CCC Community Risk Ranking:
Child Well-being in New York City's 59 Community Districts
We educate and mobilize New Yorkers to make the city a better place for children. Our advocacy combines public policy research and data analysis with citizen action. We cast light on the issues, educate the public, engage allies, and identify and promote practical solutions to ensure that every New York City child is healthy, housed, educated and safe.

For more information about CCC, visit www.cccnewyork.org.
It has been more than 20 years since CCC first began collecting and compiling data on the well-being of children in New York City. Since the beginning, CCC’s community risk rankings have been an important and unique aspect of our Keeping Track data program.

Research tells us that multiple risk factors have cumulative negative effects on child development and well-being.

Our community risk ranking combines data from across multiple dimensions of child well-being—economic security, health, housing, education, issues specific to teens and youths, and family and community—to provide us with a better understanding of where risks to child well-being concentrate within our diverse city.

This year CCC has refined the methodology for our community risk ranking to make it clearer and easier to understand, more easily replicable, and comparable over time. Our new methodology draws from research and best practices for social indicators and composite index creation, as well as our own unique understanding of children’s issues and child well-being in New York City.
CCC’s community risk ranking is comprised of 18 indicators within six domains of child well-being. We use these data to rank New York City’s 59 community districts (CDs)—within each domain and overall—from lowest risk to highest risk.

The community risk ranking highlights the vast disparities in well-being across our city. For example, at 59.3%, the 2012 child poverty rate in Hunts Point (B02)—the highest risk community district overall in our ranking—is more than nine times the 6.5% child poverty rate in the lowest risk community—Battery Park/Tribeca (M01).

The ranking also illustrates how risks are interrelated. Examining the data for Hunts Point (B02), the highest risk community, reveals that not only does that community have the highest child poverty rate in the city (59.3%), but also the highest rate of adults with less than a high school diploma (45.2%), the lowest rate of on-time high school graduation (32.9%), the second-highest infant mortality rate (8.7), and the second-highest rate of families entering homeless shelter (8.7 per 1,000 households).

In practice, the overall risk ranking can help to determine where additional resources, supports, or services are needed to improve outcomes for children. Further, the individual domain rankings can help to identify what issues must be tackled in which communities. For example, Borough Park (K12) ranks lowest of all the communities in the health domain, but its relatively higher risk in the domains of economic security, housing, and education reveal that investments in these areas could go a long way toward improving outcomes for children and families.

We hope that our updated community risk ranking will help families, elected officials, policy-makers, researchers, foundation and corporate program officers, and New Yorkers at large better understand the needs of the communities in which they live, work, and serve, so that they may advocate for the resources necessary to make New York City a better place for every child.

To explore these and other indicators of child well-being in New York City, visit data.cccnewyork.org.
CCC’s community risk ranking provides a composite picture of the concentration of risks to child well-being among New York City’s 59 community districts (CDs). This measure combines all six domains of child well-being.
Children’s well-being is inextricably linked with the economic security of their families and communities. This domain illustrates whether children live in households and communities where resources are adequate to meet their basic material needs.

Indicators: Child Poverty, Median Household Income for Families with Children, Parental Employment Instability

**LOWEST RISK**

Upper East Side (M08)

- Child Poverty Rate: 8.2%
- Median Income, Families w/ Children: $212,276
- Parental Employment Instability: 15.7%

**HIGHEST RISK**

Mott Haven (B01)/Hunts Point (B02)

- Child Poverty Rate: 59.3%
- Median Income, Families w/ Children: $19,570
- Parental Employment Instability: 55.4%
A safe and stable home environment is key to children’s healthy development. The housing domain contains indicators that measure housing affordability, conditions, and stability within a community.

Indicators: Rent Burden, Rental Overcrowding, Families Entering Homeless Shelters

**Lowest Risk**
- Upper East Side (M08)
  - Rent Burden: 16.6%
  - Rental Overcrowding: 3.1%
  - Families Entering Homeless Shelters*: 0.0

**Highest Risk**
- University Heights (B05)
  - Rent Burden: 43.4%
  - Rental Overcrowding: 18.2%
  - Families Entering Homeless Shelters*: 5.3

**Race/Ethnicity**
- Asian
- Black
- Latino
- White

*per 1,000 households
A child’s physical, mental, and emotional health is critical to her overall well-being. The health domain contains indicators that reflect both health outcomes for children and the adequacy of a community’s healthcare environment.

Indicators: Infant Mortality Rate, Low Birth Weight Babies, Children without Health Insurance

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**Ranking by CD**

**LEVEL OF RISK**

- **Lowest Risk**
- **Moderate Low Risk**
- **Medium Risk**
- **Moderate High Risk**
- **Highest Risk**

**LOWEST RISK COMMUNITY**

**Borough Park (K12)**

- **Infant Mortality Rate**: 2.0 per 1,000 live births
- **Low Birth Weight Babies**: 5.9%
- **Children without Health Insurance**: 1%

**HIGHEST RISK COMMUNITY**

**East Tremont (B06)**

- **Infant Mortality Rate**: 9.0 per 1,000 live births
- **Low Birth Weight Babies**: 11.7%
- **Children without Health Insurance**: 6%

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**LEVEL OF RISK**

- Lowest Risk
- Moderate Low Risk
- Medium Risk
- Moderate High Risk
- Highest Risk

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

- Asian
- Black
- Latino
- White

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**Lowest Risk**

1. Borough Park (K12)
2. Battery Park/Tribeca (M01)
3. Sunset Park (K07)
4. Park Slope (K06)
5. Greenwich Village (M02)
6. Bayside (Q11)
7. Williamsburg/Greenpoint (K01)
8. Sheepshead Bay (K15)
9. Sunnyside/Woodside (Q02)
10. Lower East Side (M03)
11. Rego Park/Forest Hills (Q06)

**Moderate Low Risk**

12. Upper East Side (M08)
13. Bay Ridge (K10)
14. Bensonhurst (K11)
15. Upper West Side (M07)
16. Murray Hill/Stuyvesant (M06)
17. Tottenville (S03)
18. Riverdale (B08)
19. Fort Greene/Brooklyn Hts (K02)
20. Fresh Mdw/Briarwood (Q08)
21. Crown Heights South (K09)
22. Ridgewood/Glendale (Q05)
23. Astoria (Q01)
24. South Beach (S02)
25. Jackson Heights (Q03)
26. Woodhaven (Q09)
27. Bushwick (K04)
28. Chelsea/Clinton (M04)
29. Flatbush/Midwood (K14)

**Medium Risk**

30. Elmhurst/Corona (Q04)
31. Manhattanville (M09)
32. Pelham Parkway (B11)
33. St. George (S01)
34. Coney Island (K13)
35. The Rockaways (Q14)
36. University Heights (B05)
37. Flushing (Q07)
38. Throgs Neck (B10)
39. Howard Beach (Q10)
40. Midtown Business Dist. (M05)
41. Unionport/Soundview (B09)
42. Bedford Park (B07)
43. Washington Heights (M12)
44. Mott Haven (B01)
45. Bedford Stuyvesant (K03)
46. Concourse/Highbridge (B04)
47. Canarsie (K18)

**Moderate High Risk**

48. Williamsbridge (B12)
49. East Harlem (M11)
50. Hunts Point (B02)
51. Morrisania (B03)
52. Crown Heights North (K08)
53. East New York (K05)

**Highest Risk**

54. East Flatbush (K17)
55. Brownsville (K16)
56. Jamaica/St. Albans (Q12)
57. Central Harlem (M10)
58. Queens Village (Q13)
59. East Tremont (B06)
Quality educational programming is critical for children’s academic and social development. The indicators in the education domain provide information on programs along the developmental continuum from early education to high school completion.

Indicators: Early Education Enrollment, Elementary and Middle School Reading and Math Test Pass Rate, High School Graduation Rate

**Battery Park/Tribeca (M01)**
- **EARLY EDUCATION ENROLLMENT**: 87.3%
- **ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL READING AND MATH TEST PASS RATE**: 80.1%
- **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**: 78.5%

**Hunts Point (B02)**
- **EARLY EDUCATION ENROLLMENT**: 50.2%
- **ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL READING AND MATH TEST PASS RATE**: 34.3%
- **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**: 32.9%
The period between childhood and adulthood presents a unique set of challenges for young people and their families. The youth domain focuses on specific risks that children and youth face as they transition to adulthood.

Indicators: Teen Birth Rate, Teen Idleness, Youth Unemployment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Risk</th>
<th>CD</th>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Teen Birth Rate*</th>
<th>Teen Idleness</th>
<th>Youth Unemployment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lowest Risk</td>
<td>M01</td>
<td>Battery Park/Tribeca</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Low Risk</td>
<td>M02</td>
<td>Greenwich Village</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Risk</td>
<td>M03</td>
<td>Bayside</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate High Risk</td>
<td>M04</td>
<td>Murray Hill/Stuyvesant</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest Risk</td>
<td>B02</td>
<td>Hunts Point</td>
<td>41.3</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Race/Ethnicity

- Asian
- Black
- Latino
- White

- Battery Park/Tribeca
- Citywide
- Hunts Point
Children’s development is greatly influenced by the families and communities that surround them. The indicators in the family and community domain capture some of these additional influences that are not included in other domains.

Indicators: Children in Single-Parent Families, Adult Educational Attainment, Violent Felony Rate
Notes on Methodology, Indicator Definitions, and Sources

Indicator Criteria

CCC based the following indicator criteria on best practices for composite well-being index construction as determined by a review of major social indicator-based well-being indices and other social indicator literature, combined with CCC’s institutional knowledge of the unique issues with respect to child well-being in New York City. See references for more information on other well-being indices.

- Data must be from a reliable source
- Data must be reliable and comparable at the NYC community district, borough, and city levels
- Data should be available on an annual basis with a reasonable assumption that it will be available (and comparable) in the future
- Indicators should include measurements of well-being for children, families, and the communities in which they live
- All stages of child and youth development should be represented, as well as the conditions that may affect children and youth in those various stages
- Indicators should be easily understandable and replicable
- Indicators should be normalized, i.e., data should be presented as percentages, rates, etc., which take into account variations in population sizes across geographies
- Disaggregation of indicators by racial/ethnic group at the citywide level is preferred for further citywide analysis, but not a mandatory condition for selection
- Comparability to states, other large U.S. cities, and the nation is preferred for further comparison purposes, but not a mandatory condition for selection

Economic Conditions

Child Poverty Rate—The share of children who live in households with incomes below the federal poverty level. At the heart of understanding the economic conditions faced by New York City’s children and families is whether children live in households with enough resources to provide the basic necessities. While not a perfect metric, the poverty rate as measured by federal poverty level provides a reliable and consistent indicator of income adequacy that is available at a variety of geographic levels and disaggregated by racial and ethnic groups. Child poverty rates are available through the Census Bureau at a variety of geographic levels and disaggregated by racial and ethnic groups. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (2012), Summary Table S1701. http://factfinder.census.gov/

Median income for Families with Children—The median annual income for families with children. Median income provides another reliable and consistent measure of family resources. This measure gives us a deeper understanding of family resources than the child poverty rate alone: the child poverty rate just measures how many children are in households with inadequate incomes, while median income allows us to take into account the various levels of income across the city (both above and below specified federal poverty levels). Median incomes are available through the Census Bureau at a variety of geographic levels and disaggregated by racial and ethnic groups. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (2012), Summary Table S1903. http://factfinder.census.gov/

Indicator Definitions, Notes, and Sources

Below is a detailed description and source information for the indicators included in the CCC community risk ranking, grouped by domain. Indicators that are presented as rates per population base are calculated using population data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, unless otherwise stated.

Best efforts were made to collect data from roughly the same time period in order to provide a “snapshot” of risks to child well-being at a given point in time. Data presented in this report are primarily from calendar year 2012. For some indicators, where sample sizes or numbers of events were small, data from the three-year period 2010-2012 were used to provide more reliable estimates or datapoints. Such instances are noted below. Educational outcome data are for the 2012 school year, rather than the calendar year 2012.
Health

Infant Mortality Rate—The number of babies who died within one year of birth per 1,000 babies born in that year. The infant mortality rate is widely used as a proxy for the overall health and well-being of a given geographic area. High infant mortality rates often signal problems in healthcare provision and access, while low infant mortality rates suggest that quality medical care is both available and accessed by residents of a given area. Local infant mortality rates for New York City are available through the City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Because of small numbers of events in some geographies, 3-year averages are used. Infant mortality data can be disaggregated by racial and ethnic groups. Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides statistics at the state and local levels on infant mortality rates. Source: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Birth and Death files, 3-year data averages (2010-2012).

Low Birth Weight Babies—The share of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams. This indicator quantifies a major risk factor that is measurable at birth. Like the infant mortality rate, this measure may reflect the quality and accessibility to medical (especially prenatal) care for a particular population. But it also indicates how many babies may be at risk for other medical problems both during infancy and throughout their development. Local statistics on low birth weight babies for New York City are available through the City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and can be disaggregated by racial and ethnic groups. Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides statistics at the state and local levels on the prevalence of low birth weight babies. Source: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Birth and Death files (2012).

Children without Health Insurance—The share of children who do not have health insurance. This indicator provides a reasonable estimation of how many children do not have affordable access to health care. Since 2008, health insurance coverage has been reported by the Census Bureau at a variety of geographic levels and disaggregated by racial and ethnic groups. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (2012), Summary Table B27001. http://factfinder.census.gov/

Rental Overcrowding—The share of occupied rental housing units that have more than one person per room. This indicator provides an approximation of the living conditions in a community’s rental housing. Crowded conditions with little room for privacy may create stress for families and children. Rental overcrowding may also suggest greater housing instability, as families settle for housing that is not sufficient for their needs or double up with other families to afford housing costs. Data on housing conditions and occupancy come from the Census Bureau and are available at a variety of geographic levels and disaggregated by racial and ethnic groups. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (2012), Summary Table B25014. http://factfinder.census.gov/.

Families Entering Homeless Shelters—The number of families entering Department of Homeless Services family shelters per 1,000 households. Another measure of housing instability, this indicator tells us how many families have actually lost their homes and entered an emergency shelter. The City Department of Homeless Services tracks homeless families by origin, as well as by racial and ethnic group. Data on entries to homeless shelters for other geographies outside of New York City may be available from other local agencies, although comparability may be an issue. Source: New York City Department of Homeless Services, unpublished data (fiscal year 2012).

Housing

Rent Burden—The share of households that spend more than 50 percent of their annual income on housing costs. While imperfect, this measure provides an estimation of housing affordability within communities. Households that spend more than half of their income on housing costs may be at risk of losing their housing because it is (or may become) unaffordable. Data on housing costs and household income come from the Census Bureau and are available at a variety of geographic levels and disaggregated by racial and ethnic groups. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (2012), Summary Table B25070. http://factfinder.census.gov/.

Education

Early Education Enrollment—The share of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in early education programs (may include public or private pre-school or nursery school or child care programs). More and more research suggests that early education is critical to a child’s long-term academic success. Educational enrollment data come from the Census Bureau and are available at a variety of geographic levels and disaggregated by racial and ethnic groups. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates (2010-2012), Public Use Microdata Sample File. http://factfinder.census.gov/.
Elementary and Middle School Reading and Math Test Pass Rate—
The share of public school children in grades 3 through 8 who pass New York State reading (English Language Arts or ELA) and math tests. Results of the state standardized reading and math tests, released annually by the New York City Department of Education (DOE), provide a performance benchmark for public elementary and middle school students that can be compared across geographies and demographic groups and over time. CCC used school-level results to aggregate data to the community-district level. New York City’s elementary and middle school test results are comparable to other New York State geographies. Nationally, elementary and middle school test results are available through individual school districts as well as the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), although comparability may be limited. Source: New York City Department of Education, New York State English Language Arts & Mathematics Tests Grades 3-8 School-Level Results (SY2012). http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/data/TestResults/ELAandMathTestResults.

High School Graduation Rate—
The percentage of the cohort of public school students who entered 9th grade in a given year that graduated within four years (as of June). The high school graduation rate provides a benchmark for public school students that is comparable across geographies and demographic groups and over time, both within New York City and in other parts of the country. High school graduation rates for city public school students are reported annually by the New York City DOE. CCC used school-level results to aggregate data to the community-district level. In some years some community districts had no public high schools, and so there are no graduation results for these districts in these years; in these cases, borough graduation rates were used. New York City’s graduation results are comparable to other New York State geographies. Nationally, graduation results are available through individual school districts as well as the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), although comparability may be limited. Source: New York City Department of Education, Cohort Graduation Outcomes (SY2012). http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/data/GraduationDropoutReports/default.htm.

Youth

Teen Birth Rate—The number of babies born to teenage girls (ages 16 to 19) per 1,000 teenage girls. Teenage pregnancy and births present risks for both mother and baby and also can reflect the presence of other risky behavior in teens, like unprotected sexual activity. Data on teen births are reported annually by the City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene through its Vital Statistics program. Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides statistics at the state and local levels on teen births. Source: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Birth and Death files (2012).

Teen Idleness—The share of teenagers (ages 16 to 19) who are not in school and not in the labor force. These teens are sometimes also called “disconnected youth,” referring to a disconnection in the transition from education to career that should occur during this critical time. Data on educational enrollment and labor force participation are reported by the Census Bureau and are available at a variety of geographic levels and disaggregated by racial and ethnic groups. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates (2010-2012), Summary Table B09005. http://factfinder.census.gov/.

Youth Unemployment—The share of young adults (ages 20 to 24) who are unemployed (in the labor force but not working). This indicator provides additional information about the critical stage where youth transition to be self-sufficient and productive adults. Young adults must secure employment in order to become financially self-sufficient and also to build skills that will lay the groundwork for successful professional careers. A high youth unemployment rate signals trouble for both young adults and the teens that will soon be entering the labor market. Data on labor force participation are reported by the Census Bureau and are available at a variety of geographic levels and disaggregated by racial and ethnic groups. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates (2010-2012), Summary Table C23001. http://factfinder.census.gov/.

Family & Community

Children in Single-Parent Families—The share of children in families headed by a single parent. This indicator is common among child well-being indices, as research suggests that children growing up in single-parent families may face elevated risks of cognitive, emotional, and social problems during their development. Single parents may be stressed by the economic hardship of raising a family on a single income or the time constraints of balancing work, family, and other commitments. Data on family structure are reported by the Census Bureau and are available at a variety of geographic levels and disaggregated by racial and ethnic groups. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates (2010-2012), Summary Table B09005. http://factfinder.census.gov/.

Adult Educational Attainment—
The share of adults ages 25 and older who have less than a high school diploma or equivalent degree. This indicator serves as a proxy for the intellectual capital available in the community. Positive role models who have achieved academic and professional success can have significant influence on the children in their community. Data on educational attainment are reported by the Census Bureau and are available at a variety of geographic levels and disaggregated by racial and ethnic groups. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (2012), Summary Table C15002. http://factfinder.census.gov/.

Violent Felony Rate—The number of violent felony crimes reported per 1,000 residents. Children need safe communities in which to play and engage with the world around them. Children living in communities plagued with high crime rates may have limited places to play outside and may even face safety risks as they travel from home to school. Crimes are reported by police precinct by the New York City Police Department and CCC uses a population weighting formula to convert police precinct data to community district data. For racial and ethnic group disaggregation at the city level, arrests for violent felonies
Composite Index Construction

CCC’s community risk ranking ranks communities based on risk within six domains of child well-being and overall using a composite index of 18 indicators, as well as indices for each of the six domains. The methodology for the construction of the indices is described below.

The 18 indicators are grouped within six domains of well-being, with three indicators in each domain.

Indicators in the risk ranking are first standardized using Linear Scaling Technique (LST), which calculates the difference between the value of a given Community District and that of the lowest value Community District, and divides this number by the difference between the highest value Community District and the lowest value Community District:

\[
\text{Standardized Value} = \frac{\text{Value} - \text{Min}}{\text{Max} - \text{Min}}
\]

Standardized values are then adjusted so that they are all scaled from low to high with regard to increasing risks to well-being. The standardized and scaled values are then averaged within their domains using equal weighting to produce domain indices for each Community District. The domains indices are averaged using equal weighting to produce an overall index of risk to well-being for each Community District.

Community Districts are then ranked based on their domain index and overall index values to identify the highest and lowest levels of risk. Community Districts are also placed into one of five risk level categories, for each domain and overall, using equal intervals of the raw index scores.

References

Below is a list of the well-being indices reviewed, followed by a list of other resources referenced in the development of the new CCC community risk ranking.

Well-being Indices:


Other References and Resources: