

# Onondaga County Health Department 2014 Annual Report



# Onondaga County Health Department

## Mission

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

## Vision

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



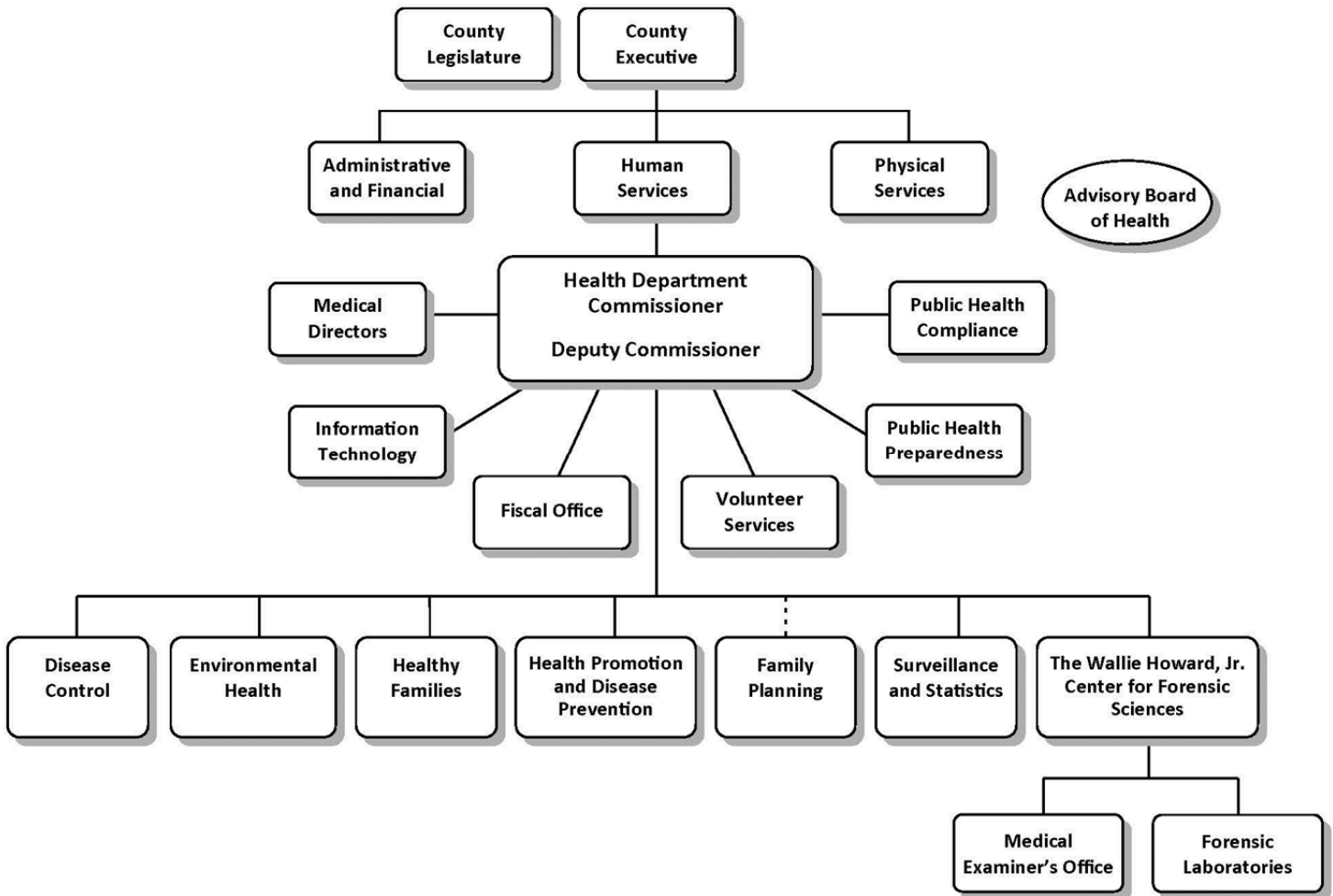
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# 2014 Health Department Organizational Chart



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# Ten Essential Public Health Services

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

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

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

# Administration

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

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

- Physical Services
- Public Health Preparedness
- Volunteer Services programs
- Records access
- Migrant Health

## Migrant Health

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

***Location:*** 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

***Phone Number:*** (315) 435-3280

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

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

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

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

**Annual Data:**

	2012	2013	2014
In-camp clinical visits	122	0*	0*
Individuals served in camp clinics	75	0*	0*
Health education services provided	1,164	1,808	2,919
Interpretation services for in-camp and off-site	399	274	299
Transportation services provided for off-site health services	60	86	235
Referrals for health care	56	329	455

*\*See notes in Highlights*

**Highlights in 2014:**

- Oswego County Opportunities (OCO) subcontracted with OCHD to provide outreach, health education, transportation, interpretation, referrals and advocacy for migrant farm workers in Onondaga County. Finger Lakes Community Health (FLCH) continued to provide all in-camp health services including episodic care, health screening, and immunizations. In 2014, 183 farm workers were referred to FLCH for in-camp health screening. Compassionate Family Medicine continued as a voucher site for FLCH and provided low cost, bilingual primary care services for farm workers in their Onondaga County offices. One low cost Mobile Dental Clinic was coordinated and hosted in Northern Onondaga County as a collaborative effort between OCO, FLCH Mobile Dental Program and a community church.
- Meetings were held with partner agencies OCO and FLCH to discuss services and identify gaps in Onondaga County. A subsequent decision was made that Onondaga County Health Department (OCHD) would not reapply for grant funding as OCO and FLCH planned to provide services in Onondaga County.

***The OCHD Migrant Health Program was discontinued on 9/30/14. NYSDOH awarded the latest five-year grant for Migrant Health Services, which includes Onondaga County, to Oswego County Opportunities.***



## 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:** 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 421 Montgomery Street- 9th Floor, Syracuse, NY 13202

**Phone Number:** (315) 435-5262 or 435-3204

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

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

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

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

**Annual Data:**

	2012	2013	2014
Individuals trained in Incident Command System (ICS)	9	12	129**
Exercises conducted	3	2	3

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

**Highlights in 2014:**

- In October of 2014 PHP worked with the Bureau of Disease Control to update the County Isolation and Quarantine Plan in response to the NYSDOH Commissioner's order surrounding Ebola response. PHP also organized the purchase of all supplies needed to adhere to the Commissioner's Order concerning Personal Preparedness Equipment (PPE) needed in all Article 28 facilities.
- The Central New York Medical Reserve Corps (CNYMRC) continued to strengthen its membership, making it possible to help our communities in new ways. The CNYMRC assisted local health departments with rabies vaccinations, preparedness education, and mass prophylaxis exercises. The CNYMRC partnered with the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Salvation Army Christmas Bureau, and the NYS Special Olympics Winter Games 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. This is the first time in the CNY region that a college or university has partnered with the CNYMRC to provide healthcare services.
- PHP staff conducted the 7th Annual Drive Thru Flu Clinic for First Responders in Onondaga County on 10/1/2014
- PHP staff assisted Syracuse University in conducting their "Closed Point of Distribution (POD)" Drill on 10/8/14.

## Volunteer Services

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

**Location:**

9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

**Phone Number:** (315) 435-5262

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

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

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

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

***Annual Data:***

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

	2012	2013	2014
<b>Volunteer/Intern hours</b>	3,401	7,157	9,396
<b>Volunteer/Intern estimated value</b>	\$57,800	\$118,950	\$152,178

***Highlights in 2014:***

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



# Bureau of Disease Control

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

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

**Phone Number:** (315) 435-3236

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

**STD Center Hours:**

Monday: 9:00-10:30 AM and 1:00-3:00 PM  
Tuesday: 12:30-4:30 PM  
Wednesday: Clinic closed/test results only  
Thursday: 1:00-3:00 PM  
Friday: 9:00-10:30 AM

**TB Clinic Hours:**

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

**Brief Overview of the Bureau:**

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

## Communicable Disease Control

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

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

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

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

### Annual Data:

	2012	2013	2014
Case investigations	1,898	1,294	1,112
Actual cases of reportable communicable disease	1,144	988	990
Cases of possible rabies exposure	259	233	285
Cases for which rabies post-exposure prophylaxis was given	151	119	136

**Highlights in 2014:**

- The Communicable Disease (CD) program was awarded \$30,000 by NYSDOH for its success in the 2013-2014 Local Health Department Performance Incentive Initiative. CD was measured for timeliness and completeness of communicable disease reports and investigations over a six month period. CD improved from a baseline achievement score of 83.02 to a final score of 100 during the performance period.
- In partnership with the New York State Department of Health, communicable disease staff conducted direct active monitoring of travelers from areas affected by the Ebola virus disease. Nursing staff also participated in drills, webinars, and weekly training to prepare them in the event of an Ebola emergency within the Bureau's clinics.

## 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:**

	2012	2013	2014*
Total patient visits to the STD Center	6,529	5,914	5,948
Total number of treatments performed at STD Center	2,445	2,873	2,716
Cases of gonorrhea in Onondaga County	924	788	806
Cases of chlamydia in Onondaga County	2,422	2,356	2,690
Cases of syphilis in Onondaga County <sup>A</sup>	15	28	56
Individuals who tested positive for HIV in Onondaga County	56	37	48
Additional gonorrhea partners identified	557	498	422
Untreated chlamydia cases referred for follow-up from outside providers	560	201	252

\*Preliminary data pending review.

<sup>A</sup> Includes primary, Secondary, and early latent cases

**Highlights in 2014:**

- Early infectious syphilis cases increased 93% in Onondaga County in 2014 compared to 2013 (n=56 v. 29). Men account for 95% of cases. The majority of cases are documented to have occurred among men who have sex with men (MSM).
- The New York State Department of Health has chosen to focus on sexually transmitted disease measures for the 2014-2015 Local Health Department Performance Incentive Initiative. Two areas of STD surveillance will serve as the focus of Year 2; completeness of the electronic syphilis serology registry and adequate treatment of gonorrhea infection.



## Tuberculosis Control

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

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

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

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

### Annual Data:

	2012	2013	2014
Total visits	17,094	15,971	13,752
Active cases of TB managed by OCHD	11	10	10
Latent TB cases identified (inclusive of pediatric cases)	604	640	619
Latent pediatric TB cases identified and treated	Not Available	68	74
Latent TB started on preventative therapy (inclusive of pediatric cases)	364	487	485
Tuberculin skin tests	3,460	3,223	2,184
Directly observed therapy visits	6,360	5,993	6,928



***Highlights in 2014:***

- The TB Control program conducted several large investigations of active pulmonary TB cases in 2014. The largest involved 106 case contacts.
- In September 2014, the NYSDOH made their annual site visit to the OCHD TB Control Program and again praised the program for its continued excellence in tuberculosis control services in Onondaga County.
- OCHD TB staff continues to work closely with the refugee population to screen for tuberculosis since a high percentage of active cases of TB are identified in the foreign born population. OCHD participates in the Refugee Health Committee along with community physicians, hospitals, and organizations that serve the refugee population. This committee works to identify and remove the barriers to refugee health care access.

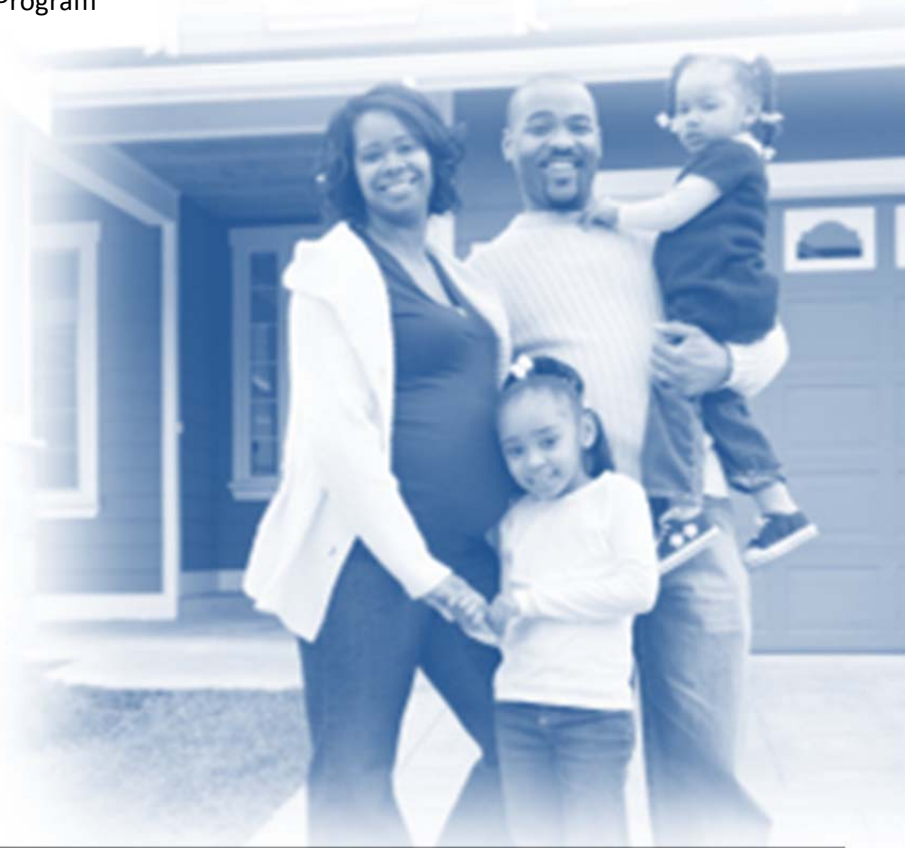
# Division of Environmental Health

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

## **Brief History:**

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

- Bureau of Community Environmental Health
  - Food Protection
  - Residential Environmental Health
  - Temporary Residence and Recreational Facilities
  
- Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment
  - Animal Disease Prevention (Rabies)
  - Vector Control (Mosquito and Rodent)
  - Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act and the Clean Indoor Air Act
  - Healthy Neighborhood Program
  - Environmental Exposure Response
  - Waste to Energy Facility Monitoring Program
  - Indoor Air
  - Radon
  
- Bureau of Public Health Engineering
  - Land Development
  - Onondaga County Council on Environmental Health
  - Water Supply
  - Weights and Measures



## Bureau of Community Environmental Health

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

**Location:**

12<sup>th</sup> Floor, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

**Phone Number:** (315) 435-6617

**Office Hours:**

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

**Brief History of Community Environmental Health:**

The Bureau of Community Environmental Health conducts core environmental health programs. There are three sections within the Bureau: Food Protection, Residential Environmental Health, and Temporary Residence & Recreational Facilities. Onondaga County has conducted these programs since the Health Department was created in 1967.

## Food Protection

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

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

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

**Annual Data:**

	2012	2013	2014
<b>Inspections</b>			
Mandated annual inspections conducted	2,152	2,038	2,040
Second inspections conducted	524	393	266
Follow-up inspections conducted	2,491	2,833	1,876
Temporary food services inspections	590	650	593
<b>Complaints</b>			
Food complaint investigations	373	341	450
Clean indoor air act complaint investigations	16	9	17
<b>Enforcement</b>			
Violation notices issued	484	424	376
Hearings scheduled	114	76	121
Hearings held	14	19	21
Voluntary closures	6	5	6
Commissioner's closure orders	0	1	1

**Highlights in 2014:**

- In 2014 a pilot project was initiated to use tablets to complete facility inspection reports. The use of this technology should save paper, reduce file storage space, increase the efficiency of state mandated reporting, and ultimately enhance public access to restaurant inspection reports.
- A Food Protection email address was added to the Community Environmental Health web page during 2014. From the end of March thru December nearly 500 emails were received with 92 of those emails being complaints of food illness or reports of unsanitary conditions seen at restaurants.

## 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:***

	2012	2013	2014
<b>Inspection</b>			
Inspections conducted	650	519	499
Follow-up inspections conducted	885	615	430
<b>Enforcement</b>			
Violation notices issued	194	111	152
Hearings Scheduled	10	7	6
Violations Resolved Before Hearing	9	5	2
Hearings Held	1	2	4

### ***Highlights in 2014:***

- Continued rapid response and subsequent enforcement actions for acute sewage outbreaks in residential areas resulted in the timely elimination of these imminent public health hazards.
- Staff assisted the Temporary & Recreational Facilities Section in the timely inspection of outdoor swimming pools during what is traditionally a short time frame.

## 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:***

	2012	2013	2014
<b>Inspections</b>			
Mandated annual inspections conducted	586	598	562
Second inspections conducted	223	216	219
Follow-up inspections conducted	698	409	554
Complaint investigations	33	36	31
<b>Enforcement</b>			
Violation notices issued	126	136	99
Hearings Scheduled	4	5	3
Hearings Held	2	1	1
Voluntary Closures	17	25	10

### ***Highlights in 2014:***

- Performed investigation services for two swimming pool near-drowning incidents.
- Weather and other environmental conditions brought about the first blue-green algae event that closed two beaches within Onondaga County. A coordinated effort by this office and surrounding agencies brought about a rapid response in both the closing and reopening of both beaches. These efforts were later documented in a statewide Environmental Health publication.

## Environmental Health Assessment

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

**Location:**

12<sup>th</sup> Floor, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

**Phone number:** (315) 435-6600

**Office Hours:**

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

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

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

## Animal Disease Prevention (Rabies)

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

**Location:**

6230 East Molloy Road, East Syracuse, New York 13057

**Phone number:** (315) 435-3165

**Office Hours:**

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

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

Rabies clinics schedule is available on the Onondaga County Health Department's website at

<http://www.ongov.net/health/ADP.html>

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

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

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

***Annual Data:***

	2012	2013	2014
<b>Rabies specimens</b>			
Submitted	387	265	482
Positive	11	8	22
<b>Rabies clinics</b>			
Held	15	15	15
Dogs vaccinated	2,088	1,703	2,051
Cats vaccinated	825	628	890
Other	11	8	38
<b>Bites reported</b>			
Dogs	714	740	803
Cats	219	228	269
Other	63	33	38

***Highlights in 2014:***

- Animals reported positive for rabies included 14 bats, 3 raccoons, 2 cats, 2 fox, and 1 skunk.
- In response to high numbers of animals testing positive in the area, a rabies shot clinic was added at the Onondaga Nation.
- Staff also assisted with a series of Healthy Pet Clinics sponsored by the Shamrock Fund by providing support at clinic locations and supplying rabies certificates and tags.



## Vector Control (Mosquito and Rodent)

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

### **Location:**

6230 East Molloy Road, East Syracuse, New York 13057

**Phone Number:** (315) 435-1649

### **Office Hours:**

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

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



- **Eastern Equine Encephalitis:** The presence of the EEE virus was documented in Onondaga County in nine separate years between 1973 and 1994. After a nine year absence, the EEE virus re-emerged in late 2003 and has consistently been documented since (with the exception of 2007 and 2012). A human fatality in Onondaga County attributed to EEE occurred in 2010, the first since 1983. Two human cases occurred in 2014 and those individuals recovered with mild impairment.
- **EEE Regional Aspect:** EEE virus is a regional problem in central New York involving Onondaga, Madison, Oneida, and Oswego counties. From 2004 to 2006, EEE virus positive mosquitoes and horses from these four counties represented 80 -100% of the total numbers for New York State. During a 43 year period (1971-2014), EEE was documented in horses or mosquitoes in at least one of these counties during 29 of those years.
- **West Nile Virus:** In 2000, West Nile virus (WNV) unexpectedly spread throughout New York State, including Onondaga County. The ubiquitous nature of WNV in the environment required that efforts to control the spread of the virus focus on the entire county. The mosquito control program was expanded to meet this need in 2001. West Nile virus activity has been documented in Onondaga County each year since 2000, including 5 human cases in 2002, two human cases in 2011, and one death along with eight additional human cases in 2012, and one human case in 2014.

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

- Surveillance through mosquito trapping and testing. Traps are used at 22 sites throughout the county. Mosquito pools are submitted to the NYSDOH Wadsworth Center Laboratory weekly to test for WNV, EEE virus, California Encephalitis (CE) virus, and other arboviruses. Results are posted to the website throughout the season.
- Mosquito control, consisting of:
  - Monitoring and treating nearly 1,000 breeding sites as necessary with larvicide (a pesticide to kill mosquito larvae)
  - Treating catch basins with larvicide, primarily within the City of Syracuse
  - Truck spraying to kill adult mosquitoes when indicated
- Education regarding mosquito program activities and personal protection measures through media reports, public meetings, and individual contacts with local residents
- Monitoring and baiting activities in the public sewer system (catch basins and manholes)
- Investigation of rodent complaints

***Annual Data:***

	2012	2013	2014
Mosquitoes collected/identified	90,548	162,173	284,623
Mosquito pools submitted for testing	517	674	791
Mosquito breeding sites treated	167	202	510
Catch basins treated with larvicide	N/A	4,848	4,040
Catch basins/manholes treated with rodenticide	1,653	1,571	3,467
Rodent infestations investigated	10	4	3

***Highlights in 2014:***

- There were two human cases of EEE and one human case of WNV in Onondaga County.
- Thirty mosquito pools tested positive for EEE and two mosquito pools tested positive for WNV in 2014.
- Aerial adulticiding of the Cicero Swamp along with truck spraying of the area was performed in response to finding EEE in human biting mosquitoes.
- A total of 43 abandoned swimming pool complaints were investigated resulting in 31 pools being treated with larvicide.

## Adolescent Tobacco and Clean Indoor Air Act

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

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

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

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

**Annual Data:**

	2012	2013	2014
<b>ATUPA (Grant Year)</b>			
Compliance checks completed	437	400	418
Re-inspections completed	28	21	11
Violations/enforcement	10	0	20
<b>CIAA</b>			
Complaints investigated	21	18	24
Violations/enforcement	3	1	1

**Highlights in 2014:**

- In 2014, there were no reported complaints of the local law prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to persons under the age of 19.
- An increase in violations for sales to minors occurred in 2014. An educational effort for retailers was initiated which commenced with a billboard campaign and will continue with additional items in 2015.

## Healthy Neighborhood Program

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

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

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

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

### ***Annual Data:***

	2012	2013	2014
Surveys completed	716	707	770
Revisits	278	215	237
Numbers of smoke/CO detectors distributed	863	968	863
Children tested for lead	74	92	88
Individuals with asthma identified & educated	272	257	244
Referrals to other agencies	746	898	847

### ***Highlights in 2014:***

- The program was successful in obtaining funding for the next 5-year grant cycle through a competitive grant proposal process.
- The program initiated collaboration with SUNY Upstate Pediatric Physician residents. The residents are provided an overview and field opportunity with the program and will share information about the program with their patients who may benefit from the services offered by Healthy Neighborhoods.

## Other Programs

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

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

### ***Annual Data:***

	2012	2013	2014
Radon kits distributed	500	500	500
Indoor air complaints/ concerns investigated	45	47	41
Environmental exposure incidents investigated	51	47	45
Waste to Energy facility samples collected	48	48	48

### ***Highlights in 2014:***

- The 2014 waste to energy facility monitoring data indicated that results were within the expected range for urban environments and is below any levels associated with health risk.
- The majority of indoor air investigations continue to involve mold issues.
- Hundreds of residents were provided guidance on the radon testing and mitigation process.

## Public Health Engineering

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

**Location:** 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

**Phone Number:** (315) 435-6600

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

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

## Land Development

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

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

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

**Annual Data:**

	2012	2013	2014
Individual sewage plans approved	76	92	122
Individual sewage installations inspected	117	111	124
Realty subdivision lots approved for water and sewer	286	341	286

### ***Highlights in 2014:***

- The Bureau, with the help of our community partners, aided in the formation process of the Whedon Road sewer district in the Town of Onondaga. The pending public sewer design and installation will abate a long term public health hazard of sewage being discharged onto the ground surface.
- The Bureau worked with the Onondaga County Water Authority to develop a responsible design review process for Enhanced Treatment Units in the Otisco Lake watershed. It is expected that this will promote the design and installation of environmentally sustainable onsite sewage disposal systems that will protect this major public water supply.

## **Onondaga County Council on Environmental Health**

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

### ***In order to meet its mission, the Council provides:***

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

### ***Highlights in 2014:***

- Continued oversight and implementation of the County's aquatic vegetation control program and lake/stream water quality management efforts through secured grant programs.
- A Bureau staff member presented on "Herbicide Treatment Alternatives for Water Chestnut" at the North American Lake Management Society's International Symposium in Tampa, Florida.
- Endorsed the County program to address pending Emerald Ash Borer impacts. Discussed and monitored the threat of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and its potential impact in the Skaneateles and Otisco Lake watersheds.



## 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:***

	2012	2013	2014
In-depth sanitary survey inspections	94	95	97
Water quality samples	1,753	1,815	1,898
Requests for well assistance or information	43	93	46

***Highlights in 2014:***

- The Bureau worked closely with the Skaneateles Village and Town to analyze the documented pressure and capacity problems in both municipalities. The first steps were taken to alleviate these issues when this office approved plans for improvements to the east side of the Village’s system.
- The Bureau documented a response matrix for water main breaks in the distribution systems of Onondaga County’s Public Water Systems (PWSs). This will streamline and clarify the methods for the Health Department’s and the PWSs’ response to the varying degrees of severity of these breaks. The matrix was shared with the PWSs to make improvements to the coordination of our joint response.





## Weights and Measures:

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

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

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

### ***Annual Data:***

	2012	2013	2014
<b>Facilities inspected</b>	724	758	755
<b>Complaint investigations</b>	4	6	12
<b>Devices inspected</b>			
Scales	2,129	2,327	2,369
Liquid measuring devices	2,988	3,012	3,042
Weights	1,584	2,072	1,858

### ***Highlight in 2014:***

- Weights & Measures staff were involved with the County’s first Light Emitting Diode (LED) signage at a regulated facility. Our office coordinated with New York State staff and the owner of the gas station to ensure that the new signage met Weights & Measures regulations and eliminated confusion and potential deception of the consumer. As result of this process, the minimum display standards for the LED signage were set for the entire County.
- Staff began the role of inspecting and certifying the weighing devices at the County owned Communicable Disease and Medical Examiner’s facilities resulting in an economic benefit for the County.

# Family Planning Service

## In Partnership with Syracuse Model Neighborhood Facility

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

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

### **Clinic Locations:**

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

**Phone Number:** (315) 435- 3295

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

### **Clinics:**

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

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



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

- Confidential comprehensive reproductive health care for females and males including:
  - Medical history and exam
  - Provision of methods of contraception and emergency contraception
  - Preconception counseling
  - Nutrition assessment
  - Screening for cervical and breast cancer
  - Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases
  - HIV testing
  - Pregnancy diagnosis
  - Counseling and referral
  - HPV vaccine (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:***

	2012	2013	2014
Unduplicated patients	4,713	4,452	4,232
Number of patient visits	9,919	9,022	8,471
Pap smears	2,491	2,339	2,221
Breast exams	3,221	3,133	3,020
Blood pressure screens	8,720	8,292	7,771
Hemoglobin (anemia testing)	3,460	3,418	3,186
Health education sessions in schools and community	180	202	208

***Highlights in 2014:***

- Family Planning provided 1,926 Rapid HIV tests at all clinic sites, 59 HPV vaccines at the North Syracuse and Slocum Avenue sites, and reproductive health services to 179 males.
- Over 74% of patients served in 2014 were at or below the federal poverty level. Another 21% were between 100% and 200% of the federal poverty level.
- FPS assisted 827 women and men completing Family Planning Benefit Program (FPBP) applications and 200 presumptive Medicaid for pregnancy applications (numbers are not unduplicated). These programs help women obtain early prenatal care and also allow them continue to receive family planning care at any Medicaid provider’s office. As a result of these programs, fewer of our patients

are uninsured. In 2012, 36% of our patient population was uninsured. In 2014, that percentage dropped to 25%.

- Through a grant from the Empire Justice Center, FPS partnered with the programs at Southwest Community Center to utilize Patient Navigators to provide information and referral about the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for our patients and community members. This grant continued into April 2014. During this time, FPS conducted 15 outreach activities and 24 presentations regarding the ACA.
- FPS continues to partner with other OCHD programs, including Cancer Screening Services, Healthy Families and Bureau of Disease Control.

## Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

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

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

### **Phone Numbers:**

Cancer Services Program (315) 435-3653  
 Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work, and Play (315) 435-3280  
 Dental Health Education (315) 435-3280  
 Lead Poisoning Control Program (315) 435-3271  
 Public Health Education (315) 435-3280  
 Tobacco Free Onondaga County (315) 435-3280

### **Office Hours:**

Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
 Staff is also available evening and weekend hours upon request.

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

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



## Cancer Services Program

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

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

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

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

### Annual Data:

	2012	2013	2014
Number of patients screened	1,094	1,122	730
Clinical breast exams	974	961	626
Mammograms	1,020	1,025	651
Follow-up breast cancer diagnostic procedures	428	739	342
Pap tests	264	236	198
Follow-up cervical cancer diagnostic procedures	51	72	52
Colorectal Fecal Immunochemical Test Kits	269	339	221
Follow-up colorectal cancer diagnostic procedures	334	442	212

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

**Highlights in 2014:**

- The CSP assisted with the diagnosis of 5 breast cancers and the detection and removal of 14 precancerous polyps.
- Throughout the summer of 2014, the CSP successfully partnered with the Environmental Health Division of the Onondaga County Health Department to bring free cancer screenings to employees of local food establishments. Through these efforts one resident was diagnosed with and able to obtain treatment for breast cancer.
- The CSP participated in five live televised phone banks to promote program services. Over 277 callers phoned in to inquire about free cancer screening services.
- The CSP, in partnership with Onondaga Nation and Wellspring Breast Center, hosted three Pink Shawl Initiative mammogram screening programs specifically for Native American women. Through these programs, 72 Native American women were screened for breast cancer.

## Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play

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

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

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

- Support and coordination with local After-School Programs to implement a nutrition and physical activity self-assessment and to create policies and environmental changes that will improve nutrition, support daily physical activity, and reduce screen time
- Increased awareness of complete street policies that help to ensure streets are safe, accessible, and convenient for all users of the roadway (pedestrians, bicyclists, users of public transit, motorists, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities)
- Establishment and promotion of the use of farmers markets, and implementation of innovative strategies to increase access to healthy foods in high need areas
- Coordination of two gleaning programs (produce donation program) with local farmers for distribution to local food pantries
- Focus on reduction of point of sale marketing of nutrient poor foods and beverages in grocery and convenience stores

**Highlights in 2014:**

- Worked with 18 After School Programs to produce policy and environmental changes to improve nutrition, increase daily physical activity, and to reduce screen time. In total, 18 policies have been created to enhance the health of children and staff.

- Assisted in the establishment of the Salt City Harvest Farm. This created an innovative way to increase access to healthy foods in high need areas. All produce that was harvested was provided to local food pantries and to numerous families in need.
- Partnered with Nojaim Bros Supermarket to create a healthy grocery environment, throughout the store, and specifically at the point of sale. These environmental changes were made throughout the store to highlight healthy food options that may help customer’s select healthy food options.
- Worked cooperatively with local corner stores to provide healthful point of sale options. In total, 15 point of sale environmental changes was made at stores throughout Syracuse and Onondaga County.
- Staff assisted in the establishment of the Salt City Harvest Farm, an innovative way to increase access to healthy foods in high need areas. All produce that is harvested is provided to local food pantries and to families in need.
- In total, 18 After-School Programs have adopted new policies to enhance the health of children and staff.
- To date through 2014, 15 point-of-sale environmental changes were made at stores throughout Syracuse and Onondaga County. Staff also partnered with Nojaim Bros Supermarket to create a healthy grocery store lane, offer healthy food options at the point of sale, and make environmental changes throughout the store to highlight healthy food options that may help customer’s select healthy food options.

## Dental Health Education

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

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

### Annual Data:

	2012	2013	2014
Oral Health Presentations to Pre-school Children	149	154	142
# Sites	58	51	50
# Children	2,193	2,304	2,389
Oral Health Presentations to Parents	7	5	2
# Adults	49	36	22

## 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 care providers in New York must test children for lead at ages one and two.

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

- Surveillance of blood lead levels in Onondaga County children
- Blood lead testing at numerous locations throughout Onondaga County for uninsured/underinsured children in need of testing
- Follow-up services including nursing and environmental case management services for families of children with elevated blood lead levels
- Comprehensive health education and outreach campaigns designed to increase awareness of the health risks associated with lead poisoning
- Promotion of primary prevention strategies to reduce the risk of toxic lead exposure before it occurs
- Environmental inspections of properties associated with children with elevated blood lead levels, and properties in high risk block groups and census tracts
- Referrals to City and County home repair assistance programs for homeowners who have properties with lead hazards
- Participation in community-wide planning activities and coalitions formed to address the development and rehabilitation of at risk housing units
- Coordination of training in Lead Safe Work Practices for contractors





**Annual Data:**

	2012	2013	2014
Inspections of properties associated with BLLs of $\geq 15$ mcg/dL	75	80	69
Primary prevention inspections	281	276	282
Children tested for lead poisoning in Onondaga County	11,530	11,647	11,338
Children with EBLL*	1,050	972	772
Children tested for lead by OCHD	1,565	1,520	1,169
Percent of OCHD tests done at WIC	81.5%	80.6%	84.2%
Percent of children tested at WIC with EBL $\geq 5$ mcg/dL	18.7%	15.9%	13.52%

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

**Highlights in 2014:**

- A recent report (Source: 2009-2011 NYS Child Health Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Data as of June, 2013) indicated that Onondaga County ranked second highest statewide, outside of NYC, in the percentage of children with at least two blood lead tests before the age of three years old. These numbers reflect both the Lead Program's ongoing efforts to notify parents when their child is in need of testing and the increased efforts of providers to perform the required tests.
- In collaboration with the Creating Healthy Places program, a nutrition education curriculum was developed in 2014 for caregivers of children with elevated blood lead levels. Special attention was paid to selecting foods that could be purchased by a family receiving assistance from the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. A total of 23 caregivers participated in a short presentation on "lead fighting foods" and were provided with foods highlighted in the presentation, customized grocery lists, recipe books, and lead poisoning prevention education materials.
- The Lead Program continued a successful partnership with local refugee resettlement agency translators to provide in-home lead dust cleaning instruction and cleaning supplies to 18 newly-arrived refugee families in 2014.

## Public Health Education

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

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

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

***Highlights in 2014:***

- Planned, developed, and hosted a press conference on Ebola with state and local officials. The purpose was to assure Onondaga County residents that in the unlikely event of a person being diagnosed with Ebola, that the Health Department was prepared and able to handle this public health issue.
- Planned and developed an awareness and education campaign on Enterovirus D-68. This included creating several health education pieces that targeted parents, school personnel, medical professionals, and the general public about what Enterovirus-D68 is and prevention tips to help reduce their risk of developing it. Several interventions were conducted such as launching a mailing campaign, developing social media messages, and conducting extensive outreach throughout the community.
- A new delivery system was piloted in July to encourage WIC recipients to redeem their farmer's market WIC vouchers, as well as, to increase the consumption of fresh and locally grown produce. With the assistance of a local farmer, produce boxes were delivered directly to the WIC office once a week (with an \$8 value of produce).
- A mini-market was set up in the WIC waiting room that allowed recipients to purchase produce immediately following their appointment and after receiving WIC farmer's market vouchers. This was highly successful with an increasing amount of produce sold each week during this pilot project.



## Tobacco Control Program: Tobacco-Free Onondaga County

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

**Brief History:** Tobacco-Free Onondaga County (TFOC) was a New York State funded program administered by the Onondaga County Health Department. TFOC worked in the Onondaga County community to strengthen tobacco-related policies to prevent and reduce tobacco use and limit opportunities for exposure to secondhand smoke. The NYS Department of Health grant that funded Tobacco Free Onondaga County ended on June 30, 2014. The work of the program was transitioned to Integrated Community Planning (ICP), an agency based in Oswego, NY that was awarded the Advancing Tobacco-Free Communities grant for the region including Onondaga, Oswego, and Cayuga Counties.

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

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

**Highlights in 2014:**

- The Onondaga County Health Department's Tobacco Control Program, together with the Healthy Syracuse Tobacco-Free Initiative subcommittee conducted numerous key activities that led to the passage of two City of Syracuse ordinances, one that addresses the issue of cigarette litter; the second that bans smoking in the City of Syracuse parks. The Syracuse Common Council also adopted a resolution asking for support from NYS to allow local municipalities to further address the issue of secondhand smoke beyond designated municipal grounds.
- The Onondaga County Health Department's Tobacco Control Program and community partners collaborated with the tobacco policy committee at LeMoyne College and provided guidance on comprehensive tobacco-free campus policy. The policy was adopted and implementation began in January 2015. In July 2015, the entire campus grounds will be 100% tobacco-free.
- The Onondaga County Health Department spearheaded meetings with the Syracuse Housing Authority Board of Directors and the Executive Director to adopt a comprehensive tobacco-free housing policy. Although this process continues, the Board of Directors has committed to the adoption of a smoke-free housing policy.
- The Onondaga County Health Department's Tobacco Control Program also collaborated with community partners in working with the Downtown YMCA on developing and implementing an a smoke-free housing policy for their residences. This policy went into effect in November 2014 impacting 99 men's rooms and 30 senior apartments.

**The Tobacco Control Program was discontinued on 6/30/14. Effective 7/1/14, tobacco control programming for the region that includes Onondaga, Oswego, and Cayuga counties has been transitioned to Integrated Community Planning (ICP), an agency based in Oswego, New York.**

# Division of Healthy Families: Maternal and Child Health

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

**Location:** 501 East Fayette Street Syracuse, NY 13202

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

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

## **Healthy Families Comprises:**

- Bureau of Community Health Nursing
- Special Children Services
- Immunization Action Plan
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- WIC Vendor Management Agency (VMA)

The Division of Healthy Families is accessible through its website, [onhealthyfamilies.com](http://onhealthyfamilies.com) and its Facebook page.



## Community Health Nursing

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

**Location:** 501 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

**Phone Number:** (315) 435-2000

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

**Brief History:** The Bureau of Community Health Nursing (CHN) operates a preventive nurse home visitation program under the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) as a Licensed Home Care

Service Agency (LHCSA). Preventive maternal/child visits are made by public health nurses, community health workers, and a social worker. Some of the most vulnerable populations served include incarcerated women and their infants; children with elevated lead levels; and families who experienced a sudden unexpected infant death. While all pregnant women in Onondaga County are eligible to receive services, the Bureau focuses efforts on reaching pregnant women whose pregnancy outcomes are identified as being at highest risk for infant mortality, low birth weight, developmental delay or disabilities. Studies have demonstrated that home visiting interventions have positive outcomes for both parents and children. The Bureau offers clients programs and services through partnerships with several community agencies and other County departments. Partners include Syracuse City School District, the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, Family Planning Services, Onondaga County Justice System, the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Social Services: Economic Security.

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

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

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

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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:***

	2012	2013	2014
E.I. C.A.R.E.S Referrals	350	487	214

**Family Life Team**

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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:	2011- 2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Family Life Team Referrals	79	86	80

**Newborn Metabolic Screening**

New York State (NYS) requires that every infant born in NYS be tested shortly after birth for over 40 different disorders. A staff member works directly with hospitals, primary care providers, the NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory, and families to ensure that repeat testing is completed on all infants with abnormal results and on those whose specimens were inadequate and unable to be tested.

**Annual Data:**

	2012	2013	2014
Requests for Follow Up	13	10	21

**Nurse – Family Partnership (NFP)**

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

**Annual Data:**

	2012	2013	2014
Moms served	184	191	240
Infants served	95	132	195
Mothers/Two year olds graduated	10	17	33

## Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative

**Brief History:** The NYSDOH grant-supported Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative (MICHC), begun in October 2013, provides outreach and home visitation to high-risk women and their families throughout the life course. The MICHC Program provides assistance and advocacy for clients to overcome barriers to accessing needed services, while offering support and guidance to achieve healthier lives for themselves and their families. The MICHC is a collaborative with many community partners and provides Community Health Worker (CHW) services via subcontract with REACH CNY, the Salvation Army, and the Syracuse Community Health Center.

### Annual Data:

	2013 (10/01 to 12/31)	2014
Referrals received	86	244
Clients served	32	143

## Syracuse Healthy Start (SHS)

**Brief History:** Syracuse Healthy Start (SHS) is a federally funded program which aims to reduce disparities in infant mortality and perinatal outcomes. SHS was first funded in 1997, during a time when Syracuse's African American infant mortality rate was the highest in the country for a mid-sized city. Over the past seventeen years of Syracuse Healthy Start programming, the overall infant mortality rate has been dramatically reduced, as has the disparity in rates. Despite these successes, more work is needed as disparities between White infant deaths and African American/ Black infant deaths persist today. In 2014, SHS received expanded funding to continue offering services to families in the City of Syracuse.

### Specific program activities for SHS include:

- **Case Management:** A comprehensive program with emphasis on home visitation and health education by Community Health Workers, Public Health Social Workers, and Public Health Nurses. In addition to ongoing health education and support, pregnant women, fathers, and parenting families are assisted with accessing healthcare and locating appropriate community resources.
- **Community Action Network (CAN):** A forum that promotes collaboration among healthcare providers, human service workers, and program participants. In addition to hosting several annual community events, the CAN supports the Executive Council which advises SHS program activities, and active subcommittees focused on breastfeeding, fatherhood, mental health, perinatal substance abuse, and safe sleep.
- **Health Education:** Group and one-on-one education sessions are conducted on health related topics geared to improve birth outcomes. Program participants may receive education during home visits, and/or through community sessions held throughout the city.

- **Evaluation:** The program uses a data system to collect and monitor specific indicators set by federal guidelines. Annual evaluation of the program consists of statistical comparison of Syracuse Healthy Start participants with non-participants. Trends are measured and assessed in relation to stated objectives and yearly targets. Racial and ethnic specific measures are compared to assess for disparities.

### ***Annual Data:***

<b>SHS</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>First trimester prenatal care</b>	76%	71%	77%
<b>Low birth weight babies</b>	9%	12%	12%
<b>Breast-fed babies</b>	51%	55%	58%

In addition to the above data, Healthy Start provided home visits to a total of 862 families in 2014, including 490 new families and 372 continuing families, and 588 program participants attended a total of 92 group health education sessions. The overall 2012-2014 infant mortality rate for City of Syracuse residents was 7.1 per 1,000 live births.

### ***Annual Data: All Home Visiting Programs Combined***

<b>All Home Visiting programs combined</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Total referrals received (unduplicated)</b>	2,552	2,347	2,802
<b>Total home visits completed</b>	10,300	9,736	9,528
<b>Total clients served (unduplicated)</b>	2,865	2,775	3,279

### ***Highlights in 2014:***

- Utilized social media for client education and service promotion that included 141 Facebook posts and 143 tweets.
- Home visiting staff transitioned to a fully electronic medical record.
- Developed and conducted an extended media campaign to educate awareness of and prevention of sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUID) related to unsafe sleep environments. Annually, our community loses on average four babies to these preventable infant deaths.
- OCHD Healthy Families and Syracuse University's Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion partnered together to address the issue of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) and established a Community Connector program. This program, utilizing a peer to peer model, empowers women who serve the community and offers tools to support and encourage pregnant and parenting women to overcome addiction.



- Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program graduated 27 two year old clients and mothers. Additionally, 20 students attending the Syracuse City School District earned high school credits for their NFP participation during the school year ending June 2014.
- The MICHHC funded Outreach Worker assisted 209 clients with completing a Presumptive Eligibility (PE) Medicaid application; 78 women with enrollment into prenatal care; and 146 people for health insurance enrollment by Community Health Navigators.
- The MICHHC program expanded services to high need families throughout Onondaga County to include women who have not previously had a pregnancy and to men, adding one social worker and a community health worker.
- Initiated a new parent education and support group, Real Moms of Syracuse; 67 participants attended the Syracuse Model Neighborhood Facility site between May-December.
- Initiated a “Monday Mile” walk at different parks though out the city in the spring and summer months of 2014 to promote physical activity amongst its participants.
- Syracuse Healthy Start held its 4th annual Baby Buggy Walk in the Park in September to celebrate every baby’s first birthday, highlighting the awareness of infant mortality and racial disparities.
- Over 80 people attended the Syracuse Healthy Start eighth annual Breakfast at The Rosamond Gifford Zoo in May. A physical therapist spoke on the need for babies to get exercise and information on how babies are spending too much time in car seats, bouncers, swings and other devices that restrict their movement. Following the speaker, families received free admission to the Zoo.
- Syracuse Healthy Start has always strived to fully engage families, and in June 2014 this effort expanded to include a designated Fatherhood Community Health Worker (CHW). This CHW provides case management, outreach, education and support for fathers in Syracuse. The program began with a community assessment including review of fatherhood services available in our community, statistics on fatherhood engagement, and qualitative interviews with men about their strengths and resource needs. The SHS Fatherhood Program consists of two components: 1) The Fatherhood Network, a collaborative group of local agencies who offer supportive services to fathers, and 2) Case Management offered directly to fathers.
- In November 2014, “The State of Our Babies’ Health in Syracuse” was presented. The two hour program focused on perinatal outcomes within the community, and introduced several new initiatives that launched in the 2014-2015 grant year, including a doula program (childbirth support), the “Real Moms of Syracuse” group, and a Fatherhood Initiative. Ninety-two community members attended, representing a broad range of local agencies, healthcare providers, families and community stakeholders.



## Immunizations/Immunization Action Plan

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

### **Location:**

Administrative Office: 501 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Clinic location: In 2014 the clinic location was the William H. Harris Health Center, 301 Slocum Avenue.

The clinic was later relocated to Room 30, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, New York 13202.

**Phone Number:** (315) 435-2000

### **Office Hours:**

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

Immunization Clinic: Wednesdays, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

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

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

- Maintains the Immunization Action Plan work plan, utilizing the Assessment Feedback Incentives Exchange (AFIX) to conduct assessments, reassessments, and follow-up visits with private health care providers to assess immunization rates and the standards of practice for child and adolescent immunizations
- Prepares quarterly reports with AFIX findings/data to the NYSDOH Regional Representative.
- Participated in the annual influenza clinic
- Holds weekly immunization clinics
- Collaborates with hospitals, healthcare providers, and clients to reduce/eliminate perinatal hepatitis B transmission from mother to newborn.
- Provides Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccine, through the OCHD's Bureau of Disease Control, to at-risk individuals 19 years of age and older who are uninsured or underinsured and have at least one risk factor, as defined by NYSDOH, as engaging in high-risk sexual behaviors, IV drug use and for certain chronic health conditions.

**Annual Data:**

	2012	2013	2014
Slocum clinic, total served	978	631	655
Flu clinics, total served	939	732	884
Perinatal Hepatitis B Program referrals	32	27	27

**Highlights in 2014:**

- To meet the County's needs and minimize disruption associated with not meeting school vaccine requirements, program staff provided eight expanded back-to-school immunization clinics for students in Onondaga County.
- Education and ongoing support were provided to schools and childcare centers regarding the changes to the 2014-2015 NYS immunization requirements for school entrance.
- Conducted outreach to school nurses in the fall and provided back-to-school tool-kits with immunization resources for schools. In addition, the web page for school nurses was updated with immunization resources and information pertinent to schools.
- Facilitated a community immunization coalition focusing on increasing rates for both children and adult vaccinations. The coalition celebrated its one year anniversary in November, 2014 with a workshop presented by two vaccine experts.
- A tool-kit was distributed to VFC providers on NYSIIS requirements and tips on using NYSIIS to increase immunization rates.
- Conducted a public health detailing project to provide health care providers with updated information on NYSIIS, VFC, and vaccine storage and handling during face to face visits.
- Extensive influenza vaccine promotion was conducted. Promotion included paid ads in publications, radio ads; billboard ads; articles in no-cost publications; public education; media interviews; and outreach to community agencies.
- A billboard and radio media campaign was conducted to promote Tdap vaccination to close contacts of infants.
- Community education was provided through media, mailings and outreach to inform the public of changes to the location and weekly schedule of the OCHD Immunization Clinic.
- National Influenza Vaccination Week was promoted using on-line advertisements on local news outlets and websites.



## 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:**

	2012	2013	2014
Children referred from all sources	1,296	1,382	1,418
Children who qualified and were receiving services as of 12/31	683	706	689

**Highlights in 2014:**

- Received notification that OCHD EI was in full compliance with all regulatory time frames and expectations for indicators as set forth by the NYSDOH and the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in Washington DC, in relation to initiating and providing authorized services to infants and children served.

- Continued involvement in the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) work group. The NYSAC group is working to resolve issues that occurred as a result of the change to the State Fiscal Agent. Additionally, this group is working with NYSDOH on a protocol for municipality oversight of providers if necessary.
- In December of 2014, NYSDOH transitioned most fiscal responsibility for assistive technology services to the State Fiscal Agent. As a result, the local fiscal responsibilities are now for transportation and respite.

## 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:***

	2012	2013	2014
Number of school districts served	22	22	22
Children who received services during the summer 7/1 – 8/31	1,358	1,389	1,408
Children who received services during the school year, 9/1 -6/30	1,955	1,960	1,943

**Highlights in 2014:**

- In our partnership with school districts, OCHD staff is available to provide orientation to new CPSE personnel and in 2014 assisted 6 of our 22 school districts with training.
- Established a process where our transportation providers could contact school districts directly to resolve problems that were impacting financial reimbursement, thus expediting a process that formerly needed to go through OCHD offices.
- Provided training for all service providers in April 2014 that emphasized accuracy of their service documentation thus increasing allowable OCHD claiming from Medicaid for reimbursement. OCHD fiscal staff has followed through with individual provider trainings as indicated.

## Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

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

**Locations:**

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

**Phone Number:** (315) 435-3304

**Office Hours:**

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

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

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

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

**Annual Data:**

Of the clients enrolled in 2014: 23% are women, 25% are infants, and 52% are children.

	2012	2013	2014
Average monthly caseload	10,077	9,696	9,024

**Highlights in 2014:**

- As part of the Quality Improvement process, implemented the continuation of a LEAN Management procedure in an effort to streamline clinic processes and provide enhanced time for nutrition education for WIC participants.
- Expanded WIC clinic availability at its Liverpool site location to 5 days per week.
- Collaborated with the OCHD Creating Healthy Places grant initiative to hold a farm fresh weekly market in the waiting area of the West Onondaga WIC clinic site.
- The OCHD WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program increased the breastfeeding rates amongst WIC participant mothers from 64% in 2013 to 66.4%.

## WIC Vendor Management Agency (VMA)

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

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

**Phone Number:** (315) 435- 5238

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

**Brief History:** In October 2003, the New York State WIC program entered into contracts with local agencies to provide WIC Program Vendor Management Agency (VMA) activities. This is a continuation of the vendor consolidation project which began in the Metropolitan New York area in 1995. The Onondaga County Health Department (OCHD) Vendor Management Agency is one of 5 such agencies in New York State. The OCHD WIC VMA catchment area covers 14 counties with 277 WIC authorized vendors. Of these authorized vendors, 77 are located in Onondaga County; 29 are located in the city of Syracuse.

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

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

**Annual Data:**

	2012	2013	2014
Vendor training sessions conducted	44	44	35
Vendor monitor visits	470	467	362
Vendor related complaints received and resolved	154	118	171
New vendor applications reviewed and authorized	21	20	6

**Highlights in 2014:**

- Over the course of the year, WIC VMA identified over 695 WIC vendor violations and oversaw their correction.
- Continued paper and related cost saving measures that included adopting into practice the scanning and emailing portions of supporting documents related to vendor applications when sending on to NYSDOH, replacing the previous practice with paper copies.





# Surveillance and Statistics

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

**Location:**

Surveillance: 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Vital Statistics: Room 20, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

**Phone Number:**

Office: (315) 435-3648

Vital Statistics: (315) 435-3241

**Office Hours:**

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

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

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

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

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

**Annual Data:**

	2012	2013	2014
Certificates issued for a fee	39,042	41,102	40,312

**Highlights in 2014:**

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



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

## **Forensic Laboratories**

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

**Location:**

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

**Phone Number:** (315) 435-3800

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

**Brief Overview:**

The Forensic Laboratories are comprised of two sections, Criminalistics and Forensic Biology/DNA, with 23 scientists and technicians working in various disciplines within the sections. The Forensic Laboratories process evidence from all police agencies within Onondaga County and several in surrounding counties. Evidence is also processed for various state and federal agencies, as necessary. The Laboratories' scientists provide expert scientific testimony in court concerning analytical processes used in the analysis of related evidence and the results of that analysis. The Forensic Laboratories maintain accreditation by the American Society of Crime Lab Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board International under ISO 17025 standards and by the NYS Commission on Forensic Science.

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

- The Criminalistics section of the laboratory houses four forensic disciplines: Latent Prints, Forensic Chemistry, Firearms, and Digital Evidence.
  - The Latent Print section is responsible for developing fingerprints, palm prints, and footprints from items of evidence using various chemicals, powders, dye stains, and light sources. The Latent Print section compares recovered latent prints to known fingerprints in order to identify individuals. Identification may involve searching unidentified latent fingerprints and palm prints in the Statewide Automated Biometric Identification System (SABIS). The section also provides identification verification services for the Medical Examiner's Office, positively identifying decedents through fingerprint comparison.

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

### **Annual Data:**

<b>Laboratory Assignments Completed</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Ignitable Liquids	25	23	25
Firearms	617	690	731
Forensic bio/DNA	500	588	469
Drug identification	439	392	457
Latent prints	702	881	944
Digital evidence	23	49	45

### **Highlights in 2014:**

- The Forensic Laboratories constructed and published a detailed handbook to be used as a reference guide for law enforcement personnel when preparing and submitting physical evidence to the Laboratories. It includes information relating to best practices regarding the collection and preservation of evidence to maintain the integrity of the evidence prior to submission. It is also meant to assist agencies in identifying the most probative evidence for submission. Copies of the publication were distributed to attendees of laboratory led training sessions as well as to all law enforcement agencies within the county. The handbook is available in digital form on the Forensic Laboratories' web page.

The Director of Laboratories and Senior Latent Print Examiner were appointed to the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Organization for Scientific Area Committees (OSAC). The committees were recently developed to provide more oversight and standardization in forensic science with the goal of improving the quality and consistency of forensic science in the United States and are responsible for developing discipline-specific standards and best practices. Subcommittee members were chosen from more than 1,400 applicants across the country.

- The Director of Laboratories was elected to the Board of Directors for the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB). ASCLD/LAB is a not-for-profit corporation specializing in the accreditation of public and private crime laboratories. The corporation is committed to the ongoing support, education and oversight of facilities striving for excellence in forensic analysis.

## 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.

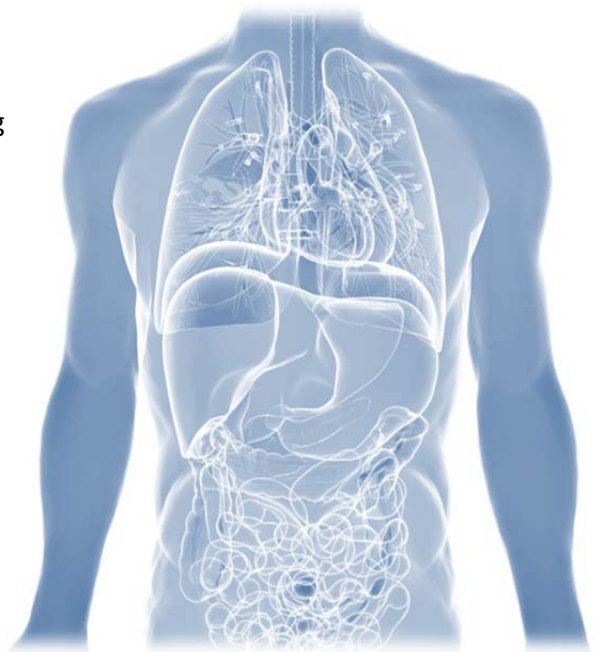
***In order to meet the mission of the program, the Medical Examiner's Office provides:***

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



**Annual Data:**

	2012	2013	2014
<b>Total Cases</b>	1,634	2,248	2,290
<b>Total Deaths Reported</b>	1,627	2,230	2,281
<b>Medical Examiner cases</b>	806	1,056	1,044
Full autopsy	616	823	796
External examination	170	92	91
Skeletal examination	19	15	21
Body Inspection	1	121	133
Review & Death Certificate Amendment	0	5	0
<b>Medical Examiner Cases by Manner of Death</b>			
Natural	290	372	386
Accidents	339	425	443
Suicides	118	139	120
Homicides	21	51	37
Undetermined	18	20	24
Pending	1	32	14
Fetal death/NA	16	11	20
<b>Scene Response</b>	244	384	375
<b>Expert Consultation</b>	7	18	18
<b>Investigated and Released from MEO Jurisdiction</b>	821	1,174	1,228
<b>Forensic Toxicology cases</b>	950	1,075	1,135



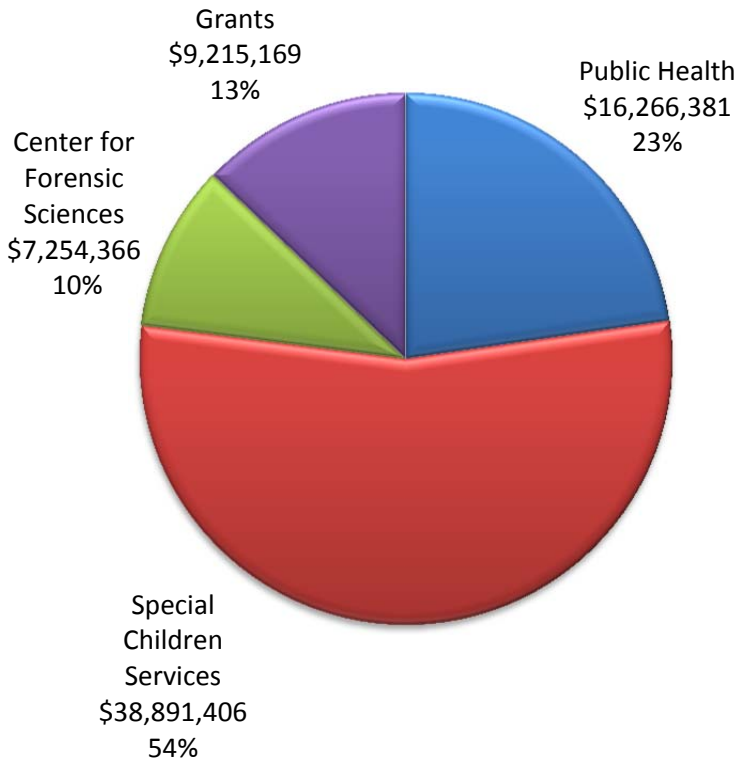
### **Highlights in 2014:**

- A new collaboration between the Onondaga County Medical Examiner's Office and SUNY Upstate Medical University gives medical students an insider's view into forensic pathology. The newly created elective allows senior students to observe and participate at the MEO for 4 weeks at a time. All of the Medical Examiners and MEO staff participate in the students' education and by the end of the rotation they have each observed about 40-50 autopsies and have a much greater understanding of the medicolegal death investigation process.
- One of our forensic investigators presented "The Boxer, the Priest, the Ex-Cop, and the IRA" for the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting to huge success. The presentation allowed conference attendees to become familiar with an international cast of characters involved in a multi-million dollar heist of a Brinks® depot, the subsequent death and forensic identification of one of the planners, and steps taken to return him to his native land. His seminar highlighted issues related to an accurate anthropologic evaluation of dismembered, skeletonized remains, illustrated the need for persistence and interagency cooperation in the investigation of unidentified human remains, and underscored the value of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) and Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) in the identification of human remains.
- In July 2014, the Onondaga County Medical Examiner's Office was called by the Oswego County Sheriff's Office and Coroner's Office to help with an investigation into the possible discovery of human remains on Rice Road in the Town of Parish. Our Medical Examiners and Investigators along with Forensic Autopsy Technicians, Interns, and Medical Students joined with the Oswego County Sheriff's Office and Oswego County Coroner's Office to help excavate the scene.
- Our Senior Forensic Investigator was elected to the Board of Directors for the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI) in September 2014. The ABMDI is a voluntary national, not-for-profit, independent professional certification board that has been established to promote the highest standards of practice for medicolegal death investigators. ABMDI certifies individuals who have the proven knowledge and skills necessary to perform medicolegal death investigations as set forth in the National Institutes of Justice 1999 publication *Death Investigation: A Guide for the Scene Investigator* (2011 updated version available).

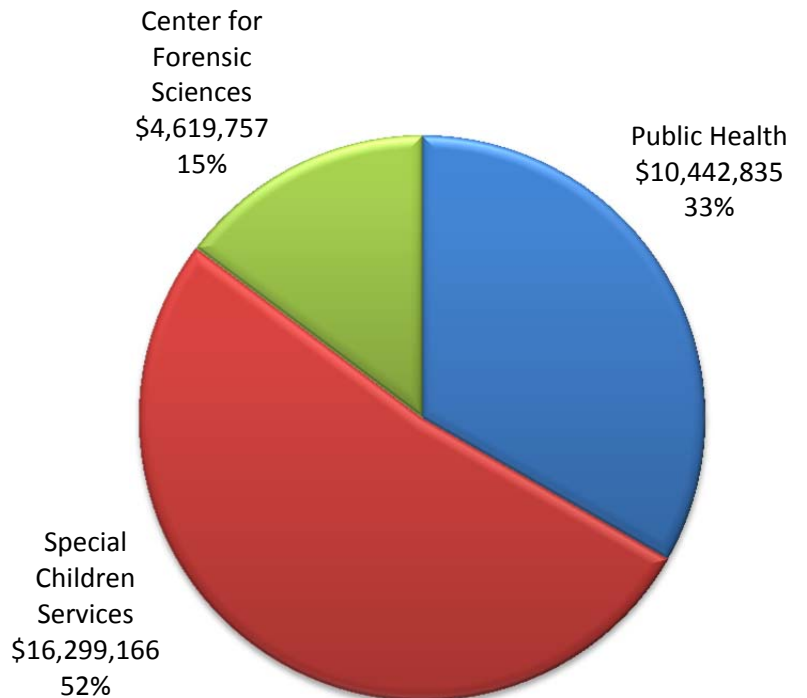


# 2014 Health Department Expenses and Local Dollars

## 2014 Expenses \$62,412,153



## 2014 Local \$31,361,758



## Grant Projects, 2014

<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$450,519</b>
• Public Health Preparedness	\$373,086
• Other	\$77,433
<b>Disease Control</b>	<b>\$702,042</b>
• HIV/AIDS/STD	\$455,237
• Tuberculosis	\$246,805
<b>Environmental Health</b>	<b>\$524,520</b>
<b>Health Promotion and Disease Prevention</b>	<b>\$1,733,638</b>
• Obesity	\$157,123
• Cancer Screening Services	\$481,930
• Lead	\$944,475
• Tobacco	\$150,110
<b>Maternal and Child Health</b>	<b>\$4,887,445</b>
• Eliminating Disparities (Healthy Start)	\$834,788
• Immunization	\$256,836
• WIC	\$2,580,682
• Early Intervention Program	\$208,182
• Maternal, Infant, Child Health	\$422,706
• Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting	\$353,536
• Health Information Technology	\$230,715
<b>Center for Forensic Sciences</b>	<b>\$917,005</b>
<b>Total Health Department:</b>	<b>\$9,215,169</b>

## Onondaga County Health Department



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