

Department of  
Traffic Safety  
Annual Report

2015



**Is it worth it?**  
Oneida County STOP-DWI Program

**Anthony J. Picente, Jr.**  
County Executive

**Thomas A. Giruzzi**  
Coordinator



**DEFENSIVE  
DRIVING  
COURSE**

Oneida County Department of Traffic Safety





**Oneida County  
Office of Traffic Safety / STOP-DWI Program**



**Anthony J. Picente Jr.**  
Oneida County Executive

**Thomas A. Giruzzi**  
Stop-DWI Coordinator



Anthony J. Picente, Jr.  
Oneida County Executive  
800 Park Avenue  
Utica, New York 13501

Dear County Executive Picente;

I hereby submit the **2015 Oneida County Office of Traffic Safety/ STOP DWI, "Year in Review"**

The Office of Traffic Safety is responsible for the operation of the Oneida County STOP- DWI Program, Oneida County Division of Traffic Safety, Handicapped Parking Education Program, Oneida County Traffic Advisory Board, and the Oneida County Victim Impact Panel.

The following pages detail total 2015 program activity. It is my intent to continue to maintain a strong, aggressive, proactive approach against intoxicated driving in Oneida County, as well as to simultaneously promote our comprehensive injury prevention efforts through our Defensive Driving, Alive at 25 Program and other educational efforts. In this way, we will, hopefully continue to reduce the number of alcohol-related and other motor vehicle crashes, injuries and deaths in Oneida County.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Giruzzi, Coordinator



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# Oneida County STOP-DWI Program 2015 Year In Review

**Thomas A. Giruzzi**

**STOP-DWI Program Coordinator & Victim Impact Panel Coordinator**

## **Executive Summary**

In **2015**, the Oneida County STOP-DWI Program (Special Traffic Options Program for Driving While Intoxicated) continued its aggressive and proactive approach in providing the residents of Oneida County with a coordinated county, city, town, and village effort to **reduce alcohol and drug related traffic injuries and fatalities**.

There were **633 arrests** for driving while intoxicated and/or its related offenses in 2015; **148, or 23.5%** of which were effected by police officers working DWI selective enforcement patrols utilizing monies provided to their agency by the STOP-DWI Program. Tragically, however, despite our continuing aggressive efforts, one **(1) death (3 in 2014)** was caused by **alcohol/drug-related motor vehicle crashes** occurred in Oneida County. **While this is totally unacceptable**, it is important to take notice that the number of persons killed in alcohol/drug related motor vehicle crashes has remained low in the past several years when compared with **27** alcohol-related fatalities in 1981, the year the STOP-DWI Program was implemented. **Your STOP-DWI Program continues to be funded with Oneida County driving while intoxicated fines.**

In **2015**, arrests in Oneida County declined from **693 in 2014 to 633**. Alcohol-related fatal and other personal and non-injury motor vehicle crashes have decreased in Oneida County over time and we are continuing to aggressively remove the intoxicated motorist from our Oneida County roadways. Overall alcohol/drug-related motor vehicle crashes **decreased in 2015 to 148** compared to **213** in 2014.

As established by the authors of the original STOP-DWI legislation in 1981, the Oneida County STOP-DWI Program continued its comprehensive and aggressive approach to rid Oneida County roadways of the intoxicated driver in **2015**. This was accomplished through our six component areas: **law enforcement, program administration and evaluation, community awareness and education, court related activities, probation and rehabilitation.**

## **Law Enforcement**

In **2015**, fourteen (14) Oneida County law enforcement agencies received funding and/or equipment support from the STOP-DWI Program. Law enforcement expenditures for fiscal **2015** accounted for **43%** of the STOP-DWI Program's program expenditures.

In Oneida County, and across New York State, Law enforcement is the most visible deterrent to the potential driving while intoxicated offender. Traditionally, money has been disbursed for two primary purposes: driving while intoxicated selective enforcement patrols and the purchase of law enforcement equipment to enhance their overall DWI enforcement efforts. In **2015 minimal**, new equipment was purchased for several agencies to enhance their overall DWI enforcement efforts. **Where feasible**, equipment repairs proceeded as usual during **2015**. The vast majority of law enforcement equipment was originally purchased at the inception of the program; during 1983, 1984 and 1985. The life-span of much of this equipment has reached the point where cost effective repairs are no longer feasible.

**Selective enforcement patrol programs** are designed to provide STOP-DWI member agencies with funding to conduct special patrol efforts, above and beyond "routine" patrols, for the sole purpose of aggressively seeking out intoxicated motorists. Most Oneida County agencies utilize their funding

allocation for “overtime” DWI selective enforcement patrols. Officers generally work their regularly scheduled shift, and when that shift is concluded, they begin a DWI selective enforcement patrol. Historically, selective enforcement patrols work during peak DWI hours; Friday and Saturday nights from 11:00PM until 3:00AM, or during special holiday or other unique local events that may be indigenous to the participating municipality.

Perhaps equally as important to seeking out the intoxicated motorist, these patrols, funded through DWI fine monies, **also provide additional police protection to the participating municipality in the form of an increased police presence**; readily capable of responding to emergency calls for assistance or backup when the municipalities “routine” patrol(s) require assistance or support.

## **Special Enforcement Efforts and Unique Initiatives**

The Oneida County STOP-DWI Program continues to encourage its member agencies to participate in local, state, and national enforcement and education initiatives. During **2015**, our member law enforcement agencies continued to participate in such programs as National Holiday Life Saver Weekend in December, Campaign Safe & Sober initiatives sponsored by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, and BUCKLE-UP New York occupant restraint campaigns and related initiatives. Special enforcement initiatives over super bowl weekend, St. Patrick’s Day, New Year Eve, Fourth of July, Memorial Day, Labor Day and prom and graduation week events were also a part of the STOP-DWI program’s aggressive selective enforcement programs.

## **Crackdown Grant Money Received**

In year **2015** The Oneida County STOP DWI Program received a **\$63,350** grant from the NYS STOP DWI Foundation. These monies are to be used on targeted holiday dates throughout the year, which traditionally show an uptick in alcohol consumption. The participating agencies were; The NY Mills, Rome, Utica, Whitesboro, Vernon, Yorkville and Whitestown Police Departments, along with the Oneida County Sheriff’s Department. The DWI Program has received **\$19,620**, for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

## **Sobriety Checkpoint Trailer**

At the end of 2008, the 1992 Sobriety Checkpoint Trailer was replaced with a new unit that is able to hold all the necessary equipment to safely operate a sobriety checkpoint. During **2015**, the trailer was utilized extensively by law enforcement agencies throughout Oneida County at Sobriety checkpoints. In addition, the sobriety checkpoints trailer is continuously utilized as public relations “moving billboard,” emphasizing the inaugural them placed upon the trailer, **“Compliments of Convicted Drunk Drivers.”**

The trailer was utilized on many occasions by the STOP-DWI Program at community awareness events. This unique law enforcement tool continues to “increase the perception risk” that sobriety checkpoints are being placed throughout Oneida County, without prior notice.

## **Law Enforcement Recognition Breakfast**

The STOP DWI program will continue to recognize those law enforcement officials who consistently dedicate themselves to Selective DWI Enforcement. **The date has been changed to coincide with the annual MVCC sponsored TED MOORE STOP DWI WALK/RUN. Ted was killed 19 years ago, while jogging, by an intoxicated driver.** Each law enforcement agency is asked to submit one nominee from their agency to be their **“2015 Joseph D. Corr Outstanding DWI Enforcement Officer.”** **The Oneida County Sheriff’s Foundation funds the breakfast and in 2013 awarded its first Sheriff’s Foundation “DWI Investigative Award”.**

**Officer Joseph D. Coor Memorial Award for Outstanding DWI Enforcement Officers:**

Officer Jennifer Tabolt, (Boonville PD), Shawn Occhipinti ( Kirkland PD), Thomas Hulser, ( New Hartford PD), Inv. James P. Toomey Jr. (NYM PD), Carlie Heilig (Oriskany PD), Matthew Zabek (Whitestown PD), Charles Parksewich (Utica PD), Benny Rotundo, Jr. ( Yorkville PD), PTLM Hollie Kennedy ( Rome PD), Mitchell Grogan (Whitesboro PD), Deputy Aaron Avard ( Oneida Co. Sheriff's Dept.), and Trooper Steven P. Fountain ( NYS Police).

**Oneida Co. Sheriff's Foundation "DWI Investigative Award"**

**No Award Given**

**William M. Weber Award for Excellence in Crash Reconstruction:**

**Inv. Brett T. Yorgey, NYSP**

**Perpetual Agency Award:**

**Camden Police Department**

**Michael C. Austin Community Service Award:**

**Major Francis Coots**

**Law Enforcement Challenge**

In 2013 the Stop-DWI Law Enforcement Challenge was introduced to the Ted Moore Run/Walk. Each Law Enforcement Agency was asked to participate in the challenge. Several Agencies were up to the challenge, the two fastest times were averaged together to determine the winning agency for which the **Utica Police Department** won the trophy for **2015**. Each year the Law Enforcement Challenge Trophy will be engraved with the winning agency and remain with that agency until the next Challenge.

**Law Enforcement – Summary**

The Oneida County STOP-DWI Program proudly continues its aggressive and proactive efforts at reducing alcohol-related traffic injuries and fatalities through the use of the dedicated member of our Oneida County law enforcement community. **In 2015, DWI arrests decreased, however, there were 1 fatal alcohol/drug related motor vehicle crash in Oneida County and that is totally unacceptable!** It is, still, however, evident through our cooperative efforts with the Oneida County Law Enforcement Coalition, and other law enforcement agencies throughout New York State, that the overwhelming trend is moving toward a more informed and aware Oneida County public.

We must continue to be ever vigilant, however. Although the long-term trend has been downward in terms of the number of arrests, the number of fatalities, and the percentage of alcohol-related crashes, these numbers have leveled off in recent years, and, decreased this year from 2014. We must cooperatively continue to aggressively and proactively seek out those who irresponsibly choose to drink and drive on our Oneida County roadways.

We reaffirm our motto: **"If You Drink, It's Your Business, If you Drink & Drive, It's OURS!"**

**Court Related Activities**

In **2015, 10%** of the Oneida County STOP-DWI Program's budget was dedicated to court-related activities; enhancing the process of ensuring that DWI and related offenders receive swift adjudication of their individual cases, and certain and severe punishment for their crimes.

The STOP-DWI Program provided partial reimbursement to the Oneida County District Attorney's Office for the salaries of assistant district attorney positions and one clerical assistant. These positions are responsible for spearheading all DWI and related cases throughout Oneida County. In addition, the District

Attorney is responsible for maintaining a county wide “clearinghouse” of all DWI and related cases information.

## **Probation**

Probation supervision and administration accounted for **10%** of STOP-DWI expenditures for fiscal 2014. STOP-DWI funding was dedicated for the salaries of two full-time probation officers positions. These officers are responsible for coordinating all of the DWI cases within the Oneida County Probation Department. In **2015**, DWI and its related offenses represented approximately **20%** of the entire caseload for the Probation Department. In addition supervision of probationers, the Oneida County Probation Department staff dedicated to DWI supervision also engages in ongoing staff development and training sessions, as well as assisting the STOP-DWI Program in the efficient implementation of the Victim Impact Panel Program and follow-up on all probationers sentenced to attend a session of the program.

## **Rehabilitation**

Our office does not expend direct funding for offender treatment, rehabilitation or related services, since these responsibilities are already being provided through various components in Oneida County through funding from state, county, and/or municipal funds, other than STOP-DWI funds. Central New York Services, Inc. Forensic Evaluation Unit provides as a clearinghouse for DWI offenders sentenced under the District Attorney’s Office “First Offender Program”.

Oneida County STOP-DWI Program, however, has applied funding to our respective District Attorney and Probation offices, which work to provide prosecution and pre and post conviction offender supervision in order to reduce recidivism and enhance the enforcement of DWI related statutes.

## **VICTIM IMPACT PANEL (VIP)**

For many years the Oneida County STOP-DWI Program has worked with Mother’s Against Drunk Driving (MADD), to deliver the message against drunk driving to various social, educational and civil groups in our community as a proactive measure to reduce the incidents of drunk driving. This same component is used as a tool to enforce concept to DWI offenders by the way of the **Victim Impact Panel**. On February 1, 1994, the Oneida County STOP-DWI Program became the 13<sup>th</sup> county in New York State to implement the innovative Victim Impact Panel Program for DWI and related offenders. This panel, meeting monthly, directly delivers the powerful message demonstrating the ramifications and perils of drunk driving. Since 1994, thousands of DWI offenders have attended a session of the Victim Impact Panel as a condition of their DWI/DWAI sentence.

The STOP-DWI Program Coordinator serves as the VIP Coordinator. The Oneida County version of the Victim Impact Panel Program has become the Model for many other counties desiring to establish panel programs. This innovative initiative, first brought to the attention of STOP-DWI Program Staff by Patricia Washburn of MADD, now serves as the centerpiece of continuing aggressive initiatives for the STOP-DWI Program; symbolizing the true spirit of cooperation between members of the private and public sectors, as well as the teamwork exemplified by the relationship between the STOP-DWI, The Oneida County District Attorney’s Office, Probation Department, Sheriff’s Office, Insight House, Oneida County Magistrates’ Association, and the Clerks of all the County and local criminal courts of Oneida County. **400 Offenders** were sentence to attend the Victim Impact Panel in **2015**.

The STOP-DWI Program is proud to effectively deliver a long overdue setting for the victims of this preventable crime to “paint a picture” for the community of what DWI really is, and what someone else’s choice to drink and drive has done to their lives.

The overall coordination for the VIP is accomplished by STOP-DWI Program Staff who prepares notices and correspondence to both the offenders and their respective courts. Every other month, the panel

registers between 75-90 offenders ordered to attend by the local criminal and county courts of Oneida County. All offenders pay an administrative fee reimbursing the program for expenses incurred. Additionally costs associated include overtime for Probation and Sheriff's office staff assigned to assist in the operation of this component, as well as postage, correspondence, travel, subsistence and other related expenses

Expenses in this category also includes alcohol and drug testing equipment, as well as funding for Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitors (SCRAM) that will be utilized as part of DWI offender's probation terms and conditions. These new tools will aid in the prevention of recidivism of DWI of those targeted offenders.

Through Programming such as the Victim Impact Panel and other related equipment expenditures and personal service expenses, approximately 2% of program funding was dedicated to the category in **2014**.

## **Community Awareness and Education**

Community awareness and education activities accounted for **4%** of STOP-DWI Program expenditures for fiscal **2015**. Perhaps most noticeable in the fight to remove the intoxicated motorist from our roadways is the continuing need for strong community awareness and education programs. Keeping the STOP-DWI Program message in front of the public through a myriad of media events has significantly increased the public's perceptions and level of awareness concerning the STOP-DWI program and its continuing mission. **Although only 4% is dedicated to this most vital area, the STOP DWI Program has continually increased its visibility and outreach with-in the community.**

## **2015 Highlights**

The Distribution of pamphlets, magnets, key chains, pencils, and other items to various community, school and civic organization continued. These "staple" items have continued to promote an interest and maintain awareness in the STOP-DWI Program's existence and mission for the first 20 years of the program, and will undoubtedly do so for years to come.

The distribution of this material coincided with school presentations, and various community events, including **Mock Crashes, which were coordinated by local volunteer fire departments at two local high schools, namely, Sauquoit and New Hartford.** Materials were also distributed at all function where STOP-DWI Program Staff were present, as well as general distribution to all Oneida County school through their Students against Driving Drunk (SADD) Chapters and Student Councils.

**Partnership with the Mohawk Valley Refugee Center:** STOP DWI Educational Awareness Programs were conducted in five different languages, via an interpreter, namely, Bosnian, Karen, Arabic, Nepali and Russian. We will continue this partnership in 2016.

## **Fifteenth Annual Oneida County Traffic Safety Education Program**

In **2015** the STOP-DWI Program continued its annual Teen Traffic Safety Education Program bringing its "SHOW ON THE ROAD" directly to Oneida County high school students. Through this arrangement we were able to reach 3,500 students and educate them about the perils of drunk driving with an overall message of traffic safety. Realizing the economic crunch school districts have been going through, STOP-DWI brought the program to the schools, saving them money they may or may not have had for field trips while reaching more students. The Educational Program has grown to, not, just be about traffic safety but educating students on many issues which they face today. Partnerships have been formed with the Insight House, the NYS Department of Transportation, BOCES and its Anti Bullying, CORE program, as well as the YWCA and their Teen Dating Sexual Violence program. The Oneida County Sheriff's Department joined the program in **2015**, educating students on the dangers of texting and driving. **The Program is timed toward the end of the school year when statistics show the most automobile crashes occur involving our youth.**

## **STOP DWI BASEBALL CLASSIC**

The STOP DWI Program continued its partnership with the **Oneida County Youth Bureau on this important educational initiative**. The baseball classic is run in conjunction with the annual Teen Traffic Safety Education Program. The Baseball Classic gives us the ability to expand our mission; by reaching families and the community in general. This year the most valuable player of each winning team was presented with a DWI logo baseball bat from the Cooperstown Bat Company. A sportsmanship award was also presented, courtesy of Preferred Mutual . This educational classic reaches 1500 + Oneida County students and members of the community annually.

### **“Last Call: One Second, Everything Changes” Display**

Oneida County STOP-DWI worked closely with the Lewis Henry Morgan Institute at the State University of New York, Institute of Technology (SUNY-IT) in Utica, to assist in producing a museum-quality portable regional exhibit, as well as an accompanying short documentary film on teenage driving.

“The Last Call: One Second, Everything Changes” display presents actual cases of underage driving fatalities in a sensitive, but compelling manner. It puts a youthful face on the serious problems of adolescent impaired, distracted, and aggressive driving. This display is accompanied by its own enclosed trailer and is used in high schools to help students make better choices when it comes to risky driving behaviors.

### **Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Chapters & Activities**

The STOP-DWI Program continued its aggressive and comprehensive efforts designed to enhance the presence of the STOP-DWI Program throughout the School Districts of Oneida County. Although every junior & senior high school in Oneida County does not have a registered SADD Chapter, every high school and college in Oneida County does participate in STOP-DWI awareness activities designed to increase the presence of the driving drunk message in their school districts and colleges. These activities include; contact for life drives, pre/post prom activities, alcohol free parties, designated driver campaigns, grim reaper day, and much more. In addition, the STOP-DWI Program continues to provide all of our Oneida County schools with updates on new projects and ample supplies of our “staple” items such as pamphlets, magnets, key chains, pencils and other informational and educational materials.

In addition to providing support services, the STOP-DWI Program also provides funding to SADD/Student Council organization for the purchase of DWI related supplies for their group or to pay for other fees related to the STOP-DWI mission. The STOP-DWI Program office also assists schools in securing speakers for assemblies, and individual classes, including STOP-DWI staffing who periodically speaks at schools in a variety of formats, including individual classes, full school assemblies, and the setup of the STOP-DWI informational display booth at the school. In **2015**, STOP-DWI continued its agreement with the Oneida County Youth Bureau where the Youth Bureau program director served as the SADD liaison for STOP-DWI. This agency is responsible for spearheading the STOP-DWI Program’s initiatives throughout the county schools, as well as other new projects designed to increase SADD/STOP-DWI initiatives throughout the county. Through the continuing education of our students from junior high school through senior high school and into college, the STOP-DWI Program remains committed to exert a positive influence to our most vital resource: our children; our future.

### **DWI... HAVE A PLAN**

Unique radio spots, television commercials that coincide with peak DWI activity time periods (St. Patrick’s Day, New Years, Prom/Graduation, summertime, Labor Day, Christmas Holiday period) are out in force

throughout Oneida County. This campaign is designed to take the one message, **HAVE A PLAN**, and incorporate it throughout all of our advertising mediums.

## **Speed Monitoring Trailers**

In 2001, two speed monitoring trailers were purchased along with a new program vehicle to tow the many trailers employed in the STOP-DWI Programs enforcement and community awareness and education cast arsenal. With the prevalence of the “**deadly trio**” in most alcohol-related fatal and serious personal injury motor vehicle crashes: **Speed, Alcohol, and Un-restrained Occupants**, the need to scientifically track actual and perceived speed areas, as well as visually provide immediate feedback to speeders, has become an important, and high demand function of STOP-DWI Program operations. In 2005 and 2006, two additional speed trailers were purchased to keep up with increased demand for these units. Between the months of April and October **2015**, the four trailers were deployed constantly on Oneida County roadways.

## **Program Administration and Evaluation**

The STOP-DWI Program staff consists of a Program Coordinator and Principal Clerk. The Staff is responsible for all facets of program operations. In 2015, Program Administration and Evaluation accounted for 23% of the STOP-DWI Program expenditures. In addition to reporting activities to the County Executive and the Board of Legislators, the STOP-DWI Program must also report to the New York State Department of Motor Vehicle. In addition to submission of an annual “Plan” of proposed activities, the program must also submit quarterly reports of income and expenditures to the Department of Motor Vehicles. These reports are detailed accounts; broken down into the six major program components; detailing activities transpiring in each area. Once all reports have been completed by all other STOP-DWI Programs throughout the State of New York, a summary report is issued by the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee showing the dollar expended by each program across the State, as well as an average percentage expended in each component area. Oneida County has consistently maintained expenditures on a level that is par with other STOP-DWI Program across New York State. The STOP-DWI Program also reports to the Oneida County Traffic Safety Advisory Board; a volunteer group representing all facets of the traffic safety community. We remain deeply appreciative to all of the members who serve on this board for their unswerving commitment to this important issue.

## **New York State STOP-DWI Coordinators’ Association**

The Oneida County STOP-DWI Program is a member of the New York State STOP-DWI Coordinators’ Association. The Association is made up of all counties in New York State that operate STOP-DWI Programs, and is the “watch-group” for all issues that relate to driving while intoxicated in New York State. The association meets biannually as a whole, and more frequently in regions and other committee and special event meetings. **The Oneida CO STOP DWI Coordinator serves as the Central Region Chairperson.**

## **Summation**

Since 1981, the Oneida County STOP-DWI Program has proudly served the residents and visiting motorists of Oneida County with an aggressive and proactive program to coordinate county, city, town and village efforts to reduce alcohol related traffic injuries and fatalities on all Oneida County roads.

Together with Victim Impact Panels, our traffic safety education program , speed monitoring trailers, increased activities and awareness in our schools, and our comprehensive “**DWI...HAVE A PLAN**” multimedia advertising campaign, new and innovative initiatives that reach deep into the hearts of our community are being undertaken.

New initiatives that address the needs of the victims of this senseless crime are well underway, and will be a major part of the next 10 years of this program. As we look to **2016**, efforts to reach the youth of today,

who will be the drivers of tomorrow, are strong, and growing. Each year the STOP-DWI Program undertakes similar activities that were undertaken in previous years. While some would be content with maintaining the process, **we have continually attempted to enhance, expand, and energize the process to allow for a more beneficial product; that product being Oneida County roadways void of the intoxicated motorist.**

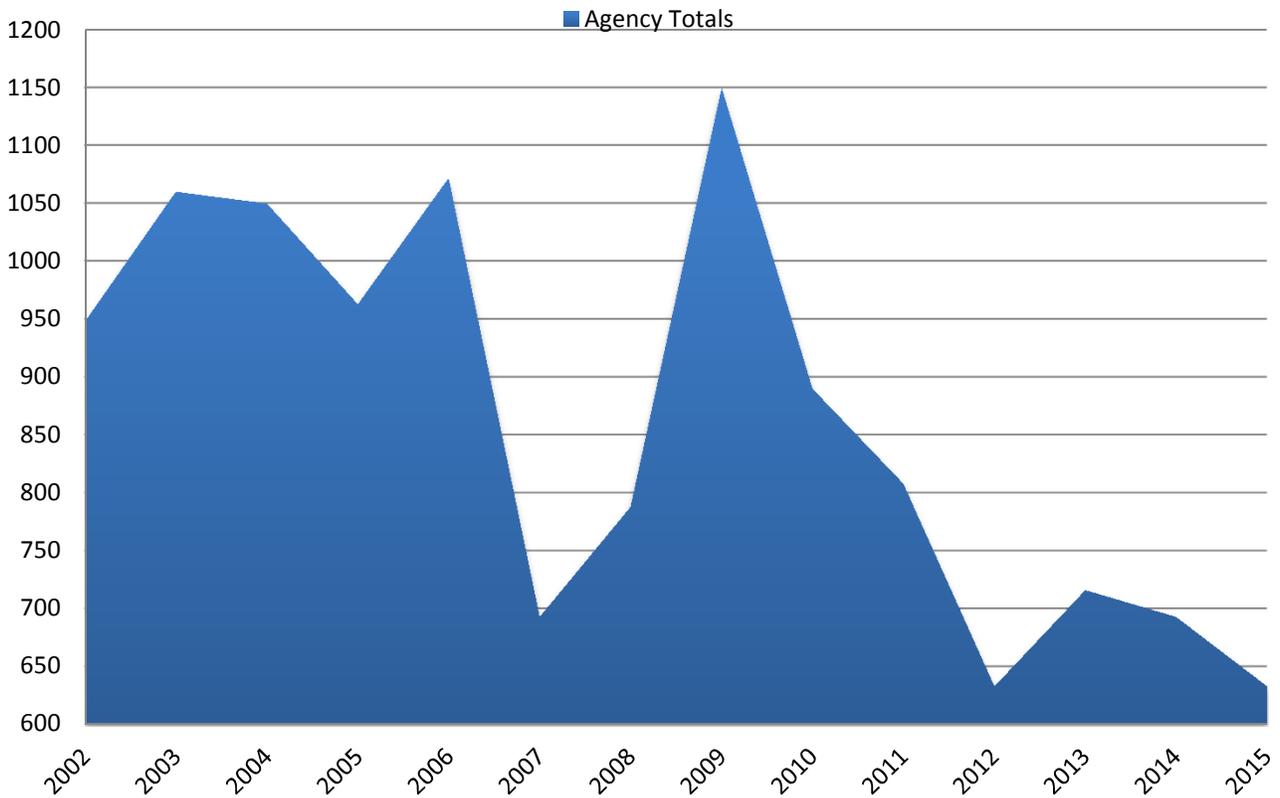
Each Year we have added new and exciting initiatives to enhance the STOP-DWI Program. Only through continued cooperative efforts between all levels of government and our private sector partners can we decrease the pain and suffering caused by this preventable plague.

## Oneida County STOP-DWI Program

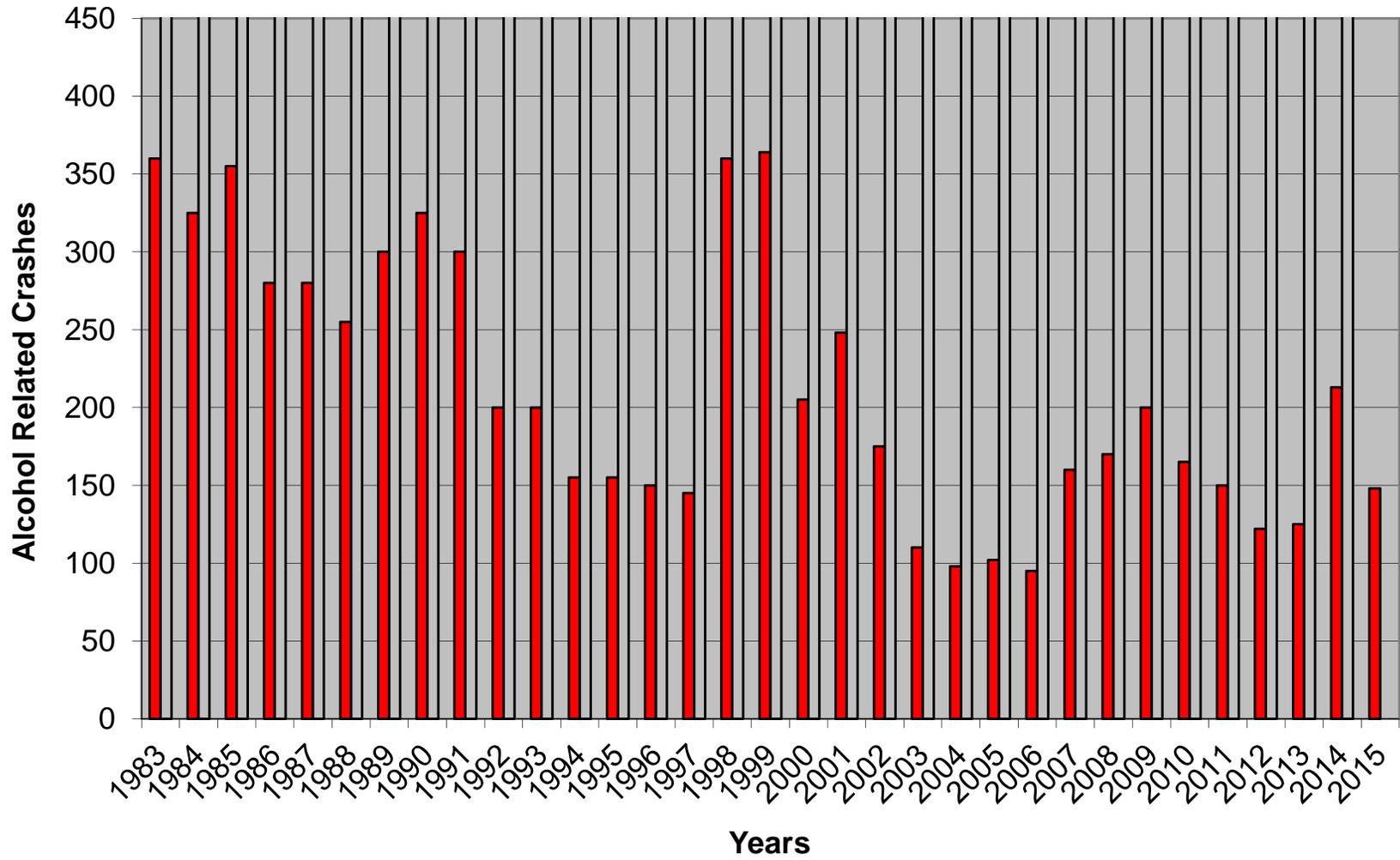
### Agency DWI Arrest Summary

Agency / Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Boonville PD	13	16	31	36	50	34	27	28	23	25	34	26	6	6
Camden PD	8	14	12	6	6	9	9	7	6	3	3	5	25	3
Kirkland PD	29	47	34	42	43	24	32	33	30	23	17	14	11	2
New Hartford PD	95	102	124	116	102	110	109	120	101	93	80	65	44	44
NY Mills PD	15	74	60	44	31	27	31	32	10	24	14	11	14	18
Oriskany PD	3	7	4	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	2
Oneida Co Sheriff	193	242	207	213	244	225	221	263	185	171	151	156	140	125
Rome PD	79	78	93	89	107	77	85	64	59	52	71	49	64	87
Sherrill PD	14	20	14	17	17	27	23	15	6	1	1	4	4	2
Utica PD	92	96	100	81	98	100	120	194	123	119	127	135	119	86
Vernon PD	5	3	16	8	3	8	14	9	11	15	10	3	3	9
Whitesboro PD	30	36	46	24	38	37	32	33	18	38	34	32	24	20
Whitestown PD	6	6	9	9	8	21	17	21	19	13	9	12	19	12
Yorkville PD	27	26	14	32	46	22	60	48	14	20	17	27	30	31
NYSP	328	272	274	222	255	300		261	255	200	155	171	189	179
NYS Park Police	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	0
NYS Encon Police	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUNY	2	0	3	6	4	4	1	2	3	0	0	1	1	0
NYSP-T-Way	8	20	8	17	19	31	6	18	25	9	9	2	0	7
<b>Agency Totals</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>1060</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>1072</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>1150</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>633</b>

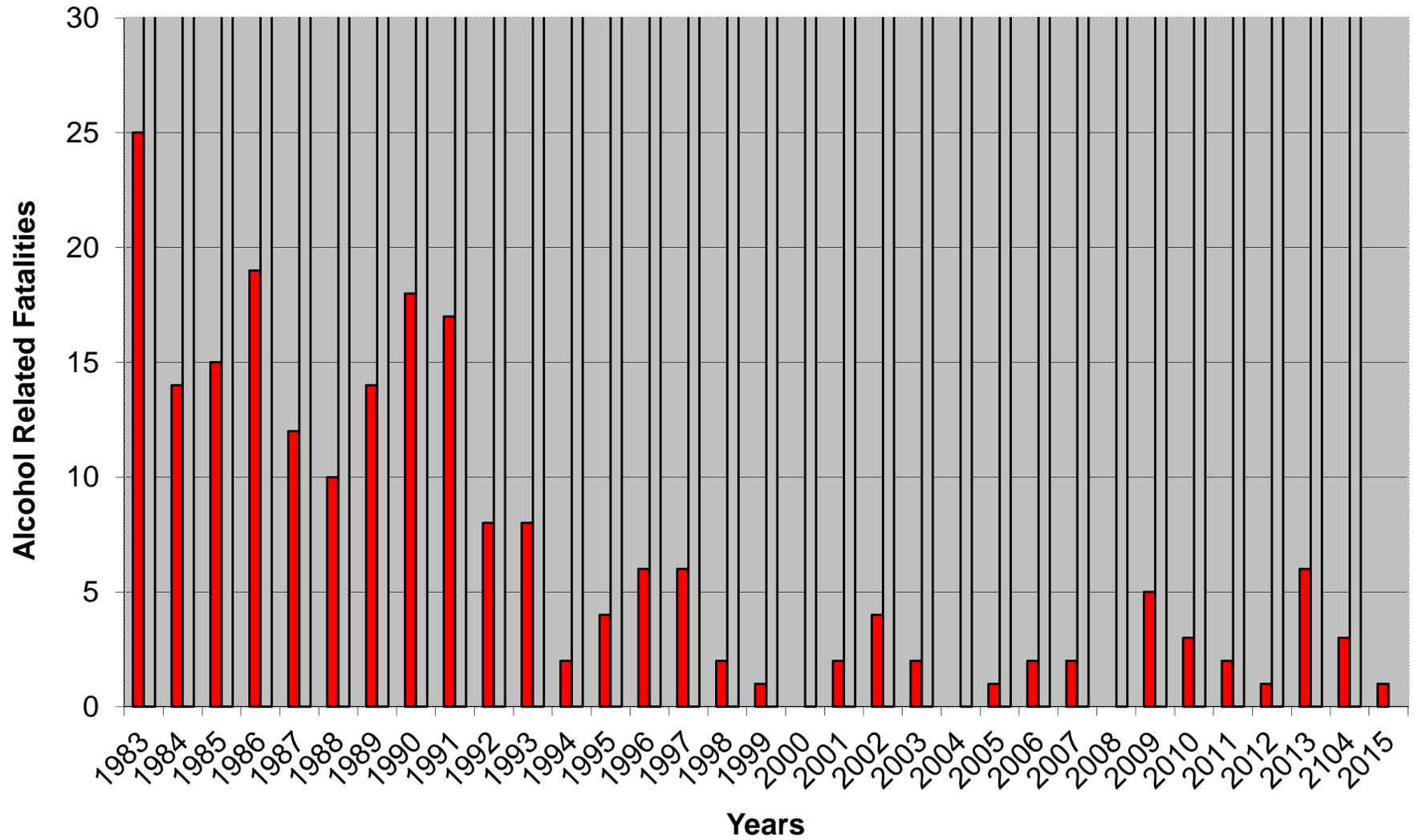
### Agency DWI Arrest Summary



# Oneida County - Alcohol Related Crashes



### Alcohol Related Fatalities



# Oneida County Division of Traffic Safety 2015 Year in Review

**Thomas A. Giruzzi**

## Executive Summary

The Division of Traffic Safety is responsible for three primary functions; National Safety Council's Defensive Driving Course, serving as a clearinghouse for accident statistical information and beginning in 1997, the office was charged with the responsibility of spearheading, along with the Traffic Safety Advisory Board, the Comprehensive Oneida County Traffic Safety Strategic Plan and requisite planning process and administrative responsibilities.

During **2015**, there were **8 (9 in 2014)** overall fatalities that occurred on Oneida County Roadways. The Oneida County Division of Traffic Safety is committed to aggressive enforcement, prevention, and community awareness and education initiative toward our goal of reducing the incidence of motor vehicle crashes and related injuries and fatalities that may occur on our Oneida County roadways.

## Defensive Driving Course (DDC)

The Oneida County Division of Traffic Safety continues to proudly offer the National Safety Council's Defensive Driving Course. The course is held in cooperation with the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles and the New York State Department of Insurance. **In 2012 the Traffic Safety Office entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with MVCC, to collaboratively coordinate said program, a relationship that will continue in 2015.**

During 2014, the course was offered at regularly scheduled times per month in Utica, Rome, Marcy and other times for "special courses" at other locations in Oneida County. **During 2015 the Division of Traffic Safety Conducted 12 Defensive Driving Classes and Processed 300 students.**

Motorist completing the Defensive Driving Course are entitled to a maximum four point reduction from their driving record on violations incurred during the 18-month period prior to completing the Defensive Driving Course. Historically, the course could only be taken once every three years. With new legislation, motorist may now take the course for point reduction at 18-month intervals. Completion of the course also entitles the motorist to a minimum 10% reduction on the liability and collision premiums of their insurance, on any vehicle for which they are the principal operator; for a three year period.

Since 1979, over 30,000 licensed drivers have completed the Defensive Driving Course through the Oneida County Division of Traffic Safety. Our Continued aggressive and proactive efforts and expansive outreach were recognized in 1995 when the Division was presented with the Safety Council of Central New York's "Public Safety Group Agency of the Year Award." In addition, Oneida County is recognized yearly at the National Safety Council's National annual awards banquet for our achievement.

## ALIVE AT 25

Oneida County Traffic Safety spearheaded the "**Alive at 25**" program in 2008, with the cooperation of the District Attorney's Office and all Oneida County Criminal Courts. In **2015**, **40** classes were held and **700** students completed the course. Classes are scheduled at the STOP-DWI office approximately every two weeks to accommodate the referrals from courts across Oneida County.

This four hour driver educational course is open to young persons between the ages of 16 to 25 years old and taught by National Safety Council certified instructors at the Oneida County Traffic Safety Office in Oriskany.

Drivers under the age of 25 are four times more likely to be involved in a serious motor vehicle accident than older drivers. Research shows this is a result of one or a combination of the following factors:

- Lack of awareness of the consequences of risk-taking behaviors
- Inexperience with the complexities of driving
- Driving as a social activity
- Peers in the vehicle with the young driver
- Impaired driving
- Speeding

The “**Alive at 25**” program emphasizes peer pressure and how to manage it. Participants examine the fact that they are in control of their behavior and are provided techniques for keeping control in driving situations. Through interactive video participation and role playing exercises, they are provided the opportunity to practice making responsible choices.

Vehicle crashes are the #1 cause of death for people between the ages of 16 and 24. The National Safety Council, a leader in driver improvement training for more than 40 years, developed the program to specifically target drivers in this age group. According to the National Safety Council:

- Young drivers are involved in fatal crashes at more than twice the rate of all other
- The first year for a newly licensed teenage driver is the most dangerous with more than one in five involved in crashes
- Each year nearly 6,000 teens are killed in vehicular accidents; more than 3,800 are driver age 15-20
- Annually, more than 326,000 young drivers are seriously injured
- Exceeding the posted speed limit or driving at an unsafe speed is the most common error in fatal teenage accidents
- More than 1,000 young drivers loses their lives each year in crashes because of an impaired driver, be it themselves or someone else
- Although this group represents about 7% of the nations’ license drivers, they are involved in nearly 15% of all fatal crashes

Participants are generally referred by the District Attorney’s Office, which uses this course as a sentencing tool for young persons who have had issues with vehicle and traffic laws.

## **Oneida County Traffic Safety Strategic Plan**

Beginning in late 1995 and into 1996, the New York State Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee implemented a countywide strategic planning process for all traffic safety funds distributed through their office. Prior to the strategic planning process, interested agencies would submit their own individual requests for traffic safety funds. This new process required a unified approach to addressing the traffic safety needs of a given county.

For 2014-2015, Oneida County received **\$143,251** from grants through the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee, which was distributed among Oneida County police agencies, the Oneida County Department of Health and the Division of Traffic Safety. The Traffic Safety office serves as the lead administrative agency for the county wide traffic safety grant administrative clearinghouse and resource center.

Oneida County is extremely proud of its comprehensive traffic safety strategic plan, and the planning process that we have adopted. Our efforts have not only earned us funding for these initiatives, but high praise from the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee for our planning process, final product, and grant administration and evaluation through oversight provided by the Division of Traffic Safety and the Oneida County Traffic Safety Advisory Board.

## **Handicapped Parking Education Program**

Effective April 1, 2000, the New York State Legislature created the Handicapped Parking Education Program, requiring various action(s) to be taken by each county and the city of New York.

The legislation created a new law; section 1203(g), in the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law, establishing a program to “provide education, advocacy and increased awareness of handicapped parking laws in each county...” The law also requires the establishment of a Handicapped Parking Educational Fund, which consists of funds received by the imposition of a new \$30.00 surcharge to handicapped violation and related tickets. **Fifteen-dollars** of the thirty dollar surcharge are returned to the county for a dedicated fund. The other fifteen-dollars is given to the municipality where the offense originated for criminal justice and related purposes.

### **Summary**

With the continued support of the Oneida County Executive, Board of Legislators, and the Traffic Safety Advisory Board, the Division of Traffic Safety looks forward to continuing its aggressive and proactive efforts designed to keep our Oneida County roadways safe for all of the motoring public.