

**Housing and Neighborhood Preferences of  
African Americans on Long Island**  
2012 Survey Research Report

A Report From

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ERASE Racism

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February 2012

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The overall report, including additional analysis, was produced by ERASE Racism staff, with significant contributions from Olivia Ildefonso, Housing Coordinator.

V. Elaine Gross, President  
ERASE Racism  
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# Housing and Neighborhood Preferences of African Americans on Long Island 2012 Survey Research Report Executive Summary

Long Island is one of the most racially segregated regions in the country.<sup>1</sup> For the past ten years, ERASE Racism has documented how housing discrimination plays a significant role in determining the neighborhoods where African Americans on Long Island will most likely reside. We have reported that, as a direct result of patterns of housing segregation, only 9% of Long Island's black students have access to high performing schools as compared to 30% of white students.<sup>2</sup> Studies have also shown that even the most affluent black and Hispanic homeowners are segregated into majority black and Hispanic communities with high concentrations of poverty.<sup>3</sup> These factors point to structural impediments for blacks to housing choice and to quality education. Nonetheless, studies about neighborhood preferences often pose the question about whether so-called "self-segregation" is at play by all racial groups, including blacks, rather than structural racism.<sup>4</sup> In response to this assertion, we have now asked a large pool of black Long Islanders about the characteristics they value in a neighborhood. ERASE Racism contracted with the Stony Brook University Center for Survey Research to conduct the telephone survey of blacks on Long Island. Our questions included perceptions of their current neighborhood and thoughts about their ideal neighborhood. We also asked about personal experiences with housing discrimination and their desire to stay in or move away from Long Island. In analyzing the responses, we reviewed local and national studies, conducted Census data analysis and aggregated data from a variety of sources to expand upon and provide a context for the survey research findings. Key findings from the survey research are incorporated in the summary of significant findings that follow and are also listed separately below.

## SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

- Blacks prefer racially integrated communities.

Despite the popular notion that blacks only want to live in communities with neighbors who share their own race or ethnicity, the telephone survey findings showed that given the choice, nearly all respondents chose a racially mixed neighborhood, with a large majority, 69%, who chose an even mix of 50%

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<sup>1</sup> On a 0 to 100 scale, with 0 representing total integration, the black/white segregation for Long Island as of 2010 was 69.2%; a value of 60 (or above) is considered very high. This measurement of segregation is based on the Dissimilarity Index, which is the proportion of a minority group that would need to move to make the distribution of that group the same overall units.

<sup>2</sup> Elaine Gross, "Separate and Unequal" Newsday, June 3, 2011

[http://eraseracismny.org/storage/documents/June\\_5\\_Newsday\\_OPINION\\_by\\_EGross.pdf](http://eraseracismny.org/storage/documents/June_5_Newsday_OPINION_by_EGross.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> John R. Logan. July 2011, "Separate and Unequal: The Neighborhood Gap for Blacks, Hispanics and Asians in Metropolitan America", Project US 2010

<sup>4</sup> These studies were references on pg. 1386 of the following report: Lewis, Valerie A.; Emerson, Michael O.; Klineberg, Stephen L. 2011, "Who We'll Live With: Neighborhood Racial Composition Preferences of Whites, Blacks and Latinos" University of North Carolina Press, Social Forces 89 no.4

white and 50% black. Only 1% of respondents said that they would like to live in a neighborhood that is all black.

- Blacks live in segregated communities regardless of their income.

Long Island continues to be one of the most racially segregated regions in the nation; in 1980 the Dissimilarity Index for blacks in relation to whites was 76.9, with 100 representing total segregation. Thirty years later, in 2010, the black-white level of segregation was 69.2, still very high and indicating just a slight decrease (dropping barely 1 percentage point every five years). While Long Island also tends to be segregated by income, income disparities cannot explain the very high level of segregation experienced by blacks in the region. The 2005-2009 American Community Survey data show that in most metropolitan regions throughout the US, including Long Island, the average affluent black or Hispanic household lives in a poorer neighborhood than the average low-income white resident. Given that blacks prefer integrated communities, this pattern of racial segregation, regardless of income, suggests that factors other than black self-segregation are contributing to the high levels of racial segregation.

- Blacks report pervasive housing discrimination.

African Americans perceive housing discrimination as pervasive on Long Island. One in three, 33%, of black Long Islanders surveyed reported having experienced housing discrimination first-hand or within their immediate family. Our previous housing reports, reports by others and various law suits have documented the ongoing problem of fair housing violations, including racial steering by real estate agents, predatory lending by banks, and discriminatory municipal policies. Housing discrimination promotes and preserves residential and school segregation.

- Blacks report an increase in the Latino population in their communities, most of which are already majority minority neighborhoods.

The Latino population, the fastest growing demographic on Long Island, is facing more limited housing opportunities. In relation to non-Hispanic whites on Long Island, the level of segregation for Latinos has risen in the past thirty years. According to the new survey, almost half of blacks on Long Island said that the number of African Americans had decreased in their neighborhood in the last 10 years; of those respondents, 80% said that Latinos had largely replaced blacks in their area. The increase in the Latino population and its level of segregation suggest that Latinos, too, are experiencing housing discrimination that is limiting their housing choices to majority minority neighborhoods.

- In rating neighborhood characteristics, blacks value living close to family and friends much less than they value other factors.

The study found that blacks on Long Island consider the most important neighborhood characteristics to be a low crime rate (89%), landlords/homeowners who take care of their property (81%), high quality public schools (80%), and good local services (78%). Conversely, very few black respondents, 28%, considered living close to family and friends as one of the most important characteristics when thinking about their ideal neighborhood. In addition, 64%, or almost two-thirds, said that they received a little or no assistance from their neighbors in finding jobs, babysitting and carpooling. These findings contradict the common myth that

African Americans choose to live in the same community because they value social ties and being able to rely on one another more highly than other factors.

- The neighborhood characteristics that blacks most value are lacking where they live.

Respondents identified problems with the quality of their local public schools and the local government services that are offered in their neighborhood. Only 16% rated their local public school as excellent. In addition, just 37% believe that local public schools are a good value compared to the taxes they pay. When thinking about the quality of their local government services, 37% rated them as fair or poor and 43% said that they are not a good value compared to the taxes they pay. A significant percentage also reported problems with crime in their neighborhood.

- Blacks value quality schools, but give the schools in their community a poor rating.

When thinking about a place to live, 80% of blacks said they consider high quality public schools as one of the most important factors although, as stated in the previous bullet, only 16% rated their local public school as excellent, and almost half of all respondents, 40%, rated their local school as fair or poor. Not surprisingly, this dissatisfaction was most pronounced among respondents who live in high-need districts, with 55% rating their local schools as fair or poor.

There is significant evidence that concurs with the perception of the survey respondents that blacks on Long Island have limited access to high quality public resources, such as good schools. According to the U.S. Department of Education, in 2008-2009 only 9% of black students on Long Island had access to a high performing public school, compared to 14% of Hispanics and 30% of whites. Segregation and concentrations of poverty are two of the major reasons why students of color are overrepresented in low performing schools. On Long Island, more than one-half of black youth under the age of 18 live in 9 of 100 school districts (that reported on student demographics). In these 9 districts, less than one-third of young people are white and the poverty rate among households is twice that of households in other schools districts. Consequently, there are vast disparities in resources for students and student performance in majority black schools, as compared to majority white schools.

- Blacks report a higher likelihood of leaving the region.

Barriers to quality resources, such as high performing schools, could help explain why blacks tend to report a higher likelihood of leaving the region than whites. According to the 2012 Long Island Index Survey Report, 59% of black residents said they will leave Long Island in the next five years, as compared to 48% of white residents; this is a trend observed in prior Long Island Index polls and further confirmed by ERASE Racism's study. Our survey found that roughly half, 52%, of all blacks said they were somewhat or very likely to leave Long Island in the next five years. Another 27% said that they were somewhat or very likely to move from their current residence to somewhere else on Long Island. When asked why they were thinking of moving to another area on the Island, the most common response, by roughly 40%, was unhappiness with their current neighborhood.

## KEY FINDINGS

### Neighborhood Racial Demographics and Housing Discrimination

- When asked about the percentage mix that best represents the kind of neighborhood in which they would most like to live, nearly all respondents (all of whom were black) chose a racially mixed neighborhood, with a large majority, 69%, who chose an even mix of 50% white and 50% black. Only 1% chose all-black.
- Among blacks who said their neighborhoods had become less African American in the last 10 years, 80% said that Latinos had largely replaced blacks in their area.
- Fifty-eight percent of respondents said they believe that African Americans miss out on housing because real estate agents will not show blacks homes in white areas. Just under half, 44%, believe that African Americans miss out on housing because white homeowners and landlords will not rent or sell to blacks. Altogether, over 80% of respondents said these forms of housing discrimination are somewhat or very likely to affect blacks.
- Roughly one out of three respondents said that they have, or a family member has, been a victim of housing discrimination. A majority of those respondents explained that the discrimination involved a real estate agent who would not show, sell, or rent them homes in mostly white areas, when they could, in fact, have afforded those homes.

### Neighborhood Quality Preferences and Satisfaction with Current Neighborhood

- A majority of African Americans reported that they consider a low crime rate (89%), landlords/homeowners who take care of their property (81%), high quality public schools (80%) and good local services (78%) as the most important neighborhood characteristics.
- Only 28% of blacks considered “living close to family and friends” as one of the most important neighborhood qualities and a majority, 64% or almost two-thirds, said that they received a little or no assistance from their neighbors in finding jobs, babysitting, and carpooling.
- Only 16% rated their local schools as excellent, while nearly half, 40%, rated them as fair or poor. Fifty-five percent of those in high-need districts rated their local schools as fair or poor, compared to 11% in low-need and average-need districts. In addition, only 37% believe that local public schools are a good value compared to the taxes that they pay.
- Thirty-seven percent of black residents rated their local government services as fair or poor and 43% said that they are not a good value compared to the taxes they pay.
- Roughly half, 52%, of all blacks said they are somewhat or very likely to leave Long Island in the next five years. Another 27% said that they were somewhat or very likely to move from their current residence to somewhere else on Long Island. When asked why they were thinking of moving to another area on the Island, the most common response, by roughly 40%, was unhappiness with their current neighborhood.

# Housing and Neighborhood Preferences of African Americans on Long Island 2012 Survey Research Report

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

To better understand patterns of residential segregation on Long Island, in 2011 ERASE Racism contracted with the Stony Brook University Center for Survey Research to conduct a survey of black Long Islanders. The survey is a follow-up to a poll that Stony Brook conducted for ERASE Racism in 2008 and probes more deeply into housing attitudes and residential preferences among African Americans. It is the largest survey of black Long Islanders to include questions about housing-related issues.<sup>5</sup> The survey sample was drawn from “minority” neighborhoods in Nassau and Suffolk counties having a 60% or greater proportion of African Americans. Respondents were 18 years or older. Ninety percent of those interviewed had lived on Long Island for at least 10 years; 25% had lived on Long Island for their entire lives. Details about the methodology of the research as provided by the survey researchers can be found in the appendix.

In the original proposal for this survey, we planned to also poll Latinos on Long Island. Dr. Leonie Huddy, the director of the Stony Brook Survey Research Center, suggested that it would be much better to dedicate our research to the African American population only, rather than divide the limited resources for this work between blacks and Latinos. Based on past research with Latinos related to housing, it was her professional opinion that we would need a much larger sample in order to identify a “trend” in the responses with any statistical significance; for example, she pointed to many Hispanic subgroups, including those who see themselves as white and who may experience life as a white person and those who may be darker and experience discrimination due to skin color.

This assessment seemed credible to us because according to Census data, Hispanics generally are less segregated from whites than blacks on Long Island. We also have results from our previous survey research in which Latinos reported that they experience discrimination at lower levels. We chose to proceed with a survey of black Long Islanders because they are more intensely isolated from majority white communities and they disproportionately live in neighborhoods with greater concentrations of poverty.

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<sup>5</sup> Several health polls conducted on Long Island have included large over-samples of African Americans, but they do not include questions on housing and neighborhood preferences and satisfaction. [http://www.adelphi.edu/vitalsigns/pdfs/vitalsigns\\_jan2008.pdf](http://www.adelphi.edu/vitalsigns/pdfs/vitalsigns_jan2008.pdf)

## INTRODUCTION

Long Island is one of the most racially segregated regions in the country.<sup>6</sup> For the past ten years, ERASE Racism has documented how housing discrimination plays a significant role in determining the neighborhoods where African Americans on Long Island will most likely reside. We have reported that, as a direct result of patterns of housing segregation, only 9% of Long Island's black students have access to high performing schools as compared to 30% of white students.<sup>7</sup> Studies have also shown that even the most affluent black and Hispanic homeowners are segregated into majority black and Hispanic communities with high concentrations of poverty.<sup>8</sup> These factors point to structural impediments for blacks to housing choice and to quality education. Nonetheless, studies about neighborhood preferences often suggest that so-called "self-segregation" is at play by all racial groups, including blacks, not structural racism.<sup>9</sup> In response to this assertion, we have now asked a large pool of black Long Islanders about the characteristics they value in a neighborhood. Our questions included perceptions of their current neighborhood and thoughts about their ideal neighborhood. We also asked about personal experiences with housing discrimination and desire to stay in or move away from Long Island.

## SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

*Unless otherwise noted, all responses were provided by individuals who self-identified as African American.*

### Neighborhood Racial Demographics and Housing Discrimination

When asked about the percentage mix that best represents the kind of neighborhood in which they would most like to live, nearly all respondents chose a racially mixed neighborhood, with a large majority, 69%, who chose an even mix of 50% white and 50% black. Only 1% chose all-black. (See Graph 1 for the percentage categories) The high level of segregation on Long Island makes it difficult for blacks to find a neighborhood with their ideal racial mix. When asked, roughly 4 in 10 black residents said they would feel better about living in a mostly white community if the schools contained a mix of black and white students. Three in 10 said they would consider moving into a mostly white neighborhood in which residents were open to people of different backgrounds.

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<sup>6</sup> On a 0 to 100 scale, with 0 representing total integration, the black/white segregation for Long Island as of 2010 was 69.2%; a value of 60 (or above) is considered very high. This measurement of segregation is based on the Dissimilarity Index, which is the proportion of a minority group that would need to move to make the distribution of that group the same overall units.

<sup>7</sup> Elaine Gross, "Separate and Unequal" Newsday, June 3, 2011

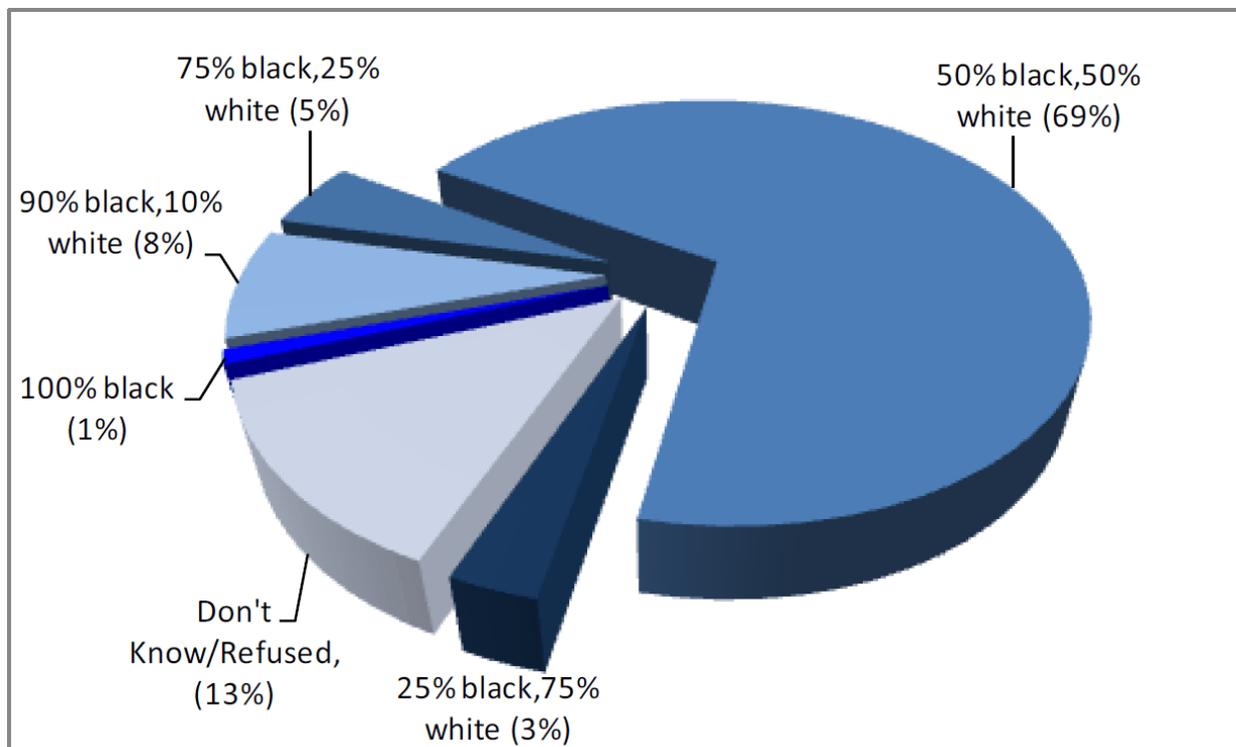
[http://eraseracismny.org/storage/documents/June\\_5\\_Newsday\\_OPINION\\_by\\_EGross.pdf](http://eraseracismny.org/storage/documents/June_5_Newsday_OPINION_by_EGross.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> John R. Logan. July 2011, "Separate and Unequal: The Neighborhood Gap for Blacks, Hispanics and Asians in Metropolitan America", Project US 2010

<sup>9</sup> These studies were references on pg. 1386 of the following report: Lewis, Valerie A.; Emerson, Michael O.; Klineberg, Stephen L. 2011, "Who We'll Live With: Neighborhood Racial Composition Preferences of Whites, Blacks and Latinos" University of North Carolina Press, Social Forces 89 no.4

**Graph 1: Preferred Racial Neighborhood Composition as a Percentage**

*A majority of African Americans prefer to live in integrated neighborhoods with an equal balance of black and white residents.*



This finding that most blacks want to live in a racially diverse neighborhood is consistent with a large number of social science studies of African American housing attitudes that report that blacks in the U.S. in general prefer to live in neighborhoods that are half white and half black.<sup>10</sup> It is in contrast to the popular notion that African Americans self-segregate, because they prefer to live in all-black communities.<sup>11</sup>

This raises the question of why a majority of black Long Islanders live in segregated communities.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Maria Krysan, Reynolds Farley. 2002 "The Residential Preferences of Blacks: Do They Explain Persistent Segregation?" University of North Carolina Press, *Social Forces*, 80(3):937-980



**Are blacks on Long Island segregated because they prefer to live in majority black communities?**  
 We asked and learned that this is not the case. The red bar shows the support for neighborhoods of different black to white ratios. An overwhelming number said they want to live in neighborhoods that are 50% black and 50% white.



ERASE Racism’s past reports have revealed various forms of structural racism that perpetuate segregation on Long Island and consequently reinforce resource disparities between white communities and black communities.<sup>12</sup> One reason is housing discrimination, which creates barriers that prevent blacks from

<sup>12</sup> Long Island Fair Housing: A State of Inequity (2005); The Racial Equity Report Card: Fair Housing on Long Island (2009) <http://eraseracismny.org/resource-center/reports/term/summary>

moving into majority white communities. Some examples of housing discrimination that occur on Long Island are:

- racial steering by real estate agents,
- local governmental policies that give housing preferences to people who already live in racially homogenous communities with small numbers of African American residents, and
- unequal terms in mortgage rates and services.

In this survey, we asked African Americans—89.6% of whom have lived on Long Island for more than 10 years—about their perceptions of housing discrimination on Long Island and whether they have been victims of discrimination. Fifty-eight percent said they believe that African Americans miss out on housing because real estate agents will not show blacks homes in white areas. Almost half, 44%, believe that African Americans miss out on housing because white homeowners and landlords will not rent or sell to blacks. Altogether, over 80% of survey respondents think these forms of housing discrimination are somewhat or very likely to affect blacks. Furthermore, roughly one out of three African Americans said that they have, or a family member has, been a victim of housing discrimination. A majority of these respondents explained that the discrimination involved a real estate agent who would not show, sell, or rent them homes in mostly white areas, when they could, in fact, have afforded those homes.

**Table 1: Experience with Housing Discrimination**

<i>Perceived Discrimination</i>	<b>Very Likely</b>	<b>Somewhat Likely</b>	<b>Somewhat/ Very Unlikely</b>
African Americans miss out on housing because real estate agents would not show homes in white areas	58%	25%	10%
African Americans miss out on housing because white homeowners and landlords would not rent or sell to blacks	44%	37%	13%
<i>Personal Experience (Self or Immediate Family Member)</i>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
<i>Experienced at least one of 3 forms of discrimination</i>	<b>33%</b>	<b>67%</b>	
Missed out on housing because of a real estate agent	22%	75%	
Missed out on housing because of a white landlord/homeowner	15%	82%	
Been verbally or physically harassed by a neighbor because of race	10%	89%	

There are many factors that contribute to creating and maintaining segregated communities; one of the most important is housing discrimination, which includes racial steering by real estate agents, predatory lending by banks, and discriminatory municipal policies. Structural impediments that are more unique to Long Island, such as its school district boundaries and school funding policies, also perpetuate segregation. All of these factors prevent the formation of integrated and diverse neighborhoods on Long Island, as evidenced by the

relatively insignificant change in the level of black-white segregation in the region. (Table 2) According to the 2010 Census, the U.S. is becoming less white and more racially and ethnically diverse; however, in many parts of the country, including Long Island, these changing demographics have had a minimal effect on the high levels of segregation. Table 2 lists values of the Index of Dissimilarity for the 20 metropolitan regions in the country with the largest black populations in 2010. Of these, the 10 with the highest levels of segregation include Long Island: Detroit, MI; Milwaukee, WI; New York, NY; Newark, NJ; Chicago, IL; Philadelphia, PA; Miami, FL; Cleveland, OH; St. Louis, MO; and Nassau-Suffolk, NY. These areas represent the regions of the country where black-white segregation has been most resistant to change.<sup>13</sup> In 1980, the Dissimilarity Index for Long Island blacks in relation to whites was 76.9, which is considered a very high level of segregation. Thirty years later, in 2010, the black-white level of segregation was 69.2, still very high and representing just a slight decrease (dropping barely 1 percentage point every five years).

**Table 2: Black-White Segregation (Dissimilarity Index) in 20 Metro Areas with Largest Black Populations in 2010**

2010 Rank	Area Name	2010 Segregation	2000 Segregation	1990 Segregation	1980 Segregation
1	Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn, MI	79.6	85.9	85.6	83.0
2	Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI	79.6	82.2	82.8	83.9
3	New York-White Plains-Wayne, NY-NJ	79.1	81.3	82.0	81.7
4	Newark-Union, NJ-PA	78.0	80.4	82.7	82.8
5	Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL	75.9	80.8	84.6	88.6
6	Philadelphia, PA	73.7	76.5	81.4	82.6
7	Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall, FL	73.0	72.4	71.8	79.3
8	Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH	72.6	77.2	82.8	85.8
9	St. Louis, MO-IL	70.6	73.4	77.2	81.6
10	Nassau-Suffolk, NY	69.2	73.6	76.4	76.9
11	Boston-Quincy, MA	67.8	71.5	73.7	79.8
12	Cincinnati-Middletown, OH-KY-IN	66.9	72.6	75.9	78.2
13	Birmingham-Hoover, AL	65.2	68.9	70.3	72.2
14	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, CA	65.0	67.4	73.1	81.1
15	Indianapolis-Carmel, IN	64.5	71.0	74.4	78.8
16	Baltimore-Towson, MD	64.3	67.6	71.4	74.4
17	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	64.1	65.9	68.4	71.4
18	New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA	63.3	69.0	68.3	70.0
19	Pittsburgh, PA	63.1	67.4	70.8	73.3
20	Memphis, TN-MS-AR	62.2	65.7	65.5	68.8

(John R. Logan and Brian Stults. 2011. "The Persistence of Segregation in the Metropolis: New Findings from the 2010 Census" Census Brief prepared for Project US2010.)

<sup>13</sup> Pg. 5, John R. Logan and Brian Stults. 2011. "The Persistence of Segregation in the Metropolis: New Findings from the 2010 Census" Census Brief prepared for Project US2010. <http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010>

Forty-five percent of blacks on Long Island said that the number of African Americans had decreased in their neighborhood in the last 10 years; of those respondents, 80% said that Latinos had largely replaced blacks in their area. The Latino population is the fastest growing demographic on Long Island; however, like blacks, their housing opportunities are becoming more limited. In 2010, the Dissimilarity Index<sup>14</sup> for blacks in relation to whites was 69.2, which is considered a high level of segregation. The 2010 Dissimilarity Index for Latinos on Long Island reflected lower levels of segregation, but data show that Latinos have become increasingly more segregated. In relation to non-Hispanic whites, the level of segregation for Latinos in 1980 was 37.1; by 2010 it had risen to 48.5. The increase in Latino isolation is a trend experienced throughout the nation. According to 2010 Census data, the nation’s 50 metro areas with the highest Latino population, including Long Island, have more intense Latino enclaves than they did thirty years ago.<sup>15</sup> Although it was not addressed by this study, other studies have indicated that, like blacks, Latinos prefer to live in racially mixed communities.<sup>16</sup> The increase in segregation for Latinos suggests that they, too, are likely experiencing various forms of housing discrimination that are limiting their choices to majority minority neighborhoods.

### Neighborhood Quality Preferences and Satisfaction with Current Neighborhood

Not surprisingly, in our survey a majority of African Americans, like most Long Islanders, said they consider a low crime rate (89%), landlords/homeowners who take care of their property (81%), high quality public schools (80%) and good local services (78%) as the most important neighborhood qualities.<sup>17</sup>

*Table 3: Importance of Neighborhood Qualities  
When Thinking about a Place to Live*

<u>Neighborhood Characteristics</u>	<u>One of the Most Important</u>	<u>Important, But Not the Most</u>	<u>Not Important</u>
Low crime rate(Q3)	89%	11%	1%
Landlords/homeowners who take care of their property(Q2)	81%	19%	-
High quality public schools(Q1)	80%	17%	3%
Good local services(Q5)	78%	22%	0.5%
People know each other and get along(Q6)	48%	46%	6%
Close to family and friends(Q4)	28%	55%	17%

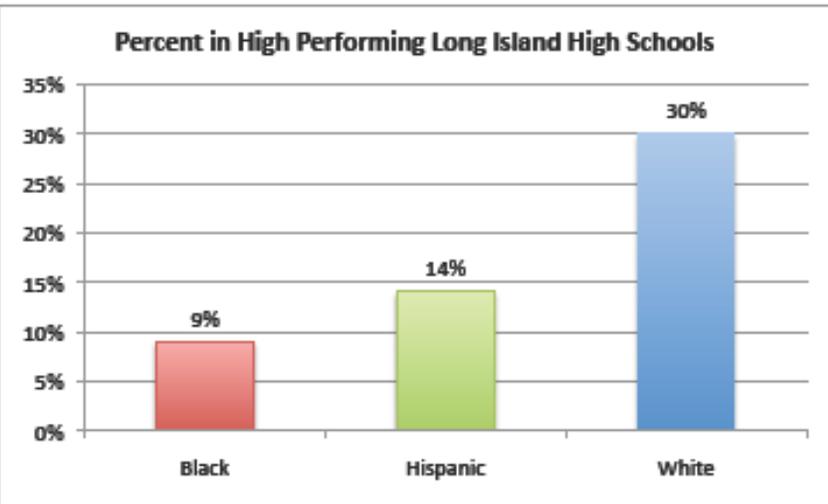
<sup>14</sup> The most commonly used index of segregation is called the Dissimilarity Index. Technically, it is the proportion of a minority group that would need to move to make the distribution of that group the same over all units. It thus can vary from 0, representing no segregation at all, to 100, representing total segregation.

<sup>15</sup> Pg.13, John R. Logan and Brian Stults. 2011. “The Persistence of Segregation in the Metropolis: New Findings from the 2010 Census” Census Brief prepared for Project US2010. <http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010>

<sup>16</sup> Michael O. Emerson and Valerie A. Lewis. 2011 “Who We’ll Live With: Neighborhood Racial Composition Preferences of Whites, Blacks and Latinos” Social Forces 89(4) 1385-1408

<sup>17</sup> Pg. 4 Rauch Foundation. 2002, “Long Islanders: Who Are We? A Quality of Life Survey of Long Island and the New York Metropolitan Region” [http://www.longislandindex.org/fileadmin/Reports\\_and\\_Maps/Surveys/2002\\_LIers\\_Who\\_Are\\_We.pdf](http://www.longislandindex.org/fileadmin/Reports_and_Maps/Surveys/2002_LIers_Who_Are_We.pdf)

Neighborhood characteristics, such as high crime rates, unkempt property, poor schools and poor municipal services are frequently associated with communities of color.<sup>18</sup> All too often, the blame for neighborhood conditions is placed on all of the people who reside in those communities. “Community Undesirability in Black and White: Examining Racial Residential Preferences through Community Perceptions”, a study by Maria Krysan, cites several reports that erroneously suggest that whites and people of color must have different values with respect to neighborhood characteristics; Krysan’s study proves that this is not the case.<sup>19</sup> Our survey supports that conclusion. It also discredits the common myth that African Americans live together because they value social ties and being able to rely on one another more highly than other factors. Only 28% of respondents said they considered “living close to family and friends” as one of the most important neighborhood qualities while a majority, 64% or almost two-thirds, said that they received a little or no assistance from their neighbors in finding jobs, babysitting, and carpooling.



(U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2008-09)

Our study found that a significant proportion of blacks on Long Island are not living in a neighborhood that possesses the characteristics that they consider to be the most important. Only 16% rated their local schools as excellent, while almost half, 40%, rated them as fair or poor. In addition, only 37% believe that local public schools are a good value compared to the taxes that they pay, which is lower than the overall satisfaction of Long Islanders.<sup>20</sup>

There is significant evidence that confirms the perception of the survey respondents that blacks on Long Island are not being offered a high quality education. According to the U.S. Department of Education, in 2008-2009 only 9% of black students on Long Island had access to a high performing public school, compared to 14% of Hispanics and 30% of whites. As with public school education, blacks also identified problems with the quality of local government services that are offered in their neighborhood. Thirty-seven percent of black residents rated their local government services as fair or poor and 43% said that they are not a good value compared to the taxes they pay. A significant percentage also reported problems with crime in their neighborhood.<sup>21</sup>

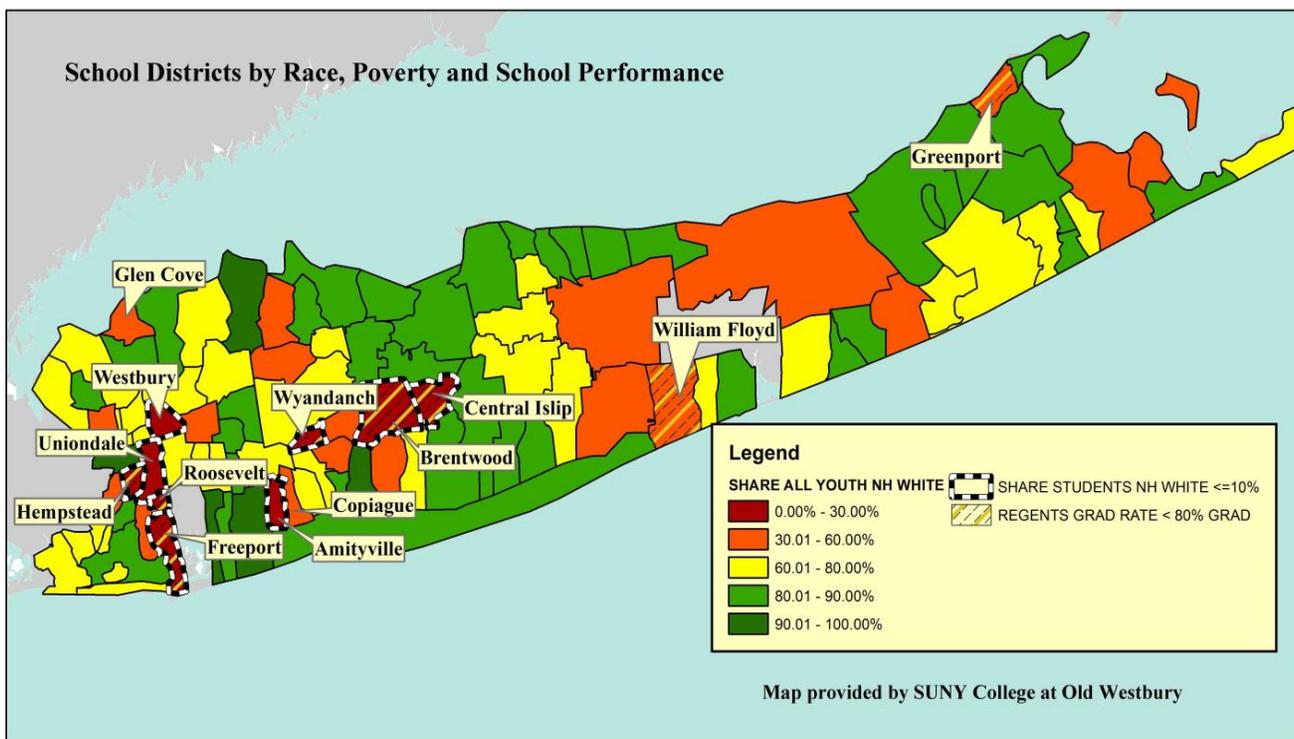
<sup>18</sup> Pg. 6, Judith Bell. 2007 “Why Place Matters: Building a Movement for Healthy Communities” Policy Lin [http://www.policylink.org/atf/cf/%7B97c6d565-bb43-406d-a6d5-eca3bbf35af0%7D/WHYPLACEMATTERS\\_FINAL.PDF](http://www.policylink.org/atf/cf/%7B97c6d565-bb43-406d-a6d5-eca3bbf35af0%7D/WHYPLACEMATTERS_FINAL.PDF)

<sup>19</sup> Pg. 523, Maria Krysan. 2002, “Community Undesirability in Black and White: Examining Racial Residential Preferences through Community Perceptions” 49 Soc. Probs. 521 2002

<sup>20</sup> According to a 2009 poll by the Long Island Index, 41% of Long Islanders felt that they were getting back an excellent or good value from their property taxes in terms of the quality of education

<sup>21</sup> Over 7 in 10 blacks say the sale and use of illegal drugs is something of a problem in their local area, 64% reported that breaking and entering into homes was either a major problem or minor problem in their neighborhood and 59% reported that mugging was a problem.

In many regions throughout the nation, the way that residents are taxed to pay for local services directly influences the quality of the services they receive. Disparities in the quality of public schools on Long Island provide a strong example of this relationship; many studies of the region, including ERASE Racism’s research, show that segregation and concentrations of poverty are associated with low performing schools.<sup>22</sup> On Long Island, more than one half of all black youth under the age of 18 live in 9 out of 100 school districts.<sup>23</sup> In these nine districts, less than one third of young people are white and the poverty rate among households is twice that of households in other school districts.<sup>24</sup> Even when federal and state money is factored in, schools in areas of concentrated poverty have higher levels of unmet needs. Consequently, there are vast disparities in resources for students and student performance in majority black schools, as compared to majority white schools. According to 2010 data from the New York State Department of Education, only 19% of majority minority districts on Long Island had a graduation rate greater than 85%, compared to 91% of majority white districts.<sup>25</sup>



Long Island’s most segregated school districts have extremely high rates of poverty and low student performance.

As shown in Table 3, when thinking about a place to live, 80% of African American respondents believe that residing in an area with high quality public schools is one of the most important neighborhood qualities. However, the responses that we received from African Americans on Long Island in this study illustrate dissatisfaction with the quality and characteristics of their local public school. Not surprisingly, this

<sup>22</sup> [http://eraseracismny.org/storage/documents/education/ERASE\\_Racism-long-island-district-facts.pdf](http://eraseracismny.org/storage/documents/education/ERASE_Racism-long-island-district-facts.pdf)

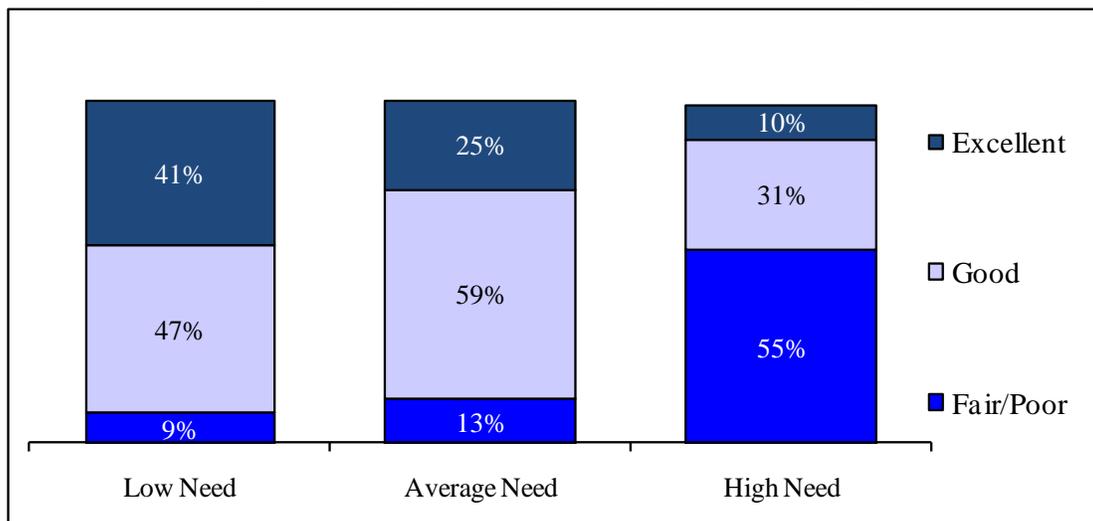
<sup>23</sup> 24 school districts were not included in this statistic due to lack of data.

<sup>24</sup> Calculations based on 2010 data provided by National Center for Education Statistics and ACS 2005-2009 data

<sup>25</sup> These statistics from 2010 data provided by the New York State Department of Education do not include 22 districts (half of which have less than 200 students) for which data were not given.

dissatisfaction was most pronounced among respondents who live in high-need school districts, defined by the State of New York as districts with a poverty level of 20% or more, or which serve 10,000 or more students from poverty-level families. Fifty-five percent of those in high-need districts rate their local schools as fair or poor, compared to 11% in low-need (wealthy) and average-need districts. According to a new study by the Long Island Index, the perception of education inequity varies across racial groups, with 59% of blacks seeing more inequality across school districts as compared to 46% of whites.<sup>26</sup> The fact that a majority of African Americans on Long Island value neighborhoods with high quality public schools yet express dissatisfaction with their current public school suggests another barrier preventing African Americans from living in their ideal neighborhood.

**Graph2: Rating of Schools by Level of District Need (Q8)**



Inequity in access to resources on Long Island, and throughout the nation, cannot be explained merely by income disparities. While Long Island also tends to be segregated by income, data show that even the most affluent black and Hispanic homeowners are segregated into majority black and Hispanic communities with high concentrations of poverty.<sup>27</sup> The 2005-2009 American Community Survey data show that in most metropolitan regions throughout the US, including Long Island, the average affluent black or Hispanic household lives in a poorer neighborhood than the average low-income white resident.<sup>28</sup> Asians, who have higher incomes than whites, also live in somewhat poorer neighborhoods. While the sample was not large enough to be statistically valid, ERASE Racism’s study of individuals who participate in Nassau County’s Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) also suggested that poor blacks live in neighborhoods with higher concentrations of poverty than poor whites.<sup>29</sup> Given that blacks prefer integrated communities, this pattern of racial segregation, regardless of income, suggests that factors other than black self-segregation are contributing to the high levels of racial segregation. Barriers for African Americans to high quality schools

<sup>26</sup> Long Island Index. December 2011, “Tracking Residential Satisfaction on Long Island”

<sup>27</sup> John R. Logan. July 2011, “Separate and Unequal: The Neighborhood Gap for Blacks, Hispanics and Asians in Metropolitan America”, Project US 2010

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> ERASE Racism. 2010, “A Report on Housing Choice Voucher Program Participants in Nassau County, NY: Findings from the Communities and Health Survey” [http://eraseracismny.org/storage/documents/public-health/Reportfinal\\_2\\_.pdf](http://eraseracismny.org/storage/documents/public-health/Reportfinal_2_.pdf)

and good local services also include various forms of housing discrimination. Often, even when black home seekers can afford to buy a house in a majority white community, they are only shown houses in majority black communities. This discriminatory and illegal practice is known as racial steering. As discussed previously in the report, racial steering by real estate agents is just one of the ways that African Americans are prevented from moving into majority white neighborhoods.<sup>30</sup>

Barriers to quality resources, such as high performing schools, could help explain why blacks tend to report a higher likelihood of leaving the region than whites. In the 2011 Long Island Index Survey Report (conducted in the fall of 2011), 59% of black residents said they will leave Long Island in the next five years, as compared to 48% of white residents; this is a trend observed in prior Long Island Index polls and further confirmed by ERASE Racism's study. Our survey found that roughly half, 52%, of all blacks say they are somewhat or very likely to leave Long Island in the next five years. Another 27% said that they were somewhat or very likely to move from their current residence to somewhere else on Long Island. When asked why they were thinking of moving to another area on the Island, the most common response, by roughly 40%, was unhappiness with their current neighborhood.

## CONCLUSION

Our survey research has corrected several misconceptions about the causes of residential segregation. By asking black Long Islanders about their neighborhood quality preferences, we have learned that most African Americans want to live in areas that have an even racial mix of black and white residents. This finding is in contrast to the misconception that blacks prefer to live in racially isolated neighborhoods. In fact, only 1% said that they wanted to live in an all-black neighborhood, while the rest chose a mix of black and white. The study also refuted the idea that racial disparities are a reflection of different values. In other words, if a school district is underperforming, it should not be presumed that the residents in those districts do not value a quality education. This myth is disproven by the survey responses. Our study also confirmed the fact, which should have been obvious, that African Americans value the same neighborhood characteristics that other Long Islanders value: respondents overwhelmingly rated a low crime rate, landlords/homeowners who take care of their property, high quality public schools and good local services as the most important neighborhood characteristics.

ERASE Racism's research over the past decade has revealed many forms of structural racism on Long Island. This housing survey is unique in that it shows the relationship between race and access to opportunities through the personal experiences of black Long Islanders.

- Regardless of their personal income level, according to the US Census, most African Americans live in neighborhoods with higher concentrations of poverty than whites; concentrations of poverty directly affect availability of quality public resources.
- Many African Americans are not satisfied with the local public schools and local services. Our survey reports that:

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<sup>30</sup> Pg. 45, ERASE Racism. 2005 "Long Island Fair Housing: A State of Inequity"  
[http://www.eraseracismny.org/storage/documents/housing/Long\\_Island\\_Fair\\_Housing\\_A\\_State\\_of\\_Inequity.pdf](http://www.eraseracismny.org/storage/documents/housing/Long_Island_Fair_Housing_A_State_of_Inequity.pdf)

- Only 16% rated their local schools as excellent, while almost half rated them as fair or poor.
- Respondents from high-need school districts were the least satisfied; more than half rated their local public schools as fair or poor.

The study found that African Americans on Long Island face a number of barriers that reduce their chances of living in their preferred neighborhood. African Americans perceive housing discrimination as pervasive on Long Island. The study reported that roughly a third of Long Island black residents have experienced housing discrimination first-hand or within their immediate family. Housing discrimination may increasingly be a problem for Latinos on Long Island as well, the study suggests, since their growing population is becoming increasingly more segregated. In addition, most neighborhoods on Long Island are majority white, rather than racially integrated which are preferred by both African-Americans and Latinos.

Proactive, aggressive enforcement of fair housing laws by the Nassau and Suffolk human rights commissions is essential to ensure that African Americans have equal access to housing in all communities on Long Island. Also critically important is the creation and placement of new affordable housing in majority white communities and affirmatively marketing this housing to communities of color. Many white communities have resisted efforts to create multifamily housing, especially affordable housing. There are many studies that address objections to multifamily housing and affordable housing, almost all of which conclude that such housing has little to no negative effects on the immediate community. Dr. Pearl Kamer, chief economist for the business group, the Long Island Association, for example, analyzed 199 developments on Long Island (140 Nassau County multifamily housing complexes and 159 Suffolk County multifamily housing complexes) and found that multifamily housing generates far fewer school-age children per residential dwelling unit than suburban housing in general and that multifamily housing, contrary to common notions, is not necessarily tax negative for school districts (two-thirds in her study were tax positive).<sup>31</sup> The Center for Common Concerns in San Francisco reviewed 11 studies over 12 years in various locations and found that the widely held preconception that affordable housing (including residential care facilities and supportive housing) will lower neighborhood property values is not true.<sup>32</sup> Property values are primarily determined by the condition of the particular property for sale and other broader, more complex forces such as overall area development and prosperity.

While there has been resistance to affordable housing in the past, a new survey report from the Long Island Index suggests that a majority of Long Islanders actually support several types of affordable housing: the study found that roughly two-thirds of Long Island residents, 66%, said that the lack of affordable housing is a very or extremely serious problem in their county.<sup>33</sup> Further broken down by race, we see that blacks (86%) and Latinos (74%) are more likely than whites (62%) to rate this problem as extremely or very serious. The Long Island Index also reports that there is considerable support on Long Island for changes to zoning laws that would make it easier for rental apartments to be legalized in single family homes; 61% of Long Islanders support this. Without aggressive fair housing enforcement and efforts to affirmatively further fair housing

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<sup>31</sup> Pearl Kamer. 2008, "Multifamily Housing on Long Island: Impact on Numbers of School-Age Children and School District Finances" The Long Island Housing Partnership, Inc.

<sup>32</sup> HomeBase/The Center for Common Concerns. 1996, "Building Inclusive Community: Tools to Create Support for Affordable Housing," San Francisco

<sup>33</sup> Long Island Index. December 2011, "Tracking Residential Satisfaction on Long Island"

through placement and marketing, however, African Americans will continue to be denied equal access to affordable housing.

ERASE Racism's studies show that Long Island's black residents want to live in integrated neighborhoods. Our previous housing reports, reports by others and various law suits have documented the ongoing problem of fair housing violations, including racial steering by real estate agents, predatory lending by banks, and discriminatory land use policies by municipalities. Housing discrimination promotes and preserves residential and school segregation. It is wrong. It is illegal. It must end.

*For more information about this report and to see the report from Stony Brook University Center for Survey Research please visit the housing page on our website, [www.eraseracismny.org](http://www.eraseracismny.org).*

## APPENDICES

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### METHODOLOGY

The Stony Brook University Center for Survey Research conducted this survey by telephone from June 28th through July 24th, 2011. The sample was drawn from telephone directories of census block groups with 60% or greater proportion of African Americans. African Americans make up a smaller proportion of the population of Suffolk County than of Nassau County; Suffolk County was over-sampled to facilitate valid inference.

Selected households were screened to find an African American respondent of age 18 or older. Up to 9 contact attempts at various times of the day and week were made at each household phone number. In order to assure a representative sample, all households and individuals who initially were not willing to participate in the survey were contacted again, and an attempt was made to persuade them to participate. Most African-Americans (90%) interviewed for this poll had lived on Long Island for at least 10 years or more; a quarter had lived on Long Island for their entire life.

In total, 3,100 telephone numbers were attempted. Of the total numbers attempted, 527 records had invalid numbers and 523 were not eligible. This left a remainder of 2,051 valid records. Of these, interviews were completed with 305 eligible respondents with 153 completed interviews with residents of Nassau County and 152 completed interviews with residents of Suffolk County, resulting in a response rate of 15%.

Margin of error for the Long Island sample is +/- 5.6%. The margin of error for each county sample is +/- 7.9%.

Weights were created for this sample based on population estimates for seven demographic variables drawn from the 2009 American Community Survey conducted by the US Census Bureau. These variables include gender, marital status, educational attainment, income, age and employment status. As the survey included an over-sample of respondents from Suffolk County, the weights also account for the differential proportion of African Americans in Suffolk County relative to Nassau County. Weighting was done using an iterative process that has been developed to estimate joint weights for any number of demographic variables for which population percentages are known only individually, not jointly. Generally speaking, younger people, males, the less educated and those with lower incomes tend to be underrepresented in surveys such as this. Weights help to compensate for a lower response rate among these groups.

## Frequency Questionnaire by County

*QUESTIONS Q01-Q06 WERE RANDOMLY REORDERED FOR RESPONDENTS*

When choosing a place or neighborhood in which to live, people differ in what they consider to be most important.

### Q01

When you think about a place to live, how important is living in a neighborhood with high quality local public schools? Is it:

<b>RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
	<b>305</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>152</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
One of the most important factors	80	80	80
Important but not one of the most important factors	17	17	16
Not a factor	3	3	4
Don't Know	-	-	-
Refused	-	-	-

[Note: Due to rounding, the numbers may not add up to 100%]

[Questions with very small base sizes are not reported]

### Q02

When you think about a place to live, how important is living in a neighborhood where landlords and home owners take good care of their property? Is it:

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
One of the most important factors	81	82	79
Important but not one of the most important factors	19	18	20
Not a factor	-	-	1
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	-

### Q03

When you think about a place to live, how important is living in a neighborhood with a low crime rate? Is it:

<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>

One of the most important factors	89	89	88
Important but not one of the most important factors	11	11	10
Not a factor	1	1	1
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	-

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**Q04**

When you think about a place to live, how important is living close to friends and family members? Is it:

	<b>Total</b> %	<b>Nassau</b> %	<b>Suffolk</b> %
One of the most important factors	28	22	35
Important but not one of the most important factors	55	59	50
Not a factor	17	18	15
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	-

---

**Q05**

When you think about a place to live, how important is living in a neighborhood with good public parks, libraries, sanitation, police protection, and other government services? Is it:

	<b>Total</b> %	<b>Nassau</b> %	<b>Suffolk</b> %
One of the most important factors	78	80	74
Important but not one of the most important factors	22	20	25
Not a factor	1	-	1
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	-

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**Q06**

When you think about a place to live, how important is living in a friendly neighborhood in which people know each other and get along well. Is it:

	<b>Total</b> %	<b>Nassau</b> %	<b>Suffolk</b> %
One of the most important factors	48	51	43
Important but not one of the most important factors	46	46	47
Not a factor	6	3	10

Don't Know/Refused	-	-	-
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**Q07**

When you think about a place to live, what is MOST important to you?

	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Nassau %</b>	<b>Suffolk %</b>
The characteristics of the house	24	27	20
The characteristics of the neighborhood	60	57	63
Both, can't choose	16	16	16
Neither	-	-	-
Don't Know	1	-	2
Refused	-	-	-

---

**Q08**

How would you rate the quality of local public schools in your school district?

	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Nassau %</b>	<b>Suffolk %</b>
Excellent	15	11	19
Good	43	50	33
Fair	23	26	19
Poor	17	9	27
Don't Know	3	5	2
Refused	-	-	-

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**Q09**

How would you rate the quality of parks, libraries, police, and other government services in your area?

	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Nassau %</b>	<b>Suffolk %</b>
Excellent	16	15	19
Good	46	55	33
Fair	29	27	31
Poor	8	2	17
Don't Know	1	1	1

Refused	-	-	-
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**Q10**

How big a problem do you have in your neighborhood with people breaking into homes or trying to steal things from local residents? Is it a:

	<b>Total</b> %	<b>Nassau</b> %	<b>Suffolk</b> %
Major problem	14	12	18
Minor problem	50	53	46
Not a problem	31	32	30
Don't Know	5	4	6
Refused	-	-	-

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**Q11**

How big a problem do you have in your neighborhood with the sale and use of illegal drugs? Is it a:

	<b>Total</b> %	<b>Nassau</b> %	<b>Suffolk</b> %
Major problem	33	25	44
Minor problem	39	43	33
Not a problem	23	28	17
Don't Know	5	4	7
Refused	-	1	-

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**Q12**

How big a problem do you have in your neighborhood with local residents being robbed, beaten-up or mugged on the streets? Is it a:

	<b>Total</b> %	<b>Nassau</b> %	<b>Suffolk</b> %
Major problem	13	8	20
Minor problem	46	50	40
Not a problem	39	41	37
Don't Know	2	1	3
Refused	-	-	-

---

**Q13**

Do landlords and residents in your neighborhood keep their property in:

	<b>Total</b> %	<b>Nassau</b> %	<b>Suffolk</b> %
Excellent condition	27	27	26
Good condition	50	53	46
Fair condition	19	17	21
Poor condition	4	2	5
Don't Know	1	1	1
Refused	-	-	-

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**Q14**

How would you rate the municipal services in your town, such as public parks, libraries, sanitation, police, and other government services? Is it:

	<b>Total</b> %	<b>Nassau</b> %	<b>Suffolk</b> %
Excellent	17	20	14
Good	57	65	46
Fair	23	16	34
Poor	2	-	5
Don't Know	1	-	1
Refused	-	-	-

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**Q15**

How much would you say people in your neighborhood rely on each other for things like finding out about jobs, babysitting, or carpooling?

	<b>Total</b> %	<b>Nassau</b> %	<b>Suffolk</b> %
A great deal	6	5	7
Somewhat	22	22	22
A little	38	37	39
Not at all	26	27	25
Don't Know	8	10	6
Refused	-	-	1

---

**Q16**

Overall, how would you rate your neighborhood as a place to live? Would you rate it as:

	<b>Total</b> %	<b>Nassau</b> %	<b>Suffolk</b> %
Excellent	19	22	15
Good	46	53	36
Fair	30	23	39
Poor	6	2	10
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	-

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**Q17**

Overall, how would you rate the area represented by your zip code as a place to live? Would you rate it as:

	<b>Total</b> %	<b>Nassau</b> %	<b>Suffolk</b> %
Excellent	11	10	12
Good	48	55	39
Fair	35	32	39
Poor	5	2	9
Don't Know	1	-	1
Refused	-	-	-

---

**Q18**

If you could find housing that you like and would want to live in, would you rather live in a neighborhood that is:

	<b>Total</b> %	<b>Nassau</b> %	<b>Suffolk</b> %
All black	1	1	-
Mostly black	17	19	13
Half black/half white	60	57	64
Mostly white	5	6	3
Don't Know	14	12	16
Refused	2	1	2

---

**Q19**

Please choose the percentage mix that best represents the kind of neighborhood in which you would MOST like to live:

	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Nassau %</b>	<b>Suffolk %</b>
100% black	1	1	-
90% black and 10% white	8	9	7
75% black and 25% white	5	7	2
50% black and 50% white	69	71	68
25% black and 75% white	3	4	1
10% black and 90% white	-	-	-
100% white	-	-	1
Don't Know	12	7	17
Refused	2	-	4

---

**Q20**

Of the following characteristics, which one would make you feel MOST comfortable living in a neighborhood that was mostly white?

	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Nassau %</b>	<b>Suffolk %</b>
One or two black neighbors	3	4	2
Whites who were friendly to members of different ethnic and racial groups	27	24	31
A mix of black and white children in the local public schools	41	49	31
Local police who dealt effectively with racist behavior	4	5	2
Something else	4	3	5
Would never feel comfortable in a mostly white neighborhood	13	13	13
Don't know	7	2	14
Refused	1	1	2

---

**Q21**

How likely is that you will MOVE AWAY from Long Island in the next 5 years?

	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Nassau %</b>	<b>Suffolk %</b>
Very likely	25	26	23
Somewhat likely	28	25	32
Not very likely	26	26	25
Not at all likely	21	22	20
Don't Know	1	1	1

Refused	-	-	-
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Q22\_R asked only of respondents who answered 'very likely' or 'somewhat likely' (to move) to Q21

**Q22\_R**

Where would you most likely move to?

[Open-ended question with recoded responses]

	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>
Alabama	3
Arizona	1
West Coast States	2
Delaware	-
Florida	13
Georgia	7
NYC	9
New Jersey	3
North Carolina	8
South Carolina	2
South, Southwest, Kentucky	12
Texas	2
Upstate	3
Washington DC, MD, VA Area	6
Out of state	4
Overseas	5
More diverse, urban area	2
Other	5
Don't Know	17
Refused	-

---

**Q23**

How likely is it that you will move from your current residence to somewhere else ON LONG ISLAND in the next five years?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Very likely	19	20	18
Somewhat likely	18	14	25
Not very likely	26	29	22
Not at all likely	36	37	35
Don't Know	1	1	1

Refused - - -

Q24\_R asked only of respondents who answered 'very likely' or 'somewhat likely' (to move) to Q23

**Q24\_R**

Where would you most likely move to?

[Open-ended question with recoded responses]

[Because of the small base, data is shown only by total respondents]

	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>
Bay Shore	2
Baldwin / Baldwin Harbor	4
Central Islip	6
Freeport	5
Garden City	5
Huntington	7
Nassau County	15
NYC	6
Out East / Further East	2
South Shore	1
Suffolk County	12
Wheatley Heights	2
Within NY, off LI	1
Neighboring town / across town / same zip code	6
Better neighborhood / school district / quieter / less crime	4
Undecided	5
Other	4
Don't Know	16
Refused	-

Q25R asked only of respondents who answered 'very likely' or 'somewhat likely' (to move) to Q23

**Q25\_R**

Why are you thinking of moving?

[Open-ended question with recoded responses]

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Negative perception of current neighborhood	40	42	39
Affordability / too expensive / taxes	9	3	15
Wants bigger home / upgrade / more space	9	-	19
Retiring / downsizing / house too big	1	1	-
Wants own place / living with family / renting	9	4	14

Family reasons	1	-	2
Wants new experience / time to go	6	9	2
Location	2	-	5
Undecided / not moving yet	7	13	-
Other	10	19	1
Don't Know	3	4	2
Refused	3	5	-

---

**Q26**

How likely do you think it is that some African-Americans miss out on housing on Long Island because REAL ESTATE AGENTS will not show, sell, or rent them homes that they can afford in mostly WHITE areas?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Very likely	58	61	54
Somewhat likely	25	24	26
Somewhat unlikely	4	4	4
Very unlikely	6	4	9
Don't Know	7	7	7
Refused	-	-	1

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**Q27**

Have you or a member of your immediate family ever missed out on housing on Long Island because a REAL ESTATE AGENT would not show, sell, or rent you a home that you could afford in a mostly WHITE area?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	22	18	29
No	75	79	70
Don't Know	3	3	2
Refused	-	-	-

---

*Q28\_R asked only of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q27*

**Q28\_R**

Can you tell me more about what happened?

*[Open-ended question with recoded responses*

*[Because of the small base, data is shown only by total respondents]*

**Total**

	%
Said housing available, but when saw person, said no longer available	4
Not shown white or mixed areas by RE agent; steered to all black areas	23
Encouraged to other areas b/c of race; told won't be comfortable in neighborhood	5
Not shown / wouldn't show / told of available housing	10
Only shown bad areas / housing	12
Told housing was sold / rented / not ready	5
Refused housing because of race	17
Real Estate Agents / owner used other discriminatory tactics to not sell/rent	16
Other	3
Don't Know	2
Refused	1

---

### Q29

How likely do you think it is that some African-Americans miss out on housing on Long Island because white HOMEOWNERS and LANDLORDS will not sell or rent them homes?

	<b>Total</b> %	<b>Nassau</b> %	<b>Suffolk</b> %
Very likely	44	45	42
Somewhat likely	37	37	38
Somewhat unlikely	7	7	7
Very unlikely	5	4	8
Don't Know	7	7	6
Refused	-	-	-

---

### Q30

Have you or a member of your immediate family ever missed out on housing on Long Island because a white home owner would not sell or rent you a home that you could afford?

	<b>Total</b> %	<b>Nassau</b> %	<b>Suffolk</b> %
Yes	15	13	19
No	82	83	80
Don't Know	3	4	1
Refused	-	-	-

Q31\_R asked only of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q30

**Q31\_R**

Can you tell me more about what happened?

*[Open-ended question with recoded responses]*

*[Because of the small base, data is shown only by total respondents]*

<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
Told housing available, but when learned person was black said no longer available	9
Owner chose white person(s) over black person(s) when renting/selling	3
Refused to sell / rent / show housing b/c of race / steered into other neighborhoods	43
Owner used other discriminatory tactics to not sell/ rent to people	17
Segregation / not welcoming	2
Other	20
Don't Know	3
Refused	3

**Q32**

Have you ever been verbally or physically harassed by a neighbor on Long Island because of your race or ethnic background?

	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Nassau %</b>	<b>Suffolk %</b>
Yes	10	13	7
No	89	87	93
Don't Know	1	1	1
Refused	-	-	-

**Q33**

How long have you lived on Long Island?

	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Nassau %</b>	<b>Suffolk %</b>
Under six months	-	-	-
Six months to a year	-	-	-
One year to two years	1	3	-
Between two and five years	2	2	1

Between five and ten years	7	9	5
Over 10 years	64	66	61
All my life	26	20	33
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	-

---

*Q34 asked only of respondents who answered 'Over 10 years' or 'All my life' to Q33*

**Q34**

Compared to ten years ago, has the percentage of African Americans in your neighborhood increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Increased	20	22	18
Decreased	45	51	38
Stayed the same	34	27	43
Don't Know	1	-	1
Refused	-	-	-

---

*Q35 asked only of respondents who answered 'increased' to Q34*

**Q35**

[Compared to ten years ago,] Has the percentage of whites, Latinos, Asians, or some other group declined in your neighborhood?

*[Because of the small base, data is shown only by total respondents]*

	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>
Whites	63
Latinos	9
Asians	-
Whites and Latinos	2
Whites and Asians	1
Latinos and Asians	1
All three groups	12
Other	9
Don't Know	4
Refused	-

---

Q36 asked only of respondents who answered 'decreased' to Q34

**Q36**

[Compared to ten years ago] Has the percentage of whites, Latinos, Asians, or some other group increased in your neighborhood?

	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Nassau %</b>	<b>Suffolk %</b>
Whites	-	-	-
Latinos	80	80	81
Asians	-	-	-
Whites and Latinos	2	1	4
Whites and Asians	-	-	-
Latinos and Asians	-	-	1
All three groups	16	17	14
Other	1	1	-
Don't Know	-	1	-
Refused	-	-	-

---

**Q37**

Compared to ten years ago, has the quality of public schools in your school district increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Nassau %</b>	<b>Suffolk %</b>
Increased	29	30	27
Decreased	26	20	33
Stayed about the same	39	44	32
Don't Know	7	6	8
Refused	-	-	-

---

**Q38**

Compared to ten years ago, has the quality of parks, libraries, police, and other government services in your neighborhood:

	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Nassau %</b>	<b>Suffolk %</b>
Increased	42	47	36
Decreased	11	6	18
Stayed about the same	44	45	42
Don't Know	3	2	3
Refused	1	-	1

---

**Q39**

Do you own the home you are currently living in, are you renting, or do you have some other arrangement, such as living in a parent's home, a child's home, or somewhere else?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Own	55	58	51
Rent	21	15	30
Live with parents, in-laws, other relative	22	26	17
Other	2	1	2
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	-

---

**Q40**

Do you currently live in a single family home, semi-detached home, condominium, apartment, townhouse, or co-op?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Single family home	89	89	90
Semi-detached house (e.g., duplex)	3	3	3
Condominium	-	-	-
Apartment	5	6	5
Townhouse	-	-	-
Co-op	-	-	-
Other	3	3	3
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	-

---

*Q41\_R- Q43 asked only of respondents who answered 'rent' to Q39*

**Q41\_R**

What is the main reason why you rent rather than own your own home?

*[Open-ended question with recoded responses]*

*[Because of the small base, data is shown only by total respondents]*

	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>
Can't afford / finances	49
Major life change: divorce / unemployed / hard times	11
Just haven't looked	8
Taxes	5
Save for down payment	4

Too expensive upkeep of house / don't want responsibility	2
Owns elsewhere / leaving area	1
Thinking about / looking now	2
Other	3
Don't know	7
Refused	7

**Q42**

Do you currently have a lease?

*[Because of the small base, data is shown only by total respondents]*

	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>
Yes	76
No	21
Refused	3

**Q43**

How important to you is owning your own home, now or in the future?

*[Because of the small base, data is shown only by total respondents]*

	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>
Very important	84
Somewhat important	4
Not very important	7
Not at all important	4
Don't Know/Refused	-

*Q44-Q45 asked only of respondents who answered 'own' to Q39*

**Q44**

Is this the first home that you have owned?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	68	69	66
No	32	31	34
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	-

**Q45**

Do you or did you ever have a mortgage on your current home?

	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Nassau %</b>	<b>Suffolk %</b>
Yes	96	97	95
No	4	3	5
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	-

---

*Q46 asked only of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q45*

**Q46**

Are you satisfied with the type of mortgage that was offered to you, such as the interest rate, terms and payment schedule?

	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Nassau %</b>	<b>Suffolk %</b>
Very satisfied	52	57	44
Somewhat satisfied	31	27	38
Not very satisfied	11	11	10
Not satisfied at all	6	6	7
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	1

---

**Q48**

How long have you lived at your current residence?

	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Nassau %</b>	<b>Suffolk %</b>
Less than one year	2	1	3
Between one and two years	6	6	5
Between two and five years	10	8	13
Between five years and ten years	22	20	24
Ten years or more	61	64	55
Don't Know/Refused	-	1	-

---

*Q49 asked only of respondents who answered 'less than ten years' to Q48*

**Q49**

Please think back to the time when you moved to your current residence. Was the area in which you now live your first choice of a residential location, or not?

	<b>Total</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Nassau</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Suffolk</b> <b>%</b>
Yes	35	35	36
No	62	64	61
Don't Know/Refused	2	2	3

---

**District**

What is the name of your local school district?

	<b>Total</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Nassau</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Suffolk</b> <b>%</b>
Baldwin	3	6	-
Elmont	1	2	-
Freeport	5	8	-
Hempstead	6	10	-
Lawrence	1	2	-
Malverne	6	10	-
Rockville Centre	-	-	-
Roosevelt	14	25	-
Sewanhaka	1	2	-
Uniondale	12	21	-
West Hempstead	2	3	-
Westbury	1	2	-
Amityville	6	-	13
Babylon	-	-	1
Copiague	6	-	15
Deer Park	2	-	4
Fire Island	-	-	1
Half Hollow Hills	2	-	6
Hauppauge	-	-	-
Longwood	1	-	2
North Babylon	6	-	14
West Babylon	1	-	3
Wyandanch	15	-	35
Other	1	-	2
Don't Know	8	10	5
Refused	-	-	-

---

**Q53**

Do you think that the quality of public schools in your school district is a good value compared to the taxes that you pay?

<b>Total</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Nassau</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Suffolk</b> <b>%</b>
--------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------------

Yes	37	38	36
No	55	57	53
Don't Know	8	5	11
Refused	-	-	1

---

**Q54**

Do you think that the quality of government services in your area such as parks, libraries, sanitation, and police protection is good value compared to the taxes that you pay?

	<b>Total</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Nassau</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Suffolk</b> <b>%</b>
Yes	57	61	52
No	36	34	40
Don't Know	7	6	8
Refused	-	-	-

---

**Q55**

How many people 18 years and older, including yourself, are currently living in your household?

	<b>Total</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Nassau</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Suffolk</b> <b>%</b>
One	17	13	23
Two	44	49	36
Three	18	21	15
Four or more	21	18	25
Don't Know	-	-	1
Refused	-	-	-

---

**Q56**

In an average month, how difficult is it for you and your family living with you to pay the rent or mortgage? Would you say it is

	<b>Total</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Nassau</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Suffolk</b> <b>%</b>
Very difficult	9	7	13
Somewhat difficult	28	25	33
Not very difficult	25	26	24
Not at all difficult	35	38	30

Don't Know	2	3	-
Refused	-	-	1

---

**Q57**

Overall, how would you rate Long Island as a place to live?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Excellent	23	25	21
Good	48	45	52
Fair	27	29	23
Poor	2	1	4
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	-

---

**Q58**

In what year were you born?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
18-34 years old	31	29	33
35-54 years old	43	43	43
55 and over	22	23	21
Refused	4	5	2

---

**Q59**

Were you born in the United States?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	74	70	80
No	26	30	20
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	-

---

*Q60 asked only of respondents who answered 'no' to Q59*

**Q60**

In what country were you born?

<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
--------------	---------------	----------------

	%	%	%
Barbados	3	5	1
Caribbean	8	7	8
Central America	6	5	7
Dominica	2	2	-
Ghana	2	1	4
Guyana/South America	4	2	7
Haiti	12	9	16
Jamaica	37	34	43
Nigeria	2	3	2
Trinidad	8	8	7
West Indies	8	11	3
Other	1	1	2
Don't Know	-	-	-
Refused	9	13	2

---

### Q61

Were both of your parents born in the United States?

	Total %	Nassau %	Suffolk %
Yes	62	57	69
No	38	43	31
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	-

---

*Q62 asked only of respondents who answered 'no' to Q61*

### Q62

In which country or countries were they born?

	Total %	Nassau %	Suffolk %
Barbados	5	7	1
Caribbean	6	4	8
Central America	6	6	6
England	1	-	2
Ghana	1	1	3
South America	3	1	6
Haiti	17	13	26
Jamaica	31	33	28

Nigeria	3	3	3
Trinidad	11	15	4
West Indies	6	8	3
Two different countries	1	1	1
Other	4	1	10
Don't Know	-	-	-
Refused	6	9	1

---

**Q63**

Is English your first language?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	95	96	94
No	5	4	6
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	-

---

**Q64**

How many children under the age of 18 are currently living in your household?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
None	47	52	39
1 or more	53	48	61
Don't Know	-	-	-
Refused	-	-	1

---

*Q65 asked only of respondents who answered '1 or more' to Q64*

**Q65**

Do any of these children attend the local public schools?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	70	72	68
No	30	28	31
Don't Know	-	-	-
Refused	-	-	1

---

**Q66**

When you were growing up, what percentage of the residents in your neighborhood were of the same race or ethnicity as you?

	<b>Total</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Nassau</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Suffolk</b> <b>%</b>
Between 90 and 100%	43	45	41
Between 75 and 90%	21	26	14
Between 50 and 75%	20	17	24
Between 25 and 50%	8	6	12
Or fewer than 25%	6	6	7
Don't Know	1	-	2
Refused	-	1	-

---

**Q67**

What is the highest grade of school, year of college or highest degree that you have received?

	<b>Total</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Nassau</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Suffolk</b> <b>%</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> grade or less	-	-	-
11 <sup>th</sup> grade	3	3	4
12 <sup>th</sup> grade, no diploma	3	1	5
High school graduate	22	22	22
Some college, no degree	30	30	29
Associates degree (occupational/academic)	13	12	14
Bachelor's degree (BA, AB, BS)	18	19	15
Master's degree	9	10	8
Professional school degree (J.D., M.D.)	1	1	-
Doctorate (Ph.D, Ed.D., Sc.D)	2	1	2
Or something else	1	1	-
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	1

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**Q68**

Are you currently:

	<b>Total</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Nassau</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Suffolk</b> <b>%</b>
Employed full time	60	63	56
Employed part time	8	7	10
Retired	10	11	10
Retired and working FT/PT	1	1	1

Not employed for pay	8	11	5
Disabled	7	3	12
Student	5	4	7
Other	-	1	-
Homemaker	1	1	1
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	-

---

**Q69\_R**

What is/was your occupation?

*[Open-ended question with recoded responses]*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Professional / manager / owner	34	37	31
Teachers / librarians / professors	6	6	7
Sales / clerical / service worker	31	37	24
Skilled laborer / tradesman	7	6	8
Semi- or unskilled labor	9	4	15
Gov't employee (non-specific)	3	1	5
Other	8	7	9
Don't Know/Refused	2	3	1

---

**Q70**

Which of the following income categories best describes the total 2010 household income of all members of your family living there before taxes. Stop me when I reach your income group. Was it

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nassau</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Less than \$20,000	9	7	11
\$20,000 to less than \$35,000	13	15	12
\$35,000 to less than \$60,000	14	11	19
\$60,000 to less than \$80,000	14	18	10
\$80,000 to less than \$100,000	8	9	7
\$100,000 to less than \$120,000	8	11	5
\$120,000 to less than \$150,000	9	13	5
\$150,000 or more	15	11	19
Refused	9	6	14

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**Q71**

Are you married, not married but living with a partner, separated, divorced, widowed, or have you never been married?

	<b>Total</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Nassau</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Suffolk</b> <b>%</b>
Married	38	39	36
Not married, living with a partner	10	11	9
Separated	5	3	8
Divorced	9	9	9
Widowed	6	6	6
Never married	31	32	30
Refused	2	1	3

---

**Gender**

	<b>Total</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Nassau</b> <b>%</b>	<b>Suffolk</b> <b>%</b>
Female	56	57	56
Male	44	43	44

**LIST OF VILLAGES/HAMLETS FROM WHICH RESPONDENTS WERE DRAWN:**

**NASSAU COUNTY**

1. ELMONT
2. FLORAL PARK
3. FREEPORT
4. HEMPSTEAD
5. INWOOD
6. MASSAPEQUA
7. NORTH BALDWIN
8. ROCKVILLE CTR
9. ROOSEVELT
10. UNIONDALE
11. VALLEY STREAM
12. W HEMPSTEAD
13. WESTBURY

**SUFFOLK COUNTY**

14. AMITYVILLE
15. COPIAGUE
16. CORAM
17. DEER PARK
18. MEDFORD
19. MIDDLE ISLAND
20. WEST BABYLON
21. WHEATLEY HTS
22. WYANDANCH