

Onondaga County Community Indicators

2010 Abridged Report

Introduction

The 2010 Community Indicators Report highlights how Onondaga County compares to the past and to other geographic areas. This report consolidates information on the trends and issues facing county residents to generate discussion, celebrate success and stimulate interest in collecting and reporting data. The report is not exhaustive and will expand as more data become available.

In addition to the city of Syracuse, Onondaga County has 19 towns, 15 villages and 18 school districts. There is an estimated population of 452,633.

One of the main economic engines supporting the county is the abundance of higher education facilities. The county is home to Syracuse University (SU), 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. There are

another 35 schools of higher learning within a 100-mile radius of Onondaga County.

The county is rich in recreational and cultural activities, offering events, venues and performing arts companies such as the Syracuse Symphony and New York State Fair. Other highlights include Alliance Bank Stadium—home of the Syracuse Chiefs—the SU Dome and the Oncenter Complex, war memorial, civic center and museums. Throughout the county there is a wealth of golf courses, skating rinks, community centers, over 50 local, county and state parks and a zoo featuring over 1,000 animals. Almost every summer weekend, free entertainment, arts and crafts and ethnic festivals are offered in downtown Syracuse and throughout the county.

This report shows how the county has changed and can be used to identify what areas need to be improved. More data can be found in the full report.

Aging

After working in and contributing to a region for much of their lives, the aging want certain amenities upon retirement. In Onondaga County there is an abundance of housing options and nursing home beds. There are also programs such as the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage in place to help seniors pay for medication. Along with the positive, Onondaga County is faring poorly in some areas. The mortality rate in Onondaga County is higher than in New York State and the US, and seniors in the city of Syracuse are more likely to have disabilities than those throughout the state.

Culture & Recreation

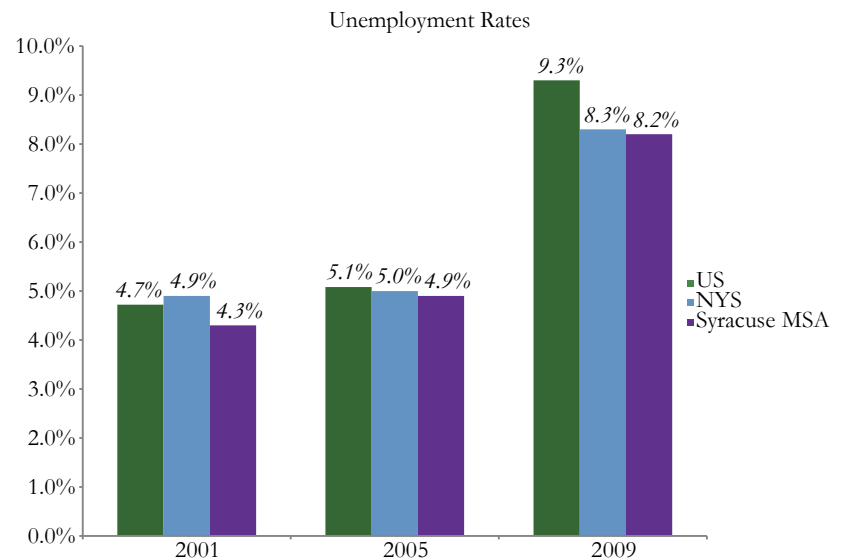
Onondaga County offers a variety of recreational and cultural activities. There are many events, venues and performing arts companies in the area. Some of which include the Syracuse Symphony, New York State Fair, Alliance Bank Stadium and the SU Dome. The Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, the Everson Museum of Art, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo and the Great New York State Fair bring in patrons from around New York State and the country. The many parks in Onondaga County provide camping, miles of hiking trails, and winter and water sports. These options allow people in Onondaga County to be active year-round.

Economy

The economy was one of the central issues in the 2008 presidential election and is still a hot topic in Central New York. A healthy economy is essential for a community to grow in population.

Unemployment Rate

The Bureau of Labor Statistics defines the unemployment rate as the ratio of “the total aggregated unemployed to the labor force.” The unemployment rate is the percentage of people in the labor force who are actively seeking employment but do not have jobs.



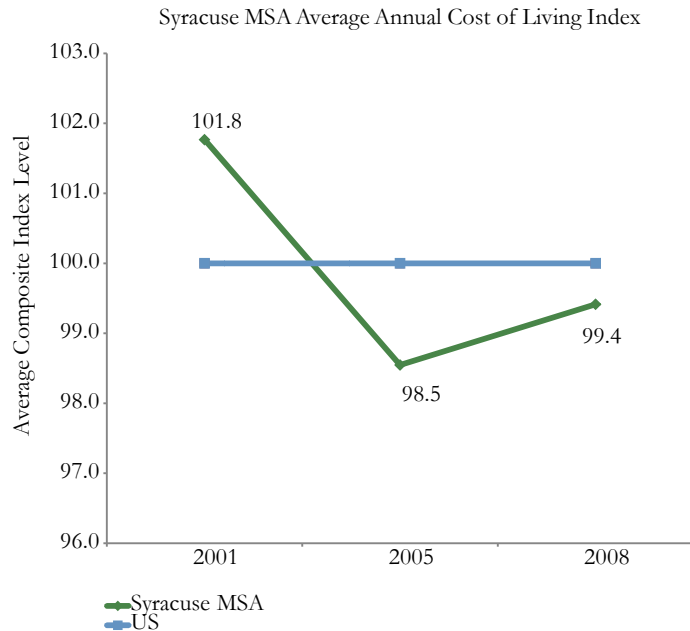
Source: New York State Department of Labor, US Bureau of Labor Statistics

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.

Economy

Cost of Living

Cost of Living Index (COLI) measures the aggregate average price for certain goods sold in a region. The baseline for the COLI is the national level, which is always 100. Thus, a region's composite average is measured relative to the national baseline. If the COLI is above the average, this indicates that, generally, the included goods are more expensive than the national level.

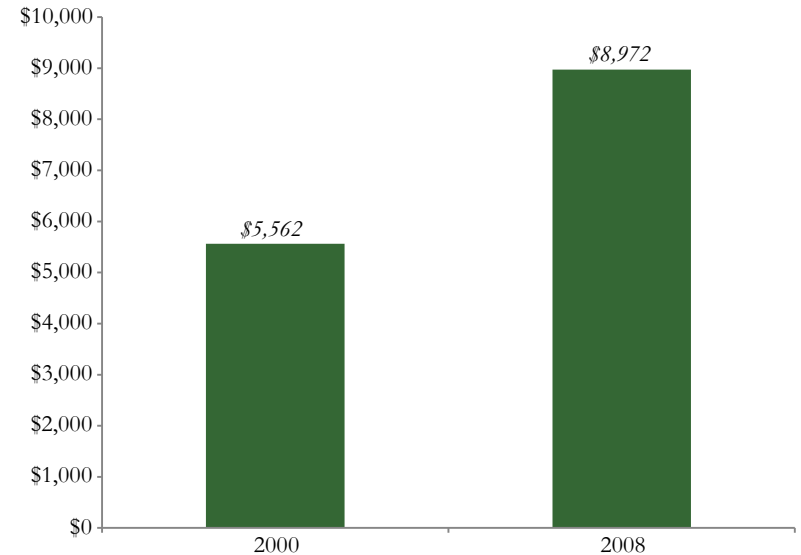


Source: The Council for Community and Economic Research

Per Capita Federal Spending in Onondaga County

Per capita federal spending measures the amount the federal government contributes to services and programs for each person in Onondaga County. Per capita federal spending in Onondaga County rose by 61% between 2000 and 2008.

Per Capita Federal Spending in Onondaga County



Source: US Census Bureau: Consolidated Federal Funds Report: Fiscal Year(s) 2000 and 2008 and 2006-08 American Community Survey

Education

Education is a vital part of every community. Children and adults attend academic and vocational institutions to gain knowledge and skills that are vital to the growth and economic vitality of the area.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment measures the highest degree or the highest level of education completed for residents 25 and older. Obtaining a high school diploma or college degree opens the door to many job opportunities. Educational attainment is important; a well-educated and diverse work force may attract more employers to the area.

The percentage of residents with a high school diploma or higher and Bachelor's degree or higher has increased in all geographic areas. New York State had a larger increase in residents with higher levels of educational attainment than did Onondaga County and the city of Syracuse, but increases at geographic every level are a positive indicator.

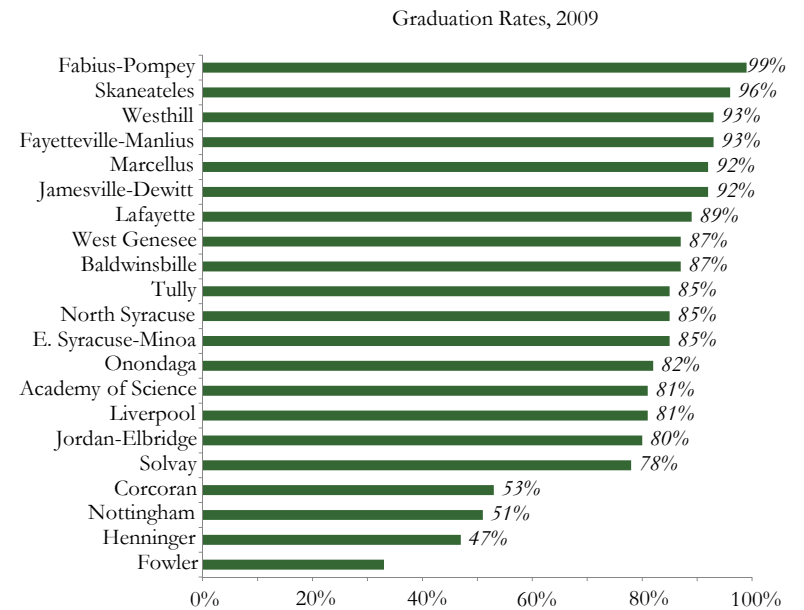
	2000	2006-08e
New York		
High School Diploma or Higher	79%	84%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	27%	32%
Syracuse MSA		
High School Diploma or Higher	N/A	89%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	N/A	29%
Onondaga County		
High School Diploma or Higher	86%	89%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	29%	32%
City of Syracuse		
High School Diploma or Higher	76%	80%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	23%	26%

Comment: Data are unavailable for 2000 Syracuse MSA statistics. Data are rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Education

Graduation Rates

The graduation rates to the right represent the percentage of students who began ninth grade in 2005 and graduated by the summer of 2009. Schools with higher graduation rates will likely attract more students and better teachers. In 2009, the majority of high schools in Onondaga County had four-year graduation rates of over 75%. The Syracuse City School District, however, graduated only 50% of its students in that period.



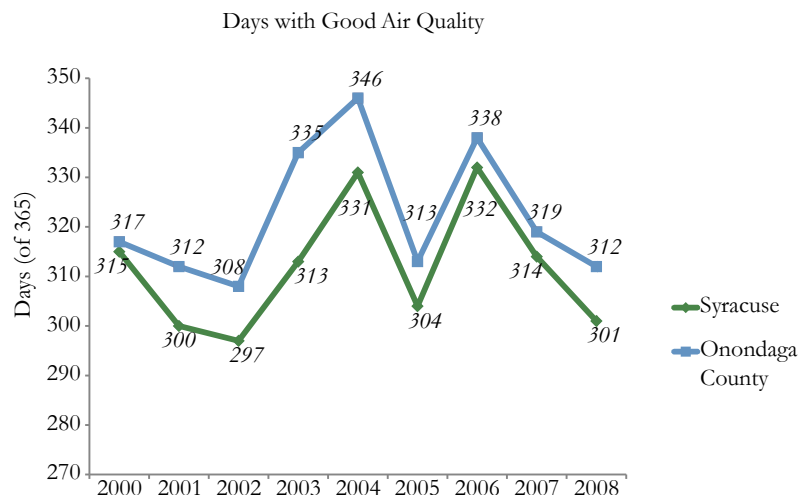
Source: Syracuse Post-Standard

Environment

Syracuse has become known as ‘The Emerald City’ because of increasing use of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) buildings, and innovation from Syracuse University and SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry and area environmental firms.

Air Quality

AIRNow, a branch of the Environmental Protection Agency, provides public information about air quality and potential risks. The Air Quality Index (AQI) demonstrates the number of days which the EPA has determined as having an unhealthy level. AQI is measured on a 0-500 scale with 0-50 representing ‘good’ air quality. The index measures levels of major air pollutants outlined in the Clean Air Act such as: ground-level ozone, particle pollution, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. Between 2006-08, the number of days of good air quality has decreased in the city of Syracuse and Onondaga County.



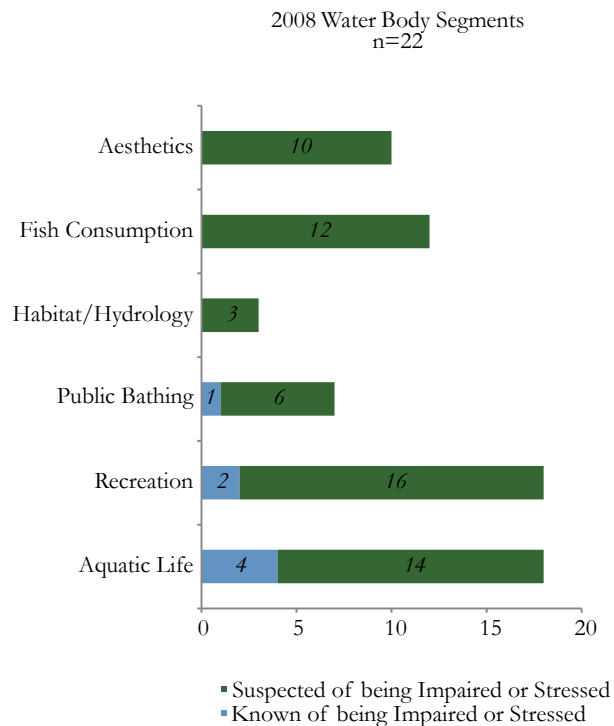
Comment: The above graph begins on the two hundred and seventieth day of the year in order to preserve the quality of the graph.

Source: Environmental Protection Agency: Air Quality Index

Environment

Water Quality

As part of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), the Division of Water maintains water quality reports of regional water body segments with regard to various categories of use. The degree of severity of the water quality problem is categorized in the following terms of use: (in decreasing order) Precluded, Impaired, Stressed, and Threatened. This graph presents only bodies of water that were impaired or stressed.



Source: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 2008

Government

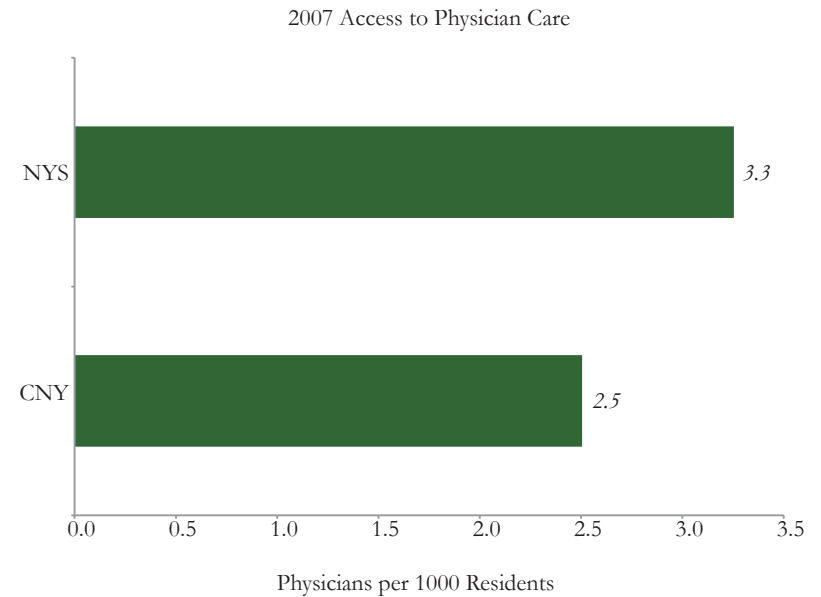
2010 has been financially challenging for Syracuse and Onondaga County. Debt per capita has increased in recent years in both the city and the county. The number of children and adults registered for government programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Medicare has increased. In Onondaga County the number of registered voters exceeds the number of active voters, which indicates that not all registered voters participate in government elections.

Health

Individual health 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 business.

Access to Physician Care

Access to care is often dependent on the number of physicians practicing in a given area. “Physicians” are defined as those who are licensed by and participating in New York State, based on the latest data collected from the Center for Health Workforce Studies’ ongoing New York State Physician Licensure Re-registration Survey. Syracuse is a recognized leader in health care, with many quality health facilities and options available relative to the population of the area.



Comment: Available data could be disaggregated to represent Central New York only. The Central New York Region includes Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga and Oswego counties. Population figures are based on 2006 US Census estimates.

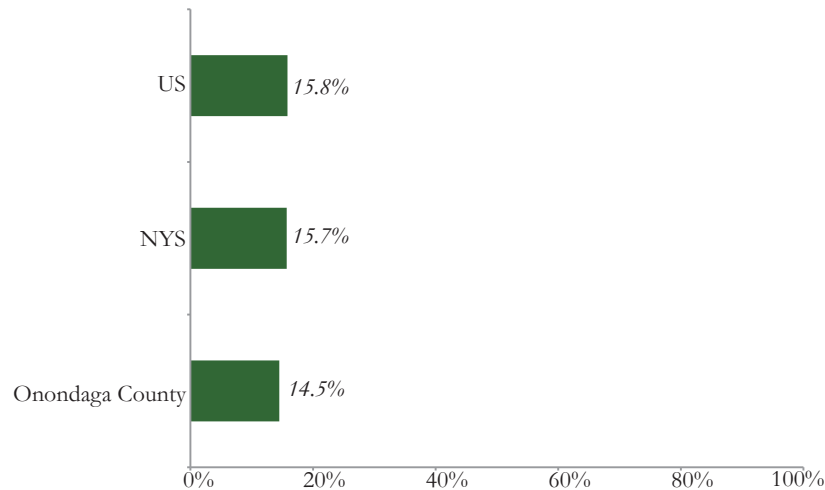
Source: Annual New York Physician Workforce Profile, The New York Health Workforce Data System, The Center for Health Workforce Studies at the University at Albany, State University of New York, 2007

Health

The Uninsured

To keep track of the percent of uninsured the Census Bureau's Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) program produces estimates of health insurance coverage for states and all counties. Onondaga County is performing well in terms of its uninsured population compared to state and national percentages.

2006 Percent Uninsured



Comment: The percent of uninsured is calculated by dividing the total number without insurance (government or private) by the total number of individuals in the geographic statistical area.

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

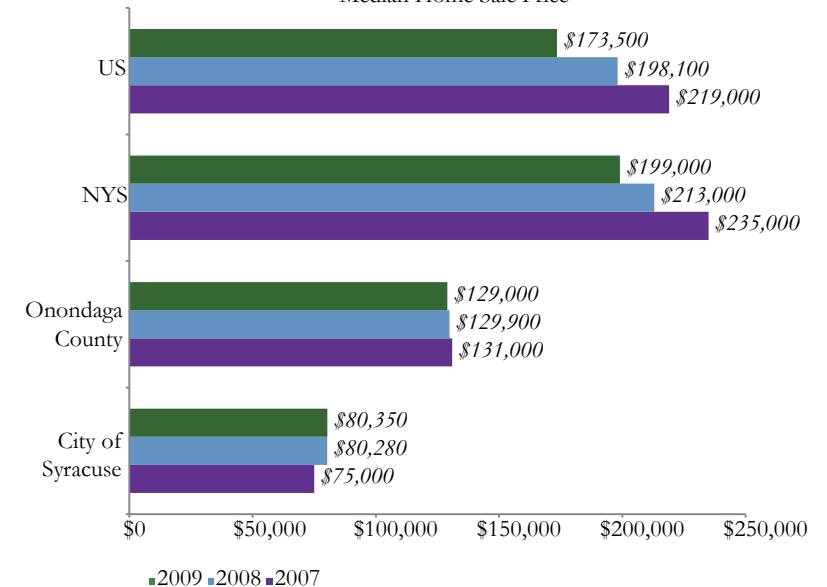
Housing

Housing indicators illustrate an area's economic health, desirability, quality of life and affordability. Purchase and rental prices are well below state and national averages.

Median Home Sale Price

The term "median home sale price" represents the middle value of home sales in one year. Although median home sale prices decreased steadily in New York State and across the United States in between 2007 and 2009, city of Syracuse and Onondaga County prices remained relatively flat.

Median Home Sale Price



Source: 2000 US Census, 2010, 2007-09 Greater Syracuse Association of Realtors, 2010

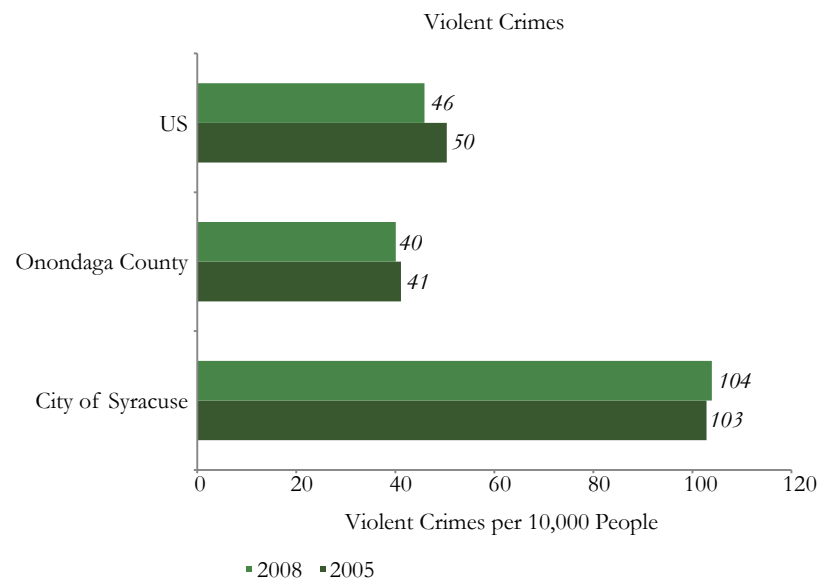
Public Safety

Neighborhood safety is a top concern for area residents. Crime not only has a major impact on victims, but also disrupts the larger community. High crime rates, in addition to lowering property values, can scare away potential home-buyers and business owners.

Violent Crimes

Violent crimes are separated into the following four different categories by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI): murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault. The level of violent crimes reflects the safety of a neighborhood.

Between 2000 and 2008, the rate of violent crimes stayed relatively consistent in the United States, Onondaga County and the city of Syracuse. Onondaga County has fewer violent crimes per 10,000 people than the United States. The city of Syracuse, however, has an alarmingly high violent crime rate per 10,000 people, more than double that of Onondaga County and the United States.



Comment: The population numbers used to compute the rate per 10,000 for 2008 are from the 2008 estimated Census data, and for 2005 they are the exact numbers collected in the 2000 Census.

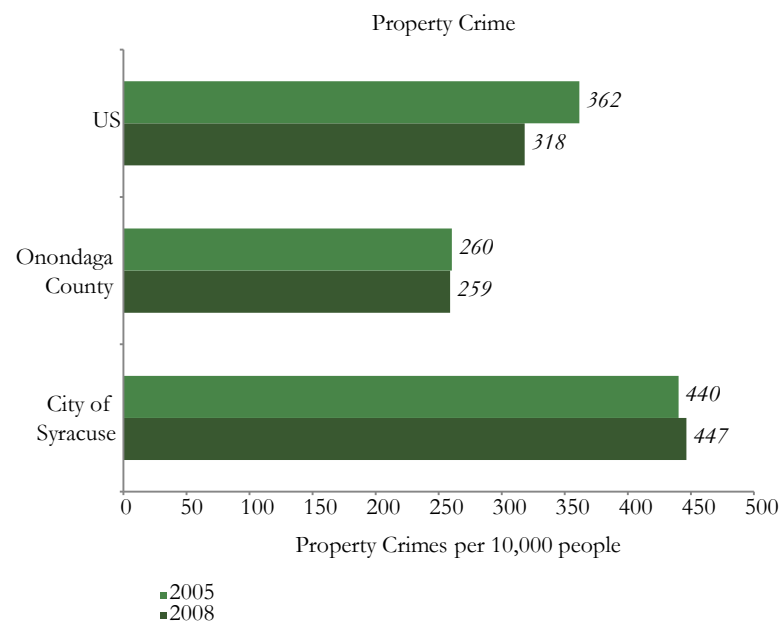
Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Crime Reporting Unit

Public Safety

Property Crimes

Property crimes are offenses related to other people's personal possessions. Like violent crimes, property crimes are separated into the following four different categories by the FBI: burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson. Property crimes affect the safety of a community.

Between 2000 and 2008, the rate of property crimes per 10,000 people stayed relatively consistent in the United States, Onondaga County and the city of Syracuse. Although Onondaga County's rate of property crimes per 10,000 people is lower than the national rate, the rate for the city of Syracuse is noticeably higher and also increased.



Comment: The population numbers used to compute the rate per 10,000 for 2008 are from the 2008 estimated Census data, and for 2005 they are from the 2000 Census.

Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Crime Reporting Unit

Transportation

Onondaga County is conveniently located at the intersection of Interstate 81 and the NYS Thruway. The Hancock International Airport and the William F. Walksh Regional Transportation Center serve the area. One of the prominent initiatives in Onondaga County is the inclusion of clean-air, hybrid buses in the Central New York Regional Transportation Authorities (CNYRTA) Centro fleet. Over the next several years, CNYRTA plans to introduce hybrid technology in the majority of their buses.

Youth

According to the Census Bureau's 2006-08 estimates, 25% of the population of Onondaga County is under the age of 18, with 5.9% under the age of five. The County youth face lower risk of poverty than others in the U.S. and New York State, but still suffer from higher rates of child abuse, maltreatment and arrest.

Acknowledgements

The Community Benchmark Program researchers would like to thank those who provided encouragement and data important to the completion of this project.

Charlotte “Chuckie” Holstein
Executive Director of FOCUS Greater Syracuse, and one of the founders of the original 2000 Community Indicators project.

John Eberle
Vice President of Grants & Community Initiatives for the CNY Community Foundation and the person who is the catalyst for bringing the Community Indicators project to the next level by making it web-based

Rhonda S. Cooper
Assistant Director, Bureau of Program Development and Review, NYS Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) Program

Alys Mann
Neighborhood Planning and GIS Manager,
Home Headquarters

David Paccone
Senior Management Analyst/ Research Tech II,
Syracuse Housing Authority

Denise Yerdon
Greater Syracuse Association of Relators

Carol Terry
Syracuse City School District Coordinator of
Fine Arts

Full List of Indicators

The following is an exhaustive list of the indicators that are found in the full version of the Onondaga County Community Indicators Report. Sources appear in italics.

Aging

1. Population Living in Poverty
US Census Bureau, 2005-2008 est.
2. Percent with Disability
US Census Bureau, 2000 & 2006-2008 est.
3. Senior Housing Options in Onondaga County
Onondaga County Department of Youth and Aging, 2007
4. Nursing Home Beds per 1,000 Seniors
Statehealthfacts.org and US Census Bureau, 2000-2008
5. Number of Medicare Enrollees
US Department of Health and Human Services, 2004-07
6. EPIC Enrollment
New York State Department of Health, EPIC Program
7. Senior Mortality
New York State Department of Health, Death Statistics (New York) and The Centers for Disease; Control National Vital Statistics Report (US)

Culture & Recreation

1. Art Galleries
2. Festivals
3. Museums
4. Theater/Music
5. Zoo
6. Art Grants
New York State Council on the Arts, 2010, nysca.org
7. Recreation
http://www.visitsyracuse.org/attractions/activity/sports

8. Parks Attendance
Onondaga County Parks Annual Report, 2006-08
9. Volunteer Hours
Onondaga County Parks Annual Report, 2006-08

Economy

1. Labor Force
New York State Department of Labor
2. Employment
New York State Department of Labor
3. Unemployment Rate
New York State Department of Labor, US Bureau of Labor Statistics
4. Employment Percentage by Sector
US Census Bureau: 2005-07 and 2006-08 American Community Survey
5. Employment and Percent Change by Industry
US Bureau of Labor Statistics
6. Net New Business Growth by Size
Small Business Administration
7. Median Annual Income
US Census Bureau: 2005-07 and, 2006-08 American Community Survey
8. Per Capita Federal Spending in Onondaga County
US Census Bureau: Consolidated Federal Funds Report: Fiscal Year(s) 2000 and 2008 and 2006-08 American Community Survey
9. Sales Tax Revenue
New York State Office of the State Comptroller
10. Cost of Living Index
New York State Office of the State Comptroller

Full List of Indicators

Education

1. Educational Attainment
US Census Bureau, 2000 & 2006-2008 est.
2. School Enrollment
US Census Bureau. 2006-08 est.
3. Per Pupil Spending
New York State Education Department, 655
4. Attendance
NYS Report Cards, Accountability and Overview Report, 2000-06
5. Suspension Rate
NYS Report Cards, Accountability and Overview Report, 2000-06.
6. Graduation Rates
Syracuse Post-Standard
7. LEP Rate
New York State Education Department, 655 Report
8. English and Mathematics Regent Exams
NYSED 655 Report, 2006
9. English Language Arts Exam
NYS Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse (KWIC) 2010
10. Mathematics Exam
NYS KWIC 2010

Environment

1. Pesticide Use
Pesticide Sales and Use Reporting – Cornell University Cooperative Extension and NY DEC
2. Recycling Rates
Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency Annual Report on Recyclables Recovered 2008

3. Per Capita Municipal Solid Waste
Environmental Protection Agency: Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling and Disposal in the United States
4. Sprawl
US Census 2000 Data
5. Toxics
Environmental Protection Agency: Toxic Release Index
6. Air Quality
Environmental Protection Agency: Air Quality Index
7. Water Violations
EPA Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)
8. Water Quality
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 2008
9. Water Treatment Levels
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 2004

Government

1. Expenditure by Sector
OSC Open Book NY; New York State office of the State Comptroller
2. Debt per Capita
OSC Open Book NY; New York State office of the State Comptroller
3. Registered Voters
New York State Board of Election, 2008
4. Active Voters
New York State; Board of Elections, 2008
5. Medicaid Eligible
New York State; Department of Health, 2009

Full List of Indicators

Government (continued)

6. Number of TANF Individuals
New York State; Department of Health, 2009
7. Online Access
Jenna Kristal, Syracuse University 2010
8. Cost Containment
U.S. Department of Lab; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2010

Health

1. Access to Physician Care
Annual New York Physician Workforce Profile, The New York Health Workforce Data System, The Center for Health Workforce Studies at the University at Albany, State University of New York, 2007
2. Hospitals
New York State Department of Health: Hospital Profiles, 2009
3. The Uninsured
United States Census Bureau's Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE), 2009
4. Obesity
New York State Department of Health Assessment Indicators, 2003, Center for Disease Control Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2003
5. Diabetes
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Diabetes Surveillance System, 2004-07
6. Smoking
New York State Department of Health County Health Assessment Indicators, 2003
7. Asthma
New York State Department of Health; Public Health Information Group, Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS,) 2000, 2006
8. Sexually Transmitted Diseases
New York State Department of Health, Sexually Transmitted Disease Data and Statistics
9. Cancer: Incidence Rates
New York State Department of Health County Assessment Indicators, 2002-06, National Cancer Institute Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results, 2002-06
10. Cancer: Detection
New York State Department of Health Expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2003, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Center for Health Statistics, 2003
11. Cancer: Mortality Rates
New York State Department of Health County Health Assessment Indicators, 2002-06, National Cancer Institute Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results, 2002-06
12. Cause of Death
New York State Department of Health, Vital Statistics, 2007
13. Mortality Rates
New York State Department of Health, Vital Statistics, 2007
14. Infant and Maternal Morality Rates
Kids Wellbeing Indicators Clearinghouse (KWIC), 2010

Housing

1. Age of Housing Structure
2006-08 American Community Survey; 2000 Census
2. Median Rent Values
US Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2010
3. Percent of Renter-Occupied Units
2006-08 American Community Survey; 2000 Census
4. Homeownership Rate
2005 American Community Survey; 2006-08 American Community Survey; 2009 American Community Survey; 2000 Census

Full List of Indicators

Housing (continued)

5. Rental Vacancy Rate
2005 American Community Survey; 2006-08 American Community Survey; 2009 American Community Survey; 2000 Census
6. Homeowner Vacancy Rate
2005 American Community Survey; 2006-08 American Community Survey; 2009 American Community Survey; 2000 Census
7. Median Home Sale Price
Greater Syracuse Association of Realtors, 2010
8. Number of Homes Sold
2007-09e US Census, 2010, 2007-09 Greater Syracuse Board of Realtors, 2010
9. Mortgage Lending
2009 USA Today, 2010, RealtyTrac, 2010
10. Public Housing Authority Inventory
Syracuse Housing Authority, 2010, City of Syracuse Consolidated Plan, 2009

Public Safety

1. Violent Crimes
NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Crime Reporting Unit
2. Property Crimes
NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Crime Reporting Unit
3. Domestic Violence
DCJS, Uniform Crime Reporting system (as of 1/2010).
4. DWI Incidents
2008 and 2005 Onondaga County Traffic Safety Data from the Institute of Traffic Safety Management and Research

5. Drug Crimes

NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Crime Reporting Unit

6. Number of Service Calls

Onondaga County Department of Emergency Communications, 2010

Transportation

1. Centro Ridership/Miles Traveled
Central New York Regional Transportation
2. Hancock International Airport
Hancock International Airport
3. Average Commute Time
U.S. Census Bureau, 2002-2008
4. Gasoline Sales
United States Energy Information Administration
5. Bridge Ratings
Source: New York State Department of Transportation

Youth

1. Percentage of Families with Children Living in Poverty
US Census, ACS 2008
2. Children Admitted to Foster Care
NYS Office of Children and Family Services; Child Care Review Service
3. Percent of Children Receiving Public Assistance
NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance; Bureau of Data Management and Analysis; Welfare Management System; United States Census.
4. Reports of Children Abused/Maltreated
New York State Office of Children and Family Services - National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS).

Full List of Indicators

Youth (continued)

5. Registered Child Care Centers
2007 Mapping Study on Child Care Solutions
6. Serious Child Care Violations
New York State Office of Children and Family Services
7. Adolescent Pregnancies
*NYS Department of Health; Bureau of Biometrics -
birth certificates and fetal death certificates*
8. Early Prenatal Care
*New York State Department of Health; Bureau of
Biometrics-birth certificates*
9. Low Birth Weights
New York State Department of Health Vital Statistics
10. Youth Arrests
New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

Contact

Carol Dwyer

Community Benchmarks Program Director
cdwyer@syr.edu | 315.443.3924
maxwell.syr.edu/benchmarks

Notes

