

# Trenton

Ewing and Carroll, Hanover Academy, North 25, Battle Monument  
Stuyvesant/Prospect, Central West

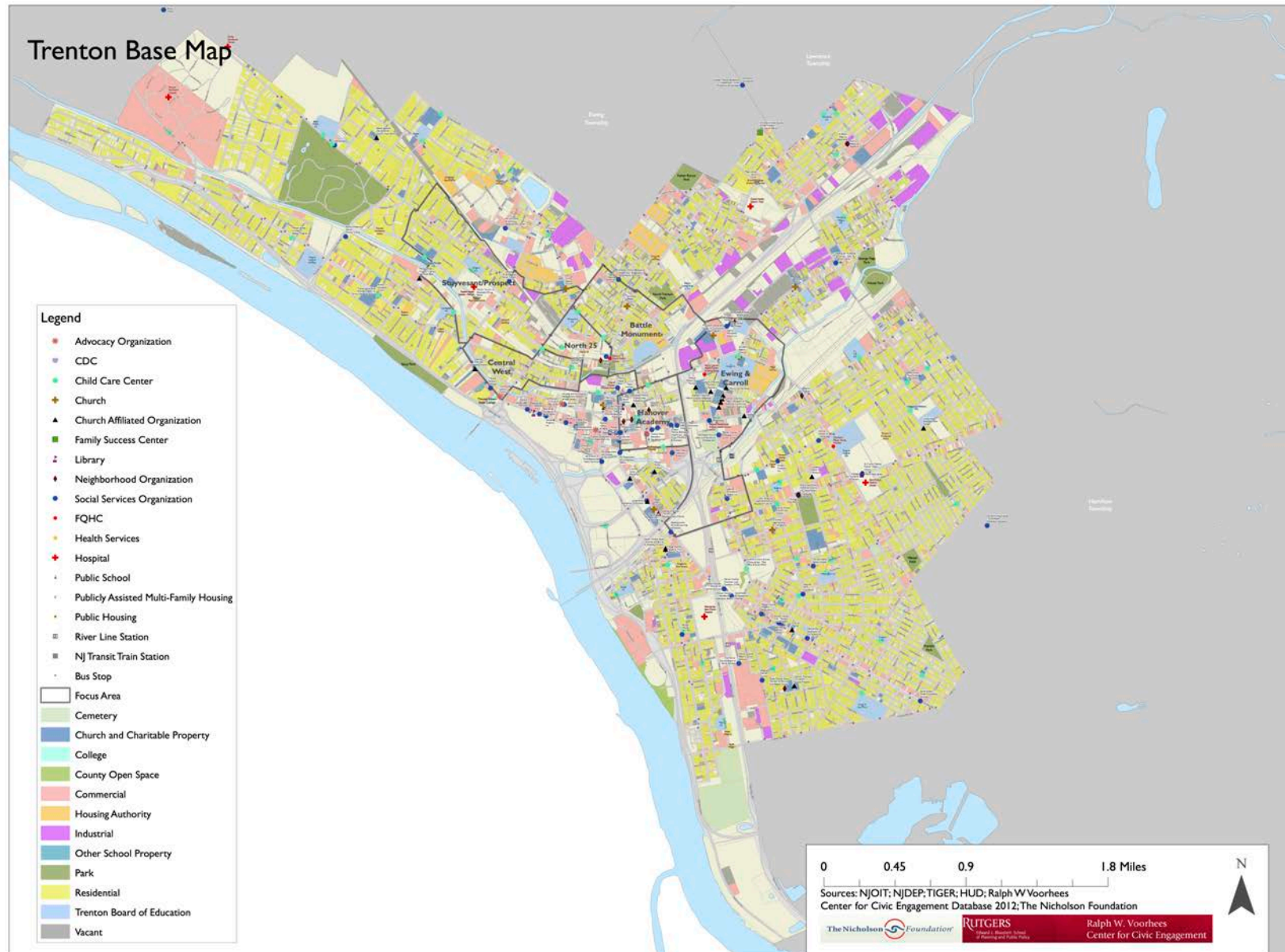
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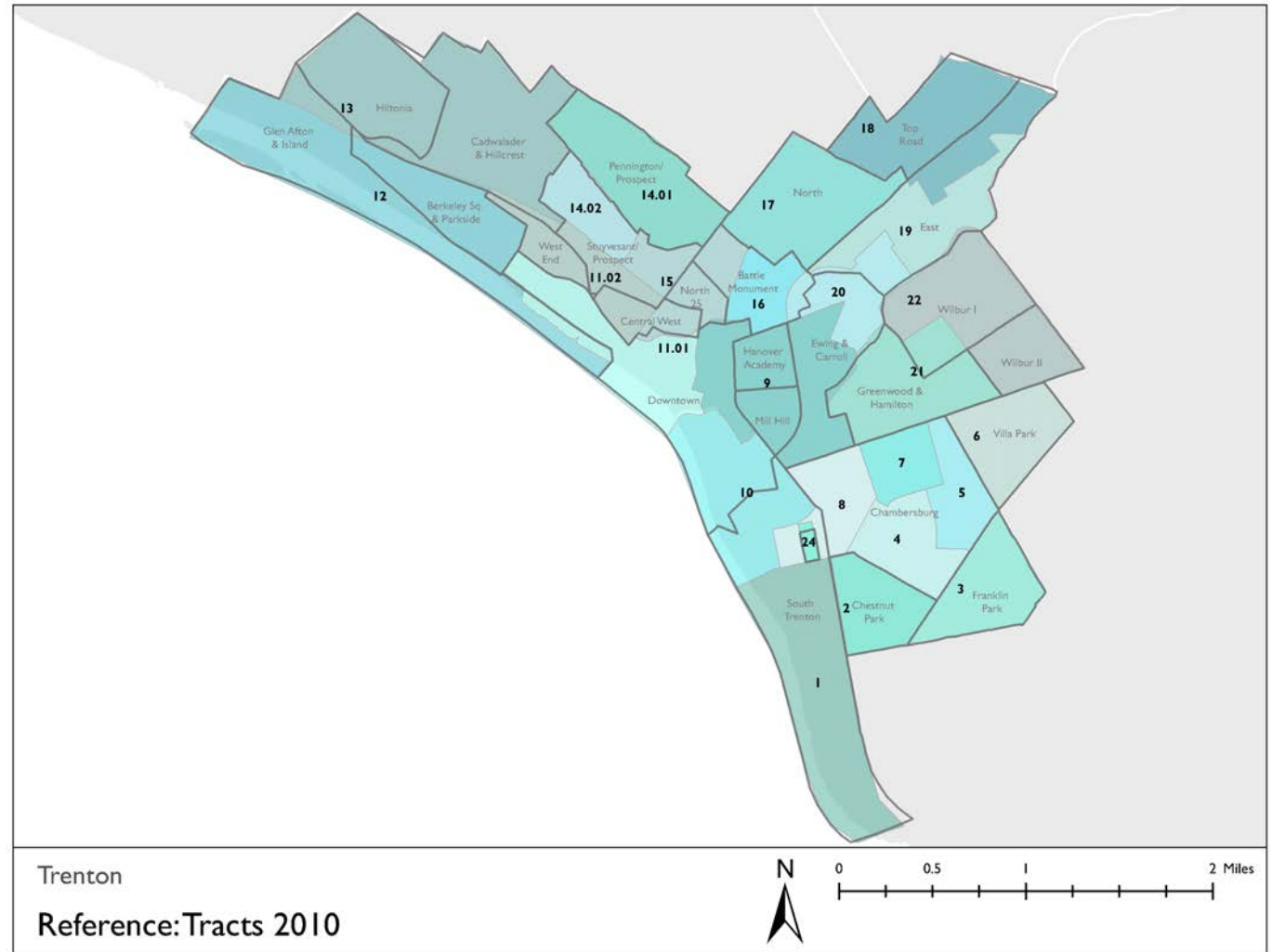


## Neighborhoods

Trenton's focus area includes a ring of six neighborhoods surrounding the central business district: Hanover Academy, Ewing & Carroll, Battle Monument, North 25, Central West, and Stuyvesant/Prospect.<sup>1</sup> Census tracts 14.02, 15 and 16 are entirely within the focus area. Tract 9, makes up Hanover Academy, Ewing & Carroll, as well as part of the central business district. Census tract 20 comprises about a third of the Ewing & Carroll neighborhood. Almost none of tract 11.01 is in the focus area but it originally was part of the 2000 census tract 11, which also encompassed current tract 11.02. To allow comparisons of statistics between census years 2000 and 2010 it has been included in the 2010 aggregated statistics.

## Ewing & Carroll

Ewing and Carroll is a small neighborhood that covers about six blocks. It is located between US Route 1 and the New Jersey Transit Northeast Corridor line. The intersection of these two transportation facilities cut off the small, primarily residential section of south Ewing & Carroll from the rest of this neighborhood (NJOIT, U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). The neighborhood has more commercial and industrial properties in comparison to other nearby neighborhoods and it includes many vacant and



<sup>1</sup> We use the 2004 neighborhood boundaries because they are more complete.

state-owned parcels. It is home to some large social service, educational, and government buildings interspersed with remaining residential blocks. Two housing projects are located here, as well as several schools. There is little open space with the exception of one cemetery. A large housing project referred to as the Miller Homes, located in the section of Ewing & Carroll in census tract 20, was recently demolished and there are plans to build a series of low-rise apartments in its place (Rosenau, 2012).

## **Hanover Academy**

Hanover Academy receives its name from the neighborhood's Hanover Academy Historic District. Trenton City Planning's Downtown Master Plan (2008) recognized the historic merits of Hanover Academy's townhouses. Given Hanover Academy's proximity to downtown, it is near to many business and government entities. Hanover Academy is primarily zoned for commercial land use, with few areas set aside for residential use. Several large parking lots reinforce the commercial oriented nature of this neighborhood. A number of parcels are owned by the state (NJ Office of Information Technology). The downtown plan suggests infill housing and business development to promote urban growth. Hanover Academy is located within the same census tract as the Ewing & Carroll and Mill Hill neighborhoods.

## **North 25**

North 25, one of the smaller neighborhoods in our focus area, is located several blocks from downtown Trenton and much of the land use is commercial and government. It is located between the other focus neighborhoods. Route 31 borders it to the North. The neighborhood's residential offerings include older town homes and low-rise apartment complexes. There is also a senior center, the Trenton-Reading Senior Center, located on Ringold Street. Though minimal, North 25 hosts a small amount of open space along the D&R Canal Route. North 25 is home to two prominent community organizations, Isles and Henry J. Austin Health Center. Isles is a community organization that has been in operation for over three decades and provides training and self-help assistance for individuals living in social, financial, and environmental hardship. Henry J. Austin is a Federally Qualified Health Center that has been in operation for over four decades, and primarily provides care for individuals who have minimal health care resources.

## **Battle Monument**

Battle Monument is a five block neighborhood situated in north-central Trenton between North 25 and Ewing Carroll. The neighborhood gets its name because it was the primary location of the Battle of Trenton in 1776. It is one of the more residential neighborhoods in our focus area. Battle monument has been the focus of redevelopment efforts for many years, following a long history of disregard for its dilapidated historic buildings. According to a *New York Times* article, the city of Trenton has invested a great deal of money for Battle Monument revitalization projects beginning in the mid to late 1990s (Garbarine, 1997). Much of that investment has gone toward strengthening its residential assets and infill of its vacant parcels. This neighborhood contains three important engaged organizations: the Samaritan Baptist church, the Trenton Housing Authority, and the Greater Trenton Behavioral Healthcare division of Adolescent Rehab Services. Henry J. Austin Health Center is a short drive from Battle Monument, but otherwise accessible healthcare for mobility-challenged residents may be problematic, as Route 1 and some industrial sites cut this neighborhood off from the services in Ewing and Carroll.

## Stuyvesant/Prospect

Stuyvesant/Prospect is a large neighborhood in western Trenton that extends from downtown northwest. To the south is the D&R state canal trail, while to the north are three additional parks; West Ward Oakland Street, and Laurel Place. Within Stuyvesant/Prospect are three separate census tracts: 14.02, 15, and 11. The Stuyvesant/Prospect area is primarily residential with the Capital Health System infrastructure in the neighborhood's core. Within the last four years there has been significant residential development on what was the old Magic Marker site on Dunham and Louise streets off of Calhoun Street, which the EPA named a Superfund site (Magic Marker Site Fact Sheet).

## Central West

Central West is a very small neighborhood immediately adjacent to downtown. It's bordered to the south by the D&R canal and West State Street. Parts of it are in tracts 11.02 and 15.

**Table 1. Summary Characteristics of Focus Neighborhoods**

Characteristic	Total	% of Total	Characteristic	Total	% of Total
<b>Population</b>	16,864	100%	<b>Families (2010)</b>	3,644	100%
			Female-headed with Children	1,493	41%
<b>Age (2010)</b>			<b>Economic (2007-2011)<sup>i</sup></b>		
Under 5 years	1,276	8%	Median Household Income	\$14,267 - 39,598	
5-19 years	3,516	21%	Persons below Poverty	5,065	30%
20-64 years	10,380	62%	Total Civilian Labor Force	8,010	100%
65-74 years	1,007	6%	Employed	6,400	80%
75+ years	685	4%	Unemployed	1,610	20%
<b>Race (2010)</b>			<b>Housing (2010)</b>		
White	1,840	11%	Total Units	8,144	100%
Black	13,269	79%	Vacant Housing Units	1,408	17%
Asian	140	1%	Owner Occupied	1,991	30%
Hispanic	2,544	15%	Renter Occupied	4,745	70%
<b>Household (2010)</b>	6,736	100%			
Multigenerational	433	6%			

<sup>i</sup> 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-year estimates have large margins of error.

# Population

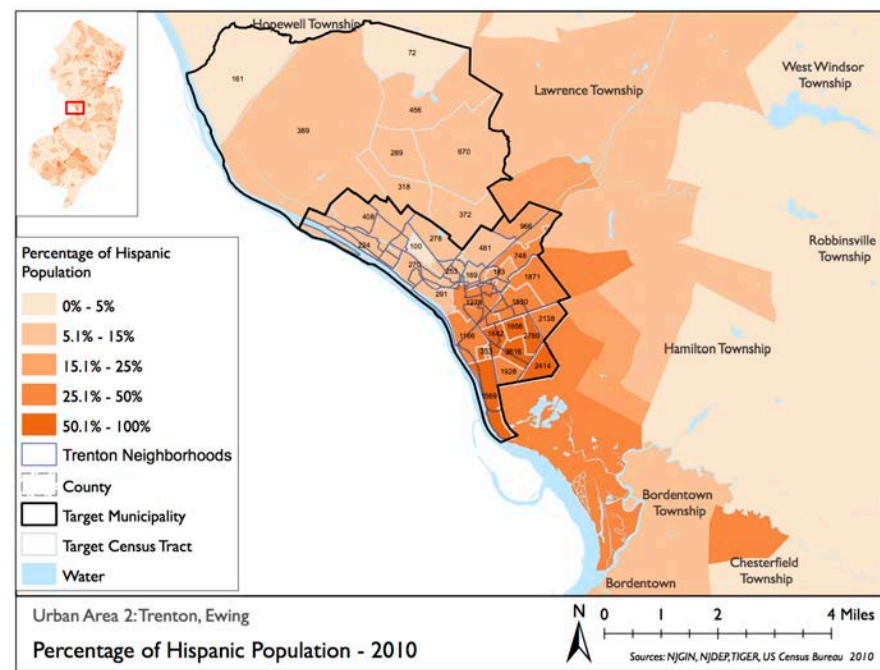
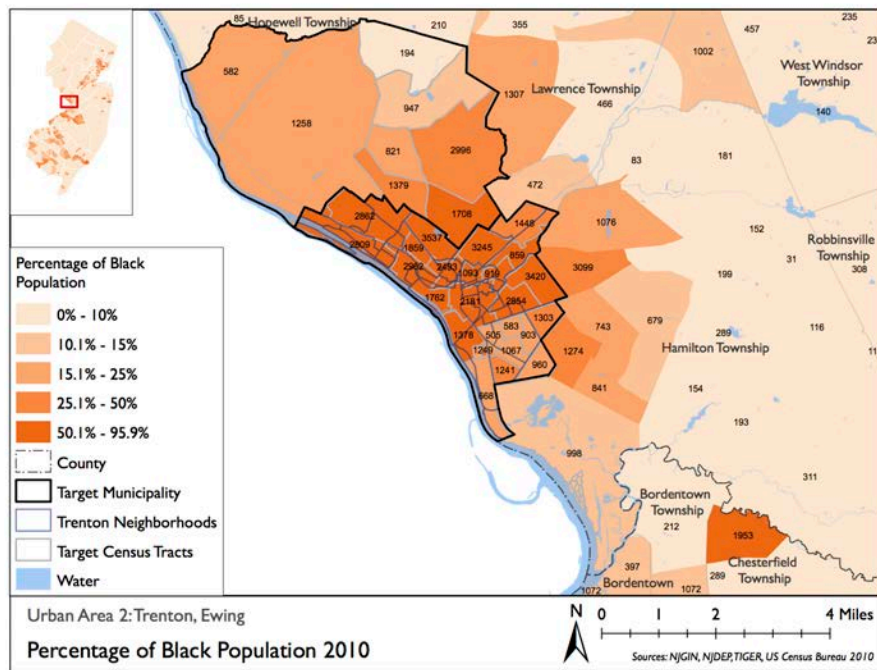
The population of the Trenton focus neighborhoods was 16,864 in 2010, having decreased by more than 2,600 residents (13%) during the 2000s. Populations declines were largest in tracts 11 (11.01 and 11.02), 14.02, and 20. Tracts 11 and 14.02 include the West End and portions of Central West, Downtown, and Stuyvesant Prospect; these two tracts lost almost 1,900 residents, nearly 20% of their 2000 population. Tract 20 is divided between Ewing & Carroll and East Trenton and lost 19% of its population between 2000-2010 (U.S. Census Bureau 2000, 2010).

**Table 2: Total Population of Focus Neighborhood, 2000 & 2010**

Tract	2000	2010	Percent Change
9	4,328	3,990	-7.8%
11 (11.01 & 11.02)	6,754	5,574	-17.5%
14.02	2,702	1,995	-26.2%
15	2,860	2,798	-2.2%
16	1,343	1,302	-3.1%
20	1,493	1,205	-19.3%
Neighborhoods	19,480	16,864	-13.4%
Trenton	85,403	84,913	-0.6%

(US Census 2000, 2010)

Nearly four out of five residents across the focus neighborhoods identified as black in 2010, a far greater percentage than municipality-wide (52%.) Whites comprised 11% of the area's residents (compared to 27% citywide,) while only 15% of the neighborhoods' residents identified as Hispanic that year (compared to 34% across Trenton.) The racial/ethnic composition of Tract 9 (including the neighborhoods of Mill Hill, Hanover Academy, Ewing & Carroll, and east Downtown) was more reflective of the wider city, whereas in the 2010 tracts 11.02, 14.02 and 15, blacks comprised between 88% and 93% of the residential population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010).



**Table 3: Racial & Ethnic Representation in Focus Neighborhoods 2010**

Tract	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
9	1,024	25.7%	2,181	54.7%	1,278	32.0%
11.01	235	10.7%	1,762	80.4%	291	13.3%
11.02	199	5.9%	2,962	87.6%	270	8.0%
14.02	51	2.6%	1,859	93.2%	100	5.0%
15	96	3.4%	2,493	89.1%	253	9.0%
16	74	5.7%	1,093	83.9%	169	13.0%
20	161	13.4%	919	76.3%	183	15.2%
Neighborhoods	1,840	10.9%	13,269	78.7%	2,544	15.1%
Trenton	22,549	26.6%	44,160	52.0%	28,621	33.7%

(US Census 2000, 2010)

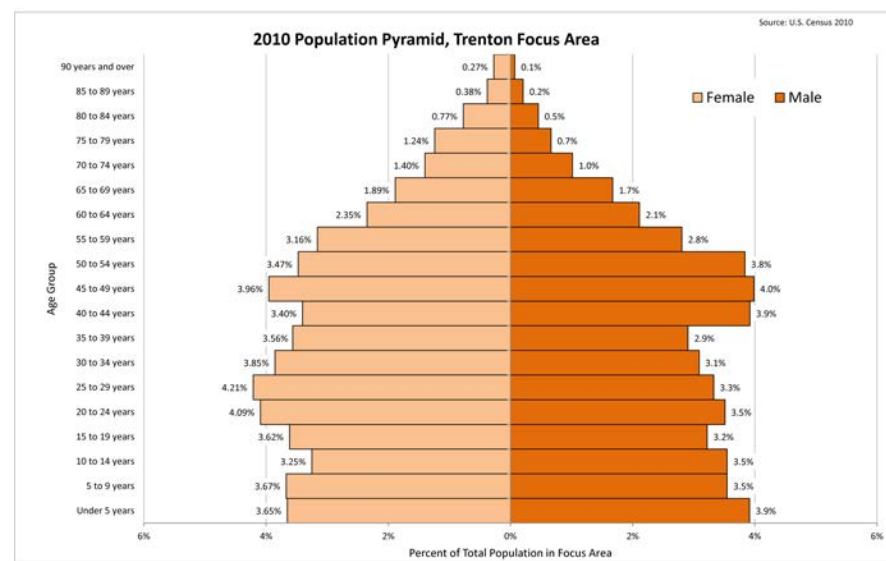
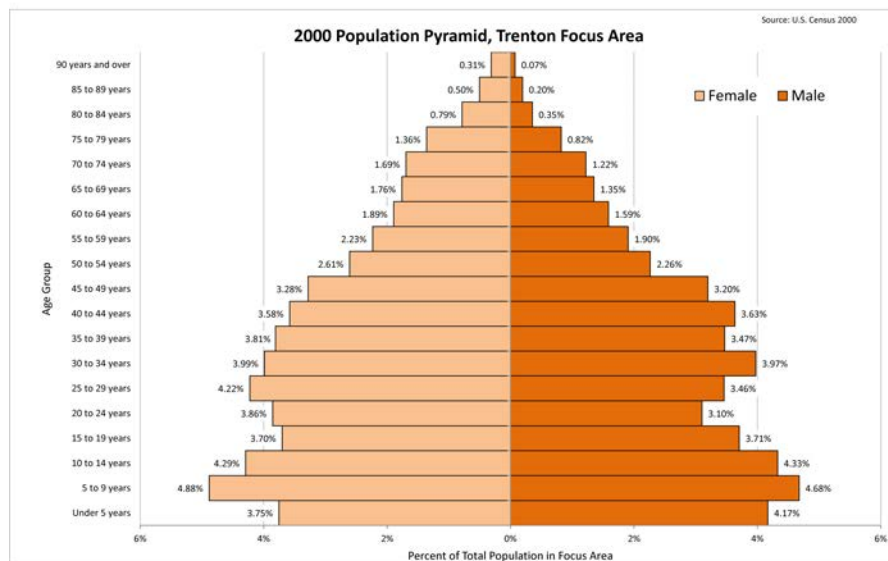


**Table 4: Changes to Neighborhood's Racial & Ethnic Composition, 2000 & 2010**

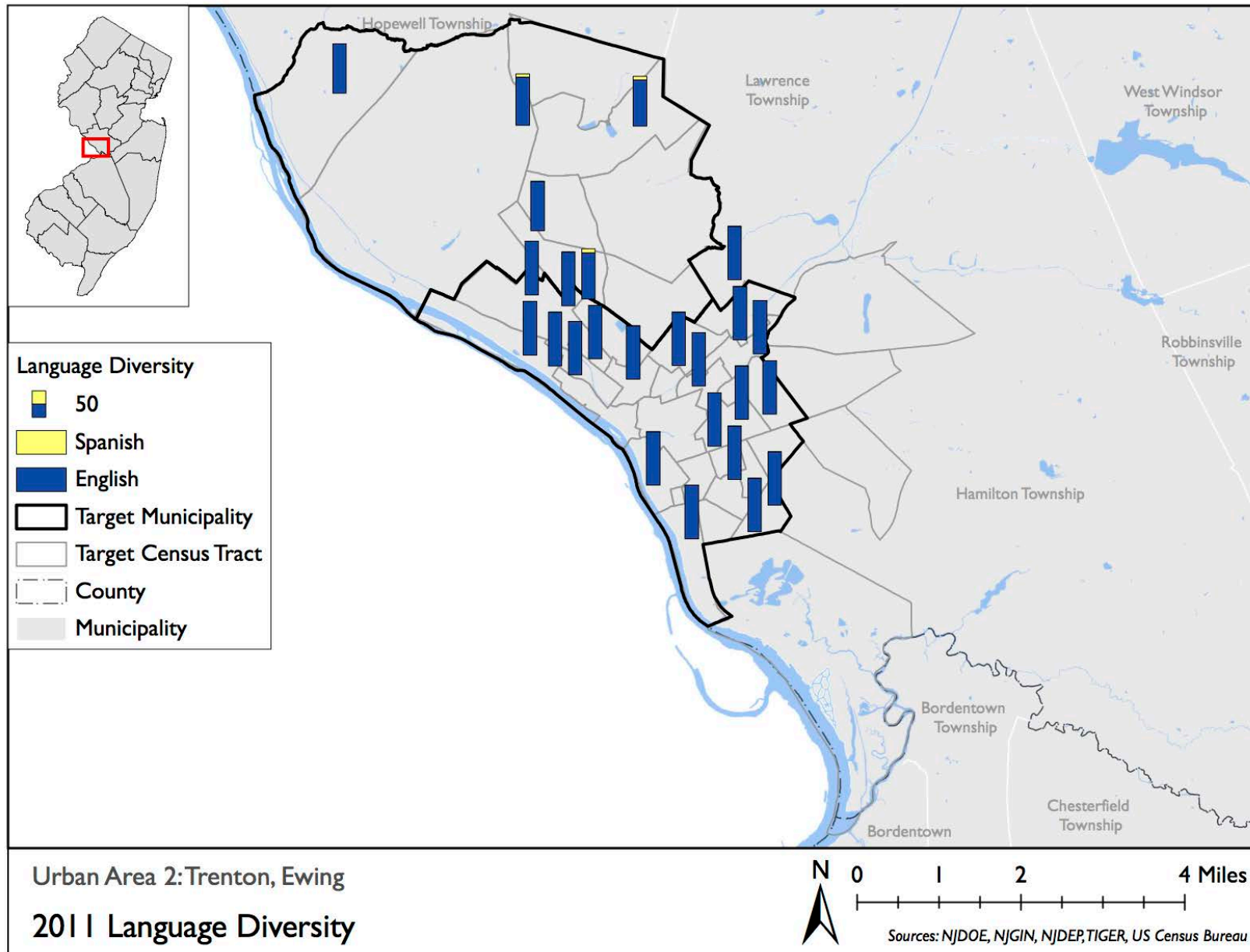
Tract	White		Black		Hispanic	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
9	27.3%	25.7%	48.2%	54.7%	38.4%	32.0%
11 (11.01 & 11.02)	7.8%	7.8%	83.5%	84.8%	9.4%	10.1%
14.02	2.6%	2.6%	92.7%	93.2%	3.2%	5.0%
15	2.4%	3.4%	92.0%	89.1%	5.3%	9.0%
16	6.9%	5.7%	82.9%	83.9%	12.1%	13.0%
20	7.1%	13.4%	88.1%	76.3%	6.6%	15.2%
Neighborhoods	10.5%	10.9%	78.5%	78.7%	14.4%	15.1%
Trenton	32.6%	26.6%	52.1%	52.0%	21.5%	33.7%

(US Census 2000, 2010)

The population in 2000 included many younger people and in 2010, has many more people who fall into the middle age brackets. Presumably, this may drive health demand as people age, especially if they have lacked healthcare in their youth. Young main are noticeably absent more so than in 2000 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000, 2010).

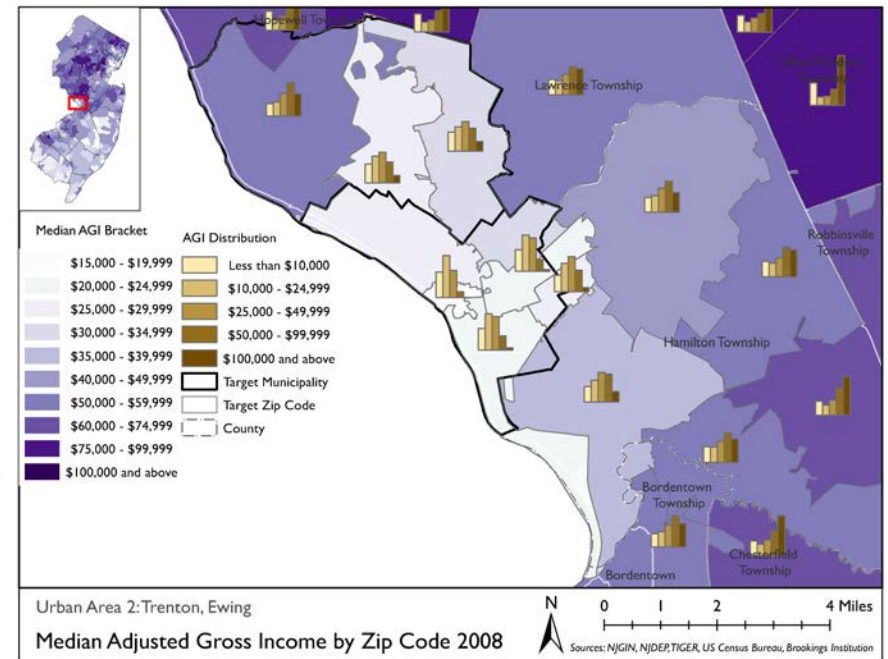
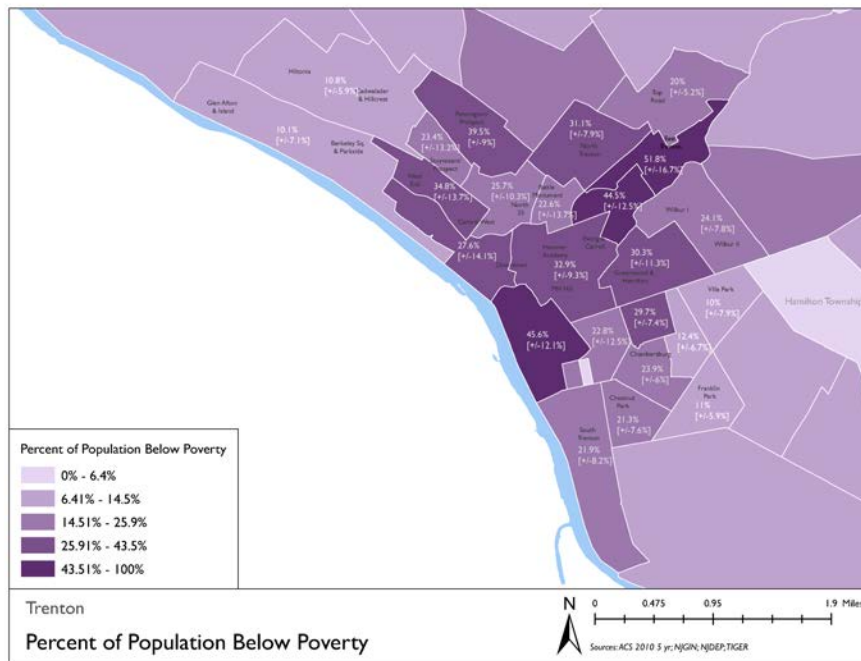


Of all of the study areas, these neighborhoods have the smallest amount of language diversity.



## Income

The focus neighborhoods contain some of the highest poverty rates in Trenton. In census tract 20, containing the northeast section of Ewing & Carroll (and noted above for its large population loss during the 2000s), 45% of the population (+/-13%) had incomes below the poverty line in 2010 (ACS, 2010). Tracts 11.02 (West End, Central West, lower Stuyvesant Prospect) and 9 (including parts of Hanover Academy, Ewing & Carroll and the eastern Downtown) had similarly high rates of poverty, at 35% (+/- 14%) and 33% (+/-10%,) respectively. Census data from 2000 show median household incomes ranging from \$18,651 in Tract 20 (Ewing & Carroll) to \$33,650 in Tract 14.02 (Stuyvesant/Prospect). In the majority of tracts associated with the focus neighborhoods, median household incomes were well below the citywide figure of \$31,074.



Using the most recent IRS gross income tax data (2008), the distribution of incomes is positively skewed, with households concentrated in the lower income ranges and peaking in the income range of \$10,000-\$24,999. This is in stark contrast to the surrounding municipalities, where household incomes tend to fall into the higher brackets. Likely related to the high poverty rates found within the focus neighborhoods is the large presence of female-headed families. In 2010, two out of five (41%) families across the neighborhoods-associated census tracts were female-headed with children, well above the citywide figure of 32% (U.S. Census). In tracts 11.02 and 20 (noted above as having high rates of poverty,) 49% and 44% of families were female-headed, respectively.

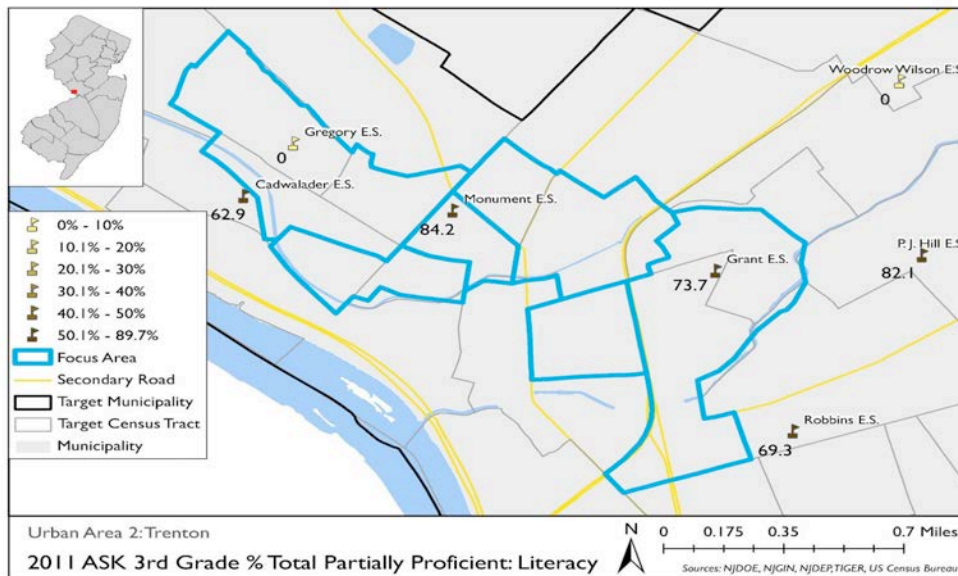
## Education

There are three Pre-K through 8 elementary schools in our focus area. Much of the data is missing but we can see that they have among the highest rates of students who score partially proficient on the 3rd grade NJ Literacy exam. Out of New Jersey's major municipalities, Trenton ranks third for the highest number of students as being tested as partially proficient, coming in at 72.4%. The three elementary schools in our focus area are above Trenton's average, but much higher than the state average, which is 37%, and 53% across other urban areas. Currently, none of Trenton's elementary schools have a partially proficient literacy rate less than 50%.

**Table 5: School Characteristics 2010-11**

School	Grade Levels	Total School Population	% Partially Proficient 3rd Grade NJ Ask	First Language Spoken at Home	Students with Disabilities	Mobility	Limited Eng Prof	Student Suspensions
Grant*	Pre K-8	506	74%					
Gregory*	Pre K-8	379	88% (09/10)					
Monument*	Pre K-8	365	84%					

(NJ Department of Education, 2011) \*Much of the data for these Trenton schools is missing or seems inaccurate.



# Housing

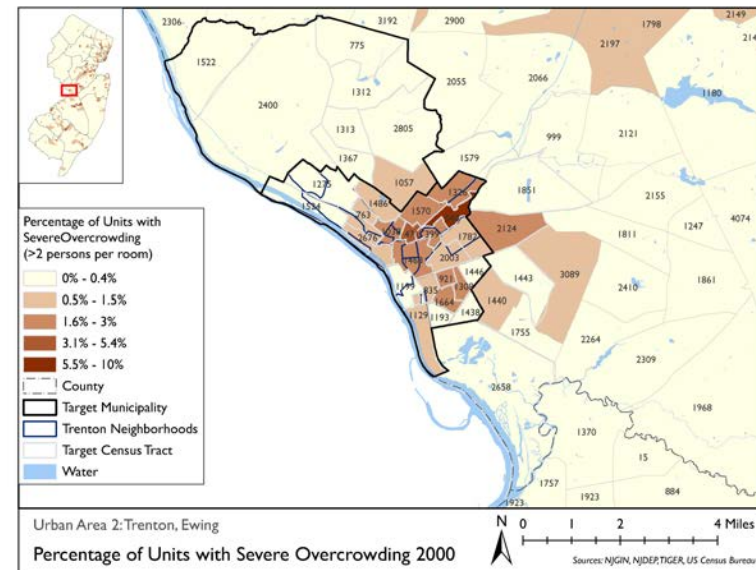
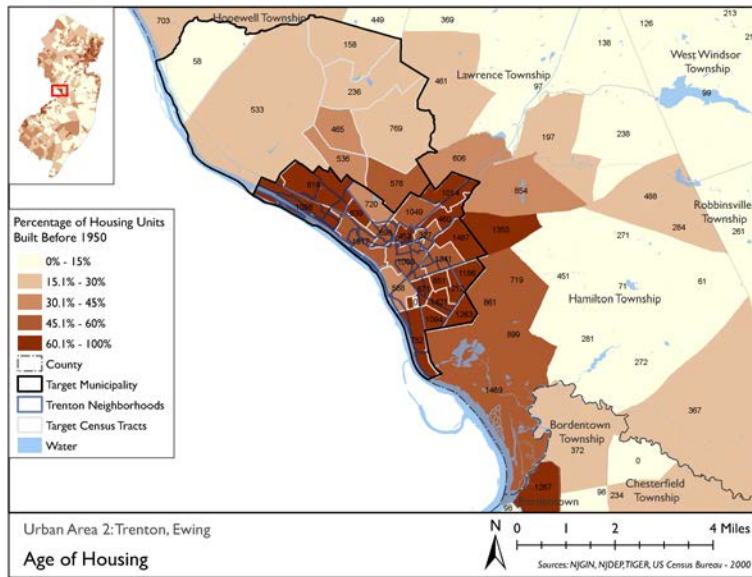
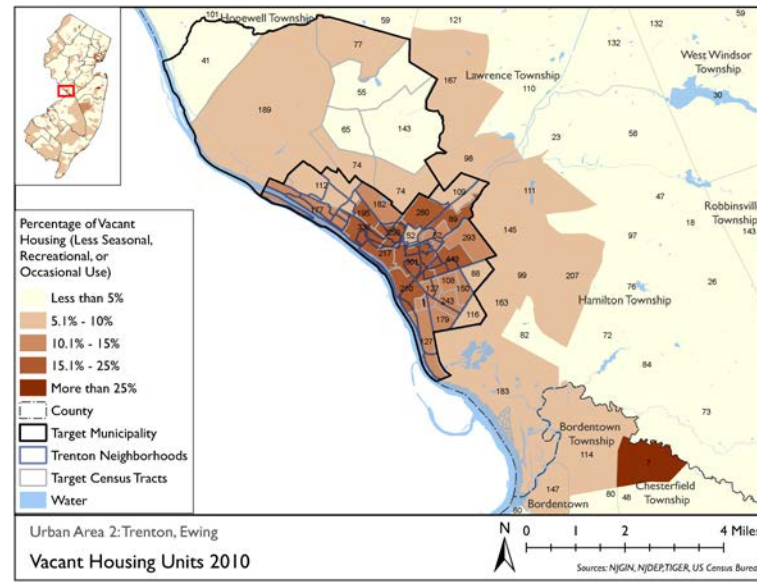
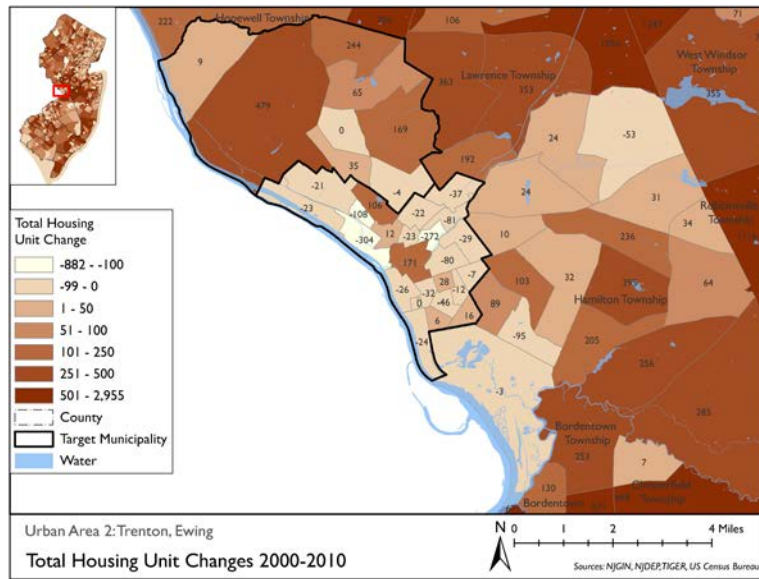
Between 2000 and 2010, the focus neighborhoods lost 6% of their housing stock (U.S. Census 2000, 2010). The greatest loss was in the northern portion of Ewing & Carroll, which lost 38% of its 2000 stock. In addition to these decreases in housing units, this area suffers from higher vacancy rates than elsewhere in the municipality. In 2010, 17% of housing units across the neighborhoods went vacant, compared to 13% citywide. The highest vacancy rates (19-23%) were found in the contiguous tracts 11.02, 14.02 and 15, associated with the neighborhoods northwest of Trenton's Downtown (West End, Central West, North 25, northwest Battle Monument, and Stuyvesant Prospect). Compared with the surrounding areas, the housing stock in the focus area is older and overcrowding is greater (U.S. Census, 2010).

**Table 6: Housing Unit Changes in Focus Neighborhoods, 2000-2010**

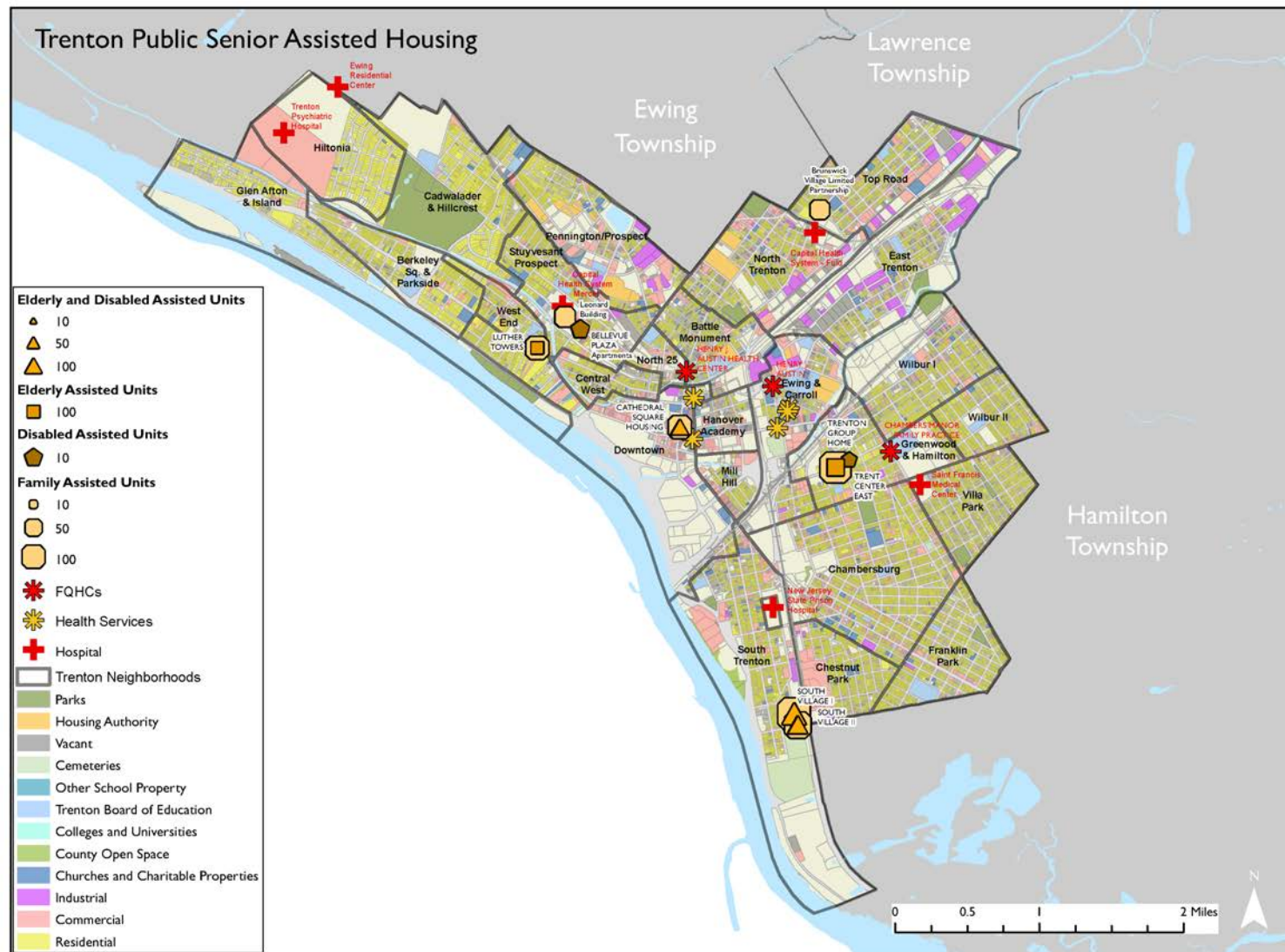
Tract	Housing Units		
	2000	2010	Percent Change
9	1,794	1966	9.6%
11 (11.01 & 11.02)	3,234	2931	-9.4%
14.02	959	851	-11.3%
15	1,343	1,354	0.8%
16	614	590	-3.9%
20	724	452	-37.6%
Neighborhoods	8,668	8,144	-6.0%
Trenton	33,843	33,035	-2.4%

(US Census 2000, 2010)





These neighborhoods also include four federally assisted and two public housing projects. The Camden Healthcare Coalition found that they had repeat users from one large building in North Camden. Healthcare institutions may develop relationships with tenant associations in these properties to facilitate preventative care and follow-up. The building condition of some based on the physical inspection scores suggests room for improvement but most scores are reasonably good.



**Table 7: Affordable Housing Characteristics in Focus Neighborhood, 2006-2011**

Property Name	Publicly or Federally Assisted	Total Units	Total Assisted Units	Elderly Units	Disabled Units	Physical Inspection Scores					
						'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11
Architects Housing	Federally Assisted	123	123			70		71		83	
Bellevue Plaza Apartments	Federally Assisted	90	75			70			61	77	
Leonard Building	Federally Assisted	11	11		11		92				
Miller Homes	Public Housing	256								59	
North 25	Federally Assisted	233	233				61	73		90	
Prospect Village	Public Housing	120								65	

(US HUD, 2011, 2012, NJ Department of Community Affairs, 2010)

## Crime

The New Jersey Municipal County Offense & Demographic data shows that nonviolent crime and domestic violence incidents have decreased in Trenton between 2009 and 2010. Nonviolent crime incidents per 1,000 have gone down from 33.3 to 31.2, and domestic violence incidents from 15.9 to 14.2 violent crime has increased minimally from 13.9 to 14.1 incidents per 1,000 people. In 2010, the mean of crimes per square mile in New Jersey in was 438.8, while Trenton stood at 513.5. While this is above the mean, Trenton stood underneath other major cities, including 5 of our other target municipalities save for East Orange. According to the New York Times, in 2011, the violent crime rate of Trenton was twice that of New York City per capita, and had a third of its police officers (New York Times, 2011). Trenton's police department has gone through some recent restructuring. As of early 2012, Trenton Mayor Tony Mack was forced to fire a third of his police force (New York Times, 2012). In very recent crime news, eight people were shot in Trenton as new years eve rolled into New Year's Day (Times of Trenton, 2013). Also of recent news in December 2012, Trenton's Police Director Ralph Rivera Junior is in the move to disband Trenton's street crime units, thereby shifting detectives to patrol units. Many community members fear that stripping the police force of these Tactical Anti-Crime units is not a safe move, as they are arranged and implemented specifically to go after criminals and guns (Times of Trenton, 2012).



# Health

## Health Issues

The residents of our focus communities struggle with many health issues. Some problems came out stronger than others in this research.

### Homelessness

Interviewees suggested that homelessness was especially present in Ewing and Carroll because the Rescue Mission is there and they tend to take shelter in the empty buildings on Hanover Ave (Interview, 2012). There are many concerns that a subset of homeless residents uses a disproportionate share of resources. They cycle through jails and emergency rooms and make up much of the chronically homeless who interviewees suggest make up 20% of the homeless population. Many of the chronically homeless have substance abuse and mental illness problems. Organizations like The Mercer Alliance argue that supportive housing with a long term plan for permanent housing will help this population and reduce costs. But it takes resources to provide sufficient services such as job training and healthcare to ensure that this process moves forward successfully (Interview, 2012).

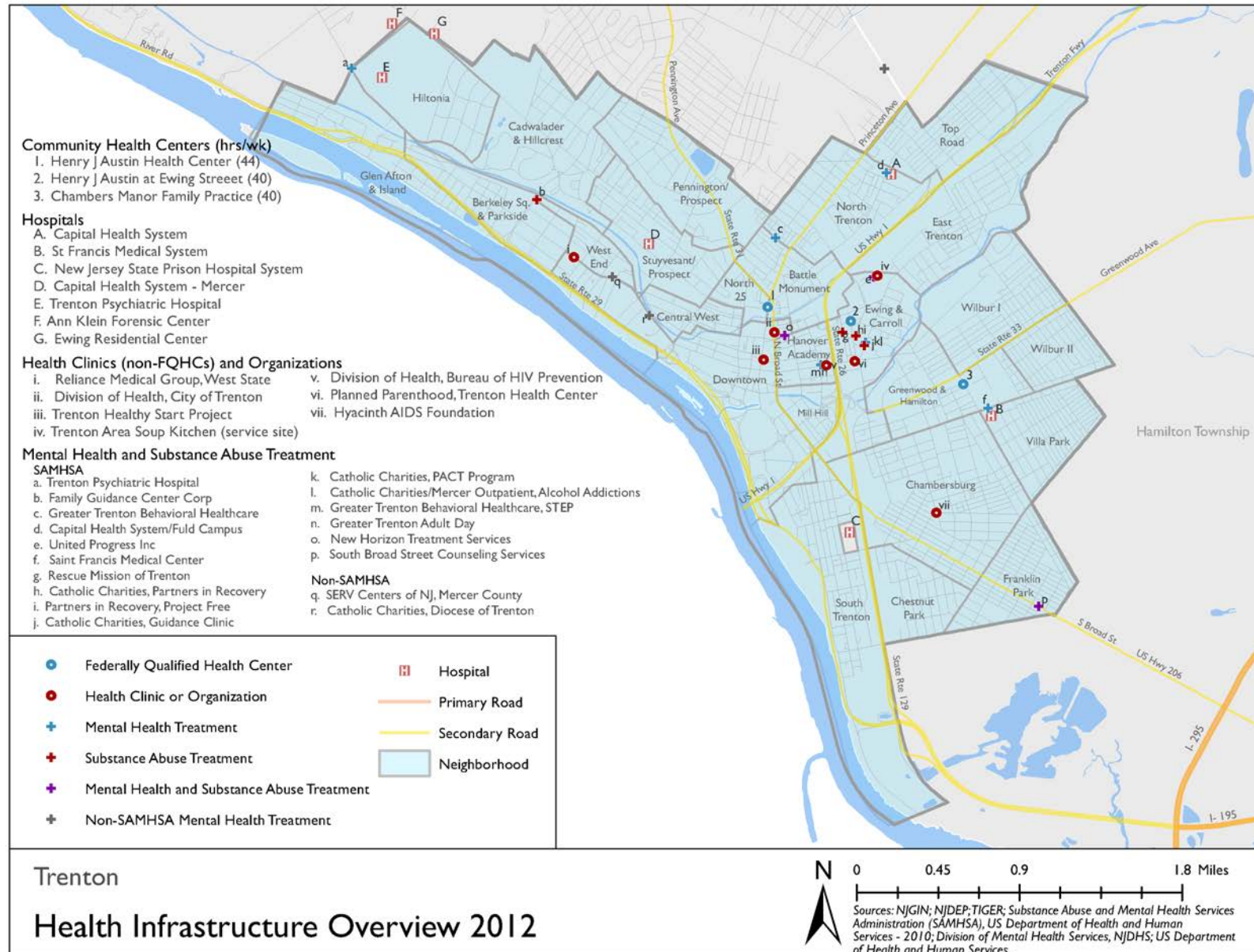
### Disabilities

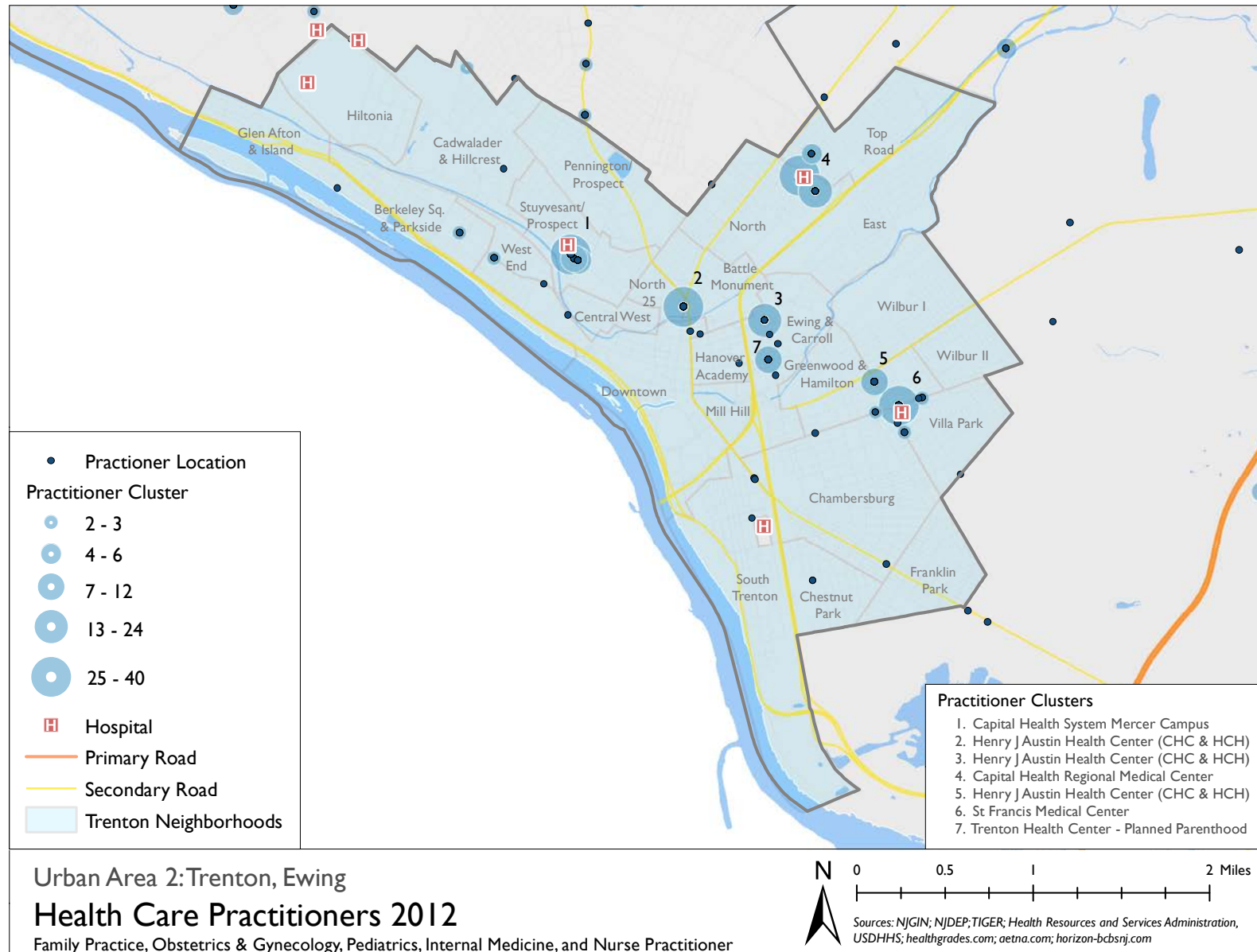
People with disabilities struggle especially with transportation and accessible housing. Project Freedom is developing housing in Trenton but people still struggle to access transportation especially off peak hours such as during the evening, at night and on weekends and holidays. This is rarely available and it's expensive. The Mercer County Office on Disability Services is working to develop a small pilot program to try to provide some transportation services for people with disabilities on weekends and holidays.

### Childhood Diabetes

New Jersey Childhood Obesity Survey found that fifty percent of Trenton children are overweight or obese. Few eat fresh fruit and vegetables and generally children do not engage in outside activity (<http://www.njhealthykids.org/communities/trenton/>).

## Healthcare Organization Infrastructure





Trenton has one of the better developed healthcare infrastructures in urban areas in the state. It is home to some high capacity individual medical institutions and community organizations but what really sets it apart are the collaborations that have produced actual healthcare improvements and cost reductions. Many of the community, health, and government institutions work together through the Trenton Health Team and or the Mercer County Health Partnership. The Trenton Health Team includes the major hospitals, FQHC, and the city of Trenton which work in partnership with communities to improve public health by working together while also reducing unnecessary costs. They published their own 2012 Community Report which suggests some major advancements with the very things that other communities are citing as major problems. They say they have reduced the time to appointments, they've helped patients work their way through the system, share data, and they collaboratively work to address the needs of "high" users. Complementing these extraordinary advances, they are in the midst of a community collaborative research process to understand community health needs and are doing so in partnership with PICO, a community organizing group. In one of their more interesting efforts, they are teaching community leaders how to be community trainers to address a variety of problems attacking diabetes, obesity, and high blood pressure (<http://www.trentonhealthteam.org/tht/>).

Interviewees were all very positive of the Trenton Health Team and the efforts that they have put forward. One organization mentioned that the THT's process of digitizing patient's records was a great stride, and that it made easier for different healthcare organizations to understand what could be going on with a specific patient. Overall, while these organizations work very hard and achieve great things, they have all stated that fixing something that is wrong is not merely enough, and that it is upkeep and maintenance of these solutions that is the most important support they could gain. Having objectives of outputs and dollar amounts as goals does not necessarily mean that a solution, service, or system is working. Organizations that have effective ideas and philosophies must be supported. Experimentation to find what works for people must be allowed to be carried on, because conditions and situations and people are constantly changing.

### **Henry J. Austin FQHC and Capital Health Systems Satellite**

In our focus areas, the Henry J. Austin Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) has two locations. One is on Warren Street on the border between Battle Monument and North 25. They offer Saturday morning hours at this location and provide a wide array of health services including dentistry and podiatry and offer an on-site pharmacy. There's a second location at Ewing Street in Ewing and Carroll. This location is moving in December to a new space so that they can expand their services to include dentistry, pediatrics, and mental and behavioral health services ([henryjastin.org](http://henryjastin.org)). And Capital Health System operates a Satellite Emergency Department at Bellevue Avenue in Stuyvesant/Prospect (7 days a week, 7 am to 11pm). This site had been operating as an "acute care hospital" until November 2011, when the Capital Health Medical Center opened its new hospital in Hopewell ([capitalhealth.org](http://capitalhealth.org)).

A few non-federally qualified health clinics provide services in these neighborhoods too, including a Planned Parenthood in Ewing & Carroll. And private medical practitioners are largely clustered at three identified locations (2 Henry J Austin CHCs & Capital Health System ER) in addition to the Planned Parenthood site. There are also a few practitioners with sites outside these practices including some pediatricians located primarily at Henry J Austin Centers and at Capital Health System ER. Finally, there is a cluster of Mental/Behavioral and Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities located in the neighborhoods of Ewing & Carroll and Hanover Academy.

Many other organizations and government agencies that provide education, information and referrals and interviewees point out that people come from all over the city to attain services no matter where they are offered.

### **Trenton Area Soup Kitchen**

The Trenton Area Soup Kitchen operates 6 locations throughout Trenton. In addition to feeding the people of Trenton, TASK also offers adult tutoring, computer training services, provides a lawyer on-site, and has nurses from the Henry J. Austin health center and Robert Wood Johnson Hospital at Hamilton visit regularly. The nurse visits two hours a week and the patrons consistently ask when the nurse will be around. The staff at TASK see these nurse visitations as an incredibly important resource because the nurse maintains relationships with the regular patrons and the patrons feel more comfortable sharing information and opening up to a nurse when they are somewhere that feels more familiar and less institutional. Many other organizations also come to the soup kitchen to do HIV, cancer, blood pressure, and eye screenings, and a nurse practitioner from The Trenton Health Team provide directs treatment for people at the soup kitchen. Additionally, if someone at the soup kitchen happens have a medical emergency or a health crisis, there are EMTs located nearby who can check them out or bring them to the hospital. Staff at the soup kitchen admit that having health care coverage does not necessarily mean that a person will not receive proper health care within the city of Trenton. While having this asset would no doubt be highly beneficial to all people, if someone seeks a specific treatment, there are organizations in place to make sure that the proper treatments happen. However, people who often are difficult to reach are those that are those who are reluctant to seek out medical coverage (which can exist across the board, even people with means), which often includes people that have severe mental disorders, and those with substance abuse issues (Interview, 2012).

### **Rescue Mission of Trenton**

The Rescue Mission of Trenton runs a number of residential programs for the homeless and formerly incarcerated, as well as addiction services. They also operate a store in which people can buy home goods and clothing that have been donated. Their services are not solely limited to the neighborhood in which they exist, Ewing & Carroll. They have a very wide “catch area,” which they describe as the “Trenton Community.” This organization runs a weekend soup kitchen and an emergency shelter 365 days a year for single men and women. They handle up to 1,300 cases a year and up to 275 a night. The residential treatment facility for substance abuse is for up to 75 adult men from the criminal justice system, or those that are self-referred. There is also an outpatient program for people from the same routes. People will frequently rise up the ranks within their system, becoming more and more independent, obtaining jobs and integrating themselves into mainstream society. Sometimes they wind up as paid employees at the Rescue Mission, working to help others. Within these programs, the Rescue Mission offers job training and work readiness through job skills training and education classes. People from Princeton University will often tutor people for the GED here. Their clients use all the medical services in the city at their disposal—everything from visiting the St. Francis and Capital Health Systems hospitals, to Planned Parenthood, to the IMPACT HIV Van (when it was in service). The employees at the Rescue Mission were apt to point out that their patients do have to travel outside of Trenton for dental services, and that often times people have to go as far as New Brunswick to UMDNJ to get these kinds of services. Mental health, eye care, and behavioral health issues are also not covered well in Trenton; and these services could use some bolstering. Even with the raves for the Trenton Health Team, more is definitely needed, especially in regards to more collaboration between organizations and clinics. The Rescue Mission staff emphasized more case managers that work in between organizations as absolutely crucial. Additional case managers provide consistency in regards to communication between organizations and health care providers. Sometimes a caseworker might spend 8 hours a day attempting to get a client/patient/patron a prescription. While a person may ultimately get said medication, the fact that it takes a person 8 hours to attain necessary medication is simply too long a time. Additionally, while a person can get referred to service after service, if they have mental health problems or substance abuse issues, they may not often seek out the treatments that they need or go to appointments that have been scheduled for them. More case managers can provide the attention needed to assure people are getting the care that is readily available for them. Collaboration within the system, as well as more patience, is necessary. People must be walked

through the system. Many people who face all sorts of problems do not have the type of resources that most people with means do; meaning if one aspect of a person's life becomes unraveled, everything else could just as easily fall apart. Folks at the Rescue Mission noted that community involvement is incredibly important. Many community members liked the Trenton Health Team's programs at Kingsbury Towers. The employees at the Rescue Mission additionally emphasized that these efforts have to be maintained and grown. People should not be locked into a set of goals. It is important to fund a philosophy and an attitude that is backed by an organization, so that the delivery of services can be changed when need be (Interview, 2012).

### **The Crisis Ministry of Princeton And Trenton**

The Crisis Ministry of Princeton and Trenton, has two locations within the city, as well as one in Princeton. Nearby Ewing & Hamilton residents take advantage of their services, so one can assume that most of Trenton will go to either one of the Ministry's locations. Similar to most other organizations within Trenton, people find out about the services offered by the Crisis Ministry mostly by word of mouth, although the local board of social services and other organizations will often send referrals. If people have access to the Internet, they can also find out about the Crisis Ministry via their website. The Crisis Ministry, which has a large program in hunger prevention, partners with the Mercer St. Friends Food Bank, which provides government allocated free food. Capital Health Systems and Rutgers Extension Program also provide nutrition education. Additionally, the food director at Crisis Ministry is a Registered Nurse, which helps to focus food as an important component to maintaining a healthy person. As of recently, doctors have been "prescribing" proper nutrition. As such, people bring their "prescriptions" and shop healthily at the Crisis Ministry. The Crisis Ministry overlaps with other organizations in regards to what benefits they provide with the community and works with these other organizations to help cover gaps. Recently, there has been an increasing focus on fresh produce and chicken, and when patrons shop at the food pantry, they are required to pick foods from different groups to assure that they are maintaining a balanced diet. Produce comes from Mercer St. Friends, as well as from farmers markets, local farms, and donations from Whole Foods. Since the refrigeration is out at the Crisis Ministry due to a fire just about a year ago, they are currently storing things offsite (Interview, 2012).

Through the lens of the Crisis Ministry, those who have the greatest health need are those who cannot secure their most basic needs. Usually this means that they do not have adequate income or job skills. When people do have acute medical health issues and folks at the Ministry are made aware of them, they will refer people to the Henry J. Austin FQHC. The Crisis Ministry does not work directly with the Trenton Health Team, the Trenton Health Team has gotten down on the ground and spoken to community members at the Crisis Ministry, and has researched deeply to understand the needs of the local people within Trenton. When asked if the Crisis Ministry could grow their programs, they noted that they would love to have a commercial kitchen to do meal preparation to teach people how to create healthy meals, like Elijah's Promise in New Brunswick. They would also like to do food service training. Currently, the Crisis Ministry employs people with their TANF benefits to work in the food pantry, which is part of their workforce development program. People in urban neighborhoods have issues getting to big box stores, which often save people fairly large amounts of money, so they someday hope to do bulk retail for the people of Trenton. Additionally, the Crisis Ministry would like to be able to improve coordination with healthcare providers. They are interested in doing case management to improve long-term stability, especially in trying to help people max out their benefits (Interview, 2012).

### **Mount Carmel Guild**

The Mount Carmel Guild provides in-home nursing visits for the elderly. This organization serves all of Mercer County. The Mount Carmel Guild provides in-home care for economically disadvantaged elderly clients, most of whom have outlived Medicare benefits from home health nursing services and are capped out. Their nurses go out to prevent premature institutionalization, and charges their clients nothing. They currently serve between 55 and 65 cases annually, with each visit



costing about \$53 for about an hour of services. This totals to about \$120,000 a year. According to this home nursing organization, it costs \$87,000 annually to keep someone in a nursing home, so their services save local families and state and local governments about \$5M annually. People are apt to do well in these situations because they like to stay and receive treatment in their own homes, echoing sentiments felt at TASK in regards to familiar environments. Their patrons may find that they have neighbors who visit them sometimes, and have a level of comfort around their own surroundings—they like to be around their photographs, televisions, and pets. This sense of familiarity has an overall benefit to people's health and helps them to live longer and to retain a sense of dignity for a longer period of time. The Mount Carmel Guild gets their funding from contributions of individuals, small businesses, parishes, foundation grants, and government grants. The Mount Carmel Guild has a full-time director of nursing who is an RN, PSN. They also have 1 part-time RN, with intentions to add another part-time RN soon.

The Mount Carmel Guild is part of the United Aging Disabilities partnership, which offers mobile meals, case management services, and transportation. They also partner with Home Health Aid to cover gaps that the former cannot provide, since they are limited to providing services such as bathing people and doing some laundry, but nothing medical. Working with the Henry J. Austin Health Center, which runs a program on how to be heart-wise, the Mount Carmel Guild educates their patients to help themselves live longer. Collaborating with LifeCare St. Francis, Mount Carmel Guild patients have access to recreation for the elderly during the day. Their patients are offered free rides by United Way Collaborative, and the Red Cross will often bring people mobile meals and provide "blizzard" (or other natural disaster) bags. They have partnered with other organizations to provide counseling services for those who are depressed. The Mount Carmel Guild has acknowledged that they could grow further, which means that more seniors would have the ability to rest comfortably at home. They'd love to help 100 people instead of just 55. While nobody is ever turned away, more people could be served (Interview, 2012).

## **Isles**

Isles is a community organization that focuses mostly on environmental health. They began about 30 years ago helping neighborhood communities create local gardens through land trusts. These community gardens help promote self-reliance and get families involved. People are responsible for the bulk of the work of creating and maintaining the gardens, and Isles aids in getting the proper access to water, fences, and seeds, as well as tests the soil for chemicals. In congruence with setting up these gardens, classes are taught so that people understand what they are doing, but many people who have come to Trenton in recent years are immigrants with backgrounds in farming. After gardening began, people turned to this organization for help with parks, which also turned into Brownfield redevelopment. In the 90s, the DEP had a lot of money that wasn't going into urban areas. Trenton actually has a very big legacy of contaminated land, because they used to be the 2nd largest pottery exporter in the world, after Trent, England. The pottery industry used lead glazes, which is also very high in cadmium. Rubber and magic markers were also manufactured in high quantities in Trenton, but not quite to the extent of pottery. In the early 90s when environmentalism was coming into social and political consciousness, Isles delved into many questions about what it meant to live near such a contaminated site in Trenton, which had unusually high levels of Cadmium and Lead in its soils. They began to look at environmental health conditions, data, and knowledge. They then surveyed 100 families who lived around the old magic marker site, which was primarily contaminated due to the battery factory that had existed prior. The blocks around the magic marker site were not only the poorest, they were also the most contaminated of all of Trenton. The lead rates in the city were also 3 to 4 times greater than they were in the suburbs, and additionally, not enough children are tested for lead. Currently, Trenton screens about 50% of their students for lead levels, which is the highest for the state (Interview, 2012). Isles believes that this is a very important way to assure a very important aspect of a person's health.

Asthma was also becoming visible as an epidemic around the same time, and Isles began to recognize this health issue as something very closely related to a person's living environment. Since the early 90s, Isles has begun to train people in searching for asthma triggers in a person's home. This can range from mold, cockroaches, high levels of bleach, and dust. Isles has also since worked in training people how to keep their homes healthy, as well as identifying specific products that can have negative effects on one's health. Isles attempts to implement home health visits to see how people are maintaining their homes and assure that people are living without mold (often times people don't understand that they should throw away a moldy carpet), or are cleaning their home using healthy cleaning products. Planned Parenthood has expressed interest in doing healthy homes screenings (Interview, 2012).

Overall, Isles's goals are to ensure that people live in good homes. This sentiment was echoed by both TASK and the Mount Carmel Guild as home and community environments are incredibly important to a person's well-being. Isles was also apt to mention that HUD, the EPA, and the DOE meet together and are supportive of the New Jersey Strategic Plan for Healthy Homes, several key elements of which are integration of services, a shared definition of healthy homes, and updating codes and regulations so that this type of work and evaluation of what makes a healthy home can be easier. Pest management is also something that Isles is beginning to look into, as bedbugs, rodents, and cockroaches are also a health issue. Most importantly, doctors are often not aware of what goes on inside a person's home, and Isles believes that it is important that a home environmental conditions are brought to light. The last health-related program that Isles runs is on childhood obesity. This is tied into having appropriate food choices to make at corner stores in the neighborhood, as well as having safe places to play. They were also apt to point out that by providing children with a safe environment in which to play can cut seriously down on ER visits for kids if they have less ways to get injured. Because of all the work they do with environmental health, Isles sits on the board with the Trenton Health Team to advise on any environmental issues related to a person's health (Interview, 2012; Tarng, 2012).

### **The Mercer Alliance**

The Mercer Alliance has set up a county wide coalition for people applying for social security disability. They have created a quality assurance group to get quick approval of SSI (Social Security Supplemental Income) applications. The qualified applicant receives \$705/ month (compared to \$140-\$210 before) and pays 30% of income towards housing. The income is received 100 days after qualifying. For people with mental illness who qualify, the stipend goes directly to a local agency that pays their bills. The person receives the remainder of the balance once bills are paid. Family homelessness is another major issue, composing 25-30% of the total homeless population. Eighty percent of homeless families are homeless due to economic problems. The old approach put homeless families in transitional housing where they would wait up to two years to, hopefully, receive an affordable housing voucher. This approach was not very successful in retaining people in permanent housing. The element of ownership achieved in the affordable unit is missing from government transitional housing. The new strategy shifted the approach to ending family homelessness, which shifted outcomes. Agencies helped families find an affordable unit from the start, negotiate rents, and families were typically off assistance in six months. There was a 5% return to homelessness with the new program versus 20% with the old approach. Catholic Charities provides short-term case managers to assess people on an individual needs basis. Because homelessness is largely an economic problem, the main objective is employment counseling and services (Interview, 2012). A new area for the Mercer Alliance is rapid re-housing for singles. The program will have an employment focus and will create networks for formerly incarcerated people and others who are typically discriminated against in the job market. They have housed 140 chronically homeless people, and there are about another 100 that could be housed (Interview, 2012).

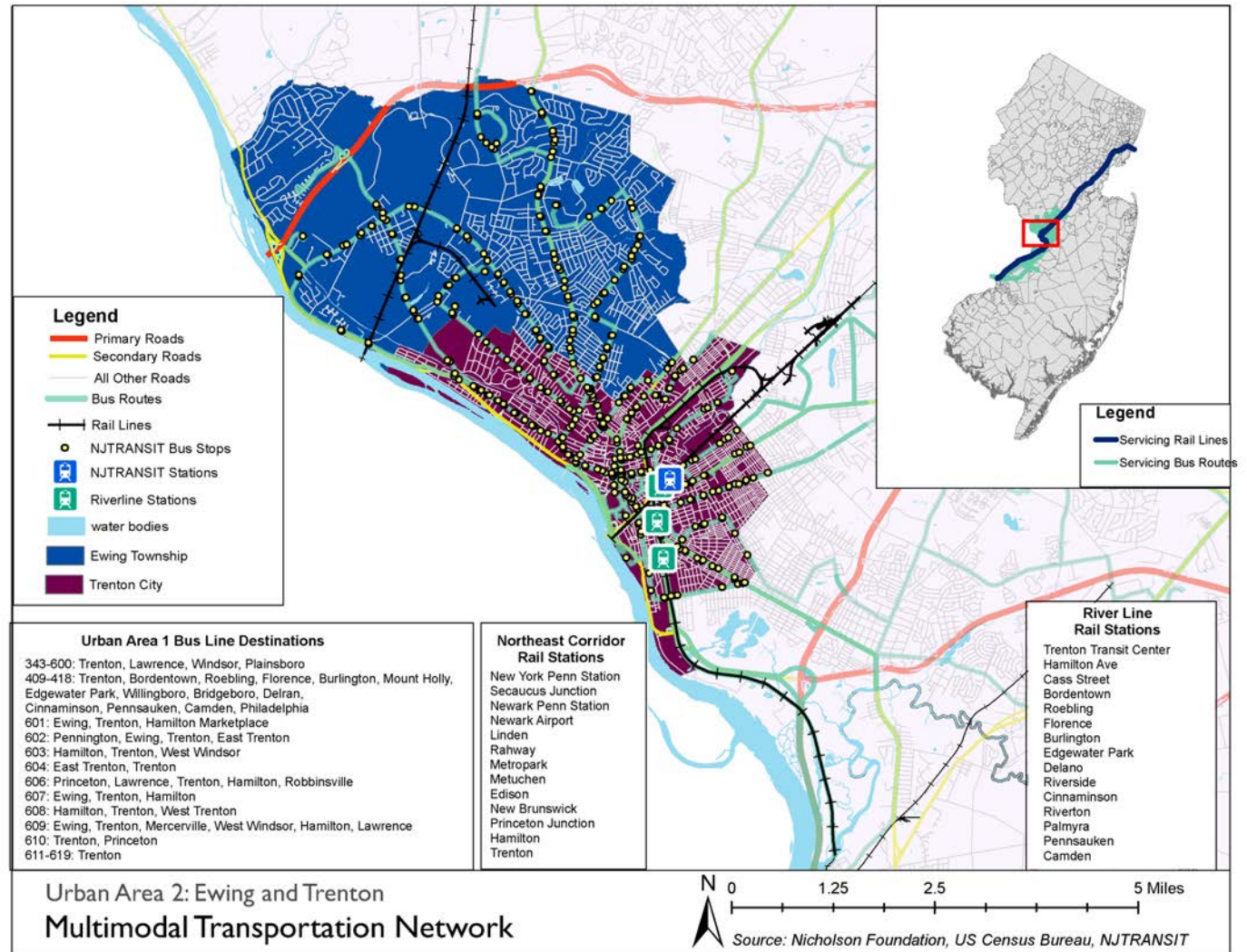


# Transportation

As the state capital, Trenton has been built as a very accessible city from a regional perspective. Trenton is one of several major transportation hubs in New Jersey (in the sense that it is a destination for many multi-modal transit lines). The Trenton Transit Center is a very busy New Jersey Transit station that services commuters working in Trenton, Philadelphia (SEPTA operates Trenton-Philadelphia routes), New York City, and areas in between. New York Penn Station is about a ninety minute ride on the Northeast Corridor line, and a 45 minute trip to Philadelphia 30th Street Station. Trenton also has a light rail option. The River Line light rail service takes passengers from Trenton to a number of cities in south Jersey.

As of March, 2012, Trenton has been a Complete Streets city, putting it under the guidance of a policy which requires that local roadway projects accommodate diverse modes of transportation. Since the adoption of the Complete Streets Policy, several small-scale projects have been executed to improve the safety of local cyclists and pedestrians, including road repaving and line striping (Fatton, 2012).

In the focus neighborhoods public transportation is limited almost entirely to the bus. Ewing & Carroll is the only neighborhood in close proximity to rail, both the NJ Transit Train Station and the River Line light rail station. Bus stops are located throughout the six



neighborhoods with concentrations on Route 206, Perry Street, Calhoun Street, and Stuyvesant Avenue. A majority of the health services are located nearby bus stops.

## Community Organizations

### Overview Discussion

Although Trenton may seem like a fairly large city in comparison to some of our other smaller focus municipalities, the community organization landscape within Trenton is relatively small. Many organizations that we spoke with were openly expressive of the communication between organizations within the city. It is also evident that these organizations rely on one another, even if there is some overlap between their goals and what they work to achieve. When researching online, we were able to find a map of a few community block organizations, but their contact information was outdated. One recent interesting gain that Trenton made towards community efforts was In 2010, when the city began to allow illegal immigrants to carry community identification cards. By having official identification, illegal immigrants can cash checks, pick up mail packages, borrow books from libraries, and get treatment at more medical centers. These cards have no currency outside the city of Trenton (New York Times, 2010). Additionally, as of April 2012, the City Council unanimously voted to protect nonprofit organizations using government buildings from being evicted (The Times of Trenton, 20 April 2012). This happened after a food pantry and a teen boxing program were locked out of city buildings in the weeks prior to the article.

The city has struggled of late to find the resources for its non-profit sector. In 2012, Trenton faced a \$4 million deficit. They city is planning an operational budget of \$186.4 Million and an increase of taxes of 19% (Times of Trenton, 17 October 2012). On top of Trenton's financial struggles also lies certain discrepancies within its administration. This year, Trenton failed to receive Community Development Block Grant money because they failed to put together a work force that included at least 30% of local, low-income residents. This is a part of Section III rules as per the Federal Government. \$4.6 Million was supposed to be committed to 10 recreation projects over the last several years, none of which comply with Section III in their plan (Times of Trenton, 6 April 2012).

## List of Community Organizations and Short Descriptions

### Battle Monument Organizations

#### **Greater Trenton Behavioral Health Care-Adolescent Rehabilitative Services** (<http://www.gtbhc.org/programs.htm>)

Works with youth ages 12-17 who have emotional/behavioral problems, as well as with their families. Treatment modalities include group and individual services, as well as family therapy. The program provides up to 5 hours of group-based services daily.

#### **Samaritan Baptist Church** (<http://samaritanbaptistministries.org/>)

Food pantry

### **Stuyvesant/Prospect Organizations**

**Capital Health System – Mercer** (<http://www.capitalhealth.org/>)

**Mercer Council on Alcoholism/Drug Abuse** (<http://www.mercercouncil.org/>)

Provides alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse prevention and early intervention programs and services in partnership with individuals, families, schools, communities, businesses and professionals throughout Mercer County

**Jennye W Stubblefield Senior Center**

Senior center

**Union Baptist Church** (<http://www.ubctrenton.com/>)

Food pantry

### **Central West Organizations**

**Carver Youth and Family Center** (<http://www.princetonol.com/yo/data/cyfc.html>)

Remedial education program, summer cultural and enrichment program, Carver Hi Y (Basketball, tutoring, and life skills for teenage boys)

**Community Justice Center, Inc.** (<http://www.nj-communityjusticecenter.org/>)

Legal support and guidance for community organizations and individuals in the community

**Young Scholars' Institute** (<http://www.youngscholarsoftrenton.org/index.asp>)

Provides programs for approximately 1,200 school children annually. These programs and services include one-to-one tutoring, SAT preparatory courses, enrichment classes, college tours and college admissions workshops, reading and writing workshops

### **North 25 Organizations**

**Henry J. Austin Health Center** (<http://henryjaustin.org/>)

Federally Qualified Health Center providing primary health care services to the medically underserved at three Trenton locations, including one in the neighborhood of North 25, located at 321 North Warren Street.

**Isles YouthBuild Institute** (<http://isles.org/services/youth-build-institute>)

Alternative school and training center for individuals, 16 to 24 years old, who have dropped out of school or have been incarcerated.

**Reading Senior Center**

Senior center

## **Hanover Academy Organizations**

### **Bureau of HIV Prevention/IMPACT Van**

(<http://www.trentonnj.org/Cit-e-Access/webpage.cfm?TID=55&TPID=12327>)

The Project Impact Mobile Health Van provides HIV counseling and testing. Offers referrals to care and treatment, and social service agencies.

### **Community Health Law Project** (<http://www.chlp.org/>)

Provide legal and advocacy services, training, education, and related activities to persons with disabilities and to organizations representing their interests, with an emphasis on those most vulnerable and needy.

### **The Crisis Ministry of Mercer County, Inc. – Office and Homelessness Prevention** (<http://www.thecrisisministry.org>)

Rent, Security Deposit, and Mortgage Assistance, Utilities Assistance, Free Farmers Market, Client Choice pantries, Workforce training

### **Greater Trenton Behavioral HealthCare – Adult Crisis Prevention and Outreach** (<http://www.gtbhc.org/programs.htm>)

Three teams of case managers provide in-vivo and hospital based support for consumers who have serious and persistent mental illnesses. Services include assessment, psychoeducation and support, crisis intervention, systems advocacy.

### **Isles – Main Office** (<http://isles.org/>)

Nonprofit community development and environmental organization

### **New Horizon** (<http://nhhs.net/>)

NHTS helps create useful, effective forms of collaboration with drug regulation, research, service delivery, and management.

### **People and Stories – Gente y Cuentos, Inc.** (<http://www.peopleandstories.net/>)

Offer literature reading and discussion programs in English or Spanish that invite participants to read, challenge, and question literary short stories through discussion. Programs reach individuals in diverse settings including residential treatment facilities, prisons, homeless shelters, adult education programs, libraries, and senior centers.

### **Trenton Head Start** (<http://trentonheadstart.org/>)

Head Start program

### **Trenton Council of Civic Association** (<http://www.tccatrenton.org/index.html>)

Serves as a central organization for the exchange of ideas for the member Civic Associations.

### **Trenton Public Library** (<http://www.trentonlib.org/>)

Classes in computer literacy are taught on an ongoing basis, including for Spanish speakers. The library also provides targeted PC training to social services agencies like the Salvation Army Rehabilitation Program. Programs in resume preparation and income tax assistance are also provided.

**Trenton YWCA – Dunham Hill Residence** (<http://www.ywcatrenton.org/dunhamhall.html>)

Residence that provides transitional and permanent housing to low-income and homeless women.

**Trenton Public Education Foundation, Inc.**

Broker, foster and leverage resources that enhance and promote educational opportunities for the students in the Trenton School District

**Trenton Mayor's Office/Community Concerns**

(<http://www.trentonnj.org/Cit-e-Access/webpage.cfm?TID=55&TPID=5575>)

**Turning Point Methodist Church** (<http://www.turningpointumc.net/>)

Food pantry

**UIH Family Partners** (<http://www.uihfamilypartners.org/>)

Serves men, the majority of those who participate in its programs are unemployed, non-custodial fathers who face multiple systemic barriers to self-sufficiency. Through a comprehensive array of free programs and services, UIH equips men to play a more active and positive role in the lives of their children and families, physically, emotionally and financially.

**YWCA Trenton/Latina Unidas** (<http://www.ywcatrenton.org/latinasunidas.html>)

**Ewing & Carroll Organizations**

**Henry J. Austin at Ewing Street** (<http://henryjaustin.org/>)

Federally Qualified Health Center providing primary health care services to the medically underserved at three Trenton locations, including one

**Catholic Charities – Partners in Recovery**

(<http://www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org/cc3/index.php?page=mental-health-recovery>)

A partial-care program which provides the behavioral, emotional, psychiatric, psychosocial, and substance abuse treatment of adults.

**Catholic Charities – Family Growth Program**

(<http://www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org/cc3/index.php?page=mental-health-recovery>)

Offers specialized treatment services for family violence, child abuse and neglect for children and families under child protection supervision due to abuse or neglect.

**Catholic Charities – PACT (Program of Assertive Community Treatment)**

(<http://www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org/cc3/index.php?page=mental-health-recovery>)

Community-based intensive mental health and recovery service for the most seriously and chronically disabled adults experiencing a mental illness.

**Catholic Charities – In-Home Foster Care**

(<http://www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org/cc3/index.php?page=mental-health-recovery>)

Ensures safety and enhances permanency for at risk children under child protection supervision due to abuse or neglect.

**Catholic Charities – The Guidance Clinic**

(<http://www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org/cc3/index.php?page=mental-health-recovery>)

Provides psychotherapy and counseling for people with behavioral, emotional, psychiatric, and substance abuse concerns.

**Jerusalem Baptist Church** (<http://www.jerusalemmbc-nj.org/>)

Food pantry - provides a monthly meal program for the community, free clothing and Thanksgiving baskets.

**LifeLine Emergency Shelter, Inc. (2 Different Locations)**

Emergency shelter

**Lutheran Social Ministries** (<http://www.lsmnj.org/>)

Affordable family housing, affordable senior housing, community outreach programs, immigration and refugee program, etc.

**Mercer County One-Stop Career Center**

(<http://www.state.nj.us/counties/mercerc/departments/oscc/index.html>)

Employment assistance, job training

**Mount Carmel Guild** (<http://www.mcgtrenton.org/>)

The Emergency Assistance program provides emergency food to families. Clients include homeless, disabled and/or aged persons living on fixed incomes. Home Health Nursing program staff provides in-home nursing services to seniors whose Medicare insurance has been exhausted and have no alternative care.

**NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development** (<http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/>)

Employment assistance, job training

**Planned Parenthood**

(<http://www.plannedparenthood.org/health-center/centerDetails.asp?f=3304&a=90960&v=details>)

Pregnancy testing, prescription contraceptive (birth control) supply pick-up, Depo-Provera ("The Shot") injections, and sexually transmitted infection (STI/STD) testing & treatment (gonorrhea and chlamydia only), and rapid HIV testing.

**Princeton Deliverance Center, Inc. – Community Food Program** ([www.princetondeliverance.org/](http://www.princetondeliverance.org/))

Securing donations of surplus unmarketable, but wholesome, foods and grocery products for distribution through a network of charitable organizations dedicated to feeding the hungry throughout the City of Trenton.

**Rescue Mission of Trenton** (<http://www.rescuemissionoftrenton.org/>)

Emergency shelter, addiction services, permanent supportive housing, job placement program, GED preparation, basic literacy tutoring, parenting classes, and computer/word processing skills, outpatient clinic

**Salvation Army** (<http://www.salvationarmy.org/>)

Adult Program Services - Community Recreation & Education Programs, Food & Nutrition, Military Personnel Assistance, Missing Persons, Correctional Services - Bible Study - Correspondence, Aid to Families, Disaster Services - Disaster Services, Emergency Assistance - Food & Nutrition Programs, Seasonal Services, Family Counseling Services - Casework Services, Older Adult Services - Camping Activities, Visitation Services, Worship Center - Worship Services - Children's / Teen, Christian Education, Church, Men's Ministries, Music & Arts Programs, Sunday School, Women's Ministries, Youth Services - Character Building Programs, Residential Camping Activities

**Trenton Treatment Center (Part of United Progress, Inc.)**

Substance abuse treatment services

**Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK)** (<http://www.trentonsoupkitchen.org/>)

Feeds those who are hungry in the Trenton area and offers programs to encourage self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life of its patrons.

Documentary video from YouTube about TASK (uploaded Feb. 2008) : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMGPxILluUs&feature=related>

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