

Onondaga Citizens League

May 21, 2013

**Onondaga County Health
Department**

**Healthy Families Division
Facilitated Enrollment**

A stylized silhouette of a mountain range in shades of teal, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

Onondaga County Health Department

- ◆ **Mission: To protect and improve the health of all Onondaga County residents**
- ◆ **Vision: A community of partners working together for the physical, social and emotional well-being of all.**

Defining HEALTH for Children Birth-Five

What does this mean?

- ◆ **Access to health care and insurance**
- ◆ **Prenatal care and postpartum support**
 - Early and regular prenatal visits
 - Attention to postpartum health and maternal mental health
- ◆ **Physical well-being**
 - Well child visits
 - Immunizations
- ◆ **Development**
 - Cognitive
 - Language
 - Motor
 - Adaptive
 - Social-emotional (mental health)

What do we know?

◆ Birth-5 cohort:

27,097 live births in Onondaga County from 2008-2012

- ◆ **42.4% paid by Medicaid**
- ◆ **1,345 mothers self-reported illegal drug use during pregnancy (5%)**
- ◆ **8,132 (24.7%) children birth to age 5 in Onondaga County are living in poverty***
- ◆ **1,306 (4.0%) children birth to age 5 have no insurance***

* 2009-2011 American Community Survey

Effects of Health on Early Childhood Outcomes

“The evidence is clear: Early health and early childhood development from birth to age 5 is a form of preventive health and economic investment that drives development and economic returns.”

G. Conti and J. Heckman, “Early Childhood Development: Creating Healthy Communities with Greater Efficiency and Effectiveness,” Open Forum: Voices and Opinions from Leaders in Policy, the Field, and Academia. Investing in What Works for America’s Communities, a joint project of the [Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco](#) and the [Low Income Investment Fund](#).

Book available: connect@whatworksforamerica.org

Education AND early life factors affect health

- ◆ Lesson 1: Develop the whole child.
 - Must look beyond assessing cognitive ability
 - ◆ Physical and mental health
 - ◆ Attention
 - ◆ Motivation
 - ◆ Self confidence

Education AND early life factors affect health

- ◆ Lesson 2: Inequalities open up early in life.
 - Parental resources, skills and abilities matter greatly
 - “no rich child left behind”
 - Gaps appear before children enter kindergarten

Education AND early life factors affect health

- ◆ Lesson 3: Early intervention is far more effective than later remediation.
 - **Child poverty is not just a factor of family financial resources**

*“A healthy child free of asthma and lead poisoning is a child ready to engage, who will learn more, and who is more likely to be a productive adult.”
(Conti and Heckman)*