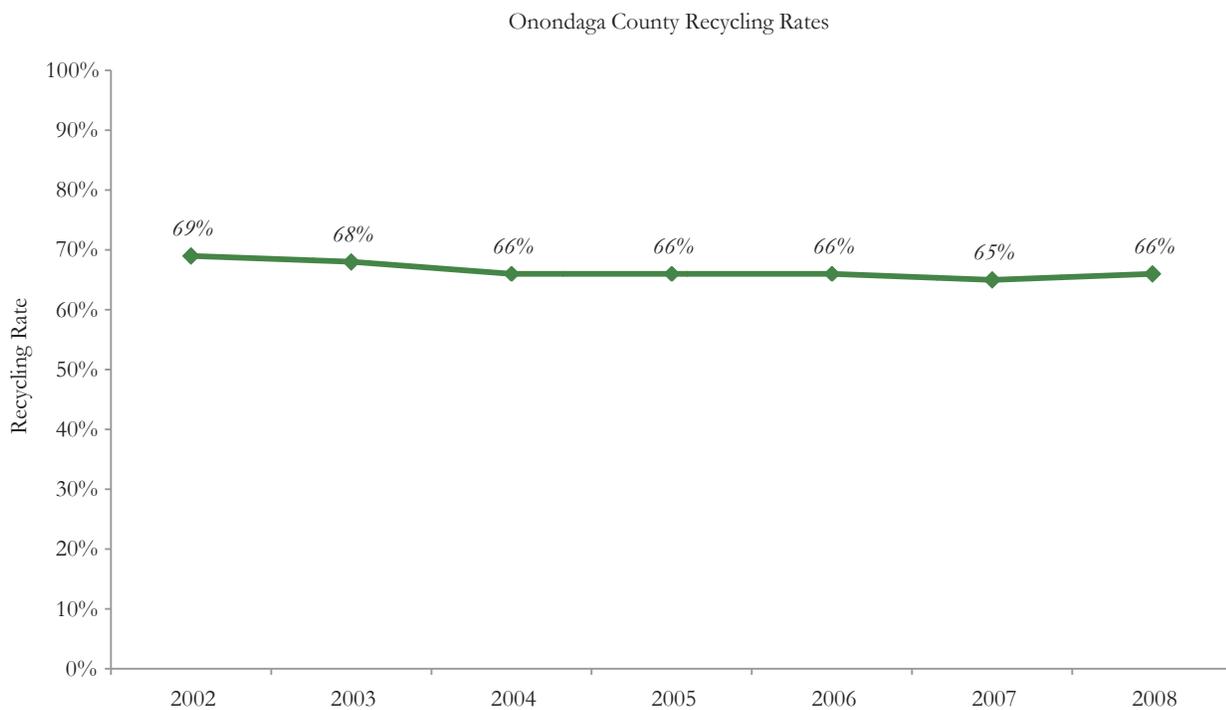
Compared to the United States, Onondaga County produces 187 fewer pounds of MSW per person.
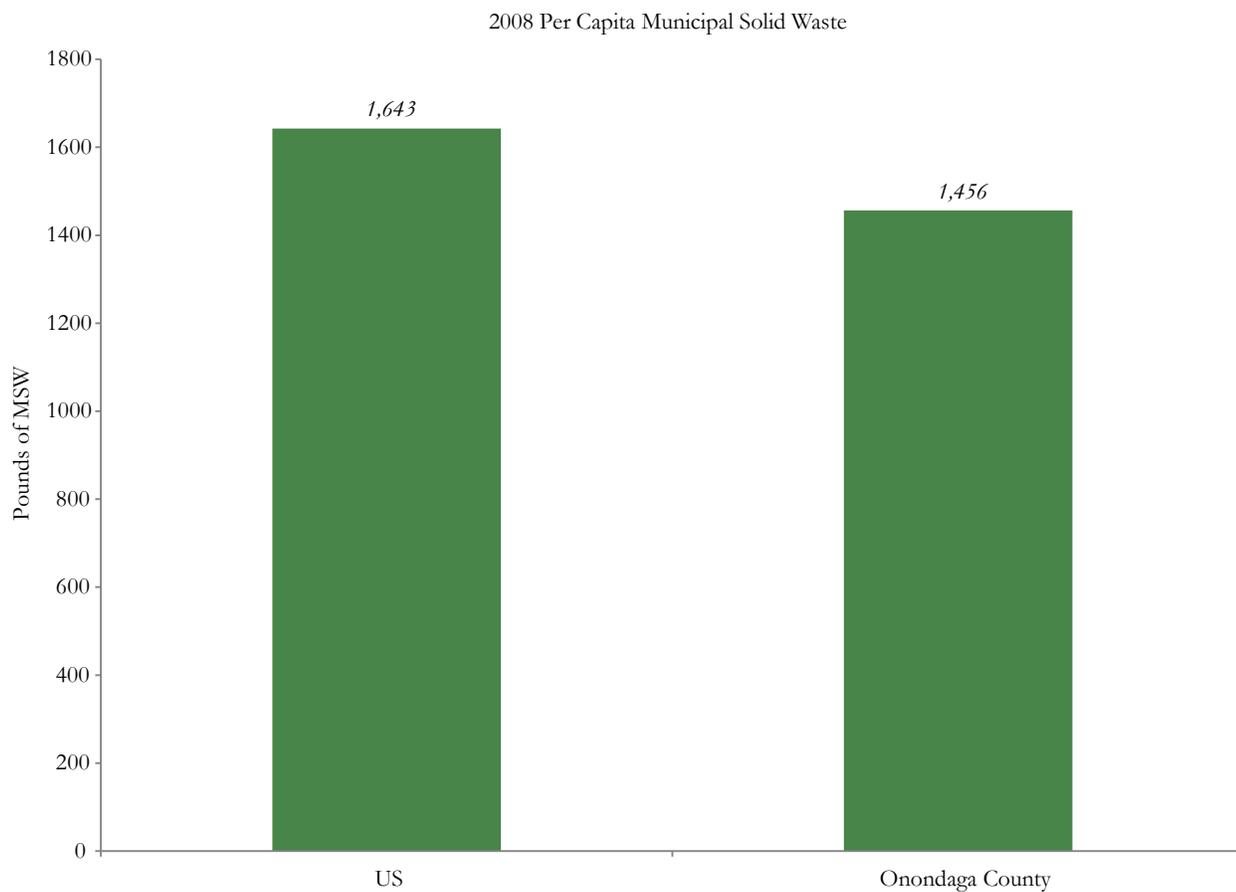
2008 Per Capita Municipal Solid Waste

Source: Environmental Protection Agency: Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling and Disposal in the United States

Recycling

The recycling rate of an area represents the proportion of all potential recyclable waste that was recycled. Historically, Onondaga County has been far ahead of both state and national rates according to the Environmental Protection Agency. The Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA) has provided the area with one of the best waste recovery programs available. Through the recovery of plastics, metals, glass, paper and other recyclable material, the community is able to preserve precious resources as well as economizing on finding new materials. Avid recycling suggests higher environmental consciousness.
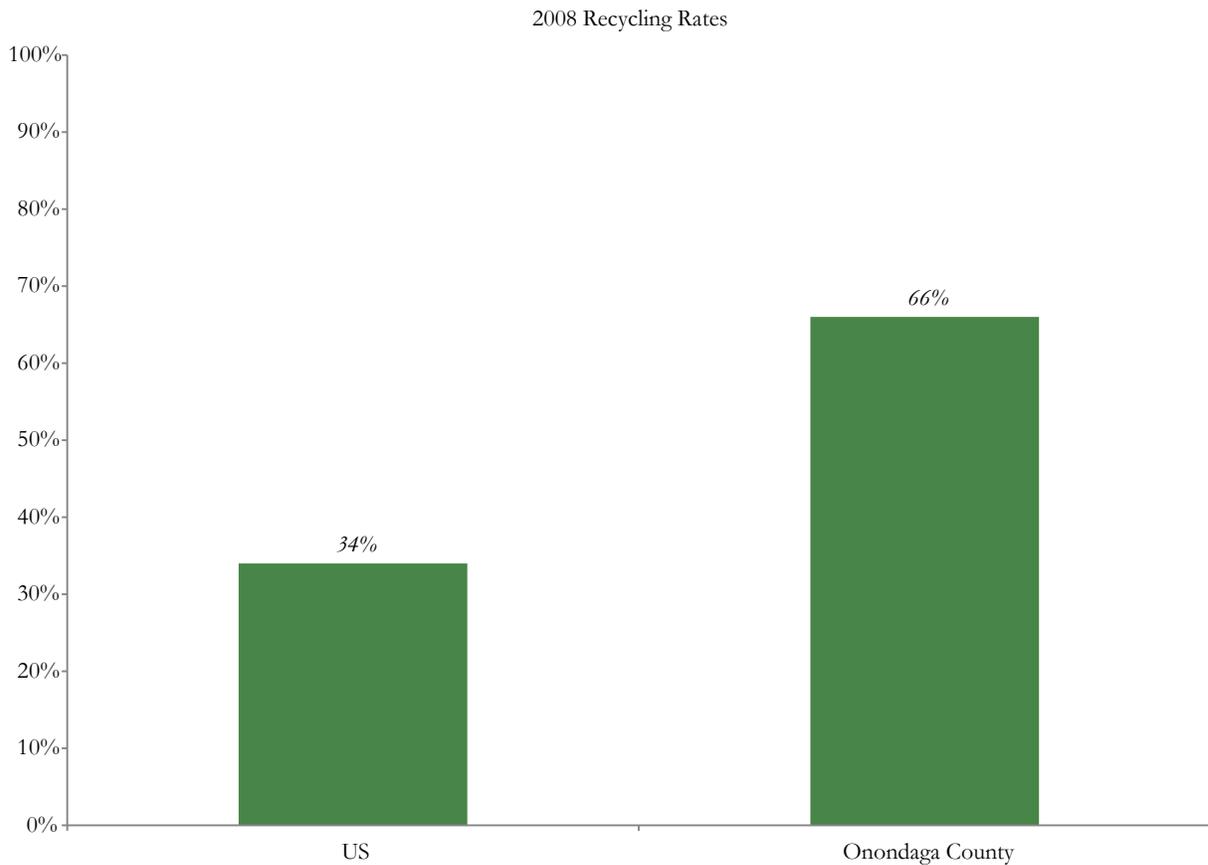
2008 Recycling Rates

Source: Onondaga county Resource Recovery Agency Annual Report on Recyclables Recovered 2008

Onondaga County recycles at nearly twice the national average. The recycling rate has remained fairly consistent between 2002 and 2008.

Onondaga County Recycling Rates

Recycling Rate

| 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |

69% 68% 66% 66% 66% 65% 66%

Source: Onondaga county Resource Recovery Agency Annual Report on Recyclables Recovered 2008

Sprawl

Sprawl refers to the trend of individuals moving away from urban centers and purchasing larger and more automobile-dependent properties. Sprawl can result in higher greenhouse gas emissions due to greater travel distances.

The Syracuse MSA and Onondaga County have lower population density in comparison to New York State. However, it is important to keep in mind the state data includes large urban areas, such as New York City.

2000 Population Density
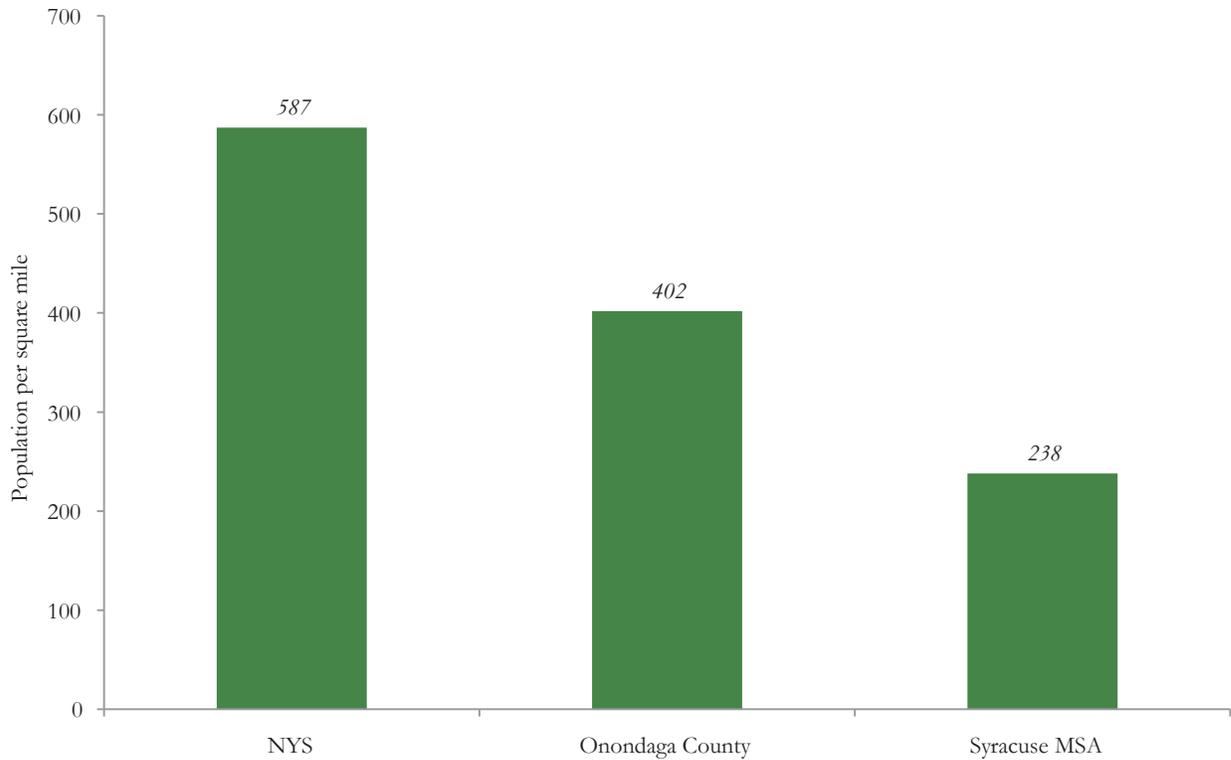
Source: US Census 2000 Data

Air Quality

Air Quality is an important aspect of a healthy environment. Inhaled pollution can cause a variety of health effects including impairment of cognitive function to acute respiratory illnesses. The EPA is charged with tracking and regulating air quality in every area of the United States. AIRNow is the branch of the EPA responsible for measuring and providing information to the public about air quality and any potential dangers.

The number of days with good Air Quality Index (AQI) is a useful measure because it demonstrates the number of days which the EPA has determined as an unhealthy level. AQI is measured on a 0-500 scale with 0-50 representing 'good' air quality according to AIRNow. The index measures levels of major air pollutants outlined in the Clean Air Act such as: ground-level ozone, particle pollution, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. Any air quality other than good poses a health threat and short term exposure to poor air quality and prolonged exposure to citizens pose an identified risk.

In 2004 both Syracuse and Onondaga County saw the highest number of days with good AQI. Between 2006-08 the number of days of good air quality has decreased. Still, there has been over 300 days per year with good AQI from 2006-08 for both the city of Syracuse and Onondaga county.
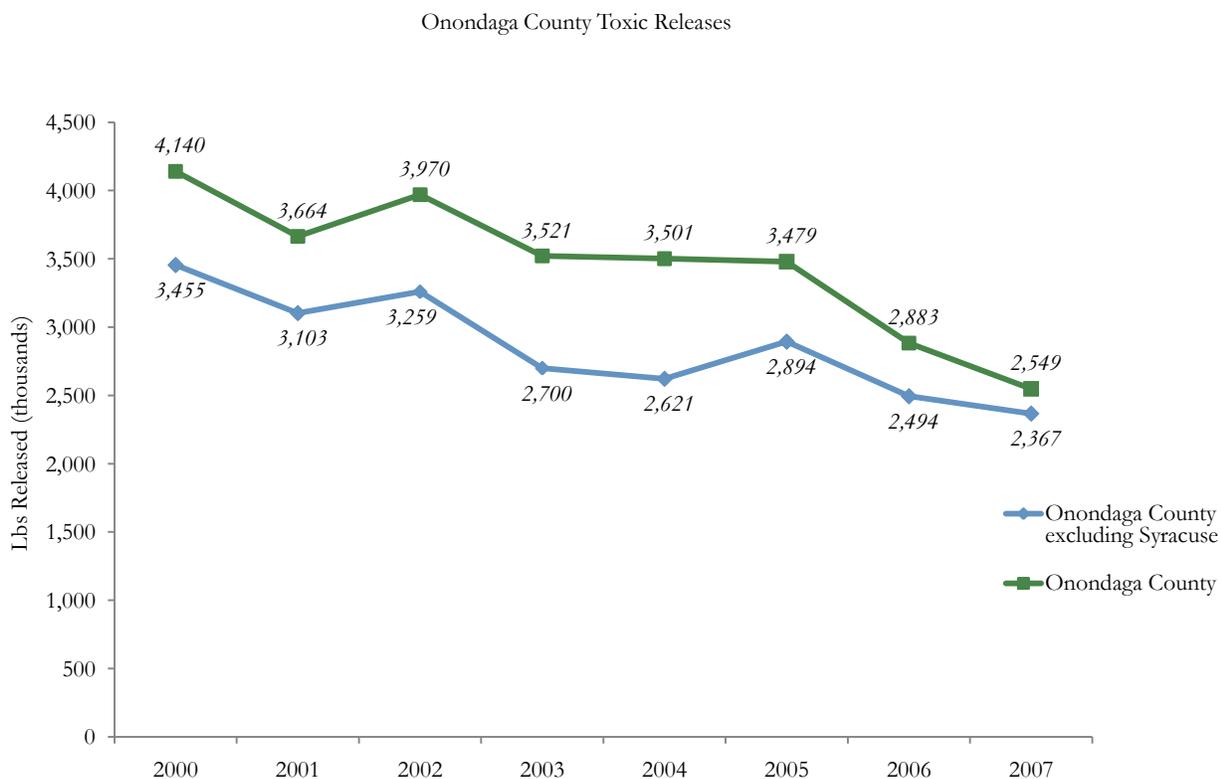
Toxics

Toxics, a by-product of industrial activity, are released each year through mediums such as air, water and land. Examples of toxics include dioxin, asbestos and metals like mercury and lead. The EPA's Toxics Release Index (TRI) mandates that all toxic releases be monitored and regulated to relieve the negative effects on the health of individuals and the environment. Measuring the pounds of toxics released in the area aids in determining whether programs have helped reduce the amount of toxic material released in the city of Syracuse.

Comment: The Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) is a system developed by the EPA to provide a "full risk-related perspective for air and water releases, and hazard-based and pounds-based perspectives releases to air, water, and land". An RSEI provides a comprehensive translation between the level of toxic released and the correlating health risks.

City of Syracuse Toxic Releases
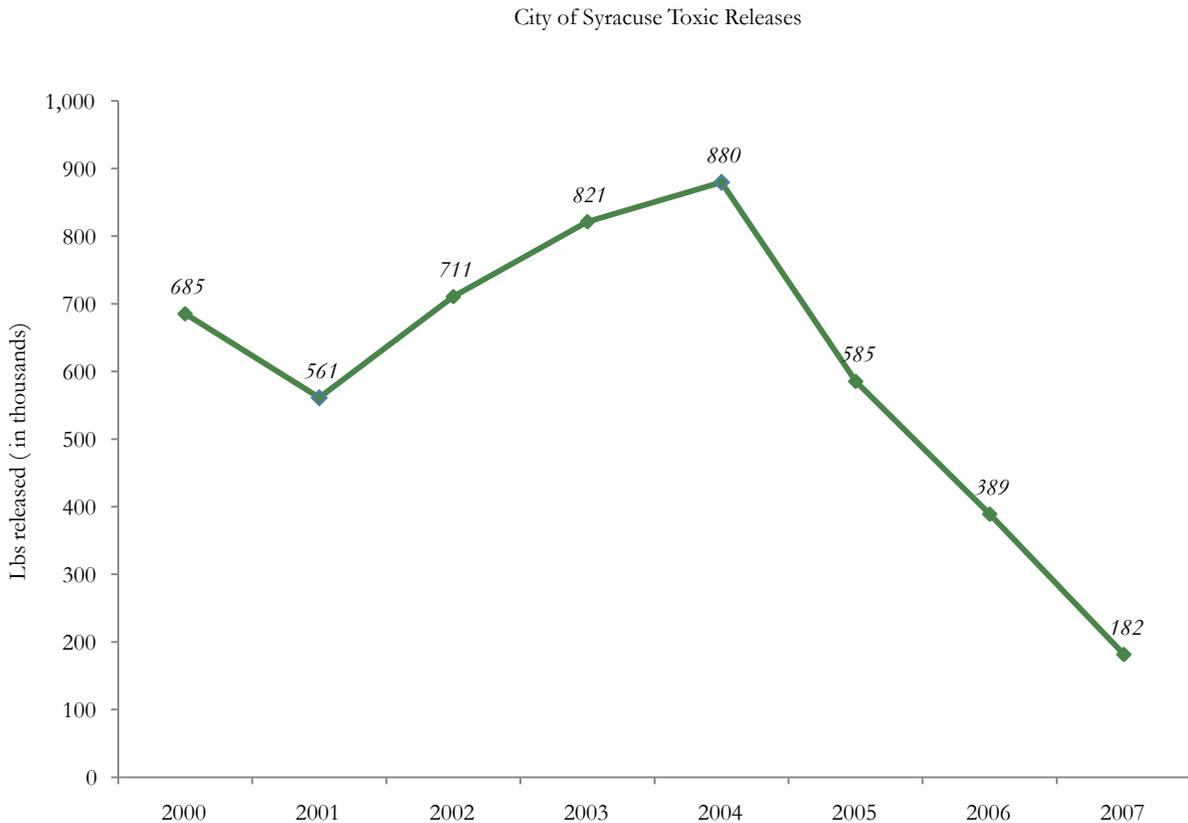
Source: Environmental Protection Agency: Toxic Release Index

Despite reaching a high of 879,754 pounds of toxics in
2004, Syracuse has reduced the amount of toxics released
by 698,147 pounds. This represents a reduction of 79%
between 2004 and 2007. Similar to the city level, the amount
of toxics released in Onondaga County was reduced between
2000 and 2007. The decrease of 1,591,000 pounds of toxics
between 2000 and 2007 represents a 38% reduction.

Onondaga County Toxic Releases

Source: Environmental Protection Agency: Toxic Release Index

Water Violations

The safety of public water systems is regulated by the EPA. The agency sets drinking water regulations that establish maximum contaminant levels, treatment techniques and reporting requirements. A violation according to the EPA is a failure to meet any state or federal drinking water regulation. Onondaga County has 110 water systems.
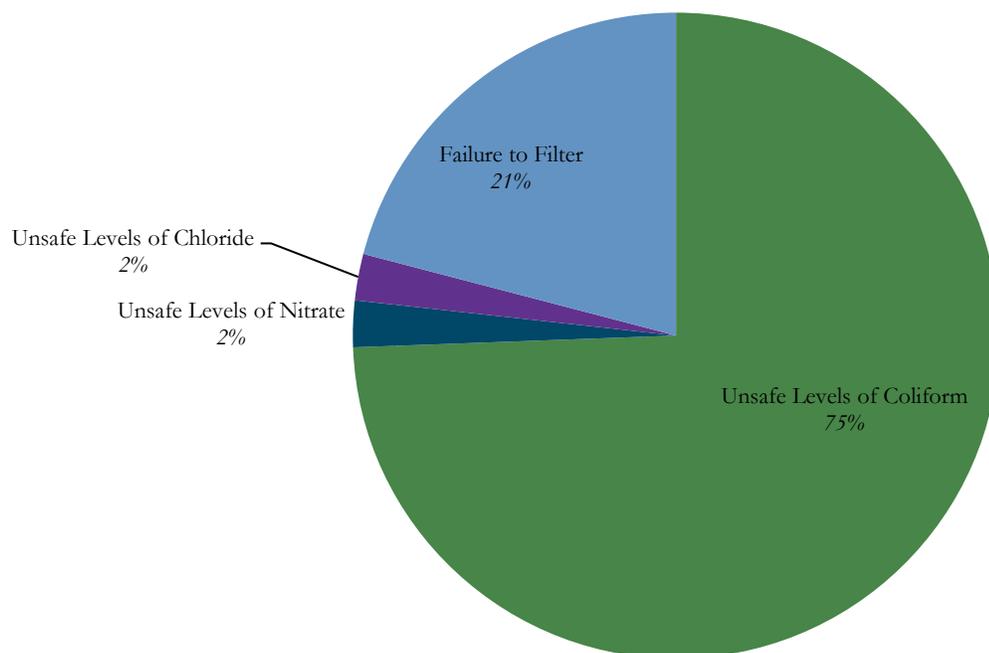
Number of Water Violations in Onondaga County
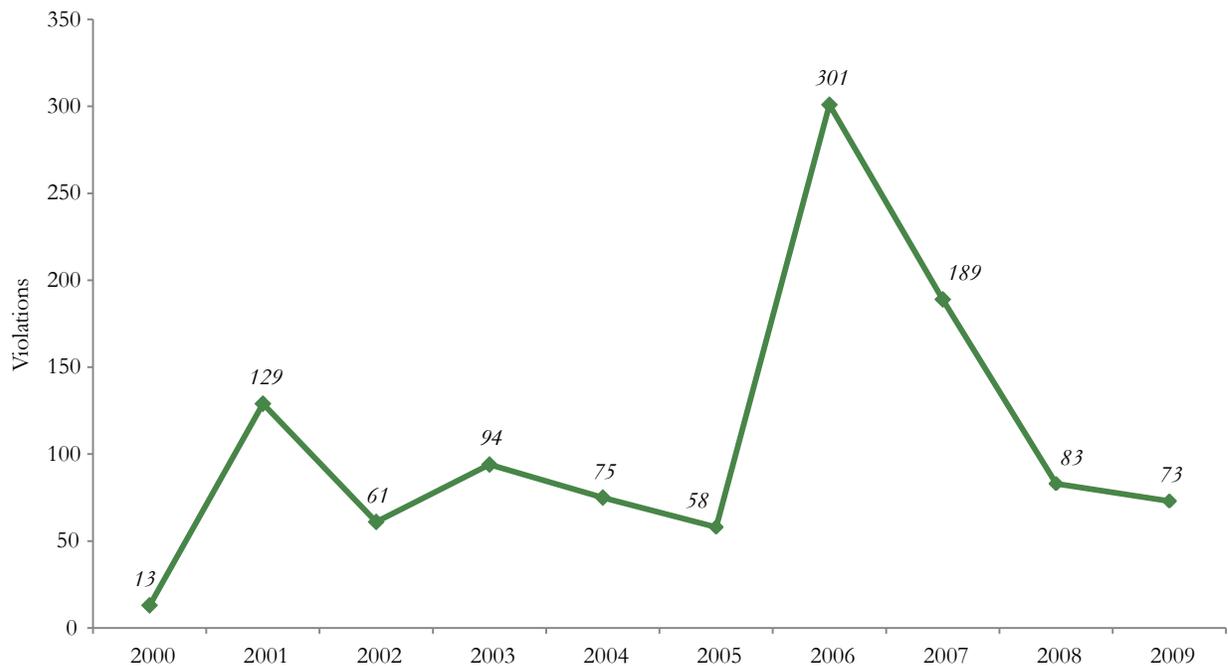
Source: EPA Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)

A health based water violation is when the amount of contaminant exceeds safety standards (Maximum Contaminate Level) or when water is not treated properly.

Onondaga County experienced the most water violations in 2006. However, the county has worked to decrease the violations. Between 2006 and 2009, the number of reported violations decreased by 76%.

Health-based Violations 2000-09

- Failure to Filter 21%
- Unsafe Levels of Chloride 2%
- Unsafe Levels of Nitrate 2%
- Unsafe Levels of Coliform 75%

*Source: US Environmental Protection Agency, 2000-09*

Water Treatment Levels

Water treatment facilities are used to remove contaminants from wastewater and household sewage. The water treatment facilities operate at primary, intermediate, secondary and tertiary levels. Each level of the process removes a series of waste products. The primary treatment is a mechanical process that removes suspended solids, while the intermediate and secondary treatments use aerobic or anaerobic micro-organisms to remove organic matter while retaining some of the nutrients. The tertiary treatment is the advanced treatment of waste water which efficiently removes the organic matter.

The most recent year of water treatment data available is 2004 and is provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. According to the report, Onondaga County has 13 water treatment facilities and New York State has 610.

2004 Treatment Levels at Water Facilities

■ New York State
■ Onondaga County
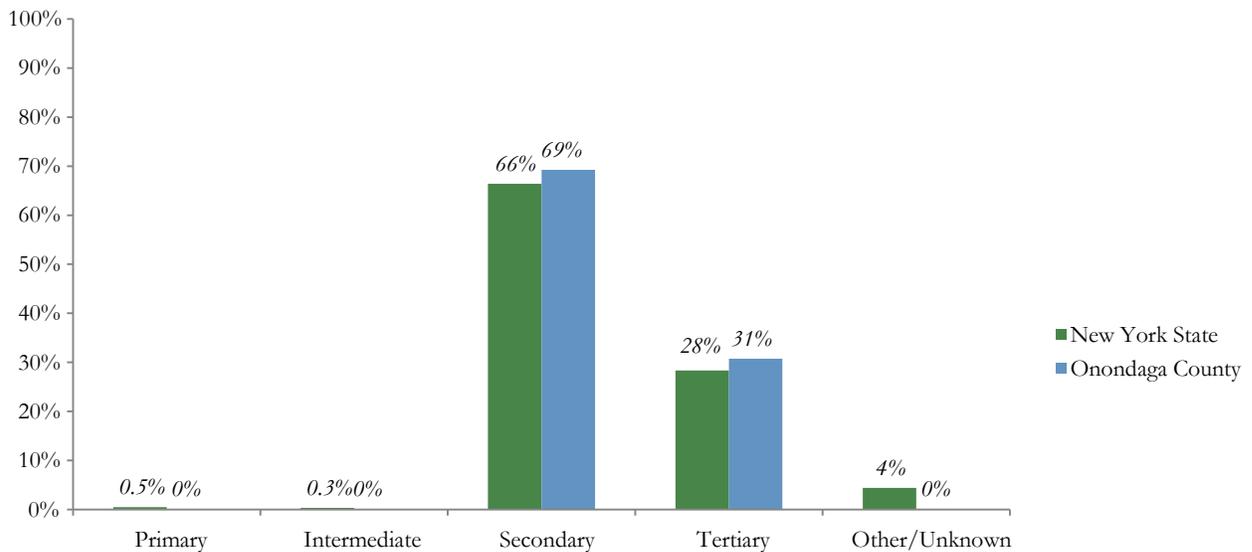
Source: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 2004

Onondaga County treats all water at the secondary and tertiary levels. Onondaga County's 0% treatment at the primary and intermediate levels suggest the county's water requires less treatment compared to other parts of New York State. Because 96.6% of water is treated at the secondary level, there is less need to further refine water at the tertiary level.

2004 Water Flow at Treatment Levels
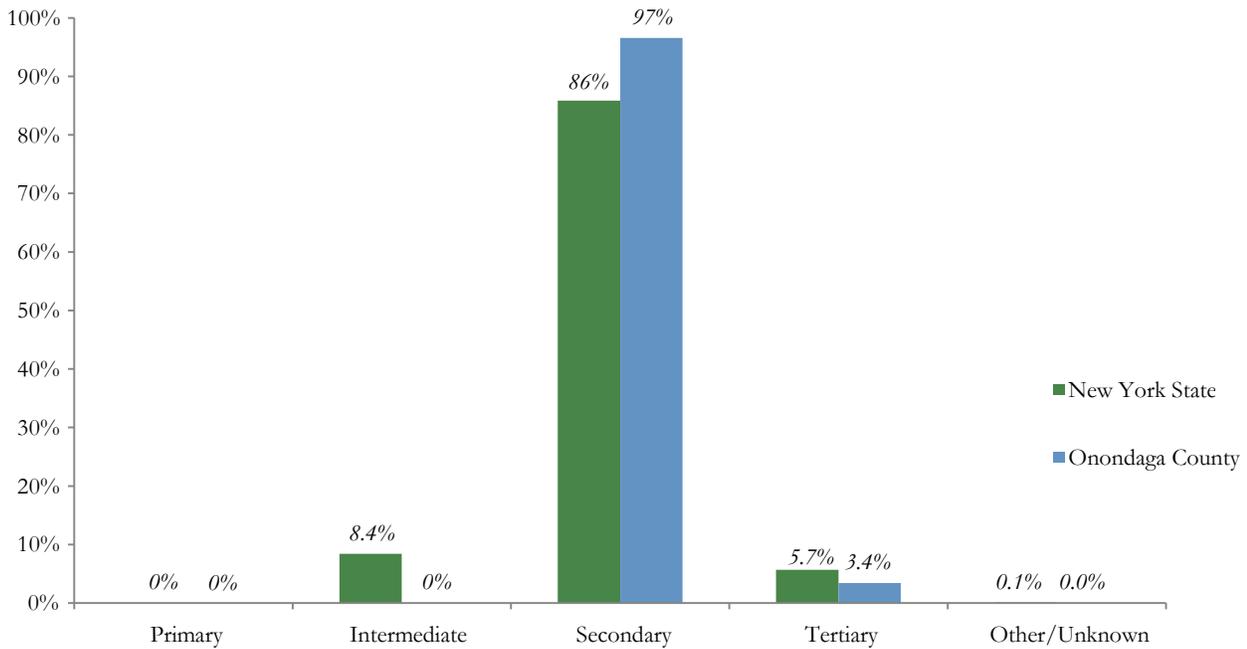
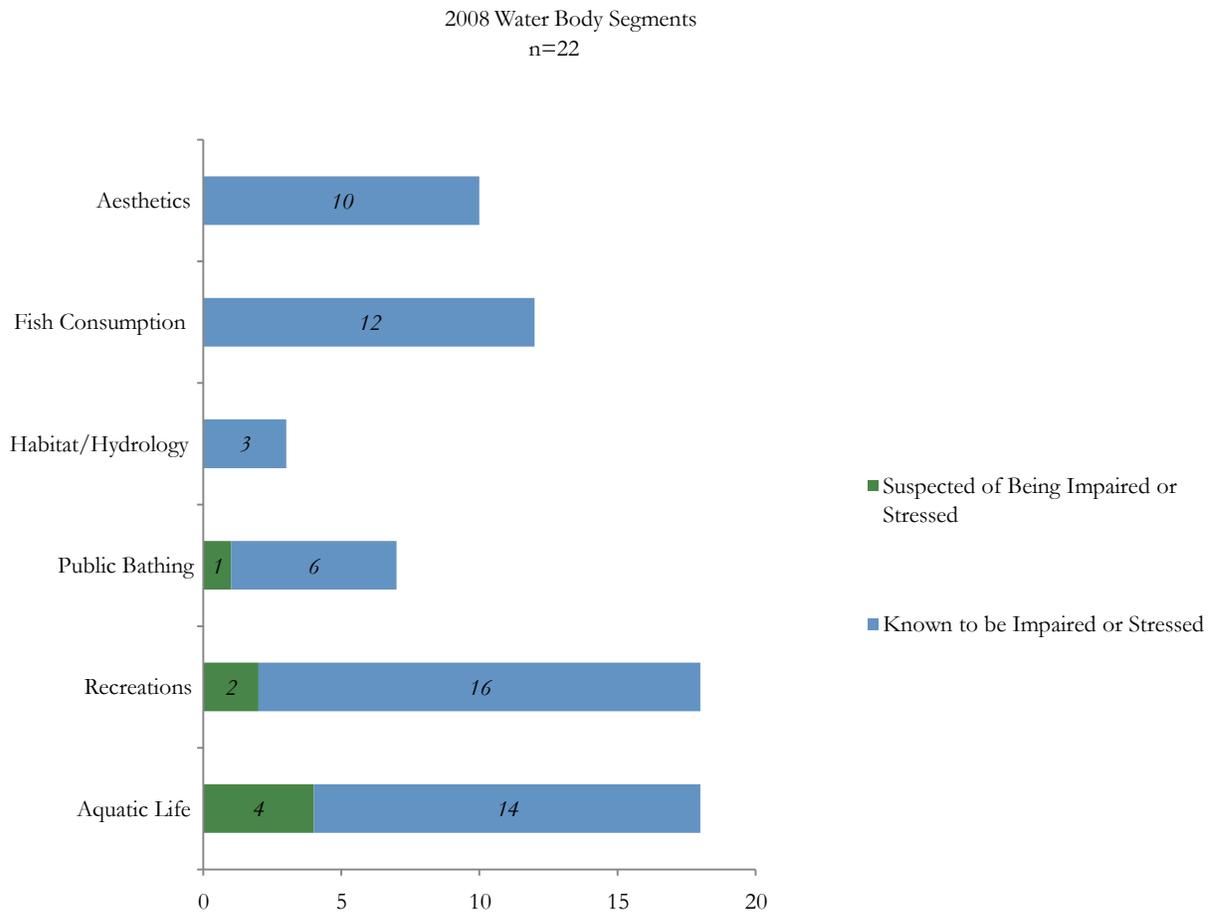Source: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 2004

Water Quality

As part of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), the Division of Water maintains a Waterbody Inventory and Priority Waterbodies List (PWL) for the bodies of water within New York State.

The PWL reports on water quality problem information on regional water body segments with regard to various categories of use. The degree of severity of the water quality problem is categorized in terms of use as the following (in decreasing order of severity): Precluded, Impaired, Stressed, and Threatened.

For each diminished/impacted use category, the level of documentation is identified using the following criteria (in decreasing order of reliability): Known, Suspected, and Possible. Onondaga County lists 22 water body segments.

Aquatic life is the largest category suspected of being impaired or stressed. The recreational category of water use is the largest aspect known to be impaired or stressed, followed by aquatic life, then fish consumption. While this is alarming, the metrics collected should spur the community to take steps in reclaiming such use of the water body segments within Onondaga County.

2008 Water Body Segments
n=22

Category	Suspected of Being Impaired or Stressed	Known to be Impaired or Stressed
Aesthetics		10
Fish Consumption		12
Habitat/Hydrology		3
Public Bathing	1	6
Recreations	2	16
Aquatic Life	4	14

Source: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 2008

Community Spotlight:
Near West Side Neighborhood

The Near West Side neighborhood in Syracuse is a pioneer in green technology and is slated to be the first redeveloped LEED-ND certified neighborhood. Through grants from the Syracuse Center of Excellence, environmentally-friendly technologies are being incorporated all over the neighborhood, including a series of energy audits and grants to help homeowners improve the efficiency of their energy use. A co-generation furnace-generator has been installed that provides roughly half of a home's energy off-grid.

Where brown fields and abandoned homes are being redeveloped, existing structures are being "deconstructed" to conserve materials for the new building and minimize landfill waste. There are plans for an urban farm, a hydroponic greenhouse in which local residents will be employed. The neighborhood redevelopment is also making use of stormwater management systems, including porous pavement and sidewalks, rain gardens, and rainwater capture systems. The Rosamond Gifford Foundation is providing solar lighting to increase the walkability of the neighborhood.

An architectural competition was held to attract designs for low-cost energy-efficient homes. Live Work Home, pictured above, was constructed from structural insulated panels that eliminate the thermal break, leading to more efficient circulation of heated/cooled air. Another product of the competition, R-House, features controlled ventilation and heavy insulation to maximize energy efficiency. Ted, located next door, is heated by solar panels and retained rainwater.

Source: saltdistrict.com

Government

Our government is meant to serve the people, but in order to do so effectively, citizens need to make their voices heard. A strong relationship between government and the people may contribute positively to a community's well-being. The indicators in this section aim to identify some of the costs of governments, the availability of government programs, the level of public access to government through the Internet and the value residents place on civic engagement through voting.

Not unlike other cities, counties and states around the country, 2010 has been financially challenging for Syracuse and Onondaga County. Debt per capita has increased in recent years in both the city and the county. Additionally, Onondaga County legislature is considering a proposal that could change the allocation of state tax revenues. Currently, the county shares sales tax revenues with the city, towns, villages and school districts. If the new proposal passes, it will revise the sales tax formula by dividing revues only between the city and the county in a 25%/75% split, respectively.

In this region, the number of children and adults registered for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), a federal government program, and Medicare, another government run program, has increased. The increase may be a reflection of the difficult economic times faced by many in the past several years.

Onondaga County, like most regions in the nation, the number of registered voters exceeds the number of active voters, which indicates that not all registered voters participate in government elections. Participation does increase in Onondaga County during national elections.

Expenditures by Sector

The indicator for expenditures by sector tracks the percentage of government expenditures in each of the following categories: community service, culture and recreation, debt services, economic development, education, employment benefits, general government, health, public safety, sanitation, transportation and utilities. Expenditures by sector reflect which areas in the community are spending the most money, and such data may aid in further budget and policy analysis. Efficiency in financial allocations and in the use of monetary resources may improve a community's well-being.

The sectors with the largest expenditures for the city of Syracuse are public safety, employee benefits and transportation.

2008 City of Syracuse Expenditures by Sector
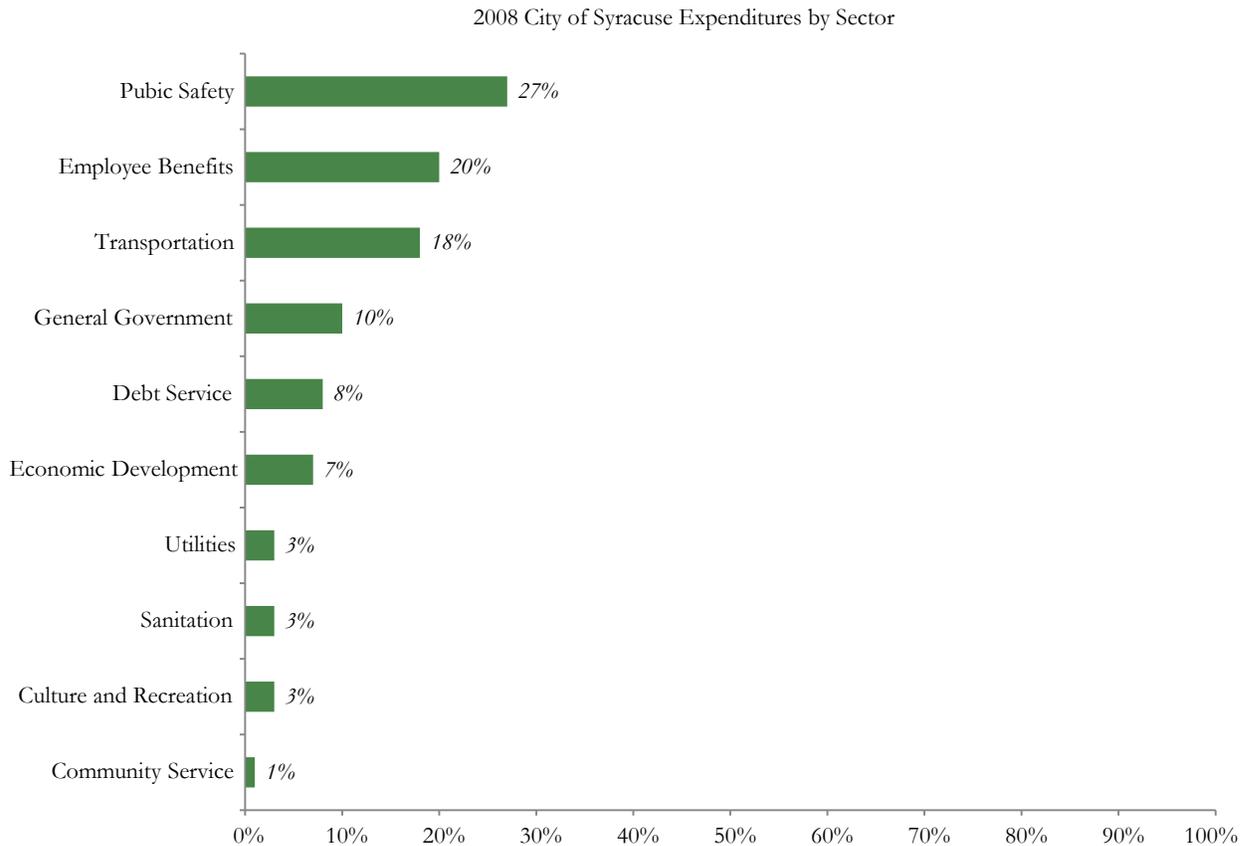
Source: OSC Open Book NY; New York State office of the State Comptroller

Deficit per Capita

Deficit per capita is the government's total debt divided by the county's population. Deficit is important because a higher deficit can result in diminished funding for government programs and agencies.

Between 2000 and 2008, deficit per capita has increased in Onondaga County. The increase may be indicative of the difficult economic climate experienced in many regions in the United States in recent years.

Onondaga County Deficit Per Capita
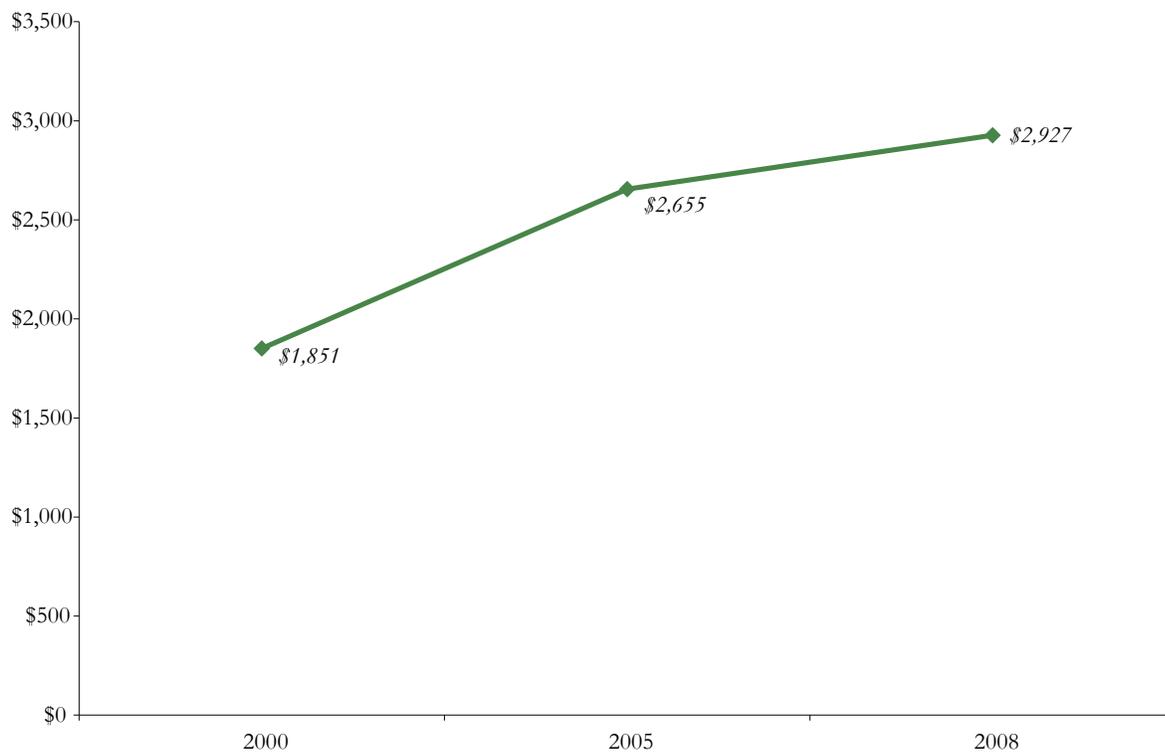
*Source: OSC Open Book NY; New York State office of the State Comptroller*

Medicaid Eligible

Medicaid is a state administered program that is available to low-income individuals and families who fit into an eligibility group that is recognized by federal and state law. According to the US Department of Health & Human Services Medicaid sends payments directly to an individual's health care provider. Depending on state guidelines an individual may be asked to pay a part of the cost.

The indicator for Medicaid eligible follows the number of people who have been approved for Medicaid in Onondaga County.

The indicator represents those people approved for Medicaid. The number of people denied is unknown.

Over the years, there has been a substantial increase in the number of people approved for Medicaid. The greatest increase occurred in the first half of the decade, with a high of 69,991 people in 2004. Since 2004, the number of people approved for Medicaid has declined slightly but has stayed above 65,000.

Medicaid Eligible Individuals in Onondaga County
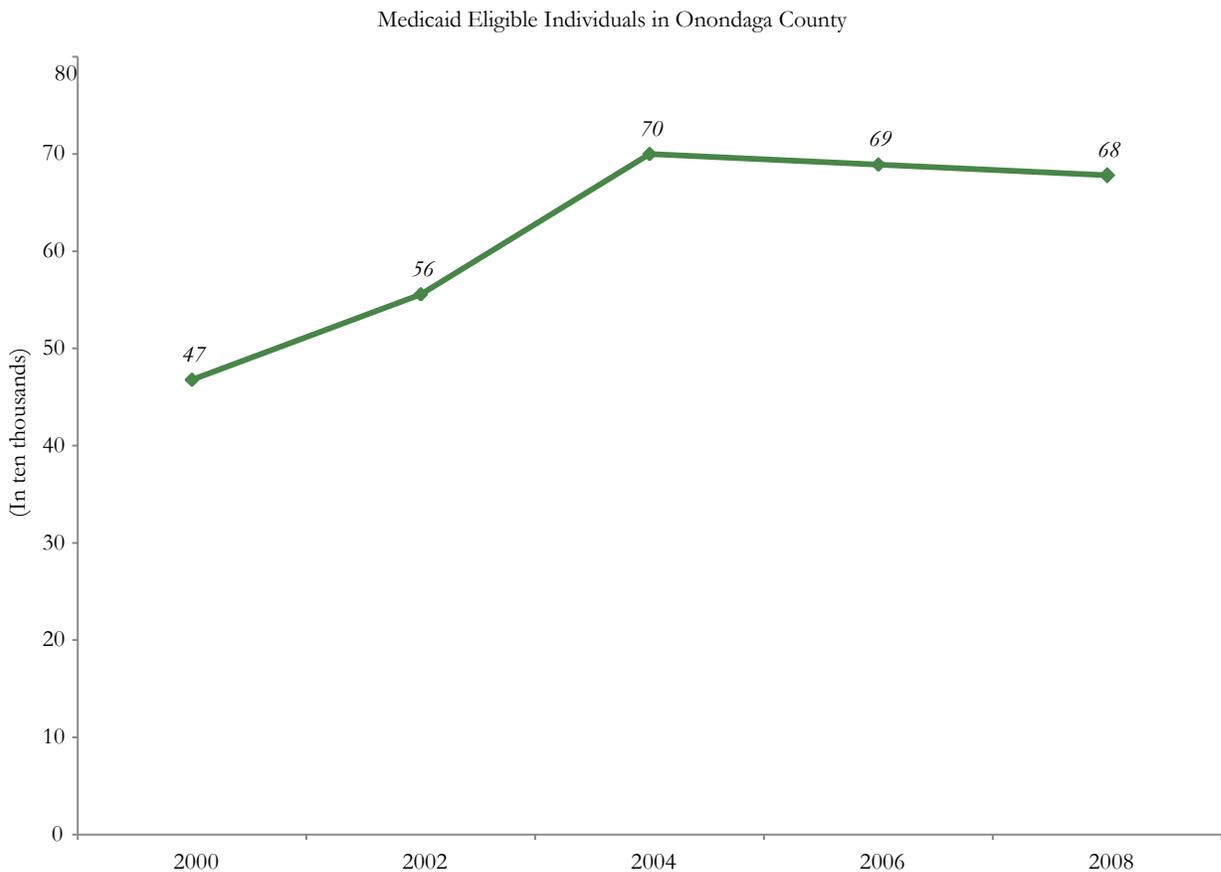
Source: New York State; Department of Health 2009

Registered Voters

The number of registered voters is divided into seven political parties, which include Democrat, Republican, Independent, Conservative, Working Families, Green, Libertarian. The remaining voters are not enrolled in a political party.

Between 2000 and 2007, the number of registered voters has increased in the city of Syracuse and decreased in Onondaga County. The increases from March 2000 to November 2000 and March 2004 to November 2004 are most likely due to the presidential elections that occurred during those years. Although Democrats and Republicans are the two dominant parties in Onondaga County, there are slightly more registered Democrats than Republicans.

Onondaga County Registered Voters
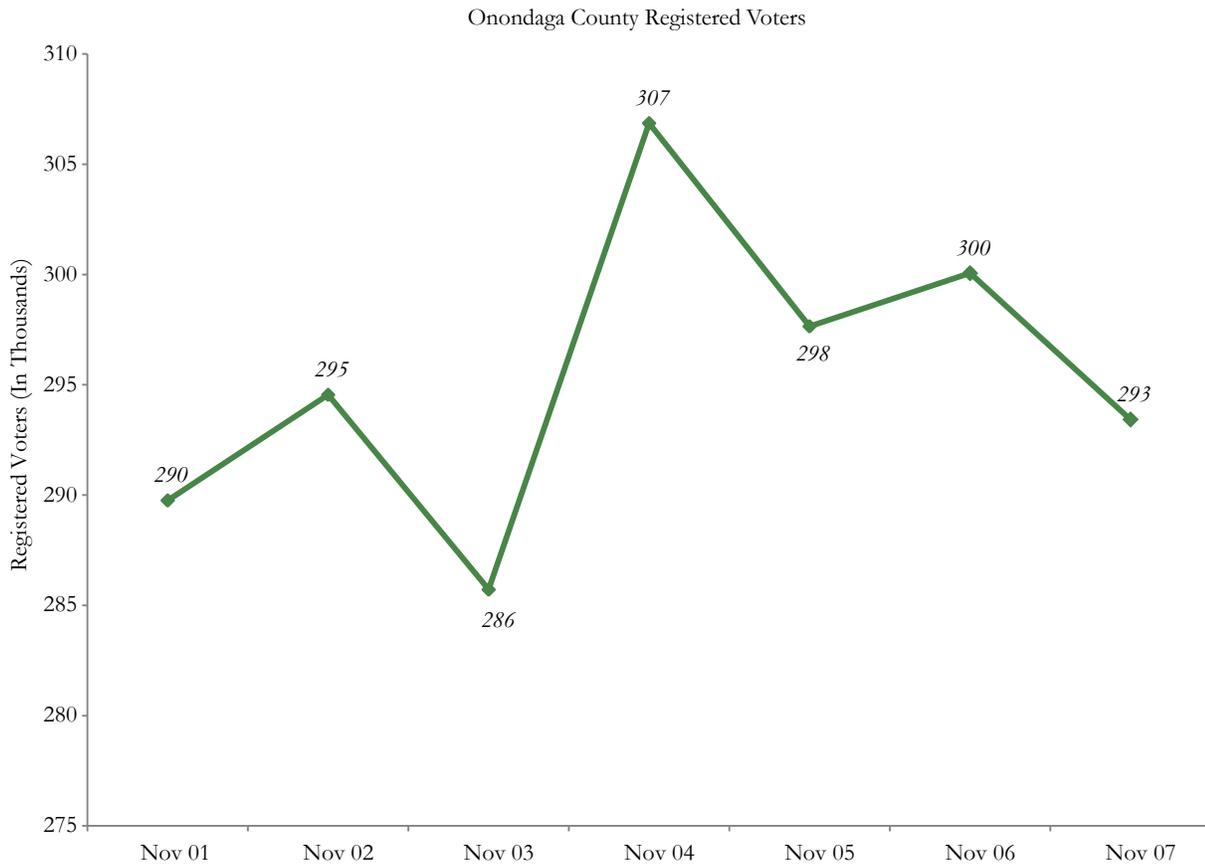
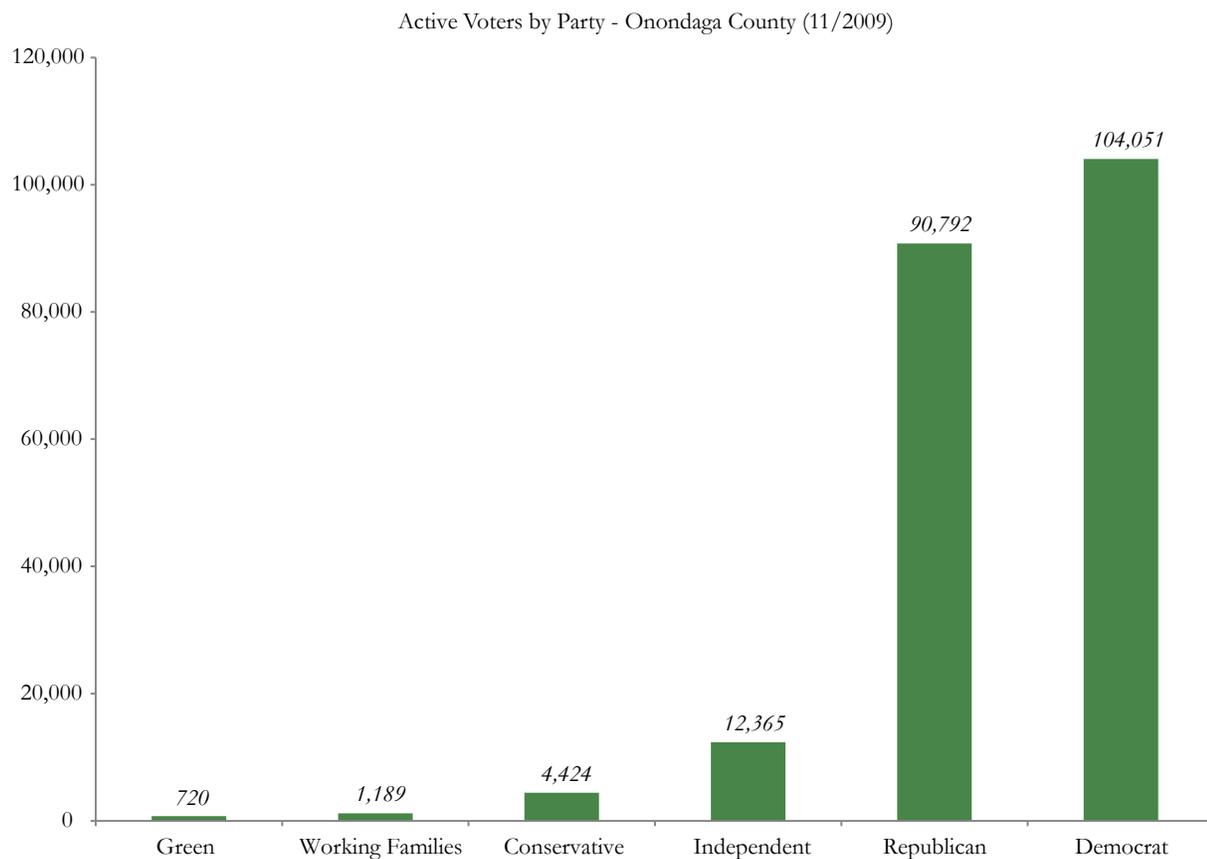*Source: New York State Board of Election 2008*

Active Voters

The number of active voters is recorded twice a year for Onondaga County by the New York State Board of Elections. Like the number of registered voters, the number of active voters is broken down into eight different political parties, which include Democrat, Republican, Independent, Conservative, Working Families, Green, Libertarian and no affiliation. The indicator for active voters follows the percentage of registered voters who participate in government elections.

Active Voters in Onondaga County
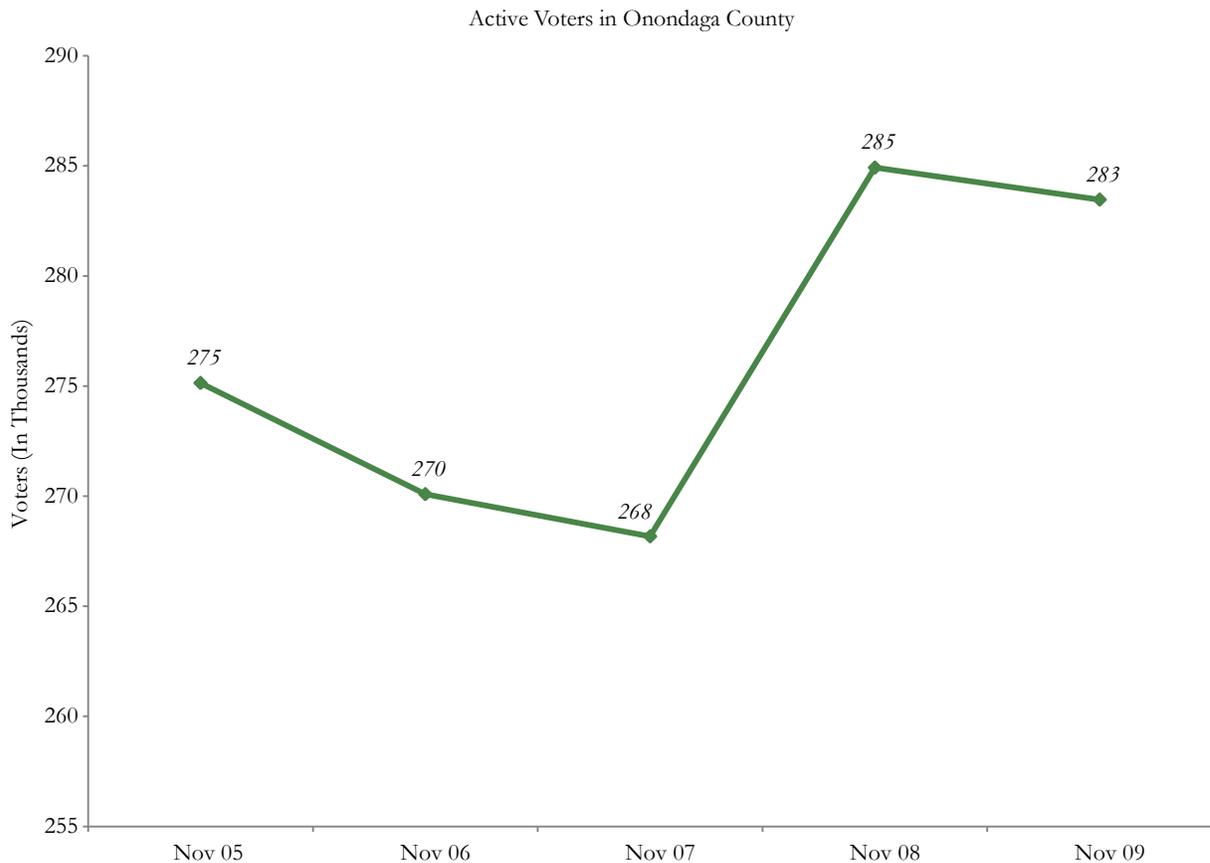
Source: New York State; Board of Elections 2008

In Onondaga County, the number of registered voters exceeds the number of active voters which indicates that not all registered voters participate in government elections. An increase in active voters from March 2008 to November 2008 is most likely due to the presidential election that occurred that year. When looking at the break down of active voters by political party, the two dominant political parties are Democrats and Republican.
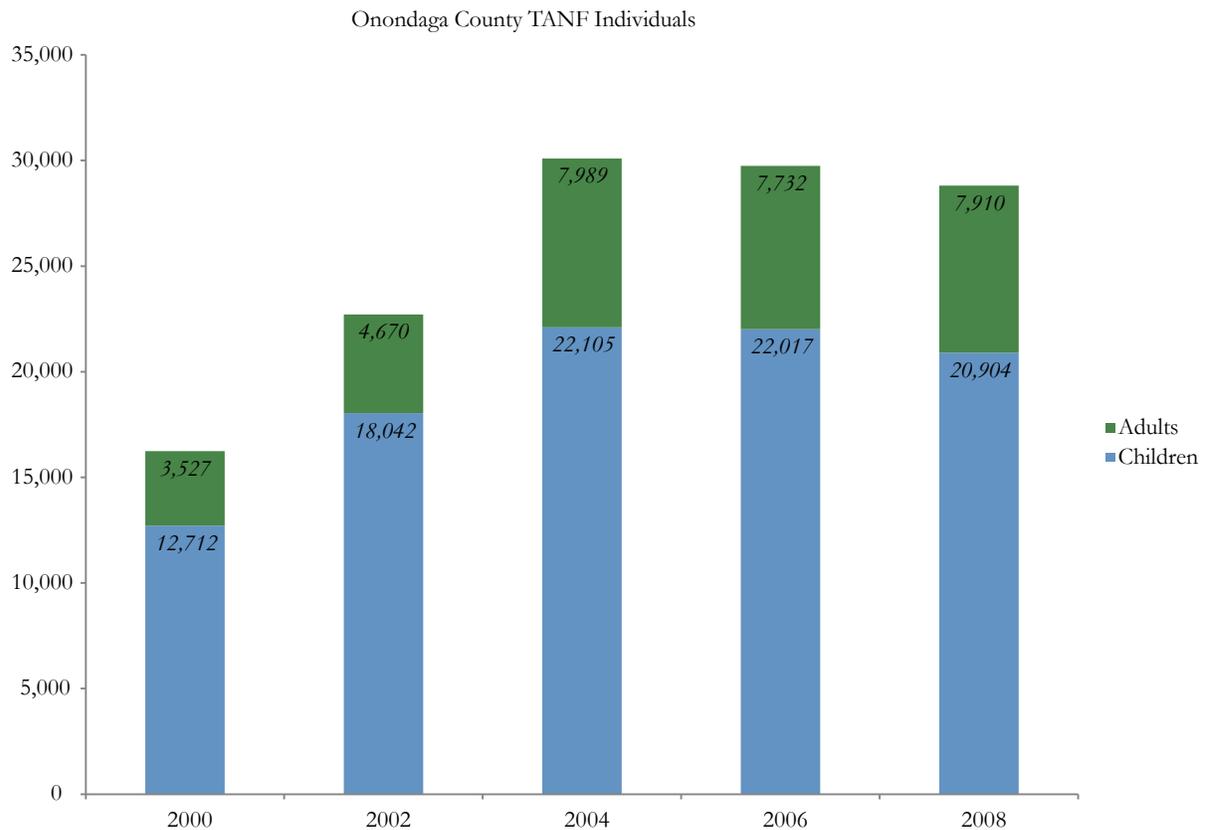
Active Voters by Party - Onondaga County (11/2009)

Source: New York State; Board of Elections 2008

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) is a federal assistance program designed to provide aid for eligible children and adults in Onondaga County. The program is part of total federal expenditures in the county.

Between 2000 and 2004, the number of individuals enrolled in the program nearly doubled from 16,239 to 30,094. Since 2004, the number of TANF children has decreased slightly, while the number of TANF adults has increased. Overall, the program assists many more children than adults.

Onondaga County TANF Individuals

| Year	Children	Adults
2000	12,712	3,527
2002	18,042	4,670
2004	22,105	7,989
2006	22,017	7,732
2008	20,904	7,910

Source: New York State; Department of Health 2009

Online Access

Online access is the ability of citizens to obtain information from municipal websites in Onondaga County. The websites are graded on three criteria. The first is whether the website contains contact information for local government officials. The second is whether the website contains the agenda and minutes of board meetings. The third criteria is whether the website contains information about municipal departments. If the website contains a detailed description of one of the criteria, it received one point. If it contained a partial description of one of the criteria, it received 1⁄2 point. The website was given zero points if the criteria was not met. The point system translates into the following: 3 points is *excellent*; 2.5 points, *good*; 2 points, *average*; 1.5 points, *fair*; 1 point, *needs improvement*.

Online Access Rating
n = 31
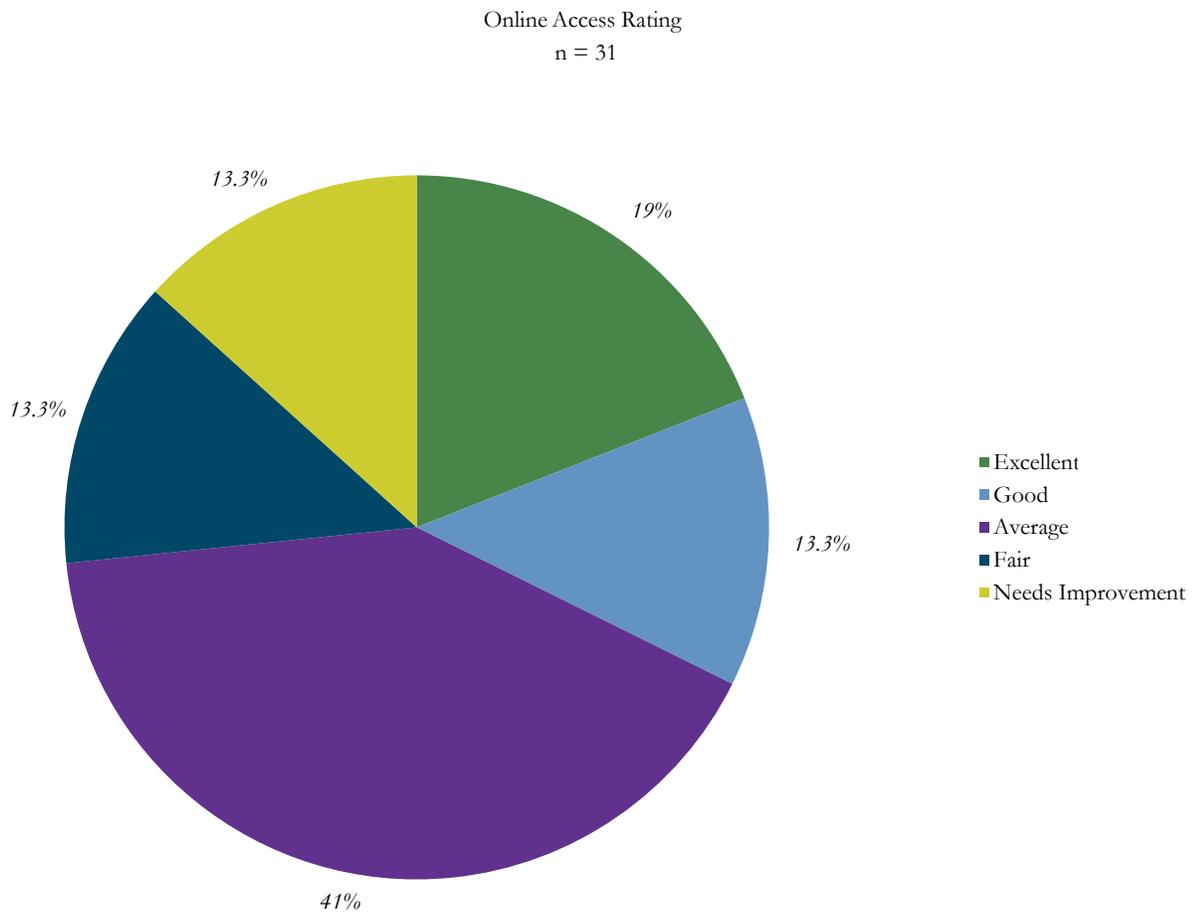
Source: CBP Government Research Team, February-March 2010

Basilia Nwankwo
SUNY Upstate Medical Student

Health

The physical health of individuals in a community is a vital component to the condition of the community as a whole. Good health contributes to the economic strength, mental well-being, stability and happiness of residents who provide the framework for neighborhoods and businesses. The overall health of a community is indicative of the quality and accessibility of health care and services, lifestyle choices and environmental influences.

When choosing neighborhoods and communities, new residents often consider the proximity of health services and the options available. Syracuse and Onondaga County are rich in healthcare facilities offering all levels of care. The recent addition of Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital ensures that families have access to care at facilities that will meet present and future needs.

Syracuse and Onondaga County struggle with many of the same challenges facing other regions, such as access to health insurance and increasing rates of diabetes, obesity and asthma. For most indicators Onondaga County is on par with New York State and the United States. It is difficult to measure more current heath concerns with data sources that are two and three years old.

Access to Physician Care

Access to care is often dependent on the number of physicians practicing in a given area. "Physicians" are defined as those who are licensed and working in New York State, based on the latest data collected from the Center for Health Workforce Studies' ongoing New York State Physician Licensure Re-registration Survey. Syracuse is recognized as a leader in health care, with many quality health facilities and options available relative to the population of the area. Access to physician care affects the overall desirability, health and well-being of a community and proximity to quality care is often a consideration during the relocation process.

Comment: Available data could be disaggregated to represent Central New York only and no data were available specific to Syracuse or Onondaga County. The Central New York Region includes Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga and Oswego counties. Population figures are based on 2006 US Census estimates.
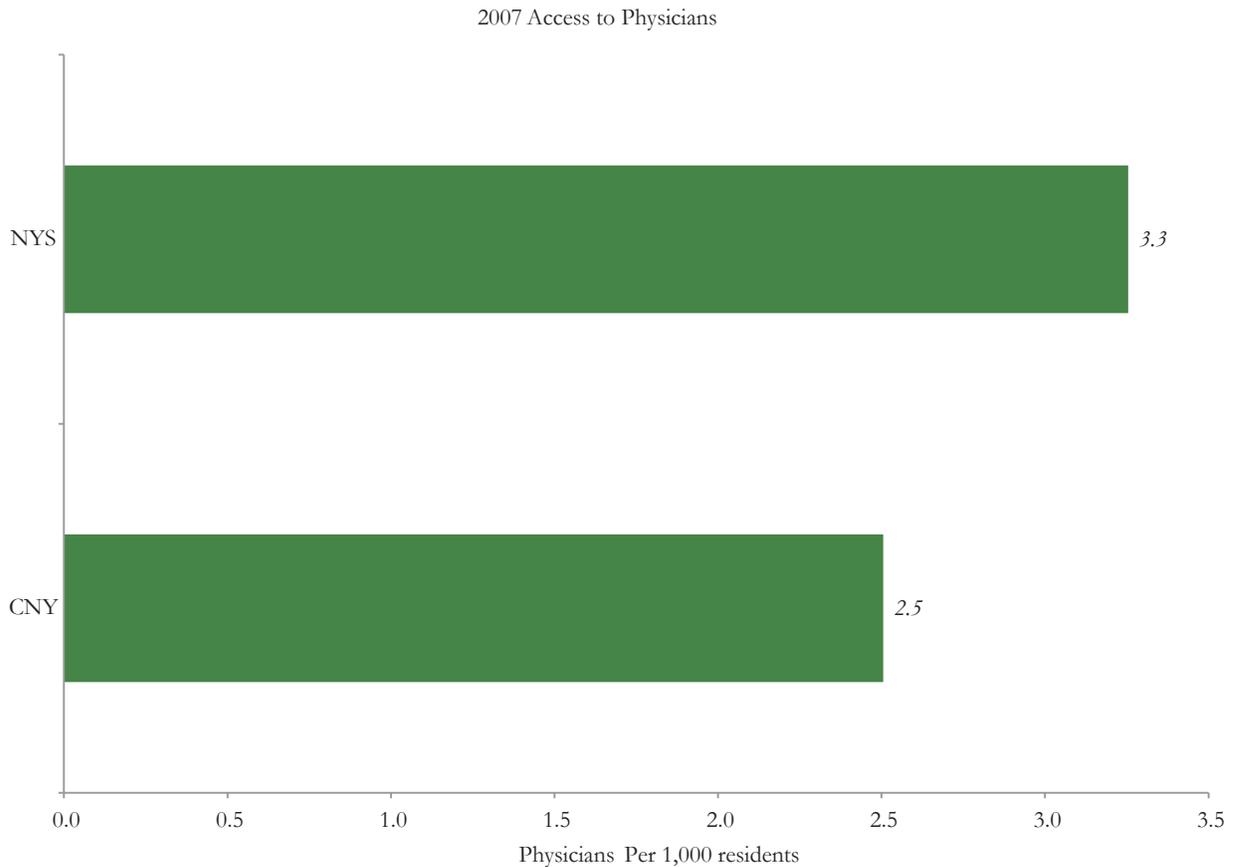
2007 Access to Physicians

	Physicians Per 1,000 residents
NYS	3.3
CNY	2.5

Physicians Per 1,000 residents

Source: Annual New York Physician Workforce Profile, The New York Health Workforce Data System, The Center for Health Workforce Studies at the University at Albany, State University of New York, 2007

Central New York has slightly fewer physicians per 1,000 residents as compared to New York State, fewer female or minority active patient care physicians and its doctors are more likely to practice in a group setting. The average age for physicians practicing in Central New York was 51 as of 2007, which was the same reported average for New York State. Based on information available it is impossible to determine what percentage of active care physicians are practicing in Syracuse and Onondaga County

Comment: Practice settings are defined as:
1. Private: Solo Practice
2. Group: Physician Partnership, Group Practice-Owner/Operator, Group Practice-Employee/Staff
3. Hospital Hospital-Inpatient, Hospital-OPD (Outpatient department), Hospital-Satellite Hospital- Emergency Room
4. Other Free-Standing Health Center or Clinic (Diagnostic & Treatment Center), Staff Model HMO, Nursing Home, Home Health, State or Local Health Dept., Other Setting.

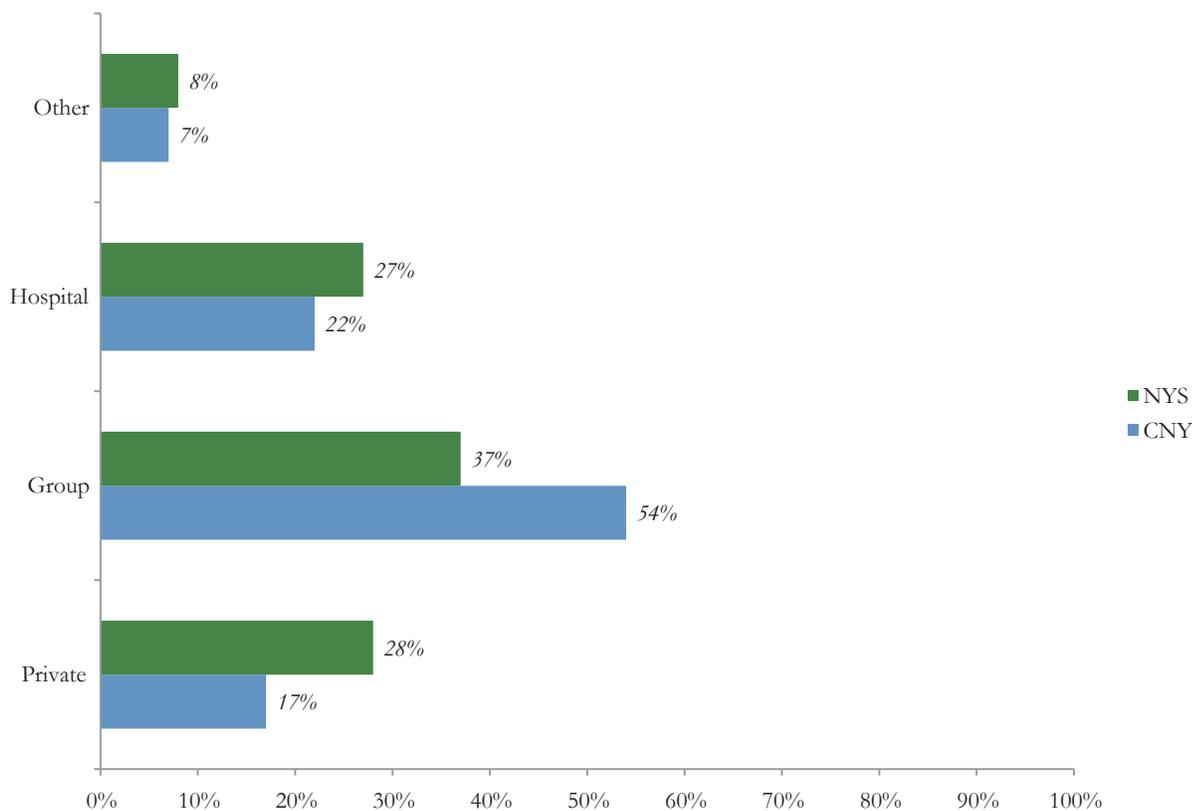2007 Practice Settings of Active Patient Care Physicians

Source: Annual New York Physician Workforce Profile, The New York Health Workforce Data System, The Center for Health Workforce Studies at the University at Albany, State University of New York, 2007
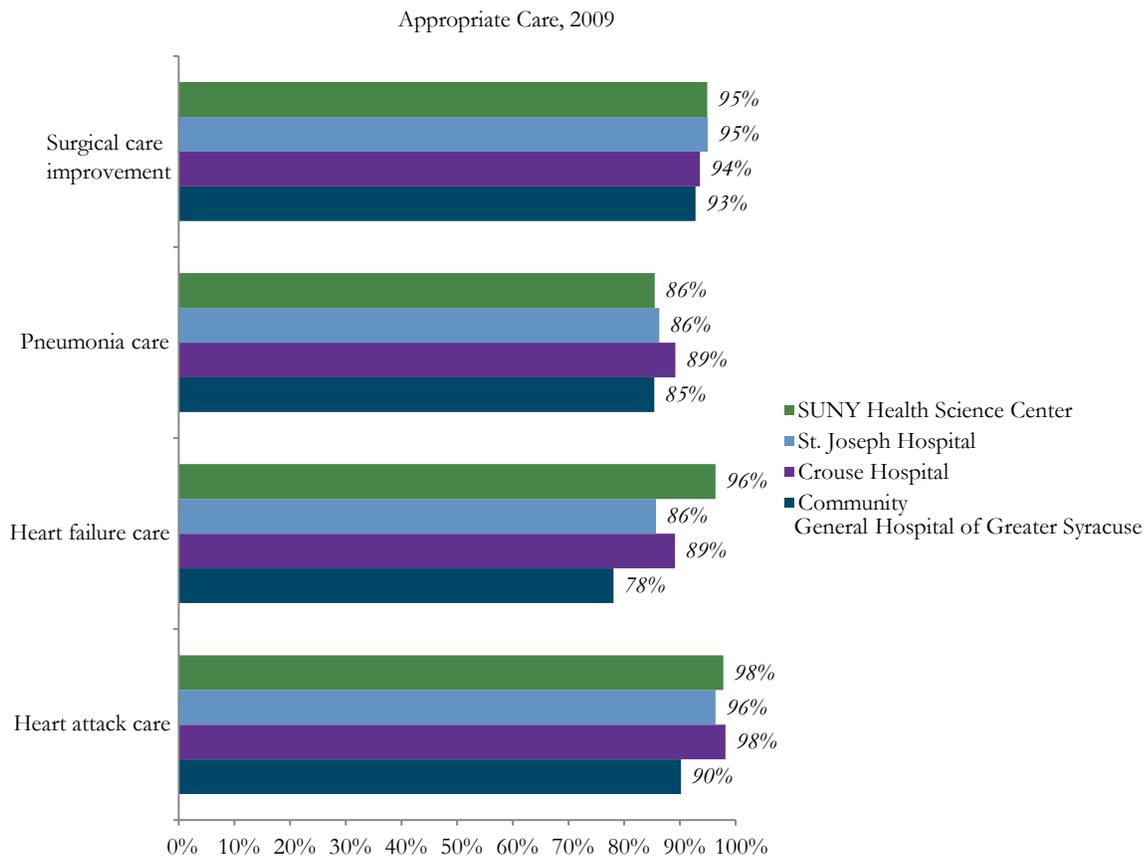
Hospitals

When choosing a community, residents often consider the quality, proximity and value of local health care facilities. Hospital quality is measured by the New York State Department of Health and shows how well a hospital provides patient care. It is important to note that the Department of Health says, "while these measures have been proven the most useful indicators of quality care, a hospital's overall quality cannot be expressed by its score on these measures alone." Hospital quality is determined using recommended care and outcome measures. Recommended care varies according to the particular circumstance attributed to a given patient.

Patient care is defined as the percentage of patients in need of care contrasted to those who actually received care. Outcome measures refer to what happens to a patient as a result of the treatment received.

The department measures four categories: heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical care. To determine the care provided, reports are reviewed to see if patients received the appropriate treatment.

The four hospitals in Onondaga County, SUNY Health Science Center, St. Joseph Hospital, Crouse Hospital and Community-General Hospital of Greater Syracuse offer a high quality of hospital care.

Appropriate Care, 2009

Category	SUNY Health Science Center	St. Joseph Hospital	Crouse Hospital	Community General Hospital of Greater Syracuse
Surgical care improvement	95%	95%	94%	93%
Pneumonia care	86%	86%	89%	85%
Heart failure care	96%	86%	89%	78%
Heart attack care	98%	96%	98%	90%

■ SUNY Health Science Center
■ St. Joseph Hospital
■ Crouse Hospital
■ Community General Hospital of Greater Syracuse

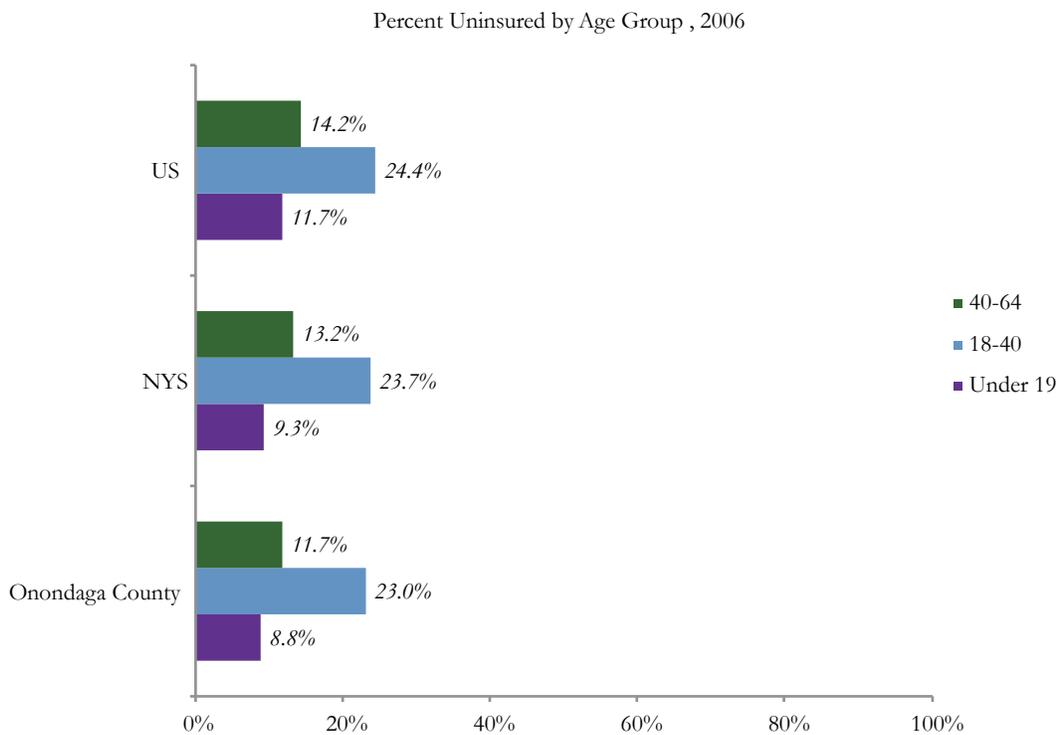*Source: New York State Department of Health: Hospital Profiles, 2009*

The Uninsured

Individuals without health insurance have limited or no access to medical care. Making medical insurance more accessible to the entire community has become a societal concern. Tracking the percentage of the uninsured is the US Census Bureau's Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) program which produces information on health insurance coverage for all counties and states.

2006 Percent Uninsured

US — 15.8%

NYS — 15.7%

Onondaga County — 14.5%
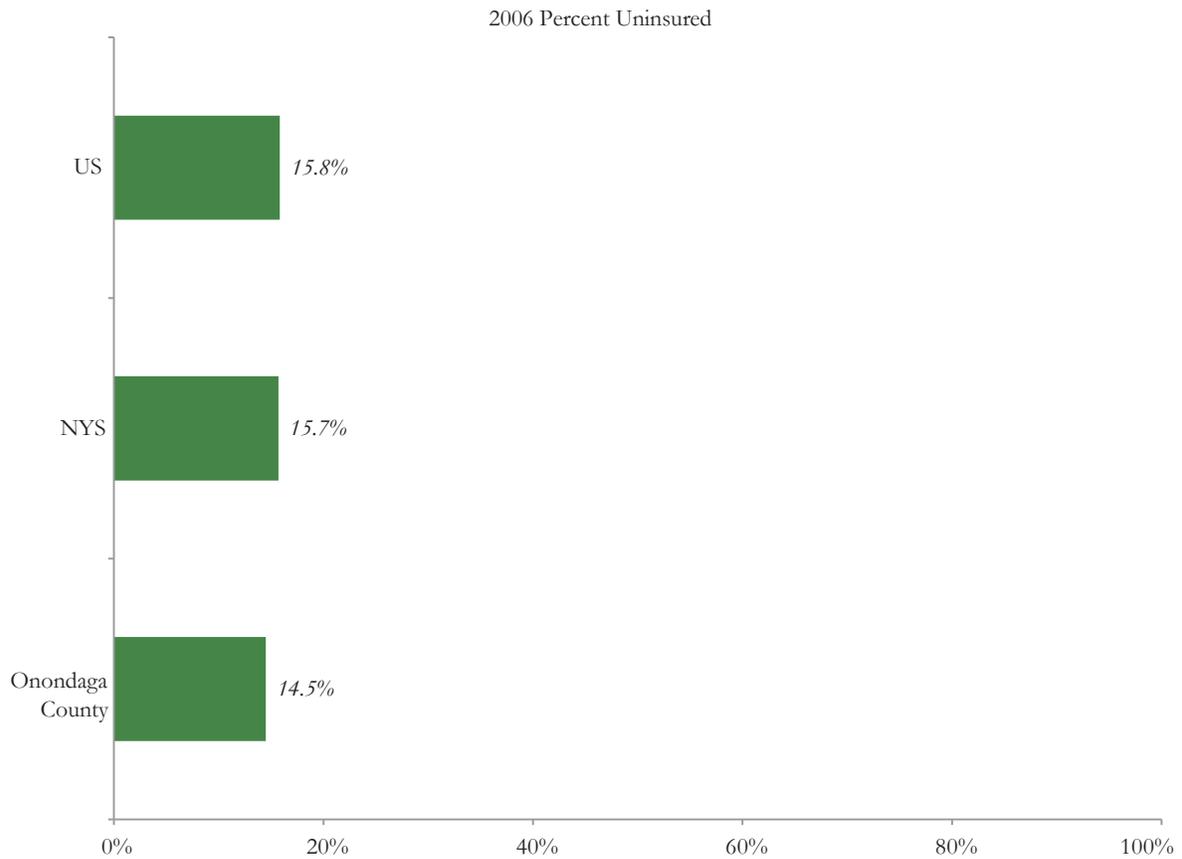
Source: US Census Bureau's Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE), 2009

The most vulnerable portion of the population are the poor, in particular those living at or below 200% of the poverty line. Over 30% of Onondaga County residents are in this category, compared to roughly 26% in New York State.

Percent Uninsured by Age Group , 2006

■ 40-64
■ 18-40
■ Under 19

US
14.2%
24.4%
11.7%

NYS
13.2%
23.7%
9.3%

Onondaga County
11.7%
23.0%
8.8%

Source: US Census Bureau's Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE), 2009
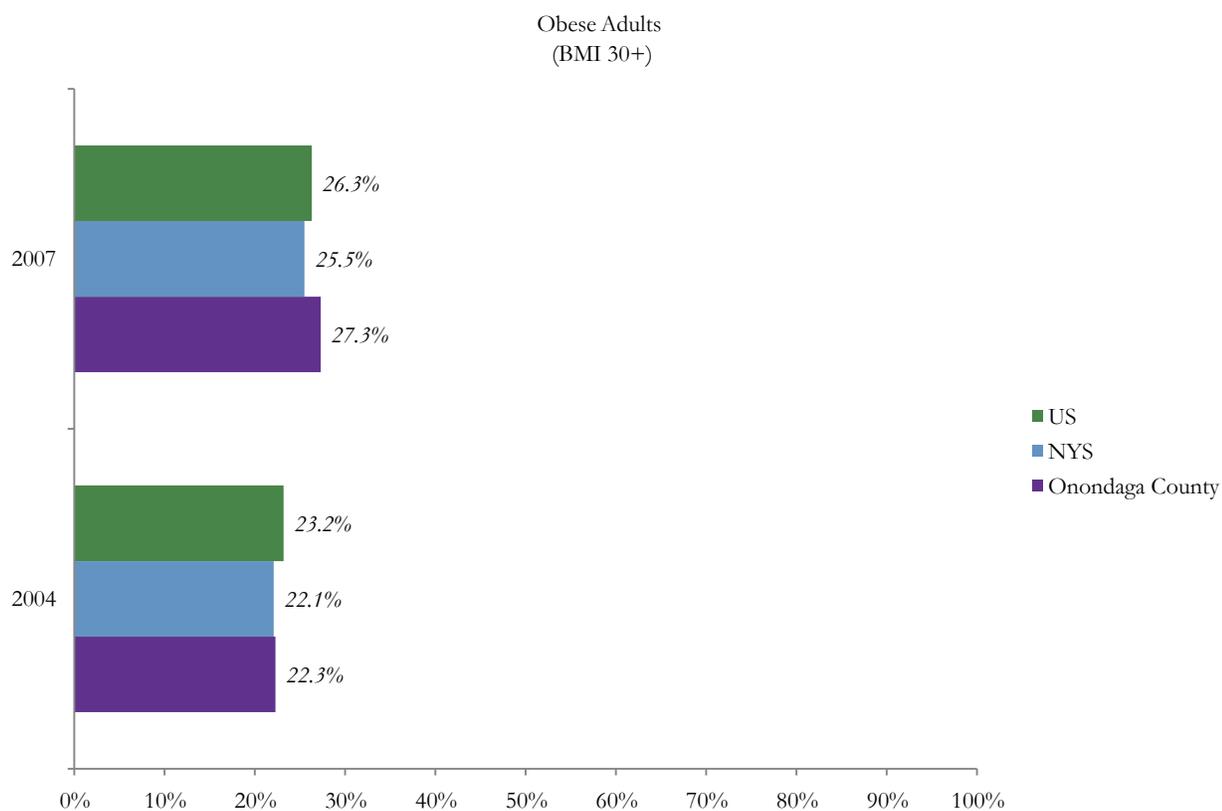
Obesity

Regardless of the geographic areas listed below, the percentages for those who are overweight/obese are close. Using the Body Mass Index (BMI), a person is considered overweight if their BMI is 25 to 29.9 and obese if their BMI is 30 or higher. These conditions can result in serious health issues such as Type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke and other problems.
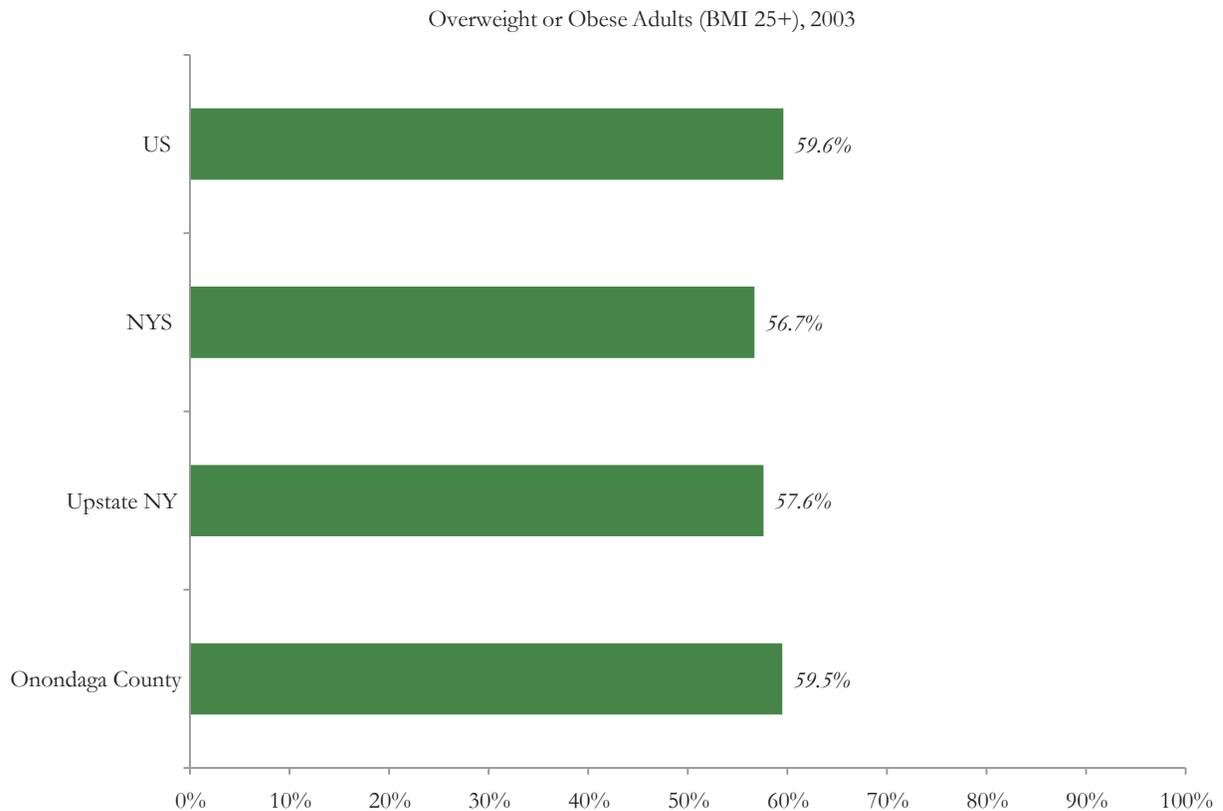
Overweight or Obese Adults (BMI 25+), 2003

Area	Percentage
US	59.6%
NYS	56.7%
Upstate NY	57.6%
Onondaga County	59.5%

Source: New York State Department of Health Assessment Indicators, 2003, Center for Disease Control Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2003

Between 2000 and 2004, there was a four percent gain of
Onondaga County residents who are considered obese, a
faster increase than the state or the nation. This means that
more than one in four people are obese.

Obese Adults
(BMI 30+)

2007	US 26.3%
	NYS 25.5%
	Onondaga County 27.3%
2004	US 23.2%
	NYS 22.1%
	Onondaga County 22.3%

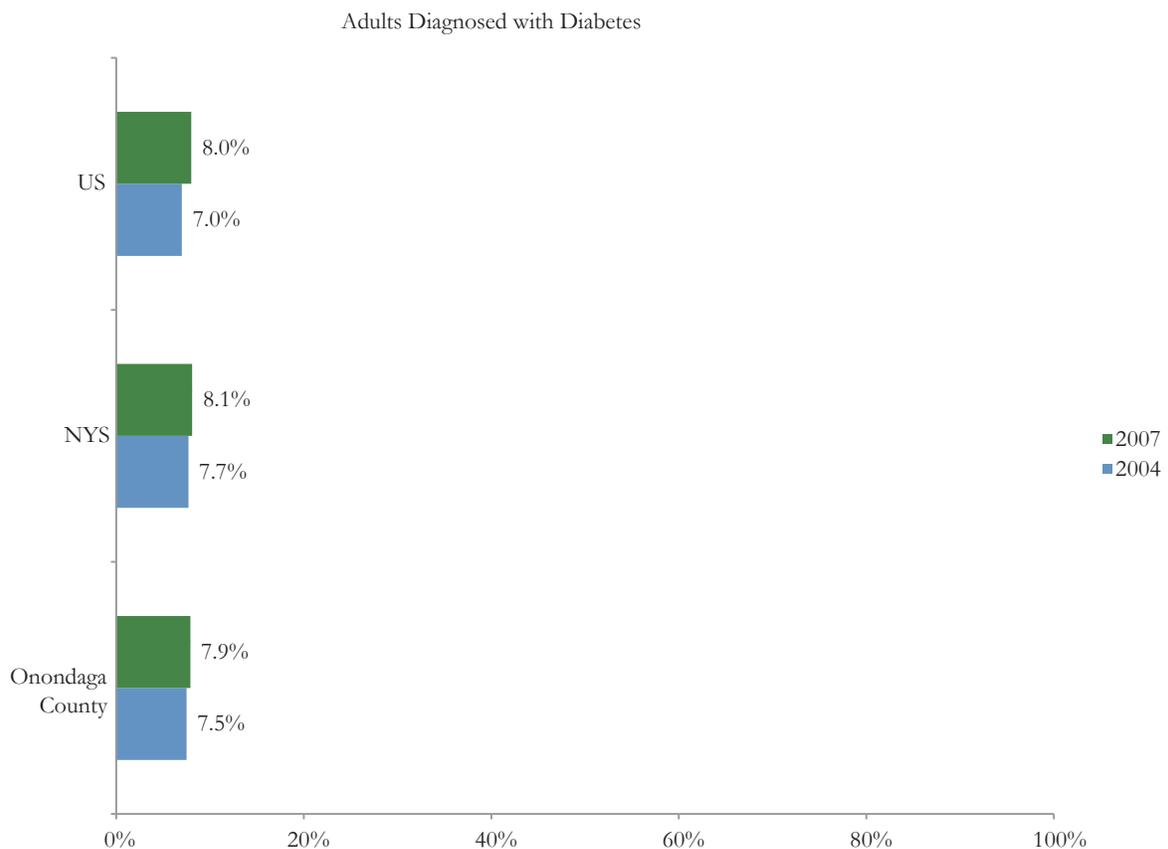Legend:
- US
- NYS
- Onondaga County

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Diabetes Surveillance System, 2004-07, Centers for Disease Control Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2004-07

Diabetes

Diabetes is a chronic condition affecting 23.6 million children and adults in the United States, according to the American Diabetes Association. It is characterized by the pancreas failing to produce enough insulin or the body being unable to use insulin effectively. Diabetes is increasing at dramatic rates in the United States. There are three types of diabetes: Type 1, Type 2 and gestational diabetes. Type 1, also known as juvenile diabetes because it is typically diagnosed in children, results from the inability of the body to produce insulin. In Type 2 diabetes, the most common, the body is unable to produce insulin properly.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, individuals 20 years or older are considered to be adults. The percentage of adults diagnosed with diabetes has increased between 2004 and 2007 in Onondaga County, New York State and the United States. As of 2007, Onondaga County rates were slightly below state and national rates, with nearly 1 of every 13 adults diagnosed as having diabetes. Type 2 diabetes accounts for over 90% of all cases of diabetes nationally.

Adults Diagnosed with Diabetes

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Diabetes Surveillance System, 2004-07

Smoking

Cigarette smoking affects the health of not only those who smoke, but everyone around them. It is believed to be one of the leading causes of various forms of cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory conditions and low birth weights. The nicotine in tobacco products is highly addictive and responsible for thousands of premature deaths. The American Cancer Society reports that smoking is a leading cause of lung cancer. Monitoring smoking rates is valuable in assessing the effectiveness of, or need for cessation programs.

As of 2003, the smoking rate of adults in Onondaga County was 5.7 percent higher than the smoking rate for adults in the United States. According to the American Lung Association, the death rate of adults from 2000-04 as a result of smoking was 246.1 per 100,000. Of those, the projected youth death rate in 2003-04 was 389,000 persons.

Adults who Smoke 2003

Region	Percentage
US	20.1%
NYS	20.3%
Upstate NY	22.1%
Onondaga County	25.8%
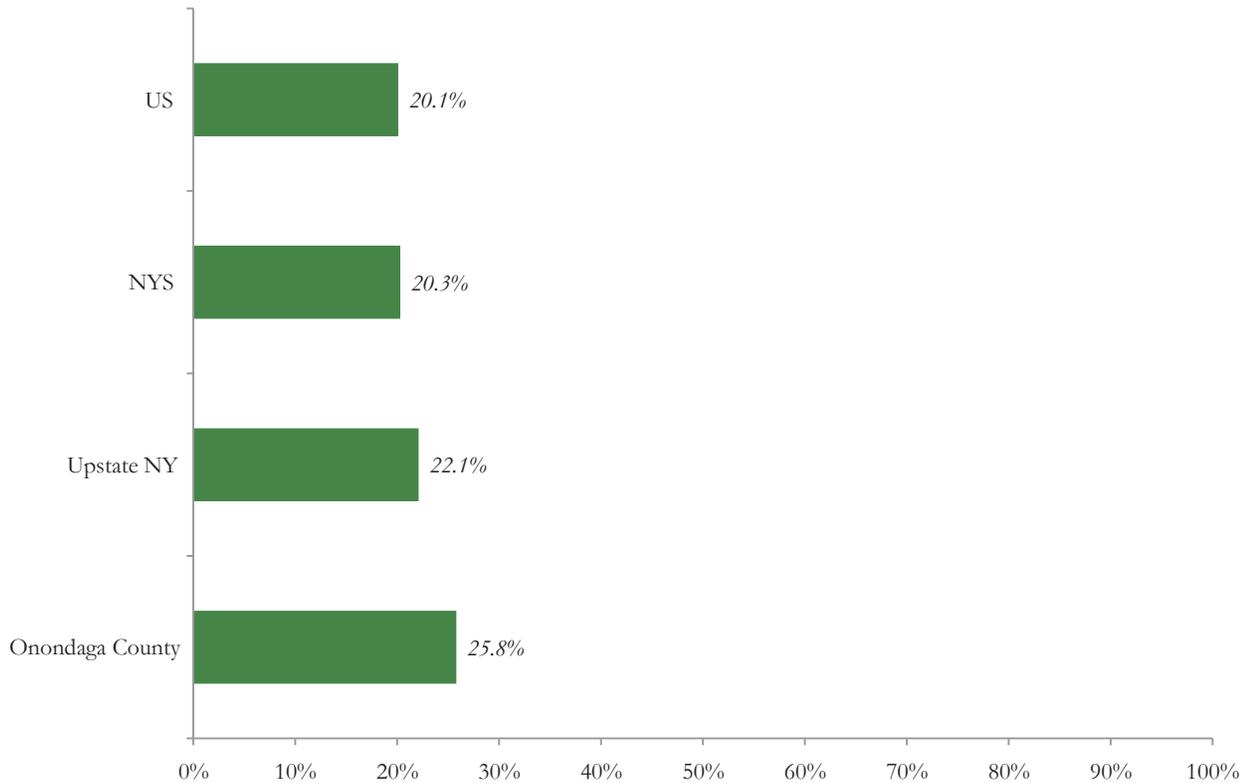
Source: New York State Department of Health County Health Assessment Indicators, 2003

Asthma

Asthma is defined as a long-term, chronic inflammatory disease that blocks the free flow of oxygen to and from the lungs according to the US Department of Health & Human Services. In most instances it is non-life-threatening and treatable by controlling exposure to allergens or "triggers," controlling stress and administering medication.

Onondaga County is performing well in spite of reported nationwide increases in asthma cases in recent years. The rate of asthma hospitalization in Onondaga County was less than half that of New York State between 2000 and 2006.
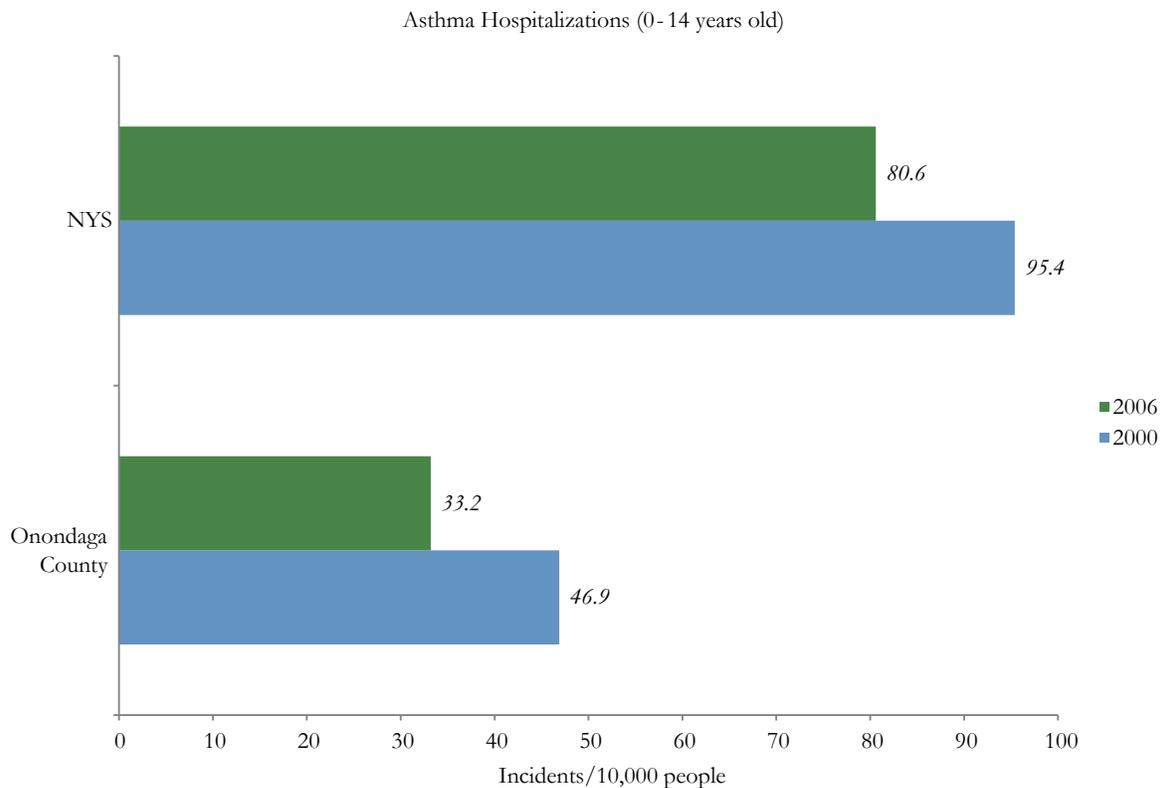
Asthma Hospitalizations (0-14 years old)

Source: New York State Department of Health; Public Health Information Group, Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS,) 2000 & 2006

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

The term sexually transmitted disease (STD) refers to any disease spread by sexual contact. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), 65 million individuals in the United States are living with an incurable STD. This is one in four people in the United States. Not all STDs are symptomatic and as a result may go undiagnosed. Tracking the rate of STDs is useful in monitoring the effectiveness of STD prevention programs. Chlamydia is defined by the CDC as a STD caused by the bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis.

Comment: Syracuse Area is defined as the counties of Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, St. Lawrence, Tioga and Tompkins.
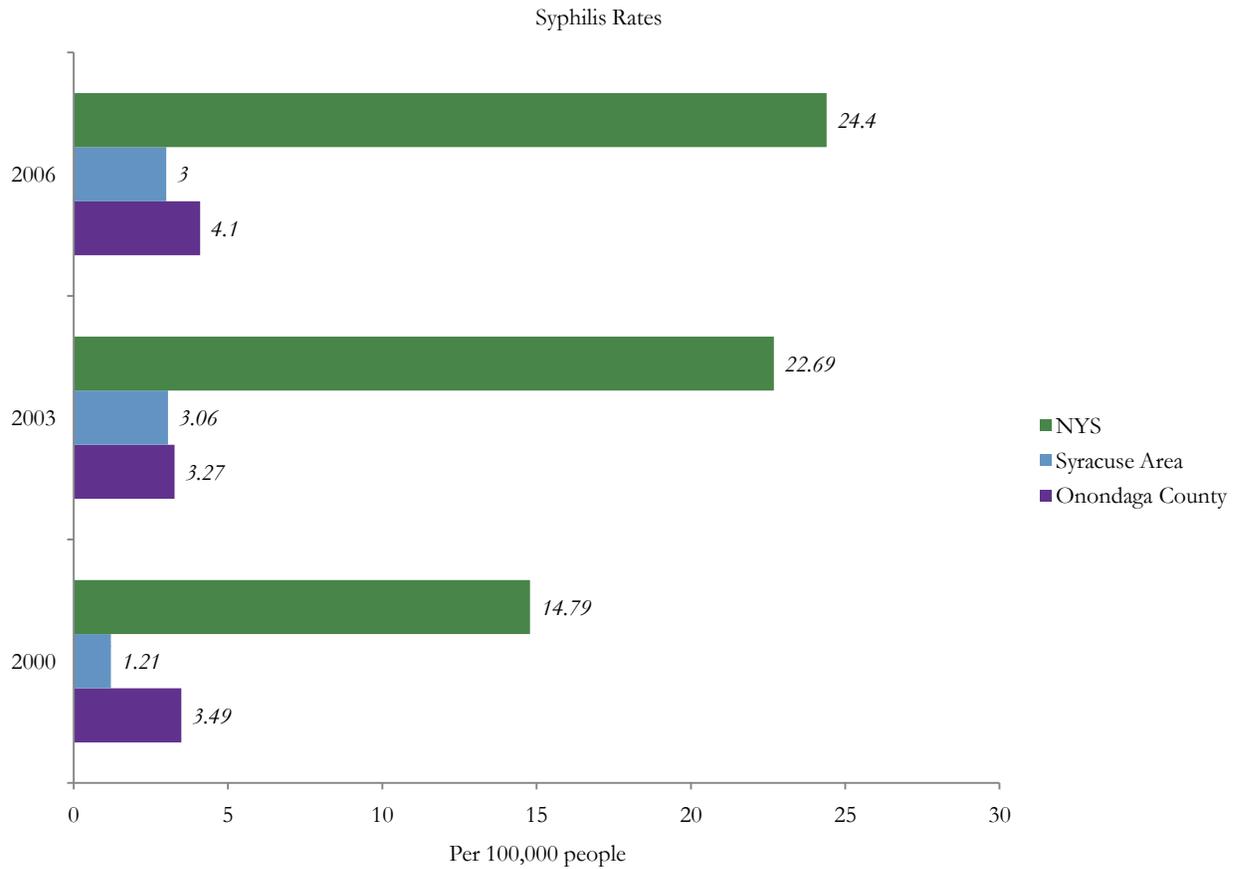
Chlamydia Rates
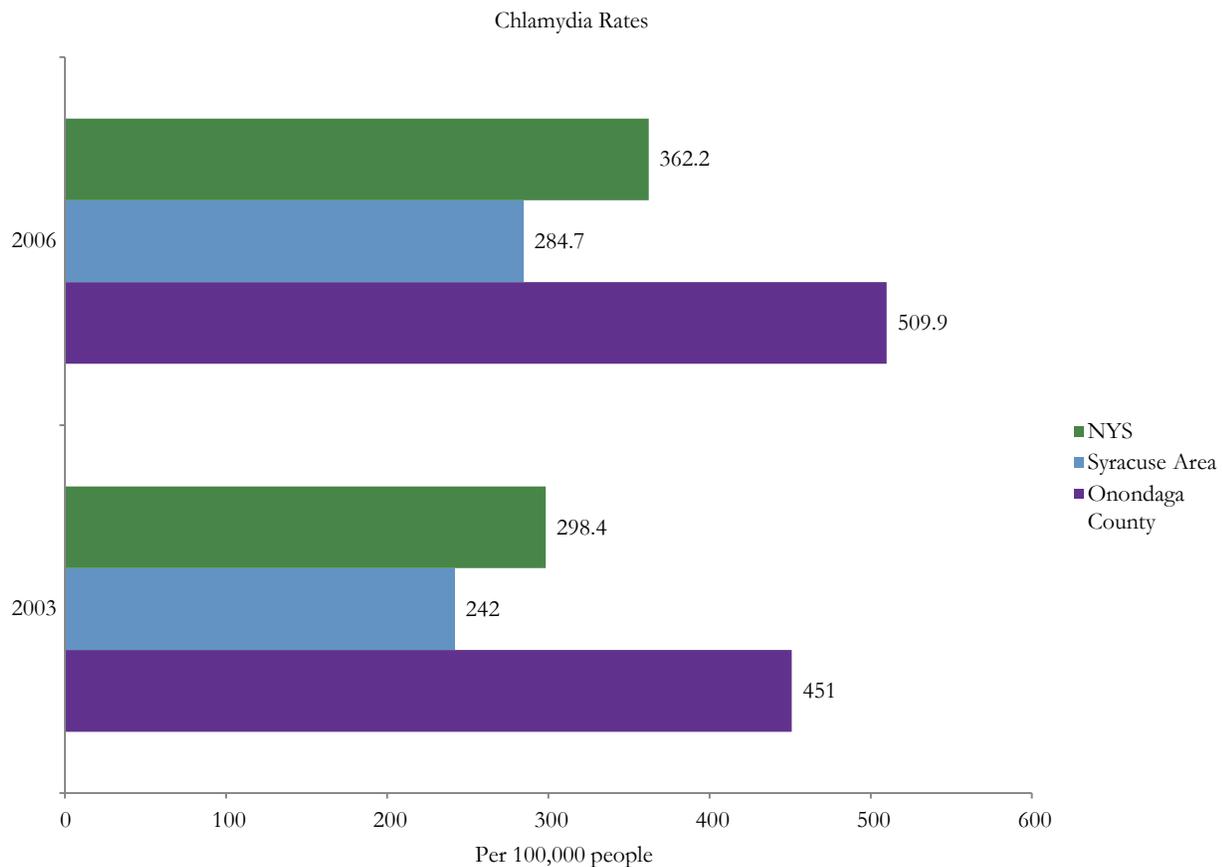
Source: New York State Department of Health County Health Assessment Indicators, 2003

Syphilis

Syphilis is defined by the CDC as a STD caused by the bacterium Treponema pallidum.

Comment: Syracuse Area is defined as including the following counties: Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, St. Lawrence, Tioga and Tompkins.

Syphilis Rates

Year	NYS	Syracuse Area	Onondaga County
2006	24.4	3	4.1
2003	22.69	3.06	3.27
2000	14.79	1.21	3.49

Per 100,000 people

■ NYS
■ Syracuse Area
■ Onondaga County

Source: New York State Department of Health, Sexually Transmitted Disease Data and Statistics

Gonorrhea

Gonorrhea, according to the CDC, is a STD caused by Neisseria gonorrhoea, a bacterium that grows in warm, moist areas of the reproductive tract.

Comment: Syracuse Area is defined as including the following counties: Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, St. Lawrence, Tioga and Tompkins.
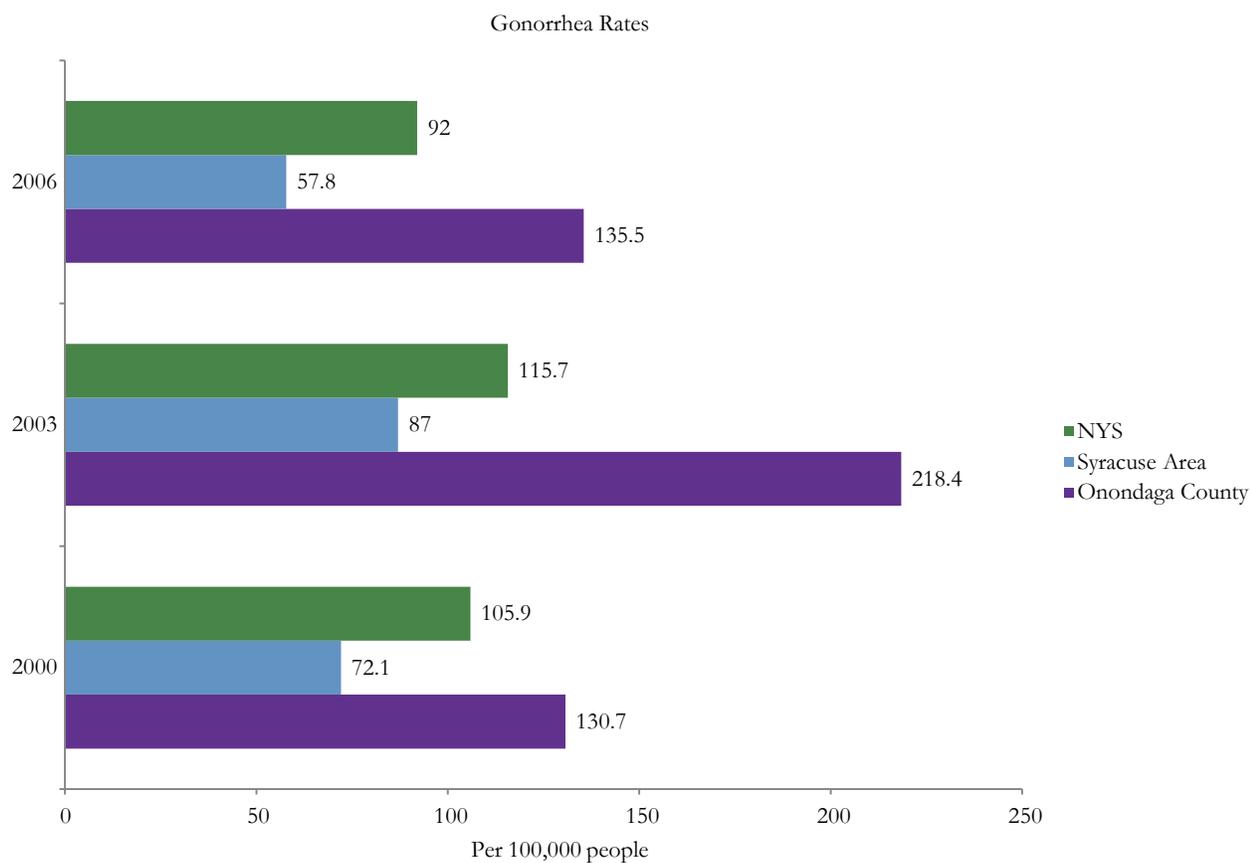
Gonorrhea Rates

Per 100,000 people

- ■ NYS
- ■ Syracuse Area
- ■ Onondaga County

2006
- NYS: 92
- Syracuse Area: 57.8
- Onondaga County: 135.5

2003
- NYS: 115.7
- Syracuse Area: 87
- Onondaga County: 218.4

2000
- NYS: 105.9
- Syracuse Area: 72.1
- Onondaga County: 130.7

Source: New York State Department of Health County Health Assessment Indicators, 2003

HIV/AIDS

AIDS is a chronic, life-threatening condition caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea in Onondaga County are higher than that of the Syracuse region or New York State. Rates for syphilis infection in Onondaga County are higher than for the Syracuse area, but lower than New York State. Unlike Onondaga County and New York State, the Syracuse region has seen a steady increase in the number of new HIV cases.

Comment: Syracuse Region is defined as the counties of Cayuga, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, St. Lawrence and Tompkins. Cumulative HIV data are only recorded at the state level. New HIV indicates the number of persons recently reported as being HIV positive. New AIDS cases indicates the number of persons who have developed indicator diseases signaling the progression of the AIDS virus and the transition from being designated HIV positive to having AIDS.

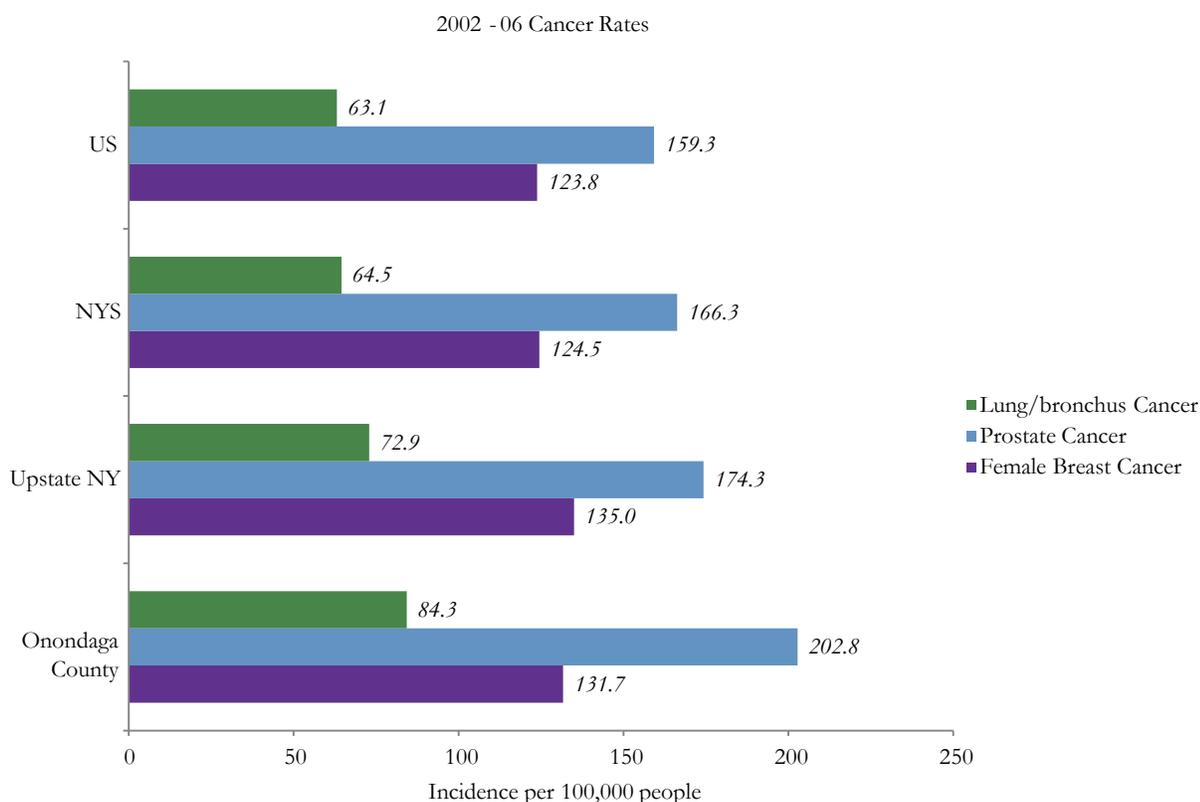|	**Syracuse Region**	**Onondaga County**	**New York State**
2003			
New HIV	50	28	5092
Cumulative HIV	N/A	N/A	32919
New AIDS	69	32	6008
Cumulative AIDS	1884	1052	162301
2003			
New HIV	72	39	4477
Cumulative HIV	N/A	N/A	41955
New AIDS	134	45	1132
Cumulative AIDS	3414	1132	172051
2003			
New HIV	77	38	4585
Cumulative HIV	N/A	N/A	51274
New AIDS	90	40	4187
Cumulative AIDS	3583	1225	180645

Comment: Cumulative includes both newly reported and pre- existing cases.

Source: New York State HIV/AIDS Surveillance Annual Report, New York State Department of Health, 2003-07

Cancer Incidence

Cancer is defined by the National Cancer Institute as diseases in which abnormal cells divide uncontrollably and have the ability to invade other tissues. Cancer incidence rates are based on reports from hospitals and other facilities that treat cancer patients. Only invasive, malignant tumors are counted. Some factors that cause cancer, such as genetics, cannot be controlled; however monitoring incidence rates may be useful in determining relationships between lifestyle, environmental quality and cancer.
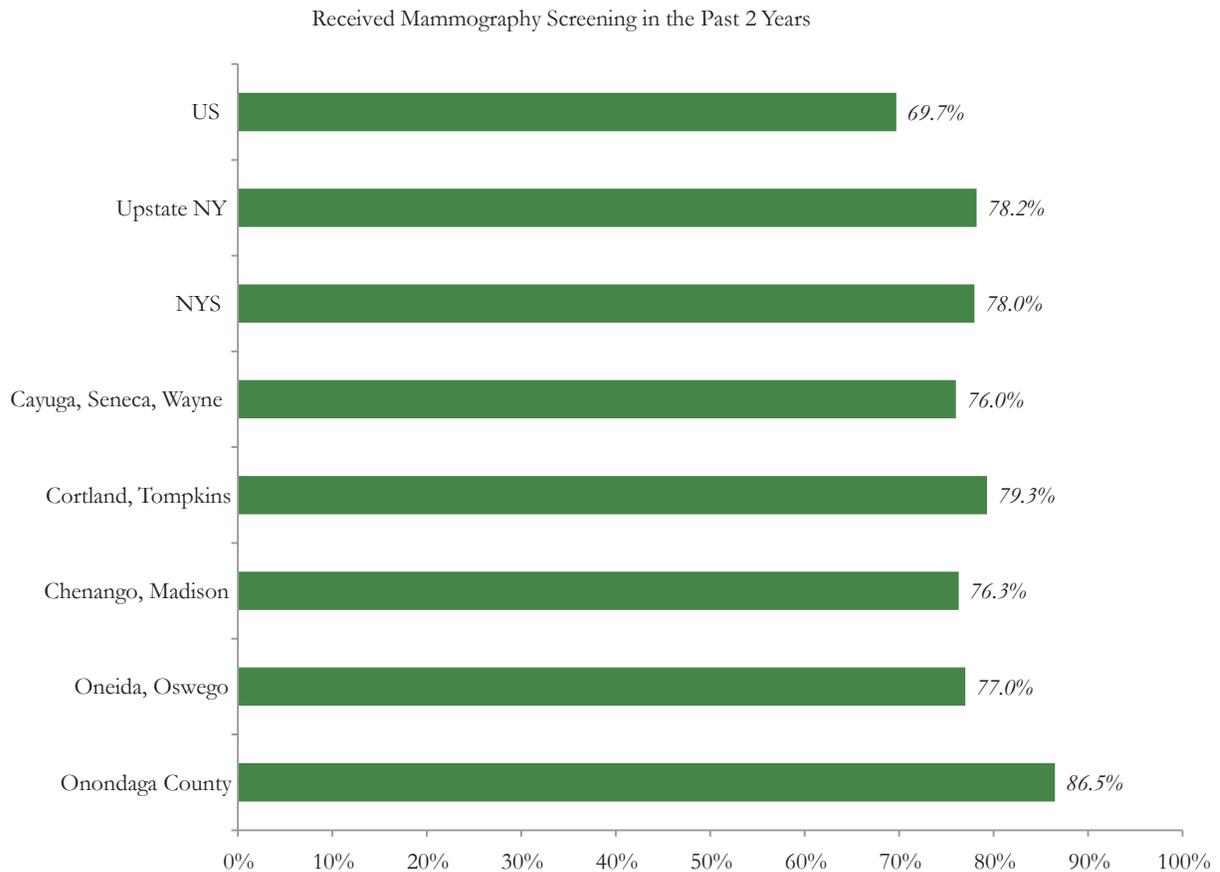
The data collected represent findings for 2002-06. In the case of prostate, breast and lung cancer, incidence rates for Onondaga County and Upstate New York are higher than New York State or national rates. Prostate cancer has the highest rate of incidence in Onondaga County as compared to female breast cancer or lung cancer.

2002 - 06 Cancer Rates

US
- Lung/bronchus Cancer: 63.1
- Prostate Cancer: 159.3
- Female Breast Cancer: 123.8

NYS
- Lung/bronchus Cancer: 64.5
- Prostate Cancer: 166.3
- Female Breast Cancer: 124.5

Upstate NY
- Lung/bronchus Cancer: 72.9
- Prostate Cancer: 174.3
- Female Breast Cancer: 135.0

Onondaga County
- Lung/bronchus Cancer: 84.3
- Prostate Cancer: 202.8
- Female Breast Cancer: 131.7

Legend:
- ■ Lung/bronchus Cancer
- ■ Prostate Cancer
- ■ Female Breast Cancer

Incidence per 100,000 people

Source: New York State Department of Health County Assessment Indicators, 2002-06, National Cancer Institute Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results, 2002-06
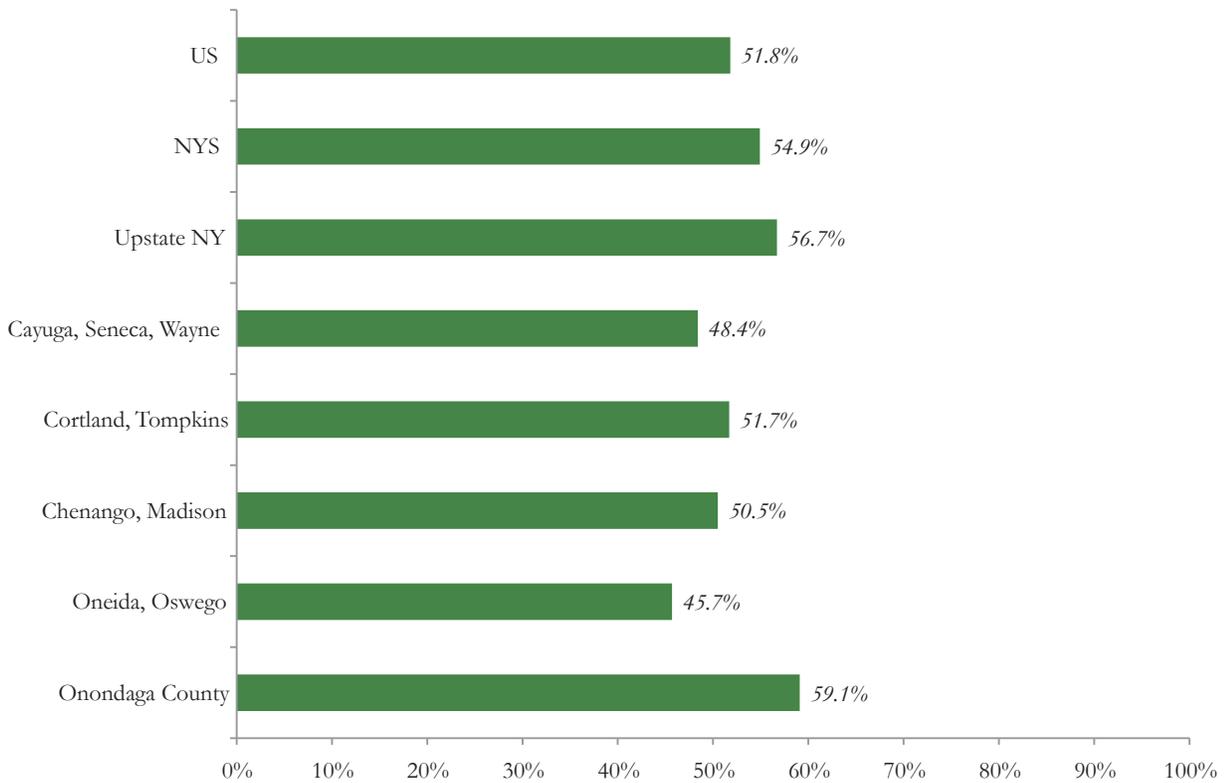
Cancer Detection

Early detection has played a large part in the increased survival rates of cancer. Cancer screening allows for early detection. That National Cancer Institute defines screening as checking for disease when there are no symptoms. There are currently three types of cancer screening routinely available: mammograms for breast cancer, pap smears for cervical cancer and PSA blood level tests for prostate cancer.
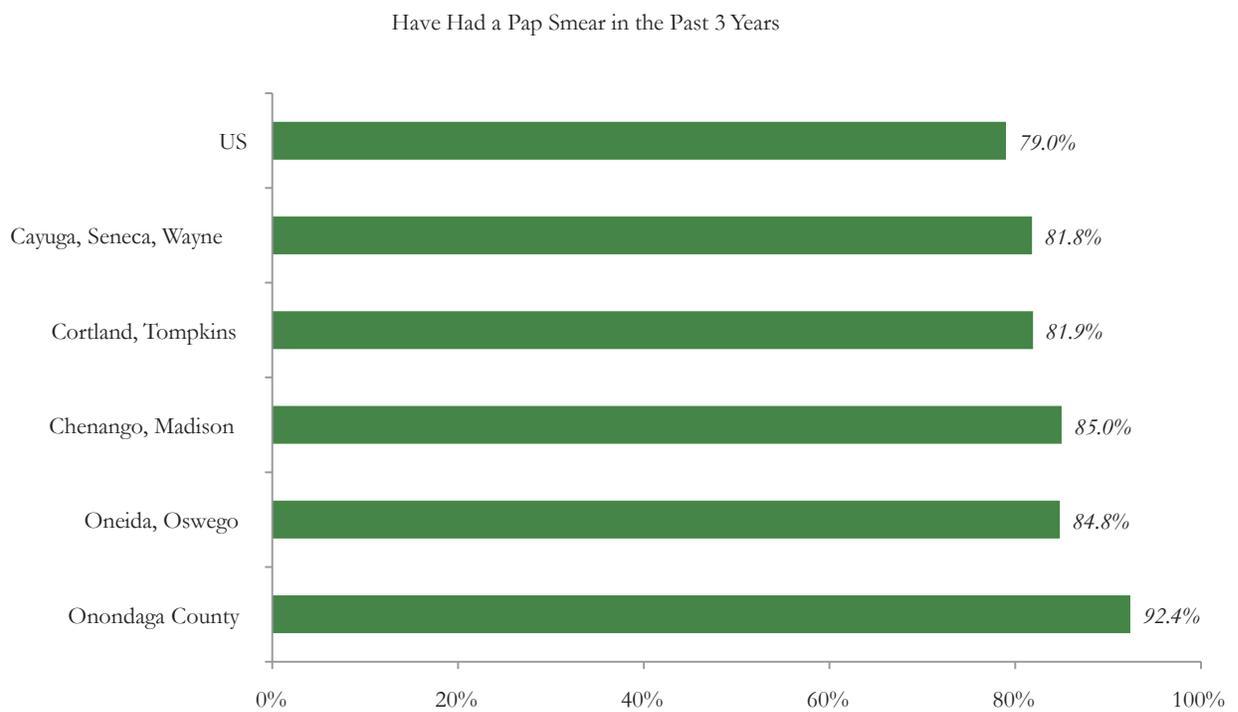
Received Mammography Screening in the Past 2 Years

Region	Percentage
US	69.7%
Upstate NY	78.2%
NYS	78.0%
Cayuga, Seneca, Wayne	76.0%
Cortland, Tompkins	79.3%
Chenango, Madison	76.3%
Oneida, Oswego	77.0%
Onondaga County	86.5%

Source: New York State Department of Health Expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2003, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Center for Health Statistics, 2003

Men 40 and Over Receiving Prostate Exams in the Past Two Years

Region	Percentage
US	51.8%
NYS	54.9%
Upstate NY	56.7%
Cayuga, Seneca, Wayne	48.4%
Cortland, Tompkins	51.7%
Chenango, Madison	50.5%
Oneida, Oswego	45.7%
Onondaga County	59.1%

Source: New York State Department of Health Expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2003, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
National Center for Health Statistics, 2004

Cancer Detection

Have Had a Pap Smear in the Past 3 Years

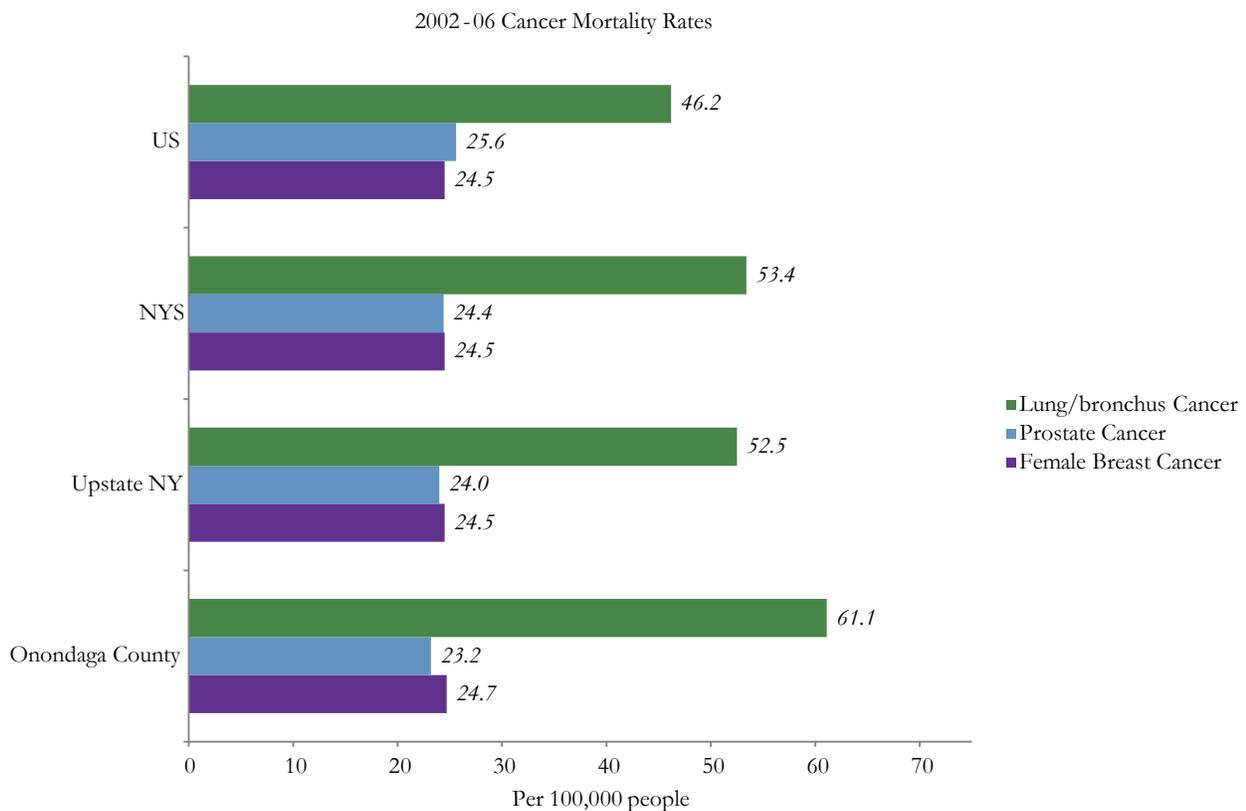| County	Percentage
US	79.0%
Cayuga, Seneca, Wayne	81.8%
Cortland, Tompkins	81.9%
Chenango, Madison	85.0%
Oneida, Oswego	84.8%
Onondaga County	92.4%

Source: New York State Department of Health Expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2003

Cancer Mortality

Cancer mortality rates are determined by using coded information from death certificates. Cancer mortality rates are important because they reflect the incidence of cancer as well as possible links to the effectiveness and accessibility of care, lifestyle choices and environmental influences in a given community or area.

Data reflects total deaths between 2002 and 2006. Prostate cancer mortality rates were lower than those in Upstate New York, New York State and the United States. Breast cancer mortality rates were on par with other regions. Onondaga County lung/bronchus cancer rates are significantly higher than for the United States, with a difference of 14.9 percentage points.

2002 - 06 Cancer Mortality Rates

| Region	Lung/bronchus Cancer	Prostate Cancer	Female Breast Cancer
US	46.2	25.6	24.5
NYS	53.4	24.4	24.5
Upstate NY	52.5	24.0	24.5
Onondaga County	61.1	23.2	24.7

Per 100,000 people

Source: New York State Department of Health County Health Assessment Indicators, 2002-06, National Cancer Institute Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results, 2002-06

Causes of Death

Cause of death information is vital for tracking health trends and determining public health and research priorities. The information is used by families who need to know if the illness is genetic after the death of a loved one and by statisticians for tracking trends. Public health officials use cause of death information to monitor outbreaks such as the recent H1N1 influenza.
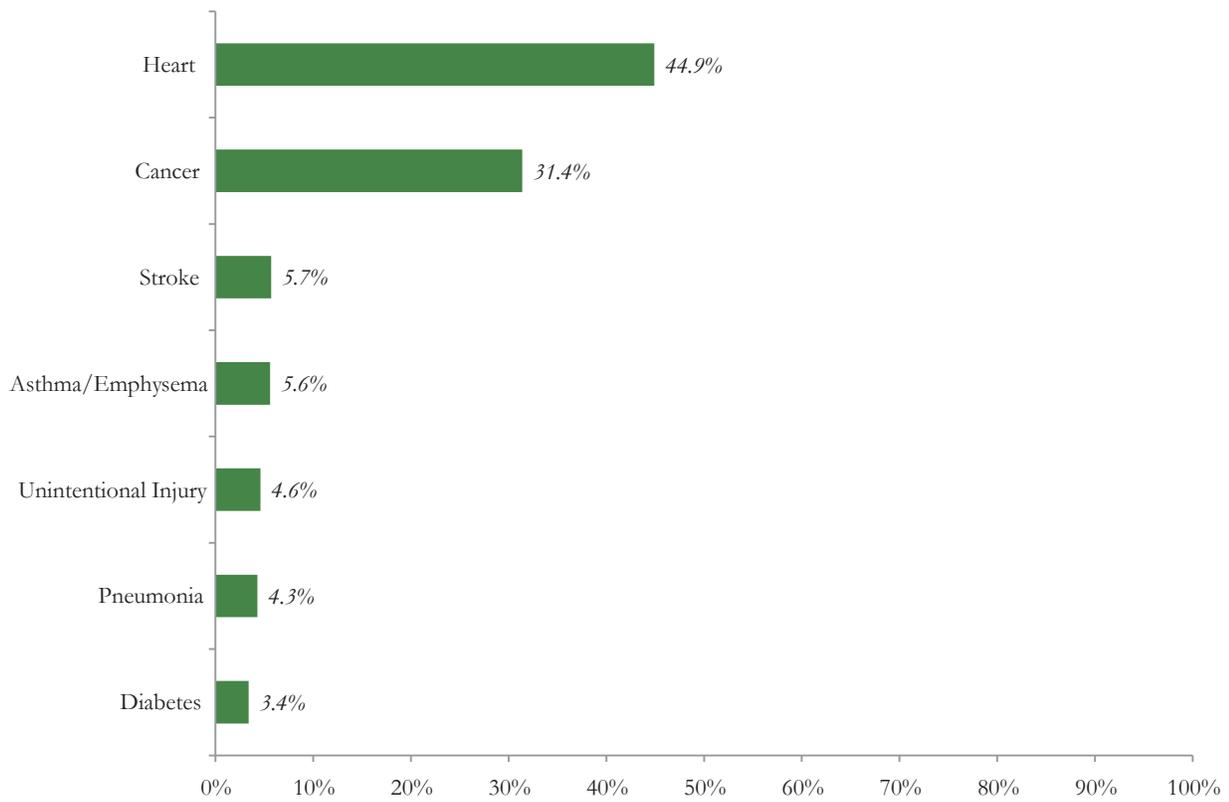
Comment: The percentages are calculated by dividing the number of deaths of selected causes by the total number of deaths in New York State in 2006.

2007 Leading Causes of Death in Onondaga County
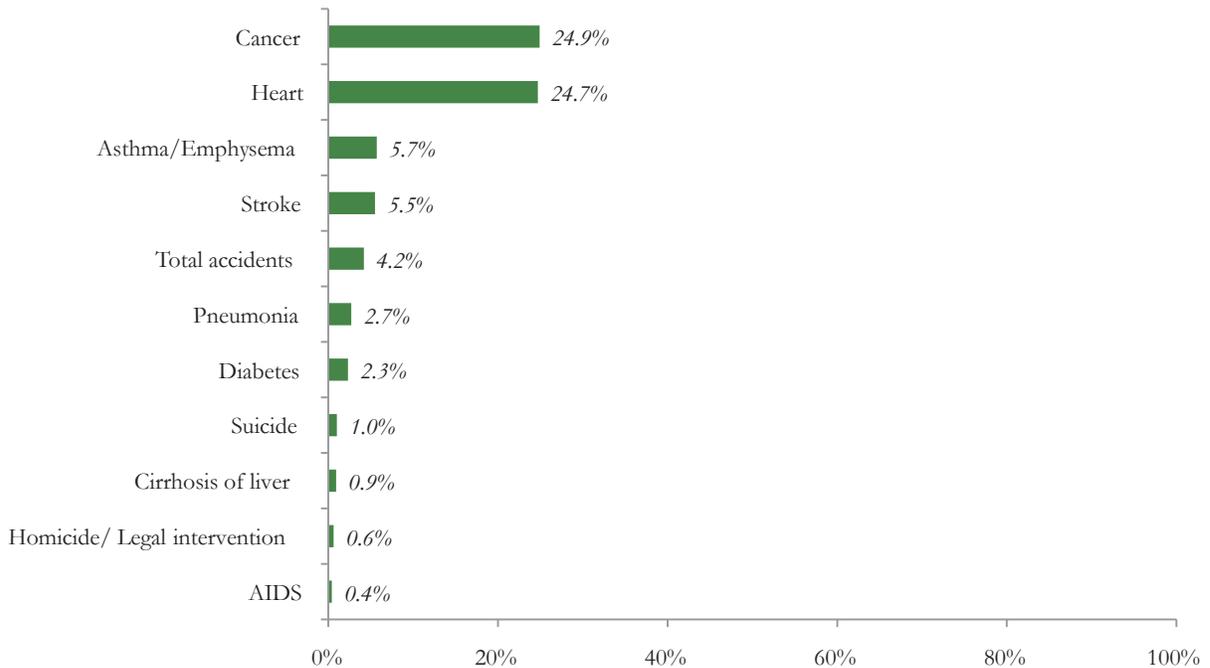
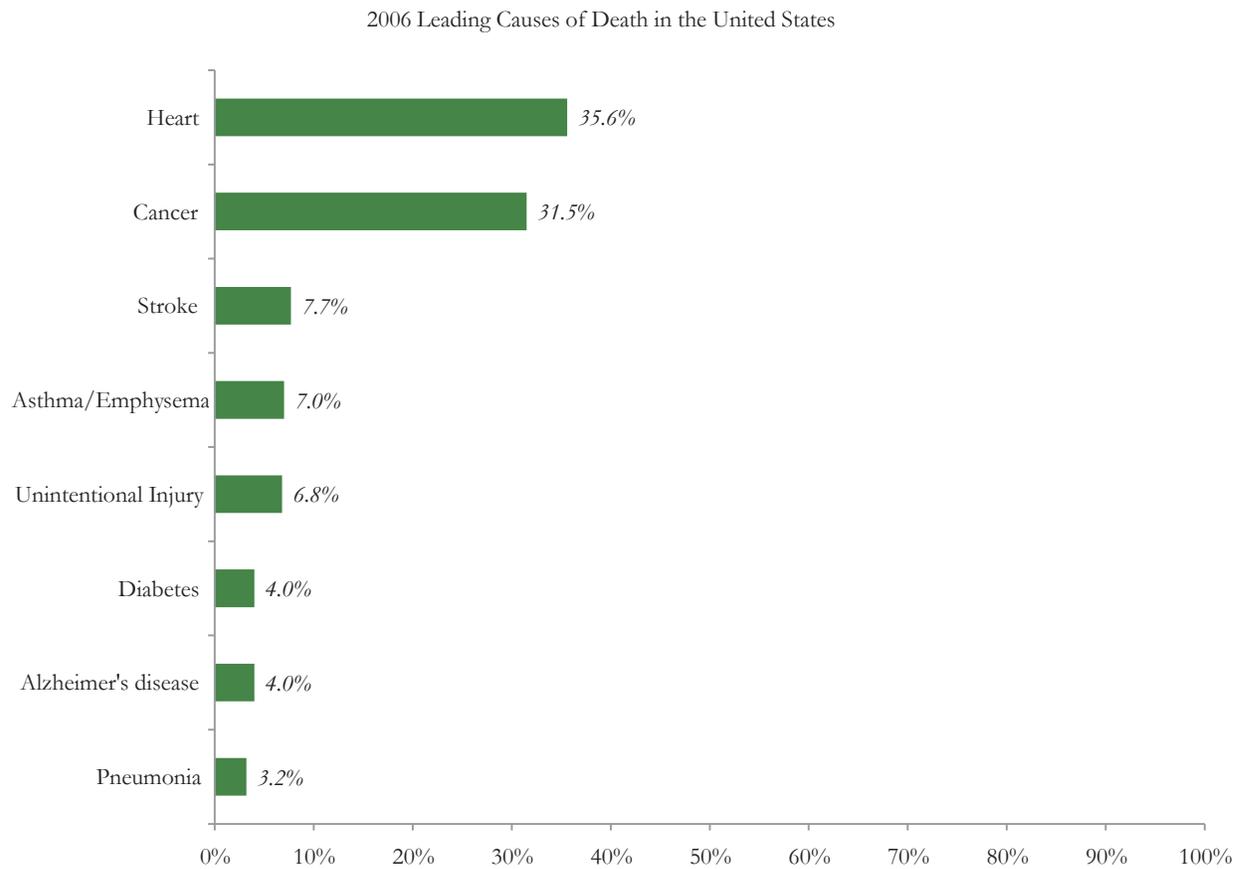*Source: New York State Department of Health, Vital Statistics, 2007*

2006 Leading Causes of Death in New York State

Cause	Percentage
Heart	44.9%
Cancer	31.4%
Stroke	5.7%
Asthma/Emphysema	5.6%
Unintentional Injury	4.6%
Pneumonia	4.3%
Diabetes	3.4%

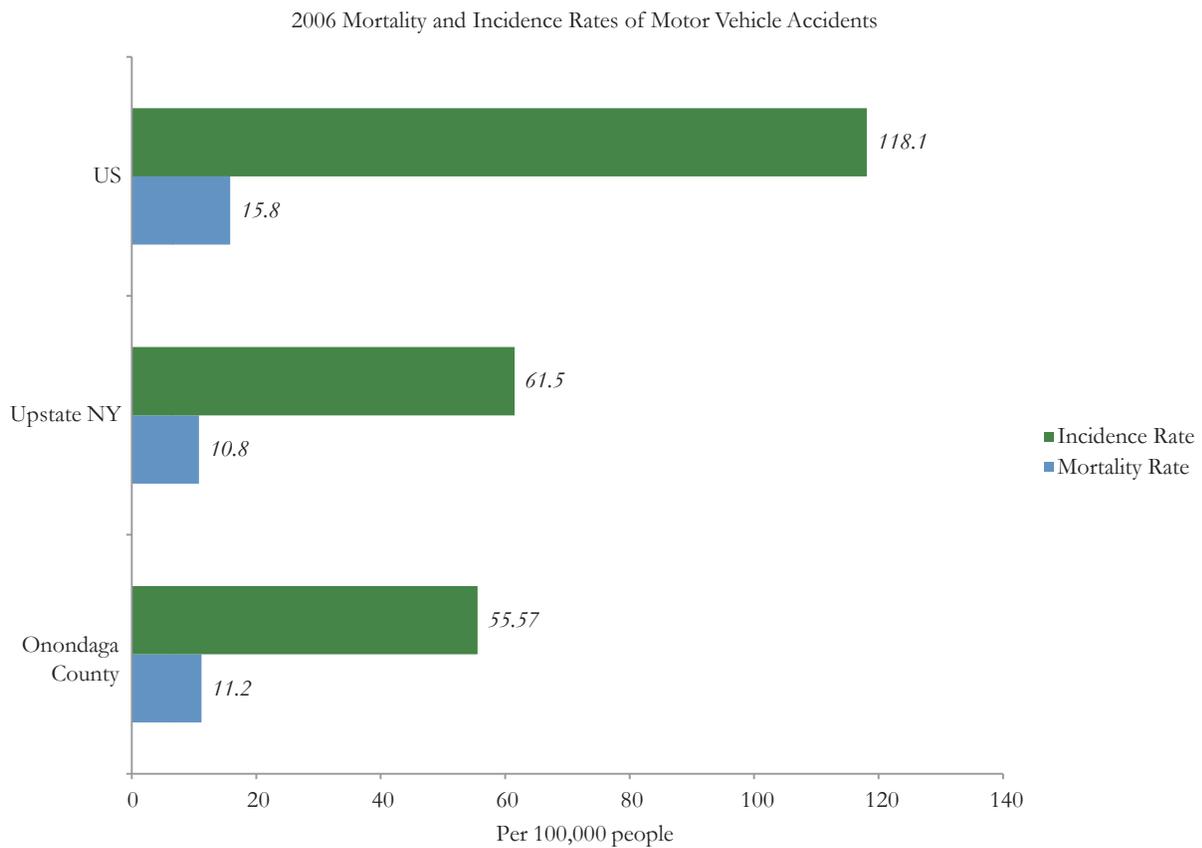*Source: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 2006*

Causes of Death

Comment: The percentages are calculated by dividing the number of deaths of selected causes by the total number of deaths in New York State in 2006.

2006 Leading Causes of Death in the United States

Cause	Percentage
Heart	35.6%
Cancer	31.5%
Stroke	7.7%
Asthma/Emphysema	7.0%
Unintentional Injury	6.8%
Diabetes	4.0%
Alzheimer's disease	4.0%
Pneumonia	3.2%

Source: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 2006

The leading causes of death in Onondaga County in 2007 were heart disease and malignant neoplasm, which is defined as cancer or a cancer-like illness. Onondaga County and Upstate New York had significantly lower rates of mortality and vehicle accident injuries in 2006 than the US.

2006 Mortality and Incidence Rates of Motor Vehicle Accidents

US
- Incidence Rate: 118.1
- Mortality Rate: 15.8

Upstate NY
- Incidence Rate: 61.5
- Mortality Rate: 10.8

Onondaga County
- Incidence Rate: 55.57
- Mortality Rate: 11.2

■ Incidence Rate
■ Mortality Rate

Per 100,000 people

Source: NYSDOH, County Health Indicator Profiles and NYSDOH, SPARCCS Hospitalization Data, 2006

Mortality Rates

Mortality rates are a key indicator of community health and are often representative of the general safety, quality of life and physical health of that community.

Comment: Mortality Rates are calculated by taking the aggregate number of deaths in each age grouping and dividing by the demographic population in that age bracket in Onondaga County in 2007.
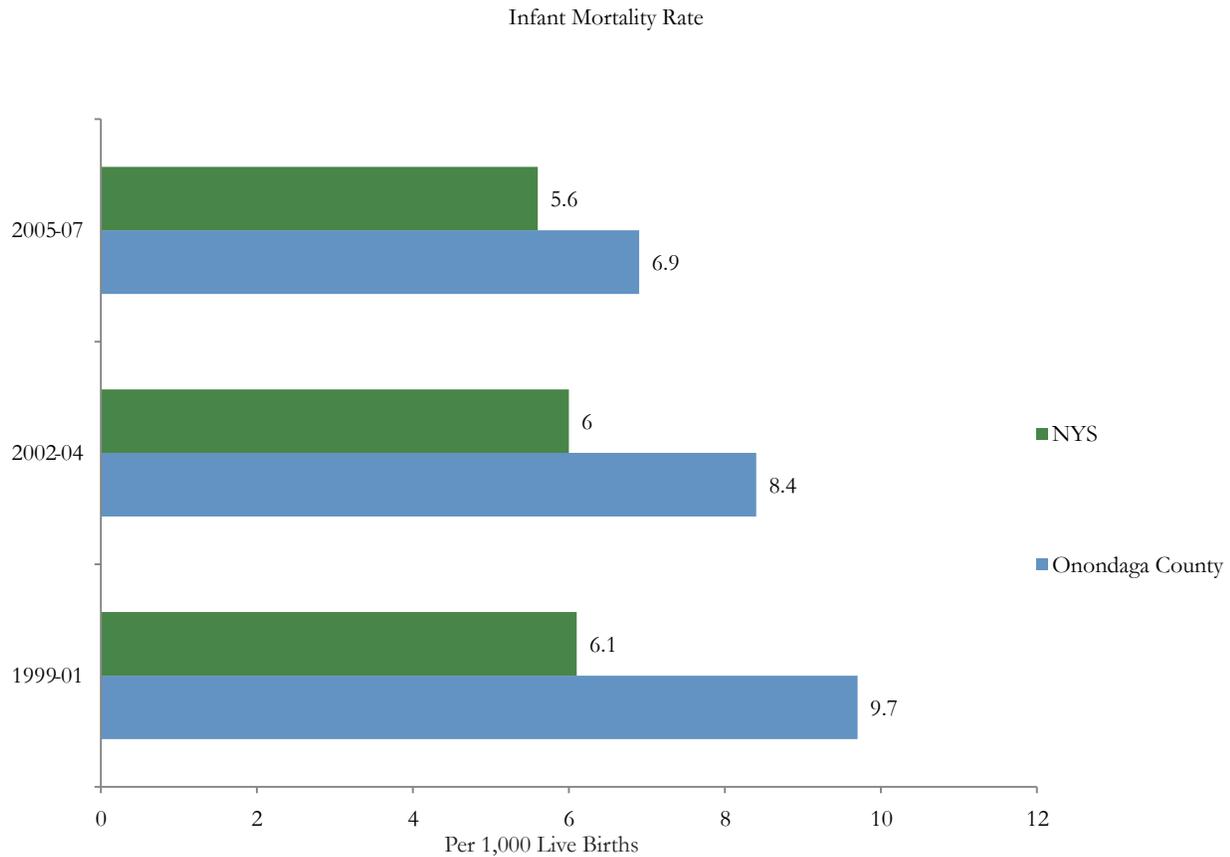
2007 Onondaga County Mortality Rate
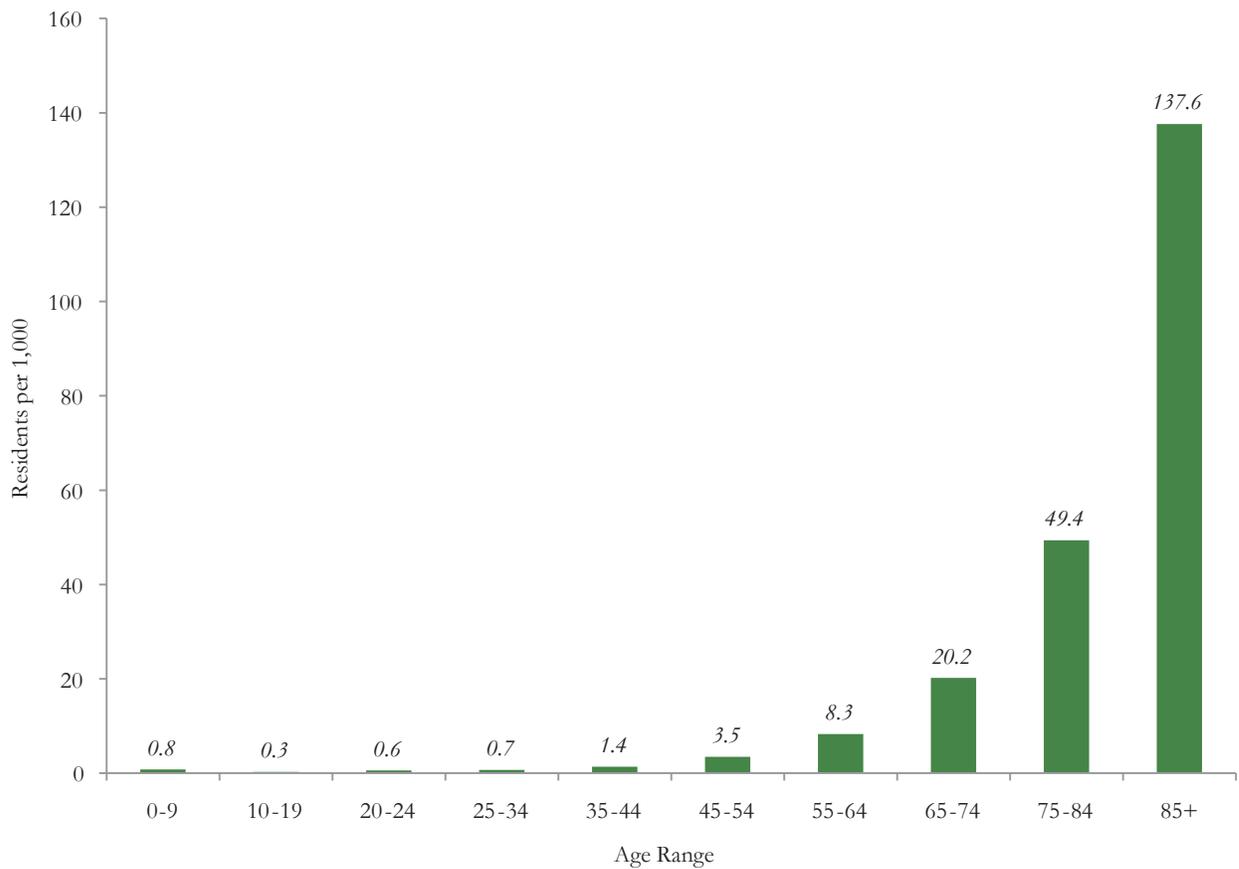
Source: New York State Department of Health, Vital Statistics, 2007

Infant & Maternal Mortality

Infant mortality is defined as the death of an infant before reaching one year of age. Maternal death is identified as the number of deaths of women during pregnancy or shortly thereafter. Infant and maternal mortality rates indicate the quality and accessibility of health care and the environmental and the socioeconomic conditions of a family.

Comment: This was computed by dividing the total number of infant deaths by the number of live births and then multiplied by 1,000. Three-year averages are used to stabilize the data since the numbers in each year can vary greatly and the small sampling size makes the variance problematic and unstable.

Infant Mortality Rate

Year	NYS	Onondaga County
2005-07	5.6	6.9
2002-04	6	8.4
1999-01	6.1	9.7

Per 1,000 Live Births

Source: Kids Wellbeing Indicators Clearinghouse (KWIC), 2010

Infant & Maternal Mortality

Although infant mortality rates in Onondaga County are still higher than for New York State, they have improved steadily since 1999. Maternal mortality rates in Onondaga County are lower than in surrounding areas and significantly less than the New York State average.

Comment: This was computed by dividing the total number of maternal deaths by the number of live births and then multiplied by 1000. Three-year averages are used to stabilize the data since the numbers in each year can vary greatly and the small sampling size makes the variance problematic and unstable. Central New York is defined as Cayuga, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, and St. Lawrence counties.

2005 -07 Maternal Mortality Rate

NYS	16.6
CNY	10.2
Onondaga County	6.1

Per 1,000 Live Births
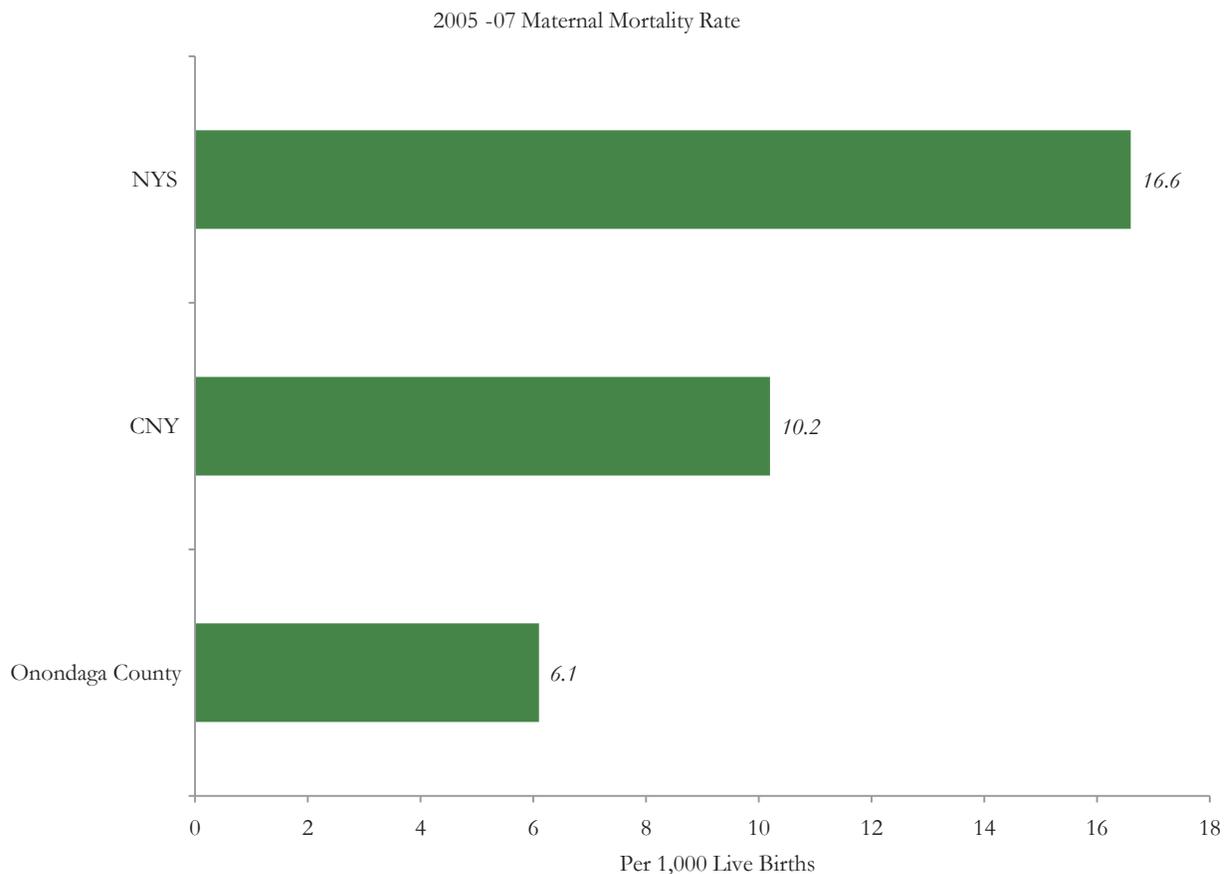
*Source: NYSDOH, New York State Community Health Data Set, CDC, Healthy People 2010*

Community Spotlight:
Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital

Answering the call for a pediatric care facility in the Syracuse area, the recent Upstate University Hospital expansion included the addition of the Golisano Children's Hospital, a 71-room east tower addition. Both family- and patient-friendly, it features private rooms with sleep, work and bathroom facilities for families and TV, Playstation and age appropriate activities for patients.

The goal of planners and architects was to build a children's hospital within a larger facility to share services and control costs while recognizing the unique needs of children. Golisano Children's Hospital has a dedicated entrance featuring a creative tree house design and a clear glass exterior elevator. Once inside, patients and visitors are greeted by what medical director Thomas Welch refers to as a warm and whimsical 47-color palette interior and welcoming atmosphere. The facility features a dedicated pediatric emergency department, the only pediatric intensive care unit in a 17-county referral area, general pediatrics services, a pediatric surgical unit, hematology and oncology. Pediatric outpatient services and special services are also available. Golisano Children's Hospital goes beyond offering the best in pediatric medical care and equipment by providing pediatric life specialists, art and music therapy. There is also a chapel, café, rooftop garden, performing center and art gallery.

Syracuse no longer holds the distinction as the only city of its size without a children's hospital. As Dr. Welch points out, the addition of a the pediatric facility not only attracts physicians from across the country, it identifies the Syracuse area as a caring and compassionate community that recognizes the need to protect its greatest assets, the children.
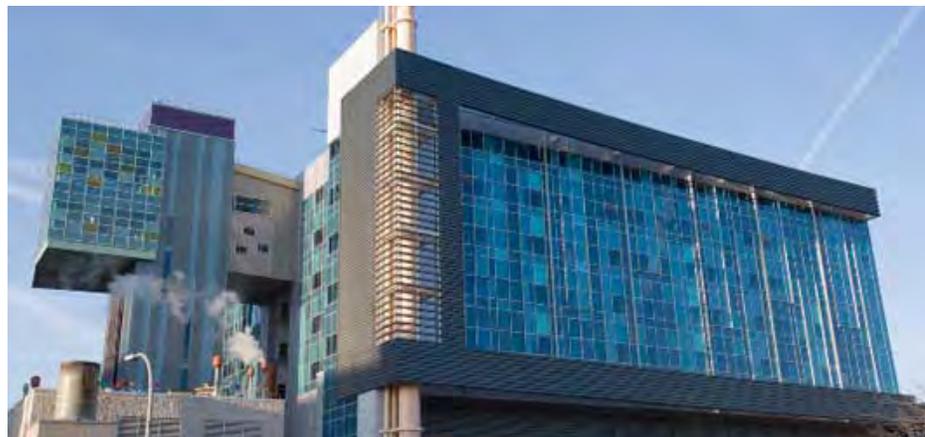
Source: Upstate.edu/gcb/

Don Derr
Construction Worker

Housing

Housing indicators illustrate an area's economic health, desirability, quality of life and affordability. The city of Syracuse and Onondaga County offer a variety of housing in urban, suburban and rural locales. Purchase and rental prices are well below state and national averages. Understanding the factors that characterize an area's housing market enables policymakers to design policies and programs that will enhance the area's quality of life.

The Greater Syracuse area was not as severely affected by the recent nationwide housing market crisis and for many in this area, the dream of homeownership can still be a reality. Although foreclosure rates have increased in the Greater Syracuse area, they are still among the lowest in the nation.

Revitalization efforts continue throughout Syracuse. Christopher Community builds low-income rental housing on the Near West Side. The Syracuse Housing Authority (SHA) has applied for federal tax credits to build single family rent-to-own homes on the South Side. Private developers plan to bring market-rate units to the city downtown area. Home HeadQuarters continues to renovate and build homes, while Housing Visions completes units on the North Side and in the Prospect Hill neighborhood.

Nevertheless, the Greater Syracuse area still faces significant challenges. Over half of housing units in the city of Syracuse were built before 1940. The city suffers from an overabundance of vacant and abandoned rental properties, low rates of homeownership and a high incidence of code violations and tax delinquencies.

Understanding these challenges is essential to revitalizing troubled areas and stabilizing the housing market.

Housing Units

Category	City of Syracuse	Onondaga County
Total Housing Units	66,382	202,132
Percentage of Total Occupied Units	83%	90%
Single Family Owner-Occupied	41%	66%
Median Value: Single-Family Owner-Occupied	$80,500	$120,300
Median Selected Monthly Owner Costs with Mortgage	$1,074	$1,316
Median Selected Monthly Owner Costs without Mortgage	*$503*	*$518*
Housing Units per Square Mile	2,718	252
Population per Square Mile	5,817	587

Source: NYSDOH, New York State Community Health Data Set, CDC, Healthy People 2010

Age of House Structure

The age of house structure indicator separates houses in the area by the dates they were built. A prominence of older housing could indicate a rich community history. At the same time, an increased presence of older housing could suggest housing stock with endemic issues that are out of step with current safety regulations. Examples include the prevalence of lead paint or asbestos.

New York State, Onondaga County and city of Syracuse all have a large percent of housing structures that were built before 1960.

Age of Housing Structure

	2000 or later	1980-99	1960-79	1940-59	1939 or earlier
NYS	5%	14%	22%	25%	34%
Onondaga County	5%	19%	26%	24%	26%
City of Syracuse	1%	9%	15%	24%	51%

Percentage of Housing Units
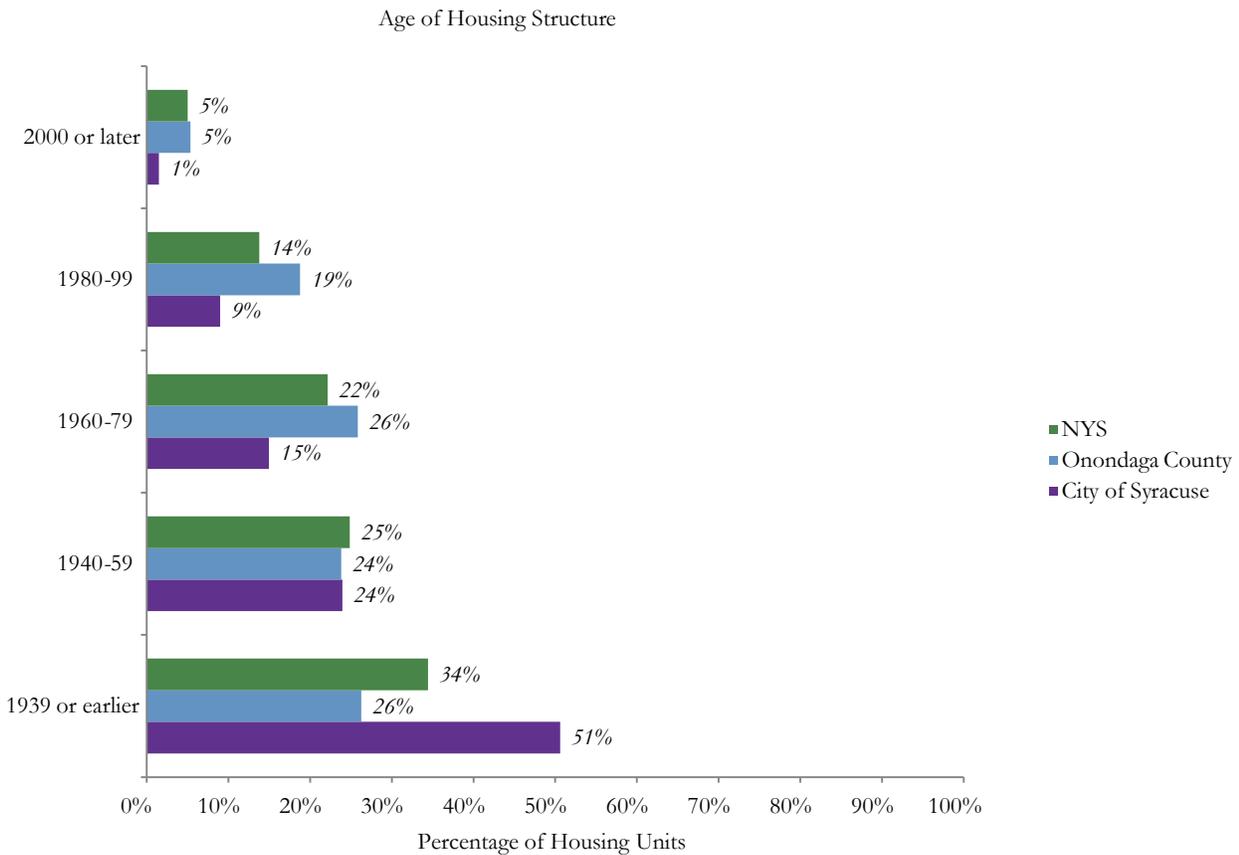
Source: American Community Survey 2006-08; US Census 2000

Median Rent Values

The term 'median rent' refers to an area's rental level where half of the rent values fall below that level and half above. Given that rent is typically the largest household expense, median rent values are indicative of the affordability and economic health of a community.

Since 2000, median rent values in the Syracuse MSA have increased steadily, with the largest gains occurring between 2005 and 2010.

Comment: Only Syracuse MSA data were available.

Syracuse MSA Median Rent Values
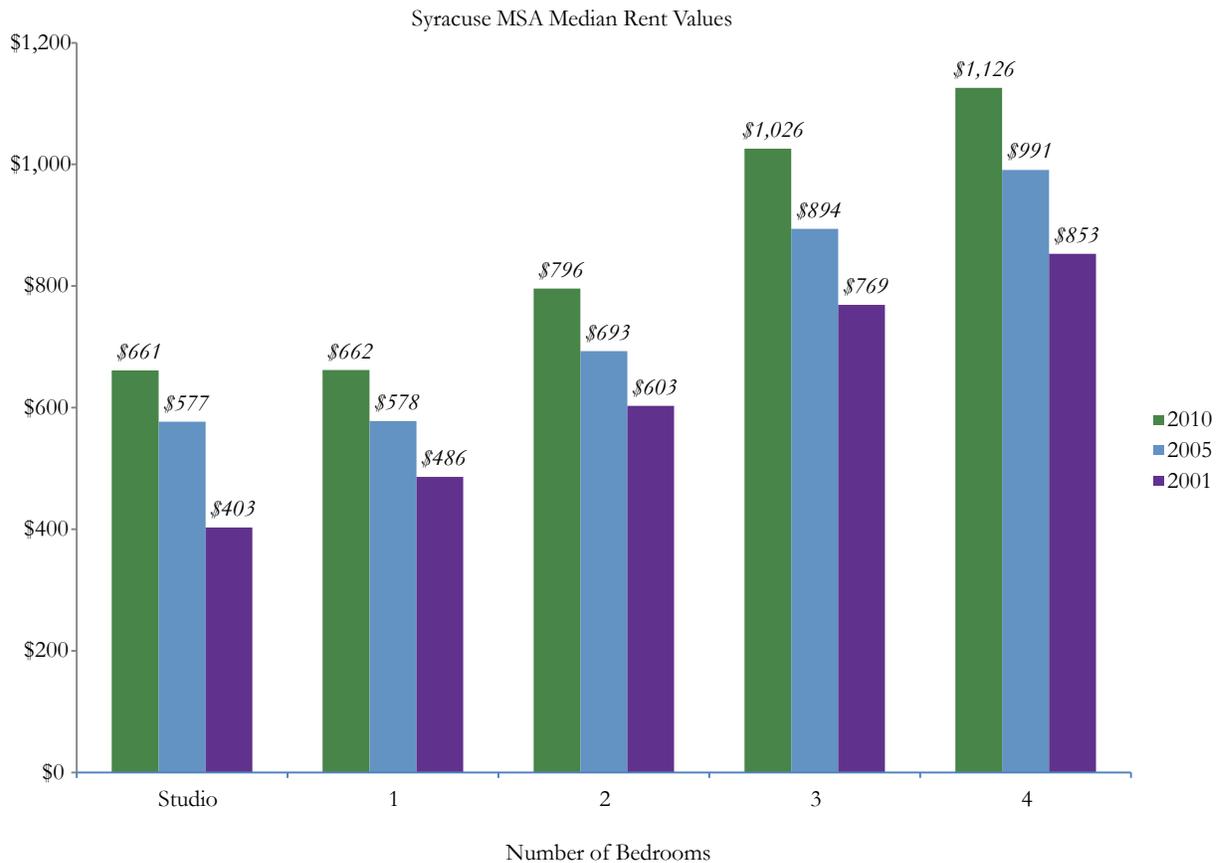
Source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2010

Percentage of Renter-Occupied Units

The percentage of renter-occupied units refers to the proportion of renter residency versus owner residency. "Renter-occupied housing units" are those which are inhabited by a person other than the owner, whether or not that person pays rent. Homeowners, by definition, treat their houses as long-term investments. Thus, a higher proportion of renters suggests less commitment to a community.

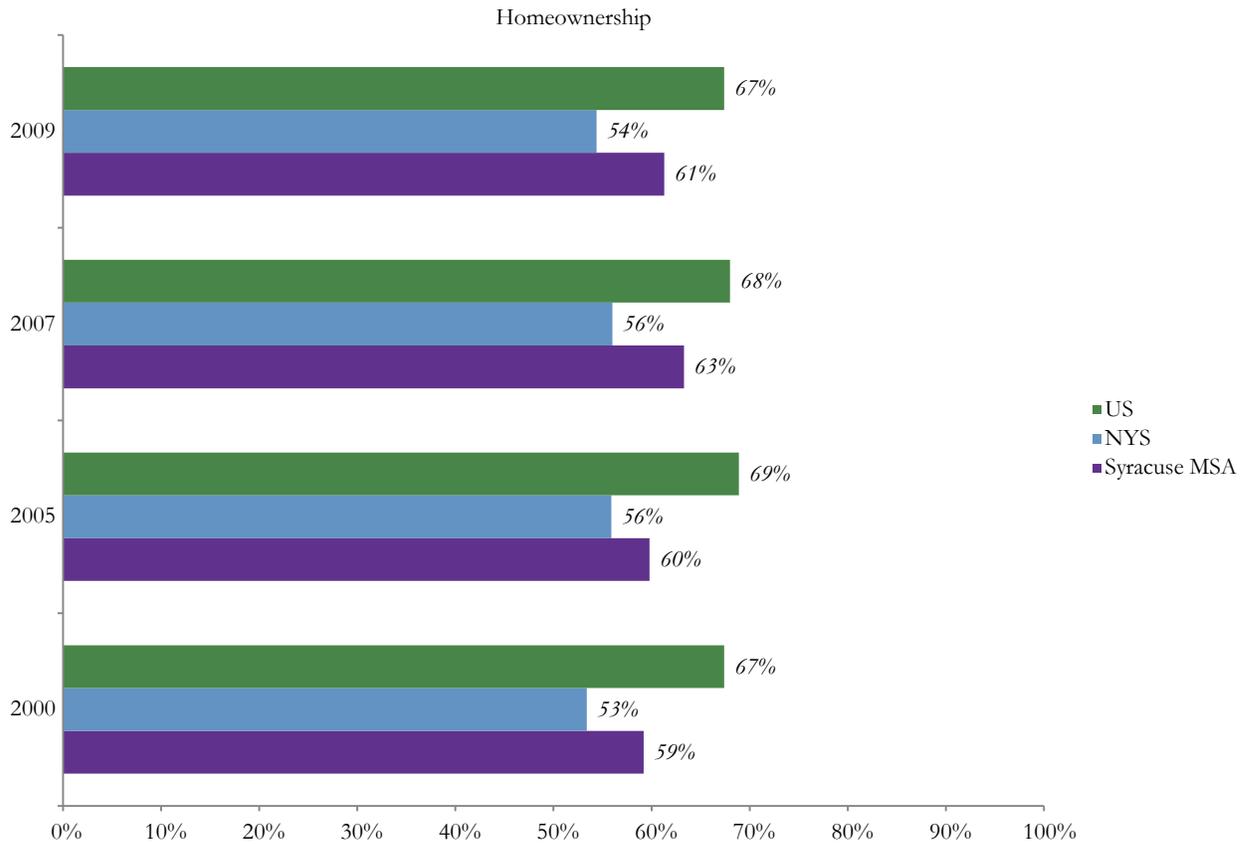The proportion of rental units in the city of Syracuse is nearly twice that of Onondaga County.

Renter Occupied Units

| | 2006-08 | 2000 |

US: 33% / 34%
NYS: 44% / 47%
Onondaga County: 34% / 36%
Syracuse: 59% / 60%
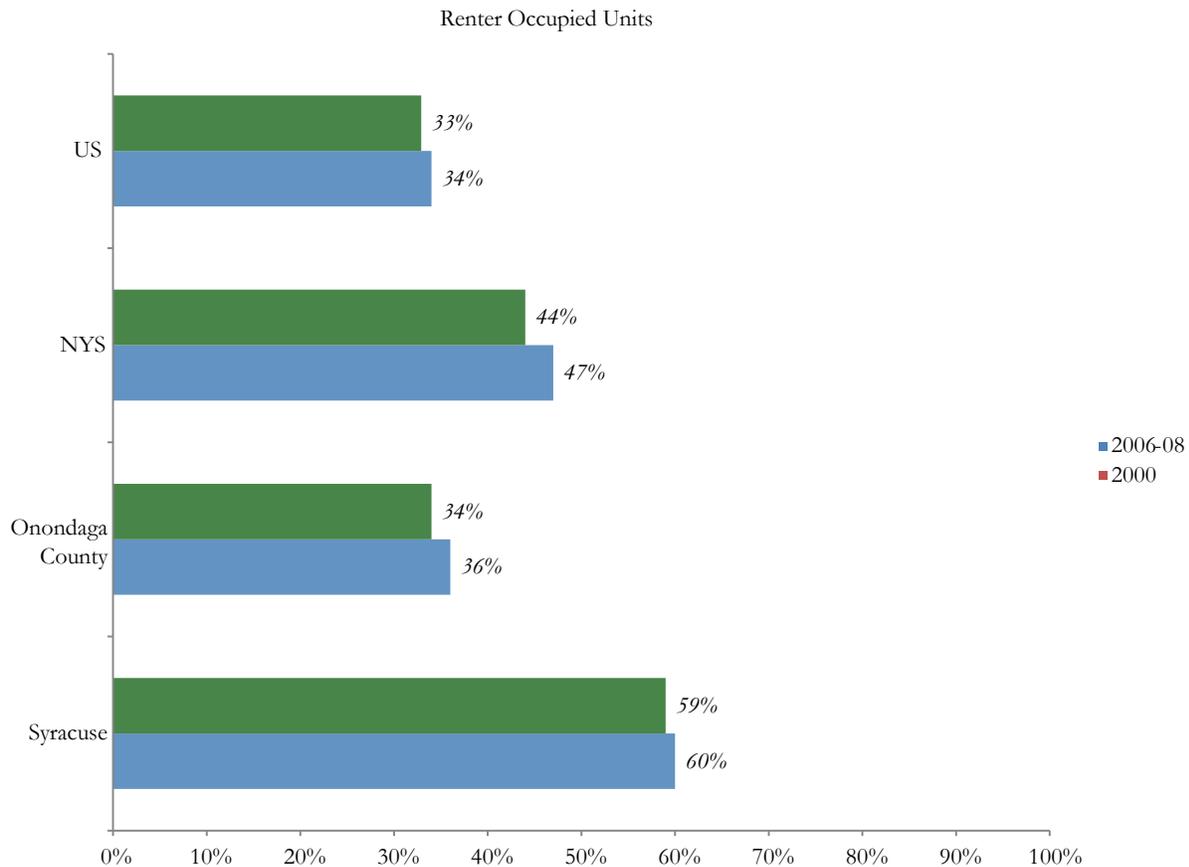
Source: 2006-08 American Community Survey; 2000 US Census

Homeownership

The term "Homeownership rate" refers to the percentage of an area's occupied housing units that are owner-occupied. High rates of homeownership are seen as a sign of investment in the community.

Homeownership rates in the Syracuse MSA have risen slightly since 2000.

Comment: Only Syracuse MSA data were available.

Homeownership

Year	US	NYS	Syracuse MSA
2009	67%	54%	61%
2007	68%	56%	63%
2005	69%	56%	60%
2000	67%	53%	59%

Source: 2005 American Community Survey; 2006-08 American Community Survey; 2009 American Community Survey; 2000 US Census
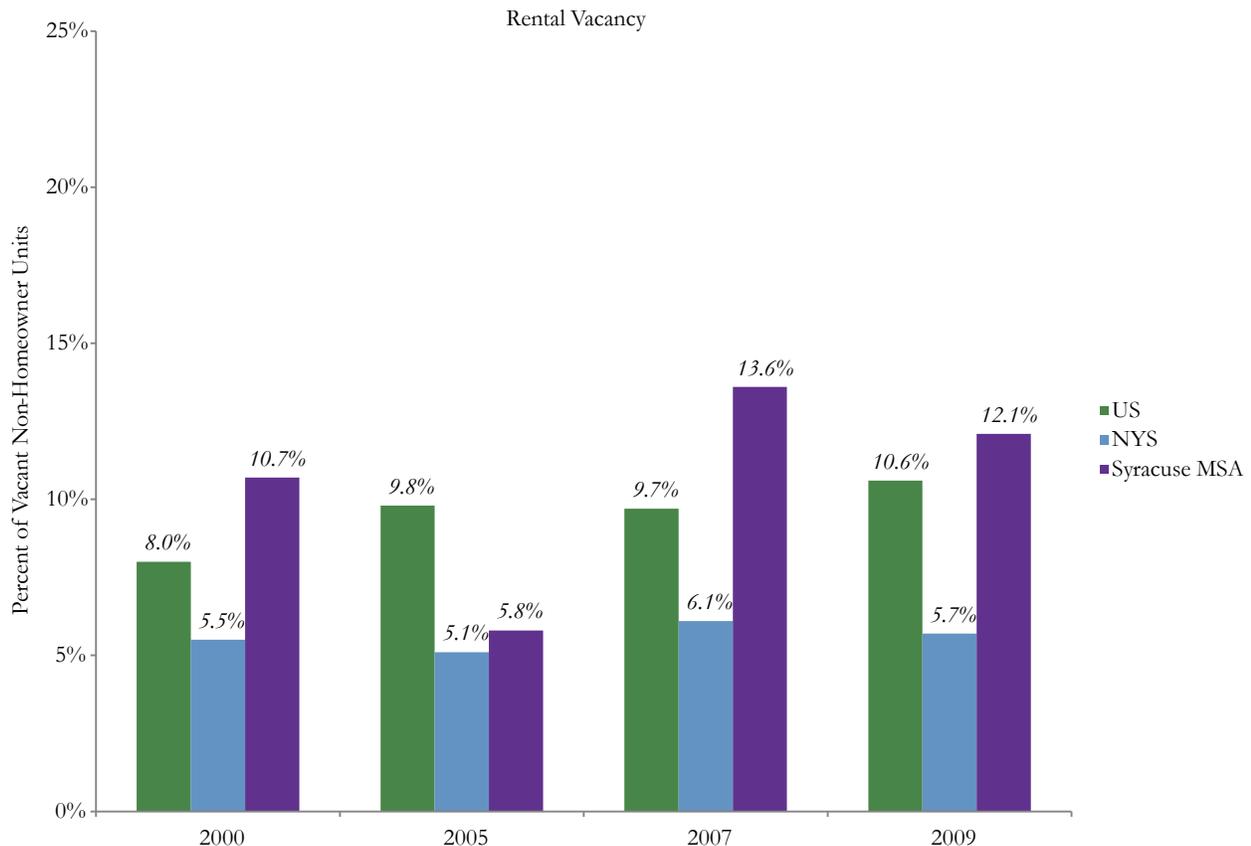
Rental Vacancy Rate

The term "rental vacancy rate" refers to the proportion of all rental units in an area that are vacant. The rental vacancy rate is primarily a reflection of the economy, but also of the desirability of the local housing market. High vacancy rates are often the result of job losses or overbuilding, and the resulting surplus of rental units can put downward pressure on both rent and home sale prices. Low vacancy rates can be a product of high demand and a strong economy, but can also reflect a lack of desirable and/or affordable non-rental properties.

Rental vacancy rates in the Syracuse MSA are much higher than state and national levels. Inner city neighborhoods in Syracuse consist largely of rental properties, and the increase in rental vacancies can be attributed to job losses, an aging and deteriorating housing stock, code violations, tax delinquencies and a declining population.

Comment: Only Syracuse MSA data were available. Onondaga County information was unavailable. The graph is not to scale. The drop in vacancies in 2005 could be attributed to a drop in income levels, an increase in unsafe units being taken down, such as Cherry Hill, abandoned homes boarded up and demolished by the city, or a decrease in the number of landlords due to high vacancies and the resulting removal of units from the housing stock (SHA, 2010).
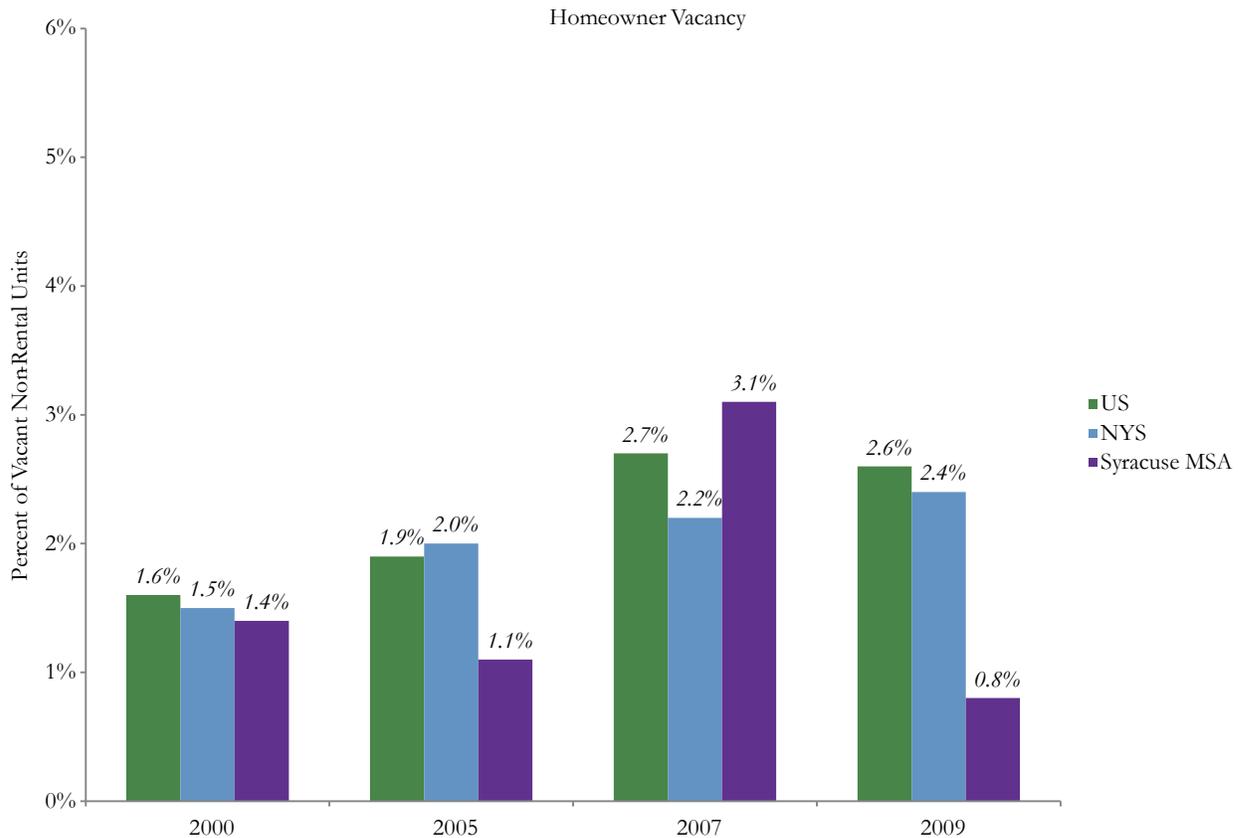
Rental Vacancy

Source: 2005 American Community Survey; 2006-08 American Community Survey; 2009 American Community Survey; 2000 US Census

Homeowner Vacancy Rate

The term "homeowner vacancy rate" refers to the percentage of vacant non-rental housing units, such as single-family homes and condominiums. Foreclosures are an important factor in the homeowner vacancy rates, though it can also be affected by the area's housing desirability.

The Syracuse MSA has a slightly lower homeowner vacancy rate than New York State and United States.

Comment: Onondaga County information is not available. Graph is not to scale.

Homeowner Vacancy

Source: 2005 American Community Survey; 2006-08 American Community Survey; 2009 American Community Survey; 2000 US Census

Mortgage Lending

Foreclosure is the repossession of a home when an owner no longer makes payments on their mortgage. For most people, homeownership represents the bulk of their personal net worth and their single biggest asset. The loss of a home or investment property is a significant blow to these individuals and also can be an indicator of economic instability. The table below compares the number of foreclosures by state.

Although foreclosure rates increased in Syracuse and Onondaga County in the wake of the recent national housing and economic crisis, the area remained less affected than much of the country. New York State ranked 30th in foreclosure rates, with 1 in 550 households in foreclosure as compared to an average of 1 in 194 nationally.

Foreclosure Rates

January 2009	
Nevada	1 in 76
California	1 in 173
Arizona	1 in 182
Florida	1 in 214
Oregon	1 in 357
New York	1 in 2,217
January 2010	
Nevada	1 in 95
California	1 in 187
Arizona	1 in 129
Florida	1 in 187
Oregon	1 in 338
New York	1 in 1,746

Source: RealtyTrac, 2010

Number of Homes Sold

Home sales carry both positive and negative implications. High sales rates can suggest the desirability and affordability of a neighborhood or community.

Low sales rates may suggest social stability, where the neighborhood has resources and assets that accommodate all stages of life and homeowners are content with remaining in their homes. Conversely, low sales rates can also mean a sluggish market or poor quality housing stock.

Number of Homes Sold

Location	2007	2008	2009
United States	5,652,000	4,913,000	5,516,000
New York State	94,884	79,689	77,176
Onondaga County	4,731	4,080	3,777
City of Syracuse	1,111	878	828

Source: US Census 2007-09 est., 2010, 2007-09 Greater Syracuse Board of Realtors, 2010

The number of homes sold declined steadily from 2007 to 2009 across the nation and state, including Onondaga County and Syracuse. Onondaga County home sales decreased 20%, while sales in Syracuse decreased by 25%. The number of homes sold in Syracuse decreased a dramatic 27% over the last seven years, between 2002 and 2009. Revitalization efforts are underway to boost sales of new and existing homes throughout the city, with the focus on troubled inner city neighborhoods.

Number of Homes Sold in City of Syracuse
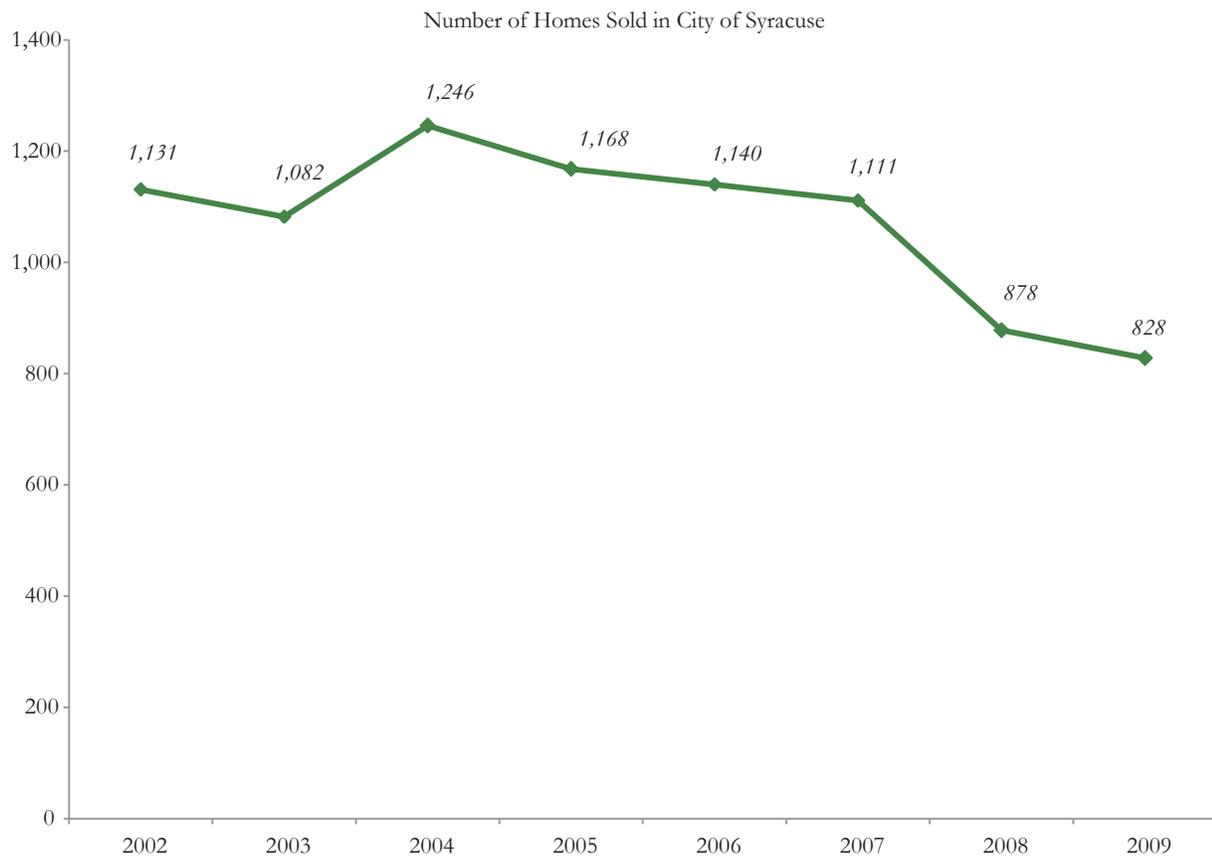
Source: US Census 2007-09 est., 2010, Greater Syracuse Board of Realtors 2002-09, 2010

Public Housing Authority Inventory

Public housing is housing built and funded by the federal government and operated by a local housing agency. The Housing Choice Voucher Program, commonly referred to as 'Section 8' and municipally-administered, provides housing subsidies based on household income. Waiting lists are evidence of the continued need for, and importance of, public housing.

Comment: Total units include structures used for tenant services.

The Syracuse Housing Authority (SHA) owns and operates 12 federally subsidized housing developments. In addition to providing clean, safe, affordable housing, the SHA offers programs dedicated to improving the living environment, education and job skill development of its residents. There are 3,987 Syracuse residents living in public housing, 45% of whom are under the age of 21. SHA also provides 'Section 8' vouchers to 3,315 households and 7,974 individuals.

Public Housing Inventory Elderly Developments

Developments in Syracuse	Number of Units		Year Completed
	Total Units	*Dwelling*	
James Geddes 1-2	108	106	1953
James Geddes 1-3	124	124	1959
Almus Olver Towers 1-4	188	184	1959
Toomey Abbott 1-5	308	306	1967
Ross Towers 1-9	160	160	1972
Vinette Towers 1-10	153	153	1973
Fahey Court 1-11	30	30	1982
Total	**1,071**	**1063**	

Public Housing Inventory Family Developments

Developments in Syracuse	Number of Units		Year Completed
	Total Units	*Dwelling*	
Pioneer Homes 1-1	612	598	1941
James Geddes 1-2	223	218	1953
James Geddes 1-3	22	22	1959
Central Village 1-4	183	181	1959
Benderson Heights 1-12	56	56	1984
Rehabilitation Sites 1-14	11	11	1985
Scattered Sites 1-16	90	90	1984
McKinney Manor 1-18	75	75	1987
Eastwood Homes*	134	134	1952
Total	**1,406**	**1,385**	

LIHTC: Low-income Housing Tax Credit development
Source: SHA, 2010, City of Syracuse Consolidated Plan 2009-10, 2010

Community Spotlight:
The Gateway Neighborhood

The Syracuse Gateway neighborhood is nestled between Brighton Avenue to the south, Castle Street to the north, and is south of the downtown district. To the east it is bordered by NYS Route 81, the development of which changed the profile of the community and other inner-city neighborhoods. Primarily composed of single family and two family homes, the gateway neighborhood is 80% black and income levels range from $13,405 to $22,515 per year according to the 2000 US Census. The 2000 Census also shows that between 1990 and 2000, the gateway neighborhood experienced a 20% reduction in the number of residents, and the percentage of white residents declined by 50%.

The gateway neighborhood experienced a nine percent decrease in housing stock between 1990 and 2000, according to the 2000 Census, a decline that coincides with a general decline in the quality of housing stock. As the number of abandoned properties has risen, the number of units decreased, as did overall quality. The decrease in units also reflects citywide demolition of abandoned properties and continued revitalization efforts.

Based on median income figures it is not difficult to understand why the rate of homeownership and overall condition of the neighborhood has been slipping over the last two decades. An income of $13,000 does little to boost homeownership and for those who already own property it is nearly impossible to keep up with maintenance, let alone complete renovations and improvements.

In spite of the many challenges faced, Syracuse residents, community organizations, and businesses are rallying to breathe new life into struggling neighborhoods. The Gateway neighborhood is one such example that is rich in assets and fueled by residents and community members interested in preserving the neighborhood.

Green space, historic homes, schools, churches, youth and community centers, and a commercial corridor make the neighborhood a viable candidate for revitalization. The neighborhood hosts a literacy parade, the South Side Garden, a farm-fresh mobile market, and anchors such as Dunk and Bright Furniture and Beauchamp Library.

Public Safety

Neighborhood safety is a top concern for area residents. Crime not only has a major impact on victims, but it disrupts the larger community. High crime rates, in addition to lowering property values, can be a concern of potential homebuyers and business owners.

Property, drug and violent crimes rates are lower in Onondaga County than in New York State. The city of Syracuse experiences higher crime rates, which is not uncommon for urban areas. The Syracuse Police Department enlists the help of the community to make the area safer through prevention programs, Neighborhood Watch groups and anonymous tip lines.

By monitoring public safety indicators, the community can track areas that need improvement. Relevant data on crime and emergency service response can aide policymakers' decisions.

Property Crimes

Property crimes are offenses involving other people's personal possessions. Property crimes are separated into four different categories by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The categories are burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson. Property crimes affect the real and perceived safety of a community.

Between 2000 and 2008, the rate of property crimes per 10,000 people stayed relatively consistent in the United States, Onondaga County and the city of Syracuse. Property crimes are approximately twice as frequent as violent crimes both nationally and locally. While Onondaga County's rate of property crimes per 10,000 people is lower than the national rate, the rate for the city of Syracuse is higher.

Comment: The population numbers used to compute the rate per 10,000 for 2008 are from the 2008 estimated US Census. Data used for 2005 are based on the 2000 decennial Census.

Property Crime

Property Crimes per 10,000 people
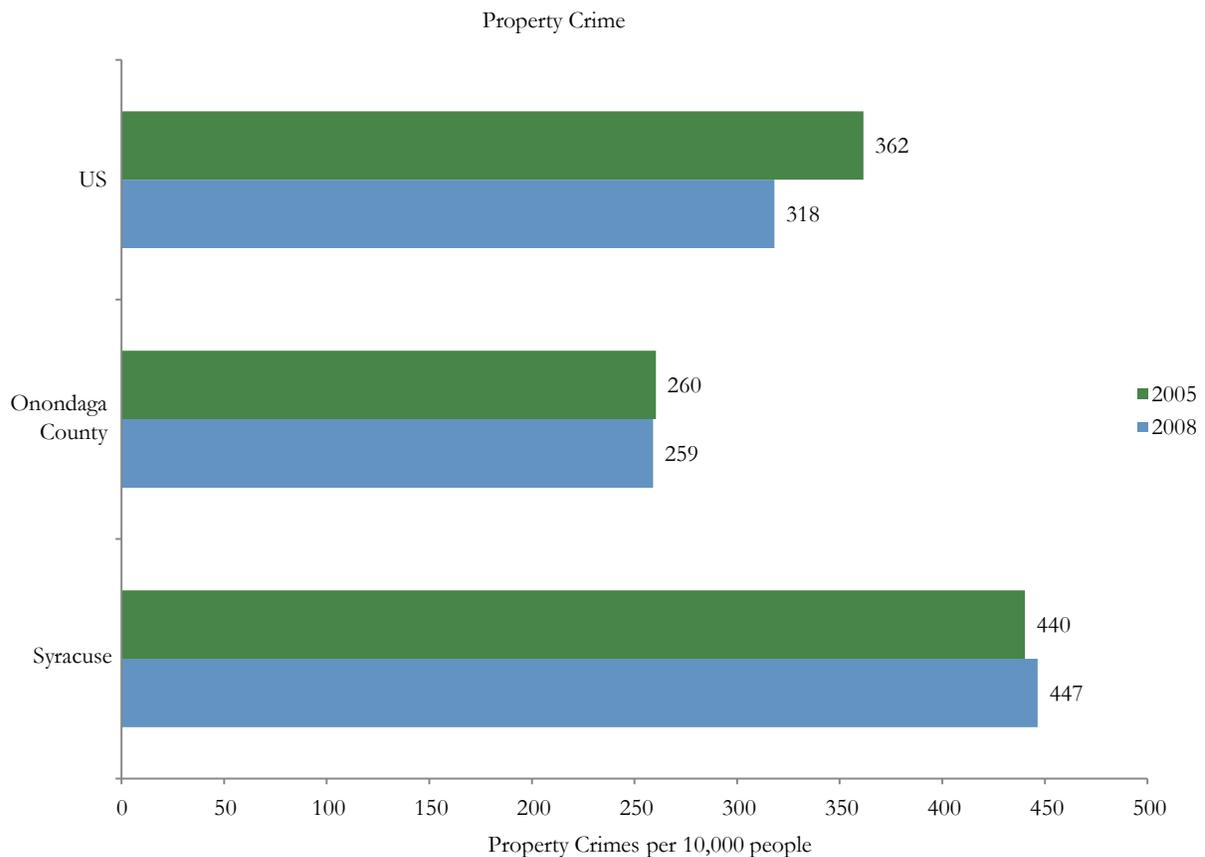
Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Crime Reporting Unit

Violent Crimes

The FBI seperates violent crime into four categories: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault. The incedence of violent crime reflects the safety of a neighborhood.

Between 2000 and 2008, the rate of violent crimes stayed relatively consistent in the United States, Onondaga County and the city of Syracuse. Onondaga County has fewer violent crimes per 10,000 people than the United States. The rate for the city of Syracuse is more than double that of the county and the United States.

Comment: The population numbers used to compute the rate per 10,000 for 2008 are from the 2008 estimated Census data, and for 2005 they are the exact numbers collected in the 2000 Census.
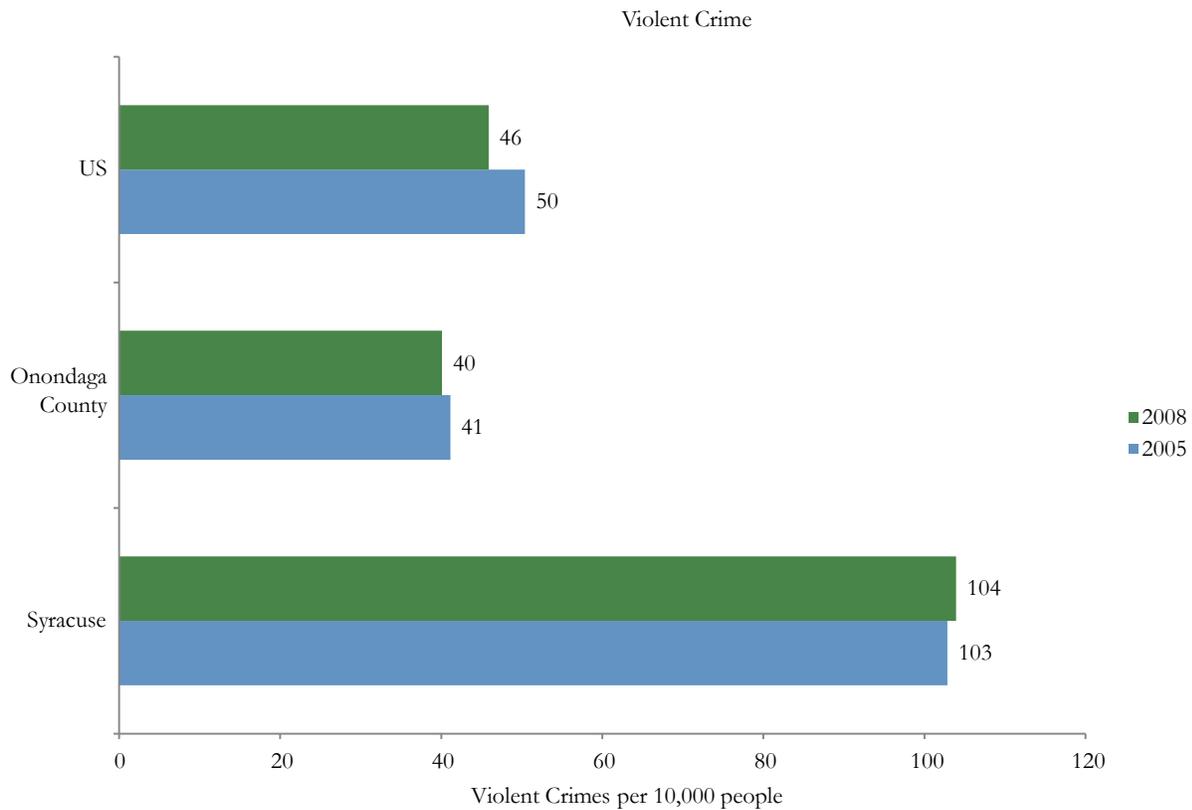
Violent Crime

Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Crime Reporting Unit

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is defined as an aggravated assault, simple assault, sex offense and other violent offenses between spouses, parents/children, other family members and intimate partner. It is typically a crime that threatens the physical and emotional wellbeing of children and women.

The number of domestic violence incidents per 10,000 people has increased slightly from 2008 to 2009 in both Syracuse and Onondaga County. Because of a change in the way domestic violence data are compiled, no comparable historical data exists before 2008, and a trend cannot be established. The data for 2008 and 2009 demonstrate Syracuse's higher rate of domestic violence crimes per 10,000 people compared to the overall county rate.

Domestic Violence
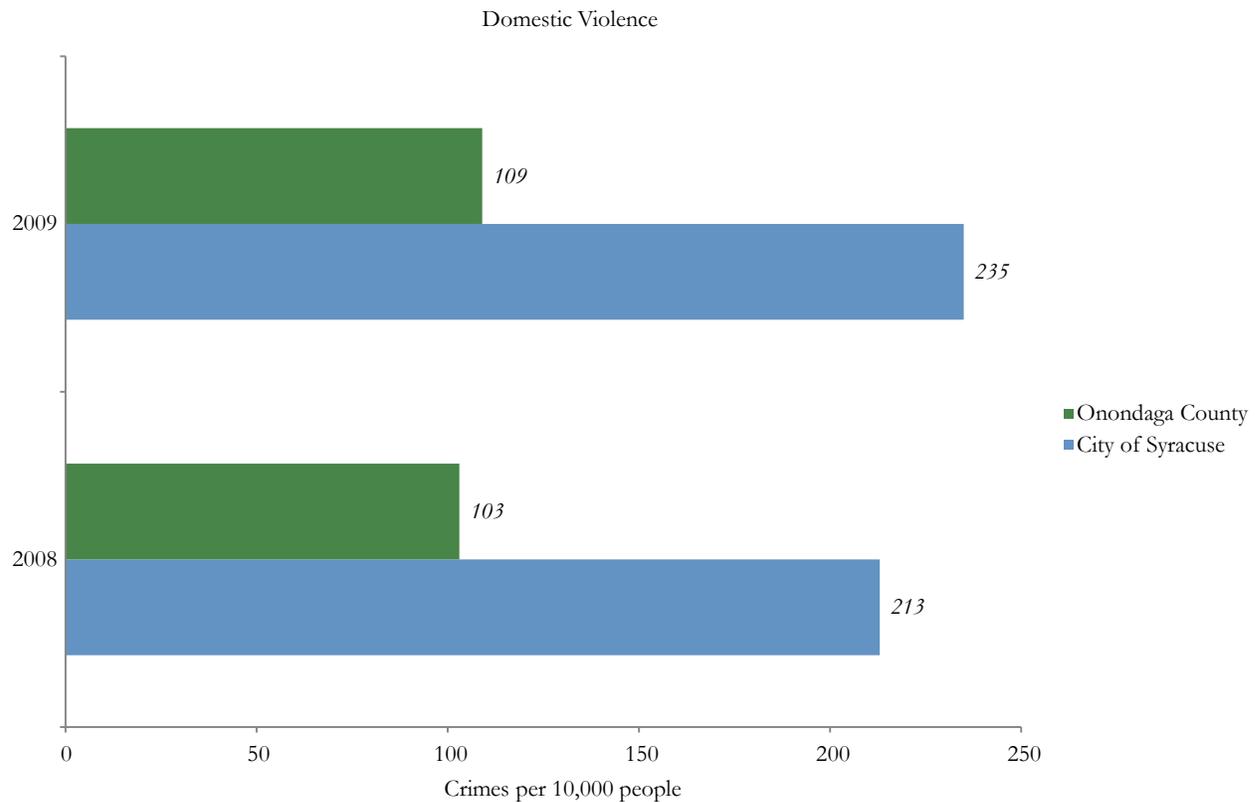
Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, Uniform Crime Reporting system (as of 1/2010).

DWI Incidents

The indicator for DWI incidents tracks the total number of reported DWI accidents in Onondaga County and New York State. DWI accidents include fatal, non-fatal personal injury, and reportable property damage incidents resulting from at least one of the parties having a blood alcohol level over the legal limit of .08. Alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents may affect the safety of drivers and roads in a community.

DWI incidents rose between 2005 and 2008. Incidents increased in both New York State and Onondaga County. The increase, however, was far greater for Onondaga County.

Comment: The data were only available at the state and county level for 2005 and 2008. DWI incidents rose between 2005 and 2008. Incidents increased in both New York State and Onondaga County.
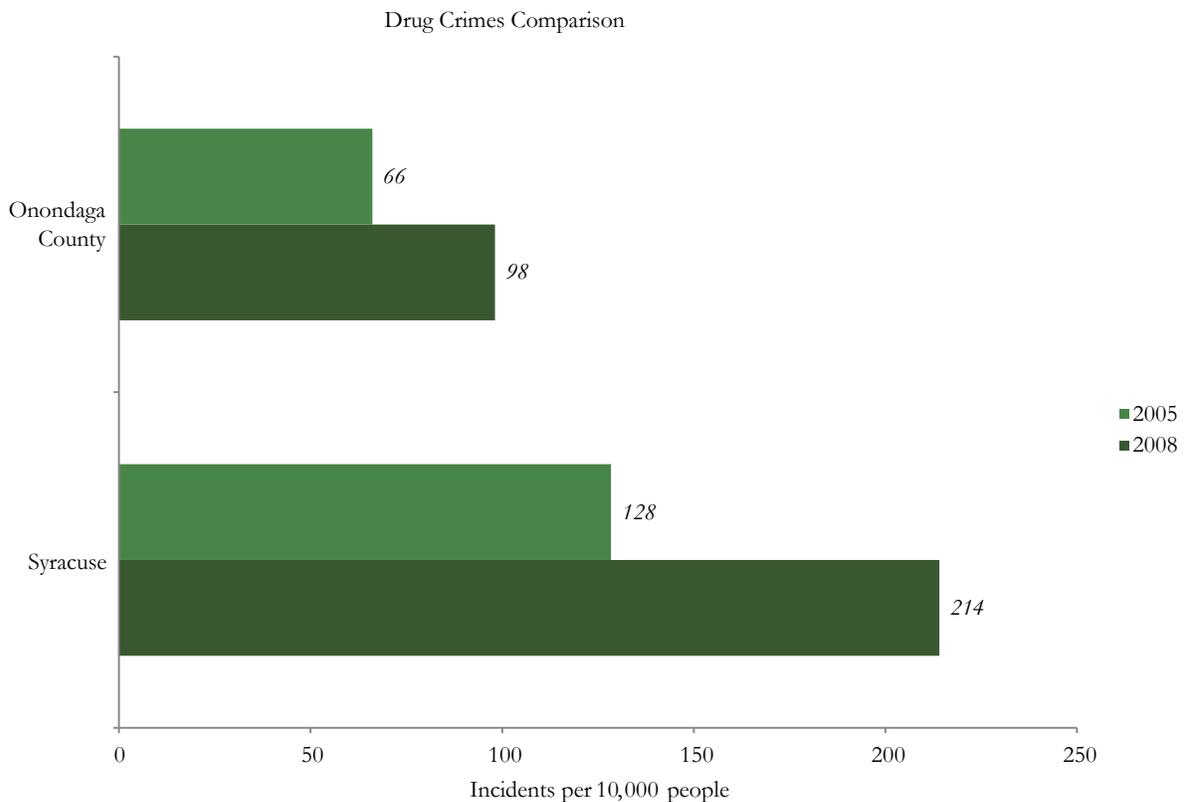
Incidence of DWI
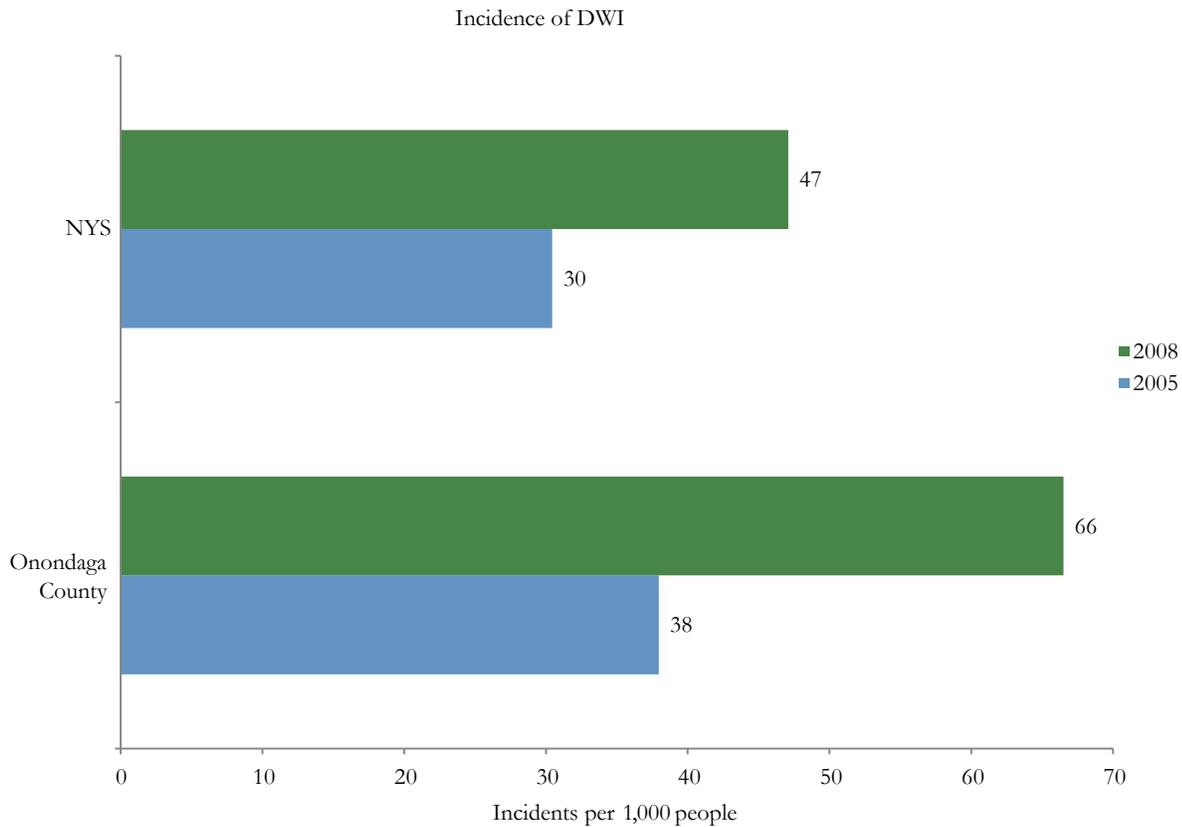
Source: 2008 and 2005 Onondaga County Traffic Safety Data from the Institute of Traffic Safety Management and Research

Drug Crimes

Drug crimes in Onondaga County fall into three categories. They are: contraband substance sale, contraband substance possession and marijuana. Tracking drug crimes can help the community determine the nature of drug use and sales in the area. It can also aid policymakers in decisions regarding the effectiveness of programs designed for drug prevention.

Drug crimes are on the rise in the city of Syracuse and Onondaga County. Between 2005 and 2008, the number of drug crimes per 10,000 people increased significantly for both geographic regions. Drug crimes per 10,000 people are roughly double the drug crimes per 10,000 people for Onondaga County. The Syracuse Police Department has long battled against drug trafficking and drug use in the area, but activity is still on the rise.

Drug Crimes Comparison

Onondaga County
66
98

Syracuse
128
214

■2005
■2008

0   50   100   150   200   250

Incidents per 10,000 people

Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Crime Reporting Unit

Service Calls

The indicator for service calls tracks how many emergency calls are made to emergency agencies in Onondaga County. Service calls are categorized as follows: 9-1-1 calls, Syracuse Police, Town/Village Police, County Sheriff's Office, State Police, Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP), Syracuse Fire/EMS, County Fire/EMS and Operator Assisted.

Overall, the greatest number of service calls are made to 9-1-1. Between 2005 and 2009, the number of 9-1-1 calls in Onondaga County decreased.
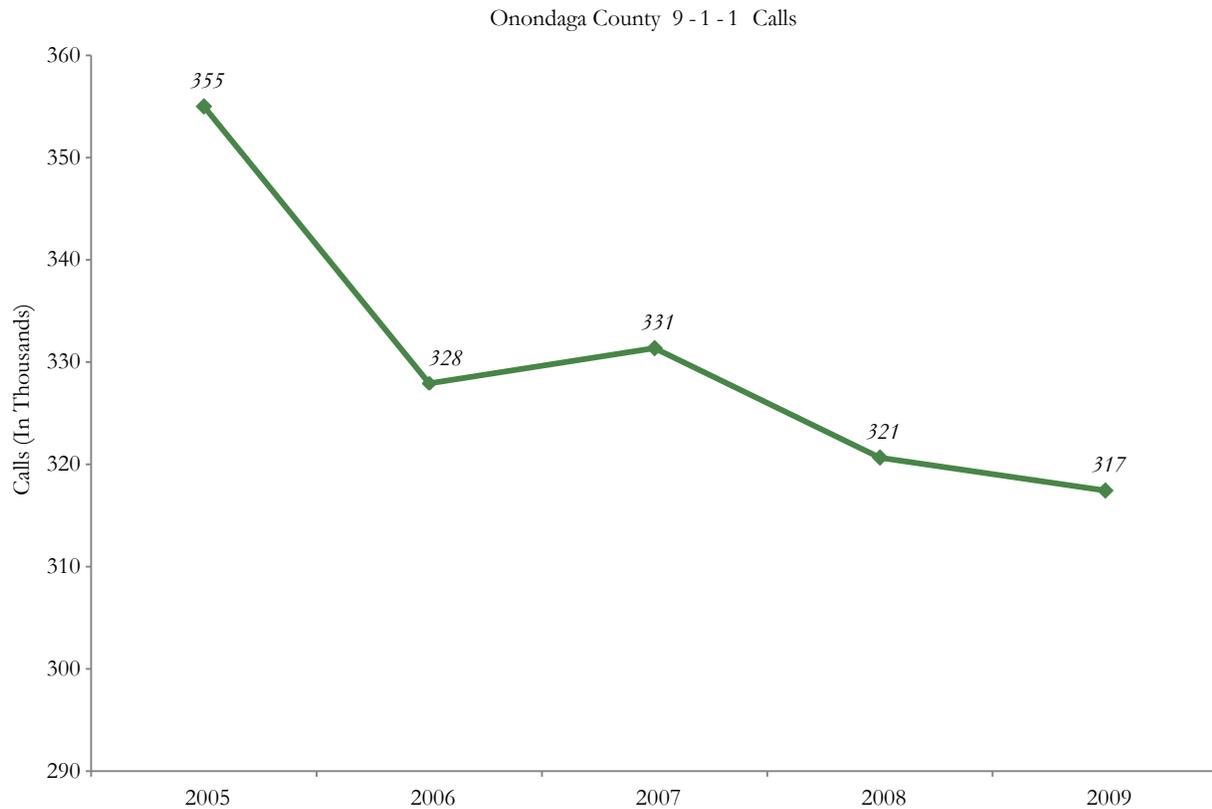
Onondaga County 9 - 1 - 1 Calls

Source: Onondaga County Department of Emergency Communications, 2010

Centro bus drivers serve more than 12 million each year
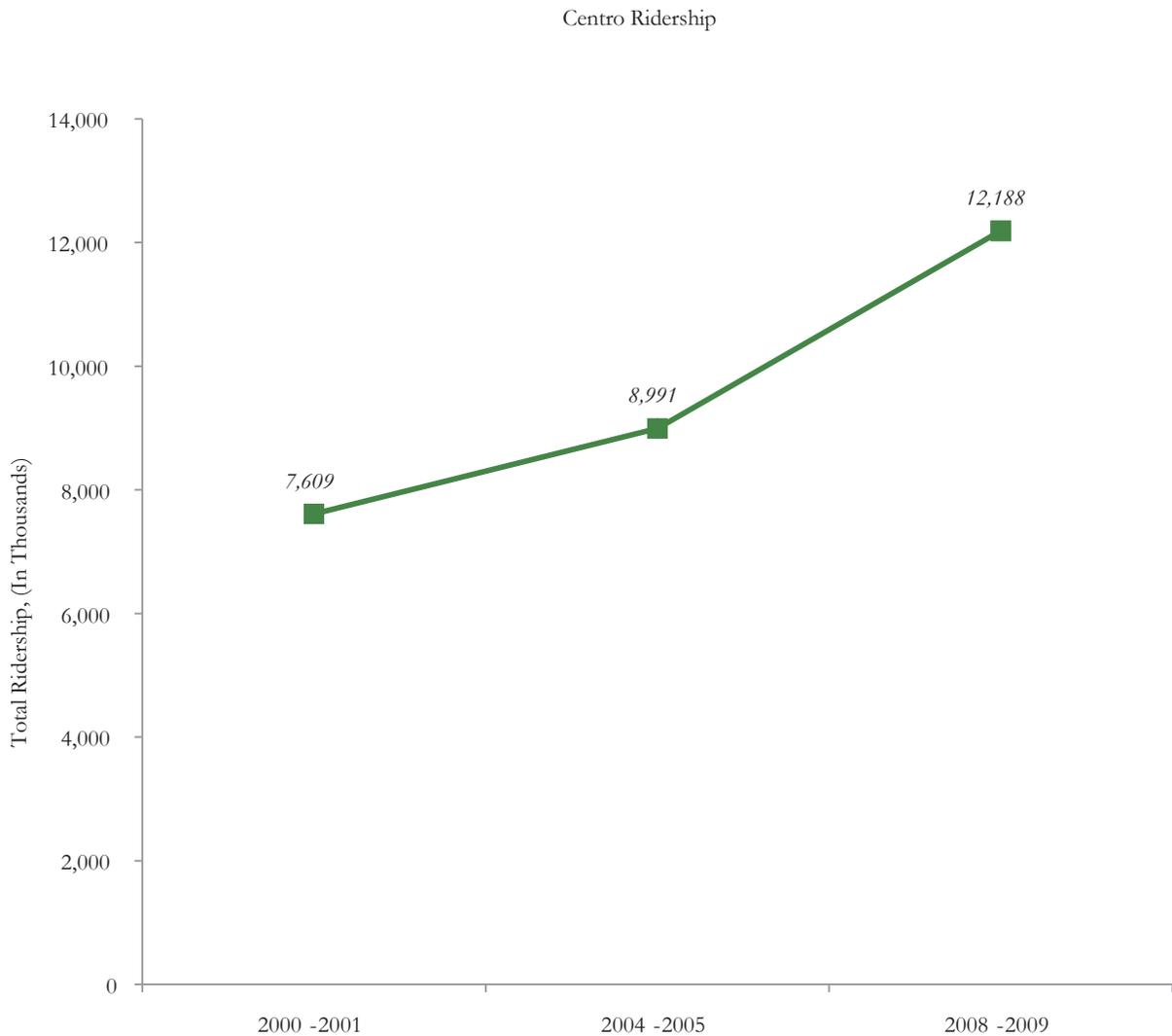
Transportation

This section examines several indicators regarding mobility and transportation in Onondaga County and Syracuse.

Onondaga County is conveniently located at the intersection of Interstate 81 and the NYS Thruway. The Hancock International Airport and the William F. Walsh Regional Transportation Center serve the area as well. The region's transportation infrastructure has seen improvement in some areas and downward trends in others.

One of the prominent initiatives in Onondaga County is the inclusion of clean-air, hybrid buses in the Central New York Regional Transportation Authorities (CENTRO) fleet. Over the next several years, CENTRO plans to introduce hybrid technology in the majority of their buses.
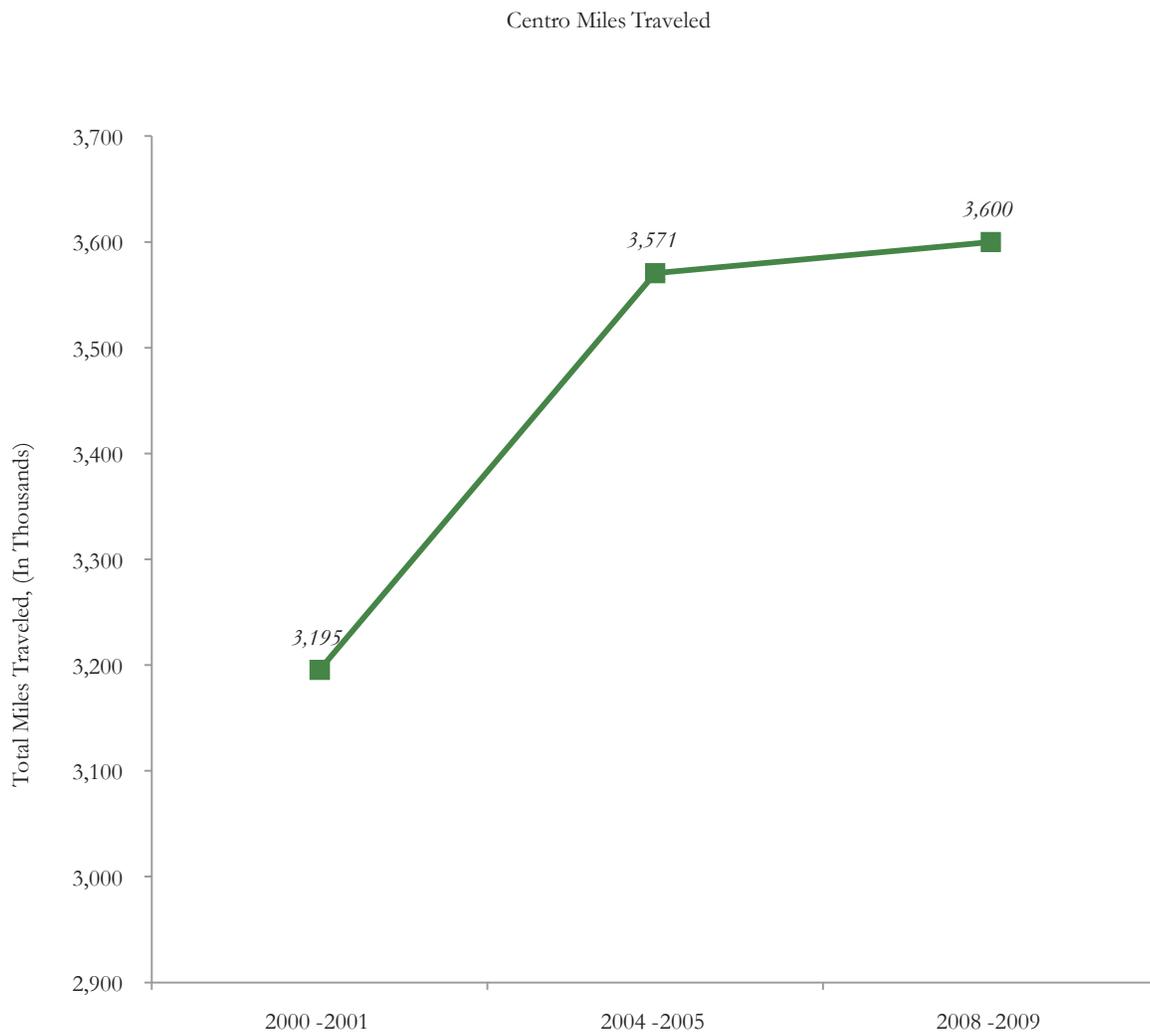
CENTRO Ridership/Miles Traveled

Central New York Regional Transportation Authority
(Centro) bus line in Onondaga County provides services
to more than 12 million passengers a year. Americans have
become dependent on cars, but those who cannot afford cars
or do not want to drive may rely on public transportation.
The availability and accessibility of public transportation can
be seen in its ridership and miles traveled.

Centro Ridership

Source: Central New York Regional Transportation

Over the last decade, Centro public transportation 'total ridership' and 'total miles traveled' both saw significant increases. The positive trend in miles traveled, and even more in ridership, reflects the dividends from investments in public transportation.

Centro Miles Traveled

Total Miles Traveled, (In Thousands)

3,700
3,600
3,500
3,400
3,300
3,200
3,100
3,000
2,900

3,195
3,571
3,600

2000 -2001   2004 -2005   2008 -2009

Source: Central New York Regional Transportation

Hancock International Airport

Hancock International Airport was originally named Clarence E. Hancock Airport after the former congressman of the 36th District. In 1970, Hancock was designated as an international airport. This allows products manufactured locally to be shipped directly overseas and for Syracuse to be a port of entry for foreign travelers.

The number of travelers using the airport dropped after 2005, and is lower than figures for 2000. This may be a reflection of the economic downturn, lower fares at nearby airports such as Rochester or customer dissatisfaction with flying in general. JetBlue CEO David Barger said in August 2010 that airline fees at Hancock are higher than those of the competition, resulting in airlines offering fewer choices to customers flying out of Syracuse.

Hancock Airport Passengers
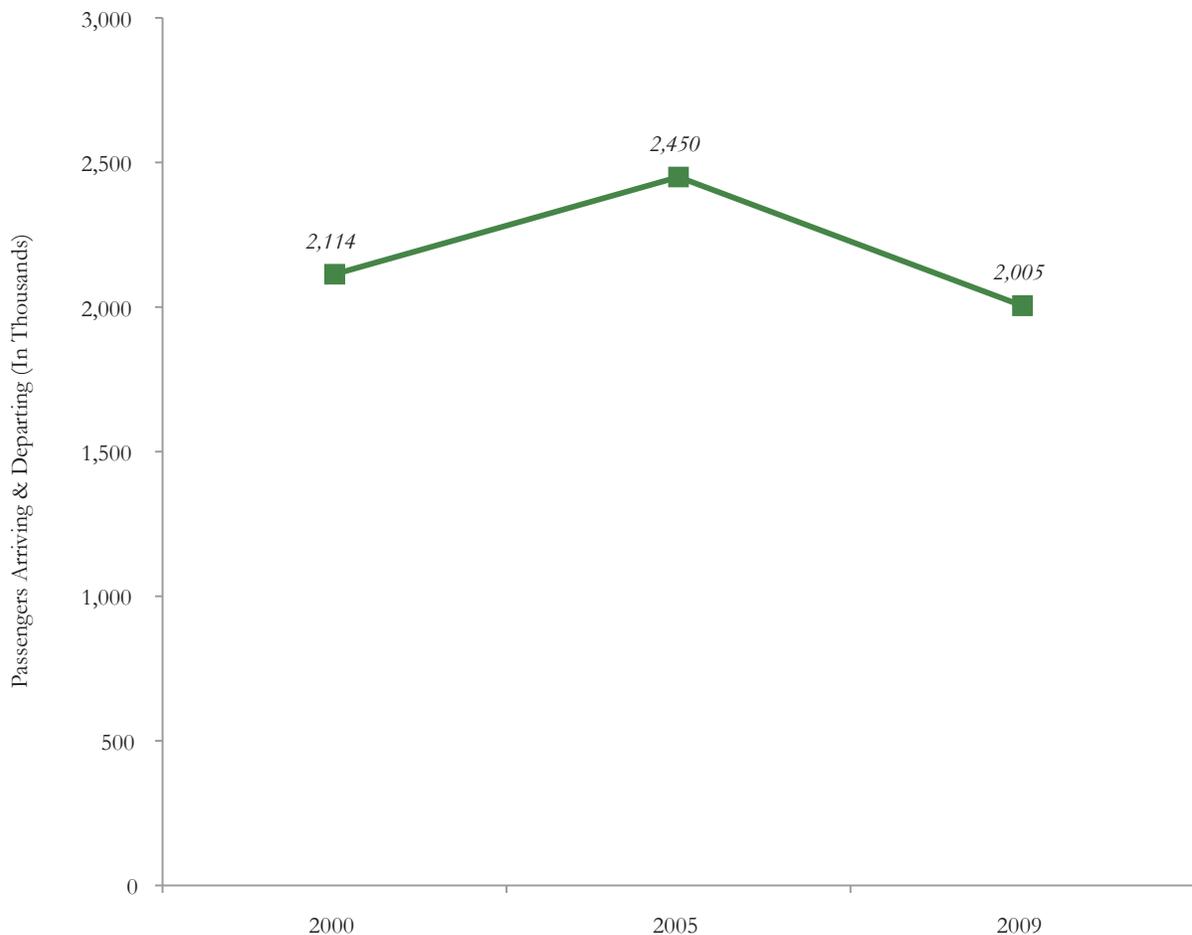
Source: Hancock International Airport

Average Commute Time

Average commute time is defined by the US Census as the average travel time to work of those 16 years and over who do not work at home. Commutes to and from work affect numerous aspects of an individual's daily life. Having a shorter travel time can lead to increased productivity, more rest and higher morale. Shorter commutes to and from work can be an attractive selling point for potential homebuyers in Onondaga County.

The average commute time to work in Onondaga County has remained significantly below the state and the nation. While there is an upward trend for both New York State and the United States, the commute times have been fairly consistent for Onondaga County.

Average Commute Time
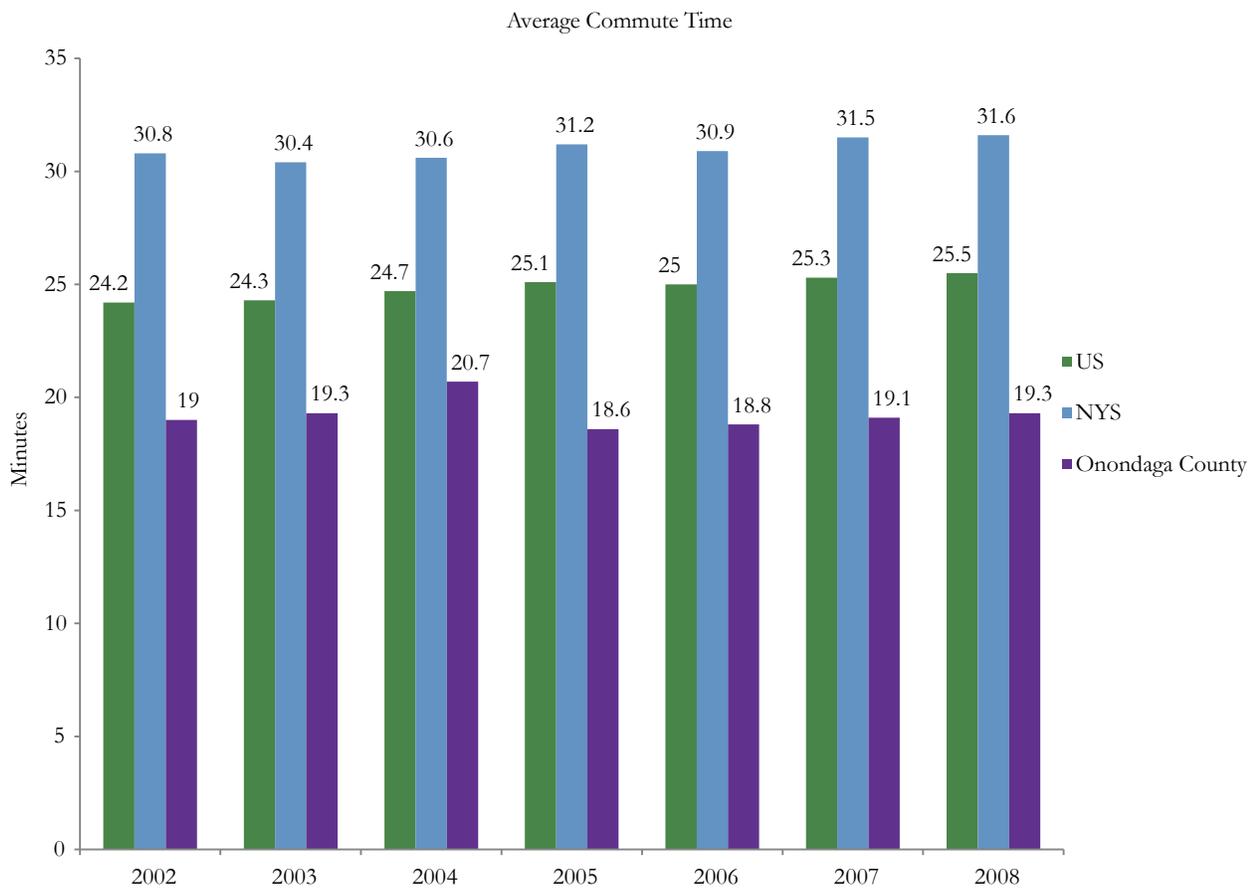
Source: US Census Bureau, 2002-08

Gasoline Sales

Decreases in gas sales could indicate that more people are taking advantages of alternatives such as hybrid cars or public transportation. Drivers could also be strategically planning their vehicle use to avoid unnecessary trips. This is consistent with rising gasoline prices as indicated through data collected by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

Assuming that the ridership remains fairly consistent, the general trends in Onondaga County gasoline sales remains fairly stable similar to the national level, and despite the upward trend at the state level. This trend can be interpreted to capture the exposure to price volatility or serve as a proxy of intensity in economic activity.

Annual Gasoline Sales, per 1,000
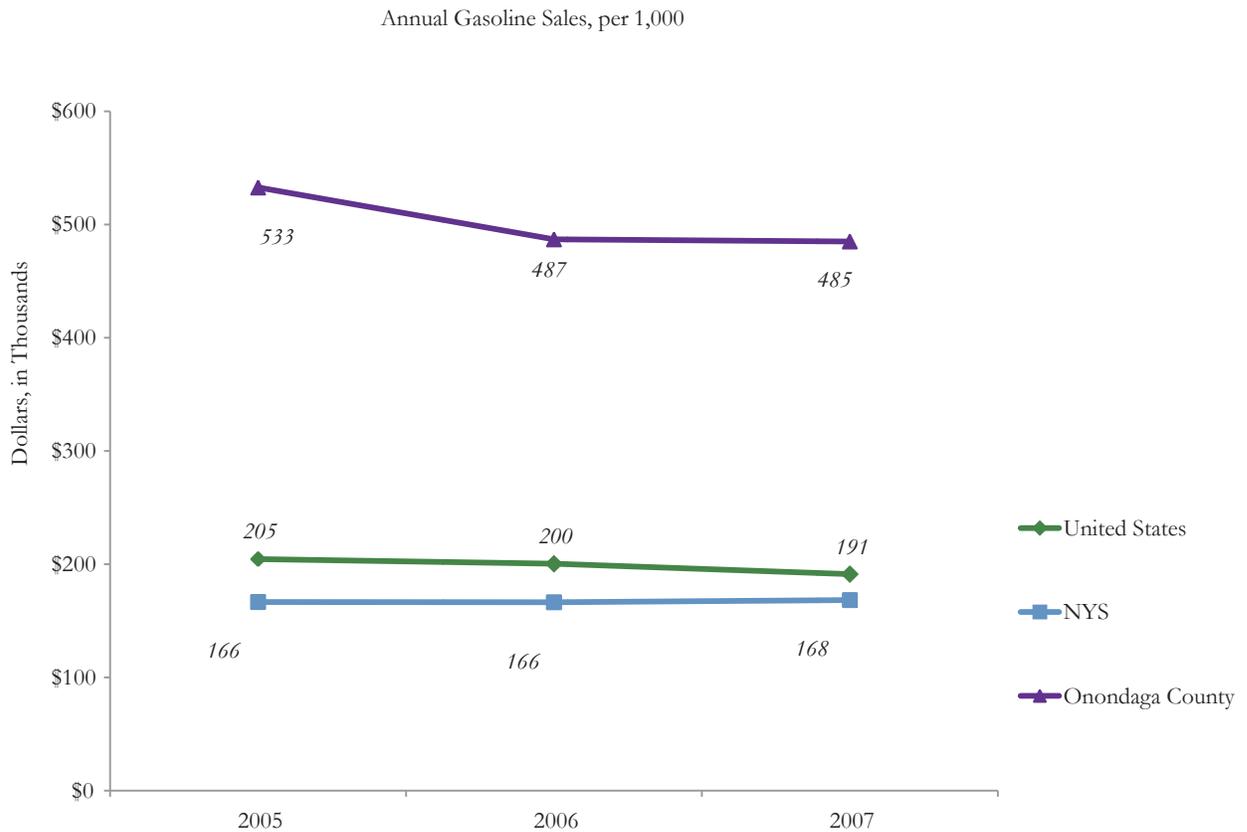
Source: United States Energy Information Administration

Bridge Ratings

Bridges play a vital role in the overall functioning of mobility and transportation. The New York State Department of Transportation rates the overall condition of bridges in municipalities throughout the state of New York. They are rated on a scale from 1 to 7, with 1 being the most deficient and 7 being the highest possible rating. NYDOT defines a deficient bridge as one with a rating lower than 5.0.

Bridges were inspected in Onondaga County from January of 2008 through January of 2010. On average, the bridges in Onondaga County exceeded the minimum NYDOT deficiency rating, however there were a large number of bridges in the county that failed to meet or exceed minimum standards.

Bridge Rating Overview (n=471)	
Average Rating	5.354
Percent of bridges below 5.0	39%

Source: New York State Department of Transportation

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interstate_81_in_New_York

Community Spotlight: Interstate 81

Interstate 81 connect Syracuse's southern and northern suburbs to the downtown, Syracuse University, SUNY ESF, Upstate University, Crouse and Veterans Administration hospitals. Despite the beneficial transport aspects of I-81, the elevated highway has created a divide between the University/Hospital areas and downtown. Consequently, I-81 bisects the city of Syracuse creating two very different and separate neighborhoods.

As a result of the separation between neighborhoods, new policies have been proposed to resolve the Interstate's dividing presence. Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) and New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) have started to conduct studies on alternatives. One plan is to demolish the elevated road and create a boulevard running through the city. Supporters of the boulevard say this will eliminate the divide and bring economic vitality to the downtown. A second idea is to reroute the highway underground via a tunnel, creating open space above. Without a highway separating the city, the new space could be used for a public park or new developments. A third option is to keep the highway but upgrade the road to meet current Department of Transportation (DOT) standards.

Changes to I-81 will take years of studying and planning to determine viability. One of the important considerations the DOT has to take into account is the impact on commuters of any reconfiguration of the overpass.

The Dr. King magnet school tutors much of Syracuse's refugee population

Youth

According to the Census Bureau's 2006-08 estimates, in Onondaga County about 25 percent of the population is under the age of 18, with 5.9 percent under the age of five. The youth of our community are not only an obvious link to our future, but a snapshot of the present. Their quality of life paints a picture of our community, including the quality of education and poverty levels. This section will focus on their living conditions, safety and health.

In Onondaga County, youth face a lower risk of living in poverty than young people in the US and New York State. Young girls are less likely to become pregnant in Onondaga than the rest of the state and children born in the county are more likely to have received prenatal care than those statewide or nationwide.

In other areas, Onondaga children are not doing as well. Youth suffer from a high rate of child abuse. Maltreatment reports and youth arrests in city of Syracuse and Onondaga County are not decreasing at the same rate as the state. It is not known whether this means there is a bigger problem locally, or if detection is higher.

Children Living in Poverty

Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) Directive 14, the US Census identifies the percentage of families with children living in severe poverty by using a set of income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is poor. If the total income for a family or unrelated individual falls below the poverty threshold, then the family or unrelated individual is classified as being "below the poverty level." The level of families in poverty helps determine the need for government aid in a community and the health and living conditions of the children.

In Onondaga County there is a slightly lower percentage of families with children living in severe poverty than in New York State and the United States.

Families with Children Living in Poverty

US	NYS	Onondaga County
21%	21%	19%
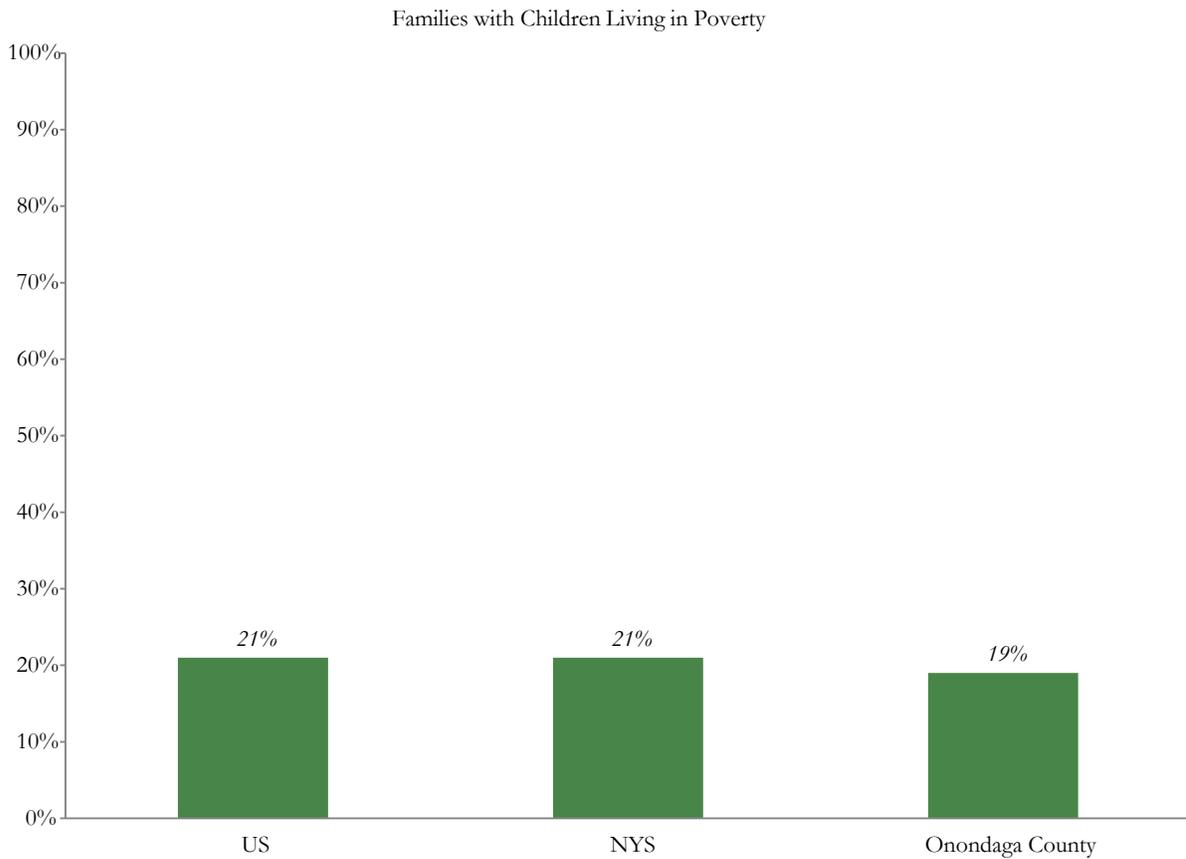
Source: US Census, 2008

Children Admitted to Foster Care

The NYS Office of Children and Family Services and Child Care Review Services tracks the number of children admitted to foster care. Children are placed in foster care either by order of a court or when parents place them there temporarily. Foster care is often the final act to protect children from abuse and/or neglect. Foster care is a government run program.

From 2000 to 2008 both Onondaga County and New York State saw a drop in the number of children admitted to foster care.
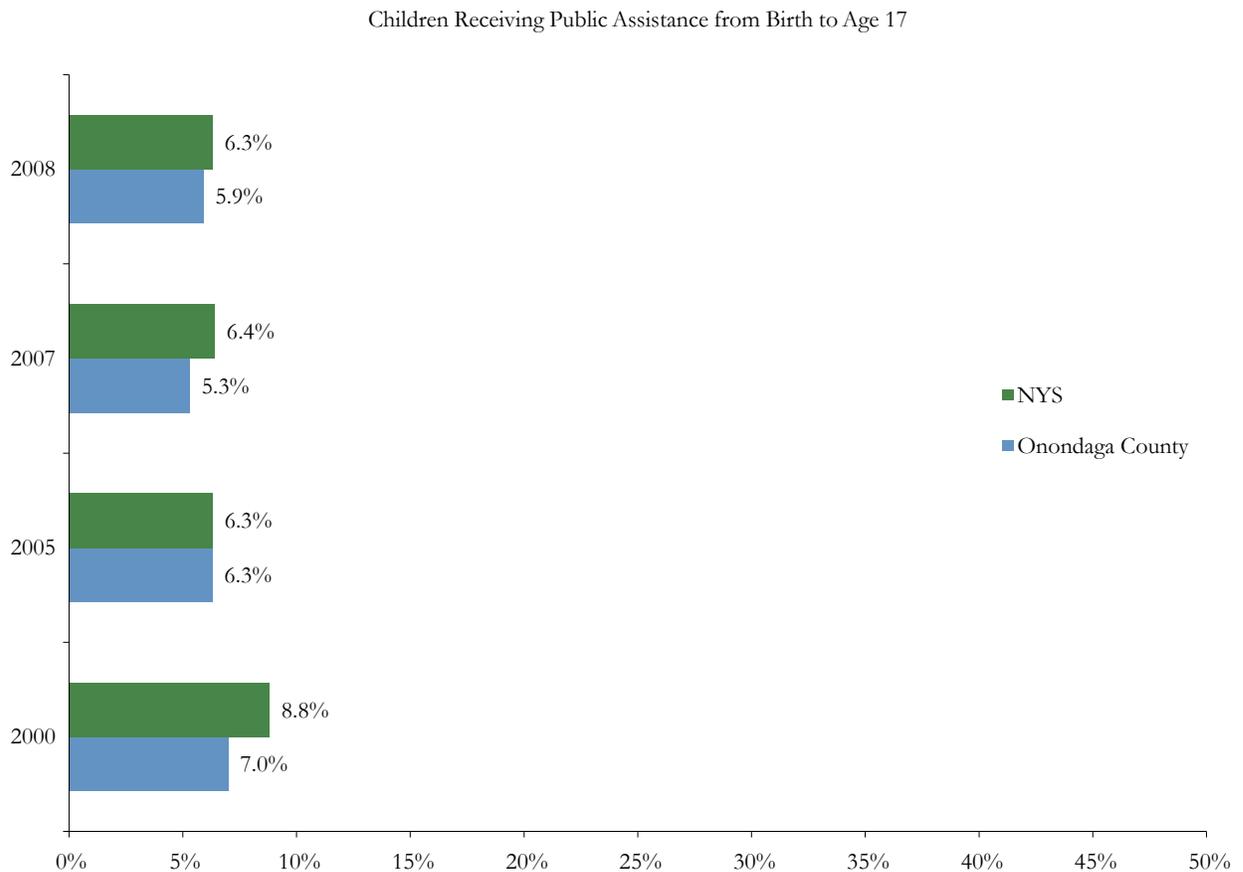
2000-08 Children Admitted to Foster Care

- NYS
- Onondaga County

Rate per 1,000
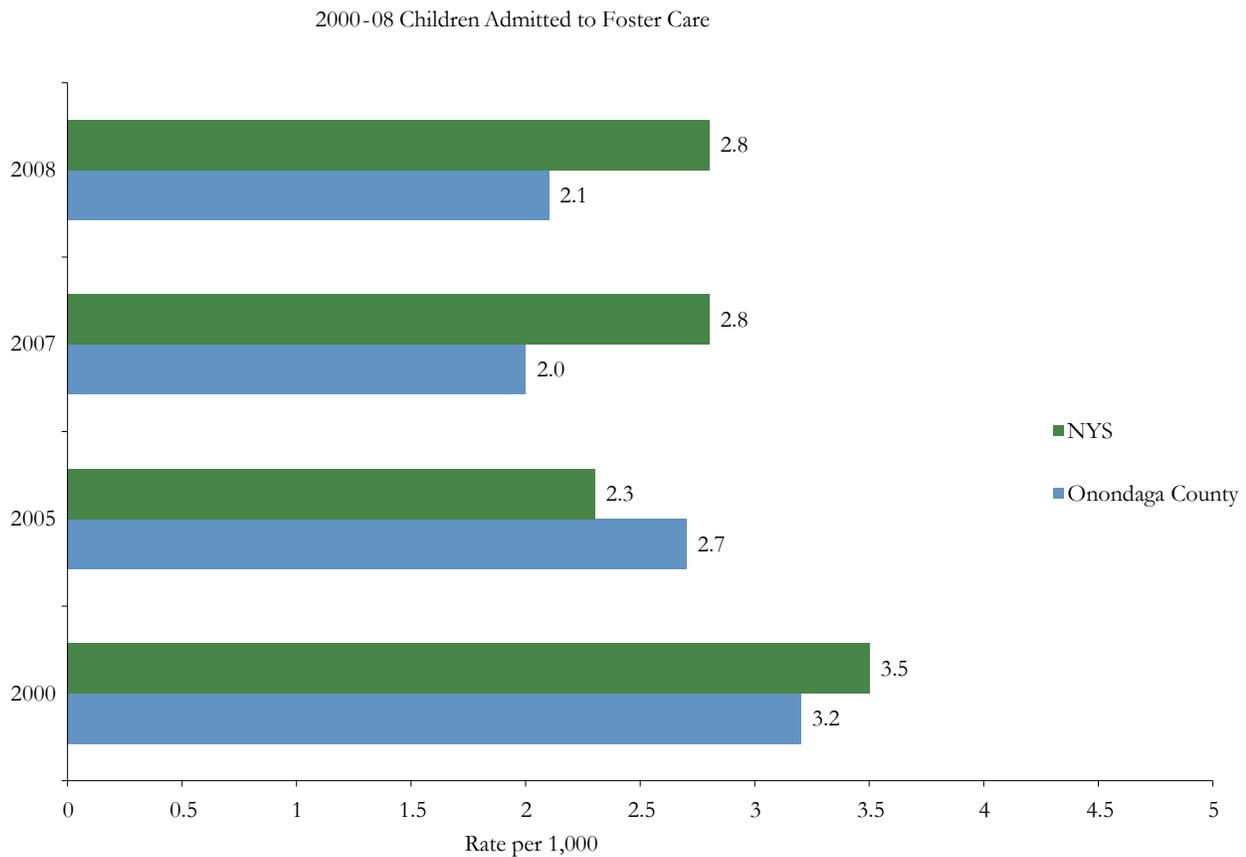
Source: NYS Office of Children and Family Services; Child Care Review Service

Children Receiving Public Assistance

Public assistance includes various state and federal programs such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families(TANF) and Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

Children in Onondaga County (0-17) receive public assistance at a slightly lower rate than children statewide.

Comment: This graph is not to a 100% scale.

Children Receiving Public Assistance from Birth to Age 17

- NYS
- Onondaga County

2008
- 6.3%
- 5.9%

2007
- 6.4%
- 5.3%

2005
- 6.3%
- 6.3%

2000
- 8.8%
- 7.0%

0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35% 40% 45% 50%

Source: NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance; Bureau of Data Management and Analysis; Welfare Management System; United States Census.

Child Abuse & Mistreatment

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services say abuse encompasses the most serious harms committed against children. These include when an adult causes serious physical injury, creates a substantial risk of serious physical injury or commits an act of sexual abuse against the child. A person can also be found guilty of abuse if they allow someone else to do these things to a child.

Child Maltreatment refers to the quality of care a child is receiving. According to the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, maltreatment occurs when a parent or other person legally responsible for the care of a child harms a child or places a

child in imminent danger of harm by failing to exercise the minimum degree of care. The minimum degree of care is defined as providing the child with any of the following: food, clothing, shelter, education or medical care when financially able. It can also result from abandonment of a child, not providing adequate supervision, or if a parent engages in excessive drug or alcohol use. Child abuse and maltreatment statistics help raise awareness, which can in turn help in prevention and education.

Onondaga County has a higher rate of child abuse and maltreatment than the New York State, which has seen an increase since 2005.

Reports of Abuse/Maltreatment Against Children
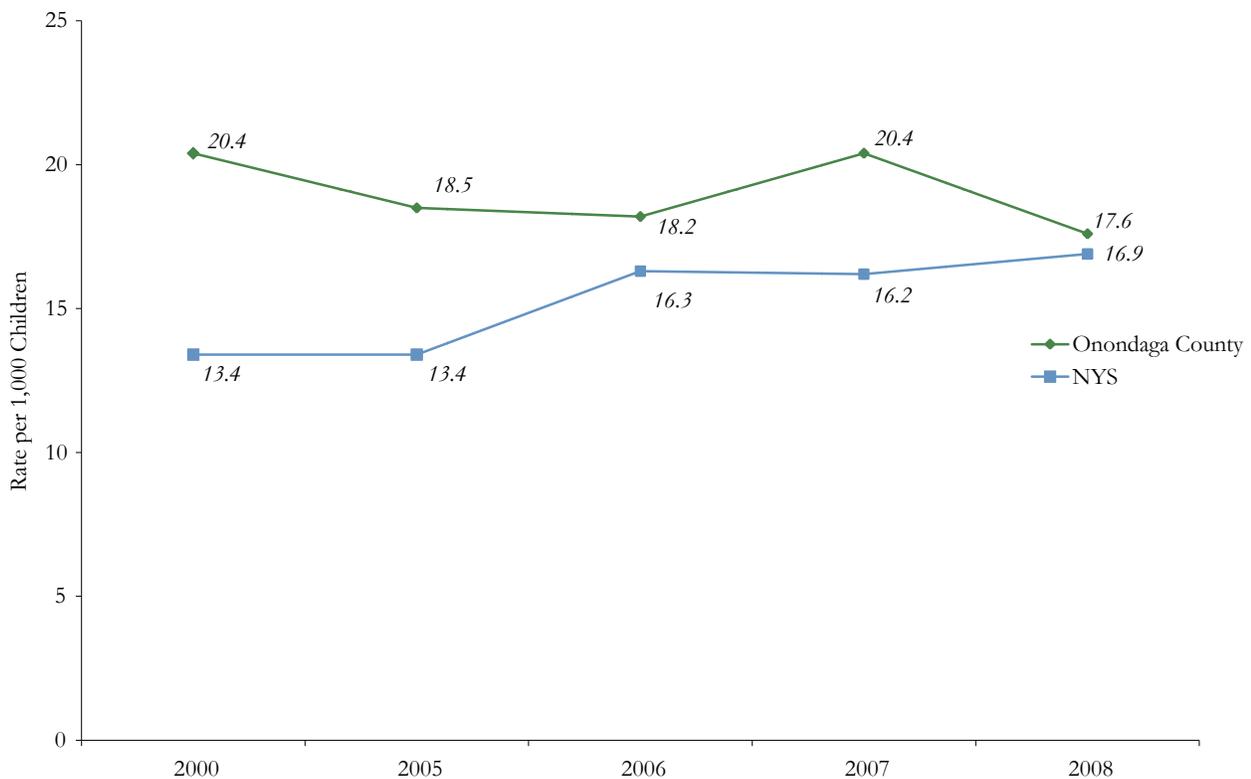
Source: New York State Office of Children and Family Services - National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS).

Registered Child Care Centers

A registered child care center is one regulated by NYS Office of Children and Family Service and must be registered or licensed to operate. Everyone that works in these programs must receive a minimum of 30 hours of training every two years and must meet specific credential and/or work experience requirements. Child care centers are important in a community because they promote early learning, healthy development and a safe place for children whose parents are working or in school.

The reduction in the number of registered childcare centers in Onondaga County is indicative of a county-wide childcare problem, with families having few options in locations and affordability.

Onondaga County Registered Child Care Centers
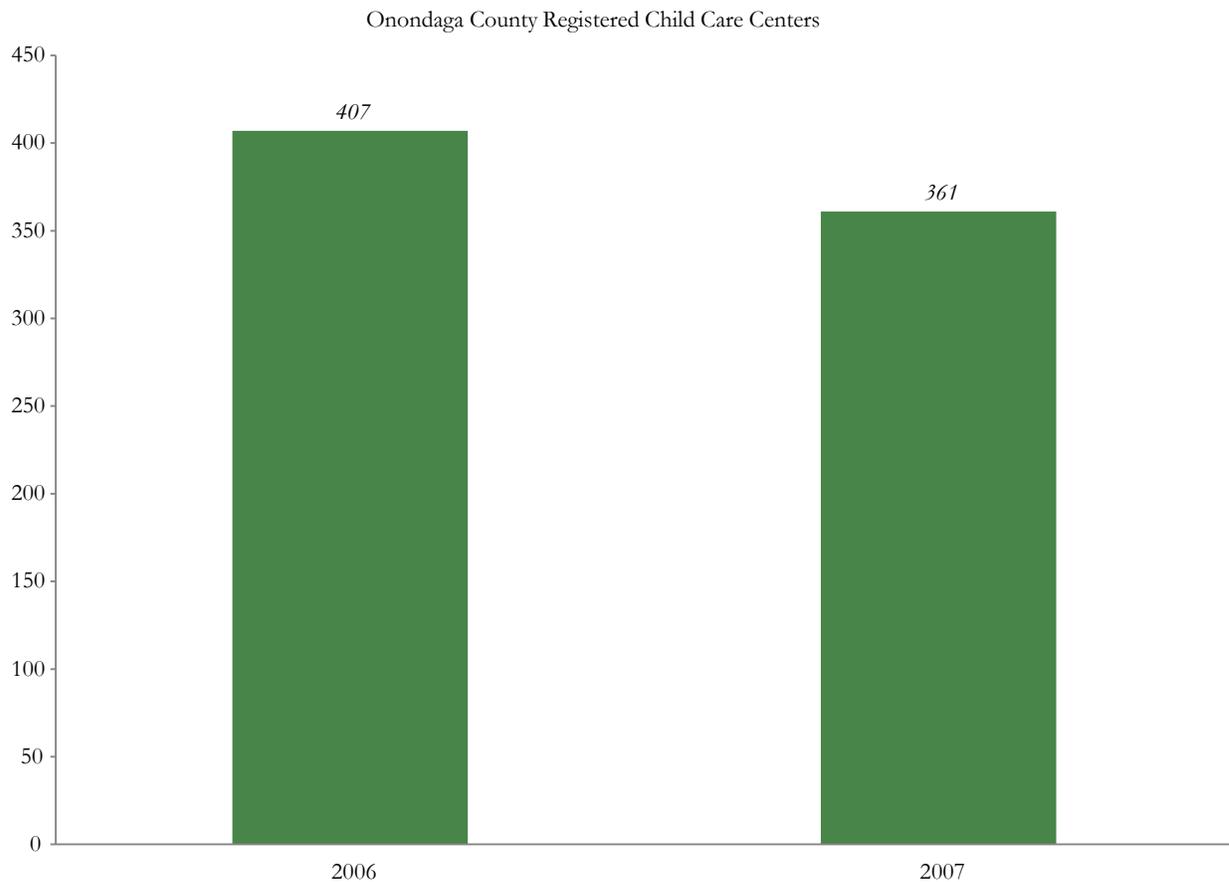
Source: 2007 Mapping Study on Child Care Solutions

Serious Child Care Violations

A serious violation is one that is either a Class I or a Class II violation of the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) regulations. OCFS considers a violation serious if it harms a child or places a child in danger of physical or emotional harm. Some of the violations fall into the following categories:

• Providing care for more than the maximum number of children permitted by the license or registration
• Inadequate or incompetent supervision
• Presence of a fire, safety or health risk
• Inadequate light, ventilation, sanitation, food, water or heat
• Use of corporal punishment or frightening, humiliating methods of discipline

• Refusal to admit or cooperate with inspectors, including representatives of OCFS or its agents
• Child abuse

Safe child care centers are a main concern for parents and guardians. A parent wants to know that they are leaving their child in a program that meets the requirements and standards set by the OCFS.

A large percentage of the serious child care violations that occurred in Onondaga County happened in the city of Syracuse.

Serious Child Care Violations
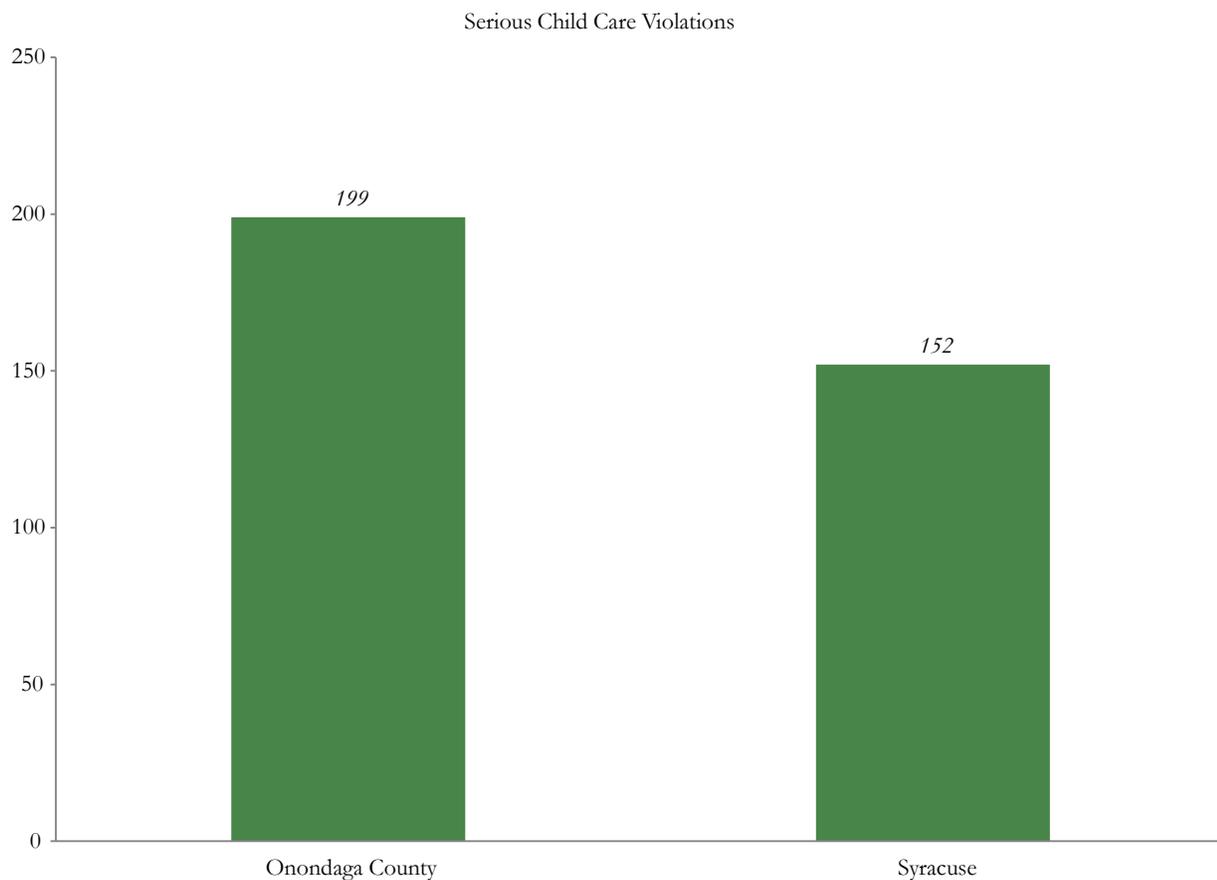
Source: New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Adolescent Pregnancies

An adolescent pregnancy is a pregnancy of a 15- to 17-year old female. According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancies, the rates in the United States are the highest among industrialized nations. Comparing rates for girls, aged 15-19, the Campaign reports that in 2006, teen birth rates in the US were 41.9 per 1,000. By contrast, when compared to 17 other countries, the average rate per 1,000 was 12.2. Great Britain has the next highest rate at 26.7, and Portugal is third with a rate of 16.8

Compared to New York State, Onondaga County has a lower proportion of 15- to 17-year old females who become pregnant. Although statewide, the pregnancy rate has dropped since, 2000, the Onondaga County rate continues to hover between 32 and 37 pregnancies per 1,000 females.
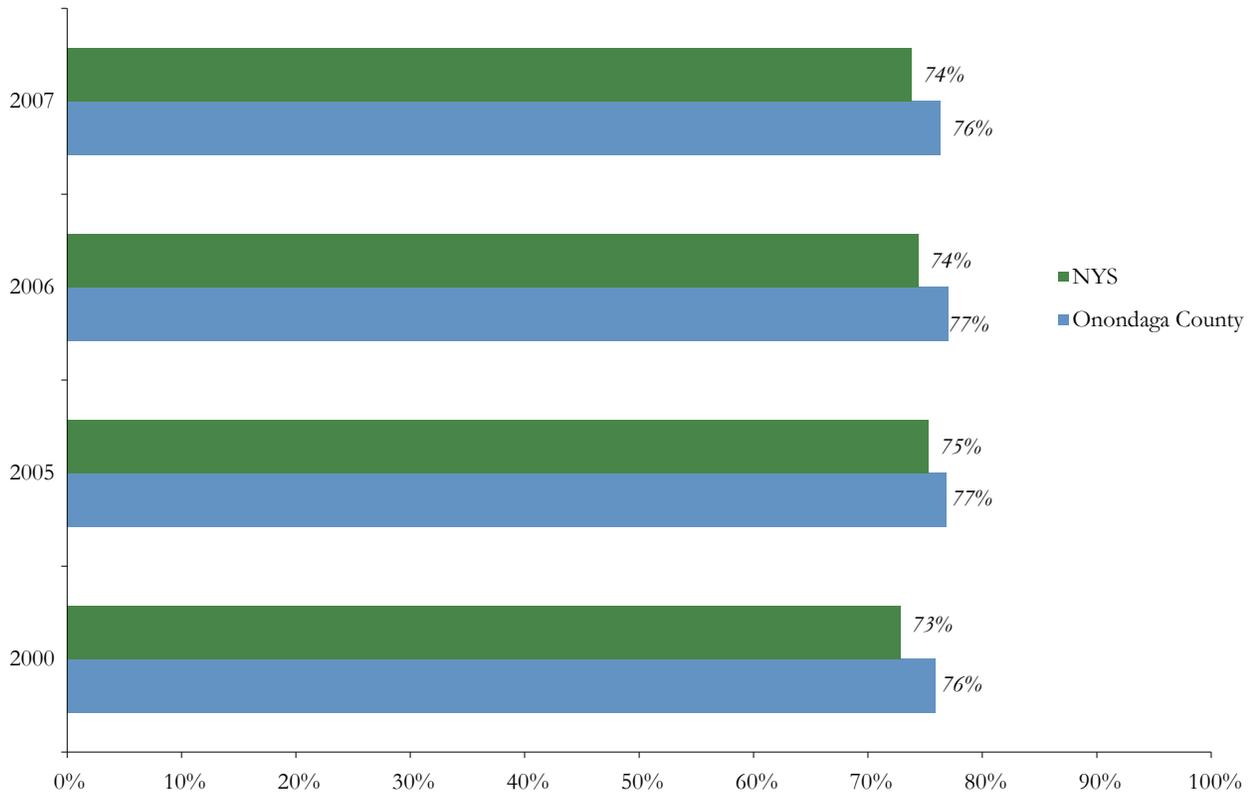
Adolescent Pregnancies, Age 15-17
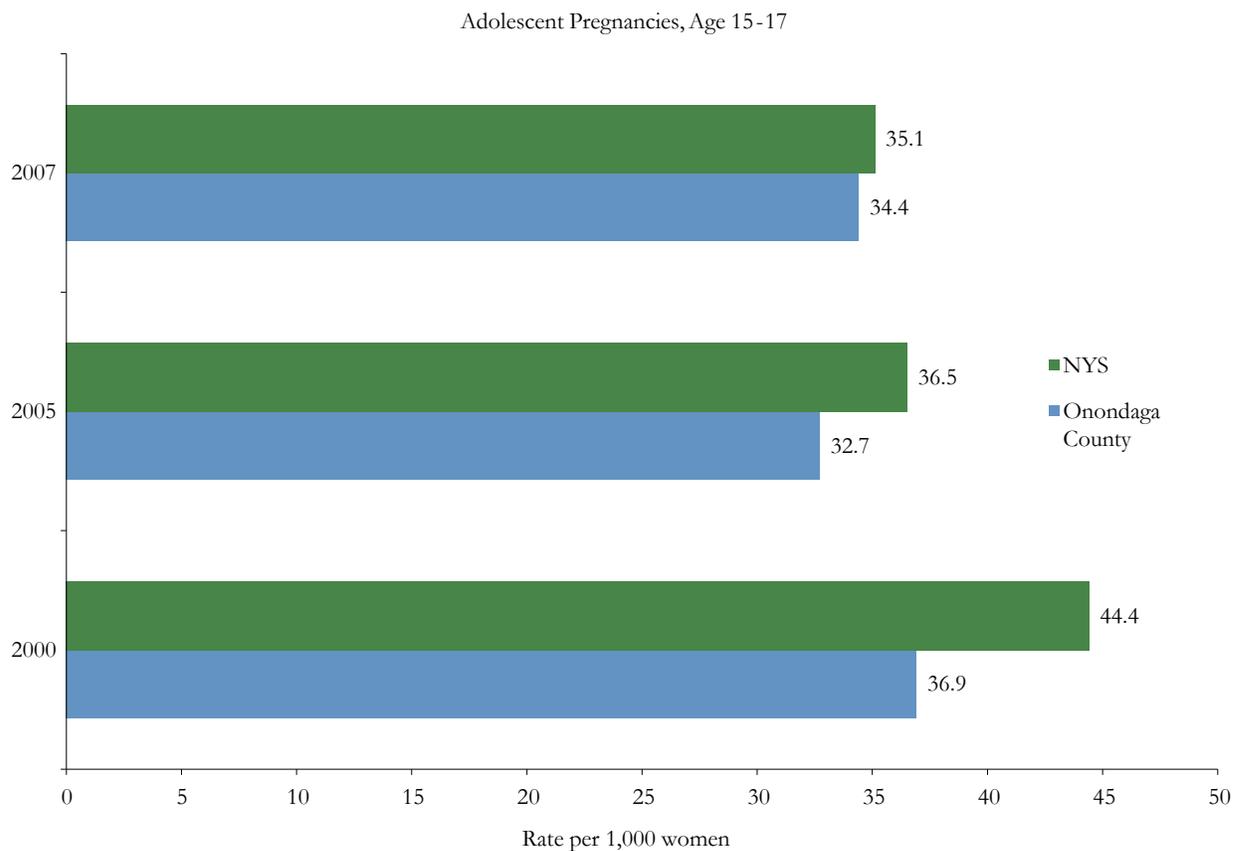
Source: NYS Department of Health; Bureau of Biometrics - birth certificates and fetal death certificates

Early Prenatal Care

The New York State Department of Health's Bureau of Biometrics and Health Statistics defines 'early' prenatal care as the care given to women of all ages during the first trimester. According to the US Department of Health and Human Service's Maternal and Child Health Bureau, babies born to mothers who received no prenatal care are three times more likely to be born at low birth weight, and five times more likely to die, than those whose mothers received prenatal care.

Women in Onondaga County are slightly more likely to receive prenatal care in the first trimester than women statewide. Early prenatal care reduces the likelihood of birth defects, illness and other complications during pregnancy.

Women who receive Prenatal Care in their first Trimester

Year	NYS	Onondaga County
2007	74%	76%
2006	74%	77%
2005	75%	77%
2000	73%	76%

Source: New York State Department of Health; Bureau of Biometrics-birth certificates

Low Birth Weights

Low birth weight, <2500 g, is an important indicator. Babies who weigh less traditionally experience health problems in their developing years. Low birth weights may be indicative of poor or unavailable prenatal care or poor nutrition.

Onondaga County and New York State have about the same percent of babies born with low birth weights.

Comment: This graph is not to scale.

Low Birth Weights

| Year	NYS	Onondaga County
2007	8.1%	7.9%
2006	8.3%	8.4%
2005	8.3%	8.4%
2000	7.8%	7.9%
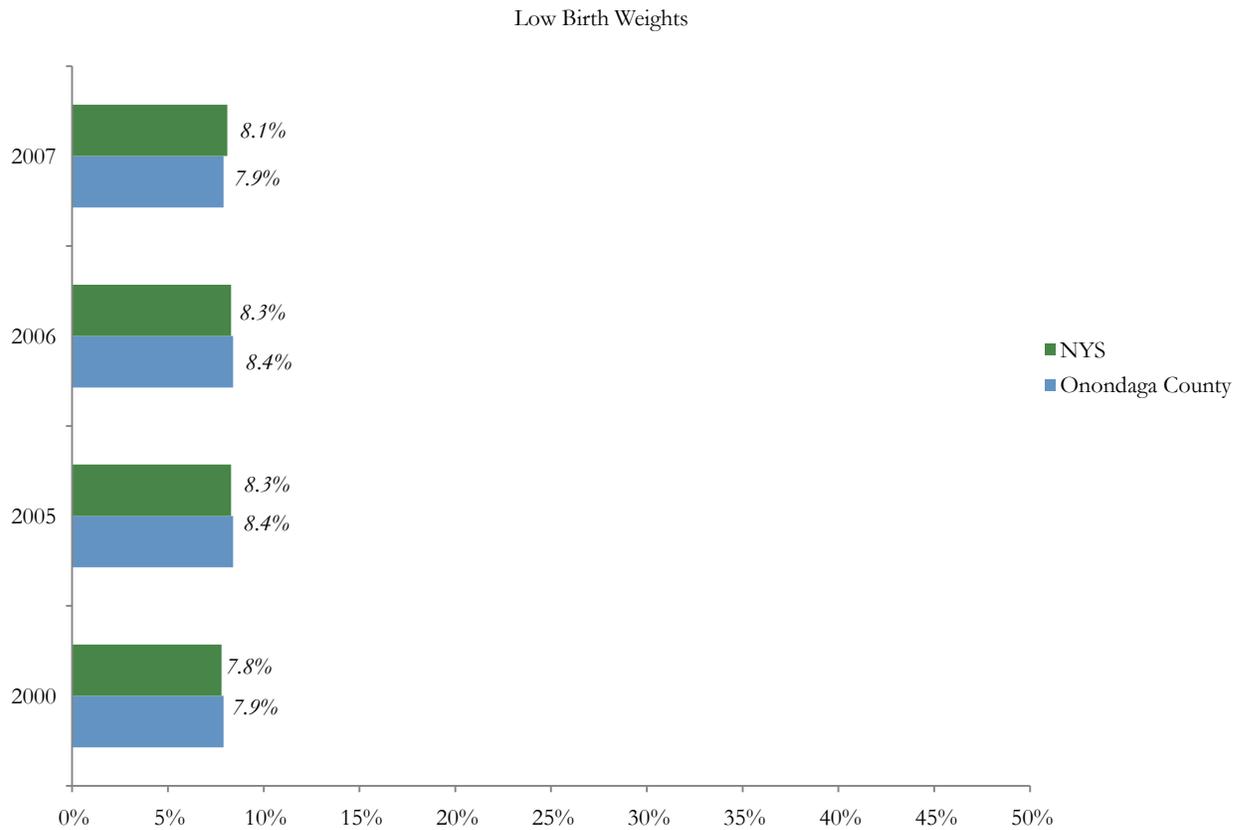
Source: New York State Department of Health; Bureau of Biometrics-birth certificates

Lead Levels

According to the NYS Department of Health, state law requires health care providers to test children for lead at ages one and two, when children are most vulnerable. NYSDOH defines an elevated blood lead level to be one in excess of 10 micrograms per deciliter, and reports this incidence as a rate of 1,000 children tested from birth to age six. Lead can be found in natural environmental sources, or in manmade products such as paint. Ingested lead can cause stunting of growth and mental development and eventually death. New York State has established a task force to address the issue.

Form the 2003-05 screenings to the 2005-07 screenings, incidence dropped five cases per 1,000 children tested.

Onondaga County Lead Levels (Birth - 6 yrs)
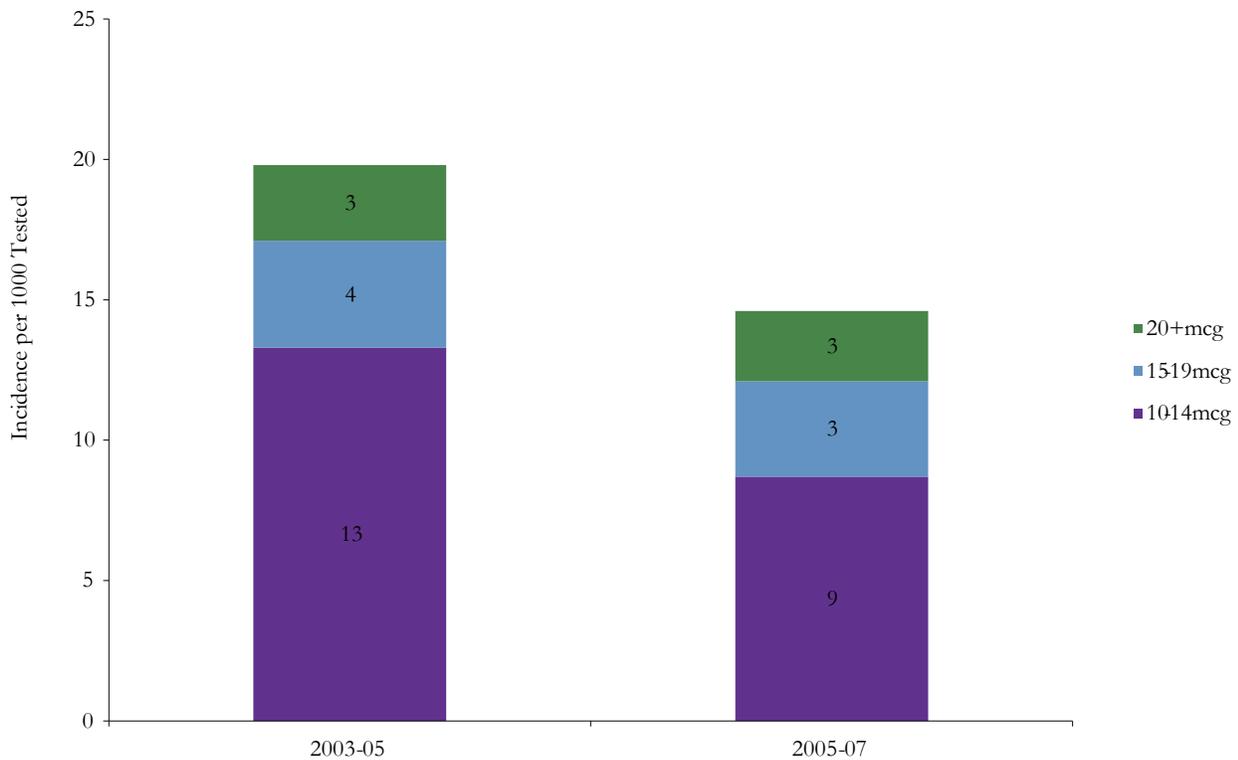
Source: New York State Department of Health; Bureau of Biometrics-birth certificates

Youth Arrests

Juvenile arrests and criminal activity reports are collected by the Division of Criminal Justice Services through the Uniform Crime Reporting program and includes data of both formal arrests and police contracts with juveniles, those under the age of 18, where there is probably cause that an offense was committed but no formal charges were filed. The types of crime are murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.

Percent Change in Youth Arrests 2004 - 2008
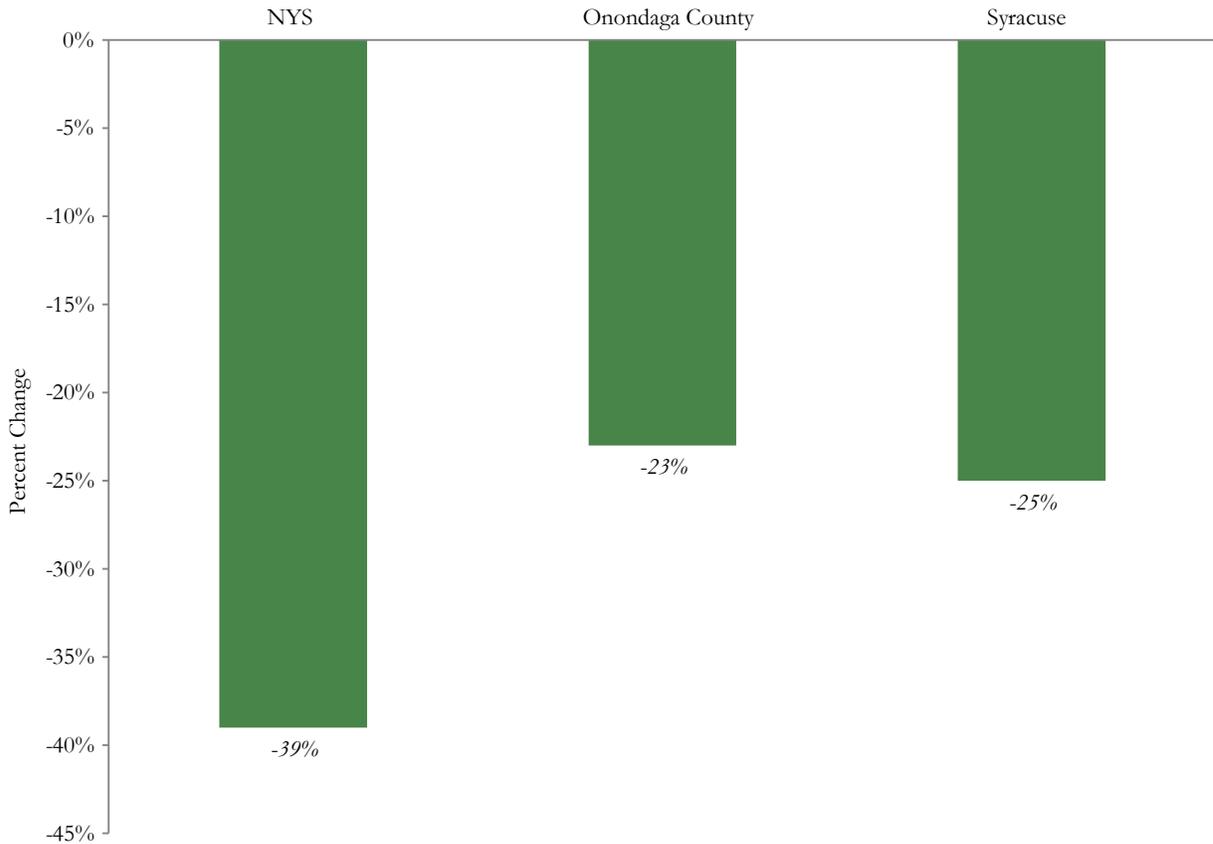
Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

During the late 1990s and early 2000s New York State experienced a surge in youth violence and arrests. This increase prompted the state to establish the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Program. The number of youth arrests in Onondaga County decreased more than 24% from 2004 to 2008.

Number of Youth Arrests

	2004	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**
Onondaga County	1,304	1,192	1,133	1,062	1,007
City of Syracuse	776	668	634	592	580
Monroe County	1,854	1,662	986	1,053	990
Erie County	1,259	1,206	1,385	1,002	1,181
New York State	23,406	21,470	18,920	16,462	15,775

Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

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Full List of Indicators

The following an exhaustive list of the indicators that are found in the full version of the Onondaga County Community Indicators Report. Sources appear in italics.

Aging
1. Population Living in Poverty
   US Census Bureau, 2005-2008 est.
2. Percent with Disability
   US Census Bureau, 2000 & 2006-2008 est.
3. Senior Housing Options in Onondaga County
   Onondaga County Department of Youth and Aging, 2007
4. Nursing Home Beds per 1,000 Seniors
   Statehealthfacts.org and US Census Bureau, 2000-2008
5. Number of Medicare Enrollees
   US Department of Health and Human Services, 2004-07
6. EPIC Enrollment
   New York State Department of Health, EPIC Program
7. Senior Mortality
   New York State Department of Health, Death Statistics (New York) and The Centers for Disease; Control National Vital Statistics Report (US)

Culture & Recreation
1. Art Grants
   New York State Council on the Arts, 2010, nysca.org
2. Recreation
   http://www.visitsyracuse.org/attractions/activity/sports
3. Parks Attendance
   Onondaga County Parks Annual Report, 2006-08
4. Volunteer Hours
   Onondaga County Parks Annual Report, 2006-08

Economy
1. Labor Force
   New York State Department of Labor
2. Employment
   New York State Department of Labor
3. Unemployment Rate
   New York State Department of Labor, US Bureau of Labor Statistics
4. Employment Percentage by Sector
   US Census Bureau: 2005-07 and 2006-08 American Community Survey
5. Employment and Percent Change by Industry
   US Bureau of Labor Statistics
6. Net New Business Growth by Size
   Small Business Administration
7. Median Annual Income
   US Census Bureau: 2005-07 and, 2006-08 American Community Survey
8. Per Capita Federal Spending in Onondaga County
   US Census Bureau: Consolidated Federal Funds Report: Fiscal Year(s) 2000 and 2008 and 2006-08 American Community Survey

Full List of Indicators

Economy (continued)

    9. Sales Tax Revenue
       New York State Office of the State Comptroller
    10.Cost of Living Index
       New York State Office of the State Comptroller

Education

    1. Educational Attainment
       US Census Bureau, 2000 & 2006-2008 est.
    2. School Enrollment
       US Census Bureau. 2006-08 est.
    3. Per Pupil Spending
       New York State Education Department, 655
    4. Attendance
       NYS Report Cards, Accountability and Overview Report, 2000-06
    5. Suspension Rate
       NYS Report Cards, Accountability and Overview Report, 2000-06.
    6. Graduation Rates
       Syracuse Post-Standard
    7. LEP Rate
       New York State Education Department, 655 Report
    8. English and Mathematics Regent Exams
       NYSED 655 Report, 2006
    9. English Language Arts Exam
       NYS Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse (KWIC) 2010
    10.Mathematics Exam
       NYS KWIC 2010

Environment

    1. Pesticide Use
       Pesticide Sales and Use Reporting – Cornell University Cooperative Extension & NY DEC
    2. Recycling Rates
       Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency Annual Report on Recyclables Recovered 2008
    3. Per Capita Municipal Solid Waste
       Environmental Protection Agency: Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling and Disposal in the US
    4. Population Density
       US Census 2000 Data
    5. Toxics
       Environmental Protection Agency: Toxic Release Index
    6. Air Quality
       Environmental Protection Agency: Air Quality Index
    7. Water Violations
       EPA Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)
    8. Water Quality
       New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 2008
    9. Water Treatment Levels
       New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 2004

Government

    1. Expenditure by Sector
       OSC Open Book NY; New York State office of the State Comptroller
    2. Deficit per Capita
       OSC Open Book NY; New York State office of the State Comptroller

Government (continued) 3. Registered Voters
　New York State Board of Election, 2008
4. Active Voters
　New York State; Board of Elections, 2008
5. Medicaid Eligible
　New York State; Department of Health, 2009
6. Number of TANF Individuals
　New York State; Department of Health, 2009
7. Online Access
　Jenna Kristal, Syracuse University 2010

Health
1. Access to Physician Care
　Annual New York Physician Workforce Profile, The New York Health Workforce Data System, The Center for Health Workforce Studies at the University at Albany, State University of New York, 2007
2. Physician Practice Settings
　Annual New York Physician Workforce Profile, The New York Health Workforce Data System, The Center for Health Workforce Studies at the University at Albany, State University of New York, 2007
3. Appropriate Hospital Care
　New York State Department of Health: Hospital Profiles, 2009
4. The Uninsured
　United States Census Bureau's Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE), 2009
5. Obesity
　New York State Department of Health Assessment Indicators, 2003, Center for Disease Control Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2003
6. Diabetes
　Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Diabetes Surveillance System, 2004-07
7. Smoking
　New York State Department of Health County Health Assessment Indicators, 2003
8. Asthma
　New York State Department of Health; Public Health Information Group, Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS,) 2000, 2006
9. Sexually Transmitted Diseases
　New York State Department of Health, Sexually Transmitted Disease Data and Statistics
10. Cancer Incidence Rates
　New York State Department of Health County Assessment Indicators, 2002-06, National Cancer Institute Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results, 2002-06
11. Cancer Detection
　New York State Department of Health Expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2003, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Center for Health Statistics, 2003
12. Cancer Mortality Rates
　New York State Department of Health County Health Assessment Indicators, 2002-06, National Cancer Institute Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results, 2002-06
13. Leading Causes of Death
　New York State Department of Health, Vital Statistics, 2007
14. Mortality Rates
　New York State Department of Health, Vital Statistics, 2007
15. Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates
　Kids Wellbeing Indicators Clearinghouse (KWIC), 2010

Full List of Indicators

Housing

1. Age of Housing Structure
   2006-08 American Community Survey; 2000 Census
2. Median Rental Values
   US Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2010
3. Percentage of Renter-Occupied Units
   2006-08 American Community Survey; 2000 Census
4. Homeownership Rate
   2005 American Community Survey; 2006-08 American Community Survey; 2009 American Community Survey; 2000 Census
5. Rental Vacancy Rate
   2005 American Community Survey; 2006-08 American Community Survey; 2009 American Community Survey; 2000 Census
6. Homeowner Vacancy Rate
   2005 American Community Survey; 2006-08 American Community Survey; 2009 American Community Survey; 2000 Census
7. Median Home Sale Price
   Greater Syracuse Association of Realtors, 2010
8. Foreclosure Rates
   2009 USA Today, 2010, RealtyTrac, 2010
9. Number of Homes Sold
   2007-09e US Census, 2010, 2007-09 Greater Syracuse Board of Realtors, 2010
10. Public Housing Authority Inventory
   Syracuse Housing Authority, 2010, City of Syracuse Consolidated Plan, 2009

Public Safety

1. Violent Crimes
   NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Crime Reporting Unit
2. Property Crimes
   NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Crime Reporting Unit
3. Domestic Violence
   DCJS, Uniform Crime Reporting system (as of 1/2010).
4. DWI Incidents
   2008 and 2005 Onondaga County Traffic Safety Data from the Institute of Traffic Safety Management and Research
5. Drug Crimes
   NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Crime Reporting Unit
6. Service Calls
   Onondaga County Department of Emergency Communications, 2010

Transportation

1. Centro Ridership
   Central New York Regional Transportation
2. Centro Miles Traveled
   Central New York Regional Transportation
3. Hancock Air Passengers
   Hancock International Airport
4. Average Commute Time
   US Census Bureau, 2002-2008
5. Gasoline Sales
   United States Energy Information Administration
6. Bridge Ratings
   New York State Department of Transportation

Youth
1. Percentage of Families with Children Living in Poverty
   US Census, ACS 2008
2. Children Admitted to Foster Care
   NYS Office of Children and Family Services; Child Care Review Service
3. Percentage of Children Receiving Public Assistance
   NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance; Bureau of Data Management and Analysis; Welfare Management System; United States Census.
4. Reports of Children Abused/Maltreated
   New York State Office of Children and Family Services - National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS).
5. Registered Child Care Centers
   2007 Mapping Study on Child Care Solutions
6. Serious Child Care Violations
   New York State Office of Children and Family Services
7. Adolescent Pregnancies
   NYS Department of Health; Bureau of Biometrics -birth certificates and fetal death certificates
8. Early Prenatal Care
   New York State Department of Health; Bureau of Biometrics-birth certificates
9. Low Birth Weights
   New York State Department of Health Vital Statistics
10. Youth Arrests
    New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

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