

Section 4: Demographics

The characteristics of New York City’s residents changed over the course of the decade between 2000 and 2010. The population’s median age increased, as did the number of households with a member older than 65, while the number of households with a member younger than 18 decreased. A greater share of the New York City population was foreign-born, college-educated, and living alone in 2010 than in 2000, and fewer households had children.

The share of the city’s Asian and Hispanic population increased, while the share of whites and blacks declined slightly. By 2010, fewer residents lived in racially homogeneous neighborhoods and more lived in racially integrated and minority-mixed neighborhoods. Poverty and unemployment rates increased between 2007 and 2011, but these increases were smaller than changes experienced by other large cities in the country. Private-sector employment and wages in New York City establishments fell during the recession, yet, while employment recovered to its prerecession level by 2011, wages in 2011 were still below their level in 2007.

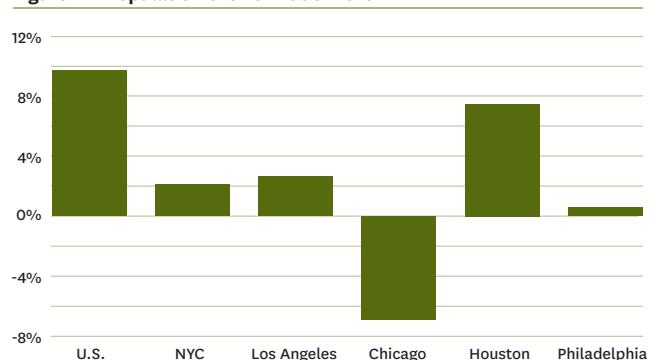
1. Population.

The population of New York City increased by 166,855 people between 2000 and 2010, though this was not evenly distributed across the city’s five boroughs. Staten Island and the Bronx saw large population gains of 5.6 percent and 3.9 percent, respectively, while Queens experienced a meager rise of 0.1 percent. Of the country’s five largest cities, New York City experienced less growth than Houston and Los Angeles, but more than Philadelphia and Chicago.

A. New York City’s population is aging.

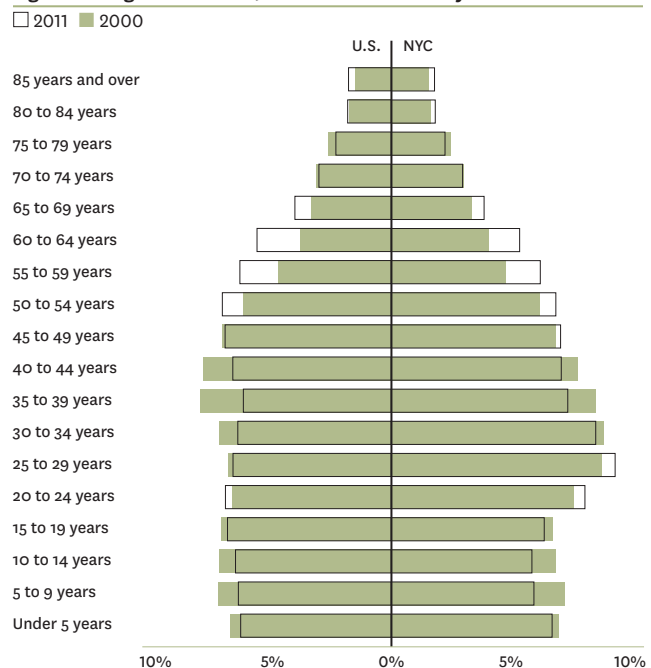
Keeping in line with national trends, the population of New York City has been, on average, growing older. Figure 4.2 shows that while the share of city residents older than 55 increased by 3.2 percentage points to 23.5 percent in 2011, it remains lower than the share in the United States as a whole at 25.5 percent. As Figure 4.2 illustrates, in both New York City and the United States, this shift was primarily driven by baby boomers between the ages of 55 and 59. The starkest

Figure 4.1: Population Growth 2000–2010



Sources: United States Census

Figure 4.2: Age Distribution, U.S. and New York City



Sources: United States Census, American Community Survey

difference between the age distribution in New York City and that in the United States as a whole is the concentration of the city's population that is between 20 and 39 years old. In 2011, 32.2 percent of New Yorkers were in their 20s and 30s, compared to just 26.7 percent nationwide.

B. New York City's foreign-born population has grown.

Well over one-third of New Yorkers were born abroad, as Figure 4.3 reveals. Between 2007 and 2011, New York City experienced a 0.4 percentage point increase in the share of its population that was foreign born, while Los Angeles saw a reduction in its share of foreign-born residents. Of the five largest cities, New York City (37.2%) and Los Angeles (39.0%) were the only two cities with a share of foreign-born residents greater than a third of their total population in 2011.

The share of foreign-born population varies widely across boroughs. In Staten Island and Manhattan, 21 and 29 percent of the population was foreign born in 2011, respectively, while in Queens this share was nearly half (49%). Another indicator that underscores the uneven distribution of the foreign-born population across the city is the share of individuals who spoke only English at home.¹ Figure 4.4 shows that this share was 43 percent in the Bronx and Queens in 2011, and much higher in Brooklyn (53%), Manhattan (59%) and Staten Island (71%).

C. The share of New Yorkers with a college education has increased steadily

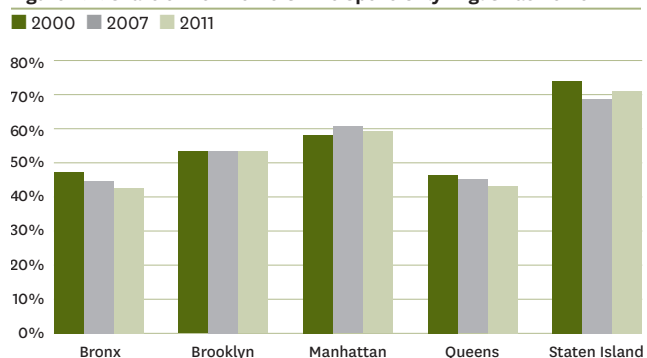
In 2011, 34.1 percent of New York City's adult population had a bachelor's degree or higher—the highest share ever recorded in the city and the highest among the comparison cities. Between 2000 and 2007, New York City's share of college-educated residents increased at a pace faster than the comparison cities and the United States as a whole. However, between 2007 and 2011, the rate of growth slowed relative to the other cities. Only Houston saw a lower rate of growth (1.1 percent) in the share of individuals with a bachelor's degree between 2007 and 2011.

Figure 4.3: Share of the Population That Was Foreign Born



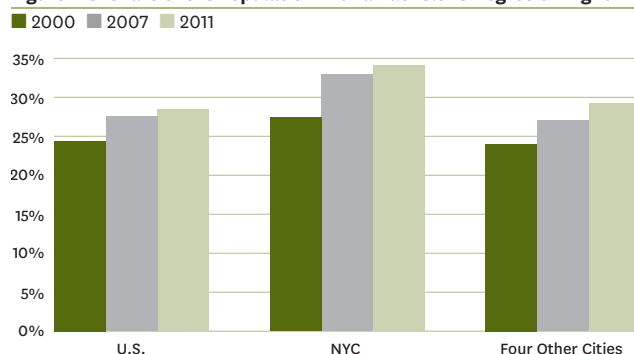
Sources: United States Census (2000), American Community Survey (2007, 2011)

Figure 4.4: Share of New Yorkers Who Spoke Only English at Home



Sources: United States Census (2000), American Community Survey (2007, 2011)

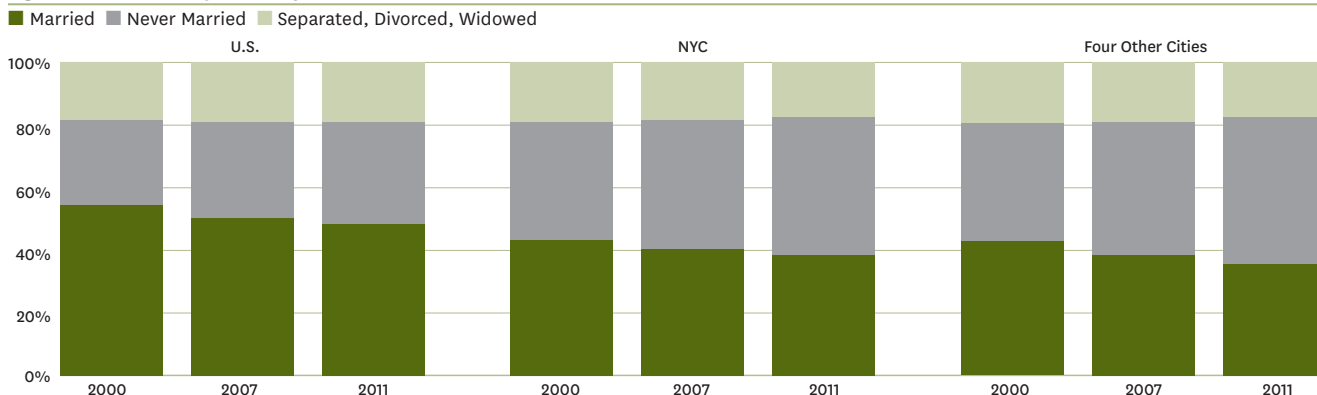
Figure 4.5: Share of the Population with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher



Sources: United States Census (2000), American Community Survey (2007, 2011)

¹ The share of individuals who speak only English at home is based on the population of five years and over.

Figure 4.6: Share of Population by Marital Status



Sources: United States Census (2000), American Community Survey (2007, 2011)

D. Fewer New Yorkers are married.

In 2011, only 38.6 percent of adults in New York City were married, as Figure 4.6 reveals.² This represents a 4.8 percentage point decline since 2000, compared with a 6.1 percentage point decrease for the nation as a whole. While the share of married New Yorkers measured 9.7 percentage points below the national rate in 2011, New York City’s rate was still higher than the average in the four comparison cities.

E. New Yorkers are more racially diverse and less likely to live in racially homogenous neighborhoods.

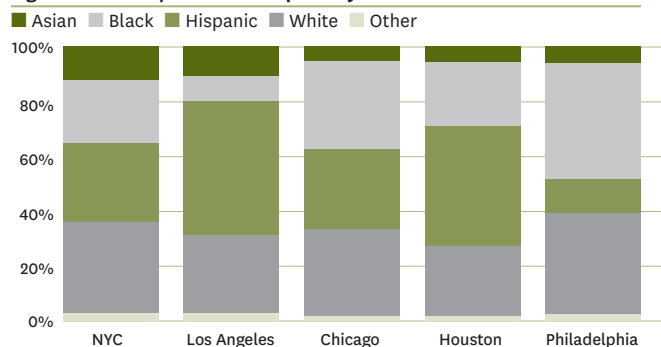
From 2000 to 2010, the population of New York City became less white and less black; both the white and black population shares declined by slightly less than two percentage points, while the Asian and Hispanic population shares grew by 2.9 and 1.6 percentage points, respectively. Of the nation’s five largest cities, New York City has the most evenly balanced shares of Asians, blacks, Hispanics, and whites, as Figure 4.7 indicates.³ In New York City, each of the four racial or ethnic categories made up at least 10 percent of the population, and none of them exceeded 35 percent in 2010. In contrast, Hispanics made up the predominant share of the population of Los Angeles (48.5%) and Houston (43.8%), while Philadelphia has the largest share (42.2%) of blacks, and the highest share (36.8%) of whites. In Chicago, no racial/ethnic group made up more than one-third of the population.

As New York City’s population has become more racially and ethnically diverse, its neighborhoods have become less racially homogeneous. We classify neighborhoods based on their racial composition into four categories: single-race majority or highly homogeneous, homogeneous, integrated, and minority-mixed. Figure 4.8 shows the share of each of these categories in the five major cities. The share of single-race majority neighborhoods (where the proportion of any particular racial group is greater than 90 percent) in New York City was the lowest of any of the five largest cities at 5.1 percent.

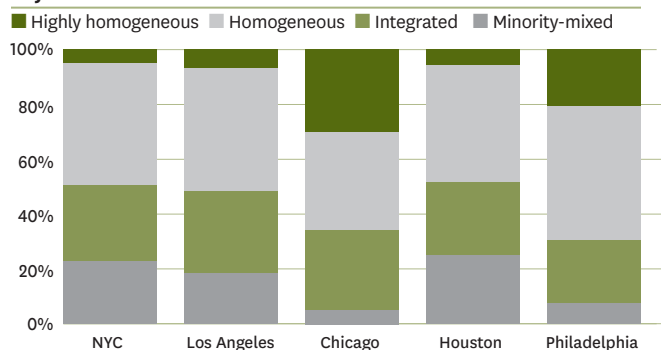
The share of homogenous neighborhoods (where the proportion of any racial group is greater than 50% but lower than 90%) in New York City was 44.2 percent, similar to Los Angeles and Houston. The sum of the share of integrated neighborhoods (those where the share of both whites and at least one other racial group is greater than 20%) and the share of minority-mixed neighborhoods (where the share of whites does not exceed 20% and at least two minority groups exceed 20%) accounts for 51 percent of New York City’s neighborhoods. Thus, one out of two residents in New York City lives in an integrated or minority-mixed neighborhood. The share is approximately the same in Los Angeles and Houston but it falls to one in three residents in Chicago and Philadelphia.

² Marital status is based on the population of 15 years and over.

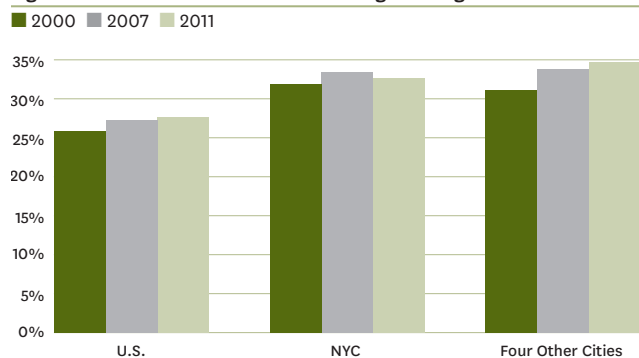
³ We count any individual who identifies as Hispanic as Hispanic. So other racial categories are actually non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black and non-Hispanic Asian.

Figure 4.7: Racial/Ethnic Makeup of Major U.S. Cities in 2010

Source: United States Census

Figure 4.8: Racial/Ethnic Neighborhood Composition of Major U.S. Cities in 2010

Source: United States Census

Figure 4.9: Share of Households Consisting of a Single Adult

Sources: United States Census (2000), American Community Survey (2007, 2011)

2. Households.

Over the past decade, the composition of households in New York City and across the country shifted. The average household size nationwide was 2.58 members in 2010, similar to the average household size in New York City of 2.57 members. Between 2000 and 2010, the average household size in New York City declined very slightly from 2.59 to 2.57. Manhattan had the smallest average household size of all boroughs in 2010 with just 1.99 members per household.

A. The share of households consisting of a single adult in New York City increased between 2000 and 2011, while the share of households that were families with children declined.

The share of households consisting of a single adult in New York City increased between 2000 and 2011, and exceeded the national level in 2011 by five percentage points. Householders living alone account for approximately one-third of all households in the five largest cities, as Figure 4.9 indicates. This share rapidly increased between 2000 and 2007 across the largest cities and the country. Since the recession, though, New York City has seen a drop of one percentage point in the share of householders living alone, while in the other cities, the share increased by one percentage point.

Accompanying the growth in the share of single-person households, in 2011, large cities housed fewer families relative to the country as a whole. In the United States, the share of households made up of families with children declined 3.4 percentage points between 2000 and 2011 to 29.4 percent. The share also dropped in New York City, from 29.7 percent in 2000 to 27.2 percent in 2011. This reduction (2.5 percentage points) was less severe than the average decline seen in other large cities in the country (4.2 percentage points).

B. The share of households with a member under 18 years old declined, while the share with a member over 65 years old increased.

The share of households with members younger than 18 declined in the five major cities and in the United States as a whole. The share of households made up of childless families in New York City increased slightly, from 31.6 percent in 2000 to 32.8 percent in 2010. Of the five largest cities, New York City had the largest share of households with a member older than 65 in 2011, at 24.6 percent. Figure 4.10 indicates that number grew slightly between 2000 and 2011.

3.

Economic Indicators.

A. New York City saw a smaller increase in its poverty rate than other major cities and the country as a whole.

Between 2000 and 2007, the poverty rate in New York City declined by 2.7 percentage points, as illustrated in Figure 4.11. Only Los Angeles experienced a steeper decline in its poverty rate (3.6 percentage points) in this period. By 2007, the two cities had poverty rates lower than the other large cities, but higher than the country as a whole. Between the beginning of the recession and 2011, the poverty rate escalated in all five major cities. In New York City, however, the increase was smaller, and in 2011, the city's poverty rate still remained lower than it was in 2000.

B. The unemployment rate nearly doubled in New York City between 2000 and 2011, but this increase was smaller than that experienced in other major cities.

In 2000 all of the five largest cities had low levels of unemployment, ranging between 4.8 percent in Houston to 6.2 percent in Chicago. From 2000 to 2007, all cities saw small to moderate increases in their unemployment rates, which were mild for Los Angeles, New York City, and Houston, and more striking in Chicago and Philadelphia. This upsurge in unemployment across major cities has been more pro-

nounced since the onset of the recession in 2007, as Figure 4.12 shows. New York City saw an increase in its unemployment rate of 4.1 percentage points between 2007 and 2011. At 11.2 percent in 2011, the unemployment rate nearly doubled that of 2000; however, this level of unemployment is relatively small compared to that seen in Los Angeles (12.8%), Chicago (14.1%) or Philadelphia (16.7%).

C. Private-sector employment declined during the recession in New York City but recovered to the prerecession level by 2011.

The number of workers in private establishments across all industries in all five of New York City's boroughs increased between 2002 and 2008, as Figure 4.13 demonstrates. By 2008, the level of employment in all boroughs exceeded their levels in 2002 by 6.6 to 9.4 percent. In 2009, four boroughs experienced a decline in their level of employment, especially Manhattan, which suffered the largest drop of 5.2 percent. By 2011, the levels of employment in Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island had recovered to 2008 levels, while the Bronx and Brooklyn continued to experience substantial growth in employment despite the recession. New York City's private-sector employment over 2002 and 2011 closely follows that of Manhattan, given that this borough accounts for 60 percent of total private-sector employment.

D. The average annual wage for employees in private-sector establishments did not increase in New York City between 2001 and 2011.

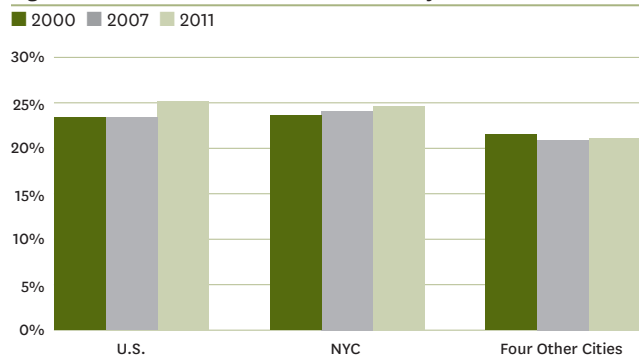
The average annual wage (expressed in 2012 dollars) for employees in private-sector establishments in Queens and Staten Island followed a downward trend between 2001 and 2011. Figure 4.14 shows that annual wages in 2011 in these two boroughs were 8.5 percent lower than in 2001. Annual wages for employees in private establishments in the Bronx and Brooklyn remained fairly constant throughout the period. In Manhattan, annual wages in private-sector establishments followed a more cyclical pattern, as they fell between 2001 and 2003, grew until 2007, fell again until 2009, and slowly recovered by 2011. By 2011, average annual wages for employees in New York City were at the same level as in 2001.

E. Income inequality has increased since the beginning of the recession in 2007.

In 2011, the household at the 80th percentile of the income distribution in New York City earned 6.1 times more than the household at the 20th percentile. This ratio—

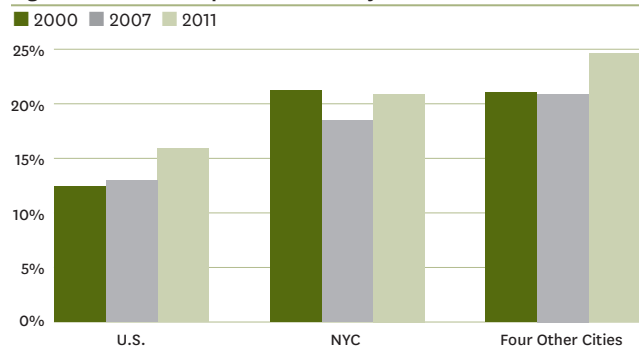
referred to as the income diversity ratio—was 0.4 higher than it was in 2007, indicating growing income inequality in the city since the beginning of the recession. Figure 4.15 shows that in 2011, income inequality was higher in New York City than in any of the other five largest cities.

Figure 4.10: Share of Households With an Elderly Member



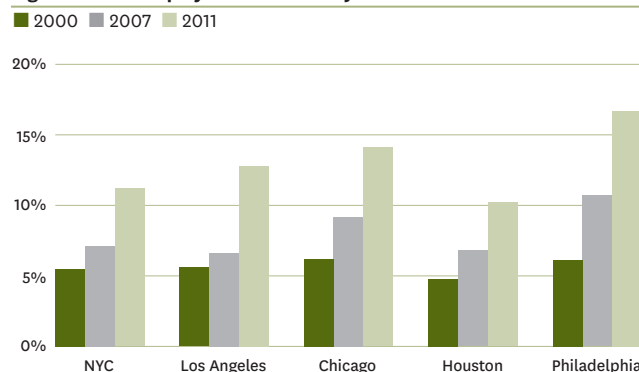
Sources: United States Census, American Community Survey

Figure 4.11: Share of Population in Poverty



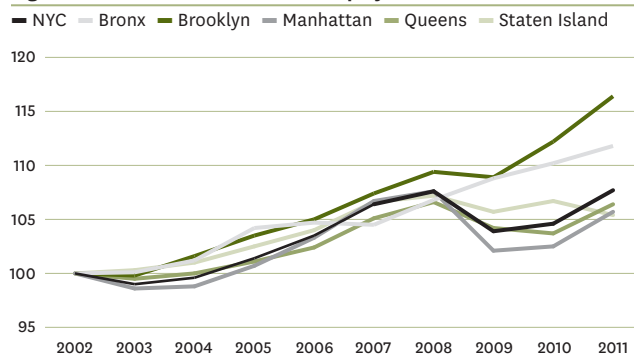
Sources: United States Census, American Community Survey

Figure 4.12: Unemployment Rate in Major Cities



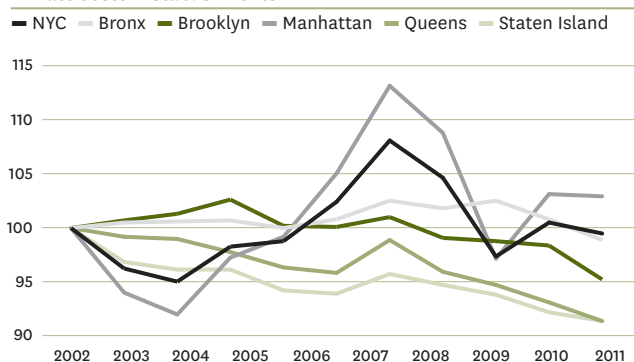
Sources: United States Census, American Community Survey

Figure 4.13: Index of Private Sector Employment



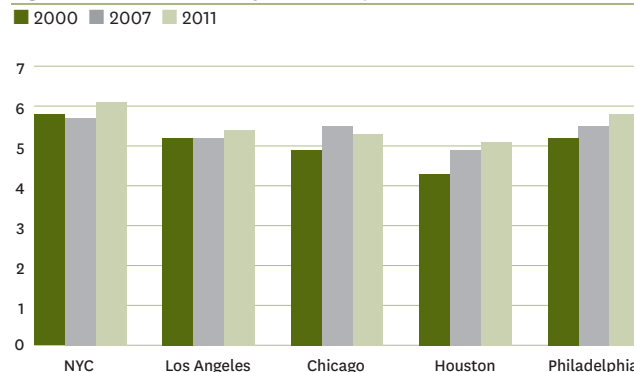
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Figure 4.14: Index of Average Annual Wages in Private Sector Establishments



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Figure 4.15: Income Diversity Ratio in Major Cities



Sources: United States Census, American Community Survey