



The most currently available statistical data directly reflects the staggering challenges faced by the vulnerable and economically disadvantaged families we serve throughout Southeast Queens. These barriers greatly affect the cognitive, emotional and social development of our children and youth and restrict their access to the educational and career resources so needed for life-long success.

GENERATIONAL POVERTY

- In Jamaica, **9%** of Jamaica residents are unemployed and **22.8%** of households had annual incomes under \$25k¹. Almost one in five single-parent households in Jamaica -- ***specifically single mothers*** -- are living below the poverty level².
- Almost one in three Far Rockaway households had a total annual income of under \$25,000³ and **34%** of children residing in Far Rockaway are living below the poverty level⁴. FR also reports a **14%** unemployment rate (almost double the national rate of **7.8%**⁵). Over **35%** of residents require financial support, including cash assistance (TANF), supplemental security and Medicaid.⁶
- One in four Woodhaven/Ozone Park/Howard Beach residents had annual incomes under \$25k⁷. Approximately **21.8%** of female-headed households in Woodhaven/Ozone Park/Howard Beach also report living below the poverty level.

¹ U.s Census Bureau, Decennial Census Summary File 3, 2000; American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2010; U.s Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year Estimates, 2012; Citizens' Committee for Children analysis, 2012; ¹ U.s Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey Population Division- NYC Department of City Planning (Nov 2011)

² U.s Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey Population Division- NYC Department of City Planning (Nov 2011)

³ 2007-2009 American Community Survey Three Year Estimates

⁴ Citizens' Committee for Children analysis, 2012

⁵ U.s Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey Population Division- NYC Department of City Planning (Nov 2011); Bureau of Labor Statistics

⁶ U.s Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey Population Division- NYC Department of City Planning (Nov 2011)

⁷ U.s Census Bureau, Decennial Census Summary File 3, 2000; American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2010; U.s Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year Estimates, 2012; Citizens' Committee for Children analysis, 2012; ⁷ U.s Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey Population Division- NYC Department of City Planning (Nov 2011)

CHILD ABUSE AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

- **11,791 reports of child abuse** or neglect in Queens were investigated by ACS during 2010. These reports impacted a staggering **17,989 children**⁸ (an average of 786 reports per Queens community district). Far Rockaway's district, however, had almost double the borough average (1,320 reports) and Jamaica's had almost triple (2,155).⁹ When compiling data from all three neighborhoods that Safe Space serves, it becomes clear that over **43%** of child abuse reports made in Queens last year took place in our communities.

MATERNAL / CHILD HEALTH FACTORS

- **Teen Pregnancy:** Teenage Live Births (ages 15-19) in Southeast Queens, including Far Rockaway (**10.4%**), Jamaica (**8.5%**) and Woodhaven (**6.6%**) significantly exceeded the overall rates for Queens County (**5.5%**),¹⁰ New York City (**6.2 %**) and Brooklyn (**6.1%**).¹¹
- **Lack of Prenatal Care:** **12.4%** of pregnant women in Far Rockaway do not receive the necessary prenatal care to ensure healthy child development and growth during the early stages of pregnancy¹². This is approximately **3%** higher than Jamaica's dismal prenatal rates of **9.1%**¹³. Lack of prenatal care in Far Rockaway is almost twice the Woodhaven and Howard Beach rates of **6.3%** and **6.8%**¹⁴. **17.2%** of female adolescents (age 15-17 years-old) receive late or no prenatal care treatment compared to their older female counterparts throughout Queens County¹⁵.
- **Low Birth Weight:** Jamaica is ranked as one of the top five community districts with the highest percentage of low birth weights,¹⁶ based on **11.6%** of new born Jamaica babies being born in 2010 with low birth weights, significantly exceeding the New York Citywide rate of **8.8%**.¹⁷ **10%** of infants were born with low birth rate in both Howard Beach and Far Rockaway.¹⁸
- **Infant Mortality:** Although thankfully, infant mortality rates have dropped over the past 10 years, this issue remains a serious concern in our neighborhoods. The Jamaica rate of **7.3%**¹⁹ for this category ranks as the second highest in Queens.

⁸ NYC Administration for Children's Services 2010 Abuse/Neglect Report by Community District

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2010

¹¹ http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2010

¹² http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2010

¹³ 2007-2009 American Survey Three Year Estimates

¹⁴ http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2010

¹⁵ http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2010

¹⁶ http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2010

¹⁷ http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/

¹⁸ http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2010

¹⁹ http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2010

UNDER-PERFORMING SCHOOLS

- Every nine seconds a student drops out of high school in America²⁰. Our communities fare among the worse when compared to the overall NYC average graduation rate of **65%**.²¹
- Jamaica High School graduation rates are as low as **45%**.²² Less than **18%** of students both from Jamaica and Hillcrest High Schools are equipped for academic success in college.²³
- Far Rockaway's Beach Channel Beach Channel graduation rate was even lower at **40%**.²⁴ **Only 2%** of students from Beach Channel are prepared for college.²⁵ **71%** of adults from Far Rockaway age 25 and older were high school dropouts, and only **23%** of ninth and tenth grade students were enrolled in school.²⁶ Approximately **one in nine** adults from Far Rockaway received less than a ninth grade education.²⁷
- Students from Richmond Hill had a dropout rate of **31%** for the 2010-2011 academic year.²⁸ Richmond Hill High School performance rates have plummeted significantly, ranking in the **12th** percentile opposed to the 2009-2010 academic year, which ranked in the **20% percentile**.²⁹

GANGS/ VIOLENCE / JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT

- Not surprisingly, all of the factors listed above often prevent our youth from reaching their potential and they turn to the street culture for a sense of belonging and empowerment.
- During 2010, 627 youth from throughout Queens were admitted to juvenile detention facilities. Of these, over 40% were from Jamaica and Far Rockaway's community

²⁰ National High School Center: Quick Fact Sheet

²¹ Department of Education; http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/mediarelations/NewsandSpeeches/2011-2012/Grad_Rates_20120611.htm

²² Edelman, S., & Tanzer, J. (2012, September 9). New York City's Best High Schools. *New York Post*, pp. 15-20.

²³ Edelman, S., & Tanzer, J. (2012, September 9). New York City's Best High Schools. *New York Post*, pp. 15-20.

²⁴ Edelman, S., & Tanzer, J. (2012, September 9). New York City's Best High Schools. *New York Post*, pp. 15-20.

²⁵ Edelman, S., & Tanzer, J. (2012, September 9). New York City's Best High Schools. *New York Post*, pp. 15-20.

²⁶ U.s Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey Population Division- NYC Department of City Planning (Nov 2011)

²⁷ U.s Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey Population Division- NYC Department of City Planning (Nov 2011)

²⁸ Edelman, S., & Tanzer, J. (2012, September 9). New York City's Best High Schools. *New York Post*, pp. 15-20.

²⁹ New York City Department of Education Scorecard 2010-2011 Progress Reports; New York City Department of Education Scorecard 2009-2010 Progress Reports

districts.³⁰ An additional 10% were from the districts we serve at our Richmond Hill site³¹. In total, over half of Queens youth sent to juvenile detention last year were from the neighborhoods we serve, even though these represent only four of the fourteen community districts in Queens.

³⁰ NYC Administration for Children's Services 2010 Community Snapshots

³¹ Ibid