

Notes on the 2007 Edition

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITIONS

This report presents information for the entire City of New York, for the five boroughs, and for the neighborhoods within each borough. The City divides the boroughs into a total of 59 community districts; the United States Census Bureau, however, divides the boroughs into 55 “sub-borough areas.” The boundaries of these two types of sub-city areas are similar, but they do not coincide perfectly. This report provides data for community districts where available but uses data at the sub-borough level for indicators not available for community districts.

Borough

New York City consists of five boroughs—Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island. Each New York City borough is also a county. Counties are legal entities with boundaries defined by state law. The Census Bureau uses boroughs as the major geographic entities in its data products for New York City.

Community District

Community districts are political units unique to New York City. Each of the 59 community districts has a Community Board whose members are appointed by the Borough President of that district; half of the members are nominated by the City Council members who represent the district. The Community Boards review applications for zoning changes and other land use proposals and make recommendations for budget priorities.

Sub-borough Area

Sub-borough areas are geographic units created by the Census Bureau for the administration of the New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey. They are designed to approximate New York’s community districts. However, because sub-borough areas are constructed from census tracts, their boundaries do not coincide precisely with community district boundaries. There are 59 community districts in New York City but only 55 sub-borough areas. The Census Bureau combined four pairs of community districts in creating the sub-borough areas to improve sampling and protect the confidentiality of respondents. These pairs are Mott

Haven/Melrose (CD 101) and Hunts Point/Longwood (CD102) in the Bronx, Morrisania/Crotona (CD103) and Belmont/East Tremont (CD 106) in the Bronx, the Financial District (CD 301) and Greenwich Village/Soho (CD 302) in Manhattan, and Clinton/Chelsea (CD 304) and Midtown (CD 305) in Manhattan.

RANKINGS

The 2007 edition of this report includes rankings of the five boroughs and all 59 community districts or 55 sub-borough areas for each indicator. The neighborhood ranked first has the highest number or percentage for the measure at issue, even if the measure is for a quality that one might think is “best” if lower. However, because data for several indicators—including all indicators drawn from United States Census Sources—are only available at the sub-borough level, these indicators are ranked out of 55 total neighborhoods. In addition, a few indicators were not available for all neighborhoods and therefore are ranked out of a subset of neighborhoods. For instance, the Furman Center only calculates the index of housing price appreciation and the median price per housing unit at the community district level for the predominant housing type in that district. Therefore these rankings are out of a substantially reduced subset of the community districts.

INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS

When reporting dollar-based indicators, we adjust amounts for all years to 2006 dollars. This allows for more consistent comparisons across years for individual indicators. The inflation-adjusted values include median monthly rent, median rent burden, median household income, and home sales prices for the index of housing price appreciation and for median price per unit.

HISTORIC DATA

Data from 1990 were unavailable for several indicators. The first years shown for these indicators are: 1992—Units Authorized by Building Permits; 1993—Notices of Foreclosure; 1994—Asthma Hospitalizations; 1995—Blood Lead Levels, Low Birth Weight; 1996—Home Purchase & Subprime Home Purchase Loan Rate, Refinance & Subprime Refinance Loan Rate.