

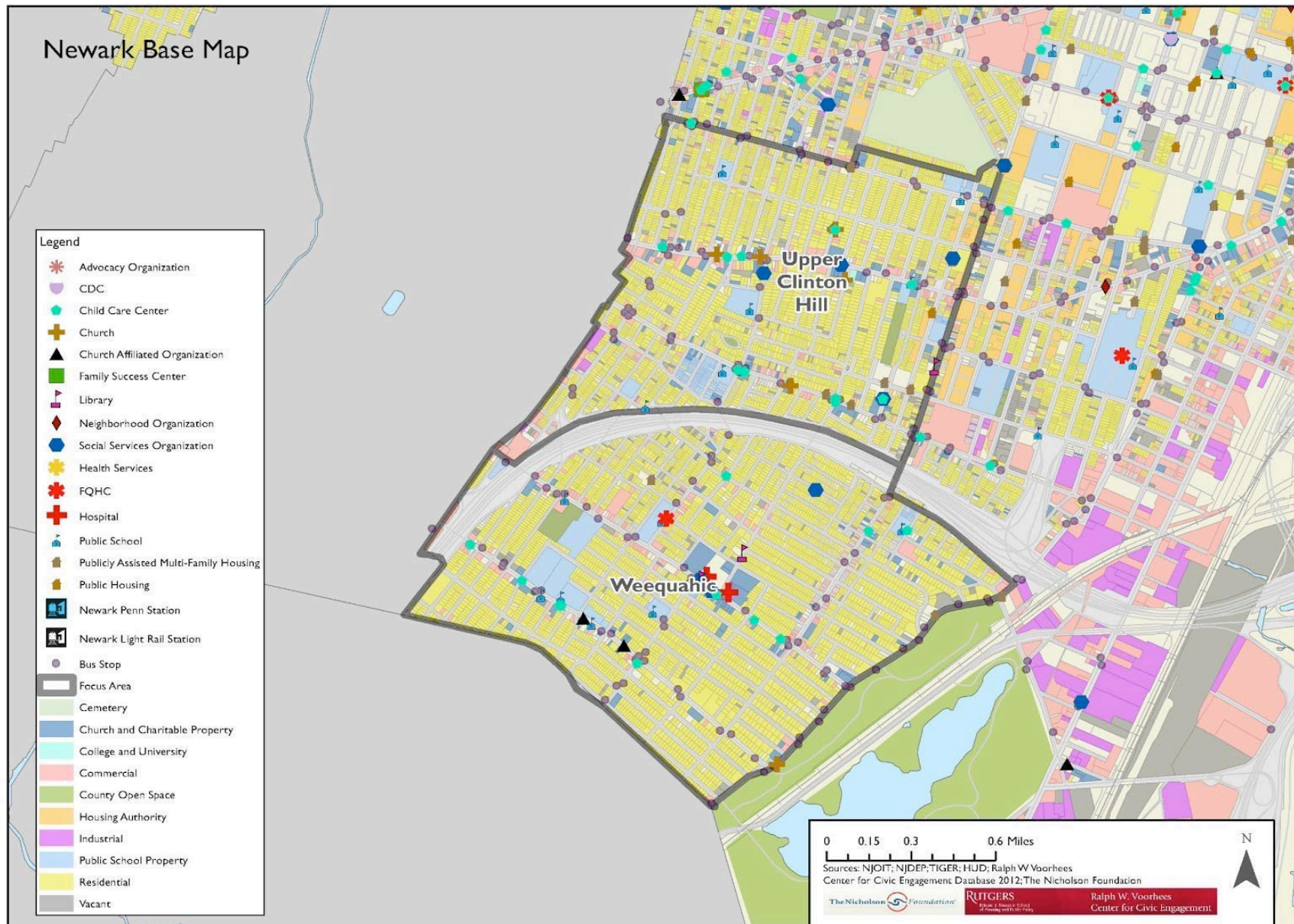
# Newark

## Upper Clinton Hill and Weequahic

Alison Blazey  
Michael D'Orazio  
Katherine Plotnick  
Margaret Ricke

with  
Ronit Anspach  
Pritpal Bamhrah  
Anthony Capece  
Laura Chamberlain  
Mirabel Chen  
Katie Davis  
Michael D'Orazio  
Ryan Good  
Gregory Hughes  
Margaret Ricke  
Matt Sarsycki  
Timothy Shek  
Ben Teresa  
Richard Trent  
Michael Yaffe  
Xunjing Wu

Kathe Newman, Associate Professor and Director  
Ralph W. Voorhees Center for Civic Engagement  
Funded by The Nicholson Foundation  
2013



## Table of Contents

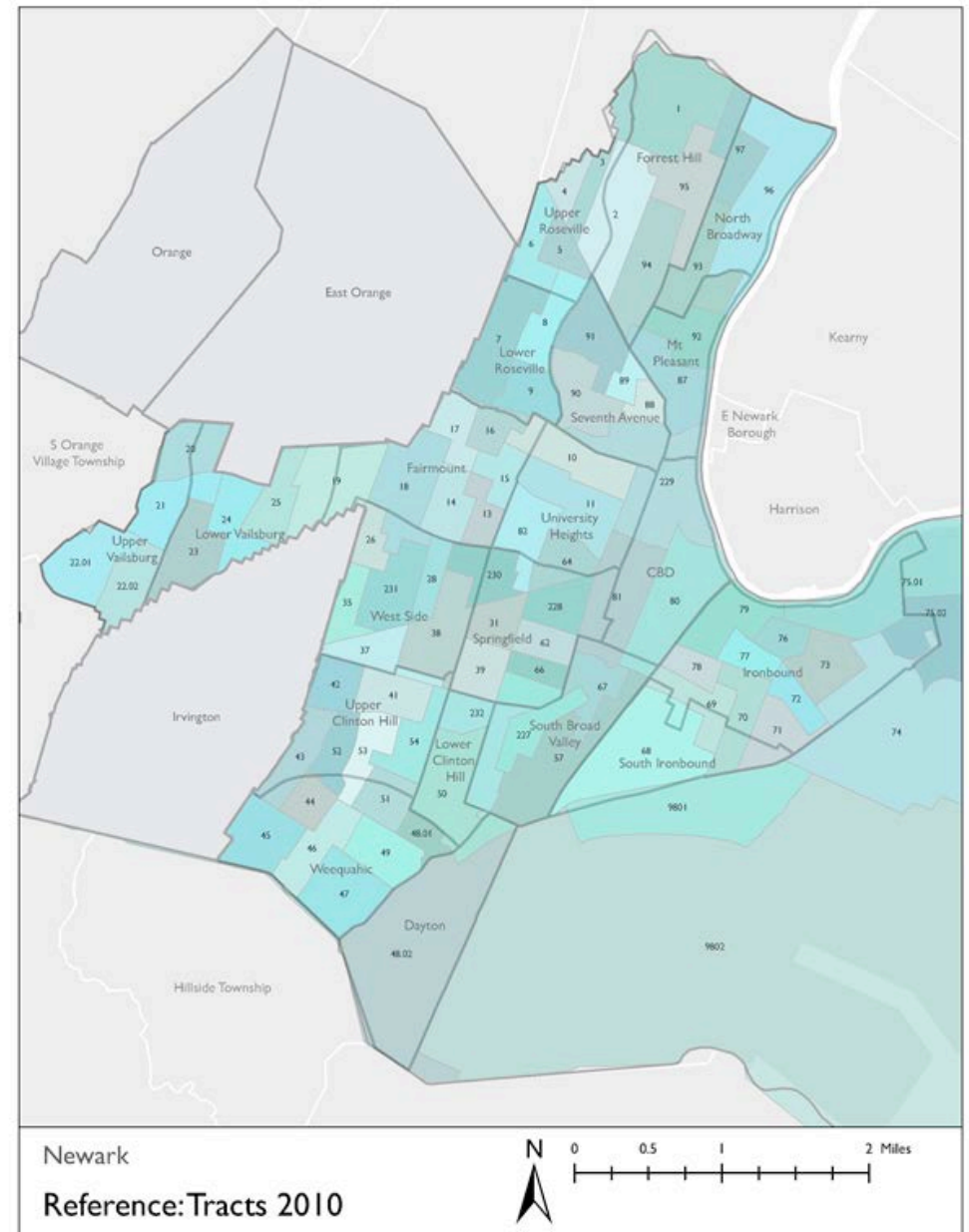
Neighborhoods .....	4
Population .....	7
Income .....	12
Education .....	13
Housing .....	15
Crime .....	19
Health .....	19
Transportation .....	23
Community Organizations .....	24
Works Cited .....	27

## Neighborhoods

### Upper Clinton Hill and Weequahic

The Upper Clinton Hill and Weequahic neighborhoods are located in Newark's South Ward along its western border with Irvington. The two neighborhoods are adjacent, separated by Interstate 78, which was constructed in the 1970s despite fierce resident opposition. The Upper Clinton Hill neighborhood is bordered to the north by Avon Avenue and Woodland Cemetery and to the east by Bergen Street, a commercial corridor. Across I-78, and directly south of Upper Clinton Hill, Weequahic is bordered by Weequahic Park to the east and by Hillside Township to the south.

Upper Clinton Hill and Weequahic are primarily residential neighborhoods, with many historic single-family homes built by Jewish residents who populated the South Ward in the early 20th Century. There are also many religious institutions, including the former B'nai Abraham synagogue, now Deliverance Evangelistic Center, on Clinton Avenue, which has been declared a historical landmark (DEC Ministries). In 2003, a 28-block Historic District was designated in the southeast corner of the Weequahic neighborhood. In addition to the residential blocks in census tract 47, the Historic District includes the 311-acre Weequahic Park, designed by the Olmsted brothers at the turn of the century (Newark Master Plan, 2012). Commercial uses are clustered along a few main arteries, including Clinton, Hawthorne, and Bergen Avenues, with some additional commercial properties on Lyons and Chancellor Avenues. In Upper Clinton Hill, next to the train tracks that separate Newark from a predominantly industrial area in Irvington, a few parcels remain dedicated to light industrial uses. Together, the two neighborhoods encompass 13 census tracts. Tracts 41, 42, and 54 are located entirely in Upper Clinton Hill; tracts 44, 45, 46, 47, 48.01, and 49 are located entirely in Weequahic; and tracts 43, 51, 52, and 53 are shared between the two neighborhoods.



**Table 1a. Characteristics of Upper Clinton Hill**

Characteristic	Total	% of Total	Characteristic	Total	% of Total
<b>Population</b>	18,617	100%	<b>Families (2010)</b>	4,306	100%
<b>Age (2010)</b>			Female-headed with Children	1,760	41%
Under 5 years	1,449	8%	<b>Economic (2007-2011)<sup>i</sup></b>		
5-19 years	4,692	25%	Median Household Income	\$21,615 - 59,563	
20-64 years	10,859	58%	Persons below Poverty	4,548	27%
65-74 years	917	5%	Total Civilian Labor Force	8,349	100%
75+ years	700	4%	Employed	6,604	79%
<b>Race (2010)</b>			Unemployed	1,745	21%
White	643	4%	<b>Housing (2010)</b>		
Black	17,010	91%	Total Units	7,913	100%
Asian	63	0%	Vacant Housing Units	1,701	22%
Hispanic	1,371	7%	Owner Occupied	1,607	26%
<b>Households (2010)</b>	6,212	100%	Renter Occupied	4,605	74%
Multigenerational	610	10%			

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

**Table 1b. Characteristics of Weequahic**

Characteristic	Total	% of Total	Characteristic	Total	% of Total
<b>Population</b>	24,831	100%	<b>Families (2010)</b>	5,935	100%
<b>Age (2010)</b>			Female-headed with Children	2,120	36%
Under 5 years	1,766	7%	<b>Economic (2007-2011)<sup>i</sup></b>		
5-19 years	5,600	23%	Median Household Income	\$20,721 - 59,563	
20-64 years	14,783	60%	Persons below Poverty	4,827	20%
65-74 years	1,609	6%	Total Civilian Labor Force	12,711	100%
75+ years	1,073	4%	Employed	10,305	81%
<b>Race (2010)</b>			Unemployed	2,406	19%
White	558	2%	<b>Housing (2010)</b>		
Black	23,213	94%	Total Units	10,922	100%
Asian	56	0%	Vacant Housing Units	1,642	15%
Hispanic	1,330	5%	Owner Occupied	2,617	28%
<b>Households (2010)</b>	9,280	100%	Renter Occupied	6,663	72%
Multigenerational	853	9%			

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

# Population

As of 2010, Upper Clinton Hill was home to 18,617 residents and Weequahic was home to 24,831.<sup>1</sup> Some tracts in Upper Clinton Hill gained population while others between 2000 and 2010. Tract 43 gained 30% and tract 53 gained 21%. Weequahic tract 49, just northeast of Beth Israel, lost 15% of its population between 2000 and 2010 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010).

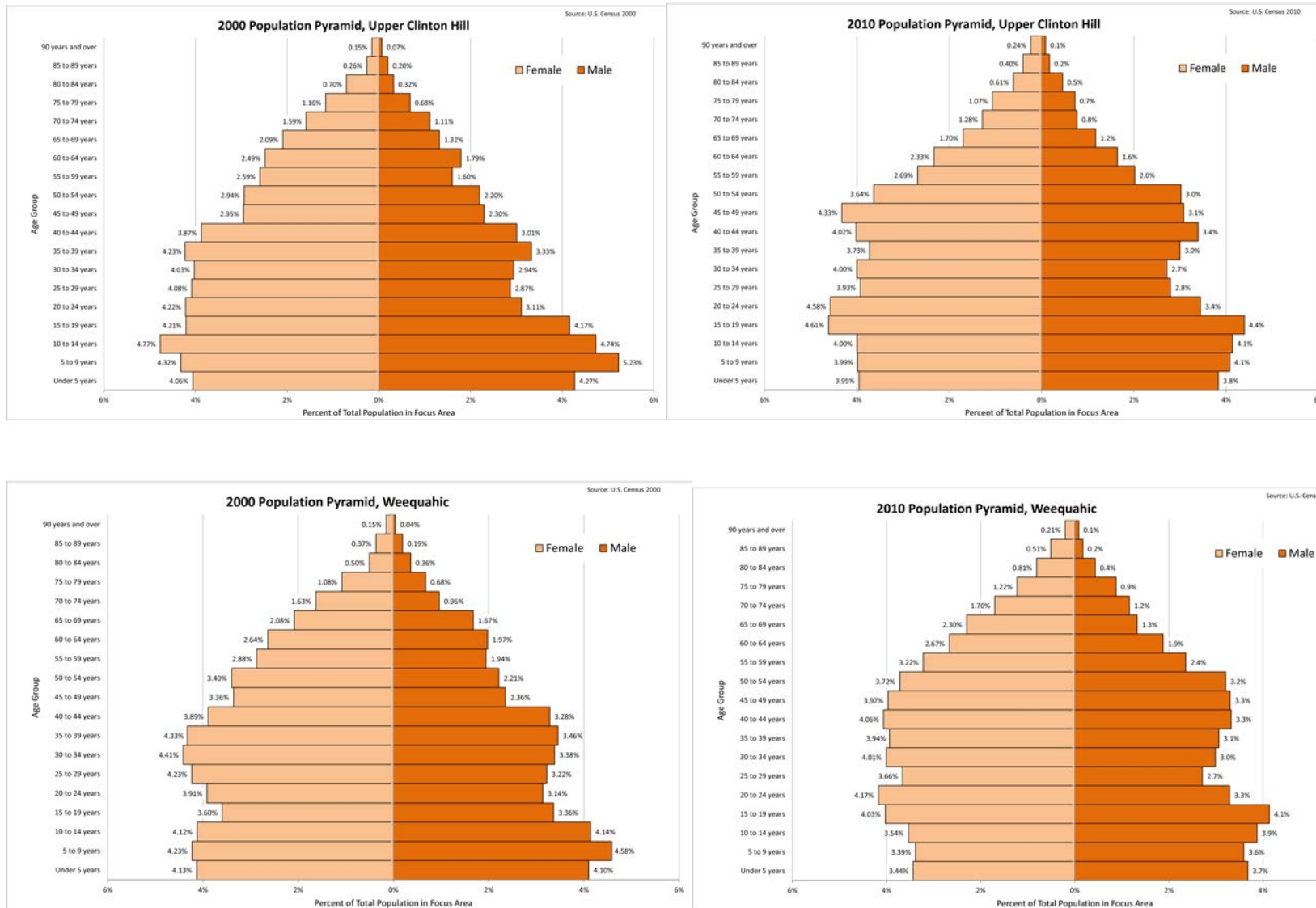
**Table 2: Total Population of Upper Clinton Hill and Weequahic, 2000 & 2010**

Upper Clinton Hill				Weequahic			
Tract	2000	2010	Percent Change	Tract	2000	2010	Percent Change
41	3,293	3,411	3.6%	44	1,754	1,708	-2.6%
42	3,263	2,831	-13.2%	45	3,576	3,282	-8.2%
43	1,977	2,560	29.5%	46	3,091	3,198	3.5%
51	2,372	2,214	-6.7%	47	4,945	4,624	-6.5%
52	1,467	1,294	-11.8%	48.01	2,300	2,236	-2.8%
53	2,175	2,623	20.6%	49	4,302	3,652	-15.1%
54	4,035	3,684	-8.7%	51	2,372	2,214	-6.7%
				52	1,467	1,294	-11.8%
				53	2,175	2,623	20.6%
Upper Clinton Hill	18,582	18,617	0.2%	Weequahic	25,982	24,831	-4.4%
Newark	273,546	277,140	1.3%	Newark	273,546	277,140	1.3%

(US Census 2000, 2010)

<sup>1</sup> Since the borders of the census tracts do not perfectly line up with the focus area boundaries, these totals are approximations.

As with many of the other neighborhoods we've looked at, men seem to disappear from the neighborhood once they become teenagers. The pattern is visible in 2000 and 2010 in both of these focus neighborhoods (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000, 2010).



The population in Weequahic and Upper Clinton Hill is 85-96% black, as compared with 52% in Newark as a whole. The Hispanic presence increased in all census tracts between 2000 and 2010. In particular, there are higher concentrations of Hispanic residents in tracts 54 (12%) and 48.01 (10%) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010). There is little language diversity among the families with children in elementary schools which supports the census data.

**Table 3a: Racial & Ethnic Representation in Upper Clinton Hill 2010**

Tract	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
41	170	5.0%	3,086	90.5%	246	7.2%
42	61	2.2%	2,646	93.5%	199	7.0%
43	56	2.2%	2,350	91.8%	159	6.2%
51	26	1.2%	2,124	95.9%	89	4.0%
52	48	3.7%	1,192	92.1%	87	6.7%
53	62	2.4%	2,479	94.5%	135	5.1%
54	220	6.0%	3,133	85.0%	456	12.4%
Upper Clinton Hill	643	3.5%	17,010	91.4%	1,371	7.4%
Newark	72,914	26.3%	145,085	52.4%	93,746	33.8%

(US Census 2000, 2010)

**Table 3b: Racial & Ethnic Representation in Weequahic 2010**

Tract	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
44	15	0.9%	1,633	95.6%	68	4.0%
45	51	1.6%	3,103	94.5%	165	5.0%
46	41	1.3%	3,035	94.9%	145	4.5%
47	119	2.6%	4,285	92.7%	256	5.5%
48.01	77	3.4%	1,995	89.2%	215	9.6%
49	119	3.3%	3,367	92.2%	170	4.7%
51	26	1.2%	2,124	95.9%	89	4.0%
52	48	3.7%	1,192	92.1%	87	6.7%
53	62	2.4%	2,479	94.5%	135	5.1%
Weequahic	558	2.2%	23,213	93.5%	1,330	5.4%
Newark	72,914	26.3%	145,085	52.4%	93,746	33.8%

(US Census 2000, 2010)

**Table 4a: Changes to Upper Clinton Hill's Racial & Ethnic Composition, 2000 & 2010**

Tract	White		Black		Hispanic	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
41	1.3%	5.0%	94.3%	90.5%	4.8%	7.2%
42	1.6%	2.2%	95.6%	93.5%	2.8%	7.0%
43	1.3%	2.2%	95.2%	91.8%	3.9%	6.2%
51	0.5%	1.2%	96.8%	95.9%	3.1%	4.0%
52	2.0%	3.7%	93.1%	92.1%	6.5%	6.7%
53	1.2%	2.4%	96.2%	94.5%	1.6%	5.1%
54	1.6%	6.0%	91.9%	85.0%	7.4%	12.4%
Upper Clinton Hill	1.4%	3.5%	94.6%	91.4%	4.5%	7.4%
Newark	26.5%	26.3%	53.5%	52.4%	29.5%	33.8%

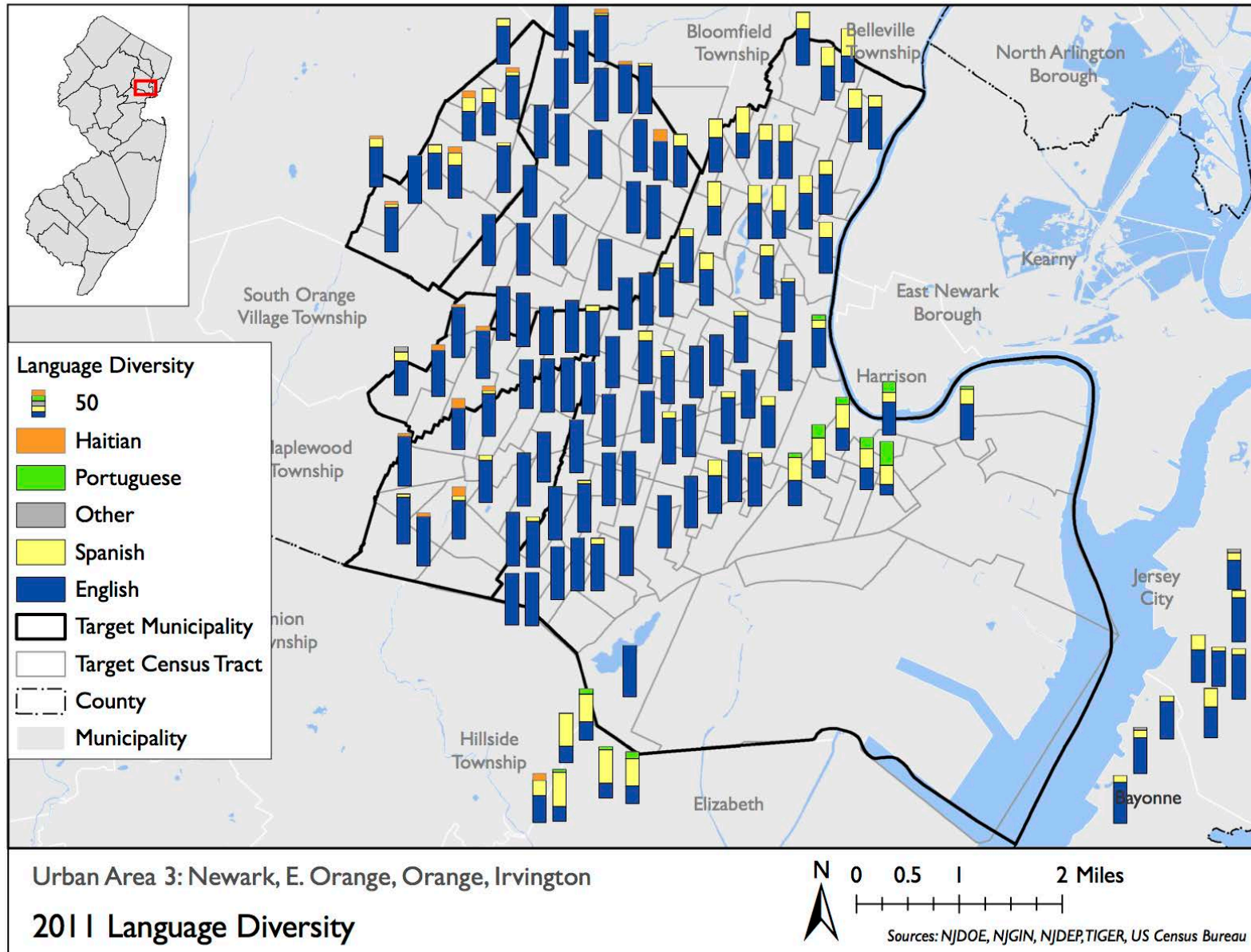
(US Census 2000, 2010)

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

Tract	White		Black		Hispanic	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
44	1.2%	0.9%	96.3%	95.6%	3.0%	4.0%
45	0.6%	1.6%	96.2%	94.5%	2.0%	5.0%
46	0.9%	1.3%	94.1%	94.9%	2.0%	4.5%
47	1.3%	2.6%	94.9%	92.7%	2.8%	5.5%
48.01	2.8%	3.4%	89.6%	89.2%	8.7%	9.6%
49	1.2%	3.3%	93.9%	92.2%	4.0%	4.7%
51	0.5%	1.2%	96.8%	95.9%	3.1%	4.0%
52	2.0%	3.7%	93.1%	92.1%	6.5%	6.7%
53	1.2%	2.4%	96.2%	94.5%	1.6%	5.1%
Weequahic	1.2%	2.2%	94.6%	93.5%	3.5%	5.4%
Newark	26.5%	26.3%	53.5%	52.4%	29.5%	33.8%

(US Census 2000, 2010)

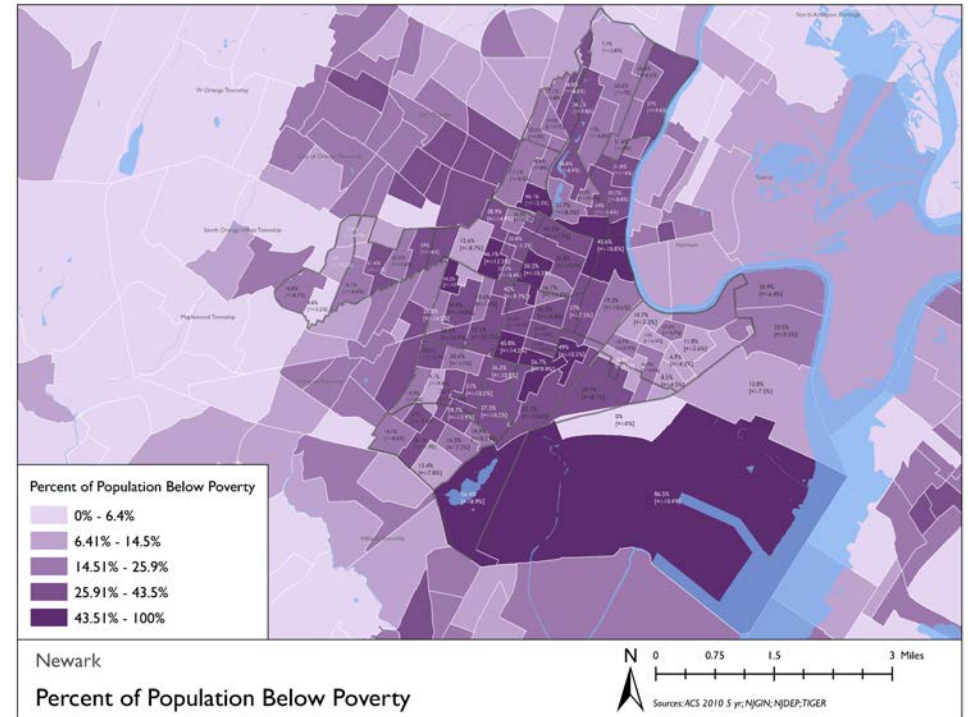
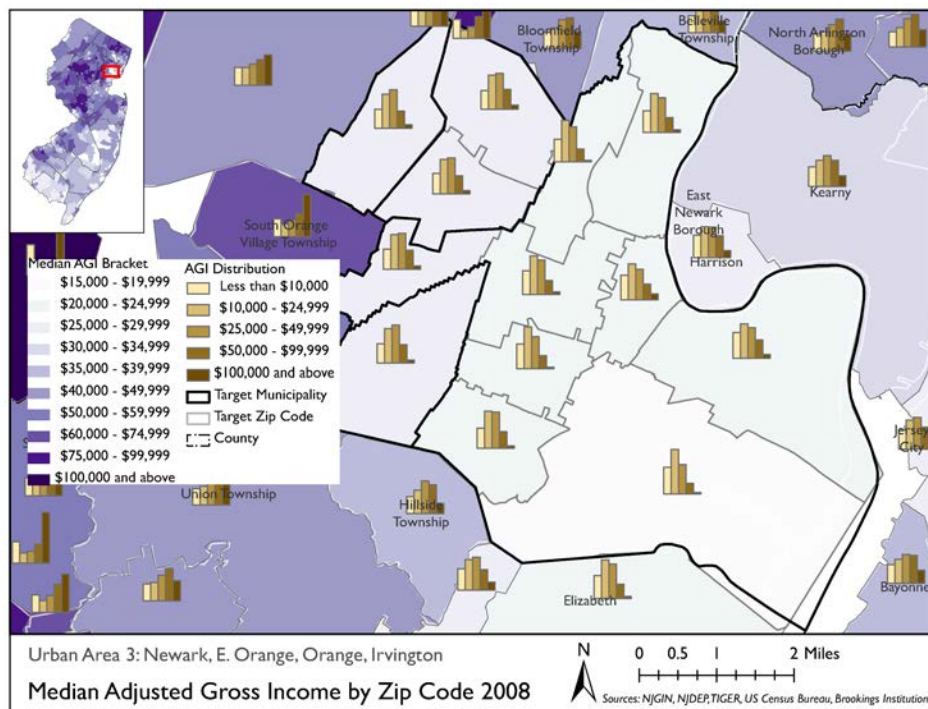
Female headed families with children are common in Upper Clinton Hill and Weequahic. Across the two neighborhoods, female headed households make up between 30-51% of families. With the exception of census tract 47, percentages of female-headed families with children are higher in these two neighborhoods than the citywide average of 31%, and much higher than the New Jersey average of 11%. The highest concentration of female-headed families with children are in census tracts 54 (51%), 44 (46%), and 48.01 (45%).



# Income

In 2000, median incomes in Clinton Hill ranged from \$20,153 to \$37,581. The lowest median income was in census tract 54, at \$20,153, while the highest was in census tract 52, at \$37,581. Census tract 52 also had the lowest percentage of residents living in poverty in 2010, with 9% living below the poverty line as compared to 39% in tract 44, 31% in tract 54, and 27% in tract 53 (U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2010).

The highest concentrations of poverty in Weequahic were located along the northern boundary with I-78 in census tracts 44, 51, and 48.01, and 46. Twenty-seven to 30% of the population in these tracts lives below the poverty line. Census tracts 47 and 49, in the eastern half of the neighborhood bordering Weequahic Park, had lower poverty rates of 13% and 17%, respectively. Tract 47 also had the highest median income in the neighborhood at \$36,797 for 2000 (U.S. Census 2000).



The 2008 gross income tax data for Clinton Hill's zip code suggests a similar distribution of incomes to Newark's Mt. Pleasant neighborhood. There are many low and moderate income households and few households at the top end. Since this is gross income rather than wage income, it also suggests the possibility that people have little additional income to fall back on in times of crisis. The income distribution in Weequahic Park suggests that there are slightly more moderate income residents than in Clinton Hill.

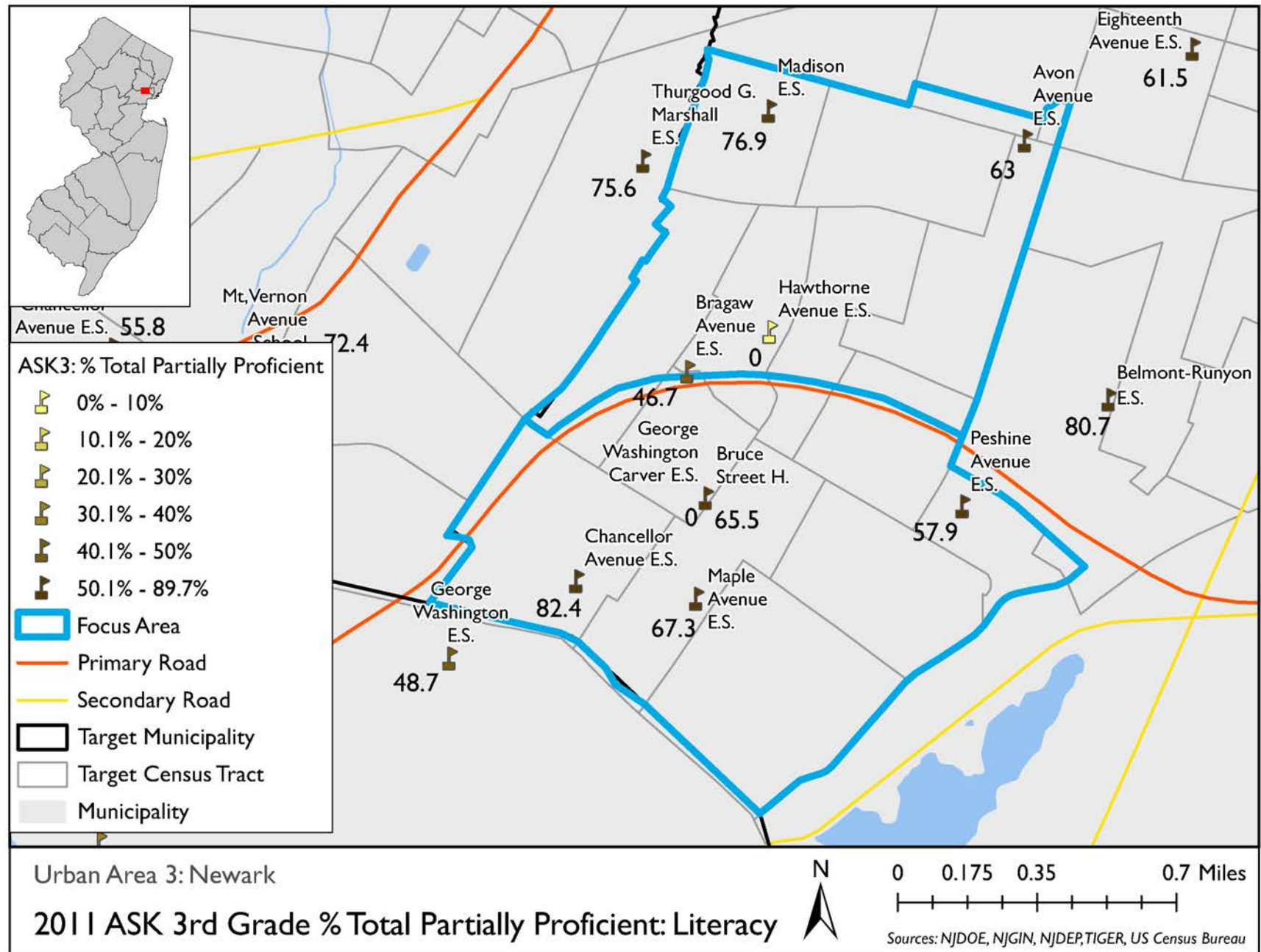
# Education

The percent of students who scored partially proficient on the 3rd grade NJASK literacy exam ranged from 47% at Bragaw Avenue to 82% at Chancellor Avenue, which also has a disabled student population of 26%. The students in Upper Clinton Hill and Weequahic have high mobility rates, ranging from 22% at Maple Avenue Elementary to 43% at Hawthorne Avenue Elementary. Nearly a quarter of students were suspended at Avon Avenue Elementary and 16% at Hawthorne.

**Table 5: Upper Clinton Hill and Weequahic 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 English Proficiency	Student Suspensions
Avon Avenue	K-8	556	63%	English - 99.4% Spanish - .6%	14%	31%		23%
Bragaw Avenue	K-8	274	47%	English - 99% Spanish - 1%	8%	28%		2%
Clinton Avenue	Pre-K	67		English - 100%	6%	39%		0%
Hawthorne Avenue	K-8	295	78% (2009/10)	English - 99% Spanish - .9%	15%	43%		16%
Madison	Pre K - 5	343	77%	English - 99.5% Spanish - .5%	16%	33%		6%
Chancellor Ave	8-Mar	323	82%	English - 99.4% French - .3% Spanish - .3%	26%	25%		0%
Maple Ave	Pre K - 8	444	67%	English - 99% Spanish - .6% Haitian - .2% Portuguese - .2%	11%	22%		10%
Peshine Ave	Pre K - 8	436	58%	English - 91% Spanish - 3% Twi - 2.6% French - 1.2% Haitian - 1% Ga - .8% Panjab - .4%	11%	30%	6%	3%

(NJ Department of Education, 2011)



# Housing

Most homes were built as single-family residences before 1950 and there are apartment buildings along Clinton and Chadwick Avenues (Newark Master Plan, 2012). From 2000-2010, Weequahic and Upper Clinton Hill saw increases in the number of housing units. Upper Clinton Hill was home to 16% more units at the end of the decade and Weequahic saw an increase of 6 percent (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 & 2010).

**Table 6a: Housing Unit Changes in Upper Clinton Hill, 2000-2010**

Tract	Housing Units		Percent Change
	2000	2010	
41	1,209	1,264	4.5%
42	1,210	1,324	9.4%
43	711	1,094	53.9%
51	929	1,010	8.7%
52	487	524	7.6%
53	815	1,021	25.3%
54	1,455	1,676	15.2%
Upper Clinton Hill	6,816	7,913	16.1%

(US Census 2000, 2010)

**Table 6b: Housing Unit Changes in Weequahic, 2000-2010**

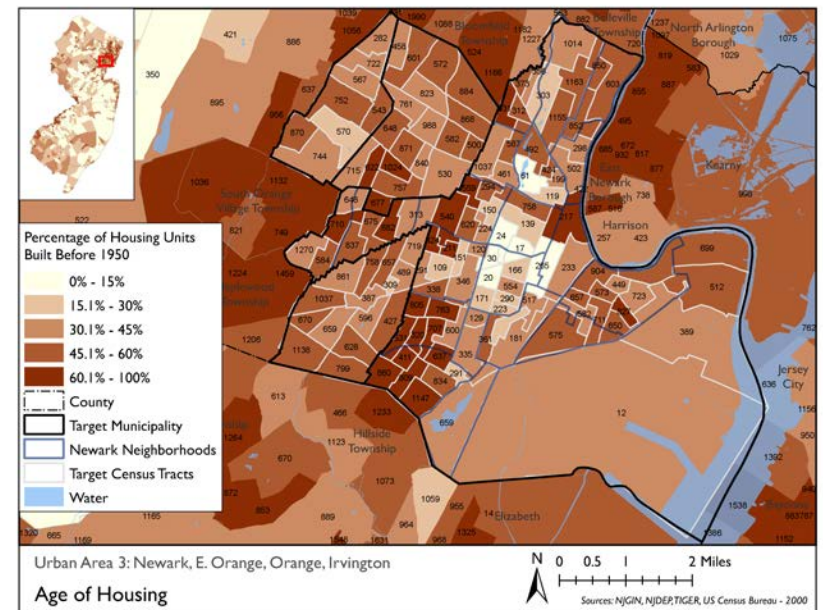
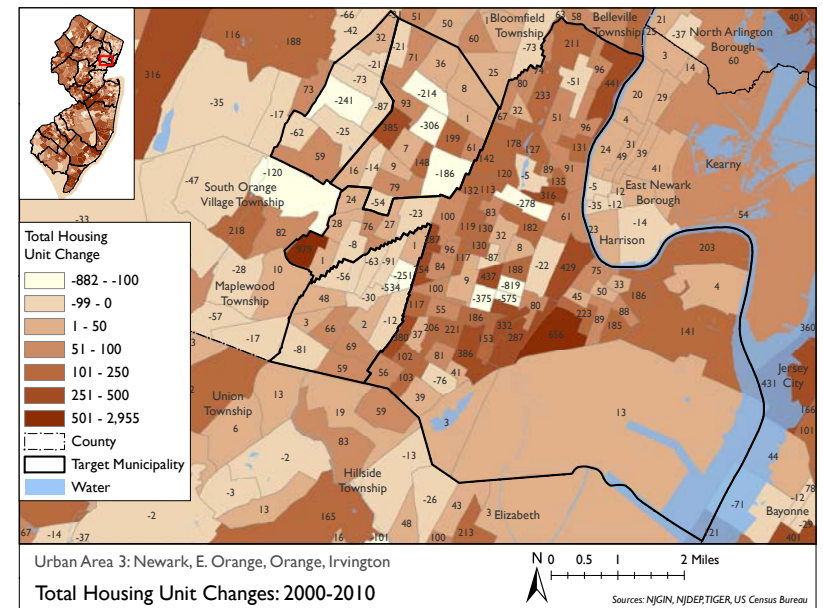
Tract	Housing Units		Percent Change
	2000	2010	
44	651	753	15.7%
45	1,374	1,430	4.1%
46	1,305	1,408	7.9%
47	1,970	2,009	2.0%
48.01	984	1,025	4.2%
49	1,818	1,742	-4.2%
51	929	1,010	8.7%
52	487	524	7.6%
53	815	1,021	25.3%
Weequahic	10,333	10,922	5.7%
Newark	100,141	109,520	9.4%

(US Census 2000, 2010)

Despite these trends, there are many vacant lots in the two neighborhoods, particularly along main streets like Clinton, Avon, Bergen, and Chancellor Avenues. Hawthorne Avenue Elementary School, immediately south of Clinton Avenue, is surrounded by wide expanses of cleared land that belongs to the school district. There are also many abandoned properties in the wake of the foreclosure crisis, which hit both neighborhoods hard. Streets like Seymour Avenue, which once had one of the highest homeownership rates in Newark, saw a wave of foreclosures that left behind many vacant and poorly maintained buildings (New York Times, May 17, 2009). In 2010, there were a total of 2,830 vacant units in Upper Clinton Hill and Weequahic combined (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). In six of the 13 census tracts, over one-fifth of units were vacant, with a staggering 25% of units vacant in tract 42. In 2011 Community Workshops for Upper Clinton Hill and Weequahic, residents expressed concern about the vacant units and asked that they be demolished (Community Workshop Notes, Newark Master Plan, 2011).

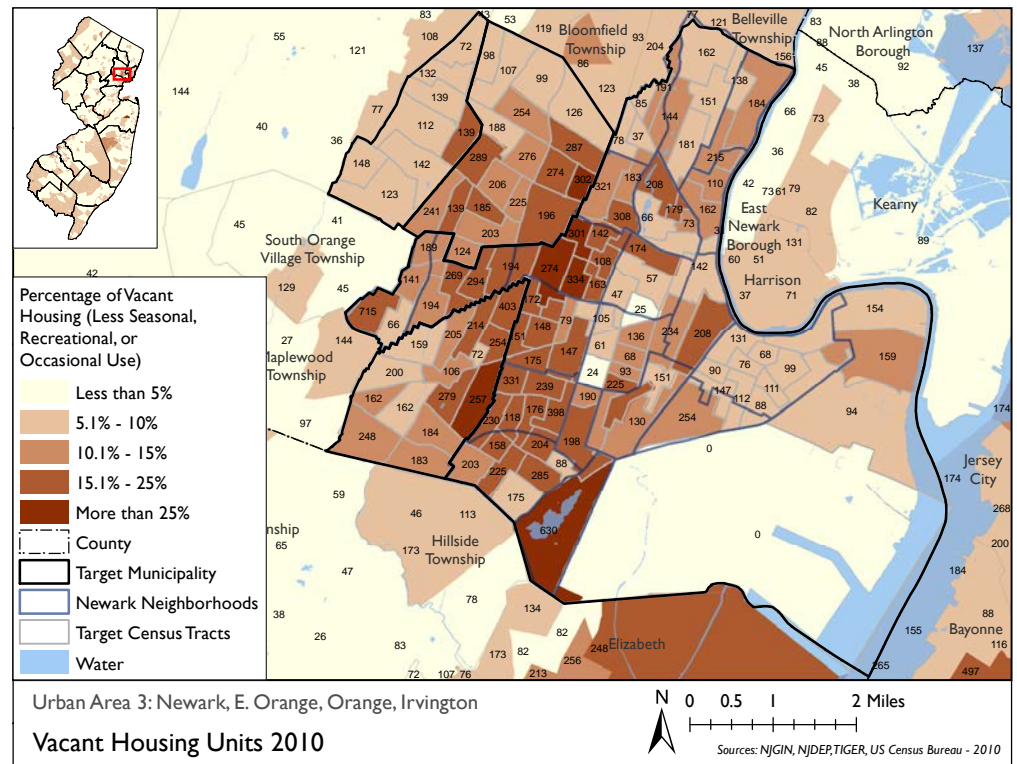
The Rutgers Community Development Studio and The Foreclosure Project (of the RWV Center) have been working closely with organizations in Upper Clinton Hill to understand the foreclosure problems. This neighborhood has struggled with the foreclosure crisis. For residents this has meant borrowers and local investors who have struggled to keep their homes and investment properties. It has also meant that renters have been shuffled around and families who remain have to walk by vacant boarded up buildings and fear fire. Families that lack adequate housing live in poor quality housing, sometimes boarded up buildings, share housing with others, and / or become homeless. The literature on barriers to healthcare would suggest that all of these are barriers to retaining a connection with a primary care doctor and to having access to healthcare services (even before addressing issues related to insurance). The effects of this crisis on children are presumably significant but there have been no studies to explore this. Our observations of the housing data and anecdotal conversations suggest that people move around the neighborhoods seeking housing which may mean that children cannot easily access their elementary schools and/or shift around schools. A few blocks north, a high school graduation went on a summer ago while the entire block, save for one house, was vacant and boarded up.

Weequahic also has some of the highest concentrations of housing built before 1950 when the first of the lead paint laws were put into effect.



## Public and Federally Assisted Housing

There are several Project Based Section 8 buildings and public housing projects in these neighborhoods. In Upper Clinton Hill, these include the 88-unit Aspen Temple apartment building, the 21-unit Amity Village #1, and the 115-unit Mt. Calvary Homes. At the northeast corner of Weequahic, in tract 48.01, are two huge high-rise housing projects, the 268-unit Zion Towers (the tallest residential building in Newark) and the 216-unit Carmel Towers, both built at the beginning of the 1970s as Project Based Section 8 housing. Carmel Towers made the news in October 2011, when HUD ended its contract to subsidize the building, dislocating many of its tenants (New York Times, Oct. 26, 2011; Newark Master Plan, 2012). The building, once a hub for drug dealing and violent crime (Star-Ledger, Aug. 2, 2009), had also dismally failed its physical inspections, with a score of 18 out of 100 (The Real Deal New York, Oct. 25, 2011). Zion Towers is also in poor condition, and its owner is working with the city to rehabilitate the building before its HUD contract expires in 2013 (Newark Master Plan, 2012). Another Section 8 Housing location in Weequahic is the much smaller 42-unit Willow Court Towers, which consists of two multi-family buildings. In the Community Workshop, Upper Clinton Hill residents cited a need for more affordable housing (Community Workshop Notes, Newark Master Plan, 2011). Throughout Newark, the wait list for Section 8 housing vouchers is long and wait times can be up to three years, while the cost of rental housing is rising citywide (Community Themes and Strength Assessment, Department of Health and Human Services, 2006). The most recent physical inspections scores suggest that all but one of the federally assisted housing projects are doing better as is the housing authority property. However, the Weequahic properties appear to all be struggling.



In Upper Clinton Hill, Episcopal Community Development (ECD) has been a key player in affordable housing development and community planning efforts. In 2006, it prepared the Upper Clinton Hill Neighborhood Plan, which laid out a variety of redevelopment goals. The 2012 Newark Master Plan has adopted some of these goals, including developing better retail spaces on Clinton and Hawthorn avenues, and reusing vacant lots as community gardens and urban farms (Newark Master Plan, 2012). Neighborhood stabilization and housing rehabilitation also remain priorities for Upper Clinton Hill in the wake of the foreclosure crisis. ECD Properties has been instrumental in rehabilitating and reclaiming foreclosed housing in the area, partnering with the City of Newark and relying in part on funding from the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program. ECD's target NSP area is located primarily in the blocks north of Clinton Avenue, in census tracts 41, 42, and 54, and along the Irvington border ([www.ecdhomes.blogspot.com](http://www.ecdhomes.blogspot.com)). Even so, the neighborhood is struggling with the foreclosure crisis as

borrowers continue to struggle, homes are vacant and boarded up, and neighborhood residents and the community organizations that work with them wear thin after what is now five years of extreme effort to make things better.

**Table 7a: Upper Clinton Hill: 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
Amity Village #1	Federally Assisted	21	21			66	79	81			
Aspen Temple	Federally Assisted	88	87			60	65	82			
Avon Hills Apartments	Federally Assisted	33				69	78	91			
Clinton Hill Community Gardens	Federally Assisted	151	90							27	
Clinton Hill Villa	Federally Assisted										
Mount Calvary I	Federally Assisted	115	114			38	91				
Mount Calvary II	Federally Assisted	115	112				75	89			
Newark Housing Authority	Public Housing	34							76	87	

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

**Table 7b: Weequahic: 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
Carmel Towers*	Federally Assisted	216				38				18	
Willow Court Apartments	Federally Assisted	42	42				74		38	63	39
Zion Towers	Federally Assisted	268	242							58	

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

\*No longer covered by HUD

The Urban Institute was doing a panel study of HOPE VI housing residents and learned that many of them suffered from health problems and that is why they struggle to keep jobs and live in assisted housing. These public and federally assisted housing projects may be a place where health institutions, healthcare collaborations, and nonprofit organizations can go to learn about the specific healthcare problems and the barriers to accessing healthcare. Addressing just this population may improve community health. The Healthcare Collaborative in Camden found that residents in a building like this were cycling through the hospitals. They've since increased access for residents to primary care.

## Crime

Since it was named most dangerous city in the US by *Time Magazine* in 1996, crime rates have fallen significantly in Newark (Luxenberg, National Real Estate Investor, May 2011). Between 2000 and 2010, the citywide rates for robbery, assault, auto theft, burglary, and arson decreased. However, Newark violent crime indices remain higher than US averages (city-data.com). In particular, violent crime continues to be a serious problem in Upper Clinton Hill, where the streets north of Clinton Avenue, near the border with Irvington, have historically been a hot spot for gunshot wounds (Stout, 2005). The 5th Precinct, which serves the South Ward, is housed in a new building in Upper Clinton Hill at the intersection of Clinton and Bergen avenues (Star-Ledger, Nov. 14, 2011). Community organizations, residents, the city and The Trust for Public Land have transformed a long park off of Seymour Avenue behind a public school twice to ensure that the space was safe and available for public recreation.

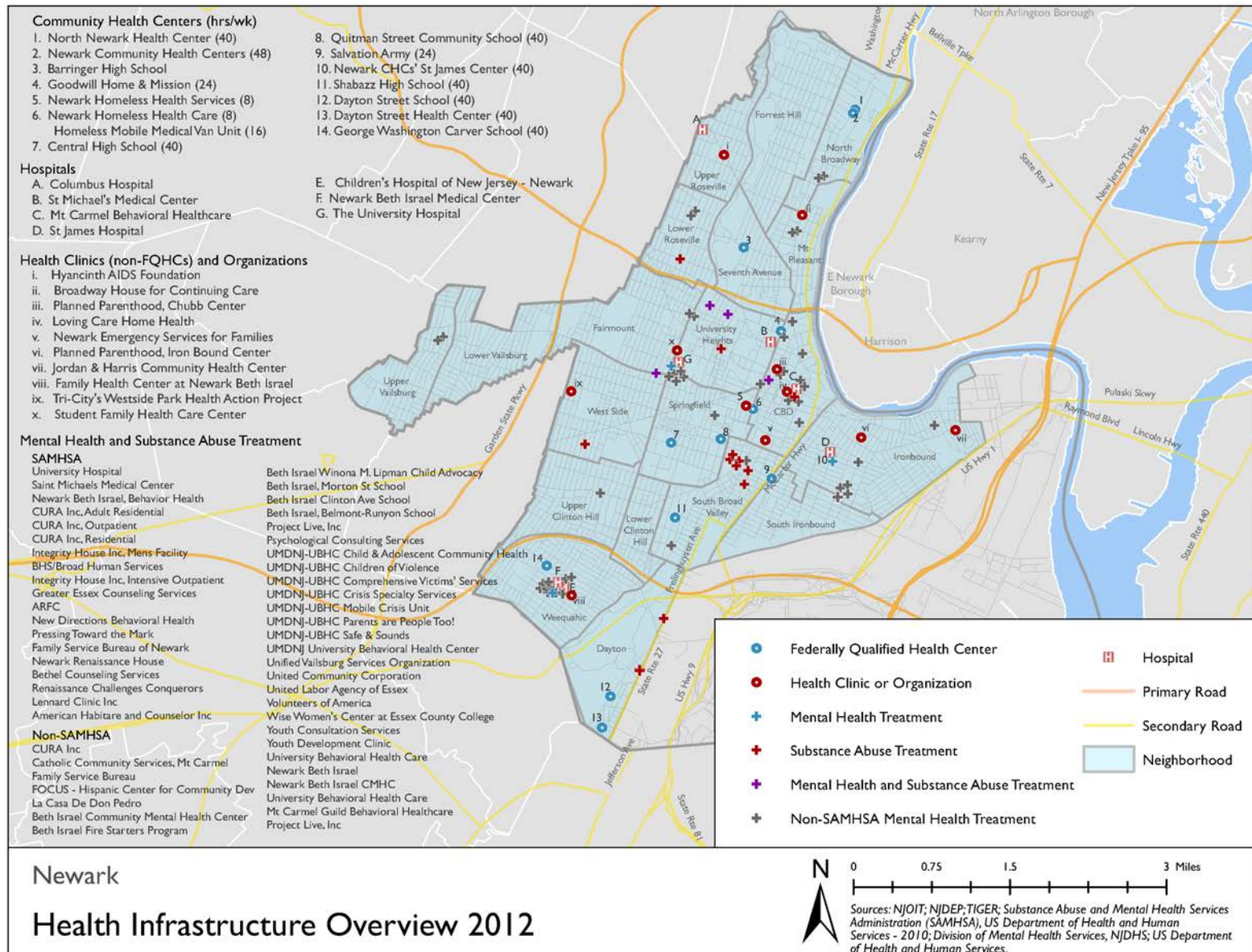
The Community Themes and Strength Assessment from Newark's 2007 City Health Plan cited gang violence among youth as a major problem contributing to health issues in the South Ward. The threat of gang violence makes it more difficult for providers to offer services in neighborhoods and discourages residents from leaving their houses to exercise or seek medical help (*Community Themes and Strength Assessment*, Department of Health and Human Services, 2006). Residents in Community Workshops, particularly in Weequahic, expressed an urgent need for constructive youth development programs and activities to prevent gang membership and violence (Community Workshop Notes, 2011). Weequahic lacks the deep organizational infrastructure that is present in some other Newark neighborhoods. While there has been, from time to time, a real grassroots presence of individuals in the neighborhood who work to engage youth and others, the neighborhood lacks the organizational capacity that is present in a Mt. Pleasant with La Casa.

## Health

The City of Newark's 2007 Health Plan listed some key barriers to healthcare in the South Ward, such as high cost of prescription medications and long wait times at the nearby hospitals, including Beth Israel Medical Center in Weequahic, and University Hospital and Saint Michael's Medical Center in the Central Ward (Community Themes and Strength Assessment, Department of Health and Human Services, 2006). Childhood rates of obesity and being overweight are some of the highest in the country. For children 3 -5 years old, 45% are either overweight or obese. 47% of children 6 -11 years old are also either obese or overweight. 48% of children between 3 - 18 do not eat enough fruits and vegetables as recommended. Additionally, as children, they eat less and less fruits and vegetables. 36% of parents say the their food store does not carry a wide selection of quality produce. Only 30% of Newark children meet the requirement of being physically active for 60 minutes a-day. One fifth of children do not even have a park nearby to play in. Also, because of the high rates of violence and crime in Newark, children may not always play outside, or are highly restricted to time spent outside (NJ Health Kids).

Another barrier to health care throughout the South Ward is access to nutritious food (Community Themes and Strength Assessment, Department of Health and Human Services, 2006). The Reinvestment Fund's 2011 map (<http://www.trfund.com/TRF-LSA-widget.html>) shows Upper Clinton Hill as a Limited Supermarket Access area, defined as a location "where the residents must travel significantly farther to reach a supermarket than the 'comparatively acceptable' distance traveled by residents in well-served areas" (The Reinvestment Fund, Searching For Markets, 2012). The Rutgers Community Development Studio (2010) concluded much the same thing a few years earlier.

## Organizational Infrastructure



Hospitals in Newark have long been overcrowded, and they lack sufficient funding to treat the many uninsured patients who flood their Emergency Rooms (Community Themes and Strength Assessment, Department of Health and Human Services, 2006). In 2008, the Catholic-run Saint James' and Columbus hospitals closed, placing additional pressure on the remaining hospitals to accommodate more patients. Both Saint James and Columbus Hospitals have since reopened as satellite campuses of Saint Michael's, providing specialized services (Star-Ledger, Feb. 11, 2010 and Oct. 5, 2010).

### **Greater Newark Health Care Coalition**

Spearheading the city's efforts to address health care delivery issues, the Greater Newark Health Care Coalition grew out of a group formed in 2008 to facilitate inter-hospital collaboration, modeled after the Camden Coalition of Health Care Providers. Funded in part by The Nicholson Foundation, its members include the city of Newark, local hospitals, the state health department, and the Community Health Centers. It aims to target vulnerable populations such as addicts, the chronically ill, the homeless, and the uninsured through proactive outreach to decrease their reliance on ER visits (*Star-Ledger*, Nov. 13, 2011).

### **Beth Israel Medical Center**

Weequahic is home to Beth Israel Medical Center and the Children's Hospital of NJ on Lyons Avenue. In addition to providing healthcare services, they are important employers for the South Ward. The hospitals offer direct care, emergency services, and a variety of outreach programs. There is no one easy access point to identify all of the ways the hospitals reach into communities and it takes a bit of digging to find all of their resources. Outreach programs include occasional health fairs and free health screenings scheduled in partnership with city schools and other organizations. Newark Beth provides a wealth of services including a community mental health center and very specific services like the Newark Beth Israel Fire Starters program which provides mental health services to children who start fires, the Winona M. Lipman Child Advocacy Center. The Beth provides mental health counseling and conflict resolution for individuals and children in the Morton St. School, Clinton Avenue School and Belmont/Runyon school.

Most recently, they have been working on a well publicized program to improve health through diet, nutrition education, and improving access to fresh produce. With the help of Shaping NJ, Beth Israel partnered with Lorraine Gibbons at Garden State Urban Farms to create a year-round farmers market on Thursdays to bring food to the hospital for employees and community members. Barbara Mintz, the Vice President for Wellness at the Beth, runs programs there to reduce obesity. The market accepts WIC and Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons. Given the success of this program, the partners created a community garden/urban farm on Beth-owned property in 2011. Dietitians from Beth Israel offer a nutrition education, anti-obesity, and fitness curriculum through the Merck-funded KidsFit program at neighboring George Washington Carver School and Maple Avenue Elementary School ([www.barnabashealth.org](http://www.barnabashealth.org) and [www.gardenstateurbanfarms.com](http://www.gardenstateurbanfarms.com); [www.barnabashealth.org](http://www.barnabashealth.org); Shaping NJ, 2012). The program objectives are to improve overall health and reduce obesity. "Wellness and Fitness Specialist Kerry Orssi teaches the students to read food labels, identify fruits and vegetables and taste new foods. "With the farm next door to the school we have the opportunity not only to teach the kids about the foods but also to experience growing food. The students are learning to start seeds in the classroom and then transplant them outside at the farm... we create food art, teach kids how to cook and eat" (Shaping NJ). It also provides job training opportunities for people with disabilities and for ex-offenders. And the farm is contributing to community building as older community members share their experiences and what they like to eat at the farm (Shaping NJ).

### **Federally Qualified Health Center at George Washington Carver School**

Also in Weequahic, there is a Federally Qualified Health Center at George Washington Carver School, run by Jewish Renaissance Medical Center. The center provides dental care, physical exams for children, sports physicals, immunizations, gynecological visits, behavioral health care, and youth counseling. However, it requires all patients to have immigration papers or insurance (<http://www.nps.k12.nj.us/2286107115523247/site/default.asp>). It helps families apply for insurance programs and for those who lack insurance (including Medicaid), the Center absorbs the cost or uses charity care dollars. It strives to be the primary care facility for children through adulthood. Their funding is strong, so their ability to serve children on a regular basis and maintain a medical relationship with them is also strong. Although the FQHC is offered to all children and is going to expand to adults, and even faculty, the one located at George Washington Carver School struggles to have parents make regular appointments, check-ups, and follow-ups for medical and dental care. They think that families may not yet trust the organization that has come into their community. Administrators and other organizations have not always helped to spur trust. At some schools, the administrators are very supportive and help to connect families to the services. At other schools, school nurses may feel like their jobs are threatened. Non-profits may not be eager to send people to the center because it means lost income if they provide a similar service. They also struggle to hire doctors willing to work in these urban schools, especially with the widespread violence of Newark (Interview, 2012).

### **Clinic at James C. White Manor**

Just outside of the focus area boundaries for Upper Clinton Hill is the neighborhood's only clinic, a branch of Newark Community Health Centers FQHC. This clinic is located on Bergen Avenue at the northeast corner of the neighborhood in James C. White Manor, a 206-unit public housing development for seniors. There are also private medical practices on Clinton Avenue and Madison Avenue, including two pediatricians and a few internists (Interview, 2012).

### **Samuel L. Beliner School of Personal Growth and Academic Development**

The Samuel L Beliner School of Personal Growth and Academic Development located on Montgomery Ave, is a district-wide special needs school for children K - 8. The school has created a partnership with UMDNJ's University Behavioral Healthcare program to offer a partial hospitalization program. For children who need more care than the school can provide, but it is unnecessary for them to be hospitalized full time, this program comes into play. As of now they have one classroom in the school that provides a classroom aide for the student during the school part of the day. The classroom aide follows the child to the therapeutic sessions in the afternoon. Newark provides transportation services. They would like to expand this program to other schools, but there is a barrier caused by Newark, they have been unwilling to support this kind of programming as being part of the school day.

### **AD House Family Resource Center (<http://www.adhouse.org/mission/>)**

AD House provides a variety of services to "at-risk" youth and families, focusing on literacy, violence prevention, and health education. Its health programs have included prenatal care initiatives for pregnant teenagers. AD House is primarily an after-school program serving at-risk teens. They currently serve 25 students referred by the Division of Youth and Family Services. They connect with the families of these students only by phone. However, apart from the after-school program, they have an outreach person on staff, and they work with pregnant mothers in the neighborhood. About 25% of their programming is health-related. They do monthly workshops in which Planned Parenthood teaches sessions on sexual health, HIV/AIDS prevention, and other health issues. They offer the Immunization Plus program for mothers with children 0-36 months. They send mothers to the WIC office (supplemental nutrition program) to make sure they are getting milk and other necessities. They hold a quarterly workshop for the mothers, where they bring in facilitators from various health agencies (Blue Cross Blue Shield, Health Department), and also offer free health screenings. The primary goal is to make sure mothers are getting their children immunized. The Immunization Plus program was born from their prenatal care program, which they had for 12 years before the state funding was terminated. The prenatal care

program offered counseling, appointments with nurses/doctors, and WIC on-site (and child care so pregnant women could receive health services without having to worry about where to leave their kids). The prenatal care program was important for the neighborhood and they wish they could still offer it. Often mothers who come in for prenatal care would present other health issues, sometimes untreated, particularly high blood pressure (often undiagnosed), and diabetes (sometimes related to obesity). Some were seeing doctors regularly, but some were not, and used ER visits as their only source of care. Barriers to care include lack of insurance, complicated insurance procedures so that even people who have it don't know how to use it, lack of health facilities nearby and difficulty with transportation to Beth Israel or UMDNJ, unfriendly staff at hospitals who treat patients badly because of their appearance, long wait times, and too many other problems in women's lives such that getting health care is low priority for them. Most important potential health improvements would be a clinic nearby that's easily accessible, and more places that serve uninsured patients (Interview, 2012).

**Beth Israel Family Success Center** ([http://www.barnabashealth.org/hospitals/newark\\_beth\\_israel/press/2012/family-success-center.html](http://www.barnabashealth.org/hospitals/newark_beth_israel/press/2012/family-success-center.html))

Run by Newark Now, this Family Success Center relocated to Beth Israel Medical Center in 2012, becoming the first hospital-based Family Success Center in New Jersey. Like other FSCs, it offers a range of services including help with Medicaid and NJ Family Care insurance applications, Legal Services Referrals, online SNAP (Food Stamp) applications, financial literacy workshops, food pantry resources, parenting workshops, referrals for HIV, employment assistance, and senior citizen services (Interview, 2012).

**Greater Life Community Outreach Center** (<http://www.greaterlifenewark.org/main/programs>)

Greater Life Community Outreach Center is a faith-based nonprofit organization offering after-school enrichment programming, mentoring, and a drop-in center for youth. It runs a "Family Institute" program offering crisis intervention, financial literacy, and health & wellness education. In addition, the Outreach Center participates in community organizing efforts, providing a meeting space for local block associations and the Weequahic Homeowners Coalition.

**Sisters Network Newark** ([www.sistersnetworkinc.org](http://www.sistersnetworkinc.org))

The Sisters Network is a breast cancer survivorship organization for African American women. It provides support groups, free mammograms, health fairs, and advocacy.

## Outstanding Health Needs

These communities have many outstanding health needs. They lack primary healthcare, dental care, and mental health care. They need better linkages between communities and healthcare services and efforts that bring these services to community residents.

## Transportation

Both Upper Clinton Hill and Weequahic are not accessible by rail. However there is public transportation in the form of buses. In Weequahic there are bus stops along Elizabeth Avenue, Maple Avenue, Lyons Avenue, Bergen Street and Clinton Place. Several bus stops are located near Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. In Upper Clinton Hill there are routes along Clinton Avenue, Fabian Place. There is north south access as well as east west access which means that residents can take a bus to the medical centers but they may have a long walk to make that possible.

## Community Organizations

In addition to these formal social service organizations, block associations and other community groups have made efforts to improve their South Ward neighborhoods. For example, in May 2012 the Chadwick Avenue Block Association in Weequahic inaugurated a community garden that residents had planted in a vacant lot near I-78 (Newark NJ Patch, May 20, 2012).

### Upper Clinton Hill Community Organizations

**AD House Family Resource Center** (<http://www.adhouse.org/mission/>)

AD House provides a variety of services to “at-risk” youth and families, focusing on literacy, violence prevention, and health education. Its health programs have included prenatal care initiatives for pregnant teenagers.

**Blessed Sacrament** ([www.bssc.org](http://www.bssc.org))

This church offers a food pantry, and a monthly hot meals program. Their website shares tips on how to deal with medical issues such as asthma, arthritis, and nutrition.

**ChildSight New Jersey** (<http://www.hki.org/working-worldwide/united-states/new-jersey/>)

Partners with Newark schools to provide free eye screenings and eyeglasses for students.

**Clinton Branch Library** (<http://www.npl.org/Pages/Branches/Clinton/Clinton.html>)

For children and young adults, the library offers help finding materials for homework assignments, picture books for early readers, career resource materials, testing materials for jobs, computers for word processing, internet, and access to electronic resources.

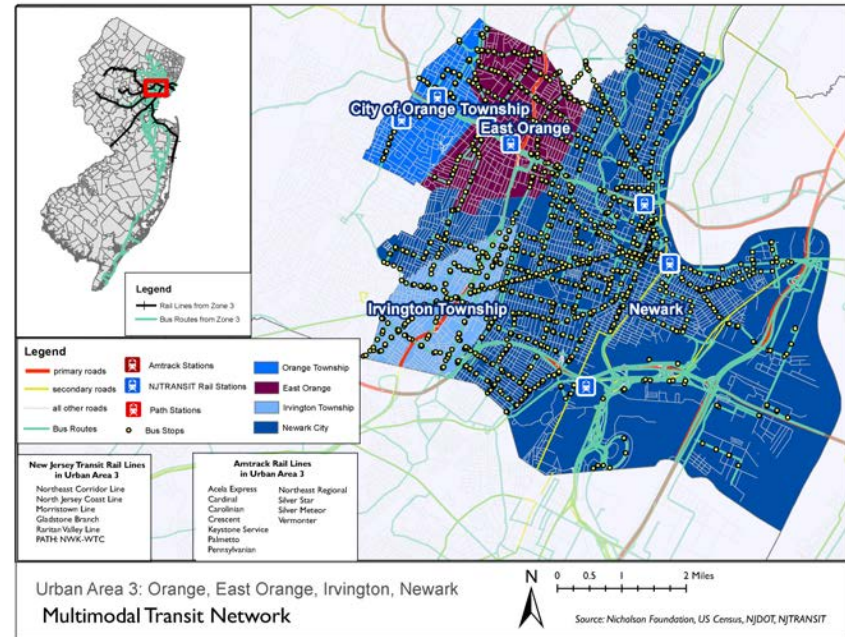
**Clinton Ave. Presbyterian Church**

Houses a homeless shelter.

**Community Hope United Freewill Baptist**

Community Church that provides social services (includes housing).

**Deliverance Evangelistic Center** (<http://www.decministries.net/nehemiah.htm>)



This Baptist church is located in a distinctive 85-year-old building, formerly the B'nai Abraham synagogue, which has been declared a historical landmark. With a grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust, DEC has been restoring the building, and sees this effort as closely linked to the neighborhood's revitalization process.

**Episcopal Community Development Corporation (ECD)** (<http://www.chcrconline.org/services.html>)

This is the largest CDC working in Upper Clinton Hill. In addition to its neighborhood planning and redevelopment efforts, ECD has been an important advocate for tenant's rights during the foreclosure crisis; it continues to offer foreclosure mitigation counseling and pre- and post-purchase counseling for homebuyers. ECD also houses the Clinton Hill Community Resource Center, which provides social services including youth programs, employment assistance, social service assistance and referrals, and monthly health screenings for adults.

**Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church** (<http://www.facebook.com/MCMBNEWARK>)

Houses a homeless shelter.

**Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church Community Development Corporation** (<http://www.yahhouse.com/index.html>)

Focused on aiding disadvantaged families in Newark. It created the Youth Achievement House as a community center to be used through other churches and organizations to unite community. They offer counseling, business space, cultural, educational, health and recreational services.

**North Porch Women and Infant Center** (<http://www.northporch.org/index.html>)

Also affiliated with the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, North Porch provides seven-day emergency supplies for women and babies, including formula, baby food, diapers, clothing, and bed linens.

## **Weequahic Community Organizations**

**Beth Israel Family Success Center** ([http://www.barnabashealth.org/hospitals/newark\\_beth\\_israel/press/2012/family-success-center.html](http://www.barnabashealth.org/hospitals/newark_beth_israel/press/2012/family-success-center.html))

Run by Newark Now, this Family Success Center relocated to Beth Israel Medical Center in 2012, becoming the first hospital-based Family Success Center in New Jersey. Like other FSCs, it offers a range of services including help with Medicaid and NJ Family Care insurance applications, legal Service Referrals, online SNAP (Food Stamp) applications, financial literacy workshops, food pantry resources, parenting workshops, referrals for HIV, employment assistance, and senior citizen services.

**Elizabeth Ave. Weequahic Presbyterian Church**

Houses a homeless shelter and a food pantry

**First Timothy Baptist Church** (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Timothy-Baptist-Church/116066075075118>)

Houses a homeless shelter.

**Greater Life Community Outreach Center** (<http://www.greaterlifenewark.org/main/programs>)

Greater Life Community Outreach Center is a faith-based nonprofit organization offering after-school enrichment programming, mentoring, and a drop-in center for youth. It also runs a “Family Institute” program offering crisis intervention, financial literacy, and health & wellness education. In addition, the Outreach Center participates in community organizing efforts, providing a meeting space for local block associations and the Weequahic Homeowners Coalition.

**Sisters Network Newark** ([www.sistersnetworkinc.org](http://www.sistersnetworkinc.org))

The Sisters Network is a breast cancer survivorship organization for African American women. It provides support groups, free mammograms, health fairs, and advocacy. ([www.sistersnetworkinc.org](http://www.sistersnetworkinc.org))

**Weequahic Branch Library** (<http://www.npl.org/Pages/Branches/Weequahic/Weequahic.html>)

This public library provides some after-school youth activities.

## Works Cited

- Augenstein, Seth. 2011. "Newark Coalition Strives to Treat the Weak and Uninsured outside the ER." *The Star-Ledger*. November 13. [http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/11/newark\\_coalition\\_strives\\_to\\_tr.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/11/newark_coalition_strives_to_tr.html).
- Beckley, Kindal. 2012. New Jersey Director. Childsight NJ. Phone interview. December.
- Beth Israel Medical Center. 2012. "Wellness Programs: The Beth Garden." Barnabas Health, n.d. [http://www.barnabashealth.org/hospitals/newark\\_beth\\_israel/mservices/wellness/beth-garden.html](http://www.barnabashealth.org/hospitals/newark_beth_israel/mservices/wellness/beth-garden.html).
- Beth Israel Medical Center. 2012. "KidsFit Newark: A Comprehensive Wellness Program for Kids and Those Who Love Them." Barnabas Health, n.d. [http://www.barnabashealth.org/hospitals/childrens\\_hospital/medical\\_specialties/kidsfit.html](http://www.barnabashealth.org/hospitals/childrens_hospital/medical_specialties/kidsfit.html).
- City of Newark. 2012. *Newark Master Plan: Our City, Our Future*. Newark, NJ. September 14. <http://www.newarkmasterplan.com/>.
- "Clinton Hill Community Resource Center: Services." *Clinton Hill Community Resource Center*. <http://www.chcrconline.org/services.html>.
- DEC Ministries. <http://www.decministries.net/nehemiah.htm>
- Episcopal Community Development. 2010. "ECD Target Area." *ECD Homes*. N.p., March 28. <http://ecdhomes.blogspot.com/>.
- Garden State Urban Farms. "Garden State Urban Farms: About Us." N.p., n.d. <http://www.gardenstateurbanfarms.com/about-us/>.
- "Greater Life Community Outreach Center: Programs." *Welcome to Greater Life!* N.p., n.d. <http://www.greaterlifenewark.org/main/programs>.
- "Jewish Renaissance Medical Center: Newark School Based Health Centers." *The Newark Public Schools District*. N.p., n.d. <http://www.nps.k12.nj.us/2286107115523247/site/default.asp>.
- Jackson, Khalilah. 2012. Site Coordinator. Newark Now Family Success Center at Beth Israel Medical Center. Phone interview. December.
- Livio, Susan K. 2010. "Former Saint James Hospital in Newark to Reopen as Health Clinic." *The Star-Ledger*. February 11. [http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/02/former\\_saint\\_james\\_hospital\\_in.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/02/former_saint_james_hospital_in.html).

- Luxenberg, Stan. 2011. "Developers Rediscover Newark." *National Real Estate Investor*. May 18. [http://nreionline.com/finance/news/developers\\_rediscover\\_newark\\_0518/](http://nreionline.com/finance/news/developers_rediscover_newark_0518/).
- Mahon, Robert. 2002. "Prenatal Care Helps At-Risk Pregnant Adolescents Deliver Healthy Babies." *Grant Results Reports*. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. January. <http://pweb1.rwjf.org/reports/grr/020966.htm>.
- Mays, Jeffery C. 2009. "Boarded-Up and Foreclosed, Houses Await Action by Newark and Partners." *The New York Times*. May 14. [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/17/nyregion/new-jersey/17newarknj.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/17/nyregion/new-jersey/17newarknj.html?_r=0).
- McCormack, Stacy. 2012. Ag-in-the-City. Phone interview.
- Mcgeehan, Patrick. 2011. "As Newark High-Rise Loses Aid, Fear Sweeps Through Its Tenants." *The New York Times*. October 25. <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/26/nyregion/as-newark-tower-loses-us-aid-tenants-fear-eviction.html>.
- Mintz, Barbara. 2012. Assistant Vice President, Wellness. Beth Israel Medical Center. Phone interview. December.
- "Mission: AD House Resource Center." *AD House Resource Center*. <http://www.adhouse.org/mission/>.
- "The Nehemiah Project." *DEC Ministries: Deliverance Evangelistic Center*. N.p., n.d. <http://www.decministries.net/nehemiah.htm>.
- Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. 2012. "Newark Now – Family Success Center (FSC) Program Now Located at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center." *Barnabas Health, Press Releases*. July 23. [http://www.barnabashealth.org/hospitals/newark\\_beth\\_israel/press/2012/family-success-center.html](http://www.barnabashealth.org/hospitals/newark_beth_israel/press/2012/family-success-center.html).
- Pastor, Cristina DC. 2012. "Rebuilding Homes, Lives at Clinton Hill." *LISC & Our Community: Neighborhood News*. LISC Greater Newark. July. [http://www.lisc.org/greaternewark/lisc\\_&\\_our\\_community/neighborhood\\_news/index.php](http://www.lisc.org/greaternewark/lisc_&_our_community/neighborhood_news/index.php).
- Peet, Judy. 2009. "A Block in Newark Known for Drugs and Gangs Is Safe, for Now." *The Star-Ledger*. August 2. [http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2009/08/a\\_block\\_in\\_newark\\_known\\_for\\_dr.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2009/08/a_block_in_newark_known_for_dr.html).
- Read, Philip. 2010. "Newark's Columbus Hospital Reopens as Specialty Hospital for Critical Care." *The Star-Ledger*. October 5. [http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/10/columbus\\_hospital\\_in\\_newark\\_is.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/10/columbus_hospital_in_newark_is.html).
- Rutgers Community Development Studio. 2010. "Home, Health, Food: Rethinking Community Development in Upper Clinton Hill." Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Policy Development.

Shaping NJ. 2012. How a Major Medical Center Helped Its Own Neighborhood Growth Healthy. June. <http://www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/shapingnj/work/publications/Beth%20Israel%20-%20Garden%20State%20Urban%20Farms%20Story.pdf>

Stout, Bruce D. 2005. "Violence in the Greater Newark, New Jersey Area: A Public Health Problem." The Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies, Rutgers-Newark. June 22. [www.umdnj.edu/vinjweb/webresources/cornwall/cornwall.pdf](http://www.umdnj.edu/vinjweb/webresources/cornwall/cornwall.pdf).

"Tenants Scramble as HUD Abandons Newark Residential Tower" 2011. *The Real Deal New York*. October 25. <http://therealdeal.com/blog/2011/10/25/tenants-scramble-as-the-department-of-housing-and-urban-development-cancels-contract-with-carmel-towers-in-newark/>.

The Associated Press. 2011. "Newark to Unveil New Police Headquarters." *The Star-Ledger*. November 14. [http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/11/newark\\_to\\_unveil\\_new\\_police\\_he.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/11/newark_to_unveil_new_police_he.html).

Newark Department of Health and Human Services. 2006. *The Newark Health Plan, Summary: Community Themes and Strengths Assessment*. December 20. [http://www.ci.newark.nj.us/userimages/downloads/Community%20Theme%20and%20Strength4\\_0.pdf](http://www.ci.newark.nj.us/userimages/downloads/Community%20Theme%20and%20Strength4_0.pdf).

NJ HealthyKids <http://www.njhealthykids.org/communities/newark/>

The Reinvestment Fund. 2012. *A Summary of Searching for Markets: The Geography of Inequitable Access to Healthy & Affordable Food in the United States*. Rep., 2012. <http://www.trfund.com/resource/downloads/policypubs/SearchingForMarketsSummary.pdf>.

United States Census 2000. *American Factfinder*. 2000. Bureau of the U.S. Census. <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>.

United States Census 2010. *American Factfinder*. 2010. Bureau of the U.S. Census. <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>.

"Welcome to North Porch!" *North Porch Women and Infants' Centers*. N.p., n.d. <http://www.northporch.org/>.

West, Sandra L. 2012. "From Boxing Gloves to Garden Gloves: Block Association Dedicates Neighborhood Garden." *Newark, NJ Patch*. May 20. <http://newarknj.patch.com/events/from-boxing-gloves-to-garden-gloves-block-association-dedicates-neighborhood-garden>.