

A community of partners



**for the physical, social,
and emotional well-being
*of all.***

**2013 Annual Report
Onondaga County Health Department**



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Onondaga County Health Department

Mission

*To protect and improve the health
of all residents of Onondaga County.*

Vision

*A community of partners working together for the
physical, social, and emotional well-being of all.*



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Ten Essential Public Health Services

The following Essential Public Health Services provide a working definition of public health and a guiding framework for the responsibilities of the local public health system.

- 1.** *Monitor health status to identify community health problems.*
- 2.** *Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.*
- 3.** *Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.*
- 4.** *Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.*
- 5.** *Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.*
- 6.** *Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.*
- 7.** *Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.*
- 8.** *Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.*
- 9.** *Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.*
- 10.** *Research new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.*

Source: CDC, <http://www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/essentialservices.html>

Administration

The mission of the Onondaga County Health Department's administration is to provide the support and services necessary for the OCHD's Divisions and Bureaus to be successful.

In order to meet this mission, the OCHD's administration provides support with:

- Information technology
- Personnel
- Fiscal
- Physical services
- In addition, the Migrant Health, Public Health Insurance, Public Health Preparedness, and Volunteer Services programs fall under Administration

Migrant Health

The mission of the Migrant Health program is to protect and promote the health of the community by ensuring that the health care needs of migrant farm workers are met.

Location: 9th Floor, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Phone Number: (315) 435-3280

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Brief History: The NYSDOH grant supported Migrant Health Program has provided health services for migrant farm workers and their dependents in Onondaga County since 1998. In-camp health services, previously provided in partnership with Upstate Medical University, were transitioned to Finger Lakes Community Health in 2013. A subcontract was initiated with Oswego County Opportunities in 2013 for the provision of health education, outreach and related services.

In order to meet the program's mission, the OCHD provides:

- Access to health and human services for migrant farm workers and their families
- Health education for migrant farm workers and their families
- Facilitation of primary and preventative health care services for migrant farm workers and their families

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
In-camp clinical visits	105	122	0*
Individuals served in camp clinics	85	75	0*
Health education services provided	1,104	1,164	1,808
Interpretation services for in-camp and off-site	483	399	274
Transportation services provided for off-site health services	79	60	86
Referrals for health care	99	56	329

**See notes in Highlights*

Highlights in 2013:

- Oswego County Opportunities (OCO) subcontracted with OCHD to provide outreach, health education, transportation, interpretation, referrals and advocacy for migrant farm workers in Onondaga County. In addition, an agreement was made with Finger Lakes Community Health (FLCH) to provide all in-camp health services including episodic care, health screening, and immunizations. In 2013, 198 farm workers were referred to FLCH for in-camp health screening. Two low cost Mobile Dental Clinics were coordinated and hosted in Northern & Southern Onondaga County as a collaborative effort between OCO, FLCH Mobile Dental Program and 2 community churches.
- Compassionate Family Medicine was identified as a voucher site for FLCH and began providing low cost, bilingual primary care services for farm workers one evening per week in their Syracuse office. A new partnership with ACR Health of Syracuse resulted in a group health education session on HIV/STI, while collaboration with New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health resulted in 2 group health education sessions on emergency preparedness.

Public Health Insurance–Facilitated Enrollment

The mission of the Public Health Insurance Program was to expand the accessibility to, and enhance the ease of applying for public health insurance (Medicaid, Family Health Plus and Child Health Plus) for eligible individuals and families in Onondaga County.

Location:

9th Floor, 421 Montgomery Street- 9th Floor, Syracuse, NY 13202

Phone Number: (315) 435-3280

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

History: In 1988, health insurance coverage for children in New York State was expanded. With funding from the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), the enrollment process was simplified, eligibility was expanded, and benefits were increased to allow a more comprehensive health care insurance package for children living in NYS. OCHD qualified for grant funding to administer this program beginning in 1999. In 2013 funding for this program was discontinued as the NYSDOH transitioned to Health Navigators in advance of the launch of the NYS Health Insurance Marketplace, “NY State of Health”. The Public Health Insurance Program ended in September.

In order to meet the program’s mission, the OCHD provides:

- Assistance with completing paperwork and compiling necessary documentation to enroll eligible individuals in public health insurance programs.
- Coordination of efforts with community-based organizations, public schools and other County departments who have a facilitated enroller on staff.
- Appointments with eligible enrollees at times and locations convenient to the family.

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Eligible individuals and families assisted	1,933	1,484	645*

**From January – September only*

Highlight in 2013:

- Staff worked closely with Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center to assist eligible adults enrolling in Medicaid.

Public Health Preparedness

The mission of Public Health Preparedness is to enhance and assure the health department's ability to respond to public health threats including emerging infectious diseases.

Location: 9th Floor, 421 Montgomery Street- 9th Floor, Syracuse, NY 13202

Phone Number: (315) 435-3888

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

History: While the OCHD has traditionally exercised an active role in local emergency response, the Public Health Preparedness (PHP) program was not formally established until 2002. The program develops and carries out response plans for public health emergencies working with Federal, State, regional, and local emergency response organizations to assure coordination in the mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery phases of public health emergencies.

In order to accomplish the program's mission, the OCHD provides:

- Regular exercises and real time implementation opportunities that use program plans such as the Pandemic Influenza Response Plan
- Coordination of all public health preparedness grants awarded to the OCHD from the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and the NYSDOH
- Risk communication information to the public and first responders about public health emergencies
- Input into the County's emergency planning and response under the direction of the Department of Emergency Management
- Coordination of public health preparedness planning efforts with Alliance Counties (Cayuga, Cortland, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oswego, and Tompkins)

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Individuals trained in Incident Command System (ICS)	28	9	12
Exercises conducted	2	3	2

Highlights in 2013:

- In May 2013, Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) came to Onondaga County to provide training for OCHD staff who have designated roles in OCHD's response plans, and for Syracuse University staff who are responsible for providing medication to the students at the University in the event of a public health emergency. The course "Bioterrorism: Mass Prophylaxis Preparedness and Planning (MGT-319)" is a guide for entities to coordinate plans to provide mass distribution of pharmaceuticals during a public health emergency.
- The Central New York Medical Reserve Corps (CNYMRC) continues to strengthen its membership, making it possible to help our communities in new ways. The CNYMRC assisted local health departments with rabies vaccinations, preparedness education, and mass prophylaxis exercises. After summer flooding in Herkimer County, the CNYMRC sent two nurses to assist with tetanus vaccinations. The CNYMRC partnered with the Syracuse Iron Girl, Salvation Army Christmas Bureau, and Southern Tier AIDS Program Ride for Life to provide medical and support services. The CNYMRC also partnered with Upstate University Hospital to provide influenza vaccinations to hospital personnel. This is the first time in the CNY region that a hospital has partnered with the CNYMRC to provide healthcare services.
- PHP staff conducted the 7th Annual Drive Thru Flu Clinic for First Responders in Onondaga County.

Volunteer Services

The mission of the Volunteer Services program is to assist the Onondaga County Health Department to protect and improve the health of county residents by providing a multi-skilled, adjunct workforce.

Location:

9th Floor, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Phone Number: (315) 435-5262

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM

Brief History: Prior to the establishment of the Onondaga County Health Department in 1967, the majority of public health services were provided by the A.J. Silverman Hospital. After Silverman Hospital's closure, its auxiliary transferred affiliation to the Health Department. Since that time the auxiliary has been a critical Health Department partner. In 1976, when the nation was facing the possible outbreak of swine flu, the auxiliary assisted the OCHD in forming a volunteer program to set up and staff public health clinics. Since then, the volunteer program has expanded with volunteers now performing a wide range of services to support the OCHD.

In order to meet the program’s mission, volunteers provide assistance with:

- Influenza & pneumonia vaccination clinics
- Rabies vaccination clinics
- Blood pressure screening and education sites
- Clerical support in many other programs and services within OCHD

Annual Data:

The Health Department currently maintains an active workforce of over 30 volunteers and 20-40 interns annually.

	2011	2012	2013
Volunteer/Intern hours	4,633	3,401	7,157
Volunteer/Intern estimated value	\$80,300	\$57,800	\$118,950

Highlights in 2013:

- Volunteers and interns provided aid and assistance to more than 15 OCHD programs and projects, including clerical support for rabies clinics, Healthy Families programs, and the Refugee Assistance Program; hypertension screenings for more than 700 adults; and support for the Center for Forensic Sciences.

Bureau of Disease Control

The mission of the Bureau of Disease Control is to decrease the impact of communicable diseases in Onondaga County.

Location: Room 80, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Phone Number: (315) 435-3236

Bureau Business Office Hours:

Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

STD Center Hours:

Monday: 9:00-10:30 AM and 1:00-3:00 PM

Tuesday: 12:30-4:30 PM

Wednesday: Clinic closed/results & vaccinations only

Thursday: 1:00-3:00 PM

Friday: 9:00-10:30 AM (no HIV results given at this time)

TB Clinic Hours:

Tuesday: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Wednesday: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, 1:00-4:00 PM

Friday: 1:00-4:00 PM

Brief Overview of the Bureau:

The Bureau of Disease Control is responsible for the prevention, investigation, reporting, diagnosis, and treatment of reportable communicable diseases in Onondaga County. Programs within the Bureau include Communicable Disease; Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD); HIV Counseling and Testing; and Tuberculosis Control. Bureau staff members monitor disease activity in Onondaga County and work closely with Health Administration to develop education, outreach, testing, and treatment strategies to minimize the impact of communicable disease in the community.

Communicable Disease Control

The mission of this program is to prevent the spread of reportable communicable diseases to residents of Onondaga County through timely reporting, investigation, and containment

Brief History: The Communicable Disease program is responsible for the investigation, follow-up, surveillance and reporting of almost 70 diseases/conditions identified by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) as reportable under the New York State Sanitary Code. All confirmed cases of reportable disease are electronically reported to the NYSDOH. Staff works closely with OCHD's Food Protection, Animal Disease Control, and Surveillance and Statistics programs, and with NYSDOH to control and prevent the spread of communicable disease within the community.

In order to meet the program's mission, the OCHD provides:

- Surveillance of reportable communicable diseases
- Investigation and follow-up of all reportable diseases in Onondaga County residents, including coordination of efforts with other health related entities (laboratories, hospitals, infection control practitioners, physicians, etc.)
- Recommendations for preventative treatment when indicated
- Screening and exclusion of persons who are suspected/confirmed to have certain communicable diseases and who are in sensitive areas (such as food handlers, infants or toddlers in child care, child care providers, health care providers)
- Education to community and health care providers
- Reporting of disease to NYSDOH

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Case investigations	1,935	1,898	1,294
Actual cases of reportable communicable disease	1,180	1,144	988
Cases of possible rabies exposure	276	259	233
Cases for which rabies post-exposure prophylaxis was given	118	151	119

Highlights in 2013:

- Communicable Disease staff saw a substantial decrease in the amount of pertussis (Whooping Cough) cases in 2013. In 2013 there were 39 confirmed cases of pertussis compared to 104 cases in 2012.
- Communicable Disease staff continued to work with Environmental Health and Animal Disease to identify people potentially exposed to rabies in Onondaga County and in need of rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (RPEP). In an effort to reduce unauthorized prophylaxis treatments that do not meet NYSDOH recommendations, Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Centers were reminded about the importance of having RPEP approved by the OCHD prior to initiating treatment.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Control

The mission of the program is to decrease the incidence of sexually transmitted disease through increased education, testing, diagnosis and treatment of reportable sexually transmitted diseases.

Brief History: The Sexually Transmitted Disease program is responsible for the investigation, follow-up (including partner notification when indicated), surveillance and reporting of chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV.

In order to meet the program's mission, the OCHD provides the following services through the STD Center:

- Screening, diagnosis, and treatment of reportable sexually transmitted disease
- On-site laboratory testing
- Contact investigation and notification of clients with reportable STDs
- Follow-up of positive STD referrals from outside healthcare providers
- Hepatitis A & B vaccinations
- Patient education
- Patient referral for services not available at Onondaga County Health Department
- HIV counseling and testing offered to all clinic participants
- Partner Notification Assistance Program (PNAP) for HIV positive clients and referral for follow-up

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013*
Total clinic visits	6,813	6,529	5,914
Patients treated	3,110	2,445	2,873
Cases of gonorrhea	427	924	788
Cases of chlamydia	2,506	2,422	2,356
Cases of syphilis	17	15	28
Additional gonorrhea partners identified	314	557	498
Untreated chlamydia cases referred for follow-up	571	560	201
HIV partner notification referrals from outside providers	68	61	44

*Preliminary data pending review.

Highlights in 2013:

- The OCHD is concerned about a recent increase in reported cases of syphilis cases. There was a remarkable 87% increase in the number of cases in Onondaga County in 2013 compared to 2012. Men account for 93% of cases and the majority of reported cases are documented to have occurred among men who have sex with men (MSM).
- In 2013, the OCHD received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), through NYSDOH to increase awareness of STDs in our community. Educational materials were developed and shared throughout the community. In addition, in December 2013, the STD Center hosted a community forum to engage school nurses, healthcare organizations, and related non-profits on the issues the county faces with rising STD cases. There was wide spread interest with almost 50 community members attending the forum. The forum resulted in the formation of a community coalition to address STD rates in Onondaga County on an ongoing basis.

Tuberculosis Control

The mission of this program is to prevent the spread of tuberculosis in Onondaga County and eliminate it as a public health problem.

Brief History: The Tuberculosis (TB) Control program provides comprehensive testing, diagnosis, and treatment of latent and active tuberculosis cases in Onondaga County. The TB Control program decreases the public health threat of TB by evaluating and treating positive cases of TB, while promoting preventative therapy as indicated for contact cases. The TB Control program performs targeted testing on high-risk groups and works closely with the Refugee Assistance Program, the Oxford Inn, and the Rescue Mission to provide testing for those at greatest risk of TB.

In order to meet the program's mission, the OCHD provides:

- Tuberculin skin testing, including targeted testing of groups at high-risk for active disease
- Client assessment, diagnostic chest x-ray and laboratory testing
- Diagnosis of active and latent TB
- Case management for active and latent TB cases—monthly symptom reviews, follow-up lab work
- Medication administration and directly observed therapy as indicated
- Contact investigation of active TB cases
- TB surveillance in Onondaga County
- Community and provider education about tuberculosis

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Total visits	14,376	17,094	15,971
Active cases of TB managed by OCHD	8	11	10
Tuberculin skin tests	3,132	3,460	3,223
Directly observed therapy visits	5,205	6,360	5,993
Latent TB cases identified	543	604	640
Latent TB started on preventative therapy	309	364	487

Highlights in 2013:

- While the number of people identified with latent TB cases increased only slightly in 2013, the number of patients accepting treatment of latent TB increased 34% from 2012 and 58% from 2011. This has resulted in higher caseloads for nursing staff and outreach workers.
- In September 2013, the NYSDOH made their annual site visit to the OCHD TB Control Program and again praised the program for its continued excellence in tuberculosis control services in Onondaga County.
- OCHD TB staff continues to work closely with the refugee population to screen for tuberculosis since a high percentage of active cases of TB are identified in the foreign born population. OCHD participates in the Refugee Health Committee along with community physicians, hospitals, and organizations that serve the refugee population. This committee works to identify and remove the barriers to refugee health care access.

Division of Environmental Health

The mission of this Division is to protect and improve the overall health of Onondaga County residents through the assurance of a safe environment.

Brief History:

The Division of Environmental Health comprises numerous programs and services under a unified system. Environmental Health programs include:

- Bureau of Community Environmental Health
 - Food Protection
 - Residential Environmental Health
 - Temporary Residence and Recreational Facilities

- Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment
 - Animal Disease Prevention (Rabies)
 - Vector Control (Mosquito and Rodent)
 - Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act and the Clean Indoor Air Act
 - Healthy Neighborhood Program
 - Environmental Exposure Response
 - Incinerator Monitoring Program
 - Indoor Air
 - Radon

- Bureau of Public Health Engineering
 - Land Development
 - Onondaga County Council on Environmental Health
 - Water Supply
 - Weights and Measures

Community Environmental Health

The mission of Community Environmental Health is to reduce the incidence of exposure of unsanitary or hazardous conditions in Onondaga County.

Location:

12th Floor, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Phone Number: (315) 435-6617

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Brief History of Community Environmental Health:

The Bureau of Community Environmental Health conducts core environmental health programs. There are three sections within the Bureau:

- Food Protection
- Residential Environmental Health, and
- Temporary Residence & Recreational Facilities.

Onondaga County has conducted these programs since the Health Department was created in 1967.

Food Protection

The mission of the Food Protection section is to decrease the risk of food borne illness in Onondaga County.

In order to meet the program's mission, the OCHD provides:

- Inspection of food service establishments, which are categorized as high, medium, and low risk
- Inspection of temporary food service events at fairs, festivals, and other venues
- Investigations of all concerns about potential food borne illness outbreaks
- Investigations of complaints concerning restaurant sanitation and violations of the New York State Clean Indoor Air Act
- Information on food safety and the Clean Indoor Air Act to the food service industry and general public
- Inspection of water supplies at all food service establishments with individual wells
- Issuance of enforcement activities for violations including notices of violation and subsequent Commissioner's Hearings including fines and closures as indicated
- Issuance of permits for food service establishment, temporary food service establishment and frozen dessert manufactory;
- Collection of permit fees, water sample fees, and fines related to these permits

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Inspections			
Mandated annual inspections conducted	1,963	2,152	2,038
Second inspections conducted	161	524	393
Follow-up inspections conducted	1,907	2,491	2,833
Temporary food services inspections	367	590	650
Complaints			
Food complaint investigations	340	373	341
Clean indoor air act complaint investigations	14	16	9
Enforcement			
Violation notices issued	330	484	424
Hearings scheduled	60	114	76
Hearings held	21	14	19
Voluntary closures	4	6	5
Commissioner's closure orders	2	0	1

Highlights in 2013:

- The OCHD was awarded a Quality Improvement Grant project to streamline the Commissioner's Hearings process for public health violations. This involved a comprehensive review of the administrative tasks required in scheduling and conducting hearings. To date, the implementation of this project's findings has resulted in a 44% reduction in scheduled hearings due to efficiencies in adjudicating violations. This in turn has resulted in significant staff savings.
- Staff responded to 13 emergency after-hours calls at food service establishments in 2013. These emergency calls are initiated by fire departments that identify fire, smoke, or water damage to a restaurant. These situations require an inspection to determine whether the facility can continue to operate safely.

Residential Environmental Health

The mission of the Residential Environmental Health section is to decrease the risk of unsanitary or hazardous conditions in mobile home parks, child care centers and throughout the community in Onondaga County.

In order to meet the program’s mission, the OCHD provides:

- Health and safety inspections at mobile home parks and child care centers
- Investigations of complaints regarding public health nuisances and hazards including refuse, sewage, insects, rodents, substandard rental housing, offensive material, and noxious weeds
- Inspections for insects, rodents or other pests at buildings scheduled for demolition
- Code enforcement activities when indicated, including issuance of violation notices and Commissioner’s Hearings if necessary

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Inspection			
Inspections conducted	719	650	519
Follow-up inspections conducted	1,041	885	615
Enforcement			
Violation notices issued	213	194	111
Hearings Scheduled	4	10	7
Violations Resolved Before Hearing	1	9	5
Hearings Held	2	1	2

Highlights in 2013:

- Section staff responded to several acute sewage outbreaks in residential areas. Rapid staff response and subsequent enforcement actions resulted in the elimination of these public health hazards.
- Section staff assisted with the transfer of investigations into complaints of unmaintained swimming pools to Vector Control staff.

Temporary Residence and Recreational Facilities

The mission of the Temporary Residence and Recreational Facilities section is to decrease the risk of hazards associated with many types of regulated public facilities in Onondaga County.

In order to meet this program's mission, the OCHD provides:

- Health and safety inspections of many types of regulated public facilities including hotels and motels, schools, children's camps, swimming pools, bathing beaches, campgrounds, tanning facilities, and migrant farm worker housing to enforce provisions of the New York State Sanitary Code and to ensure correction of health hazards and noncompliance items found
- Education for facility owners and operators on proper sanitation techniques and generally accepted standards in various programming areas
- Investigations of consumer injury, illness, and complaints as indicated

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Inspections			
Mandated annual inspections conducted	589	586	598
Second inspections conducted	273	223	216
Follow-up inspections conducted	525	698	409
Complaint investigations	34	33	36
Enforcement			
Violation notices issued	192	126	136
Hearings Scheduled	4	4	5
Hearings Held	3	2	1
Voluntary Closures	19	17	25

Highlights in 2013:

- Beginning in January, the Bureau assumed responsibility from New York State Department of Health for all regulatory program activities at 42 tanning facilities within Onondaga County.
- Bureau staff continued to respond to environmental conditions affecting the water quality at public beaches throughout the summer.

Environmental Health Assessment

The mission of the Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment is to protect the community from a wide range of environmental hazards.

Location:

12th Floor, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Phone number: (315) 435-6600

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Brief History: The Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment has been in operation since the creation of the OCHD in 1967. Program activities have changed over the years, and currently include:

- Animal Disease Control (Rabies)
- Vector Control (Mosquito and Rodent)
- Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act
- Healthy Neighborhood
- Other Programs
 - Environmental Exposure Response
 - Incinerator monitoring
 - Indoor Air
 - Radon

Animal Disease Prevention (Rabies)

The mission of the Animal Disease Prevention (Rabies) program is to reduce the risk of rabies in Onondaga County.

Location:

6230 East Molloy Road, East Syracuse, New York 13057

Phone number: (315) 435-3165

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Emergency calls after 4:30 PM weekdays, weekends, and holidays.

Rabies clinics schedule is available on the Onondaga County Health Department's website at <http://www.ongov.net/health/ADP.html>

Brief History: The Animal Disease Control (Rabies) program deals with the concerns of rabies and its potential spread to the human population on a daily basis. Rabies clinics are provided following guidelines offered in the New York State Sanitary Code, and the New York State Public Health Law.

In order to meet this program's mission, the OCHD provides:

- Investigation of reports of possible exposure to rabies
- Availability of services 24 hours a day and 7 days a week
- Arrangement of appropriate disposition of animals involved with rabies which may include confinement, observation, quarantine, vaccination, or euthanasia and testing
- Assistance with the collection, preparation, and submission of animal specimens to Wadsworth Center Laboratory for rabies diagnosis
- Rabies clinics for local residents on a quarterly basis located throughout the county at local fire departments, community centers and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. A donation of \$10 is requested.
- Enforcement of dog bite exposure procedures when dog owners fail to provide proof of rabies vaccination

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Rabies specimens			
Submitted	282	387	265
Positive	11	11	8
Rabies clinics			
Held	15	15	15
Dogs vaccinated	2,294	2,088	1,703
Cats vaccinated	887	825	628
Other	20	11	8
Bites reported			
Dogs	642	714	740
Cats	213	219	228
Other	43	63	33

Highlights in 2013:

- Animals reported positive for rabies in 2013 included 4 raccoons, 2 foxes, 1 skunk and 1 bat.
- Environmental health staff assisted with a series of Healthy Pet Clinics sponsored by the Shamrock Fund by providing support at clinic locations and supplying rabies certificates and tags, thereby contributing to the protection of thousands of animals in Onondaga County.

Vector Control (Mosquito and Rodent)

The mission of the Vector Control program is to protect the community's health against mosquito borne illness through mosquito control and surveillance as well as to minimize impact of rodent associated illness through limited rodent control.

Location:

6230 East Molloy Road, East Syracuse, New York 13057

Phone Number: (315) 435-1649

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Brief History: Onondaga County has conducted a mosquito control program since 1972. The program was originally established to control Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus in response to the increased recognition of EEE as a threat to human health. While the program is county-wide, its primary target is the northeast quadrant of Onondaga County where the virus has a long documented presence. The virus is considered endemic in this area due to the presence of the *Culiseta melanura* mosquito in the Cicero Swamp. Control activities are also implemented to decrease the risk of West Nile virus (WNV).

- Eastern Equine Encephalitis: The presence of the EEE virus was documented in Onondaga County in nine separate years between 1973 and 1994. After a nine year absence, the EEE virus re-emerged in late 2003 and has consistently been documented since (with the exception of 2007 and 2012).
- EEE Regional Aspect: EEE virus is a regional problem in central New York involving Onondaga, Madison, Oneida, and Oswego counties. From 2004 to 2006, EEE virus positive mosquitoes and horses from these four counties represented 80 -100% of the total numbers for New York State.
- West Nile Virus: In 2000, West Nile virus (WNV) unexpectedly spread throughout New York State, including Onondaga County. The ubiquitous nature of WNV in the environment required that efforts to control the spread of the virus focus on the entire county. The mosquito control program was expanded to meet this need in 2001. West Nile virus activity has been documented in Onondaga County each year since 2000, including 5 human cases in 2002, two human cases in 2011, and one death along with eight additional human cases in 2012.

In order to meet the program's mission, the OCHD provides:

- Surveillance through mosquito trapping and testing. Traps are used at 22 sites throughout the county. Mosquito pools are submitted to the NYSDOH Wadsworth Center Laboratory weekly to test for WNV, EEE virus, California Encephalitis (CE) virus, and other arboviruses. Results are posted to the website throughout the season.

- Mosquito control, consisting of:
 - Monitoring and treating nearly 1,000 breeding sites as necessary with larvicide (a pesticide to kill mosquito larvae)
 - Treating catch basins with larvicide, primarily within the City of Syracuse
 - Truck spraying to kill adult mosquitoes when indicated
- Education regarding mosquito program activities and personal protection measures through media reports, public meetings, and individual contacts with local residents
- Monitoring and baiting activities in the public sewer system (catch basins and manholes)
- Investigation of rodent complaints

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Mosquitoes collected/identified	241,444	90,548	162,173
Mosquito pools submitted for testing	675	517	674
Mosquito breeding sites treated	279	167	202
Catch basins treated with larvicide	N/A	N/A	4,848
Catch basins/manholes treated with rodenticide	1,754	1,653	1,571
Rodent infestations investigated	5	10	4

Highlights in 2013:

- Six mosquito pools tested positive for WNV and six mosquito pools tested positive for EEE virus in 2013. There were no reported human cases of WNV or EEE in Onondaga County residents.
- In response to WNV and EEE virus activity, catch basin treatment was reinstated and aerial adulticiding of the Cicero Swamp was performed in 2013.
- A total of 53 abandoned swimming pool complaints were investigated and 33 pools were treated with larvicide.

Adolescent Tobacco and Clean Indoor Air Act

The mission of these two programs is to reduce the impact of tobacco on county residents.

Brief History: Tobacco remains the leading preventable cause of death. Since 1995, the Onondaga County Health Department has received a grant from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to implement the Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention (ATUPA) program. The Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA) was originally enacted in 1990 and was expanded in 2003.

In order to meet the program’s mission, the OCHD provides:

- At least one compliance check (using a youth under the age of 18) at every facility that sells tobacco
- Investigation of complaints regarding the local law prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to persons under the age of 19
- Inspection and verification that all tobacco vendors are registered with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance and the required signage is present
- Issuance of formal enforcement action against each facility that is cited for a violation of ATUPA
- Investigations of CIAA complaints
- Issuance of formal enforcement for facilities with CIAA violations
- Re-inspection compliance checks at every facility with a prior violation

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
ATUPA (Grant Year)			
Compliance checks completed	422	437	400
Re-inspections completed	38	28	21
Violations/enforcement	5	10	0
CIAA			
Complaints investigated	23	21	18
Violations/enforcement	4	3	1

Highlights in 2013:

- In 2013, there were no reported complaints of the local law prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to persons under the age of 19. In addition, there were fewer violations identified for both ATUPA and CIAA than in previous years.

Healthy Neighborhood Program

The mission of the Healthy Neighborhood Program is to minimize the risk of household hazards in designated areas in the community.

Brief history: The Healthy Neighborhood Program is a New York State Department of Health grant supported program. The OCHD has been a recipient of this grant since 1996.

In order to meet the program's mission, the OCHD provides:

- Door-to-door surveys that focus on safety issues in the home in select census tracts
- Education on a wide range of health and safety issues
- Direct interventions are provided including cleaning kits, pillow and mattress covers, furnace filters, shower curtains, cabinet locks, and batteries for existing smoke detectors
- Referrals to the Syracuse Fire Department for installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; to the American Lung Association for additional asthma information; and to other agencies as appropriate
- Attempted revisits after 90 days to determine if lasting improvements have been made

Annual Data:

(Grant Year)	2011	2012	2013
Surveys completed	663	716	707
Revisits	319	278	215
Numbers of smoke/CO detectors distributed	1200	863	968
Children tested for lead	78	74	92
Individuals with asthma identified & educated	298	272	257
Referrals to other agencies	619	746	898

Highlights in 2013:

- In a more competitive process than in prior award cycles, the OCHD applied for and was awarded a five year grant from the NYSDOH to continue implementing the program in our community.
- Program staff attended a Healthy Homes for Community Health Workers training as well as a conference on Meth Lab & Synthetic Drug Awareness.
- The program's asthma education session was better attended than in previous years, potentially as a result of a change in venue. This educational session was located in the Civic Center this year.

Other Programs

In order to meet the mission of Environmental Health Assessment, the OCHD also provides:

- Investigation of concerns
- Information to the public on environmental issues
- Assistance to other public agencies that respond to environmental health threats
- Provision of services and education to the community in response to a variety of environmentally related issues including:
 - ***Environmental Exposure Response:*** Program staff responds to incidents involving chemicals and radiation. Assistance is given to other responding agencies such as the Department of Environmental Conservation and Hazmat teams.
 - ***Incinerator Monitoring Program:*** As part of Onondaga County’s effort to monitor the relationship between the operation of the incinerator and levels of constituents in the environment, the program collects a series of soil and ash samples. The samples are analyzed for metals, Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB’s), Dioxins and Furans. Results of the analyses are posted on the OCHD website annually.
 - ***Indoor Air:*** Program staff provides guidance to residents on a variety of indoor air issues including mold, asbestos, carbon monoxide, and general indoor air quality. Information is provided, referrals to other appropriate agencies are given and research is conducted.
 - ***Radon:*** The program receives a grant each year from New York State for the promotion of radon detection and prevention activities in Onondaga County. Radon detectors are distributed to county residents and targeted educational activities for homeowners, schools, and the real estate community are provided. Residents are led through the process of testing and mitigation.

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Radon kits distributed	500	500	500
Indoor air complaints/ concerns investigated	64	45	47
Environmental exposure incidents investigated	55	51	47
Incinerator samples collected	48	48	48

Highlights in 2013:

- The 2013 incinerator monitoring data indicated that results were within the expected range for urban environments and is below any levels associated with health risk.
- The majority of indoor air investigations continue to involve mold issues.
- Hundreds of residents were provided guidance on the radon testing and mitigation process.

Public Health Engineering

The mission of Public Health Engineering is to ensure safe, healthy drinking water; safe, effective wastewater disposal; responsible land use; design and construction of code compliant public swimming pools and bathing beaches; and accurate measurement of goods for the residents of Onondaga County by working together with industry professionals and the community at large.

Location: 12th Floor, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Phone Number: (315) 435-6600

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Brief History: The Bureau of Public Health Engineering consists of the Water Supply Section, the Land Development Section, the Council on Environmental Health staff, and the Weights & Measures program. In addition to these program areas, the Bureau reviews engineering plans for regulated facilities such as public swimming pools and beaches. Onondaga County has conducted these programs since the Health Department was created in 1967.

Land Development

The mission of Public Health Engineering Land Development Section is to ensure safe water supply and proper sewage disposal for realty subdivisions and individual lots.

In order to meet the program's mission, the OCHD provides:

- Review and approval of plans for municipal sewer and water extensions, realty subdivisions, individual sewage disposal systems and public swimming pools.
- Inspection of sewage disposal system installations for conformance with approved plans.
- Information and assistance to County residents served by onsite sewage disposal systems.

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Individual sewage plans approved	128	76	92
Individual sewage installations inspected	104	117	111
Realty subdivision lots approved for water and sewer	264	286	341

Highlights in 2013:

- Section staff worked closely with engineers, builders and contractors to ensure that the septic systems and water supplies servicing the 2013 Parade of Homes at Jamesville Grove were installed, inspected and approved in a timely manner despite difficult site conditions and stringent time constraints.
- Section staff completed pool inspections as a contracting agent of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. This two-year program, intended to minimize the hazard of underwater entrapment in public swimming pools, was initiated in 2012 in response to the Virginia Graeme Baker Act.

Onondaga County Council on Environmental Health

The mission of Council on Environmental Health is to provide information and recommendations to the Commissioner of Health, the County Executive, and the County Legislature on matters involving environmental health, including but not limited to air quality, water quality, public water supply, wastewater treatment, land use, and the handling and disposal of solid and hazardous waste and materials.

In order to meet its mission, the Council provides:

- Review and comment on critical environmental matters relating to Onondaga County during monthly meetings

Highlights in 2013:

- In concert with the Water Supply Section, the Council received updates and discussed farm policy and public education needs with the NYSDEC and the Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District related to the Amber Road groundwater contamination event.
- The Council continued with general oversight of the County Aquatic Vegetation Control Program including utilizing grants for water chestnut and other aquatic nuisance species and provided comments about NYSDEC's proposed invasive species regulations and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Feral Swine Management Plan. The Council also continued to provide assistance to the multiagency partnership developing the Otisco Lake Watershed Management Plan under the NYS Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Grant.

Water Supply

The mission of Public Health Engineering Water Supply Section is to ensure safe and adequate drinking water for residents of Onondaga County.

In order to meet the program's mission, the OCHD provides:

- Surveillance, inspection, and regulatory oversight of the county's public water systems, which serve approximately 90% of the county population
- Information and assistance as requested by Onondaga County residents served by individual wells

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
In-depth sanitary survey inspections	95	94	95
Water quality samples	1,610	1,753	1,815
Requests for well assistance or information	41	43	93

Highlights in 2013:

- Section staff worked closely with the Metropolitan Water Board to replace Terminal Reservoir with two 15 million gallon covered water storage tanks as per prior approved plans. Compliance with the EPA's Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule was achieved when the tanks were placed online in 2013 after a thorough Completed Works inspection by Public Health Engineering staff.
- Section staff responded to multiple complaints of individual water supply contamination in the Amber Road area of the Towns of Marcellus and Onondaga. After issuing a boil-water advisory to local residents, staff completed a comprehensive plan of site investigation and sampling. This action provided information which was instrumental in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) determination that the source of contamination was local farming activity.

Weights and Measures:

The mission of the Weights and Measures program is to ensure that customers receive accurate quantities of commodity in Onondaga County.

In order to meet the program’s mission, the OCHD provides:

- Inspections of over 750 facilities with scales including gas stations, grocery and convenience stores, delis, pharmacies, hardware stores, bakeries, and fuel tank facilities
- Enforcement and re-inspection of facilities that are not within standards, with requirements to make corrections
- Investigations complaints from the public

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Facilities inspected	737	724	758
Complaint investigations	7	4	6
Devices inspected			
Scales	2,225	2,129	2,327
Liquid measuring devices	2,975	2,988	3,012
Weights	1,749	1,584	2,072

Highlight in 2013:

- Oversight of this program was moved to Public Health Engineering in 2013.

Family Planning Service

in Partnership with Syracuse Model Neighborhood Facility

The mission of the Family Planning Service is to assist women and men in the planning and spacing of their children.

Main Office: 428 West Onondaga Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Clinic Locations:

- Room 30, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202
- William H. Harris Health Center, 301 Slocum Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13202
- 113 West Taft Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212

Phone Number: (315) 435- 3295

Office Hours:

Administrative Office: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM- 4:30 PM

Clinics:

- Monday through Friday with evening hours Tuesday & Wednesday at Slocum Avenue, Thursday in North Syracuse. On days with evening hours, the last appointment is at 6:00PM or 7:15 PM, depending on the service.
- Saturday hours twice a month at Slocum Avenue (schedule varies, please call for appointment).
- Special Teen Session, Thursday afternoon. This session is for teens only, but teens are welcome at ALL clinics.
- Male appointments are offered at clinic on Monday afternoon and Wednesday evening. Male walk-ins are welcome at the Civic Center Tuesday morning.
- Walk-in Clinics, Room 30 Civic Center.
- Walk-in Emergency Contraception is available in clinics and during office hours.

Brief History: Family Planning Service (FPS) is a preventive health care program providing medical, educational, and social services designed to assist women and men in the planning and spacing of children. The program serves as an entry point to health care. FPS has been in existence since 1969 and functions as part of the Onondaga County Health Department (OCHD). The program is funded by Title X of the US Department of Health and Human Services and by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and is administered by Syracuse Model Neighborhood Facility, Inc. For low income women, it is often the major, if not the only source of health care. The target population is women who are at risk of an unintended pregnancy and in need of subsidized family planning care. Priority is given to teenagers and women from low income families residing in Onondaga County.

In order to meet the program’s mission, Family Planning Service provides:

- Confidential comprehensive reproductive health care for females and males including:
 - Medical history and exam
 - Provision of methods of contraception and emergency contraception
 - Preconceptual counseling
 - Nutrition assessment
 - Screening for cervical and breast cancer
 - Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases
 - HIV testing
 - Pregnancy diagnosis
 - Counseling and referral
 - HPV vaccine (males and females ages 19—26)
 - Community education, parent education, and social service intervention and support
- Partnership with the OCHD Cancer Services Program to provide follow up care for cervical cancer screening and mammograms

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Unduplicated patients	5,086	4,713	4,452
Number of patient visits	10,967	9,919	9,022
Pap smears	2,708	2,491	2,339
Breast exams	3,554	3,221	3,133
BP screens	9,514	8,720	8,292
Hemoglobin (anemia testing)	3,652	3,460	3,418
Health education sessions in schools and community	155	180	202

Highlights in 2013:

- Family Planning provided 1,650 Rapid HIV tests at all clinic sites, 105 HPV vaccines at the North Syracuse and Slocum Avenue sites, and reproductive health services to 169 males.
- Over 78% of patients served in 2013 were at or below the federal poverty level. Another 18% were between 100% and 200% of the federal poverty level.
- FPS assisted 956 women and men completing Family Planning Benefit Program (FPBP) applications and completed 803 presumptive FPBP and 319 presumptive Medicaid for pregnancy applications (numbers are not unduplicated). These programs help women obtain early prenatal care and also allow them continue to receive family planning care at any Medicaid provider’s office. As a result of these programs, there was a 7% increase in patients with third party insurance coverage.
- Through a grant from the Empire Justice Center, FPS partnered with the Southwest Community Center to utilize Patient Navigators to provide information about the Affordable Care Act to our patients and community members.

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

The mission of the Bureau of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention is to promote the health of all Onondaga County residents through education and policy change.

Location: 9th Floor, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Phone Numbers:

Cancer Services Program – (315) 435-3653

Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work, and Play – (315) 435-3280

Dental Health Education – (315) 435-3280

Public Health Education – (315) 435-3280

Lead Poisoning Control Program – (315) 435-3271

Tobacco Free Onondaga County – (315) 435-3280

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Staff is also available evening and weekend hours upon request.

In order to meet this mission, the Bureau provides the following programs:

- Cancer Services Program
- Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play
- Dental Health Education
- Lead Poisoning Control Program
- Public Health Education
- Tobacco Control Program

Cancer Services Program

The mission of the Cancer Services Program is to improve the health status of Onondaga County residents by reducing their risk of cancer through education, outreach, and screening.

Brief History: Since 1987, the Cancer Services Program (CSP) of Onondaga County has collaborated with the New York State Department of Health, local healthcare providers, and numerous community agencies to offer screening services for breast, cervical, and colon cancers to uninsured and underinsured residents of the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County.

In order to meet the program’s mission, the OCHD provides:

- Promotion and provision of breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening services through collaborative relationships with health care providers, human service agencies, and other community organizations to provide and promote utilization of cancer screening services
- Assessment and case management services as indicated for all men and women identified with abnormal screening results through the program.

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Number of patients screened	1,053	1,094	1,122
Clinical breast exams	983	974	961
Mammograms	998	1,020	1,025
Follow-up breast cancer diagnostic procedures	555	428	739
Pap tests	393	264	236
Follow-up cervical cancer diagnostic procedures	62	51	72
Colorectal Fecal Immunochemical Test Kits	230	269	339
Follow-up colorectal cancer diagnostic procedures	290	334	442

Highlights in 2013:

- The CSP assisted with the diagnosis of 17 breast cancers, 1 cervical cancer, and 1 colorectal cancer. The CSP program also assisted with the detection and removal of 36 precancerous polyps.
- In September, the CSP participated in the community wide “Get Health Connected” event, which provided health education and screenings for uninsured residents of Onondaga County.
- The CSP participated in three live televised phone banks to promote program services. Over 116 callers phoned in to inquire about free cancer screening services.
- The CSP, in partnership with Onondaga Nation and Wellspring Breast Center, hosted two Pink Shawl Initiative mammogram screening programs specifically for Native American women. Through these programs, 45 Native American women were screened for breast cancer.

Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play

The mission of “Creating Healthy Places” is to establish and implement programs and policies to prevent obesity, type 2 diabetes, and other chronic diseases in Onondaga County by implementing sustainable policies, systems, and environmental changes.

Brief History: Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work, and Play in Onondaga County is a NYSDOH funded initiative that began in November 2010.

In order to meet the program’s mission, the OCHD provides:

- Coordination with local child care centers to implement the nutrition and physical activity self-assessment for child care centers (NAPSACC) and to create policies and environmental changes that will improve nutrition, support daily physical activity, and reduce screen time. To date, eight child care centers have adopted new policies to enhance the health of children and staff.
- Increased awareness of complete street policies that help to ensure streets are safe, accessible, and convenient for all users of the roadway (pedestrians, bicyclists, users of public transit, motorists, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities).
- Establishment and promotion of the use of farmers markets, and implementation of innovative strategies to increase access to healthy foods in high need areas. Staff assisted in the establishment of the Salt City Harvest Farm, an innovative way to increase access to healthy foods in high need areas. All produce that is harvested is provided to local food pantries and to families in need.
- Coordination of gleaning programs (produce donation program) with local farmers for distribution to local food pantries.
- Focus on reduction of point of sale marketing of nutrient poor foods and beverages in grocery and convenience stores. In total, 26 point-of-sale environmental changes were made at stores throughout Syracuse and Onondaga County. Staff also partnered with Nojaims Supermarket to create a healthy grocery store lane and to offer healthy food options at the point of sale. Additionally, tags were placed throughout the store to highlight healthy food options. These interventions will help customers select healthy food options.

Highlights in 2013:

- Worked with eight child care centers to produce policy and environmental changes to improve nutrition, increase daily physical activity, and to reduce screen time. In total, six policies have been created to enhance the health of children and staff.
- Assisted in the establishment of the Salt City Harvest Farm. This created an innovative way to increase access to healthy foods in high need areas. All produce that was harvested was provided to local food pantries and to families in need. In total, 54 community members volunteered their time to work (over 210 hours) harvesting approximately 1,900 pounds of produce.
- Partnered with Nojaims Supermarket to create a healthy grocery store lane and to offer healthy food options at the point of sale. Additionally, tags were distributed throughout the store to highlight healthy food options. These interventions helped customers select healthy foods easily.
- Worked cooperatively with local corner stores and grocery stores to provide healthful point of sale options. In total, 26 point of sale environmental changes were made at stores throughout Syracuse and Onondaga County.

Dental Health Education

The mission of the Dental Health Education Program is to provide dental health education to pre-school age children and their families and to promote access to early and regular oral health care.

Brief History: The Dental Health Program has a long history of preventive dental services in Onondaga County. Since 2005, the Dental Health Program has concentrated on provision of dental health education to children, targeting pre-school age children and their families.

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Oral Health Presentations to Pre-school Children	184	149	154
# Sites	65	58	51
# Children	2,819	2,193	2,304
Oral Health Presentations to Parents	6	7	5
# Adults	40	49	36

Lead Poisoning Control Program

The mission of the Lead Poisoning Control Program is to reduce the prevalence of childhood lead poisoning.

Brief History: The Lead Poisoning Control program was established in 1972 to minimize the adverse health impact of lead poisoning. The program has helped thousands of families protect their children from lead exposure by ensuring their homes are lead safe. In 2012, the CDC's changed the definition of childhood lead poisoning and began using a new, lower "reference level" of ≥ 5 mcg/dL to identify children who have been exposed to lead. By law, health care providers in New York must test children for lead at ages one and two.

In order to meet the program's mission, the OCHD provides:

- Surveillance of blood lead levels in Onondaga County children
- Blood lead testing at numerous locations throughout Onondaga County for uninsured/underinsured children in need of testing
- Follow-up services including nursing and environmental case management services for families of children with elevated blood lead levels
- Comprehensive health education and outreach campaigns designed to increase awareness of the health risks associated with lead poisoning

- Promotion of primary prevention strategies to reduce the risk of toxic lead exposure before it occurs
- Environmental inspections of properties associated with children with elevated blood lead levels, and properties in high risk block groups and census tracks
- Referrals to City and County home repair assistance programs for homeowners who have properties with lead hazards
- Participation in community-wide planning activities and coalitions formed to address the development and rehabilitation of at risk housing units.
- Coordination of training in Lead Safe Work Practices for contractors.

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Inspections of properties associated with BLLs of ≥ 15 mcg/dL	85	75	80
Primary prevention inspections	392	281	276
Children tested for lead poisoning in Onondaga County	12,207	11,530	11,647
Children with EBL* [*]	1,201	1,050	972
Children tested for lead by OCHD	2,458	1,565	1,520
Percent of OCHD tests done at WIC	74.9%	81.5%	80.6%
Percent of children tested at WIC with EBL ≥ 5 mcg/dL	18.6%	18.7%	15.9%

**In 2012, the CDC reference value for EBL changed from 10 mcg/dL to 5 mcg/dL. As a result, both the number of children in need of follow-up services and the local prevalence rate have increased. The data above reflect the new, lower reference value.*

Highlights in 2013:

- A recent (Source:2009-2011 NYS Child Health Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Data as of June, 2013) report indicated that Onondaga County ranked second highest statewide, outside of NYC, in the percentage of children with at least two blood lead tests before the age of three years old. These numbers reflect both the Lead Program's ongoing efforts to notify parents when their child is in need of testing and the increased efforts of providers to perform the required tests.
- Onondaga County's Lead Program was selected by NYSDOH as one of only three locations chosen to host a "Healthy Homes for the Community Health Worker" training. This training was developed by the National Center of Healthy Housing and sponsored by EPA Region 2.
- The Lead Program continued a successful partnership with local refugee resettlement agency translators to provide in-home lead dust cleaning instruction and cleaning supplies to 23 newly-arrived refugee families in 2013.

Public Health Education

The mission of Public Health Education section is to increase the public's awareness about local health issues and to encourage the adoption of healthy behaviors.

In order to meet the section's mission, the OCHD provides:

- Educational programs, community outreach, and special health events
- Press releases, coordinated media events, and promotion of special events as needed for programs throughout the OCHD
- Response to public health alerts by posting website/Facebook/ Twitter messages and updates, activating hotlines as appropriate based on the alert
- Health education materials for targeted populations as needed
- Promotion of health department programs and clinical services at area businesses, worksites, and at numerous community locations
- Participation in community coalitions (such as faith-based and neighborhood agencies)
- Qualitative research to determine health behaviors in our community such as conducting focus groups, surveys, and key informant interviews

Highlights in 2013:

- Working with many community partners, public health educators participated in the planning, development, and implementation of a Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome campaign designed to raise awareness about the availability of services to assist women who are using drugs during pregnancy. This campaign involved conducting focus groups, creating health education materials, conducting trainings, and launching a mailing campaign. Plans will continue in 2014 to further advance this campaign.
- Public health educators coordinated and participated in a STD Update and Forum for approximately 60 community based agency personnel, health care providers, and others to provide data and insight regarding the rates of gonorrhea and other sexually transmitted diseases in Onondaga County. The forum resulted in a community partnership to raise awareness about STD services and to reduce the incidence of STDs. In addition, a media campaign to increase awareness of STD Center services was developed using qualitative data obtained through focus groups with the target population.
- Public health educators partnered with the YMCA to host a Pre-Diabetes breakfast workshop for approximately 50 health care providers and community based agency personnel. The workshop addressed the prevalence of pre-diabetes in Onondaga County and steps that can be taken to help reduce or delay the risk of diabetes. Attendees received educational materials promoting participation in a pre-diabetes prevention program offered by the YMCA, with the intent that these resources be shared with their clients at risk for pre-diabetes.
- Public health educators worked with Women, Infants and Children (WIC) staff to develop a targeted WIC media campaign to help increase enrollment. Surveys were done to generate information from current WIC recipients about optimal media resources to promote WIC. Field testing was also done to garner feedback about the graphic layout of media materials and specific language for use in the media campaign. The resulting campaign specifically targeted the WIC-eligible population with billboards, movie trailers, radio messages, and bus shelter advertisements.

- Staff participated in the Healthy Syracuse coalition (founded in 2010 by the YMCA of Greater Syracuse and the OCHD). With this coalition, OCHD staff worked diligently with multiple community partners to address the specific needs of African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos in Syracuse to ensure all community members can achieve a healthy weight; have access to nutritious foods; have the opportunity to be physically active; minimize their exposure to smoke and other tobacco products; and live in places that encourage emotional well-being. This is an ongoing effort that will continue throughout 2014.

Tobacco Control Program: Tobacco-Free Onondaga County

The mission of Tobacco-Free Onondaga County is to minimize the impact of tobacco on health in Onondaga County.

Brief History: Tobacco-Free Onondaga County (TFOC) is a New York State funded program administered by the Onondaga County Health Department. TFOC works in the Onondaga County community to strengthen tobacco-related policies to prevent and reduce tobacco use and limit opportunities for exposure to secondhand smoke. TFOC policy change initiatives are prescribed by the funding agency, the New York State Tobacco Control Program.

In order to meet the mission of this program, the OCHD provides:

- Public education to decrease the social acceptability of tobacco use through changing social norms around tobacco use in Onondaga County
- Education to reduce the impact of retail tobacco product marketing
- Support for local municipalities to adopt policies that limit tobacco company marketing
- Support for property owners to eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke through adoption of policies to prohibit tobacco use in rental housing units
- Support for municipalities, community organizations, and worksites interested in eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke in their outdoor environments through the adoption of tobacco-free policies
- Promotion of cessation from tobacco use by encouraging residents to call the New York State Smokers' Quitline and by providing self-help materials to quit smoking

Highlights in 2013:

- Smoke-free housing policies were adopted at four apartment complexes: Bessie Riordan Apartments, Bishop Ludden Apartments, Providence House Apartments, and Tecumseh Road Apartments. All are low-income senior housing. Collectively, this will reduce exposure to secondhand smoke for residents in 221 units.
- Program staff assisted numerous businesses and community organizations with the adoption of tobacco-free grounds policies, including Carrier Corporation, CNY Regional Market, Eat-to-Live Food Cooperative, Family Care Medical Group (33 health care offices), Hematology/Oncology Associates, LeMoyne College, and Salvation Army Family Place.
- TFOC staff worked closely with the OCHD's Director of Surveillance and Statistics to develop a plan for mapping licensed tobacco retailers throughout Onondaga County. Staff provided guidance and

oversight to a Central New York Master of Public Health (CNYMPH) student who completed the mapping project based on a list of retail stores provided by Onondaga County's Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention (ATUPA) program. Maps of licensed tobacco retailers were generated that include all tobacco retailers along with their proximity to schools in Onondaga County, including the City of Syracuse.

- Program staff worked closely with the Healthy Syracuse tobacco subcommittee. This subcommittee continues to work collectively with other interested organizations to champion the effort to make the Cathedral Square Neighborhood tobacco-free.

Division of Healthy Families: Maternal and Child Health

The mission of this program is to improve the overall health and related socio-economic, educational, and developmental outcomes for mothers, infants, and children in Onondaga County.

Location: 501 East Fayette Street Syracuse, NY 13202

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Brief History: The Division of Healthy Families (Maternal and Child Health) provides services to moms, babies, and families in Onondaga County under a unified system. WIC VMA serves a fourteen county region. Healthy Families comprises:

- Bureau of Community Health Nursing including Nurse-Family Partnership and Syracuse Healthy Start
- Special Children Services including Early Intervention and Special Preschool
- Immunization Action Plan
- Women's, Infants, and Children (WIC) and WIC Vendor Management Agency (VMA). The Division of Healthy Families is accessible through its website, onhealthyfamilies.com, and has a Facebook page.

Community Health Nursing

The mission of the Bureau is to promote the health of women and children identified as having highest risk for infant mortality, low birth weight, and/or developmental delay or disability, through health assessment, case management services, health education, community partnership, and referrals.

Location: 501 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Phone Number: (315) 435-2000

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM- 4:30 PM

Brief History: The Bureau of Community Health Nursing (CHN) operates a preventive nurse home visitation program under the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) as a Licensed Home Care Service Agency (LHCSA). Preventive maternal/child visits are made by public health nurses, community health workers, and a social worker. Some of the most vulnerable populations served include incarcerated women and their infants; children with elevated lead levels; and families who experienced a sudden unexpected infant death. While all pregnant women in Onondaga County are eligible to receive services, the Bureau focuses efforts on reaching pregnant women whose pregnancy outcomes are identified as being at highest risk for infant mortality, low birth weight, developmental delay or

disabilities. Studies have demonstrated that home visiting interventions have positive outcomes for both parents and children. The Bureau offers clients programs and services through partnerships with several community agencies and other County departments. Partners include Syracuse City School District, the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, Family Planning Services, Onondaga County Justice System, the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Social Services: Economic Security.

In order to meet this Bureau’s mission, the OCHD provides numerous services in the following programs within the Bureau:

- Early Intervention C.A.R.E.S.
- Family Life Team
- Newborn Metabolic Screening
- Nurse– Family Partnership (NFP)
- Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative (MICHC)
- Syracuse Healthy Start (SHS)

Early Intervention C.A.R.E.S. (Children at Risk Early Screening)

The Early Intervention C.A.R.E.S. program is part of a statewide Early Intervention (E.I.) Child Find program that identifies children, birth through two years, who are at risk for developmental delays. Public Health Nurses (PHNs) provide home visits for health assessments, teaching, and referrals to community resources for infants who are at-risk for developmental delays.

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
E.I. C.A.R.E.S Referrals	236	350	487

Family Life Team

The Family Life Team (FLT) program is a collaborative effort between the Bureau of CHN and the Syracuse City School District (SCSD). The FLT program offers preventive nursing and community health worker (CHW) services to all identified pregnant and parenting student in the SCSD schools. CHW services are provided by the Healthy Families’ subcontracted services of Syracuse Healthy Start, The Salvation Army, and Healthy Mom Healthy Baby.

Annual Data:

School Year:	2010-2011	2011- 2012	2012-2013
Family Life Team Referrals	70	79	86

Newborn Metabolic Screening

New York State (NYS) requires that every infant born in NYS be tested shortly after birth for over 40 different disorders. A Public Health Nurse (PHN) works directly with hospitals, primary care providers, the NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory, and families to ensure that all recommended metabolic testing and follow up occurs as necessary.

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Requests for Follow Up	14	13	10

Nurse – Family Partnership (NFP)

Brief History: The OCHD's NFP was implemented in 2007 as a collaborative venture between the Onondaga County Departments of Health, Mental Health, and Social Services. Under the NFP program, PHNs provide intensive, frequent, structured home visits to low income first-time pregnant women who reside in Onondaga County. The visits start as early in pregnancy as possible and continue until the baby's 2nd birthday. PHNs receive extensive ongoing training with supervisory support and follow very specific curriculum, protocols, and guidelines for each visit. NFP is based upon the Nurse Home Visitation program developed by Dr. David Olds. There is documented evidence that this program can produce significant benefits for the participating child and parents. Future cost savings have been identified in numerous social services programs and the NFP program has been shown to reduce subsequent pregnancies; decrease the incidence of child abuse; increase parent/child school completion rates; reduce welfare use; and increase the child's school readiness by improving their language, cognition, and behavior skills.

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Moms served	121	184	191
Infants served	99	95	132
Mothers/Two year olds graduated	11	10	17

Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative

Brief History: The NYSDOH grant-supported Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative (MICHC) provides outreach and home visitation to high-risk women and their families throughout the life course. The MICHC Program assumed the duties of the New York State Community Health Worker Program (CHWP) in 2013 with an expanded scope of services. The MICHC Program provides assistance and advocacy for clients to overcome barriers to accessing needed services, while offering support and guidance to achieve healthier lives for themselves and their families. The MICHC is a collaboration of Healthy Families programs and community partners such as Catholic Charities, REACH CNY, the Salvation Army, and the Syracuse Community Health Center. During the 2012-2013 grant cycle, 100% of pregnant women not enrolled in prenatal care at intake to the CHWP were scheduled with a provider within one month; 100% of newborns in the program completed their well-baby visit within 4 weeks, and 100% of the women enrolled in the program received HIV education.

Syracuse Healthy Start (SHS)

Brief History: In the 1990s, Syracuse's African American infant mortality rate was the highest in the country for a mid-sized city. Over the past seventeen years of Syracuse Healthy Start programming, the overall infant mortality rate has been dramatically reduced as has the disparity in rates. Despite the success, more work is needed as disparities between White infant deaths and African American/ Black infant deaths persist today.

Specific program activities for SHS include:

- **Case Management:** A comprehensive program with emphasis on home visitation and health education by Community Health Workers and Public Health Nurses. In addition to ongoing health education and support, pregnant women and parenting families are assisted with accessing healthcare and locating appropriate community resources.
- **Consortium:** A forum that promotes collaboration among healthcare providers, human service workers, and program participants. In addition to hosting several annual community events, the Consortium supports the Executive Council which advises SHS program activities, and active subcommittees focused on breastfeeding, fatherhood, mental health, perinatal substance abuse, and safe sleep.
- **Health Education:** Group and one-on-one education sessions are conducted on health related topics geared to improve birth outcomes. Program participants may receive education during home visits, and/or through community sessions held throughout the city.
- **Evaluation:** The program uses a data system to collect and monitor specific indicators set by federal guidelines. Annual evaluation of the program consists of statistical comparison of Syracuse Healthy Start participants with non-participants. Trends are measured and assessed in relation to stated objectives and yearly targets. Racial and ethnic specific measures are compared to assess for disparities.

Annual Data:

SHS	2011	2012	2013
First trimester prenatal care	73%	76%	71%
Low birth weight babies	12%	9%	12%
Breast-fed babies	46%	51%	55%

In addition to the above data, 703 families received home visitation from Syracuse Healthy Start; 569 program participants attended a total of 87 group health education sessions; and the overall 2011-2013 infant mortality rate for City of Syracuse residents was 7.0 per 1,000 live births.

Annual Data: All Home Visiting Programs Combined

All Home Visiting programs combined	2011	2012	2013
Total referrals received (unduplicated)	2,546	2,552	2,347
Total home visits completed	8,661	10,300	9,736
Total clients served (unduplicated)	1,102	2,865	2,775

Highlights in 2013:

- The NFP team nurses began staffing the Family Life Teams in the Syracuse City School District, bringing the Bureau's most intensive, frequent, structured visits to the highest risk pregnant young women in the Syracuse city schools.
- With grant funding from the NYSDOH, three PHNs were added to the NFP program, bringing the team to a total of eight PHNs. This allows NFP to serve an additional 75 high risk, first time, low income young women in the community.
- The Healthy Families "New Mom Booklet" continued to be distributed in the community. Four hundred copies of the parent resource guide were distributed via home visitation and health education sessions.
- Healthy Families programs disseminated updated client-friendly educational materials on safe sleep initiatives for infants to providers in the community, including clinic and private OB/GYN, family practice and pediatrician groups, as well as to many community based agencies.
- Focused efforts to engage high-risk families and link them to Healthy Families services continued through targeted outreach by Healthy Families staff and community partners.
- In November, SHS presented "The State of Our Babies' Health in Syracuse". The two hour program focused on perinatal outcomes within the community. Special attention was paid to disparities in birth outcomes among different races and ethnicities. Seventy-five community members attended, representing a broad range of local agencies, healthcare providers, families and community stakeholders.

Immunizations/Immunization Action Plan

The mission of the Immunization program is to minimize the impact of vaccine-preventable diseases in Onondaga County.

Location:

Administrative Office: 501 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, NY 13202
 Clinic location: Dr. William A. Harris Clinic, 301 Slocum Ave, Syracuse, NY 13202

Phone Number: (315) 435-2000

Office Hours:

Administrative Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM- 4:30 PM
 Immunization Clinic: Thursday, 8:30 AM-11:30 AM

Brief History: The Onondaga County Health Department has historically provided immunizations as a safety net for county residents. Clinics are currently held weekly at the Dr. William A. Harris Clinic for *uninsured* children 2 months of age through 18 years of age and for full time college students >18 years of age. In addition to providing this clinical service, the program partners with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and their Vaccines For Children (VFC) program to improve access to and education about recommended immunizations for children and adults. The NYSDOH provides grant funding to support this program’s mission.

In order to meet the program’s mission, the OCHD:

- Maintains the Immunization Action Plan work plan, utilizing the Assessment Feedback Incentives Exchange (AFIX) to conduct assessments, reassessments, and follow-up visits with private health care providers to assess immunization rates and the standards of practice for child and adolescent immunizations
- Prepares quarterly reports with AFIX findings/data to the NYSDOH Regional Representative.
- Participates in annual influenza clinics
- Holds weekly immunization clinics
- Collaborates with hospitals, healthcare providers, and clients to reduce/eliminate perinatal hepatitis B transmission from mother to newborn.
- Provides Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccine to at-risk individuals through the OCHD’s Bureau of Disease Control

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Slocum clinic, total served	1,302	978	631
Flu clinics, total served	1,473	939	732
Perinatal Hepatitis B Program referrals	27	32	27

Highlights in 2013:

- To meet the County's needs and minimize disruption associated with not meeting school vaccine requirements, program staff provided eight expanded back-to-school immunization clinics for students in Onondaga County.
- Promotion of vaccination importance was expanded, including an extensive influenza vaccine promotion with paid ads in publications, radio ads, billboard ads, articles in no-cost publications, media interviews, and outreach to community agencies. In addition, a billboard and radio media campaign was conducted to promote Tdap vaccination to close contacts of infants.
- Program staff provided information to health care professionals to promote both the latest Tdap recommendations for pregnant women, and current evidence based strategies to increase childhood immunization rates. OCHD IAP staff also initiated a community immunization coalition focusing on increasing rates for both children and adult vaccinations. Currently the coalition has over 40 active members.
- Training was provided to health care professionals in relevant areas including vaccine storage and handling, utilization of the NYS Immunization Information System, and VFC program basics.
- Collaboration between the IAP and Onondaga Nation Health Center, Syracuse University, and school districts throughout the County was strengthened as program staff provided educational materials (e.g. posters, flyers, back-to-school kits) and other resources as needed to partner agencies. As an outcome of this collaboration, a website was developed to support school nurses in Onondaga County.

Special Children Services

The mission of Special Children Services is to ensure that all children below age 5 who are suspected of developmental delay have access to the services they need to achieve their potential.

Location: 501 East Fayette Street- Suite B, Syracuse, NY 13202

Phone Number: (315) 435-3230

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM- 4:30 PM

Early Intervention

Brief History: The Early Intervention Program for infants and toddlers ages birth up to age three and their families was established in 1994 conforming NYS law to Federal Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), Part C. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is the lead agency for statewide administration and oversight of this program. The program is implemented at the local level under the direction of the Early Intervention Official and the Onondaga County Health Department (OCHD) Division of Healthy Families (Maternal and Child Health). Fee for service reimbursement to providers is completed by the NYSDOH Fiscal Agent.

In order to meet the program’s mission, the OCHD provides:

- Evaluations
- Educational and therapeutic services, such as speech therapy, physical and occupational therapy, audiological services, assistive technology
- Transportation as determined by the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Children referred	1,391	1,296	1,382
Children enrolled as of 12/31/13	763	699	717
Children receiving services as of 12/31/13	721	683	706
Number of cases closed	1,347	1,401	1,422

Highlights in 2013:

- In April, NYSDOH transitioned most fiscal responsibilities to a State-selected Fiscal Agent. The OCHD continues to process claims for transportation, respite and assistive technology.
- The OCHD continued involvement in the New York Early Intervention System (NYEIS) report work group and the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) work group. The NYEIS group is working with NYSDOH to identify problems with the existing reports and then testing reports once they are changed. The NYSAC group is working to resolve issues that occurred as a result of the switch to the State Fiscal Agent.

Preschool Special Education

Brief History: The Preschool Special Education program is a Federal and State mandated program for children from three years old until the age eligible for kindergarten. Each school district has a Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) who determines if a child qualifies for services as a preschooler with a disability. Eligibility is determined by evaluation, based on criteria established in regulation, at a meeting of the CPSE. New York State Education Department (SED) is the lead agency for statewide administration and oversight. The program is implemented at the local level by the school district where the child resides and the OCHD Division of Healthy Families (Maternal and Child Health).

Rates for service reimbursement are set by SED for SEIT (Special Education Itinerant Teacher) and classroom programs (SCIS-Special Class Inclusive Setting). Rates for related therapy services (speech, physical therapy, occupational therapy, etc.) provided outside of a classroom program are set by the OCHD. There are no family out-of-pocket expenses for children determined eligible for services, and there is no third party billing.

In order to meet the program’s mission, the OCHD provides:

- Evaluations
- Special education and therapeutic services, such as speech therapy, physical and occupational therapy, and audiological services
- Transportation as determined appropriate by the school district CPSE through an IEP

Annual Data:

In 2013, there were 1,866 children enrolled in June 2013 (end of 2012-2013 school year), 1,401 children enrolled in 2013 summer session, and 1,428 children enrolled at calendar year-end (12/31/13).

	2011	2012	2013
Number of school districts served	22	22	22
Children receiving services as of 12/31/13	1,339	1,394	1,428

Highlights in 2013:

- OCHD staff served as municipality representatives to CPSE, providing assistance to CPSE chairpersons and families when indicated or requested.
- OCHD staff participated in two program reviews conducted by the New York SED and worked with Onondaga County Comptroller’s office in preparation for their upcoming audits of contracted preschool providers.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

The mission of WIC is to improve the nutrition and health status of eligible pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants and children.

Locations:

375 West Onondaga Street, Syracuse, New York 13202
7608 Oswego Road, Liverpool, New York 13090

Phone Number: (315) 435-3304

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM- 5:15 PM depending on site, please see website for details
Wednesday clinic hours, 7:30 AM- 7:30 PM at West Onondaga and Liverpool sites

Brief History: On September 26, 1972, Public Law 92-433, “The Special Supplemental Food Program” was enacted establishing the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. This legislation was inspired by the success of the Cherry Hill Iron Fortified Milk Distribution program for infants in an underprivileged section of Baltimore. Senator Hubert Humphrey advocated for the idea of WIC in Congress. President Richard Nixon signed it into law in 1972.

In order to meet the program’s mission, the OCHD provides:

- Clinics held throughout Onondaga county at 2 permanent clinic sites (West Onondaga, Bayberry) as well as 4 temporary site locations (Lafayette, Camillus, East Syracuse, Onondaga Nation)
- Participant centered nutrition education focused on obesity prevention and healthier lifestyles for all participants
- Monthly checks for specific nutritious foods to program participants
- Referrals to supportive health and human services
- Monitoring of growth status during critical periods of the life cycle (pregnancy, infancy, breastfeeding, toddler, and preschool years)
- Promotion and support of successful breastfeeding, including the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program
- Testing for iron deficiency anemia among WIC Program participants

Annual Data:

Of the clients enrolled in 2013: 23% are women, 25% are infants, and 52% are children.

	2011	2012	2013
Average monthly caseload	10,106	10,077	9,696

Highlights in 2013:

- In an effort to strengthen the Nutrition Education component of the WIC program, all WIC staff members were trained in a participant centered nutrition service approach. This approach has been fully implemented and focuses on supporting healthy behaviors for life.
- As part of WIC's continuous Quality Improvement (QI) Program, LEAN Management processes were implemented in an effort to streamline clinic procedures. This included customer satisfaction surveys, staff satisfaction surveys, and time studies of clinic operations. The outcomes included improved customer satisfaction and shorter wait times in some areas. Full results will be shared at the annual QI Summit.
- A media campaign to educate the public about the benefits of the WIC program took place in September 2013. This campaign included print media, television and radio.
- The OCHD WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program increased the number of Peer Counselors in an effort to increase the initiation and duration rates of breastfeeding among WIC participants in Onondaga County. Since the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program's inception in June 2010, a total of 2,657 prenatal and breastfeeding mothers have been assigned a Peer Counselor. Breastfeeding initiation rates increased from 63.2% in 2012 to 64% in June 2013.

WIC Vendor Management

The mission of this program is to improve the health and nutritional status of WIC participants by ensuring that vendors are in compliance with all requirements of the WIC program.

Location: 375 West Onondaga Street - Room 12, Syracuse, New York 13202

Phone Number: (315) 435- 5238

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Brief History: In October 2003, the New York State WIC program entered into contracts with local agencies to provide WIC Program Vendor Management activities. This is a continuation of the vendor consolidation project which began in the Metropolitan New York area in 1995. The Onondaga County Health Department Vendor Management Agency is one of 5 such agencies in New York State. The Onondaga County WIC Vendor Management catchment area includes approximately 277 WIC authorized vendors. Of this total, 77 stores are located in Onondaga County of which 29 are located in the city of Syracuse.

In order to meet the mission of this program, the OCHD provides:

- Processing of WIC vendor applications and re-authorization
- Ongoing review of vendor contracts for compliance
- Vendor training, fair hearings, and monitoring
- Investigation, monitoring, and mitigation of vendor/participant complaints

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Vendor training sessions conducted	35	44	44
Vendor monitor visits	470	470	467
Vendor related complaints received and resolved	126	154	118
New vendor applications reviewed and authorized	36	21	20

Highlights in 2013:

- The OCHD WIC VMA expanded accessibility to WIC participants with the acquisition of five new vendor contracts with the Target Corporation located throughout Onondaga, Oneida, and Tompkins counties.
- WIC VMA staff conducted 44 training sessions and more than 467 site visits to monitor vendors. Over the course of the year, WIC VMA identified over 981 WIC vendor violations and oversaw their correction. The WIC VMA also received and resolved more than 118 vendor-related complaints throughout the year.

Surveillance and Statistics

The mission of the Bureau of Surveillance and Statistics is to support the OCHD with data needs, to monitor the health status of the population of Onondaga County, and to provide birth and death records for Onondaga County residents.

Location:

Surveillance: 9th Floor, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202
 Vital Statistics: Room 20, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Phone Number:

Office: (315) 435-3648
 Vital Statistics: (315) 435-3241

Office Hours:

Surveillance: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
 Vital Statistics: Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Brief History:

The Bureau of Surveillance and Statistics was established in 1988, by merger of the Office of Vital Statistics with the newly created Surveillance unit. The Surveillance unit is responsible for producing the State-mandated Community Health Assessment for Onondaga County. The Office of Vital Statistics was originally established in 1968, to support consolidation and centralization of State-mandated vital record functions for Onondaga County.

In order to meet the Bureau’s mission, the OCHD provides:

- Monitoring the health status of our community using numerous data sources
- Analysis and interpretation statistical information about local morbidity, mortality, and associated risk factors
- Records of all births and deaths that occur in Onondaga County
- Issuance of certified copies of birth and death records for a fee, which is set by New York State
- Quality improvement initiatives across Divisions and Bureaus
- Consultation for community members requests for local health statistics

Annual Data:

	2011	2012	2013
Certificates issued for a fee	38,389	39,042	41,102

Highlights in 2013:

- The Bureau worked closely with the Commissioner's Office, local hospitals, and community partners to complete and submit the OCHD Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan. The document is available on the OCHD website.
- The Bureau supported the Department's quality improvement efforts with statistical and methodological guidance and provided statistical and epidemiological support for the evaluation of infectious disease outbreaks.
- Within the Office of Vital Statistics, staff continued implementation of an enterprise content management (ECM) system to protect birth and death records and improve workflow.

Center for Forensic Sciences: Forensic Laboratories and Medical Examiner's Office

Forensic Laboratories

The mission of the Forensic Laboratories is to provide high quality scientific laboratory services in support of the administration of justice and public safety programs for the citizens of Onondaga and surrounding counties.

Location:

Wallie Howard, Jr. Center for Forensic Sciences
100 Elizabeth Blackwell Street, Syracuse, NY 13210

Phone Number: (315) 435-3800

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM- 4:30 PM

Brief Overview:

The Forensic Laboratories comprises two sections, Criminalistics and Forensic Biology/DNA, with 23 scientists and technicians working in various disciplines within the sections. The Forensic Laboratories process evidence from all police agencies within Onondaga County and several in surrounding counties. Evidence is also processed for various state and federal agencies, as necessary. The Forensic Laboratories maintain accreditation by the American Society of Crime Lab Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board International under ISO 17025 standards and by the NYS Commission on Forensic Science.

In order to meet the program's mission, the Laboratories provide the following services:

- The Criminalistics section of the laboratory houses four forensic disciplines: Latent Prints, Forensic Chemistry, Firearms, and Digital Evidence.
 - The Latent Print section is responsible for developing fingerprints, palm prints, and footprints from items of evidence using various chemicals, powders, dye stains, and light sources. The Latent Print section compares recovered latent prints to known fingerprints in order to identify individuals. Identification may involve searching unidentified latent fingerprints and palm prints in the Statewide Automated Biometric Identification System (SABIS).
 - The Forensic Chemistry section analyzes powders, tablets, and plant material for the presence of controlled substances. This section is also responsible for analyzing fire debris and liquids collected in arson investigations to determine if accelerants are present.

- The Firearms section examines firearms to determine the operability status of submitted weapons. Firearms examiners are also responsible for determining whether or not a projectile or casing recovered at a crime scene was fired from a particular firearm. The laboratory uses a computerized database, called the Integrated Ballistic Identification System, to aid in connecting shootings from different crime scenes.
- The Digital Evidence section examines submitted electronic media (e.g. hard drives, optical discs, flash memory, digital cameras, etc.) for the purposes of acquiring, retrieving, preserving, and presenting relevant data that has been electronically processed and stored on the item. Target data may be in the form of text, photographs, video, audio or any combination thereof.
- The Forensic Biology/DNA section of the Center receives biological evidence from criminal investigations of homicide, sexual assault, burglary and other crimes. The section identifies bodily fluids on submitted evidence and performs DNA analysis on items of probative value to the case. Current DNA technologies can be used to link suspects to a crime or eliminate individuals from suspicion. The DNA laboratory serves as a local casework database site for entry and searching of profiles in the state and national Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). The CODIS database can be used to link unsolved crimes, identify a previously convicted offender as a contributor to crime scene DNA, or associate unidentified remains with missing persons.

Annual Data:

Laboratory Assignments Completed	2011	2012	2013
Ignitable Liquids	26	25	23
Firearms	601	617	690
Forensic bio/DNA	387	500	588
Drug identification	571	439	392
Latent prints	810	702	881
Digital evidence	34	23	49

Highlights in 2013:

- The Firearms section successfully implemented the BRASSTRAX-3D cartridge case acquisition station for use in casework during 2013. This system utilizes improved technology to capture high-detailed digitized images of fired cartridge cases in both two and three dimensions. This system is used in conjunction with the National Integrated Ballistics Information System (NIBIN) by the firearms section to connect weapons to crimes and to link evidence from different crime scenes. These links provide a wealth of intelligence information to local police agencies and the ATF in combating gun crimes and have led to successful prosecutions at both the State and Federal levels.

- The Forensic Laboratories participate fully in the three specialized state/federal forensic databases. In 2013 many linkages (hits) were made from submitted data. The Firearms section provided 97 links through the NIBIN in 2013. In addition, the Latent Prints section provided 102 investigative leads through SABIS, up 48% from 2012, and the Forensic Biology/DNA section provided 102 investigative leads through CODIS, up 36% from 2012.
- The Drug Chemistry section provided analysis and testimony in support of a highly publicized federal drug prosecution involving synthetic drugs known as bath salts. Twenty-one individuals were arrested as part of the large drug ring that was conspiring to sell synthetic drugs and laundering the proceeds. Prosecutors believe the drug ring netted approximately \$4.5 million over a twelve month period. The laboratory played a critical role in identifying the controlled substance analogs and in testifying to the results in the trial.

Medical Examiner's Office

The mission of the Medical Examiner's Office is to protect the health and safety of our community by providing objective, comprehensive medicolegal investigations and establishing an accurate, legally-defensible cause and manner of death for all unnatural, unattended, and unexpected deaths that occur within Onondaga County and other contracted counties.

Location: 100 Elizabeth Blackwell Street, Syracuse, NY 13210

Phone Number: (315) 435-3163

Hours of Operation:

Twenty-four (24) hour operation: Staffed on-site from 8:00 AM to Midnight.
On-call coverage from midnight to 8:00 AM daily. Open 365 days.

Brief Overview:

The Onondaga County Medical Examiner's Office (OCMEO)'s responsibility is to provide objective, in-depth medicolegal investigations into all unnatural, unattended, and unexpected deaths that occur within either Onondaga County or other contracted counties, with the goal of establishing an accurate and legally-defensible cause and manner of death.

The OCMEO serves Onondaga County residents including decedent next-of-kin/family members, district attorney offices, law enforcement, insurance companies, legal offices, and local and state public health agencies. The OCMEO also provides services for a fee with outside counties on contract. The OCMEO follows standards set by the National Association of Medical Examiners, the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigation, and the American Board of Forensic Toxicology.

Pursuant to New York State County Law, Article 17A, Section 670, the medical examiner has jurisdiction and authority to investigate the death of every person dying within his/her county, or whose body is found within the county, which is or appears to be:

- A violent death, whether by criminal violence, suicide or casualty;
- A death caused by unlawful act or criminal neglect;
- A death occurring in a suspicious, unusual or unexplained manner;
- A death caused by suspected criminal abortion;
- A death while unattended by a physician, so far as can be discovered, or where no physician able to certify the cause of death as provided in the public health law and in form as prescribed by the commissioner of health can be found;
- A death of a person confined in a public institution other than a hospital, infirmary or nursing home.

Once it is determined that an individual case falls within the jurisdiction of the medical examiner, it is the MEO's responsibility to determine the cause and manner of death, produce an autopsy report and issue a death certificate. The cause of death is the disease process or injury that results in the person's death. The manner of death indicates how the death occurred and includes designations of accident, homicide, natural, suicide, or undetermined.

In order to meet the mission of the program, the Medical Examiner's Office provides:

- Objective, in-depth medicolegal investigations into all unnatural, unattended, and unexpected deaths that occur within Onondaga County and other contracted counties
- An accurate, legally-defensible cause and manner of death including deaths that have potential public health impact
- Educational programs to related agencies
- Expertise to increase awareness of significant trends in preventable deaths in the community such as unsafe sleep deaths or drug related deaths
- Professional consultation as needed
- Specific services include:

Forensic Pathology Services: Forensic pathology services include the performance of autopsy examinations, integration of investigative information, and interpretation of autopsy findings and supplemental testing in order to establish and certify cause and manner of death. American Board of Pathology (ABP)-certified forensic pathologists serve as medical examiners and document autopsy findings in a written autopsy report, but also communicate findings to physicians, family members, law enforcement personnel, attorneys, and other involved agencies. Medical examiners also testify in court as expert medical witnesses and meet with District Attorneys and/or other attorneys upon request. In addition, medical examiners use their expertise to interpret injury patterns in living victims or trauma, abuse or other suspected violent acts. Through the performance of these duties, the medical examiners act as agents of public health by identifying potential communicable diseases or recognizing unsafe environmental conditions that may put individuals at risk for poor health outcomes.

Medicolegal Death Investigation Services: edicolegal death investigation services includes scene investigation with examination of the body at the location of death, inspection of the scene environment, photo-documentation of the scene findings, meeting with families and/or witnesses, and collecting physical evidence for possible further testing. The investigations are carried out by American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI)-certified investigators who work collaboratively with, but independent of, law enforcement authorities, fire fighters, emergency medical responders, and physicians both at the scene and through ongoing investigative communications relative to identification of decedents, family contacts, obtaining medical and social history, and funeral home disposition. This information complements the autopsy examination in the determination of cause and manner of death and is summarized in a medicolegal death investigation report.

Forensic Toxicology Services: The Forensic Toxicology Laboratory (FTL) is accredited by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT) and assists in the determination of cause and manner of death by utilizing the methods of analytical forensic toxicology. Employing such techniques as gas chromatography, liquid chromatography, mass spectrometry, immunoassay, and other analytical methods, the laboratory determines if drugs, alcohol and/or poisons are present in submitted specimens. The FTL also conducts testing on specimen submissions for DUI/DWI and drug facilitated sexual assault investigations conducted by law enforcement agencies. Certified forensic toxicologist and chemists also provide expert testimony relative to their findings as needed.

Education Services: The MEO has an active role in educating the community at large and participates in ongoing continuing education to remain current in the scientific field. With respect to educating the community, each year forensic investigators conduct presentations for a number of local middle schools and high schools to educate youth about forensic pathology and medicolegal death investigation. The MEO provides internship opportunities for college-level students in medical and criminal justice fields. Medical examiners also play an important role in educating postgraduate pathology residents, medical students, and other health care providers regarding autopsy and forensic pathology. MEO staff actively participates in the Onondaga County Child Fatality Review Team which plays a critical public health role in identifying, reviewing, and preventing infant and childhood deaths. With respect to remaining current with scientific advances, the medical examiners and forensic investigators are active in presenting forensic pathology and investigative topics at the local, regional, and national levels each year through their participation in agencies that include the Central New York Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (RTAC), New York State Association of County Coroners and Medical Examiners (NYSACCME), National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME), American Academy of Forensic Science (AAFS) and College of American Pathologists (CAP).

Annual Data:

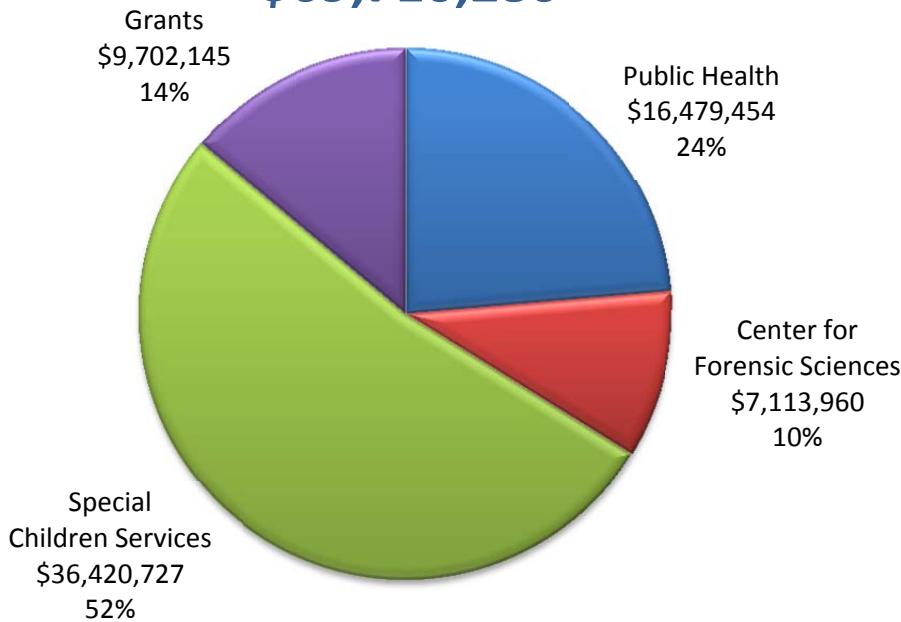
	2011	2012	2013
Total Cases	1,527	1,634	2,248
Total Deaths Reported	1,508	1,627	2,230
Medical Examiner cases	741	806	1,056
Full autopsy	580	616	823
External examination	141	170	92
Skeletal examination	20	19	15
Body Inspection	-	1	121
Review & Death Certificate Amendment	0	0	5
Medical Examiner Cases by Manner of Death			
Natural	294	290	372
Accidents	281	339	425
Suicides	97	118	139
Homicides	29	21	51
Undetermined	16	18	20
Pending	0	1	32
Fetal death/NA	4	16	11
Scene Response	253	244	384
Expert Consultation	19	7	18
Investigated and Released from MEO Jurisdiction	767	821	1,174
Forensic Toxicology cases	843	950	1,075

Highlights in 2013:

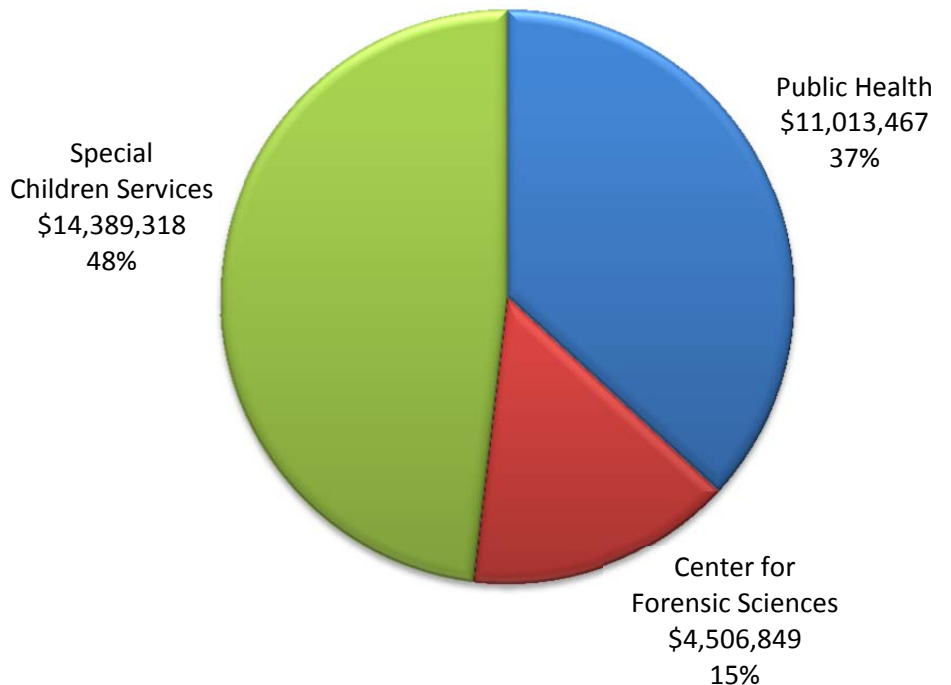
- The Medical Examiner's Office (MEO) implemented an Oneida County contract for comprehensive medical examiner services and successfully expanded staffing to meet the needs of the new contract. In December 2013, Oneida County signed a five-year contract with the OCMEO for the continuation of medical examiner services.
- Chief Medical Examiner Robert Stoppacher and Forensic Investigator Nicholas Schultz convened a meeting with SUNY Upstate social work and spiritual care employees to discuss the Medical Examiner's Office role and ways to improve interagency cooperation for grieving families.
- Forensic Investigator Brian Ehret was appointed to the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI) Advisory Council. Members of the Advisory Council are responsible for working with the ABMDI's educational consultant to develop and maintain test specifications for two levels of national certification examinations. The appointment letter state that "the ABMDI recognizes Brian's knowledge and integrity that are needed to move the ABMDI forward in improving the quality of medicolegal death investigation nationwide."
- Deputy Chief Medical Examiner Laura Knight was appointed Chair of the National Association of Medical Examiners Education subcommittee on the Development of Self-Assessment Modules.

2013 Health Department Expenses and Local Dollars

2013 Expenses \$69,716,286



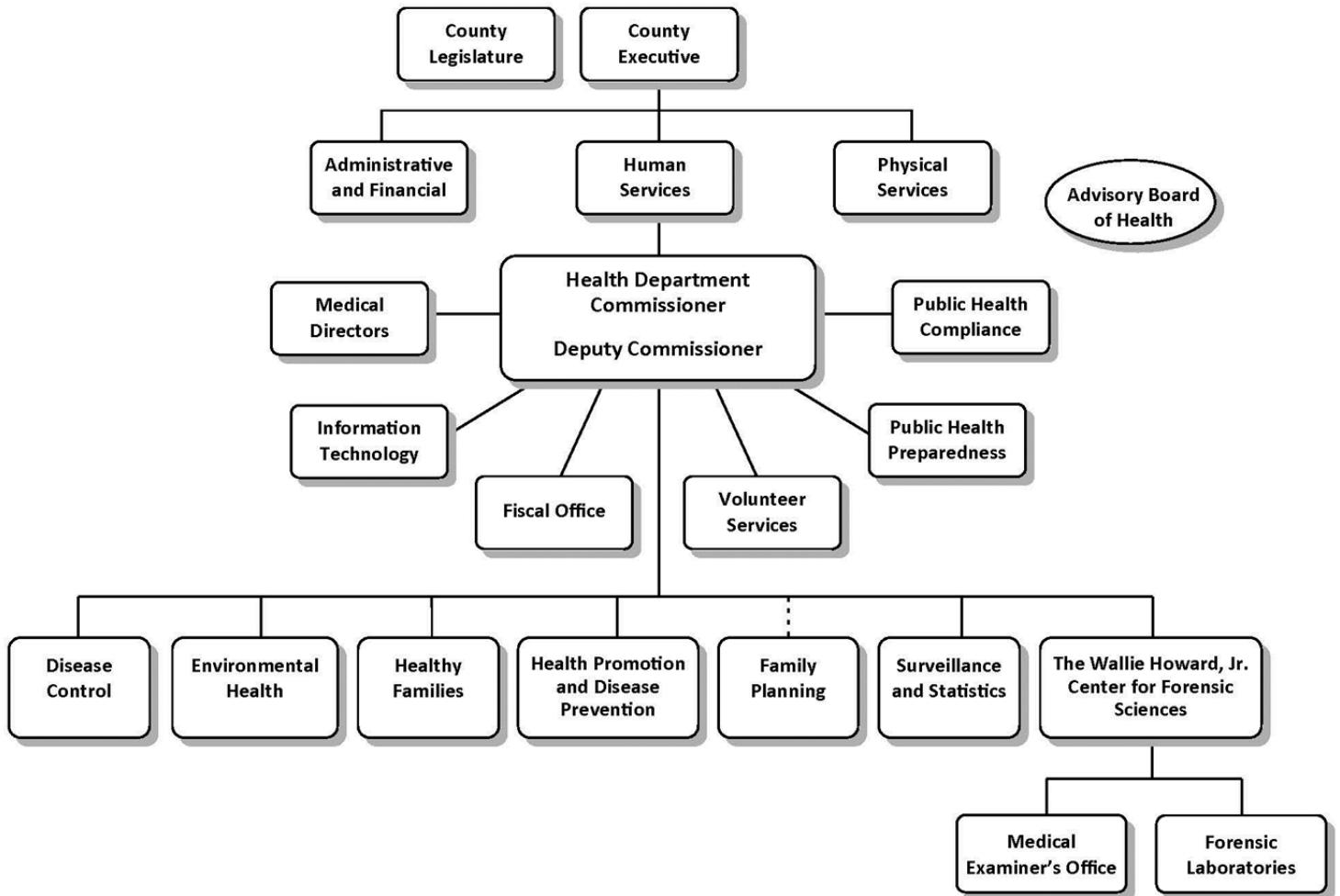
2013 Local \$29,909,634



Grant Projects, 2013**Expense/Revenue**

Administration	\$736,687
• Public Health Preparedness	\$511,210
• Facilitated Enrollment	\$192,417
• Other	\$33,060
Disease Control	\$692,167
• HIV/AIDS/STD	\$447,209
• Tuberculosis	\$244,958
Environmental Health	\$504,547
Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	\$2,160,208
• Obesity	\$160,097
• Cancer Screening Services	\$684,066
• Lead	\$1,049,924
• Tobacco	\$266,121
Maternal and Child Health	\$4,724,285
• Eliminating Disparities (Healthy Start)	\$971,576
• Immunization	\$213,469
• WIC	\$2,681,634
• Early Intervention Program	\$284,108
• Maternal, Infant, Child Health	\$473,561
• Maternal, Infant, Child Health-NFP Expansion	\$99,937
Center for Forensic Sciences	\$884,251
Total Health Department:	\$9,702,145

2013 Health Department Organizational Chart



Onondaga County Health Department



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