

East Orange

4th Ward

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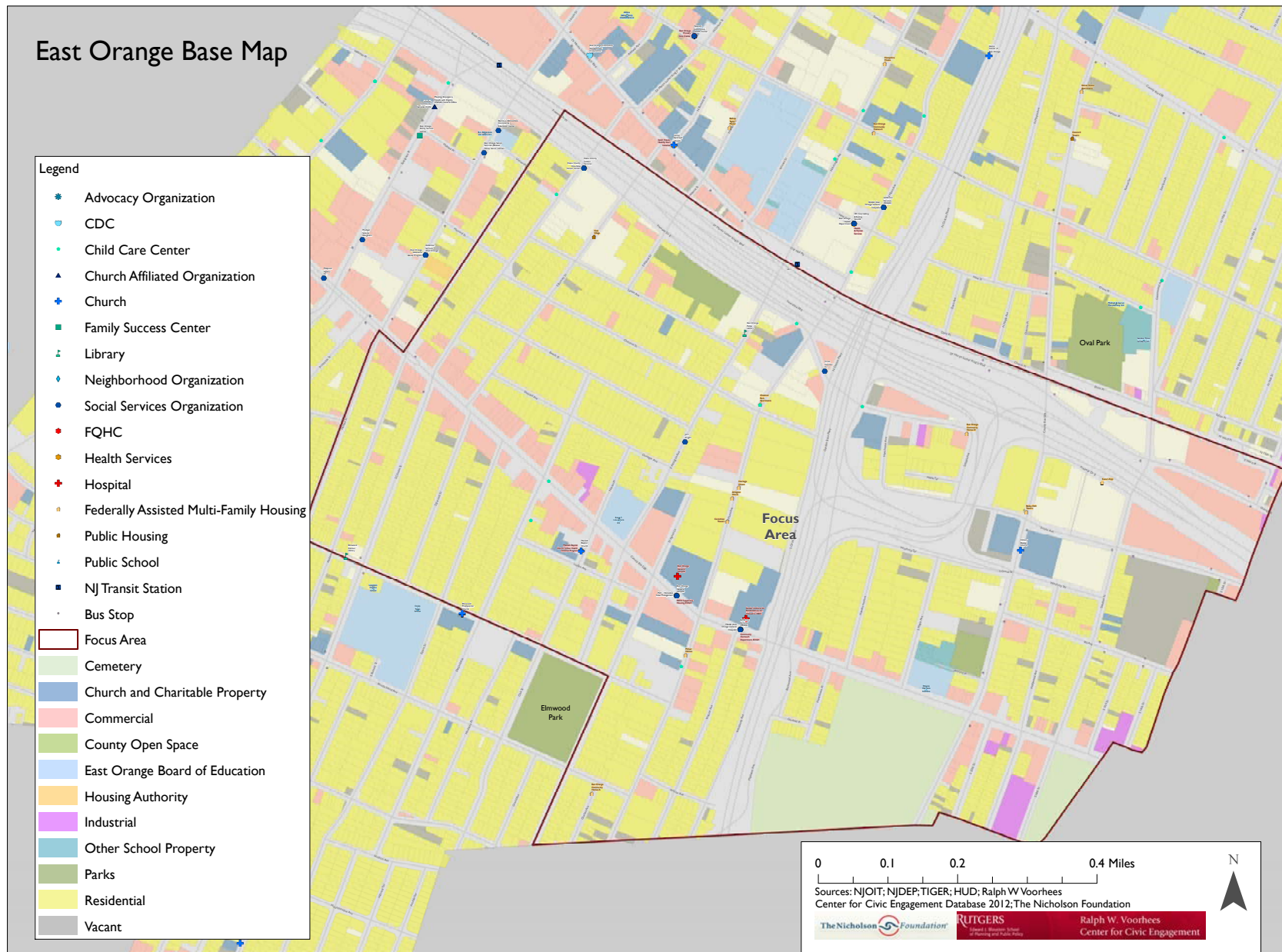


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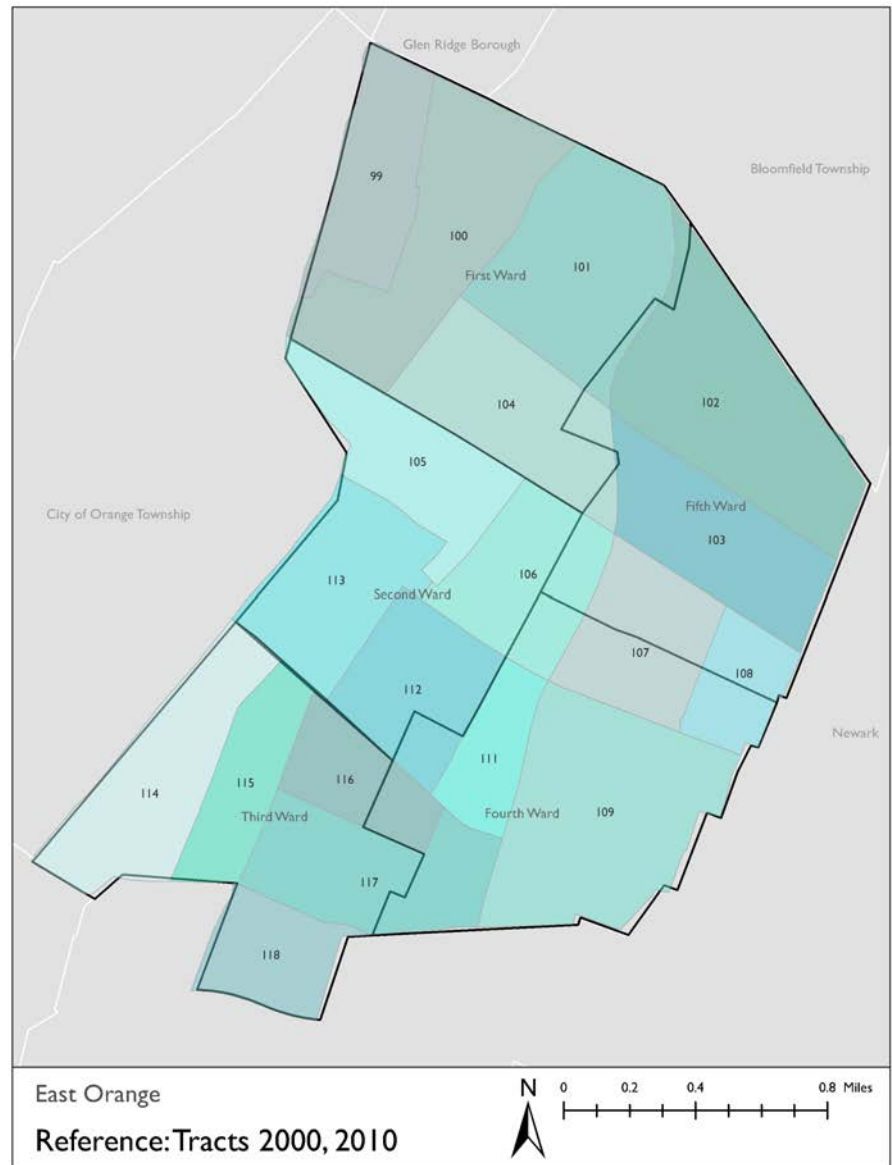
Neighborhood

4th Ward

Situated in the southeastern portion of the city, East Orange's 4th Ward is adjacent to Newark's Lower Vailsburg and Fairmount neighborhoods to the south and east, respectively. The western border of the focus area extends beyond the official ward limits to Halsted and Amherst Streets. The focus area is bounded on the north by Interstate 280 (and the adjacent MLK Boulevard and NJ Transit line) and it is bisected by the north-south Garden State Parkway and its adjacent local parkways. The construction of these two major traffic arteries in the 1950s and 1960s required the demolition of homes and businesses (particularly along the Main Street corridor, for I-280) and divided East Orange in four. Collectively, they present a physical barrier between the focus area and the northern part of the city, and limit connectivity between the eastern and western sides of the neighborhood.

Central Avenue, one of the city's few major commercial thoroughfares, runs roughly east-west through the center of the Fourth Ward. East Orange's civic center sits partially in the focus area (straddling the I-280 artery, where it meets the Garden State Parkway), and includes City Hall, the main branch of the public library, the police department, and East Orange NJ Transit train station (one of the city's two stops on the NJ Transit Morris & Essex Line). East Orange has identified its Fourth Ward as a primary target area for revitalization (DePalma). The focus area encompasses four complete census tracts (109, 111, 112, and 116) and a portion of a fifth (117.) Because Tract 117 is not included in its entirety (geographically, between a third and a half of this district falls within the focus area boundaries), data from 117 is included as appropriate.

While the Fourth Ward is primarily residential, it is more densely developed than the rest of East Orange, and contains significant community assets,



including East Orange General Hospital, the East Orange Police Department, courthouse, and the main branch of the public library. Central Avenue, the east-west commercial thoroughfare, is identified as the city's central business district in the 2006 East Orange Comprehensive Master Plan (DePalma). There is very little park/open space in the focus area (aside from cemeteries in the southeast, Elmwood Park in the adjacent Third Ward, Oval Park across I-280, and several large vacant lots, including the nine acre site of the demolished Arcadian Gardens).

Table 1. 4th Ward Characteristics

Characteristic	Total	% of Total	Characteristic	Total	% of Total
Population	16,013	100%	Families (2010)	3,548	100%
			Female-headed with Children	1,308	37%
Age (2010)			Economic (2007-2011)ⁱ		
Under 5 years	1,165	7%	Median Household Income	\$23,962 - 44,527	
5-19 years	3,512	22%	Persons below Poverty	4,100	25%
20-64 years	9,564	60%	Total Civilian Labor Force	8,333	100%
65-74 years	993	6%	Employed	6,751	81%
75+ years	779	5%	Unemployed	1,582	19%
Race (2010)			Housing (2010)		
White	566	4%	Total Units	7,483	100%
Black	14,265	89%	Vacant Housing Units	1,031	14%
Asian	99	1%	Owner Occupied	1,336	21%
Hispanic	1,348	8%	Renter Occupied	5,116	79%
Household (2010)	6,452	100%			
Multigenerational	458	7%			

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

Population

There were 12,610 persons in the four complete tracts in 2010; the total is 16,013 if the 117 population is included. (East Orange had a total population of 64,270 in the 2010 US Census). All five tracts experienced population loss from 2000 to 2010. For three of the tracts, this loss ranged between 1 and 9 percent. Tract 109 lost 26 percent (975 residents) (US Census Bureau 2000 and 2010). As in the rest of East Orange, the racial composition of the Fourth Ward focus area is largely black (between 83 and 94 percent, depending on the tract) (2010 US Census). However, the percentage of black residents decreased slightly throughout the focus area from 2000 to 2010. The share of white, Asian, and Hispanic populations increased. Most of these shifts were subtle and mirrored citywide shifts; however, there was a significant increase in Hispanic residents on the east side of the focus area (11 percent in 109 and 14 percent in 111, according to the 2010 US Census). From 1995 to 2005, Hispanics, and particularly residents of Barbadian, British West Indian, Haitian, and Jamaican ancestry, increased (DePalma).

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

Tract	2000	2010	Percent Change
109	3,801	2,826	-25.7%
111	3,765	3,646	-1.3%
112	3,555	3,270	-7.5%
116	3,140	2,868	-8.7%
117	3,612	3,403	-5.8%
Fourth Ward	17,873	16,013	-9.9%
East Orange	69,824	64,270	-8.0%

(US Census 2000, 2010)

Table 3: Racial & Ethnic Representation in Focus Neighborhoods 2010

Tract	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
109	124	4.4%	2,492	88.2%	303	10.7%
111	200	5.5%	3,017	82.7%	506	13.9%
112	100	3.1%	2,926	89.5%	241	7.4%
116	52	1.8%	2,702	94.2%	107	3.7%
117	90	2.6%	3,128	91.9%	191	5.6%
Fourth Ward	566	3.5%	14,265	89.1%	1,348	8.4%
East Orange	2,657	4.1%	56,887	88.5%	5,095	7.9%

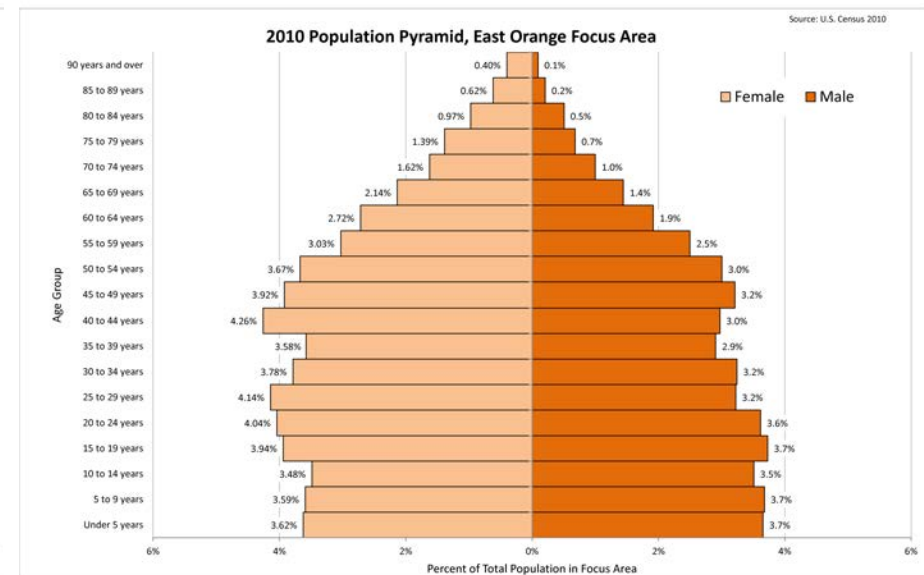
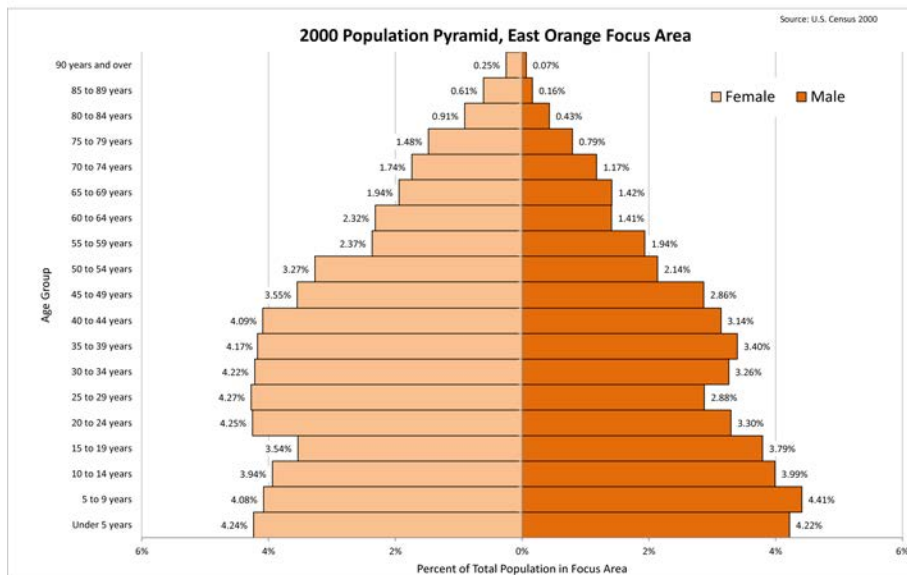
(US Census 2000, 2010)

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

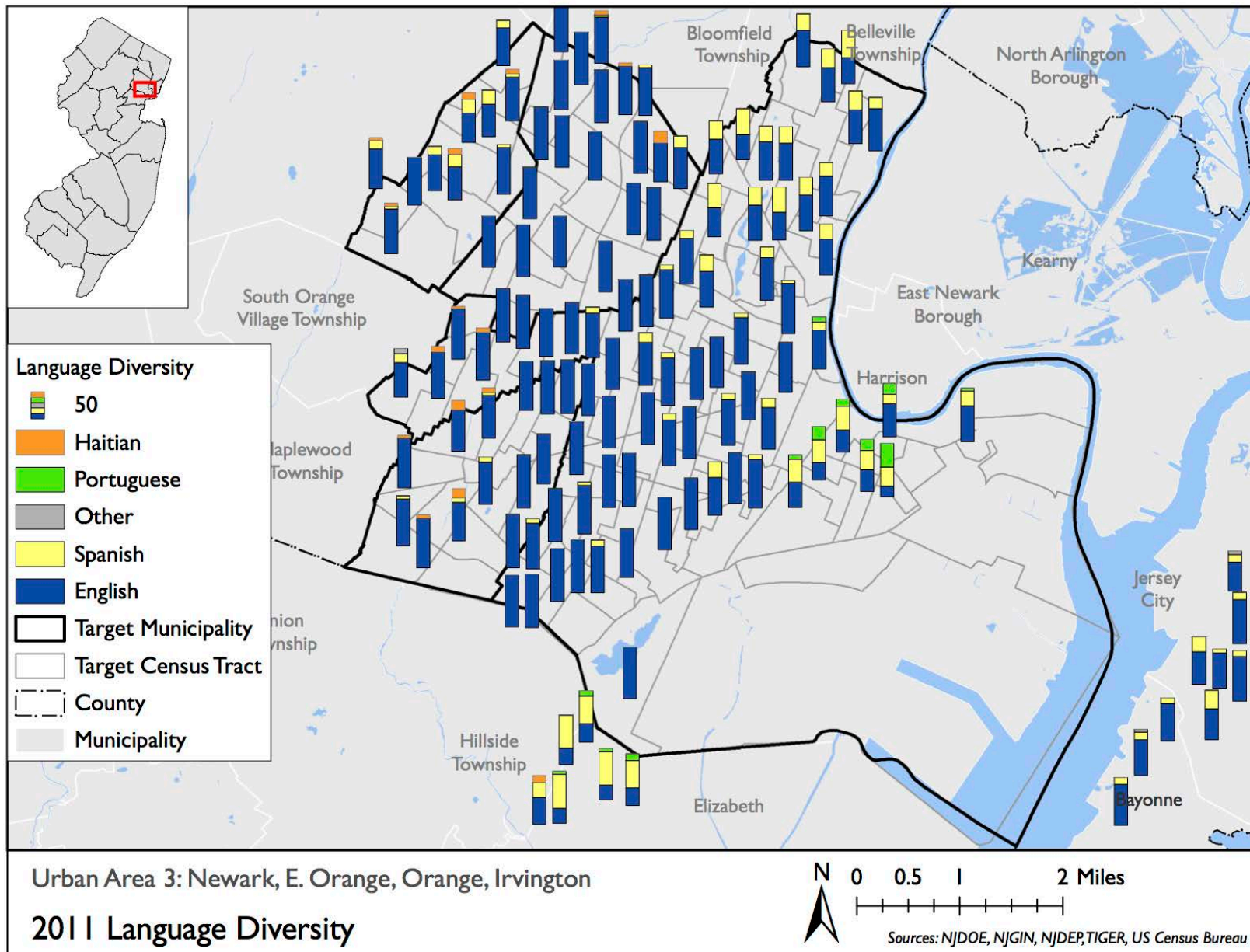
Tract	White		Black		Hispanic	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
109	1.7%	4.4%	93.8%	88.2%	5.4%	10.7%
111	4.0%	5.5%	87.3%	82.7%	5.7%	13.9%
112	1.2%	3.1%	92.0%	89.5%	3.7%	7.4%
116	1.1%	1.8%	93.9%	94.2%	2.7%	3.7%
117	2.4%	2.6%	92.9%	91.9%	3.9%	5.6%
Fourth Ward	2.1%	3.5%	91.9%	89.1%	4.3%	8.4%
East Orange	3.8%	4.1%	89.5%	88.5%	4.7%	7.9%

(US Census 2000, 2010)

As with the other focus neighborhoods, there are disproportionately fewer young men in the neighborhood than women.

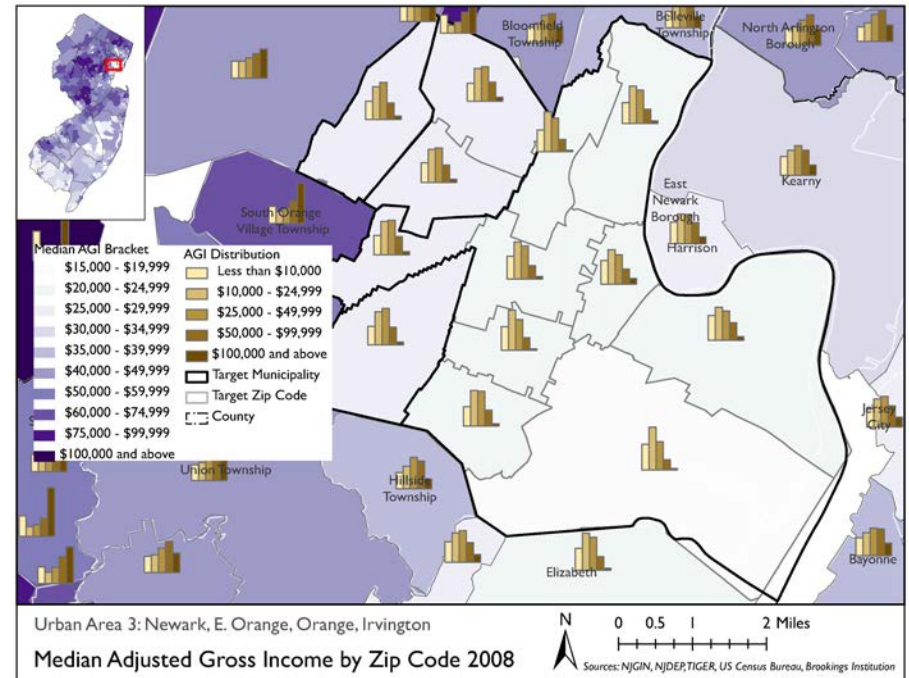
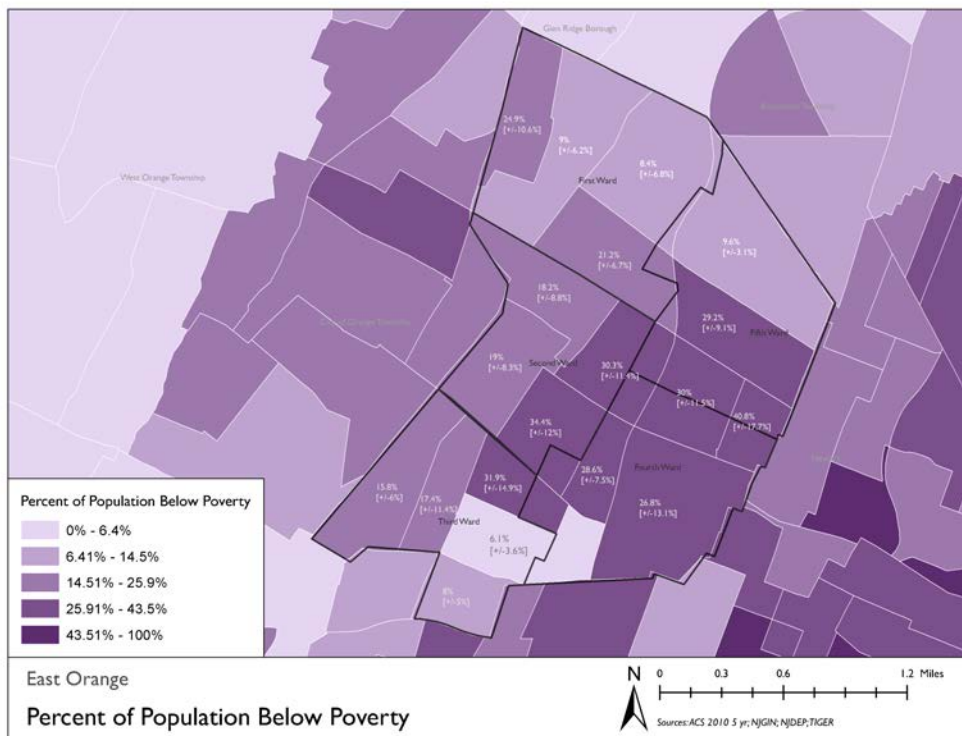


The languages spoken in homes with children in the elementary schools suggest it's mostly English with a bit of Spanish.



Income

Median household income ranged considerably across census tracts in 2000, from \$16,555 in 111 to \$34,804 in 117. However, three of the four complete tracts had median income figures below \$26,000, considerably lower than the \$32,436 figure in East Orange and \$55,146 in New Jersey. The focus area's unemployment rate ranged between 7 and 15 percent in the 2000 US Census, with three of the four complete tracts at 11 percent unemployment or higher. While the citywide poverty rate was 16 percent in 2000 (and 6 percent statewide), the complete tracts in the Fourth Ward ranged from 17 to 25 percent (US Census Bureau 2010). In 2010, the core census tracts in the 4th Ward show about 27% of the population in poverty. The census tracts along the ward's northern border have higher rates with 41% of people. In 2010,



there is a high rate of female-headed families with children: nearly 40 percent in each of the five tracts, compared with 34 percent across East Orange and 11 percent statewide (US Census Bureau 2010). The 2008 gross income IRS data for the zip code that includes the 4th Ward suggests a slightly more balanced income distribution than in some of the poorer neighborhoods elsewhere but it also suggests a high concentration of low and moderate income residents (IRS, 2008).

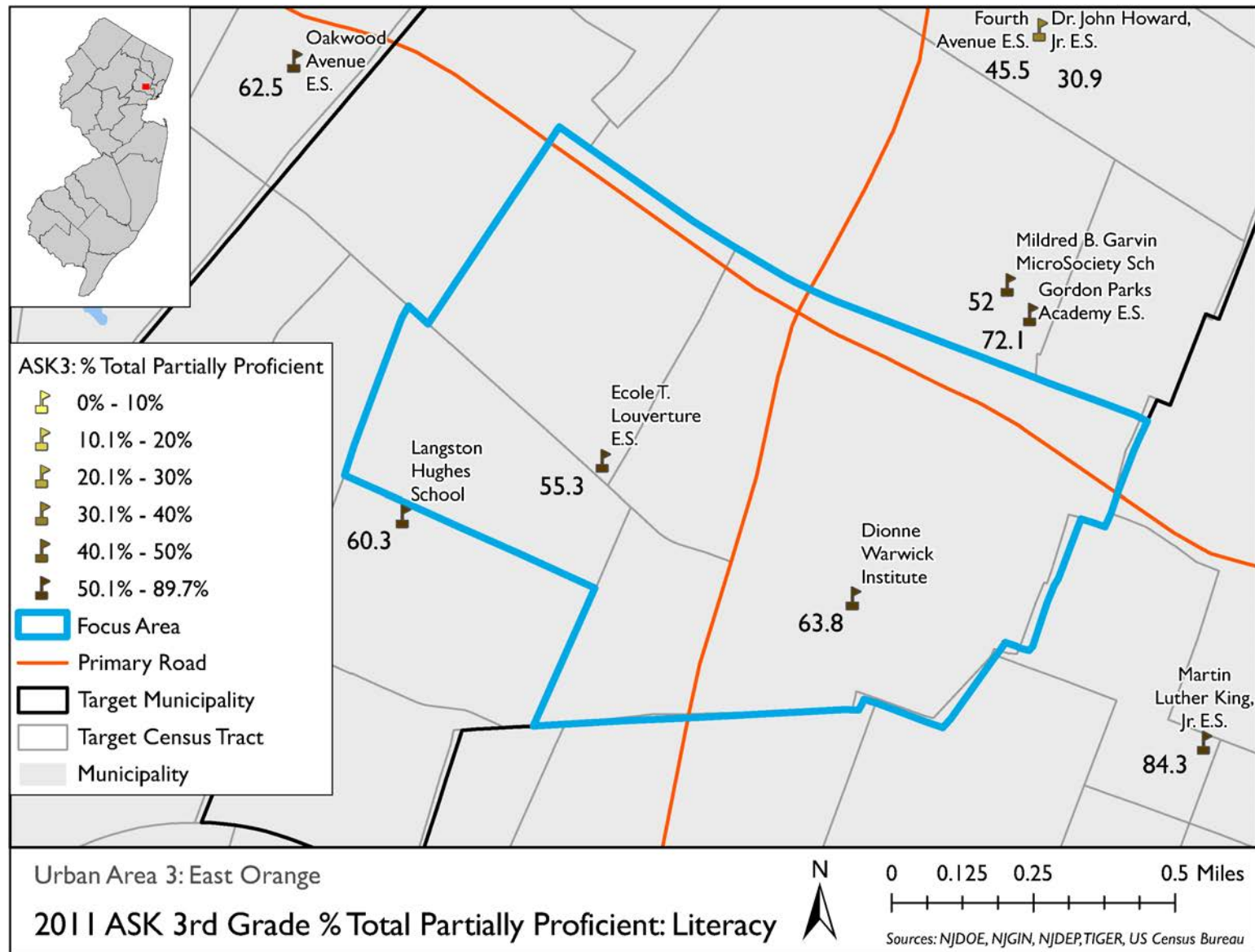
Education

Both of the focus area elementary schools have more than 95% of families who speak English at home as the first language. The schools have generally better scores on the 3rd grade literacy NJ exam compared with the elementary schools in most of the other focus areas although the scores are still lower than those in most of the state. Nine percent of students at Ecole Louverture were suspended during the 2010/11 academic year and a third of students moved in and out of the school within that academic year. There is far less student mobility at Langston Hughes elementary.

Table 4: 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
Dionne Warwick Institute								
Ecole Louverture	Pre K - 5	324	55%	English - 95% Haitian - 1.9% Spanish - 1.6% Ewe .6% French - .6% Mandarin - .3%	15%	33%	0.60%	9%
Langston Hughes	Pre K - 5	548	60%	English - 97.6% Haitian - 1.7% Spanish - .6% French - .2%	12%	13%	NA	2%

(NJ Department of Education, 2011)



Housing

Housing in the focus area consists primarily of two- and three-family homes and of low- and mid-rise apartment buildings (concentrated largely in the center of the focus area, in tract 111 and in the northern part of tract 109 along Route 280). Most residents are renters. The percentage of households with mortgages in 2000 ranged from zero to 10 percent in the complete census tracts (US Census Bureau, 2000). Vista Village, one of the two public housing complexes, sits just south of I-280 at Lenox and Burnett Streets and contains 180 efficiency and 1-bedroom units (“Housing Authority Services”). Additionally, many of the city’s project-based Section 8 apartment complexes (approximately ten buildings) are located in the focus area, most of which are concentrated in tract 111 (along Arlington and Munn Avenues, between I-280 and Central Ave) and in tract 109 (running along the south side of I-280, east of the Parkway). Many units in this affordable housing stock are dedicated to low-income elderly residents (“Low Income Housing: East Orange, NJ”).

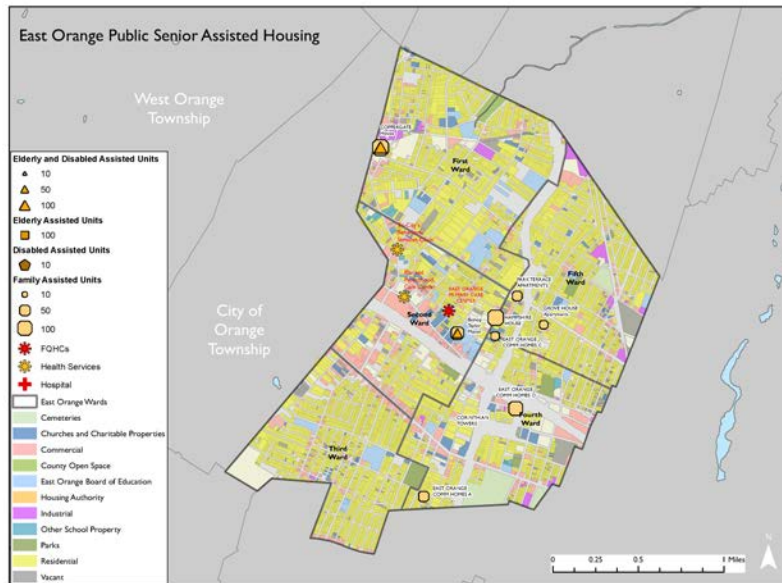
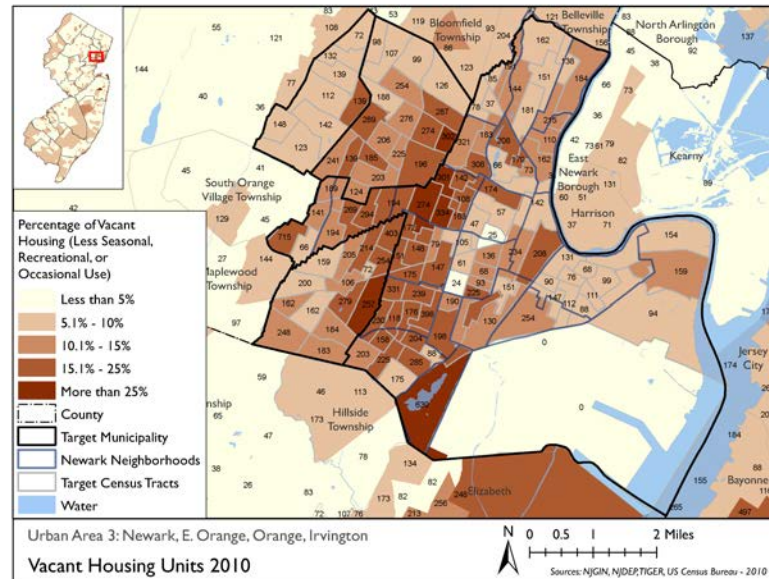
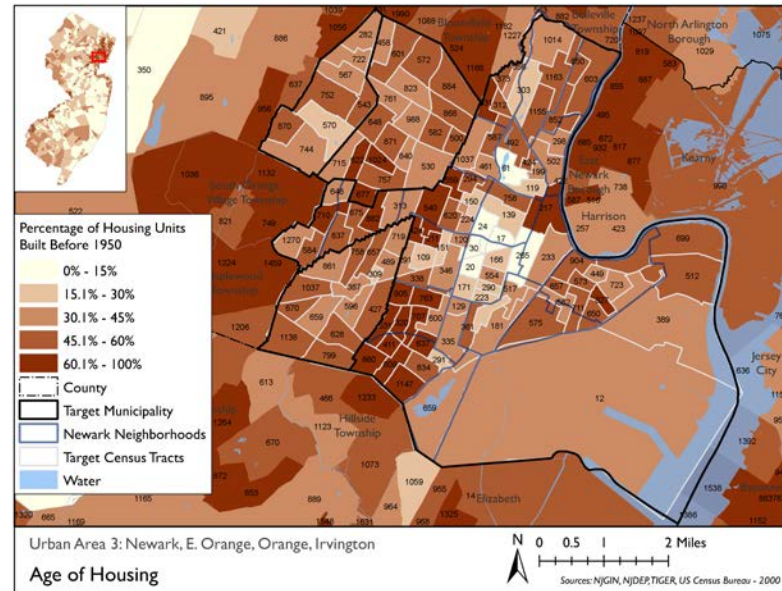
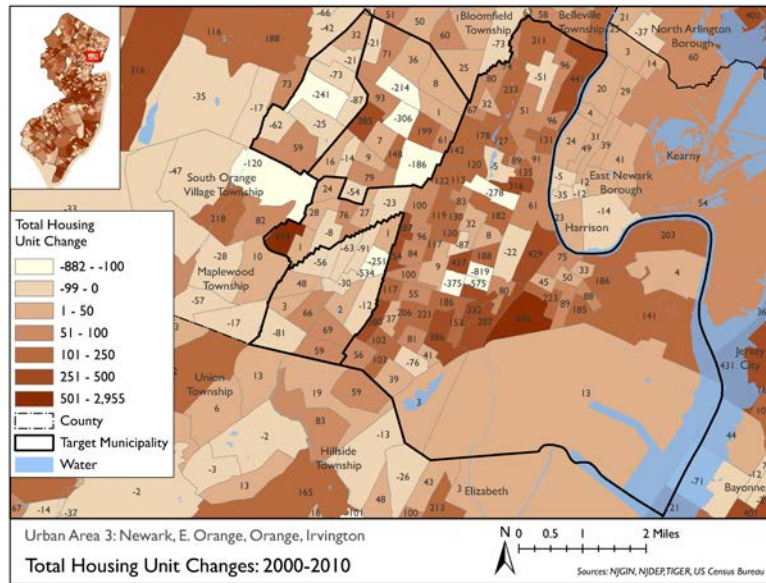
Four of the five tracts saw minor gains in housing stock between the 2000 and 2010 US Census, but 109 experienced a significant loss of 186 housing units (13 percent). This decrease mirrors the notable population loss in 109, which sits in the eastern half of the focus area, between the Garden State Parkway and Newark, south of I-280. Both losses can be primarily attributed to the East Orange Housing Authority’s 2004 demolition of the Arcadian Gardens public housing complex and relocation of its residents.

Table 5: Housing Unit Changes in Focus Neighborhoods, 2000-2010

Tract	Housing Units		
	2000	2010	Percent Change
109	1,457	1,271	-12.8%
111	1,897	2,045	7.8%
112	1,446	1,453	0.5%
116	1,148	1,157	0.8%
117	1,478	1,557	5.3%
Fourth Ward	7,426	7,483	0.8%
East Orange	28,485	28,803	1.1%

(US Census 2000, 2010)

In addition to this decrease in housing units, tract 109 had one of the highest vacancy percentages in the neighborhood in 2010 (15 percent, according to the US Census Bureau). This neighborhood was also hit hard by the foreclosure crisis (The Foreclosure Project).



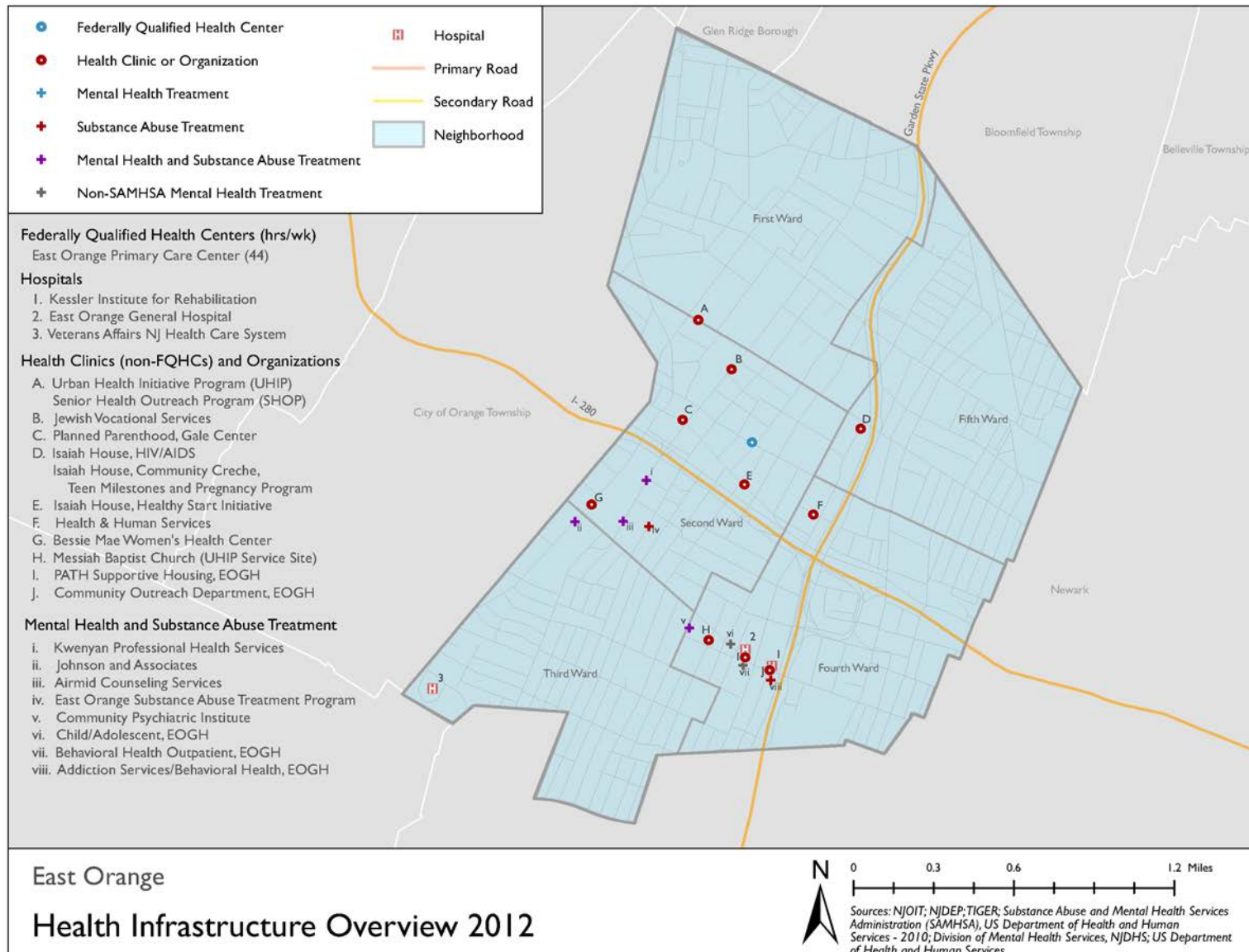
Arcadian Gardens

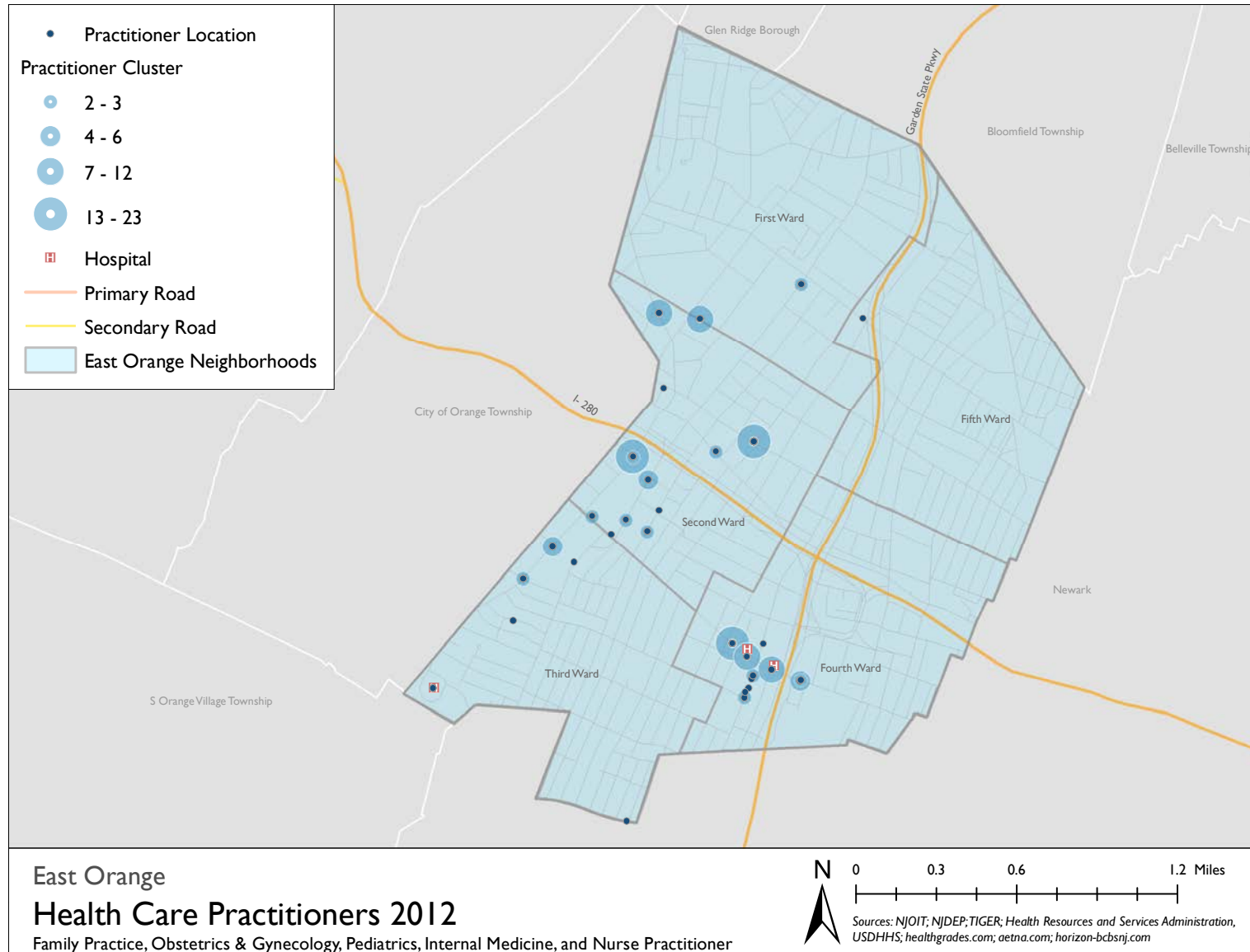
East Orange saw an influx of residents from Newark following that city's 1967 riots, many of whom settled just over the border in East Orange's Fourth Ward. The East Orange Housing Authority opened its Arcadian Gardens housing complex in 1969, just in time to accommodate many of the new residents. Consisting of 212 apartments in 23 connected low-rise buildings, the development, which provided primarily low-income units as well as some elderly housing, was overwhelmingly viewed as a welcome revival of the city's southeast side (Roberts). Unfortunately, the community's poor design made it difficult to navigate and isolated its residents from the surrounding neighborhood (so much so that it became known as its own "Little City," or "Bity"). Arcadian Gardens grew increasingly dangerous and unhealthy as facility maintenance dwindled, and in time, this combination of isolation and disrepair fostered extensive crime and gang activity (Roberts). The community ultimately became an epicenter of Bloods gang operations in the region (Sterling). Citing the deteriorating physical condition of the complex, the Housing Authority demolished it with HOPE VI funds in 2004 and relocated all of its residents ("East Orange Housing Authority Demolished Arcadian Gardens").

Table 6: 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
Arlington House	Federally Assisted	178	178			97				81	
Bailey-Holt Towers	Federally Assisted	127	127				73	77	84		
Chestnut Park Apartments	Federally Assisted	59	59			86			82		
Corinthian Towers	Federally Assisted	221	220		10					82	
East Orange Community Homes A	Federally Assisted	46	46				51	46		91	
East Orange Community Homes D	Federally Assisted	95	93				75	90			
Heritage House	Federally Assisted	204	204			77	76		79		
Kuzuri-Kijiji	Federally Assisted	246	136				85				36
McIver Homes	Federally Assisted	35	35			59	64		80		
Vista Village	Public Housing	180						50			68

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





Health

Healthcare Organizational Infrastructure

Within the Fourth Ward focus area, there are relatively few community-based organizations. Of note are Joi's Angels and Cross Counter, both of which provide shelter, meals, and counseling for the homeless. JVS provides home health care and case management services. Essex County's Citizen Services division is housed within a large county facility in the northwest of the neighborhood, and offers job training services and assistance with applying for benefits. Faith-based supportive services are extremely limited in the focus area and there is only one large church in the focus area (Messiah Baptist). There are several community-based and civic institutions outside of the focus area. Isaiah House, which provides services related to homelessness, HIV/AIDS, single parent support, maternity education, and service provider training, is one significant organization in central East Orange. East Orange Family Success Center is also located nearby, as are satellite program sites for Family Connections, which provides youth development and adult mental health services.

While East Orange General Hospital (EOGH) has struggled financially over the past decade (Livio) and taken on additional patients with the closure of Newark hospitals (Augenstein), it has been making important strides in preventive and comprehensive care for the poor and uninsured. According to Kevin Slavin, EOGH President & CEO, "the hospital has ... [a] reputation of not having the best patient relations from years ago," (Augenstein) but has significantly improved its patient communications and community outreach. In late 2010, EOGH hired a new chief medical officer, Dr. Valentine Burroughs, whose background is in healthcare for underserved communities. Dr. Burroughs has placed an emphasis on expanding the hospital's preventative care programs and obesity/diabetes awareness efforts (Local Talk, Dec 2010). In 2011, EOGH was included in *Inside Jersey* magazine's list of Top Hospitals for coronary care and patient communication (Local Talk, Sept 2012). Like other urban "safety-net" hospitals that have become the primary source of health services for poor and uninsured patients, EOGH has instituted several programs to provide neighborhood residents with more comprehensive care, particularly related to issues of housing and substance abuse. On-site, the hospital's new Supportive Housing Program offers temporary housing for homeless, mentally ill individuals and provides "necessary services so they can achieve independence and reduce the cycle of evictions, hospitalizations and homelessness" (Slavin). Off-site, the hospital offers health screenings at local soup kitchens and food pantries through programs such as Screenings & Outreach Unified Program, aka "Project S.O.U.P" (EOGH website). EOGH is also part of the Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition, which, like the Trenton Health Team and Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers, seeks to decrease the number of emergency room "frequent fliers" (uninsured and often poor individuals who use the ER as their sole source of care). The alliance, which includes Newark hospitals, the Visiting Nurses of Central Jersey, and foundation partners, among others, has established innovative outreach and comprehensive care programs such as expanded regular home care visits (O'Dowd; Augenstein).

Urban Healthcare Initiative (UHIP) is run by Dr. Alexander Salerno. The organization works with churches and communities to provide free health education and screening. The program started at Messiah Baptist Church just south of Central Avenue about three blocks from East Orange General. The organization also provides health screenings and other patient resources. Reverend Dana Owens, the pastor at Messiah Baptist has been critical in working out this partnership. This approach seems to be working well with immigrants too. They attribute it to trust with the doctor and his ability to communicate well and talk with people in a non-hospital setting (Interview, 2013).

The city has a number of health activities and has worked with Jewish Vocational Services. They collaboratively provide health education, HIV testing, other screenings, and dental care (Interview, 2012).

Healthcare and social assistance institutions comprise one of the three largest industries in East Orange (E. Orange Master Plan Overview, 2006). East Orange General Hospital (EOGH), a critical component of the city's health infrastructure and the only major healthcare provider in the focus area, sits at the center of the Fourth Ward. Located just west of the Garden State Parkway on Central Ave, EOGH is the only independent, fully accredited, acute care community hospital in Essex County (Local Talk, Sept 2012). It is also a substantial employer in the area. Health-related organizations elsewhere in East Orange, but outside of the focus area, include the VA hospital campus in the southwest of the city, and East Orange Primary Care Center (EOPCC) just northwest of the Fourth Ward. EOPCC is a federally qualified health center in the Newark Community Health Center (NCHC) network. In addition to standard non-emergency medical care (free of charge for qualified patients), NCHC facilities provide a variety of programs addressing prenatal and post-partum care, STD/HIV prevention and management, drug and alcohol abuse, and healthcare for refugees (NCHC website). The Center for Civic Engagement identified several private senior nursing facilities, clinics, and rehabilitation centers in the city, including a few senior facilities and a dialysis center within the focus area.

Urban Healthcare Initiative (UHIP)

Established in 2010 by Dr. Alexander Salerno, UHIP is a community outreach program to increase access to healthcare for residents in East Orange and the surrounding areas. The educational program rests on the core health pillars of the program, including diabetes, cardiovascular/hypertension diseases, COPD, HIV/infectious diseases, cancer screenings, chronic kidney disease, and aging/dementia/depression/dying. There are multiple entry points for community members to access these services. At Dr. Salerno's medical practice, there is a stationary clinic that is open seven days a week. To reach a broader audience, Dr. Salerno and his team collaborate with three different church ministries to provide educational programming and free clinics. Two of the churches, Messiah Baptist Church and Mt. Olive Baptist Church are located in East Orange and the third is located in Newark. Clinics are set up at each church once per month. As part of the educational outreach, a nurse practitioner presents a health topic during church services on Sundays and the health clinic is set up on site later in the week. Additional educational programs are held at the church during weeknights and provide a dinner/discussion format. While the outreach is focused on church congregations, anyone is welcome at the clinics regardless of religious affiliation.

The clinics provide 360 degree healthcare, offering all basic services found at a regular doctor's office, including full blood work and screenings. An integrated team of nurse practitioners and social workers coordinate care tailored to specific patient's needs and help them navigate the healthcare system if they have medical insurance or not. Those who are uninsured are referred to charity care. At the first visit, a patient will have all his/her blood work done, and all of the results are fully explained on the patient's second visit. This is to make sure the patient is fully educated on what is important, what might be a risk factor for them, and what they can do at home to maintain preventative care. At this point, the patient may decide to continue their medical care through UHIP or through a private practitioner. Follow-up care is done by a social worker who verifies appointments.

UHIP has a close relationship with St. Michael's Hospital, and is always looking for other hospital collaborations. They currently have an electronic medical record in place, and provide each patient with their medical records on a USB that the patient is responsible to take with them to each appointment for updates. With

proper patient release consent, medical records are shared with other private practices and hospitals for continued patient care. UMDNJ provides social workers, physicians, and nurse practitioners for the staff. UHIP also has a collaboration with Seton Hall School of Nursing for a “first responders” class that teaches local community members of the warning signs of health problems and how they can direct individuals to the proper avenue of care before a major health problem occurs. Recently, UHIP partnered with the Mental Health Association of Essex County and will have a trained person on staff to help deal with mental health issues. The program is funded mainly by the Health Foundation of New Jersey and other corporate medical and pharmaceutical donors and foundations. Working within the same smaller congregations has proven to be limiting in the two years since the organization's founding and to increase their exposure to a more mobile population, they are seeking to strike up a collaboration with the New Hope Church in Newark, which has a larger congregation and strong pre-existing social services like a soup kitchen. Since a larger church is generally so busy with other events, it makes it difficult to organize a regular clinic and educational services.

Messiah Baptist Church

Messiah Baptist Church is the leading church collaborator that works with UHIP to provide health education and medical care to its congregation in East Orange. Reverend Dana Owens began a collaborative relationship with Dr. Salerno about five years back that began with the introduction of a once a month clinic held at the church as an extension of Dr. Salerno’s SHOP program. A number of members of the congregation already took advantage of the services provided by SHOP and Rev. Owens wanted to bring it to the church to provide an easy access point to those members, and to make it more available for those who did not already participate in SHOP. From that, Dr. Salerno wished to provide an extension program that would target not just seniors, but people of all ages who were underserved and uninsured. Dr. Salerno began the UHIP program at Messiah almost two years ago, and the program has been a big success. Rev. Owens has seen the effectiveness of the program and believes that it has made a large impact on the members of his congregation in terms of bringing better health information to them, encouraging them to be more proactive about their healthcare, and improving their overall quality of life. Currently, UHIP runs its clinics once a month and serves members of the congregation and members of the community at large. The educational component of the program is presented during religious services on the Sunday of the week the clinic comes to the church. Advertising for the program is limited to these pulpit talks and church programming but word of mouth is powerful and has increased the number of participating members. There is some concern of increasing any advertising efforts, however, since Rev. Owens feels his congregation is currently adequately served by the once a month clinics and that increasing demand will put a strain on the staffing and resource availability of UHIP. The main goal, however, is being achieved, and Reverend Owens is pleased to be able to provide better information to his congregation about leading healthier, more active lifestyles (Interview, 2013).

East Orange Family Success Center

The goal of the East Orange Family Success Center is to provide access to health information to underinsured and uninsured residents. For uninsured individuals, the staff work with them to fill out the application for NJ Family Care. They have ties with the local health department and WIC. Depending on current community needs, EOFSC will host health information workshops to address those pressing topics. One of the main outreach methods they employ is through schools, especially through PTA/PTO meetings. By targeting school events and groups, they are able to reach the parents through their children. EOFSC encourages families to attend events even if they don’t have immediate health needs so if something were to come up, they have the information already to better manage their health through the proper channels. The services provided by EOFSC are free of charge and they often offer a meal during the workshop.

The topics of the workshops are mostly education-based but they will occasionally invite in outside groups to facilitate health services. One of the things that EOFSC prides itself on is their friendly and supportive environment. Rather than tell families what kinds of services they should use, they work with families to help them make the right decisions. They believe this approach encourages community empowerment by highlighting the strengths of the family rather than the problems. Community members of all kinds utilize the services provided by EOFSC. The most common user is a family unit of single or dual parent households, but they also serve a number of single individuals and multi-generational families.

One of the barriers to access rests in the community's approach to healthcare. Many people are not proactive about their needs so if a family has no need for a particular service at the moment, they often won't seek out preventative care or information. Although the center is located in an accessible area to public transportation, many families still struggle with paying for transportation either from a financial perspective or a logistic one. The center itself has a large conference room where sessions are held, but it does not comfortably fit many people and if there is a large crowd, then the program has to be divided to accommodate the demand. Some of the key issues that the center focuses on are breast cancer awareness, NJ Family Care program, and illiteracy. Continuing with their connection with the schools, EOFSC operates a summer tutoring program. Teachers volunteer to ensure that students do not fall behind. Parent support is a vital aspect of the center and the programs serve to help parents develop leadership skills they can apply in their own personal or professional development.

Health Services, City of East Orange

The city's health department offers clinics on site at the health department building including dental, STD/HIV testing, immunizations, well baby, environmental services (including the lead program), and TB. Some of the main community health concerns are heart disease (especially hypertension), respiratory disease (including lung disease), asthma, lead poisoning, diabetes, and mental health. Asthma is one of the leading health concerns in the area, followed by prenatal care. In addition to medical care, the department offers a series of educational programs. These are listed on city hall's website and distributed at community meetings and available in the lobby of the health department itself. For referrals, patients are often networked into department programs or sent to partner programs. The public school system is a strong partner and offers outreach projects in schools about topics like STD/HIV. Public libraries are also a source of educational distribution especially on the topic of mental health. Library workers reached out to the health department for programming directed toward the increasing numbers of homeless individuals who use the library as a safe place to be during the day; many of whom suffer from mental health issues or behavioral health problems. To target this population, clinics and meetings are also held at the libraries.

Some of the biggest barriers to service are related to budget cuts. The projects were better staffed, funded, and implemented before the budget cuts. Most notably missing are the halfway houses that used to exist for mental health patients that, while arguably not the most effective, were more effective than current services because now many mental health patients are out on the streets and the homeless population has swelled, consisting of many people with mental or behavioral health problems. While there is a strong WIC program, other childcare services for prenatal and early infancy needs are sorely lacking. There are few pre-natal doctors and education programs for young mothers, and there is no longer a local hospital that handles births. In the region, only UMDNJ, Barnabus, and St. Michaels deal with deliveries. Most of the work done for prenatal care is handled by the Healthy Start Initiative at the FQHC. Additionally, with the changing guidelines of the healthcare industry as a whole, it becomes difficult for individuals to even access care because they have to be

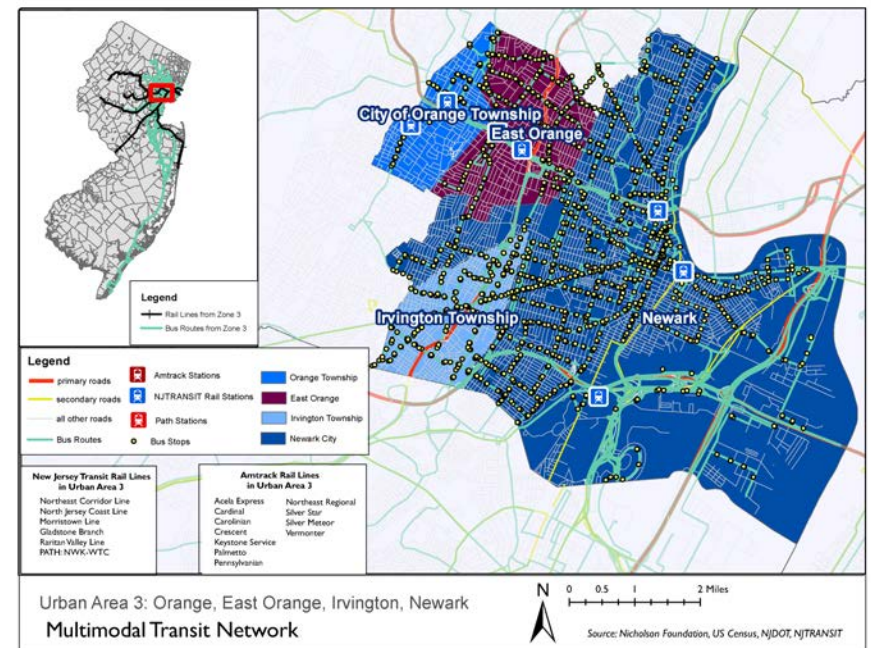
specifically qualified for it due to income, access to insurance, or other social factors. One of the big problems with the healthcare system is that it is city-specific, and that each locality has their own channels of navigation and that often leads to frustration and disinvestment in the system. Many people will have a negative experience with some facet of the healthcare industry and it will turn them off from using services or seeking information with the result being people who choose the wrong service for their needs without realizing it. In working within other community collaborations, the high turnover rate in those organizations leads to delays and duplication of data. Fewer people are interested in engaging in their healthcare and require increased incentives to attend workshops (interview, 2013).

Partners for Health

While Partners for Health does not work specifically in East Orange, they have an interesting approach to their services that would work within the existing community structure. Many organizations feel working with others will only slow them down or detract from their overall mission as well as provide competition for limited grant dollars. This constant push forward leaves little time for reflection and assessment of programs as they work within the broader community. Partners for Health has decided to take a less direct and more regional approach. Modeled on the idea of “collective impact” pioneered by the Cincinnati Foundation, Partners for Health works to bring together stakeholders to build community partnerships that coordinate efforts towards a shared goal. The programs implemented to achieve this goal are evidence-based and serve to empower the community by integrating individuals into the process. Partners for Health works as the backbone for other foundations and organizations to bring them together, provide funding, technical support, and assess effectiveness of programs (interview, 2013).

Transportation

New Jersey Transit operates two rail stations in East Orange, both in the central region of the city, and provides service for the Morris & Essex rail line. A train ride to New York Penn Station is approximately 30 minutes. East Orange is well-served by the NJ Transit bus system, transporting passengers to most neighboring towns and cities. The availability of local bus and rail service has enabled East Orange residents to commute without cars, and nearly a quarter of residents (23%) reported that they did not own a vehicle in the 2010 Census. In the focus area, public transportation is limited. Bus routes are located largely along the eastern portion of the area. NJ Transit train stations are also difficult to reach with Route 280 and the Garden State Parkway acting as barriers. East Orange General Hospital



is accessible through walking for the majority of the area however. Although a portion of the focus area, the northeastern section, is impeded by Route 280 and the Garden State Parkway and may make it hard for some residents to navigate.

Community Organizations

List and Short Description of Other Organizations

Joi's Angels (http://www.joisangels.com/our_services.php)

Faith-based organization providing supportive services to individuals challenged by displacement, homelessness or other difficulties, including: safe housing, food assistance, transportation, referrals, rehabilitation placements, program placements, life skills counseling, group activities, spiritual counseling, and NA/AA meetings.

Cross Counter (<http://www.ccinj.org/>)

Non-profit organization providing residential facilities for at-risk youth ages 13 to 18. The East Orange location is Tillmes House, providing temporary housing for adolescent girls for up to 90 days. In addition to shelter, services include: life skills training and education, vocational counseling, and enrichment activities.

JVS MetroWest – Health Care Case Mgmt. Program (<http://www.jvsnj.org/health-care-case-management>)

JVS is a nonprofit, community-based health and human services organization providing health care case management services for adults younger than 55 with severe disabilities, physical, developmental, or psychological health issues. In addition to case management, services include: basic health screenings and on-site educational trainings for clients.

Social service providers that serve 4th Ward residents but located outside of the focus area (selected from broader findings)

East Orange Senior Services - Bowser Family Senior Center

(<http://www.eastorange-nj.gov/Departments/HealthHumanServices/SeniorServices/index.html>)

Advocate organization for East Orange's senior and disabled populations. Services include: enrollment assistance for benefits and entitlements, education on benefits and entitlements, transportation services, recreational and cultural trip sponsorship, nutritional assistance, identification cards, pre-screening for Food Stamps, energy assistance, prescription and health benefits, and basic living assistance - cleaning, laundry, meal preparation, and errands - for those in need.

East Orange Family Success Center (Operated by Independence: A Family of Services, Inc.)

(<http://www.ifsny.org/for-our-families/east-orange-family-success-center/>)

A family success center, operated by Independence: A Family of Services, Inc., intended to serve as a gathering place within the East Orange community with the aim of benefiting the area's children by strengthening families and neighborhoods. The Center's services and programs include: family success plan

development and implementation support, information and referral services, classes on effective parenting, parent-child activities, health screenings, grandparent support activities, summer literacy program, children's book clubs, and activities for adolescents.

East Orange / Orange Community Development Corporation (EO/OCDC) (<http://mysite.verizon.net/bizsscjb/>)

Nonprofit social service agency offering support services to those undergoing economic crisis, including: emergency services, including assistance with food, clothing, shelter, rental, mortgage, and utilities, a summer enrichment program for children, holiday programs (Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas toys), employment assistance, referrals, and case management.

Family Connections (based in Orange, but operates programming in East Orange)

(<http://familyconnectionsny.org/about.html>)

Agency whose aim is to strengthen parents and families as well as to promote early childhood development using a school- and community- based prevention approach. FAMILY Connections offers more than 30 programs under the following service areas: early childhood development, school-based youth services, domestic violence services, at-risk youth programs, family support and reunification, and mental health and addiction services.

Isaiah House (<http://www.isaiahhouse.org/>)

A non-profit agency and East Orange's only shelter, in operation since 1988, providing temporary lodging to families in addition to ancillary services, including: life skills training, household financial management counseling, job search assistance, tutoring, medical referrals, and a support group for substance abuse.

Tri-City Peoples Corporation (<http://www.tri-citypeoples.org/home.htm>)

Non-profit community development corporation providing a wide range of services to the area's low-income and disadvantaged individuals. Services areas include: education, employment and technological training, social services, health and mental health care, and housing.

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