

2015 Annual Report

Onondaga County Health Department

Working for
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*Indu Gupta, MD, MPH
Commissioner of Health*

Message from the Commissioner of Health

Dear Friends of Public Health,

It is my pleasure to present the Onondaga County Health Department's 2015 Annual Report. This report provides an account of Onondaga County Health Department's (OCHD) efforts and accomplishments during the 2015 year guided by the department's strategic priorities while addressing the most pressing local public health challenges.

OCHD is committed to continuously improving the way we provide public health programs and services. In today's ever-changing health care landscape, it is important to recognize the need for accountability, transparency, and flexibility throughout our efforts to improve the public's health. We urge you to review the detailed information provided in this report and we welcome your suggestions on how we can continue to improve the way we provide programs and services to the residents of Onondaga County.

I also want to recognize all Health Department staff for the work they do each day to improve and protect the health of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Indu Gupta".

Indu Gupta, MD, MPH, MA, FACP

Commissioner

Onondaga County Health Department

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.*

Values

Respect • Excellence • Accountability • Collaboration • Health Equity



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2015 Health Department Organizational Chart

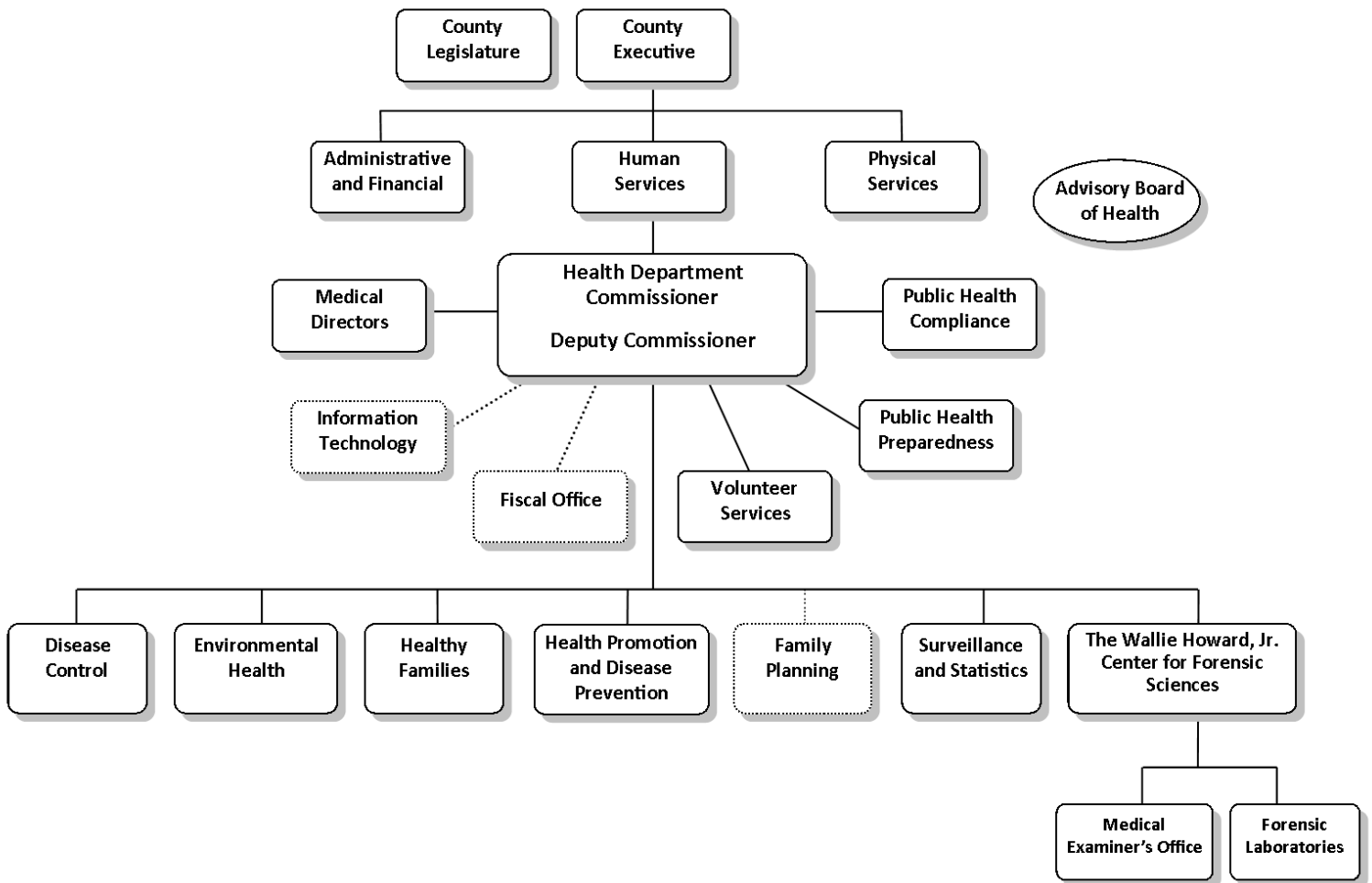


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Ten Essential Public Health Services

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:

- Public Health Preparedness
- Quality Improvement
- Compliance
- Accreditation
- Volunteer Services programs
- Records access

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) 435-5262 or 435-3204

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

Brief 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:

	2013	2014	2015
New Individuals trained in Incident Command System (ICS)	12	129*	23
Exercises conducted	2	3	6

**Added new requirement to all new and existing staff: ICS-200.b*

Highlights in 2015:

- Building on the updated County Isolation and Quarantine (I/Q) Plan in response to the NYSDOH Commissioner’s order surrounding Ebola response, began planning a Workshop/Table Top Exercise (TTX) with outside partners to test the I/Q Plan.
- In March, OCHD conducted a Mass Distribution Exercise in the Civic Center to test the County’s capability to distribute medications to the community in a timely fashion
- PHP staff organized the 10th annual Drive Thru Vaccination Exercise for first responders in October.
- PHP staff assisted Syracuse University in conducting its “Closed Point of Distribution (POD)” Drill in October. Staff also worked with two new closed-POD partners: Wegmans and Lemoyne College. Wegmans developed its POD plan and held a training/tabletop exercise.
- PHP partnered with the Onondaga County Office of Emergency Management to assist with the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response TTX & Full Scale Exercises in April and May.
- PHP staff along with the Department of Emergency Management and the American Red Cross participated in a discussion-based exercise to work through activating and setting up special medical needs shelter (SMNS) operations. The capability of assisting the American Red Cross with medical needs within a shelter, especially during a large disaster, relieves some of the stress and burden on hospitals and other healthcare facilities.
- The Central New York Medical Reserve Corps (CNYMRC) assisted local health departments with rabies vaccinations, preparedness education, and mass prophylaxis exercises. The CNYMRC partnered with the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Salvation Army Christmas Bureau, and other community events to provide medical and support services. The CNYMRC also partnered with Syracuse University and Ithaca College to provide influenza vaccinations to students, faculty, and staff.

Quality Improvement

The OCHD is committed to continuous and ongoing efforts to identify and measure improvements in the efficiency, effectiveness, and performance of all public health programs to protect and improve the health of the community.

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

Phone Number: (315) 435-3252

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

Brief History: The OCHD has a long standing history of QI, dating back to 1989. Since this time, there has been an annual QI Summit, during which program representatives present on their QI efforts throughout the year. This is a full day event comprised of various presentation formats, and attended by OCHD staff and partners. Summit projects have been supported by a Quality Improvement Methodology Committee (QIMC), and in 2012, a QI Champions program was developed to integrate all levels of staff in QI activities. The department also has a QI/QA committee that meets monthly, and a QI Plan Team.

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

- Participation on and support for the QIMC, QI/QA Committee and annual QI Summit
- Support and resources for the QI Champions program
- Annual training on Quality Improvement basics for all staff

Compliance

The mission of Compliance is to ensure the integrity of clinical, home care services and business activities.

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

Phone Number: (315) 435-3252

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

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

- Support and coordination for, and response to, all program and regulatory audits
- Internal audits
- Regular review and enforcement of policies and procedures
- Annual training

Accreditation

Accreditation, a process to advance quality and performance within public health departments, improves service, value and accountability to all stakeholders.

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

Phone Number: (315) 435-3252

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

Brief History: In a 2003 *Institute of Medicine* report, *The Future of the Public's Health*, it was recommended that a national Steering Committee be convened to examine the benefits of accrediting governmental health departments. In 2003, the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began the Futures Initiative to prioritize its strategies, programs, resources, needs, as well as its structure to be more efficient, effective and nimble in responding to the challenges of 21st-century health threats. The CDC identified accreditation as a key strategy for strengthening public health infrastructure in 2004. The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) was formed as the non-profit entity to implement and oversee national public health department accreditation, and program development began in May 2007. The accreditation process was developed by the PHAB Assessment Process Workgroup, which included state and local public health professionals, representatives from state-based accreditation programs, representatives from other national accreditation programs, and other technical experts. The standards and measures were the products of months of development by the PHAB Standards Development Workgroup, which included state and local public health professionals, national and federal public health experts, public health researchers, and other technical experts. The first version of the PHAB Accreditation Standards and Measures and the Guide to National Public Health Department Accreditation were released to the public in July 2011. Subsequently, Version 1.5 of the standards was released in June 2014.

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

- Support for all public health programs through the development of materials and templates, regular meetings, and resource review through the Strategic Plan and Accreditation Resource Committee (SPARC).

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 programs and services within OCHD

Annual Data:

The Health Department currently maintains an active workforce of over 25 volunteers and 20-40 interns annually.

	2013	2014	2015
Volunteer/Intern hours	7,157	9,396*	5,872
Volunteer/Intern estimated value	\$118,950	\$152,178	\$100,375

* Change in how intern hours were recorded

Highlights in 2015:

- Volunteers and interns provided assistance to 19 OCHD programs and projects, including clerical support for rabies clinics, Healthy Families programs, and the Refugee Assistance Program; program support in Health Promotions, Public Health Preparedness, and Vital Statistics; and laboratory and research support for the Center for Forensic Sciences.

Records Access

The mission of Records Access is to provide timely and safe disclosure of public records as allowable under the Freedom of Information Law.

Location:

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

Phone Number: (315) 435-3597

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

Annual Data:

	2013	2014	2015
FOIL Requests*	138	76	47
Total # of Records* in Request	837	150	129
Medical Record Requests	68	36	20
Total # of Records in Request	84	50	25

* Lead records

Highlights in 2015:

- All Lead Inspection Record FOIL requests in 2015 were scanned and stored electronically.

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: 8:30-11:00 AM and 12:30-3:30 PM

Tuesday: 12:30-4:30 PM

Wednesday: Clinic closed/test results only

Thursday: 12:30-3:30 PM

Friday: 8:30-11:00 AM

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, Health Promotion, Environmental Health, and Healthy Families 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 and community partners, including hospitals, 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
- Information to the public in a timely manner to protect and improve the health of our community

Annual Data:

	2013	2014	2015
Case investigations	1,294	1,112	1,189
Actual cases of reportable communicable disease*	988	990	1,077
Cases of possible rabies exposure	233	285	355
Cases for which rabies post-exposure prophylaxis was given	119	136	138

*does not include flu cases

Highlights in 2015:

- In partnership with the New York State Department of Health, communicable disease staff continued to conduct direct active monitoring of travelers from areas affected by the Ebola virus disease. Nursing staff also participated in drills, webinars, and weekly training to prepare them in the event of an Ebola emergency within the Bureau's clinics. Nursing staff successfully ended their efforts when the end of active transmission of Ebola outbreak was declared in late December 2015.
- The number of rabid animals and rabies investigation increased significantly in 2015. The number of investigations increased by 25% in 2015. The mild fall and winter of 2015 might be one reason for the increase.

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 for qualified patients
- 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:

	2013	2014	2015*
Total patient visits to the STD Center	5,914	5,948	5,581
Total number of treatments performed at STD Center	2,873	2,716	2,704
Cases of gonorrhea in Onondaga County	788	803	907
Cases of chlamydia in Onondaga County	2,356	2,671	2,638
Cases of syphilis in Onondaga County ^A	28	56	36
Individuals who tested positive for HIV in Onondaga County*	37	55	35
Additional gonorrhea partners identified	498	422	463

*Preliminary data pending review.

^A Includes primary, Secondary, and early latent cases

Highlights in 2015:

- The STD Center had a highly successful syphilis ad campaign on Facebook. The campaign allowed the STD Center to focus on groups who were most at-risk for contracting syphilis. The low-cost campaign generated 781 clicks to the syphilis website.
- The Bureau of Disease Control's Communicable Disease Investigator (CDI) program was awarded \$30,000 by NYSDOH for its success in the 2015 Local Health Department Performance Incentive Initiative. The CDI program was measured for timeliness and completeness of gonorrhea and syphilis investigations over a six month period.

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 Catholic Charities Men's Shelter, 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:

	2013	2014	2015
Total visits	15,971	13,752	13,355
Active cases of TB managed by OCHD	10	10	10
Latent TB cases identified (inclusive of pediatric cases)	640	619	622
Latent pediatric TB cases identified and treated	68	74	75
Latent TB started on preventative therapy (inclusive of pediatric cases)	487	485	452
Tuberculin skin tests	3,223	2,184	2,089
Directly observed therapy visits	5,993	6,928	6,403

Highlights in 2015:

- The Tuberculosis Control program has replaced Tuberculin skin testing with a t-spot blood test to detect latent TB disease. This new testing has shown increased accuracy over the traditional skin test. The TB Control program will be monitoring the change in testing closely to measure for increased efficiencies and better patient outcomes.
- In September 2015, 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.

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
 - Waste to Energy Facility Monitoring Program
 - Indoor Air
 - Radon
- Bureau of Public Health Engineering
 - Land Development
 - Onondaga County Council on Environmental Health
 - Water Supply
 - Weights and Measures



Bureau of 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:

	2013	2014	2015
Inspections			
Mandated annual inspections conducted	2,038	2,040	2,016
Second inspections conducted	393	266	199
Follow-up inspections conducted	2,833	1,876	2,887
Temporary food services inspections	650	593	635
Complaints			
Food complaint investigations	341	450	357
Clean indoor air act complaint investigations	9	17	14
Enforcement			
Violation notices issued	424	376	327
Hearings scheduled	76	121	80
Hearings held	19	21	9
Voluntary closures	5	6	8
Commissioner's closure orders	1	1	0

Highlights in 2015:

- Assisted the New York State Health Department in the investigation of a food borne illness outbreak at a wedding reception in Onondaga County. The caterer for this event was from a surrounding county resulting in multiple agencies working together to determine the source of the contamination. A phone band was staffed which resulted in obtaining 70 Food Illness Case histories in less than 24 hours from the time the event ended. From these case histories and the investigations of the other agencies it was quickly determined that the source of the contamination was confined to the event and the public was no longer at risk.
- In 2015 full implementation of the use of computer tablets for all field inspections was completed. All inspections are now recorded electronically resulting in saved paper, reduced file storage space, and increased efficiency in both state mandated reporting and public access to restaurant inspection reports.

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:

	2013	2014	2015
Inspection			
Inspections conducted	519	499	497
Follow-up inspections conducted	615	430	396
Enforcement			
Violation notices issued	111	152	130
Hearings Scheduled	7	6	10
Violations Resolved Before Hearing	5	2	9
Hearings Held	2	4	1

Highlights in 2015:

- The education and guidance given to facility operators, landlords, and the public by the experienced staff of this program have proven invaluable in reducing the risk of unsanitary and hazardous conditions within Onondaga County. These efforts have again this year reduced the number of follow-up inspections and increased the number of satisfactory resolutions to violations prior to proceeding to a Commissioner's Hearing.

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:

	2013	2014	2015
Inspections			
Mandated annual inspections conducted	598	562	580
Second inspections conducted	216	219	200
Follow-up inspections conducted	409	554	610
Complaint investigations	36	31	35
Enforcement			
Violation notices issued	136	99	107
Hearings Scheduled	5	3	8
Hearings Held	1	1	0
Voluntary Closures	25	10	8

Highlights in 2015:

- Performed a comprehensive investigation for a near-drowning incident at a beach located in a County park. The results indicated that there were no violations of lifeguard supervision standards.
- Following the successful implementation of computer tablets in the Food Protection Section, the Temporary Facilities Section began using computer tablets to conduct field inspections in 2015 resulting in saved paper, reduced file storage space and increased efficiency in both state mandated reporting.

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

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.
- Enforcement of dog bite exposure procedures when dog owners fail to provide proof of rabies vaccination

Annual Data:

	2013	2014	2015
Rabies specimens			
Submitted	265	482	454
Positive	8	22	14
Rabies clinics			
Held	15	15	15
Dogs vaccinated	1,703	2,051	1,751
Cats vaccinated	628	890	702
Other	8	38	4
Bites reported			
Dogs	740	803	762
Cats	228	269	266
Other	33	38	21

Highlights in 2015:

- Animals reported positive for rabies included 12 bats, 1 raccoon, and 1 skunk.
- Following its success last year, a rabies shot clinic was held at the Onondaga Nation in 2015.
- Due to resident requests, rabies shot clinics in the Towns of Elbridge and Geddes will be added to the 2016 schedule.

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). A human fatality in Onondaga County attributed to EEE occurred in 2010, the first since 1983. Two human cases occurred in 2014 and those individuals recovered with mild impairment. Two human cases occurred in 2015, one resulting in a fatality.
- **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. During a 43 year period (1971-2014), EEE was documented in horses or mosquitoes in at least one of these counties during 29 of those years.
- **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, and one human case in 2014.

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:

	2013	2014	2015
Mosquitoes collected/identified	162,173	284,623	303,791
Mosquito pools submitted for testing	674	791	720
Mosquito breeding sites treated	202	510	348
Catch basins treated with larvicide	4,848	4,040	5,824
Catch basins/manholes treated with rodenticide	1,571	3,467	2,491
Rodent infestations investigated	4	3	6

Highlights in 2015:

- In a combined effort with the CDC and the Public Health Foundation, a survey was conducted to assess Onondaga County resident’s satisfaction and knowledge of the Mosquito Control Program. Results indicated that a majority of those surveyed were aware that mosquitoes have the potential to transmit viruses and they support mosquito control activities; including aerial or truck spraying.
- Twenty-two mosquito pools tested positive for EEE and seven tested positive for WNV in 2015.
- Aerial adulticiding of the Cicero Swamp area was performed in response to finding EEE in human biting mosquitoes.
- A total of 43 abandoned swimming pool complaints were investigated resulting in 28 pools being 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:

	2013	2014	2015
ATUPA (Grant Year)			
Compliance checks completed	400	418	405
Re-inspections completed	21	11	7
Violations/enforcement	0	20	13
CIAA			
Complaints investigated	18	24	9
Violations/enforcement	1	1	0

Highlights in 2015:

- In 2015 ATUPA violations decreased.
- An educational campaign was conducted which included an informational letter, window signs, and a Facebook message all encouraging retailers to not sell tobacco to minors.

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:

	2013	2014	2015
Surveys completed	707	770	812
Revisits	215	237	232
Numbers of smoke/CO detectors distributed	968	863	779
Children tested for lead	92	88	76
Individuals with asthma identified & educated	257	244	291
Referrals to other agencies	898	847	1194

Highlights in 2015:

- The program has extended its reach into the community through PEACE Inc. Staff offered Healthy Neighborhood services at PEACE sponsored National Grid Assistance seminars and Senior Nutrition Programs.

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.
 - ***Waste to Energy Facility Monitoring Program:*** As part of Onondaga County's effort to monitor the relationship between the operation of the Waste to Energy Facility 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:

	2013	2014	2015
Radon kits distributed	500	500	500
Indoor air complaints/ concerns investigated	47	41	36
Environmental exposure incidents investigated	47	45	39
Waste to Energy facility samples collected	48	48	48

Highlights in 2015:

- The 2015 waste to energy facility 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.
- The radon program was successful in obtaining funding for the next 5-year grant cycle through a competitive grant proposal 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:

	2013	2014	2015
Individual sewage plans approved	92	122	123
Individual sewage installations inspected	111	124	125
Realty subdivision lots approved for water and sewer	341	286	239

Highlights in 2015:

- In part due to New York State Governor Cuomo’s Farm Brewery Law, four new microbreweries were opened in Onondaga County. Two of these microbreweries are located in rural areas that rely on onsite sewage disposal systems. The Bureau worked closely with each to establish treatment trains that will properly treat and dispose of the concentrated waste flow from the brewing process.

Onondaga County Council on Environmental Health

The mission of the 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 2015:

- Continued oversight and implementation of the County’s aquatic vegetation control program and lake/stream water quality management efforts through secured grant programs.
- A Bureau staff member co-presented, “Water Chestnut Control in Central New York’s Three Rivers System: Turning the Corner on Large-Scale Infestations” at the North American Lake Management Society International Symposium in Saratoga, New York.
- Assessed the current Lyme disease situation and its relationship to urban deer population issues culminating in a summary report of findings and recommendations.



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:

	2013	2014	2015
In-depth sanitary survey inspections	95	97	98
Water quality samples	1,815	1,898	1792
Requests for well assistance or information	93	46	40

Highlights in 2015:

- Bureau staff attended a comprehensive training for the testing of backflow prevention devices. The enhanced knowledge obtained from this training strengthens the Health Departments ability to address concerns and appropriately review/approve related plans. The backflow prevention program is vital to the protection of our public water systems. This year we’ve continued to make positive strides with Onondaga County water suppliers who are ultimately responsible for this program.
- Bureau staff has continued to play an important role in advancing the protection of potable water through further education on current public health issues. Initiatives including taking action on legionella and harmful algal blooms were begun after emergencies for each gained nationwide attention in New York City and Lake Erie, respectively.



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
- Investigate complaints from the public

Annual Data:

	2013	2014	2015
Facilities inspected	758	755	710
Complaint investigations	6	12	14
Devices inspected			
Scales	2,327	2,369	2,463
Liquid measuring devices	3,012	3,042	3,151
Weights	2,072	1,858	1,595

Highlight in 2015:

- Weights & Measures expanded services to County agencies who previously outsourced device certifications. This year fifty scales were added for Maternal & Child Health Services. The program continued testing services for the Medical Examiner's office and the Communicable Disease office.
- The program began testing Diesel Exhaust Fluid which has now become available in conjunction with diesel fuel pumps. With new emission standards, the number of devices will continue to grow.
- Weights & Measures staff were trained in evaluating gas pumps for potential illegal activity related to credit card fraud. Approximately 200 dispensers were audited for "skimming" as part of a state-wide effort.

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 6:00 or 7:15 PM, depending on the service
- Saturday hours twice monthly 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 Public Health Service 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
 - Preconception 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 (limited to 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:

	2013	2014	2015
Unduplicated patients	4,452	4,232	3,909
Number of patient visits	9,022	8,471	7,711
Pap smears	2,339	2,221	2,005
Breast exams	3,133	3,020	2,840
Blood pressure screens	8,292	7,771	7,078
Hemoglobin (anemia testing)	3,418	3,186	3,043
Health education sessions in schools and community	202	208	198

Highlights in 2015:

- Family Planning provided 1,667 Rapid HIV tests at all clinic sites, 38 HPV vaccines at the North Syracuse and Slocum Avenue sites, and reproductive health services to 181 males.
- 65% of patients served in 2015 were at or below the federal poverty level. Another 26% were between 100% and 200% of the federal poverty level.
- FPS assisted 359 women and men completing Family Planning Benefit Program (FPBP) as well as 288 with Presumptive Eligibility for FPBP applications and 180 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 the many changes in both public and private health insurance eligibility, fewer of our patients are uninsured. In 2012, 36% of our patient population was uninsured. In 2015, that percentage dropped to 22%.

- FPS continues to partner with other OCHD programs, including Cancer Screening Services, Healthy Families and Bureau of Disease Control.
- FPS continues to expand the types of contraception available to our patients. In 2015, we began to offer Nexplanon, a contraceptive implant and added a third IUD, the Liletta, to our offerings. We now offer four types of long-acting, reversible contraceptives (LARC).

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
Dental Health Education (315) 435-3280
Lead Poisoning Control Program (315) 435-3271
Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiatives (315) 435-3280
Public Health Education (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
- Dental Health Education
- Lead Poisoning Control Program
- Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiatives
- Public Health Education

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 colorectal cancer to uninsured and underinsured residents of the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County.

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

- Promotion and provision of breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening services through collaborative relationships with healthcare 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:

	2013	2014*	2015
Number of patients screened	1,122	730	493
Clinical breast exams	961	626	402
Mammograms	1,025	651	400
Follow-up breast cancer diagnostic procedures	739	342	252
Pap tests	236	198	111
Follow-up cervical cancer diagnostic procedures	72	52	25
Colorectal Fecal Immunochemical Test Kits	339	221	120
Follow-up colorectal cancer diagnostic procedures	442	212	126

** 2014 marked the first year in which Onondaga County residents could receive full health coverage benefits through the Affordable Care Act. An increase in individuals covered through the ACA decreased the number of individuals seeking screening services through the Cancer Services Program.*

Highlights in 2015:

- The CSP assisted with the diagnosis of 7 breast cancers and the detection and removal of 10 precancerous polyps.
- Throughout April and May, the CSP conducted a traveling roadshow of posters picturing seven local African American breast cancer survivors. The roadshow traveled to 16 locations in two months to encourage breast cancer screening in the African American population. The event culminated with a recognition ceremony during Breast Cancer month at the Southside Innovation Center.
- The CSP partnered with Syracuse Community Health Center (SCHC) in 2015 to reach out to their self-pay patients. SCHC contacted over 1,200 of their self-pay patients to educate them on the availability of FREE breast, cervical, and or colorectal cancer screenings offered by the Health Department.
- The CSP added an exciting new partner to their screening clinics. The Le Moyne College Nurse Practitioner program teamed up with the CSP to provide breast cancer screenings for urban women of color as part of the CSP's Komen for the Cure grant.

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: 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:

	2013	2014	2015
Oral Health Presentations to Pre-school Children	154	142	135
# Sites	51	50	39
# Children	2,304	2,389	2,006
Oral Health Presentations to Parents	5	2	0
# Adults	36	22	0

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. By law, health providers in New York State must test children for lead at age one and at age two.

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

- Surveillance of blood lead levels (BLL) 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 (EBLL)
- 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 tracts
- Referrals to 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:

	2013	2014	2015
Inspections of properties associated with BLLs of ≥ 15 mcg/dL	80	69	76
Primary prevention inspections	276	282	315
Children tested for lead poisoning in Onondaga County	11,647	11,338	11,519
Children with EBLLs	972	772	707
Children tested for lead by OCHD	1,520	1,169	1,209
Percent of OCHD tests done at WIC	80.6%	84.2%	78.7%
Percent of children tested at WIC with EBLL ≥ 5 mcg/dL	15.9%	13.52%	11.02%

Highlights in 2015:

- Four Onondaga County pediatric practices serving children considered at high-risk for childhood lead poisoning were provided with new Lead Care II blood lead testing equipment in 2012. Each practice awarded a device demonstrated child blood lead testing rates below the NYS benchmark at that time. The impact of this equipment on pediatric practice blood lead testing rates was re-evaluated in 2015. Each practice showed an increase in the percent of children tested when compared to their testing rate prior to receiving the equipment. The average increase was 26.2%.
- NYSDOH coordinated a statewide webinar featuring best practices in the use of effective partnerships in achieving compliance with fixing identified lead hazards. Local representatives of the City of Syracuse's Department of Neighborhood and Business Development, Section 8 Housing Voucher Assistance Program, and Onondaga County Department of Social Services were all participants.
- The Lead Program is an active participant in the new Green and Healthy Housing Initiative of Greater Syracuse, assisting with the completion of a gap and needs analysis, development of an interagency agreement, and the identification of dedicated staff to coordinate the local coalition effort.

Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiatives

Through grant projects funded by NYSDOH, the Onondaga County Health Department works to develop programs that will prevent obesity, type 2 diabetes and other chronic diseases.

Interventions are based on implementing sustainable policy, systems, and environmental changes that lead to the following outcomes:

- Increase physical activity and reduce sedentary behavior
- Increase access to and consumption of healthy foods and reduce access to and consumption of foods with minimal nutritional value

This approach to chronic disease prevention emphasizes supportive environments and population-wide efforts that may accelerate improvements in individual health behaviors and health outcomes.

Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work, and Play

Brief History: Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work, and Play in Onondaga County is a NYSDOH funded initiative that began in November 2010. *This program concluded on September 30, 2015.*

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

- Support and coordination with local after-school programs to implement a nutrition and physical activity self-assessment and to create policies, environmental or practice changes that will improve nutrition, support daily physical activity, and reduce screen time
- 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
- Coordination of two 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



Highlights in 2015:

- Assisted in the continued promotion of the Salt City Harvest Farm to create innovative ways to increase access to healthy foods in high-need areas. All produce that was harvested was provided to local food pantries and to numerous families in need. In total, over 9,000 pounds of produce was donated in 2015.
- Partnered with Nojaim Bros Supermarket to create a healthy grocery environment throughout the store, and specifically at the point-of-sale. These environmental changes were made throughout the store to highlight healthy food options that may help customer's select healthy food options.
- Partnered with Nojaim Brothers to develop practice changes by eliminating the purchase of select "unhealthy" foods. In store marketing was done and continues to promote healthy food options.
- Worked cooperatively with local corner stores to provide healthful point of sale options. In total, 15 point of sale environmental changes was made at stores throughout Syracuse and Onondaga County.
- Conducted a sustainability workshop on March 11th to provide current and previous CHP partners with training to develop, implement and evaluate a successful sustainability plan. In total, 44 people attended the training, representing 27 programs and agencies throughout Onondaga County.
- Established an after-school partnership that convened for the first time in April 2015. The partnership meets on a monthly basis to build collaboration and share resources to continue healthful policy, practices, and environmental changes in after-school settings.
- Worked with 21 after-school programs throughout Onondaga County to produce policy and environmental changes to improve nutrition, increase daily physical activity and reduce screen time. In total, 7 agencies established nutrition and physical activity policy changes that reached children served at the 21 after-school program sites.

Creating Healthy Schools and Communities

Creating Healthy Schools and Communities is a new five year (2015-2020) initiative to reduce the risk of obesity, diabetes, and other chronic disease. This program partners with the Syracuse City School District. The goal is to implement policies and practices that will increase the demand for and access to healthy and affordable foods.

Brief History: The Onondaga County Health Department was awarded a 1.5 million dollar grant from the New York State Department of Health. This five-year grant began October 1, 2015. The OCHD was one of four awards in the CNY region; a total of 23 awards were given in New York State. OCHD will work specifically with the Syracuse City School District, Syracuse residents, low income children and adults, African Americans and other minority individuals, and those with disabilities.

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

- Assistance with revising the SCSD local wellness policy to help improve the school environment
- Establishment of a comprehensive school physical activity program
- A focus on increasing access to healthy and affordable foods outside of the school meals and within the Syracuse community

- Support to increase the adoption and use of food standards and procurement policies that increase healthy foods in the community
- Continued involvement to support Complete Streets policies in the city of Syracuse

Highlights in 2015:

- Conducted assessments in ten SCSD school buildings on the school environment
- Completed the School Health Index assessment. This is an assessment tool used to “grade” the current school wellness policy. Steps are now in place to work towards making enhancements to the wellness policy.
- Organized and supported a steering committee that is composed of representatives from the Syracuse City School District including the Director of Nursing, Administrator for Physical Education and Health, the Food Service Director, and representatives from OCHD.
- Conducted Readiness Assessments at nine SCSD school buildings
- Partnered with the Dietetic Internship Program at Syracuse University to develop a plan for conducting assessments at corner stores contiguous to school buildings in the SCSD.

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 hosts special health events/activities
- Information to the public through the use of press releases, coordination of media events, and the promotion of special events as needed for programs throughout the Health Department
- Responds to public health alerts by posting website/Facebook/ Twitter messages and updates. Also activating hotlines as appropriate to respond to high-volume questions from the public.
- 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
- Evaluation of program initiatives, paid and earned media campaigns, and special events.

Highlights in 2015:

- Planned, developed, and launched several social media campaigns to address the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, the promotion of Healthy Families, immunizations, and healthy eating.
- Awarded \$1.5 million for a 5 year grant funded by the NYSDOH to launch “Creating Healthy Schools and Communities in Onondaga County.” This project partners with the Syracuse City School District. The goal of the five-year initiative is to help reduce obesity, diabetes, and other chronic diseases by implementing policies and best practices that will increase access to healthy and affordable foods and will lead to academic achievement.

- Participated in multiple “telephone banks” with the local media to promote health enhancing messages including: breast cancer screening, cancer screening, vector borne disease prevention, and influenza prevention.
- Coordinated a staff training on video production. The first training conducted by a SU Newhouse student and was held in March. Hands-on follow up trainings were then held where participants created short videos. In recognition of National Health Education Week in October, health educators then made a series of videos on various department programs and services that were put on the department’s Facebook page. The Onondaga County Health Department is celebrating Health Education Week by introducing some of our staff that provides health education in the community. Check in with us each day to meet our team..
- Staff from the Onondaga County Health Department provided leadership and guidance to the Syracuse Housing Authority (SHA) to develop a smoke-free housing policy. Department staff provided information at several tenant meetings over the course of several months leading up to November 19, 2015, when a comprehensive policy was finally implemented that bans smoking in all SHA buildings and managed properties.
- Over 36 health department staff participated in a community outreach training that was held in June. Health Education staff presented this to staff that conduct community outreach. Training topics included a general overview of Health Department programs.
- The Health Education team developed and implemented a public health education campaign to reduce the incidence of vector borne disease in Onondaga County. Several strategies were implemented to promote vector-borne disease awareness and to educate residents on prevention measures. Distribution of print materials and increased utilization of social media were successful strategies. In addition, staff conducted numerous community outreach activities and participated in select community health education events to distribute information to residents.



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, dads, and families in Onondaga County under a unified system. WIC VMA serves a fourteen county region.

Healthy Families Comprises:

- Community Health Nursing:
 - [Early Intervention C.A.R.E.S.](#)
 - [Family Life Team](#)
 - [Immunization Action Plan](#)
 - [Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative](#)
 - Newborn Metabolic Screening
 - [Nurse-Family Partnership](#)
 - [Syracuse Healthy Start](#)
- [Special Children Services](#)
- Women, Infants, and Children
- WIC Vendor Management Agency

The Division of Healthy Families is accessible through its website, onhealthyfamilies.com and its 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
- Immunization Action Plan
- Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative (MICHC)
- Newborn Metabolic Screening
- Nurse– Family Partnership (NFP)
- 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:

	2013	2014	2015
E.I. C.A.R.E.S Referrals	487	214	203

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 students in the SCSD schools. CHW services are provided by the Healthy Families' subcontracted services of Syracuse Healthy Start and the Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative.

Annual Data:

School Year:	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Family Life Team Referrals	86	80	98

Immunization/Immunization Action Plan

Brief History: The Onondaga County Health Department has historically provided immunizations as a safety net for county residents. [Clinics](#) are currently held weekly 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 2014 the clinic location was the William H. Harris Health Center, 301 Slocum Avenue. The clinic was later relocated to Room 30, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, New York 13202. [Immunization Clinic](#) is held Wednesdays, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.

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.
- Participated in the annual influenza clinic
- 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, through the OCHD's Bureau of Disease Control, to at-risk individuals 19 years of age and older who are uninsured or underinsured and have at least one risk factor, as defined by NYSDOH, as engaging in high-risk sexual behaviors, IV drug use and for certain chronic health conditions.

Annual Data:

	2013	2014	2015
Slocum clinic, total served	631	655	786
Flu clinics, total served	732	884	1,169
Perinatal Hepatitis B Program referrals	27	27	38

Highlights in 2015:

- To better meet the need of the public, the Onondaga County Immunization Clinic was relocated to the Civic Center Room 80.
- Facilitated a community immunization coalition focusing on increasing rates for both children and adult vaccinations. The coalition celebrated its two year anniversary in December with a workshop entitled "Vaccines – A Global Look" in which two vaccine experts presented.
- A resource kit was distributed to all Child Care Providers in Onondaga County with information on vaccines and resources to use to educate parents on the importance of vaccines.
- National Influenza Vaccination Week was promoted using Facebook advertising. The campaign reached 119,543 Onondaga County residents and 14,806 people clicked the ad for more information in influenza.
- A toolkit was developed and distributed to OB/GYN. and women's health care providers in Onondaga County with information on vaccines and resources for pregnant women.

Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative

Brief History: The NYSDOH grant-supported [Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative \(MICHC\)](#), begun in October 2013, provides outreach and home visitation to high-risk women and their families throughout the life course. 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 collaborative with many community partners and provides Community Health Worker (CHW) services via subcontract with REACH CNY, the Salvation Army, and the Syracuse Community Health Center.

Annual Data:

	2013 (10/01 to 12/31)	2014	2015
Referrals received	86	244	276
Clients served	32	143	148
Short term clients served			169 (4/1-12/31)

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 staff member works directly with hospitals, primary care providers, the NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory, and families to ensure that repeat testing is completed on all infants with abnormal results and on those whose specimens were inadequate and unable to be tested.

Annual Data:

	2013	2014	2015
Requests for Follow Up	10	21	27

Nurse – Family Partnership (NFP)

Brief History: [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:

	2013	2014	2015
Moms served	191	240	231
Infants served	132	195	146
Mothers/Two year olds graduated	17	33	19

Syracuse Healthy Start (SHS)

Brief History: [Syracuse Healthy Start \(SHS\)](#) is a federally funded program which aims to reduce disparities in infant mortality and perinatal outcomes. SHS was first funded in 1997, during a time when 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 these successes, more work is needed as disparities between White infant deaths and African American/ Black infant deaths persist today. In 2014, SHS received expanded funding to continue offering services to families in the City of Syracuse.

Specific program activities for SHS include:

- **Case Management:** A comprehensive program with emphasis on home visitation and health education by Community Health Workers, Public Health Social Workers, and Public Health Nurses. In addition to ongoing health education and support, pregnant women, fathers, and parenting families are assisted with accessing healthcare and locating appropriate community resources.
- **Community Action Network (CAN):** A forum that promotes collaboration among healthcare providers, human service workers, and program participants. In addition to hosting several annual community events, the CAN 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	2013	2014	2015
First trimester prenatal care	71%	77%	75%
Low birth weight babies	12%	12%	10%
Breast-fed babies	55%	58%	56%

In addition to the above data, Healthy Start provided home visits to a total of 858 families in 2015, including 616 new families and 242 continuing families, and 498 program participants attended a total of 65 group health education sessions. The overall 2013-2015 infant mortality rate for City of Syracuse residents was 8.4 per 1,000 live births (data are preliminary).

Annual Data: All Home Visiting Programs Combined

All Home Visiting programs combined	2013	2014	2015
Total referrals received (unduplicated)	2,347	2,802	2,986
Total home visits completed	9,736	9,528	11,458
Total clients served (unduplicated)	2,775	3,279	3,563

Highlights in 2015:

- Women from the community were trained as Community Connectors; these Peer to Peers support their family, friends and neighbors struggling with substance abuse during pregnancy and assist to link them to needed services. This work was presented at the New York State Public Health Association Conference in April, 2015.
- Enhanced client breast-feeding services. One staff became a Certified Lactation Consultants who is now able to provide critical support via home visitation. Our Breast-feeding Peer Counselors were stationed at outlying WIC clinic sites to promote and increase breast-feeding initiation and duration rates amongst prenatal and postpartum WIC participants.
- Doula's were trained in June, 2015 and are now available to support socially disadvantaged/isolated clients during childbirth.
- The Fatherhood program continues to expand, offering case management and referrals to fathers, hosting community events, and enhancing collaboration between agencies



providing support to men. The Fatherhood program provided case management to 30 men in the Syracuse area.

- Began collaboration with the Center for Court Innovations to provide health education to female inmates at the Onondaga County Justice Center
- Established performance measures for the NYSDOH Maternal Infant Community Health Collaborative (MICHC) initiative utilizing a Performance Management Logic Model Facilitation Project, to improve community health worker service provision for at-risk populations across the life cycle.
- Healthy Families expanded provision of maternal/child services for high-need clients with the addition of a Public Health Social Worker and a Community Health Worker.
- Implemented an electronic referral system for Community Health Worker, Social Work and Nursing services; adopted use of an electronic medical record system with providers documenting visit interventions with tablets in real time while out in the field.

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. Fee for service reimbursement to providers is completed by the NYSDOH Fiscal Agent.

In order to meet the program's mission, the OCHD Early Intervention

Program arranges:

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

Annual Data:

	2013	2014	2015
Children referred from all sources	1,382	1,418	1,433
Children who qualified and were receiving services as of 12/31	706	689	757

Highlights in 2015:

- Early Intervention (EI) continues to work on increasing billable revenue. Meetings have been held with staff and strategies shared. This is the result of a QI project from 2014 and is ongoing.
- EI regulations state that birth hospitals need to inform the municipality of children who have failed their newborn hearing screening and never came back for a rescreen. This occurs 75 days after the child's first hearing evaluation. EI is responsible to attempt to contact the family and encourage them to follow up with their primary care physician regarding hearing. EI, the Community Health Nurses, and the Community Health Workers are now teaming up to make this process more efficient and successful.

Preschool Special Education

Brief History: The [Preschool Special Education program](#) is a Federal and State mandated program for children from three years old until they become 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 Special Education Itinerant Teacher (SEIT) and classroom programs Special Class Inclusive Setting (SCIS). 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, except for Medicaid with parental consent.

In order to meet the program's mission, the OCHD contracts with approved providers that school districts can contact to arrange:

- 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:

	2013	2014	2015
Number of school districts served	22	22	22
Children who received services during the summer 7/1 – 8/31	1,389	1,408	1,486
Children who received services during the school year, 9/1 -6/30	1,960	1,943	1,914

Highlights in 2015:

- Receiving accurate paperwork from school districts is essential for OCHD to pay contracted special education providers, and to claim reimbursement from the state. To strengthen this process preschool staff invited the New York State Education Department STAC Unit to provide training for Onondaga County school districts. In addition to OCHD staff, school districts sent 20 representatives to this training.
- Preschool staff participated in the Performance Management Logic Model Facilitation Project to review program operations and to develop a measure of specific program objectives. As a result, procedures were adopted to track documents returned to school districts for compliance issues, to address transportation concerns and complaints, to review STAC forms rejected by the New York State Education Department, and to monitor reimbursement available from the state for payments made to providers.
- Fiscal and program staff continue to monitor compliance with all requirements for Medicaid reimbursement through the Preschool Supportive Health Services Program (PSHSP). This included sponsoring training for all service providers with an emphasis on documentation.

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, Liverpool) 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 2015: 24% are women, 25% are infants, and 51% are children.

	2013	2014	2015
Average monthly caseload	9,696	9,024	9,085

Highlights in 2015:

- Implemented a WIC Performance Improvement Project to identify and implement procedures to streamline and improve clinic flow and improve participant nutrition educational experiences.
- Implemented the use of social media to retain and increase the number of Women, Infants and Children in Onondaga County receiving WIC Program benefits.
- Utilized Breastfeeding Peer Counselors at outlying WIC clinic sites to promote and increase breastfeeding initiation and duration rates amongst prenatal and postpartum WIC participants.



WIC Vendor Management Agency (VMA)

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 Agency (VMA) 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 (OCHD) Vendor Management Agency is one of 5 such agencies in New York State. The OCHD WIC VMA catchment area covers 14 counties with 238 WIC authorized vendors. Of these authorized vendors, 66 are located in Onondaga County; 25 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:

	2013	2014	2015
Vendor training sessions conducted	44	35	28
Vendor monitor visits	467	362	471
Vendor related complaints received and resolved	118	171	83
New vendor applications reviewed and authorized	20	6	7

Highlights in 2015:

- Over the course of the year, WIC VMA identified over 644 WIC vendor violations and oversaw their correction.
- Continued paper and related cost saving measures that included adopting into practice the scanning and emailing portions of supporting documents related to vendor applications when sending on to NYSDOH, replacing the previous practice with paper copies.

Surveillance and Statistics

The mission of the Bureau of Surveillance and Statistics is to monitor the health status of the population of Onondaga County, support the OCHD with data analysis and interpretation, and to provide vital records for those who were born or died in Onondaga County.

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 and Improvement Plan 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:

- Health status monitoring for our community using numerous data sources
- Analysis and interpretation of statistical information about local morbidity, mortality, and associated risk factors
- Support for quality improvement initiatives across Divisions and Bureaus
- Consultation for community members and requests for local health statistics
- Maintenance of records documenting 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

Annual Data:

	2013	2014	2015
Certificates issued for a fee	41,102	40,312	42,307

Highlights in 2015:

- The Bureau implemented a grant to identify performance metrics for several health department programs.
- The Bureau supported the Department’s quality improvement efforts with statistical and methodological guidance and provided epidemiological support for the evaluation of infectious disease outbreaks.
- The Bureau completed electronic imaging of over 150,000 records, resulting in enhanced protection of vital information and improved 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, 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM

Brief Overview:

The [Forensic Laboratories](#) are comprised of 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 Laboratories' scientists provide expert scientific testimony in court concerning analytical processes used in the analysis of related evidence and the results of that analysis. 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 section also provides identification verification services for the Medical Examiner's Office, positively identifying decedents through fingerprint comparison.

- 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. The section also analyzes portable mobile devices including cell phones and tablets. 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.

The Forensic laboratory also plays an active role in the forensic education and criminal justice communities at the local, state, and national levels. The laboratory has representatives on six statewide forensic technical working groups (TWGS) and the crime laboratory advisory committee (NYCLAC), which serve to identify technical and policy issues affecting forensic science services and to encourage consistency and uniformity in forensic service provider services and reporting.

Members of the laboratory also sit on various national forensic boards including the American Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation (ASCLD/LAB) Board of Directors, the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE) Board of Directors, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology Organization of Scientific Area Committees (NIST-OSAC).

The laboratory also actively participates in criminal justice initiatives and promoting forensic science best practices and education as members of the local Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program, the Gun involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Initiative, the Syracuse University Forensic and National Security Sciences Institute (FNSSI), and the Syracuse City School District's Forensic Science Advisory Council and Cybersecurity Council. Additionally, the laboratory is also engaged in providing forensic science seminars and outreach to local high schools, SUNY Upstate Medical University, and Syracuse University's Forensic Science Department and Law School.

Annual Data:

Laboratory Assignments Completed	2013	2014	2015
Ignitable Liquids	23	25	20
Firearms	690	731	1,098
Forensic Bio/DNA	588	469	530
Drug Identification	392	457	338
Latent Prints	881	944	853
Digital Evidence	49	45	32

Highlights in 2015:

- The Firearms section of the Forensic Laboratories has achieved tremendous success over the past several years with high quality analysis, fast case turnaround, and a significant reduction in backlogged cases. The Section was recognized by the ATF for a major milestone in 2015 and was presented with a plaque for surpassing 1000 “hits”, matching firearms evidence to crimes through the use of the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) database. According to the December 2015 NIBIN statistical report, Onondaga County ranked 20th out of 159 participating agencies, for the number of confirmed “hits” in the database. Even more importantly, the section maintains a “hit” matching success rate that is 3rd in the nation and more than twice the national average. These hits (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 level.
- The Digital Evidence Section of the laboratory began offering analysis of portable mobile devices including cell phone and tablets as a new service. With the increased use of cell phones and tablets in our current environment, the need for this type of analysis has increased exponentially. The laboratory will now be able to provide the same type of high quality, fully documented, and accurate analysis for these types of items as we do for other digital evidence in support of criminal investigations within Onondaga County.
- The Forensic Laboratories conducted a Lean Six Sigma project involving an efficiency evaluation along with the creation of a productivity improvement plan and its implementation. The overall result of the project has been a more efficient flow and shorter turnaround time for casework from the date of assignment to an analyst until completion. A secondary result was an increase in capacity of each section to process more cases in the same amount of time. A six month period was compared between 2014 and 2015 and showed that the Firearms Section had a significant reduction in the number of backlog cases at the end of the period (609 to 399) and a 30% reduction in case processing time. While both were short staffed due to vacancies, the Drug Chemistry and Latent Print sections were still able to reduce their case backlog by 30% and 4%, respectively. The Latent Print section also saw a 30% increase in the number of cases completed per analyst within the period. These improvements should be more pronounced when the sections refill vacancies and the new analysts complete their training.

- Part of the laboratories mission is to provide objective expert scientific testimony in court concerning analytical processes used in the analysis of related evidence. Laboratory examiners provided expert witness testimony on a total of 53 occasions in 2015. These trials included testimony in the disciplines of latent prints, drug chemistry, forensic biology/DNA, firearms, and digital evidence.
- In addition to casework requests involving known subjects, the laboratory also provides investigative leads to assist in criminal investigations and prosecutions through the use of database searches in the Firearms, Latent Prints, and DNA disciplines. In 2015 the laboratory aided 75 investigations through the use of the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), assisted with linking shooting crimes by providing 150 fired cartridge case matches through the use of the National Integrated Ballistic Image Network (NIBIN), and provided investigators with leads related to 83 latent print identifications through the use of the Statewide Automated Biometric Identification System (SABIS)

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:** [Medicolegal 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 OCMEO has an active role in educating the community at large and also participates in ongoing continuing education to remain current in the scientific field. OCMEO 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 as well as many other surveillance programs. Medical examiners and forensic investigators are also active 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). Each year, forensic investigators conduct presentations for a number of local schools to educate youth about forensic pathology and medicolegal death investigation. The OCMEO provides internship opportunities for college-level students in medical, forensic, and chemistry programs of study. Medical examiners play a critical role in educating postgraduate pathology residents, medical students, and other health care providers regarding autopsy and forensic pathology. The OCMEO is also an integral part of the [Forensic and National Security Sciences Institute at Syracuse University](#). OCMEO staff members participate in continuing education opportunities each year through organizations such as the NAME, AAFS, NYSACCME, the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) and other specialized conferences.



Annual Data:

	2013	2014	2015
Total Cases	2,248	2,290	2,464
Total Deaths Reported	2,231	2,272	2,441
Medical Examiner cases	1,058	1,044	1,110
Full autopsy	823	797	847
External examination	92	91	96
Skeletal examination	15	21	19
Body Inspection	121	133	24
Death Certificate Only	5	2	124
Medical Examiner Cases by Manner of Death			
Natural	387	394	420
Accidents	438	444	474
Suicides	139	120	130
Homicides	55	37	42
Undetermined	22	28	18
Pending	0	0	7
Fetal death/NA	17	21	19
Scene Response	387	375	404
Expert Consultation	17	18	23
Investigated and Released from MEO Jurisdiction	1,173	1,228	1,331
Forensic Toxicology cases	1,075	1,135	1,123

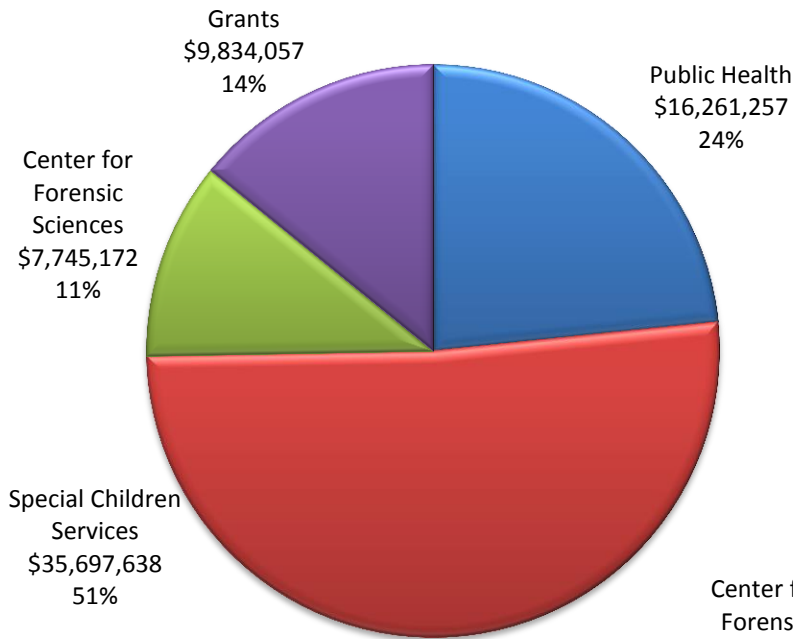
Highlights in 2015:

- The Medical Examiner’s Office (MEO) continued to improve the organizational structure of the office by obtaining approval in the 2015 budget process to create new tiered forensic autopsy technician and forensic investigator positions and created additional critical positions for office operations.
- The MEO Forensic Toxicology Laboratory completed four weeks of Lean Six Sigma Training to streamline operations and improve toxicology report completion turnaround time.
- An updated, National Incident Management System (NIMS)-compliant Mass Fatality Plan was completed with the assistance of a mass fatality planning consultant.

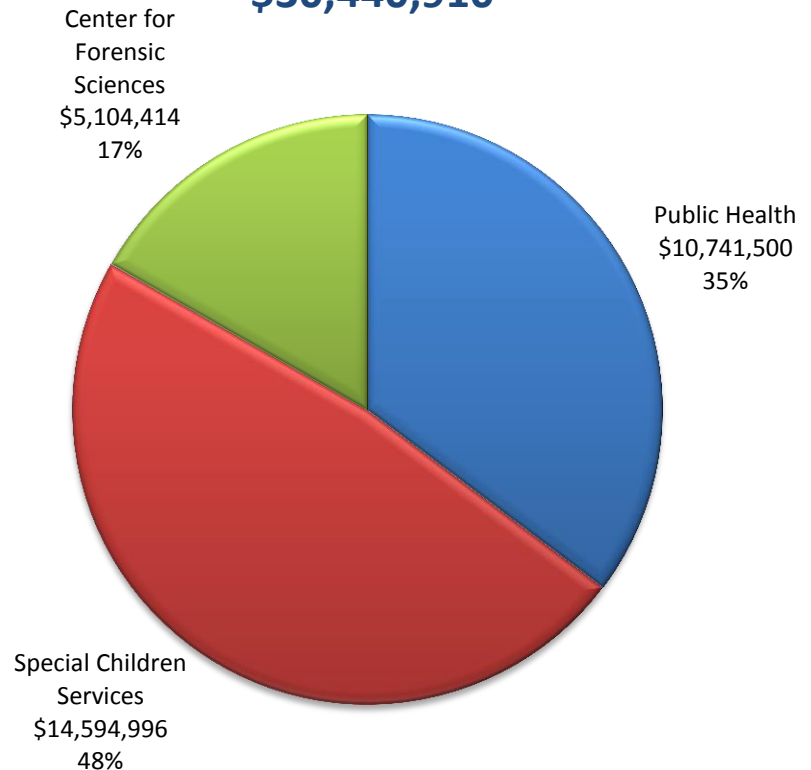


2015 Health Department Expenses and Local Dollars

2015 Expenses \$69,538,124



2015 Local \$30,440,910



Grant Projects, 2015

Administration	\$307,592
Disease Control	\$785,648
Environmental Health	\$591,200
Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	\$1,652,224
Maternal and Child Health	\$5,587,149
Surveillance & Statistics	\$43,771
Center for Forensic Sciences	\$866,473
Total Health Department:	\$9,834,057

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**Onondaga County
Health Department**



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