

2016 Annual Report

Onondaga County Health Department

Working for
healthy people



healthy places



healthy options



ongovhealth
Onondaga County
Health Department
ongov.net/health · facebook.com/ongovhealth



Message from the Commissioner of Health



Dear Friends of Public Health,

It is my pleasure to present the Onondaga County Health Department 2016 Annual Report. This report provides an account of Onondaga County Health Department's (OCHD) efforts and accomplishments during the 2016 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. Our recent Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan demonstrates our commitment to community engagement in identifying the health priorities in the community. Implementation of our strategic plan in 2016 is reflective of the mission, vision, and values of the Health Department.

We urge you to review the detailed information provided in this report and 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 black ink 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



Onondaga County Legislature 2016 Health Committee

Danny Liedka, Chair
Tim Burtis, Vice Chair
Kathy Rapp
Kevin Holmquist
Monica Williams

2016 Advisory Board of Health

Thomas Dennison, PhD, Chair
Larry Consenstein, MD
Ruben Cowart, DDS
Peter J. Cronkright, MD
Robert J. Hack
Ann Rooney
Diane Turner
Monica Williams

Public Health System



Source: Public Health Practice Program Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Public Health Performance Standards Program, User Guide (first edition), 2002. (Current version available at www.cdc.gov/nphsp)

2016 Health Department Organizational Chart

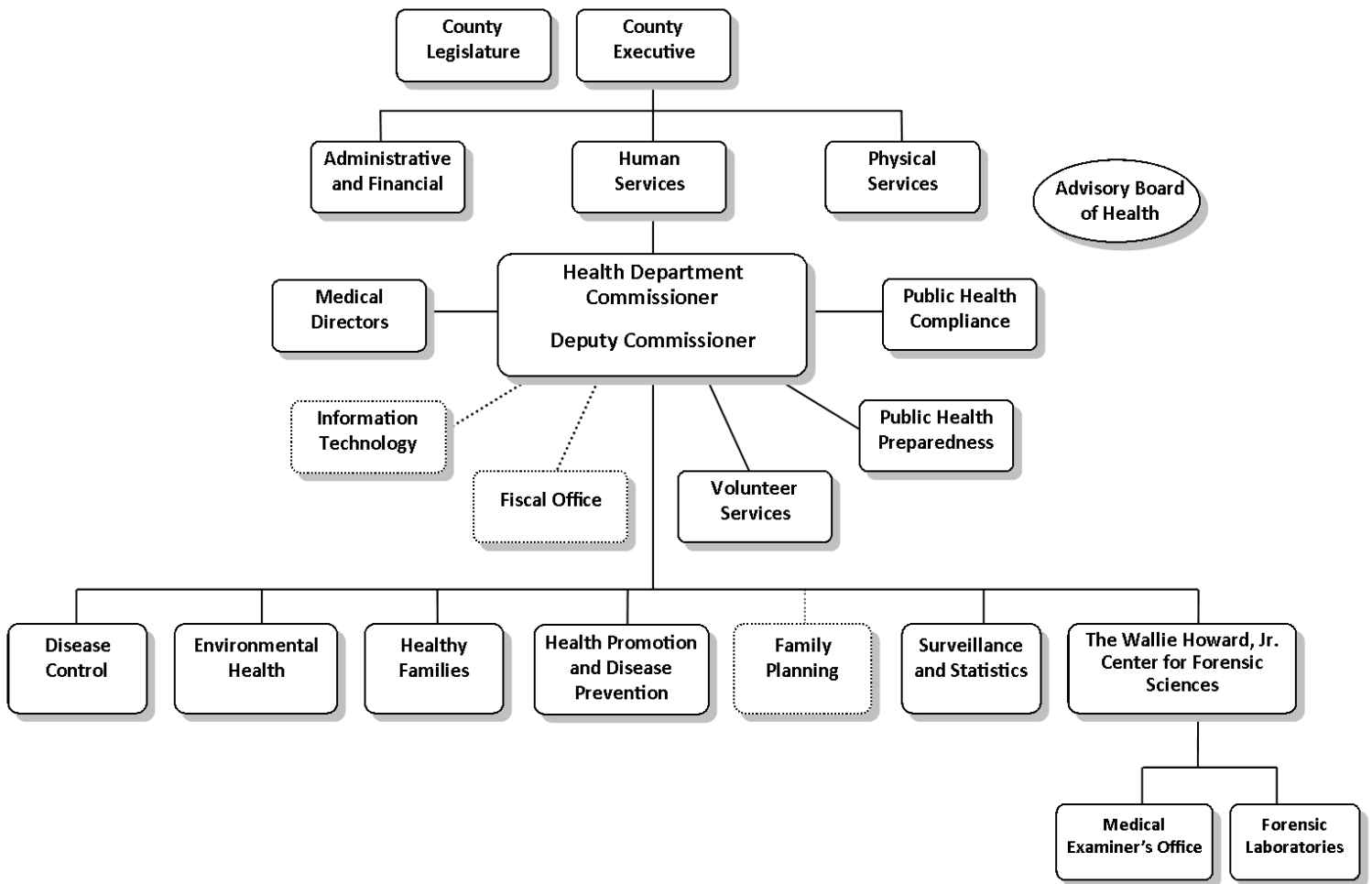


Table of Contents

Ten Essential Public Health Services	8
Administration	9
• Commissioner’s Office.....	10
• Public Health Preparedness	10
• Quality Improvement	11
• Compliance	12
• Accreditation	12
• Education and Volunteer Services	13
• Records Access	14
Disease Control	16
• Communicable Disease	17
• Sexually Transmitted Disease.....	18
• Tuberculosis Control.....	19
Environmental Health	22
• Community Environmental Health.....	23
Food Protection.....	24
Residential Environmental Health.....	25
Temporary Residence and Recreational Facilities	25
• Environmental Health Assessment	26
Animal Disease Prevention.....	27
Vector Control	28
Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act.....	30
Healthy Neighborhood	30
Radon.....	31
Waste to Energy Facility Monitoring Program	31
Indoor Air.....	32
Environmental Exposure Response	32

- Public Health Engineering 32
 - Land Development 33
 - Onondaga County Council on Environmental Health 33
 - Water Supply 34
 - Weights and Measures 34
- Family Planning Service 36
- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention 40
 - Healthy Community Initiatives 41
 - Lead Poisoning Control Program 42
 - Cancer Services Program 43
 - Public Health Education 44
 - Dental Health Education 45
- Healthy Families 49
 - Community Health Nursing 50
 - Early Intervention C.A.R.E.S. 51
 - Family Life Team 51
 - Immunization Action Plan 52
 - Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative 53
 - Newborn Metabolic Screening 53
 - Nurse-Family Partnership 53
 - Syracuse Healthy Start 54
 - Special Children Services 57
 - Early Intervention Program 57
 - Preschool Special Education Program 57
 - Women, Infants and Children (WIC) 59
 - WIC Vendor Management 59
- Surveillance and Statistics 61
- The Wallie Howard, Jr. Center for Forensic Sciences 65
 - Forensic Laboratories 66
 - Medical Examiner’s Office 69
- Schedule of Expenditures and Revenues 74

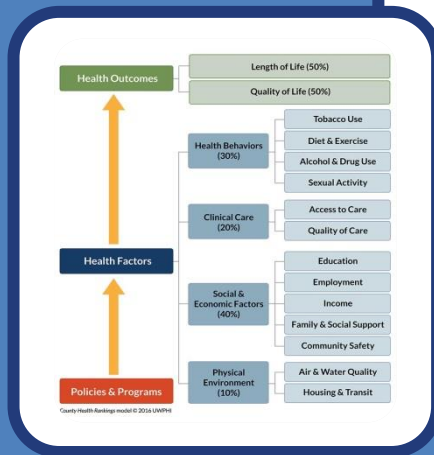
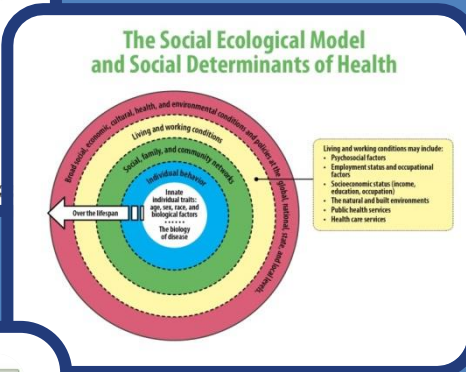
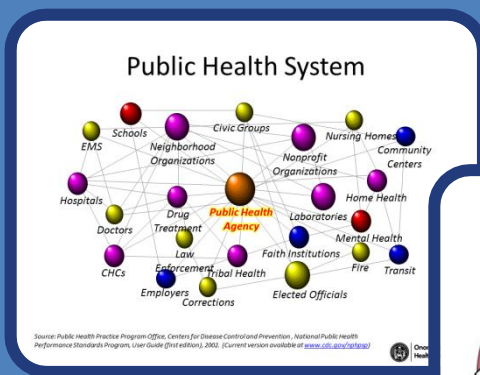
Ten Essential Public Health Services

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



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.

Commissioner's Office

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

Phone Number: (315) 435-3155 or 435-3252

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

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

- Public Health Preparedness
- Quality Improvement
- Compliance
- Accreditation
- Education and Volunteer Services
- 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 New York State Department of Health (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)
- Development and maintenance of OCHD’s emergency response plans

Annual Data:

	2014	2015	2016
New Individuals trained in Incident Command System (ICS)	129*	23	10
Exercises conducted	3	6	7

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

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 Quality Improvement (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: The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (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 first version of the standards and measures developed by the PHAB Standards Development Workgroup 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 Administration 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) and Accreditation Leadership Team (ALT).
- Support for the development and implementation of plans that guide the work of the department and support the accreditation process, such as the Community Health Assessment and Improvement

Plan, and the OCHD Strategic Plan. Administration also ensures accountability for achieving the goals identified in these plans.

- The [Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan](#) (CHA/CHIP) was developed as a collaborative process between the OCHD, local hospitals, and several community agencies. Data collection, analysis, and interpretation was combined with extensive community engagement to identify two priority areas in which to focus efforts during the next several years: Prevent Chronic Disease and Promote Mental Health and Prevent Substance Abuse. Active participation at the leadership level with the Greater Syracuse H.O.P.E (Healing, Opportunity, Prosperity and Empowerment) initiative to address poverty was instrumental in securing engagement from both community members and represented sectors. The interventions identified in the CHA/CHIP are monitored by the Bureau of Surveillance and Statistics, with guidance from the Commissioner of Health.
- [The OCHD Strategic Plan](#) (2015-2019) provides strategic direction for the department, in order to better serve our community. Finalized in 2015, the plan was implemented throughout the department in 2016. The plan is organized into four overarching strategic priorities: Health Protection, Health Improvement, Public Engagement, and Organizational Excellence. Each of these strategies are associated with detailed work plans to enable us to measure progress and adapt strategies to effectively respond to community need. The plan emphasizes the use of data and systematic approaches to improve how we can work together both within the organization and within the community. This work will continue in 2017 and beyond, under the direction of the Commissioner of Health.

Education & Volunteer Services

The mission of the Education and Volunteer Services program is to promote and coordinate public health opportunities with local and regional institutions to advance education and strengthen workforce capabilities.

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

Phone Number: (315) 435-3663

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

Brief History: Prior to the 1967 establishment of the Onondaga County Health Department, the majority of public health services were provided by the A.J. Silverman Hospital. After the closure of the Silverman Hospital, its auxiliary transferred their affiliation to the County 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, volunteers perform a wide range of services to support the OCHD.

Onondaga County Health Department provides educational opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students of public health, nursing, social work, forensic anthropology and pathology, and medical students and residents, , in close coordination with local and regional colleges and universities.

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

- Refugee Assistance Program 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 22 volunteers and over 30 interns annually.

	2014	2015	2016
Volunteer/Intern hours	9,396*	5,872	4,569
Volunteer/Intern estimated value	\$152,178	\$100,375	\$75,971

* Change in how intern hours were recorded

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:

	2014	2015	2016
FOIL Requests*	76	47	25
Total # of Records* in Request	150	129	143
Medical Record Requests	36	20	13
Total # of Records in Request	50	25	19

* Lead records

Highlights in 2016

- In January the first county-wide Community Forum: Opiate & Heroin Epidemic – Our Problem, Our Solutions was presented at the Carrier Theater to a standing room only crowd. The Commissioner, as co-chair of the Onondaga County Drug Task Force, convened speakers including addiction specialists, local law enforcement, public health practitioners, local physicians, community advocates, and treatment facilities.
- Building on the updated County Isolation and Quarantine (I/Q) Plan, conducted a workshop/table top exercise with community partners including local law enforcement, hospitals, the court system, and health and human service agencies to test the I/Q Plan.
- PHP staff organized the 11th annual Drive Thru Vaccination Exercise for first responders in October. Partner agencies serving vulnerable populations participated to provide staff the opportunity to adjust to expanding community needs.
- PHP staff assisted Syracuse University and LeMoyne College in conducting their “Closed Point of Distribution (POD)” exercises in October. Staff continued to work with Wegmans in developing its POD plan. Initial planning efforts were made with the 174th Airwing National Guard and National Grid to consider becoming new POD’s.
- 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.
- Partnered with Upstate Medical University to assist with their Chempack Exercise. Simultaneously OCHD held a TTX to manage public information support.
- Staff attended The Preparedness Summit and the Preparedness Emergency Response and Recovery Consortium national trainings to prepare for new public health challenges.
- Volunteers provided assistance, including clerical support for rabies clinics, Healthy Families programs, Bureau of Disease Control, and the Refugee Assistance Program. College and university interns provided program support in Health Promotions, Public Health Preparedness, and preparation for accreditation; and laboratory and research support for the Center for Forensic Sciences.
- Medical Record requests were scanned and stored electronically for the first time.

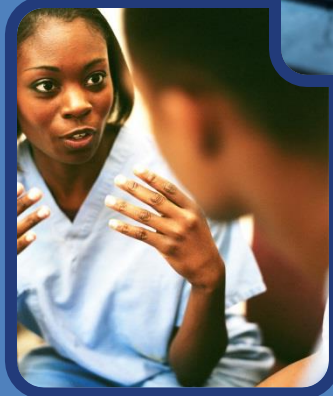
Disease Control



At RISK FOR HIV?
Reduce your risk
with a daily pill.

ASK. TAKE. PREVENT.
STD Center
315.435.3236
ongov.net/health/STD.html

ongov/health
Division of General
Health Department



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: 8:30-11:30 AM

TB Clinic Hours:

Tuesday: 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Wednesday: 9:30 AM-4:30 PM, 1:00-4:30 PM

Friday: 8:30 AM- 4:30 PM

Brief Overview

The Bureau of Disease Control (BDC) 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](#); Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) 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 73 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, 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:

	2014	2015	2016
Case investigations	1,112	1,184	1,130
Actual cases of reportable communicable disease*	990	1,020	1,018
Cases of possible rabies exposure	285	355	303
Cases for which rabies post-exposure prophylaxis was given	136	138	143

*does not include flu cases

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:

	2014	2015	2016*
Total patient visits to the STD Center	5,948	5,566	5,302
Total number of treatments performed at STD Center	2,716	2,704	2,905
Cases of gonorrhea in Onondaga County	803	898	997
Cases of chlamydia in Onondaga County	2,671	2,632	2,587
Cases of syphilis in Onondaga County ^A	56	36	38
New cases of HIV in Onondaga County*	55	35	33

*Preliminary data pending review

^A Includes primary, Secondary, and early latent cases

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, t-spot (blood test) 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:

	2014	2015	2016
Total visits	13,752	13,420	11,015
Active cases of TB managed by OCHD	10	10	18
Latent TB cases identified (inclusive of pediatric cases)	619	598	515
Latent pediatric TB cases identified and treated	74	75	62
Latent TB started on preventative therapy (inclusive of pediatric cases)	485	452	313
Directly observed therapy visits	6,928	6,458	4,487
Tuberculin skin tests	2,184	2,096	1,261*
T-Spot (IGRA)	-	-	1,861 [#]

*Decreased tuberculin skin test due to adoption of t-spot blood test
 # Year that t-spot was adopted at OCHD

Highlights in 2016:

- In partnership with the New York State Department of Health, communicable disease staff continued to conduct direct active monitoring of all communicable disease outbreaks in Onondaga County. Of note is the active role played by the staff during the Zika outbreak during which efforts were reinforced in the area of surveillance, reporting and responding to potential cases of Zika in the community.
- The STD Center had a highly robust STD mixed media campaign that included bill boards, movie trailers and Facebook campaign. The campaign allowed the STD Center to focus on groups who were most at-risk for contracting STDs. The low-cost campaign generated 1063 clicks and a reach of 56,864 targeted people.
- The BDC and Environmental Health received monetary award by NYSDOH. The STD program at BDC was recognized for its success in the 2015 Local Health Department Performance Incentive Initiative. STD program was measured for the adequacy of gonorrhea treatment and the completeness of syphilis serology over a six-month period.

- The STD Center initiated its Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) program in September 2016. This program offers prophylactic regimen to individuals who are determined to be at high-risk of contracting HIV. The goal of the PrEP program is to protect high-risk, HIV negative individuals from contracting HIV.
- The STD center had a site visit by NYS AIDS institute in November 2016 during which the PrEP program was commended for having a well-run program.
- The Tuberculosis Control Program has initiated the t-spot blood test to detect more latent TB disease. This new testing has shown increased accuracy over the traditional TB skin test. Since its initiation, there has been greater efficiency in the treatment and diagnosis of TB.
- The BDC commenced the implementation phase of the Electronic Medical Record (EMR). The EMR will improve data management, enable better scheduling of patients for appointments, and enhance patient care by improving accuracy and efficiency of services delivered.

Environmental Health



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.

Overview:

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
 - Radon
 - Waste to Energy Facility Monitoring Program
 - Indoor Air
 - Environmental Exposure Response
- 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

Overview: 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 special events including evening and weekend 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:

	2014	2015	2016
<i>Inspections</i>			
Mandated annual inspections conducted	2,040	2,016	2,225
Second inspections conducted	266	199	242
Follow-up inspections conducted	1,876	2,887	2,004
Temporary food services inspections	593	635	517
<i>Complaints</i>			
Food complaint investigations	450	357	364
Clean indoor air act complaint investigations	17	14	2
<i>Enforcement</i>			
Violation notices issued	376	327	271
Hearings scheduled	121	80	65
Hearings held	21	9	7
Voluntary closures	6	8	4
Commissioner's closure orders	1	0	1

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:

	2014	2015	2016
<i>Inspection</i>			
Inspections conducted	499	497	555
Follow-up inspections conducted	430	396	325
<i>Enforcement</i>			
Violation notices issued	152	130	111
Hearings Scheduled	6	10	1
Violations Resolved Before Hearing	2	9	0
Hearings Held	4	1	1

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:

	2014	2015	2016
Inspections			
Mandated annual inspections conducted	562	580	574
Second inspections conducted	219	200	208
Follow-up inspections conducted	554	610	416
Complaint investigations	31	35	38
Enforcement			
Violation notices issued	99	107	70
Hearings Scheduled	3	8	5
Hearings Held	1	0	0
Voluntary Closures	10	8	3

Environmental Health Assessment

The mission of the Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment is to protect the community from a wide range of environmental hazards and provide services and education to reduce risk.

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

Overview: 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 Prevention \(Rabies\)](#)
- Vector Control ([Mosquito](#) and [Rodent](#))
- [Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention and Clean Indoor Air Act](#)
- [Healthy Neighborhood](#)
- Radon
- Waste-to-Energy Facility Monitoring Program
- Indoor Air
- Environmental Exposure Response

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

Overview: The [Animal Disease Prevention \(Rabies\) 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:

	2014	2015	2016
<i>Rabies specimens</i>			
Submitted	482	454	435
Total Positive:	22	14	18
<i>Breakdown of positives:</i>			
Bat	14	12	7
Skunk	1	1	1
Raccoon	3	1	9
Fox	2	0	1
Cat	2	0	0

	2014	2015	2016
Rabies clinics			
Held	15	15	16
Dogs vaccinated	2,051	1,751	1,573
Cats vaccinated	890	702	635
Other	38	4	3
Bites reported			
Dogs	803	762	754
Cats	269	266	282
Other	38	21	35

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

Overview: 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 were 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, 2012 and 2016). 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. During a 45 year period (1971-2016), EEE was documented in horses or mosquitoes in at least one of these counties during 31 of those years. Since many of these counties share borders, information is exchanged throughout the mosquito season in an effort to make informed decisions about mosquito control.
- **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 five human cases in 2002, two in 2011, nine in 2012 (including one fatality), and one human case in 2014.

- **Zika Virus:** Starting in 2015, the Zika virus became a worldwide concern when there were several outbreaks in South and Central America. In these areas the mosquito species linked to the transmission of the virus was *Aedes aegypti*, a warmer climate mosquito. Concern began to surface in the United States in 2016 when a less temperature sensitive mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*, was determined to potentially transmit Zika. Although *Aedes albopictus* had not been found in Onondaga County, it has been found sporadically in a few New York State counties. Onondaga County has started surveillance under the guidance of New York State who is equipped to test for the Zika virus if *Aedes albopictus* is found.

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 for rodents in the public sewer system (catch basins and manholes)
- Investigation of [rodent complaints](#)

Annual Data:

	2014	2015	2016
Mosquitoes collected/identified	284,623	303,791	83,937
Mosquito pools submitted for testing	791	720	476
EEE positive mosquito pools	30	22	0
WNV positive mosquito pools	2	7	4
Mosquito breeding sites treated	510	348	201
Catch basins treated with larvicide	4,040	5,824	5,126
Catch basins/manholes treated with rodentic	3,467	2,491	2,929
Rodent infestations investigated	3	6	8

Adolescent Tobacco and Clean Indoor Air Act

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

Overview: 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](#) along with investigation and enforcement activities associated with the Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA).

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:

	2014	2015	2016
ATUPA (Grant Year)			
Compliance checks completed	418	405	431
Re-inspections completed	11	7	31
Violations/enforcement	20	13	12
CIAA			
Complaints investigated	24	17	27
Violations/enforcement	1	0	0

Healthy Neighborhood Program

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

Overview: 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:

	2014	2015	2016
Surveys completed	770	812	793
Revisits	237	232	245
Numbers of smoke/CO detectors distributed	863	779	724
Children referred for lead testing	88	76	88
Individuals with asthma identified & educated	244	291	266
Referrals to other agencies	847	1,194	1,012

Radon

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that seeps into homes through cracks in the foundation, walls, and joints. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. 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 guided through the process of testing and mitigation.

Waste-to-Energy Facility Monitoring Program

The Onondaga County Health Department initiated a Waste-to-Energy Facility monitoring program in 1994 in response to public concern regarding possible health risks associated with the facility. Soil samples are taken at a series of sites around the facility along with ash samples directly from the facility. The samples are analyzed for metals, Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB's), Dioxins and Furans. Results of the analyses are posted on the OCHD website annually. In the monitoring conducted to date, no relationship has been established between the operation of the facility and any significant increased levels of constituents in the environment.

Indoor Air

The indoor air quality within a building can affect the health and comfort of its occupants. 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.

Environmental Exposure Response

Human exposure to a spill or release of chemicals or radiation into the air, soil, or water can result in both immediate and long term health effects. Program staff responds to incidents involving chemicals, hazardous waste and radiation by providing information and guidance. Assistance is given to other responding agencies such as the Department of Environmental Conservation and Hazmat teams along with other public agencies that respond to environmental health issues

Annual Data:

	2014	2015	2016
Radon kits distributed	500	500	500
Waste to Energy facility samples collected	48	48	48
Indoor air complaints/concerns investigated	41	36	39
Environmental exposure incidents investigated	45	39	41

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

Overview: 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:

	2014	2015	2016
Individual sewage plans approved	122	123	125
Individual sewage installations inspected	124	125	94
Realty subdivision lots approved for water and sewer	286	239	242

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
- Provided oversight and implementation of the County's aquatic vegetation control program and lake/stream water quality and invasive species management efforts through secured grant programs.
- Continued monitoring of the current Lyme disease situation and its relationship to urban deer population issues.
- Continued monitoring of agricultural manure spreading issues and providing comment on updated state permit regulations and implementing recommendations from a previously prepared report.

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:

	2014	2015	2016
In-depth sanitary survey inspections	97	98	97
Water quality samples	1,898	1,792	1,834
Requests for well assistance or information	46	40	34

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 nearly 800 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

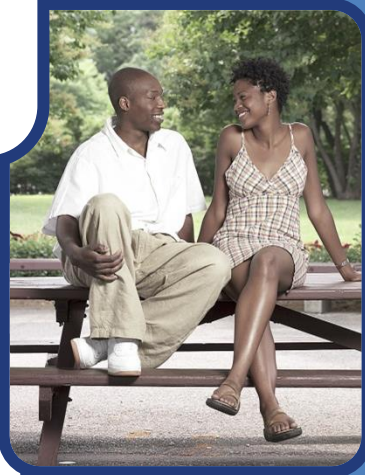
Annual Data:

	2014	2015	2016
<i>Facilities inspected</i>	755	710	795
<i>Complaint investigations</i>	12	14	11
<i>Devices inspected</i>			
Scales	2,369	2,463	2,457
Liquid measuring devices	3,042	3,151	3,456
Weights	1,858	1,595	1,627

Highlights in 2016

- In 2016, 99.1% of all inspections completed at permitted facilities within the county were recorded using a computer tablet. This resulted in more than 3000 Food Service Inspection Reports being filed electronically. This successful transition of going from a paper to an electronic reporting system, along with work performed by the Bureau of Communicable Disease, enabled the county to obtain a \$53,000 performance incentive from NYSDOH.
- Performed two comprehensive investigations for near-drowning incidents at indoor swimming pools. Both investigations resulted in changes to safety plans at those pools to enhance bather safety.
- Full implementation of the New York State Department of Health Environmental Health Information and Permitting System (EHIPS). Prior to using EHIPS there were several data bases used to track and permit facilities. By using one data base for inspection results, facility data, permit issuance and inspector activities are now available in one location which allows for uniformity in both administrative tasks and review of reportable information.
- In response to concerns over the possible spread of the Zika virus into the United States during the summer of 2016, the Vector Control Program purchased two special traps (BG Sentinel 2) which specifically target the type of species of mosquito that is known to transmit the virus (*Aedes albopictus*). There were no mosquitoes of this species trapped in Onondaga County in 2016.
- An educational campaign was conducted for tobacco retailers which included an informational letter outlining their obligation to not sell tobacco to minors along with billboards with a similar message. A commercial, aired at movie theaters, and Facebook messaging encouraged minors to not start smoking.
- 2016 saw the final phase of the Health Department's multi-year involvement with a long standing sewage violation in the Town of Onondaga. A new public sanitary sewer for the Whedon Road Sewer District was installed and certified, replacing a hundred year old common septic system that had been failing
- New York State passed emergency regulations in September 2016 requiring water testing for lead contamination in public school buildings. The Onondaga County Health Department aided the 18 public school districts in Onondaga County to achieve compliance through best management practices. The Water Supply Section educated the districts on the new regulations, sampling procedures, reporting requirements, best maintenance and operational practices, and remediation. All of the mandated sampling deadlines were met due to the quick mobilization of each school district with help from the Onondaga County Health Department.
- The emergency regulations for Protection Against Legionella that were enacted in 2015 were extended into 2016. The regulations require that all cooling towers in New York State register, test, inspect and implement a maintenance program. The State has provided a database that must be used by all cooling tower operators for reporting sample results, along with inspection and maintenance activities. It is expected that local county health departments will be responsible for monitoring the database and enforcement activities; however the detail for the implementation for this process has not been finalized.
- Weights & Measures personnel began liquid measure testing for new dispensing equipment for a product called Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF). The number of facilities with this product is growing in Onondaga County. DEF is a water based fluid and reduces air pollutant discharge from commercial vehicles.

Family Planning Service



Family Planning Service

in Partnership with Syracuse Community Connections

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

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

Phone Number: (315) 435- 3295

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

Clinic Locations:

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

Clinic Hours:

- 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 monthly at Slocum Avenue (schedule varies, please call for appointment)
- Special Teen Session, Slocum Avenue, 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., dba as Syracuse Community Connections. 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 a full range 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:

	2014	2015	2016
Unduplicated patients	4,232	3,909	3,387
Number of patient visits	8,471	7,711	6,573
Pap smears	2,221	2,005	1,581
Breast exams	3,020	2,840	2,305
Blood pressure screens	7,771	7,078	6,084
Hemoglobin (anemia testing)	3,186	3,043	2,579
Health education sessions in schools and community	208	198	205

Highlights in 2016

- Family Planning provided 1,384 Rapid HIV tests at all clinic sites, 31 HPV vaccines at the North Syracuse and Slocum Avenue sites (HPV vaccine is limited to 19-26 year olds who have completed the series), and reproductive health services to 162 males.
- 60% of patients served in 2016 were at or below the federal poverty level. Another 19% were between 100% and 200% of the federal poverty level.
- FPS assisted 268 women and men completing as full Family Planning Benefit Program (FPBP) as well as 668 people with Presumptive Eligibility for FPBP applications and 138 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 2016, that percentage dropped to 20%.
- 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. We now offer both types of long-acting, reversible contraceptives, the implant and a number of different IUDs.
- In 2016 through our parent organization, Syracuse Community Connections, FPS was awarded a grant to provide Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (CAPP) services in Onondaga County. In partnership with our subcontractors, The Spanish Action League, Boys and Girls Club and Syracuse Northeast Community Center we will be providing a comprehensive youth-development based curriculum “Teen Outreach Program” at five sites in the community.

Health Promotion & Disease Prevention



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.

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

- Healthy Communities Initiatives
- Lead Poisoning Control Program
- Cancer Services Program
- Public Health Education
- Dental Health Education

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

Phone Numbers:

Healthy Communities Initiatives(315) 435-3280
 Lead Poisoning Control Program(315) 435-3271
 Cancer Services Program(315) 435-3653
 Public Health Education(315) 435-3280
 Dental 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.

Healthy Communities Initiatives

Through four grant projects funded by the New York State Department of Health, St. Joseph’s Hospital and Health Center (Transforming Communities Initiative) and HealtheConnections, (IMPACT) the Onondaga County Health Department works to develop policies and programs that will prevent obesity, Type 2 diabetes, and other chronic diseases.

The four Healthy Communities Initiatives work together in developing sustainable changes that will prevent obesity, Type 2 diabetes, and other chronic diseases. This is achieved through policy development, environmental and practice changes, and through purchasing changes. Collectively, best-practice strategies are implemented to help create sustainable nutrition and physical activity enhancements that will positively impact the health of Onondaga County residents. Approaches to achieve this goal are through: marketing, health education, partnership development, innovative physical activity environmental changes, and though enhanced nutrition standards. The Healthy Communities Initiatives target key populations including: students from the Syracuse City School District, small retail venue owners, worksite employees, community-based organization employees, early child care centers children and their families, higher education institution students and also residents of the city of Syracuse. A primary focus is on reducing health disparities among adults.

Creating Healthy Schools and Communities is a five year (2015-2020) initiative funded by the NYSDOH designed to reduce the risk of obesity, diabetes, and other chronic diseases. 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.

Local IMPACT, funded by HealtheConnections, began in September 2015 with the purpose of supporting high need counties to implement intensive, location-specific strategies in communities and health systems to prevent obesity, and prevent and control diabetes, heart disease and stroke, with a focus on reducing health disparities amount adults.

Trinity Health, funded by St. Joseph’s Hospital Health Center, was launched January 2016 and serves targeted neighborhoods in the city of Syracuse (the near west and north sides) and the Syracuse City School District. Specific populations include low income adults and children who are disproportionately impacted by health conditions related to poor diet, inactivity, and tobacco use. This initiative works on modifiable health behaviors such as diet, exercise, and tobacco initiation in certain neighborhoods where options to make healthy choices may not be affordable, or may not be visible to underserved residents. The goal of this project is to develop programs that will increase opportunities for low income populations to adopt healthy behaviors through improved access to community resources.

Sodium Reduction in Communities Program is funded by the NYSDOH. The Onondaga County Health Department has partnered with higher education institutions and early childhood centers located in the city of Syracuse. This program was launched in October 2016 and plans are currently underway to implement workplan deliverables.

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, OCHD provides:

- Surveillance of blood lead levels (BLL) in Onondaga County children
- Blood lead testing for uninsured/underinsured Onondaga County 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 tracks

- 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:

	2014	2015	2016
Primary prevention inspections	282	315	265
BLL ≥15 mcg/dL inspections	69	76	71
Section 8 Referral Inspections*	N/A	N/A	24
Children tested for lead poisoning in Onondaga County	11,338	11,519	11,795
Children tested for lead poisoning at an Onondaga County clinic	1,169	1,209	1,213
Children with EBLL ≥5 mcg/dL in Onondaga County	722	707	742
Number/Percentage of OCHD tests done at WIC	984 / 84.2%	952 / 78.7%	893 / 73.6%
Children tested at WIC with EBLL ≥5 mcg/dL in Onondaga County	133 / 13.52%	105 / 11.02%	94 / 10.5%

*A new partnership between the Lead Program and the Syracuse Housing Authority's Section 8 program was initiated in July 2016

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 the Onondaga County Health Department has collaborated with the New York State Department of Health, local healthcare providers, and numerous community agencies/organizations to offer screening services for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer to uninsured and underinsured residents of both 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, local media, and other community organizations to provide and promote utilization of cancer screening services.
- Assessment and case management services for all men and women identified with abnormal screening results.

Annual Data:

	2014*	2015	2016
Number of patients screened	730	493	277
Clinical breast exams	626	402	147
Mammograms	651	400	208
Follow-up breast cancer diagnostic procedures	342	252	152
Pap tests	198	111	50
Follow-up cervical cancer diagnostic procedures	52	25	10
Colorectal Fecal Immunochemical Test Kits	221	120	75
Follow-up colorectal cancer diagnostic procedures	212	126	92

* 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 Onondaga County Health Department's Cancer Services Program.

Public Health Education

The mission of the 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, 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)
- Evaluation of program initiatives paid and earned media campaigns, and special events.
- Qualitative research to determine health behaviors in our community such as conducting focus groups, surveys, and key informant interviews

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 providing dental health education to children, targeting pre-school age children and their families.

Annual Data:

	2014	2015	2016
Oral Health Presentations to Pre-school Children	142	135	129
# Sites	50	39	47
# Children	2,389	2,006	1,965
Oral Health Presentations to Parents	2	0	2
# Adults	22	0	27

Highlights in 2016

Healthy Communities Initiatives

Syracuse City School District

- **Syracuse City School District Wellness Policy Adoption:** The SCSD, with the support and technical assistance from OCHD, enhanced its current wellness policy and adopted it in October 2016. This policy will further advance healthy eating and physical activity in each school building in the district.
- **SCSD Staff Training:** Held training for SCSD physical education, health, and home and career teachers to address the new SCSD wellness policy and the practical implementation of the new policy. Over 75 teachers participated in this training and self-reported that they would take steps to introduce and support this policy within their school buildings

Worksites

- **Healthy Vending Machine Policy:** A total of ten healthy vending machine policies have been created and adopted at several worksites in the city of Syracuse. These policies help to ensure that healthy options are available for employees at their worksites. This helps to create an environment where it is easier to choose healthy food and beverage options.
- **Healthy Cafeteria Policy:** Worked collaboratively with La Cuisine (a worksite cafeteria) to create environmental, practice, and a policy for the cafeteria located in the John H. Mulroy Civic Center. This location now offers daily healthy lunches that are less than 500 calories each and meets the healthy food guidelines. A policy was created and adopted by the cafeteria stating they will always offer healthy food options. To date, there has been a steady increase of the sale of healthy foods items.
- **Worksite Nutrition Standards:** Implemented nutrition and beverage standards at two key worksites: Centro and WCNY. Each site has modified their vending machine options to now include 50 percent more healthy options. Both locations are in the process of implementing a healthy vending machine policy and a healthy meeting and event policy, offering on-site farm fresh mobile markets, and the development of on-site walking trails.
- **Diabetes Prevention Program:** Planned, coordinated, and implemented three National Diabetes Prevention Programs at three city of Syracuse worksites. Over 40 participants are currently enrolled in these classes and plans are underway at each of these locations to offer additional classes

Small Retail Venues

- **Small Retail Assessments:** Worked cooperatively with ten corner stores to conduct an assessment about the food and beverages that are sold in their stores, their marketing practices, and offered ways each could enhance their sales of healthy foods and beverages. In 2017, select corner stores will be offered mini grant funding to assist in the implementation of marketing and selling health food and beverage options.
- **Small Retail Venue Nutrition Standards:** Included healthier food options in five small food retail venues in the city of Syracuse. Recommendations were based on assessments revealing where healthy changes would positively impact customers. We are currently providing support and technical assistance to help ensure the sales of healthy food and beverage options increase.

Community-Based Organizations

- **Physical Activity Opportunities:** Planned, developed, and launched a new walking program located in the Southside of Syracuse. This walking group was launched in June 2016. Plans are underway currently to create a “Syracuse Monday Mile” in this location to help further ensure a healthy and safe route for walkers in this geographic area.

Lead Poisoning Control Program

- The Lead Poisoning Control Program is an active participant in the new Green and Healthy Housing Initiative (GHHI) of Greater Syracuse, participating in meetings of the Learning Network, Production, and Data and Evaluation committees. The local initiative became an official GHHI site in June 2016 and has demonstrated early success in braiding locally available housing repair funds, as well as increasing its utilization of in-kind support from the OCHD Lead and Healthy Neighborhoods Programs to improve the health and safety of eligible low and moderate income homes. Signing of the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative Compact: Onondaga County Health Department was a key

partner involved in bringing the GHHI to fruition in our community. A celebratory media event was held to celebrate the accomplishments of the group.

- Lead dust cleaning education services were expanded in 2016, targeting families of children with elevated blood lead levels, as well as newly arrived refugee families with children under 7 years of age.
- Engaging New Partners—Lead Poisoning Control Program: Student projects focused on the impact of the OCHD Childhood Lead Primary Prevention Program were completed in 2016. New relationships formed with Maxwell School and SUNY ESF to provide opportunities for students interested in public health and community health and safety to consider OCHD as their host site for internships and research projects.
- Engaging New Partners—Lead Poisoning Control Program: A new partnership formed between the Lead Program and the Syracuse Housing Authority’s Section 8 program benefitted low-income residents with children under 7 years of age living in Section 8 funded units. Section 8 inspectors refer homes with deteriorated paint for a lead inspection. Between July and December 2016, a total of 24 inspections were completed.
- Community Impact—Lead Poisoning Control Program: Lead program staff was invited to participate in conferences and training focused on engaging community stakeholders in adopting primary prevention strategies to address childhood lead poisoning in our community. (Austin and Dallas) Participation in these conferences has provided additional local support for identifying focus areas for 2017.

Cancer Services Program

- The Cancer Services Program was able to screen, detect, and assist individuals that were newly diagnosed with cancer.
- In March 2016, Onondaga County Health Department was awarded a Susan G. Komen for the Cure grant to reach high-risk women and encourage them to be screened for breast cancer.
- With the encouragement and support of the Cancer Services Program, effective May 20, 2016 the Onondaga County employees now have access to one full day of paid leave time available for colon cancer screenings. Initiating paid time off policies is a new focus area of cancer prevention and control and we hope to increase the number of Onondaga County employees who are up-to-date with their cancer screenings.
- The Cancer Services Program awarded mini-grants to five community-based organizations in Onondaga County. The grantees are assisting with promotion and education around breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers in addition to actively recruiting eligible women and men for free cancer screenings through the program.

Public Health Education

- Working with the Commissioner’s office, Public Health Education staff collaborated with the Onondaga County Drug Task Force to plan, develop, and host a community forum on the opiate and heroin epidemic in Onondaga County. Several experts were among the speakers including addiction specialists, local law enforcement, public health, physicians, and community partners.
- Planned, developed, and hosted “Fight the Bite in CNY: A forum on Mosquitoes and Ticks”. OCHD collaborated with several community partners to provide community leaders and the media with current information about mosquito and tick-borne illnesses, including Zika. Information was

provided on what OCHD is doing to prevent the spread of mosquito- and tick-borne illnesses and personal protective measures for the public.

- Participated in multiple “telephone banks” with the local media to promote health enhancing messages including: breast cancer screening, colorectal cancer screening, influenza prevention, and vector-borne disease prevention.
- 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.
- Formalized the department’s strategic branding process. The Onondaga County Health Department has recently “rebranded” as part of the Public Health Accreditation process. This rebranding includes the creation of new logos to meet needs and uses. Also designed were logos that combined the new OCHD logo with individual division, bureau, and program names.
- Public Health Education staff collaborated with division/bureau staff throughout the department to make enhancements to the department’s website.

Healthy Families: Maternal & Child Health



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.

Healthy Families Comprises:

- Community Health Nursing:
 - [Early Intervention Children at Risk Early Screening \(C.A.R.E.S.\)](#)
 - [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)
- WIC Vendor Management Agency (VMA)

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 social workers. 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, Syracuse Community Connectors (formerly known as Syracuse Model Neighborhood Facility, Inc.), 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 (EI) Children at Risk Early Screening (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:

	2014	2015	2016
E.I. C.A.R.E.S Referrals	214	203	452

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:	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Family Life Team Referrals	80	98	72

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 July 2016 the Vaccine for Adults (VFA) program was started to provide immunizations for uninsured adults. 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. The [Immunization Clinic](#) is located in Room 30, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, New York 13202; walk-in appointments are held on 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 and follow-up visits with health care providers to assess immunization rates and the standards of practice for child and adolescent immunizations
- 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:

	2014	2015	2016
Immunization clinic, total served (adults & children)	655	786	1,065
Flu clinics (total served)	884	1,169	1,004
Perinatal Hepatitis B Program referrals	27	38	28
Vaccine for Adults (VFA) (total served)	-	-	21

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 program is a collaborative with many community partners and provides Community Health Worker (CHW) services via subcontract with REACH CNY, the Salvation Army, the Syracuse Community Health Center (SCHC) and Syracuse Community Connectors (formally known as Syracuse Model Neighborhood Facility). The OCHD contract for the MICHC initiative ended with SCHC mid-year of 2016.

Annual Data:

	2014	2015	2016
Referrals received	244	276	247 *
Clients served	143	148	89 *
Short term clients served		169 (4/1-12/31)	99 *

*2016 figures impacted by contractual and staffing vacancies/changes

Newborn Metabolic Screening

New York State (NYS) requires that every infant born in NYS be tested shortly after birth for over 40 different disorders. Upon notification from the NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory, a staff member works directly with hospitals, primary care providers, 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:

	2014	2015	2016
Requests for Follow Up	21	27	20

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. In 2016, NFP held its first official two year old graduation celebration with 16 toddler graduates, moms, fathers and extended family members in attendance. The event recognized the mom and family's commitment to striving to become the best parent they can be through the educational efforts of their program participation.

Annual Data:

	2014	2015	2016
Moms served	240	231	197
Infants served	195	146	174
Mothers/Two year olds graduated	33	19	34

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 in the City of Syracuse. 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 nineteen 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.

Specific program activities for SHS include:

- **Home Visitation:** A comprehensive program with emphasis on case management and health education by Community Health Workers, Public Health Social Workers, Public Health Nurses and Doulas. 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	2014	2015	2016
First trimester prenatal care	77%	75%	74%
Low birth weight babies	12%	10%	12%
Breast-fed babies	58%	55%	65%
Fatherhood Program- total clients served	-	-	26*
Doulas- total clients served	-	-	28**
Doulas clients delivered	-	-	20

*Fatherhood Worker part-time

**Douglas program transitioned to Syracuse Community Connectors from REACH CNY

In addition to the above data, Healthy Start provided home visits to a total of 1,022 families in 2016, and 378 program participants attended a total of 62 group health education sessions. The overall 2014-2016 infant mortality rate for City of Syracuse residents was 9.5 per 1,000 live births (data are preliminary).

Annual Data: All Home Visiting Programs Combined

	2014	2015	2016
Total referrals received (unduplicated)	2,802	2,986	2,976
Total home visits completed	9,528	11,458	10,070
Total clients served (unduplicated)	3,279	3,563	3,512

Healthy Families Highlights in 2016:

- As part of National Immunization Awareness Month, extensive parent education was done to inform parents of the new meningitis vaccine requirement for 7th and 12th grade, including placing ads in Destiny USA to reach parents during back-to-school shopping.
- NYSIIS promotional brochure was created and distributed to 236 adult medical providers throughout Onondaga County. Brochure aimed to educate adult health care providers on benefits and ease of NYSIIS use for reporting immunizations administered to adult patients.

- HPV vaccine was promoted to both parents and young adults using Facebook advertising. The campaign reached 56,000 Onondaga County residents and 1780 people clicked the ad to link to the OCHD website for more information.
- Established a Vaccine for Adults program at the Onondaga County Immunization Clinic. The program can administer adult vaccines for persons over 18 years of age with no health insurance.
- In February 2016, the Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative (MICHC) program began to attend Refugee Assistance Program (RAP) clinic regularly, to engage newly arrived refugee families, collaborate with their case managers, and make referrals to any indicated maternal and child health services.
- A Women's Wellness program collaboration with the MICHC Program, the Peacekeeping Center and Huntington Family Center began in June. The program helps women learn to take better care of themselves, by focusing on healthier habits and exercise.
- The Healthy Families home visitation electronic referral and screening form has been fully implemented with access for the public through the Healthy Families website.
- Healthy Families held its first ever Showcase at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, providing a networking opportunity for local maternal and child health professionals to learn more about the services offered by Healthy Families.
- Healthy Families began working with The Adolescent Bureau, within the Treatment Division of the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASYS) on an In-Depth Technical Assistance (IDTA) program to provide additional support and expertise in the area of Perinatal Substance Abuse.
- Healthy Families program materials were translated into a total of six languages to reflect the linguistic diversity of clients served. Brochures and health information cards are now available in the languages most commonly spoken by Healthy Families clients who have settled in Syracuse from around the world. In addition to English, languages include Arabic, Burmese, Kirundi, Nepali, Somali, Spanish and Swahili.
- The Annual Breakfast at the Zoo was held for Healthy Families clients with over 70 individuals in attendance, including clients, staff, and local political representatives. The topic was "Where I'm From: Using writing to tell your story," and clients enjoyed hearing motivational performances from local spoken word artists. Several clients shared their personal stories and poetry. Healthy Families client participants enjoyed the wonderful experience of a day at the Zoo with their children at the conclusion of the event.
- The Syracuse Healthy Start Doula program expanded in 2016, providing additional community based support for women during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period. A new group of Doulas were recruited and trained from within the Syracuse community, allowing this service to reach more women. The program is offered in partnership with the Syracuse Model Neighborhood Facility, and emphasizes the importance of offering training and economic opportunities within the Syracuse community, while also offering free childbirth assistance for new mothers who may be feeling socially isolated or marginalized.
- Healthy Families conducted a community assessment of safe sleep practices and beliefs in Onondaga County. The assessment included surveys, interviews and focus groups with Healthy Families clients, staff, agency partners, local pediatricians, OB/GYN and Family Practice providers, and interested community members. The results of this study are being used to ensure Healthy Families is offering education and resources on the topic of Safe Sleep that are locally tailored and responsive to the needs of the community with the aim of reducing infant mortality in Onondaga County. Healthy Families continues to partner with the Cribs for Kids program, and a special collaboration with the Department of Social Services Economic Security to offer free Pack n' Plays to families in need of a safe place for their infants to sleep.

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:

	2014	2015	2016
Children referred from all sources	1,418	1,433	1,408
Children who qualified and were receiving services as of 12/31	689	757	814

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:

	2014	2015	2016
Number of school districts served	22	22	22
Children who received services during the summer 7/1 – 8/31	1,408	1,486	1,485
Children who received services during the school year, 9/1 -6/30	1,943	1,914	1,955

Special Children Services Highlights in 2016:

- Early Intervention expanded programming options to high need children it serves with the addition of 61 center based slots in January 2016; 12 more in February; and 24 in July 2016. This allows EI to provide the full spectrum of services that children’s Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP) s’ recommend to promote children to achieve and maximize to their full potential.
- The Early Intervention Program Coordinator participated in a select group of members, comprised from municipalities across NYS, to review NYEIS (New York State Early Intervention System), the centralized, web-based system that electronically manages Early Intervention Program administrative tasks and provides for information exchanges.
- Early Intervention implemented a more efficient referral processing system by developing an electronic referral form and creating a dedicated programmatic email mailbox that now receives and facilitates the processing requests for services.
- The Preschool Special Education Program, in collaboration with the OCHD Compliance Officer, designed an auditing process to ensure that preschool providers are accurately recording therapy session notes to comply with Medicaid regulations. A sample of records is reviewed quarterly, issues addressed as discovered, and then audits will be repeated again in 2017. This will increase the

number of services for which OCHD can claim reimbursement. It will also minimize the possibility of claims being disallowed in a Medicaid audit which result in a financial penalty.

- The Preschool Program streamlined procedures that resulted in a more effective routine processing of paperwork from school districts, allowing for prompt payment of providers and more timely claiming of reimbursement from the New York State Education Department. This also expanded the responsibilities of the support staff to lessen the clerical responsibilities of the professional staff, thus allowing them more time to focus on compliance concerns.

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 clinic site, please see link here for details: <http://www.ongov.net/health/clinics/> WIC has expanded clinic hours at Wednesday 7:30 AM- 8:00 PM at the West Onondaga site and on Tuesday 10:15 AM- 8:00 PM at the Liverpool site.

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 WIC 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
- In collaboration with the OCHD Lead Poison Prevention program, clients may also receive blood lead tests.

Annual Data:

Of the clients enrolled in 2016: 24% are women, 25% are infants, and 51% are children.

	2014	2015	2016
Average monthly caseload	9,024	9,085	8,982

Highlights in 2016:

- Healthy Families increased the number of WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselors from four to six and increased the Peer Counselors availability outside of regular business hours in an effort to provide ongoing support to increase breastfeeding initiation and duration amongst WIC women.
- Healthy Families staff assisted both Crouse Hospital and The Upstate Campus at Community General Hospital with their separate efforts with the NYS Breastfeeding Collaborative, and distinct goals of becoming Breast Feeding Baby Friendly designated facilities.
- In an effort to provide appointment times outside of regular business hours, the OCHD WIC Program expanded its' hours at both of it permanent locales to meet the needs of working parents or those parents attending school.
- In April 2016, in an effort to provide WIC access to participants living on the North Side of the City of Syracuse, a WIC clinic was opened at the Assumption Church. This locale is also utilized by the (RAP) clinic and serves newly arriving refugee families.

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 covered 14 counties with 232 WIC authorized vendors. Of these authorized vendors, 62 were located in Onondaga County; 26 were located in the city of Syracuse. The OCHD WIC VMA program concluded on September 30, 2016. VMA activities were taken over by the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) for Greater Capital Region, Inc., located in Troy, N.Y.

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:

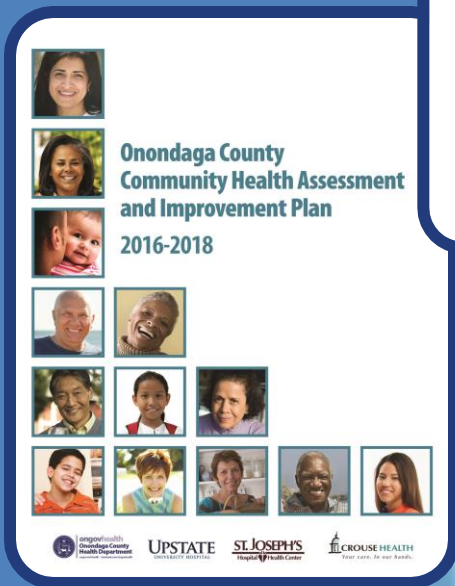
	2014	2015	2016*
Vendor training sessions conducted	35	28	17
Vendor monitor visits	362	471	313
Vendor related complaints received and resolved	171	83	42
New vendor applications reviewed and authorized	6	7	6

*1/1- 9/30/16

Highlights in 2016:

- Participated in testing of Electronic Monitoring System
- Staff assisted in the transition of functions to the Commission on Economic Opportunity for Greater Capital Region, Inc.

Surveillance and Statistics



**Onondaga County
Community Health Assessment
and Improvement Plan
2016-2018**

Loganport Health
Onondaga County
Health Department

UPSTATE
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

St. JOSEPH'S
Hospital & Health Center

CROUSE HEALTH
Your care. In our hands.



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 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 Office of Vital Statistics was originally established in 1968, to support consolidation and centralization of State-mandated vital record functions for Onondaga County. 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.

In order to meet the Bureau’s mission, the following services are provided:

- Health status monitoring for our community using numerous data sources
- Analysis and interpretation of statistical information about local morbidity and mortality, and the 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

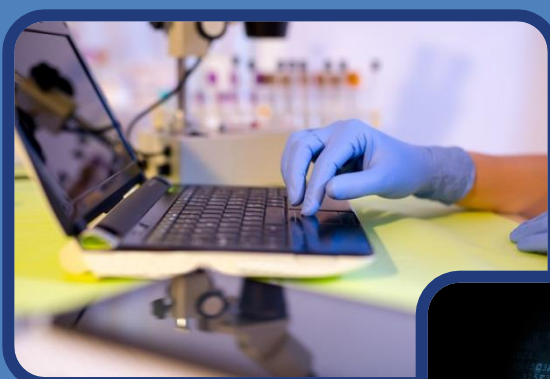
Annual Data:

	2014	2015	2016
Certificates issued for a fee	40,312	42,307	42,063

Highlights in 2016

- The Bureau led a collaborative Community Health Assessment and Improvement process which resulted in the Onondaga County Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan, submitted to NYSDOH in December. Developed in partnership with local hospitals, this document provides a comprehensive look at the state of health in Onondaga County, and outlines a plan to collaboratively address the highest priority health issues. For 2016-2018, Onondaga County will Promote Mental Health and Prevent Substance Abuse through strategies to address the opioid epidemic; and Prevent Chronic Diseases with a focus on physical activity and nutrition.
- The Bureau developed, implemented and analyzed a comprehensive Community Engagement Survey to ensure widespread community feedback on important health issues. Designed to inform the Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan, the survey received approximately 3,000 responses. Overwhelmingly, respondents cited concerns about drug abuse and addiction, and the impact of chronic diseases in the community.
- The Bureau worked closely with the New York State Department of Health to implement the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) in Onondaga County. This system allows death certificates to be filed and processed electronically, saving time and improving efficiency for partners and customers.

Center for Forensic Sciences



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:

Criminalistics: 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 section also provides serial number restoration analysis and target to muzzle distance determinations.
- 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.

Forensic Biology/DNA: 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 National Institute of Standards and Technology Organization of Scientific Area Committees (NIST-OSAC) and the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE) Board of Directors.

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:

	2014	2015	2016
Laboratory Assignments Completed			
Ignitable Liquids	25	20	25
Firearms	731	1,098	1,254
Forensic Bio/DNA	469	530	488
Drug Identification	457	338	271
Latent Prints	944	853	827
Digital Evidence	45	32	24
Court testimony provided for all disciplines	81	59	68

Highlights in 2016

- The Forensic Laboratories underwent a comprehensive accreditation assessment by ASCLD/LAB, an independent accrediting body, in October of 2016. This audit included a thorough review and evaluation of the laboratory's management practices, personnel qualifications, technical procedures, case file documentation, quality assurance program and facilities. The laboratory was assessed on over 450 standards and the results of the assessment were exemplary, demonstrating that laboratory operations continue to meet the highest industry established standards.
- The Forensic Biology/DNA section successfully implemented the use of a new technology, STRmix™, to assist in resolving DNA profiles consisting of more than one contributor. The ability to resolve these complex samples will enable the laboratory to provide additional valuable information regarding potential DNA contributors to submitted evidence to assist law enforcement agencies in their investigations. The CFS laboratory was the 14th laboratory in the nation to implement the use of this technology.
- The Firearms section of the laboratory had a record year of matching firearms evidence to crimes through the use of the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN hits). The laboratory reported a total of 300 hits in 2016 which represented a 100% increase from 2015. These matches assisted local law enforcement agencies in identifying 48 of the 97 multiple use firearms used in 2016.
- The Laboratories provided key results that led to arrests and/or prosecutions in some very large high profile cases including a drug trafficking bust that led to the arrests of 72 people by the State Attorney General.

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 Regional Data*:

	2014	2015	2016
Total Cases	2,290	2,464	2,611
Total Deaths Reported	2,272	2,452	2,602
Medical Examiner Cases	1,044	1,110	1,213
Full autopsy	797	847	956
External examination	91	96	78
Skeletal examination	21	19	19
Body Inspection	133	24	9
Death Certificate Only	2	124	151
Medical Examiner Cases by Manner of Death			
Accidents	444	476	578
Motor Vehicle	83	104	104
Drug Use/Toxin	154	187	276
• Opioid related	121	146	238
• Other drugs	33	41	38
Falls	134	127	130
Fire	13	11	21
Other	60	47	47
Homicide	37	43	51
Natural	394	422	421
Suicides	120	130	119
Undetermined	28	20	21
Pending	0	0	5
Manner not applicable/fetal death	21	19	18
Scene Response	375	408	465
Expert Consultation	18	23	20
Investigated and Released from MEO Jurisdiction	1,228	1,331	1,378
Forensic Toxicology cases	1,135	1,123	1,246

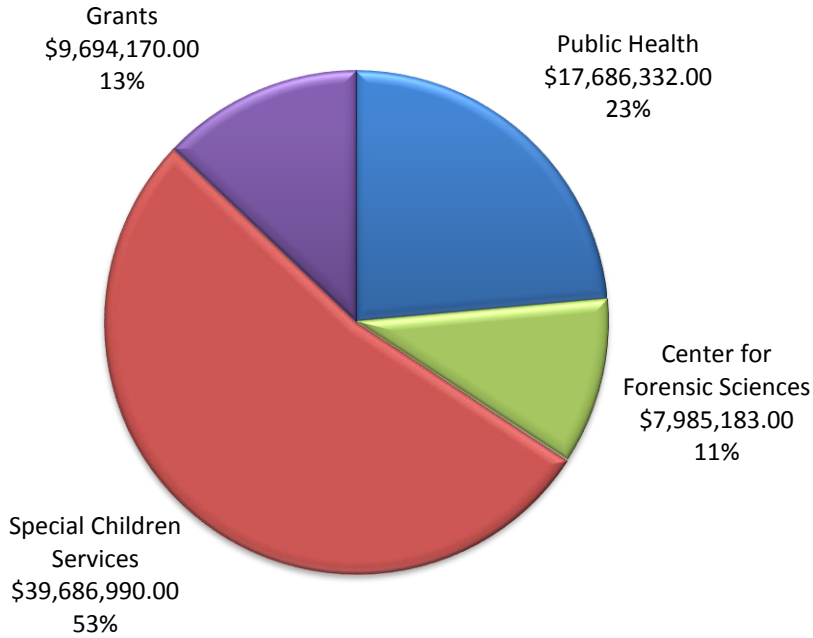
*Annual regional data includes deaths routinely reported and referred from Cayuga, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga and Oswego counties. Data also includes other counties that less commonly refer deaths such as Jefferson, Lewis, and Tompkins counties.

Highlights in 2016

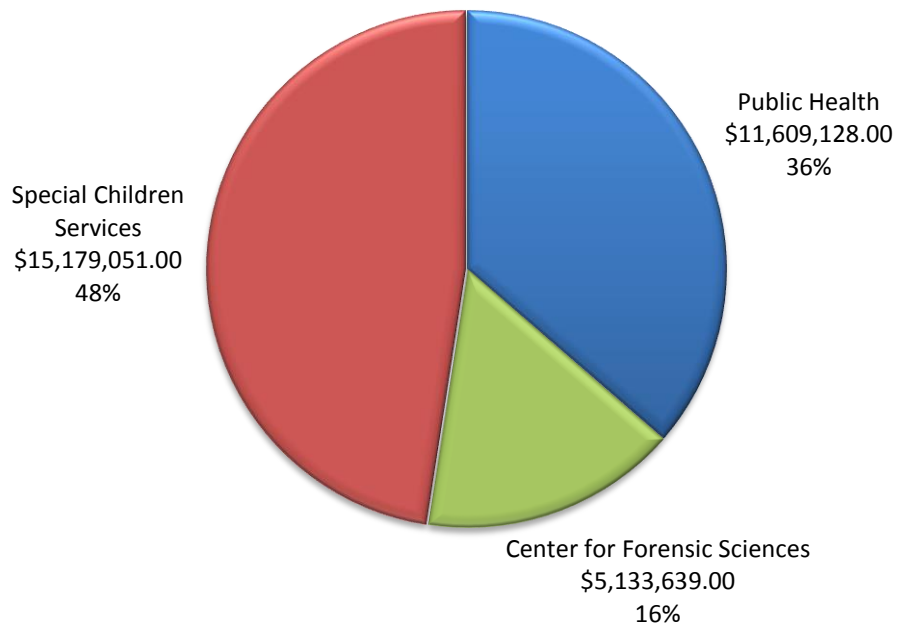
- The Medical Examiner's Office (MEO) strengthened its position as regional medical examiner through inter-municipal cooperation with the addition of a full-time investigator in Oneida County.
- The MEO Forensic Toxicology Laboratory fully automated the toxicology laboratory report. The laboratory utilized the database system to implement an automated worksheet for data run review that streamlined the review process and reduced technical review time of toxicology findings.
- The MEO created a new website with significant improvements for the general public and families. The new user-friendly website includes a redesigned homepage and quick- links to FAQs, autopsy report requests, forensic pathology, division summaries, internship information, community education/partners, and a hospital and physician death notification guide.
- The Chief Medical Examiner was elected to the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) Board of Directors beginning in 2017.
- A Forensic Investigator was elected as Secretary of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI) in September 2016 and was also appointed as the Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee.
- A Forensic Investigator presented research regarding the use of "Case-Type" specific data to improve medicolegal death investigation at the 2016 NAME Annual Meeting and was awarded the Mary Fran Ernest Best Affiliate Paper Award. This has led to a partnership with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to develop national guidelines for case-type documentation.

2016 Health Department Expenses and Local Dollars

2016 Expenses: \$75,052,675

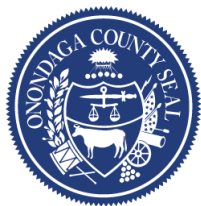


2016 Local : \$31,921,818



Grant Projects, 2016

Administration	\$310,439
Disease Control	\$789,364
Environmental Health	\$596,071
Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	\$1,661,626
Maternal and Child Health	\$5,231,508
Surveillance and Statistics	\$39,409
Center for Forensic Sciences	\$1,065,753
Total Health Department:	\$9,694,170



ongovhealth
Onondaga County
Health Department

ongov.net/health · facebook.com/ongovhealth

Published April 28, 2017