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Greater Syracuse Community Indicators 2005

FOCUS GREATER SYRACUSE

“Community Indicators promote and monitor progress toward sustainable vitality and measure a community’s well-being”

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

The Greater Syracuse Community Indicators Report is a snapshot of Onondaga County portraying trends of the time and opportunities for the future. *Community Indicators 2005* is the first update since the 2000 Indicators Report and presents the most recent available data. It is essentially a list of measurements which show where we are advancing as a community and where we are not. These measurements were collected from professionals with access to pertinent data concerning the issues that impact our daily lives. You will find their names and affiliations on the last page. Information was gathered by Samantha Long, Syracuse University student, supervised by Carol Dwyer, Director of the Community Benchmarks Program at The Maxwell School.

The goals of the Community Indicators Report are to:

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

Categories of Indicators

Eleven critical areas of community quality of life were identified as the most important data to include:

- Civic and Charitable Participation
- Culture and the Arts
- Downtown
- Economy and Employment
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Housing
- Mobility and Transportation
- Public Safety
- Recreation

Categories are arranged in alphabetical order – each category is equally important.

Criteria for Selecting Indicators

For each category, indicators were selected because they met the following criteria:

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

Certain pieces of data people might expect to see may be missing. In some cases the data simply are not being collected, or were not made available to us. In other cases, hard choices were made among lots of numbers. The data presented represents the most recent information available, and, where applicable, previous year comparisons.

Community Demographics... The Big Picture

Selected demographic information gives a “big picture” perspective of ourselves and our community – where we live, who we are, how old we are and how well we live.

	Population Change		
	1990	2000	2003 est.
Syracuse	163,860	147,326	144,001
Onondaga County	468,973	458,336	459,805
Syracuse MSA*	742,177	732,117	735,904

*The Syracuse Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) consists of the following counties: Cayuga, Madison, Onondaga and Oswego.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

These population changes reflect a declining metropolitan area population and a shift in population away from the city core to suburban and rural areas. A noted community alert in the Community Indicators 2000 report, this declining city population should cause concern. It is an indication of suburban sprawl, devaluing housing stock and a diminishing tax base. The Bureau estimates that between 2000 and 2002, the city of Syracuse lost people at a rate of 1.5 percent, while Onondaga County suburbs increased by 1.45 percent (Source: Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council's (SMTC) 2004 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) based on 2002 U.S. Census Bureau estimates).

The table on the next page shows Central New York's regional population distribution. Onondaga County is the most populous county in Central New York. As represented by SMTC's Urban Area boundary, the most populated areas of Onondaga County continue to be in the city of Syracuse and nearby towns to the north and east.

Regional Population Distribution, Central New York

CNY Town/City	2003 est.
Auburn	28,121
Camillus	23,268
Cicero	29,304
Clay	59,247
Cortland	18,462
De Witt	25,178
Elbridge	6,221
Fabius	2,019
Fulton	11,639
Geddes	17,559
Lafayette	4,864
Lysander	20,373
Manlius	32,436
Marcellus	6,334
Onondaga	21,359
Oswego	18,223
Otisco	2,601
Pompey	6,426
Salina	33,381
Skaneateles	7,401
Spafford	1,685
Syracuse	144,001
Tully	2,726
Van Buren	12,640

Source: US Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates

CNY County	2003 est.
Cayuga	81,916
Cortland	49,006
Madison	70,407
Onondaga	459,805
Oswego	123,776

Source: US Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates

CNY Village	2003 est.
Baldwinsville	7,109
Camillus	1,233
East Syracuse	3,118
Elbridge	1,090
Fabius	350
Fayetteville	4,164
Jordan	1,367
Liverpool	2,457
Manlius	4,759
Marcellus	1,820
Minoa	3,303
North Syracuse	6,863
Skaneateles	2,596
Solvay	6,734
Tully	907

Source: US Census Bureau, 2003 Population Estimates

**Percent Race/Ethnicity for
Onondaga County**

	2000	2003 est.
White	84.8%	83.9%
African American	9.4%	9.4%
Hispanic Origin	2.4%	3.0%
American Indian	0.9%	0.4%
Asian & Pacific Islander	2.1%	2.5%
Other	0.9%	0.7%
Two or more Race/Ethnicities	2.0%	3.1%

(Note: The total of these percentages adds up to 102.5/103 because Hispanic is considered an Ethnicity, not a Race.)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Percent Race/Ethnicity for
Syracuse City**

	2000
White	64.3%
African American	25.3%
Hispanic Origin	5.3%
American Indian	1.1%
Asian & Pacific Islander	3.4%
Other	2.2%
Two or more Race/Ethnicities	3.6%

2003 data estimates unavailable for Syracuse
(Note: The total of these percentages adds up to 105.2 because Hispanic is considered an Ethnicity, not a Race.)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Distribution of Population
By Age Group, Onondaga County**

Age in Years	1990	2000
0-4	7%	7%
5-19	21%	22%
20-34	26%	19%
35-44	15%	16%
45-64	18%	22%
65+	13%	14%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Distribution of Population
By Age Group, Syracuse City**

Age in Years	1990	2000
0-4	8%	7%
5-19	20%	23%
20-34	31%	26%
35-44	12%	13%
45-64	14%	18%
65+	15%	13%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The SMTC 2004 LRTP reports that, based on 2000 U.S. Census Bureau data, the median age in Onondaga County was 36.3, with Syracuse tending somewhat younger with a median age of 30.5, and the combination of Onondaga County Towns tending somewhat older at 39.3. The large college student population decreases the median age in Syracuse. According to the LRTP, slight difference of age distribution among Onondaga County municipalities exists between older suburbs versus those showing more recent growth. The older suburbs of DeWitt, Geddes, and Salina average the highest concentrations of people age 65 and older, and the lowest percentages of children under 18. Newer suburbs have experienced an increase in young families. Suburban towns with the most recent growth, such as the larger towns of Cicero, Clay and Lysander, have the highest percentages of children under 18 and young adults between the ages of 18 and 34.

Our future lies in the availability for all residents to share in educational, business and recreational opportunities. It is important to be aware of the challenges and opportunities that will come from having an aging population – both a national and local reality. The 2004 LRTP explains that the mobility limitations and reliance on public transportation for this segment of the

population will continue to present challenges in transportation planning, especially as the “Baby Boom” generation nears retirement age in lower density suburbs, as opposed to urban areas most conducive to efficient public transit. The 41-59 age bracket represents the “Baby Boomer” segment of the population (those born between 1946 and 1964). Some urban development experts believe that community’s ability to keep its older residents, especially the “well elderly”, will be a key contributor to economic strength and potential for growth for as long as the “Baby Boom” generation continues to dominate our demographic profile. This generation is generally expected to enter retirement age between 2010 and 2030. During these critical years, demand for housing and transportation services for seniors will increase. Out-migration to warmer climates is also expected to have its greatest effect on the County’s overall population during this time period (SMTC 2004 LRTP). Loss of population translates in a shrinking tax base.

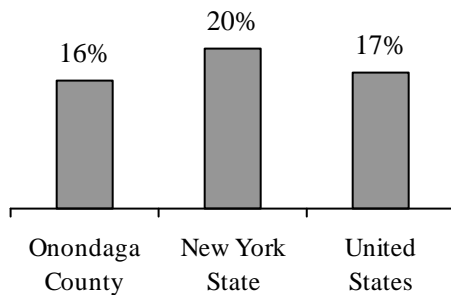
In 2003, the official poverty rate in the United States was 12.5 percent, up from 12.1 percent in 2002. From 2001-2003, the average poverty rate in New York State was 14.2 percent.

State, County and City Poverty Estimates

	1999	2003 est.**
Percent of Population (all ages) Living in Poverty	New York State: 14.6% Onondaga County: 12.2% Syracuse City: 27.3%	New York State: 13.5% Onondaga County: 12.9% Syracuse City: **
Percent of Related Children <18 yrs. Living in Poverty	New York State: 19.6% Onondaga County: 15.5% Syracuse City: 35.1%	New York State: 19.1% Onondaga County: 18.4% Syracuse City: **
Percent of Population >65 Living in Poverty	New York State: 11.3% Onondaga County: 7.1% Syracuse City: 12.4%	New York State: 12.0% Onondaga County: 7.4% Syracuse City: **

** Syracuse figures unavailable
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Percent of Children Living in Families Below the Poverty Level, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Onondaga County Income and Poverty, 2000

	Per Capita Income	Percent of Individuals Below Poverty Level
Camillus	\$22,591	4.3%
Cicero	\$21,527	5.1%
Clay	\$22,011	5.7%
DeWitt	\$29,198	7.2%
Elbridge	\$18,682	6.9%
Fabius	\$21,206	5.7%
Geddes	\$20,986	8.2%
LaFayette	\$24,591	5.1%
Lysander	\$26,187	3.8%
Manlius	\$31,825	3.3%
Marcellus	\$25,628	3.2%
Onondaga	\$25,522	4.2%
Onondaga	\$15,425	7.6%
Nation		
Otisco	\$19,726	5.7%
Pompey	\$27,970	3.9%
Salina	\$21,839	7.4%
Skaneateles	\$28,624	3.2%
Spafford	\$24,104	5.2%
Syracuse (City)	\$15,168	27.3%
Tully	\$25,223	6.7%
Van Buren	\$20,997	6.6%
Onondaga County	\$21,336	12.2%
United States	\$21,857	12.4%

Source: SMTCL RTP 2004 Update; U.S. Census Bureau

COMMUNITY ALERT:

In 2000, Onondaga County residents had a per capita income of \$21,336 and a poverty rate of 12.2%; both rates coincide closely with national averages. However the poverty is concentrated clearly in the City of Syracuse, where residents have a median income of just over \$15,000 and a poverty rate at least three times that of surrounding Onondaga County Towns.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

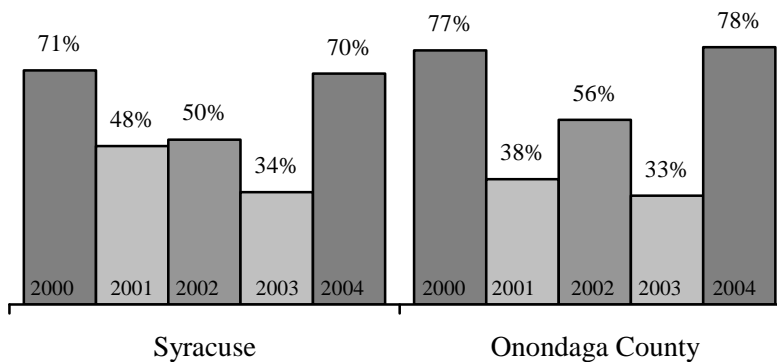
Strong communities have committed, active and engaged citizens. We've measured civic participation in terms of our local participation in our democratic process.

General Election Active Voter Enrollment Comparisons, Onondaga County

	Republicans	Democrats	Non Enrolled
2004	98,424	90,985	69,808
2003	96,115	84,091	65,216
2002	97,040	84,308	65,553
2001	98,752	85,002	66,649
2000	99,589	84,009	67,992

Source: 2005 General Election Statistics, Onondaga County Board of Elections

Percent of Registered Voters Voting in General Elections



Source: 2005 General Election Statistics, Onondaga County Board of Elections

Voting rates go up in years when there are national and state races. Compared to the 2000 Indicators Report, number of voters has increased in both the city and county.

CULTURE AND THE ARTS

In recognition of the value of arts and cultural activities as an important aspect of the quality of life in the City of Syracuse and a valuable asset which should be recognized in terms of encouraging tourism and fostering economic growth, the Syracuse Common Council and the Mayor of Syracuse adopted an ordinance in September 2003 establishing an area within the City of Syracuse (the special assessment district downtown) to be designated the *City of Syracuse Cultural District* and created the *City of Syracuse Cultural District Commission*. The following is only a snapshot of major cultural institutions.

- 40 museums and galleries, including the nationally known Everson Museum of Art, designed by I.M. Pei
- Syracuse Opera is the only year-round professional opera company serving Central New York
- Syracuse Stage, Central New York's only professional theatre, attracting talented actors and directors from Broadway and beyond
- Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, the 28th largest orchestra in the United States, serves the central and northern New York Region
- Museum of Science and Technology (MOST) provides hands-on experience for all ages with over 200 exhibits and displays. New York State's only IMAX-Dome theatre

DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE

Summary of Downtown Office Occupancy Rates

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Class A	95%	97%	97%	93%	94%
Class B	87%	88%	89%	89%	90%
Class C	80%	82%	80%	81%	86%
Armory Square	90%	93%	89%	88%	87%

Source: 2000-2004 Quarterly Economic Development Reports, Economic Development Committee/Downtown Committee

Definitions of Office Space

Class A: fully modern buildings with excellent location.

Class B: older buildings with varying stages of modernization.

Class C: older, smaller buildings that may not have been originally constructed for office space.

Armory Square: office space located in the Armory Square area.

COMMUNITY ALERT: Vacant storefronts and offices in downtown Syracuse give a visible impression to residents and tourists that the city is suffering from a poor economy. Efforts to fill these vacancies is urgent.

Summary of Downtown Retail Occupancy Rates

Year End	Occupancy Rate
2002	79.8%
2003	80.8%
2004	84.8%

Source: 2000-2004 Quarterly Economic Development Reports, Economic Development Committee/Downtown Committee

ONCENTER COMPLEX:

The Oncenter Complex is a highly attractive multi-venue exhibition, convention, and entertainment facility. Centrally located in the Northeast, the Oncenter Complex is committed to providing value to its users through customer-focused management and service. The Oncenter Complex is a family of enthusiastic professionals united as one, dedicated to the details of providing superior service (Mission Statement, Oncenter Complex).

Three separate venues within a single physical and management environment position the Oncenter Complex attracts both regional and national events that contribute to the economic and cultural development of Onondaga County.

	Tradeshow/ Consumer	Conventions (State/Regional/ National)	Number of Delegates	Direct Spending (million)*	Total Attendance Complex-wide
2000	30	32	119k	\$42.8	783,257
2001	26	27	81k	\$29.2	828,325
2002	29	26	75k	\$27.0	916,731
2003	32	26	76k	\$27.3	882,662
2004	28	23	66k	\$23.8	NA

*Direct spending formula: Number of Delegates x 2.5 days x \$144/day

Source: Oncenter Complex Overview

The average convention size in 2004, based on the number of delegates, was 2,886. This contributed to an estimated usage of 17,989 county room nights by convention groups. The economic impact of such attraction to the Onondaga County is measured by multiplying the direct spending by 1.7. In 2004, the economic impact of Oncenter Complex major conventions was \$40,618,440.

ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

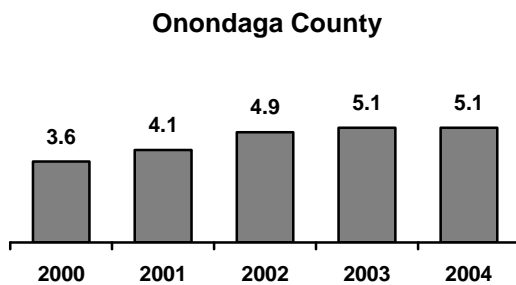
A crucial measure of community health is how well the local economy is doing. Prosperous regions have growing job markets, low unemployment, and a skilled pool of workers. Central New York – defined as the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) consisting of the Cayuga, Madison, Onondaga and Oswego counties – is emerging as a national leader in providing high-tech, yet family friendly environments for business. The Central New York job market continues to weather the recession, and, as the economy shows signs of improvement, employment opportunities in Syracuse remain stable. Syracuse is crossing a threshold, making a transition away from the manufacturing-centered economy toward services and knowledge-based economy. Small and mid-size businesses are growing in number and size. A sampling of what others think of Syracuse follows:

- *Places Rated Almanac* ranked Syracuse as the 32nd best place to live out of 354 metropolitan areas in the US and Canada.
- Syracuse was named one of the nation's top 50 cities for business expansion and relocation by *Expansion Management* magazine.
- Syracuse has an international presence as one of only 14 cities globally that is a member of the Sesame Network, an important international business organization whose purpose is to promote economic and cultural cooperation worldwide.
- Syracuse was ranked in the top 20 cities, nationally, for Internet penetration, according to a national survey by Scarborough Research.
- Inc.com ranks Syracuse as the 14th best mid-sized cities for doing business in America
- In 2005, the Farmers Insurance Group of Companies ranked Syracuse among the top 20 most secure places to live in the United States (11th in the large metropolitan-area category) recognizing Syracuse as a safe, secure place to live, work, and raise a family.

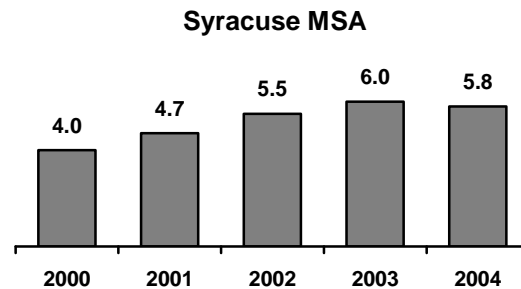
According to the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce's *Greater Syracuse 2004-2005 Community Guide*, businesses across Central New York are leading local economic growth. Across the Syracuse area, businesses large and small are making investments in facilities, employees and equipment. Over the last decade, Central New York has gone from being one of the least diverse economies in the state to being one of the three most diverse. The bulk of that diversity has been in the growth and expansion of small business. About 90 percent of the over 12,000 businesses operating in Onondaga County are small, employing 25 or fewer people. Some will grow to become larger employers. They are also replacing some of the recently lost manufacturing jobs. From April 1999 to November 2001, the Syracuse area was at record employment. The Syracuse area, like others, lost jobs after the national recession and the fallout from the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. In the summer of 2003, despite specific manufacturing losses, the overall job market began rebounding. The Syracuse metropolitan statistical area was growing jobs faster than any other part of the state. The vast majority of growth happened in small and medium-sized companies. Leading the way in growth is health services. Others are education and tourism and hospitality. Sizeable growth falls under professional and business services, covering everything from legal and accounting services to software development, engineering and environmental services.

The Central New York regional economy is growing, thanks in large part to expansion by a broad-based set of industries, including many in the area's high-tech sector. The sector, including biotechnology, geospatial technology, and nanotechnology, has experienced a recent up tick due to increased business investment. An integral part of the Central New York region's labor market, it should continue to be a source of future job growth (Source: Focus on Central New York: State Local High-Tech Industries Growing, Central New York Employment Statistics).

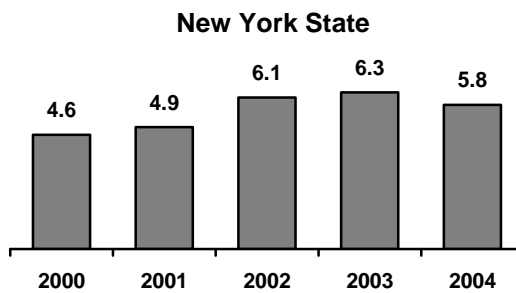
Unemployment Rate



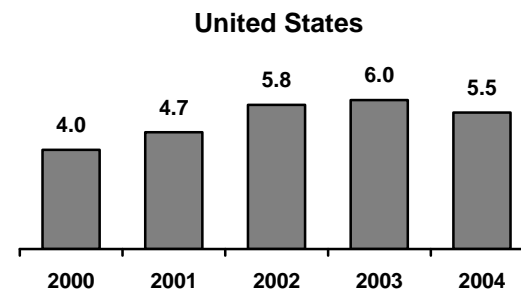
Source: New York State Department of Labor



Source: New York State Department of Labor



Source: New York State Department of Labor



Source: New York State Department of Labor

Total Job Count for the Syracuse Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

	February 2004	February 2005	Difference
Non-Agricultural Employment	312,500	315,200	+2,700

Source: New York State Department of Labor

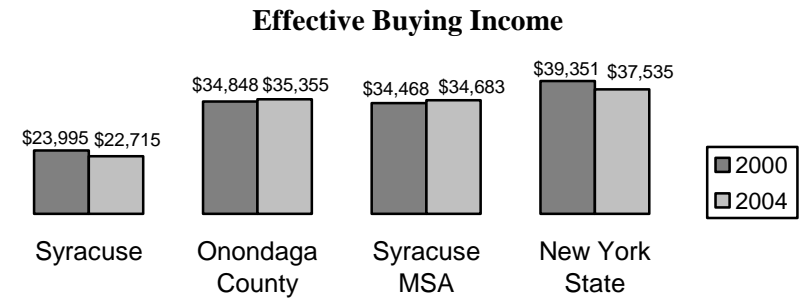
Labor Force

	Labor Force February 2005	Employed February 2005
Onondaga County	231,200	219,700
Syracuse MSA	327,000	308,500

Source: New York State Department of Labor

Another measure of an area's economic health is effective buying income, defined as the total disposable income of the people who make up a household. In other words, this figure represents the amount of money per year a family has to spend on housing, food, bills, clothing, etc.

COMMUNITY ALERT: Families in the city of Syracuse have disproportionately less disposable income that those in the state, county and MSA.



Source: Sales Marketing & Management 2004 Survey of Buying Power

EDUCATION

The foundation of our community's future is the quality of education. There are 44 private and state colleges within the Greater Syracuse Region, including eight in the Syracuse area, with a combined enrollment of over 215,000. In addition, there are 18 school districts in Onondaga County (17 suburban, one city) with an enrollment of approximately 80,000 students. The districts are comprised of 78 elementary schools, 27 junior high and 21 high schools. The five vocational centers and 24 private vocational and technical schools offer more than 80 courses of study in a wide variety of fields. The information below, broken down by school district, demonstrates how much attention is needed in the Syracuse City School District (SCSD).

COMMUNITY ALERT: Thirty-eight percent of SCSD seniors did not graduate in 2003. These figures do not account for those students who dropped out of school before 12th grade. We should be concerned about the seniors who fail to graduate, but we should worry even more about those students who did not make it to 12th grade at all.

	Graduation Rate *		Percent of Graduates Receiving Regents Diplomas	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
Baldwinsville	90	88	78	78
ESM	97	86	64	62
Fabius	92	94	55	55
FM	98	94	74	78
JD	94	96	74	81
Jordan Elbridge	79	81	59	62
LaFayette	86	87	62	67
Liverpool	84	82	75	69
Marcellus	91	91	76	75
North Syracuse	83	79	63	63
Onondaga	89	86	64	63
Skaneateles	96	92	87	82
Solvay	85	78	67	63
Syracuse	58	62	44	41
Tully	85	94	73	75
W. Genesee	94	87	86	86
Westhill	98	98	82	83

*Percent of students graduating within 4 years

Source: New York State Department of Education, School District Report Cards, 2004, 2005

We should be concerned that the percentage of our community's students able to complete the Regents program of study is not proportional to that of those graduating. In addition, BOCES, or Boards Of Cooperative Educational Services, exist as cooperative associations of school districts in component districts which have banded together to provide educational or business services more economically than each could offer by itself (shared service). Onondaga-Cortland-Madison (OCM) BOCES, operating similarly to a typical school district, develops and provides

educational programs and services of the highest quality for school districts and the community. In 2003, OCM BOCES served 63,820 students, ranking 9th largest by K-12 student base among the 38 BOCES in New York State.

Based on 2003 OCM BOCES Career and Technical Education data, 83.2 percent of graduating students received high school diplomas or equivalents. Of these graduates, the following reports were made: 27 percent established unrelated employment, 26 percent enrolled in postsecondary education, 16 percent established related employment, one percent went into the military and one percent was considered to have a status of 'other'. The status of 23 percent of graduates was reported as unknown, and only six percent were reported unemployed.

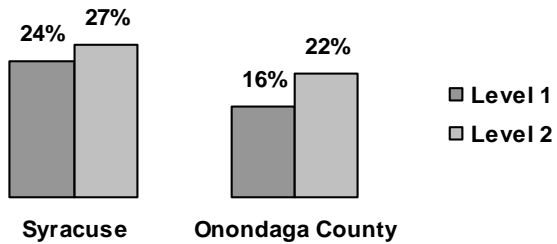
Percent of Persons 25 Years and Over With Bachelor's or Higher Degrees

U.S.	26.5
New York State	29.7
Onondaga County	31.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 American Community Survey Data Profile Estimates

Nearly one third of Onondaga County's residents are obtaining Bachelor's or higher degrees, a figure surpassing the state and national statistics. Since people with Bachelor's degrees earn almost twice as much as high school graduates, this level of educational attainment in our community is a solid indicator of economic health.

Literacy Rates



Source: Family Literacy in Greater Syracuse, December 2003 Report

Level 1 Literacy: those who are functionally illiterate, who cannot perform everyday tasks such as reading a map or bus schedule, or comparing prices.

Level 2 Literacy: those who are able to perform simple tasks, but have difficulty processing and analyzing what they read.

COMMUNITY CONCERN: Although we have reason to celebrate because our area has so many fine colleges and such a large number of college graduates, we must keep in mind that there are people living among us who struggle even to read.

ENVIRONMENT

The condition of the environment is critically important to people in Onondaga County.

REASONS TO CELEBRATE:

- The City of Syracuse received national recognition for outstanding efforts to protect the earth's climate and stratospheric ozone layer by initiating a model program to conserve energy for all government facilities.
- Our County's recycling program is a model for the nation and the world. In 2004, approximately 733,000 tons were recycled through mandatory and voluntary recycling in the community, for a recycling rate of 66 percent (Source: 2004 Annual Report on Recyclables Recovered, Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency).
- For the eighth consecutive year, OCRRA met the NYSDEC permit goal that calls for a least 40 percent processible recycling with a 43% reduction in the processible Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) within the service area. In this category, mandatory curbside and commercial recycling totaled 230,000 tons, an increase of 12,940 tons since 2002 (Source: 2004 Annual Report on Recyclables Recovered, Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency).

REASON FOR HOPE: Changes in Onondaga Lake over time serve as indicators for measuring environmental progress. Monitoring these changes helps determine the importance of various sources of pollution, establish trends in water quality and determine whether water quality conditions meet state and federal standards. The County is closely tracking changes in water quality and relating these changes to the improvements in the wastewater collection and treatment system that are underway. As part of Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection's (OCDWEP) Ambient Monitoring Program (AMP), water quality data collected each year are analyzed for trends. The trend analysis is useful in measuring changes in the lake in response to the substantial public investment in improvements to the wastewater collection and treatment system. Trends identified in OCDWEP's June 2004 Onondaga Lake Fact Sheet report improvements in water quality and habitat conditions of Onondaga Lake over the past decade:

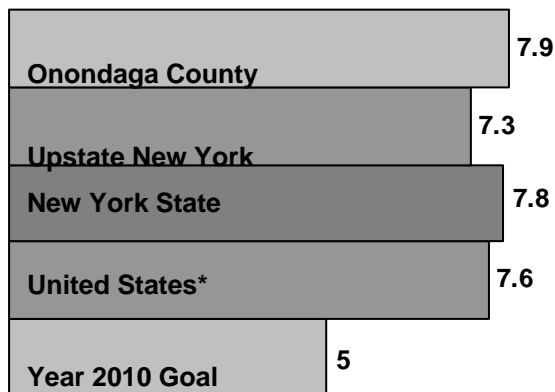
- Ammonia concentrations in Onondaga Lake have decreased dramatically in recent years in response to improved wastewater treatment.
- Phosphorus levels are declining in the lake.
- Dissolved oxygen concentrations remain low in the lake's deeper waters. However, some improvements in oxygen levels in the upper waters during the fall are evident.
- Nearshore bacteria levels in the lake's southern basin limit the potential for water contact recreation.
- Water clarity is improving, but recent emergence of the alewife (a fish) has reduced the large-bodied zooplankton (tiny aquatic animals that graze on algae). Fewer large zooplankton results in more algae.

Court-ordered projects have been implemented to bring the quality of the aquatic environment into compliance with state and federal requirements. Onondaga County is committed to changing the sewer collection system to reduce Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), improving the Metropolitan Syracuse Wastewater Treatment Plant (Metro) to remove more contaminants from wastewater prior to discharge and monitoring Onondaga Lake, the lake tributaries, and the Seneca River to track their response to pollution abatement actions (Source: June 2004 Onondaga Lake Fact Sheet, Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection). A restored Onondaga Lake will strengthen our community, providing water quality conditions suitable for recreational use and for supporting a balanced ecological community of plants and animals.

HEALTH

Health statistics were chosen to draw attention to significant health issues with the most potential to be affected by community action. Expanding on the indicators chosen for the Community Indicators 2000 Report, infant mortality rate, infant mortality rate by race/ethnicity and long term care facility data have been included to reflect recent trends facing Onondaga County.

Distribution of Low Birthweights Infants per 100 Births, 2000-2002



*Data from 1998-2000

Source: Community Health Assessment,
Onondaga County Health Department

COMMUNITY CONCERN: Infants born with low birthweight attract our concern since this condition often speaks to issues of poverty, quality of pre-natal care and to complications with later physical and emotional development. In 1994-1996, the year 2000 goal was 6.9. Since that time, Onondaga County increased 0.9 percentage points, from seven percent, and Upstate New York increased 1.3 percentage points, from 6 percent. Also causes for concern are the infant mortality rates in the city of Syracuse and Onondaga County, which were significantly higher than New York State's in 2001 and 2002. Equally alarming are the large disparities existing across different races/ethnicities. This condition speaks to racial/ethnic inequalities surrounding poverty and quality of pre-natal care.

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
City of Syracuse	7.0	11.5	7.6	17.1	13.6
Onondaga County	7.2	8.8	7.8	12.6	9.1
New York State	6.2	6.3	6.3	5.7	5.9

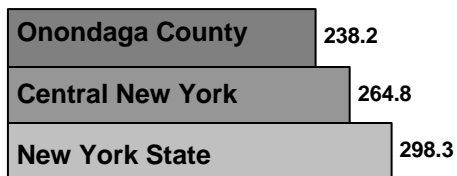
Source: Onondaga County Health Department

**Infant Mortality Rate by Race/Ethnicity
per 1,000 Live Births**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
City of Syracuse					
Black	12.9	16.5	12.3	28.3	19.3
White	3.3	7.2	2.6	7.3	10.2
Hispanic	12.5	17.9	22.9	34.3	14.2
Onondaga County					
Black	16.0	16.8	13.3	25.3	19.7
White	5.6	6.5	6.4	9.2	7.2
Hispanic	9.6	22.5	20.7	29.3	9.4
New York State					
Black	10.5	10.5	12.0	10.5	10.3
White	5.0	5.0	5.5	5.2	5.7
Hispanic	4.1	4.5	4.1	3.9	3.8

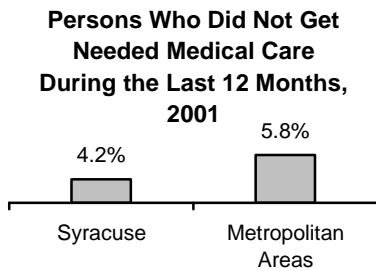
Source: Onondaga County Health Department

**Heart Disease Mortality Rate
(per 100,000 deaths)**

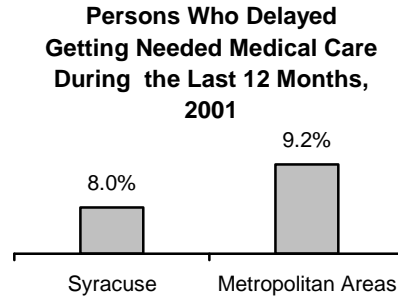


Source: New York State Department of Health, 2000-2002 Vital Statistics

Although Onondaga County's heart disease death rate is lower than the Central New York and New York State averages, it has increased significantly since the 1994-1996 average of 130.6. At that time, the National Center for Disease Control set a year 2000 goal of 100. You can see that recent years have made this goal, even by 2010 or 2020, much more of a challenge. The following charts involve Syracuse Consumers' Access to Care in 2001 by comparing Syracuse to metropolitan areas with populations over 200,000 in areas of unmet need, delayed care and out-of-pocket costs.



Source: Center for Health System Change (HSC) Community Tracking Study Household and Physician Surveys, 2000-01



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The Central New York Health Systems Agency (CNYHSA), based on 2000 U.S. Census age-specific Onondaga County experiences, reports that although the population in Onondaga County is expected to decline over the next twenty years, the elderly population is expected to increase as baby boomers begin to reach 65 and their parents reach 85. The population aged 65-74, for example, is expected to increase by 30 percent, the frail elderly by 60 percent and the number of deaths by 22 percent. By 2020 the elderly will represent 18 percent of the population compared to 14 percent today (Source: CNYHSA). Central New York will be confronted with a crisis in long term care due to an aging population, less need for traditional institutional care during the next 10 to 20 years, expanded demand for alternative housing and home based care, and shortage of health care personnel.

	2007 Final Need (RHCF)	Existing Beds	Unmet Need	2000 Frail Elderly, ACF Census	2000 ALP Census	Supportive Housing	2007 Estimated Supportive Housing
Onondaga County	3,270	3,097	173	774	68	842	757

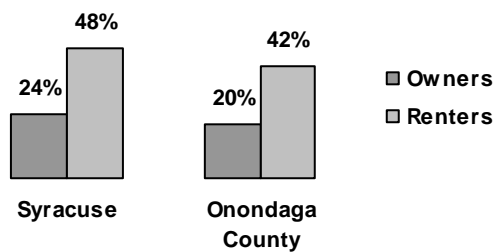
Source: CNYHSA, Final 2007 Need – Residential Health Care Facility and Other LTC Resources

COMMUNITY ALERT: Future challenges are anticipated in serving the needs of elders. While the over 65 population is basically healthy, 50 percent of those over 85 will require an extensive set of services. As the data shows, the supply of nursing beds will not increase, forcing community residencies and homes to be the predominant service sites for elder care (Source: CNYHSA, Health Planning in Central New York, 2002).

HOUSING

If we are to develop our neighborhoods to their full potential, it is important to assess our housing stock. Affordable, quality housing is necessary for families and neighborhoods to thrive.

Percent of Families Spending 30% or More of Income on Housing



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Renters spend a higher proportion of their incomes on housing than homeowners do. Owner-occupied residences tends to contribute to the stability of a neighborhood. Slight improvements have occurred over the past decade. Syracuse demonstrated a five percent increase in home ownership, and Onondaga County demonstrated a two percent increase.

Percent Owner Occupied Housing Units



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 SF3

Comparison of Building Permits to Demolition Permits

	Syracuse		Onondaga County*	
	Building Permits	Demolition Permits	Building Permits	Demolition Permits
1990	164	197	1265	4
1999	16	266	1035	7
2000	79	261	1015	15
2001	83	276	1085	16
2002	60	608	1172	12
2003	58	299	1141	39
2004	20	135	1038	31

*Numbers reflect Onondaga County permits occurring outside the city of Syracuse. Syracuse numbers not included.

Source: Syracuse and Onondaga County Planning Agency

COMMUNITY ALERT: An increase in building permits is a signal of a growing community. Conversely, communities like Syracuse, with more demolition than building going on, are often plagued with vacant and abandoned structures needing repair or removal. The situation the City of Syracuse faces is not unique to this City, and is common to almost every city in the United States. Significant attention across the nation is now being centered on the “costs of sprawl,” and the economic and social benefits of reinvesting in existing city centers, villages and hamlets. With current government fiscal constraints across New York State, out-migration, and limited economic growth projected in Central New York over the next several years, the costs of sprawl become more important. However, in this same economic climate, municipalities find it difficult to discourage new private development on the basis of sprawl, especially given the relatively large amount of undeveloped land within Onondaga County (Source: SOCPA, SMTC). With every demolition, a clear plan for use of the property should be developed.

MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION

People appreciate being able to reach their destinations with a minimum of stress, hassles and delays at a price they can afford. We must strive to provide the most affordable, highest quality public transportation systems to city and county residents of all income levels. A good public transportation system will be a factor in making our community attractive to an aging population. Increasing bus ridership is a sign that our public transportation system is meeting the needs of more people. (Also, environmentalists would point out that air pollution goes down when more people take the bus.)

Total Bus Ridership (In Millions)

	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	Difference
Onondaga County	10.2	10.8	10.9	11.7	+14.7%*

*Approximate increase from 2000/2001 to 2003/2004

Source: Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (Centro)

According to the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) provided by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Planning and Strategy Group, in 2002 the number of Daily Vehicle Miles of Travel (DVMT) in the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) Federal Aid Urbanized Area was 9,473,000. This represents a 35.5 percent increase over miles traveled in 1990 when the DVMT was 6,990,000. The forecasted DMVT shown on the chart below was prepared by the Wharton Econometric Forecasting Association (WEFA) Group, a forecasting consulting firm, for the NYSDOT in 2001.

Daily Vehicle Miles of Travel

	1998	2000	2002	2004 (forecasted)
Onondaga County Urbanized Area	8,920,000	9,427,000	9,473,000	10,708,000

Source: SMTC, NYSDOT, WEFA

DVMT is a statistic with several stories to tell. Its constant increase signals hardships faced in the battle against sprawl. This is troublesome for an aging population with fewer drivers. DVMT is included in the report because it is one of the statistics urban planners find especially telling about community growth patterns.

*Total Aircraft Passengers
Hancock International Airport*

2000	2,137,953
2001	1,904,070
2002	1,897,577
2003	1,894,994
2004	2,260,616

Source: Syracuse Department of Aviation

PUBLIC SAFETY

According to the Syracuse Police Department 2004 Annual Report, the city of Syracuse covers a land area of 25.8 square miles and has a population of approximately 147,306. As of December 1, 2004 there were 472 sworn officers and 112 civilian personnel employed by the police department. This amounts to about 312 officers per 100,000 people. Knowing the ratio of officers per residents gives us a way to think about what it really takes to make community policing possible.

Crime statistics for violent and property crimes in the city of Syracuse are hard to compare with county and state statistics, and should ideally be compared with crime numbers from other cities, such as Rochester.

Total Part I (Most Serious) Crimes Reported, 2004

	Violent Crimes*	Change from Previous Year	Property Crimes**	Change from Previous Year
Syracuse City	1,295	-6.2%	6,556	-16.8%
Rochester City	1,781	-12.4%	15,458	-1.6%
Onondaga County	1,645	-7.9%	12,421	-14.4%
Monroe County (Rochester area)	2,331	-11.1%	28,616	-1.5%
New York State***	83,784	-6.2%	408,714	-4.6%

*Includes murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault

**Includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft

***2004 New York State crime counts are preliminary and subject to change as reporting becomes complete

Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

REASON TO CELEBRATE: In the years leading up to 2002, disturbing trends were emerging in Syracuse and Onondaga County as the crime rates were increasing annually. Since 2002, both Syracuse and Onondaga County have experienced decreases in total violent and property crimes by approximately 20 percent. This decrease demonstrates that our community is taking action on the problem.

RECREATION

At the F.O.C.U.S. 1998 Vision Fair and overwhelming majority of citizens voted for building bicycle paths, hiking trails and walkers paths everywhere as their top preference to improve the area. Building new trails and maintaining existing ones are a measure of quality of life now and for future generations.

Total Miles of Trails

Class I Primary Trails	April 2005 Miles
Onondaga County	35

Source: Onondaga County Department of Parks and Recreation

Class I Primary Trails are those that are vehicle free. Recent trail expansions have been in Baldwinsville and Onondaga Lake. As work progresses on the Creek Walk, Loop-the-Lake, CanalWay and other trails throughout the County, we will see these numbers increase.

YOU CAN HELP

We recorded here a list of measures to help us all see if we are providing the best possible context within which people can enjoy their lives. There is a part here for you to play. Which of these indicators can you affect, in even a small way, by what you do and how you choose to lead your life? We look forward to your participation in any of the community groups and projects working to make these indicators move in the right directions. Your comments and suggestions are welcome!

The people who participated in the Community Indicators 2005 Update:
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