

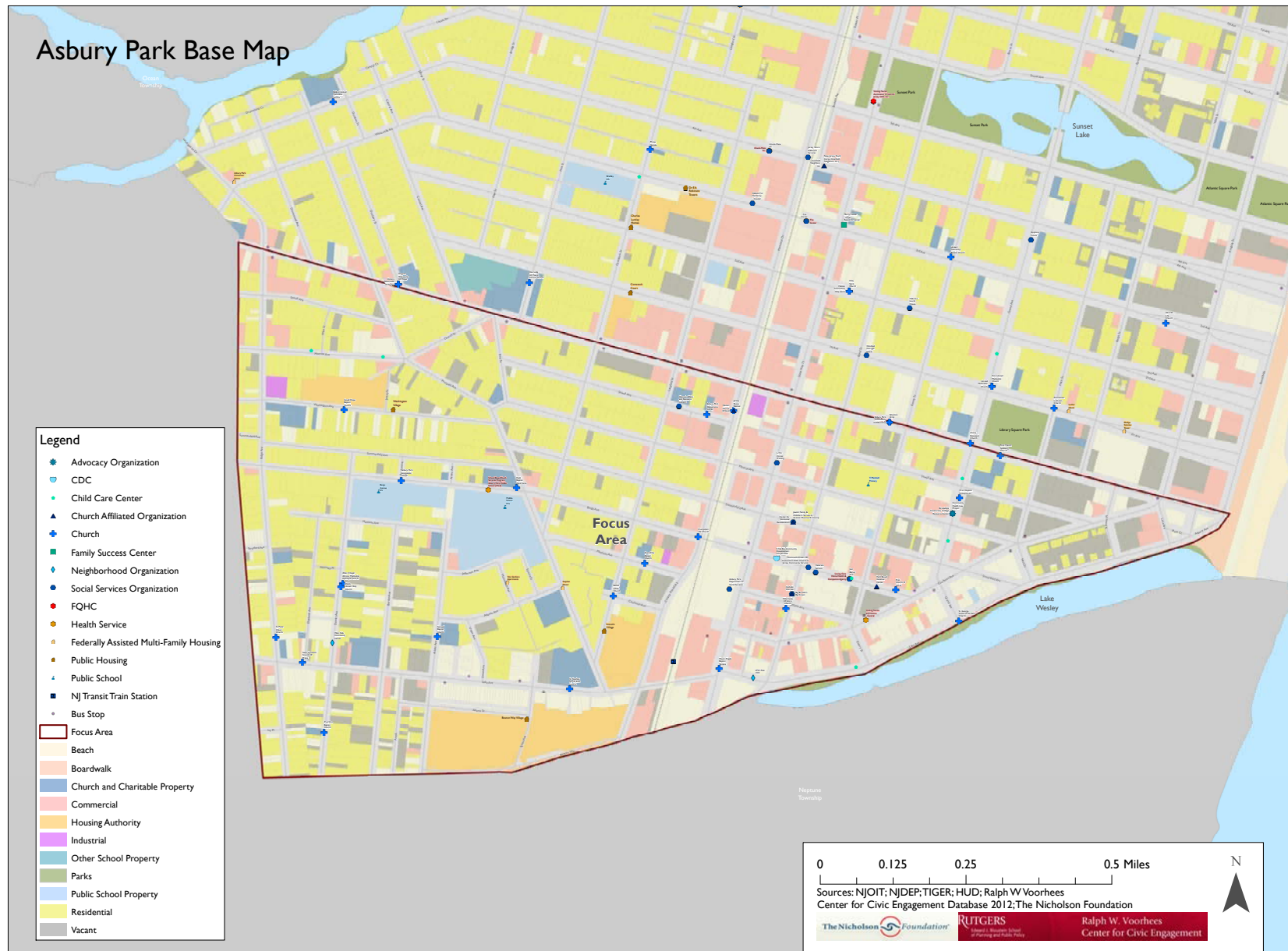
# Asbury Park

## South West Side

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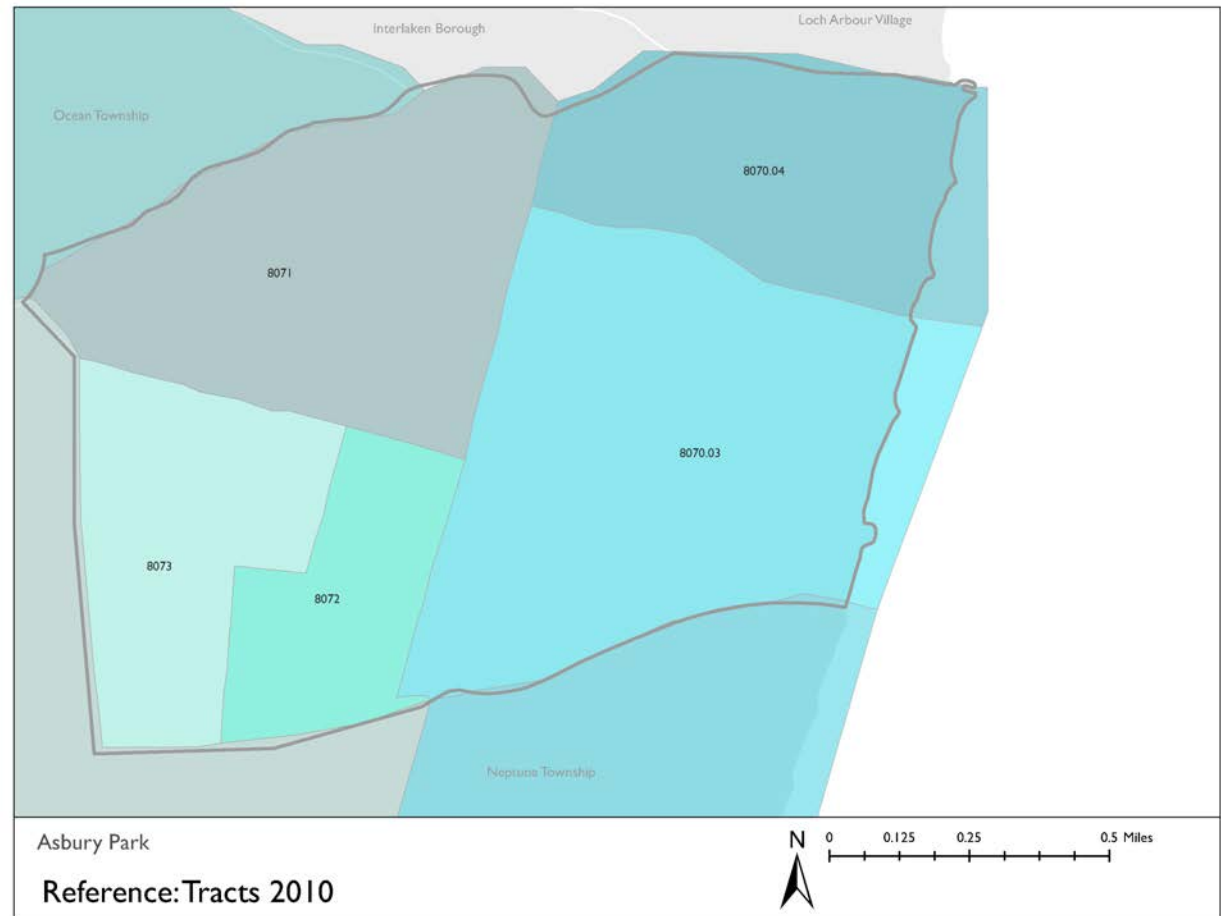
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# Neighborhood

## South West Side

*“just an hour from both New York City and Philadelphia, Asbury Park is quickly distinguishing itself as “The Place to Be” along the Jersey Shore in this city by the sea, where urban, progressive minded attitude meets the ocean” (theloftsatasburypark.com).*

Bangs Avenue on the East Side thrives with Cafe Volan, Blue Hawaii, the Colonel’s Kissing Booth, and Sweet Joey’s and locals celebrate its “peculiar quirkiness” (Washburn, 2012; Chin, 2012; Teng, 2012). Downtown, the music scene is re-emerging with Bamboozle and All Tomorrow’s Parties; even the vendors from the Brooklyn Flea are crossing the river (McKinley, 2011; Ratliff, 2011). And “The New Lofts at Asbury Park”, a new residential development, is advertised as located on the “tree lined” West Side, blocks from the beach and an hour from either of the major cities - NYC or Philadelphia (the lofts).



The South West Side has its own quirkiness, though of a less peculiar type, that it shares with so many urban communities that have struggled with decades of disinvestment. South West Side residents long for jobs and better education and cope daily with gangs, drugs, and crime (Ackerman, 2012). The South West Side has long been home to people who worked in the resort area in the least desirable jobs. First it was new Italian and Armenian immigrants and later it was African Americans. The West Side was home to its own thriving music scene and performing houses that got little outside attention (Horne, 2012; Murphy, 2012). Lower income African American residents lacked access to suburban communities and lower income housing was available on the South West Side which has a concentration of federally assisted and public housing projects. Springwood Avenue was the major commercial corridor until the riots. The division

between the neighborhoods was and is stark. Schools remained segregated until 1947. As unemployment rose and people lacked housing opportunities and access to the political system, the neighborhood became overcrowded and erupted in riots in July 1970 around Springwood Avenue. The core challenges, at the time, involved access to jobs, decent housing, and participation in the decisions that affected peoples lives (Fraser, 1970). A few years later in 1972, the West Side was described as “a vista of gray, lifeless buildings bunched together, pockmarked with broken windows, obscene graffiti announcing black militant slogans, empty lots packed with garbage and broken wine bottles, and small groups of men standing in the shadows with red, glazed eyes, waiting for a little action” (Scene of Asbury’s, 1972). While that describes the physical environment, it doesn’t do justice to the people who continued to live their lives, watched their children grow, and hoped and dreamed of a brighter future.

We opted to focus on the South West Side. It extends to the Neptune border on the south, Atkins Avenue on the west, and Asbury Avenue to the north. The portion of census tract 8070.03 is mostly made up of commercial buildings, includes the central business district, and contains little residential land uses but does include many service organizations. Nearly all of the population lives in census tracts 8073 and 8072, the two tracts south of Asbury Avenue and west of the railroad (U.S. Census Bureau, New Jersey Office of Information Technology, MODIV; ACS, 2010 5-Year Estimate). Today the South West Side is largely an African American neighborhood with Latino and Haitian immigrants. The problems of the 1970s are pretty similar to the problems residents face today - inadequate housing and rising housing costs, crime, and not enough jobs.

Asbury Park has struggled with fits and starts of redevelopment for at least two decades. While the waterfront developments haven’t done as well as many had hoped, a variety of people, including a large gay community, have made Asbury Park their home. Commercial corridors have improved and neighborhood networks are strong enough that residents report that they seemingly know everyone in the city (Asbury Park Central Business District Redevelopment Plan). City government and neighborhood groups have sought to redevelop the South West Side bringing revitalization to a part of the city that has experienced disinvestment for nearly a half century. The 2000 Strategic Target Area Rebuilding Spirit (S.T.A.R.S) Redevelopment Plan covers about 12 blocks in tract 8073. The plan identified six dozen vacant properties and another 24 that were vacant or in poor condition (S.T.A.R.S. Redevelopment Plan). The Springwood Avenue Redevelopment Area lies just east of the S.T.A.R.S redevelopment area. This area, mostly located in the southern portion of tract 8072, has a long history of urban renewal. Although the Housing Authority developed many of the properties, activity along Springwood Avenue was limited to two groupings of townhouse style residential developments approved in 1990. Some are on the southern side of Springwood Avenue across from Union Avenue and a second group is on the eastern side of Union Avenue (Amended Springwood Avenue Redevelopment Plan).

Interfaith Neighbors, a community development organization, developed a ten-year broad-based neighborhood plan for the South West Side in partnership with other organizations including Coastal Habitat for Humanity. They organized a large community planning effort and later received \$500,000 in Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit (NRTC) dollars to implement in 2006. The effort includes affordable housing, economic development, new community spaces, safety, and “social conditions” (Interfaith Neighbors). A new senior center formed the cornerstone of the new Springwood Community Center on Springwood Boulevard and a collaboration with the Asbury Park Department of Social Services ensures the availability of services such as a nutrition program. The Center will soon include a real police substation, Interfaith Neighbors’ Business Development Center and Business Incubator, Kula Cafe which incorporates a paid youth and adult job training program, and 8 affordable senior housing units. As part of Asbury Park’s redevelopment plan, they noted the need to focus on job placement and training. Because of the lack of an industrial core to spur job creation, the community turned its attention to its over 60 restaurants. Restaurants do not hire from the area because many residents lack training and experience in the food service industry. Interfaith hopes its soon-to-open Kula Cafe will provide food

related training and employment opportunities (Interview, 2013). The Center's small business center with incubator space, they hope, will spur other redevelopment on the Boulevard heading towards downtown. A park is planned for across the street from the center (Mulshine, 2012. Dec 4; Crandall, 2012; "Habitat slated to put for affordable homes"; interview, 2013; Spring 2012 Interfaith Neighbors Newsletter). In addition to the Springwood Community Center, other smaller projects include a restored swimming pool at the Boys and Girls Club, a Police Athletic League boxing center, improved lighting for the Little League, and surveillance cameras in higher crime areas (Shields, 2008). Located farther west along West Lake Boulevard (formerly Springwood) is the Midtown Commons, developed by CityWorks and the Midtown Urban Renaissance Corporation, and the site of Jersey Shore Medical Center's Family Health Center (Grim, 2010).

**Table 1. South West Side Characteristics**

Characteristic	Total	% of Total	Characteristic	Total	% of Total
<b>Population (2010)</b>	5,291	100%	<b>Families (2010)</b>	1,219	100%
			Female-headed with Children	616	51%
<b>Age (2010)</b>			<b>Economic (2007-2011)<sup>i</sup></b>		
Under 5 years	540	10%	Median Household Income	\$25,774 - 30,350	
5-19 years	1,476	28%	Persons below Poverty	2,124	35%
20-64 years	2,970	56%	Total Civilian Labor Force	2,593	100%
65-74 years	187	4%	Employed	2,123	82%
75+ years	118	2%	Unemployed	470	18%
<b>Race (2010)</b>			<b>Housing (2010)</b>		
White	736	14%	Total Units	2,055	100%
Black	3,985	75%	Vacant Housing Units	309	15%
Asian	13	0%	Owner Occupied	264	15%
Hispanic	1,033	20%	Renter Occupied	1,482	85%
<b>Household (2010)</b>	1,746	100%			
Multigenerational	160	9%			

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

## Population

In 2000, census tract 8073 included 2,836 people. The tract grew 5% adding 139 people between 2000 and 2010. The adjacent census tract 8072 grew 26% adding 484 people (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010). The population of these two tracts is majority black, though the share of black residents decreased from 86% to 75% over the past decade. Meanwhile, the white and Hispanic (of any race) populations grew during this period, both groups more than doubling

their share of the population between 2000 and 2010. Similar changes were taking place in the wider Asbury Park, with the city's black population decreasing in numbers (by 21%) while both white and Hispanic populations grew considerably in size. Nowhere was this more apparent than in tract 8070.03 along the waterfront, where, over the course of the decade, the share of the population comprised of black residents decreased from 57% to 39%, while white residents increased their presence from 25% to 46% and Hispanics from 21% to 35%. The Hispanic population also doubled during that period. Some people suggest that some African American residents are moving to the South and immigrants are moving in (Interview, 2013).

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

Tract	2000	2010	Percent Change
8072	1,832	2,316	26.4%
8073	2,836	2,975	4.9%
Neighborhood	4,668	5,291	13.3%
Asbury Park	16,930	16,116	-4.8%

(US Census 2000, 2010)

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

Tract	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
8072	315	13.6%	1,753	75.7%	478	20.6%
8073	421	14.2%	2,232	75.0%	555	18.7%
Neighborhood	736	13.9%	3,985	75.3%	1,033	19.5%
Asbury Park	5,875	36.5%	8,275	51.3%	4,115	25.5%

(US Census 2000, 2010)

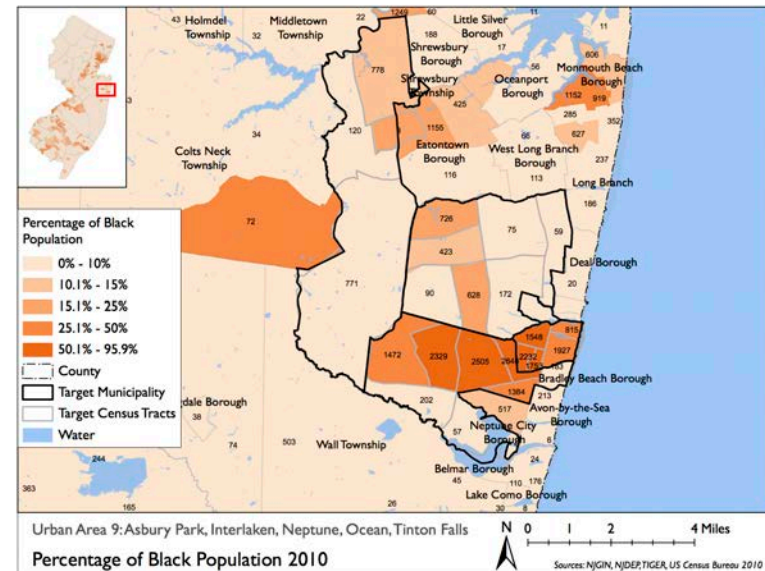
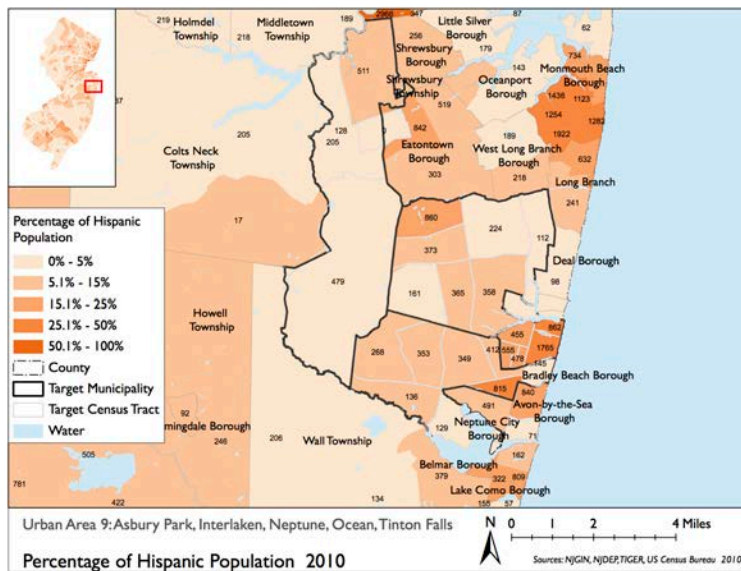
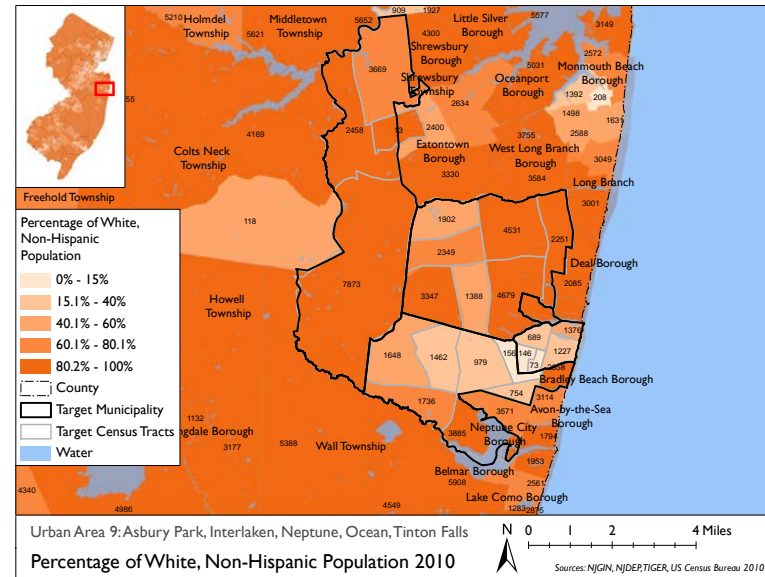
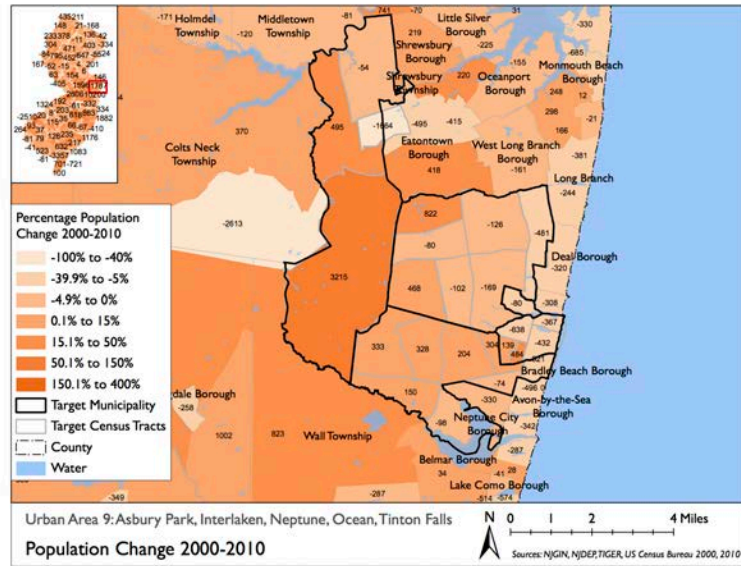
**Table 4: Changes to Neighborhood's Racial & Ethnic Composition, 2000 & 2010**

Tract	White		Black		Hispanic	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
8072	4.3%	13.6%	87.2%	75.7%	10.3%	20.6%
8073	6.5%	14.2%	85.9%	75.0%	9.3%	18.7%
Neighborhood	5.6%	13.9%	86.4%	75.3%	9.7%	19.5%
Asbury Park	24.8%	36.5%	62.1%	51.3%	15.6%	21.8%

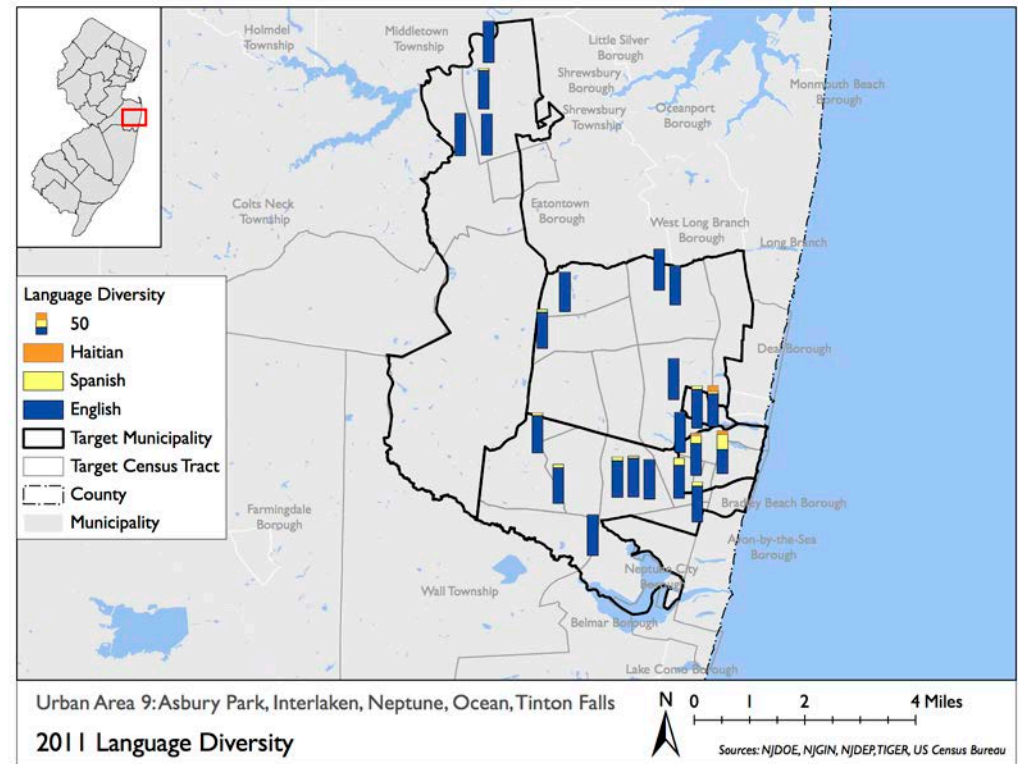
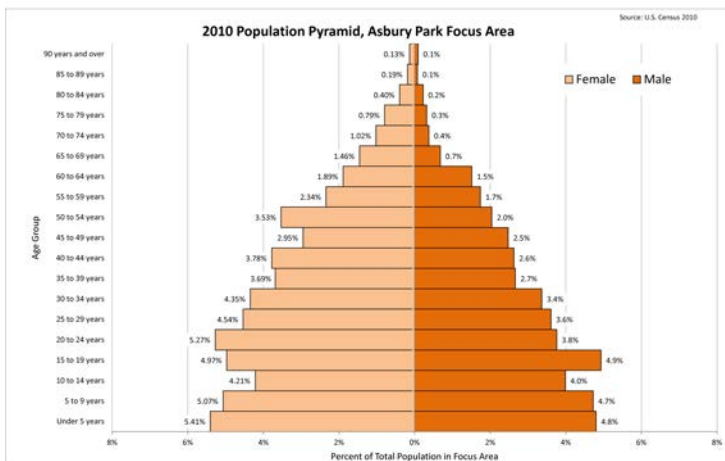
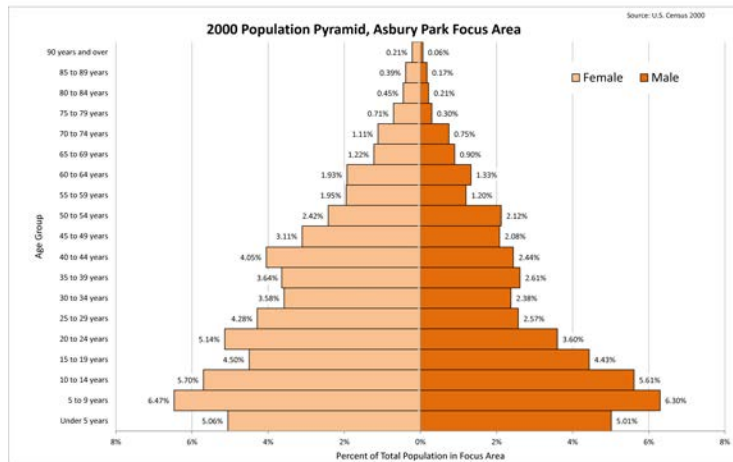
(US Census 2000, 2010)



The racial segregation in and around Asbury Park, Interlaken, Neptune, Ocean, Tinton Falls is fairly dramatic. In the below map, showing the percentage of the population that is White, non-Hispanic, the darkest areas in orange show the census tracts where the share of the white population exceeded 80% in 2010.





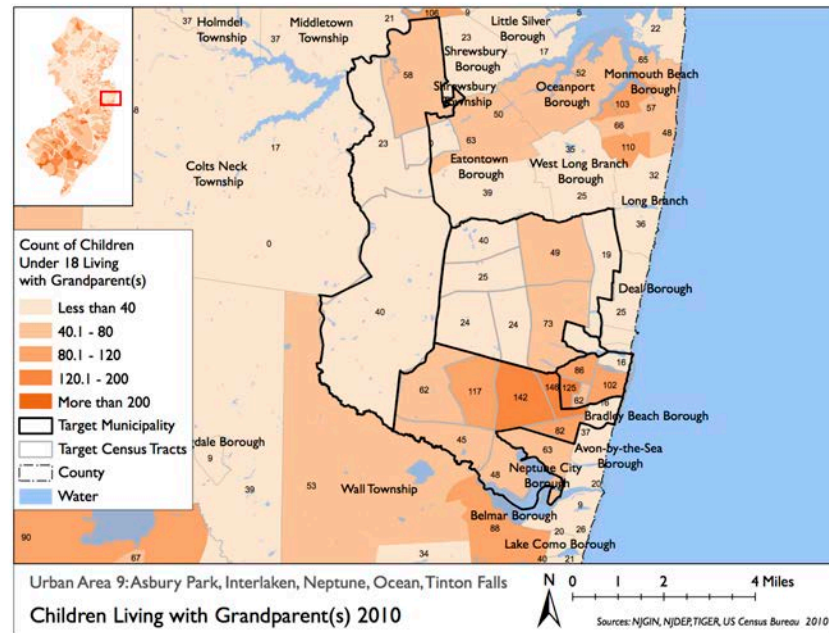
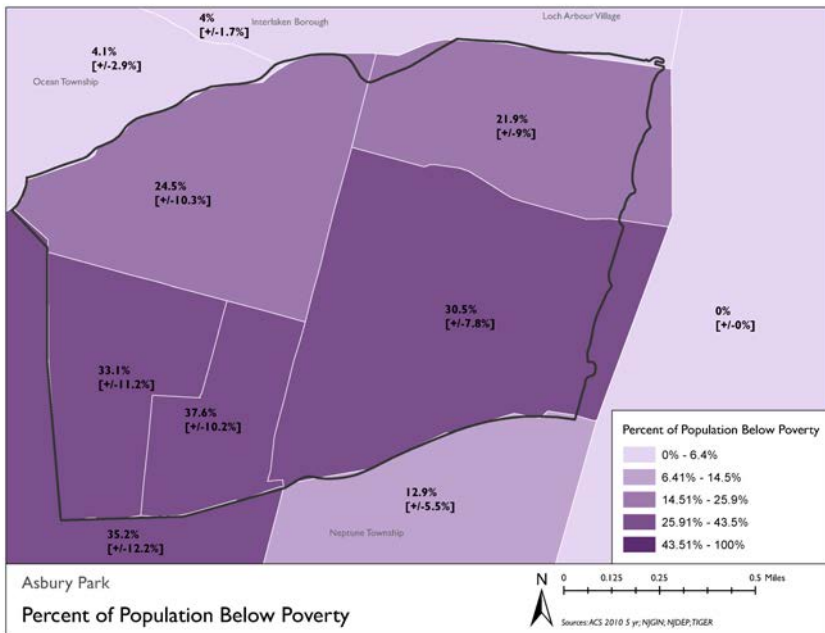


The population pyramids for 2000 and 2010 highlight a glaring public health issue. Men are underrepresented in Asbury Park after they reach their 20s.

The presence of relatively new immigrants is clear. Elementary schools on the South West Side show a presence of families who speak Spanish and smaller population who speak Haitian Creole.

## Income

In 2011, Asbury Park's unemployment rate reached 20% and more than a third of people in both of the focus area census tracts were below poverty (+/- about 10%) (U.S. Department of Labor, 2012; ACS 2010, 5 year). Median 2000 income in tract 8072 was \$14,798 and \$21,281 in 8073 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000). The neighborhood has the highest share of single women household families. These concentrations are also higher in the adjacent census tracts in Neptune suggesting that demand for services and a need for organization infrastructures expands beyond municipal boundaries.



## Education

The South West Side is home to Bangs Elementary School and Thurgood Marshall Elementary School. Most of the students at Bradley speak English at home, although Bradley has the highest percentage of students, 87%, who scored as partially proficient on the 3rd grade assessment. About a third of students at this school were suspended during the 2010-11 academic year (NJ DOE, 2012). At Thurgood Marshall, which has a larger student population, almost half speak English at home, while over a third speak Spanish. Only 2% of students were suspended and their partially proficient literacy scores were below that of Bangs. Asbury Park Middle School is the site of a state effort to improve education. Students can get school credit for work experience and they can take classes online. They also have a parent partners program in the works (Ackerman, 2012). Some West Side youth attend Hope Academy Charter School at 601 Grand Avenue on the East Side. And some high school students go to Academy Charter High School in Lake Cuomo (Interview, 2012). The Sisters of Mercy run the Sisters

Academy, an all-girls school for low-income children from 5th to 8th grade. On Bangs Avenue, the Barack Obama Building houses the Asbury Park Alternative School, The Dorothy L. McNish Parent Center, and the Early Childhood Department and the Child Study Center.

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

School	Grade Levels	Total School Population	% Partially Proficient 3rd Grade NJ Ask	First Language Spoken at Home	Students with Disabilities	Mobility	Limited English Proficiency	Student Suspensions
Bangs Avenue	K-5	378	87%	English - 94.4% Spanish - 4% Haitian - .8% Portuguese - .5% Creole - .3%	13%	19%	7%	32%
T. Marshall	K-5	426	77%	English - 56% Spanish - 36% Haitian - 8%	17%	13%	15%	2%

(NJ Department of Education, 2011)

## Housing

Between 2000 and 2010, Asbury saw an increase in housing units. Tract 8073 lost 17 units but tract 8072 saw a 34% increase adding 240 units. Residential vacancy rates in 2010 reached 19% in tract 8073, 9% in tract 8072 and 16% in nearby 8070.03. The data from USPS (2012) shows 46 houses in 8072 and 12 in 8073 that, on average, have been vacant one to two years (more than 75% of households rent in the two tracts). Housing is older compared with the surrounding suburbs. The 2010 census shows 37 homeowners in tract 8072 and more than 60% spend more than 40% of their incomes on their mortgages and 22% in 8073 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010).

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

Tract	Housing Units		
	2000	2010	Percent Change
8072	702	942	34.2%
8073	1,130	1,113	-1.5%
Neighborhood	1,832	2,055	12.2%
Asbury Park	7,744	8,076	4.3%

(US Census 2000, 2010)

Tracts 8072 and 8073 witnessed a surge in high cost lending in 2006 in comparison with 2004. During this time, the underwriting on high cost loans was loose and many of these loans have gone to foreclosure. Meanwhile, there are concerns on the West Side that the east side has gotten too expensive which has created displacement and frustration/tension (Ackerman, 2012). Some older housing stock has been demolished and replaced with larger and upscale forms of housing, again creating more displacement.

## Federally Assisted and Public Housing

Multiple federally assisted and public housing projects are located on the South West Side. Much of the southern part of tract 8072 is owned by the public housing authority as is a large parcel in the northwestern part of 8073. Washington Village public housing is located in the northwestern section of the focus area and Vita Gardens, Stephen Manor, Lincoln Village and Boston Way Village are located in the south central section. All of these properties except Washington Village received low physical inspection scores since 2007. In 2012 Vita Gardens (now Asbury Park Village), which opened in 1941 with 126 units was purchased along with Stephen Manor. Vitus Group is in the process of refurbishing the complexes (without anyone being displaced) with a \$6.7 million grant from the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (Mullen, 2012; Mulshine; Phalon, 1974; Ackerman, 2012).

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

Property Name	Publicly or Federally Assisted	Total Units	Total Assisted Units	Elderly Units	Disabled Units	Physical Inspection Scores					
						'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11
Boston Way Village	Public Housing	123							43	30	
Lincoln Village	Public Housing	63							53	54	
Stephen Manor	Federally Assisted	90	90					86		70	42
Vita Gardens Apartments	Federally Assisted	79	76						30		39
Washington Village	Public Housing	59							83	91	

(US HUD, 2011, 2012)

Coastal Habitat for Humanity has been developing housing in the city and has been building housing as part of the Westside Redevelopment Plan. They are completing four homes near Springwood Avenue on Borden and Dewitt Avenues. With the Affordable Housing Alliance and Interfaith Neighbors, they are working on 35 affordable units in the city (Coastal Habitat for Humanity; Interview, 2013; Mullen, 2012). Community organizations like Interfaith Neighbors are seeing increased demand for affordable housing. People who have never needed assistance are seeking it (Interviews, 2013). This puts more pressure on the organizations to find ways to provide more affordable housing options and for the Affordable Housing Alliance, Asbury Park's only accredited homeowner housing counselor, to provide more services.

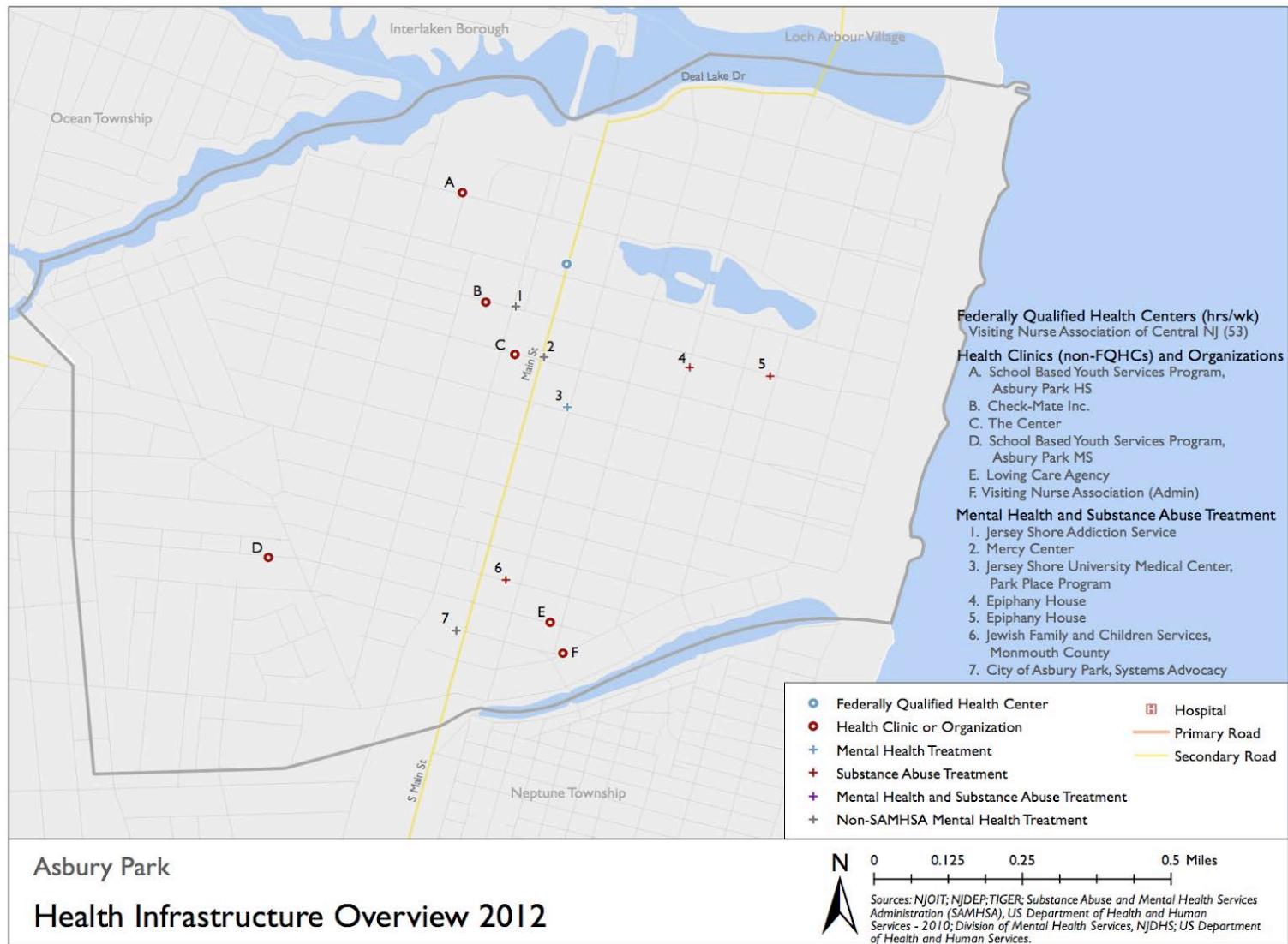
In general, it is hard to find affordable housing in Asbury Park. Interfaith provides rental assistance with county and grant funds and 250 families are helped each year through a one-time direct payment to landlords. Some people do not qualify because funding is dependent on people being in the eviction process. Others make too much money and do not meet the income requirements. This shuts out those who want to prevent eviction before it starts, or those who just lost a job or have serious medical bills, and still exceed the income requirements. In a smaller number of cases, Interfaith can offer short-term housing subsidies. These cases are often associated with job loss, health care issues, or individuals who need help to finish higher education. Each case is reviewed by a team of caseworkers who can approve some assistance for 3 to 6 months (Interviews, 2013).

## Crime

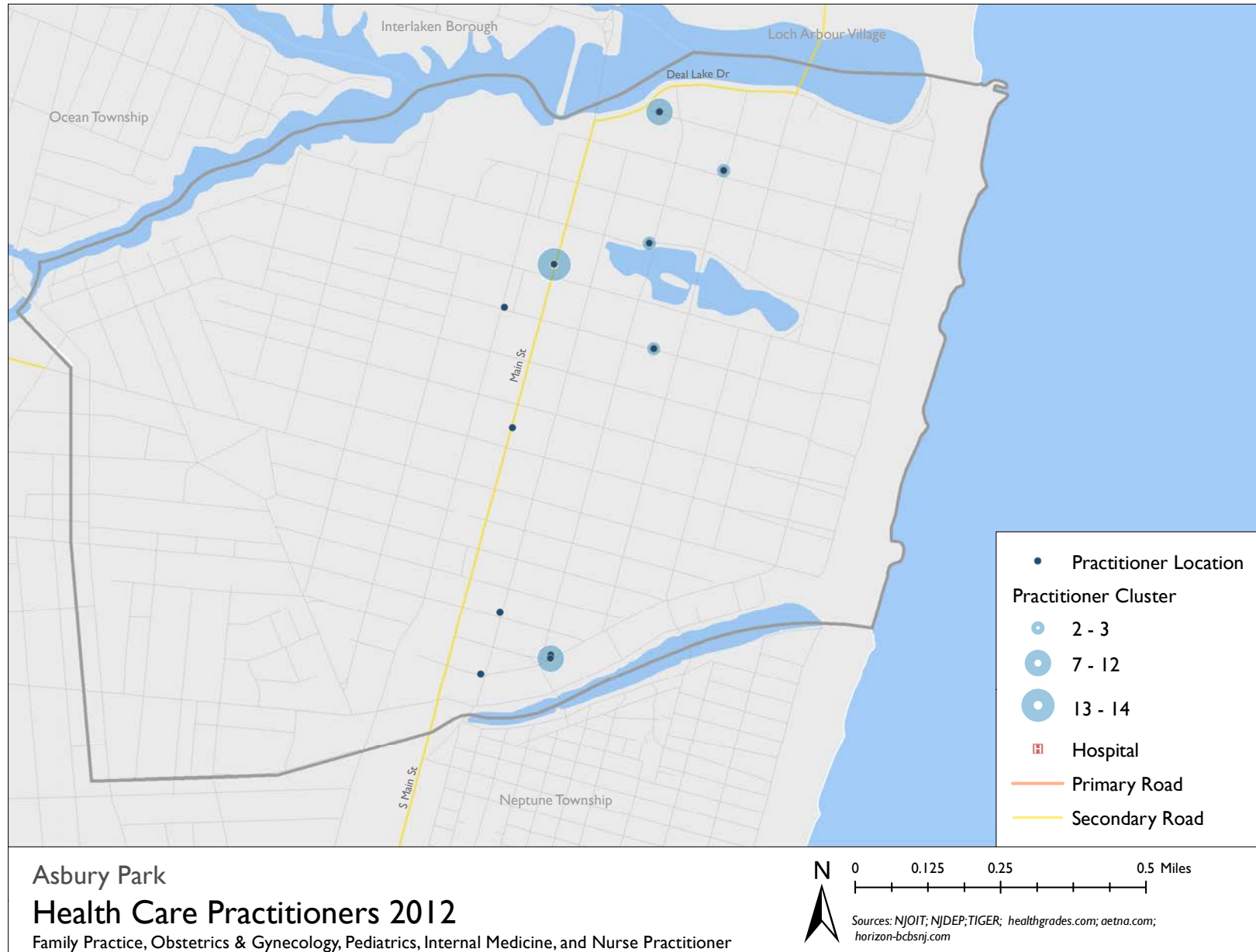
Guns, shootings, robberies, drug dealing, and gangs are centered on the city's South West Side. As of September 2012, there were 43 shootings and 29 deaths. Only 7 of those shootings occurred somewhere other than the South West Side. It's a small community and many people know multiple people who have been murdered. "In the small, crowded corner stores sit jugs filled with dollars and spare change, community collections to help the families pay for the funerals of young victims" (Ackerman, 2012). The same *Asbury Park Press* article identifies heroine, cocaine, and marijuana as the major drugs in the neighborhood. The Asbury Park Civic Media Collaborative, a community project to engage people in discussions about crime and violence (Civic Media Arts Project), interviewed residents about gangs and violence. Most identified gang violence as the root cause of the violence (Civic Media Arts Project). "Some residents of the west side say feelings of exclusion from the east side's growth, a dearth of jobs and recreation, an inadequate police presence and struggling schools to the west have exacerbated already strained living conditions, heightened tensions and culminated in the violence" (Ackerman, 2012). Ackerman (2012) reports that people on the South West Side want better police response to shootings. And the police are now doing foot patrols on the West Side. Additionally, Interfaith Neighbors provides a car to Citizens On Patrol (COP), a volunteer group started in 2003 that patrols communities and helps with extra eyes at school events (Mulshine, 2012 Dec 19). And there is a new police substation at Interfaith's Springwood Center. Interfaith Neighbors is not alone in their efforts to reduce crime. During the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the Ministerial Alliance also helped with neighborhood watches to prevent looting (Mulshine, 2012. Nov 1).

# Health

## Health Organizational Infrastructure









A Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey (VNACJ) Community Health Center, is located to the north of the South West Side near Sunset Park. The VNACJ is the main provider of comprehensive healthcare for Asbury residents. The VNA provides primary and preventative care to about 5,000 patients, but there is a serious lack of specialty care services (Interview, 2013). Primary care is also offered at Asbury Park Middle School, High School Youth Services, and the newly constructed Jane H Book Family Health Center on the border of Neptune. No hospitals are located in Asbury Park. On the border of Asbury Park, in Neptune, is the Jersey Shore University Medical Center, which is the region's only Trauma Center. The Jersey Shore University Medical Center also has a care center in Asbury Park, known as Park Place, but this center only treats individuals suffering from severe mental illness.

There are many programs offered for those living with HIV/AIDS such as: The Center and Check-Mate Inc. The Center provides support services for people and families affected by HIV/AIDS through a housing program, nutrition programs, referral services, transportation services, and outreach (Interview with George Lowe of The Center, 2013). Check-Mate Inc. offers HIV/AIDS mobile health services through a Community Health Mobile unit, which makes stops throughout the Asbury Park and the region.

There are many mental health and substance abuse programs offered in Asbury Park. These include programs such as the Jersey Shore Addiction Services, Epiphany House, Park Place, Jewish Family and Children Services and the Mercy Center. Many other community organizations including churches, schools, the local VFW, and community centers host support groups and individual counseling for those recovering from substance abuse. Mental Health services are in demand in Asbury Park and some organizations have noted their desire to increase their funding to expand the mental health services and capabilities. The Boys and Girls Club is looking for funding to employ someone accredited with a MSW and a counseling background to provide youth mental health counseling services. The VNA is also looking for funding to expand their mental health services (Interviews, 2013).

Asbury Park has a strong, tight-knit network of organizations. Many organizations work side-by-side to provide the best care and services possible. Referrals to and from other organizations is highly encouraged. Because of this network, they have become a visible and trusted group but many organizations are at capacity and need more funding (Interview, 2013).

## **Community Coalitions and Organizations that Provide Health Services**

### ***Loving Care Agency***

The Loving Care Agency is a fully accredited and certified home care agency for pediatric, adult, and geriatric patients. Its home health aides support each patient with daily activities and work in collaboration with the patient, families, and physician.

### **Check-Mate Inc.**

Check-Mate Inc. is a non-profit that assists community residents in becoming self-sufficient through programs including an emergency food and service program, housing and home energy assistance, HIV mobile counseling and testing, and job placement. Check-Mate has three regional offices in Monmouth County, with its Region II-Coastal Monmouth office located in Asbury Park on Fourth Avenue. The hours of operation for the Asbury Park office are from 9am to 4:30pm daily. Check-Mate is actively engaged with the community and participates in annual events including an HIV/AIDS Candlelight vigil and a Community Day. The HIV/AIDS Candlelight Walk is a remembrance to honor those who are struggling or who have passed from HIV/AIDS (Check-Mate Inc., online). Check-Mate offers

activities, community outreach, and health screenings through the annual Community Day at Sunset Park. Check-Mate runs a Community Health Mobile unit for HIV Testing and medical support throughout Monmouth County for individuals who do not have the capability to access conventional health services. The clients of the Mobile Health Units use these services because they may not be able to take time off of work, cannot travel or pay for services, or there is a language barrier between them and other healthcare providers (Check-Mate Inc. Annual Report, 2009). The HIV testing services are rapid, free, confidential and are performed by a Certified HIV Counselor. Each test takes only 20 minutes and if a client tests positive for HIV, an additional Test is performed to confirm the results on the spot (Check-Mate Inc. Annual Report, 2009). Additional screenings include Diabetes, Hypertension, Cholesterol, Pregnancy, Syphilis, and Hepatitis (Check-Mate Inc., online). Individuals who are screened and test positive are enrolled in medical support or referred to medical support services for additional treatment. They are also given literature on preventative measures, treatment, and general information. Check-Mate Inc. provides HUD certified counseling services to Monmouth County residents to prevent housing foreclosure, and they provide housing and weatherization assistance. Check-Mate's weatherization crews perform health and safety tests to detect any health or safety concerns involving heating units, moisture damage, gas leaks, carbon monoxide, or electrical systems (Check-Mate Inc., online).

### ***Epiphany House***

New Hope runs Epiphany House, a transitional and outpatient facility for people with drug abuse and dependency. The facilities at the Epiphany House are especially designed for women and women with children and offer supportive and individualized assistance for women recovering from substance abuse with the objective of having them make smooth transitions back into the community. The Epiphany House staff helps women with medical, psychiatric, vocational, parenting, or educational needs (New Hope, online).

### ***Interfaith Neighbors***

Interfaith Neighbors, organized in 1988, is a network of 90 multi-denominational religious congregations in Monmouth County. A newly renovated space on Fourth Street houses a commercial kitchen for their meal program and classroom and training space for their Youth Corp Program. They offer Meals on Wheels, rental assistance, affordable housing support, neighborhood revitalization support, the NJ Youth Corp of Monmouth, and the Business Development Center. The Meals on Wheels program. In 1996 they launched their affordable housing program in partnership with New Jersey Natural Gas Company to help bring homeownership to working-poor families in Asbury Park and neighboring Neptune. The NJ Youth Corp of Monmouth, through funding from the state, is for youth who have not completed high school from 16-25 years of age, living in Monmouth county but 90% are from Asbury Park and Neptune. Along with job training and guidance, the program helps students improve their education including earning a GED. Many students have low educational achievement, educational disabilities, and/or motivation so Youth Corp strives to provide life skills and hands-on work experience to to ensure their graduates' success. There is an excess of grants for construction and green job training, but there are no real job opportunities in those fields when youth graduate the program. Lastly the Need To Feed program offers sandwiches and drinks to community members on Springwood Ave. During the colder months they offer clothing, when possible (Interview, 2013, Interfaith Neighbors, online).

### ***Jane H. Booker Family Health Center***

The Jane H. Booker Family Health Center, in Neptune, provides comprehensive services for medicine and surgery, pediatrics, OB/GYN, infectious disease, dentistry, and a variety of other services and referrals. This center was built within Midtown Urban Renaissance Organization's Midtown neighborhood development immediately on Asbury's West side. The Jersey Shore Medical Center runs these facilities and services. Other services provided at this center

include blood pressure monitoring, blood tests, nutritional counseling, and prenatal education courses. Since the center's development, it has received lots of traffic and has since held health fairs in the adjacent park (Jersey Shore University Medical Center, online; Interview, 2013).

### ***Jersey Shore Addiction Services***

Located in Neptune, the Jersey Shore Addiction Services is a non-profit that provides substance abuse treatment and counseling. The staff is composed of a multidisciplinary team of health professionals who provide HIV/AIDS services, individual and group counseling, outpatient counseling services, substance abuse treatment services, and specialized services for pregnant and post-partum women with substance abuse issues (Jersey Shore Addiction Services, online).

### ***Jersey Shore University Medical Center***

Located in Neptune, the Jersey Shore University Medical Center is the region's only Trauma Center. The medical center offers services in all major medical disciplines and a full range of cardiology, pediatrics, orthopedics, and cancer care specialties. The Medical Center has care locations in Neptune, Asbury Park, and Shrewsbury. The Asbury Park location, Park Place, is an Adult Partial Hospital Program that offers mental health counseling and treatment for adults with severe mental illnesses, medication monitoring, individual, group, and family therapy, and MICA (Mentally Ill Chemically Addicted) services (Jersey Shore University Medical Center, online).

### ***Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Monmouth County***

The Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Monmouth County located on Summerfield Avenue in Asbury Park provides mental health and social services which include intensive outpatient treatment for drug & alcohol addiction, personal and family counseling, psychotherapy, parent education, emergency financial service, and referrals. For patients in need flexible payment, they offer self-pay with a sliding scale. They also operate a thrift shop for used furniture, a food pantry, and a Kosher Meals on Wheels program. The food pantry was established in 2007 and, in 2009, it joined the Ocean/Monmouth County Food Bank which made it possible to receive federal and state donated foods (Jewish Family and Children's Service, online).

### ***Mayors Health Initiative***

The Mayors Health Initiative, based on the statewide Mayors Wellness Campaigns, hosts the Asbury Park Field Day to get people moving, prevent disease, and encourage healthy living. They held their second annual field day in May 2012 (Mulshine, 2012. May 3). Asbury Park builds on the statewide program and has developed a more expanded vision (Asbury Park Mayor's Ball Foundation).

### ***Mercy Center - Family Resource Center***

The Mercy Center, founded by the Sisters of Mercy, offers a one-stop Family Resource Center providing emergency services to prevent homelessness including a food pantry, programs for youth, substance abuse, family outreach, assistance for parents, and a women's group. The Family Resource Center, established in 1997, is located on Main Street and serves the community through its mission of providing people with the resources necessary to overcome life's burdens. The Family Resource Center provides an Adolescent Social Skills Program, Adult Substance Abuse Prevention Program, Adult Anger Management Group, Counseling for Children, Family Outreach Program, Individual and Family Counseling, Internet Access, Parent Aide Program, Parenting Education, Teen Anger Management Program, Teen Male Substance Abuse Program, and a Women's Support Group (Mercy Center, online). The Family Outreach Program supervises and supports the Family Workers of the Asbury Park and Neptune preschool centers by strengthening their relationship with the preschool centers and assisting parents.

Family Workers are fully credentialed through the Rutgers Center for Families. In-home services are provided for families through Mercy's Parent Aid Program (Mercy Center, online). The food pantry at Mercy Center was established in 1986 and serves over 5,000 people every year providing food to families based on size, age, and cooking facilities. The Emergency Services at the Mercy Center serve offer homeless prevention and screening and referral programs. The Homeless Prevention program at the Mercy Center works with the Monmouth County Board of Social Services to provide rental, mortgage, and utility assistance (Mercy Center, online).

#### ***Monmouth County Cancer Coalition***

The Monmouth Cancer Coalition is a volunteer organization and its mission is to increase awareness, education and access to cancer screening and care. The Monmouth Cancer Coalition sponsors annual oral cancer screening events to raise awareness about oral cancer and its risks ("*Monmouth Cancer Coalition Presents*," 2012). Screenings are held at a variety of venues including senior centers, hospitals, clinics and family practices. The Coalition is funded by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Office with the VNA of Central Jersey acting as grant recipient (Monmouth County Cancer Coalition, online).

#### ***Monmouth County Health Department***

The Monmouth County Health Department runs a variety of programs to promote better health. Their Health Education Reaching Others (HERO) program makes speakers available on a variety of health care topics from bed bugs to family disaster planning. The department offers free lead testing and immunizations for children and adults, free chest x-rays, \$10.00 mantoux testing, tuberculosis case management, and, at the Neptune branch (about a 20-minute bus ride away), free pap smears and breast exams and an STD clinic with examination, treatment, and education services. At the Freehold location, they provide eye screenings (about an hour away including a bus transfer). With the Monmouth County Cancer Coalition, they provide education and awareness of cancer along with screenings and services (Monmouth County Cancer Coalition, online; "Monmouth County Cancer Fact Sheet," 2008). The Department provides referrals if additional services are needed. MCHD also offers physician services, a lead poisoning prevention program, child health home visits program, and hypertension screenings.

#### ***Monmouth Medical Center***

Located in Long Branch, Monmouth Medical Center is one of New Jersey's largest academic medical centers. It is a Barnabas Health facility that provides comprehensive services for medicine and surgery, as well as community services. These community services include offering support groups in behavioral health, living with cancer, weight loss, diabetes, parental and adolescent needs, Alzheimer's caregiver support, celiac, pediatric diseases, stroke survivors, and tobacco dependence. Other community services include referral programs and community outreach and education through a speaker's bureau (Monmouth Medical Center, online).

#### ***School Based Youth Services Program at Asbury Middle and High Schools***

The Visiting Nurse Association's School Based Youth Services Program at Asbury High School, called The Spot, provides primary and mental health care and a broad array of services for students. The Spot provides programming that supports and guides students through successful high school careers. Nearly 300 students are enrolled in the program and about 60 students are seen daily. The services are primarily for high school students, but they provide services to those in charter and alternative schools. Some of the most popular services include weekly lunch talks, teenage outreach services which runs a club four days a

week based off a curriculum from the Central New Jersey Perinatal Consortium, and the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program. Recently they teamed up with JAG, Jobs for America's Graduates (also within the school's walls) to better coordinate job trainings and help with summer employment (Interview, 2013).

### ***The Center - AIDS Hospice***

The Center, an AIDS Hospice, is located on Third Avenue and serves homeless individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Its facilities were expanded in 2005 to support and house twenty-five single adults in fully furnished studio apartments. To qualify for residency, individuals must meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development criteria which includes 4 requirements: (1) Homelessness; (2) Income eligibility for Monmouth County Section 8; (3) Living with HIV/AIDS; and, (4) disabled. Once qualified, an individual has access to The Center's facilities. The facilities advertised on their website include 24-hour security, secure parking lots, courtyards, communal dining, library with 4 computers, free laundry on-site, 3 meals a day Monday through Friday, and dinner on Saturday and Sunday. The supportive services include individual and group counseling and case management. The Center also helps people access services at other organizations, such as treatment adherence, home health attendants, medical transportation, life skills courses, and outpatient or partial day treatment programs. There are four HIV/AIDS comprehensive programs in Asbury Park and they provide services for people across Monmouth County but transportation to the services is a problem. (Interview, 2013, The Center, online).

### ***Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), Community Health Center of Asbury Park (FQHC)***

The Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey Community Health Center is a nurse-managed center that opened in 1994 to provide comprehensive accessible healthcare for Asbury residents. It operates in partnership with Jersey Shore Medical Center and the County Health Department. The Center offers primary and preventative care to about 5,000 patients. Many patients use Medicaid or are uninsured and use a sliding pay scale to pay out of pocket. The center provides a comprehensive suite of services and provides language translation. They strive to be their patients primary care facility and offer: adult and family medicine, women's health care, prenatal care, flu shots, cancer screenings, weekly weight classes, men's health care, dental care, pediatric care, podiatry, pharmaceutical program, and mental health. The VNA and the health center sponsor community programs for their uninsured or underinsured patients such as health screenings like the Cancer Education and Early Detection, prostate exams, pap smears, pelvic exams and mammogram screenings. The health center offers a Pharmaceutical Program which helps patients access affordable medication programs through programs such as 3040B. A case manager helps fill out the application and monitors services. VNACJ Health Center does outreach at the Asbury Park Annual Night Out, health fairs, radio shows, and newspaper ads. Residents also hear about the center through word-of-mouth and referrals from other organizations. The city's community organizations work together to increase trust and build a network of services. They have created relationships with the Mercy Center, Interfaith Neighbors, The Center, The Chamber of Commerce, Pastoral Alliance, Gateway, The Tiffany House and many more (VNACJ Facebook; Interviews, 2012).

Their Healthy Families program links 180 pregnant women to resources. A trained Family Support Worker visits weekly to monthly with pregnant women before and up to 3 months after birth, for up to three years, to provide parenting education and support childhood development. Monmouth County supplements these services through its TIP program to offer assistance to mothers with more than one child who receive public assistance (Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey; Interview, 2013). The Nurse-Family Partnership, provided through the VNA pairs a nurse with a first-time mother. Each partnership is individualized to help improve infant health outcomes. Services include everything from basic education, to assistance for welfare and taxes. Through the Ryan White Program, they provide primary care, testing, case and medication management, and counseling for those living with HIV or AIDS.

The CHC provides healthcare for many but there are challenges in reaching specialty providers. After identifying a major medical issue, it is very hard to find specialists to treat Medicaid or uninsured patients. Case management is important but they are not reimbursed for those services. Even though they have had electronic medical records for many years, it is still difficult to coordinate referrals and test results with other offices and testing sites. It is often a long process getting back information about clients because the systems are not universal. Finally, even patients who have and use prescription financial assistance struggle to pay for often-times expensive prescriptions. For example, even reduced diabetes medication can cost more than fifty dollars for one prescription, causing many needy patients to slowly cut back on the medication. The patients wind up back in hospitals for diabetic shock, because they cannot afford the medicine that can keep them healthy. This center is busy and has wait lists for primary and dental services. They believe this is a sign that they need to expand their services but they also know that they are still missing members of the community suggesting the unmet need is even greater (Linington, 2013).

### **Outstanding Health Needs**

Interviews identified some barriers to healthcare including high cost, a lack of local specialty providers, long waits for services, and insufficient transportation. Health services and organizational infrastructures are hard to navigate especially for certain groups such as: non-English speaking immigrants, older residents, and single mothers. The lack of transportation is an especially challenging issue given that most of the specialty providers are located outside of Asbury Park. People complained that the transportation services were sometimes late. And people with small children may not be able to bring them on these transportation services making it very difficult for women with small children to attend medical appointments. Undocumented immigrants have increased the demand for services at the city's health clinics and also need bilingual services (MAPP Focus Group Report, 2006).

### **Transportation**

Lack of transportation services to primary and specialty care health services throughout Monmouth County is a barrier to receiving health care. For those in the city, connections to Neptune and Freehold are particularly important, as these are the locations for some of the major regional healthcare providers. For those outside, transportation into the city would improve access to Asbury Park's comprehensive HIV/AIDS programs (Interviews, 2013). Check-Mate Inc. offers a Mobile Health Unit for HIV/AIDS patients in Asbury Park and Monmouth County who cannot take time off from work, travel, pay for services, or have other barriers such as language issues (Check-Mate Inc. Annual Report, 2009). Although VNA's Healthy Families and TIP program's services are provided in the home, they also connect mothers to community services. Revel's noted that mothers might need a ride to a doctor's appointment or to run errands, but their staff are not allowed to provide transportation (Revels, 2013). Transportation and access to primary care, specialty care, free clinics, and other health care services offered in Asbury Park and Monmouth County would help residents achieve healthy outcomes for the same reasons why the Check-Mate Inc.'s Mobile Health Unit has been successful. It allows broader access to health services to underserved populations who otherwise go untreated.

### **Crime**

Crime in Asbury Park is a barrier to accessing health care. Access to certain streets on the West Side is limited because people are afraid to be subjected to gang violence (Civic Media Arts Project). While the city is walkable, it may difficult to gain access to services outside of the neighborhood. Living in an area with gang violence also can induce stress, anxiety and depression. Often these residents fear for their own safety and the safety of their children. Some community organizations, such as Interfaith Neighbors, work on crime issues and help by providing a car to Citizens On Patrol which runs community police patrols and has a presence at the city's new police substation at the Springwood Center. The Asbury Park Community Development Initiative, a network of public and private organizations, whose mission is to provide youth employment opportunities and mentors for at-risk youth, also works to reduce crime and gang violence.

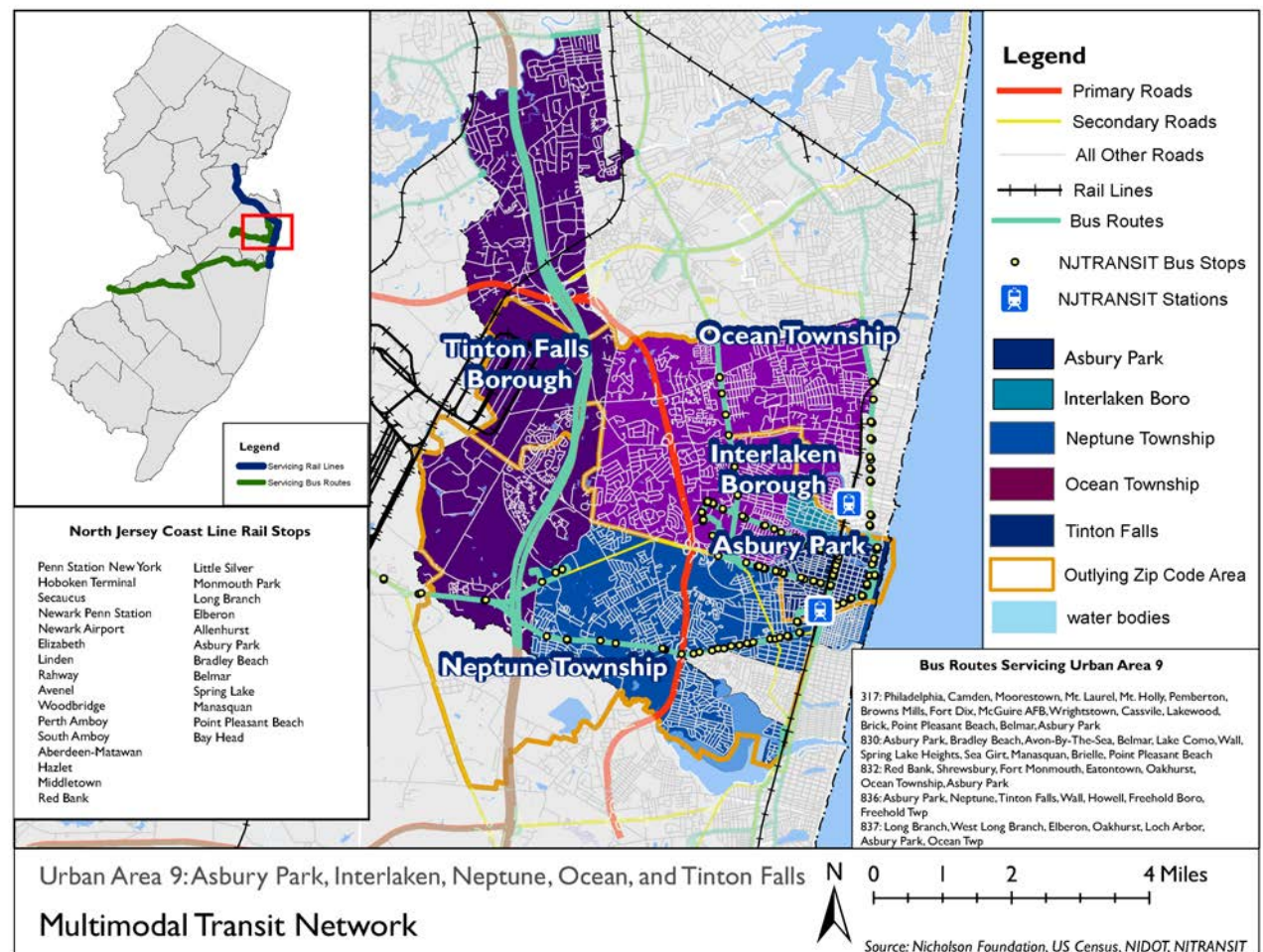
Although this initiative is relatively new, it has a lot of support from community organizations. Mentoring at-risk youth and providing job opportunities offers supervision, a positive influence, and helps youths overcome peer pressure (Interview, 2013).

### Mental Health Services

While there are great referral programs and a partial hospitalization facility for severe mental illness in Asbury Park, many organizations have noted there is a need for additional funding to support and expand current mental health services. The Boys and Girls Club is currently looking for funding to employ someone accredited with a MSW and a counseling background to provide youth mental health counseling services. The VNA is also looking for funding to expand their mental health services (interview, 2013). One of the difficulties for the VNA is providing case management for their mental health services. These organizations will likely be competing for the same funding pool to provide these resources.

## Transportation

The North Jersey line of the New Jersey Transit rail service makes a stop in Asbury Park and, with a transfer at the Long Branch station, can reach New York City, a trip of about an hour and forty minutes. The area is served by several local bus routes (the 832 and 837 were reintroduced to the area in 2009 after thirty years with no service) as well as the 317 NJTRANSIT bus line to Philadelphia. Asbury Park uses public transportation availability as a stimulus for tourism. According to officials from NJTRANSIT, the restoration of local bus routes to Asbury Park was primarily intended to generate more customer revenue for the businesses located in the historic boardwalk and downtown beach district (NJTRANSIT, 2009). In the focus area, there some public transportation options. The NJ Transit station is located near the center of the focus area and offers easy access, especially because of Asbury Park's size, to those wishing to





travel outside of Asbury Park. Bus stops are primarily located along First Avenue, Springwood Avenue, Main Street and Cookman Avenue. Again, due to its physical size, only roughly 1.5 square miles, Asbury Park is walkable (NJOIT).

## Community Organizations

### Overview Discussion

The organizations are located mostly in the central business district; only three are in the focus area west of the railroad. Many of the organizations support and collaborate by sharing resources and providing referrals. There have been efforts to compile lists of the organizations and to share the lists with residents. The organizations range from food pantries to a community development corporation to organizations that offer job training and placement services. Several, such as the Asbury Park Department of Social Services and Monmouth/Ocean HIV Consortium of Central Jersey Community Services, provide direct health services.

### List and Short Description of Other Organizations

#### **Abunda Life Church** (<http://www.abundalife.com/>)

*Abunda Life Church* provides medical nutrition testing, retreat, and clinic for a fee. Services are specialized in naturopathic detoxification.

#### **Affordable Housing Alliance, formerly “Monmouth Housing Alliance”** (<http://www.housingall.com/>)

The Affordable Housing Alliance was founded with an RWJ grant to produce housing for people with disabilities and others who lacked it.

#### **Allen Chapel A.M. E. (African Methodist Episcopal Church)** (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Allen-Chapel-AME-Church-Asbury-Park/159237330805662>)

The Allen Chapel hosts a women’s group, Narcotics Anonymous meetings, and provides domestic violence counseling. It also shares information on health screenings and issues via Facebook.

#### **Asbury Park Chamber of Commerce** (<http://www.asburyparkchamber.com/>)

The Asbury Park Chamber of Commerce works with the Monmouth County Workforce Development Board to provide training and job access for youth (Ackerman, 2012).

#### **Asbury Park Community Development Initiative**(<https://www.facebook.com/AsburyParkCDI>)

The Community Development Initiative is a network of public and private organizations whose mission is to provide youth employment opportunities and mentors for at risk youth.

#### **Asbury Park Deliverance Center**

**Asbury Park Department of Social Services** ([www.cityofasburypark.com](http://www.cityofasburypark.com))

The Asbury Park City Department of Social Services provides a broad spectrum of services include: mental health crisis intervention, assessment for medical and psychiatric crisis, referral services, and senior citizen services ("Community Resource Guide", 2008).

**Asbury Park Evangelistic Chapel**

**Asbury Park High School/School Based Youth Services Program**

(<http://www.vnahg.org/School-Based-Youth-Services.aspx>)

Located at Asbury Park High School, the school based youth services program helps high school students acquire job skills and employment and works to prevent adolescent suicide, drug use and teen pregnancy.

**Asbury Park Homeowners Association** (<http://aphomeowners.org/>)

The Asbury Park Homeowners Association provides homeowners with a means to develop programs and special projects to enhance the quality of life in the city. Some achievements of the association include the organization of a "Quality of Life" campaign to help improve the school system and the creation of a historic trust fund.

**Asbury Park Multi-Purpose Senior Center and Nutrition Program**

Services of the senior center include health information and referrals, general assessment of health, meals in cooperation with Interfaith Neighbors Inc., transportation, and recreational activities to promote well-being of older persons ("Community Resource Guide", 2008).

**Asbury Park/Neptune Ministers' Alliance**

(<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Asbury-Park-Neptune-Ministers-Alliance/414906575204504>)

Organizes a "Stop the Violence Summer Program" and is a participant in the Asbury Park Community Development Initiative ("Asbury Park CDI Participant Roster", 2011).

**Asbury Park/Neptune NAACP** (<http://www.asburyparkneptunenaacp.com>)

Unit 2076 of the NAACP works to fight for the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons. Most regular meetings are conducted in the Neptune Library.

**Atonement Lutheran Church** (<http://www.atonementlutheranchurch.com/>)

Provides a food pantry to supplement the diets of low income and elderly persons.

**Ballard United Methodist Church** (<http://ballardumc.webs.com/>)

Operates a thrift shop for clothing, accessories, and household items and is a participant in the Asbury Park Community Development Initiative ("Asbury Park CDI Participant Roster", 2011).

**Bethel A.M.E. Church** (<http://www.ame-church.com/directory/results.php?ChurchID=01040401>)

**Big Brothers Big Sisters** ([www.bgcmonmouth.org](http://www.bgcmonmouth.org))

Provides professionally supported 1-to-1 relationships for children facing adversity.

**Boys and Girls Club** (<http://www.bgcmonmouth.org/>)

Provides a free afterschool program and is a participant in the Asbury Park Community Development Initiative ("Asbury Park CDI Participant Roster", 2011).

**Brookdale Community College - Learning Center** (<http://www.brookdalecc.edu>)

Community College Resource Center provides public access to a computer featuring New Jersey's One-Stop Career Center ("Community Resource Guide", 2008).

**Cathedral Assembly by the Shore**

**Catholic Charities** (<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/>)

Catholic Charities provides child and family therapy, out patient counseling, addiction treatment, case management, transportation, and babysitting ("Community Resource Guide", 2008).

**CDF Freedom Schools Program** (<http://www.childrensdefense.org/programs-campaigns/freedom-schools/>)

**Center for Vocational Rehabilitation** (<http://www.cvrus.org/>)

Provides employment programs for people with disabilities such as job placement, coaching, and training. It offers mental health programs including an adult partial care program, individual and group counseling, medication monitoring, and psychiatric evaluation and assessment.

**Check-Mate, Inc.** (<http://www.check-mateinc.org>)

Assists community residents in becoming self-sufficient through programs including a shelter for the homeless, housing and home energy assistance, HIV mobile counseling and testing, emergency services, and job placement.

**Coastal Habitat for Humanity** (<http://www.coastalhabitat.org>)

Coastal Habitat for Humanity builds affordable housing with the mission to eliminate poverty and homelessness ("Coastal Habitat for Humanity", 2012).

**Community Affairs and Resource Center**, formerly "Hispanic Affairs and Resource Center" (<http://carcnj.org/>)

Community Affairs and Resource Center is a social service agency that provides job training and placement, community advocacy, and community development activities. Some of their services include teaching English as a second language, orientation and referral services for victims of domestic violence, support groups, home health aide training, and energy assistance.

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

An advocacy group that provides legal and non-legal services for persons affected by disabilities.

**Community YMCA Family Services** (<http://www.cymca.org/>)

Family services has two locations in Matawan and Neptune City that provide outpatient mental health, substance abuse treatment, AIDS counseling and education, and in home treatment for families and children.

**Epiphany House** ([www.epiphanyhouse.org](http://www.epiphanyhouse.org))

New Hope runs Epiphany House, a transitional and outpatient facility for women with dependent children, who are dealing with drug abuse and dependency.

**Faith Baptist Tabernacle Church**

Faith Baptist Church is a participant in the Asbury Park Community Development Initiative ("Asbury Park CDI Participant Roster", 2011).

**Faith Based Initiative Human Development Group** (<http://www.fbihdg.com>)

A non-profit agency that provides resource and referral services for residents in the areas of social services, education, housing, training, work development and health. It offers job readiness training, placement, and counseling.

**First Church of Christ**

**First French Speaking Church**

**First Hispanic Presbyterian**

**First Methodist United Church**

Church provides a food pantry, hot dinners for individuals and families, and free clothes for adults and children.

**Friendship Baptist Church**

**Good Hope Baptist Church**

**Habcore Laurel House** ([www.habcore.org](http://www.habcore.org))

A boarding home that provides housing for low-income and homeless adults.

### **Haitian Church Of God**

Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are conducted at this church ("Community Resource Guide", 2008).

### **Haitian Community Holy Spirit**

#### **Holy Spirit Church**

This church provides a food collection program.

#### **Interfaith Neighbors** (<http://www.interfaithneighbors.org/>)

Community development organization that does neighborhood planning, housing development, and provides mid-day meals for senior citizen center and meals-on-wheels for seniors, as well as rental assistance for Monmouth County residents ("Community Resource Guide", 2008).

#### **Jane H. Booker Family Health Center** (<http://www.jerseyshoreuniversitymedicalcenter.com/JSUMC/services/FamilyHealthCenter.cfm>)

The Jane H. Booker Family Health Center, located in Neptune, provides comprehensive services for medicine and surgery, pediatrics, OB/GYN, infectious disease, dentistry, and a variety of other services and referrals.

#### **Jersey Shore Addiction Services** ([www.jsashc.org](http://www.jsashc.org))

Jersey Shore Addiction Services is a non-profit that provides substance abuse treatment and counseling.

#### **Jersey Shore University Medical Center** (<http://www.jerseyshoreuniversitymedicalcenter.com>)

#### **Jersey Shore Rescue** (<http://www.jsrescue.org/>)

Provides a homeless shelter emergency program to fulfill basic needs including food, shelter, clothing, charitable items, and referrals.

#### **Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Monmouth County** (<http://www.jfcsmonmouth.org>)

Operates a thrift shop for used furniture, a food pantry, and a Kosher Meals on Wheels program. It also provides intensive outpatient treatment For Drug & Alcohol Addiction, personal and family counseling, psychotherapy, parent education, emergency financial service, and referrals.

#### **Just Becuz, LLC**

Provides emergency food and clothing, life and job skills for middle and high school youth, and programs to increase self-respect and respect of others.

#### **Loving Care Agency** (<http://lovingcareagency.com/>)

The Loving Care Agency is a fully accredited and certified home care agency for pediatric, adult, and geriatric patients. Its home health aides support each patient with daily activities and work in collaboration with the patient, families, and physician.

**L.T.C. Career Training** (<http://www.ltccareertraining.com/nj/>)

A private vocational school that provides medical training to become a certified nursing assistant or certified home health aide.

**Mercy Center - Family Resource Center (FRC)** (<http://www.mercycenternj.org>)

A one stop family resource center providing emergency services to prevent homelessness , a food pantry, programs for youth, substance abuse, family outreach, assistance for parents, and a women's group. The Mercy Center is also associated with the Sisters Academy Middle School ("Community Resource Guide", 2008).

**Monmouth County Cancer Coalition** (<http://www.monmouthcancercoalition.org>)

The Monmouth Cancer Coalition is a volunteer organization with a mission to increase awareness, education and access to cancer screening and care. The Monmouth Cancer Coalition sponsors annual oral cancer screening events to raise awareness about oral cancer and its risks ("*Monmouth Cancer Coalition Presents*," 2012).

**Monmouth County Workforce Development Board** (<http://www.co.monmouth.nj.us/page.aspx?Id=2712>)

Works with the Asbury Park Chamber of Commerce to provide job training for local youth (Ackerman, 2012).

**Monmouth/Ocean HIV Consortium of Central Jersey Community Services**

Provides advocacy, outreach, referrals, and case management services for those infected with HIV ("Community Resource Guide", 2008).

**Monmouth Medical Center**

Located in Long Branch, the Monmouth Medical Center is one of New Jersey's largest academic medical centers. It is a Barnabas Health facility that provides comprehensive services for medicine and surgery, as well as community services in the Monmouth County area.

**Mount Pisgah Baptist Temple**

Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are conducted at this church ("Community Resource Guide", 2008).

**Nation of Gods and Earth** (<http://www.allahsnation.net/>)

**Nation of Islam** (<http://www.noi.org>)

**New Covenant Sounds of Praise**

**New Jersey Youth Corps (Interfaith Neighbors, Inc.)** ([http://www.interfaithneighbors.org/nj\\_youth\\_corp\\_of\\_monmouth\\_county.asp](http://www.interfaithneighbors.org/nj_youth_corp_of_monmouth_county.asp))

Part of Interfaith Neighbors, Inc., this program provides GED preparation and job training for youth (ages 16-25). This program is sponsored by Department of Labor and Workforce Training ("Community Resource Guide", 2008).

### **Original Tabernacle Of Prayer**

**Our Lady Of Mount Carmel Church** (<http://olmcapnj.org/>)

### **Police-Chaplain Ministry**

Collaboration of Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, police and clergy. The church volunteers ride with the police and work with young people rather than arresting them. The youth do community service and the minister keeps track of them. The effort is intended to build trust with the community (Ackerman, 2012).

### **Praise Temple**

**Prevention First** (<http://www.preventionfirst.net>)

A non-profit agency dedicated to empowering children and families to successfully overcome challenges such as violence and substance abuse. Programs include advocacy, coalition-building, research, prevention education, information and referral, and professional certification training.

### **Purpose at Heart**

**Salvation Army** ([www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org))

Provides emergency food assistance, referral services, thrift shop, seasonal assistance, disaster services, worship services, and senior citizen activities ("Community Resource Guide", 2008).

**Second Baptist Church** (<http://www.sbcapnj.org/>)

Provides a food pantry to supplement food and clothing needs for residents of Asbury Park West Side community and is a participant in the Asbury Park Community Development Initiative ("Asbury Park CDI Participant Roster", 2011).

### **Shiloh United Holy Church**

The Shiloh Community Fellowship of the Shiloh United Holy Church is a participant in the Asbury Park Community Development Initiative ("Asbury Park CDI Participant Roster", 2011).

**S.T.A.R.S. Community Development Corporation of Asbury Park**

Provides workforce development training and community advocacy and education ("Community Resource Guide", 2008).

**St. Augustine Episcopal Church** (<http://www.staugapnj.org/>)

Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are conducted at this church.



**St. George Greek Orthodox Church** (<http://www.stgeorgeap.org/>)

Provides a soup kitchen for the homeless.

**St. Peter Claver Church**

**St. Stephen A.M.E. Zion Church**

**Tabernacle Of Glory Church** (<http://www.tabofglory.org/>)

**The Center** ([www.thecenterinap.com](http://www.thecenterinap.com))

Provides support services for people and families affected by HIV/AIDS through housing programs, nutrition programs, referral services, transportation services, and outreach.

**The New Black Panther Party**

**Trinity Episcopal Church** (<http://www.trinitynj.com/>)

Provides a food pantry and soup kitchen. Soup Kitchen can serve up to 220 guests each Saturday. Narcotics Anonymous Or Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are conducted at this church.

**Triumphant Life Church**

Church is a participant in the Asbury Park Community Development Initiative ("Asbury Park CDI Participant Roster", 2011).

**True Vine Baptist Church** (<http://www.truevinebaptist.com/>)

**United Fellowship Baptist Church** (<http://www.unitedfellowshipchurch.org>)

**United Methodist Church**

Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are conducted at this church ("Community Resource Guide", 2008).

**Veterans Service** (<http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/njguide>)

Administers a variety of benefits and services for veterans including health care entitlements, home ownership benefits, employment benefits, and homeless veterans programs.

**VFW POST 1333** (<http://www.vfwwebcom.org/nj/post1333>)

Hosts Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

### **Victory Tabernacle of Prayer**

#### **Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), Community Health Center of Asbury Park (FQHC)** (<http://www.vnachc.org/>)

A federally qualified health center with multilingual health care professionals providing services in adult and family medicine, women's health care, men's health care, pediatric care from newborns to teens, podiatry, mental health, HIV/AIDS services, nutritional counseling, and dentistry.

#### **West Side Community Center**

Community center provides mostly recreational services and hosts Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Center is a participant in the Asbury Park Community Development Initiative ("Asbury Park CDI Participant Roster", 2011).

#### **Winifred Camright House** (<http://www.njaconline.org/16.html>)

Provides transitional housing, healthcare and supportive services to the homeless and holds Narcotics Anonymous meetings.

#### **Wizewordz Ent.**

Organizes a Community Performing Arts Group and is a participant in the Asbury Park Community Development Initiative ("Wizewordz Entertainment Presents," 2010).

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