



# **Community Needs Assessment 2014**

## Introduction and Overview

Incorporated in 1968, PEACE, Inc. is a community action agency, with the mission of helping people in the community realize their potential for becoming self-sufficient. As a community action agency, PEACE, Inc. helps people become more self-sufficient by strengthening families, improving the conditions in which people live, encouraging people to own a stake in their own community, and developing partnerships with other organizations, businesses, and individuals to support these efforts.

PEACE, Inc. believes in the strength of the human spirit and is dedicated to changing lives by teaching people how to help themselves and support those around them. To this end, PEACE, Inc. provides a continuum of services for the entire family from infants to the elderly. The majority of the more than 15,000 individuals we serve annually have incomes placing them at or below the Federal Poverty Guideline. Funding comes from federal, state, and local government sources, as well as foundations, corporations and individuals.

The programs of PEACE, Inc. strive to offer high quality, innovative services that support individuals and families on their journey out of poverty. Those programs include the following:

- The **Early Head Start/Head Start Programs** work with and care for low-income pregnant women and children from birth to age 5.
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters** provides mentors for children.
- **Project Connection** offers child and youth services including an after school respite program for children with developmental disabilities, tutoring, and after-school activities.
- **Family Resource Centers** located through the county provide walk-in services to low-income families and individuals, each center tailoring its programs to local needs.
- **Energy & Housing Services** provides weatherization services to homeowners and renters in Onondaga County who meet the New York State H.E.A.P. guidelines.
- The **Foster Grandparent Program** offers senior citizens the opportunity to share their skills, talents and abilities with special needs children and young adults.
- **Senior Nutrition** provides nutritious, hot meals to senior throughout the county.
- The **DeFrancisco Eastwood Community Center** offers a variety of programs and activities including nutrition lunches, wellness programs, and day trips
- The **Earned Income Tax Credit Program** helps individuals with low to moderate incomes complete their tax returns. Volunteer tax preparers assist individuals file their taxes and obtain the many special credits and deductions available to them.

## Purpose

Every three years, PEACE, Inc. conducts a Community Needs Assessment as part of its ongoing management and strategic planning efforts. The needs assessment provides a comprehensive look at life in Onondaga County and will be used to realign the programs and services of PEACE, Inc. with the needs of the community to ensure that PEACE, Inc. is fulfilling its mission. The Community Needs Assessment will inform strategic decisions on programming strategies and priorities.

## Process

In preparing this assessment, the community needs assessment team reviewed and relied on census data, survey results and focus group findings. We gathered information from a variety of stakeholders through surveys and in-person meetings, and leveraged the focus group findings and raw data prepared by several community partners who have recently completed comprehensive assessments. We also utilized the original data developed in preparation of the 2013 PEACE, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start Community Assessment. Our primary resources include the following:

- Syracuse University Maxwell School, Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion, 2011 Community Health Needs Assessment (“Lerner Report”).  
<http://lernercenter.syr.edu/projects/Community%20Health%20Needs%20Assessment.html>
- CNY Vitals Spring 2013 Community Benchmark Program Report. See Attachment A. (“CNY Vitals”).  
<http://cnyvitals.org/onondaga/files/CNY-Vitals-IntroductionAcknowledgements-and-Table-of-Contents.pdf>
- U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates, 2007-2011. (“Census Report”).
- United Way of Central New York, 2013 Community Needs Assessment. See Attachment B (“United Way Assessment”) <http://unitedway-cny.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/CNA4-19-13-.pdf>.
- PEACE, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start 2013 Community Assessment. See Attachment C. (“HS/EHS Report” or “HS/EHS Assessment”).
- Onondaga Citizens League Study Report, the World at Our Doorstep, 2012 (“OCL Report on Refugees”). <http://onondagacitizensleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/OCL-Refugees-2013-w-final.pdf>
- PEACE, Inc. Staff Survey on Community Needs. See Attachment D.

The Board of Directors and staff will use the results of this assessment to realign the programs of PEACE, Inc. to better fulfill our mission. PEACE, Inc. will engage in a deliberative process to consider the identified needs in our community as they correlate to the agency’s available resources and programming strengths.

## Findings

### Population

According to CNY Vitals, the median age of an individual living in Onondaga County is 30 years old, 62% of the population reporting their race as “White” and 64% reported living in a married family household. The median age of a person living in the City of Syracuse is 39 years old, 84% of the population reporting their race as “White” and 39% of Syracuse residents reported living in a married family household.

The number of **refugee families** relocating to Syracuse continues to increase. In 2013, the Onondaga Citizens League engaged in a yearlong study and community discussion on refugees. (Onondaga Citizens League, 2012 Study Report, The World at Our Doorstep <http://onondagacitizensleague.org/blog/studies/study-archive/the-world-at-our-doorstep/2012-executive-summary/>). The average number of refugees settling in Syracuse increased from 450 to 800 per year. The refugee population tends to be young with 52% under the age of 25. The needs of this population include

job training, literacy, housing, and education. Many of the refugee families locate on the Northside of Syracuse. While the two official refugee resettlement agencies in Onondaga County are Catholic Charities and Interfaith Works, many other community groups are providing services for these families. PEACE, Inc. HS/EHS staff created a program for the refugees who are parents of HS/EHS students to engage in literacy education and job training.

In the City of Syracuse, **50% of households headed by single mothers were living in poverty**, that is significantly higher than the state average of 37%. In addition, 50% of the children under the age of 5 living in the City of Syracuse are living in poverty. (CNY Vitals, at IV, Finding 19). This disparity suggests the need for additional analysis of the special situations of these vulnerable populations and identification of programming to alleviate their financial distress.

## Income and Employment

Stable employment for a **livable wage** is a critical need in Central New York. With respect to employment, the United Way Assessment found that “employment is one of the most pressing needs in this area.” (United Way Assessment at 28). It also identified “help in finding a job” and “training programs for employment” as two of the three most pressing needs in the area of income. (*Id.*)

It is notable that four of the top ten employers in CNY are healthcare agencies: Upstate University Health System, St. Joseph’s Hospital and Health Center, Crouse Hospital and Loretto. While our community is generating high quality jobs in the healthcare field, there seems to be a **need for job training** for these positions, especially for the low income population.

United Way community focus groups recognized **the importance of vocational training** and discussed the need to tailor job training opportunities to jobs currently available in Central New York. (*Id.* at 29). Other barriers to employment were lack of childcare, lack of transportation, and criminal records. Similarly, the Head Start Assessment found that 28% of respondents indicated an interest in improving or changing their current job status. Respondents believed that before and afterschool care, more education, a GED or high school diploma, improved English skills or improved reading and writing skills would help them to improve their employment outlook. In addition, the Lerner Focus Groups identified lack of trained healthcare workers as a weakness in our community. (Lerner at 7).

As reported on Syracuse.com, the Syracuse area (consisting of Madison, Oswego and Onondaga counties) added 4,100 more jobs in December of 2013 as compared to December, 2012. (See [http://blog.syracuse.com/news/print.html?entry=/2014/01/syracuse\\_area\\_gained\\_more\\_than\\_4000\\_jobs\\_last\\_year.html](http://blog.syracuse.com/news/print.html?entry=/2014/01/syracuse_area_gained_more_than_4000_jobs_last_year.html)) **The biggest employment gains were in education and health services (gain of 2,400 jobs) and the largest loss was in manufacturing (loss of 700 jobs)**. Other job gains were noted in trade, transportation, utilities, and leisure and hospitality sectors. The community needs to tailor job training and education to serve the current job market.

**Income varies greatly between ethnic and racial groups.** According to the CNY Vitals, 38% of black/African American families, 34% of American Indian or Alaska Native families, 43% of Asian families, and 43% of Hispanic/Latino families had household incomes below the poverty level from 2007-2011. During the same period 14% of white families were living below the poverty level. (CNY Vitals, at IV).

**Financial literacy**, the ability to effectively handle money, was identified by the United Way focus groups participants as a need in the community. Participants suggested financial education aimed at middle school students. (United Way Assessment at 30).

## Education and Childcare

While there are many options for early childcare and education in our community, **high quality early childhood programming can be expensive and childcare often becomes an obstacle to employment.**

The United Way Assessment identified access to high quality, affordable childcare and early childhood education as one of their key findings in education, saying “almost 30% of survey respondents seeking childcare or preschool services were unable to access them and the costs of these services were beyond the means of many low income parents.” (United Way Assessment at 4).

**The cost of providing services to school age children with disabilities** represents a large percentage of the school budgets. One of the “findings” of the CNY Vitals Report was that 70% of mean per pupil spending in the 19 school districts in Onondaga County in 2010-11 is for special education. (CNY Vitals Report, p. IX Education Finding no. 4).

**Graduation rates for the city of Syracuse are significantly lower than the rest of the county.** The Syracuse City School District graduation rate was 52% in 2010-2011 while the remaining districts in Onondaga County had a graduation rate of 88%. The community recognizes the significance of the problem but, as of yet has not been able to increase the number of graduates.

It is noteworthy that the State is requiring **significant changes to three Syracuse City Schools** (Fowler High School, Delaware Elementary and Hughes Elementary) which were designated as “persistently low achieving schools” and failed to improve significantly. The plan for Fowler High School, the city high school with the lowest graduation rate, includes a new focus on career and educational vocational tracks, possibly with a focus on training for positions in public safety. (See [http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2014/04/fowler\\_high\\_school\\_delaware\\_elementary\\_syracuse\\_school\\_changes.html](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2014/04/fowler_high_school_delaware_elementary_syracuse_school_changes.html)).

## Housing

The recent census data reports that there are 116,810 homeowners in Onondaga County. Twenty six percent of the homes in the county were built before 1939. In the City of Syracuse 50% of the homes were built prior to 1939. (See below at p 41). With such a **high volume of older homes**, weatherization, modernization and general upkeep are important to maintaining the quality of housing.

**Vacant homes** have become an increasing concern in the City of Syracuse where, in 2011, 16% of housing units were vacant. (See below at 42).

While housing tends to be affordable, it is noteworthy that 58% of Syracuse renters and 51% of Onondaga County renters spend at least **30% of their annual income on rent.** (HS/EHS Report at 36).

## Healthcare

**Hospital care is a asset** in our community. Five large medical centers are located within Syracuse: Upstate University Hospital, Upstate University Hospital Community Campus, Crouse Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital and Health Center and the Syracuse Veterans Affairs Medical Center. As referenced in the HS/EHS Report, "[t]hese hospitals are accredited by numerous national foundations and organizations, with special recognition for stroke care, the latest advancements in robotic surgery, children's hospital, diabetes program, epilepsy center, cancer, cardiac care, joint replacement, and obstetrics. (HS/EHS Report at 4).

In Onondaga County, 91% of adults have **Health Care Coverage**. The Affordable Care Act and related enrollment efforts are expected to have a substantial impact on those numbers. In addition to the effort to increase the number of insured, the healthcare community recognizes the health benefit of maintaining a relationship with a regular healthcare provider. The Health Home initiative seeks to link patients with one central healthcare provider for general wellness and health care and additional community supports as needed. (See below at 45).

**Mental Healthcare** is identified as a significant need in the community. The United Way Assessment reports that "[n]inety thousand individuals in Onondaga County have been affected by mental illness, which is also a major cause of suicide, as well as a contributor to poor overall health, homelessness and incarceration." (United Way Assessment at 23).

In Onondaga County, 18,402 people have **limited access to healthy food**. Of that group, 10% are elderly and 34% are children 0 to 17. (See below at 48).

Onondaga County has a mean **emergency room wait time** of 375 minutes which is slightly higher than the New York state average of 366 minutes. (See below at 47).

## Civic Engagement

According to census data, in the 2008 presidential election, there was a **correlation between income and voter turnout**. (See below at 55). The higher a person's household income the more likely they were to vote. This raises concern about the impact of voter turnout on issues facing the low income population.

## PEACE, Inc Staff Input

As part of this assessment, we surveyed staff to get their input on the strengths, weaknesses and unmet needs in our community. In the survey, staff identified educational resources, diversity of the population, wide range of available support services and recreational resources as strengths of the community. They recognized employment opportunities, high energy costs, affordable childcare, and access to nutritious food as weaknesses. When asked what staff perceived to be the "most critical unmet needs in our community" 44% of staff selected affordable housing, 43% employment opportunities; 31% programs and services for adolescents, 25% dependable high quality childcare or early childhood education. (See Attachment D.)

# Population Profile

## Population Profile: Population Change

Population change within Onondaga County from 2000-2012 is shown below. During the twelve-year period from 200 to 2012, total population estimates for Onondaga County grew by 1.71%, increasing from 458,336 persons in 2000 to 466,179 persons in 2012.

### Population Change 2000 - 2012

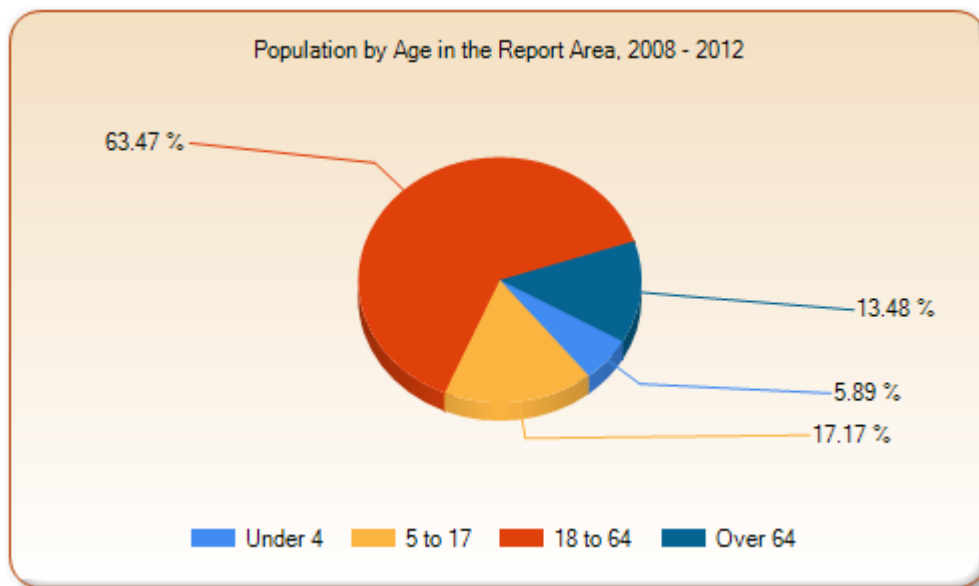
Geographic Area	Census 2000 Population	ACS 2008-2012 Population	Population Change	% Change
Onondaga County, New York	458,336	466,179	7,843	1.71
New York	18,976,457	19,398,124	421,667	2.22

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Census 2010. Release Date: February 2011](#) and [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013](#).

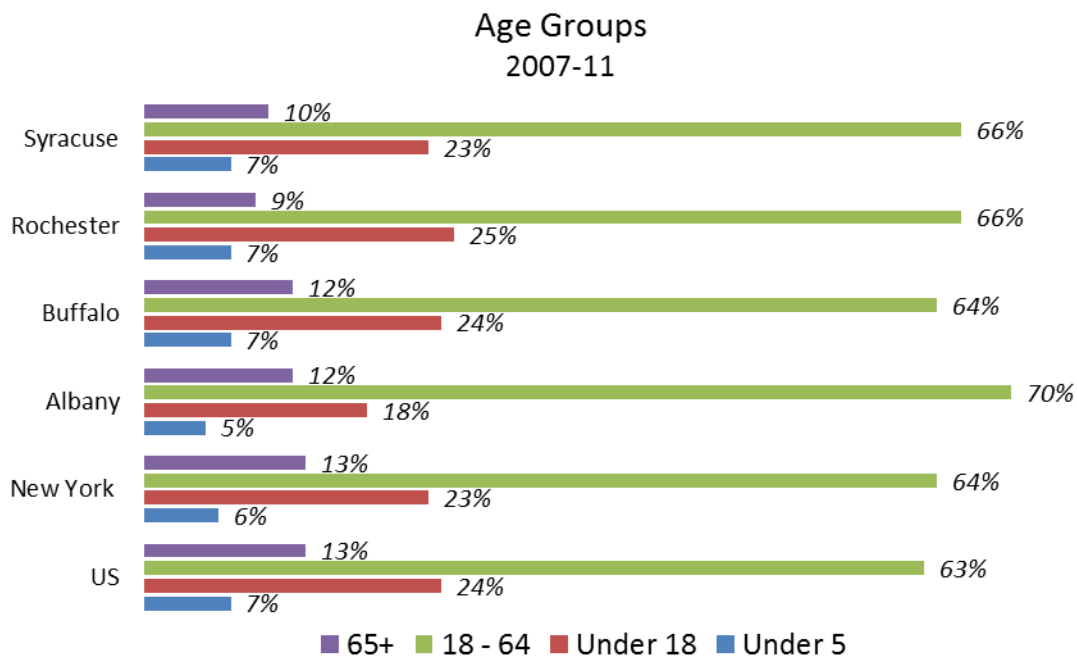
The 2012 American Community Survey 5-year data is a 5-year average of data collected from 2008 through 2012.

## Population Profile: Age and Gender Demographics

According to census data, the female population comprised 52.21% of Onondaga County, while the male population represented 47.79%.



In the City of Syracuse, 66% of Syracuse population was between the ages of 18-64.





7% of Syracuse residents were under the age of 5 in 2007-11.



Source: American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates, 2007-11; Table: S0101

[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_5YR\\_S0101&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_5YR_S0101&prodType=table).

### Population by Gender, 2008 - 2012

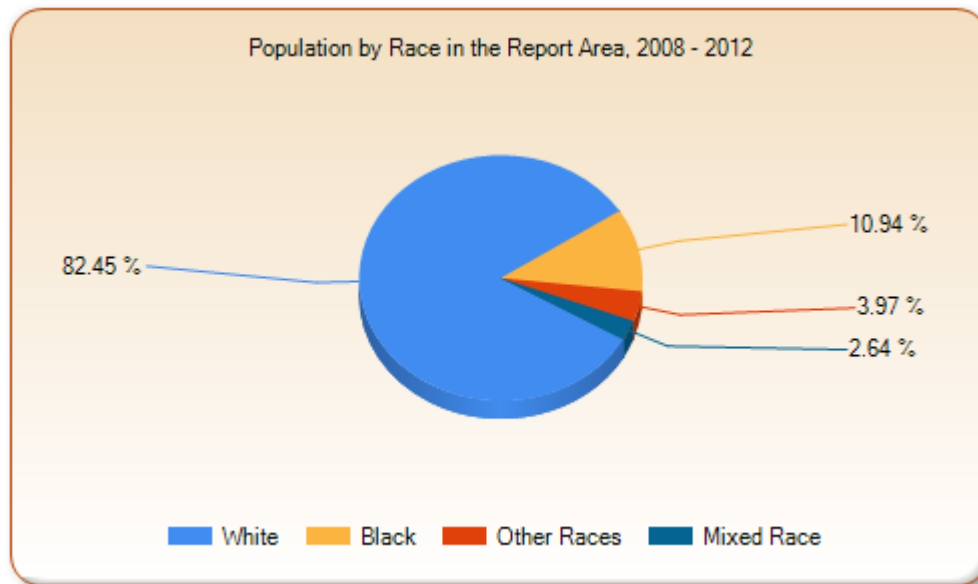
Geographic Area	0 to 4		5 to 17		18 to 64		Over 64	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Onondaga County, New York	14,001	13,227	40,403	39,042	142,729	150,898	23,969	38,386
New York	593,298	566,465	1,614,332	1,542,825	6,088,717	6,351,854	972,410	1,545,106
United States	10,291,124	9,846,760	27,554,024	26,287,952	96,618,000	97,869,408	15,754,421	23,115,796

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.](#)

The 2012 American Community Survey 5-year data is a 5-year average of data collected from 2008 through 2012.

## Population Profile: Race Demographics

According to the American Community Survey 5 year averages, white population comprised 82.45% of the Onondaga County, black population represented 10.94%, and other races combined were 3.97%. Persons identifying themselves as mixed race made up 2.64% of the population.



### Population by Race, 2008 - 2012

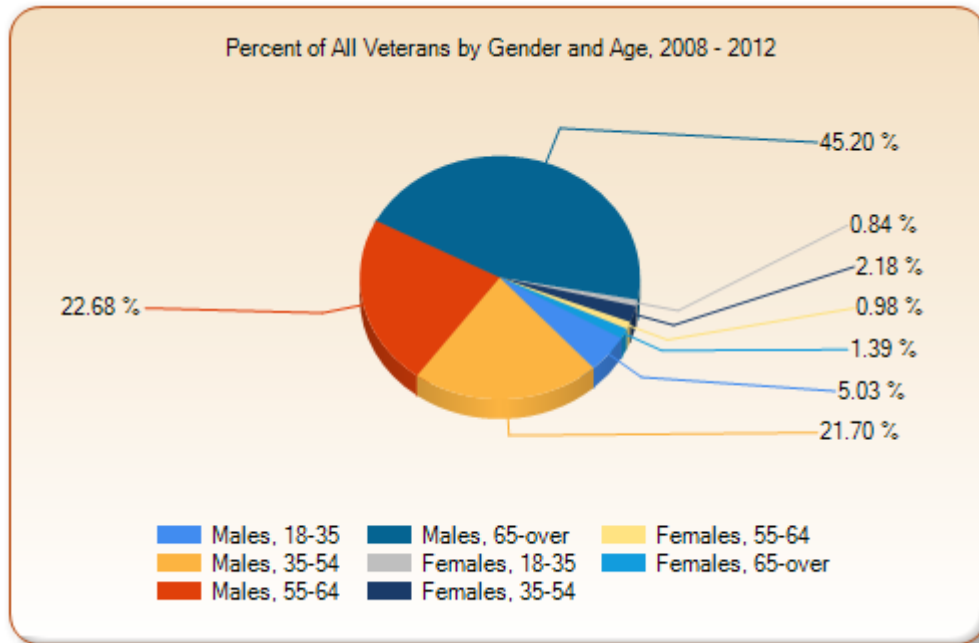
Geographic Area	White		Black		American Indian		Asian		Native Hawaiian		Mixed Race	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Onondaga County, New York	183,502	197,098	23,795	26,704	1,664	1,893	7,240	7,462	28	22	6,105	6,102
New York	6,254,978	6,553,290	1,400,768	1,636,487	34,496	35,004	696,296	749,243	3,081	3,396	233,414	240,652
United States	113,159,432	116,139,472	18,509,428	20,316,420	1,258,126	1,270,974	7,055,679	7,804,116	257,706	256,696	4,128,988	4,167,303

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.](#)

The 2012 American Community Survey 5-year data is a 5-year average of data collected from 2008 through 2012.

Population Profile: Veterans, Age and Gender Demographics

In Onondaga County, 8.91% of the adult population are veterans, which is less than the national average of 9.34%.



**Age and Gender Demographics of Veterans, 2008 - 2012**

Geographic Area	Veterans			Percent of Population over 18 by Gender		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Onondaga County, New York	31,973	30,249	1,724	8.91	17.82	0.91
New York	957,004	906,111	50,893	6.36	12.65	0.64
United States	21,853,912	20,306,044	1,547,868	9.34	17.94	1.28

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.](#)

The 2012 American Community Survey 5-year data is a 5-year average of data collected from 2008 through 2012.

Population Profile: Poverty, 2012

2012 poverty estimates indicate that 67,790 persons are living below the poverty rate in Onondaga County.

**Poverty, 2012**

Geographic Area	All Ages		Age 0-17		Age 5-17	
	Number of Persons	Poverty Rate	Number of Persons	Poverty Rate	Number of Persons	Poverty Rate
Onondaga County, New York	67,790	15.0	22,251	21.7	14,566	19.3
New York	3,040,207	15.9	968,025	23.0	658,627	21.7
United States	48,760,123	15.9	16,396,863	22.6	11,086,537	21.0

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates \(SAIPE\), 2012](#). Estimates for 2012 were released in December 2013.

According to CNY Vitals, the median household income in Syracuse has increased since 2010 from \$29,621 to \$31,689 in 2011 and in Onondaga County from \$50,426 to \$52,636. (CNY Vitals at 37).

The percent of families living below the poverty level in both Onondaga County and Syracuse has increased. 25.1% of Syracuse families were below the poverty level in 2009, compared to 26% in 2011. The percent of Onondaga County families living below the poverty level was 9.4% in 2009, compared to 9.5% in 2011. (Id).

## Population Profile: Poverty Rate Change, 2000 – 2012

According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for Onondaga County increased by 4.2%, compared to a national increase of 4.6%.

### **Change in Poverty Rate, 2000 - 2012**

Geographic Area	Persons in Poverty, 2000	Poverty Rate, 2000	Persons in Poverty, 2012	Poverty Rate, 2012	Change in Poverty Rate, 2000 - 2012
Onondaga County, New York	48,720	10.8	67,790	15.0	4.2
New York	2,466,704	13.2	3,040,207	15.9	2.7
United States	31,581,086	11.3	48,760,123	15.9	4.6

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates \(SAIPE\), 2012](#). Estimates for 2011 were released in December 2012.

## Population Profile: Households in Poverty

In 2012, it was estimated that there were 25,005 households, or 13.5% of households, living in poverty in Onondaga County.

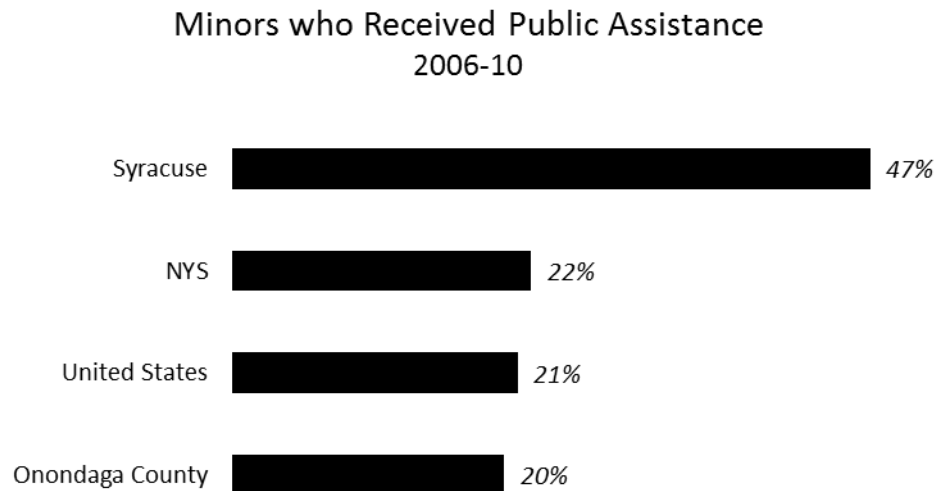
### **Households in Poverty, 2008 - 2012**

Geographic Area	Total Households, 2008/2012	Households in Poverty, 2008/2012	% Households in Poverty, 2008/2012
Onondaga County, New York	185,036	25,005	13.5
New York	7,230,896	1,028,106	14.2
United States	115,226,800	15,920,513	13.8

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013](#).

The 2012 American Community Survey 5-year data is an average of data collected from 2008 through 2012.

Syracuse has a substantially higher percentage of minors receiving public assistance than New York State and Onondaga County.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates

<http://www.data.gov/education/datasets/2006-2010-american-community-survey-5-year-estimates-summary-file-1>

### Population Profile: Poverty Rate (ACS)

According to the American Community Survey 5 year estimates, the poverty rate for all persons living in Onondaga County was 14.3% which is less than the national average of 14.9%.

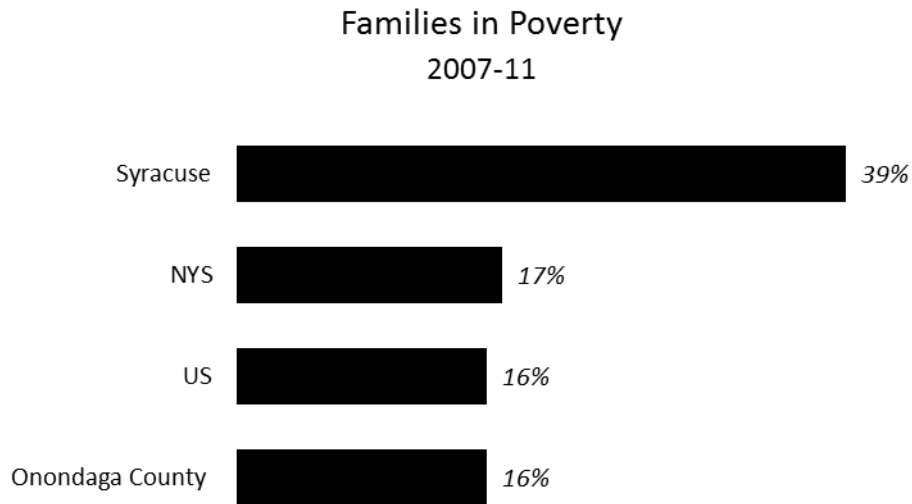
### **Poverty Rate (ACS), 2008 - 2012**

Geographic Area	Poverty Rate for All Persons		
	Total Population	In Poverty	Poverty Rate
Onondaga County, New York	449,119	64,012	14.3
New York	18,885,924	2,814,409	14.9
United States	301,333,408	44,852,528	14.9

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.](#)

The 2012 American Community Survey 5-year data is a 5-year average of data collected from 2008 through 2012.

According to the CNY Vitals Community Indicator Report for 2013, 39% of families (15,949 families) in the city of Syracuse were living in poverty in 2007-11 and 16% of families in Onondaga County (56,059 families) were living in poverty in 2001-2011.

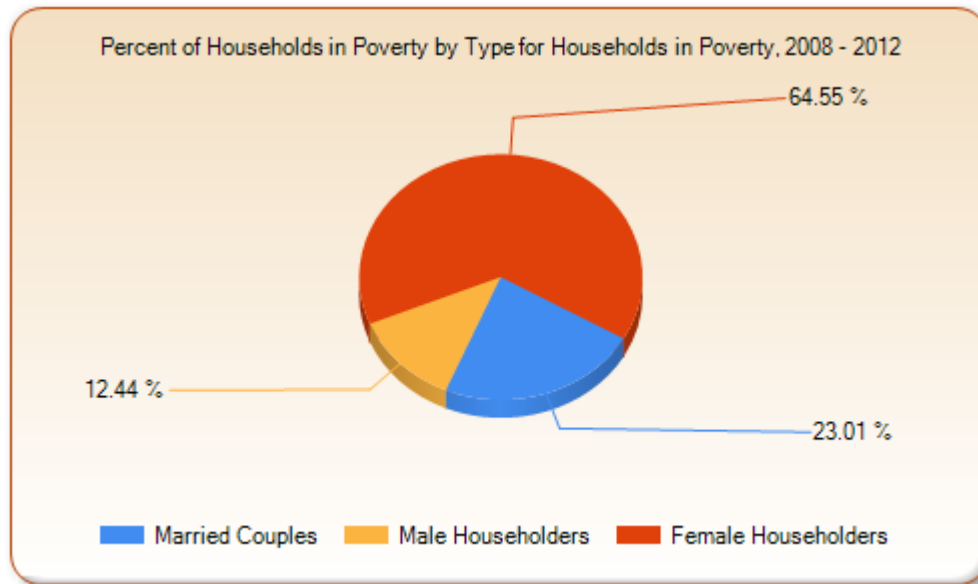


Families in Poverty, 2007-11			
Location	Percent	Number	MOE
Syracuse	39%	15,949	+/-2.6
Onondaga County	16%	56,059	+/-1.0
NYS	17%	2,321,505	+/-0.2
US	16%	38,086,616	+/-0.1

Source: CNY Vitals, Spring 2013, Community Benchmarks Program, The Maxwell School at Syracuse University

## Population Profile: Households in Poverty by Family Type

Of all the households living in poverty, 64.55% were female householders, 23.01% were married couples and 12.44% were male.



### Households in Poverty by Family Type, 2008 - 2012

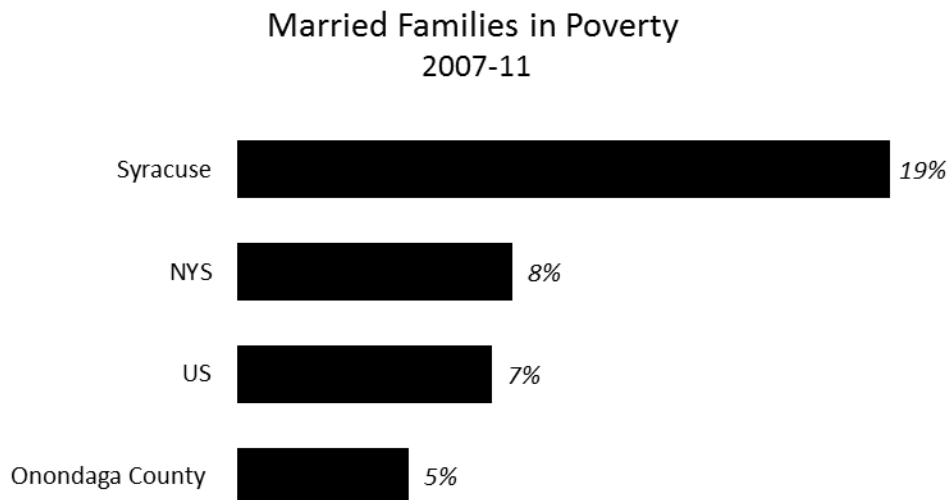
Geographic Area	Total Households, 2007-2011	Households in Poverty			
		Overall	Married Couples	Male Householder	Female Householder
Onondaga County, New York	113,760	11,264	2,592	1,401	7,271
New York	4,646,324	528,709	181,723	52,176	294,810
United States	76,595,552	8,363,024	3,031,161	873,067	4,458,796

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013](#). The 2012 American Community Survey 5-year data is an average of data collected from 2008 through 2012.

Note: The poverty rate for Household type is based on the total number of households for that household type.



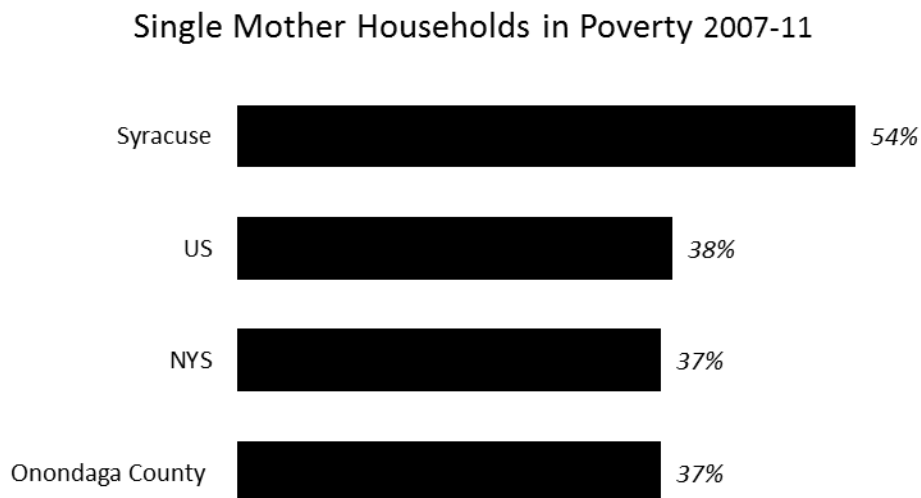
19% of married families in the city of Syracuse were living below the poverty level in 2007-11



Source: American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates, 2007-11. Table: S1702

[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_1YR\\_S1702&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_S1702&prodType=table)

54% of single mother households in the city of Syracuse were living below the poverty level in 2011.



Source: American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates, 2007-11. Table: S1702

[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_1YR\\_S1702&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_S1702&prodType=table)

### Population Profile: Child (0-17) Poverty Rate Change, 2000 – 2012

According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for children ages 0 to 17 in Onondaga County increased by 7.1%, compared to a national increase of 6.4% and a state increase of 3.9%.

#### **Change in Childhood (0-17) Poverty Rate, 2000 - 2012**

Geographic Area	Children in Poverty, 2000	Poverty Rate, 2000	Children in Poverty, 2012	Poverty Rate, 2012	Change in Poverty Rate, 2000 - 2012
Onondaga County, New York	16,946	14.6	22,251	21.7	7.1
New York	873,087	19.1	968,025	23.0	3.9
United States	11,587,118	16.2	16,396,863	22.6	6.4

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates \(SAIPE\), 2012.](#)

### Population Profile: Child (0-4) Poverty Rate Change, 2000 – 2012

The poverty rate change for children under five years of age in Onondaga County from 2000 to 2012 is 11.1%, compared to a national increase of 6.5 percent.

#### **Poverty Rate Change for Children under Five, 2000 - 2012**

Geographic Area	Children 0-4 in Poverty, 2000	Poverty Rate, 2000	Children 0-4 in Poverty, 2012	Poverty Rate, 2012	Change in Poverty Rate, 2000 - 2012
Onondaga County, New York	5,459	17.3	7,685	28.4	11.1
New York	267,706	21.2	309,398	26.4	5.2
United States	4,050,543	20.3	5,310,326	26.9	6.5

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates \(SAIPE\), 2012.](#)

## Population Profile: Child (5-17) Poverty Rate Change, 2000 – 2012

According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for children ages five to seventeen in Onondaga County increased by 5.7%, compared to a state increase of 3.4% and a national increase of 6.4%.

### **Poverty Rate Change for Children Ages Five to Seventeen, 2000 - 2012**

Geographic Area	Children 5-17 in Poverty, 2000	Poverty Rate, 2000	Children 5-17 in Poverty, 2012	Poverty Rate, 2012	Change in Poverty Rate, 2000 - 2012
Onondaga County, New York	11,487	13.6	14,566	19.3	5.7
New York	605,381	18.3	658,627	21.7	3.4
United States	7,536,575	14.6	11,086,537	21.0	6.4

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates \(SAIPE\), 2012.](#)

## Population Profile: Child (0-17) Poverty Rate (ACS)

According to the American Community Survey 5 year data, an average of 20.33% of children lived in a state of poverty in Onondaga County during the 2012 calendar year. The poverty rate for children living in Onondaga County is slightly less than the national average of 20.8%.

### **American Community Survey, Child (0-17) Poverty Rate**

Geographic Area	Children, Ages 0 - 17 years		
	Total Population	In Poverty	Poverty Rate
Onondaga County, New York	105,387	21,429	20.3
New York	4,252,153	891,923	21.0
United States	72,869,120	15,188,844	20.8

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.](#)

The 2012 American Community Survey 5-year data is an average of data collected from 2008 through 2012.

### Population Profile: Child (0-4) Poverty Rate (ACS)

According to the American Community Survey 5 Year data, an average of 24.46% of children under five years of age lived in a state of poverty which is greater than the state average of 23.5% and the national average of 24.1%.

#### **Child (0-4) Poverty Rate**

Geographic Area	Children, Ages 0 - 4 years		
	Total Population	In Poverty	Poverty Rate
Onondaga County, New York	27,030	6,611	24.5
New York	1,140,486	267,814	23.5
United States	19,835,588	4,776,397	24.1

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.](#)

The 2012 American Community Survey 5-year data is an average of data collected from 2008 through 2012.

### Population Profile: Seniors in Poverty

According to American Community Survey estimates, there were 4,632 seniors (people 65 or older), or 7.4 % of seniors, living in poverty within Onondaga County, lower than both the national and state senior poverty rates.

#### **Seniors in Poverty, 2008 - 2012**

Geographic Area	Seniors	Seniors in Poverty	Senior Poverty Rate
Onondaga County, New York	62,753	4,632	7.4
New York	2,540,293	290,319	11.4
United States	39,358,824	3,702,237	9.4

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.](#)

The 2012 American Community Survey 5-year data is a 5-year average of data collected from 2008 through 2012.

## Income and Employment

### Employment and Income: Community Feedback

In a survey prepared in conjunction with the HS/EHS Report, results showed that 28% of respondents indicated an interest in improving or changing their current job status.

- 17% were not working and unhappy with that job status
- 11% were working and unhappy with their job
- 7% were not working because they were in school

Some respondents identified what they believed would help them improve their job status:

- 24% said after or before school care
- 18% said more education
- 15% said a GED or high school diploma
- 5% said improving their English
- 3% said improving their reading and writing

With respect to employment, the United Way Assessment found that “employment is one of the most pressing needs in this area.” (United Way Assessment at 28). It also identified “help in finding a job” and “training programs for employment” as two of the three most pressing needs in the area of income. (Id).

Further community focus groups recognized the importance of vocational training and discussed the need to tailor job training opportunities to the job currently available in Central New York. (Id at 29). Other barriers to employment were lack of childcare, lack of transportation, criminal records.

The United Way focus groups participants also identified financial literacy, the ability to effectively handle money, as a need in the community. Participants suggested financial education aimed at middle school students. (Id at 30).

### Employment and Income: Current Unemployment

Overall, the county experienced an average 6.2 percent unemployment rate in November 2013 which is slightly less than the national average.

#### **Employment/Unemployment Information, November 2013**

Geographic Area	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Onondaga County, New York	225,899	211,869	14,030	6.2
New York	9,627,695	8,961,753	665,942	6.9
United States	155,045,845	144,774,949	10,270,896	6.6

Source: [U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, January 7, 2014.](#)

## Employment and Income: Unemployment Change

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, from November 2012 to November 2013, unemployment in Onondaga County fell from 7.4% to 6.2% a decrease of 1.2%. The employment rate in Onondaga County is lower than the state rate of 6.9% and the national rate of 6.6%.

### Change in Unemployment, November 2012 - November 2013

Geographic Area	Unemployment, November 2012	Unemployment, November 2013	Unemployment Rate, November 2012	Unemployment Rate, November 2013
Onondaga County, New York	16,687	14,030	7.4	6.2
New York	752,504	665,942	7.9	6.9
United States	11,411,935	10,270,896	7.4	6.6

Source: [U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, January 7, 2014.](#)



### Change in Unemployment Rates, November 2012 - November 2013

Geographic Area	Nov 2012	Dec 2012	Jan 2013	Feb 2013	Mar 2013	Apr 2013	May 2013	Jun 2013	Jul 2013	Aug 2013	Sep 2013	Oct 2013	Nov 2013
Onondaga County, New York	7.4	7.8	8.8	8.5	7.7	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.2
New York	7.9	8.2	9.3	8.8	8.0	7.3	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.5	6.9
United States	7.4	7.6	8.5	8.1	7.6	7.1	7.3	7.8	7.7	7.3	7.0	7.0	6.6

Source: [U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, January 7, 2014.](#)

### Employment and Income: Five Year Unemployment Rate

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment in Onondaga County from November 2009 to November 2013 fell from 7.8 percent to 6.2 percent.



### Five Year Unemployment Rate, November 2009 - November 2013

Geographic Area	November 2009	November 2010	November 2011	November 2012	November 2013
Onondaga County, New York	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.4	6.2
New York	8.5	8.3	8.1	7.9	6.9
United States	9.4	9.3	8.2	7.4	6.6

Source: [U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, January 7, 2014.](#)

### Employment and Income: Income Levels, 2008 - 2012

Two common measures of income are Median Household Income and Per Capita Income, based on U.S. Census Bureau estimates. The average Per Capita income in Onondaga County is \$28,596 as compared to a national average of \$29,733 and a state average of \$32,104.

#### Income Levels by County, 2008 - 2012

Geographic Area	Median Household Income, 2012	Per Capita Income, 2012
Onondaga County, New York	53,593	28,596
New York	57,683	32,104
United States	60,119	29,733

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.](#)

The 2012 American Community Survey 5-year data is a 5-year average of data collected from 2008 through 2012.

### Employment and Income: Household Income

The median annual household income for Onondaga County is higher than the national average and lower than the state average.

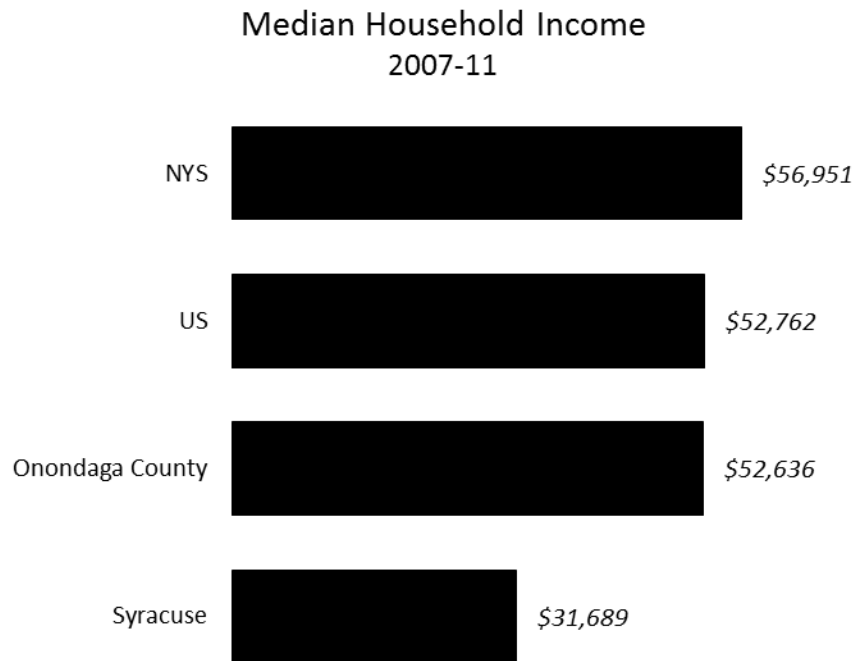
#### Median Annual Household Income, 2012

Geographic Area	Median Household Income (\$)
Onondaga County, New York	52,362
New York	56,357
United States	51,371

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates \(SAIPE\), 2012.](#) Estimates for 2012 were released in December 2013.

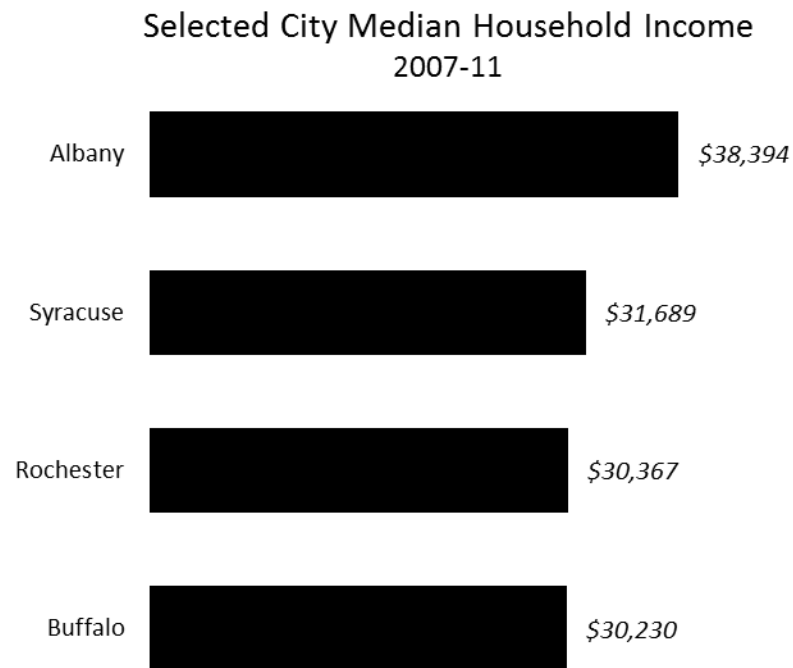


The median household income in Syracuse of \$31,689 is significantly lower than the Onondaga County median household income of \$52,636 and the New York State median income of \$56,951.



Source: 2007-11 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; Table DP02

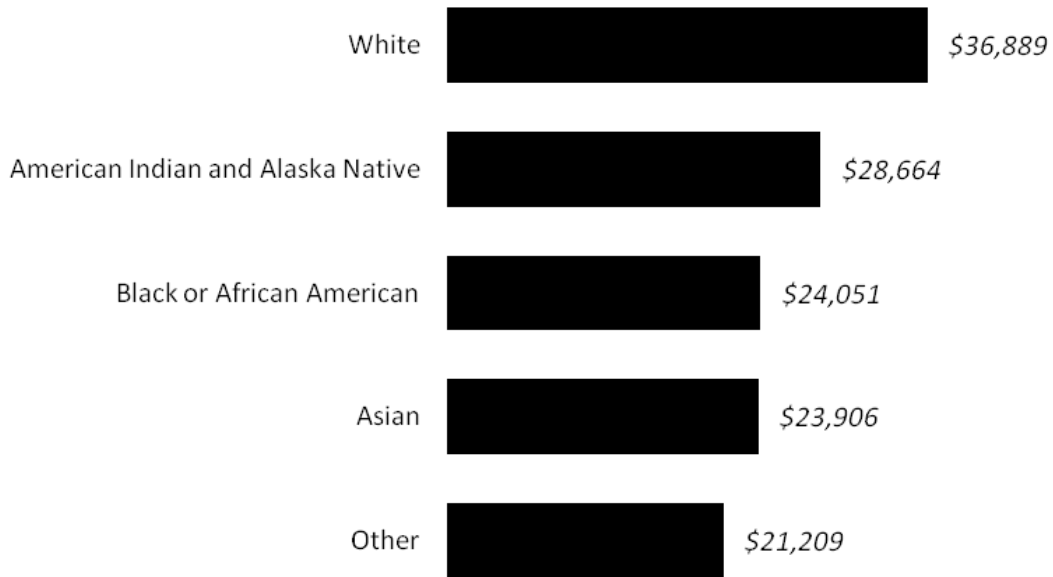
The city of Syracuse has the second highest median household income at \$31,689 of selected cities in upstate New York.



Source: 2007-11 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; Table DP03:

Syracuse residents who identify their race as 'White' have the highest median household income at \$36,889, 2007-11.

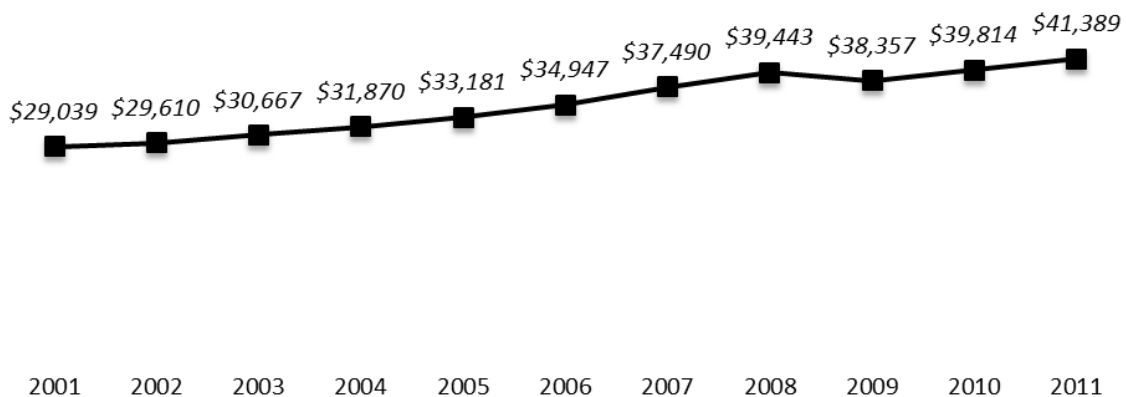
### Syracuse Median Household Income by Race 2007-11



Source: 2007-11 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; Table DP04

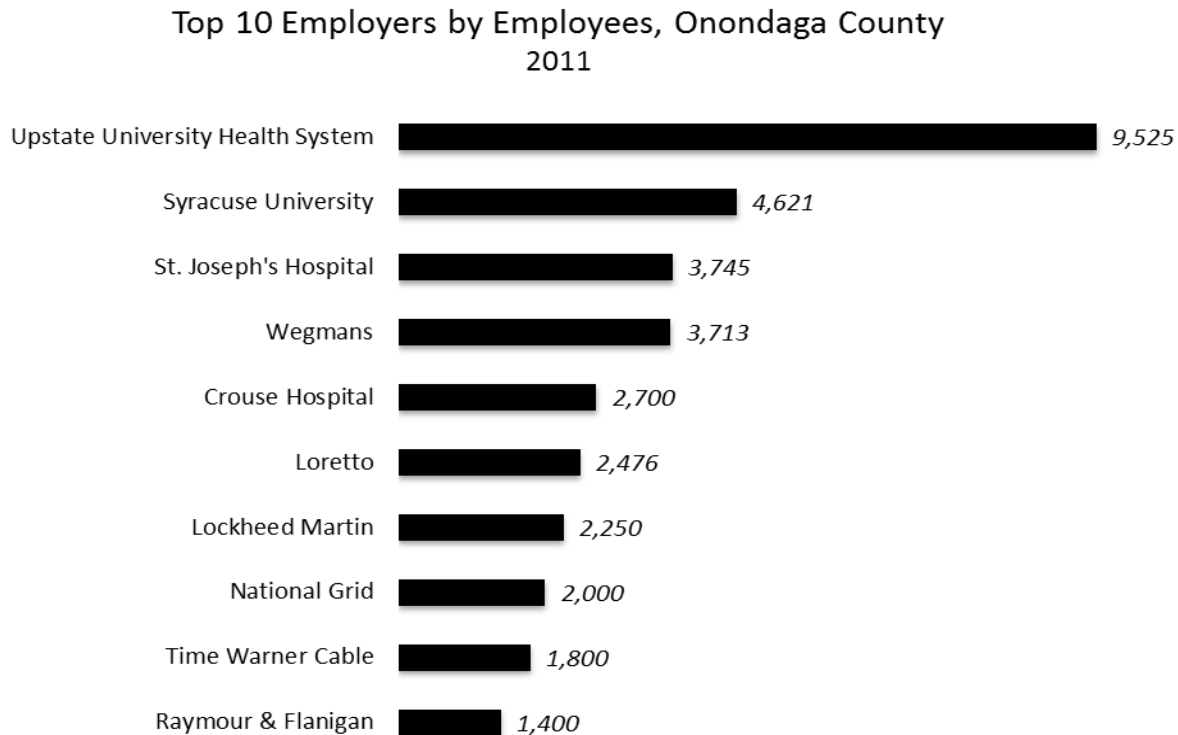
The mean income per person in Onondaga County increased from 29,039 to 41,389 during the period 2001 to 2011.

### Mean Income Per Person in Onondaga County 2001-11



## Employment and Income: Top Employers 2011

Four of the top ten employers in Onondaga County are healthcare providers.



Source: Syracuse Central Data Center

## Employment and Income: Households Receiving Free Lunch or SNAP

The number of students receiving free or reduced lunch is often referenced as an indicator of poverty. In Onondaga County, 37% of students received free or reduced price lunches during the 2009 - 2010 school year, which is higher than the state average of 20.54% and less than the national average of 46.62%.

### **Students Participating in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, 2009 - 2010**

Geographic Area	Students Participating	Total Student Enrollment	Percent of Students Participating
Onondaga County, New York	27,674	74,804	37.00
New York	568,129	2,766,052	20.54
United States	25,117,278	53,878,820	46.62

Source: [National Center for Educational Statistics \(NCES\), Common Core of Data \(CCD\), 2009-10 School Universe data.](#)

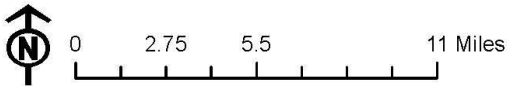
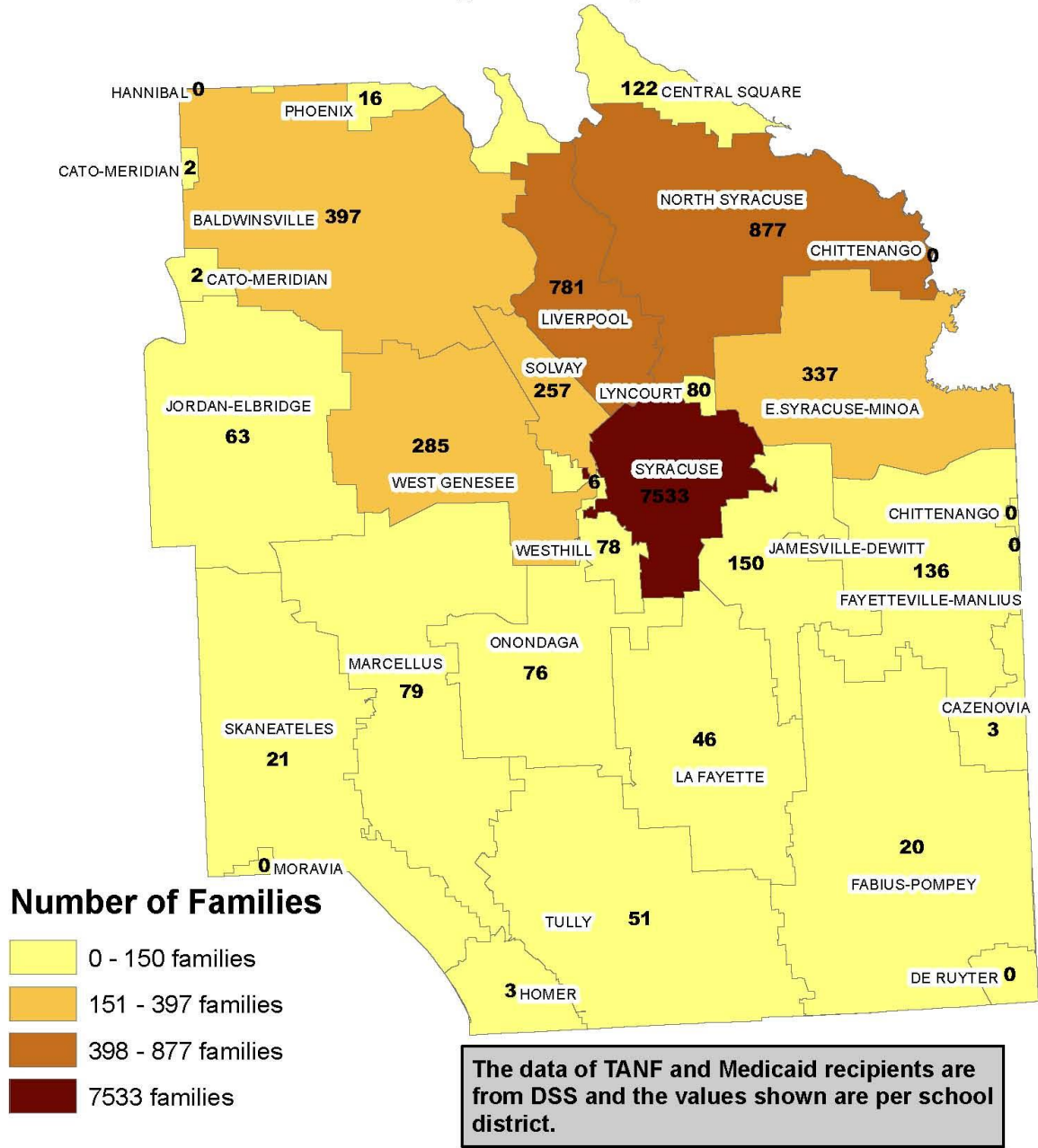
# Education

## Education: Early Childhood

The United Way Assessment identified access to high quality, affordable childcare and early childhood education as one of their key findings in education saying “almost 30% of survey respondents seeking childcare or preschool services were unable to access them and the costs of these services were beyond the means of many low income parents.” (United Way Assessment at 4).

As described more fully in the HS/EHS Assessment, “PEACE, Inc. worked with the Syracuse University Community Geography Program and the local child care resource and referral agency, Child Care Solutions, on a study of young children in poverty and the availability early education programs in Onondaga County.” (HS/EHS Report at 13). The map below, created through this partnership, shows areas of the numbers of families with children under the age of 5 who are receiving various forms of government assistance that require income eligibility. The map shows the geographic distribution of families eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start.

# Number of Families With Children Under Age 5 Per School District that Received TANF, Medicaid, or other Safety Net Programs from February 15 - March 15, 2013, Onondaga County, NY



Data from the Onondaga County Department of Social Services  
Created by Nicole Perman, Syracuse Community Geography  
May 2013

More than two out of three children under 6 years old in Onondaga County has “all parents in family in [the] labor force.” (HS/EHS Assessment at 20). There are a wide variety of options for childcare and early education in Onondaga County. According to the HS/EHS Assessment, parents have the following options for their children:

- Childcare Centers serving infants toddler and pre-school age children (64 programs)
- Group family and family child care providers (352 providers)
- Private/parochial preschools or nursery school (3,482 slots)
- Public School Universal Pre-Kindergarten Programs (1954 slots)

(Id at 20-22).

The costs of childcare can be prohibitively high for families.

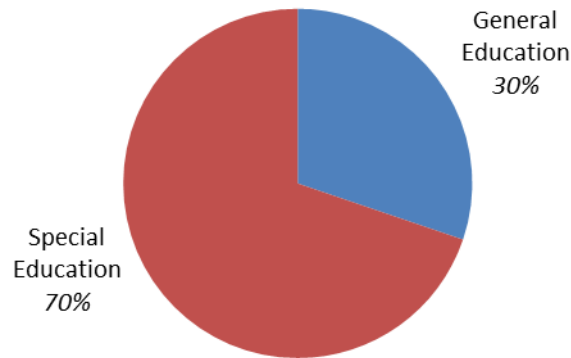
Type of Care	Full Time Weekly Average Cost of Care	Full Time Annual Average Cost of Care
<b>Licensed Child Care Centers</b>		
Infant (6 wks – 18 mos)	\$218	\$11,336
Toddler (19 mos – 35 mos)	\$204	\$10,608
Pre-School (3 – 5 yrs)	\$189	\$9,828
School-Age (5 – 12 yrs)	\$173	\$8,996
<b>Licensed Group Family Day Care</b>		
Infant (6 wks – 24 mos)	\$165	\$8,580
Toddler (24 mos – 35 mos)	\$156	\$8,112
Pre-School (3 – 5 yrs)	\$153	\$7,959
School-Age (5 – 12 yrs)	\$145	\$7,540
<b>Registered Family Day Care</b>		
Infant (6 wks – 24 mos)	\$159	\$8,268
Toddler (24 mos – 35 mos)	\$150	\$7,800
Pre-School (3 – 5 yrs)	\$148	\$7,696
School-Age (5 – 12 yrs)	\$137	\$7,124
<b>Registered School Age</b>		
School Age (5 – 12 yrs)	\$125	\$6,500

*Source: “Average Cost of Regulated Child Care in Onondaga and Cayuga County” from Child Care Solutions.*

Education: Students with Disabilities

The community perceives both the early diagnosis of and availability of adequate services for children with disabilities to be a significant need in this community. According to CNY Vitals, 70% of mean per pupil spending in the 19 school districts in Onondaga County in 2010-11 is for special education.

Mean Per Pupil Spending in Onondaga County  
2010-11



Source: NYS Education Department Report Card, Fiscal Supplement

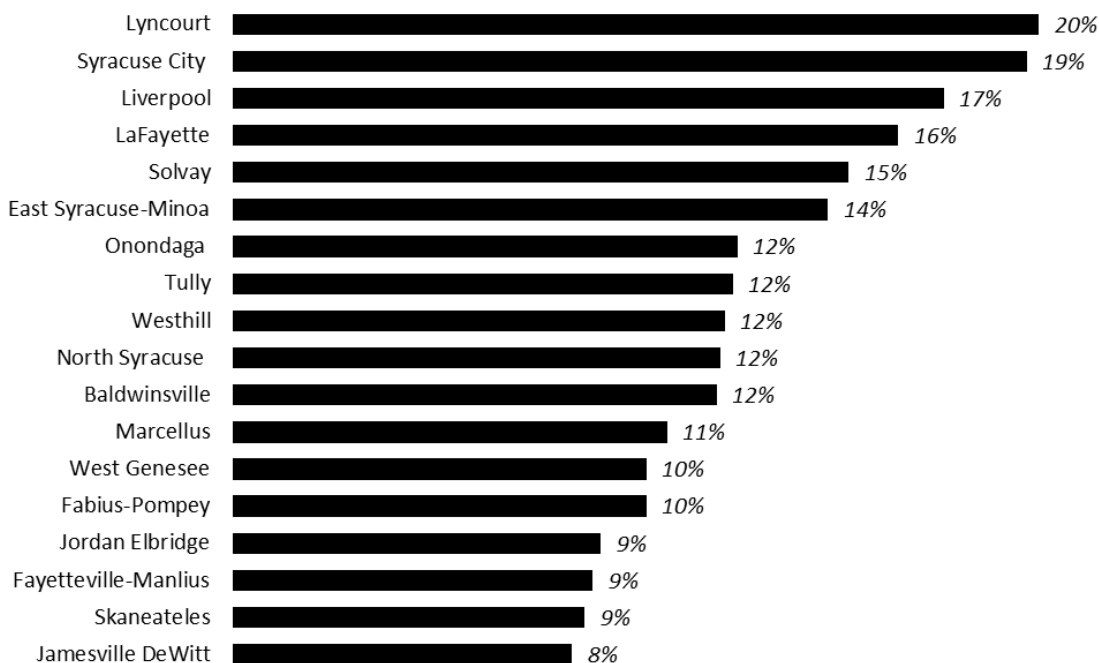
<https://reportcards.nysed.gov/view.php?schedist=district&county=42&year=2011>

Mean Per Pupil Spending in Onondaga County 2010-11		
Education Type	Amount Spent	Percent of Total Spent
General Education	\$9,450	30%
Special Education	\$21,833	70%



The Lyncourt School district has the highest percentage of special education students in Onondaga County at 20% and Jamesville-DeWitt has the lowest at 8%. In the Syracuse City School District 19% of students are special education students.

Percent Special Education Students in Onondaga County Schools  
2010-11



Discussing county services for children ages 0 to 5 with disabilities, the PEACE, Inc, Head Start Early Head Start Assessment explains:

Onondaga County Health Department's Special Children Services works to ensure children from birth to five with special needs receive needed services and resources. The *Early Intervention Program*, funded by the state and federal governments, provides services for infants and toddlers - children from birth through age two - who have developmental delays or conditions that have a high chance of causing developmental delays. The county's Early Intervention program served an enrollment of **798** children in 2012. The *Preschool Special Education Program* "provides mandated evaluation, educational, therapeutic, and transportation services for three and four year old children with special needs." At the end of the 2011-2012 school year, **1,946** Onondaga County preschool children had enrolled for special education services in Onondaga County. (Source: Onondaga County Health Department 2012 Annual Report, pages 43-44)

(HS/EHS Report at 23).

Specifically with respect to children with disabilities enrolled in the PEACE, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start Program, the assessment states:

In New York State, children qualified for Early Intervention or Preschool Special Education services are not typically diagnosed with a specific disability, but are instead classified as having a general

“learning disability.” Thirty-eight (38) of Early Head Start children received services while during the 2011-2012 program year. In the same year, 189 children in our program received special education services. Services included assistance of a SEIT (Special Education Itinerant Teacher), speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy and counseling.

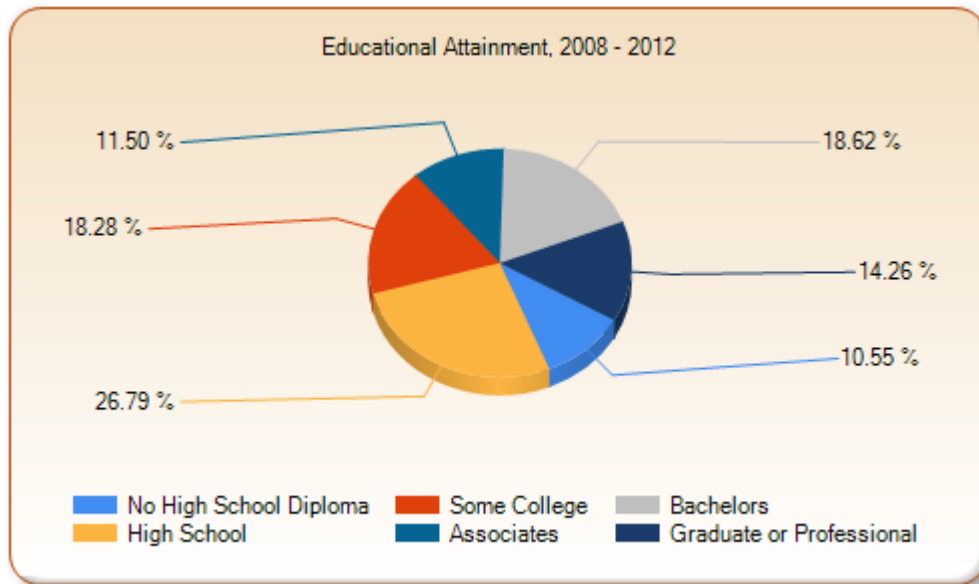
In the 2012-2013 program year, 177 Head Start children were identified as preschoolers with a disability. Those children received 293 services – SEIT (66), speech therapy (140), occupational therapy (63), physical therapy (22) and counseling (2). In Early Head Start in the 2012-2013 program year, 24 infants and toddlers were receiving Early Intervention services and 12 had been referred for evaluation.

(*Id.* at 24).

Provision of services for school age children is also a challenge. The United Way recognized an “increase in services needed for children with emotional, behavioral and developmental disabilities, and a need for learning disabilities to be diagnosed sooner.” (United Way Report at 4). The cost of providing services to school age children with disabilities represents a large percentage of the school budgets. One of the “findings” of the CNY Vitals Report was that 70% of mean per pupil spending in the 19 school districts in Onondaga County in 2010-11 is for special education. (CNY Vitals, p. IX, Education Finding 4).

**Education: Educational Attainment**

In Onondaga County, 10.55% of people over the age of 25 did not receive a high school diploma while 18.62% attained a Bachelor’s degree and 14.25 % attained a graduate or professional degree.



### Percent Attaining Educational Levels, 2008 - 2012

Geographic Area	% No High School Diploma	% High School Only	% Some College	% Associates	% Bachelors	% Graduate or Professional
Onondaga County, New York	10.52	26.8	18.3	11.5	18.6	14.3
New York	15.10	27.3	16.5	8.3	18.6	14.1

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.](#)

The 2012 American Community Survey 5-year data is a 5-year average of data collected from 2008 through 2012.

The CNY Vitals Report recognized the following findings with respect to graduation rates in Onondaga county high schools.

- 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%.
- Syracuse City School District had the lowest graduation rate of 52% in 2010-11.
- 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.
- 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%.
- 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.

(CNY Vitals, at XI, Education Findings 30 -33 and 35).

### Education: Adult Literacy

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) defines literacy as “the ability to use printed and written information to achieve one’s goals and develop one’s knowledge and potential.”

([http://nces.ed.gov/naal/fr\\_definition.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/naal/fr_definition.asp)). In Onondaga County, 10% of adults lack literacy skills.

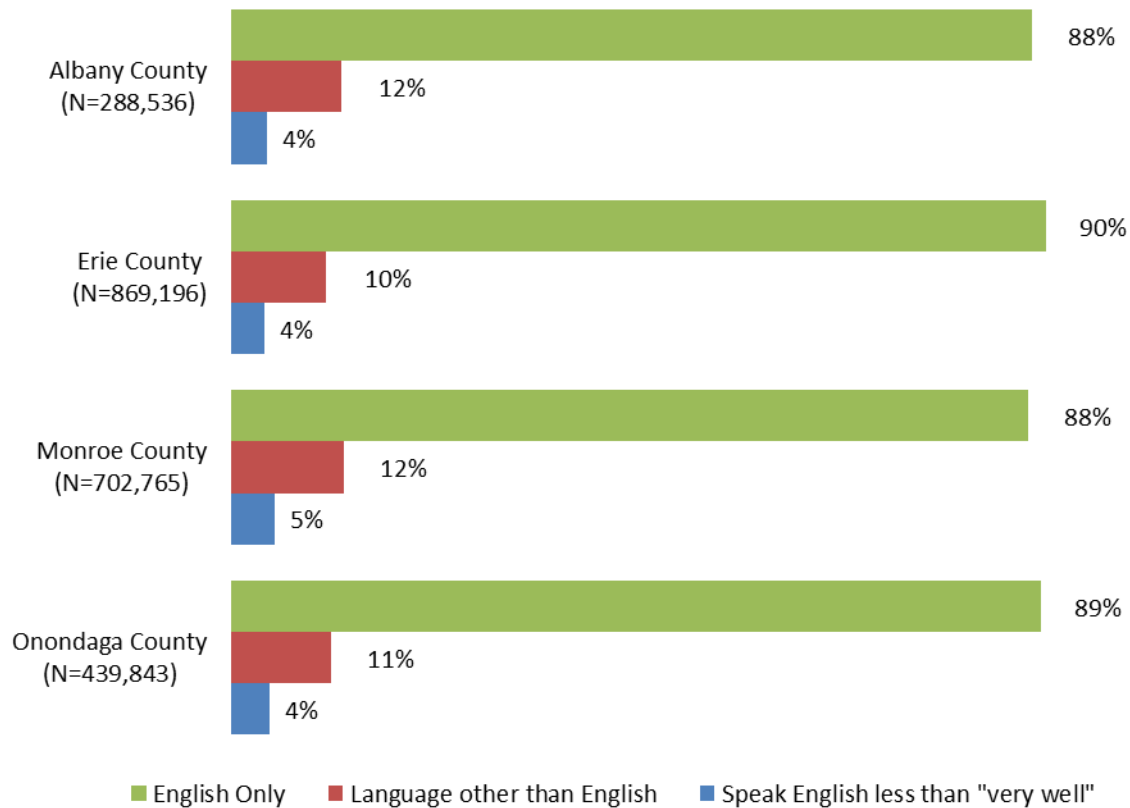
### Persons Lacking Basic Prose Literacy Skills, 2003

Geographic Area	Estimated Population over 16	Percent Lacking Literacy Skills
Onondaga County, New York	358,340	10
New York	15,058,111	22

Source: [U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, State and County Estimates of Low Literacy, 2003.](#)

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 counties.

### English Language Skills of County Populations 2011



In 2013, the Onondaga Citizens League engaged in a yearlong study and community discussion on refugees. (OCL Report on Refugees). The average number of refugees settling in Syracuse increased from 450 to 800 per year. The refugee population tends to be young with 52% under the age of 25. The needs of this population include job training, literacy, housing, and education. Many of the refugee families locate on the Northside of Syracuse. While the two official refugee resettlement agencies are Catholic Charities and Interfaith Works, many other community groups are providing services for these families. The development of basic reading and writing skills in English are critical to the future success of refugee families. (OCL Report at 14).

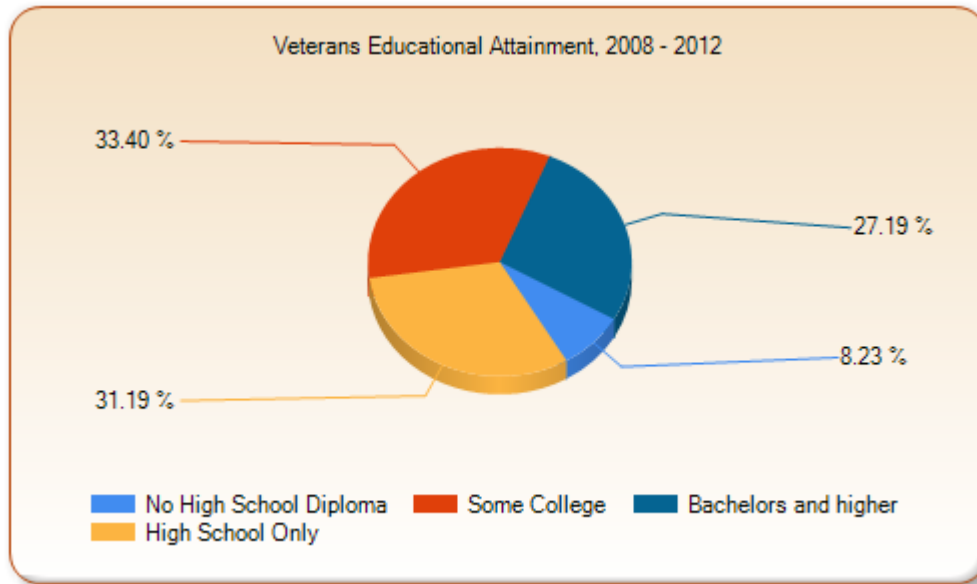
Refugee Arrivals in Syracuse, 2001-12													
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Afghanistan	3	14	8	7	6	5	1	5	3	0	7	0	59
Azerbaijan	0	0	20	11	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
Bhutan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	199	373	231	342	282	1,427
Bosnia and Herzegovina	230	175	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	412
Burma	0	2	1	27	12	50	246	416	415	244	253	191	1,857
Burundi	0	0	0	0	0	13	114	37	0	23	0	6	193
Cambodia	0	0	0	0	0	6	8	0	0	0	0	0	14
Central African Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	14	28
Cuba	3	2	0	11	11	11	3	7	8	16	2	23	97
Dem. Rep. Congo	11	2	0	14	0	11	8	37	38	71	3	10	205
Eritrea	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	43	24	13	105
Ethiopia	0	1	0	12	3	1	10	2	5	6	5	13	58
Iran	0	0	10	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	5	3	22
Iraq	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	56	121	104	39	75	397
Kazakhstan	9	5	3	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Liberia	0	0	14	71	75	34	9	17	4	7	2	2	235
Mauritania	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	7	0	0	0	14
Russia	0	2	0	0	72	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	138
Rwanda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	0	3	2	18
Serbia	4	19	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
Somalia	5	1	49	241	64	92	65	54	187	115	99	126	1,098
Sudan	87	23	66	106	49	45	3	19	1	8	20	23	450
Ukraine	5	32	9	11	11	4	4	13	7	4	4	5	109
Vietnam	14	7	12	0	13	17	16	0	5	3	0	0	87
Other	6	2	3	7	8	1	14	7	13	6	5	6	78
Total	377	288	211	518	333	361	508	875	1,223	882	827	794	7,197

Source: 2011 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates;

[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_1YR\\_DP02&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_DP02&prodType=table)

## Education: Veterans - Educational Attainment

Educational attainment for military veterans as compared to non-veteran is calculated for persons over 25, for the period from 2007 to 2011. 27.19% of veterans attained a bachelor's degree or higher.



**Percent Attaining Educational Levels by Veteran Status, 2008 - 2012**

Geographic Area	Veterans				Non-Veterans			
	% No Diploma	% High School Diploma	%Some College	% Bachelors/Higher	% No Diploma	% High School Diploma	%Some College	% Bachelors/Higher
Onondaga County, New York	8.23	31.19	33.40	27.19	10.83	26.30	29.34	33.53
New York	9.10	33.80	31.80	25.29	15.61	26.82	24.20	33.37
United States	8.06	29.64	36.22	26.08	15.07	28.13	28.06	28.75

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.](#)

The 2012 American Community Survey 5-year data is a 5-year average of data collected from 2008 through 2012.

## Education: Barriers

In addition to the need for affordable childcare and high quality early childhood education, the following education needs were identified:

- Parental Involvement
- Smaller class sizes
- Increased academic and non-academic programming for Middle School students
- Improved graduation rates
- College planning support
- Awareness of trade and vocational options
- English as a Second Language

(United Way Assessment, at 18-22).

Similarly, in the HS/EHS Assessment, all groups surveyed identified educational needs as barriers to the success of Head Start families. (HS/EHS Assessment at 38-41). Of families surveyed 15% indicated that a GED or high school diploma would help them to improve their job situation. (*Id.* at 38, question 2(c)).

PEACE, Inc. Head Start/Early Head start staff observed that “obtaining a GED” and “continuing education for sustainable employment” were needs of the families they served. (*Id.* at 39). Likewise, when surveyed, community partners asked about the needs of low income pregnant women or families of young children frequently mentioned education. (*Id.* at 40).

Focus groups facilitated by the Lerner Center for Public Health identified “poor schooling outcomes” as one of the major weaknesses of our community. (See Lerner Report, at attachment 3 p. 9). The same group included “importance of educational opportunities for all community members” as one element their vision of a healthy community. (*Id.* at 7).

## Housing

### Housing: Housing Age

The median age in of homes in Onondaga County is 51 years old.

#### Median Housing Unit Age, 2012

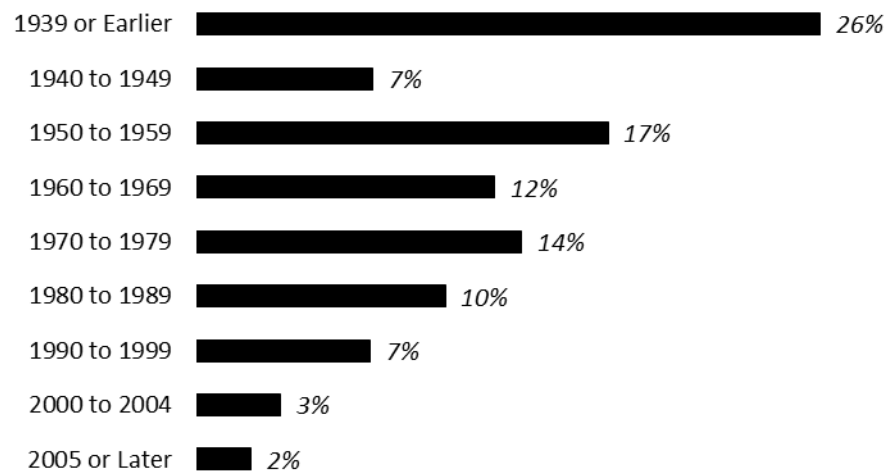
Geographic Area	Total Housing Units	Median Year Built	Median Age (in 2012)
Onondaga County, New York	202,570	1961	51
New York	8,102,223	1955	57
United States	131,642,456	1975	37

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.](#)

The 2012 American Community Survey 5-year data is a 5-year average of data collected from 2008 through 2012.

In 2011, 26% of housing units in Onondaga County were built before 1940.

#### Onondaga County Year Unit was Built 2011

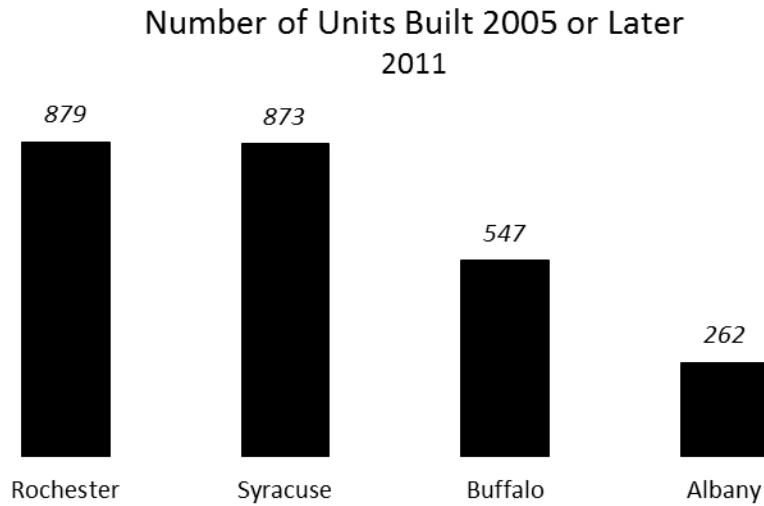


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table DP04

[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_5YR\\_DP04&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_5YR_DP04&prodType=table)

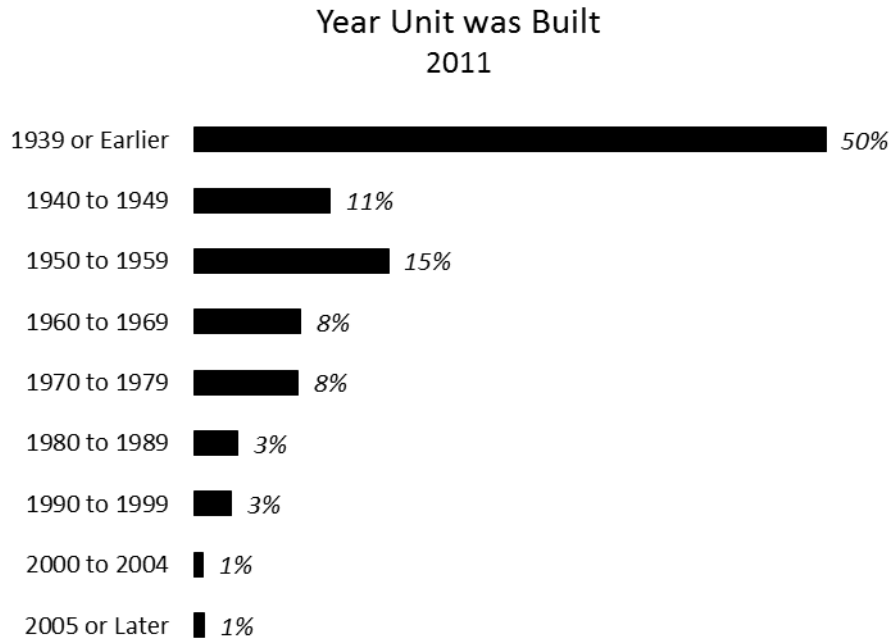


As of 2011, 873 housing units were built in the city of Syracuse in 2005 or later, which is just over 1% of the total number of housing units in the city.



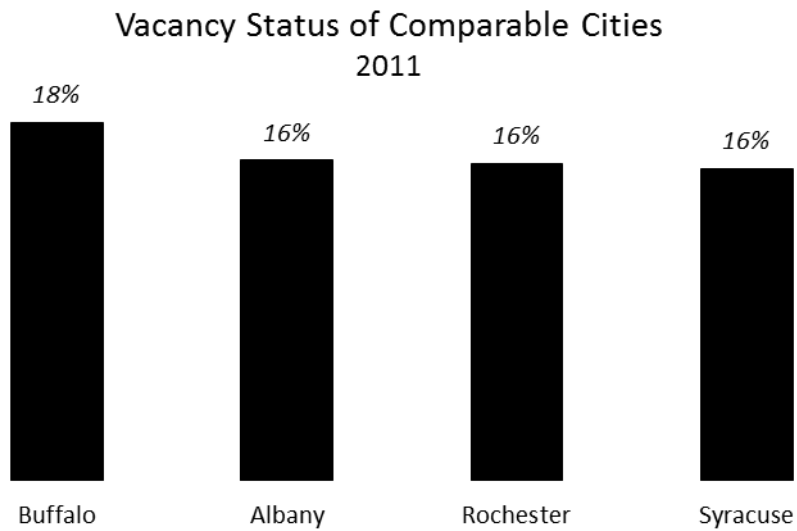
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey, 5 year estimates, Table DP04  
[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_5YR\\_DP04&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_5YR_DP04&prodType=table)

In the City of Syracuse 50% of the homes were built prior to 1940.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table DP04  
[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_5YR\\_DP04&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_5YR_DP04&prodType=table)

Vacant homes have become an increasing concern in the City of Syracuse where, in 2011, 16% of housing units were vacant.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey, Table DP04

[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_5YR\\_DP04&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_5YR_DP04&prodType=table).

## Housing: Homeowners

The U.S. Census Bureau estimated there were 116,810 homeowners in Onondaga County in 2000, and 121,518 owner occupied homes in the report area for the 5 year estimated period from 2008 - 2012.

### **Owner Occupied Homes, 2000 - 2008/2012**

Geographic Area	Homes, 2000	Homes, 2008/2012
Onondaga County, New York	116,810	121,518
New York	3,739,166	3,940,688

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 1, 2000](#); [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013](#).

## Housing: Cost

As reported in the HS/EHS Assessment, homeownership is affordable in Onondaga County, as compared to the rest of the nation.

Owning or renting a home in Onondaga County costs less than in many parts of the United States and New York State. According to the 2011 American Community Survey (ACS) Five-Year Estimates on Housing Characteristics, the average value of a home is \$128,600 in Onondaga County and \$84,600 in the city of Syracuse, compared with a national average of \$186,200. Median rents are similarly low, compared with national figures, with Onondaga County at \$734, Syracuse at \$693 and the U.S. at \$871.

When asked the three greatest needs of people living in poverty in an online survey of 46 HS/ EHS community partners, 24% of respondents stated housing as a high need. On the 2013 HS/ EHS Family Survey, 145 of 628 families (23%) noted they struggled to pay housing expenses and 78 (12%) of them moved at least once in the 3-4 months prior to completing the survey. Survey data from a previous program year found 248 parents/ guardians expressed concerns about six specific housing and neighborhood issues 158 times, in areas such as safety, violence, and adequate play space for children.

(HS/EHS Report at 34).

However, rental costs are a concern with 58% of Syracuse renters and 51% of Onondaga County renters spending at least 30% of their annual income on rent. (*Id.* at 36).

# Health Care

## Health Care: Federally Qualified Health Centers

### Federally Qualified Health Centers, Third Quarter, 2013

Geographic Area	Provider Number	FQHC Name	Address	City	Phone
Onondaga County, New York	PN: 331935	SYRACUSE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER LAFAYETTE	2394 ROUTE 11	LAFAYETTE	(315) 677-3186
Onondaga County, New York	PN: 331930	SYRACUSE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER ONONDAGA NATION	249 ROUTE 11-A	SYRACUSE	(315) 469-6449
Onondaga County, New York	PN: 331931	SYRACUSE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER SOUTH	1701 SOUTH AVENUE	SYRACUSE	(315) 231-2336
Onondaga County, New York	PN: 331932	SYRACUSE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER SHEA MIDDLE SCHOO	1607 SOUTH GEDDES STREET	SYRACUSE	(315) 634-7432
Onondaga County, New York	PN: 331936	SYRACUSE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER KING MAGNET SCHOO	416 EAST RAYNOR ST	SYRACUSE	(315) 000-0000
Onondaga County, New York	PN: 331809	SYRACUSE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER	819 SOUTH SALINA ST	SYRACUSE	(315) 476-7921
Onondaga County, New York	PN: 331926	SYRACUSE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER ONONDAGA NATION	603 OSWEGO STREET	SYRACUSE	(315) 474-0800
Onondaga County, New York	PN: 331933	SYRACUSE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER RESCUE MISSION	120 GIFFORD STREET	SYRACUSE	(315) 472-6251

Onondaga County, New York	PN: 331866	SYRACUSE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER EAST	1938 EAST FAYETTE ST	SYRACUSE	(315) 476-7921
Onondaga County, New York	PN: 331934	SYRACUSE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER WEEKS ELEMENTARY	710 HAWLEY AVENUE	SYRACUSE	(315) 435-4030

Source: [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Provider of Services File, Third Quarter, 2013.](#)

### Health Care: Medicare and Medicaid Providers

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there were 56 active Medicare and Medicaid institutional service providers in Onondaga County in the third quarter of 2013. There were no rural clinics or community mental health centers.

#### **Institutional Medicare and Medicaid Providers, 2013**

Geographic Area	Total Institutional Providers	Hospitals	Nursing Facilities	Federally Qualified Health Centers	Rural Health Clinics	Community Mental Health Centers
Onondaga County, New York	56	7	13	10	0	0
New York	2,359	249	634	222	10	3
United States	70,657	7,191	15,683	5,768	4,013	537

Source: [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Provider of Services File, Third Quarter, 2013.](#)

## Health Care: Health Insurance

The total number of persons receiving Medicare is shown, broken down by number over 65 and number of disabled persons receiving Medicare for the Onondaga County. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that a total of 78,913 persons were receiving Medicare benefits in the report area in 2011. People over 65 years of age receive Medicare and, as is less well known, disabled persons also receive Medicare benefits. A total of 14,448 disabled persons in the report area received Medicare benefits in 2011.

### **Medicare Enrollment by County, 2011**

Geographic Area	Persons Over 65 Receiving Medicare	Disabled Persons Receiving Medicare	Total Persons Receiving Medicare
Onondaga County, New York	64,465	14,448	78,913
New York	2,480,618	484,903	2,965,521
United States	38,802,763	7,865,374	46,668,299

Source: [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Medicare County Enrollment Report, 2011.](#)

The uninsured population is calculated by estimating the number of persons eligible for insurance (generally those under 65) minus the estimated number of insured persons. In 2011, the percentage of persons uninsured was 10.8% in Onondaga County, New York.

### **Uninsured Persons, 2011**

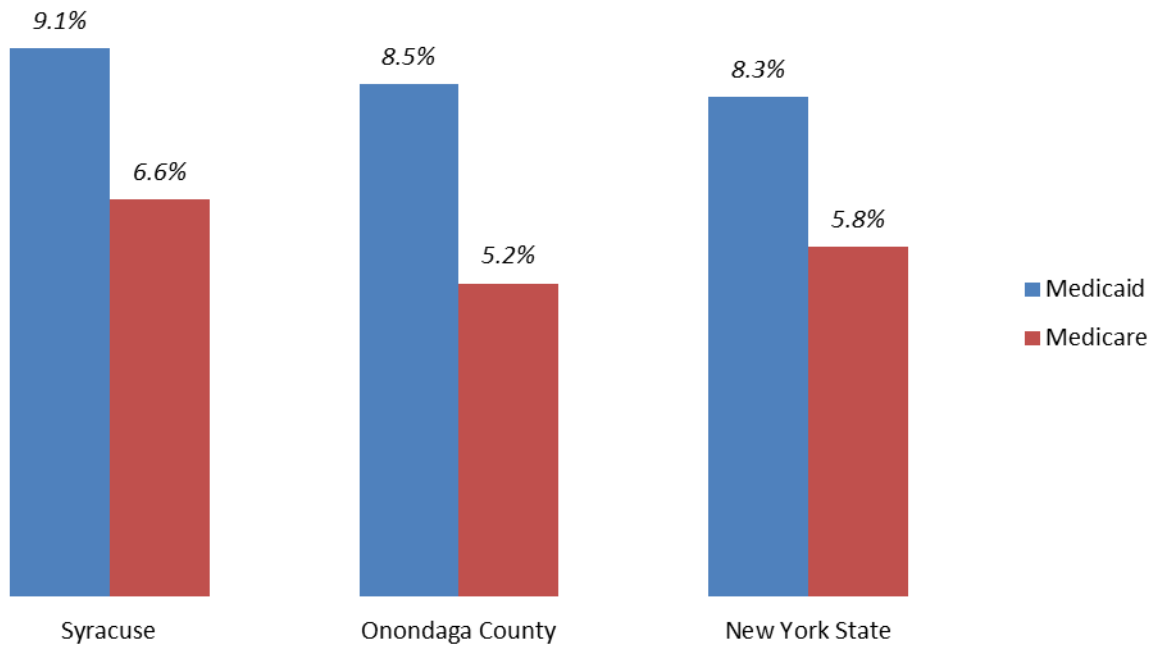
Geographic Area	Insurance Population (2011 Estimate)	Number Insured	Number Uninsured	Percent Uninsured
Onondaga County, New York	464,921	345,199	41,865	10.80
New York	19,302,448	14,237,024	2,155,975	13.20
United States	306,603,774	217,966,406	45,725,534	14.91

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 2011 \(August 2013 release\).](#)

While the number of uninsured people is likely to be affected by the new insurance options under the Affordable Care Act, it appears that prior to the enrollment effort, Onondaga County has fewer uninsured people than the state and national averages.

In the City of Syracuse, 9.1% of people receive Medicaid and in Onondaga County, 8.5% of people receive Medicaid. Both figures are higher than the state average of 8.3%

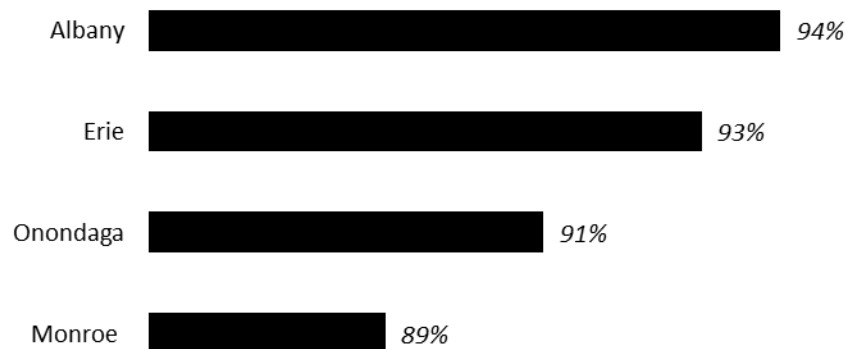
### Percent of Population Receiving Medicaid and Medicare 2008-10



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-1010 American Community Survey, 3 year estimates  
[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_10\\_3YR\\_S2701&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_10_3YR_S2701&prodType=table)

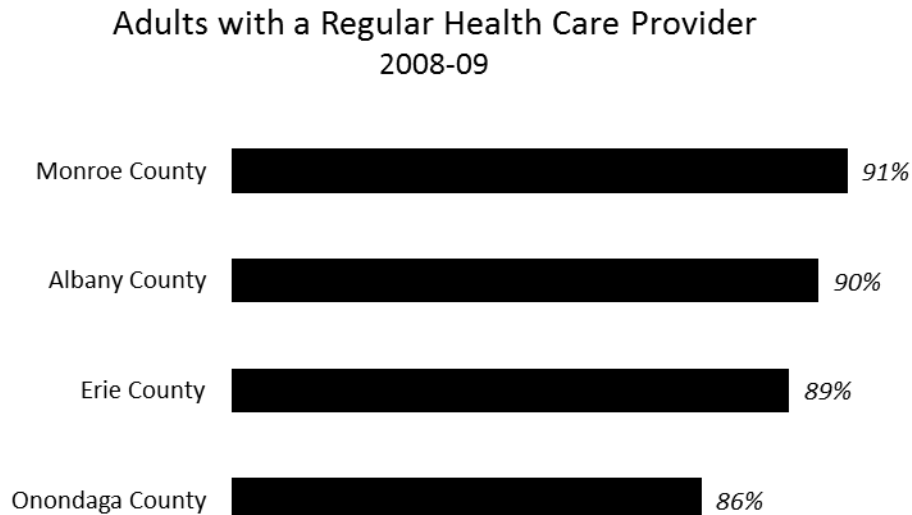
In Onondaga County, 91% of adults have Health Care Coverage. The Affordable Care Act and related enrollment efforts are expected to have a substantial impact on those numbers.

### Percentage of Adults with Health Care Coverage 2009



Source: NYS Department of Health, Expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss/index.asp>

Establishing an ongoing relationship with a regular healthcare provider is an indicator of improved access to appropriate health and wellness care. (<http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/LHI/accessCare.aspx>) 86% of adults in Onondaga County have a regular health care provider.



Source: New York State Expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Report, 2008-09  
<http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/general/g105.htm>

The Health Home initiative is a new approach to providing care that focuses on developing a relationship between the patient/client and their regular healthcare provider who offers a wide range of services and referrals in the community. As described by New York State promotional materials:

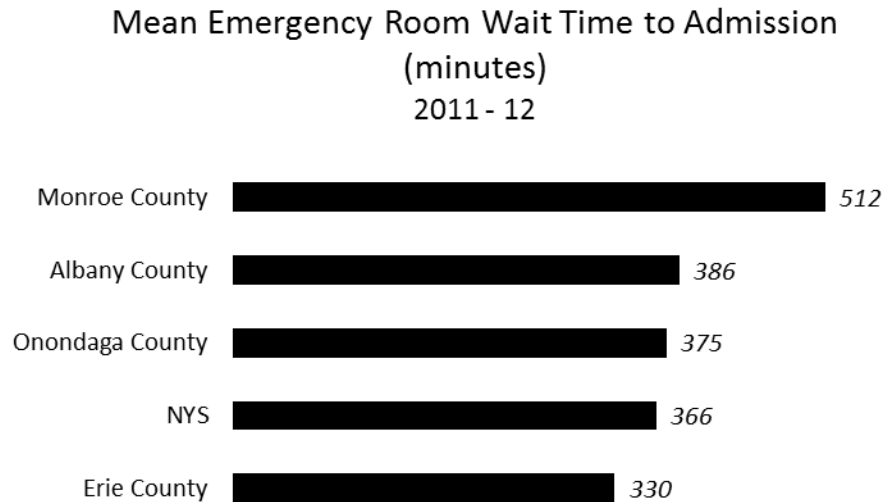
The [Health Home](#) is a Medicaid sponsored model of service delivery that expands on the traditional medical home model. The [Health Home](#) builds linkages to other community and social supports, enhancing coordination of medical and behavioral healthcare, with the main focus on the needs of patients with multiple chronic illnesses. Health Homes are responsible for assuring that their members receive all necessary services, including medical, mental health, behavioral, social services (such as housing, transportation to and from medical appointments), and long term care, if required.

(<http://nyehealth.org/what-we-do/api-innovation/health-home-initiative/>).



## Health Care: Emergency Room Wait

Onondaga County has a mean emergency room wait time of 375 minutes which is slightly higher than the New York state average of 366 minutes.



Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Hospital Compare,  
<http://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/results.aspx#state=NY&county>

## Health Care: Mental Health

Mental Health has been identified as a significant need in Onondaga County. The United Way Assessment recognized the far reaching effects of mental illness on our community as follows:

Ninety thousand individuals in Onondaga County have been affected by mental illness, which is also a major cause of suicide, as well as a contributor to poor overall health, homelessness and incarceration (Onondaga County Department of Mental Health, 2012). All focus groups raised mental health as a priority need in this community. United Way funded program reports show a stronger than projected demand for mental health services and concern over the lack of systems in place for those who need them.

(See United Way Assessment at 23 (citation in original)).

In the HS/EHS Assessment, staff identified “parents’ mental health issues” as one of the challenges that affect children in the HS/EHS program. (See HS/EHS Assessment at 39). In addition, the Lerner Report found that 60% of participants in their study identified mental health for both children and adults as an important issue facing the community. (Lerner Report Findings at 6).

## Health Care: Nutritious Food

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, food deserts are defined as urban neighborhoods and rural towns without ready access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food.

(<http://apps.ams.usda.gov/fooddeserts/foodDeserts.aspx>). In Onondaga County, 75% of the 18,402 food desert population in Onondaga County has low access to nutritious foods.

### Food Deserts with Low Access to Nutritious Foods 2012



Source: United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-desert-locator/go-to-the-locator.aspx>

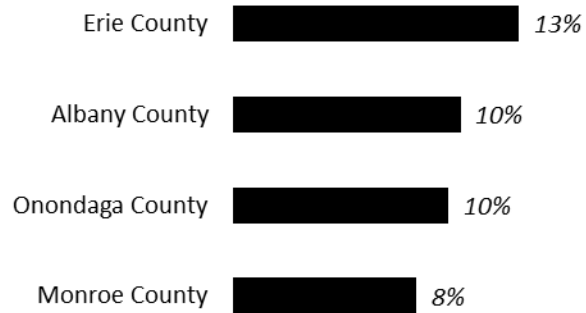
Children 0 to 17 and the elderly are significantly impacted by the food deserts. 34% of the the people with limited access to healthy food are minors and 10% are seniors.

### Minors in Populations with Low Access to Nutritious Foods 2012



Source: United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-desert-locator/go-to-the-locator.aspx>

### Elderly in Populations with Low Access to Nutritious Foods 2006-10



Source: United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-desert-locator/go-to-the-locator.aspx>

## Civic Engagement

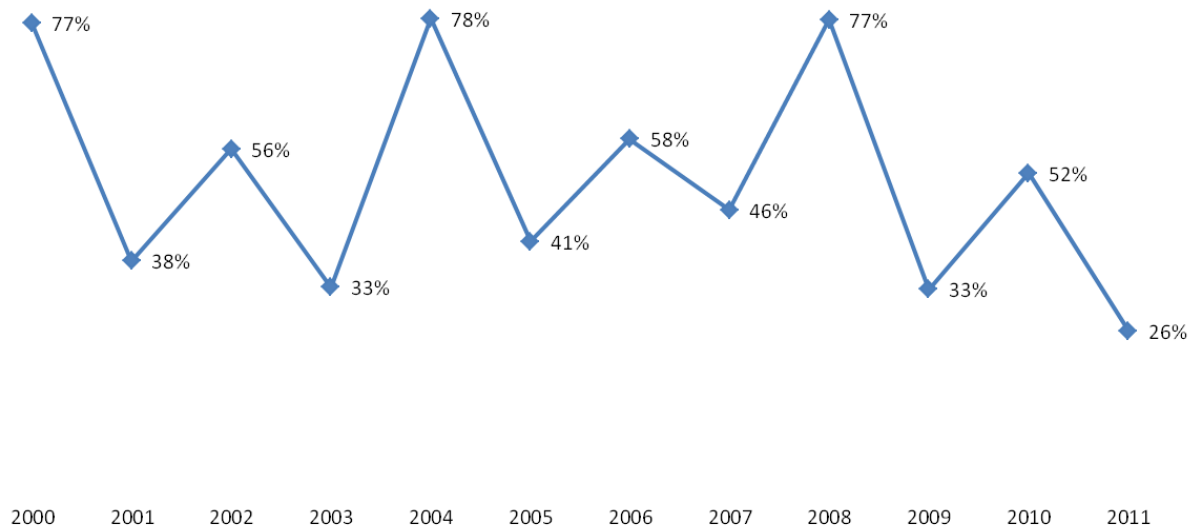
Recent elections have seen low voter turnout in Onondaga County. As reported in the CNY Vitals:

Voter apathy and uncontested elections hinder civic engagement in Onondaga County. According to the Onondaga County Board of Elections, from 1984 to 2011, the average election turnout rate was 57%. Turnout is even lower for local elections that fall between presidential races. According to the Central New York Political Institute, 50% of senate and town races in Onondaga County are uncontested. Out of all the school board and village races in the county, 70% and 60% of them are uncontested. 25% of state Senate races are uncontested.

(CNY Vitals at 28).

In 2011, only 26% of registered voters cast a vote in the local election. This was an all-time low.

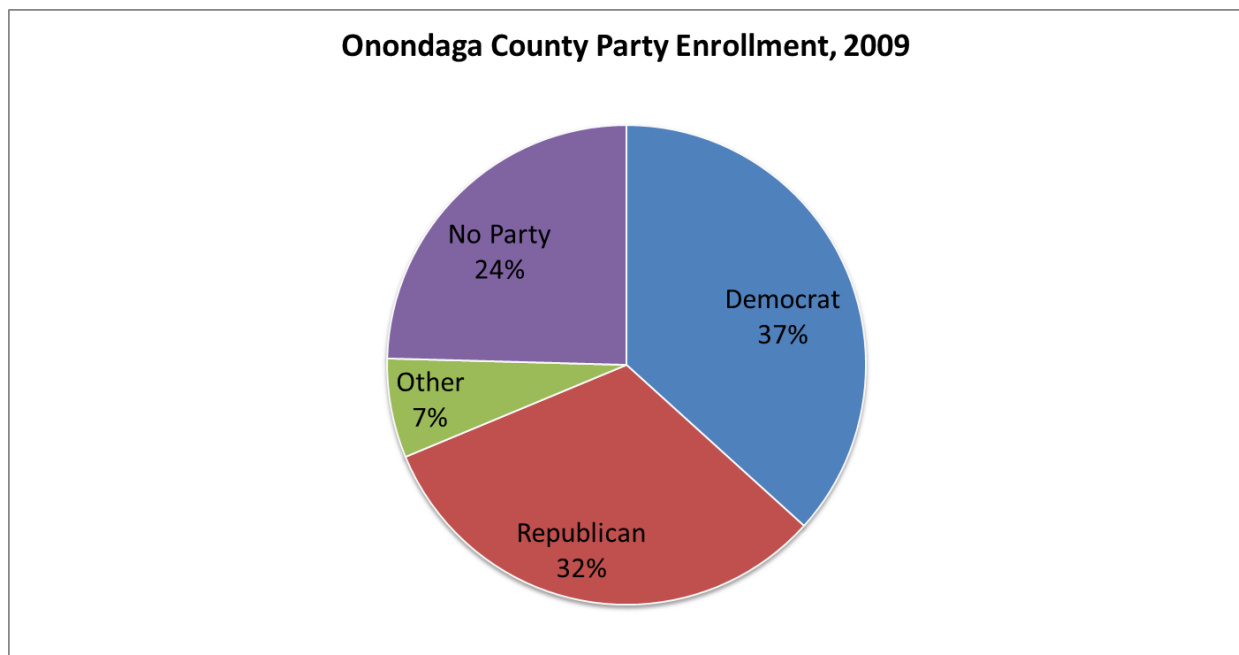
Voter Turnout Percentage of Registered Voters in Onondaga County  
2000-11



Source: Onondaga County Board of Elections

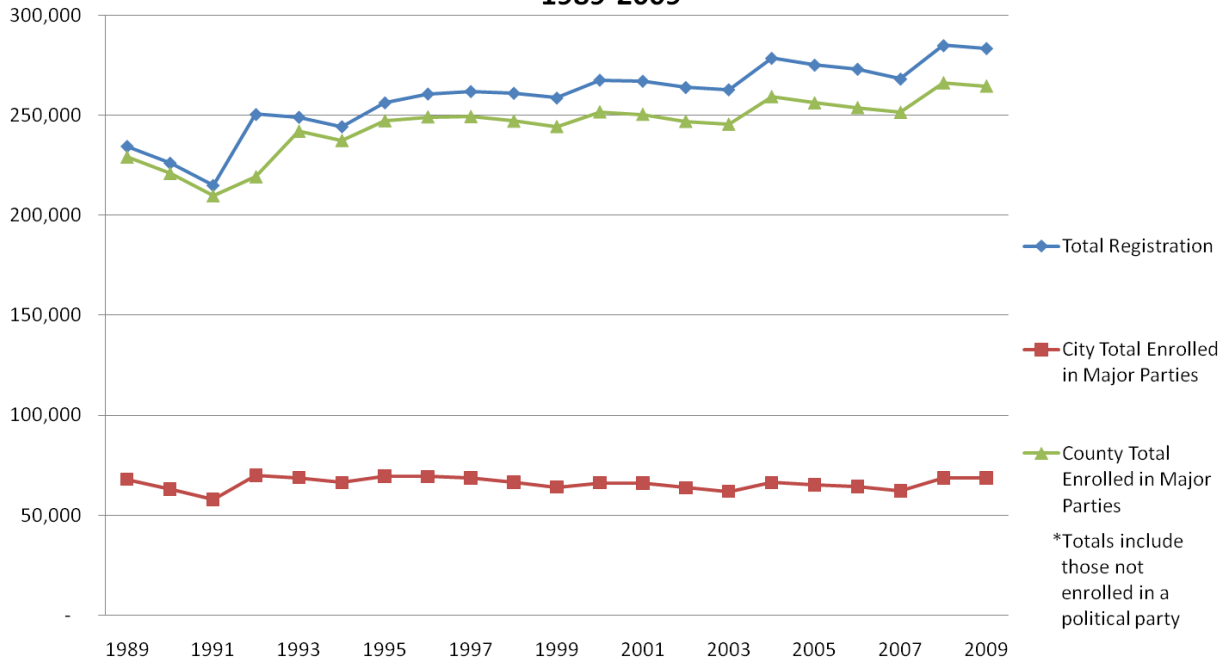
Voter Turnout Percentage of Registered Voters in Onondaga County, 2000-11			
Year	Registered Voters	Turnout	Percent Turnout
2000	267,623	205,388	76.70%
2001	267,108	100,312	37.60%
2002	263,949	147,735	56%
2003	262,835	87,278	33.20%
2004	278,579	215,822	77.50%
2005	275,136	112,196	40.80%
2006	273,094	157,361	57.60%
2007	268,161	123,303	46.00%
2008	284,880	220,168	77.30%
2009	283,456	93,260	32.90%
2010	276,906	145,152	52.00%
2011	275,078	71,765	26.00%

In Onondaga County, 37% of voters are registered democrat, 32% republican, 24% independent and 7 other parties and/affiliations.



Source: Onondaga County Board of Elections

### Onondaga County and City of Syracuse Major Party Enrollment, 1989-2009

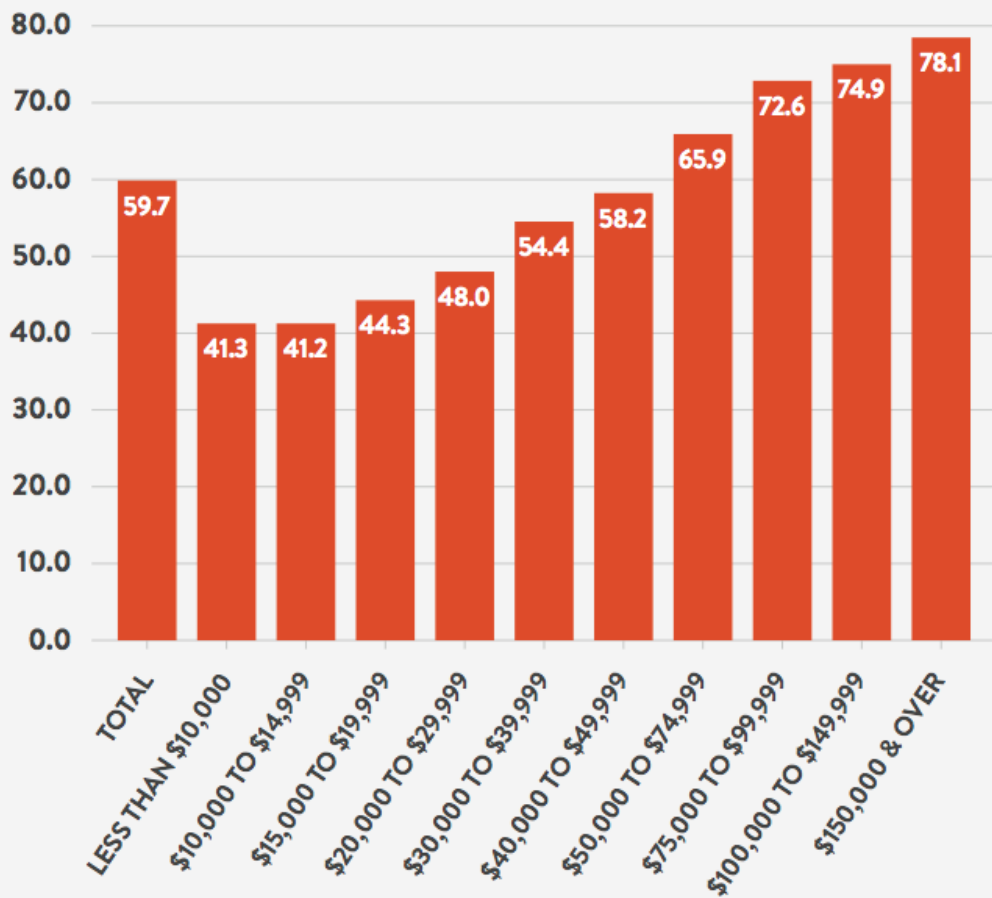


Source: Onondaga County Elections Board

Source: Onondaga County Board of Elections

According to census data, in the 2008 presidential election, there was a correlation between income and voter turnout. The higher a person's household income the more likely there were to vote. This raises concern about the impact of voter turnout on issues facing the low income population.

**FIGURE 2: VOTER TURNOUT BY INCOME, 2008 US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.**



SOURCE: US Census Bureau

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