

**CNY Vitals
Spring 2013
Community Benchmarks Program
The Maxwell School at Syracuse University**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Onondaga County and Syracuse, New York in comparison with other geographical areas. The nine categories include:

- Arts, Culture & Recreation
- Civic Engagement & Government
- Demographics
- Economy
- Education
- Environment, Transportation & Planning
- Health & Human Services
- Housing
- Public Safety

This research is part of an ongoing effort of the Community Benchmarks Program (CBP) at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. It represents a partnership with the Central New York Community Foundation, Inc., and F.O.C.U.S. of Greater Syracuse.

Methods

The data in this report were collected from internet research of ten critical areas. Various indications from each category were selected to convey a snapshot of Syracuse New York and Onondaga County. A majority of the data was retrieved from government sources and specific government departments including: the Department of the Budget, New York State Department of Health, and New York State Department of Education. Additionally, the U.S. Census Bureau's data from the American Community Survey, and Decennial Census were used.

Findings

Arts, Culture & Recreation

1. Onondaga County scored 173 on the ESAI Cultural Index, just under the mean of 176 of the three counties with which the county was compared in 2012.
2. The New York State Fair attendance has dropped by 16% in the past decade to 845,595 in 2012.
3. Attendance at Syracuse University men's basketball games was 448,736 in 2012, the second highest number since turnout was tracked starting in 2005.

4. The number of unique visitors to VisitSyracuse.org was 141,599 in 2011, 36% higher than 2008, the year the website was developed.
5. At the end of 2011, the number of Facebook fans for VisitSyracuse.org totaled 9,555.
6. There is a 105% increase in Twitter followers on VisitSyracuse.org in 2011 over the previous year.
7. Visitor guides mailed from the Onondaga County tourism board in 2011 represents a 97% increase from the number of visitor guides mailed in 2008.
8. Local taxes generated from tourism activities decreased by \$2 million between 2008-10.
9. Visitor spending decreased 6.8% from \$777 million in 2008 to \$724 million in 2010.
10. Jobs created from tourism activities in 2010 totaled 16,418, a drop of almost 4% from 2008.
11. \$20,209 was the average household expenditure for entertainment in Onondaga County in 2012.
12. \$107 was the average household expenditure for social, recreation and health club memberships in Onondaga County in 2012.
13. \$94 was the average household expenditure for toys, games, arts and crafts, and tricycles in Onondaga County in 2012.
14. \$5 was the average household expenditure for music instruments and accessories in Onondaga County in 2012.
15. \$105 was the average household expenditure on movies, theater and amusement parks in Onondaga County in 2012.
16. \$39 is the average household expenditure for athletic gear, game tables and exercise equipment in Onondaga County in 2012.
17. \$83 was the average household expenditure on reading materials in Onondaga County in 2012.
18. Grant distributions by the Rosamond Gifford Foundation dropped by 33% from 2010 to 2011
19. The total number of employees working in performing arts companies in Onondaga County decreased by 21% between 2000 and 2012.
20. Businesses involved with the performing arts decreased by 24% between 2000-12.
21. Performing arts, sports and similar event promoters decreased 29% in Onondaga County from 2000-12.

22. During the time period 2000-12, the total number of employees working for independent artists, writers and performers decreased by 36%.
23. Employees working for museums, historical sites and similar institutions in Onondaga County increased by 78%.

Civic Engagement & Government

1. More than one-quarter of the general budget for the city of Syracuse goes to Police services in 2012-13.
2. 55% of the total budget for the city of Syracuse is allocated to the Syracuse City School District in 2012-13.
3. Onondaga County allocated 77.9% of its funds to mandated programs and public safety in the 2012-13 budget.
4. Registered voter turnout in Onondaga County was 26% in 2011, a 26% decrease from 2010.
5. 3 out of every four registered voters cast ballots in the three presidential elections since 2000.
6. Households with memberships in charitable organizations in Onondaga County decreased by 0.8% from 2000-12.
7. Onondaga County households associated with labor unions decreased by 0.7%, 2000-12.

Demographics

1. Syracuse has the smallest Metropolitan Statistical Area population of selected MSAs in upstate New York.
2. The median household income in Syracuse is significantly lower at \$31,689 compared to Onondaga County at \$52,636 and nearly half of the median household income for NYS.
3. The city of Syracuse has the second highest median household income at \$31,689 of selected cities in upstate New York.
4. Syracuse household residents who identify their race as 'White' have the highest median household income at \$36,889, 2007-11.
5. The median income of a married-couple family household in Syracuse is 98% greater than that of a male householder and 193% greater than that of a female householder.
6. Syracuse city residents between the ages of 45 to 64 years have the highest median household income at \$37,358.
7. 39% of families in the city of Syracuse were living in poverty in 2007-11.

8. 19% of married families in the city of Syracuse were living below the poverty level in 2007-11.
9. 50% of single mother households in the city of Syracuse were living below the poverty level in 2011.
10. 14% of white families were living below the poverty level in Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo from 2007-11.
11. 38% of black / African American families were living below the poverty level in Syracuse from 2007-11.
12. 34% of American Indian or Alaska Native families were living below the poverty level in Syracuse from 2007-11.
13. 43% of Asian families were living below the poverty level in Syracuse 2007-11.
14. 43% of Hispanic / Latino families were living below the poverty level in Syracuse from 2007-11.
15. 43% of Hispanic / Latino and Asian families were living below the poverty level in Syracuse, 29% higher than white families from 2007-11.
16. 38% of Black / African American families in Syracuse were living below the poverty level in 2007-11.
17. 43% of Hispanic / Latino families were living below the poverty line in the City of Syracuse for 2007-11.
18. Half of all the children under the age of five in Syracuse are living in poverty, twice as high as children of the same age who live in Onondaga County.
19. 50% of children under the age of five in Syracuse are living in poverty, equivalent to Rochester and higher than in Albany.
20. The percent of people in poverty is significantly higher in Syracuse compared to Onondaga County.
21. Syracuse has the highest percent of people living in poverty of selected upstate New York cities.
22. Syracuse and Onondaga County are largely populated with residents who identify their race as "White."
23. Between 2000 and 2010, the residents of Syracuse who identify as "Asian" increased by 61%, and "Black or African American" by 18%, while those who identify as "White" decreased by 11%.

24. Between 2007-11, the majority of residents within four selected upstate cities, including Syracuse, identified themselves as "White."
25. The percent of people who identify as a race/ethnicity other than white has dramatically increased since 1960 with the greatest increase in Syracuse in comparison to Onondaga County, NYS and the US.
26. The median age of Syracuse residents has dropped from 32 years in 1960 to 30 years of age in 2010.
27. 66% of Syracuse population was between the ages of 18-64 in 2007-11.
28. 15% of the population in the city of Syracuse are people who are 18-22 in 2010, higher than any other age range.
29. 7% of Syracuse residents were under the age of 5 in 2007-11.
30. 23% of Syracuse residents were under the age of 18 in 2007-11.
31. 66% of Syracuse residents were between the ages of 18-64 in 2007-11.
32. 10% of Syracuse residents were over the age of 65.
33. In a comparison of family types, Onondaga County was composed primarily of married households in 2007-11 whereas Syracuse was composed of single mothers.
34. 54% Syracuse Males in 2007-11 had never been married.
35. 51% Syracuse females had never been married in 2011.
36. 7% of Syracuse residents are not US citizens.
37. At 7%, Syracuse has the highest percent of residents who are not US citizens when compared to selected upstate New York cities.
38. 4% of Syracuse city residents are naturalized US citizens while at 6% Albany has the highest percent of residents who are naturalized US citizens compared to selected upstate New York cities.
39. 90% of Syracuse residents are US citizens.
40. The number of refugees who have entered Syracuse from 2001-12 is 7,197 with the highest number coming from Bhutan, Burma and Somalia.
41. Between 2001-12, the highest influx of refugees to Syracuse was in 2009 at 1,223, which is 17% of the total number during this period.
42. For the City of Syracuse between 2001-12, the top three countries with the greatest number of refugee arrivals came from Burma, Bhutan and Somalia.

43. 25% of refugees who came to Syracuse in 2012 are from Burma.
44. 8% of people in the city of Syracuse do not speak English 'very well' while 9% of people in the city of Rochester do not speak English 'very well,' the highest percent of people in selected upstate cities.
45. 4% of people in Onondaga County do not speak English 'very well' while 5% of people in Monroe County do not speak English 'very well,' the highest percent of people in selected upstate cities.
46. 22% of Albany's population was veterans in 2011.

Economy

1. The GDP increased by 38% from 2001 to 2010 in Syracuse.
2. Albany Metropolitan Area's real capita GDP increased by 2% from 2008-11.
3. The Real GDP in the Syracuse Metropolitan Statistical Area is 41% lower than that of the Rochester Metropolitan Statistical Area.
4. Syracuse had the second-least amount of outstanding debt of four selected upstate cities at the end of fiscal year 2011.
5. Syracuse had the second-largest amount of outstanding debt per capita of four upstate cities at the end of fiscal year 2011.
6. Total outstanding debt for the city of Syracuse has declined since 2007.
7. Real GDP in the manufacturing sector decreased by 3% from 2006 to 2011 in the Syracuse MSA.
8. Real GDP in the finance sector increased by 10% from 2006 to 2011 in the Syracuse MSA.
9. Real GDP in the real estate sector decreased by 19% from 2006 to 2011 in the Syracuse MSA.
10. Real GDP in the information sector increased by 10% from 2006 to 2011 in the Syracuse MSA.
11. Onondaga County unemployment rates have been lower than the state and national averages for unemployment since 2005.
12. The Syracuse MSA experienced the highest unemployment rate of the four Upstate New York Metropolitan Statistical Areas in 2011.
13. The total number of employment increased by .32% from 2010-11 in the Syracuse Metropolitan Area.

14. Syracuse was the only city in which average weekly hours of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls are expected to be greater in December 2012 than in December 2011.
15. The top employer in Onondaga County in 2011 was Upstate University, which employed 9,525 employees.
16. In 2011, office and administrative support occupations had 52,320 employees in Syracuse.
17. From 2006-11, 19.1% of manufacturing jobs were lost in the Syracuse Metropolitan Area.
18. From 2006-11, 17.3% of information jobs were lost in the Syracuse Metropolitan Area.
19. From 2009-11, 2.89% of education jobs were gained in the Syracuse Metropolitan Area.
20. From 2006-11, 9.95% of financial jobs were lost in the Syracuse Metropolitan Area.
21. From 2006-11, 4.92% of leisure and hospitality jobs were lost in the Syracuse Metropolitan Area.
22. There was a 5.9% increase in real estate and rental/leasing jobs in the Syracuse Metropolitan Area between 2006-11.
23. Food services jobs increase 5.7% in the Syracuse Metropolitan Area from 2006-11.
24. 2.7% of local government jobs were lost in the Syracuse Metropolitan Area from 2006-11.
25. 9.2% of construction jobs were lost in the Syracuse Metropolitan Area from 2006-11.
26. Health care and assistance jobs increased by 13.7% in the Syracuse Metropolitan Area from 2006-11.
27. Onondaga County lagged behind NYS in the percentage of minority-owned firms for all minority groups in 2007.
28. The percentage of families who had children both below and over 6 years of age and had all parents in the labor force was estimated to be greater in Onondaga County than the city of Syracuse by the American Community Survey 2007-11 5 year estimate.
29. The mean income increased by 42.5% from 2001 to 2011 in Onondaga County.
30. People between the ages of 45-64 make around \$36,321 in Syracuse, NY.
31. Legal occupations make a mean income of \$90,920 in Syracuse, NY.
32. The business and financial operation occupational group had the greatest mean wage at \$58,880.
33. In 2011, Albany's mean income was \$6,276 greater than Syracuse's mean income.
34. The mean income for the government sector increased by 25% from 2005 to 2011.

35. The mean income for the all manufacturing companies decreased by 9% from 2005 to 2011.
36. The mean income for the Finance and Insurance Sector increased by 31% from 2005 to 2011.
37. Buffalo MSA employers contributed 40% more to employee funds and insurance than did Syracuse MSA in 2011.
38. The employers' contributions to employee pensions and insurance increased by 1.48% from 2010 to 2011.
39. Revenue collected from sales tax for New York State in Onondaga County has nearly doubled since 2002, while New York State sales tax revenue for the City of Syracuse has stayed consistent since 2002.
40. Onondaga County received the second-smallest amount of revenue from NYS sales tax of four upstate counties in 2011.
41. Onondaga County had the smallest constitutional tax limit of four upstate counties in 2011.
42. Onondaga County had the second-largest percent of its tax limit exhausted of four upstate counties in 2011.
43. Onondaga County had the smallest tax margin of four upstate counties in 2011.
44. State aid made up 58% of Syracuse's \$657,491,804 total net revenue.
45. Syracuse allocated 7% more money to the police department than to the fire department.
46. Economic development expenditures for Onondaga County have surpassed those of the City of Syracuse since 2008 .
47. 78% of 2011 economic development expenditures in the city of Syracuse were for development infrastructure.
48. 61% of 2011 economic development expenditures in Onondaga County were under miscellaneous economic development.
49. Syracuse received the second-largest amount of federal aid of four upstate cities in 2011.
50. Onondaga County received the second-smallest amount of federal aid of four upstate counties in 2011.
51. After steadily declining since 2002, federal aid to Onondaga County returned to its previous level in 2011.
52. 48% of federal aid to the city of Syracuse in 2011 was for economic development.
53. 69% of federal aid to Onondaga County in 2011 was for social services.

54. The Syracuse region was the only Upstate New York region that experienced a decline in University research & development expenditures between 2005 and 2009.
55. The largest share of university research & development funding in the Central New York region in 2009 was received by Syracuse University (41.5%) followed by SUNY Upstate Medical University (33.7%) and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (20.8%).
56. The majority of Central New York university research and development expenditures in 2009 were in *Life Sciences* (47.3%) followed by *Engineering* (19.4%).
57. The Rochester MSA was the only Upstate New York region to score above the NYS and US averages on the US Economic Development Administration's Innovation Index.
58. The Syracuse Metropolitan Statistical Area had the lowest levels of local venture capital investment of three Upstate New York cities in 2007-09.
59. The largest recipient of venture capital funding has been the Rochester Metropolitan Statistical Area, attracting \$138.81 million over 2007-09, much higher than the Buffalo (\$59.46 million) and Syracuse (\$5.76 million) regions.
60. There was a significant decrease in the number of patents in all Upstate NY MSAs from 2006 to 2010.

Education

1. 76% of students at Fowler High School were eligible for free and reduced meals, the highest percentage in the Syracuse City School District's high schools in 2010-11.
2. Rochester City School District has more students who qualified for free and reduced meals than any other comparable city school district in upstate New York from 2008-09 to 2010-11.
3. Per pupil spending for special education in the Syracuse City School district was \$19, 410 in 2010-11, a 38% increase from the 2005-2006 academic year.
4. 70% of mean per pupil spending in the 19 school districts in Onondaga County in 2010-11 is for special education.
5. Per pupil expenditures in the Syracuse City School District is consistently lower than three other upstate city school districts over a three-year period, with the exception of 2008-09, when spending was \$373 higher than Buffalo.
6. Total revenue for Syracuse City School District has steadily increased from 2000 to 2010, increasing by \$141.6 Million.
7. Total school revenue for Albany, Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse has been steadily increasing since 2000.

8. Total Revenue for the Syracuse City School District decreased by 3.6% from 2008-09 to 2009-10.
9. The majority (54%) of students in Syracuse City Schools are Black.
10. 20% of Lyncourt students are classified as special education students, the highest of all county school districts in the 2010-11 academic year.
11. 71% of Onondaga County professional personal in schools are between the ages of 33-56.
12. 29% of Syracuse City School District grade 3 students are proficient in math, 32% below the New York State Average of 61%.
13. 35% of Syracuse City School District grade 4 students are proficient in math, 34% below the New York State Average of 69%.
14. 21% of Syracuse City School District grade 8 students are proficient in math, 40% below the New York State Average of 61%.
15. 10.5% of students in Syracuse City School District are not proficient in English.
16. 10.5% of students in the Syracuse City School District are not proficient in English, the highest of the three upstate school districts with which it was compared.
17. 28% of fourth grade students in the Syracuse City School District are proficient in English Language Arts, compared to the statewide average of 59% in 2012.
18. 20% of eighth grade students in the Syracuse City School District are proficient in English Language Arts, compared to the statewide average of 50% in 2012.
19. 20% of Syracuse eighth graders are proficient in English Language Arts in 2011-12.
20. Slightly more than one in four Syracuse fourth graders were considered proficient in English Language Arts in 2011-12.
21. The mean scores on English Language Arts exams of fourth graders in Onondaga County school districts has been slightly higher than the statewide mean from 2007-08 through 2011-12.
22. 60% of eighth grade students in Onondaga County schools scored a 3 or higher on the NYS English Language Arts exam, consistently outperforming the New York State mean between 2007-08 and 2010-11.
23. 62% of fourth grade students in Onondaga County scored a 3 or higher on the English Language Arts exam, surpassing statewide results and Syracuse by 3% and 34%, respectively in 2011-12.
24. 60% of eighth grade students in Onondaga County schools scored a 3 or higher on the English Language Arts exam, outperforming statewide results in 2011-12.

25. In the Syracuse City School District, the passing rate on the Algebra and Geometry Regents has increased significantly since 2008.
26. 10% of the students in the Onondaga Central School District dropped out in 2009-10, the highest of the suburban high schools in Onondaga County.
27. More than one in four Syracuse students in the 2006 cohort dropped out of school in 2009-10.
28. 39% of Fowler High School students in the 2006 cohort dropped out of school in 2009-10, the highest of the four Syracuse high schools.
29. 40% of Hispanics in the Syracuse City School District 2006 cohort dropped out of school in 2009-10, the highest of any race/ethnicity.
30. In 2010-11 the mean graduation rate of all Onondaga County districts except for Syracuse City School District is 88% while Syracuse City School District has a graduation rate of 52%.
31. Syracuse City School District had the lowest graduation rate of 52% in 2010-11.
32. 66% of students who identify themselves as Asian/Pacific Islander graduated from the Syracuse City School District in 2009-10, compared to 36% of students who identify themselves as Hispanic.
33. Albany, Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse all had comparable graduation rates for the 2007-11 Cohort graduating in 2011, with a mean graduation rate of 51%.
34. 61% of students in the 2006-10 cohort at Corcoran High School graduated, the highest percentage of the four high schools in the Syracuse City District.
35. The economic advantage of Syracuse City School District students has little effect on graduation rates with a 55% graduation rate of those who are economically disadvantaged.
36. In the Syracuse City School District, the attendance rate since 2007 has remained relatively stagnant.
37. From 1999 to 2019e, it is predicted that enrollment in Syracuse City School District Schools will decline by 9 percent.
38. Fayetteville-Manlius School District has the highest percentage of teachers (29%) who have a master's degree with 30 hours or a doctorate.
39. 85.9% of person's in Albany, New York earned a high school diploma or higher.
40. 43% of adults, 25 and older in Onondaga County, have an associate's degree or higher, slightly higher than the statewide mean and 17% higher than the national mean in 2011.

Environment, Transportation & Planning

Environment

1. 115 inches was the annual snowfall in Syracuse in 2011.
2. There is an 8% increase in the number of days in Onondaga County when the air quality index was rated as 'Good' between 2000-11.
3. Onondaga County had the highest mean number of Good air quality days with 331.3 between 2000-11.
4. Through recycling, Onondaga County reduced the emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) through the mitigation of over 1.2 million MTCO₂E, the equivalent to taking 223,000 passenger cars off the road.
5. Recycling has dropped 5% between 2007-11 in Onondaga County.
6. There was a 15% increase in the number of tons of waste processed between 2010-11.
7. Onondaga County has reported the disposal of over one million pounds of on-site toxic waste.
8. Onondaga County has reduced on-site disposal of toxic waste by 145.1% between 2004-11.
9. Onondaga County had the biggest percent change on reported on-site disposal of toxic waste between 2010-11 at -32%.
10. There has been a 243.5% increase in oxygen concentration in Onondaga Lake between 2000-11.

Transportation

1. 63% of working-age Syracuse residents live near a transit stop.
2. 48% of the working population, aged 16 and older, in Onondaga County, has 2 vehicles available in 2011, higher than the state or nation.
3. The Syracuse mean travel time is 18 minutes, below both the state and national mean times.
4. 44% of workers in Onondaga County commuted 15-24 minutes in 2011.
5. 64% of Syracuse workers, aged 16 and older, drove to work alone in 2011.
6. 80% of Onondaga County workers, aged 16 and older, drove to work alone in 2011.
7. Onondaga County vehicle fatalities decreased by 1 per 100,000 population between 2010-11.
8. Onondaga County traffic fatalities of all types increased by 9 between 2006-10.

9. Bicycle fatalities in Onondaga County decreased by .5 per 100,000 between 2008-10.
10. Syracuse had a 4% increase in average price of domestic airfare between 2000-11.
11. JFK Airport in NYC NY was the number one passenger destination served by Syracuse Hancock International Airport in 2012.

Planning

1. There has been an 11% decrease in population in the city of Syracuse from 1990-2010 and a 5% increase in Onondaga County towns during the same period.
2. Towns in Onondaga County saw an increase in population of just over 5% between 1990-2010.
3. There has been a 10% decrease in the amount of farms in Onondaga County between 1987-2007.
4. There was a 4% decrease in farmland acreage in Onondaga County between 2002-07.

Health and Human Services

1. Onondaga County has higher incidences of certain cancers in males per 100,000 than males throughout the state, 2005-09.
2. Breast cancer is the most prevalent cancer among females in Onondaga County, with a rate of 134 per 100,000.
3. Males in Onondaga County experienced the highest lung cancer rates at 98 per 100,000 in 2005-09, when compared to nearby counties.
4. Females in Onondaga County had the highest rates of lung cancer at 76 per 100,000 in 2005-09, when compared to nearby counties.
5. Childhood cancer rate in Onondaga County were of 173 per 100,000 in 2005-09, lower than two other nearby counties.
6. 8.5 HIV Cases per 100,000 were newly diagnosed in Onondaga County, 2004-06.
7. 7.3 cases of 100,000 were newly diagnosed in Onondaga County, 2007-09.
8. Men in Onondaga County face the highest leukemia rate at 24 per 100,000.
9. Women in Erie County face the highest leukemia incidence rate at 13 per 100,000.
10. 34% of adults in Onondaga County have been diagnosed with arthritis, 2008-09.
11. 8.1% of adults in Onondaga County have been diagnosed with diabetes, 2008-09.

12. Onondaga and Monroe counties have the highest percentage of adults diagnosed with diabetes at 11%, compared to nearby counties in 2009-10.
13. Adults diagnosed with diabetes in Onondaga County have risen 6% from 2006 to 2010.
14. Black children in Onondaga County face the highest asthma hospitalizations rates at 19.5 per 10,000.
15. Onondaga County has the second highest percentage of adults diagnosed with asthma at 12%.
16. 31 out of every 1,000 females in Onondaga County ages 15-17 are pregnant.
17. 46% of births in Onondaga County are born out of wedlock.
18. Blacks in Onondaga County face the highest infant mortality rates at 15.6 per 1,000 births.
19. Onondaga County had the second highest incidence of suicides per 100,000 from 2008-2010 at 26.
20. 20% of adults in Onondaga County smoke cigarettes.
21. 21% of Onondaga County reports binge drinking at least once.
22. 47% of people under the age of 18 in Syracuse receive public assistance.
23. Syracuse, New York has a higher percentage of minors receiving public assistance than New York State and the surrounding Onondaga County.
24. Onondaga County has the second lowest percentage of minors receiving public assistance at 24%.
25. 86% of adults in Onondaga County have a regular health care provider.
26. 9.1% of the Syracuse population receives Medicaid.
27. 91% of Adults in Onondaga County have health care coverage.
28. 15% of adults in Onondaga County did not receive medical care because of cost.
29. 95.4% of children in Onondaga County have had health insurance in 2010.
30. Syracuse, New York has a lower percentage of hospice utilization by Medicare beneficiaries than New York State.
31. Onondaga County has the lowest amount of health profession shortages compared to nearby counties.
32. Monroe County has the highest mean admission emergency room wait time to among the compared counties at 512 minutes.

33. Onondaga County has the highest average emergency room wait time until seen by a doctor among the geographic locations compared at 53 minutes, 47% higher than the mean statewide wait time in 2011-12.
34. 74% of adults in Onondaga County have had a dental visit in the past year.
35. 82% of seniors (65+) in Onondaga County have had a flu vaccination in within 12 months of 2010.
36. 77% of hospital patients in Onondaga County received influenza vaccinations in 2011-12, which is 9% lower than the statewide mean.
37. 83% of in Onondaga County hospital patients received pneumonia vaccinations in 2011-12, slightly lower than the statewide mean.
38. 75% of the 18,402 food desert population in Onondaga County has low access to nutritious foods.
39. 34% of people with low access to nutritious foods in Onondaga County are minors.
40. 10% of people with low access to nutritious foods in Onondaga County are elderly.
41. 26% of Onondaga County has low access to grocery stores, which is the tied for the lowest ratio with Erie County.
42. Albany County has the lowest ratio of fast food restaurants to total restaurants among the compared counties.
43. Onondaga County has the second lowest SNAP benefits per capita, which is \$18.
44. Onondaga County has the highest WIC redemptions per capita at \$15.
45. 34% of adults in Onondaga County ate 5 or more fruits or vegetables per day.
46. 31.6% of adults in Onondaga County are considered to be overweight.
47. From 2009 to 2010, there was a 10% decrease in adults in Onondaga County who did not exercise.
48. 17% of adults in Onondaga County did not exercise in over 30 days in 2010.
49. 80% of Onondaga County adults did not participate in leisure time physical activity in the preceding 30 days, the lowest of the four counties compared in 2008-09.
50. 33% of students in Onondaga County are overweight or obese, higher than those in neighboring counties.
51. 14% of children in the Women, Infants and Children Program in Onondaga County were considered obese in 2008-10.

52. Onondaga County is the only county with an increase in recreation and fitness facilities out of the counties evaluated from 2007 to 2009.

Housing

1. 16% of housing units in Syracuse were vacant in 2011, a 1% increase from the previous year.
2. In 2011, Syracuse had the lowest percent of vacancies at 16%.
3. 10.6% of housing units in Onondaga County were vacant in 2011.
4. In 2011, 50% of the housing units in Syracuse were built in 1939 or before.
5. In 2011, 26% of housing units in Onondaga County were built in or before 1939.
6. 873 housing units were built in the city of Syracuse in 2005 or later, which is just over 1% of the total number of housing units in the city, 2001.
7. In 2011, Onondaga County had 4,613 units built in 2005 or later.
8. 59% of the occupied housing units in Syracuse were rented in 2011, a percentage that has been very consistent when contrasted to owner-occupied units since 2005.
9. The 2011 breakdown of renters versus owners in occupied housing of 59% renters in Syracuse is comparable in nearby cities.
10. 66% of occupied housing units in Onondaga County are owner-occupied, similar to the three nearby counties with which Onondaga was compared in 2011.
11. 70% of housing units in Syracuse cost between \$700 - \$1,499 a month in 2011.
12. In 2011, the median monthly owner cost in Syracuse was \$1,079.
13. \$693 is the median rent in the city of Syracuse for 2011, an 18% increase from 2005.
14. Between 2007-11 Syracuse had a 41% rate of homeownership, comparable to the other three cities.
15. \$84,600 is the median housing value in the city of Syracuse in 2011, 12.5% higher than housing values in 2005.
16. The median housing values in the city of Albany, at \$179,600, is 112% higher than the median housing value in Syracuse, 2007-11.
17. Over half of the owner occupied housing units in the city of Syracuse are valued at \$50-90,000 in 2011.
18. The median housing value in Albany County was \$207,300, 72% higher than Onondaga County in 2011.

19. East Syracuse had the highest property taxes out of all the Onondaga County villages in 2012 at \$5,922.
20. Geddes had the highest property taxes out of all the Onondaga County towns in 2012 at \$5,575.
21. In 2011, 21% of units in Syracuse had 6 rooms; most units had 4-6 rooms.
22. In 2011, 34% of housing units in Syracuse had 3 bedrooms.
5. Onondaga County Residential & Commercial consumed the most water in 2011 with 6, 267 million gallons.
6. Water consumption in Onondaga County decreased by 10% in 2011 from 2007.
7. The average daily water consumption in Onondaga County increased 10.4% from 2007-10.
8. There has been an 8% decrease in total water use in Onondaga County between 2008-10.
9. The average cost per 1000 gallons of water in Onondaga County increased by \$1.24 between 2007-11.
10. New York State ranked 50th out of 51 for per capita energy consumption in 2010.
11. Syracuse has 28 LEED Certified Projects.

Public Safety

1. There was a 6% decline in index crimes in Syracuse from 2010 to 2011.
2. There were 422 fewer index crimes in Syracuse in 2011 than in 2010 and 1,615 fewer than in 2006.
3. Index crimes in Onondaga County dropped by 1% between 2010-11.
4. There was a 15% decline in violent crime in Syracuse from 2002 to 2012.
5. There was a 1% increase in violent crime in Syracuse from 2010 to 2011.
6. There was a 3% increase violent crime in Onondaga County from 2010 to 2011.
7. 16 is the median number of murders in the city of Syracuse from 2000-12.
8. There were 4 fewer murders in Syracuse in 2011 than there were in 2010.
9. There was an 18% decline in murders in Onondaga County from 2010 to 2011.
10. There was a 16% increase in the number of rapes reported in Syracuse from 2011 to 2012.
11. 66 is the median number of rapes reported in the city of Syracuse between 2006-11.

12. There was an 8% increase in rape in Onondaga County from 2010 to 2011.
13. There was a 16% increase in robbery in Syracuse from 2011 to 2012.
14. There was a 3% increase in robbery in Syracuse from 2010 to 2011.
15. There was a 27% decrease in the number of robberies reported in the city of Syracuse between 2006-11. Declines in the number of robberies are also evident in some nearby cities.
16. The number of robberies reported in Onondaga County in 2011 increased by only one from the previous year.
17. There was a 6% decrease in aggravated assaults in Syracuse from 2011 to 2012.
18. There was a 1% increase in aggravated assaults in Syracuse from 2010 to 2011.
19. Reports of aggravated assault has decreased by 7% between 2006-11 in Syracuse.
20. There was a 4% increase in number of cases of aggravated assault reported in Onondaga County from 2010 to 2011, while three neighboring counties saw a decrease.
21. There has been a 36% drop in the number of larcenies reports in the city of Syracuse from 2000 to 2012.
22. There was a 3% increase in larcenies in Syracuse from 2010 to 2011.
23. There were 94 more larcenies in Syracuse in 2011 than there were in 2010.
24. There was a 3% increase in larcenies in Onondaga County from 2010 to 2011.
25. There was 77% decline in motor vehicle thefts in Syracuse from 2002 to 2012.
26. There was a 16% decrease in motor vehicle thefts in Syracuse from 2010 to 2011.
27. There was a 58% drop in motor vehicle thefts in Syracuse in 2011 from 2006
28. There was an 8% decline in motor vehicle thefts in Onondaga County from 2010 to 2011.
29. The total number of index crimes in Syracuse was 39% higher in the summer than the fall in 2011.
30. There was a 55% decline in arson in Syracuse from 2000 to 2012.
31. There has been an 18% increase in the incidence of possession of marijuana from 2000 to 2012.
32. There has been a 62% drop in drug possession/use in Syracuse from 2010-12.

33. There has been a 69% decrease in the sale/manufacture of controlled substances in Syracuse from 2000 to 2012.
34. There was a 49% drop in the sale/manufacture of marijuana in Syracuse from 2000 to 2012.
35. Possession/use of dangerous weapons in Syracuse has decreased 75% from 2010 to 2012.

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Introduction

The foundation of the community indicators project, now known as CNY Vitals, was established in 2000 by Chuckie Holstein, executive director of FOCUS Greater Syracuse with her vision and collaboration with the United Way of CNY and two now defunct organizations. The purpose was to inform citizens and government officials of where progress is occurring in the city of Syracuse and Onondaga County as well as where we have stagnated or fell behind.

In 2005, Chuckie asked the Community Benchmarks Program (CBP) to update the report, and again in 2010. Each time, the number of pages and indicators grew. In 2011, the CNY Community Foundation joined the collaboration and expanded the effort by introducing the CNY Vitals website at <http://cnyvitals.org/onondaga/>, which posts all the charts and data collected along with the print version of the report. Since then, the CBP has agreed to dedicate a class annually to updating data and searching for new indicators to post.

Methods

Researchers involved with CNY Vitals collected data from the Internet, particularly through the US Census Bureau, as well as printed reports provided by area agencies. The data were used to update exist indicators and add new information to the nine categories:

1. Arts, Culture & Recreation
2. Civic Engagement & Government
3. Demographics
4. Economy
5. Education

6. Environment, Transportation,
and Planning
7. Health & Human Services
8. Housing
9. Public Safety

The information for each category was selected to convey a snapshot of Central New York in comparison to other geographic areas and over time. Some of the sources include: the NYS Division of Budget, NYS Department of Health, and NYS Education Department. Additionally, data from the US Census Bureau, specifically the American Community Survey, and decennial census data for multiple decades were used. Most of the data from the American Community Survey were 5-year estimates to provide for greater accuracy.

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.

Table of Contents

Arts, Culture & Recreation	28
Civic Engagement & Government	52
Demographics	61
Economy	128
Education	199
Environment, Transportation & Planning	260
Health & Human Services	306
Housing	360
Public Safety	386