Data can be a powerful tool in capturing the conditions within a community. For more than 20 years, CCC has been collecting and analyzing data on the well-being of children in New York City. With the Community Risk Ranking, we look at 18 different indicators across six domains of child well-being—economic security, housing, health, education, youth, and family and community—to determine where risks to child well-being are concentrated. We then rank New York City’s 59 community districts from highest to lowest risk, within each domain and overall, and place community districts into one of five risk categories: highest risk, moderate-high risk, moderate risk, moderate-low risk, and lowest risk.

The risk ranking tells us basic things about child well-being in New York City, while also raising questions that we at CCC—and we hope users of the risk ranking—will explore further. The first thing one might notice when looking at the overall risk ranking map is that communities that rank highest risk tend to cluster in upper Manhattan, the south Bronx and central Brooklyn. The ability to identify where risks concentrate is important, as research tells us that multiple risk factors have cumulative negative effects on child development and child well-being. As we discuss later, this geographic concentration of risk reveals significant disparities in child well-being across racial and ethnic lines.

On the specific domain pages, we see the vast disparities that exist between communities that rank highest and lowest risk. The child poverty rate in Brownsville (K16) is more than 20 times the child poverty rate in Murray Hill/Stuyvesant (M06). In Mott Haven (B01), the teen birth rate is nearly 30 times higher than in Battery Park/Tribeca (M01). These disparities exist within nearly every indicator in every domain.

The risk ranking also shows how risks are interrelated. In many cases, community districts that rank high risk in one domain are high risk in several others. Of the ten community districts in the highest risk category in the overall ranking, four—Mott Haven (B01), Hunts Point (B02), East Tremont (B06), and Brownsville (K16)—are in the highest risk category in five out of the six domains. The rankings across domains for these and other community districts underscore the multiple challenges children and families face.

There are, however, instances where risk levels are not consistent across domains. These situations require a deeper level of analysis to determine why districts seem to be thriving in some areas, but struggling in others. For example, Central Harlem (M10) ranks as one of the 15 highest risk districts in every domain with the exception of housing, where it is ranked #38, falling within the moderate-low risk category. Williamsburg/Greenpoint (K01) ranks as relatively low risk in every domain with the exception of economic security, where it is ranked #11, falling in the moderate-high risk category.

**Levels of Risk**

In each domain and overall, we have ranked New York City’s 59 community districts from highest risk (#1) to lowest risk (#59).
To help users better understand the risk rankings, we have included a series of community district profiles that dig deeper into a community district’s ranking in a given domain. We look more closely at the data that informs a community district’s ranking, and examine trends over time to see why risk levels might have changed.

The risk ranking tells us which communities are facing the greatest level of risk to child well-being, and in which issue areas—economic security, housing, health, education, youth, family and community—those risks are most prevalent. We also hope it raises as many questions as it answers. For example, what contributes to a community district being ranked low risk in the health domain while being among the highest risk in the economic security and housing domains? What might influence improved outcomes in a community district over time? What is working to ameliorate or address risk in community districts that can be replicated in other parts of the city? To answer these questions, CCC will be using the risk ranking analysis to inform qualitative work within communities, including talking to service providers and residents about the needs and resources available to them. We are also bringing the risk ranking online—as part of our Keeping Track database—along with a new asset mapping tool that will allow users to overlay community resources onto the risk ranking maps. These features will allow users to identify potential areas where community resources are—or are not—meeting the needs of a community and impacting risk levels.

We hope the Community Risk Ranking will inspire more work that attempts to explain why things are the way they are, and identify solutions that will improve outcomes in communities facing the greatest risks to well-being, so that all children in New York City have the opportunities they deserve to be healthy, housed, educated and safe.

To explore these and other indicators of child well-being in New York City, visit data.cccnewyork.org.
Overall Risk Ranking

CCC’s Community Risk Ranking provides a composite picture of the concentration of risk to child well-being across New York City’s 59 community districts (CDs). This measure combines all six domains of child well-being.

LEVEL OF RISK
- Highest Risk
- Moderate High Risk
- Moderate Risk
- Moderate Low Risk
- Lowest Risk

HIGH RISK COMMUNITY
Hunts Point (B02)

Domain Rankings
- Economic Security: 5
- Housing: 4
- Health: 24
- Youth: 2
- Family and Community: 1

LOWEST RISK COMMUNITY
Murray Hill/Stuyvesant (M06)

Domain Rankings
- Economic Security: 59
- Housing: 59
- Health: 56
- Youth: 58
- Family and Community: 54
Below, we take a closer look at Hunts Point, which is ranked highest risk in the overall ranking for the fifth straight year, and Murray Hill/Stuyvesant, which ranks as the lowest risk community district in this year’s overall ranking.

**Hunts Point (B02)**
For the fifth straight year, Hunts Point in the Bronx is ranked #1 in the overall risk ranking, making it the community district with the highest level of risk for children in New York City. There are over 17,000 children in Hunts Point, representing nearly three out of every ten residents in the district. The share of population under the age of 18 is among the highest across community districts. Two-thirds of residents are Latino, and nearly one-third are black.

Hunts Point has among the poorest outcomes in the city for several indicators used in our risk rankings; for example, over half of children are growing up in poverty and only one-third of students graduate from Hunts Point high schools. As a result, it is in the highest risk category in every domain with the exception of health, where there has been some improvement in recent years. The infant mortality rate and share of low birthweight babies have both declined, moving Hunts Point from moderate-high risk the previous two years to moderate risk in this year’s rankings in the health domain. The infant mortality rate has declined from 8.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2012, to 6.0 in 2014. And the share of low birthweight babies has decreased from a high of 11 percent in 2009 to 8 percent in 2014.

**Murray Hill/Stuyvesant (M06)**
Murray Hill/Stuyvesant in Manhattan ranks #59 in overall risk, making it the community district with the lowest level of risk for children in New York City. Just over 7 percent—or around 10,600—of the community district’s residents are children, the smallest share of children in the city. By comparison, 21 percent of the population citywide are children. Nearly seven out of ten residents in the community district are white, 16 percent are Asian, 8 percent are Latino, and 3 percent are black.

Murray Hill/Stuyvesant is ranked lowest risk in both the economic security and housing domains, and is among the five lowest risk community districts in the health, education and youth domains. It has the lowest rates of child poverty, parental employment instability, adults without a high school diploma, and children without health insurance out of the city’s 59 community districts.

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**CHILD POPULATION BY COMMUNITY DISTRICT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Total Population Under 18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26.7–37.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.1–26.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.3–22.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.9–17.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4–11.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**RACIAL/ETHNIC BREAKDOWN BY GEOGRAPHY**

- **White**
- **Black**
- **Asian**
- **Latino**
- **Other**

---

**Community District M06**
Child Population: 10,608
Child share of total population: 7.4%

**Community District B02**
Child Population: 17,717
Child share of total population: 29.2%
How Risk and Race Are Tied Together

New York City is home to the largest—and among the most diverse—child populations in the United States. Of the nearly 1.8 million children in New York City, 12 percent are Asian, 23 percent are black, 35 percent are Latino, and 26 percent are white. However, these citywide statistics do not reflect the reality in many of the city’s community districts, where there are clear majorities of a particular racial or ethnic group.

Black, Latino or white children represent a majority—over 50 percent of the child population—in 34 of the city’s 59 community districts. In many other districts, the combined black and Latino child population is well over 50 percent. Our analysis reveals that black and Latino children are disproportionately exposed to higher levels of risk.

Of the 35 districts where more than half of the child population is black or Latino, none ranked in the lowest or moderate-low risk categories for overall risk.

Nine of the ten community districts designated as highest risk have child populations that are at least 50 percent black or 50 percent Latino, and the lone exception—East New York (K05)—has a child population that is a combined 94 percent black and Latino. In the 12 community districts ranked moderate-high risk, eight have either black or Latino majorities and three others have combined black and Latino child populations over 50 percent. Of the 22 community districts in the highest or moderate high-risk categories in our overall ranking, only Coney Island (K13) has a child population that is less than 50 percent black and Latino.

On the other side of the spectrum, of the seven community districts designated as lowest risk, six have a child population that is more than 50 percent white. Of the 11 community districts in the moderate-low risk category, three community districts have white majorities. In the remaining community districts within these lower risk categories, there is no racial/ethnic majority among children, and the combined black and Latino child population is not above 50 percent in any of them. In other words, of the 35 districts where more than half of the child population is black or Latino, none ranked in the lowest or moderate-low risk categories for overall risk.

While New York City’s child population is incredibly diverse, clear population patterns emerge when looking at level of risk to child well-being. Despite being roughly a quarter of New York City’s child population, white children make up 61 percent of children living in community districts falling in the lowest risk category. Blacks and Latinos—who make up 58 percent of the city’s child population—are 94 percent of the population living in community districts in the highest risk category. Black children represent just 2 percent of the child population in the community districts designated as lowest risk, and 8 percent in community districts categorized as moderate-low risk.
Race/ethnicity of Children by Overall Risk Category

- **Highest Risk Community Districts**
  - White: 35.0%
  - Black: 2.5%
  - Other: 2.1%
  - Asian: 1.5%
  - Latino: 58.9%

- **Moderate High Risk Community Districts**
  - White: 40.1%
  - Black: 8.0%
  - Other: 11.5%
  - Asian: 4.4%
  - Latino: 36.1%

- **Moderate Risk Community Districts**
  - White: 18.0%
  - Black: 15.2%
  - Other: 32.7%
  - Asian: 30.0%
  - Latino: 32.7%

- **Moderate Low Risk Community Districts**
  - White: 21.6%
  - Black: 18.4%
  - Other: 47.4%
  - Asian: 7.7%
  - Latino: 5.0%

- **Lowest Risk Community Districts**
  - White: 60.5%
  - Black: 14.2%
  - Other: 14.2%
  - Asian: 9.4%
  - Latino: 1.7%

Overall Risk Ranking

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

Race/Ethnicity of Children

- Black or Latino majority
- No majority
- Black + Latino > 50%
- No majority black + Latino < 50%
- White majority
Economic Security

Children’s well-being is tied closely to the economic security of their families and communities. This domain illustrates whether children live in households where resources are adequate to meet their basic material needs.

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

Above, we see the stark differences between the communities that rank highest and lowest risk in the economic security domain. Children in Brownsville are nearly 23 times more likely to live in poverty, and the median income for families with children is nearly $176,000 less than in Murray Hill/Stuyvesant.
Below, we take a closer look at Williamsburg/Greenpoint, where poor outcomes in one neighborhood are driving the district’s risk ranking in economic security, and Coney Island, which experienced a significant increase in risk level in the economic security domain this year.

**Williamsburg/Greenpoint (K01)**
Williamsburg/Greenpoint is in the lowest risk or moderate-low risk category in every domain, with the exception of economic security, where it is ranked #11 (moderate-high risk). Williamsburg/Greenpoint has the 13th highest child poverty rate in the city, along with low household incomes and high rates of parental employment instability.

However, one out of the community district’s four neighborhoods is leading to the higher risk designation in the economic security domain. As the map below shows, child poverty rates vary widely when looking within the Williamsburg/Greenpoint community district, with the neighborhood of Williamsburg experiencing extremely high rates of child poverty compared to other neighborhoods. Similarly, income and employment are much lower in Williamsburg than in the community district’s other neighborhoods. It should be noted that the child population of Williamsburg is almost equal to the combined child population of the other three neighborhoods. While poor outcomes in Williamsburg impact the risk ranking for the Williamsburg/Greenpoint community district in the economic security domain, this does not seem to be occurring in the other domains.

**Coney Island (K13)**
After four consecutive years of being ranked moderate risk in the overall risk ranking, Coney Island in Brooklyn fell into the moderate-high risk category with a rank of #20 this year. This is largely due to an increase in risk in the economic security domain; Coney Island ranked #9 in risk in the economic security domain this year, after falling between #22 and #31 in previous years. The median income for families with children has been declining gradually over the past five years, and the child poverty and parental employment instability rates had dramatic increases from 2013 to 2014. The child poverty rate increased to 45 percent after hovering around 31 percent the previous three years. The parental employment instability rate—the share of children in families where no parent worked full-time in the last year—increased from 24 percent in 2013 to over 50 percent in 2014. Interestingly, when we look at additional data, we see that employment overall in the district did not decrease, but there were changes in employment among families with children. For example, in 2013 among married-couple families with children, 81 percent of householders worked full-time, year-round; in 2014, that number dropped to 59 percent. Householders and their spouses were far more likely to work part-time or part-year.
Housing

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

LEVEL OF RISK
- Highest Risk
- Moderate High Risk
- Moderate Risk
- Moderate Low Risk
- Lowest Risk

HIGHEST RISK COMMUNITY
University Heights (B05)

Rent Burden 42.5%
Rental Overcrowding 17.2%
Families Entering Homeless Shelters 9.5

LOWEST RISK COMMUNITY
Murray Hill/Stuyvesant (M06)

Rent Burden 17.2%
Rental Overcrowding 2.6%
Families Entering Homeless Shelters 0.2

Above, we see that more than four out of ten households in University Heights—ranked highest risk in the housing domain—spend at least half of their income on rent. And 9.5 out of every 1,000 families entered a homeless shelter in 2014, compared to only 1 out of every 5,000 families in Murray Hill/Stuyvesant.
Below, we look at Bushwick, where fewer families are entering homeless shelters than in previous years, leading to an improved risk ranking in the housing domain, and Bensonhurst, where housing has become the domain with the highest level of risk in the community.

**Bushwick (K04)**

Bushwick’s rank in the housing domain has been consistently improving, going from #4 in 2009 to #22 in 2014. Housing is now the lowest risk domain for the community district, which ranks #12 in overall risk. Rent burden rates have remained relatively steady, but significant decreases in families entering homeless shelters and rental overcrowding have led to an improvement in the level of housing risk. However, as the map below shows, rental overcrowding remains an issue, particularly in the northern part of the community district. The rental overcrowding rate in Bushwick North is 20 percent, compared to 12 percent in Bushwick South.

When we look at additional data on possible contributing factors, we see that Bushwick has undergone a significant shift in racial/ethnic demographics over the last ten years. In 2005, 4 percent of residents were white and 72 percent were Latino; in 2014, 17 percent of residents were white and 59 percent were Latino. The data tell us that white households in Bushwick experience less overcrowding, so the improvement in rental overcrowding rates may be partly explained by the changing demographic composition within the community district.

**Bensonhurst (K11)**

Bensonhurst has become increasingly high risk in the housing domain, going from a rank of #40 (moderate-low risk) in 2009 to a rank of #24 (moderate risk) in 2014. For two years in a row, housing has been the domain with the highest level of risk for the community district. Rates of family homelessness have remained very low, but rent burden and rental overcrowding rates have increased in the last five years. One-third of households were paying more than 50 percent of their income on rent in 2014, compared to 22 percent in 2009. And 17 percent of rental households were overcrowded in 2014, compared to 10 percent in 2009. The racial/ethnic make-up of the community has also changed dramatically in the last ten years. In 2005, 63 percent of residents were white and 26 percent were Asian; in 2014, 44 percent of residents were white and 40 percent were Asian. Data tell us that Asian households in Bensonhurst are slightly more likely to be rent burdened compared to white households, and are twice as likely to experience rental overcrowding, suggesting that changing demographics may play a role in the increased rate of rental overcrowding in Bensonhurst.
Health

A child’s physical, mental and emotional health is critical to his or her overall well-being. The health domain contains indicators that reflect both health outcomes and access to healthcare.

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

Above, we see that infants are over three times more likely to die before their first birthday in Brownsville, which ranks highest risk in the health domain, compared with Borough Park, which ranks lowest risk. Geographically, the two districts are separated by a little over three miles.
Below, we look at Washington Heights, which has experienced significant improvement in the health domain thanks in large part to more children having health insurance, and Borough Park, which ranks lowest risk in the health domain despite poor outcomes in the economic security and housing domains.

**Washington Heights (M12)**

Washington Heights has improved dramatically in the health domain, going from a rank of #22 (moderate risk) in 2009 to a rank of #48 (moderate-low risk) in 2014. Health is the lowest risk domain for Washington Heights, which ranks among the 21 highest risk community districts in every other domain and ranks #23 (moderate risk) in the overall risk ranking.

The infant mortality rate in Washington Heights is below the citywide average but has not improved since 2009, as it has citywide and in many other districts. And the share of low birthweight babies has remained relatively steady, increasing only minimally. However, Washington Heights has made significant progress in reducing the share of children without health insurance. In 2012, 8.5 percent of children did not have health insurance, the second highest rate in the city. In 2013 and 2014, that number had been reduced to less than one percent, among the lowest rates in the city.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>2014 Risk Ranking</th>
<th>Risk Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Security</td>
<td>20th</td>
<td>Moderate High Risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>13th</td>
<td>Moderate High Risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>48th</td>
<td>Moderate Low Risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>17th</td>
<td>Moderate Risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>21st</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family and Community</td>
<td>17th</td>
<td>Moderate Risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>Moderate Risk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Borough Park (K12)**

Borough Park ranks as the lowest risk community district in the health domain this year, and has ranked among the five lowest risk districts in health each of the past five years. This is the case despite Borough Park being ranked in the moderate-high risk category in economic security and in the highest risk category in housing, two areas where poor outcomes can impact health. Interestingly, Borough Park is also in the lowest risk category in the Family and Community domain, where it has the lowest rate of children in single-parent families.

Borough Park has among the best outcomes in the city for each of the indicators we look at to measure risk in the health domain. The infant mortality rate has been reduced from 3.6 deaths per 1,000 births in 2009—18th highest in the city—to 1.9 in 2014. The share of low birthweight babies has been between 5 and 6 percent the last five years, always among the lowest rates in the city. And the share of children without health insurance has also been consistently low, between 1 and 3 percent. Borough Park joins Battery Park/Tribeca (M01) and Williamsburg/Greenpoint (K01) as the only districts ranked in the lowest risk category in the health domain in each of the past five years.

**LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES AND CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE**

**INFANT MORTALITY RATE**
Quality educational programming is critical for children’s academic and social development. The indicators in the education domain provide data 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

Above, we see the vast disparities in educational outcomes between Hunts Point, ranked highest risk in the education domain, and Battery Park/Tribeca, ranked lowest risk. These disparities exist at every level of education, from pre-school through high school graduation.
Below, we look at Central Harlem, where declining early education enrollment and high school graduation rates have moved it into the moderate-high risk category, and the Rockaways, which has improved dramatically in the education domain over the last five years.

Central Harlem (M10)
In previous years of the risk ranking data, the education domain had been something of a bright spot for Central Harlem, which is ranked #16 in this year’s overall ranking and is regularly in the moderate-high risk category. In 2009, for example, Central Harlem ranked #15 in overall risk, but was only #39 in the education domain. However, Central Harlem is #14 in the education domain in this year’s rankings, moving it to the moderate-high risk category.

Early education enrollment in the district is right around the city average, but declined to 65 percent in 2014 from a high of 74 percent in 2010. The graduation rate has also been declining over the past five years; it was 13 points above the citywide rate in 2009, but 6 points below it in 2014. ELA pass rates for 3rd-8th graders have always been below the citywide average, but are now among the lowest in the city; the Math pass rate has been the lowest in the city for two years in a row. These factors have all combined to move Central Harlem from the moderate risk to moderate-high risk category in the education domain.

The Rockaways (Q14)
The Rockaways have made significant gains in the education domain, going from the highest risk category in 2009 and 2010, to the moderate-high risk category the following three years, to the moderate risk category in this year’s rankings. There has been a significant increase in early education enrollment, from 50 percent of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in early education programs in 2009 to 65 percent enrolled in 2014. While English Language Arts and Math test scores have been relatively steady—slightly below the citywide average—there has been a big jump in the graduation rate, from 51 percent of students graduating within four years in 2009 to 70 percent in 2014. The borough and citywide graduation rates have improved during that time, but the improvement has been more pronounced in the Rockaways.
Youth

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

Above, we see the challenges faced by young people in Mott Haven, which ranked highest risk in the youth domain, compared to Battery Park/Tribeca, which ranked lowest risk. Teen girls are 29 times more likely to have a baby; and 16-19 year olds are much more likely to be out of school and out of the labor force.
Below we look at East Harlem, which improved its ranking considerably in the youth domain after years in the moderate-high risk category, and Flatbush/Midwood, which has become increasingly high risk in the youth domain.

**East Harlem (M11)**

For the sixth year in a row, East Harlem ranks in the moderate-high risk category in the overall ranking, but has improved its ranking in the youth domain. After being ranked #6 in the youth domain in 2010, East Harlem ranked #28 this year, falling into the moderate risk category. The improvement is due in large part to a significant reduction in the teen birth rate, from 57.1 births per 1,000 teenage girls in 2009 to 27.4 births per 1,000 teenage girls in 2014. While the teen birth rate has dropped considerably citywide during that time, it has decreased at a faster rate in East Harlem. Youth unemployment has also decreased in East Harlem from 19.9 percent in 2009 to 13.8 percent in 2014. Citywide, the unemployment rate among 20-24 year olds has increased in that time. It is worth noting that additional data tell us that fewer young people in East Harlem are looking for work, which could be contributing to the lower unemployment rate.

**Flatbush/Midwood (K14)**

From 2009 to 2014, Flatbush/Midwood has gone from a rank of #33 (moderate-low risk) to a rank of #14 (moderate-high risk) in the youth domain. The youth domain is the only domain where the community district has experienced such a dramatic change in ranking. In Flatbush/Midwood, the teen birth rate increased from 2009 to 2012 before returning to its 2009 level in 2014; by comparison, in Brooklyn and New York City as a whole, the teen birth rate has been steadily declining and was significantly lower in 2014 than it was in 2009. The share of teens who are not in school or the labor force (teen idleness rate) decreased slightly from 2013 to 2014 in Flatbush/Midwood, but was still nearly four points higher than in 2009, and higher than the borough and citywide rate. While the youth unemployment rate has increased borough and citywide, it has increased more dramatically in Flatbush/Midwood, from 14 percent in 2009 to 25 percent in 2014.
Children’s development is greatly influenced by the families and communities that surround them. The indicators in the family and community domain capture critical influences in children’s environments.

Indicators: Children in Single-parent Families, Adults Without a High School Degree, Violent Felony Rate

Above, we see that children in Hunts Point, ranked highest risk in the family and community domain, are 5.5 times more likely to live in a single-parent household compared to children in the Upper East Side. Hunts Point also experiences far higher rates of crime and has far more adults without a high school degree.
Below, we look more closely at the Upper East Side, which is consistently among the lowest risk districts overall and in the family and community domain, and Mott Haven, which consistently ranks among the highest risk community districts both overall and in the family and community domain.

**Upper East Side (M08)**
For the fifth consecutive year, the Upper East Side ranks as the lowest risk community district in the family and community domain. It also ranks among the five lowest risk community districts in overall risk and in every domain with the exception of health. In 2014, only 3 percent of adult residents on the Upper East Side lacked a high school diploma, the second lowest rate in the city. The share of children in families headed by a single parent was only 13 percent, the fifth lowest rate in the city, and the violent felony rate of 1.1 violent felonies per 1,000 residents was the third lowest rate in the city. The Upper East Side has consistently had either the lowest or among the lowest rates in these indicators over the last five years.

**Mott Haven (B01)**
Mott Haven ranks #3 this year in the family and community domain, after ranking #2 when examining each of the past five years. It has ranked among the four highest risk districts overall the past five years, and is consistently in the highest risk category in several domains. Though the share of adults without a high school diploma has decreased over the last five years—from 47 percent in 2009 to 40 percent in 2014—it still had the highest rate of adults without a high school diploma in the city. Mott Haven also had the second highest rate of children in single-parent households at 72 percent; 2014 was the first year it did not have the highest rate in that category (it was surpassed by Brownsville). Though the violent felony rate has dropped from 10.0 violent felony crimes reported per 1,000 residents in 2010 to 8.6 in 2014, that is still the 8th highest violent felony rate in the city.
Notes on Methodology, Indicator Definitions, and Sources

*In the inaugural year of the Community Risk Ranking publication, we ranked community districts from lowest risk (#1) to highest risk (#59). In this and future editions of the Community Risk Ranking, while our method for calculating risks and weighting of indicators did not change, we felt it more appropriate to label the highest risk community district as #1 and lowest risk as #59.

Indicator Criteria

CCC based the following indicator criteria on best practices for composite well-being index construction, combined with CCC’s institutional knowledge of the unique issues impacting child well-being in New York City. See references for more information on other well-being indices that informed our work.

- 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

Indicator Definitions, Notes, and Sources

Following 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 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 2014. For some indicators, where sample sizes or numbers of events were small, data from the three-year period (2012-2014) or five-year period (2010-2014) were used to provide more reliable estimates. Such instances are noted below. Educational outcome data are for the 2014 school year, rather than calendar year 2014, and data for families entering homeless shelters is for fiscal year 2014.
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 the federal poverty level provides a reliable and consistent indicator of income adequacy. 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 (2014), 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 includes the income of every resident in a household over the age of 15, and is considered a reliable indicator of a household’s economic condition. 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 5-Year Estimates (2010-2014), Summary Table S1903. http://factfinder.census.gov/.

Parental Employment Instability—The share of children living in households where neither the household head nor a spouse worked full-time in the last year. In a vast majority of cases, this refers to the child’s parents. The parental employment instability measure adds yet another layer to our understanding of the economic conditions faced by families with children. Even if they earned a reasonable income, families with unstable employment situations may face additional economic stressors, such as the need to find additional (supplemental or new) employment and the lack of stabilizing benefits like employer-provided health insurance and sick leave. Information on parental employment status is 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 (2014), Public Use Microdata Sample File. http://factfinder.census.gov/.

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 overall health and well-being. 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 New York 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, Summary of Vital Statistics, 3-year data averages (2012-2014).

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. 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 New York 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, Summary of Vital Statistics (2014).

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 (2014), Summary Table B27001. http://factfinder.census.gov/.

Housing

Rent Burden—The share of households that spend more than 50 percent of their annual income on rent. While imperfect, this measure provides an estimate of housing affordability within communities. Households that spend more than half of their income on rent may be at risk of losing their housing because it (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 (2014), Summary Table B25070. 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 (2014), 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 New York 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 2014).

Education

Early Education Enrollment—The share of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in early education programs (may include public or private preschool or nursery school or child care programs). 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 5-Year Estimates (2010-2014), Summary Table S1401. 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 across 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 (SY2014). http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/data/GraduationDropoutReports/default.htm.

High School Graduation Rate—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 Department of Education. CCC used school-level results to aggregate data to the community-district level. In some years, certain community districts had no public high schools; 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 (SY2014). http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/data/GraduationDropoutReports/default.htm.

Youth

Teen Birth Rate—The number of babies born to teenage girls (ages 15 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. The number of teen births are reported by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene through its Vital Statistics program, and CCC uses population data from the American Community Survey to calculate the rate per 1,000 teenage girls. 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, Summary of Vital Statistics (2012-2014).

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 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 5-Year Estimates (2010-2014), Summary Table B14005. 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 5-Year Estimates (2010-2014), Summary Table S2301. http://factfinder.census.gov/.

Family & Community

Children in Single-Parent Families—The share of children living in families headed by a single parent. We exclude children who live with neither parent or in non-family households. This indicator is common among child well-being indices, as research suggests that children growing up in single-parent families may face elevated levels of risk. Single parents may experience 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 5-Year Estimates (2010-2014), Summary Table B09002. http://factfinder.census.gov/.

Adults Without a High School Degree—The share of adults ages 25 and older who have less than a high school diploma or equivalent degree. This indicator was previously referred to as Adult Educational Attainment, but the name has been changed to provide greater clarity. This indicator serves as a proxy for human capital
available in the community. Community members 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 (2014), 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 may be used. Crime data are available nationally from the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting system, as well as from local law enforcement agencies, although comparability may be an issue. Source: New York City Police Department, Historical New York City Crime Data (2014). http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/analysis_and_planning/historical_nyc_crime_data.shtml

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:

Value-Min/Max-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 domain 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 CCC community risk ranking.

Well-being Indices:


Other References and Resources:


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Citizens’ Committee for Children of New York, Inc.
Community Risk Ranking
Child Well-being in New York City’s 59 Community Districts