

State of Residents: Demographics, Income, and Wellbeing

Since 2000, the population of New York City became more diverse, older, and healthier. The city's median household income showed continued signs of recovery in 2013, but remained below the 2008 peak.

1. Demographics

A) Adults made up a growing share of the city's population.

Between 2000 and 2013, the share of the city's population age 18 or older, including those aged 65 and older, grew, while the percentage under 18 declined. The proportion of the population aged 18 to 64—working age adults—grew the most, nearly two percentage points, to reach 66.0 percent of the city's population in 2013. As shown in Figure 5.1, the proportion of the population aged 65 and older grew slightly, by one percentage point, from 11.7 percent in 2000 to 12.8 percent in 2013. Children under age 18 made up over 24 percent of the city's residents in 2000 but just over 21 percent by 2013. The number of children fell as well, from 1.94 million in 2000 to 1.78 million in 2013, while the number of adults of all ages grew.

Some neighborhoods have experienced different shifts in their age distributions. Figure 5.2 depicts the change in the share of households with children in different neighborhoods. The share of households with at least one child increased between 2000 and 2011-2013 in several neighborhoods, despite the overall citywide decline in the number of children. Most of the neighborhoods that experienced an increase in the share of children were in parts of Manhattan south of 110th Street and western Brooklyn. No neighborhood experienced an increase in excess of five percentage points. In contrast, the share of households with children fell substantially, by more than five percentage points, in several sections of the city during this period—mainly in Upper Manhattan, the central and South Bronx, northwest Queens, and north and central Brooklyn.

In most neighborhoods the share of the population aged 65 and older remained stable or increased slightly between 2000 and 2011-2013. Figure 5.3 maps these changes. The

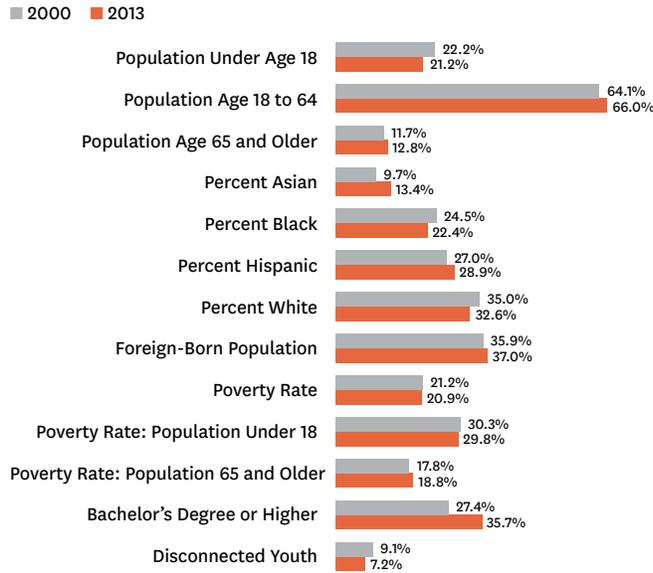
Upper East Side (MN 08) experienced the largest growth in the percentage 65 or over of just more than five percentage points, and other increases occurred in Upper Manhattan, the western Bronx, northern and eastern Brooklyn, and southern and central Staten Island. A few neighborhoods experienced minor reductions in their shares of older adults. These include Greenpoint/Williamsburg (BK 01), three neighborhoods in southwest Brooklyn, Central Harlem (MN 10), and Rego Park/Forest Hills (QN 06). Two of these neighborhoods, Central Harlem and Greenpoint/Williamsburg, also had falling shares of households with children during the same period, indicating that they experienced significant boosts in their population of working-age adults aged 18 to 64.

B) New York's population became more diverse.

From 2000 to 2013, the city's Asian and Hispanic shares of population increased while white and black shares decreased. Of the four racial and ethnic categories shown in Figure 5.1, the proportion Asian grew the most, by almost four percentage points, from 9.7 percent of the city's population in 2000 to 13.4 percent in 2013. In 2000, whites made up 35 percent of the city's population, but as a result of the subsequent demographic changes, no race or ethnicity accounted for more than a third of the total population by 2013.

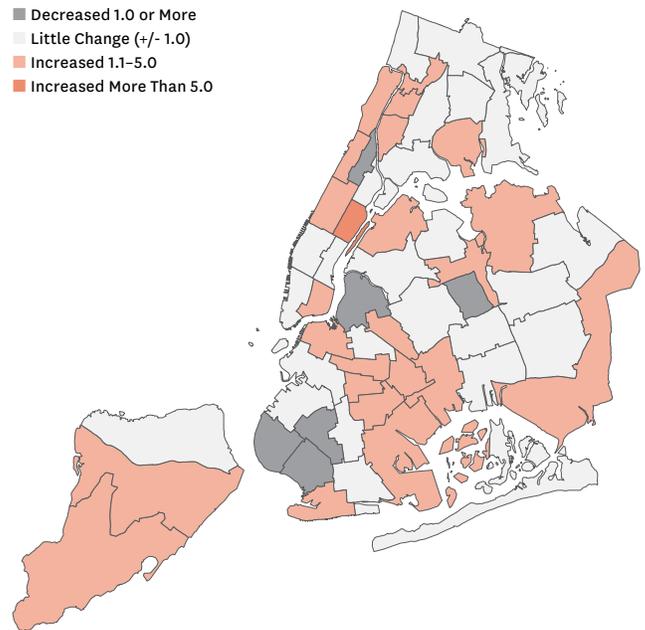
As shown in Figure 5.4, changes in the non-white share of population across community districts between 2000 and 2011-2013 were highly uneven. Northern and central Brooklyn, Upper Manhattan, and Astoria (QN 01) saw relatively large declines in their non-white population percentages during this period. Meanwhile, parts of the northern Bronx, southern Brooklyn, much of Queens, and Staten Island faced relatively large increases in their proportion non-white.

Figure 5.1: Demographic Characteristics of New Yorkers



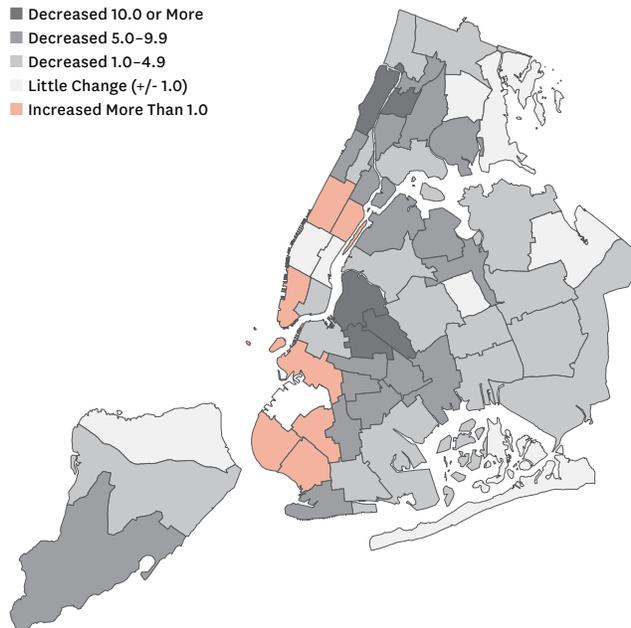
Note: The Hispanic population may be of any race, while we define the Asian, black, and white populations as being non-Hispanic.
Sources: U.S. Census (2000), American Community Survey (2013), NYU Furman Center

Figure 5.3: Percentage Point Change in Percentage of Population Age 65 and Older, 2000 to 2011-2013



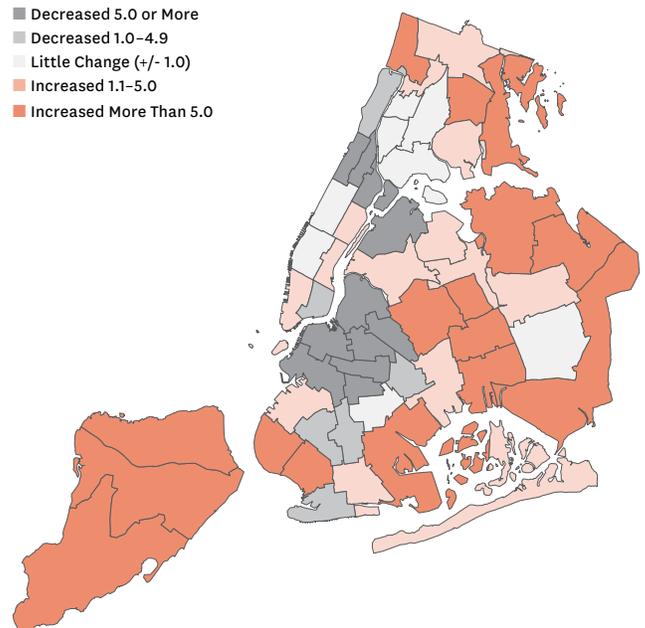
Sources: U.S. Census (2000), American Community Survey (2011-2013), NYU Furman Center

Figure 5.2: Percentage Point Change in Percentage of Households with Children Under 18, 2000 to 2011-2013



Sources: U.S. Census (2000), American Community Survey (2011-2013), NYU Furman Center

Figure 5.4: Percentage Point Change in Percent Non-White Population, 2000 to 2011-2013



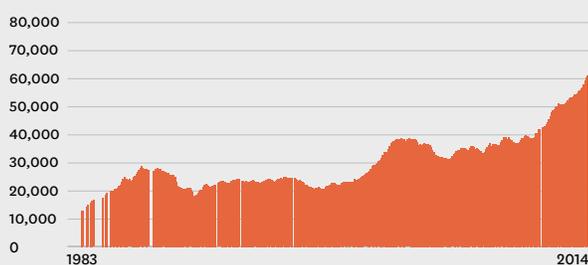
Sources: U.S. Census (2000), American Community Survey (2011-2013), NYU Furman Center

Accompanying the increase in racial and ethnic diversity in the city was a slight increase in the percentage foreign-born from 35.9 percent of the city’s population in 2000 to 37 percent in 2013, as displayed in Figure 5.1. As shown in Figure 5.5, the proportion foreign-born increased outside of Lower and central Manhattan with some clusters of large increases occurring in the South and central Bronx and western Queens. Only a handful of neighborhoods experienced declines in their share foreign-born, with the largest drop occurring in Greenpoint/Williamsburg (BK 01).

The Growth of Homelessness in New York City

The population of the city’s homeless shelters showed consistent year-over-year increases between December 2005 and December 2014. At the end of 2014, just over 60,939 people lived in a homeless shelter—roughly 7,800 more than in December 2013 and nearly 30,000 more than in December 2005. Since 1983, the city has experienced only two other major periods of growth in the homeless population—the first between 1983 and 1987, and the second between 1997 and 2003. Still, both those earlier peak levels were far lower than levels seen in 2014.

Figure: Homeless Shelter Population, New York City



Sources: New York City Department of Homeless Services, NYU Furman Center

2. Income, Poverty, and Inequality

Despite continued overall economic gains, not all New Yorkers have benefited and many continue to struggle to make ends meet. Income inequality was higher in 2013 than it was at any point over the past two decades.

A) The metropolitan area economy continued to grow.

The New York metropolitan area economy continued to grow since 2009, though at a slower rate than that of U.S. metropolitan areas as a whole, as shown in Figure 5.6. The combined gross domestic product (GDP) of all U.S. metropolitan areas grew in real terms by nine percent between 2009 and 2013, and by 2.2 percent between 2012 and 2013. At the same time, the New York metropolitan area GDP expanded less, by about 6.7 percent since 2009 and by one percent since 2012, to reach a total of \$1.378 billion in 2013, the latest year in which GDP data are available for individual metropolitan areas. Despite the growth in the regional economy, not all New Yorkers have benefited from this expansion.

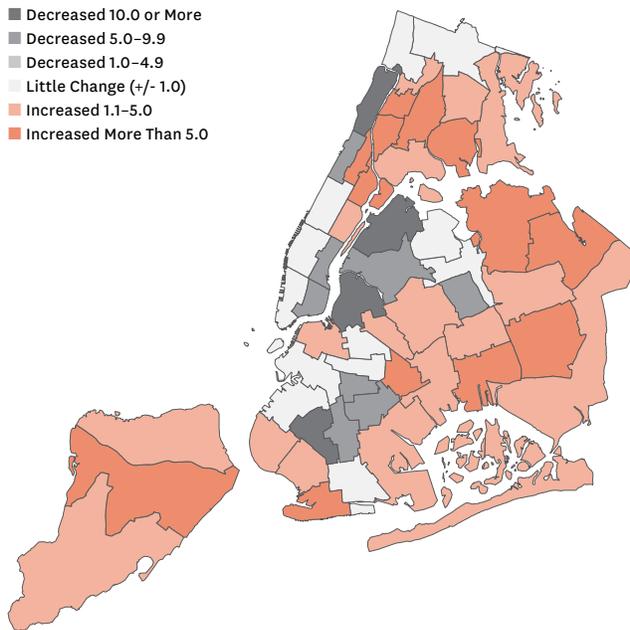
B) The typical household’s income is recovering weakly.

Even as the median household income grew slowly between 2011 and 2013, it remained well below its pre-recession peak, as seen in Figure 5.7. The inflation-adjusted income earned by the typical household in New York City grew after the early 2000s to a pre-recession high of \$56,416 in 2008, just above its 2000 level of \$56,299.¹ After last decade’s recession, the median household income fell precipitously, hitting a trough of \$51,959 in 2011. Since then, it has grown by just under one percent annually to reach \$52,914 in 2013, remaining well below pre-recession levels.

Since 2000, the majority of the city’s neighborhoods experienced declines in median household income while a handful saw some income growth. Figure 5.8 maps inflation-adjusted changes in the median household income by neighborhood between 2000 and 2011-2013. The mean decline in the median household income across all neighborhoods was about 7.3 percent over this period. In 2011-2013, many neighborhoods suffered declines that were considerably larger—with some seeing declines greater than

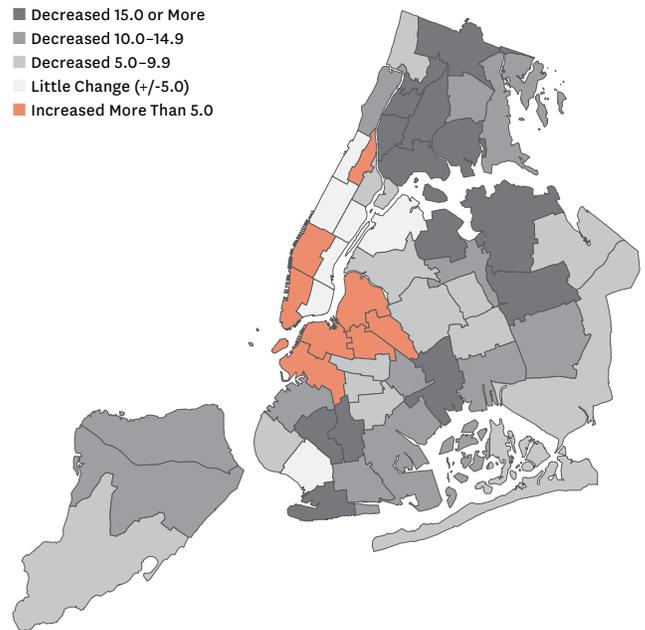
¹ Reported income in the 2000 decennial Census corresponds to income earned in 1999.

Figure 5.5: Percentage Point Change in Percentage Foreign-Born, 2000 to 2011-2013



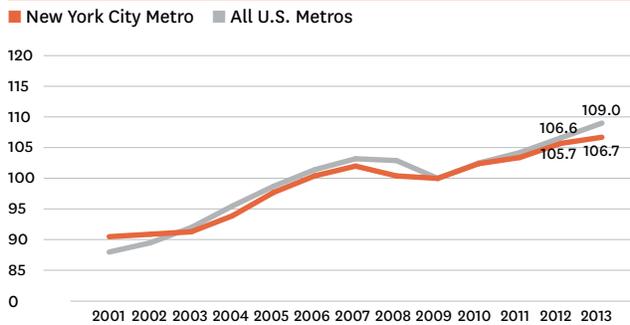
Sources: U.S. Census (2000), American Community Survey (2011-2013), NYU Furman Center

Figure 5.8: Percent Change in Sub-Borough Area Median Household Income, 2000 to 2011-2013



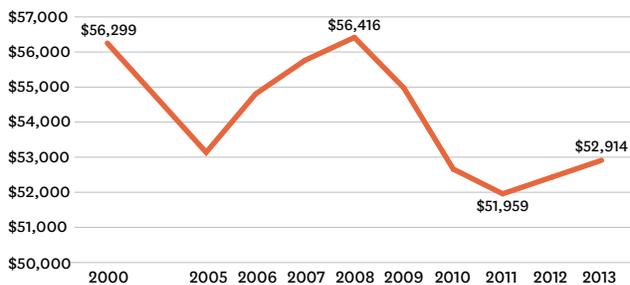
Sources: U.S. Census (2000), American Community Survey (2011-2013), NYU Furman Center

Figure 5.6: Index of Real Gross Domestic Product, All U.S. Metros vs. New York City Metro Area (Index = 100 in 2009)



Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis, NYU Furman Center

Figure 5.7: Median Household Income (2014\$), New York City



Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis, NYU Furman Center

10 percent. These areas include the South Bronx, northern Queens, southeastern Brooklyn, and northern Staten Island. Meanwhile, several neighborhoods experienced an increase in their median income in excess of five percent. These increases were concentrated in northwest Brooklyn, the west side of Manhattan south of 59th Street, and Central Harlem (MN 10). Much of the rest of Manhattan saw little change in their median household income, except for Washington Heights/Inwood (MN 12) and East Harlem (MN 09) where the median income fell.

C) The poverty rate fell slightly between 2012 and 2013.

As the median income rose slightly between 2012 and 2013, the city's poverty rate also fell marginally. Figure 5.9 plots the city's poverty rate and the rates for children and older adults between 2000 and 2013. In 2000, 21.2 percent of the city's population had an income below the federal poverty line. The poverty rate fell during the early- and mid-2000s, hitting a low of 18.2 percent in 2008. Afterward, the poverty rate grew steadily back to 21.2 percent in 2012. Since then, the poverty rate fell marginally to 20.9 percent in 2013.

The poverty rate for children under 18 and for adults 65 and older, two potentially vulnerable populations, exhibited some divergence from the dominant trends. Historically, the poverty rate for children has been higher than that for the whole population; in 2013, 29.8 percent of children were below the poverty line. Further, from 2000 to 2013, the poverty rate for children fluctuated more than the overall poverty rate. The poverty rate for older adults rose between 2000 and 2005 as the overall poverty rate fell. While the overall poverty rate started to increase after its 2008 low, the poverty rate for older adults continued to fall until 2010, when 17.2 percent of adults aged 65 and older were under the poverty line. The rate for older adults increased to 19.0 percent in 2011 and has remained somewhat stable since then, falling slightly to 18.8 percent in 2013.

D) Income inequality remained high.

The distribution of income shifted between 2000 and 2013 as the citywide median income declined. During this period, the share of households earning a moderate or middle income fell, the share earning low incomes increased, and the proportion earning the highest incomes stayed about the same. Figure 5.10 shows the distribution of income in 2000 and 2013. The percentage of households earning between \$40,001 and \$100,000 fell by almost three percentage points in this period. Meanwhile, the share of households with an income of \$40,000 or less grew by nearly the same amount. In addition, the share of households earning more than \$100,000 remained generally stable, although the percentage among them earning up to \$250,000 fell slightly, while the share earning more than \$250,000 marginally increased. As the city's population grew over those 13 years, the absolute number of households who earned more than \$100,000 grew

substantially, by almost 30,000 households. The number of households earning \$40,000 or less grew even more over this period—by just over 120,000.

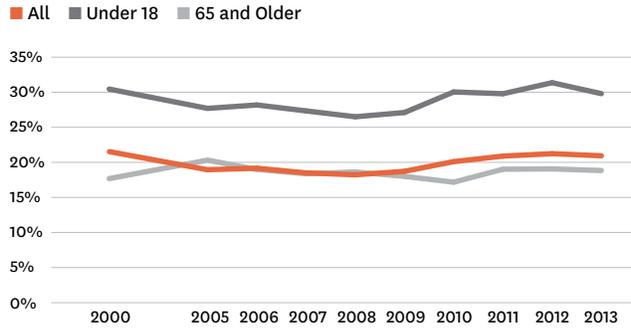
Using the income diversity ratio—a measure that shows how much a household in the 80th percentile of the income distribution earns relative to a household in the 20th percentile—income inequality has remained elevated since the onset of the recession. Figure 5.11 reveals how this measure has changed since 1990. In 1990, the income diversity ratio of 5.5 meant that the 80th percentile household earned 5.5 times more income than the household at the 20th percentile of the income distribution. The income diversity ratio increased over the next 15 years to reach 6.1 in 2005 as the city's economy expanded. This period was followed by a decline in the ratio in 2007 as a result of an increase in the 20th percentile income. However, as the economy first suffered and then began to recover from the recession, the earnings of households at the lower end of the household income distribution fell more than those at the top in percentage terms. By 2013, the income diversity ratio reached 6.2, the highest level in the past two decades.

3. Education and the Labor Force

A) The proportion of college-educated New Yorkers continued to grow.

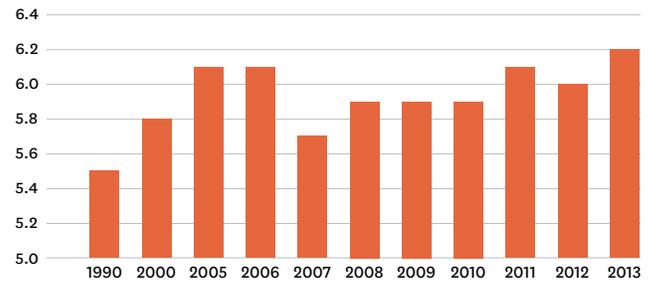
The share of New Yorkers aged 25 and older with a four-year degree or higher increased from 34.7 percent in 2012 to 35.7 percent in 2013, continuing a trend observed since 2000, when 27.4 percent of adults had at least a bachelor's degree (Figure 5.1). Between 2000 and 2011-2013, all neighborhoods experienced an increase in their percentages of college-educated adults, and a few showed large gains in excess of 15 percentage points. These increases occurred in Greenpoint/Williamsburg (BK 01), Fort Greene/Brooklyn Heights (BK 02), and Crown Heights/Prospect Heights (BK 08) in Brooklyn; East Harlem (MN 09) and Central Harlem (MN 10) in Manhattan; and Astoria (QN 01) in Queens. Further, most of Manhattan, northern and western Brooklyn, and western Queens showed increases of 10 percentage points or more. No neighborhoods in the Bronx or Staten Island experienced growth of more than 10 percentage points in their proportion of residents with college degrees.

Figure 5.9: Poverty Rate by Age, New York City



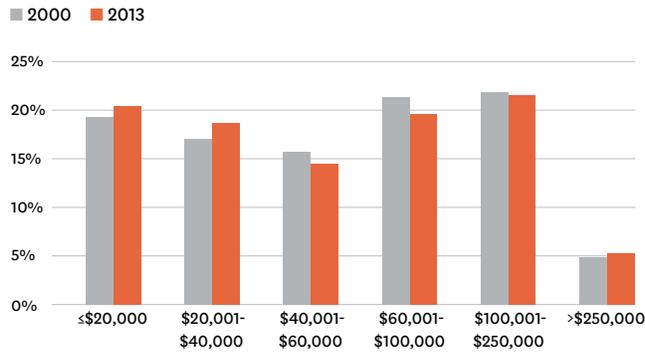
Sources: U.S. Census (2000), American Community Survey (2005-2013), NYU Furman Center

Figure 5.11: Income Diversity Ratio, New York City



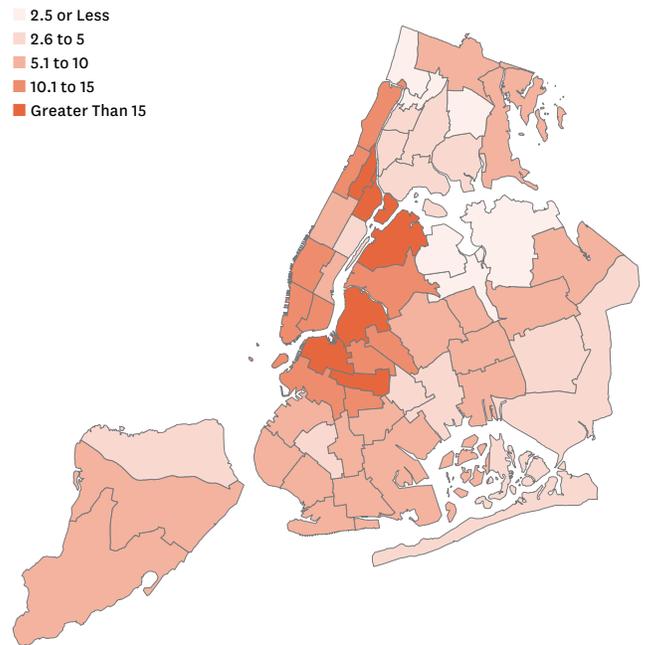
Sources: U.S. Census (1990, 2000), American Community Survey (2005-2013), Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (1990, 2000), NYU Furman Center

Figure 5.10: Household Income Distribution, New York City



Sources: U.S. Census (2000), American Community Survey (2013), NYU Furman Center

Figure 5.12: Percentage Point Change in Percentage of Residents With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher, 2000 to 2011-2013



Sources: U.S. Census (2000), American Community Survey (2011-2013), NYU Furman Center

B) Labor force participation remained largely the same between 2012 and 2013.

The labor force participation rate, the percentage of civilians aged 18 to 64 who are employed or actively looking for work, declined marginally between 2012 and 2013. This decline of 0.1 percentage points was smaller than the decline of 0.3 percentage points observed for the country as a whole in the same period. Figure 5.13 displays the evolution of the labor force participation rate in New York City and in the U.S. between 2000 and 2013. Before 2011, the city's labor force participation rate was typically lower than that for the country as a whole, but the gap between the local and national rates closed steadily since 2000 during last decade's recession. By 2012 the gap in the labor force participation rate between the city and the country as a whole had vanished.

C) The city's unemployment rate continued to fall.

The unemployment rate in New York City fell from 7.5 percent to 6.4 percent between 2013 and 2014, a 0.9 percentage point drop similar to the decline experienced nationwide. Figure 5.14² compares the local and national unemployment rates since 2000. Between 2000 and 2006, the unemployment rate in the city was consistently greater than in the country as a whole. The largest difference of 2.7 percentage points arose in 2002 as a result of the sluggish metropolitan economy, as observed through the metropolitan GDP in Figure 5.6. The unemployment rate in the city and in the country as a whole exhibited relatively similar trends between 2006 and 2010. While the national unemployment rate continued to drop after 2010, the rate in the city fluctuated around nine percent in 2011 and 2012, after which it fell steeply, mirroring the nationwide trend. By 2014, the city's unemployment rate still remained one percentage point higher than in the country as a whole.

D) Older teens in the city were more likely to be enrolled in school or attached to the labor force.

In 2013, the percentage of disconnected youth, people aged 16 to 19 who were neither enrolled in school nor participating in the labor force, was 7.2 percent, a share much lower than in 2000, when 9.1 percent of these older teens were neither in school nor in the labor force. This decline between 2000 and 2013 masked an increase during last decade's recession, illustrated for each borough in Figure 5.15. Both the Bronx and Manhattan saw notable increases in their percentage of disconnected youth, which grew by 3.0 and 2.8 percentage points respectively between 2005-2007 and 2008-2010. These shares remained generally stable in Brooklyn and Queens, and the percentage of disconnected youth grew by only half a percentage point in Staten Island. By 2011-2013, with the exception of Brooklyn, in each of the boroughs the percentage of disconnected youth either returned to its pre-recession level or, in the case of Queens, remained generally stable. In Brooklyn, however, the percentage of disconnected youth fell by more than a percentage point between 2008-2010 and 2011-2013 after staying steady through the recession.

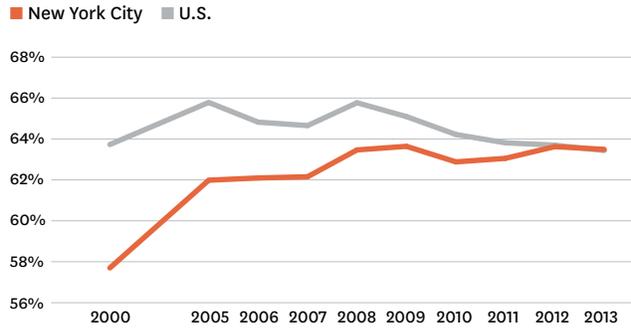
4. Health

A) Fewer New Yorkers were hospitalized for asthma.

The asthma hospitalization rate in 2012 continued to decline, hitting its lowest recorded level since 2000 of 2.7 hospitalizations per 1,000 residents from a level of 3.3 hospitalizations per resident in 2000. The drop in the rate of 0.4 hospitalizations per 1,000 residents observed between 2006 and 2012 was twice as large as the 0.2 drop experienced between 2000 and 2006. While clear racial disparities in asthma hospitalization persist, the overall decrease citywide in asthma hospitalizations was primarily driven by decreases among black and Hispanic residents. As Figure 5.16 illustrates, the percentage of blacks and Hispanics hospitalized declined by 0.3 and 0.4 percentage points between 2006 and 2012. In comparison, asthma hospitalizations for Whites and Asians only decreased by 0.2 and 0.1 percentage points.

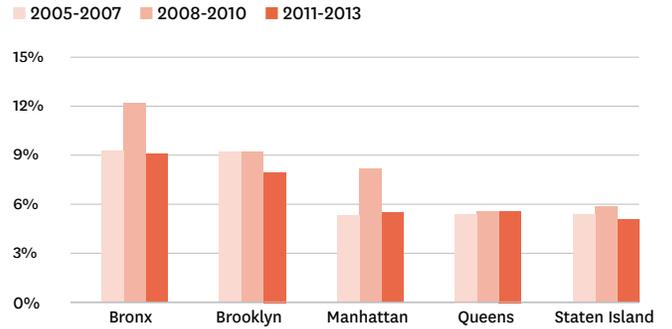
² In order to provide more timely estimates of the citywide unemployment rate, this figure uses data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This data source differs from the unemployment rate presented in Part 3, which uses data from the American Community Survey to produce neighborhood-level estimates for sub-borough areas. The two sources come from different surveys and should not be compared.

Figure 5.13: Labor Force Participation Rate, New York City and U.S.



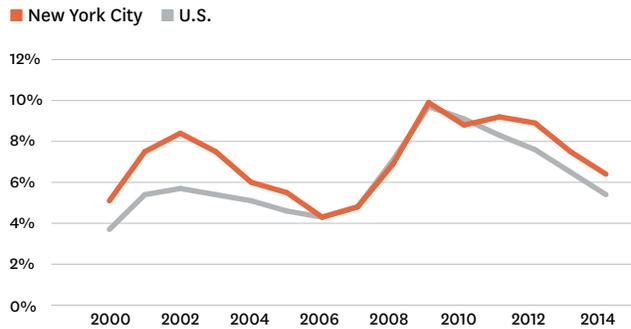
Sources: U.S. Census (2000), American Community Survey (2005-2013), NYU Furman Center

Figure 5.15: Disconnected Youth by Borough, New York City



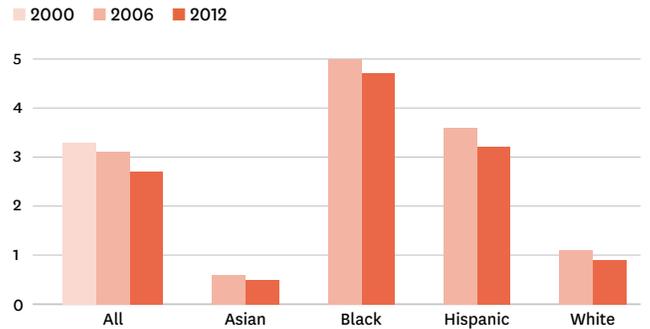
Sources: American Community Survey (3-Year Estimates), NYU Furman Center

Figure 5.14: Annual Average Unemployment Rate, New York City and U.S.



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, NYU Furman Center

Figure 5.16: Asthma Hospitalization Rate (Per 1,000 Residents), New York City

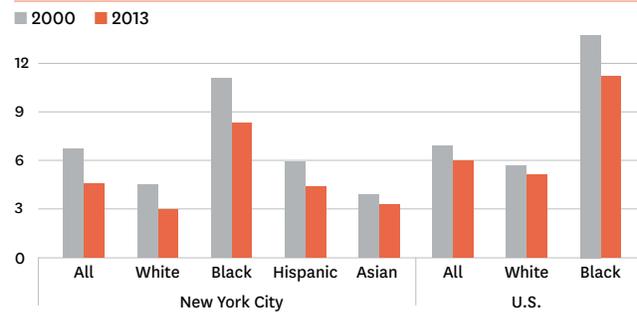


Sources: New York State Department of Health Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (2006, 2012), Infoshare (2000), U.S. Census (2000), American Community Survey (2006, 2012), NYU Furman Center

B) The city’s infant mortality rate continued to fall and is now well below the national rate.

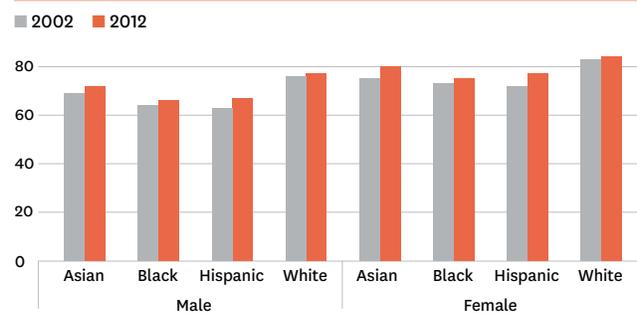
The city’s infant mortality rate, which reports the number of infants dying before reaching one year of age per 1,000 live births in a given year, fell from 6.7 in 2000 to 4.6 in 2013. This citywide decline of 2.1 infant deaths per 1,000 births was much larger than the national drop of 0.9 infant deaths per 1,000 births over the same period. After being nearly equal in 2000, the city rate in 2013 was well below that of the U.S. As illustrated in Figure 5.17,³ reductions in the infant mortality rate occurred for all races/ethnicities in the city, with infants born to black mothers experiencing the largest drop—2.8 infant deaths per 1,000 births. Infants born to white and Hispanic mothers showed declines in mortality of 1.5 infant deaths per 1,000 births, and infants born to Asian mothers had the lowest reduction of 0.6 infant deaths per 1,000 births. Relative to the reduction in the rates observed in the country as a whole for blacks and whites, the decline in the mortality rate of infants born to black mothers in New York was similarly large, while the rate for infants born to white mothers fell more in the city than in the country as a whole. In 2013, clear racial disparities in the infant mortality rate persisted in the city. Hispanics had a rate that exceeded that of whites by 1.4 infant deaths per 1,000 births while the gap for blacks was even larger, at 5.3 infant deaths per 1,000 births.

Figure 5.17: Infant Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 Births) by Race/Ethnicity of Mother, New York City



Sources: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NYU Furman Center

Figure 5.18: Median Life Span (Years) by Race/Ethnicity, New York City



Sources: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, NYU Furman Center

C) New Yorkers live longer but gender and racial disparities persist.

Life expectancies increased for both men and women between 2002 and 2012, and large disparities by gender persisted. In 2012, women lived longer than men and this difference was greatest among Hispanics, with a gap of ten years, and smallest for whites with a gap of seven years. The gender gap widened by a year for Hispanics and by two years for Asians, but remained steady for whites and blacks. Furthermore, large disparities within gender by race also persist. Of all women in 2012, white women lived longest at 84 years, followed by Asian women at 80 years, Hispanic women at 77 years, and then black women at 75 years. The same pattern exists across races/ethnicities for males. The racial/ethnic groups that had the largest gains in median life span between 2002 and 2012 were Hispanics (for both men and women) and Asians (especially females).

³ Our U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention source on national infant mortality by race does not provide tabulations for Asian or Hispanic mothers.