

# Onondaga County Community Indicators

## 2011 Report



# Purpose

Onondaga County strives to be a sustainable community where every decision is determined on the interdependence and integration of economic vitality, social equity, and environmental stewardship. We are a community 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 basic creed is Be+ (be positive).

The Onondaga County Community Indicators Report is a snapshot of Greater Syracuse, portraying trends of the time and opportunities for the future. Community Indicators 2011 measures where we are advancing as a community and where we are not. This report is intended to stimulate public discussion to find solutions to critical challenges while celebrating our accomplishments. Members of the Community Benchmarks Program at Syracuse University's Maxwell School collected the data over a period of one semester. Carol Dwyer, Director of the Community Benchmarks Program, supervised the data compilation. FOCUS Greater Syracuse, CNY Community Foundation and the Community Benchmarks Program are partners for this report.

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;
3. Celebrate areas where we are excelling or are working hard to improve;
4. Stimulate interest in collecting and reporting data to inform community change.

It is with enthusiasm and pride that we present the Onondaga County Community Indicators Report 2011. We hope you will find it useful to build a sustainable community for this and future generations.

*Charlotte 'Chuckie' Holstein*  
*FOCUS Greater Syracuse, Inc.*

The 2011 Community Indicators Report is a snapshot that highlights how Onondaga County measures up when compared to the past and/or other geographic areas. Where metrics are not available, a descriptive overview is provided.

In addition to the city of Syracuse, Onondaga County has 19 towns, 15 villages and 18 school districts. There is an estimated population of 454,753<sup>1</sup> that includes people of many colors, ethnicities, ages, religious affiliations and economic status.

One of the main economic engines supporting the county is the abundance of *Eds & Meds*, the county is home to Syracuse University, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, LeMoyne College, State University of New York Upstate Medical University, and Onondaga Community College. In addition, the State University of New York at Oswego has a Metro center in downtown Syracuse, Bryant and Stratton College offers certification and licensing in professional skill areas and the Onondaga ♦ Cayuga ♦ Madison Board of Cooperative Extension provides vocational training for high school students and adults in the tri-county area. Nursing schools are housed in both St. Joseph and Crouse hospitals. Their combined annual enrollments serve over 41,000 students from around the world. There are another 35 schools of higher learning within a 100-mile radius of Onondaga County.

There are close to 1,500 physicians in the county, approximately three for every 1,000 residents. A number of these doctors have been recognized nationally and globally. Most are affiliated with one of five hospitals: Community General, Crouse, St. Joseph's SUNY Upstate the Syracuse VA Medical Center.

The county is rich in recreational and cultural activities with events, venues and performing arts companies such as the Syracuse Symphony, New York State Fair, Alliance Bank Stadium, the Carrier Dome at Syracuse University, and the Oncenter Complex, which includes a conference center, war memorial, civic center, and museums. Throughout the county there is a number of golf courses, skating rinks, community centers, and over 50 local, county and state parks, as well as a zoo featuring over 1,000 animals. Almost every weekend in the summer, free entertainment, arts and crafts, and ethnic festivals are free in downtown Syracuse and throughout the county. This report allows viewers to see how the county has changed and to identify where improvement needs to occur.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://factfinder.census.gov/>, Population Estimate, Jan. 9, 2011

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# Acknowledgements

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## **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the trends and issues facing county residents to generate discussion, celebrate success and stimulate interest in collecting and reporting data. The information is not exhaustive and is anticipated to grow over time as more data become available.

## **Community Indicator Report**

### **Background**

The report was first created in 2000 by FOCUS of Greater Syracuse, Central New York Technology Development Organization, United Way of Central New York, and Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce to educate and inform individuals about how the community was doing in various important areas.

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 whether the indicator should move up or down.

In 2005, FOCUS partnered with the Community Benchmarks Program (CBP)<sup>2</sup> at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University to update and expand the report. The current report is the result of the same alliance and is supported by the Central New York Community Foundation, which is partnering with the CBP, FOCUS and other area organizations to continue the work by posting information on a website so the information can be fluid and up-to-date.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.maxwell.syr.edu/benchmarks/](http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/benchmarks/)

## **FOCUS of Greater Syracuse**

FOCUS is a citizen-driven organization that has used a visioning process developed to make Syracuse a better place to live and work. Founded in 1998, FOCUS seeks to engender a feeling of pride and a future of promise. It engages in research, public policy advocacy, public education and public outreach to promote intelligent, inclusive and sustainable decision making.<sup>3</sup>

## **Central New York Community Foundation, Inc.**

Founded in 1927, the Community Foundation of Central New York connects the generosity of donors with community needs. The goal of the foundation is to enhance the quality of life of area residents in various ways:

- Encouraging the growth of permanent charitable endowments to meet the community's changing opportunities and needs;
- Providing vehicles for donors with diverse philanthropic interests;
- Serving as a catalyst, neutral convener and facilitator and promoting collaborations among various organization to accomplish common objectives;
- Carrying out a strategic grant making program that is flexible, visionary and inclusive.

Annually, the foundation endows more than \$5 million in grants while also providing leadership support in the fields of arts and culture, community and economic development, education, environment, health and human services.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> [www.focus.syracuse.org](http://www.focus.syracuse.org)

<sup>4</sup> [www.cnycf.org/cnycf](http://www.cnycf.org/cnycf)

Starting with the original Community Indicators project created in 2000 and updated in 2005, and again in 2010, researchers with the Community Benchmarks Program (CBP) added and removed sections and indicators to create a more comprehensive report. They conducted research through the Internet and by looking at other metropolitan areas that post community indicators to determine what to include in the report. Eleven critical areas have been identified as the most important data to assess:

- Aging
- Crime
- Culture & Recreation
- Economy
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Housing
- People
- Transportation
- Youth

Various indicators were then selected in each of these categories to convey a snapshot of Onondaga County.

In compiling the indicators from public and private-sector sources, CBP has made every effort to present reliable data that informs readers. The CBP researchers contacted experts, community organizations, and government agencies through online databases, websites, e-mail messages, and phone calls to retrieve critical data.

The goal was to gather statistical information for Onondaga County dating back to 2000, and use comparative data for the city of Syracuse, New York State and the United States, when available. In some cases, information for other metropolitan areas were included.

Indicators were then selected in each of these categories, using 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.

Onondaga County has a land area of 793.5 square miles and is comprised of multiple municipalities, the largest of which is the city of Syracuse. The county is also comprised of 19 towns, 15 villages and the Onondaga Indian Nation.

Onondaga County is located in the heart of Central New York, with Oswego County to the North, Madison County to the East, Cortland County to the South, and Cayuga County to the West. County residents live within a 350-mile radius of all major cities in the Northeast, including Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Toronto, and Montreal.

The county was established in 1794. The name derived from one of the Five Nations of the Haudenosaunee and means *People of the Hills*.<sup>5</sup>

The Central New York region houses the third largest concentration of colleges and universities in the nation. According to the Onondaga County website, roughly 32,000 students live in Onondaga County. The centers of higher education include Syracuse University, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, LeMoyne College, State University of New York Upstate Medical University, and Onondaga Community College, which are also the county's largest employers.

The Syracuse Symphony, New York State Fair, Carousel Center Mall, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, Syracuse Stage, and Alliance Bank Stadium along with a number of other cultural and recreational venues are located in Onondaga County. The Oncenter Complex is an integrated convention center that includes a 207,000-square-foot convention hall, a 6,200-seat arena, performing arts theaters, and a 1,000-car parking garage. Since its opening in 1993, the complex has attracted nearly 10 million visitors.

Onondaga County has a population of approximately 454,753, according to the US Census Bureau 2009 population estimates. The population includes the 138,560 residents in the city of Syracuse, which has been coined *The Emerald City* by former city mayor Matt Driscoll for the efforts of government and other partners to create a sustainable city.

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<sup>5</sup> [www.ongov.net](http://www.ongov.net)



## Introduction

While Onondaga County wants to attract more young families and new investment, it is also viewed as a place that is comfortable for its long-time residents. Senior citizens value their community for continuing to offer them a high quality of life after retirement.

Having worked in and contributed to a region for much of their lives, the elderly desire certain amenities upon retirement and/or when they have physical limitations. Seniors living in poverty require appropriate housing. Health care options are also important to their well-being and quality of life.

There is an abundance of housing options in Onondaga County for seniors and many nursing home beds are available for those who need them. There are also programs such as the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage in place to help seniors pay for medication.

## 65+ in Poverty

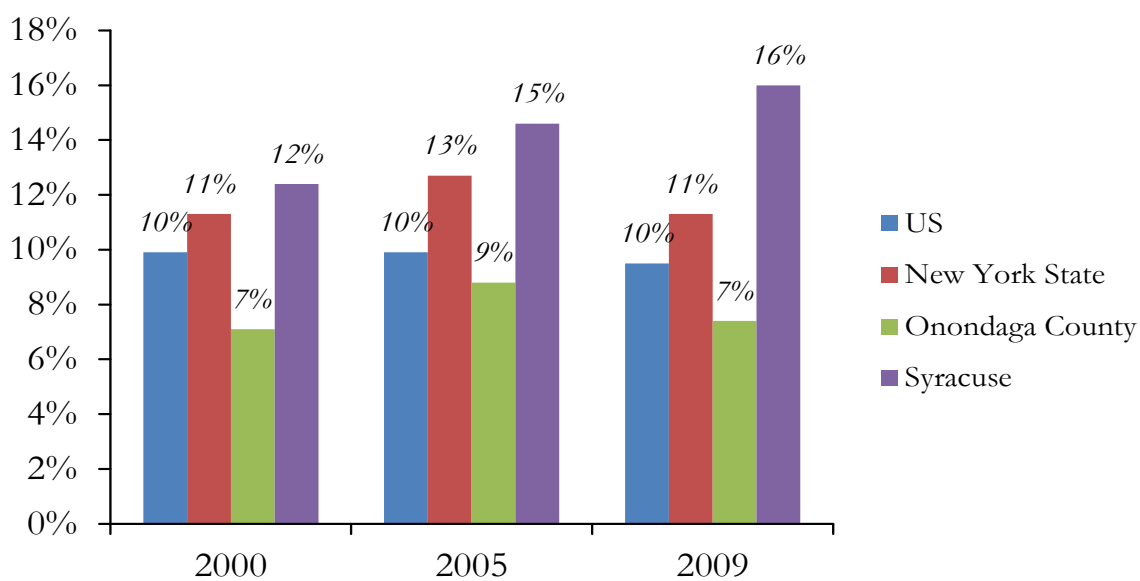
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of individuals aged 65 and over whose total income falls below the poverty threshold.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it identifies a group of elderly residents who are in need of support.

## Elderly Population Living in Poverty



Source: US Census Bureau

**Comment:** This graph is not to scale to preserve the visible trends.

## 65+ With a Disability

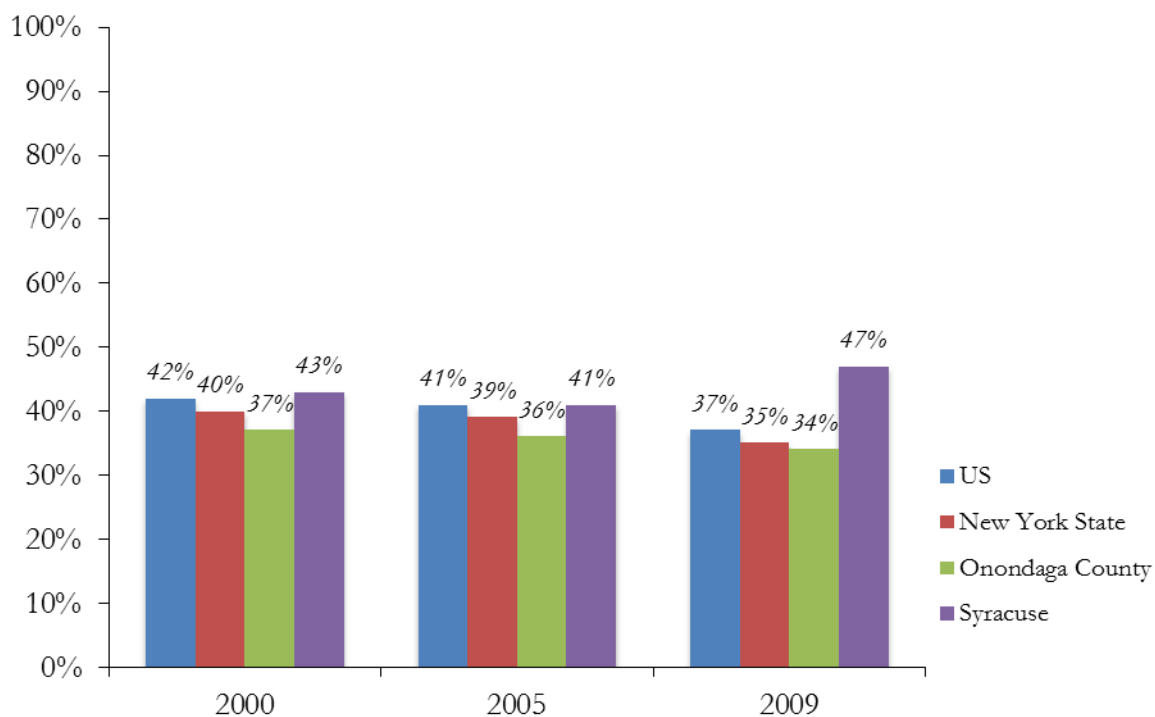
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percent of elderly individuals who have difficulties in one or more of the four basic areas of functioning which include, vision, hearing, ambulation (the ability to walk), and cognition.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it conveys the number of elderly who may not be physically independent.

### 65+ with a Disability



Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 & 2005-10 est.

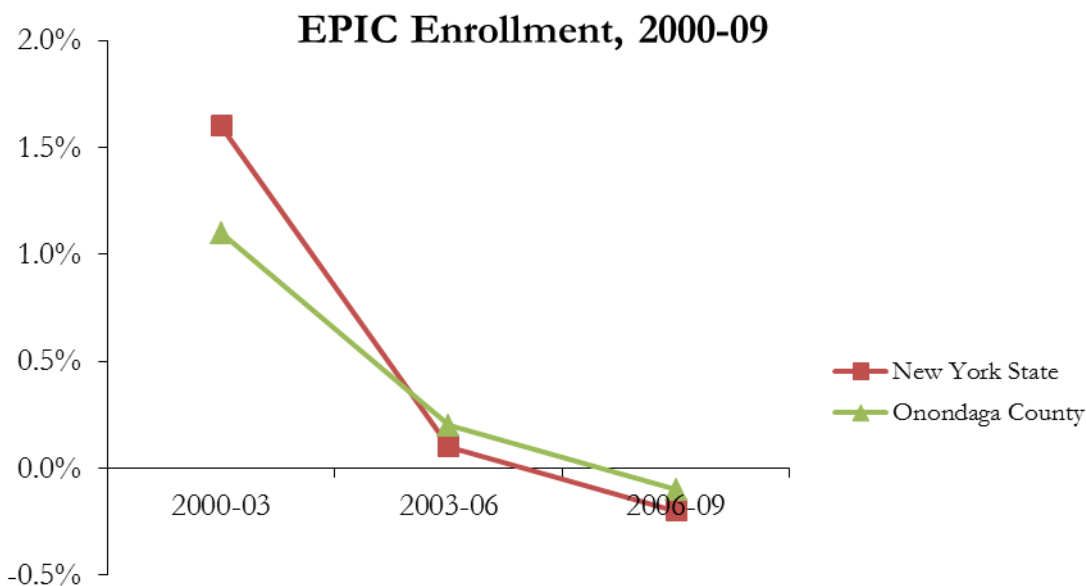
## EPIC Enrollment

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percent change of membership in Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC), a program that helps seniors pay for prescription drugs.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it illustrates the change in the number of seniors receiving additional assistance to pay for their medication.



Source: NYS Dept. of Health, EPIC Program

**Comment:** This graph is not to scale to preserve visible trends.

### EPIC Enrollment 2000-09

	New York State	Onondaga County
2000	123,099	123,099
2003	324,646	324,646
2006	366,940	366,940
2009	307,716	307,716

Source: NYS Dept. of Health, EPIC Program

### Percent Change 2000-09

	New York State	Onondaga County
2000-03	1.6%	1.1%
2003-06	0.1%	0.2%
2006-09	-0.2%	-0.1%

Source: NYS Dept. of Health, EPIC Program

## Medicare Enrollees

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the enrollment trends in the two classes of the Medicare program, which provides health insurance for people 64 and older.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it illustrates the change in the number of seniors receiving additional assistance to pay for their medical expenses.

### Aged Medicare Enrollees and HI and/ or SMI

	US	New York State	Onondaga County
2004	35,407,060	2,359,435	58,518
2005	35,817,558	2,330,513	60,631
2006	36,316,768	2,538,995	61,710
2007	36,843,251	N/A	62,160

Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, 2004-07

### Percentage Change 2004-07

	US	New York State	Onondaga County
2004-05	1.2%	-1.2%	3.5%
2005-06	1.4%	1.2%	1.7%
2006-07	1.4%	1.3%	1.4%

Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, 2004-07

## Population 65+

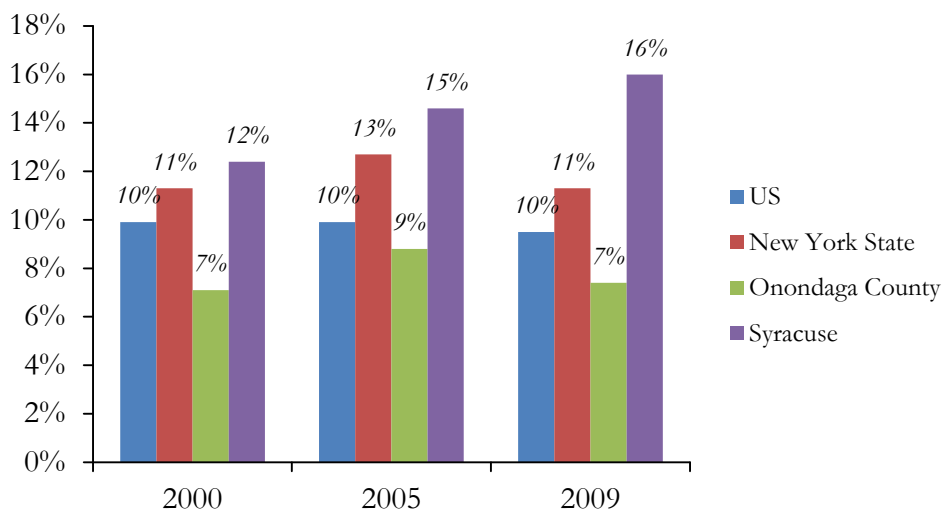
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of the population aged 65 and over.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it provides information for planning for hospitals, healthcare and housing assistance.

## Elderly Population Living in Poverty



Source: US Census Bureau

**Comment:** This graph is not to scale to preserve visible trends.

## 65+ by Gender

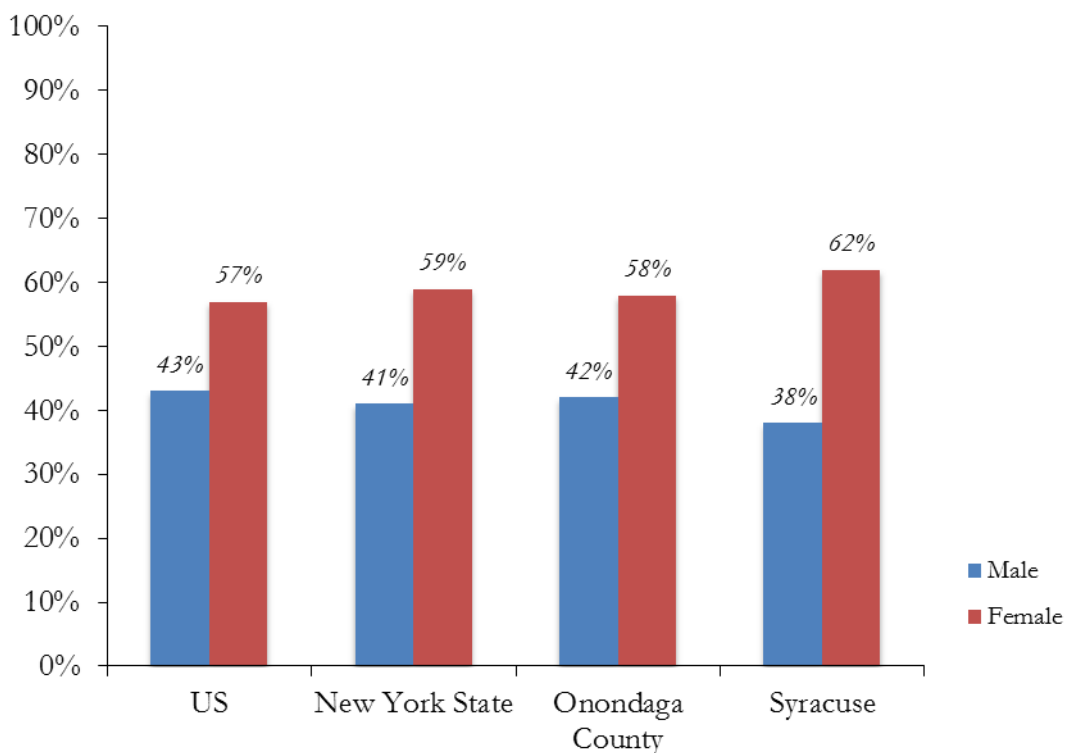
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the distribution by gender of the population ages 65 and over.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it conveys the discrepancy between male and female life expectancies.

### 65+ By Gender, 2009



Source: US Census Bureau 2005-10 est.

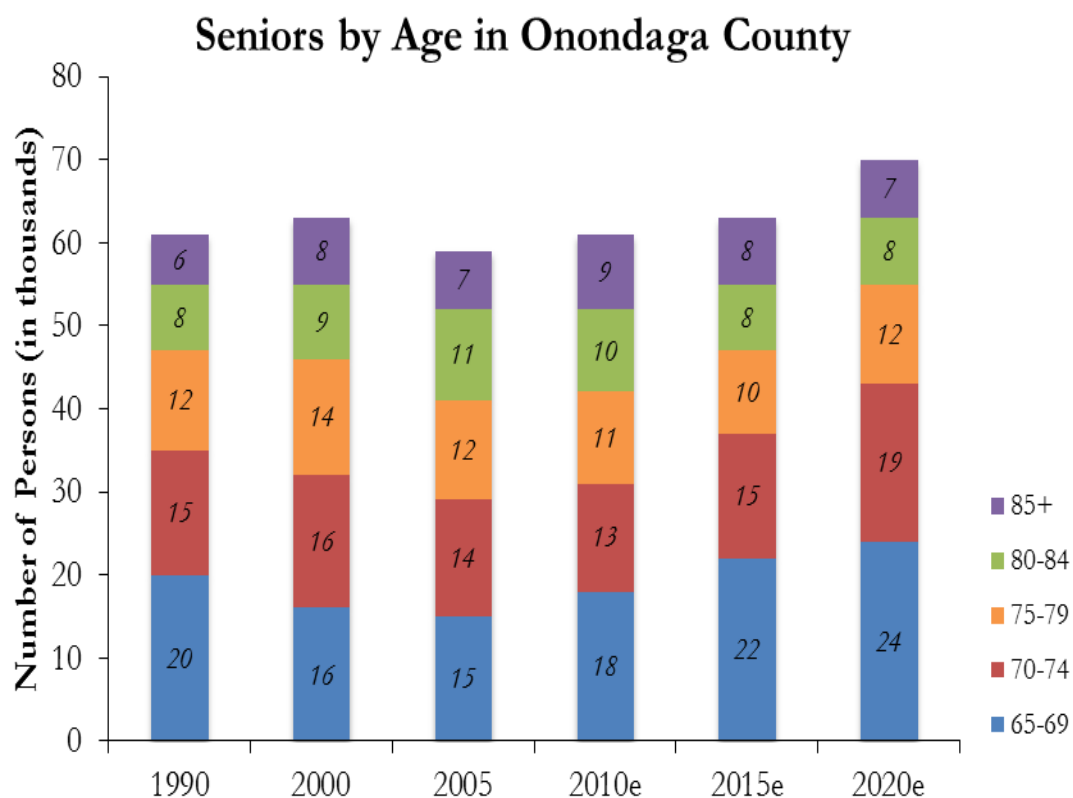
## Counted & Forecasted Age Categories by Year

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the actual and estimated number of seniors by age category from 1990 to 2020.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it displays the distribution and number of seniors by age to help planners in preparing for care of senior citizens.



Source: Loretto "A look at 2020 and beyond" 2010



## Median Income for 65+

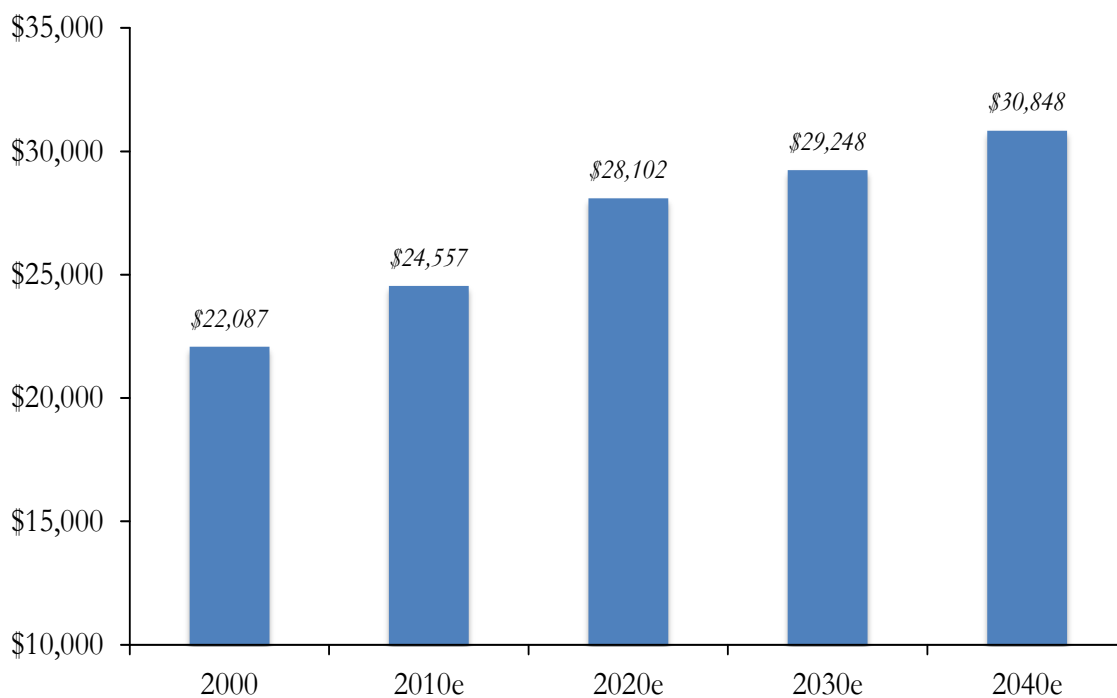
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the actual and estimated median income for people aged 65+.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it shows the income that seniors will have at their disposal for medical and living expenses.

### Median income of 65+



Source: Loretto "A look at 2020 and beyond" 2010

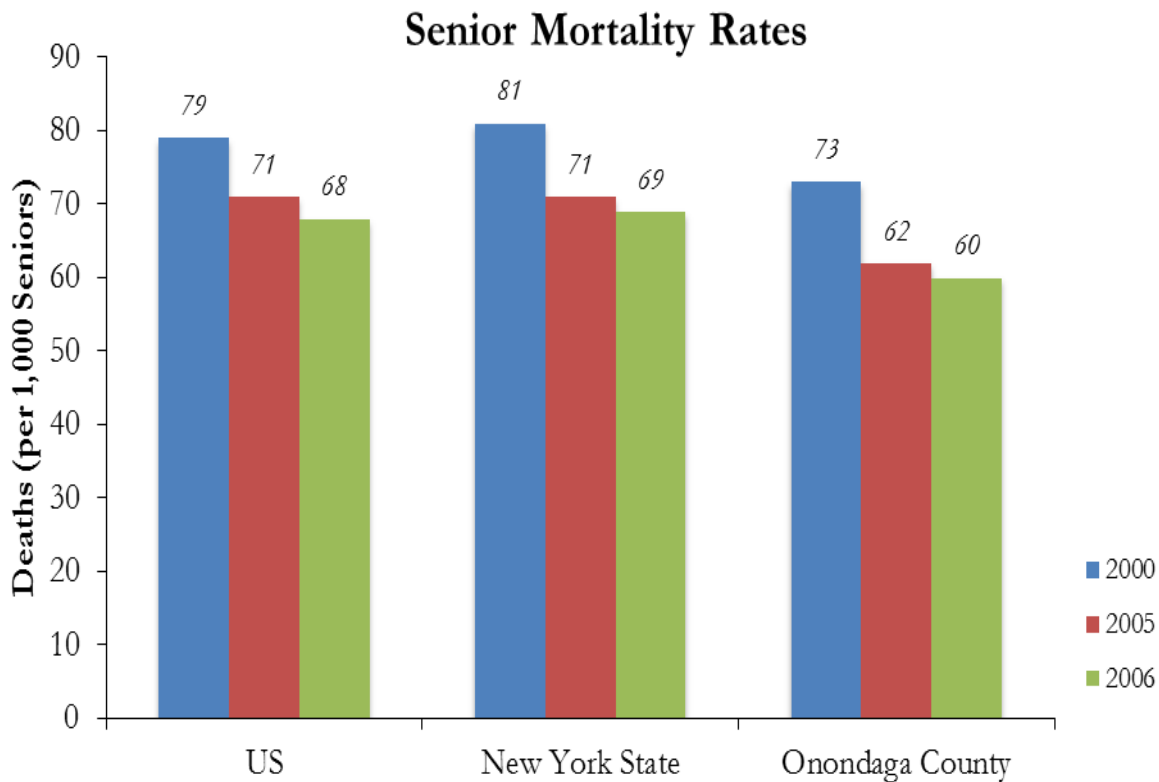
## Elderly Mortality

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the annual deaths per 1,000 seniors.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it can reflect the support seniors receive .



Source: New York State Department of Health, Death Statistics (New York) and The Centers for Disease; Control National Vital Statistics Report (US)

## Introduction

Crime is a top concern for Onondaga County residents, affecting not only the victims but also how secure area residents and businesses believe they are. The amount and type of crime prevalent in a community is a concern for potential homebuyers and business owners. It is vitally important that an accurate picture of public safety is available to the community.

By monitoring public safety indicators, the community can track areas that need improvement. Community organizations like Neighborhood Watch are provided with up-to-date information. Relevant data on crime can aid policymakers' decisions and dispel misconceptions throughout the community.

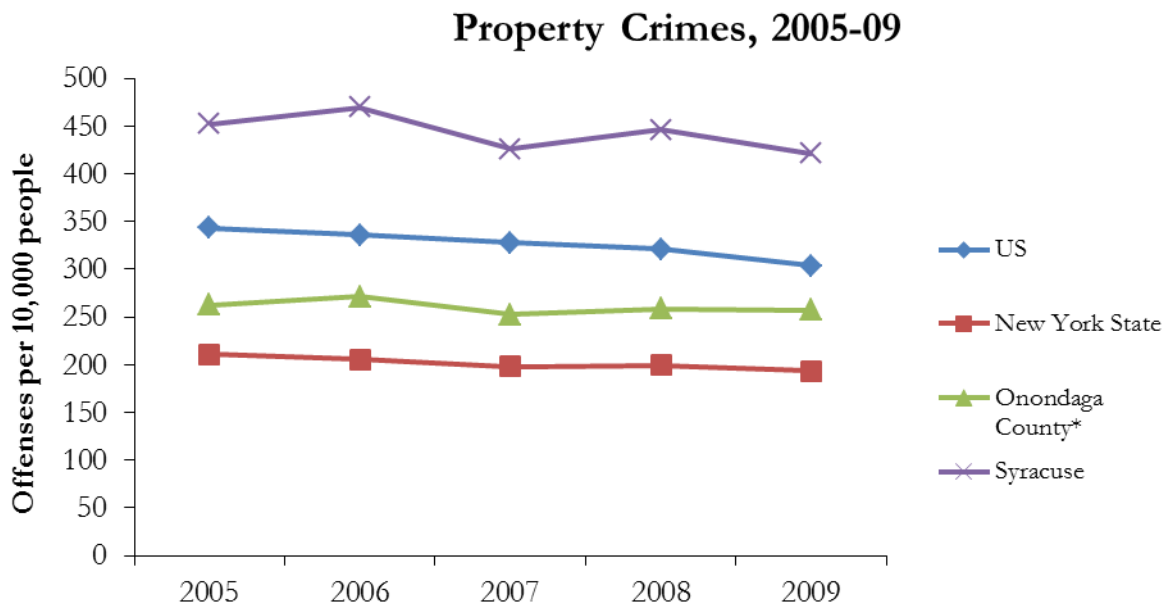
## Property Crimes

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures crimes involving people's personal possessions, which are separated into four different categories including burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it displays comparative data on property crime by geographic level to enable citizens to be aware of their security when contrasted to other areas and over time.



Source: \*NYS DCJS Crime in New York State: 2009  
 FBI Crime in the US Reports 2005-09

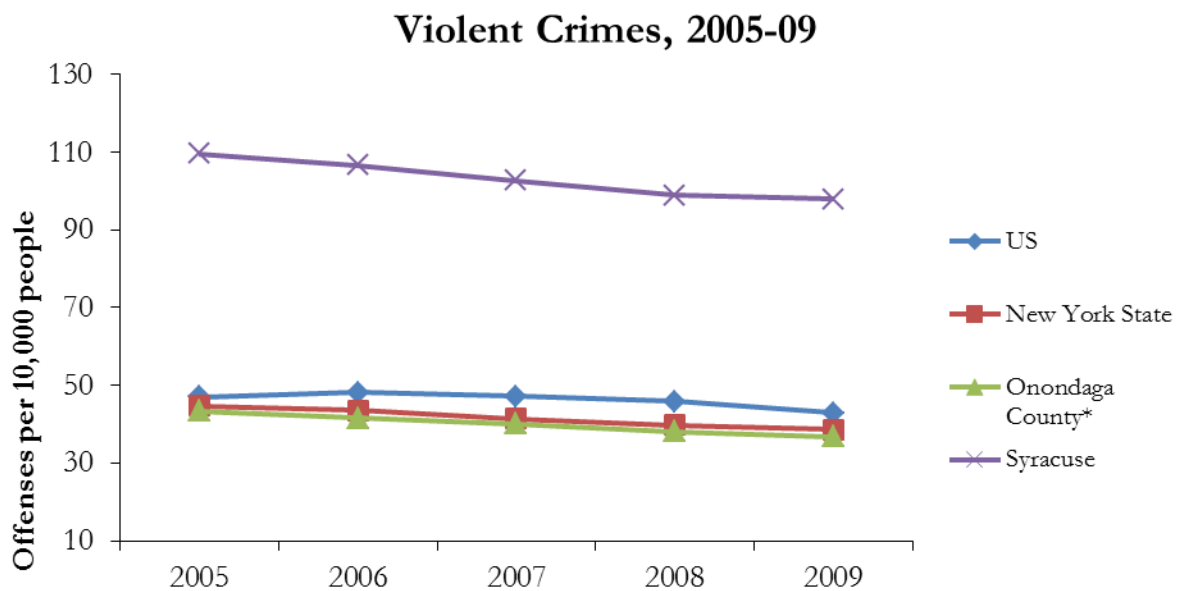
## Violent Crimes

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures crimes which include murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because shows comparative data on violent crime by geographic level and any change over time.



Source: \*NYS DCJS Crime in New York State: 2009  
FBI Crime in the US Reports 2005-09

## Drug Crimes

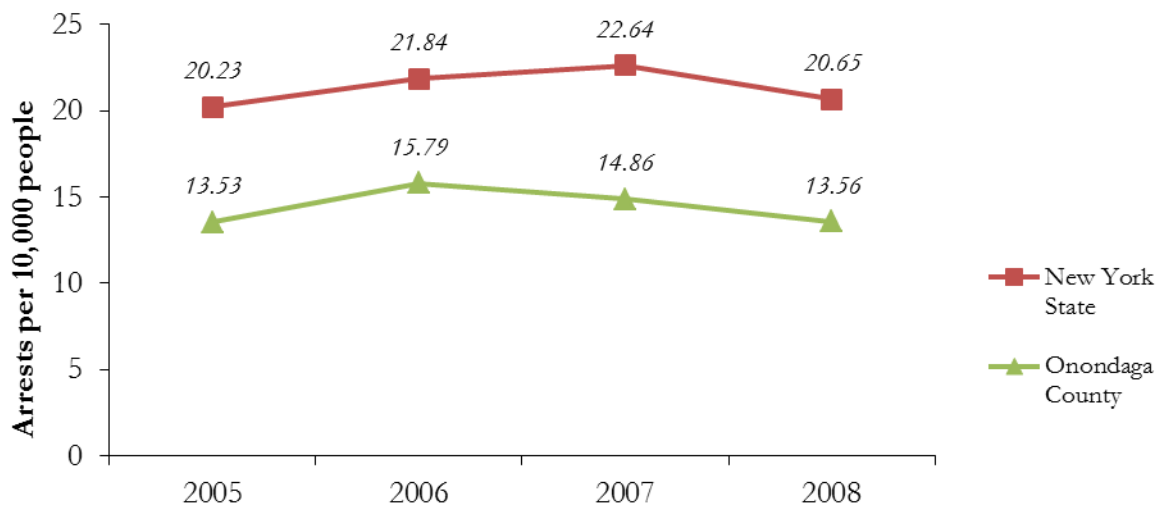
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the number of drug arrests per 10,000 people, which fall into three categories including contraband substance sale, contraband substance possession, and marijuana.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it displays trends in the prevalence of drug-related crimes.

### Felony Drug Arrests, 2005-09



Source: *New York State Felony Drug Arrest, Indictment, and Commitment Trends 1973-2008*

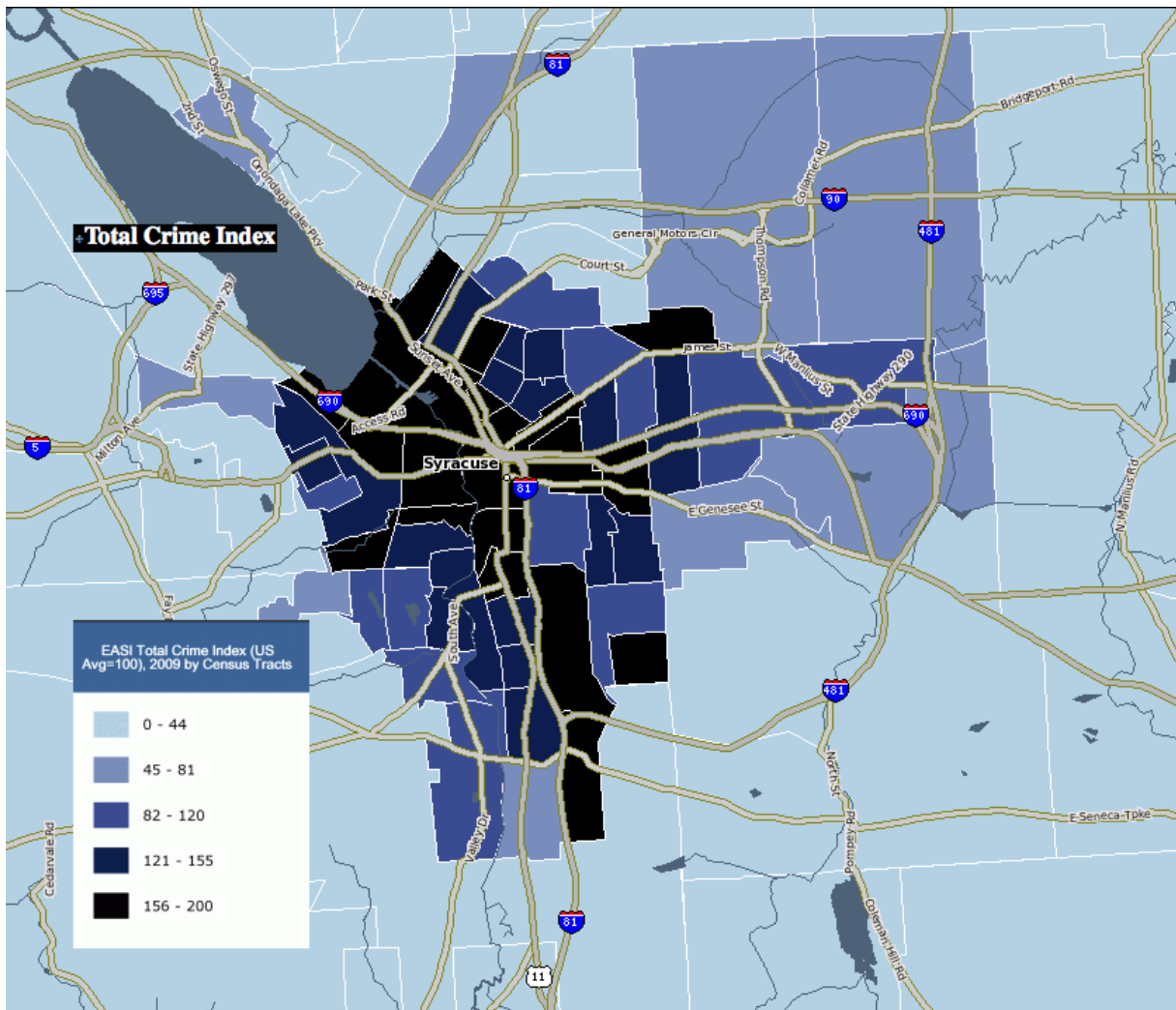
## Total Crime

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the following crimes using one inclusive index including murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it displays the concentrations of crime in the city of Syracuse and the surrounding suburbs.



Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

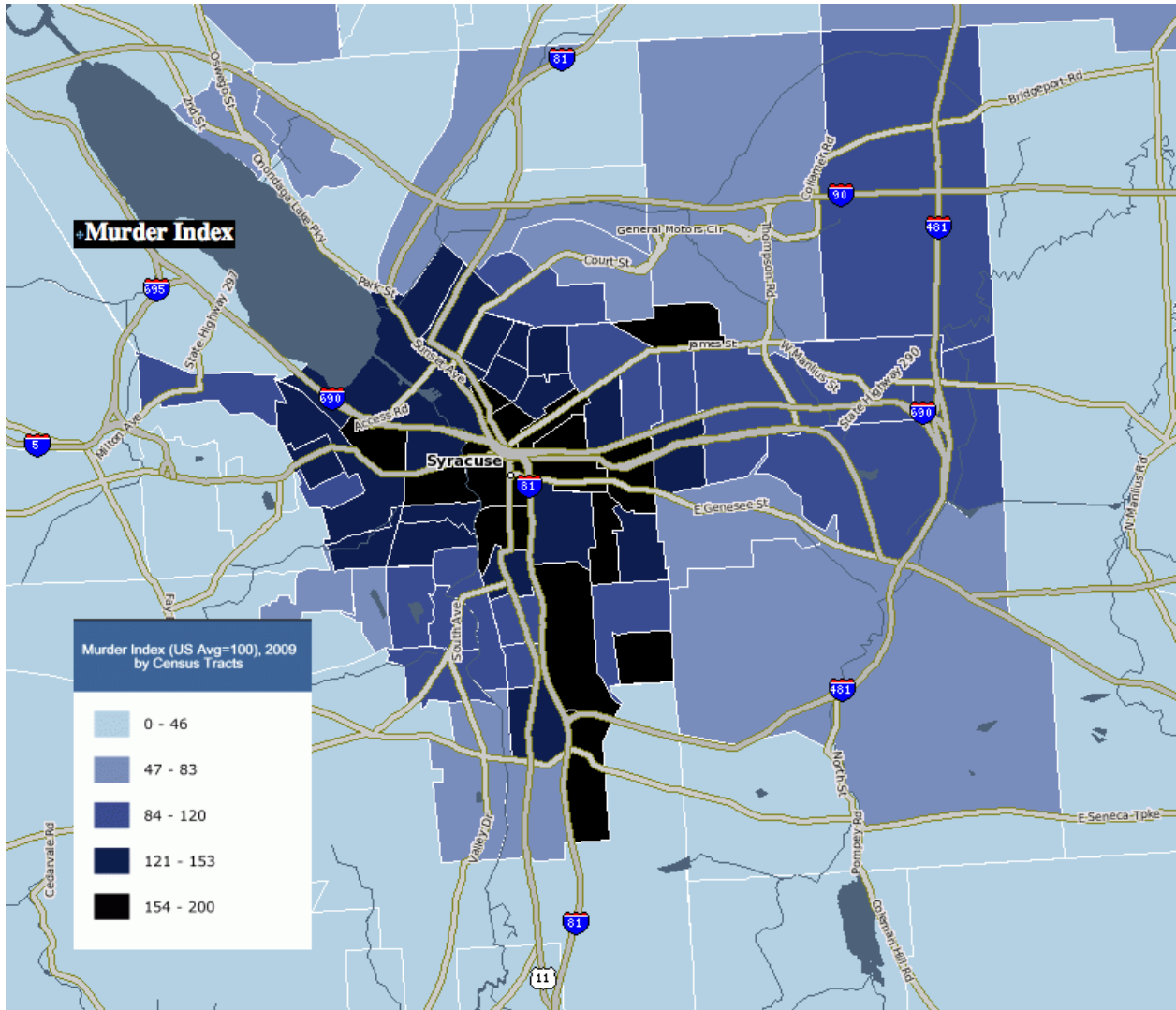
## Murder

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the occurrences of murder by census tract.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it displays the concentrations of murder in the city of Syracuse and the surrounding suburbs.



Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services



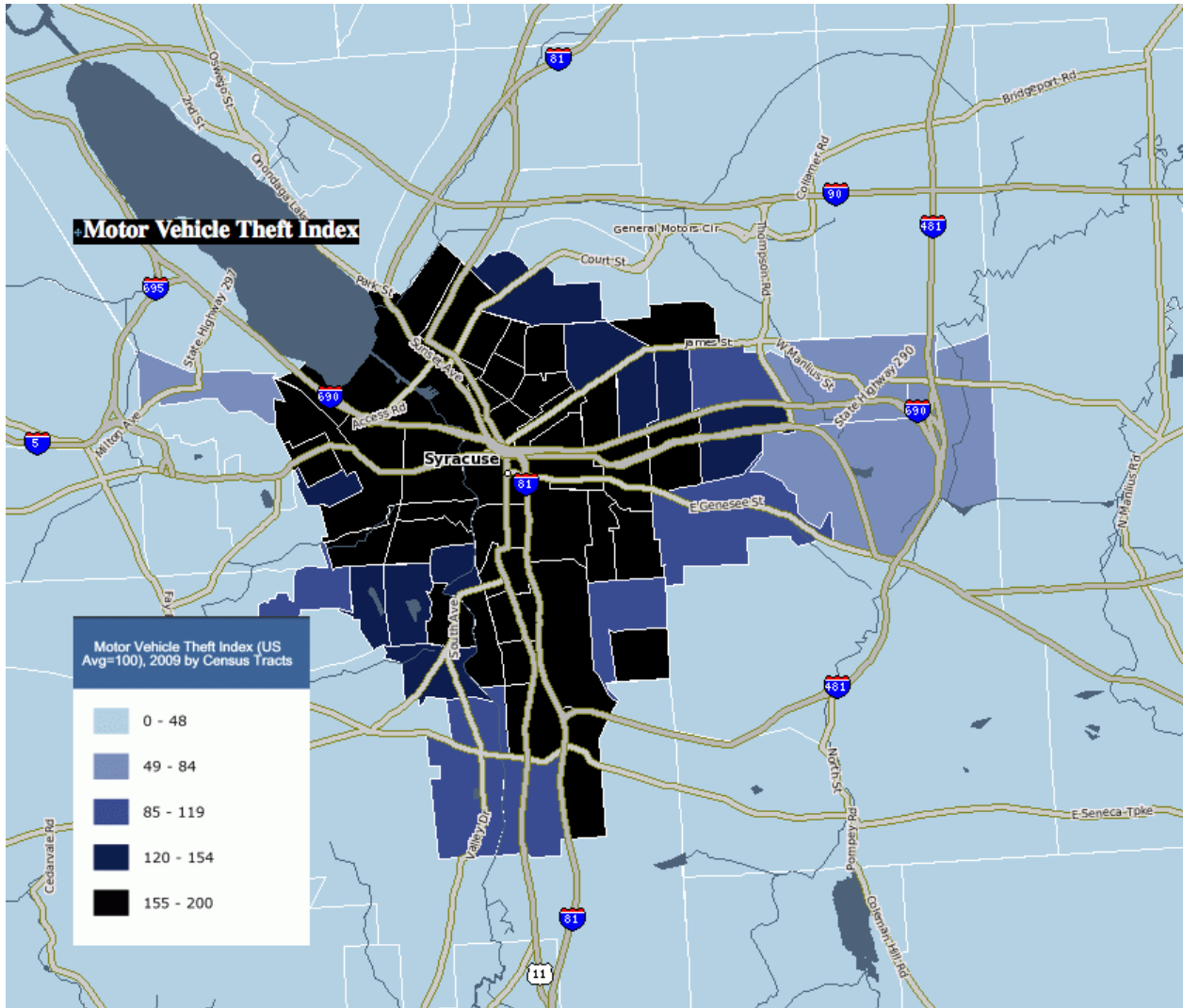
## Motor Vehicle Theft

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the occurrences of motor vehicle theft by census tract.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it displays the concentrations of motor vehicle theft in the city of Syracuse and the surrounding suburbs.



Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

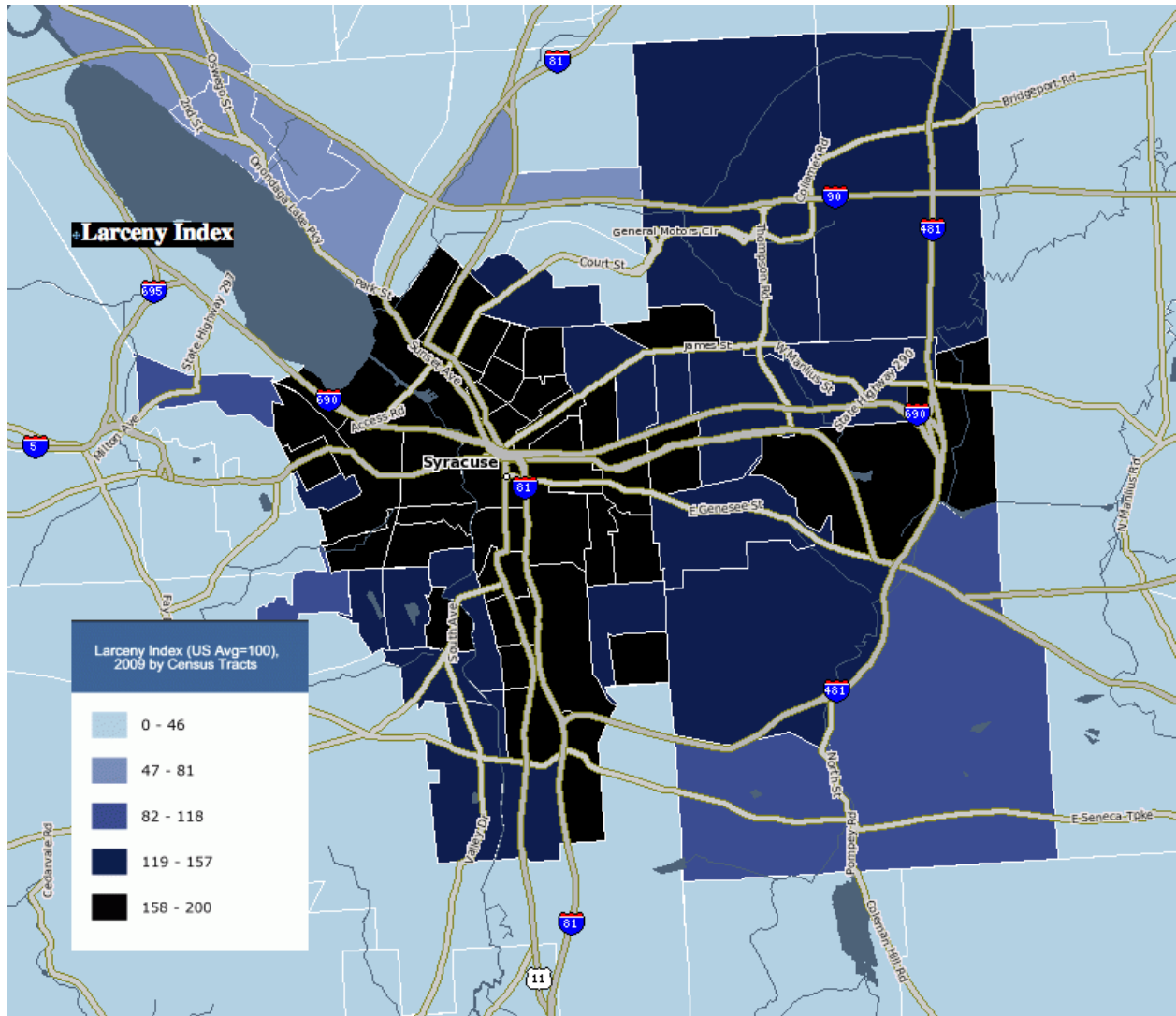
## Larceny

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the occurrences of larceny by census tract.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it displays the concentrations of larceny in the city of Syracuse and the surrounding suburbs.



Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

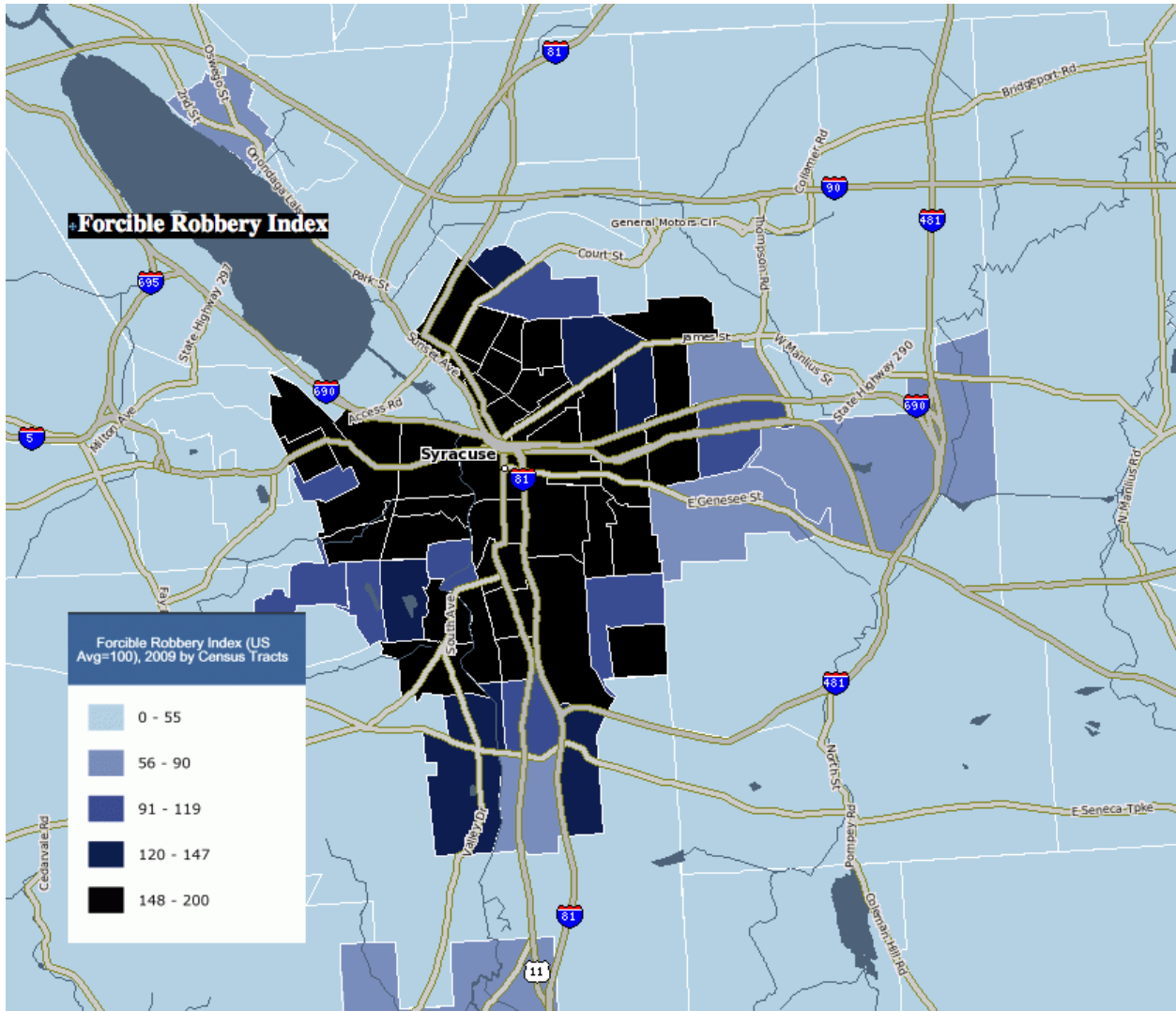
## Forcible Robbery

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the occurrences of forcible robbery by census tract.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it displays the concentrations of forcible robbery in the city of Syracuse and the surrounding suburbs.



Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

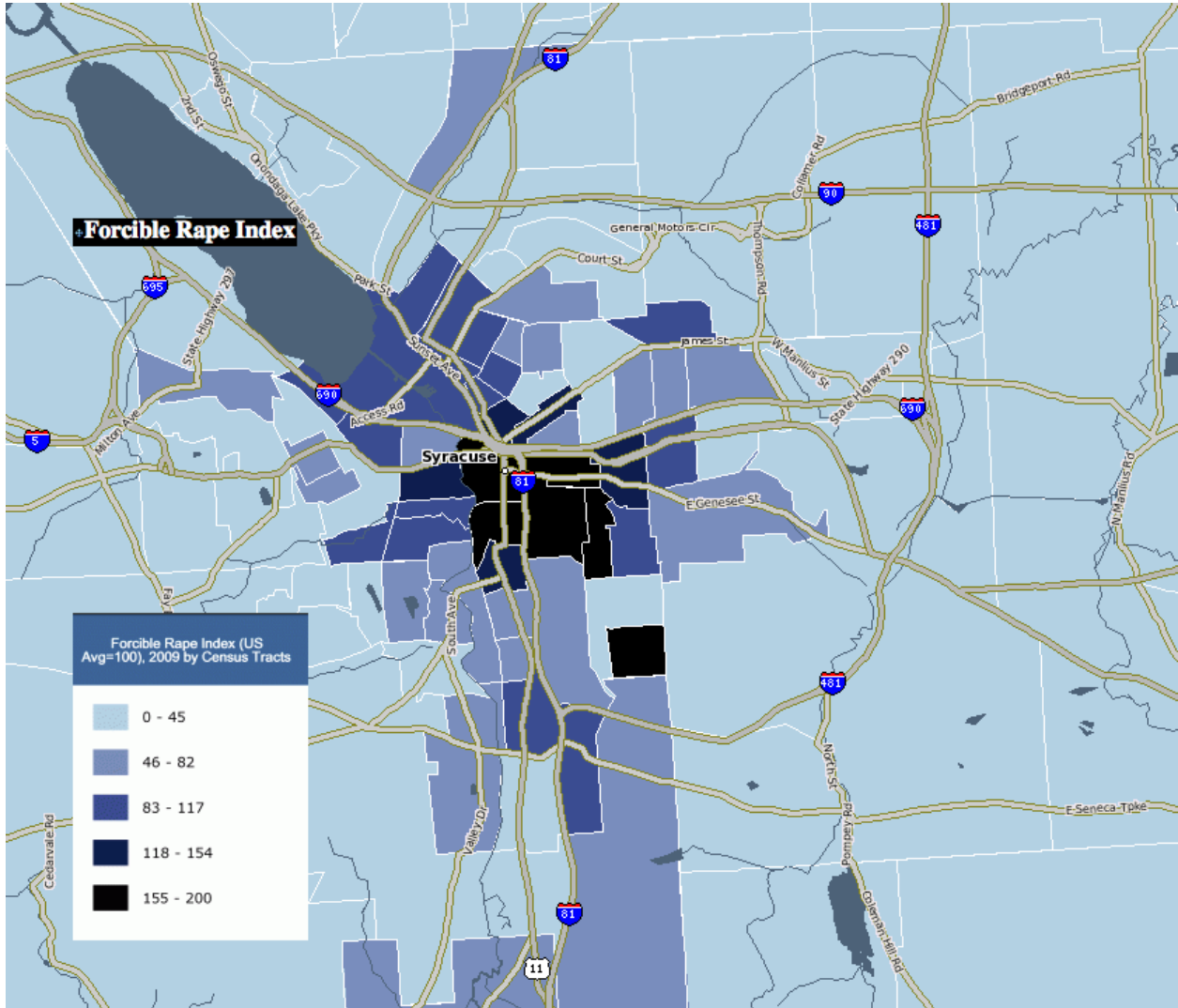
## Forcible Rape

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the occurrences of forcible rape by census tract.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it displays the concentrations of forcible rape in the city of Syracuse and the surrounding suburbs.



Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

## Introduction

Arts and cultural activities encourage tourism and foster economic growth, making them important indicators of a community's quality of life. Onondaga County boasts numerous art galleries, festivals, museums and theaters in addition to a zoo.

Syracuse has the artistic and cultural luxuries of a much larger city. The Syracuse Symphony Orchestra,<sup>6</sup> Everson Museum of Art,<sup>7</sup> Rosamond Gifford Zoo<sup>8</sup> and The Great New York State Fair<sup>9</sup> are just some of the attractions that bring in patrons from various parts of New York State as well as the entire country. The following pages include some of the many arts and cultural activities available.

Onondaga County also provides many recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Professional sports teams, including the Syracuse Chiefs<sup>10</sup> and Syracuse Crunch,<sup>11</sup> as well as local collegiate teams, bring exciting competitive entertainment to the area. Attendance at sporting events at the Syracuse Chiefs, Syracuse Crunch, and Syracuse University was approximately 1.4 million in 2009 alone.

The many parks in Onondaga County provide opportunities for camping, miles of hiking trails, and seasonal sports. These options allow people in Onondaga County to be active year-round. The following sections list some of the cultural and sport facilities and information about the area's parks.

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<sup>6</sup> [www.syracusesymphonyorchestra.org](http://www.syracusesymphonyorchestra.org)

<sup>7</sup> [www.everson.org](http://www.everson.org)

<sup>8</sup> [www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org](http://www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org)

<sup>9</sup> [www.nysfair.org](http://www.nysfair.org)

<sup>10</sup> [www.minorleaguebaseball.com](http://www.minorleaguebaseball.com)

<sup>11</sup> [www.syracusecrunch.com](http://www.syracusecrunch.com)

## Art Galleries

There are many diverse art galleries in Onondaga County, highlighting work from a range of local and international artists. The Community Folk Art Center, Inc.<sup>12</sup> collects, exhibits, and interprets the arts. The center's public programming includes exhibitions, film screenings, lectures, workshops and courses. Punto de Contacto/Point of Contact, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to publishing, producing, and documenting international scale projects in contemporary verbal and visual arts.

More examples of some of the art galleries in Onondaga County include:

- Armory Art Associates
- ArtRage
- The Norton Putter Gallery
- Caldwell Gallery
- Clayscapes Pottery Inc.
- Company Gallery
- Contemporary Gallery
- Dobb's Glassworks
- Edgewood Galleries
- Eureka Crafts
- Everson Museum of Art
- Gallery One Fourteen Art & Framing
- Genet Gallery
- Gernhardt Gallery
- Joan Lukas Rothenberg Art Gallery
- John D. Barrow Art Gallery
- Light Work, Limestone Art & Framing Gallery
- Long Lake Gallery
- Lowery Art Gallery
- Lucas Gallery
- Museum of Young Art
- Oneida Lake Artisans & Brick House Café
- Orange Line Gallery
- Red House Arts Center
- Robert B. Menschel Media Center
- Skaneateles Artisans
- Snake Oil Glassworks
- Spark Contemporary Art Space
- Stone Harp Studios
- SUArt Galleries
- Tav-Designs Art Gallery
- The Warehouse Gallery
- Westcott Community Center
- Wilson Art Gallery

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<sup>12</sup> [www.communityfolkartcenter.org](http://www.communityfolkartcenter.org)

## Festivals

Onondaga County welcomes many festivals throughout the year. The Skaneateles Festival<sup>13</sup> provides world-class music on the shores of Skaneateles Lake each summer.

The Syracuse International Film Festival<sup>14</sup> presents contemporary, international films for special events. This annual festival concludes by airing films throughout the community for four days, attracting 4,804 people in 2009.

The Syracuse Jazz Fest<sup>15</sup> is the largest of its kind in the northeast, and provides free entertainment from world-renowned musicians such as Natalie Cole, Kenny G, Chaka Khan and Aretha Franklin.

There are also many ethnic celebrations that take place, including Greek, Irish, Italian and Polish festivals.

More examples of some of the additional festivals in Onondaga County include:

- Bavarian Fest
- CNY Pride Parade Festival
- CNY Scottish Games & Celtic Festival
- Empire Brewfest
- Middle Eastern Cultural Festival
- NYS Blues Festival
- Syracuse Arts & Crafts Festival
- Taste of Syracuse

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<sup>13</sup> [www.skanefest.org](http://www.skanefest.org)

<sup>14</sup> [www.syrfilmfest.com](http://www.syrfilmfest.com)

<sup>15</sup> [www.syracusejazzfest.com](http://www.syracusejazzfest.com)

## Zoo

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is ranked among the top ten percent of zoos nationwide and is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. It is situated on 43 acres of land and is home to more than 900 animals, including Asian elephants, Humboldt penguins and Amur tigers. Each year the zoo welcomes approximately 350,000 visitors.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> <http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org/about-the-zoo>



## Museums

The museums in Onondaga County emphasize its cultural, historical, and scientific ties to the area. The Erie Canal Museum<sup>17</sup> is located in the 1850 Syracuse Weighlock Building, which is on the National Historic Register and is chartered by the New York State Education Department and visited by thousands of people each year.<sup>18</sup>

The Everson Museum of Art, an international landmark and the first museum designed by I.M. Pei, features acclaimed collections of ceramics and American art. In 2009, the museum welcomed 80,000 visitors, many of whom came to view the Turner to Cézanne exhibit of nationally acclaimed Impressionist masterpieces from the 19th and 20th centuries.<sup>19</sup>

The Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science and Technology (MOST) provides a range of hands-on experiences for all ages, with over 200 exhibits and displays and also houses an IMAX theater.<sup>20</sup>

The Onondaga Historical Association Museum & Research Center (OHA) is Onondaga County's only comprehensive general history museum. It houses over 200 years of local history in exhibit galleries, a research library, and a museum store.<sup>21</sup>

More examples of some of the additional museums in Onondaga County include:

- The Creamery
- Skaneateles Historical Society
- International Mask and Puppet Museum
- Jamesville Community Museum
- Liverpool Willow Museum
- Manlius Historical Museum
- Ner-A-Car Museum of Syracuse
- Sainte Marie Among the Iroquois
- Shacksboro School House Museum
- Stone Arabia Schoolhouse Museum & Block House Museum
- Town of Cicero Historical Society
- Tully Historical Society Museum
- Wilcox Octagon House

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<sup>17</sup> [www.eriecanalmuseum.org](http://www.eriecanalmuseum.org)

<sup>18</sup> [www.eriecanalmuseum.org](http://www.eriecanalmuseum.org)

<sup>19</sup> [www.everson.org](http://www.everson.org)

<sup>20</sup> [www.most.org](http://www.most.org)

<sup>21</sup> [www.cnyhistory.org](http://www.cnyhistory.org)

## Theater & Music

There are extensive opportunities to experience music and theater in Onondaga County. The CNY Jazz Arts Foundation<sup>22</sup> is the region's primary provider of jazz programming in concert, cabaret, academic, and festival settings. It operates downtown Syracuse's Jazz Central Theater, serving an audience of 80,000.

The Open Hand<sup>23</sup> Theater located on the Northside of Syracuse has entertained youth and adult audiences since 1980 through the use of masks, puppets, music, and actors.

Parents Promoting Dance<sup>24</sup> at One Village Dance Centre is a place for the study, creation, and performance of dance and drum in Central New York. It is dedicated to nurturing and developing cultural dance traditions and providing space for artists to create new work.

Syracuse City Ballet,<sup>25</sup> formerly Upstate New York Ballet, has brought classical ballet to Central New York since 1997. Syracuse Friends of Chamber Music<sup>26</sup> presents a seven-concert series of the world's finest chamber music groups.

Syracuse Stage,<sup>27</sup> Central New York's leading nonprofit professional theater, offers a six-play season. Red House,<sup>28</sup> a nonprofit cultural center located in Armory Square of Syracuse, presents and produces new works in theatre, film, visual art and music.

Also under the performing arts are the Landmark Theatre,<sup>29</sup> Syracuse Opera,<sup>30</sup> Syracuse Symphony Orchestra,<sup>31</sup> and The Arts Branch—YMCA of Greater Syracuse.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> [www.cnyjazz.org](http://www.cnyjazz.org)

<sup>23</sup> [www.openhandtheater.org](http://www.openhandtheater.org)

<sup>24</sup> [www.parentspromotingdance.org](http://www.parentspromotingdance.org)

<sup>25</sup> [www.syracusecityballet.com](http://www.syracusecityballet.com)

<sup>26</sup> [www.syracusefriendsofchambermusic.org](http://www.syracusefriendsofchambermusic.org)

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<sup>27</sup> [www.syracusestage.org](http://www.syracusestage.org)

<sup>28</sup> [www.theredhouse.org](http://www.theredhouse.org)

<sup>29</sup> [www.landmarktheatre.org](http://www.landmarktheatre.org)

<sup>30</sup> [www.syracuseopera.com](http://www.syracuseopera.com)

<sup>31</sup> [www.syracusesymphony.org](http://www.syracusesymphony.org)

<sup>32</sup> [www.ymcaofgreatersyracuse.org/arts](http://www.ymcaofgreatersyracuse.org/arts)

## Art Grants Spending

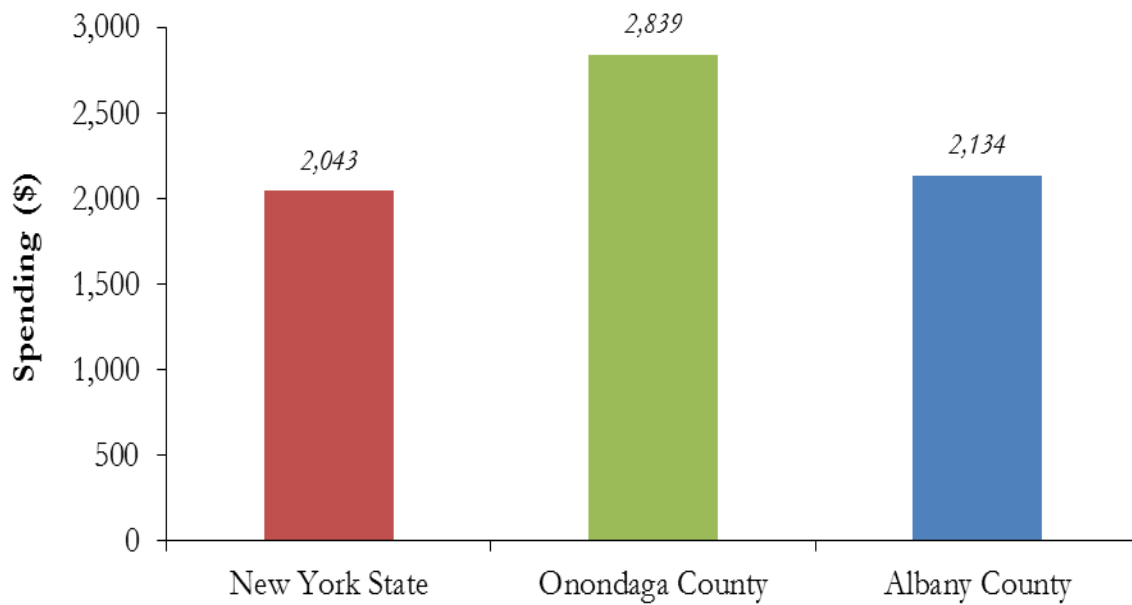
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the amount of grant spending allocated toward the arts in New York State, Onondaga County, and Albany County.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because art growth has the potential to provide additional tourism income to an area.

### NYS Grant Spending Per 1,000 Residents, 2009



Source: New York State Council on the Arts, 2010, [nysca.org](http://nysca.org)

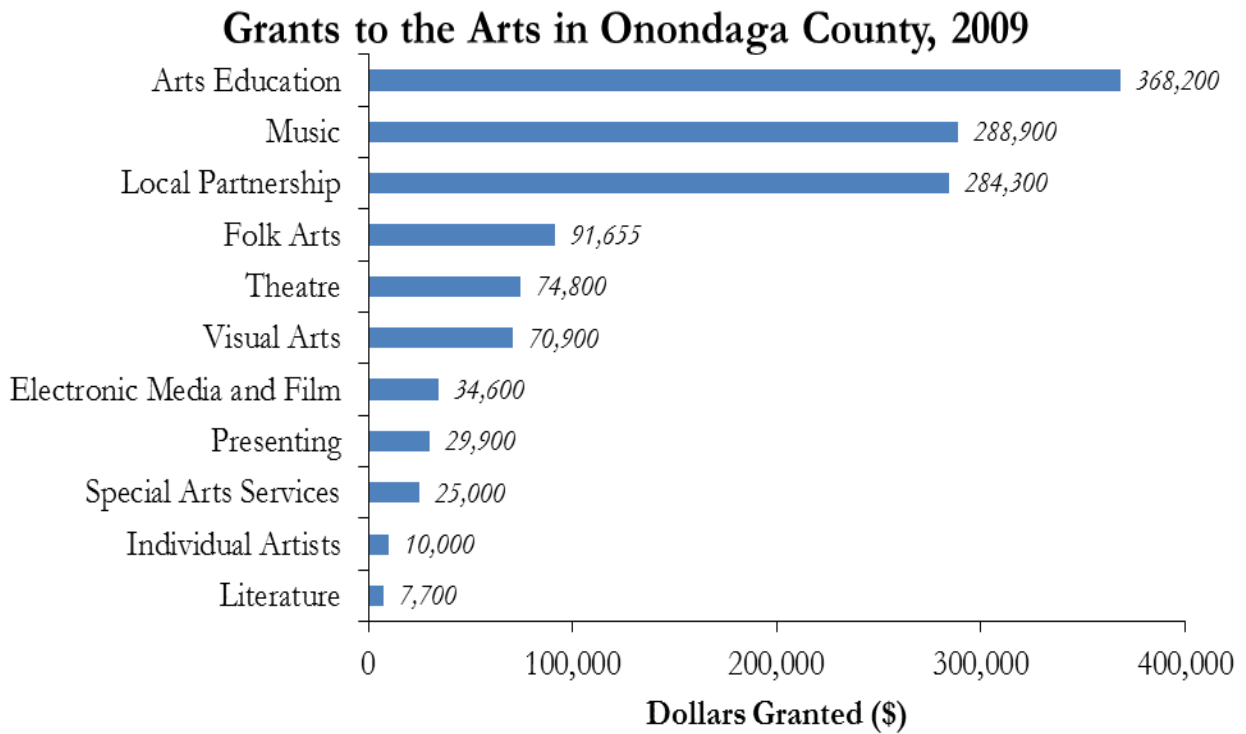
### Art Grants Allocation

**What does this indicator measure?**

This indicator measures the amount of grant spending allocated toward different areas of the arts within Onondaga County.

**Why is this indicator important?**

This indicator is important because art growth has the potential to provide additional tourism income to an area.



Source: New York State Council on the Arts, 2010, [nysca.org](http://nysca.org)

## Recreation

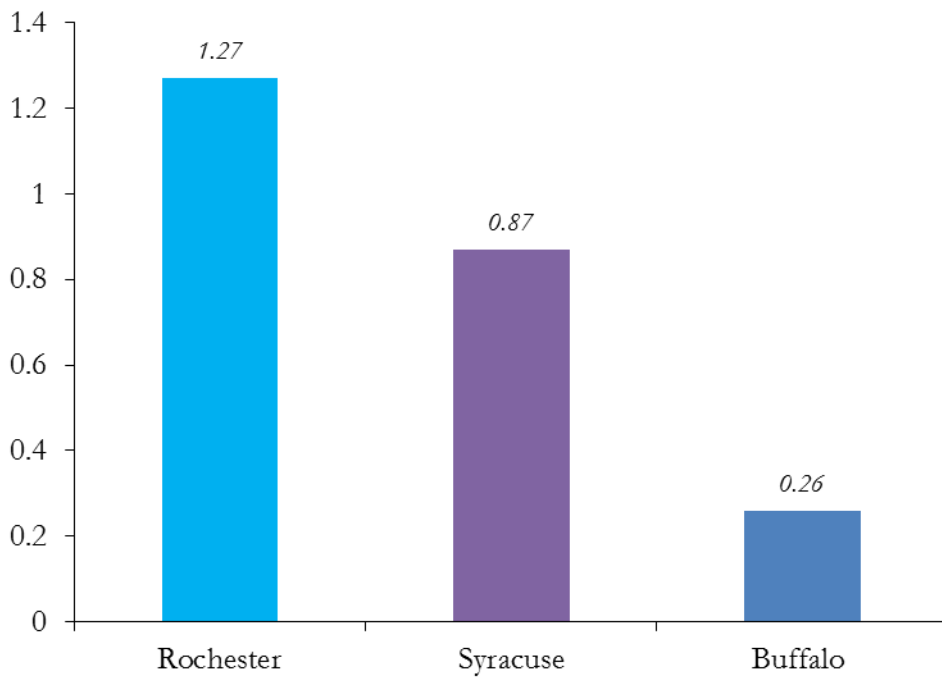
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the number of public recreational centers per 10,000 people in the cities of Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because recreation opportunities can help a region's economy by bringing in additional outside revenue and improve quality of life.

**Number of Public Recreational Centers per 10,000 People, 2009**



*Source: 2009 Census; The City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs; The City of Buffalo Division of Parks and Recreation; The City of Rochester Department of Recreation and Youth Services*

**Comment:** For a complete list of recreation centers in Central New York, please visit [www.visitsyracuse.org](http://www.visitsyracuse.org)

## Parks in Onondaga County

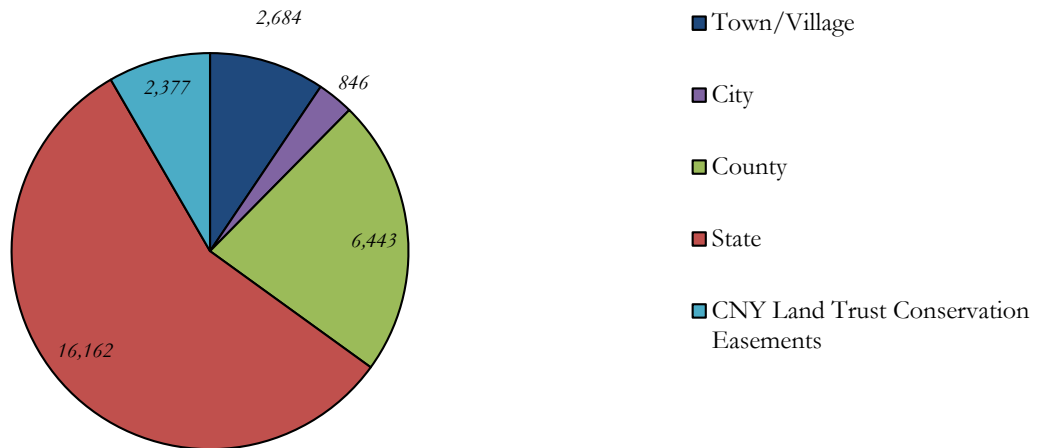
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the acreage of protected parkland and open spaces in Onondaga County for 2010. Open space may be defined as an area of land or water that either remains in its natural state or is free from intensive development for residential, commercial, industrial or institutional use.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because land designated for parks is an investment in the community, reduces energy use, and increases the value of neighborhood property.

2010 Onondaga County Acreage of Protected Parkland and Open Space



Source: Syracuse Onondaga County Planning Agency

**Comment:** For a complete list of parks in Onondaga County, please visit [www.onondagacountyparks.com](http://www.onondagacountyparks.com)

## Park Attendance

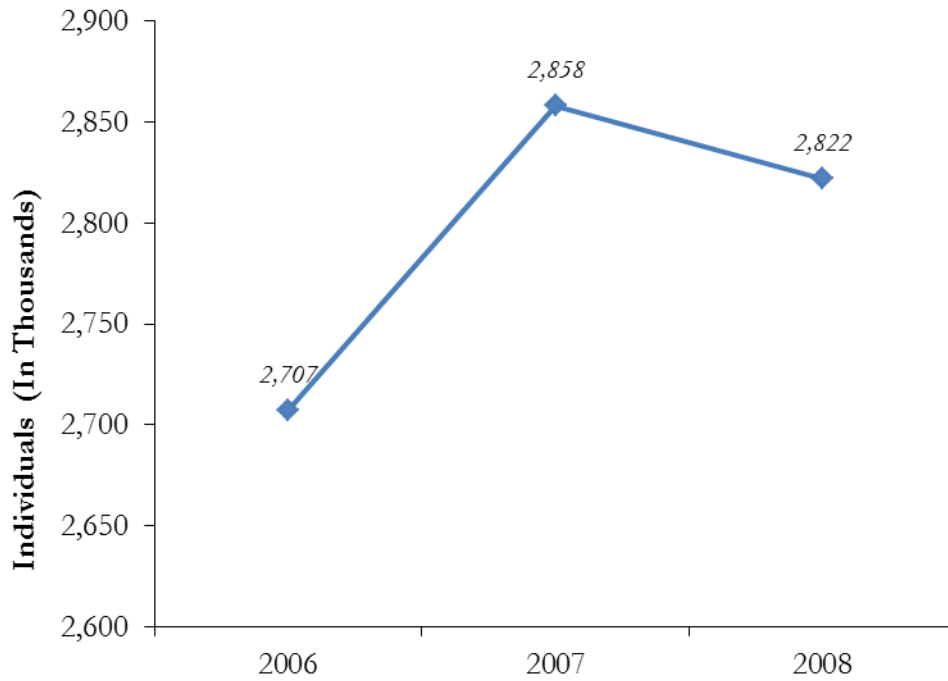
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the number of people who visited all the Onondaga County Parks from 2006-08.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because parks and recreation facilities provide a place for residents of the area to be active.

### Onondaga County Annual Park Attendance, 2006-08



Source: Onondaga County Parks Annual Report 2006-08

## The New York State Fair

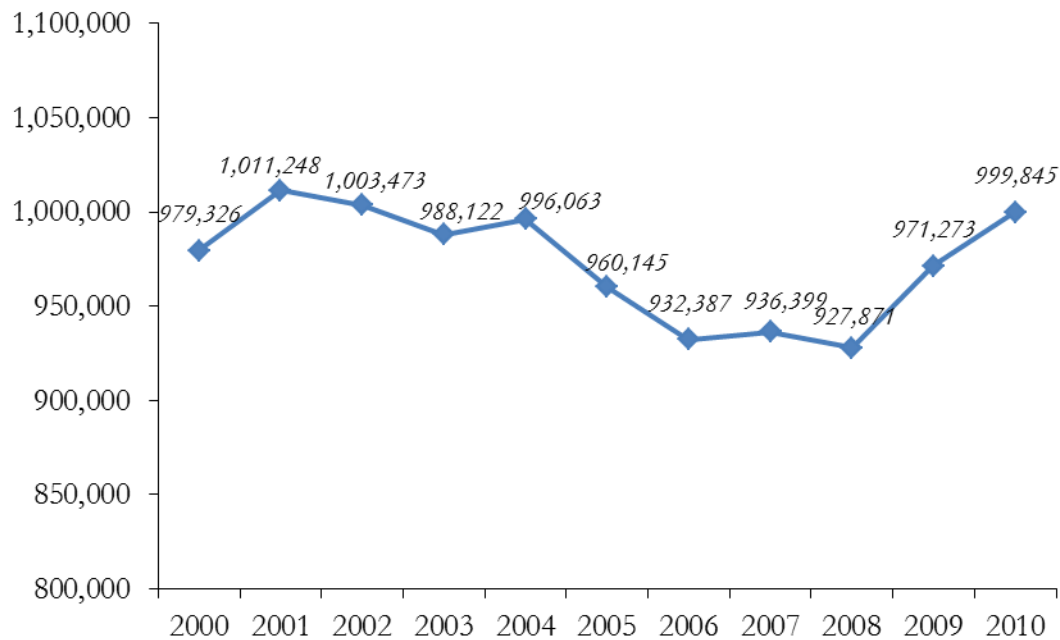
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the attendance of The Great New York State Fair from 2000 to 2010.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because The Great New York State Fair brings hundreds of thousands of visitors to the area each summer and generates significant revenue for city, county, and state government.

New York State Fair Attendance, 2000-10



Source: The Great New York State Fair: [www.nysfair.org](http://www.nysfair.org)



## Introduction

The economy remains a central issue to many communities as the lingering effects of the national financial crisis continue to impact the local area as well as the nation. The indicators in this section highlight the status of the greater Syracuse area.

Sector employment data show that in the Syracuse Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the manufacturing, construction, and information sectors have shown some of the largest annual declines in employment. However, the health care, management, and accommodation sectors have experienced consistent increases in employment throughout the financial crisis.

Wages have grown steadily across the region, although the Syracuse MSA, New York State, and the United States' wage growth slowed in 2008-09, the most recent data point available. All locations, however, showed positive wage growth even though the Consumer Price Index (the government's measure of inflation) decreased slightly in 2009 from 2008 index.

In comparison to the other 61 counties in New York, 41 reported a median household income lower than Onondaga County, while 20 reported a higher median income.

Business growth within Syracuse has been relatively stagnant since 2004. The number of firms with more than 500 employees is the largest type of employer, followed by firms with less than 500 employees, then organizations with fewer than 20 employees. The Small Business Administration reports that an increase in small businesses has a significant impact on the gross product of a state or county.

**Note:** A Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as a geographic entity that contains a core urban area population of 50,000 or more and includes the county where the core area is located and may include adjacent counties that have a high degree of societal and economic integration with that urban core.

The Syracuse MSA is a 3,083 square-mile area consisting of Cayuga, Madison, Onondaga and Oswego counties.

## Unemployment Rate

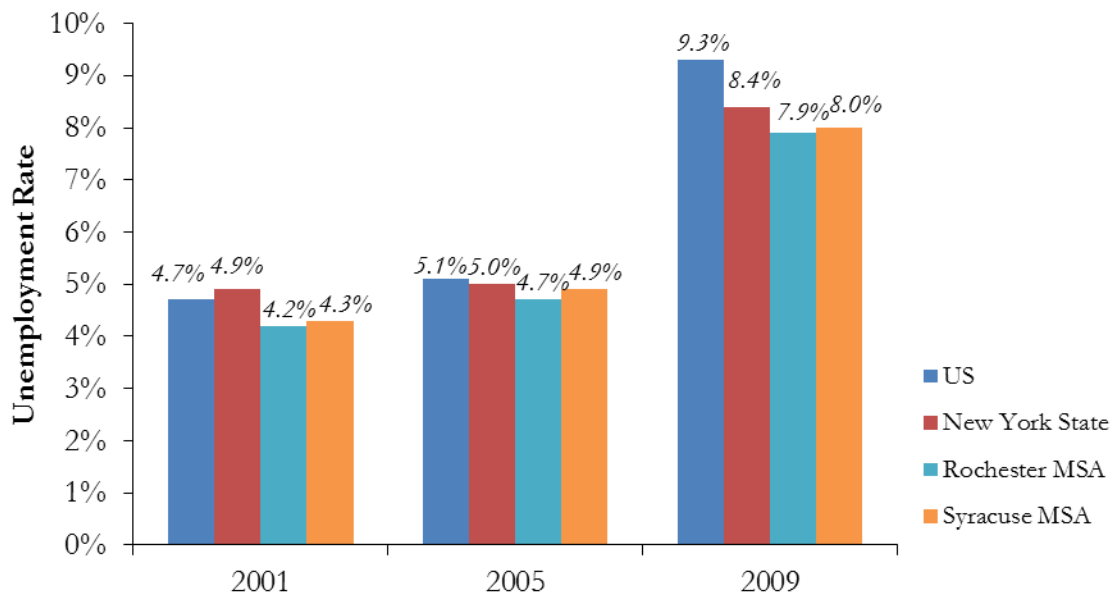
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of people in the labor force who do not have jobs, are eligible to work and still looking for employment.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it is one of the most widely-cited statistic used in assessing the overall health of the economy, as jobs are indicative of business growth and stability.

### Unemployment Rate, 2001-09



Source: New York State Department of Labor, US Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Comment:** National unemployment data were aggregated into an arithmetic mean from data spanning a 12-month period. Please note graph is not drawn to scale.

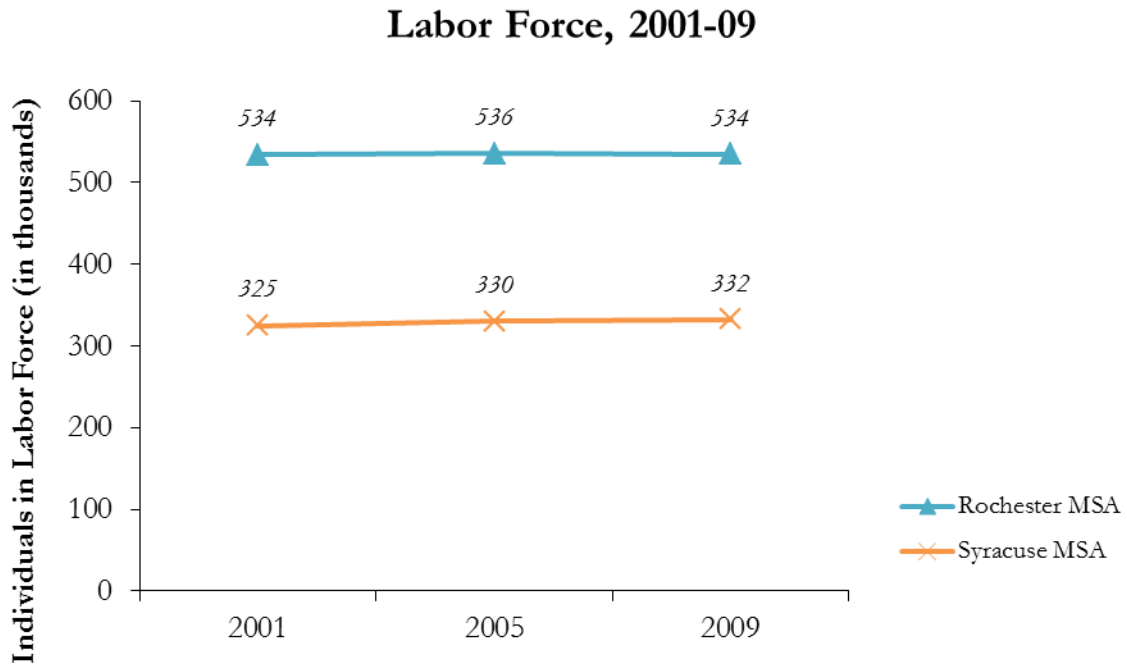
## Labor Force

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the number of individuals who are working or are unemployed and actively seeking employment.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it is an important tool in assessing the overall economic health of a community.



Source: New York State Department of Labor, US Bureau of Labor Statistics

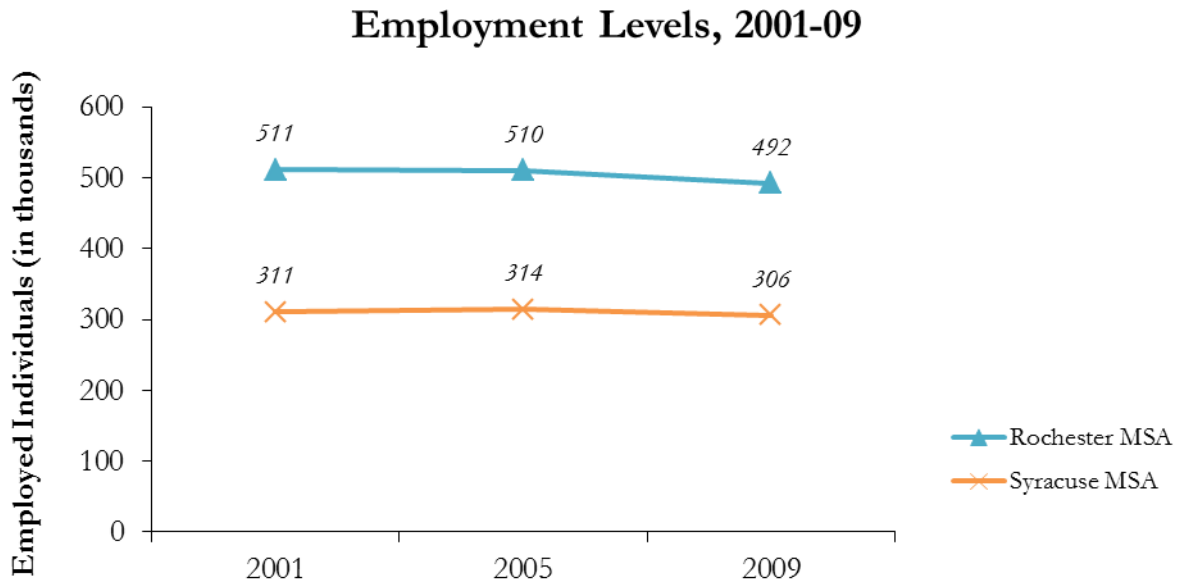
## Employment Levels

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the number of people who, during the reference week, worked for at least one hour as a paid employee, worked in their own business, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a family member.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it is an important tool in assessing the overall economic health of a community.



Source: New York State Department of Labor, US Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Trade Industry Employment

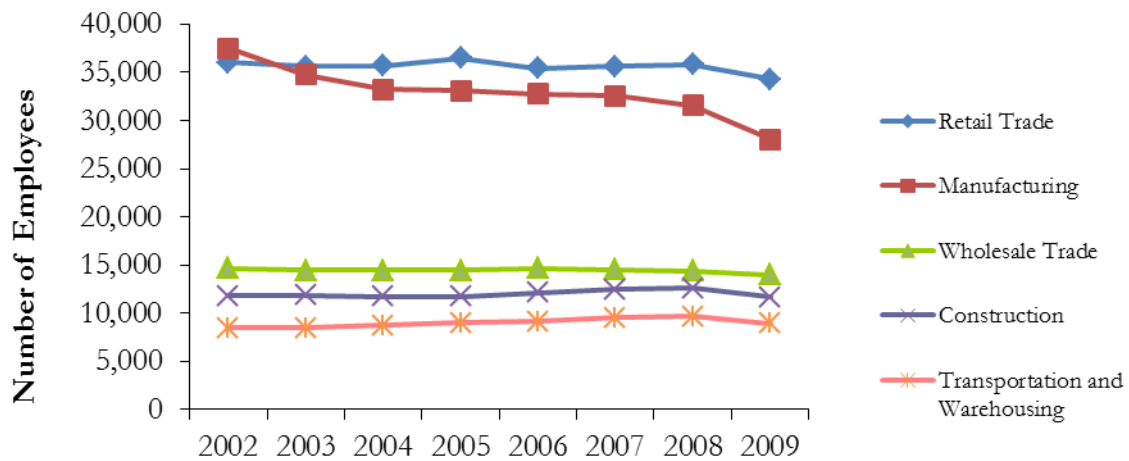
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the change in the number of people employed in trade industries.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it serves as an important tool in assessing employment trends in the trade industries.

### Employment for Trade Industries for Syracuse MSA, 2002-09



Source: New York State Department of Labor

### Employment for Trade Industries for Syracuse MSA, 2002-09

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
<b>Construction</b>	0.93%	-1.60%	0.07%	3.55%	2.79%	1.27%	-7.76%
<b>Manufacturing</b>	-7.36%	-4.38%	-0.47%	-0.98%	-0.49%	-3.22%	-11.18%
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	-1.24%	0.15%	0.01%	0.97%	-0.81%	-0.83%	-2.72%
<b>Retail Trade</b>	-1.18%	0.27%	2.10%	-2.85%	0.49%	0.58%	-4.23%
<b>Transportation and Warehousing</b>	0.76%	3.00%	3.11%	1.03%	4.84%	0.98%	-7.20%

Source: New York State Department of Labor

## Professional Industry Employment

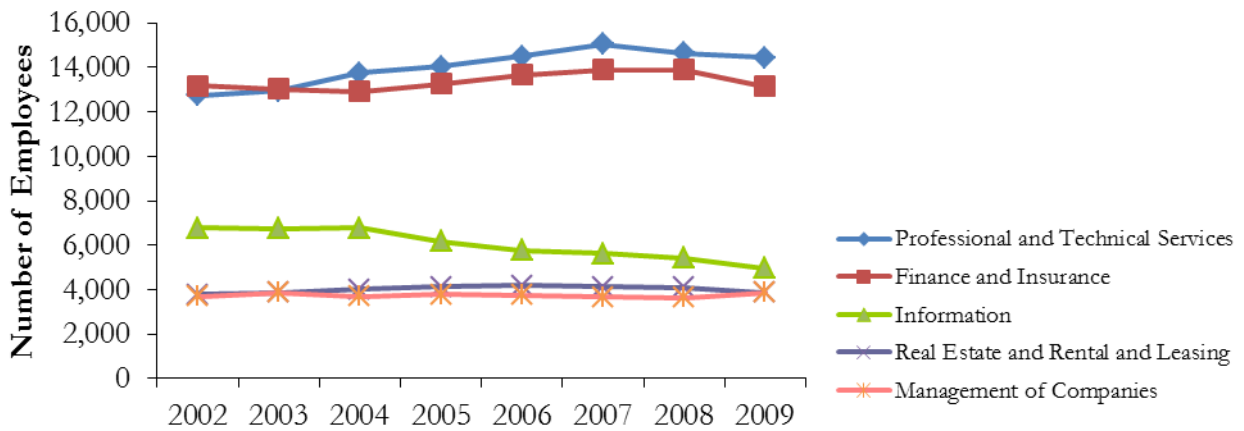
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the change in the number of people employed in the professional industries.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it serves as an important tool in assessing employment trends in the professional industries.

### Employment for Professional Industries for Syracuse MSA, 2002-09



Source: New York State Department of Labor

### Employment for Professional Industries for Syracuse MSA, 2002-09

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Information	-0.34%	0.24%	-8.80%	-6.80%	-2.33%	-3.40%	-8.72%
Finance and Insurance	-1.16%	-0.83%	2.50%	3.06%	1.83%	-0.18%	-5.26%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2.07%	3.89%	2.75%	1.53%	-1.41%	-0.41%	-5.97%
Professional and Technical Services	1.63%	6.32%	2.06%	3.27%	3.70%	-2.59%	-1.43%
Management of Companies	5.30%	-4.31%	1.59%	-0.61%	-2.16%	-0.68%	6.52%

Source: New York State Department of Labor

## Public Works Industry Employment

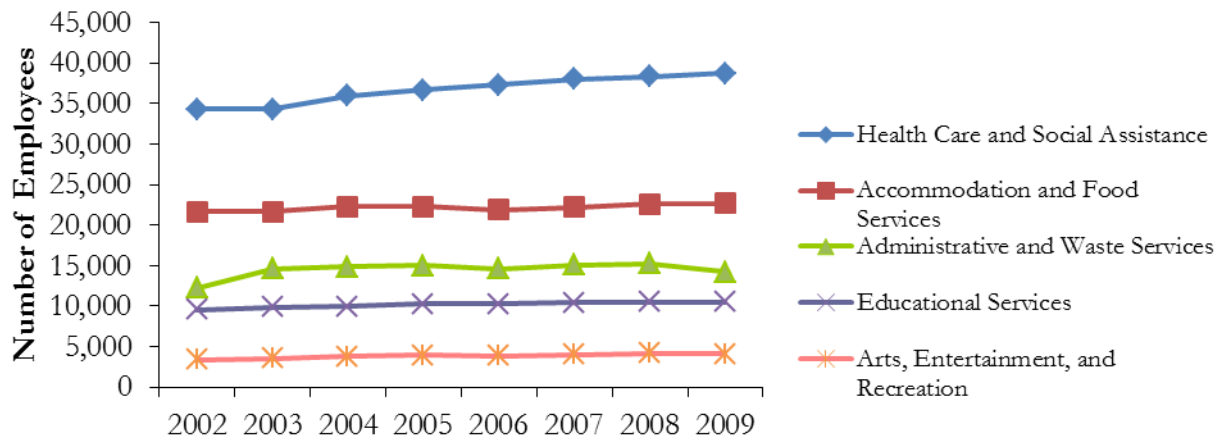
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the change in the number of people employed the public works industries.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it serves as an important tool in assessing employment trends in the public works industries.

### Employment for Public Works Industries for Syracuse MSA, 2002-09



Source: New York State Department of Labor

### Employment for Public Works Industries for Syracuse MSA, 2002-09

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Administrative and Waste Services	19.32%	1.62%	1.15%	-2.79%	3.45%	1.17%	-7.14%
Educational Services	3.35%	0.40%	3.61%	-0.61%	1.89%	0.90%	-0.15%
Health Care and Social Assistance	-0.09%	4.84%	2.04%	1.82%	1.76%	0.89%	1.05%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	4.63%	5.82%	5.16%	-2.69%	4.55%	2.57%	-1.86%
Accommodation and Food Services	0.06%	2.91%	-0.07%	-1.66%	1.59%	1.53%	0.62%

Source: New York State Department of Labor

## Employment by Sector

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the composition of total employment between three categories: private, government, and self-employed.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it compares the distribution of government and private sector employment.

### Syracuse MSA Employment by Sector, 2003-09



Source: US Census Bureau: American Community Survey



## Annual Median Wage

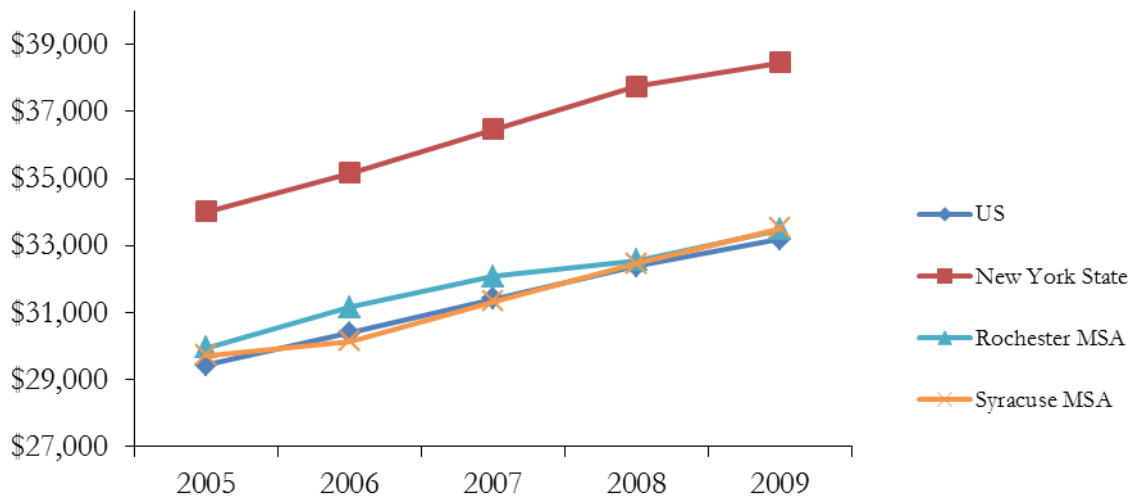
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile wage for all full-time workers.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it is used to evaluate wages for available jobs.

### Annual Median Wage, 2005-09



Source: New York State Department of Labor

Graph not to scale

### Annual Median Wage, 2005-09

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>US</b>	\$29,430	\$30,400	\$31,410	\$32,390	\$33,190
<b>New York State</b>	\$34,020	\$35,170	\$36,470	\$37,750	\$38,450
<b>Syracuse MSA</b>	\$29,720	\$30,150	\$31,340	\$32,460	\$33,510
<b>Rochester MSA</b>	\$29,960	\$31,170	\$32,080	\$32,550	\$33,470

Source: New York State Department of Labor

## Median Household Income

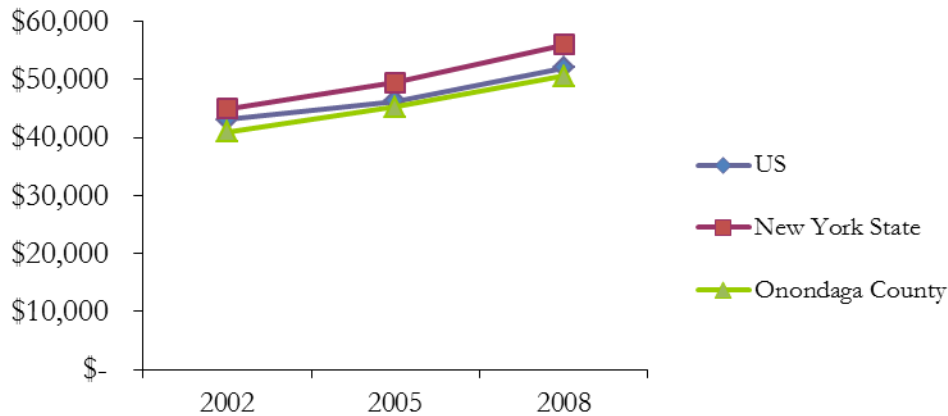
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the income of all people 15 years and older in a household, whether or not they are related to the householder; the median is based on the income distribution of all households including those with no income

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it serves as a significantly descriptive and accurate measurement of income and is not drastically affected by outliers.

### Median Household Income, 2002-08



Source: US Census Bureau

### Median Household Income, 2002-08

	2002	2005	2008
<b>US</b>	\$43,057	\$46,242	\$52,029
<b>New York State</b>	\$44,923	\$49,480	\$56,033
<b>Onondaga County</b>	\$40,938	\$45,239	\$50,640
<b>Syracuse</b>	*	\$25,935	\$30,879

\* Data were not available for Syracuse for the year 2002

Source: US Census Bureau

## Small Business Growth

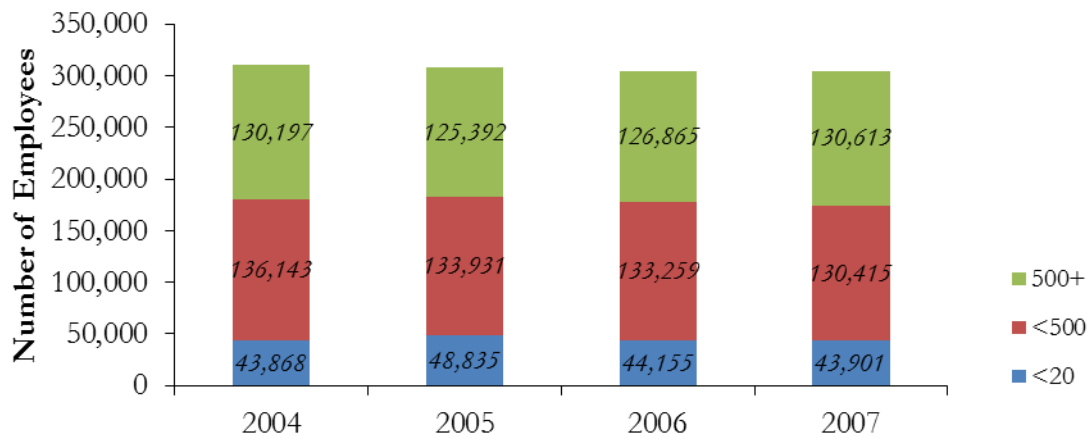
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the number of small businesses having fewer than 500 employees in the Syracuse area.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it is indicative of changes in gross state product.

### Syracuse Business Growth by Number of Employees, 2004-07



Source: Small Business Administration

## Per Capita Federal Spending

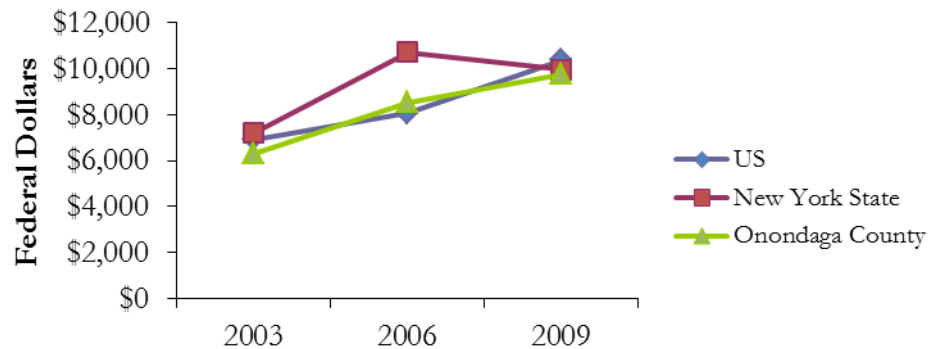
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures government expenditures or obligations for a number of categories including retirement and disability, other direct payments, grants, procurement contracts, salaries and wages, direct loans, guaranteed or insured loans and insurance.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it identifies total federal expenditures by geographic level and can be used as a tool for comparing counties and states.

### Per Capita Federal Expenditures, 2003-09



Source: US Census Bureau

### Per Capita Federal Expenditures, 2003-09

	2003	2006	2009
US	\$6,910	\$8,058	\$10,396
New York State	\$7,186	\$10,712	\$9,978
Onondaga County	\$6,297	\$8,548	\$9,778

Source: US Census Bureau

## State Revenue from Sales Tax

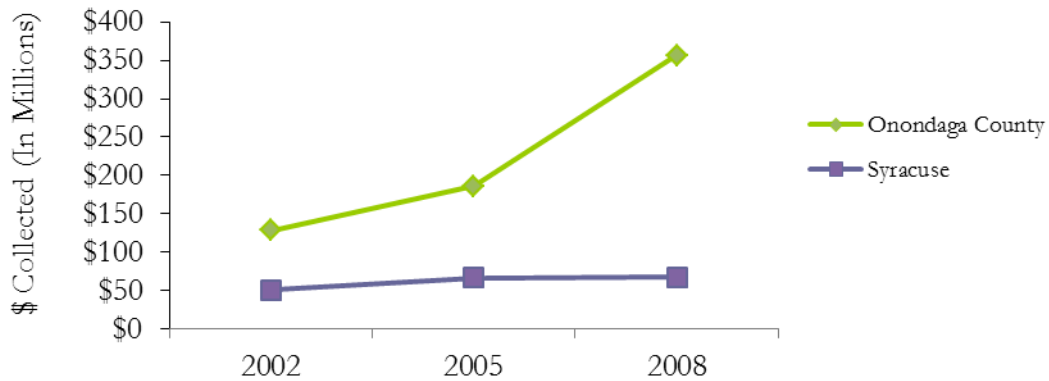
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the revenue generated for the state by levying a sales tax for certain goods and services.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it demonstrates the amount of spending in a community.

### Revenue Collected from Sales Tax for New York State, 2002-08



Source: New York State Office of the Comptroller

### Revenue Collected from Sales Tax for New York State, 2002-08

	2002	2005	2008
<b>Onondaga County</b>	127,968,008	186,322,480	356,631,300
<b>Syracuse</b>	50,079,459	66,373,610	67,278,655

Source: New York State Office of the Comptroller

## Economic Development Expenditures

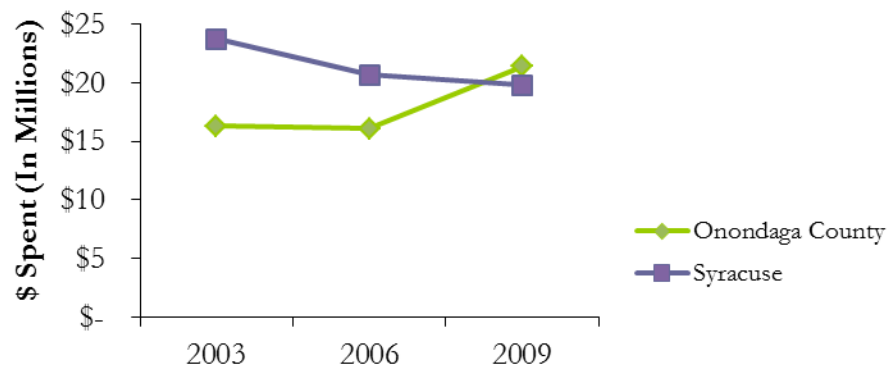
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the total expenditures for economic development administration, development infrastructure, promotion, economic development grants, and miscellaneous economic development.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it impacts the standard of living in a population targeting sustained growth.

### Economic Development Expenditures, 2003-09



Source: New York State Office of the Comptroller

### Economic Development Expenditures, 2003-09

	2003	2006	2009
<b>Onondaga County</b>	\$ 16,331,493	\$ 16,088,101	\$ 21,410,708
<b>Syracuse</b>	\$ 23,747,338	\$ 20,717,037	\$ 19,812,726

Source: New York State Office of the Comptroller

## Introduction

Education is a vital part of every community. Every day children and adults attend academic and vocational institutions to gain knowledge and skills that they will use in the future. Say Yes to Education is a new initiative to enrich student learning coupled with the promise of a free college education to those who succeed that is embedded with the Syracuse City School District (SCSD).<sup>33</sup>

The Literacy Coalition of Onondaga County is another new organization dedicated to helping raise education levels in Onondaga County. The goal of the organization is to achieve *100% Literacy through 100% Community Engagement*. Over 200 community organizations have become coalition members since the Literacy Coalition was founded in the fall of 2008.<sup>34</sup>

The Central New York region houses the third largest concentration of colleges and universities in the nation. According to the Onondaga County website, over 38,000 students are enrolled in Onondaga County colleges and universities. The centers of higher education include Syracuse University, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF), LeMoyne College, SUNY Upstate Medical University, and Onondaga Community College. St. Joseph's and Crouse hospitals each have schools of nursing, Bryant and Stratton offers certification and licensing in professional skills programs and SUNY Oswego has a Metro Center in the City of Syracuse. There are another 35 institutions of higher education within 100 miles of Onondaga County.

This section of the report focuses on the results of elementary and secondary education in the region. In Onondaga County, elementary school scores on English Language Arts and Math exams have risen slightly. Onondaga County has seen the most improvement, while the SCSD is still below county and statewide averages. While Onondaga County high school Regents exam scores are consistently above state averages, overall passing rates are decreasing. The city of Syracuse lags further behind county passing rates by at least 15 percent.

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<sup>33</sup> [www.sayyessyracuse.org](http://www.sayyessyracuse.org)

<sup>34</sup> [www.onliteracy.org](http://www.onliteracy.org)

## Enrollment

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the number of matriculated students in a school district.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it determines government funding and can indicate whether or not there is a need for more resources within a school district.

### Enrollment, 2008-09

School District	Number of Students
New York State	2,691,267
Baldwinsville	5,894
East Syracuse Minoa	3,436
Fabius Pompey	831
Fayetteville Manlius	4,714
Jamesville Dewitt	2,896
Jordan Elbridge	1,571
La Fayette	857
Liverpool	7,661
Lyncourt	320
Marcellus	2,028
North Syracuse	9,600
Onondaga	966
Skaneateles	1,707
Solvay	1,603
Syracuse	19,693
Tully	1,125
West Genesee	5,152
Westhill	1,954

Source: nySTART, 2008-09

**Comment:** Lyncourt School has only grades K-8, whereas every other school district has grades K-12.



## Attendance

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the annual attendance rate, determined by dividing a school district's total actual attendance by the total number of students enrolled who should have been in attendance on each school day, for one academic year.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because government funding is awarded to school districts based on attendance and the likelihood of learning is increased with more seat time.

### 2007-08 Annual Attendance Rate

School District	Students
New York State	93%
Baldwinsville	96%
East Syracuse-Minoa	95%
Fabius-Pompey	96%
Fayetteville-Manlius	96%
Jamesville-Dewitt	96%
Jordan-Elbridge	94%
Lafayette	95%
Liverpool	95%
Lyncourt	96%
Marcellus	96%
North Syracuse	95%
Onondaga	95%
Skaneateles	95%
Solvay	94%
Syracuse	91%
Tully	96%
West Genesee	96%
Westhill	94%

*Source: nySTART, 2008-09*

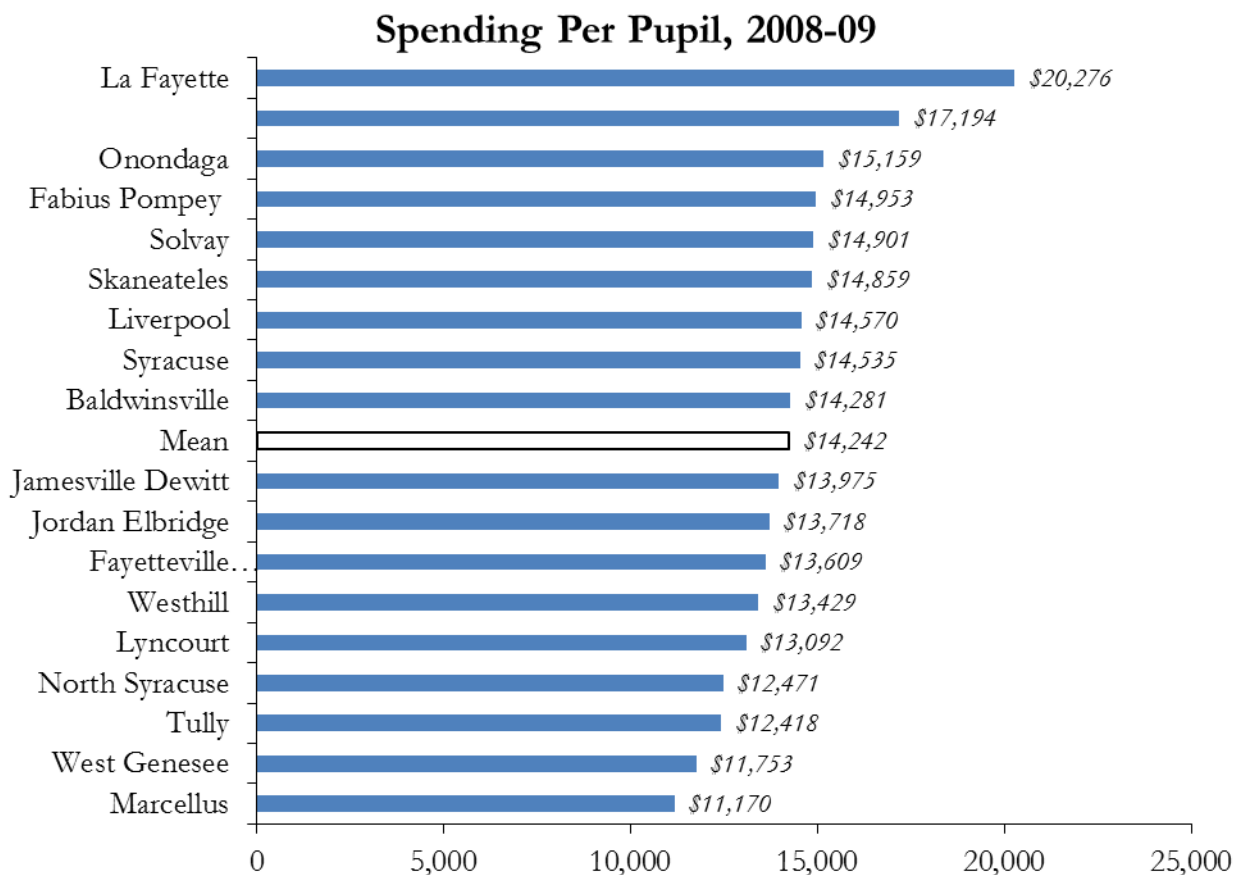
## Spending per Pupil

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the amount of money each school spends on each student services, programming, administrative costs, and other resources.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it assesses the wealth of a district, with greater wealth allowing a district to increase offerings and services to students.



Source: *NewYorkSchools.com, 2009*

**Comment:** Lafayette is over \$3,000 more than the next-highest school district in the amount of per pupil spending. The district was unavailable for comment on this large difference.

## Limited English Proficient (LEP) Learners

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of students who by reason of foreign birth or ancestry, do not speak English as their primary language and have a limited ability to understand or speak English.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it helps districts provide the correct amount of LEP programming and services.

### Limited English Proficiency, 2008-09

Region	Percentage
New York State (N= 202,220)	8%
Onondaga County (N= 383)	0.65%
Syracuse (N= 1,728)	9%

*Source: nySTART, 2008-09*

## New York State Assessments

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the performance of students, schools, school districts and the state as whole on the NYS Learning Standards, as determined by the New York State Department of Education. English Language Arts tests assess listening, reading, and writing standards. Mathematics tests assess number sense and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, and probability and statistics.

### Level 1

#### Not Meeting Learning Standards

Student performance does not demonstrate an understanding of the content expected in the subject and grade level.

### Level 2

#### Partially Meeting Learning Standards

Student performance demonstrates an understanding of the content expected in the subject and grade level.

### Level 3

#### Meeting Learning Standards

Student performance demonstrates an understanding of the content expected in the subject and grade level.

### Level 4

#### Meeting Learning Standards with Distinction

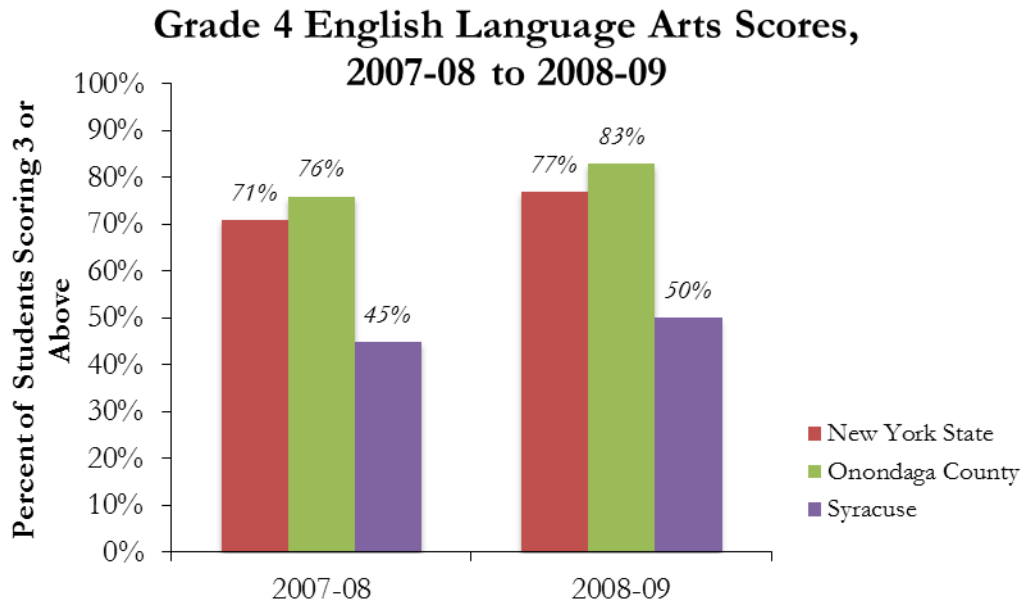
Student performance demonstrates a thorough understanding of the content expected in the subject and grade level.

**Comment:** Students must earn a 3 or higher to be considered proficient.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because scores on the New York State Assessments are indicative of a student's mastery of New York State Learning Standards, as well as their preparedness for the next set of learning standards once they are promoted to the next grade.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts Scores

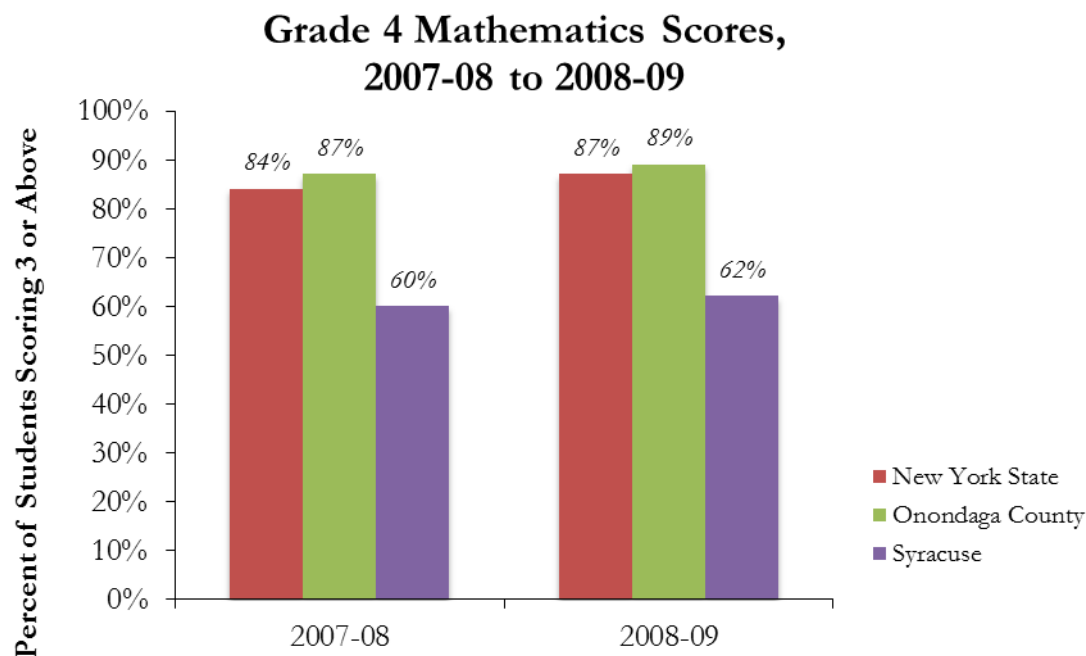


Source: *nySTART, 2007-08, 2008-09*

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Scoring 3 or above on ELA Exams

School District	2007-08		2008-09	
	%	N	%	N
Baldwinsville	82%	434	86%	479
East Syracuse-Minoa	70%	233	79%	232
Fabius-Pompey	75%	65	84%	69
Fayetteville-Manlius	89%	342	92%	338
Jamesville-Dewitt	87%	191	89%	216
Jordan-Elbridge	65%	115	75%	106
LaFayette	73%	62	74%	72
Liverpool	72%	563	78%	588
Lyncourt	45%	31	70%	30
Marcellus	90%	154	91%	150
North Syracuse	74%	672	80%	716
Onondaga	69%	68	74%	66
Skaneateles	92%	134	90%	123
Solvay	63%	104	82%	114
<b>Syracuse</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>1435</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>1525</b>
Tully	79%	94	89%	73
West Genesee	81%	373	88%	369
Westhill	81%	151	89%	132
<b>Onondaga County</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>3786</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>3873</b>
<b>New York State</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>196,834</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>195,827</b>

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics Scores



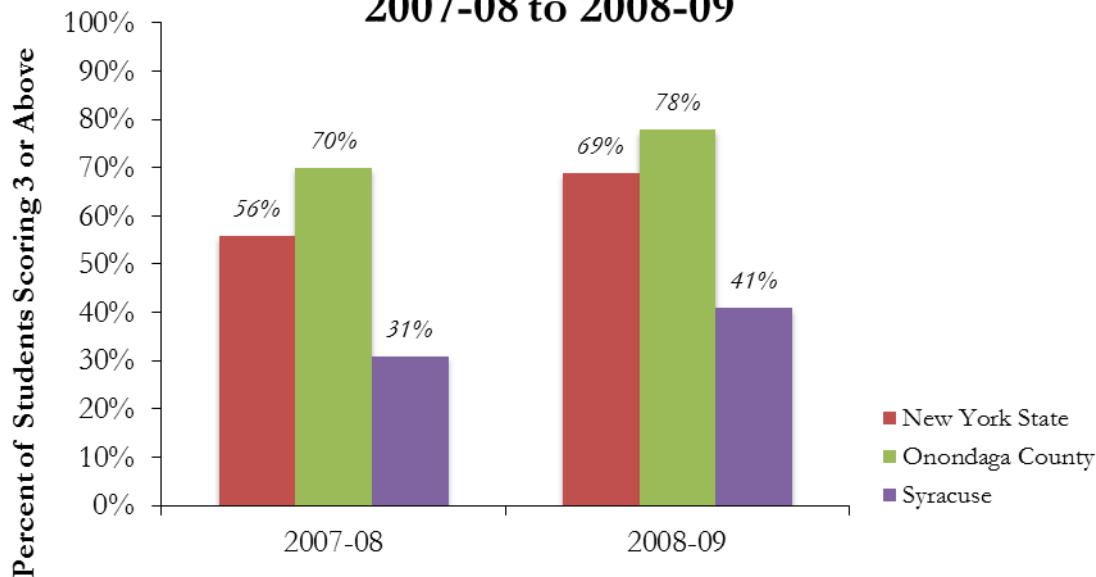
Source: nySTART, 2007-08, 2008-09

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Scoring 3 or above on Mathematics Exams

School District	2007-08		2008-09	
	%	N	%	N
Baldwinsville	90%	437	93%	475
East Syracuse-Minoa	80%	235	85%	233
Fabius-Pompey	88%	65	96%	69
Fayetteville-Manlius	95%	342	95%	340
Jamesville-Dewitt	91%	193	96%	216
Jordan-Elbridge	79%	116	90%	105
Lafayette	89%	62	81%	72
Liverpool	88%	564	87%	587
Lyncourt	90%	30	62%	29
Marcellus	92%	155	93%	149
North Syracuse	87%	674	88%	714
Onondaga	84%	69	88%	66
Skaneateles	94%	135	94%	126
Solvay	71%	105	83%	115
<b>Syracuse</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>1453</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>1534</b>
Tully	85%	94	97%	73
West Genesee	91%	375	93%	372
Westhill	88%	152	93%	135
<b>Onondaga County</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>3803</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>3876</b>
<b>New York State</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>198,505</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>197,561</b>

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts Scores

### Grade 8 English Language Arts Scores, 2007-08 to 2008-09



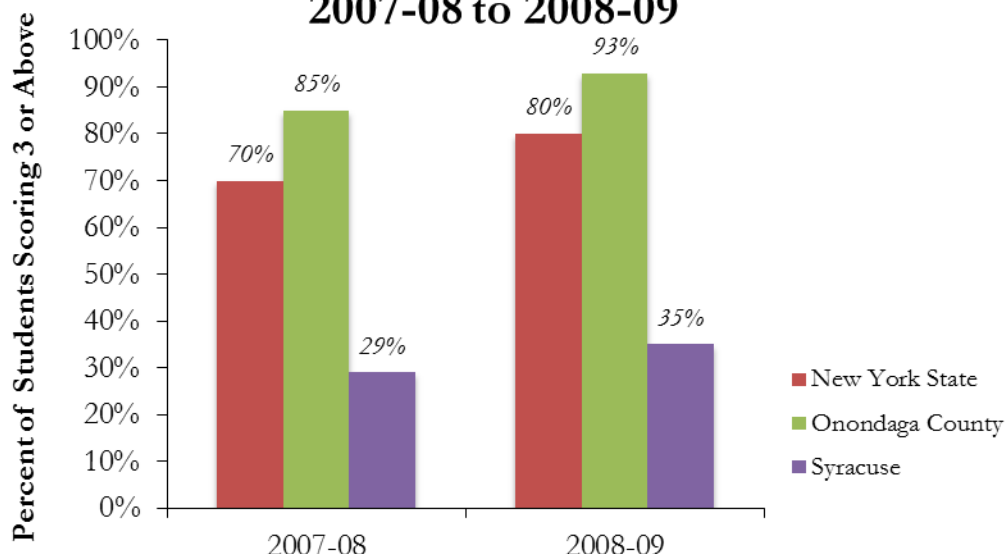
Source: *ny*START, 2007-08, 2008-09

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Scoring 3 or above on ELA Exams

School District	2007-08		2008-09	
	%	N	%	N
Baldwinsville	67%	516	80%	483
East Syracuse-Minoa	66%	305	75%	244
Fabius-Pompey	67%	78	85%	66
Fayetteville-Manlius	90%	416	91%	370
Jamesville-Dewitt	76%	229	86%	221
Jordan-Elbridge	66%	139	76%	109
Lafayette	62%	77	72%	74
Liverpool	66%	603	72%	618
Lyncourt	58%	38	63%	43
Marcellus	75%	159	84%	177
North Syracuse	62%	811	76%	800
Onondaga	65%	74	67%	84
Skaneateles	84%	135	89%	149
Solvay	63%	116	80%	123
<b>Syracuse</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>1479</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>1483</b>
Tully	75%	106	72%	106
West Genesee	73%	411	81%	412
Westhill	73%	155	84%	166
<b>Onondaga County</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>4368</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>4245</b>
<b>New York State</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>209,146</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>207,409</b>

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics Scores

### Grade 8 Mathematics Scores, 2007-08 to 2008-09



Source: *ny*ST.ART, 2007-08, 2008-09

### Grade 8 Students Scoring 3 or above on Mathematics Exams

School District	2007-08		2008-09	
	%	N	%	N
Baldwinsville	85%	514	92%	486
East Syracuse-Minoa	77%	307	90%	248
Fabius-Pompey	92%	77	94%	66
Fayetteville-Manlius	95%	415	96%	370
Jamesville-Dewitt	89%	227	91%	221
Jordan-Elbridge	77%	137	85%	109
Lafayette	95%	76	97%	73
Liverpool	87%	603	91%	618
Lyncourt	67%	39	88%	42
Marcellus	90%	160	94%	176
North Syracuse	79%	811	83%	796
Onondaga	70%	73	79%	86
Skaneateles	96%	134	97%	149
Solvay	81%	116	89%	122
<b>Syracuse</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>1479</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>1484</b>
Tully	78%	103	92%	105
West Genesee	87%	406	93%	411
Westhill	92%	156	97%	165
<b>Onondaga County</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>4354</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>4243</b>
<b>New York State</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>210,589</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>209,215</b>



## New York State Regents Examinations

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the performance of students, schools, and school districts for secondary education, as determined by the New York State Department of Education.

### Requirements for Regents Diploma

Math A

English Language Arts

One (1) Science Exam

Two (2) Social Studies Exams

**Comment:** Students must earn a score of 65 or better on each exam.

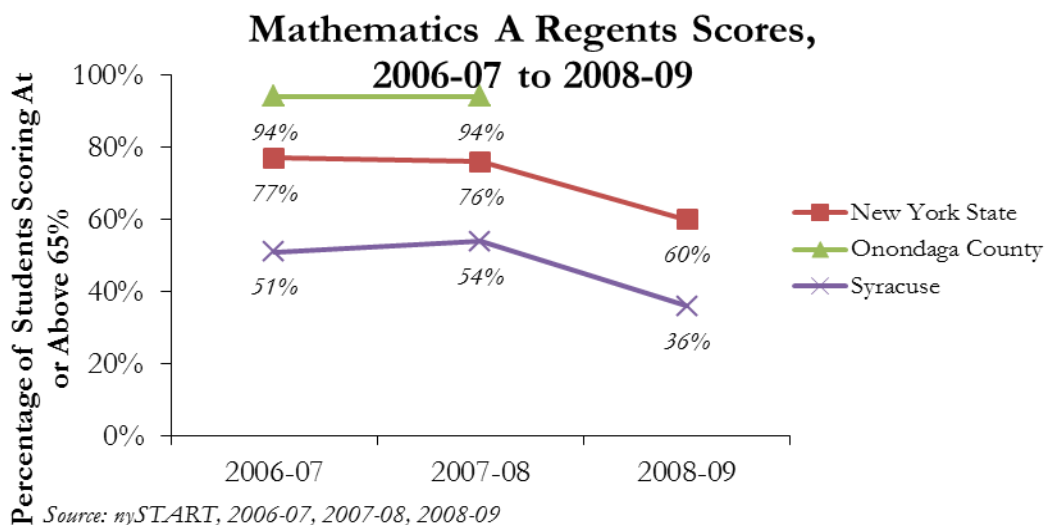
**Comment:** The Living Environment Regents is the most commonly administered science exam and the results for 2006-09 are included in this report.

**Comment:** The Global History and Geography Regents and the US History and Government Regents are the most commonly administered social studies exams and the results for 2006-09 are included in this report.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because scores on the New York State Regents Examinations are indicative of a student mastery as well as their preparedness for college and the workforce.

## Math A Regents Scores

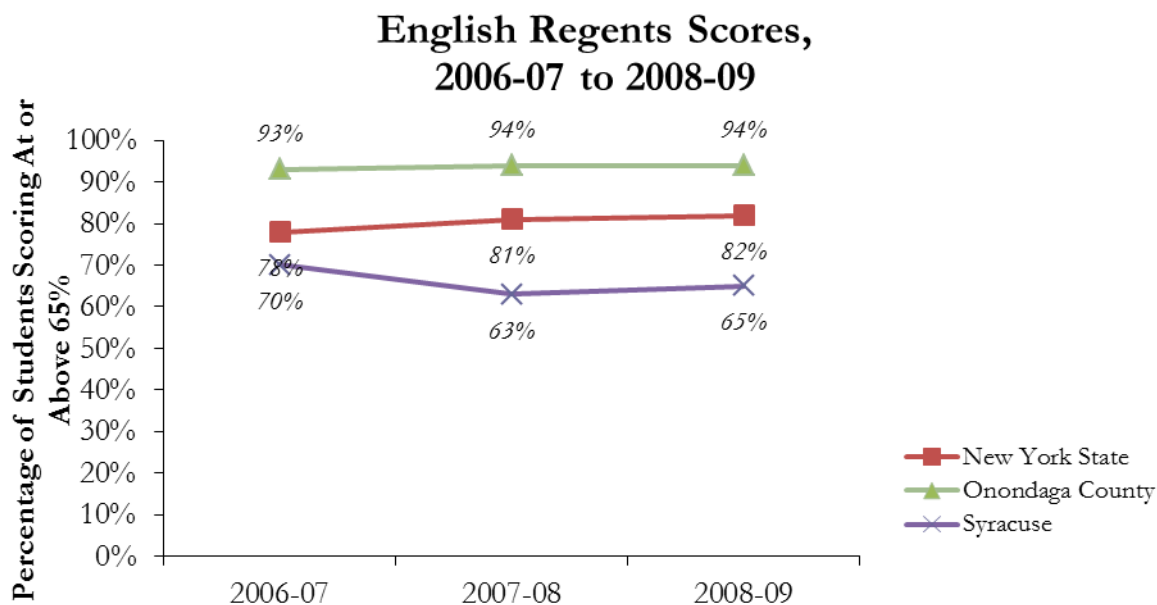


**Comment:** Onondaga County data for 2008-09 are not available.

### Students Scoring 65% or Higher on Mathematics A Regents Exams

School District	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Baldwinsville	95%	495	96%	494	62%	13
East Syracuse-Minoa	96%	272	96%	262	88%	225
Fabius-Pompey	96%	81	99%	81	-	0
Fayetteville-Manlius	99%	400	98%	468	-	4
Jamesville-Dewitt	94%	229	97%	240	80%	5
Jordan-Elbridge	80%	182	92%	159	81%	83
Lafayette	98%	59	85%	73	-	2
Liverpool	93%	603	87%	1,255	69%	89
Marcellus	97%	193	100%	150	-	2
North Syracuse	91%	904	90%	879	63%	52
Onondaga	94%	98	91%	89	70%	10
Skaneateles	99%	150	99%	159	-	0
Solvay	80%	148	90%	117	-	2
<b>Syracuse</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>1,562</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>1,538</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>616</b>
Tully	92%	91	96%	112	43%	7
West Genesee	96%	457	93%	410	73%	26
Westhill	97%	180	97%	145	88%	8
<b>Onondaga County</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>4,542</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>5,093</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>528</b>
<b>New York State</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>252,576</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>224,675</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>63,434</b>

## Comprehensive English Regents Scores

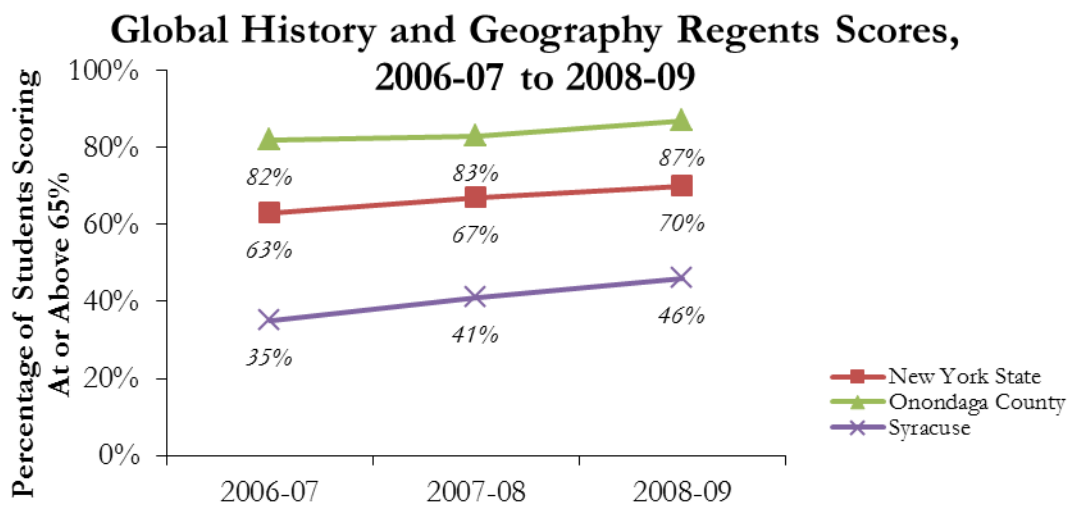


Source: nySTART, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09

### Students Scoring 65% or Higher on the English Regents Exams

School District	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Baldwinsville	94%	530	97%	480	93%	487
EastSyracuse-Minoa	95%	270	93%	282	93%	279
Fabius-Pompey	91%	75	91%	75	93%	86
Fayetteville-Manlius	98%	403	95%	396	97%	395
Jamesville-Dewitt	93%	245	95%	235	95%	232
Jordan-Elbridge	83%	115	93%	132	95%	124
Lafayette	81%	63	78%	78	84%	68
Liverpool	90%	667	94%	596	94%	583
Marcellus	98%	166	97%	170	96%	171
North Syracuse	93%	779	92%	807	94%	749
Onondaga	97%	79	99%	75	99%	70
Skaneateles	95%	147	99%	137	96%	152
Solvay	88%	163	88%	136	92%	161
<b>Syracuse</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>1,281</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>1,121</b>
Tully	98%	102	92%	102	89%	94
West Genesee	95%	402	94%	467	93%	411
Westhill	99%	169	99%	170	96%	148
<b>Onondaga County</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>4,375</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>4,338</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>4,210</b>
<b>New York State</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>219,223</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>221,860</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>220,355</b>

## Global History and Geography Regents Scores



Source: nvSTART, 2006-07, 2008-09

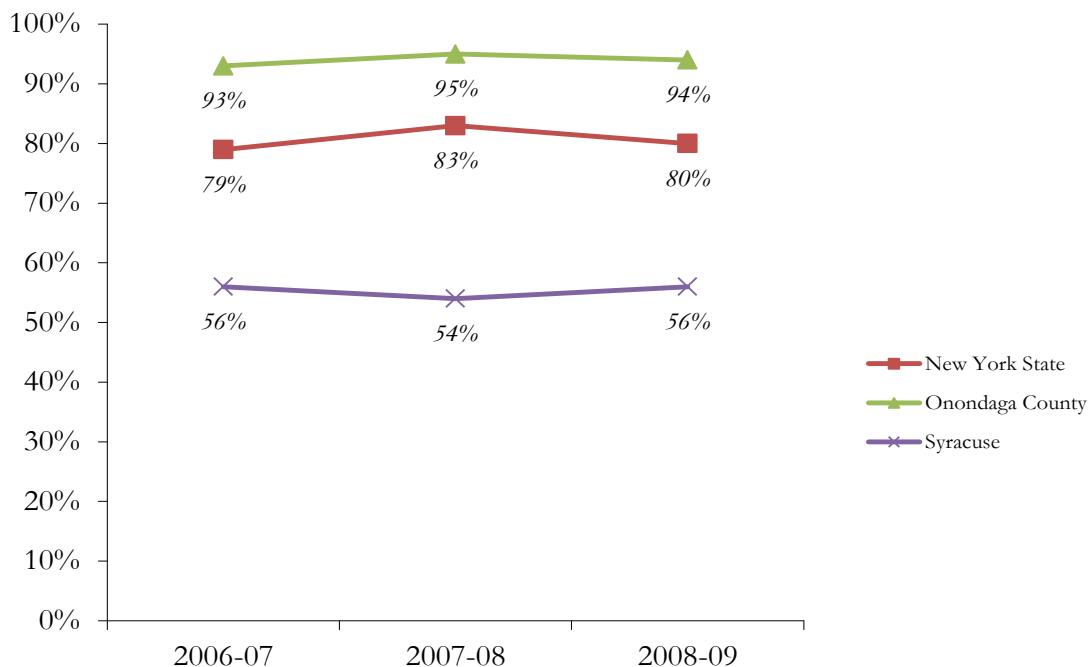
### Students Scoring 65% or Higher on Global History & Geography Regents Exams

School District	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Baldwinsville	78%	551	84%	560	92%	526
East Syracuse-Minoa	77%	313	77%	319	78%	316
Fabius-Pompey	88%	76	78%	93	88%	74
Fayetteville-Manlius	93%	403	92%	416	94%	427
Jamesville-Dewitt	93%	227	80%	250	91%	263
Jordan-Elbridge	68%	155	81%	139	87%	139
Lafayette	67%	89	65%	83	86%	72
Liverpool	82%	654	85%	675	85%	653
Marcellus	84%	179	88%	196	96%	189
North Syracuse	79%	956	85%	919	89%	846
Onondaga	87%	97	83%	81	84%	85
Skaneateles	-	1	98%	155	93%	103
Solvay	66%	153	71%	211	67%	172
<b>Syracuse</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>1,727</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>1,632</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>1,774</b>
Tully	84%	106	87%	119	85%	97
West Genesee	85%	517	90%	476	90%	461
Westhill	92%	194	88%	156	93%	174
<b>Onondaga County</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>4,671</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>4,848</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>4,597</b>
<b>New York State</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>243,244</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>253,116</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>243,244</b>

**Comment:** Skaneateles only had one student take the Global History and Geography Regents Examination during the 2006-07 academic year. Percentages are not calculated when the number of test-takers is below five so that students are not identified.

## US History and Government Regents Scores

### US History and Government Regents Scores, 2006-07 to 2008-09

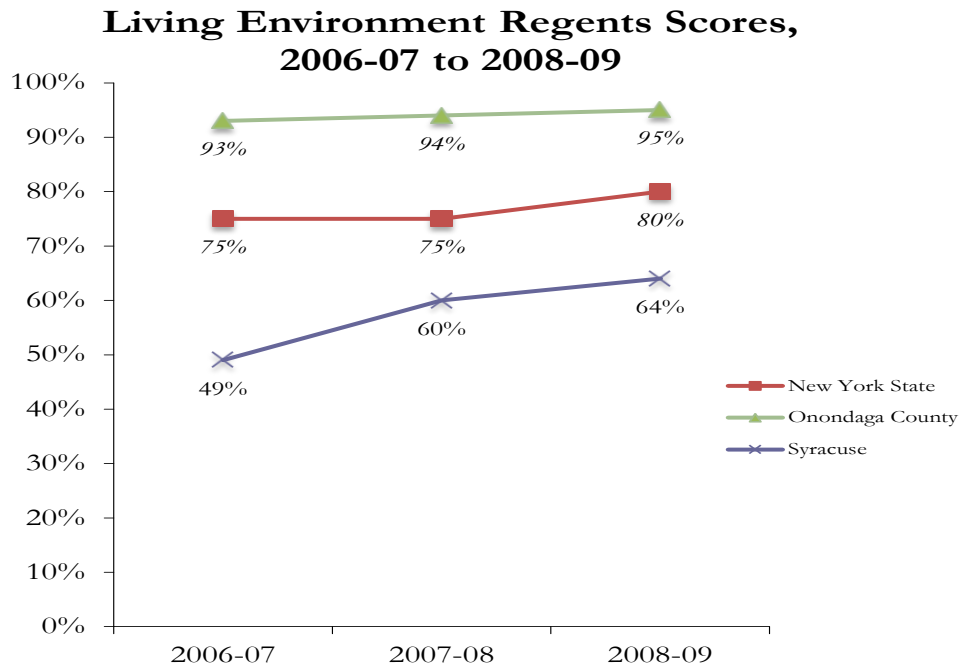


Source: nySTART, 2006-07, 2008-09

### Students Scoring 65% or Higher on Regents US History and Government Regents Exams

School District	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Baldwinsville	93%	473	96%	483	96%	494
East Syracuse-Minoa	88%	285	93%	276	87%	261
Fabius-Pompey	93%	74	95%	73	94%	86
Fayetteville-Manlius	98%	402	98%	391	98%	390
Jamesville-Dewitt	94%	247	97%	224	97%	224
Jordan-Elbridge	88%	117	98%	132	98%	121
Lafayette	86%	65	86%	73	85%	61
Liverpool	92%	635	95%	504	95%	606
Marcellus	97%	176	98%	169	94%	173
North Syracuse	89%	825	92%	852	93%	783
Onondaga	96%	75	95%	84	95%	73
Skaneateles	98%	140	100%	136	97%	155
Solvay	88%	155	85%	131	87%	174
<b>Syracuse</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>1,201</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>1,427</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>1,594</b>
Tully	91%	101	93%	101	95%	103
West Genesee	94%	398	96%	477	92%	411
Westhill	98%	171	99%	172	98%	150
<b>Onondaga County</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>4,339</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>4,278</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>4,265</b>
<b>New York State</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>208,900</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>211,171</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>214,653</b>

## Living Environment Regents Scores



Source: nySTART, 2006-07, 2008-09

## Students Scoring 65% or Higher on Living Environment Regents Exams

School District	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Baldwinsville	98%	443	95%	520	97%	482
East Syracuse-Minoa	91%	254	90%	282	92%	297
Fabius-Pompey	93%	90	91%	76	92%	78
Fayetteville-Manlius	97%	395	97%	417	99%	404
Jamesville-Dewitt	94%	230	93%	242	94%	240
Jordan-Elbridge	85%	158	91%	139	92%	143
Lafayette	92%	71	93%	55	99%	77
Liverpool	92%	573	96%	575	94%	607
Marcellus	94%	171	98%	173	99%	235
North Syracuse	91%	838	89%	931	92%	822
Onondaga	92%	88	90%	81	94%	82
Skaneateles	99%	140	100%	150	100%	138
Solvay	78%	168	90%	182	91%	148
<b>Syracuse</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>1,522</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>1,441</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>1,653</b>
Tully	92%	99	94%	109	95%	191
West Genesee	95%	484	91%	444	95%	455
Westhill	97%	183	99%	146	98%	177
<b>Onondaga County</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>4,385</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>4,522</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>4,576</b>
<b>New York State</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>226,449</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>232,125</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>241,842</b>

## High School Graduation Rates

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures graduation rates in New York State, Onondaga County, and the Syracuse City School District (SCSD). New York State currently defines its graduation rate as the percentage of students who earned a local or Regents diploma in four years, although students who entered high school in 2008 (current juniors) or later will no longer have the option of earning a local diploma.

This indicator measures graduation rates for Onondaga County schools as is defined by New York State. For 2008-09, the graduation rate is the percentage of students from the 2004 cohort that earned a local or Regents diploma by Aug. 31, 2008. The NYS “Graduation Rate Standard is the criterion value that represents a minimally satisfactory percentage of cohort members earning a local diploma.”<sup>35</sup>

For 2008-09, the NYS Graduation Rate Standard was 55 percent. For a school or district to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in graduation rates, the graduation rate must equal or exceed the Graduation Rate Standard for that year.

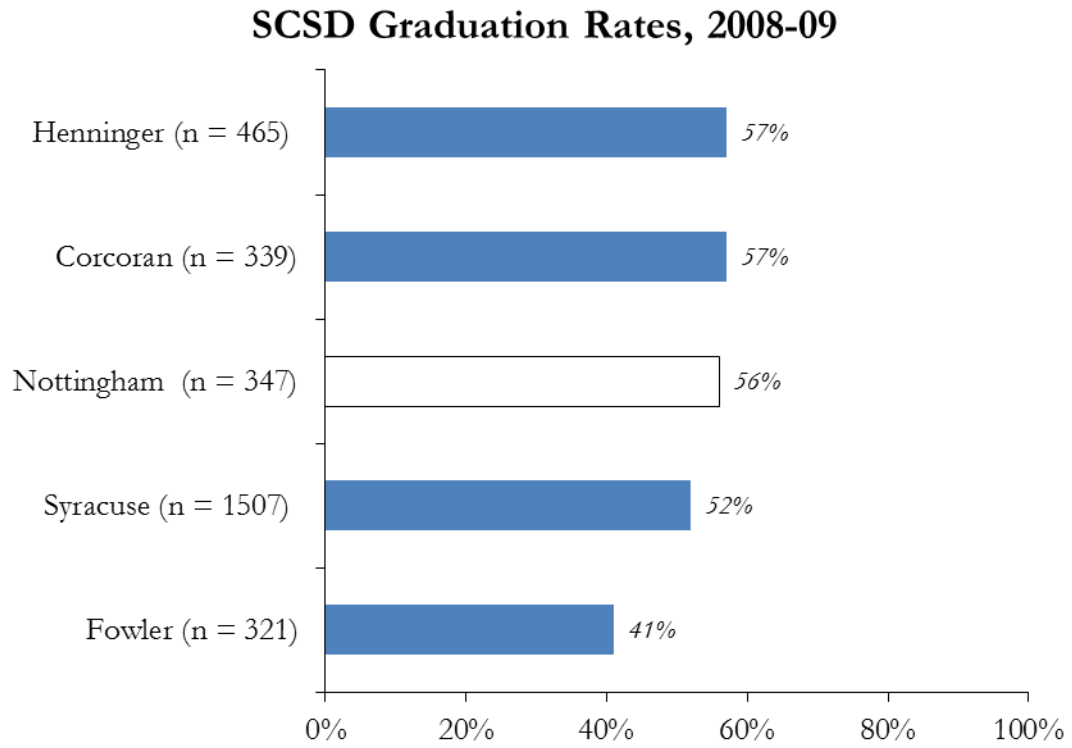
### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it provides a benchmark for students graduating in four years.

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<sup>35</sup> *nySTART, 2008-09*

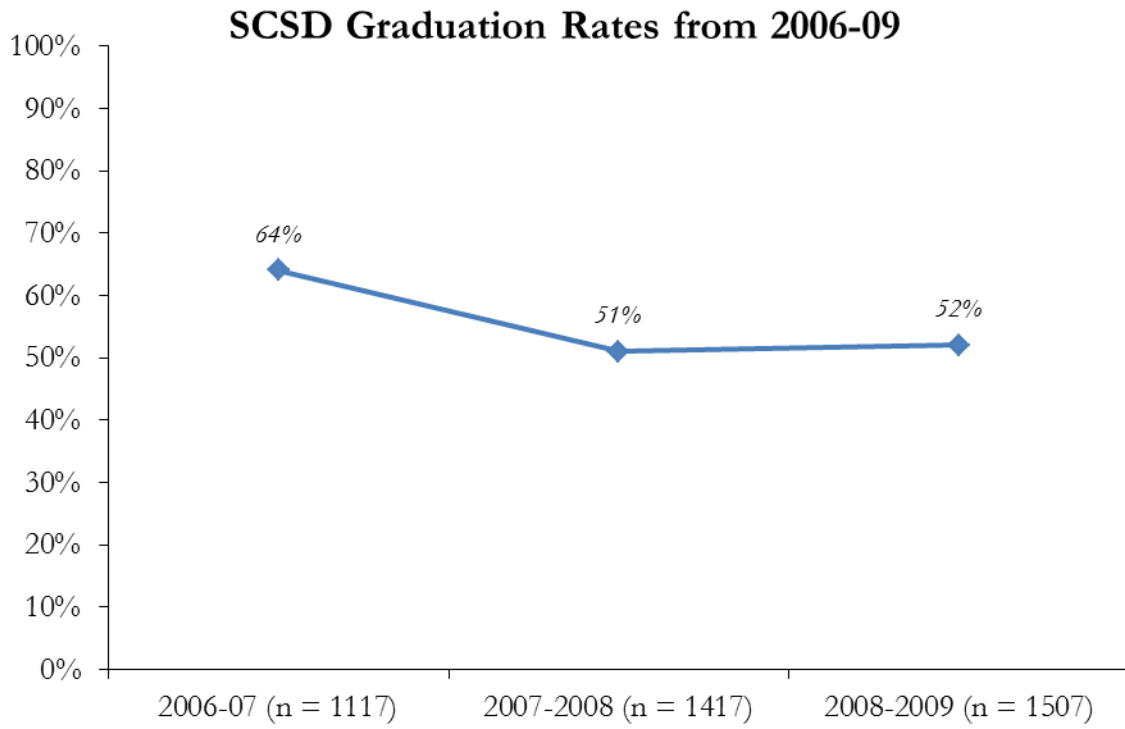
## Syracuse City School District Graduation Rates, 2008-09



Source: *nySTART*, 2008-09



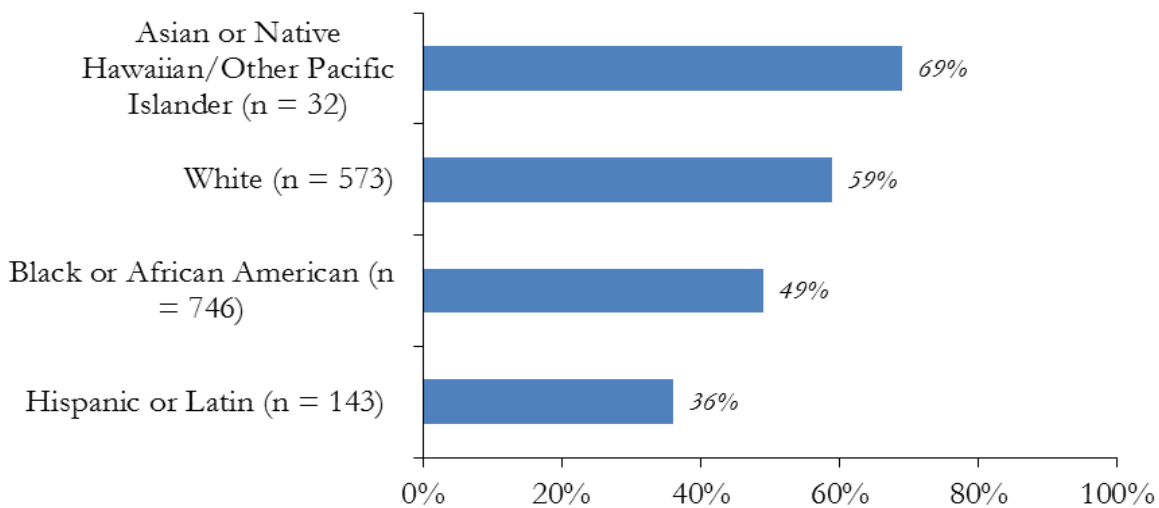
### Syracuse City School District Graduation Rates, 2006-09



Source: *nySTART, 2006-09*

### Syracuse City School District Graduation Rates by Ethnicity

**SCSD Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2008-09**  
(N=1507)

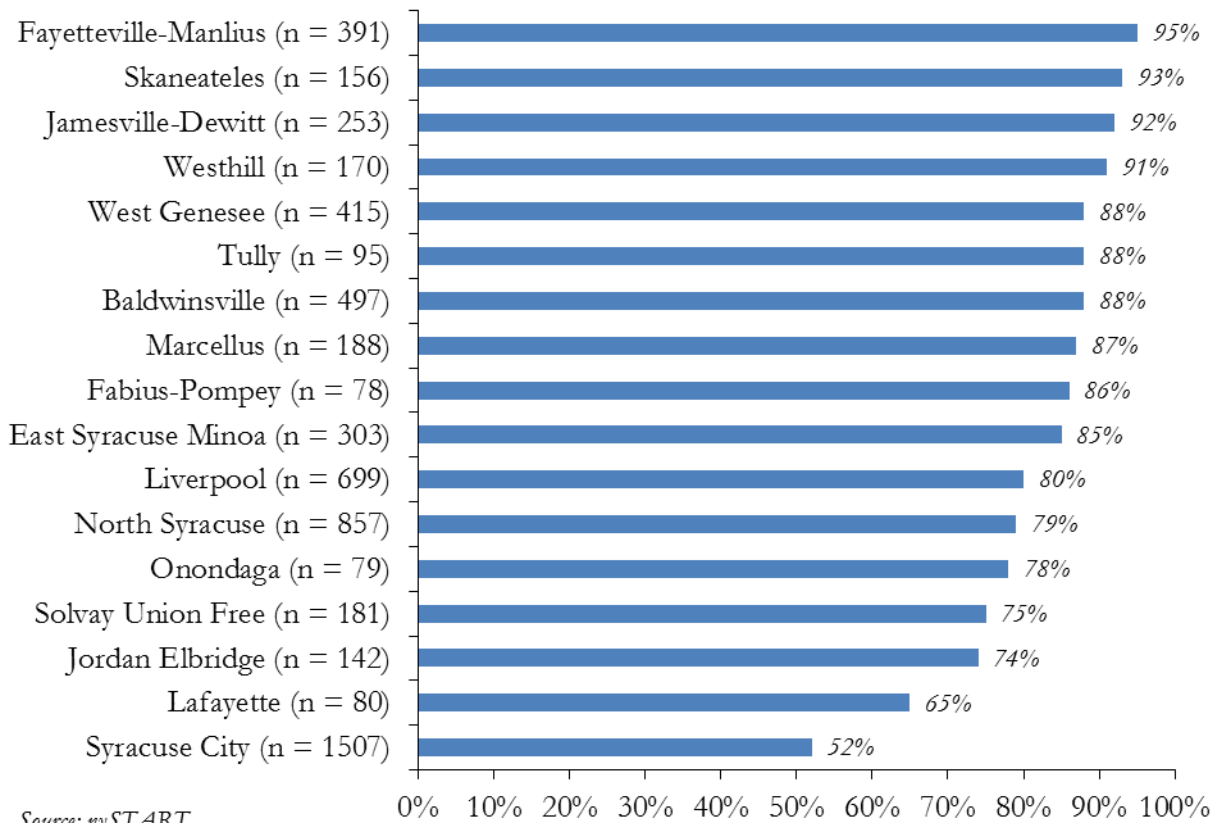


Source: nySTART, 2008-09

Comment: Please note the number of actual students in each race category.

## Onondaga County School District Graduation Rates

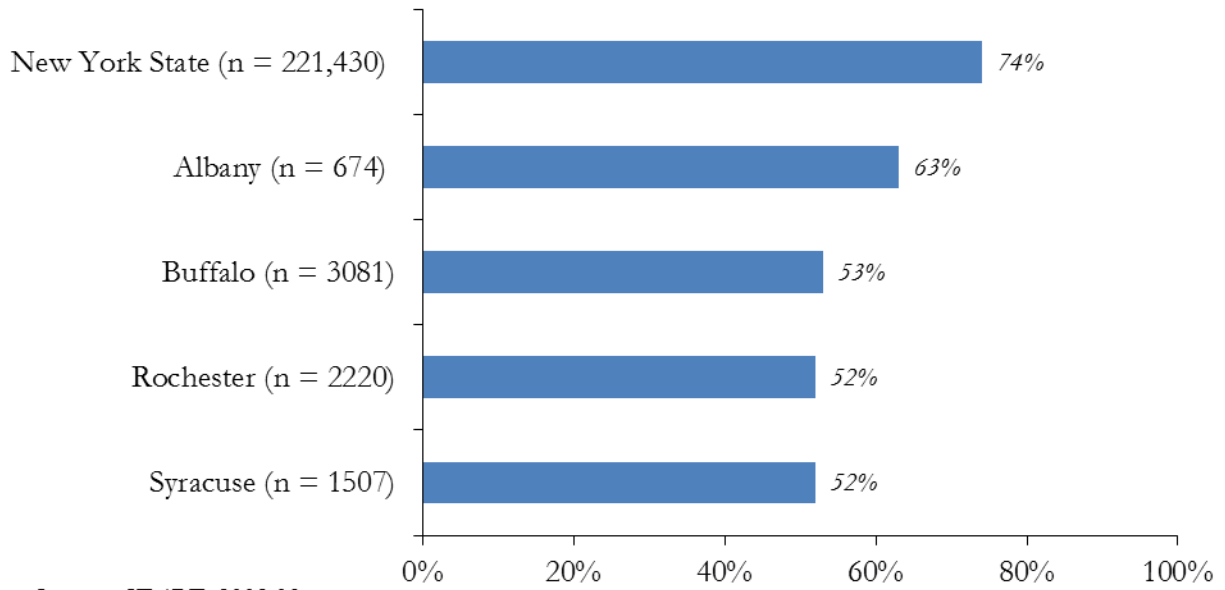
### Onondaga County School District Graduation Rates, 2008-09



Source: nySTART,

## Graduation Rates

### New York State Graduation Rates, 2008-09



Source: nySTART, 2008-09

## Degrees Granted by Post-Secondary Institutions

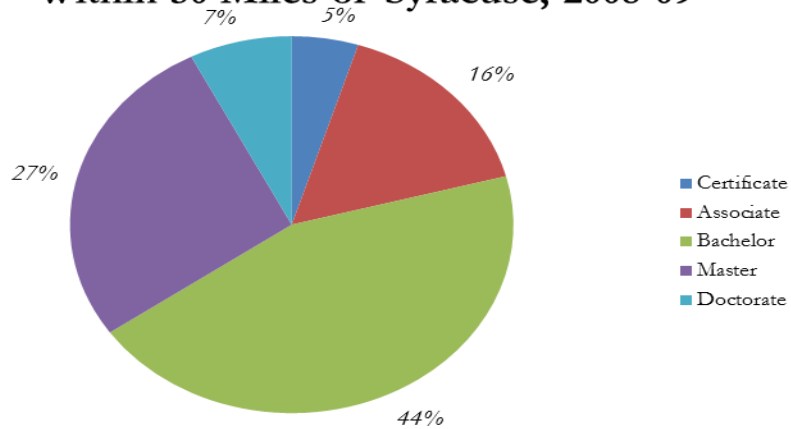
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percent and number of various types of degrees, ranging from certificates to doctorate degrees, awarded by higher institutions within 50 miles of the city of Syracuse.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because examining the number of higher institutions and the various degrees they offer can better gauge the post-secondary options that are available locally to students who graduate from high school.

### Degrees Granted by Post-Secondary Institutions Within 50 Miles of Syracuse, 2008-09



Source: IPEDS College Data, 2009-10

### 2008-09 Degrees/Certifications Awarded by Post-Secondary Schools within 50 Miles of Syracuse

College	Certificate	Associate	Bachelor	Masters	Doctorate	All
Bryant and Stratton College - Syracuse	0	155	0	0	0	155
Crouse Hospital School of Nursing	0	89	0	0	0	89
Le Moyne College	15	0	593	273	0	881
Onondaga Community College	52	895	0	0	0	947
Phillips Hairstyling Institute	69	0	0	0	0	69
Simmons Institute of Funeral Service Inc.	0	21	0	0	0	21
St. Joseph's College of Nursing	0	126	0	0	0	126
SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry	12	33	311	93	17	466
SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse	9	0	107	42	240	398
Syracuse Central Technical Vocational Center	40	0	0	0	0	40
Syracuse University	205	7	2,670	1,846	363	5,091
Totals	402	1,326	3,681	2,254	620	8,283

Source: IPEDS College Data, 2009-10

## Introduction

Syracuse has become known as the *Emerald City* through efforts towards the increasing use of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) buildings, innovations from Syracuse University and SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry and area environmental firms.

Not only is the *Emerald City* going green by incorporating more environmentally-friendly projects into policy and everyday life, but also by celebrating decades of environmental innovation in the city.

This section of the report attempts to portray an accurate image of environmental awareness and quality as well as our community's progress towards promoting environmentally friendly practices.

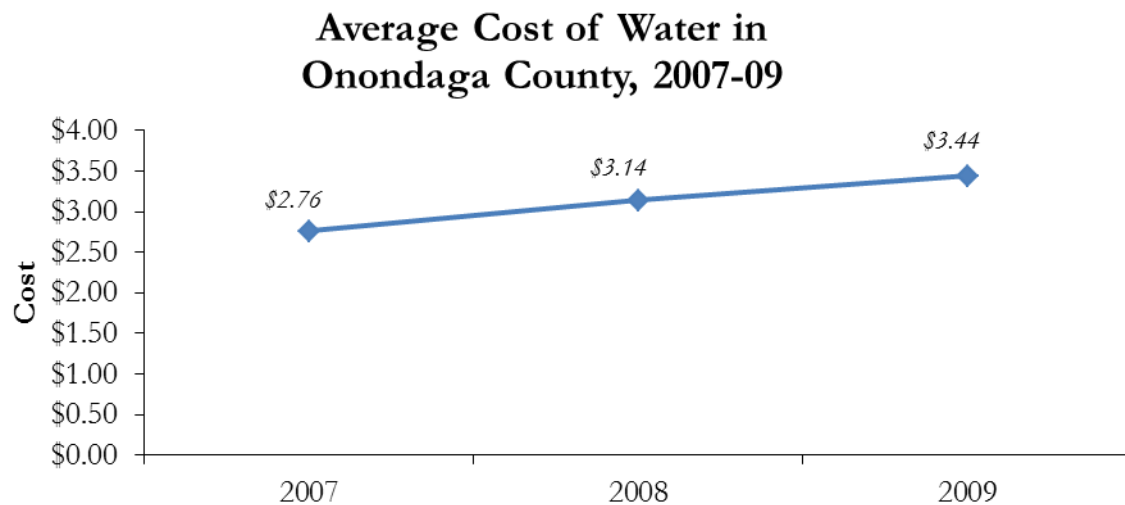
## Price of Water

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the average cost of water per 1,000 gallons for residents.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it monitors the cost of water over a three-year period.



*Source: Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA), Consumer Confidence Report & Annual Water Supply*

## Water Delivered

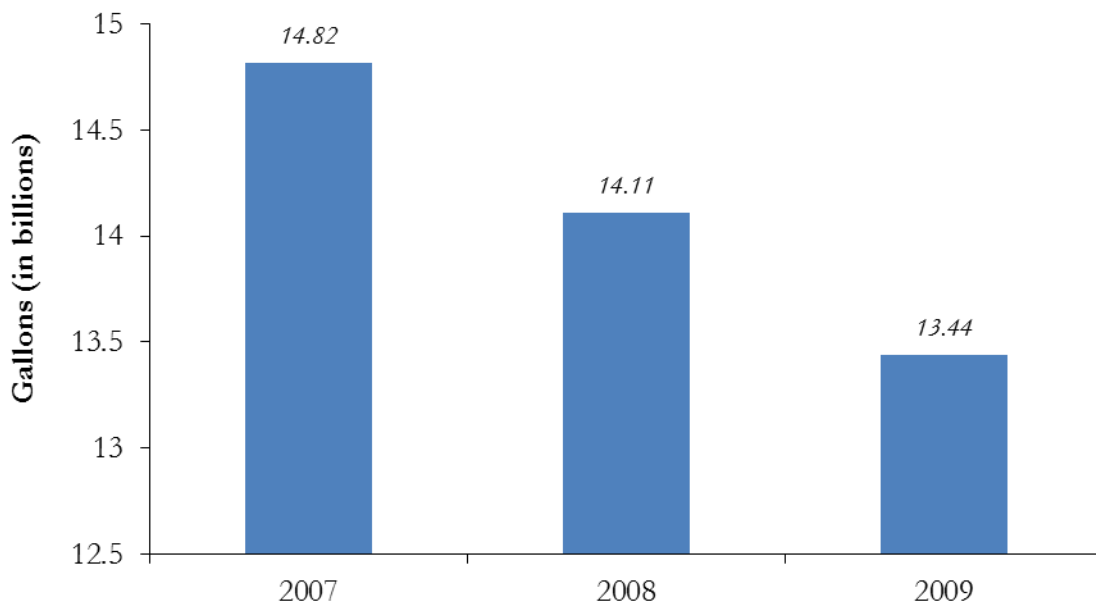
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures total water delivered between 2007 and 2009.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because the amount of water delivered shows the amount of stress on the infrastructure in an area as well as how well residents and businesses are conserving their water.

**Total Water Delivered by OCWA,  
2007-09**



*Source: Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA), Consumer Confidence Report & Annual Water Supply Statement, 2007-09*



## Water Usage

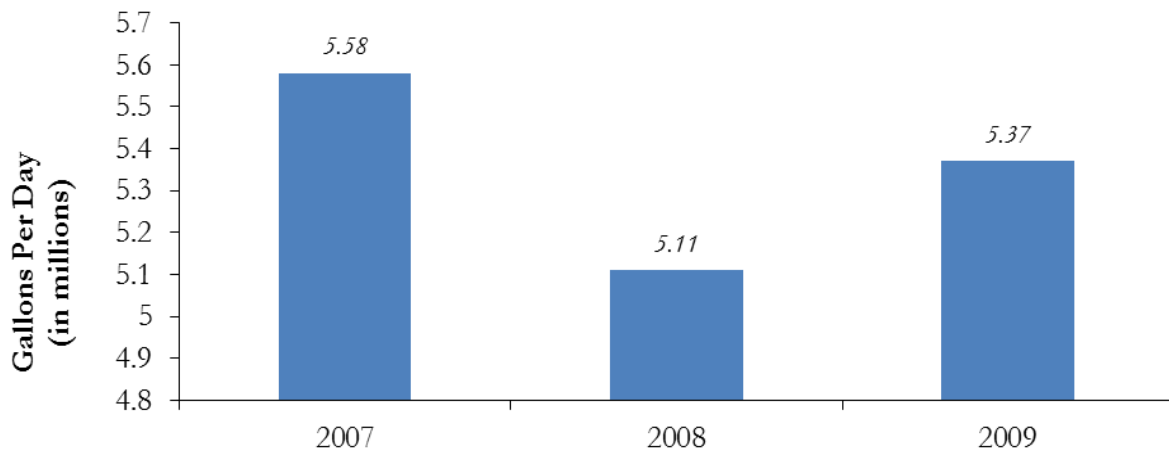
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the amount of metered water used.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because preserving the fresh water supply is essential to attracting people and businesses to the area. In addition, comparing metered and unmetered water use can show inefficiencies in infrastructure.

**Average Daily Water Use in Onondaga County, 2007-09**



*Source: Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA), Consumer Confidence Report & Annual Water Supply Statement, 2007-09*

## Toxic Waste Distribution

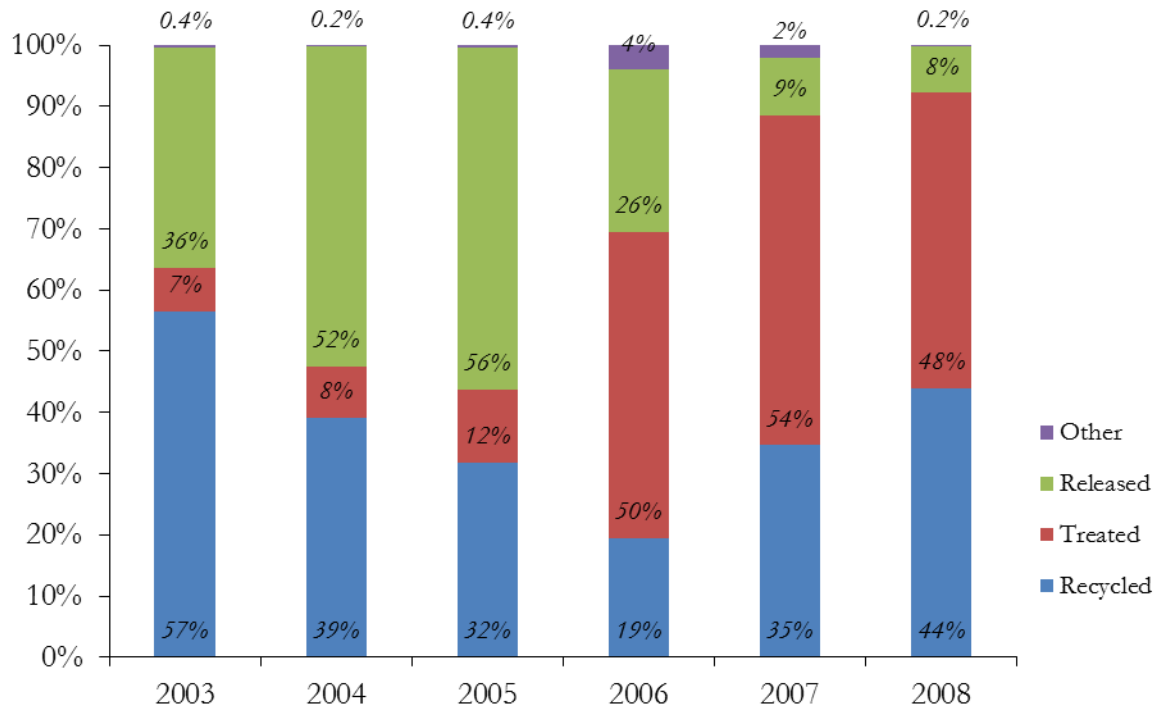
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the distributions of toxic waste and the disposal method.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because less toxic waste released into landfills means more room for other waste and is much cheaper to treat than landfills which can only be used for toxic wastes.

### Distribution of Generated Toxic Waste in Syracuse, 2003-08



Source: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Report, 2003-08

## Toxic Waste Generated

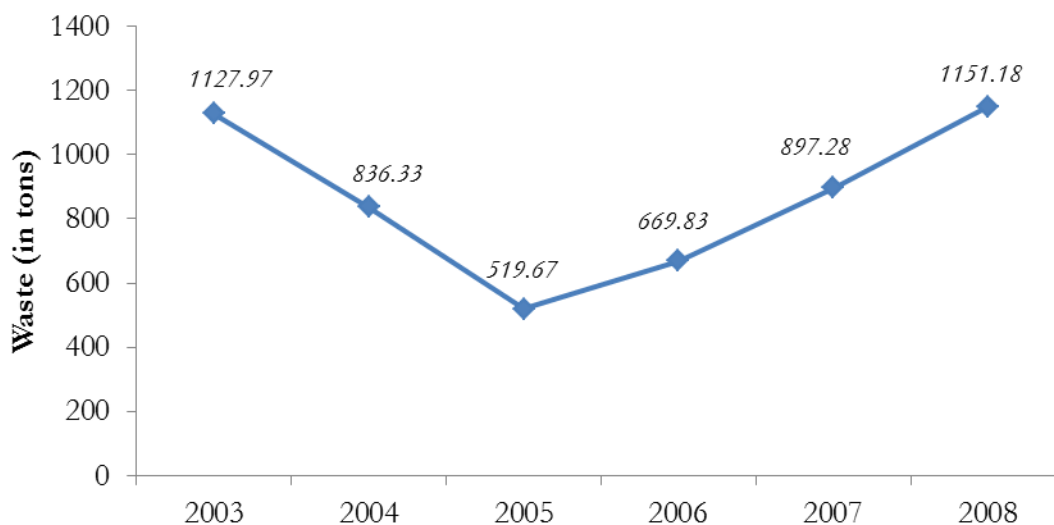
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the amount of toxic waste generated.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because toxic wastes are much more difficult and expensive to treat than standard wastes, put stress on the environment and county resources, and can also lead to health concerns in the community.

### Syracuse Toxic Waste Generated, 2003-08



Source: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Report, 2003-08

## Toxic Waste Released

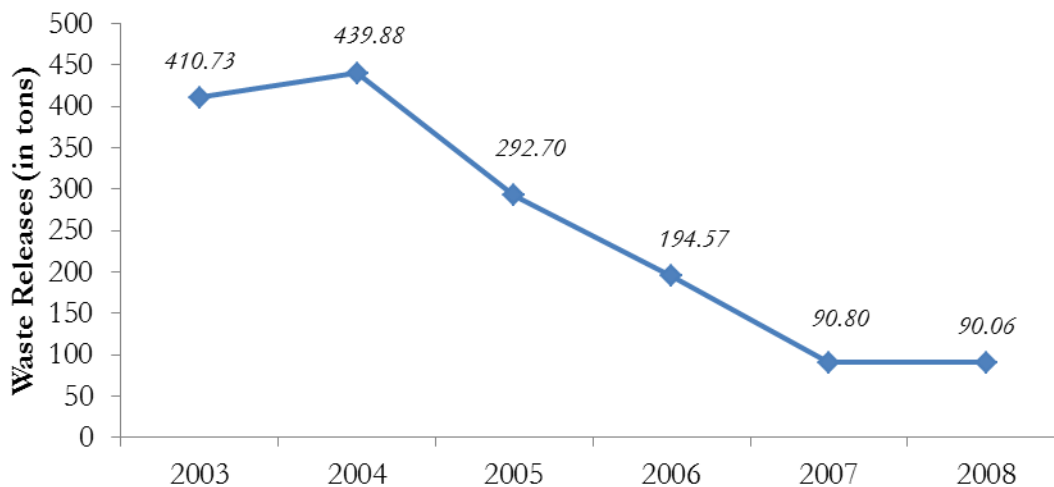
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the amount of toxic wastes released into landfills and other dumping sites.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because toxic wastes are much more difficult and expensive to treat than standard wastes and put stress on the environment and resources.

### Syracuse Toxic Waste Releases, 2003-08



Source: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Report, 2003-08

## Recycling

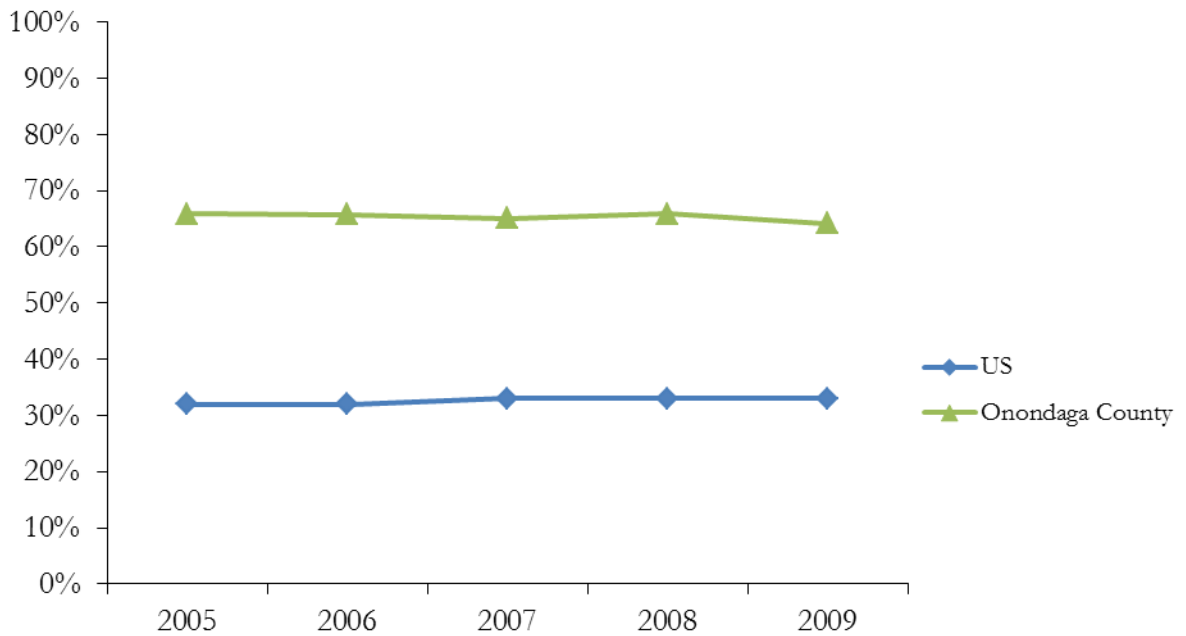
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the rate of recycling (calculated as the percentage of goods that can be recycled compared to the amount of goods actually recycled).

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because recycling reuses natural resources and reduces the amount of waste that needs to be collected and dealt with leading to lower operation costs for residents, businesses, and the county.

### Recycling Rates, Onondaga County, 2005-09



Source: Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency, Recycling Reports: 2005-09

## Hazardous Waste

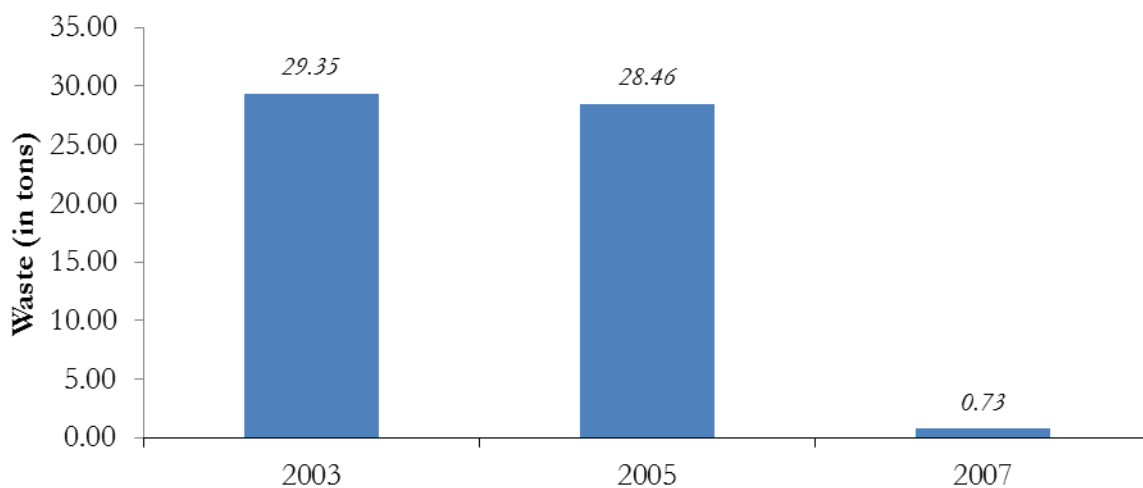
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the amount of hazardous wastes created.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because hazardous wastes have much more stringent removal guidelines that must be followed leading to higher disposal and treatment costs for hazardous wastes.

**Generated Hazardous Waste in Syracuse,  
2003-07**



*Source: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Hazardous Waste (BRS) database, 2003-07*

## Onondaga Lake Oxygen Concentration

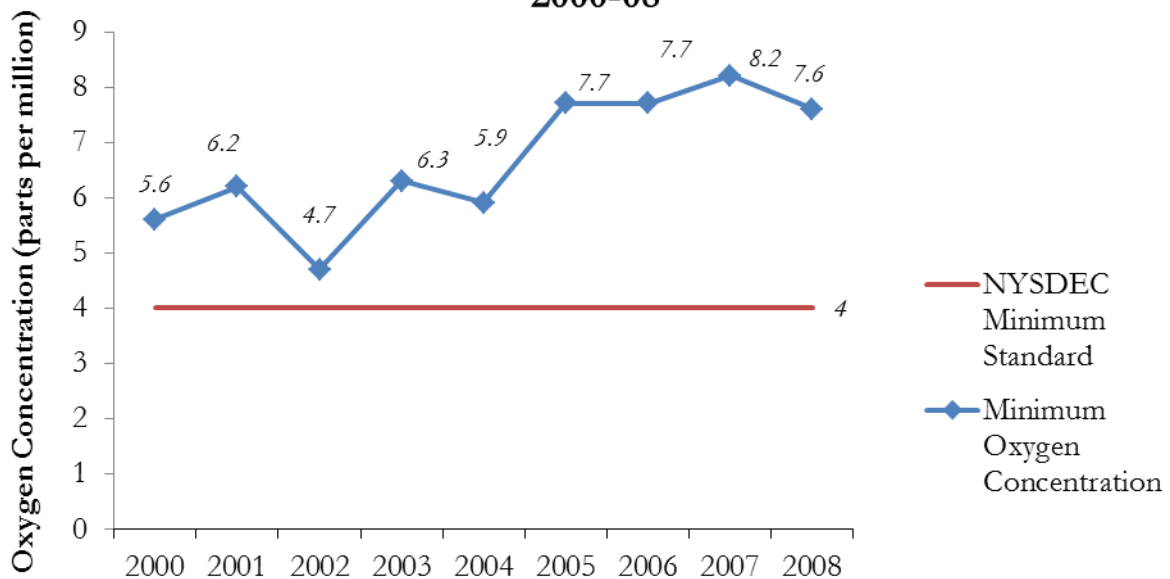
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the minimum oxygen concentration of the water in Onondaga Lake.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because sufficient oxygen concentration is essential for fish and other wildlife to repopulate Onondaga Lake which was once one of the most polluted lakes in the country.

**Minimum Oxygen Concentration in Onondaga Lake, 2000-08**



Source: Onondaga Lake Progress Report 2008

## Air Quality

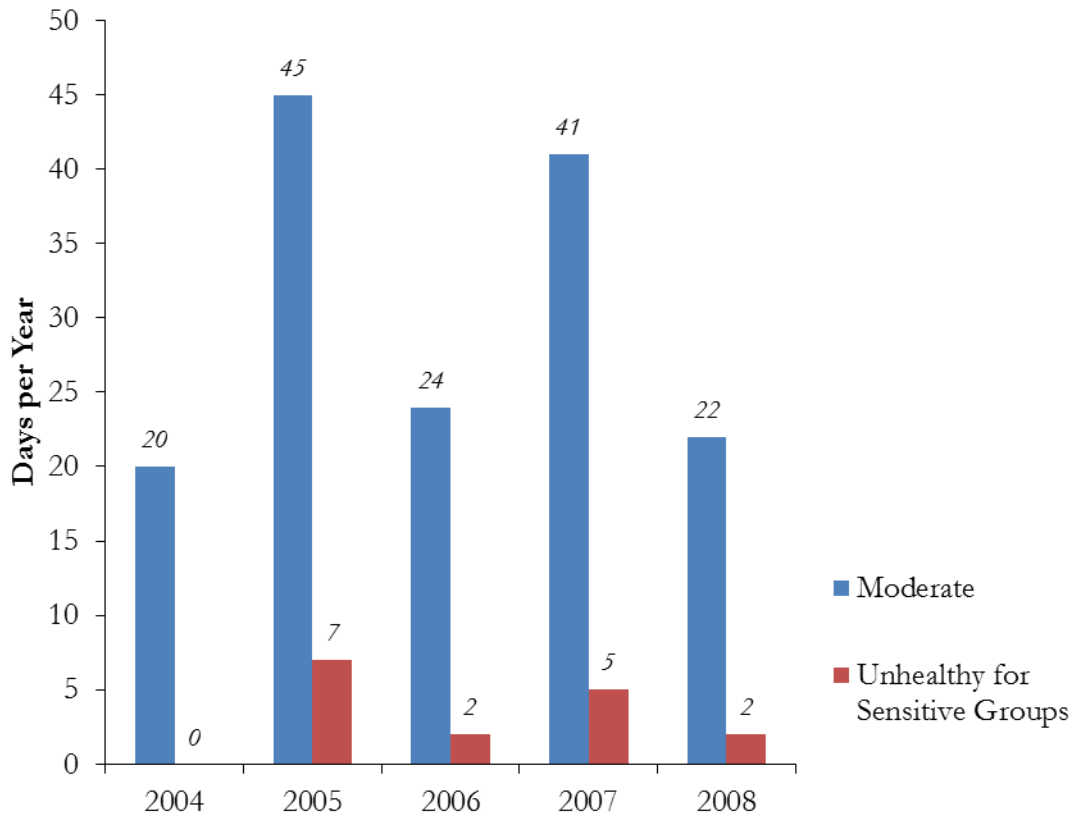
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the average quality of air every day of the year.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because air pollutants affect the air quality and health of county residents.

**Air Quality Index Days, 2004-08**



Source: EPA Air Quality Index (AQI) Report 2004-2008

**Comment:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) measures the quality of air 365 days per year. Syracuse only had good, moderate, and unhealthy for sensitive groups measurements. The days when air quality are good are not displayed in this graph.



## Waste to Energy

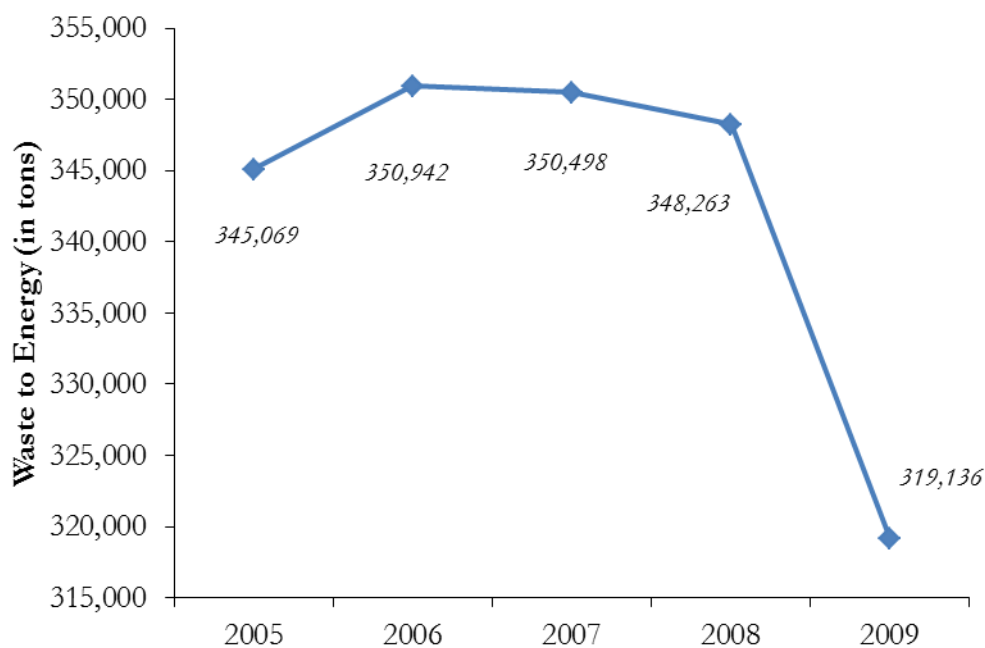
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the amount of waste processed by the Waste to Energy Facility in Syracuse.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because OCRRA performs much more efficiently when less waste is processed by the waste to energy facility.

### Waste to Energy Facility Tons of Processed Waste in Onondaga County, 2005-09



Source: Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA) 2009 Annual Report

## Household Expenditures on Oil and Gasoline

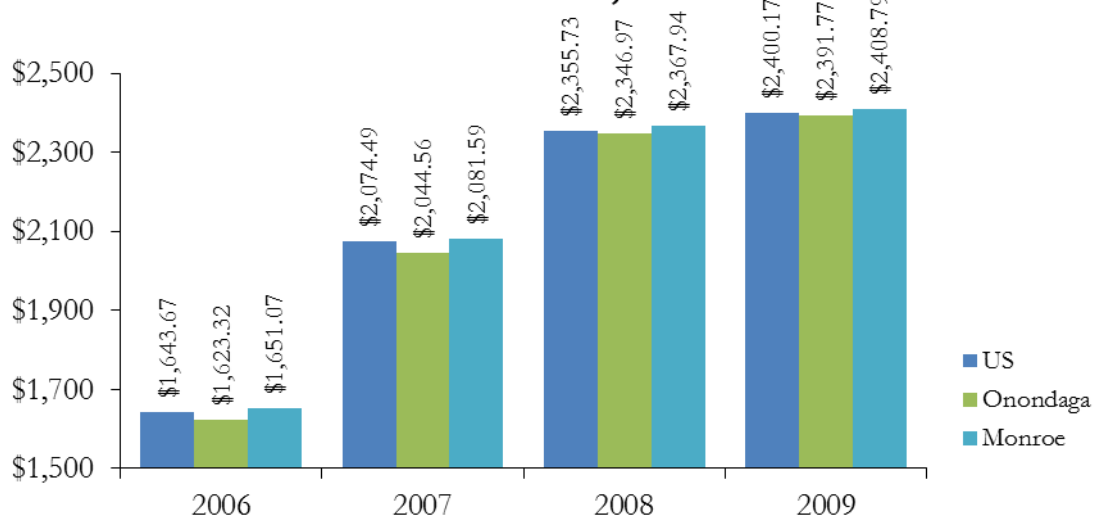
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the amount of money spent on gasoline and oil.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because an increase in gasoline and oil expenditures indicates an increase in consumption and the eventual disposal of their byproducts; these can contribute to greenhouse gases and harm the environment if not disposed of properly.

**Annual Average Household Expenditure on Gasoline and Oil , 2006-09**



Source: United States Consumer Index Report, 2006-2009

## Average Miles Driven

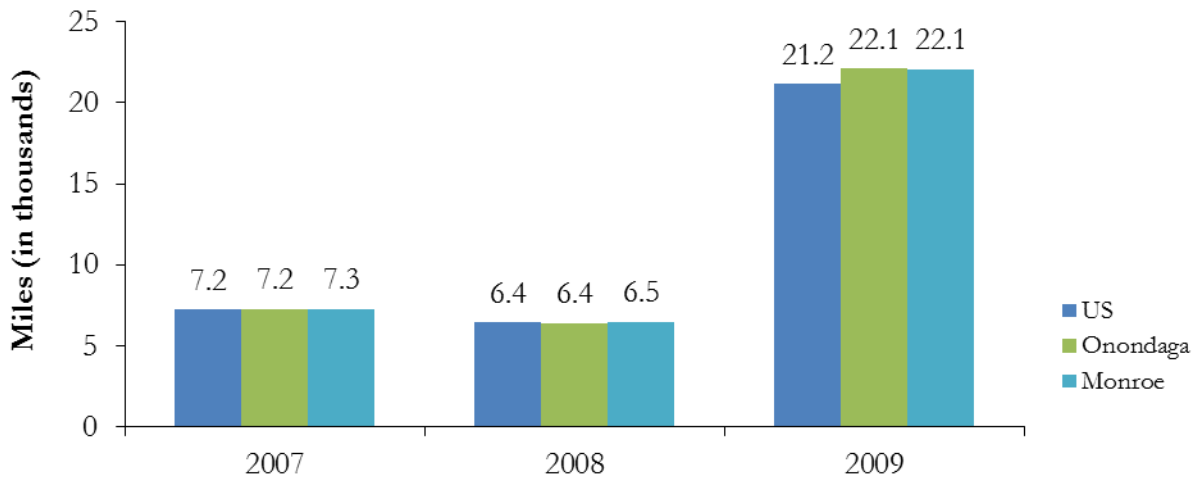
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the amount of combined miles driven by all the members of a household.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because an increase in average driven miles can result in an increase in the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming as well as other air pollutants.

### Annual Average Miles Driven by Household, 2007-09



Source: United States Consumer Index Report, 2006-2009

## Introduction

The physical health of individuals in a community is a vital component to the condition of the community as a whole. Good health contributes to the economic strength, mental well-being, stability and happiness of residents who provide the framework for neighborhoods and businesses. The overall health of a community is indicative of the quality and accessibility of health care and services, lifestyle choices and environmental influences.

When choosing neighborhoods and communities, new residents often consider the proximity of health services and the options available. Syracuse and Onondaga County are rich in healthcare facilities offering all levels of care. The recent addition of the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital ensures that families have access to care at facilities that will meet present and future needs.

Syracuse and Onondaga County struggle with many of the same challenges facing other regions, such as access to health insurance and increasing rates of diabetes, obesity and asthma. For most indicators Onondaga County is on par with New York State and the United States. It is difficult to measure more current health concerns with data sources that are two and three years old.

## Access to Physician Care

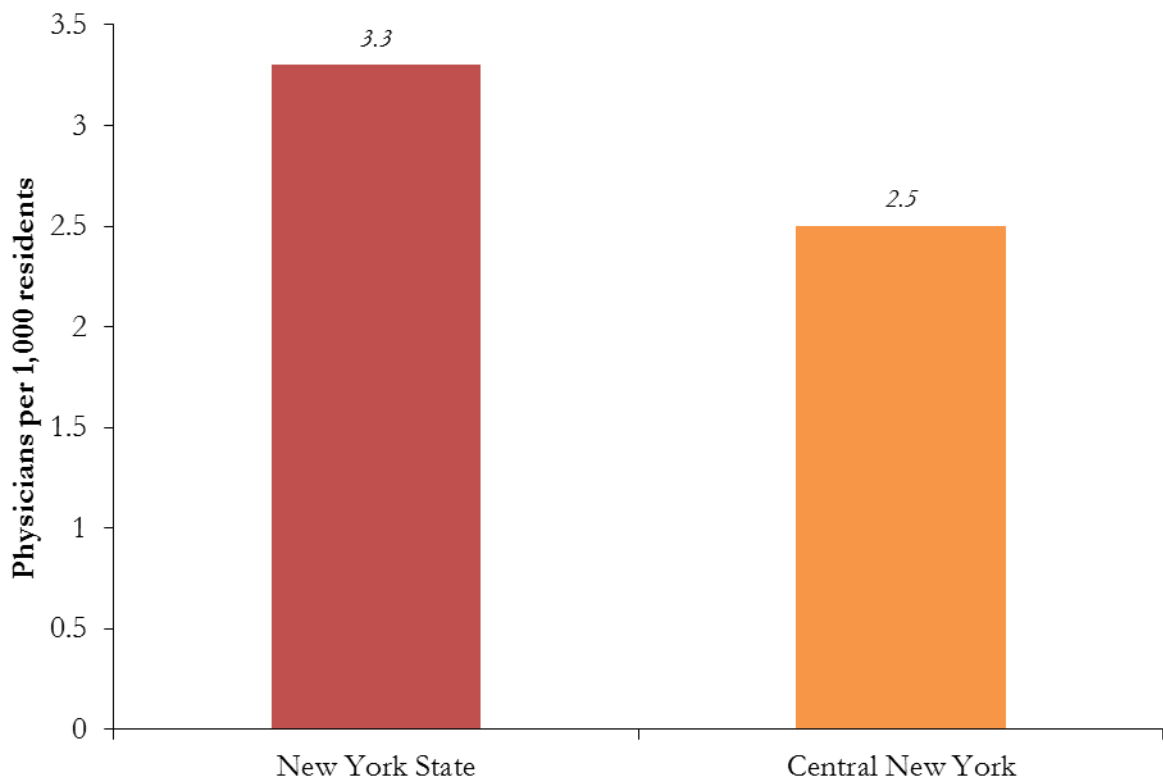
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the presence and availability of physicians for specific populations.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because a population's access to physician care helps assess whether the number of practicing health providers is sufficient given the size of the population in need of care.

### Access to Physicians, 2007



*Source: Annual New York Physician Workforce, The New York Health Workforce Data System, The Center for Health Workforce Studies at the University at Albany, State University of New York, 2007*

## Practice Settings of Active Patient Care Physicians

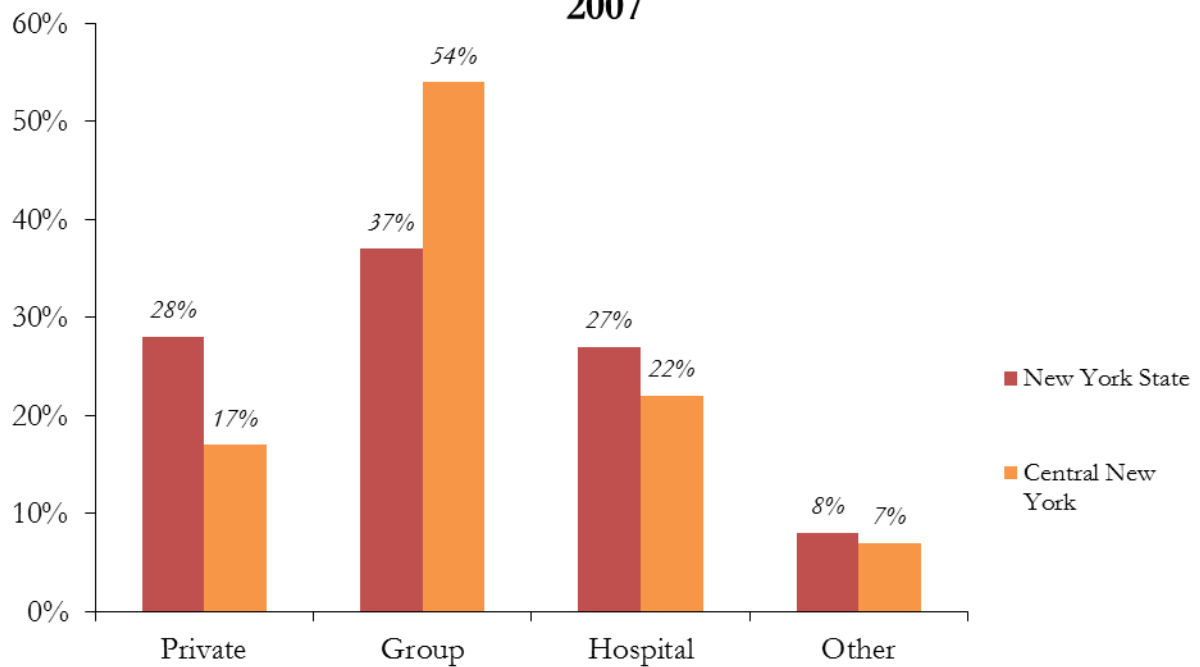
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the availability and variety of practice settings for physicians to care for their patients seeking active care which include private physician practices, hospital care, group physician partnerships or practices, and other free standing health centers or clinics.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because observing the number of medical facilities available in any community is an important measure and indication of the state of healthcare.

**Practice Settings of Active Patient Care Physicians, 2007**



*Source: Annual New York Physician Workforce, The New York Health Workforce Data System, The Center for Health Workforce Studies at the University at Albany, State University of New York, 2007*

## Appropriate Care

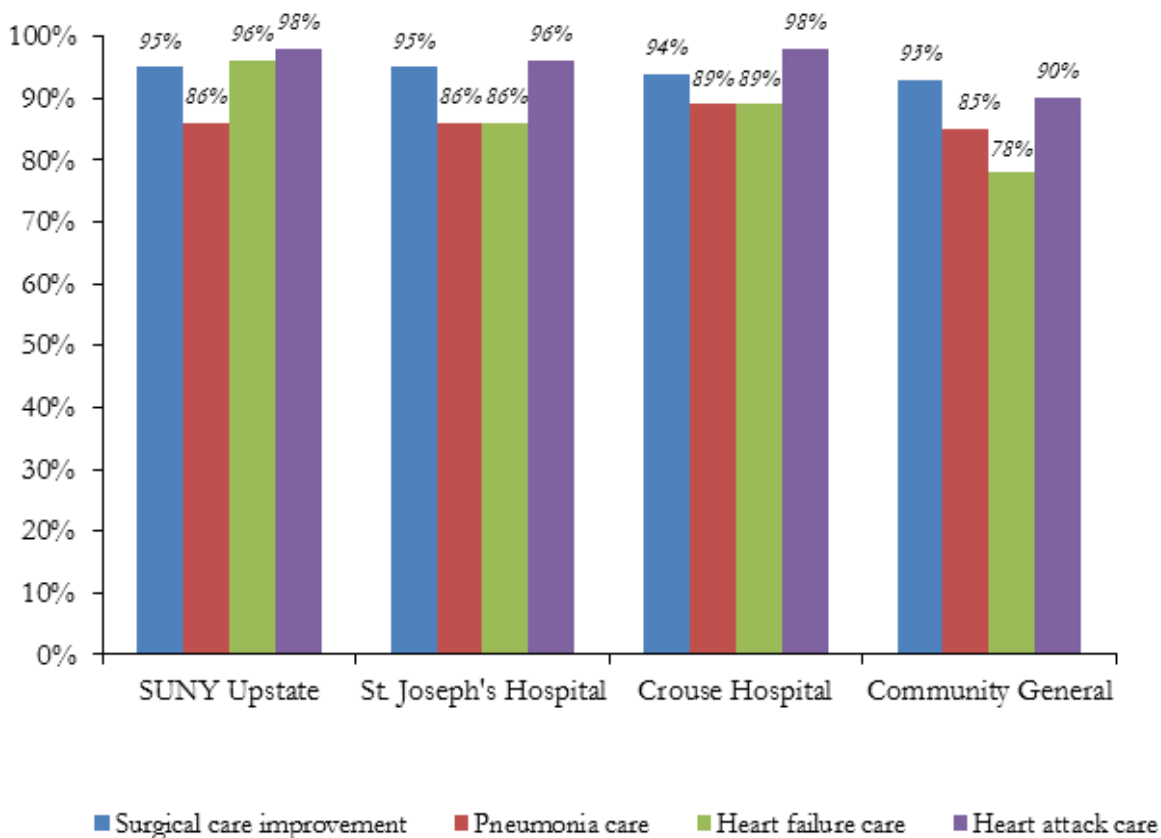
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the four medical care facilities in Syracuse for performance in the four appropriate care categories which include surgical care improvement, pneumonia care, heart failure care, and heart attack care.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because while addressing general medical care is an effective tool for assessing the overall condition of a community's healthcare system, specifically addressing types of care allows for a more thorough evaluation.

### Appropriate Care for 2009



## Uninsured Individuals

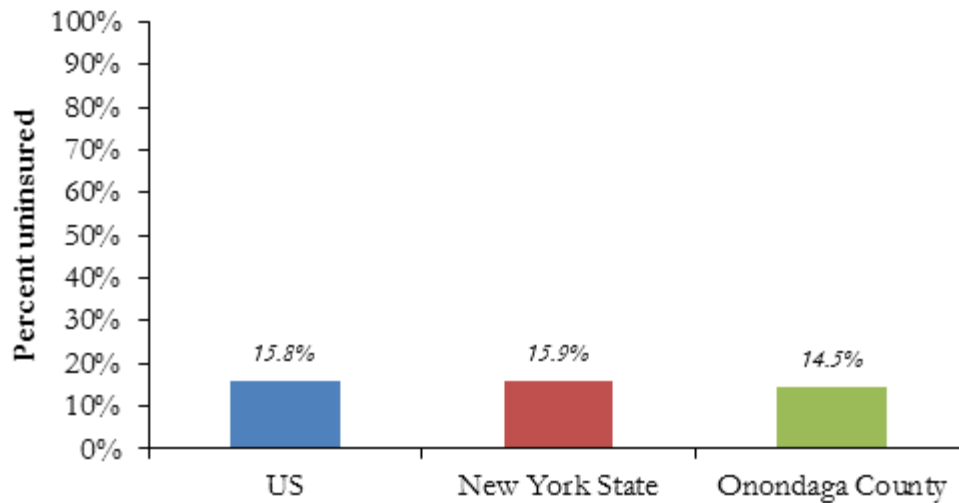
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of the population who are uninsured, defined as residents who have limited or no access to medical care.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because health insurance not only involves the treatment aspect of medical care, but also includes care and support related to preventative care measures.

### 2006 Uninsured



Source: US Census Bureau's Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE), 2009



## Uninsured Individuals by Age

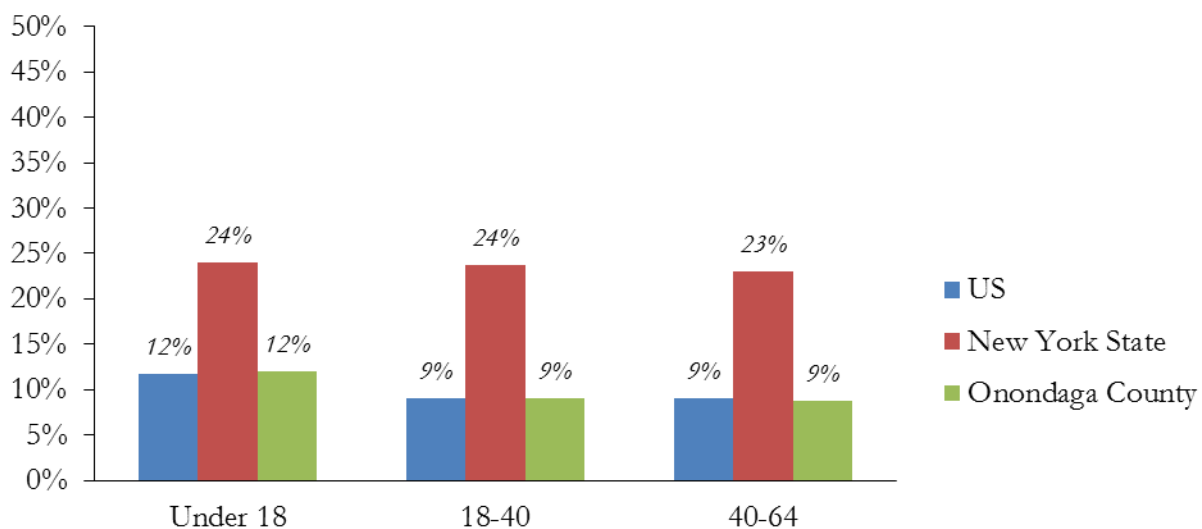
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of the population by age who are uninsured, defined as residents which have limited or no access to medical care.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because health insurance not only involves the treatment aspect of medical care, but also includes care and support related to preventative care measures.

### Percent Uninsured by Age Group, 2006



Source: US Census Bureau's Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE), 2309

Comment: This graph is not to scale

## Overweight Adults (BMI +25)

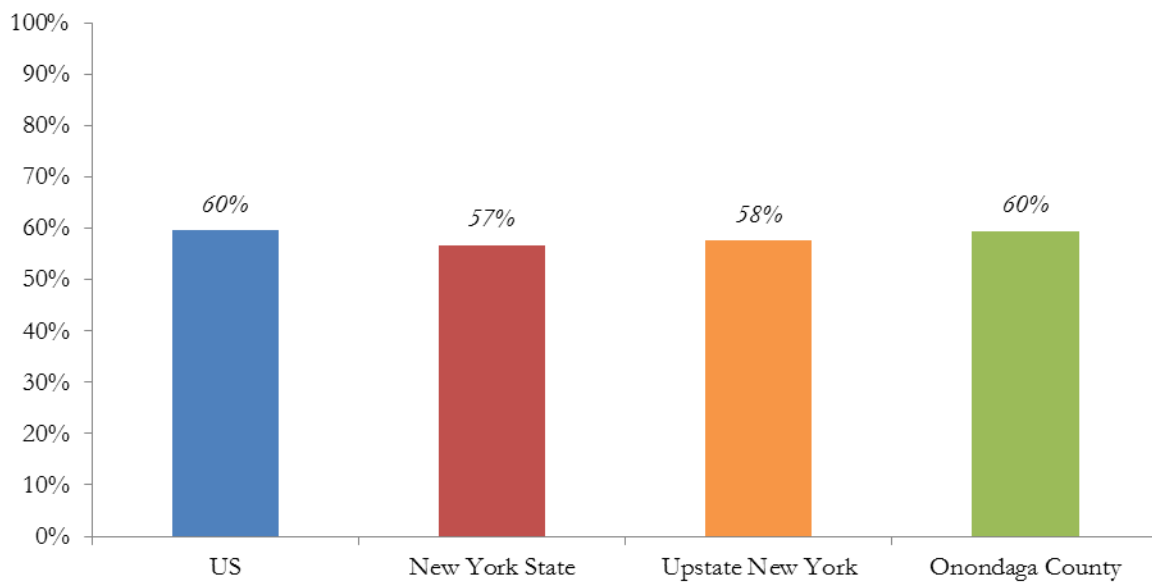
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of adults with Body Mass Indexes (BMIs) of 25 or higher, and are considered to be overweight.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because overweight and or obese individuals may face higher health insurance costs and are at increased risk of medical disease, such as diabetes and heart problems.

### Overweight or Obese Adults (BMI 25+), 2003



Source: New York State Department of Health Assessment Indicators, 2003, Center for Disease Control Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2003

## Obese Adults (BMI +30)

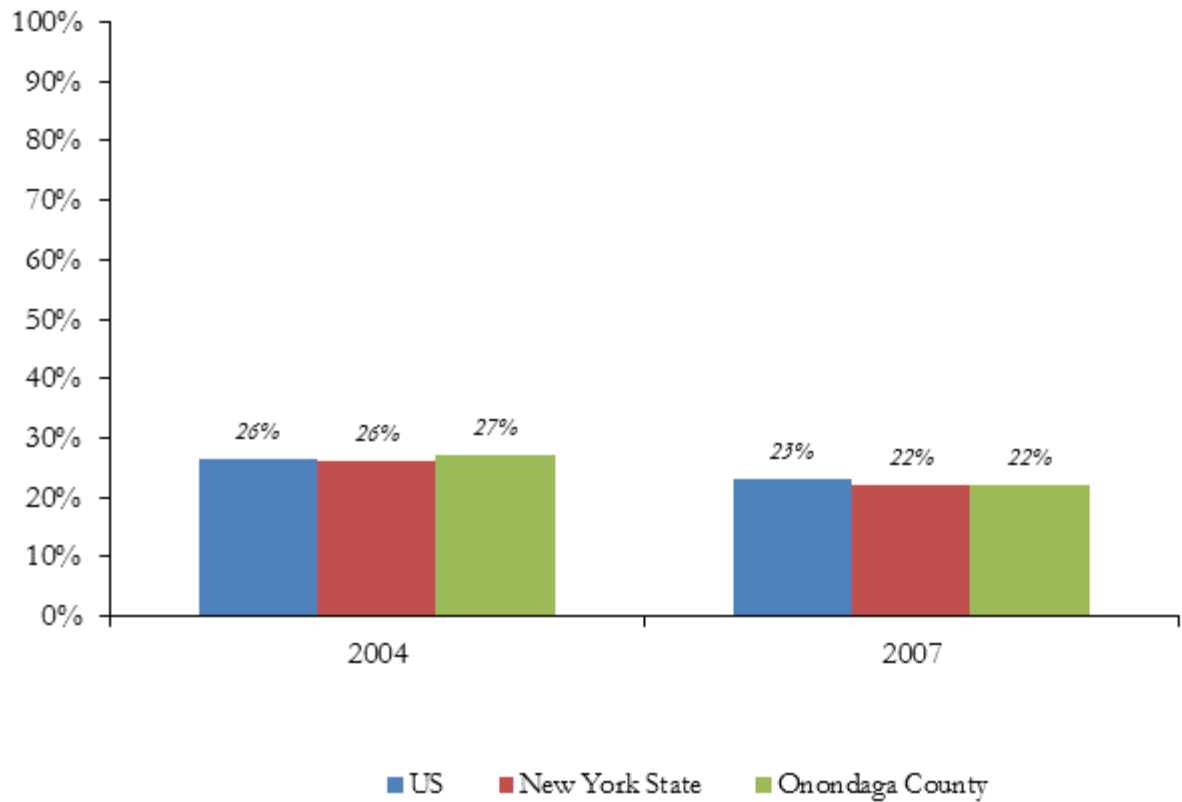
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of adults with Body Mass Indexes (BMIs) of 30 or higher. They are classified as obese.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because obese individuals are faced with higher health insurance costs and increased risk of related medical problems.

## Obese Adults (BMI 30+)



*Souza  
Behav*

## Adult Diabetes

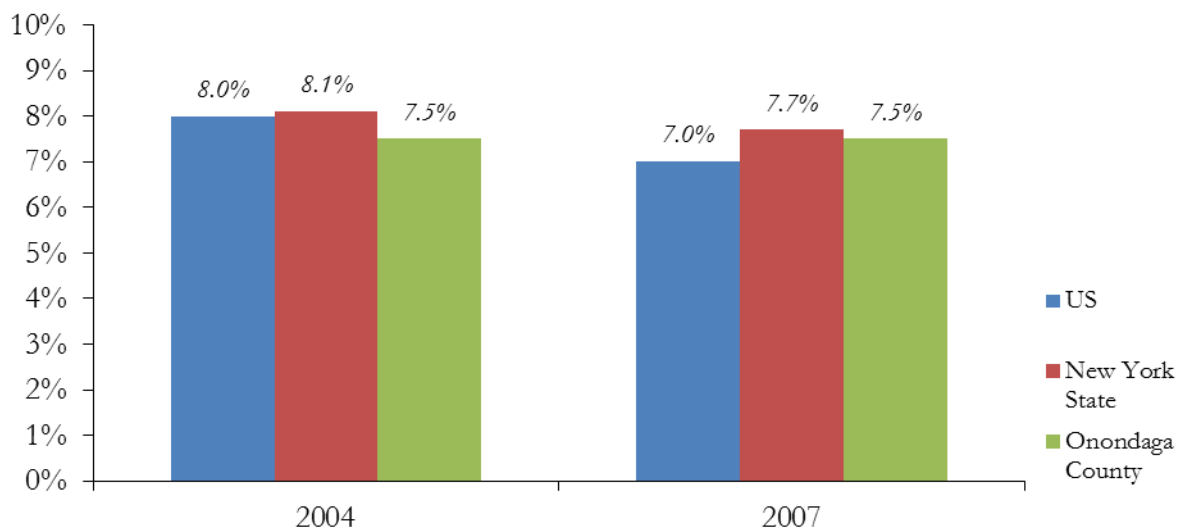
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of chronic cases of diabetes, which according to the American Diabetes Association is characterized by the pancreas failing to produce enough insulin or the body being unable to use insulin effectively.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because statistics illustrating the prevalence of chronic diseases such as diabetes offer insight into imperative issues facing a community's medical and health care needs.

### Adults Diagnosed with Diabetes, 2004-07



Source: American Diabetes Association, 2007

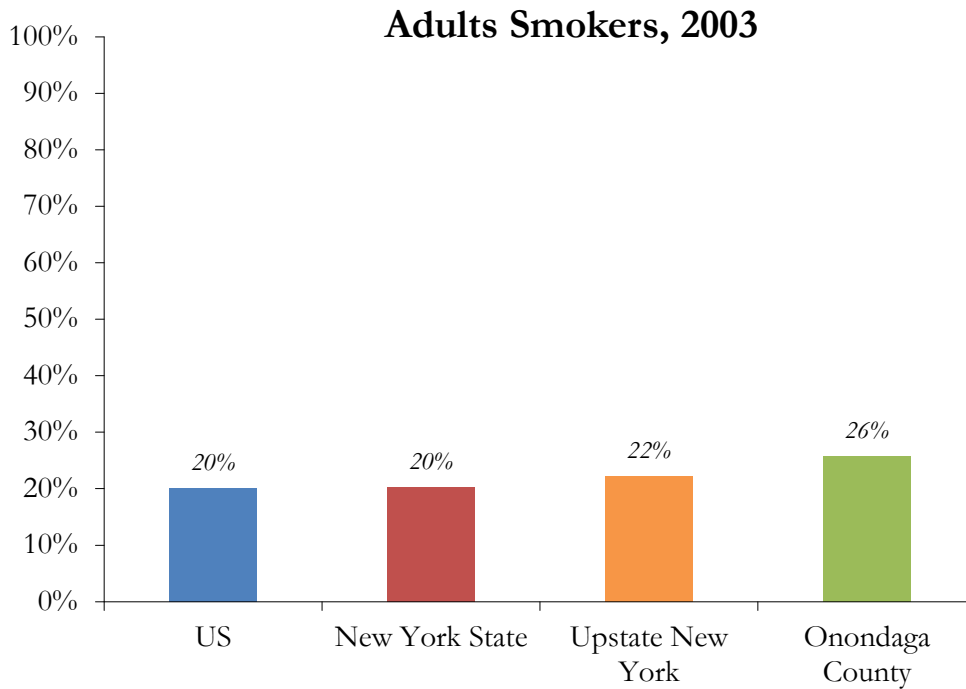
## Adult Smokers

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the population of adult smokers.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because monitoring smoking rates is valuable in assessing the effectiveness of and/or need for cessation programs and identifying a population that has a direct potential for risks with other health problems.



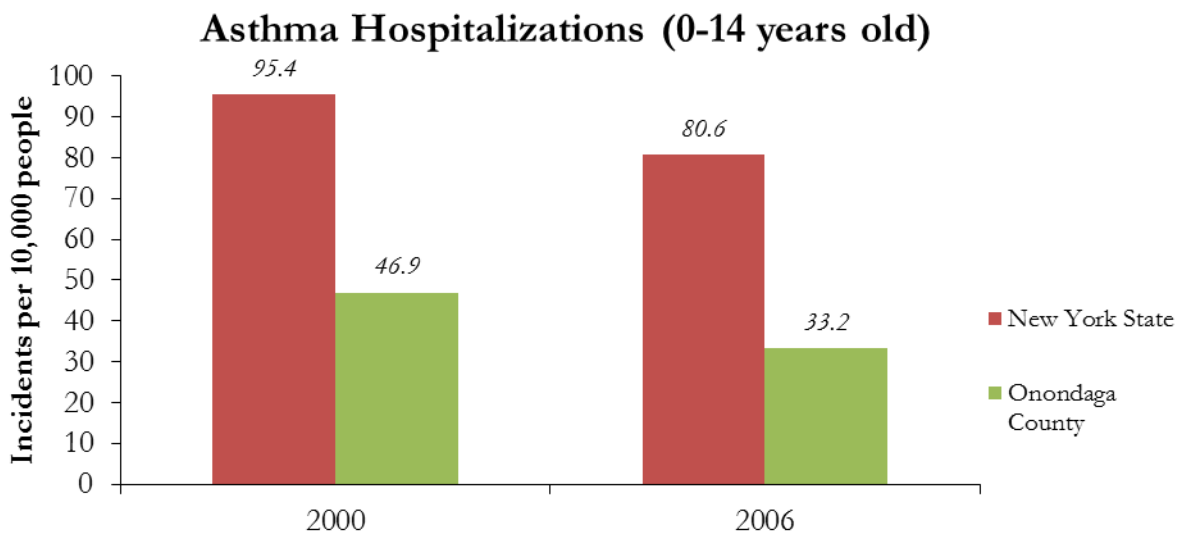
## Asthma Hospitalizations (0-14 Years Old)

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the number of incidents involving asthma hospitalizations per 10,000 youth. According to the US Department of Health & Human Services, asthma is defined as a long-term, chronic inflammatory disease that blocks the free flow of oxygen to and from the lungs.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because asthma is another chronic disease which bears enough significance to influence health policies and programs.



*Source: New York State Department of Health: Public Health Information Group, Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS), 2000 & 2006*

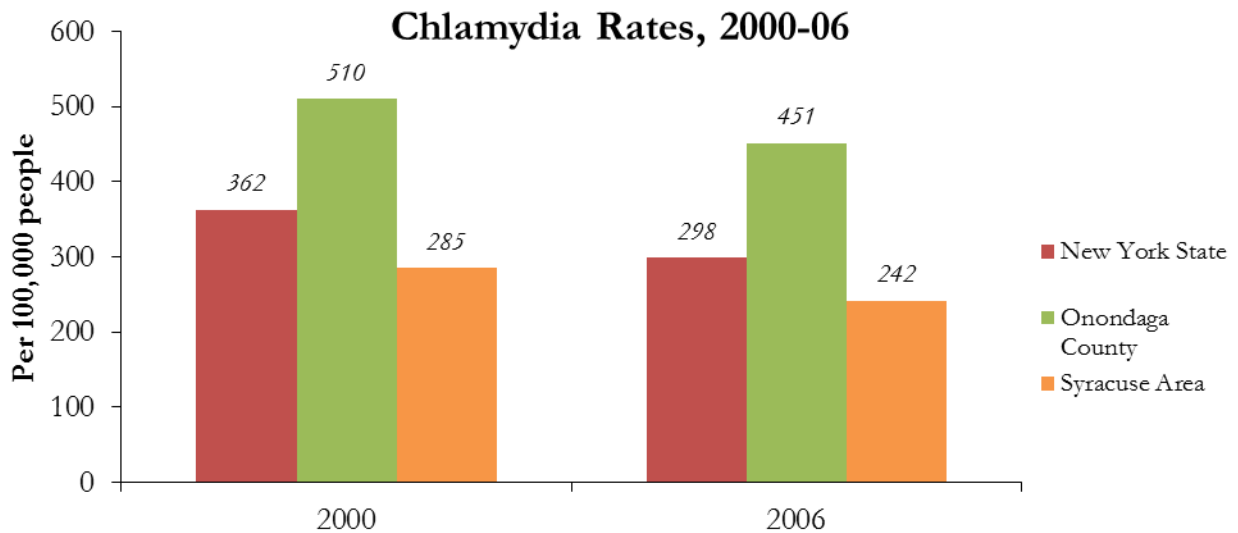
## Chlamydia Rates

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the population infected with Chlamydia, which is defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it monitors whether or not progress has been made in addressing the rates of those infected.



Source: New York State Department of Health County Health Assessment Indicators, 2003

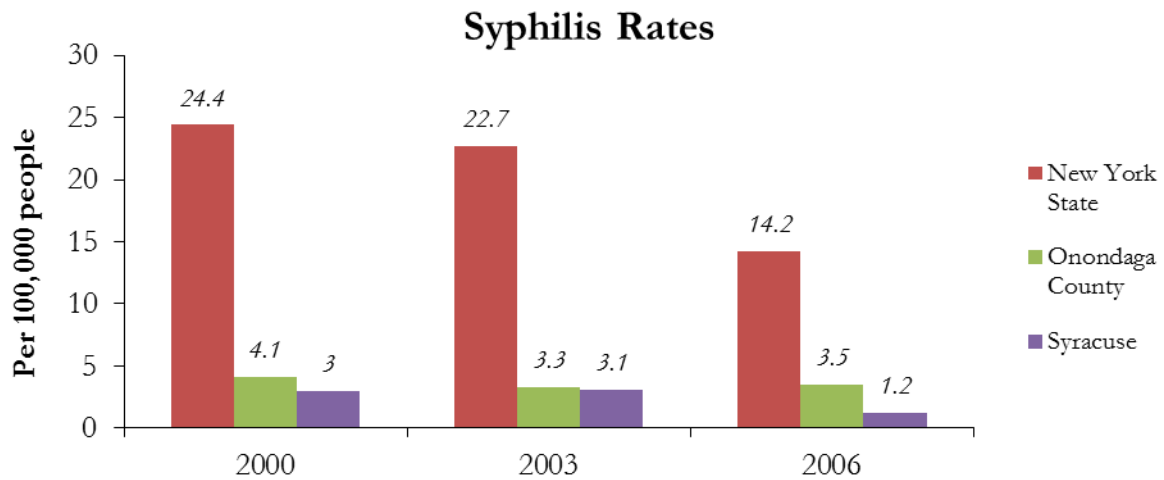
## Syphilis Rates

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the population infected with Syphilis, defined by the CDC as an STD caused by the bacterium *treponoma pallidum*.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it monitors whether or not progress has been made in dealing with the rates of residents infected.



Source: New York State Department of Health, Sexually Transmitted Disease Data and Statistics



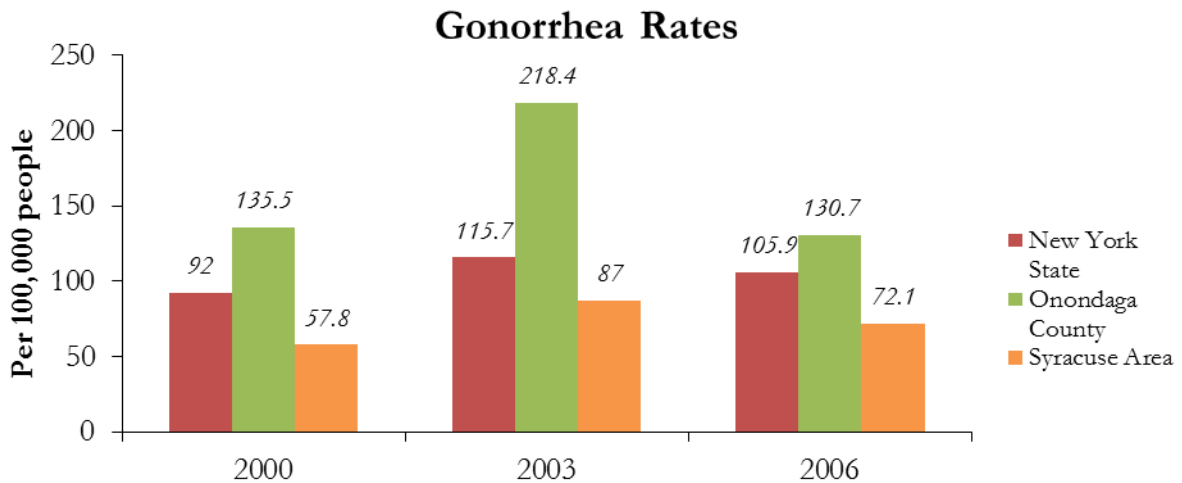
## Gonorrhea Rates

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the population infected with Gonorrhea, defined by the CDC as an STD caused by neisseria gonorrhea, a bacterium that grows in warm, moist areas of the reproductive tract.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it monitors whether or not progress has been made in dealing with the rates of residents infected.



Source: New York State Department of Health, Sexually Transmitted Disease Data and Statistics

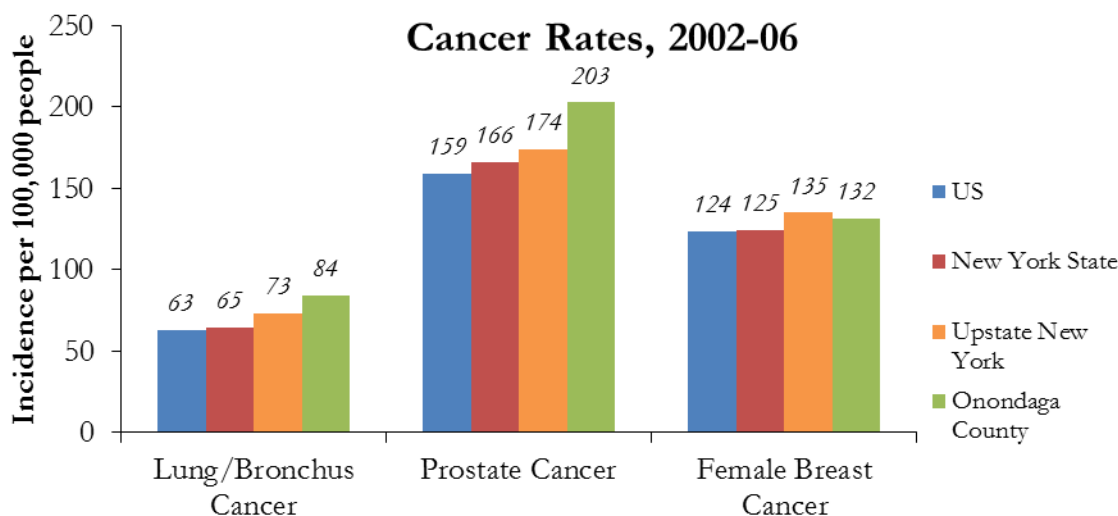
## Cancer Rates, 2002-06

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures rates for various types of cancer incidences. Cancer is defined by the National Cancer Institute as diseases in which abnormal cells divide uncontrollably and have the ability to invade other tissues and only invasive, malignant tumors are counted.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it provides direct insight into the specific cancers affecting the population and is vital for helping formulate policies and/or implementing relative care programs.



Source: New York State Department of Health County Assessment Indicators, 2002-06, National Cancer Institute Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results, 2002-06

## Introduction

Housing indicators illustrate an area's economic health, desirability, quality of life, and affordability. The city of Syracuse and Onondaga County offer a variety of housing options in urban, suburban, and rural locales. Purchase and rental prices are well below state and national averages.

Understanding the factors that characterize an area's housing market enables policymakers to design policies and programs that will enhance the area's quality of life.

The Greater Syracuse area was not as severely affected by the recent nationwide housing market crisis and for many in this area, the dream of homeownership can still be a reality. Although foreclosure rates have increased in the Greater Syracuse area, they are still among the lowest in the nation.

Revitalization efforts continue throughout Syracuse. Christopher Community<sup>36</sup> builds low-income housing on the Near West Side. The Syracuse Housing Authority (SHA)<sup>37</sup> has applied for federal tax credits to build single family rent-to-own homes on the city's South Side. Private developers plan to bring market-rate units to the city downtown area. Home HeadQuarters<sup>38</sup> continues to renovate and build homes, while Housing Visions<sup>39</sup> completes units on the North Side and in the Prospect Hill neighborhood.

Nevertheless, the Greater Syracuse area still faces significant challenges. Over half of housing units in the city of Syracuse were built before 1940. The city suffers from an overabundance of vacant and abandoned rental properties, low rates of homeownership, and a high incidence of code violations and tax delinquencies.

Understanding these challenges is essential to revitalizing troubled areas and stabilizing the housing market.

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<sup>36</sup> <http://www.christopher-community.org/>

<sup>37</sup> <http://syracusehousing.org/>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.homehq.org/>

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.housingvisions.org/>

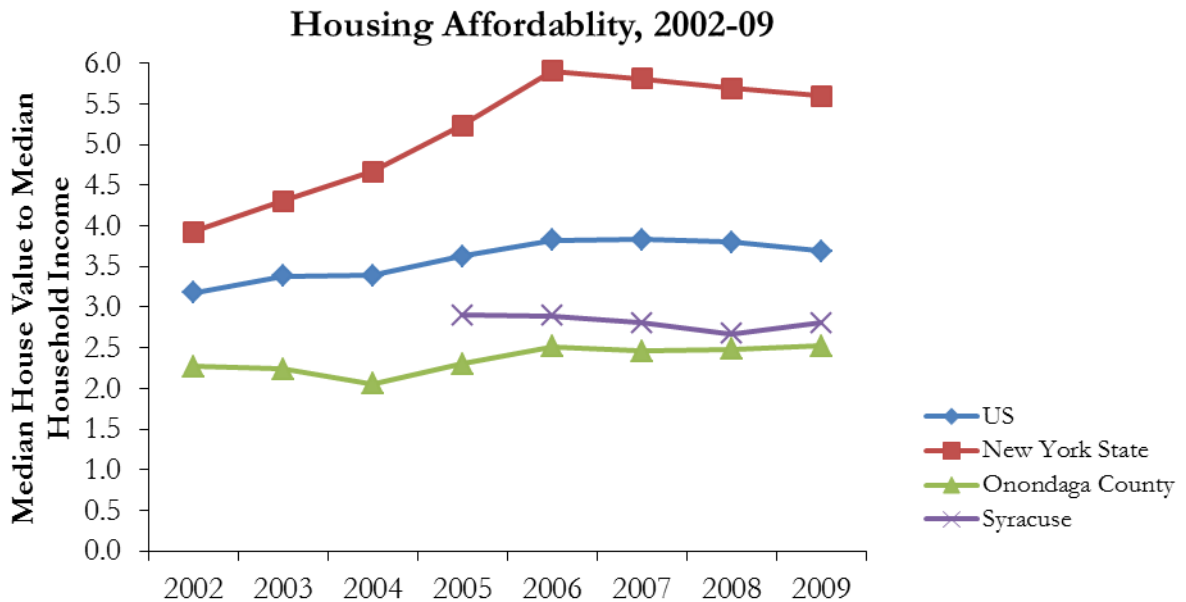
## Housing Affordability

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the ratio of median home value divided by the median household income of the occupants.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it provides an estimate of the affordability of homes in a community.



Source: American Community Survey, 2002-09

**Housing Affordability, 2002-09**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
US	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7
New York State	3.9	4.3	4.7	5.2	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.6
Onondaga County	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
City of Syracuse				2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.8

Source: American Community Survey, 2002-09

**Comment:** No data were available for Syracuse from 2002-04.

**Comment:** An affordability ratio of between 2 and 3 is considered affordable.

## Syracuse Occupancy Status

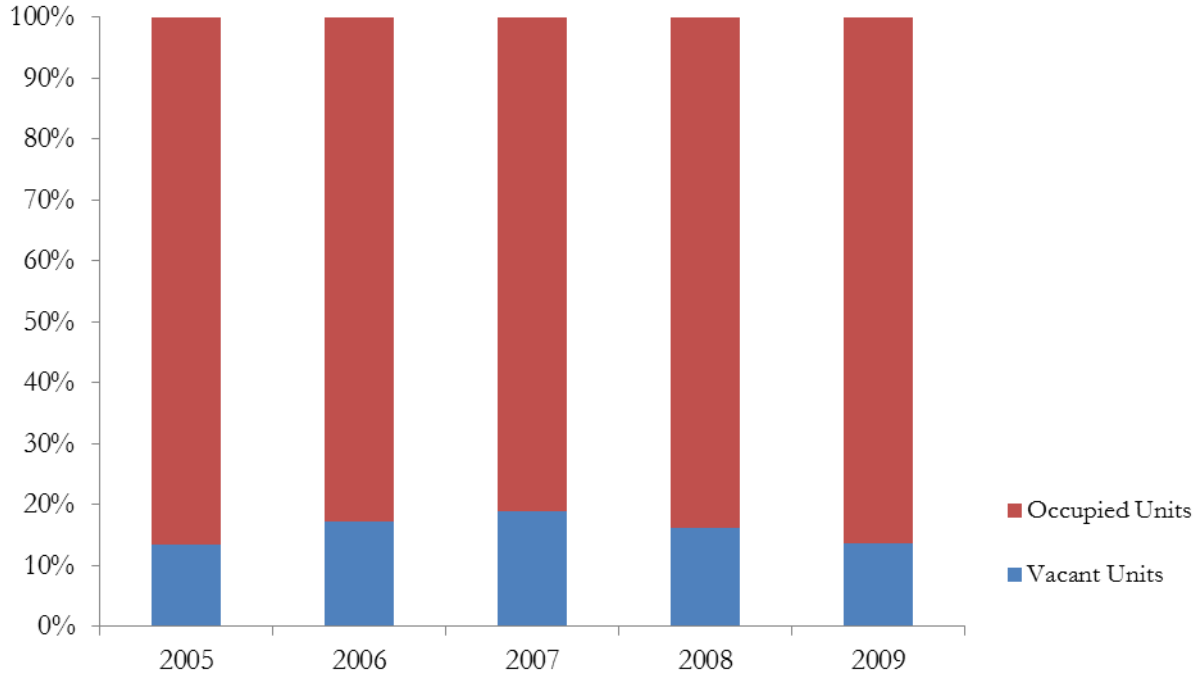
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures whether a housing unit is occupied by homeowners/tenants or vacant.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it represents the demand for housing in a community.

### Syracuse Vacancy of Housing Units, 2005-09



Source: American Community Survey, 2005-09

### Syracuse Distribution of Housing Units, 2005-09

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Vacant Units</b>	13%	17%	19%	16%	14%
<b>Occupied Units</b>	87%	83%	81%	84%	86%

Source: American Community Survey, 2004-2009

## Onondaga County Occupancy Status

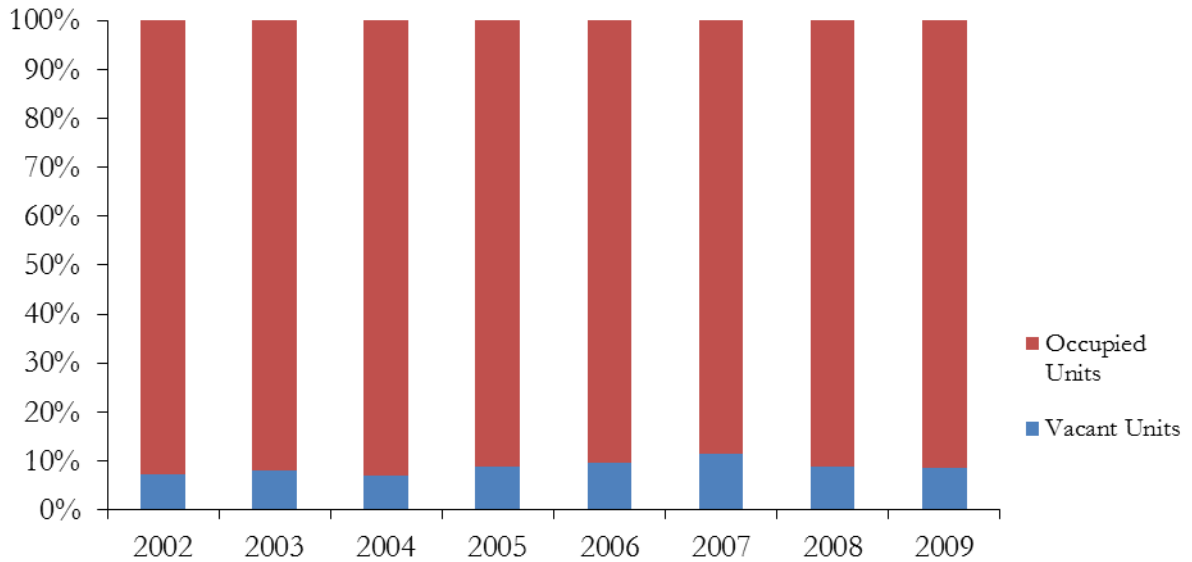
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures whether a housing unit is occupied by homeowners/tenants or vacant.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it represents the demand for housing in a community.

### Onondaga County Vacancy of Housing Units, 2002-09



Source: American Community Survey, 2002-09

### Onondaga County Distribution of Housing Units, 2002-09

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Vacant Units</b>	7%	8%	7%	9%	10%	11%	9%	9%
<b>Occupied Units</b>	93%	92%	93%	91%	90%	89%	91%	91%

Source: American Community Survey, 2002-09

## Median Home Value

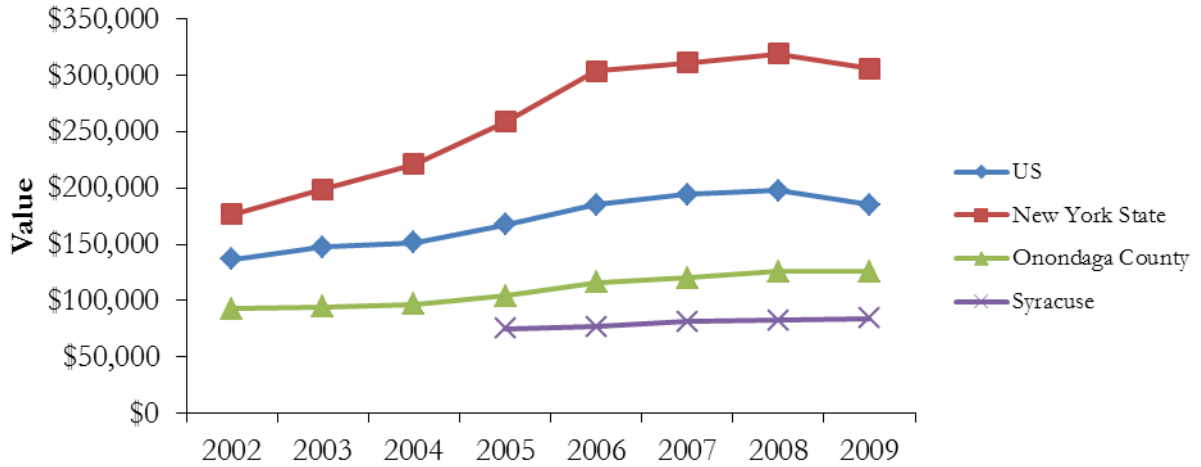
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the median value of a home reported to the US Census Bureau by the homeowners.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it represents a community's cost of living and relative wealth.

### Median Home Value, 2002-09



Source: American Community Survey, 2002-09

### Median Home Value, 2002-09

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
US	\$ 136,929	\$ 147,275	\$ 151,366	\$ 167,500	\$ 185,200	\$ 194,300	\$ 197,600	\$ 185,200
New York State	\$ 176,438	\$ 198,883	\$ 220,981	\$ 258,900	\$ 303,400	\$ 311,000	\$ 318,900	\$ 306,000
Onondaga County	\$ 92,916	\$ 94,691	\$ 96,797	\$ 104,100	\$ 115,900	\$ 120,000	\$ 125,900	\$ 126,100
Syracuse				\$ 75,200	\$ 76,600	\$ 81,300	\$ 82,500	\$ 84,400

Source: American Community Survey, 2002-09

**Comment:** No data were available for Syracuse from 2002-04.

## Owner Occupied Units

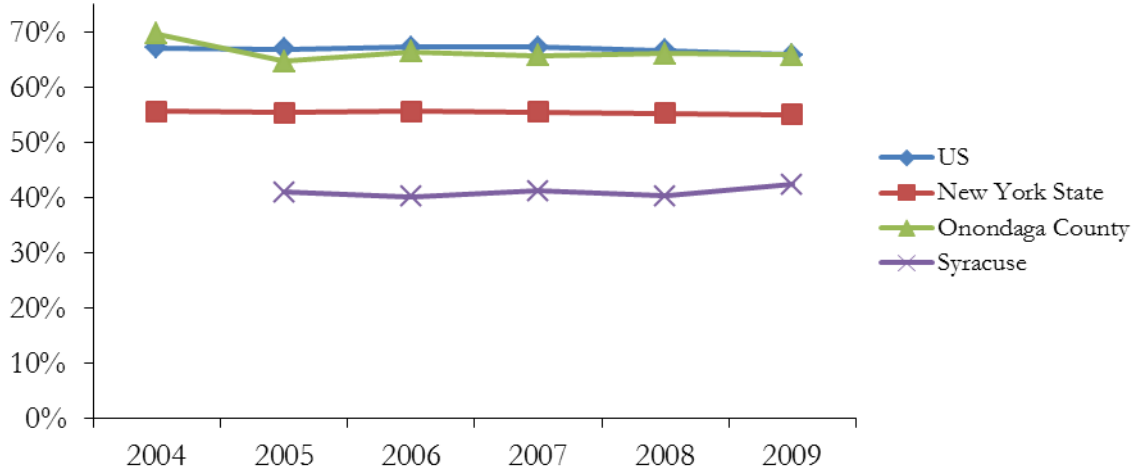
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percentages of occupied housing units that are owner-occupied.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it represents a community's population stability and tax base.

### Owner Occupied Units, 2002-09



Source: American Community Survey, 2002-09

### Owner Occupied Units, 2002-09

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>US</b>	67%	67%	67%	67%	67%	66%
<b>New York State</b>	56%	55%	56%	56%	55%	55%
<b>Onondaga County</b>	70%	65%	66%	66%	66%	66%
<b>Syracuse</b>	-	41%	40%	41%	40%	42%

Source: American Community Survey, 2002-09

**Comment:** No data were available for Syracuse for 2004.



## Homeowner Vacancy Rates

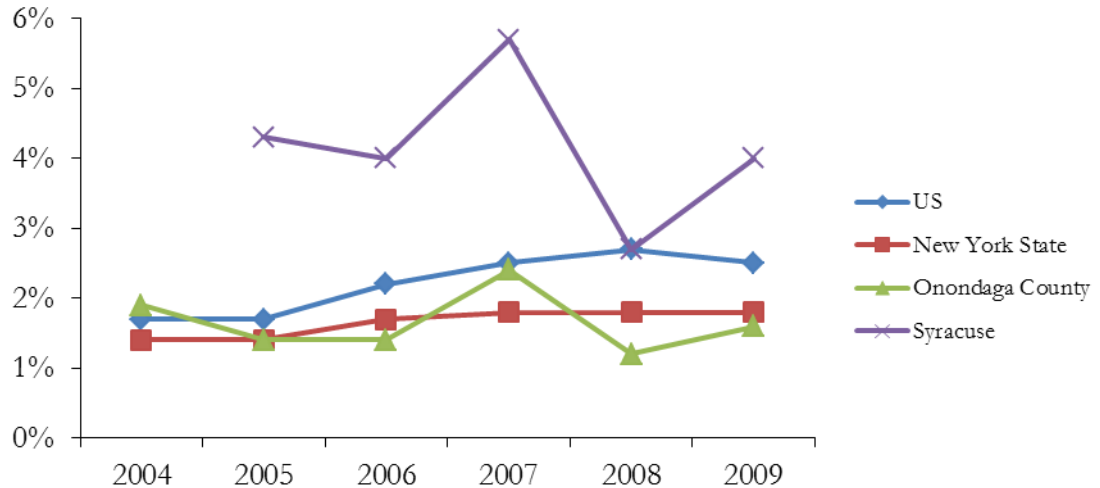
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of homeowner housing units that are vacant.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it represents a community's desirability and economic prosperity.

### Homeowner Vacancy Rate, 2004-09



Source: American Community Survey, 2004-09

### Homeowner Vacancy Rate, 2004-09

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
US	1.7%	1.7%	2.2%	2.5%	2.7%	2.5%
New York State	1.4%	1.4%	1.7%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%
Onondaga County	1.9%	1.4%	1.4%	2.4%	1.2%	1.6%
Syracuse		4.3%	4.0%	5.7%	2.7%	4.0%

Source: American Community Survey, 2004-09

**Comment:** No data were available for Syracuse for 2004.

## Median Rent Value

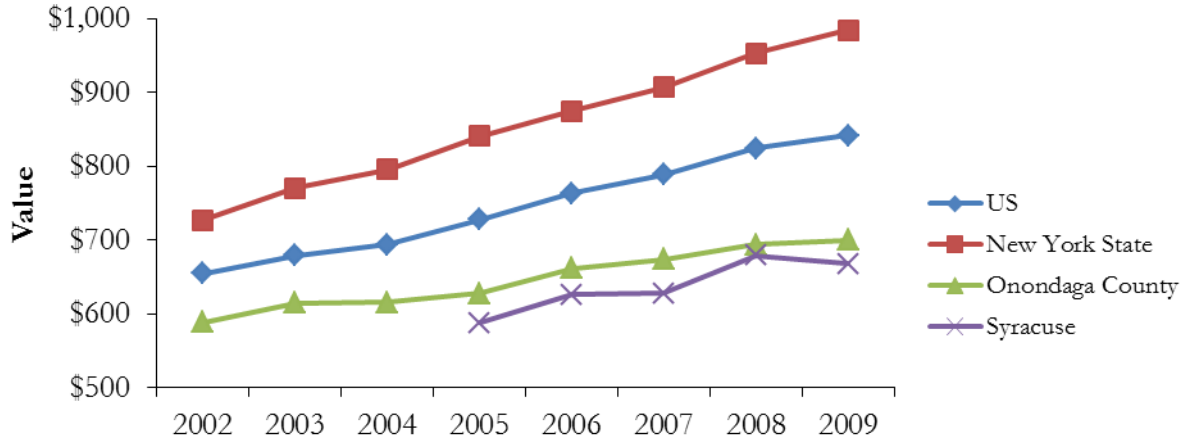
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the monthly rent of a housing unit plus the associated additional costs including utilities.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it is a key factor for non-homeowners to consider when budgeting their living expenses.

### Median Rent Values, 2002-09



Source: American Community Survey, 2002-09

### Median Rent Values, 2002-09

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
US	\$ 655	\$ 679	\$ 694	\$ 728	\$ 763	\$ 789	\$ 824	\$ 842
New York State	\$ 727	\$ 770	\$ 796	\$ 841	\$ 875	\$ 907	\$ 953	\$ 984
Onondaga County	\$ 589	\$ 615	\$ 616	\$ 628	\$ 662	\$ 674	\$ 694	\$ 700
Syracuse				\$ 588	\$ 626	\$ 628	\$ 679	\$ 668

Source: American Community Survey, 2002-09

**Comment:** No data were available for Syracuse from 2002-04.

## Renter Occupied Units

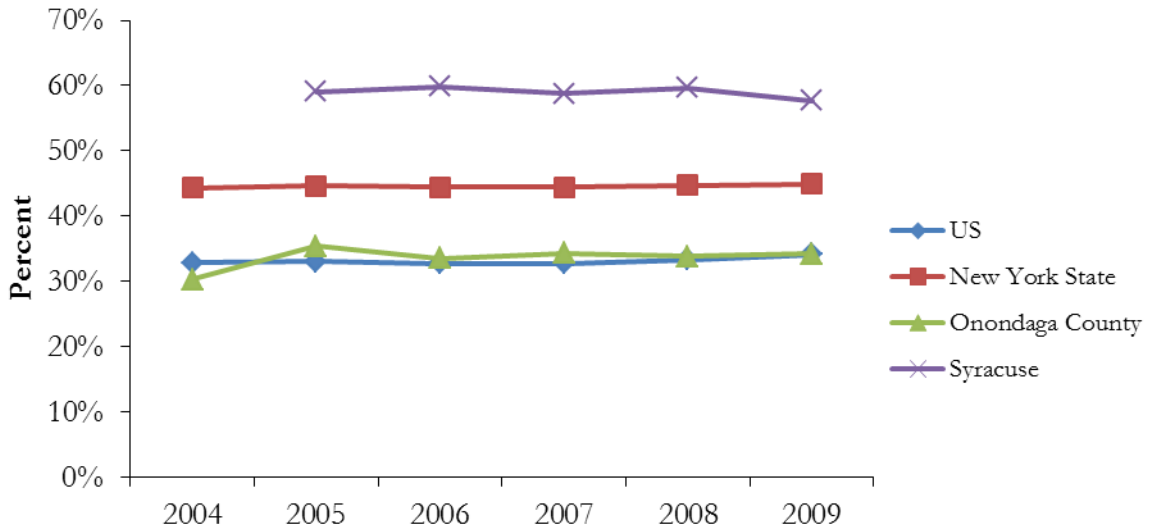
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percentages of occupied housing units that are renter-occupied.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it represents a community's population stability and tax base.

### Renter Occupied Units, 2002-09



Source: American Community Survey, 2002-09

### Renter Occupied Units, 2002-09

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>US</b>	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%	34%
<b>New York State</b>	44%	45%	44%	44%	45%	45%
<b>Onondaga County</b>	30%	35%	34%	34%	34%	34%
<b>Syracuse</b>		59%	60%	59%	60%	58%

Source: American Community Survey, 2002-09

**Comment:** No data were available for Syracuse from 2002-04.

## Rental Vacancy Rates

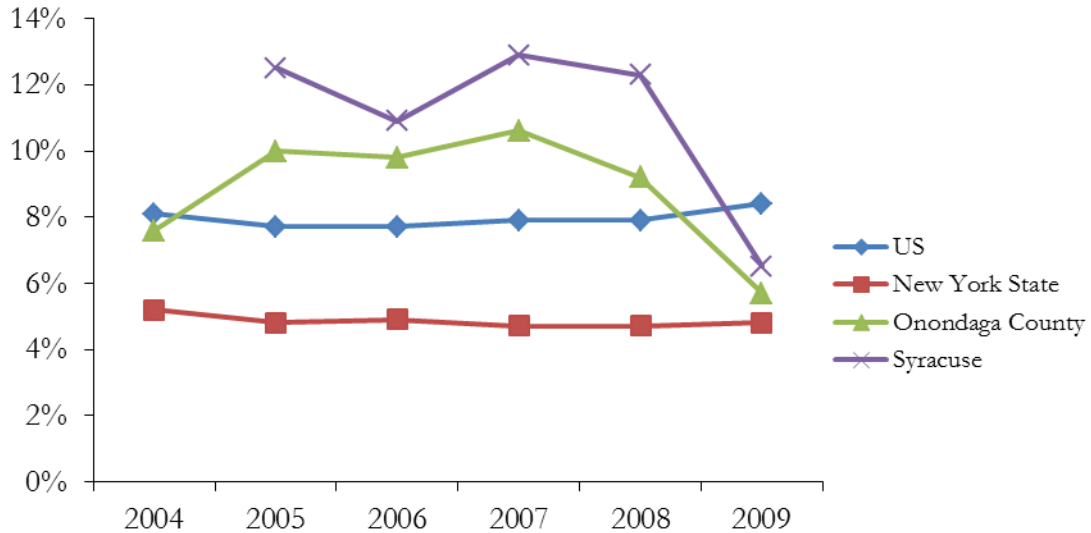
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of rental housing units that are vacant.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it represents a community's desirability and economic prosperity.

### Rental Vacancy Rate, 2004-09



Source: American Community Survey, 2004-09

### Rental Vacancy Rate, 2004-09

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
US	8.1%	7.7%	7.7%	7.9%	7.9%	8.4%
New York State	5.2%	4.8%	4.9%	4.7%	4.7%	4.8%
Onondaga County	7.6%	10.0%	9.8%	10.6%	9.2%	5.7%
Syracuse	-	12.5%	10.9%	12.9%	12.3%	6.5%

Source: American Community Survey, 2004-2009

**Comment:** No data were available for Syracuse for 2004.

## Age of Structure

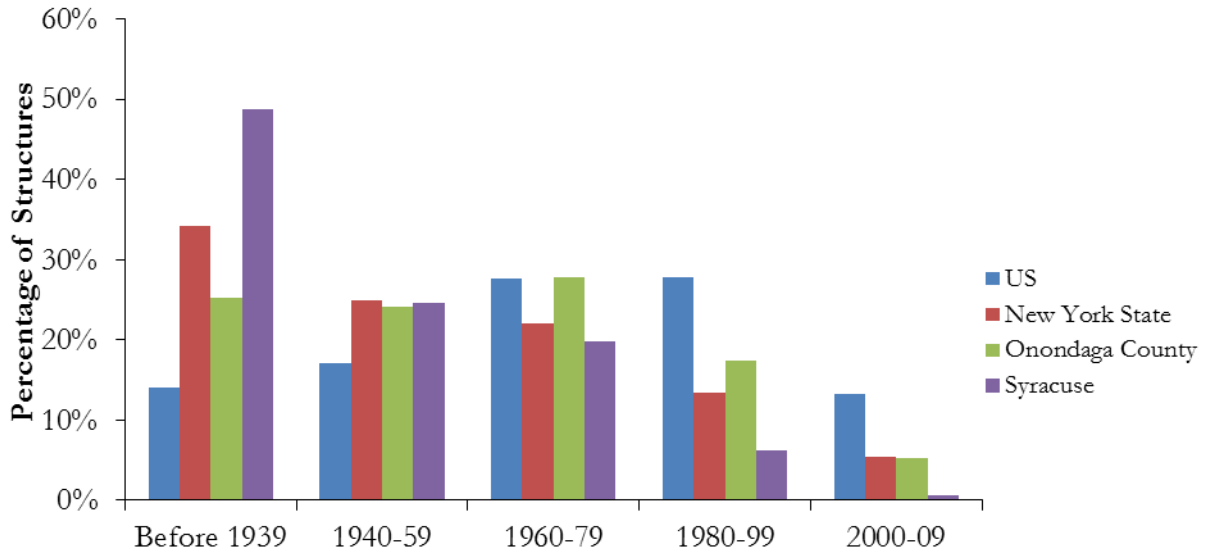
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of the total housing stock built during a specific time period.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because the age of housing stock represents the design and quality of homes as well as degree of community growth.

## Age of Structure



Source: American Community Survey, 2002-09

Comment: Graph is not to scale

## Age of Structure

	Before 1939	1940-59	1960-79	1980-99	2000-09
US	14%	17%	28%	28%	13%
New York State	34%	25%	22%	13%	5%
Onondaga County	25%	24%	28%	17%	5%
Syracuse	49%	25%	20%	6%	1%

Source: American Community Survey, 2002-09

## Tenancy

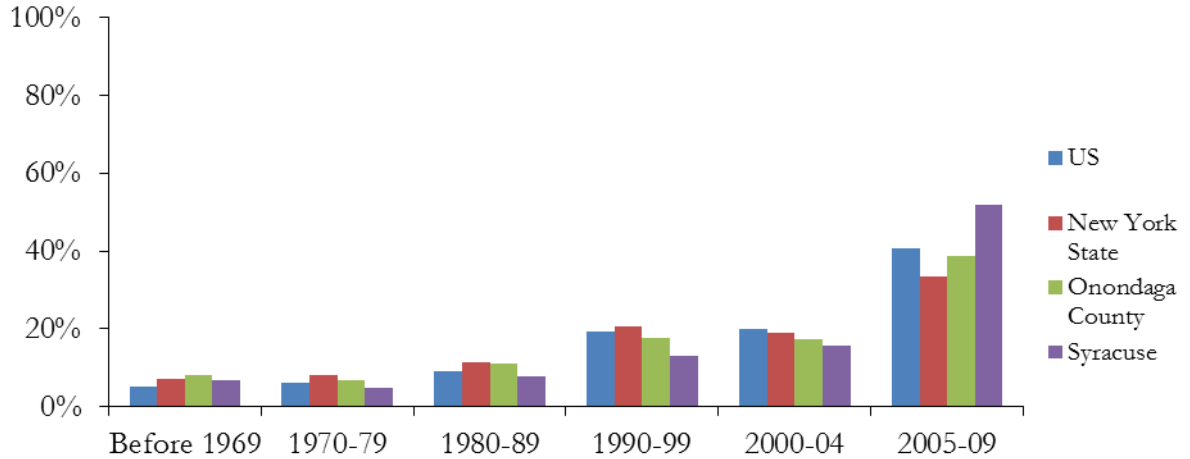
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the length of time for current homeowners of owner occupied units have resided in their dwellings.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it represents the degree of stability and mobility of the community's population over time.

### Length of Tenancy



### Year Moved into Residence

Source: American Community Survey, 2004-09

### Length of Tenancy

	Before 1969	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-04	2005-09
US	5%	6%	9%	19%	20%	41%
New York State	7%	8%	11%	21%	19%	33%
Onondaga County	8%	7%	11%	18%	17%	39%
Syracuse	7%	5%	8%	13%	16%	52%

Source: American Community Survey, 2004-09

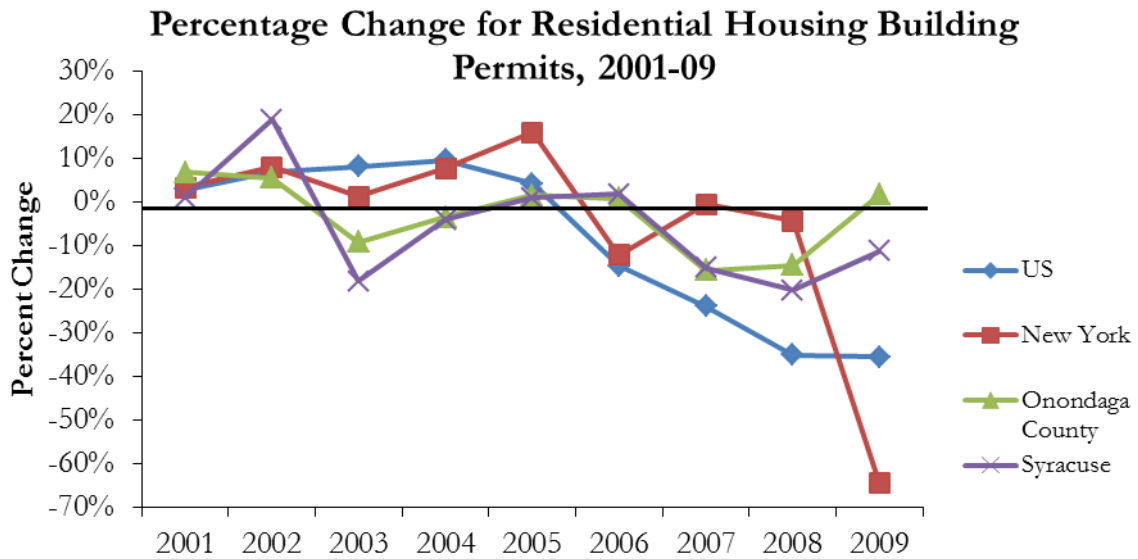
## Residential Building Permits

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percentage change in the number of residential building permits issued from one year to the next.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because the number of building permits issued represents economic growth in a community.



Source: American Community Survey, 2000-09

Comment: Graph is not to scale

### Percentage Change of Building Permits

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
US	2.8%	6.8%	8.1%	9.6%	4.1%	-14.7%	-24.0%	-35.3%	-35.6%
New York	3.3%	7.9%	1.1%	7.6%	15.8%	-12.2%	-0.6%	-4.5%	-64.5%
Onondaga County	6.8%	5.5%	-9.3%	-3.5%	1.4%	0.6%	-15.8%	-14.6%	1.6%
Syracuse	0.8%	18.8%	-18.2%	-4.1%	0.8%	1.7%	-15.2%	-20.4%	-11.3%

Source: American Community Survey, 2000-2009

## Introduction

Understanding a community starts with knowing the essential demographics of the population including age, sex, marital status, level of education, religion, income and other key characteristics. This section offers an introduction to the general population of Onondaga County and serves as a point of reference when considering the indicators included in the 10 critical areas of this report.

## County Profile

Onondaga County is located in the heart of Central New York, with Oswego County to the North, Madison to the East, Cortland to the South, and Cayuga to the West. County residents live within a 350-mile radius of all major cities in the Northeast: Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Toronto and Montreal.

The county has a land area of 793.5 square miles and is comprised of multiple municipalities, the largest of which is the city of Syracuse. The county also includes 19 towns, 15 villages and the Onondaga Indian Nation.

According to the Onondaga County website,<sup>40</sup> the county was established in 1794. The name is derived from one of the Five Nations of the Haudenosaunee and means *People of the Hills*.

The Central New York region houses the third largest concentration of colleges and universities in the nation. According to the Onondaga County website, roughly 32,000 students live in Onondaga County. The centers of higher education include Syracuse University, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, LeMoyne College, State University of New York Upstate Medical University, and Onondaga Community College.

Syracuse Symphony, the New York State Fair, Carousel Center Mall, The Rosamond Gifford Zoo, Syracuse Stage and the Alliance Bank Stadium are all located within the county. The OnCenter Complex is an integrated convention center that includes a 207,000-square-foot convention hall, a 6,200-seat arena, performing arts theaters, and a 1,000-car parking garage. Since its opening in 1993, the complex has attracted nearly 10 million visitors.

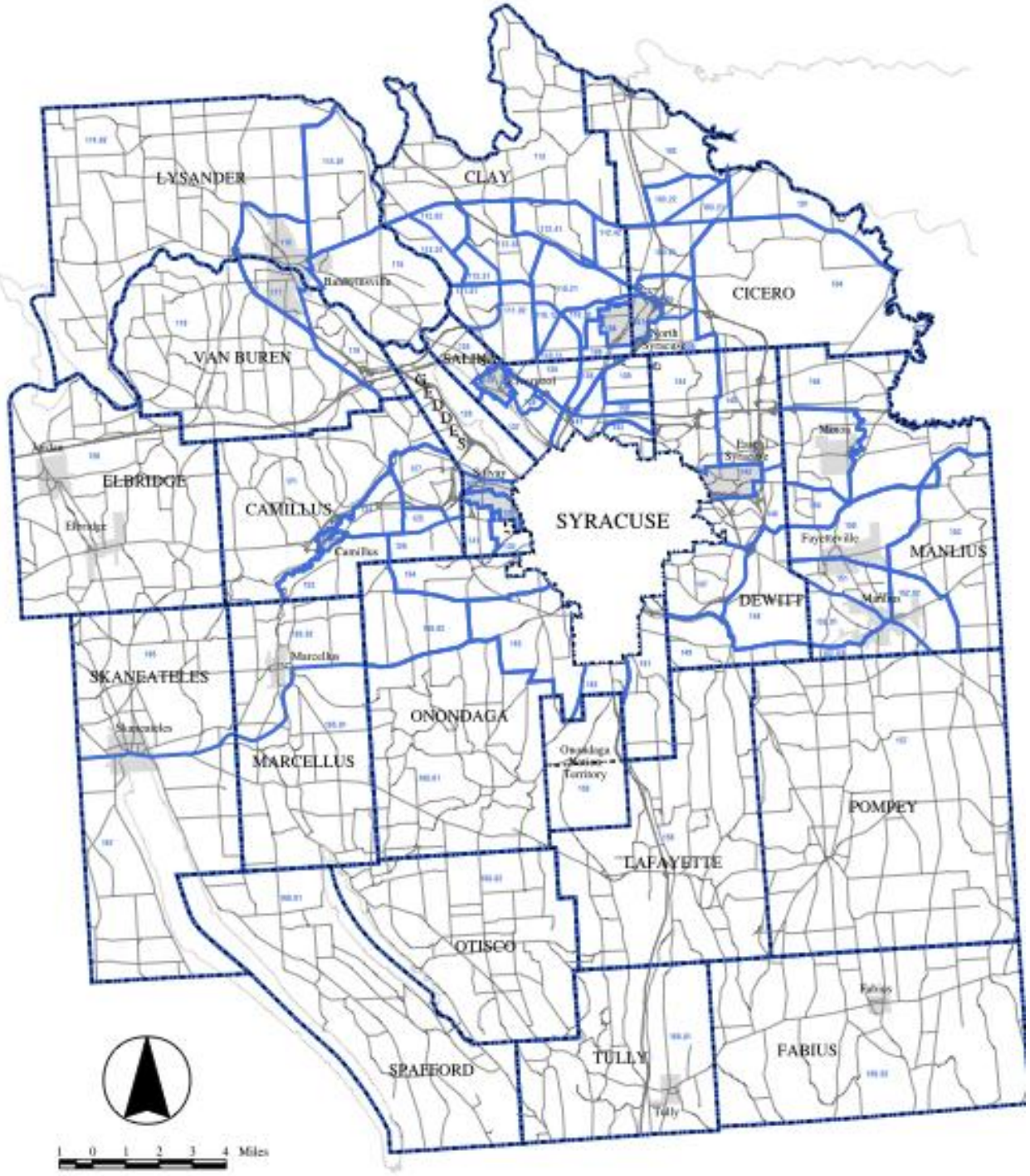
Onondaga County has a population of 454,753 according to the US Census Bureau 2009 population estimates. The population includes the 138,068 residents in the city of Syracuse, which was called *The Emerald City* by former city mayor Matt Driscoll for the efforts by government and other partners to create a sustainable city, efforts that have been continued and enhanced by current Mayor Stephanie Miner.

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<sup>40</sup> <http://www.ongov.net/about/>



# Onondaga County by Census Tracts



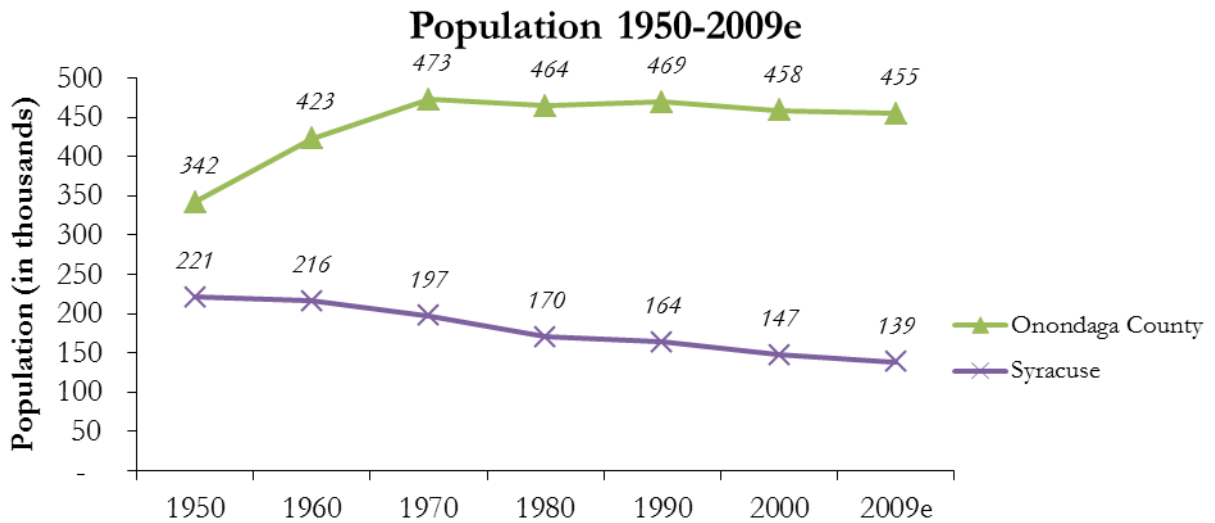
## Population

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the population.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because government representation is determined by and is proportionate to population.



Source: US Census Bureau 1950-2009e

### Percentage Change in Population of Onondaga County, 1950-2009e

	1950-60	1960-70	1970-80	1980-90	1990-2000	2000-2009e
Onondaga County	23.8%	11.8%	-1.9%	1.1%	-2.3%	-0.8%
Syracuse	-2.1%	-8.7%	-13.7%	-3.7%	-10.1%	-5.9%

Source: US Census Bureau, 1950-2009e

## Sprawl

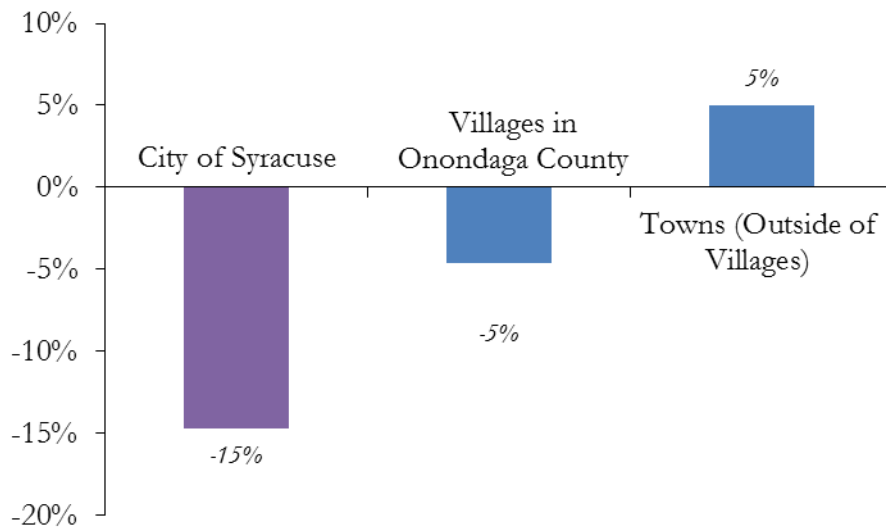
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the trend of individuals moving away from urban centers and purchasing larger properties in more suburban areas.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it has an effect on other factors such as the environment, the housing stock, and daily commutes.

**% Change in Population, 1990-2009**



Source: US Census Bureau, 1990, 2000, 2009e

Comment: Graph is not to scale

**Population Change 1990-2000**

	1990	2000	2009	Change 1990-2009	% Change 1990-2009	% Change 1990-2009
<b>City of Syracuse</b>	163,860	147,306	139,796	-24,064	-15%	-15%
<b>Villages in Onondaga County</b>	48,874	48,187	46,598	-2,276	-5%	-5%
<b>Towns (Outside of Villages)</b>	255,468	261,370	267,316	11,848	5%	5%

Source: US Census Bureau, 1990, 2000, 2009e

## Race & Ethnicity

### Onondaga County

	2000	2006-08
White	84.80%	83.70%
Black or African American	9.40%	9.90%
Hispanic or Latino	2.40%	3.00%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.90%	0.70%
Asian	2.10%	2.50%
Native Hawaiian	0.00%	0.10%
Some other race	0.90%	0.60%
Two or more races	2.00%	2.50%

*Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 & 2006-08 est.*

### Syracuse

	2006-08
White	61.00%
Black or African American	27.50%
Hispanic or Latino	6.20%
American Indian or Alaska Native	10.00%
Asian	4.20%
Native Hawaiian	0.10%
Some other race	1.00%
Two or more races	5.10%

*Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 & 2006-08 est.*

**Comment:** All Percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth.

**Comment:** No data were available for Syracuse for 2000.

## Race & Ethnicity in Schools

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of enrolled students by ethnicity.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because ethnicities in schools reflect the overall demographics of the communities in which they are located.

### Onondaga County School Districts, 2008-09

#### Onondaga County School Districts and Syracuse City High Schools, 2008-09

	White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian or Pacific Islander	American Indian or Alaska Native
Baldwinsville	95%	2%	1%	1%	0%
East Syracuse-Minoa	91%	4%	1%	2%	2%
Fabius-Pompey	97%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Fayetteville-Manlius	89%	2%	1%	7%	0%
Jamesville-Dewitt	79%	10%	2%	7%	1%
Jordan-Elbridge	97%	1%	1%	1%	1%
La Fayette	69%	1%	0%	1%	28%
Liverpool	84%	8%	3%	4%	1%
Marcellus	98%	0%	1%	1%	0%
North Syracuse	91%	5%	2%	2%	1%
Onondaga	88%	6%	1%	1%	3%
Skaneateles	97%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Solvay	91%	3%	4%	1%	1%
Corcoran HS (SCSD)	21%	72%	5%	0%	1%
George Fowler HS (SCSD)	28%	40%	23%	7%	2%
Henniger HS (SCSD)	44%	45%	6%	3%	2%
Nottingham HS (SCSD)	23%	61%	8%	6%	1%
Tully	96%	2%	0%	1%	0%
West Genesee	92%	3%	2%	2%	1%
Westhill	93%	3%	1%	2%	0%

Source: New York State Testing and Accountability Reporting Tool, 2008-09

**Comment:** All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole decimal.

## Gender

	Male	Female
US	49.30%	50.70%
New York State	48.50%	51.50%
Onondaga County	48.10%	59.90%
Syracuse	47.60%	52.40%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-08 est.

## Age

Onondaga County		
	2000	2006-08
Under 5 years	6.30%	5.70%
18 years and older	74.20%	77.20%
65 years and older	13.30%	13.30%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 & 2006-08

Syracuse		
	2000	2006-08
Under 5 years	6.50%	6.00%
18 years and older	74.20%	73.50%
65 years and older	13.80%	17.20%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 & 2006-08

## Marital Status

	US	New York State	Onondaga County	Syracuse
Male, Never Married	34.10%	39.10%	36.80%	54.10%
Male, Married except Separated	52.20%	49.10%	50.20%	30.90%
Male, Separated	1.80%	2.30%	1.90%	2.40%
Male, Widowed	2.50%	2.60%	2.80%	2.60%
Male, Divorced	9.30%	7.00%	8.30%	10.00%
Female, Never Married	27.60%	33.40%	31.90%	49.10%
Female, Married except Separated	48.20%	43.10%	44.10%	26.20%
Female, Separated	2.50%	3.50%	2.40%	3.40%
Female, Widowed	9.90%	10.30%	10.20%	9.70%
Female, Divorced	11.70%	9.70%	11.40%	11.70%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-08 est.

## Educational Attainment

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the highest degree or the highest level of education completed by residents 25 and older.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because a well educated and diverse work force is a draw to attract potential employers to the area.

	US	New York State	Onondaga County	Syracuse
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	6.40%	7.10%	3.40%	7.20%
9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> grade, no diploma	9.10%	8.80%	7.70%	13.10%
High School graduate or GED	29.60%	29.00%	28.30%	29.50%
Some college, no degree	20.10%	15.40%	17.50%	16.40%
Associate's degree	7.40%	8.10%	11.20%	8.40%
Bachelor's degree	17.30%	18.10%	18.30%	17.30%
Graduate or professional degree	10.10%	13.60%	13.60%	10.80%

*Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-08est.*

## Poverty

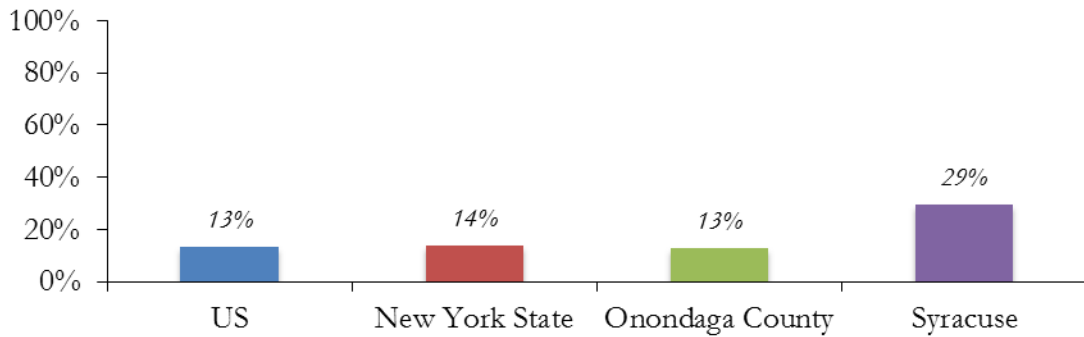
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of individuals whose total income falls below the poverty threshold.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it represents the economic prosperity of a community.

### Individuals Below Poverty Line, 2006-08



Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-08

### Percentage Change in Individuals Below Poverty Line, 2000-08

	2000-08
US	6.50%
New York State	-5.50%
Onondaga County	4.10%
Syracuse	7.70%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 & 2006-08



## Registered Voters

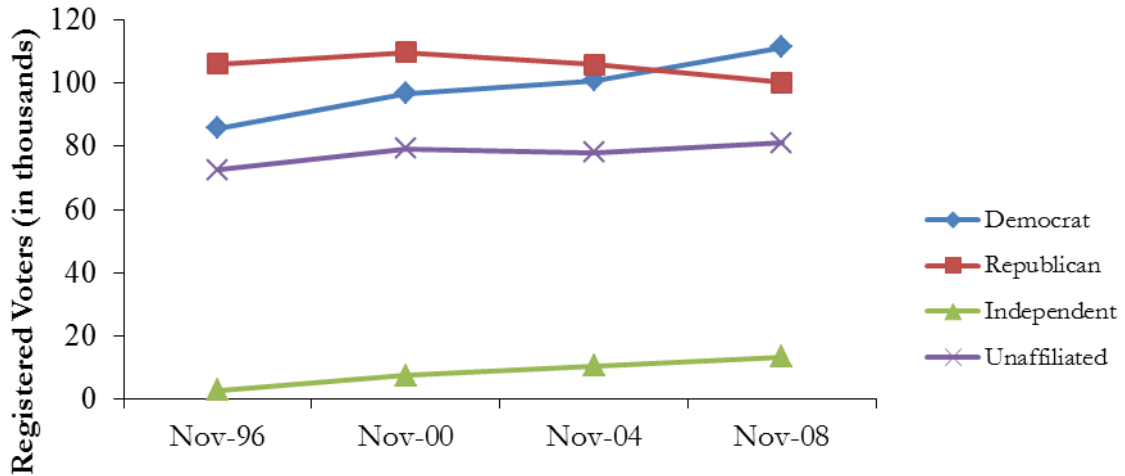
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the number of registered voters by political party.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it is a good representation of the political atmosphere of a community.

### Registered Voters in Onondaga County by Party, 1996-2008



Source: New York State Board of Elections, 1996-2008

### Percentage Change of Voter Enrollment by Political Party, 1996-2008

	1996-2000	2000-04	2004-08
Democrat	13%	4%	10%
Republican	4%	-4%	-6%
Independent	170%	41%	26%
Unaffiliated	9%	-1%	4%
Total	10%	1%	2%

Source: New York State Board of Elections, 1996-2008

## Median Household Income

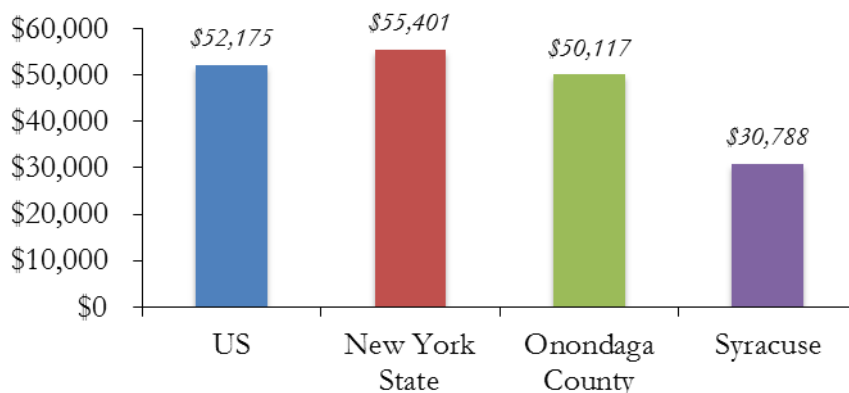
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the annual income of all household members aged 15 and older.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it helps show income differences between geographic areas.

### Median Household Income, 2006-08



Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-08

### Household Income and Benefits (In 2008 inflation-adjusted dollars)

	US	New York State	Onondaga County	Syracuse
Less than \$10,000	7.20%	8.10%	8.00%	16.60%
\$10,000-\$14,999	5.50%	5.40%	5.90%	10.00%
\$15,000-\$24,999	10.60%	9.90%	10.50%	15.80%
\$25,000-\$34,999	10.60%	9.40%	10.70%	12.50%
\$35,000-\$49,999	14.20%	12.70%	14.80%	16.60%
\$50,000-\$74,999	18.80%	17.50%	19.00%	14.80%
\$75,000-\$99,999	12.50%	12.20%	12.30%	6.60%
\$100,000-\$149,999	12.20%	13.30%	12.40%	5.30%
\$150,000-\$199,999	4.30%	5.40%	3.60%	1.10%
\$200,000 or more	4.20%	6.00%	2.90%	0.80%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-08

## Median Home Values and Family Incomes

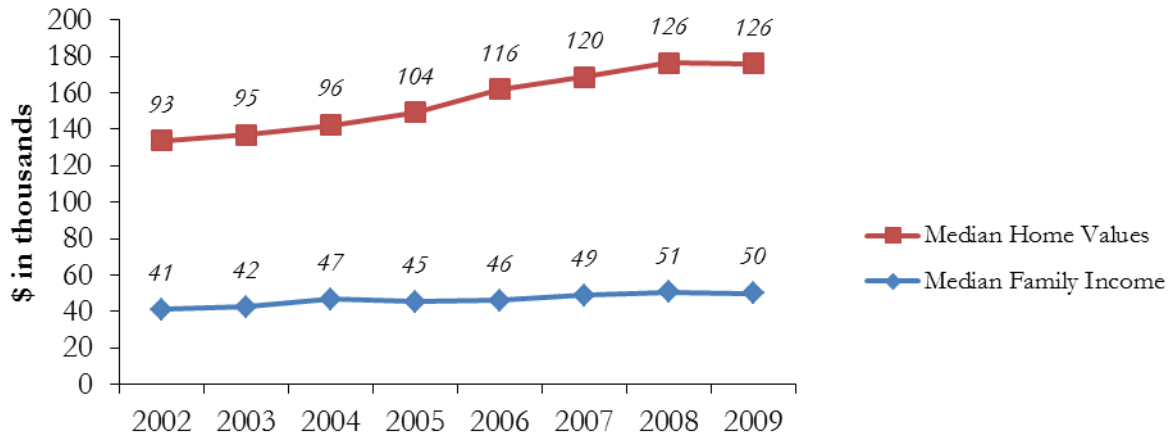
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the difference between median home values and median family incomes.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it represents the relative affordability of housing to income.

### Median Home Values and Median Family Incomes in Onondaga County, 2002-09



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2002-09

### Difference in Median Home Values and Median Family Income, 2002-09

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Onondaga County	\$51,978	\$52,320	\$49,191	\$58,861	\$69,840	\$71,178	\$75,260	\$76,068
Syracuse	-	-	-	\$49,265	\$50,136	\$52,322	\$51,621	\$54,325

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2002-09

**Comment:** Data on Median Home Values for Syracuse were not available for 2002-04.

## Introduction

This section examines several indicators regarding mobility and transportation services found in Onondaga County and Syracuse in comparison to the same respective services found in New York State and the United States.

Onondaga County is conveniently located at the intersection of Interstate 81 and the NYS Thruway. The Hancock International Airport and the William F. Walk Regional Transportation Center are also significant contributors to the area's transportation industry. An interesting trend at Hancock Airport indicates that the average round-trip and one way domestic airfares at Hancock are significantly more expensive than nearby airports such as Buffalo and Rochester, which may cause fewer travel options for customers.

One of the prominent initiatives in Onondaga County is the introduction of diesel-electric buses into the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority's CENTRO fleet. Over the next several years, CENTRO plans to switch the entire fleet over to hybrid clean air technology. The number of CENTRO passenger trips has increased 35% from 2005 to 2008 compared to a slight 1% increase in registered and licensed drivers in Onondaga County, which could indicate that residents are choosing public transportation over their personal vehicles.

## Average Travel Time to Work

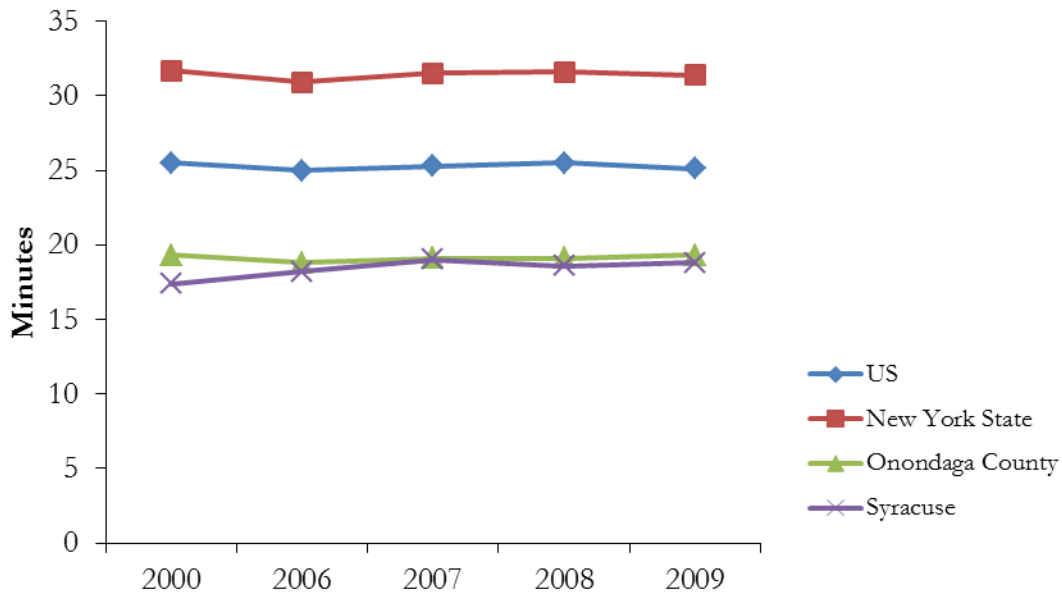
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures and compares the average travel time to work for workers 16 years of age and older who do not work at home.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it is indicative of fuel consumption and traffic patterns.

### Average Daily Travel Time to Work, 2000-09



Source: US Census Bureau

### Average Daily Travel Time to Work (mins.), 2000-09

	2000	2006	2007	2008	2009
US	26	25	25	26	25
New York State	32	31	32	32	31
Onondaga County	19	19	19	19	19
Syracuse, NY	17	18	19	19	19

Source: US Census Bureau

## Air Travel

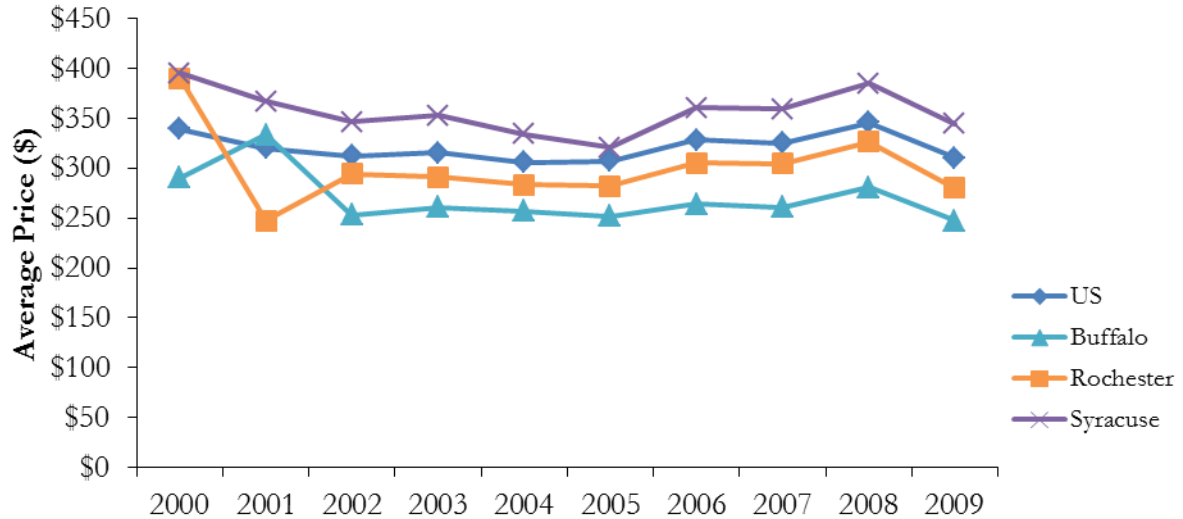
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures average round-trip and one-way domestic itinerary fares.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it displays the price discrepancies between airports in cities of different sizes.

### Average Price of Domestic Airfare



Source: US Bureau of Transportation Statistics

### Average Price of Domestic Airfare, 2000-09

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>US</b>	\$339	\$320	\$313	\$315	\$306	\$307	\$328	\$325	\$346	\$310
<b>Syracuse</b>	\$395	\$367	\$346	\$353	\$334	\$321	\$361	\$359	\$385	\$344
<b>Buffalo</b>	\$291	\$334	\$253	\$261	\$257	\$252	\$264	\$261	\$281	\$247
<b>Rochester</b>	\$390	\$247	\$294	\$291	\$283	\$282	\$305	\$305	\$327	\$280

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Airline Origin & Destination Survey (10% Sample)

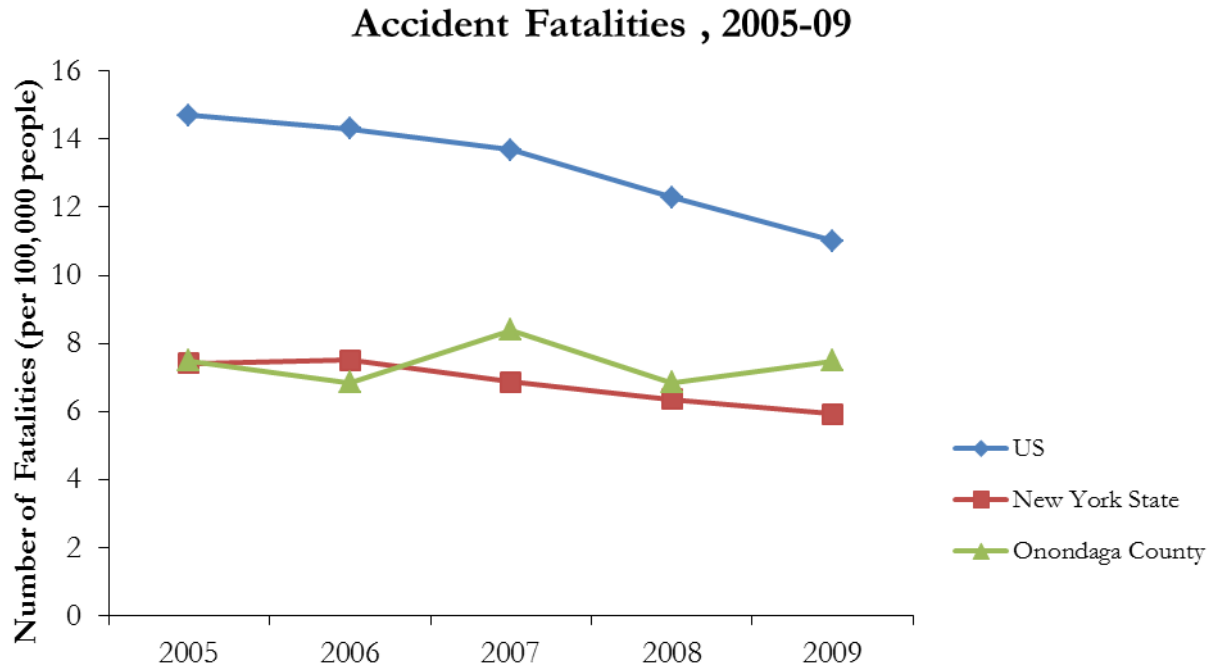
## Accident Fatalities per 100,000 People

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the number of fatalities caused by motor vehicles per 100,000 people.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it can influence implementation of stricter traffic safety laws and policies.



Source: Federal Highway Administration, Fatality Analysis Reporting System

### Fatalities Per 100,000 Population

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Onondaga County</b>	7.48	6.84	8.39	6.84	7.48
<b>New York State</b>	7.42	7.51	6.86	6.36	5.92
<b>US</b>	14.71	14.3	13.68	12.3	11.01

Source: Federal Highway Administration, Fatality Analysis Reporting System

## CENTRO Ridership

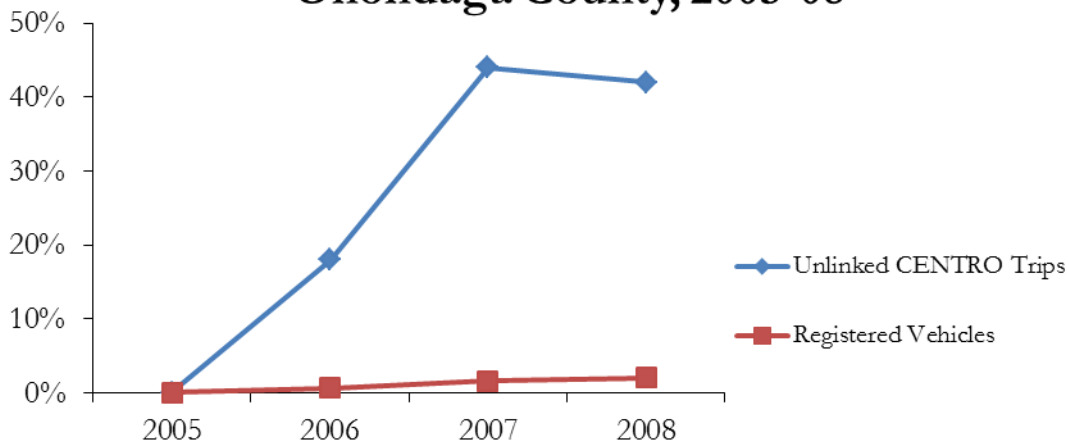
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percent change in Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (CENTRO) ridership and the percent change in the amount of registered vehicles. Unlinked trips are defined as the total number of trips taken on CENTRO busses with no correlation with the number of patrons.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it illustrates trends in the usage of public transportation.

### Percentage Change in Type of Transportation in Onondaga County, 2005-08



Source: New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, National Transit Administration



## Introduction

According to the Census Bureau's 2006-08 estimates, in Onondaga County about 25 percent of the population is under the age of 18, with 5.9 percent under the age of five.

The youth of our community are not only an obvious link to our future, but a snapshot of the present. Their quality of life paints a picture of our community, including the quality of education and poverty levels. This section will focus on their living conditions, safety and health.

In Onondaga County, youth face a lower risk of living in poverty than young people in the US and New York State. Young girls are less likely to become pregnant in Onondaga than the rest of the state and children born in the county are more likely to have received prenatal care than those statewide or nationwide.

In other areas, Onondaga children are not doing as well. Youth suffer from a high rate of child abuse. Maltreatment reports and youth arrests in city of Syracuse and Onondaga County are not decreasing at the same rate as the state. It is not known whether this means there is a bigger problem locally, or if detection is higher.

## Children Living in Poverty

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures percentage of children living in households whose total income falls below the poverty line.

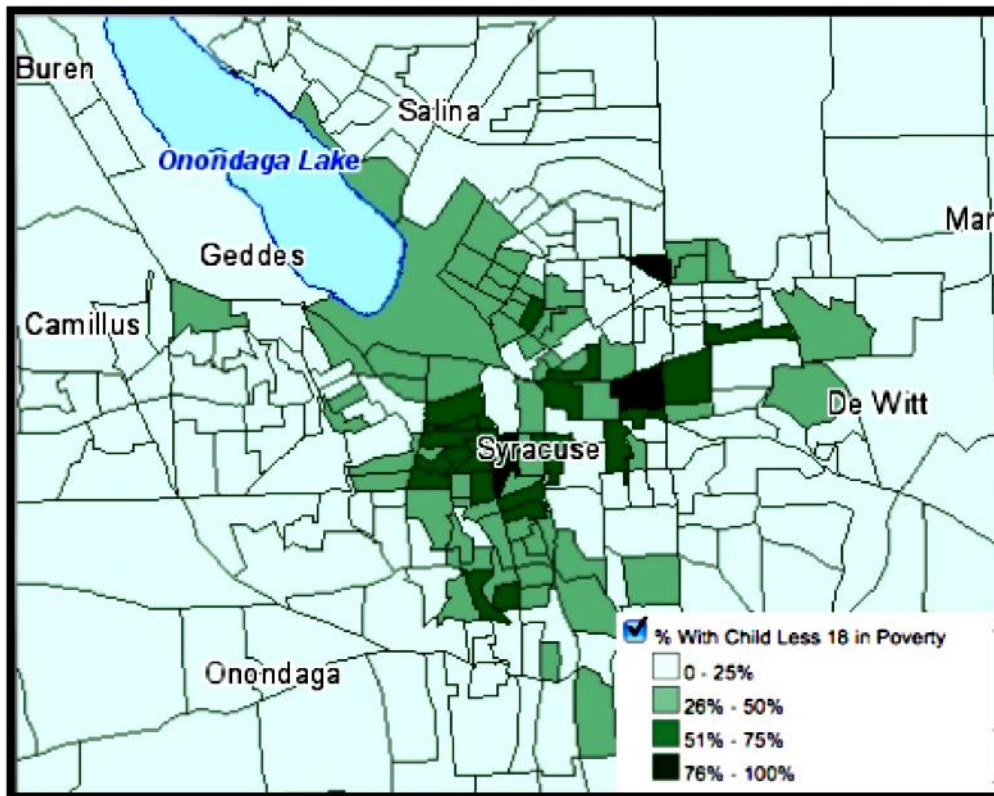
### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it illustrates the need for government assistance and the health and living conditions of children in the community.

## Families with Annual Income Below Poverty Level and Children Under 18

U.S.	14.90%
New York State	16.00%
Onondaga County	14.20%
Syracuse	36.10%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2006-08



Source: Syracuse Community Geography, Syracuse Maps Online

## Children Admitted to Foster Care

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the number of children admitted to foster care, which occurs as a result of a order of a court or when parents place them there temporarily.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because foster care is often the final act to protect children from abuse and/or neglect from parents.

### Children Admitted to Foster Care 2000-09



Source: NYS Office of Children and Family Services; Child Care Review Service

## Children Receiving Public Assistance

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of children receiving public assistance, including various state and federal programs.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it monitors whether or not progress has been made in providing public assistance to children.

### Percent of Children Receiving Public Assistance

	2000	2005	2008
New York State	7.00%	6.30%	5.90%
Onondaga County	8.80%	6.30%	6.30%

*Source: New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance*

## Child Abuse and Mistreatment

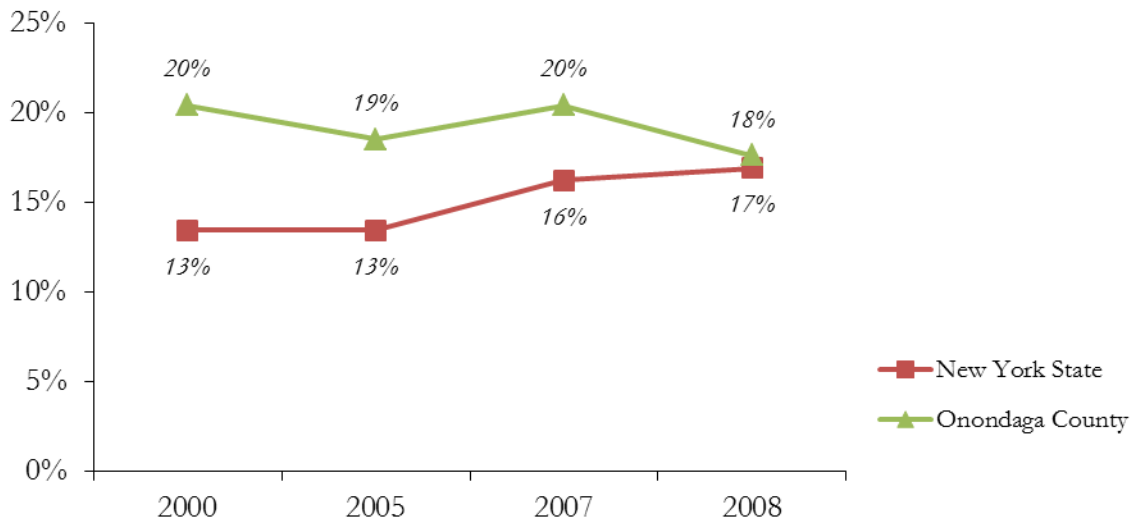
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the quality of care a child is receiving.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it monitors the trends of child abuse and mistreatment of children

**Child Abuse and Mistreatment, 2000-08**



Source: New York State Office of Children and Family Services - National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS).

## Registered Childcare Centers

### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the number of the aforementioned facilities found in Onondaga County.

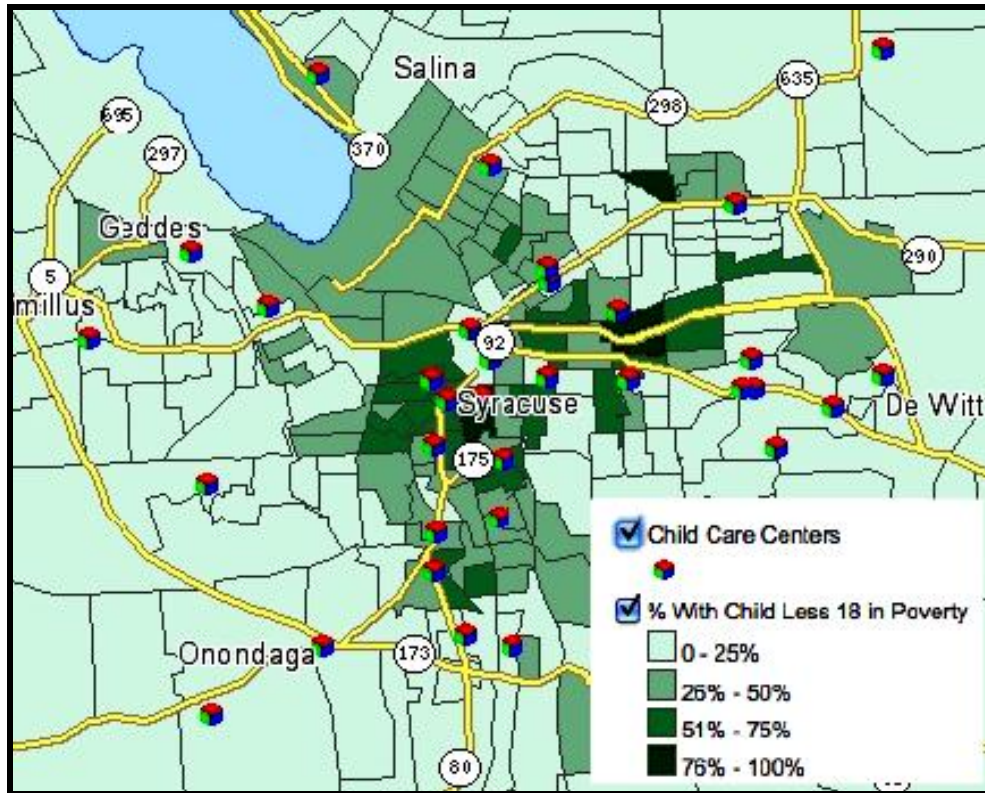
### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because childcare centers promote early learning, healthy development, and provide a safe place for children whose parents are working or are in school.

## Number of Childcare Centers in Onodaga County

	2006	2007
Onondaga County	407	361

*Source: Onondaga County Department of Social Services*



*Source: Syracuse Community Geography, Syracuse Maps Online*

## Serious Childcare Violations in Childcare Centers

### What does this indicator measure?

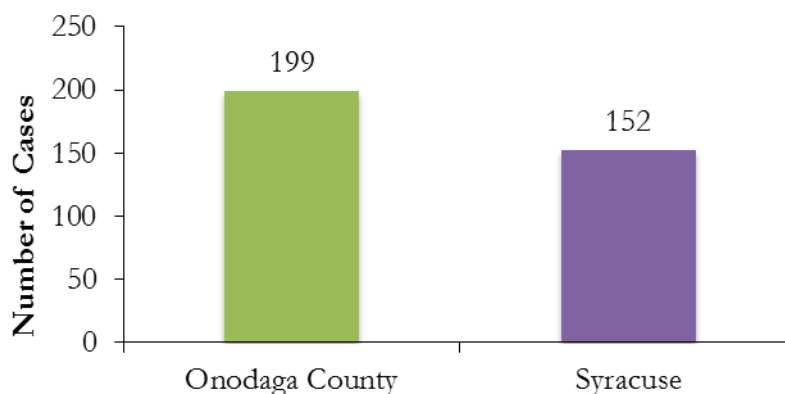
This indicator measures the number of serious childcare violations in registered childcare centers, a violation being considered serious if it harms a child or places a child in danger of physical or emotional harm. Some of the violations fall into the following categories:

- Providing care for more than the maximum number of children permitted by the license or registration
- Inadequate or incompetent supervision
- Presence of a fire, safety or health risk
- Inadequate light, ventilation, sanitation, food, water or heat
- Use of corporal punishment or frightening, humiliating methods of discipline
- Refusal to admit or cooperate with inspectors, including representatives of OCFS or its agents

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because parents want to know that they are leaving their child in a program that meets the requirements and standards set for childcare centers.

**Serious Childcare Violations in Childcare Centers**



*Source: NYS Department of Health; Bureau of Biometrics*

## Adolescent Pregnancies

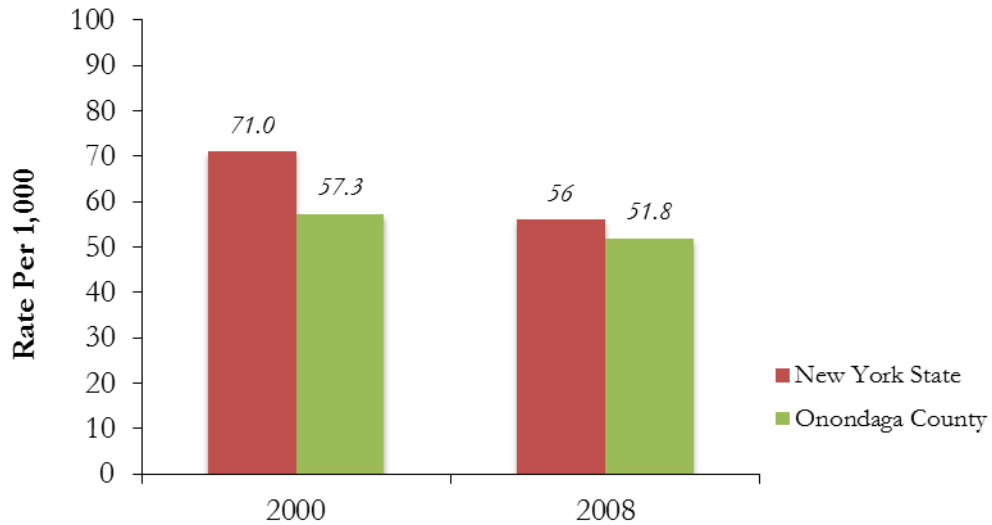
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the number of adolescent pregnancies, defined as a pregnancy of a 15- to 19-year old female.

### Why Is This Indicator Important

This indicator is important because it reflects the success of programs such as sex education and birth control.

### Adolescent Pregnancies, 2000 -08



Source: NYS Department of Health; Bureau of Biometrics



## Low Birth Weights

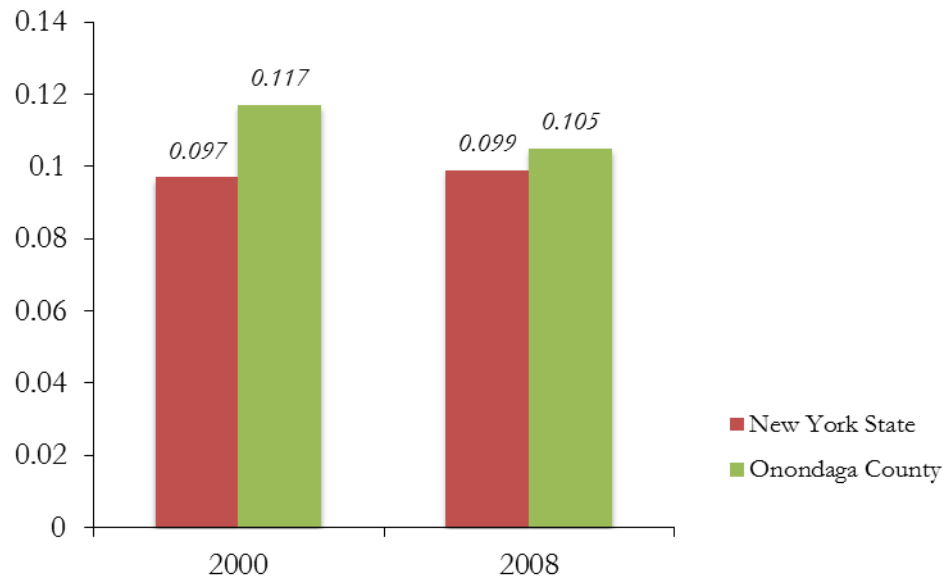
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures low birth weight in babies, defined as weighing less than 2500 grams at the time of birth.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because low birth weights are indicative of poor or unavailable prenatal care, poor nutrition, and can increase the risk of sickness in infancy.

### Low Birthweight Births to Mothers Ages 10-19 Years



Source: NYS Department of Health; Bureau of Biometrics

## Youth Arrests

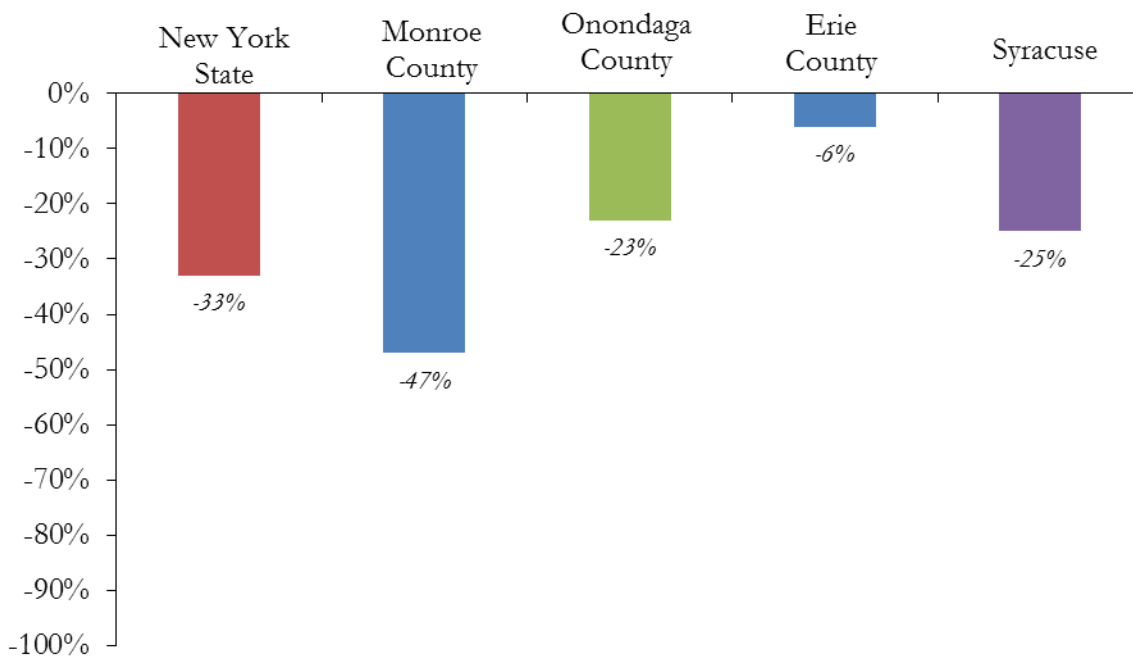
### What does this indicator measure?

This indicator measures the number of arrests and police contracts with juveniles under the age of 18, where there was probable cause that an offense was committed but no formal charges were filed. The types of crime relating to the arrests include murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.

### Why is this indicator important?

This indicator is important because it reflects the effectiveness of youth programs as well as law enforcement.

### Percentage Change in Youth Arrests, 2004-08



Source: New York State DCJS

## Aging

1. *65+ in Poverty*
2. *65+ With a Disability*
3. *EPIC Enrollment*
4. *Medicare Enrollees*
5. *Percent of Population 65+*
6. *64+ by Gender*
7. *Observed & Forecasted Age Categories by Year*
8. *Median Income for 65+*
9. *Elderly Mortality*

## Crime

1. *Property Crimes*
2. *Violent Crimes*
3. *Drug Crimes*
4. *Total Crime*
5. *Murder*
6. *Motor Vehicle Theft*
7. *Larceny*
8. *Forcible Robbery*
9. *Forcible Rape*

## Culture & Recreation

1. *Art Galleries*
2. *Festivals*
3. *Zoo*
4. *Museums*
5. *Theater and Music*
6. *Art Grants Spending*
7. *Art Grants Allocations*
8. *Recreation*
9. *Parks in Onondaga County*
10. *Park Attendance*
11. *The New York State Fair*

## Economy

1. *Unemployment Rate*
2. *Labor Force*
3. *Employment Levels*
4. *Trade Industry Employment*
5. *Professional Industry Employment*
6. *Public Works Industry Employment*
7. *Employment by Sector*
8. *Annual Median Wage*
9. *Median Household Income*
10. *Small Business Growth*

11. *Per Capita Federal Spending*
12. *State Revenue from Sales Tax*
13. *Economic Development Expenditures*

## Education

1. *Enrollment*
2. *Attendance*
3. *Spending per Pupil*
4. *Limited English Proficient (LEP) Learners*
5. *New York State Assessments*
6. *4<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts Scores*
7. *4<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics Scores*
8. *8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts Scores*
9. *8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics Scores*
10. *New York State Regents Examinations*
11. *Math A Regents Scores*
12. *Comprehensive English Regents Scores*
13. *Global History and Geography Regents Scores*
14. *US History and Government Regents Scores*
15. *Living Environment Regents Scores*
16. *High School Graduation Rates*
17. *Syracuse City School District Graduation Rates, 2008-09*
18. *Syracuse City School District Graduation Rates, 2006-09*
19. *Syracuse City School District Graduation Rates by Ethnicity*
20. *Onondaga County School District Graduation Rates*
21. *New York State Graduation Rates*
22. *Degrees Granted by Post-Secondary Institutions*

## Environment

1. *Price of Water*
2. *Water Delivered*
3. *Water Usage*
4. *Toxic Waste Distribution*
5. *Toxic Waste Generated*
6. *Toxic Waste Released*
7. *Recycling*
8. *Hazardous Waste*
9. *Onondaga Lake Oxygen Concentration*
10. *Air Quality*
11. *Waste to Energy*
12. *Household Expenditures on Oil and Gasoline*
13. *Average Miles Driven*

## Health

1. *Access to Physician Care*
2. *Practice Settings of Active Patient Care Physicians*
3. *Appropriate Care*
4. *Uninsured Individuals*
5. *Uninsured Individuals by Age*
6. *Overweight Adults (BMI +25)*
7. *Obese Adults (BMI +30)*
8. *Adult Diabetes*
9. *Adult Smokers*
10. *Asthma Hospitalizations (0-14 Years Old)*
11. *Chlamydia Rates*
12. *Syphilis Rates*
13. *Gonorrhea Rates*
14. *Cancer Rates, 2002-06*

## Housing

1. *Housing Affordability*
2. *Syracuse Occupancy Status*
3. *Onondaga County Occupancy Status*
4. *Median Home Value*
5. *Owner Occupied Units*
6. *Homeowner Vacancy Rates*
7. *Median Rent Value*
8. *Renter Occupied Units*
9. *Rental Vacancy Rates*
10. *Age of Structure*
11. *Year Moved Into*
12. *Residential Building Permits*

## People

1. *Onondaga County by Census Tracts*
2. *Population*
3. *Sprawl*
4. *Race & Ethnicity*
5. *Race & Ethnicity in Schools*
6. *Gender*
7. *Age*
8. *Marital Status*
9. *Educational Attainment*
10. *Poverty*
11. *Registered Voters*
12. *Median Household Income*
13. *Median Home Values and Family Incomes*

## Transportation

1. *Average Travel Time to Work*
2. *Air Travel*
3. *Accident fatalities per 100,000 People*
4. *CENTRO Ridership*

## Youth

1. *Children Living in Poverty*
2. *Children Admitted to Foster Care*
3. *Children receiving Public Assistance*
4. *Child Abuse and Mistreatment*
5. *Registered Childcare Centers*
6. *Serious Childcare Violations in Childcare Centers*
7. *Adolescent Pregnancies*
8. *Low Birth Weights*
9. *Youth Arrests*

