

Greater New Haven Community Wellbeing Survey

Conducted by the Siena College Research Institute

Preliminary Analysis of Survey Results

on behalf of

DATAHAVEN

Regional Data Cooperative for Greater New Haven
129 Church St., New Haven, Connecticut 06510
info@ctdatahaven.org / (203) 500-7059

To cite information from this report, please reference: DataHaven 2012 Community Wellbeing Survey, Preliminary Analysis of Survey Results by Siena College Research Institute, December 2012. Available at www.ctdatahaven.org.



2012

Table of Contents

Note on Executive Summary and This <i>Preliminary Analysis of Survey Findings</i>	1
Overview of Methodology	2
Personal Satisfaction	4
Quality of Local Services.....	7
Civic Engagement.....	12
Neighborhood Trust and Collective Efficacy	19
My Neighborhood.....	21
Personal Health	30
Personal Finances and Economic Optimism.....	38
Demographic and Technical Appendix	44

Note on Executive Summary and This *Preliminary Analysis of Survey Findings*

The Siena College Research Institute (SRI) conducted the Community Wellbeing Survey on behalf of DataHaven, a nonprofit organization and affiliate of the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership that is based in New Haven, Connecticut.

This *Preliminary Analysis of Survey Findings* was written by Don Levy, Ph.D., Director of the Siena College Research Institute, and other SRI staff. The views expressed in this report are primarily those of the survey researchers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of DataHaven.

An **Executive Summary** regarding the survey is provided by DataHaven in a separate document. A full report, combining survey findings, community feedback on the survey, and other community indicator data, will be produced by DataHaven in 2013.

Overview of Methodology

The Siena College Research Institute (SRI) conducted a telephone survey of 1,307 Greater New Haven Connecticut residents from September 4 through October 16, 2012. Residents age 18 and older were interviewed, via cell phone and landline telephone, from within 13 municipalities including the City of New Haven, its “Inner Ring” (East Haven, Hamden, and West Haven), and “Outer Ring” (Orange, Milford, North Haven, Guilford, Branford, North Branford, Madison, Woodbridge, and Bethany). This included an oversampling of respondents within the City of New Haven.

The three strata – City of New Haven, its Inner Ring and its Outer Ring were sampled separately while cell phones for the area defined by the three strata pursuant to the artifact of cell phone random digit dialing were sampled as a whole and upon completion blended into the dataset of the appropriate strata.

The margin of error for the total sample of 1,307 is +/- 2.7% with a 95% confidence interval. This means that in 95 out of every 100 samples of the same size and type, the results we obtain would vary by no more than plus or minus 2.7 percentage points from the result we would get if we could interview every member of the population. There were a total of 500 respondents from the City of New Haven (MOE +/- 4.4%), 414 respondents from the Inner Ring (MOE +/- 4.8%), and 393 respondents from the Outer Ring (MOE +/- 4.9%). Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.

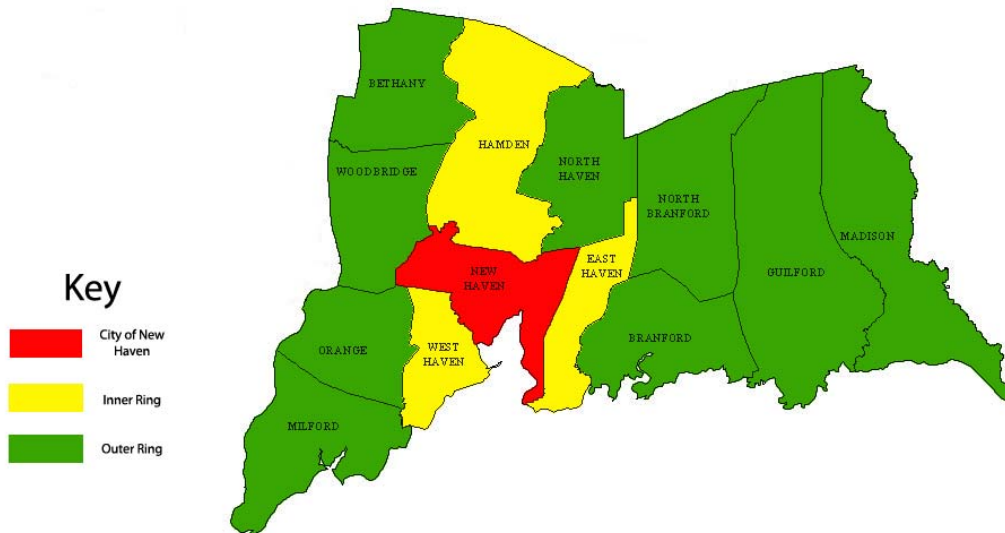
The overall sample of 1,307 was weighted by age, gender, reported race and town (defined by City of New Haven, Inner Ring, Outer Ring) using the 2010 United States Census figures to ensure statistical representativeness. When the areas are reported separately they are weighted by age, gender and reported race within the specified towns. The weighting program used, StatXP, uses an iterative algorithm that simultaneously controls for each variable in the weighting schema. It is designed to enable weighting by more than one variable when the desired proportions are known only for the categories of each variable. Suppose, for instance, that we wish to obtain the following proportions: SEX: male 50%, female 50% and simultaneously AGE: category 1: 20%, category 2: 50%, category 3: 30%, but that we have no desired proportions for the cross-product of the two variables, i.e. the males in category 1, the females in category 1, etc. There may be an infinite number of solutions to this problem. The statistical software program, however, computes the weights that conform to the desired proportions, and that deviate the least possible from the original data, that is, using maximum likelihood methodology of the weighting factors with least variance.

The weights for the overall sample of 1,307 ranged from a low of 0.34 to a high of 3.76. The 10th and 90th percentiles were 0.56 and 3.14 respectively. The 25th percentile of the weighting variable was 0.77 and the 75th percentile was 1.80. The weights for the sample of 500 from the City of New Haven ranged from a low of 0.29 to a high of 4.27. The 10th and 90th percentiles were 0.36 and 3.94 respectively. The 25th percentile of the weighting variable was 0.90 and the 75th percentile was 2.89. The weights for the sample of 414 from the Inner Ring ranged from a low of 0.46 to a high of 3.56. The 10th and 90th

percentiles were 0.54 and 2.53 respectively. The 25th percentile of the weighting variable was 0.54 and the 75th percentile was 2.44. The weights for the sample of 393 from the Outer Ring ranged from a low of 0.24 to a high of 2.73. The 10th and 90th percentiles were 0.67 and 2.16 respectively. The 25th percentile of the weighting variable was 0.72 and the 75th percentile was 1.41. These weighting variables are very similar to those applied to data from other national and local surveys.

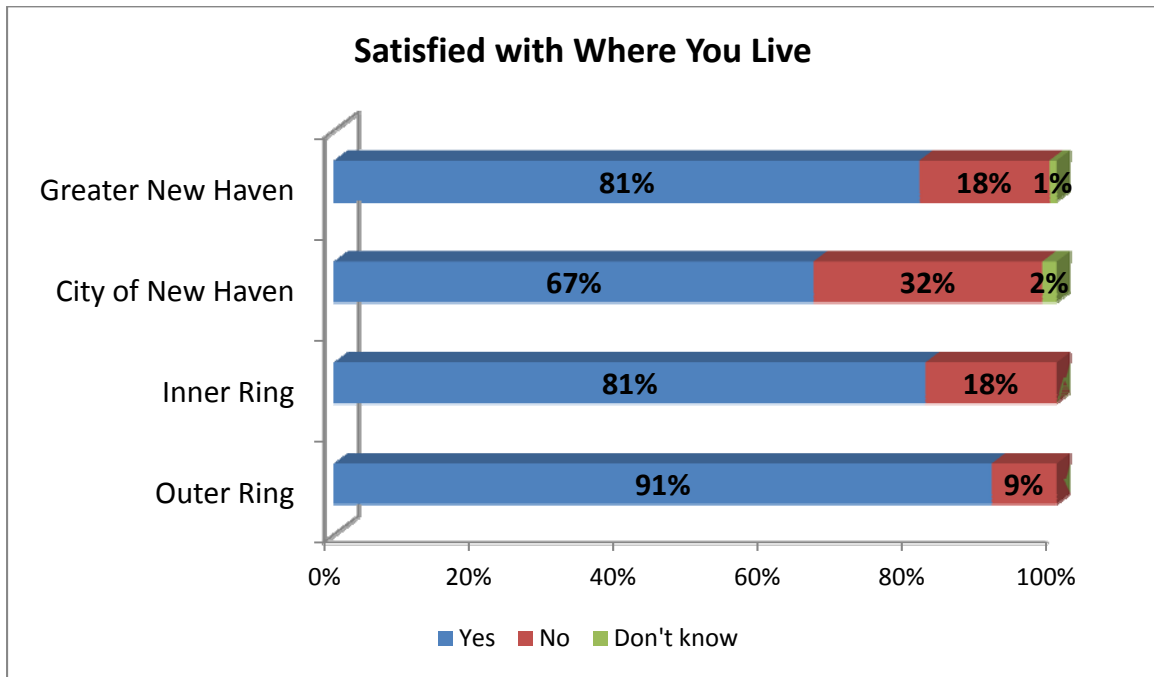
Demographics for each area, and more technical notes regarding the survey methodology, are supplied in an appendix at the end of this report.

Greater New Haven Area



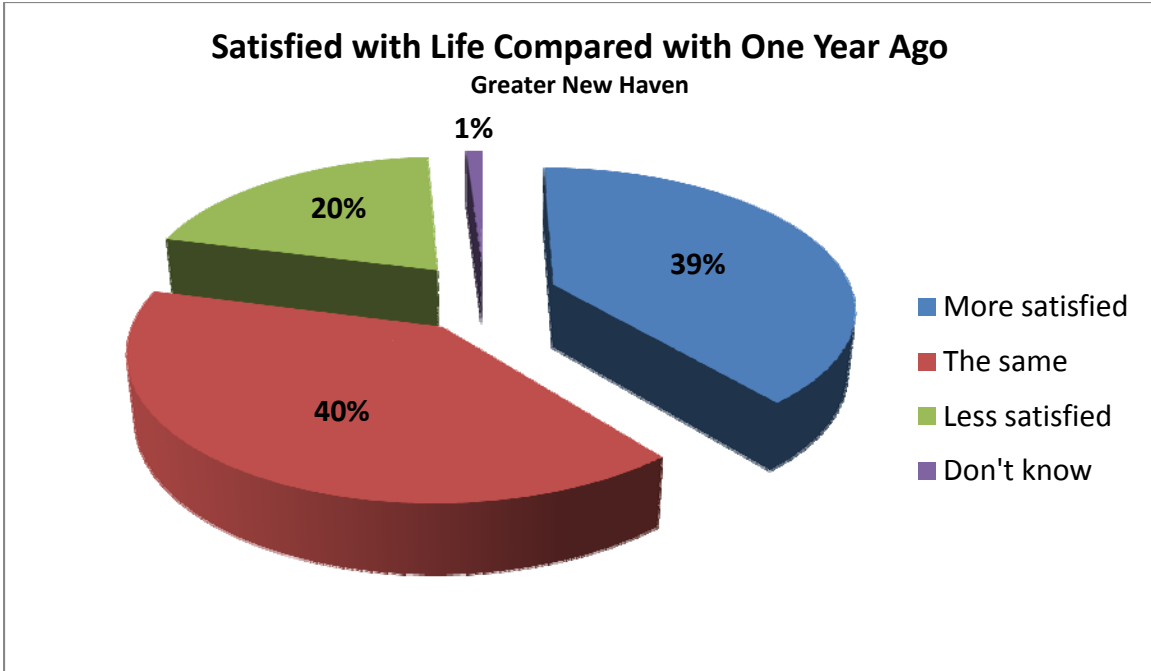
Personal Satisfaction

Eighty-one percent of all respondents indicate that they are satisfied with the city or area where they live. Satisfaction is greater among respondents of the Outer Ring at 91 percent than among those in the Inner Ring 81 percent and greater than that of New Haven residents whose satisfaction is 67 percent. These results are highly comparable to other local and national surveys of community satisfaction.



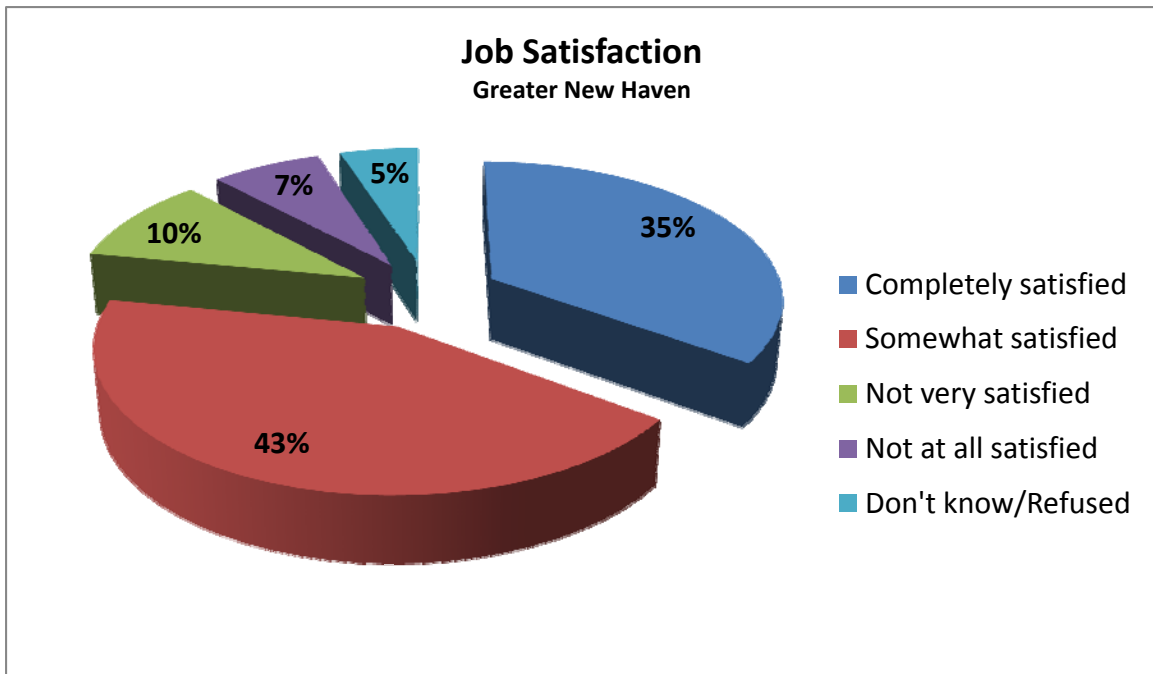
Satisfaction with the city or area in which respondents live is greater among those with higher income than those with lower incomes. Eighty-eight percent of those with incomes at or above \$100,000 report being satisfied with their community while only 67 percent of those with incomes below \$15,000 report being satisfied.

Asked to assess their own life and to indicate whether today they are more satisfied with their life than they were a year ago, feel about the same today as a year ago or if they feel less satisfied today, 39 percent of all respondents are more satisfied, 40 percent feel about the same today with their life as they did a year ago and 20 percent are less satisfied.



City of New Haven residents are slightly more likely to be more satisfied (45%) today with their life as compared to a year ago than are residents of either the Inner Ring (36%) or the Outer Ring (35%). Young respondents are far more likely to express increased life satisfaction (57%) than older respondents with those 35 to 54 years of age at 35 percent, while those 55 and older only reporting 27 percent that are more satisfied. African-Americans and Hispanics indicate increased satisfaction, 54 percent and 53 percent, at rates considerably greater than those that identify as White (34%).

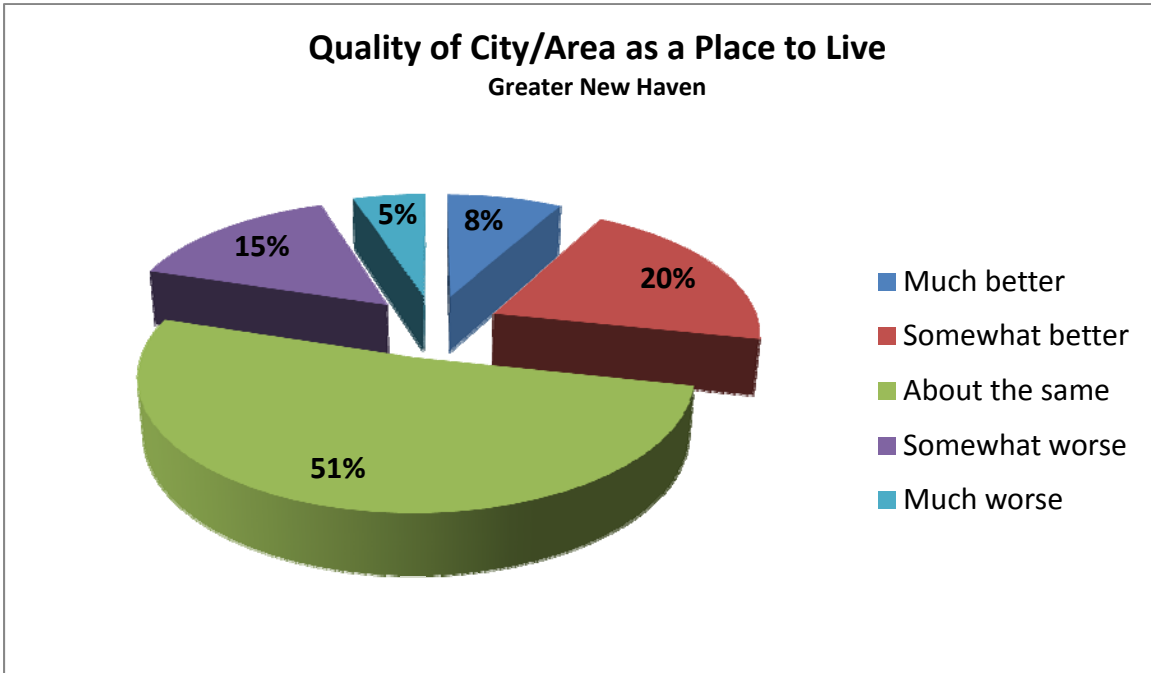
Asked to consider their work, that is, the job, vocation or tasks in which they engage on a daily basis, including that work and what they accomplish and where it can lead, 35 percent of all respondents say that they are completely satisfied, 43 percent are somewhat satisfied, 10 percent are not very satisfied and 7 percent are not at all satisfied.



Respondents 55 and older tend to be more satisfied than do younger respondents and as a whole, satisfaction with work or daily tasks increases with income. Forty-nine percent of those making \$100,000 or more are completely satisfied while only 21 percent of those making less than \$15,000 report a similar level of satisfaction.

Quality of Local Services and Greater New Haven as a Place to Live

More respondents indicate that the area is getting somewhat or much better as a place to live (28%) than say it is getting somewhat or much worse (20%). A majority of area respondents (51%) said that as a place to live, the city or area in which they live is remaining about the same. Given the toll that the recent economic conditions have had on many residents and communities, this finding, that in the eyes of residents, the Greater New Haven area is at least holding its own if not seeing some degree of improvement, is encouraging.



Combining this variable with the question of area satisfaction (see above section on Personal Satisfaction), 26% percent of all residents say that they are both personally satisfied with the city or area in which they live, as well as that as a place to live it is improving. Nearly half of residents (45%) are personally satisfied, while seeing the area as remaining about the same.

Of note are two groups that differ on their personal level of satisfaction, but agree that the area in which they live is getting worse. Nine percent of respondents express personal satisfaction, but believe the area is getting worse, albeit almost uniformly indicating somewhat rather than much worse. Eleven percent of residents express both personal dissatisfaction, and the belief that the area is getting somewhat worse (64% of this group) or much worse (36% of this group).

Area	Personal Satisfaction	Area Improvement				
		Much better	Somewhat better	About the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse
Greater New Haven	Yes	8%	18%	45%	8%	1%
	No	0%	2%	6%	7%	4%
City of New Haven	Yes	7%	26%	25%	6%	1%
	No	0%	4%	10%	10%	7%
Inner Ring	Yes	6%	14%	46%	12%	1%
	No	1%	0%	5%	9%	4%
Outer Ring	Yes	8%	16%	58%	6%	1%
	No	0%	1%	4%	2%	1%

While the 11 percent of all citizens that are both personally and collectively unsatisfied is of great concern, it is impressive that just over 70 percent are satisfied with where they live and despite five years of recession and slow recovery, are at least of the mind that the area has remained the same or demonstrated some improvement.

Within the three geographic areas, New Haven residents express the lowest level of satisfaction with the area in which they personally live, but the highest level of positive assessment that the city in which they live is improving on the whole. Residents of the Outer Ring express the highest level of personal satisfaction with their area, and they primarily seem to feel as though their area is staying the same. Residents of the Inner Ring are in the middle on personal satisfaction, but are the only group to express more negativity (26% somewhat or much worse) than positivity (21% somewhat or much better) towards whether the area in which they live is improving.

The data points to New Haven residents being personally satisfied and tending towards seeing local improvement, while Outer Ring residents are personally satisfied and content with the local quality of life, and Inner Ring residents while personally satisfied express collectively more concern over the possibility of local decline.

Respondents were then asked to assess the quality of twelve different services or aspects of local life. In each case they were asked to rank the service or quality of life as excellent, good, fair, poor, or to indicate that they don't know enough about it in order to say. So as to quickly compare the rankings provided by residents of Greater New Haven and then to compare the three geographies we recode all responses as "excellent" (3), "good" (2), "fair" (1), "poor" (0) and we exclude a respondent for that single aspect of life if they did not offer a ranking. We show the twelve life aspects in descending order below with the percentage of respondents that offered a ranking.

- Quality of health care services (92%) 1.87
- Availability of stores (98%) 1.86
- Availability of entertainment (93%) 1.80
- Condition of parks (91%) 1.73
- As a place to raise children (91%) 1.72
- The job done by police (96%) 1.70
- Quality of public schools (79%) 1.62
- Support for elderly citizens (75%) 1.62
- Presence of programs for low income (70%) 1.28
- Responsiveness of local government (89%) 1.18
- Affordability (97%) 0.94
- Ability to obtain suitable employment (79%) 0.89

To make sense of these scores, remember that a score of 3.0 would indicate that all responding residents rank that aspect of life as “excellent,” while a score of 0.0 would indicate a universal assessment of “poor.” What we have is the collective assessment of twelve aspects of life in Greater New Haven that range from “below fair” in the case of economic issues like affordability or the ability to obtain employment, to approaching a collective assessment of “good” in regards to the quality of health care services, the availability of suitable stores and entertainment.

Two aspects of life, the presence of programs that address the needs of low income residents and the presence of support for the elderly stand out as being the two that the smallest percentage of residents have sufficient knowledge of in order to express an opinion. Of those that do, programs for low income receives a low collective grade at 1.28 while support for the elderly a mid-range grade of 1.62.

While personal and collective satisfaction was relatively high in this study, these scores provide the community with a report card across twelve areas and allow the community to take stock of how it views itself in these arenas and simultaneously offers a challenge to the community to increase its score moving forward.

If indeed, the best aspects of life are the quality of health care services and the availability of stores and entertainment, the community can endeavor to both increase the quality/availability of these components or also to lift its assessment of other aspects. While affordability and job prospects being low may be in part a function of larger economic trends, the community can work to improve the responsiveness of local government, the job done by police, the quality of public schools or the work done for citizens in need.

We now show the scores across these twelve categories for the entire region and for each of the three sub-geographies.

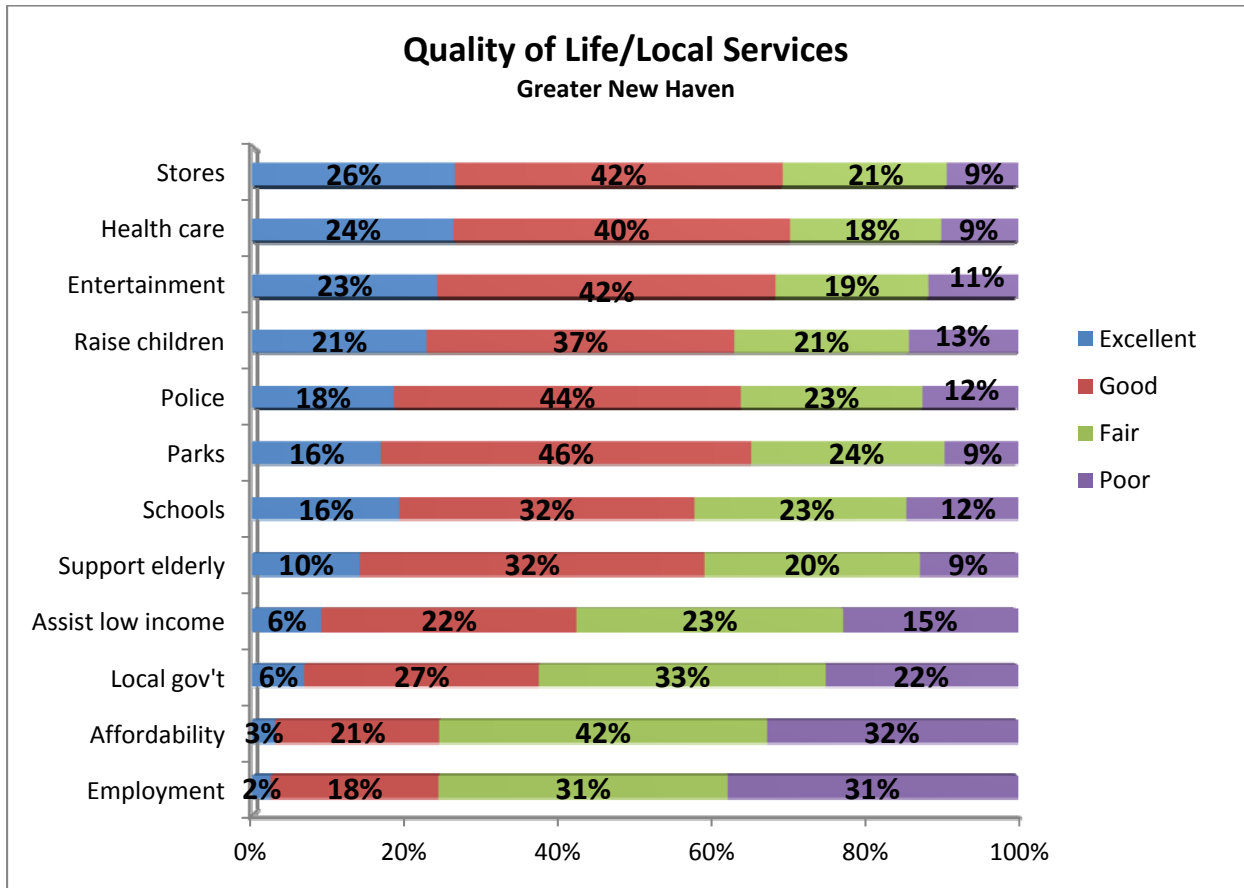
Category	Greater New Haven	City of New Haven	Inner Ring	Outer Ring
Health care	1.87	1.75	1.72	2.13
Stores	1.86	1.61	1.87	2.04
Entertainment	1.80	1.62	1.74	2.00
Parks	1.73	1.36	1.63	2.03
Raise children	1.72	1.02	1.60	2.23
Police	1.70	1.27	1.65	2.05
Public schools	1.62	1.31	1.47	1.92
Support elderly	1.62	1.40	1.61	1.81
Assist low income	1.28	1.20	1.29	1.39
Local government	1.18	1.05	1.07	1.39
Affordability	0.94	0.95	0.90	0.99
Employment	0.89	0.77	0.80	1.06

While the rankings of the twelve aspects are all higher in the Outer Ring than in the other two areas, we see little meaningful difference in several areas. Affordability and obtaining suitable employment are both rated low and consistently across the entire region. The responsiveness of local government while slightly higher in the Outer Ring than in either New Haven or the Inner Ring, is low especially when compared to the rating other aspects garner.

The two rankings that deal specifically with social services, assistance for low income residents and support for the elderly vary somewhat by geography. Low income assistance is low and consistent across the three areas. Support for the elderly increases from 1.40 in New Haven to 1.61 in the Inner Ring to 1.81 in the Outer Ring.

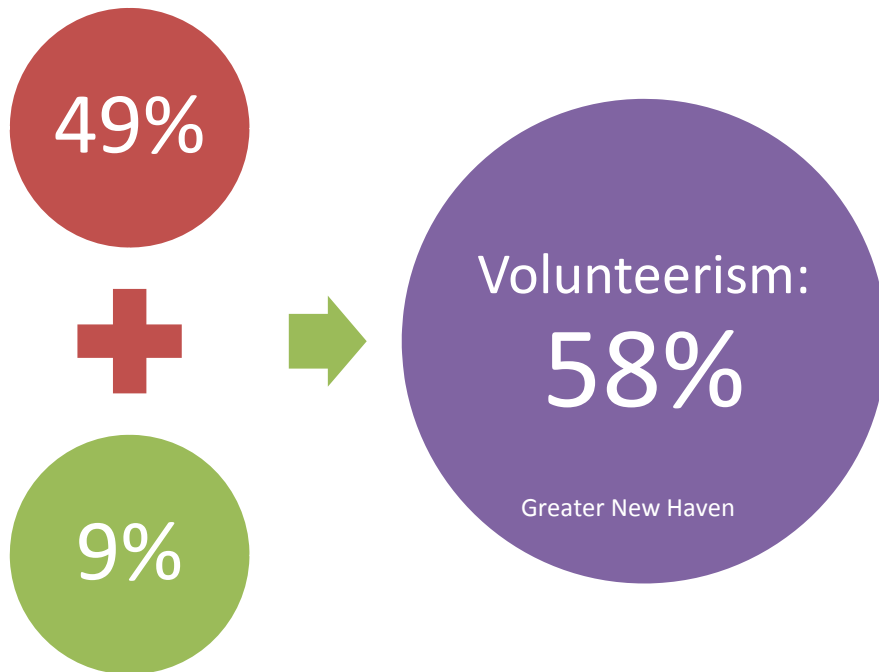
New Haven residents do rate the police, schools and the city as a place to raise children well below the rankings of residents of the region as a whole and in the other two areas.

While the quality of life is in many ways – health care, stores, entertainment – very similar across the region, a meaningful difference can be seen when looking at aspects like schools, as a place to raise children or the job done by police to keep residents safe. These collective rankings point to the perception and experience of residents that says the Outer Ring is safer and provides more quality of life and instruction for children than does the city or the Inner Ring.



Civic Engagement

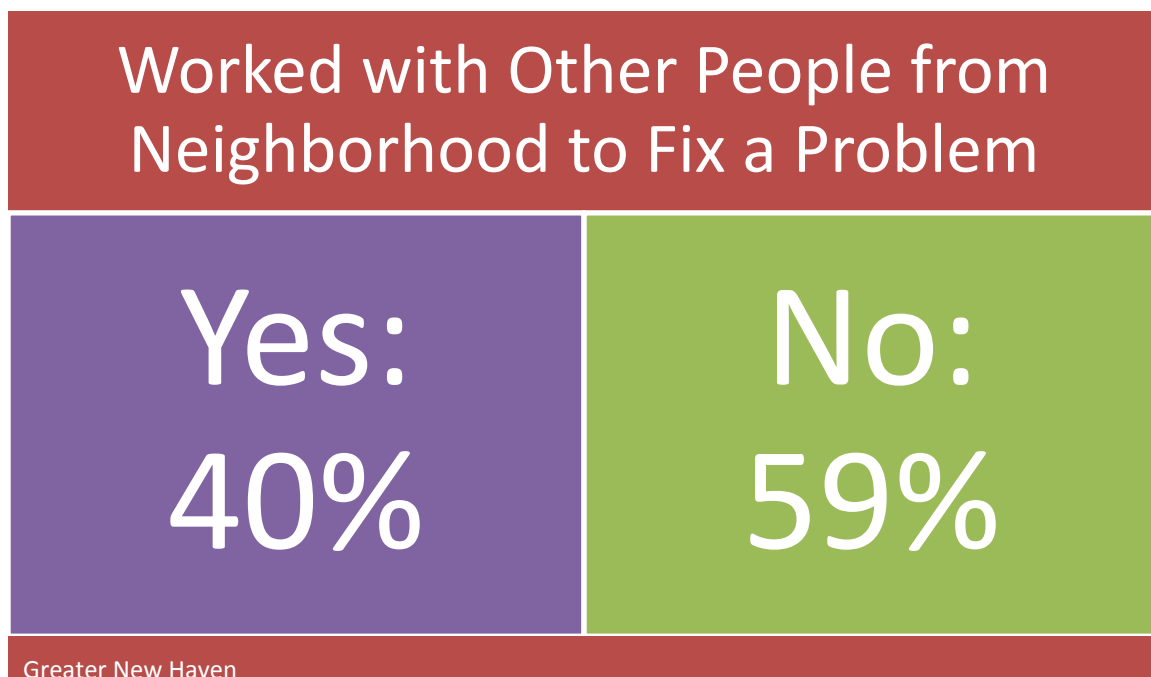
One measure often used to assess civic engagement is the rate at which respondents report volunteering for or through an organization. As part of the Current Population Survey (CPS), that question is routinely asked by the U.S. Census. Most recently, the overall rate for Connecticut residents as reported by the CPS was 31 percent, ranking 15th nationally and above the national state average of 26 percent. In this survey we told respondents that we are interested in volunteer activities, that is, activities for which people are not paid, except perhaps expenses. We asked them to include only activities done through or for an organization even if only done once in a while since September 1 of last year. Forty-nine percent indicated they had while 51 percent said that they had not. Similar to the CPS, we then asked a follow-up question in an attempt to capture any respondent that did not see their volunteering as part of the first question. We asked given that sometimes people don't think of activities they do infrequently or activities they do for their children's schools or youth organizations as volunteer activities, whether they had done any of those activities. Of those that had responded in the negative to the first question, 18 percent responded affirmatively to this follow-up. Totaling the two questions, 58 percent of all respondents have volunteered over the last year.



While this rate for Greater New Haven is nearly twice the rate of the State of Connecticut, we would caution against concluding that New Haven's rate is indeed far greater than the statewide rate. In previous studies, we have found volunteering rates for individual states or areas of a state to be double the rate measured by the CPS when similar to this study, the questions on volunteering are asked in a survey devoted to civic engagement as opposed to one like the CPS in which a governmentally sponsored survey asks questions that appear more devoted to workplace questions or other unrelated demographics.

Volunteering rates are greater in the Outer Ring than in either the Inner Ring or in New Haven. Women tend to volunteer more than do men. Respondents with higher incomes volunteer more than those with lower incomes and respondents between 35 and 54 volunteer more than either younger or older respondents.

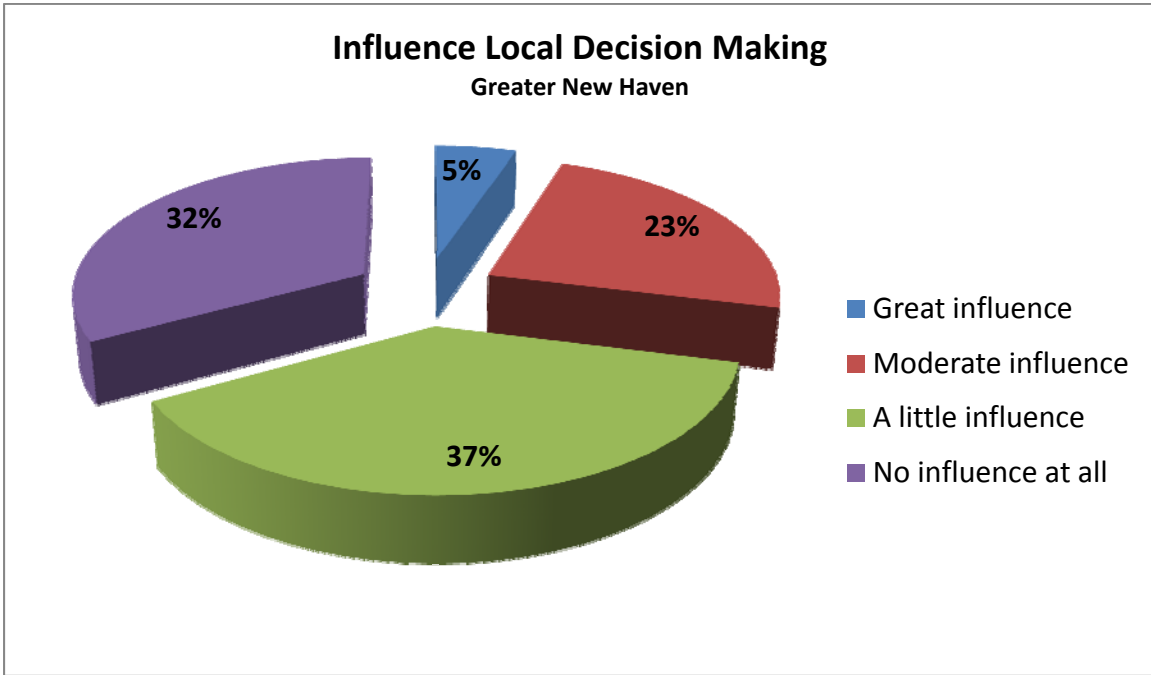
In addition to ‘formal’ volunteering, that is, through or for an organization, we address civic engagement by asking respondents if since September 1 of last year they have worked with other people from their neighborhood to fix a problem or improve a condition in their community or elsewhere. Overall, 40 percent say that they have with that number being slightly higher in New Haven and the Outer Ring at 42 percent, and lower in the Inner Ring (35%). Again, there is a positive correlation between income and joining with community members to address a problem.



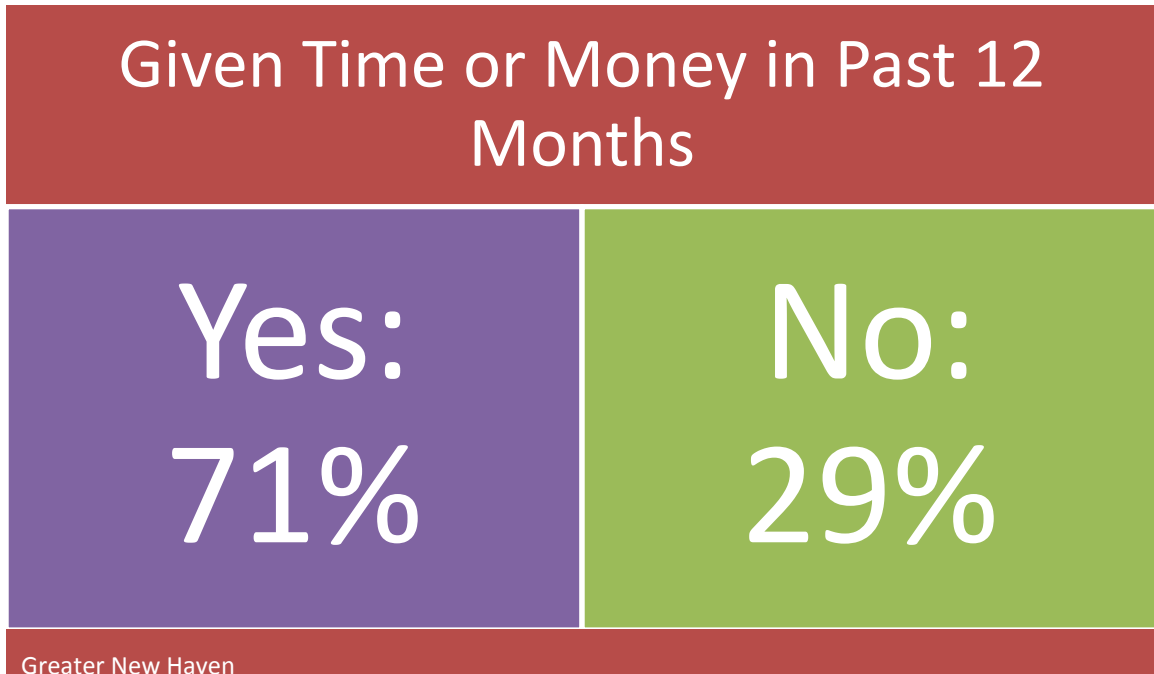
Interestingly, not all of those that indicate joining with neighbors to address a problem are drawn from among those that volunteer. Across the entire sample, just over half (55%) of volunteers join with others to improve a local condition. Of those that don't volunteer, 21 percent, do join with neighbors to fix a problem. Looking at the two conditions – volunteering and joining with others to fix a problem – we find that 32 percent do both, 26 percent volunteer but do not join with others to address a problem, 9 percent do not volunteer but do work with others and 34 percent do neither. **Looking at these two variables combined as components of being civically engaged, one might argue that in Greater New Haven, 66 percent of citizens are engaged.**

While being engaged in either or both of volunteer activities or collective problem solving does not necessarily indicate having local political influence, it is noteworthy that where we analytically determined that two-thirds of respondents are civically engaged, in

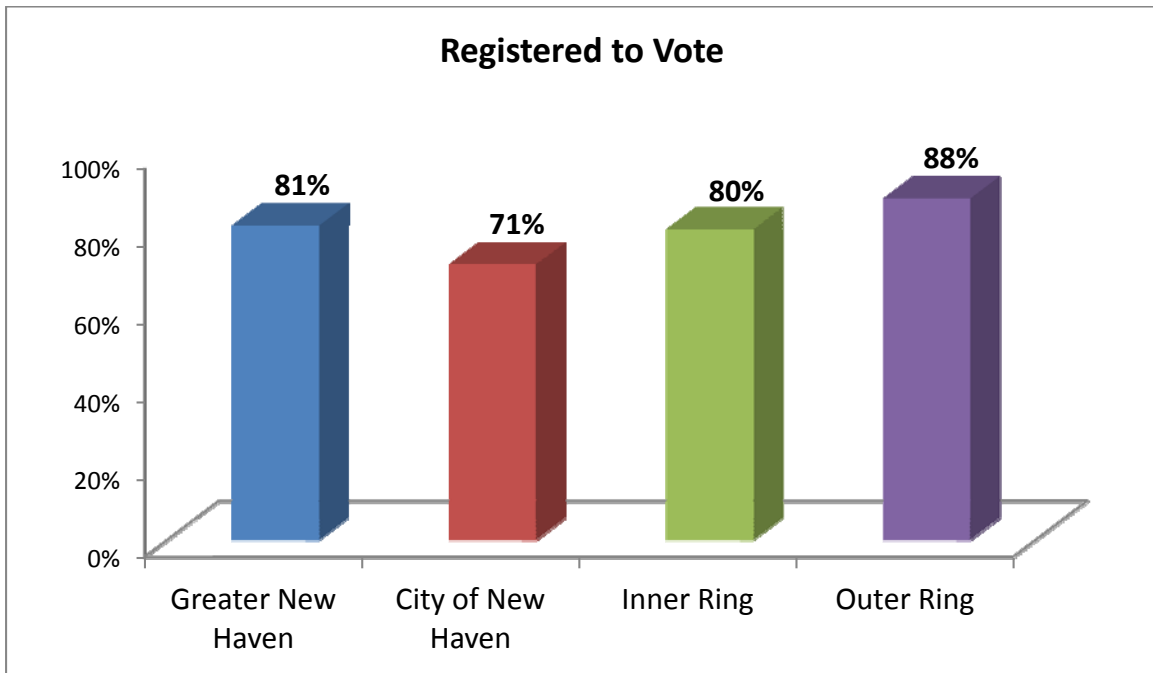
response to a question, 65 percent say that they have at least a little influence in local government decision making. Only 5 percent have a great deal of influence, 23 percent have a moderate level of influence and 37 percent feel as though they have a little influence. While not overwhelming, feeling as though a respondent has influence is positively correlated with income and educational attainment.



Seventy-one percent of all respondents have over the past twelve months given time or made a donation of money, assets or property with a combined value of more than \$25 to a charitable, civic, religious, educational or volunteer organization working specifically in their town or in the Greater New Haven area. Respondents living in the Outer Ring (79%) donate at a rate greater than those in the Inner Ring (70%) and those in the City of New Haven (60%). The rate of charitable giving increases with both education and income. Still, nearly half (48%) of those with incomes under \$15,000 and two-thirds of those making at least \$15,000 but less than \$75,000 have given donations in the last year to local organizations.



Eighty-one percent of all respondents are registered to vote. Women are more likely to be registered than are men (86% to 77%). Registration is again highest in the Outer Ring (88%) followed by the Inner Ring (80%) and the City of New Haven (71%). While 92 percent of respondents 55 years of age and older are registered to vote, only 66 percent of adults under 35 are registered. White respondents (86%) are registered at a rate greater than African-American (77%) and Hispanic residents (67%).



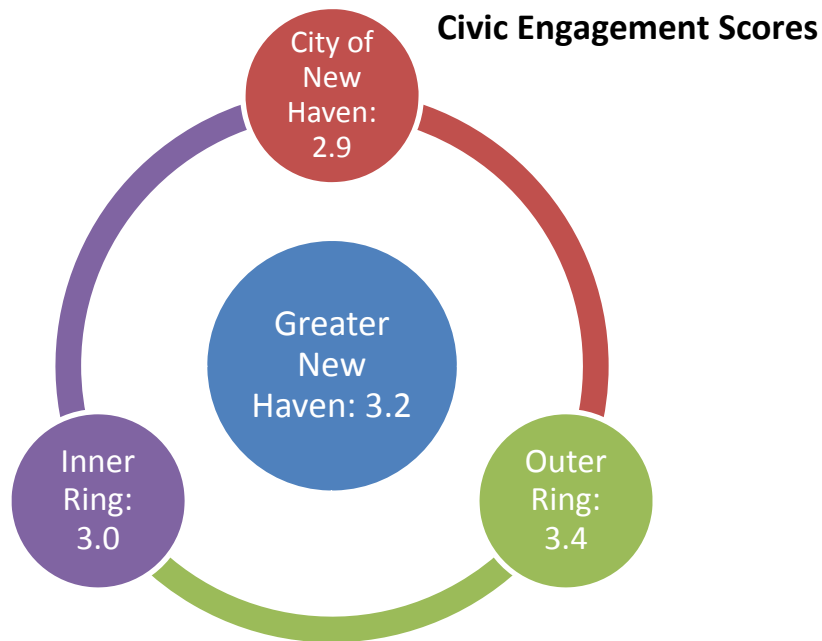
In order to gauge civic engagement and to compare the level of engagement between various groups in the New Haven area, we create a civic engagement score by looking simultaneously at the five variables we just discussed: volunteering, working with others to fix a problem, perception of local influence, charitable giving and voter registration. We award one point to each respondent that has volunteered over the past twelve months, indicated that they have worked with others, had donated and is registered to vote and one point to all those that say they have at least a little influence. Respondents that meet that threshold, which some would say given little attempt to measure either depth or frequency relative to volunteering, working with others or charitable giving and measuring voter registration not participation is a low threshold, would generate a score of five points.

The mean score across the Greater New Haven area is 3.2. It is a reasonable goal to target improvement over time on this area wide mean score.

Only 20 percent of respondents score a perfect 5 meaning that they volunteer, donate, work with others, have some level of influence and are registered to vote. Twenty-five percent score 4, 23 percent score 3, 20 percent score 2, 9 percent score 1 and 3 percent score 0.

Looking at several groups we find that the civic engagement scores are:

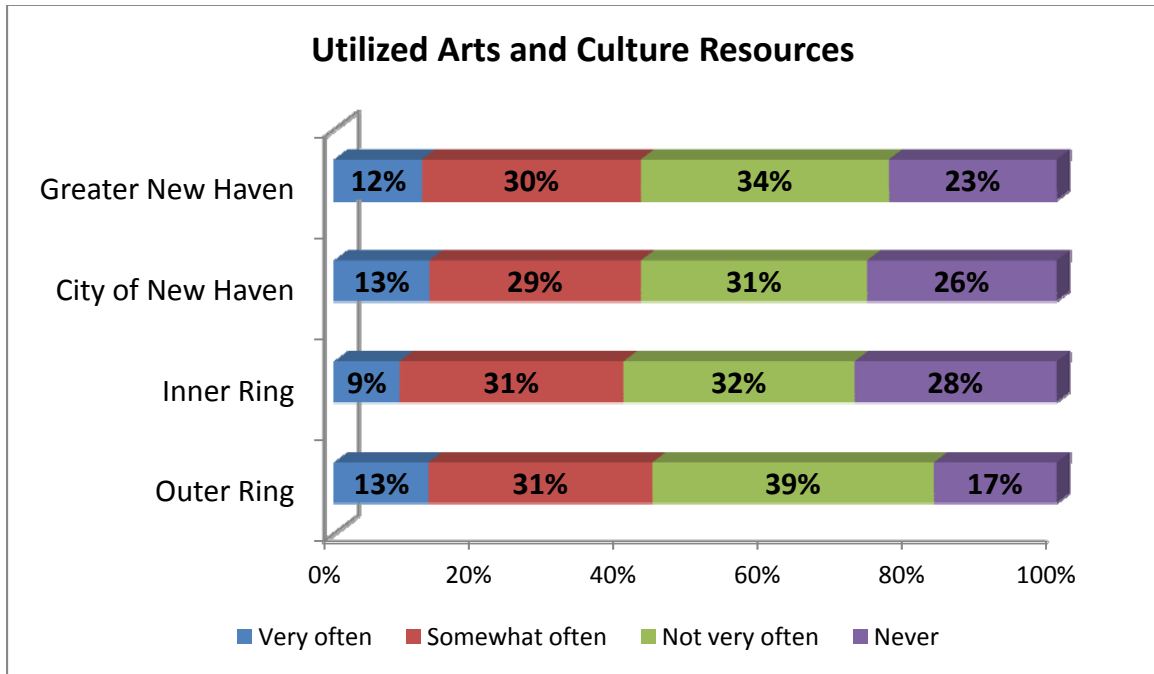
- Outer Ring 3.4
- Inner Ring 3.0
- City of New Haven 2.9
- White 3.3
- African-American 3.1
- Hispanic 2.7



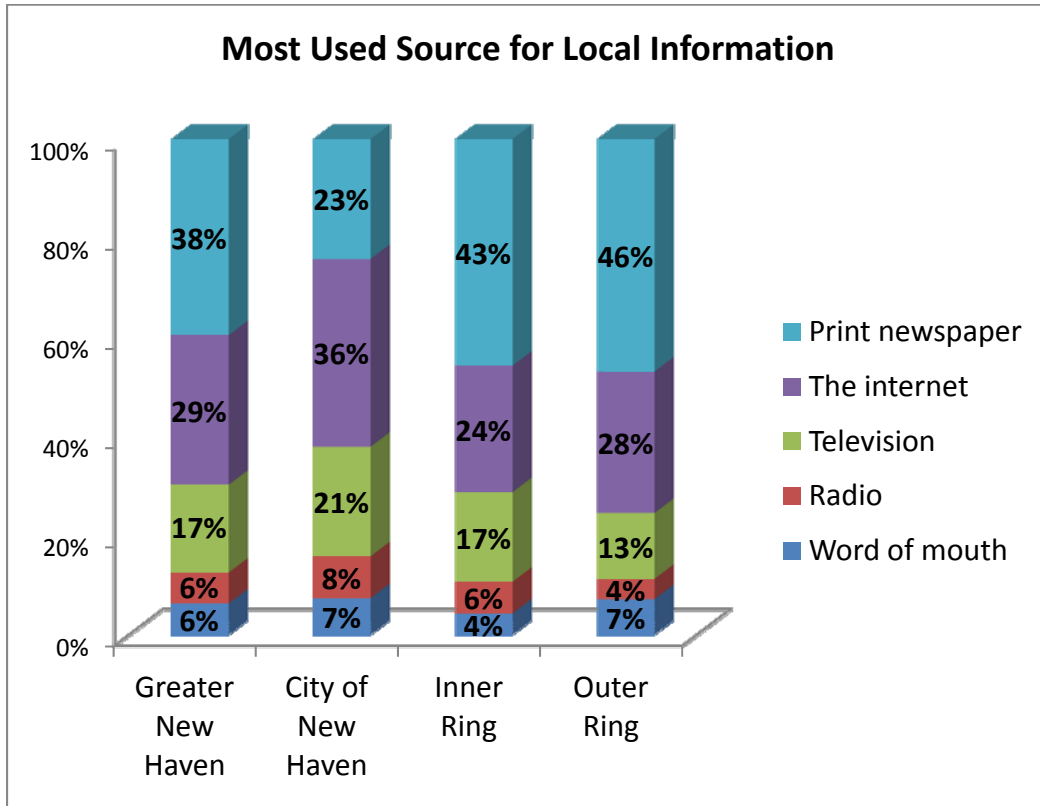
Among White respondents living in the Outer Ring the score climbs to 3.5 while among African-Americans in the City of New Haven the score is down a tenth to 3.0 and Hispanics in the city hold at 2.7.

While a perfect score of 5 across all respondents is unlikely, given the great importance of civic engagement, it is not an out-of-reach goal. Today, we note a significant deficit overall and a meaningful and significant variation in civic engagement measured in this simple way by location and self-identified race and ethnicity.

Forty-two percent of all respondents have utilized arts and culture resources at least somewhat often within Greater New Haven, such as arts activities or performances in the past twelve months. Nearly a quarter say they have never done so. Participation is slightly greater among those in the Outer Ring (44%) than those in New Haven (42%) and the Inner Ring (40%).

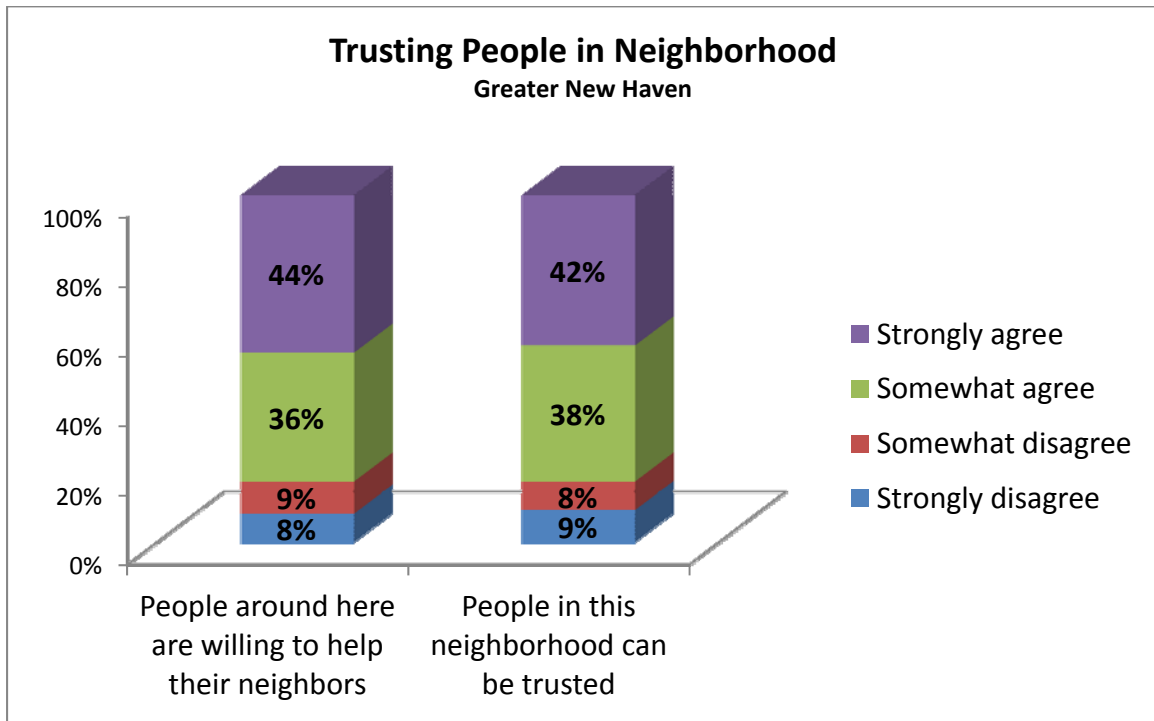


Finally, in regards to civic engagement we find that print newspapers followed by the internet and television are the top three sources for information that respondents look to about community events and public affairs in the New Haven area. While respondent choices for information are similar in the Inner and Outer Rings with newspapers the top choice followed in order by the internet and then television, among New Haven residents, the top choice is the internet with print and television virtually tied for second.



Neighborhood Trust and Collective Efficacy

In response to two questions about trusting the people in their neighborhood, 80 percent of respondents said that they agreed either somewhat (36%) or strongly (44%) that people around here are willing to help their neighbors and 80 percent agreed either somewhat (38%) or strongly (42%) that people in this neighborhood can be trusted. In both cases only 17 percent disagreed with either statement.



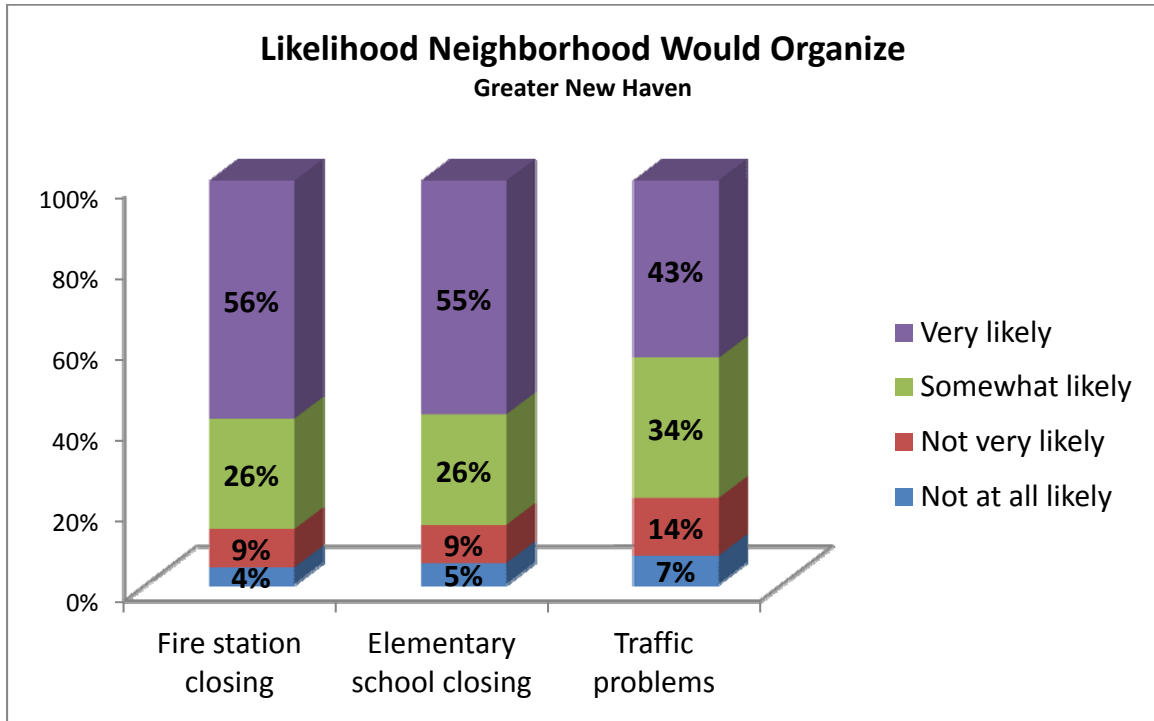
In both cases, trust in the people in the neighborhood while high in New Haven (between 58 and 63%) is greater in the Inner (79 to 80%) and Outer (91 to 93%) Rings.

Significantly fewer African-Americans and Hispanics “strongly agree” that people in this neighborhood can be trusted. Where 50 percent of Whites strongly agree with that statement, only 22 percent of African-Americans and 24 percent of Hispanics do. Agreement with both statements increases with income which may be an indication of the relative security and density of the web of affiliations experienced by respondents of Greater New Haven by income.

We also asked respondents, in the section of the survey focused on their neighborhood, three hypothetical questions concerning their opinion of the likelihood for residents to organize in order to address a local problem. We asked about the likelihood that residents would organize themselves to do something about:

1. The fire station closest to your home was going to be closed down by your city or town;
2. A nearby elementary school was to be closed down by your school district;
3. There was a serious traffic concern in the neighborhood.

In each case, a large majority (77 to 82%) said it was at least somewhat likely that residents would organize to try to do something to keep the facility open or in the case of the traffic issue, to do something about it. In the case of the fire station and the elementary school, clear majorities believe it is ‘very likely’ that residents would organize.



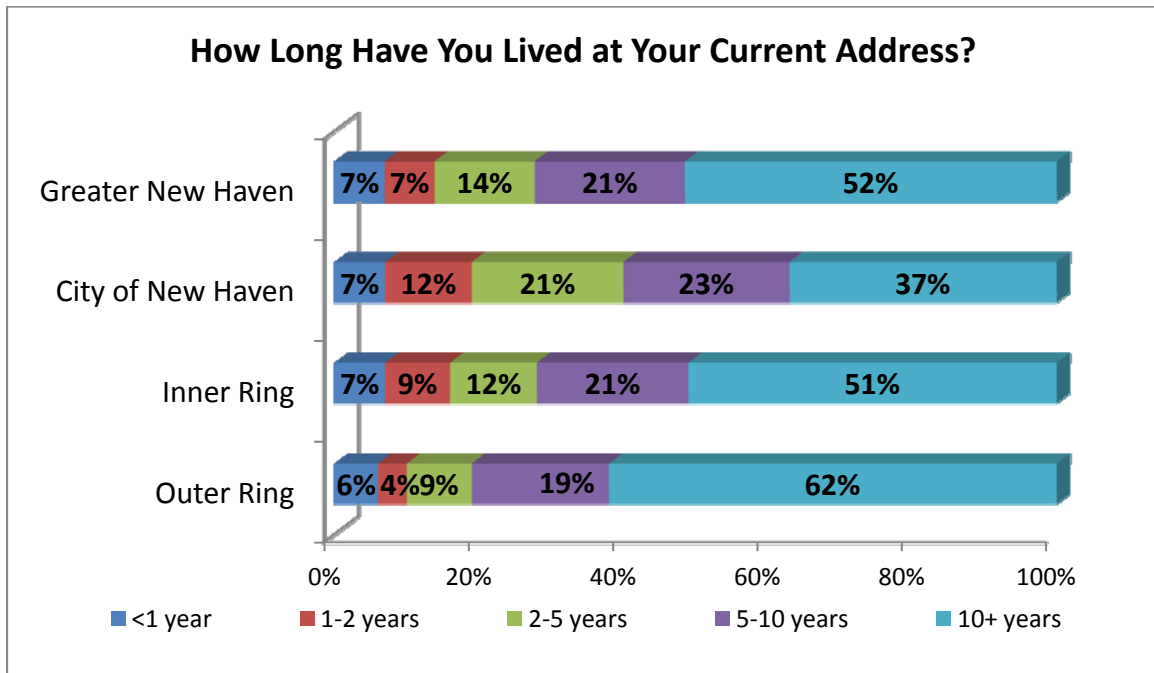
Residents of the Outer Ring express more intensity in their belief that residents would organize especially towards the closings of either a fire station or an elementary school with 87 percent believing it at least somewhat likely (66% very likely) that residents would organize to do something to keep the fire station open and 88 percent (64% very likely) at least somewhat likely to do something to keep an elementary school open.

While no questions sought to determine whether or not a respondent would themselves be active in organizing or participating in any effort to address closings or traffic problems, it is clear that residents in Greater New Haven believe that members of their community would join together to take action if the community faced either the loss of services provided by a fire station or an elementary school or in order to address a persistent traffic concern. This displays an underlying sense of meaningful social capital existing in these communities, while not necessarily consistent with the level of personal involvement in all cases. In other words, there is a sense that the community is capable of addressing concerns and that individuals may benefit from it while not fully participating.

My Neighborhood

We asked respondents a sequence of questions about life in their neighborhood. The sequence began with this statement, “The next group of questions is about your neighborhood, that is, the area around your home that you could walk to in 10 or 15 minutes or that are you consider to be your neighborhood.” In that way we invited respondents to subjectively determine the size and sense of the place that they consider to be their neighborhood. No doubt the boundaries of these neighborhoods are not exact but rather reflect the individual and collective experience of respondents.

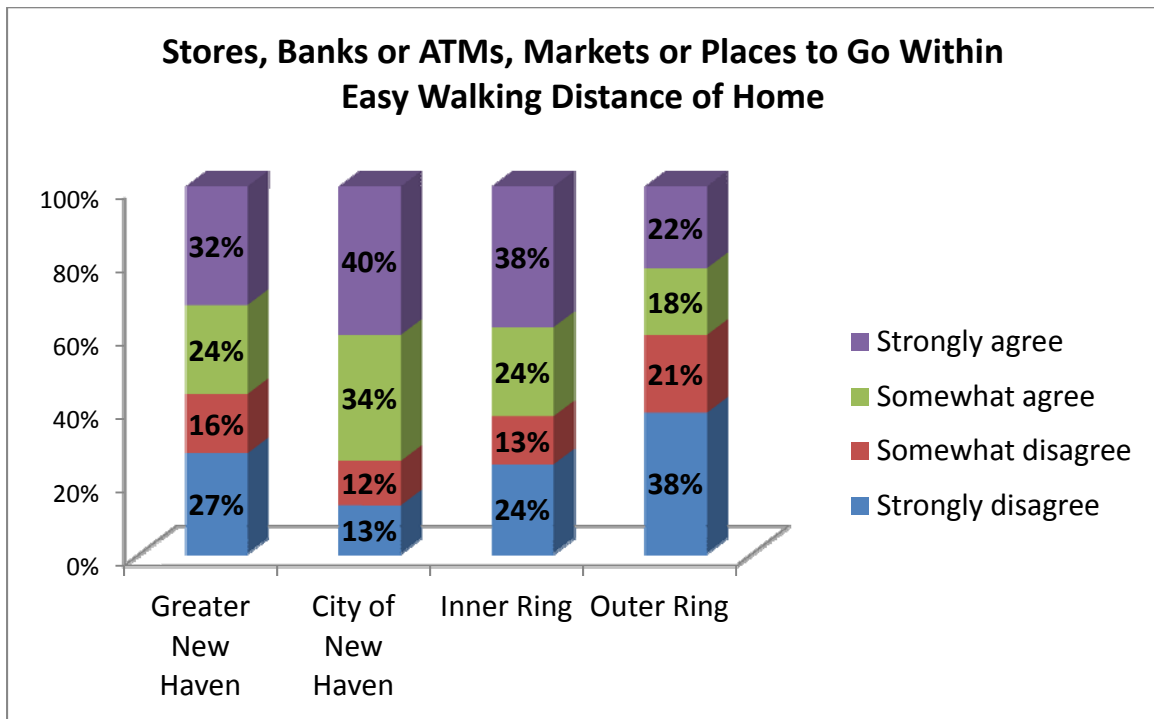
Over half of all respondents (52%) have lived in their neighborhood, at their current address, for ten years or more. Outer Ring residents tend to have lived at their current address longer (62% at ten or more years) while 37 percent of New Haven residents have been at their current address that long. Twenty-eight percent of respondents have lived at their current address less than five years. That percent climbs to 40 percent among City of New Haven residents.



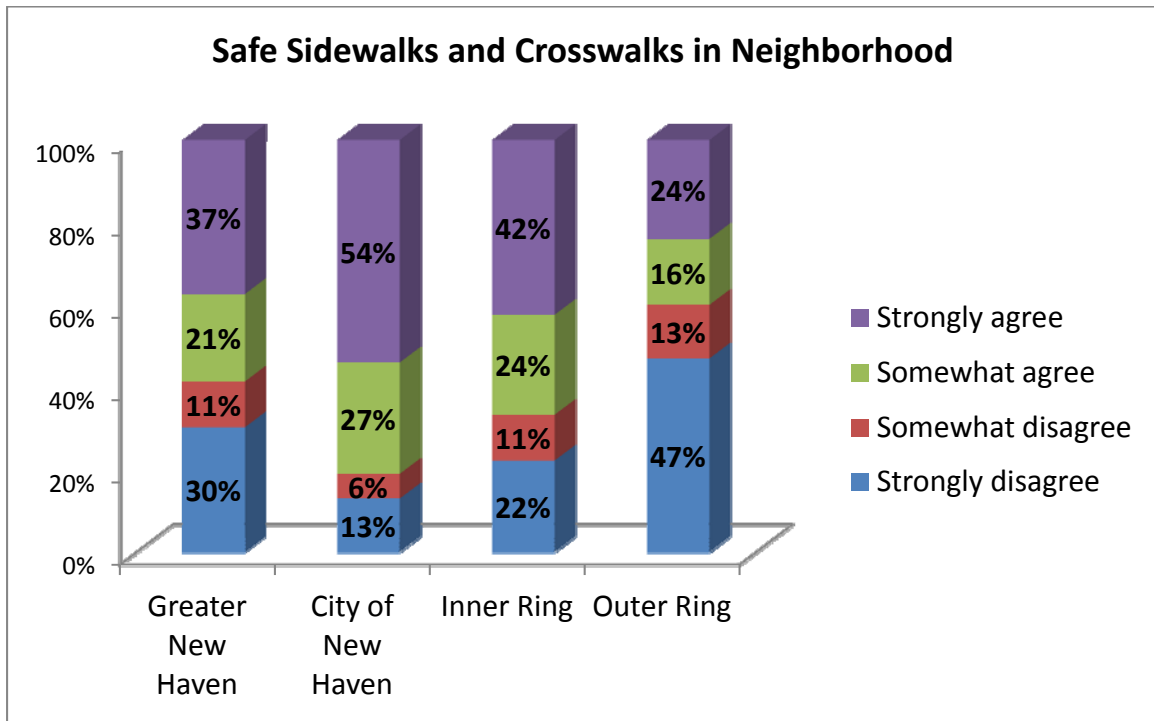
We then asked respondents their level of agreement or disagreement with a series of six statements about aspects of neighborhood life, assets and safety including:

- Many stores, banks or ATMs, markets or places to go are within easy walking distance of my home.
- There are safe sidewalks and crosswalks on most of the streets in my neighborhood.
- There are places to bicycle in or near my neighborhood that are safe from traffic, such as on the street or on special lanes, separate paths or trails.
- Public transit can generally get me where I need to go.
- My neighborhood has several free or low cost recreation facilities such as parks, playgrounds, public swimming pools, etc.
- I do not feel safe to go on walks in my neighborhood at night.

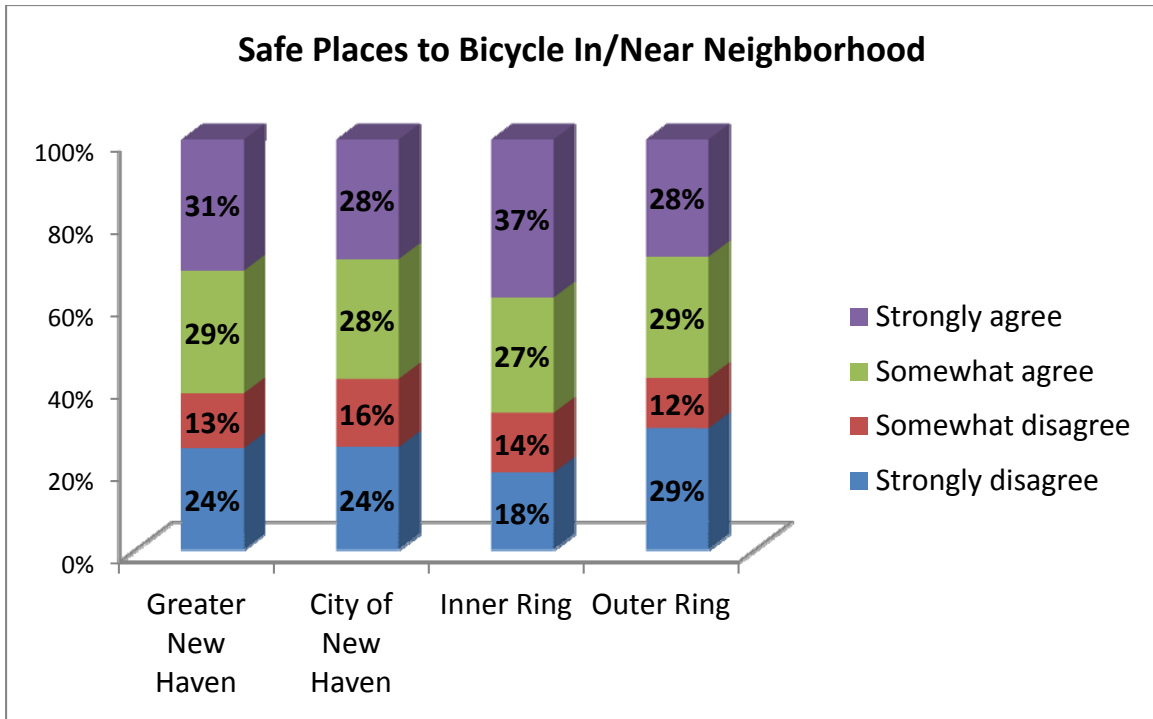
Overall, 56 percent agree that stores and banking is available within easy walking distance of their home while 43 percent disagree or indicate that they are not. In this case, New Haven residents (74%) are more likely to agree than are either Inner (62%) or Outer Ring (40%) residents. African-American and Hispanic residents agree at rates in the mid 70 percent range while Whites do at 49 percent. Low income residents agree at rates far higher than upper income residents. Again, this question as well as many others in this survey display the different lives lived by people of differing incomes and ethnicities in the Greater New Haven area.



Fifty-eight percent agree that there are safe sidewalks and crosswalks on most streets in their neighborhood. This is far more true in the City of New Haven (81%) than in either the Inner (66%) or Outer (40%) Ring. Given the relative concentration of African-Americans and Hispanics in the City of New Haven as opposed to especially the Outer Ring, it is not surprising that 75 percent of African-Americans and 71 percent of Hispanics agree with this statement while only 53 percent of Whites do. Interestingly, African-Americans agree far more strongly than do Hispanics.

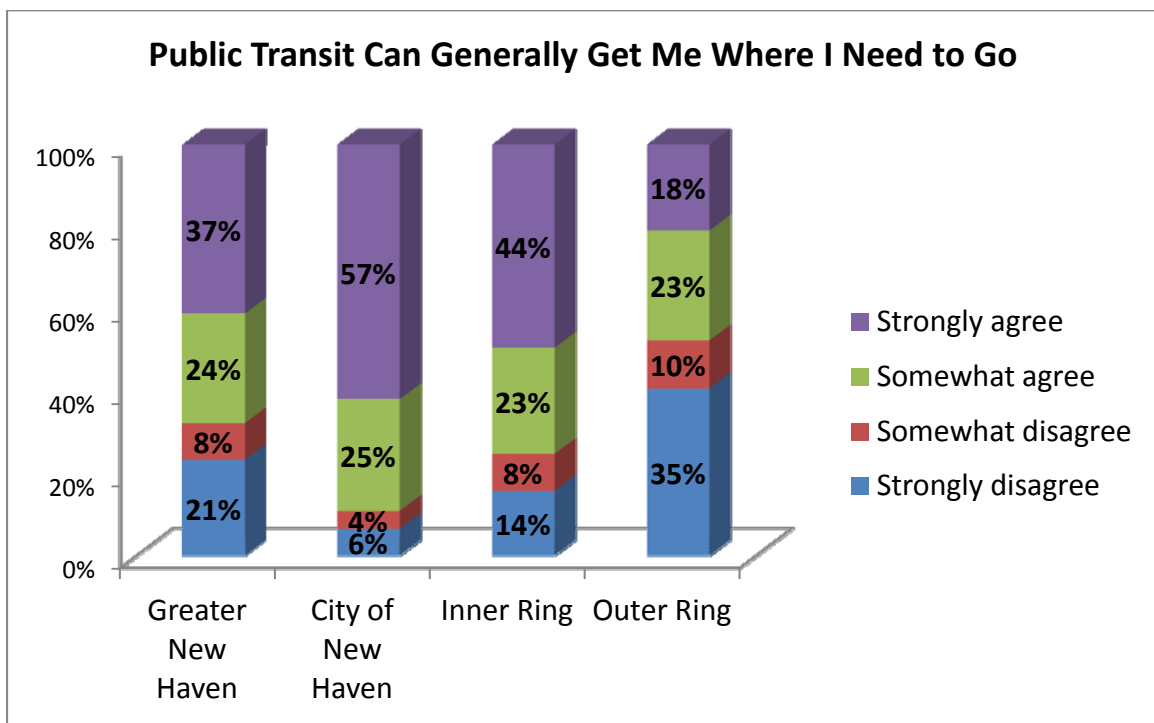


We do not see the same variation by ring in regards to safe places to ride a bicycle. Overall, 60 percent agree that there are safe places to ride a bicycle in their neighborhood. In New Haven, 56 percent agree, in the Inner Ring 64 percent agree and in the Outer Ring 57 percent agree.

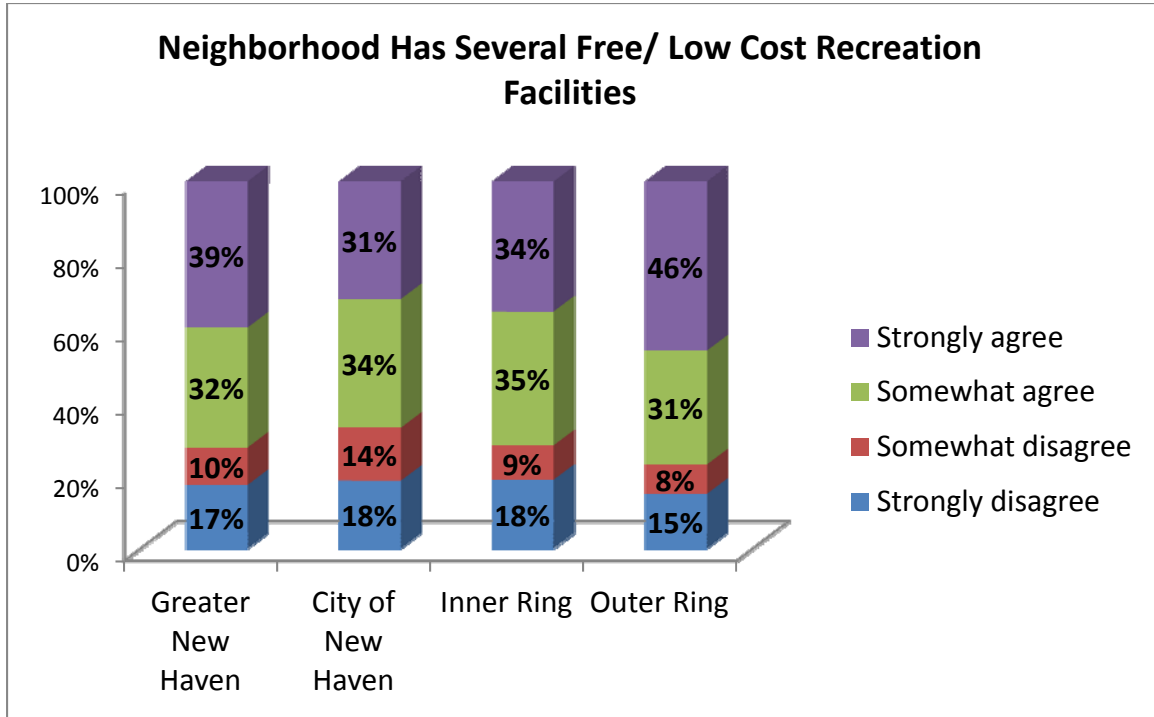


Sixty-one percent agree that public transit can generally get them where they need to go. Agreement with this statement is greater among lower income residents, near 80 percent and lower among those making over \$100,000 (47%). Also, there is a greater tendency for those with higher income to not know whether or not public transit can get them where they need to go. While only 27 percent of Whites strongly agree that public transit can generally service them, 46 percent of Hispanics and 76 percent of African-Americans strongly agree.

Variation by ring is pronounced on this question. City of New Haven residents at a rate of 82 percent (57% strongly) agree that public transit can generally meet their needs. In the Inner Ring, 67 percent (44% strongly) agree and in the Outer Ring 41 percent (18% strongly) agree.

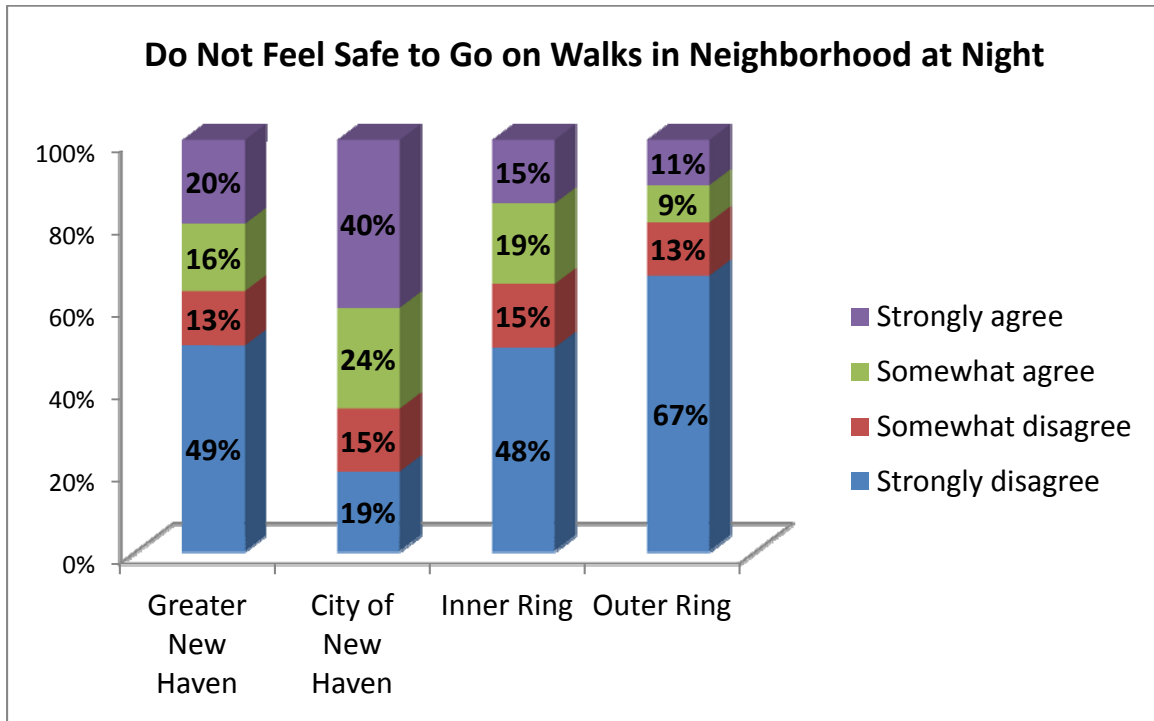


Overall 71 percent of residents agree that their neighborhood has several free or low cost recreation facilities such as parks. While there is some variation in favor, that is, towards having higher levels of agreement with neighborhood recreation facilities available, at least 58 percent of all demographic groups agree with there being free recreation facilities available. Still we note Outer Ring residents cite more access (77%) than do Inner Ring residents (69%) than do New Haven residents (65%). Within the City of New Haven, neighborhoods with higher rates of low income residents cite having fewer free recreation facilities (60%) than either mixed income neighborhoods (65%) or higher income neighborhoods (81%).

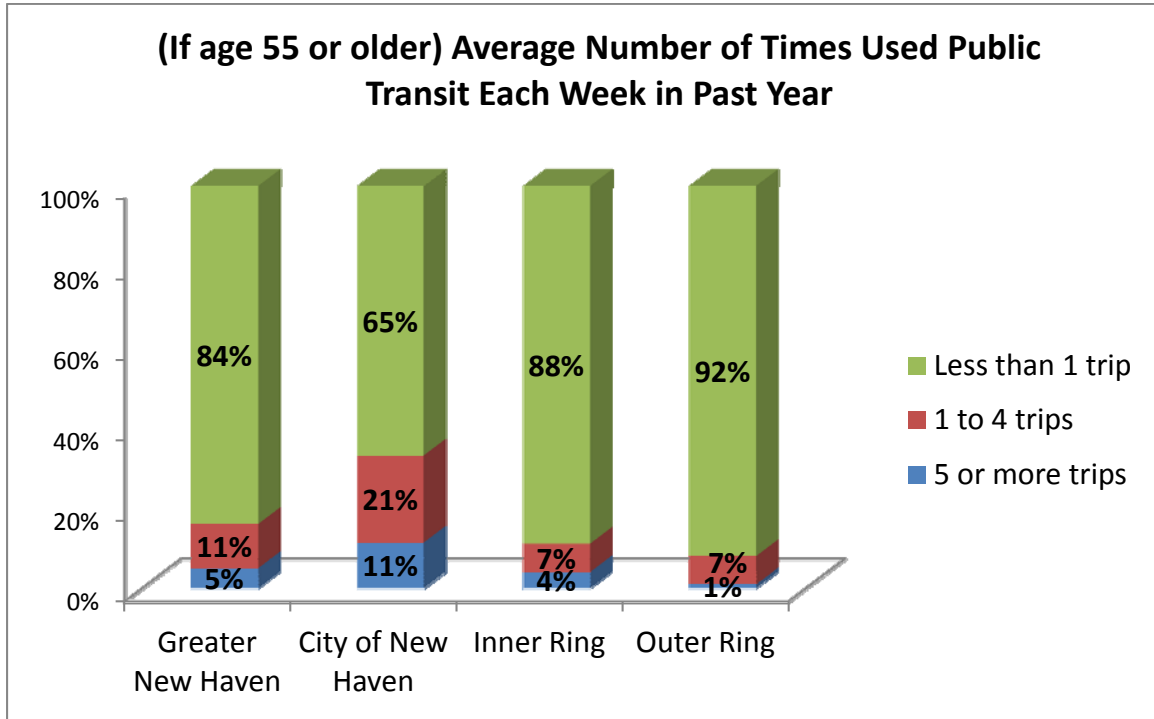


Thirty-six percent of all respondents agree that they do not feel safe to go on walks in their neighborhood at night. Sixty-two percent (49% strongly) disagree. Agreement with this statement indicating a lack of a feeling of safety to walk at night in their neighborhood is higher among African-Americans (51%), Hispanics (48%) and lower income respondents.

More striking is the differences in the feeling of personal safety by rings. Only 20 percent of respondents in the Outer Ring and 34 percent in the Inner Ring do not feel safe to walk in their neighborhood at night but 64 percent do not feel safe in New Haven. Within New Haven that lack of feeling of safety increases to 77 percent in lower income areas but falls to 44 percent in higher income neighborhoods.



Looking specifically at the use of public transit among respondents age 55 or older, we find that overall 16 percent have taken either 1 to 4 trips (11%) over the past month or five or more trips (5%). In New Haven that rate increases to 32 percent that have used public transit with 21 percent taking 1 to 4 trips and 11 percent taking 5 or more.

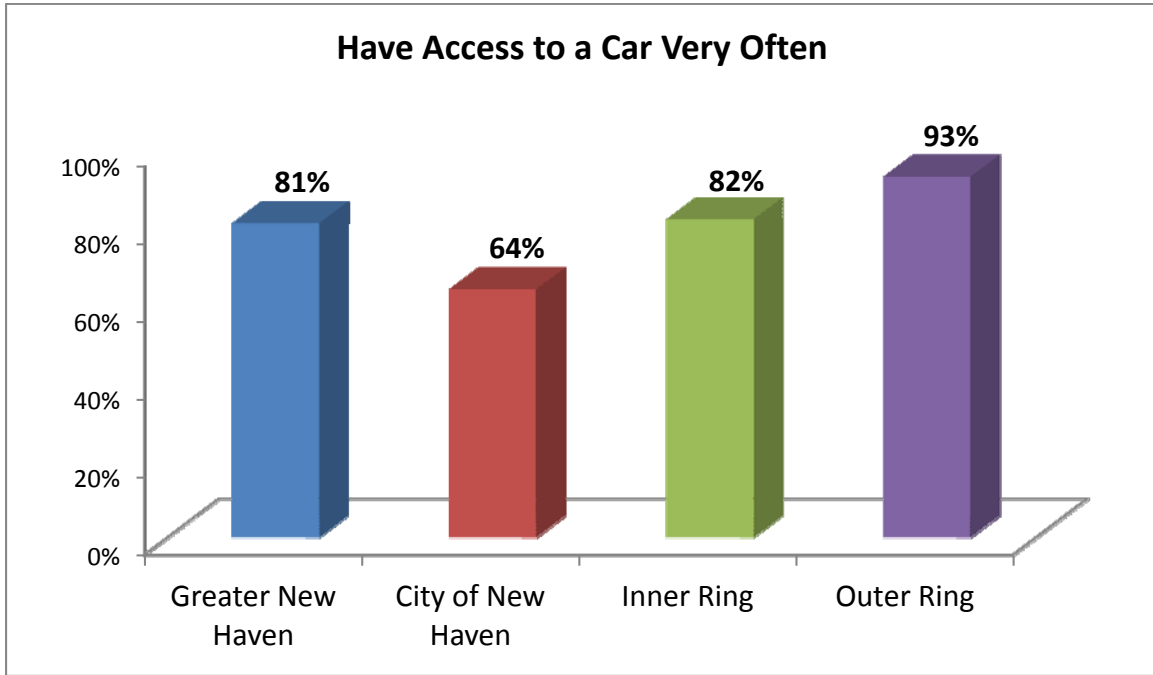


Among respondents age 55 or older in the City of New Haven, 80 percent can get to the nearest bus or train stop in less than 10 minutes. Thirteen percent live between 10 and 20 minutes from the nearest stop and 3 percent live either within 30 minutes (2%) or more than 30 minutes (1%).

Among those 55 and older in New Haven, we found the following rates of issues presenting difficulties in getting to public transit:

- Worries about personal safety 32%
- Crossing busy streets 28%
- Lack of adequate sidewalks 20%
- Distance too far 13%

Eighty-one percent of all respondents have access to a car very often when they need it. That rate increases to 93 percent in the Outer Ring, 82 percent in the Inner Ring but falls to 64 percent in the City of New Haven. Among those making less than \$30,000 a year in New Haven, 42 percent have access very often, 17 percent fairly often, 20 percent sometimes and 21 percent either almost never (5%) or never (16%).

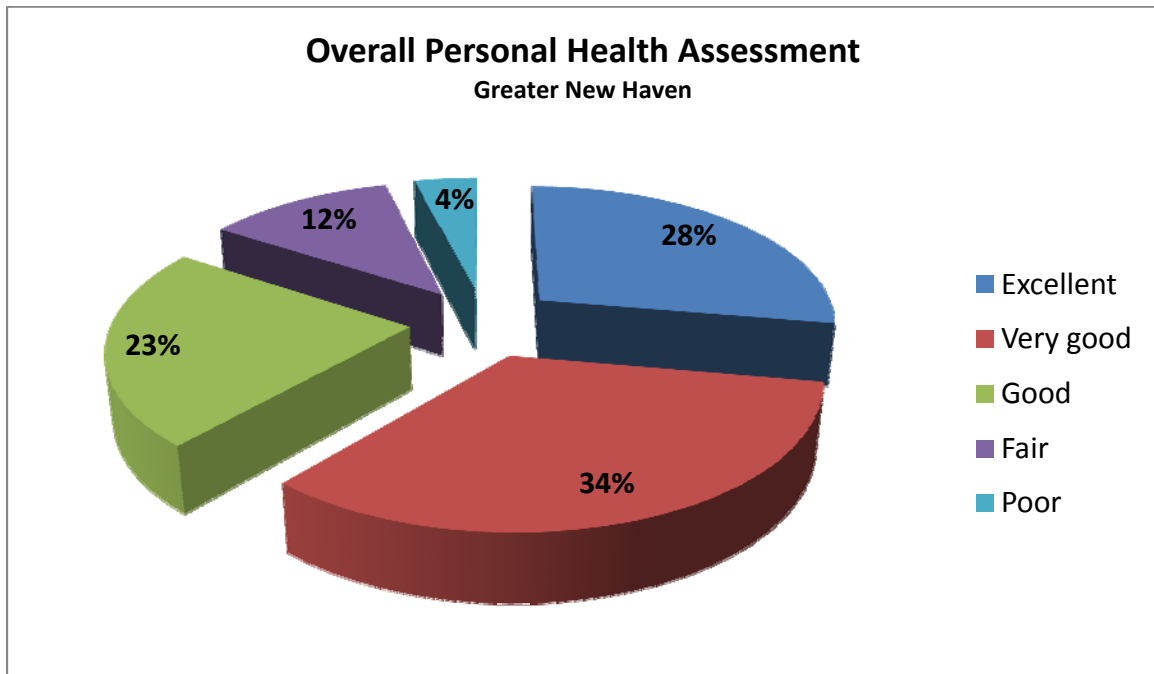


Across the entire region, among those that do not have at least access fairly often to a car, most (at least 77%) agree that public transit can generally get them where they need to go. However, a meaningful percentage, 3 percent of all respondents do not have regular access to a vehicle and either feel that they cannot rely on public transit or simply do not know if they can or not.

Personal Health

The first question that was part of a long sequence on health asked respondents to assess their overall health as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor. Overall 28 percent said excellent, 34 percent very good, 23 percent good, 12 percent fair and only 4 percent said poor. Drawing a line at good, that is, grouping those that rate their health as at least good compared to those that indicate fair or poor, overall 85 percent say that their health is at least good while 16 percent rate their health as only fair or poor.

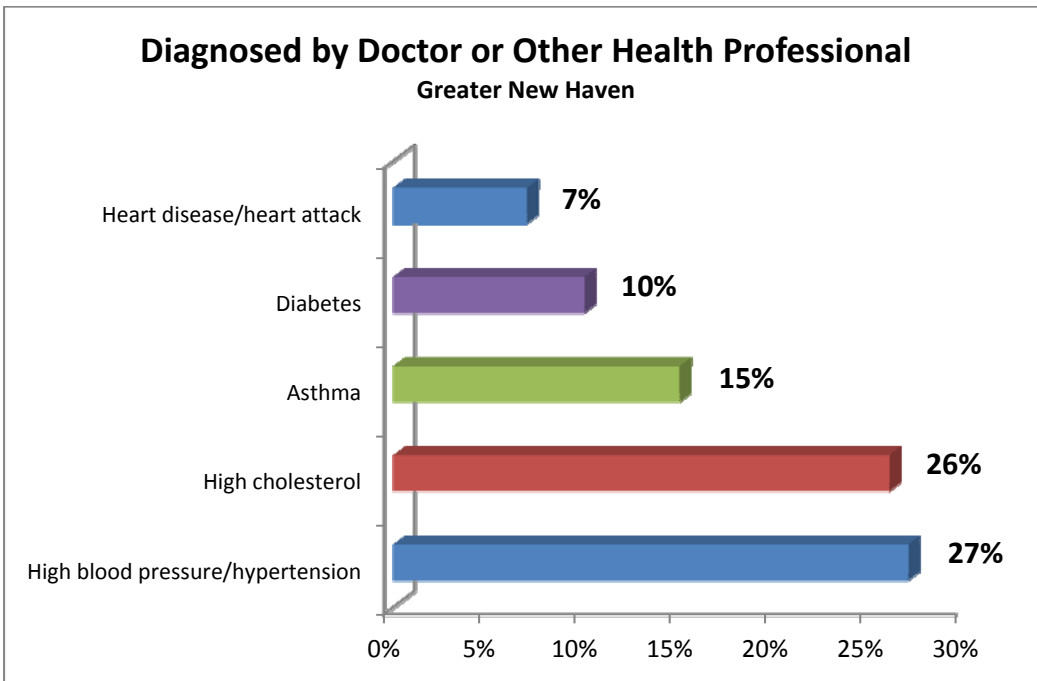
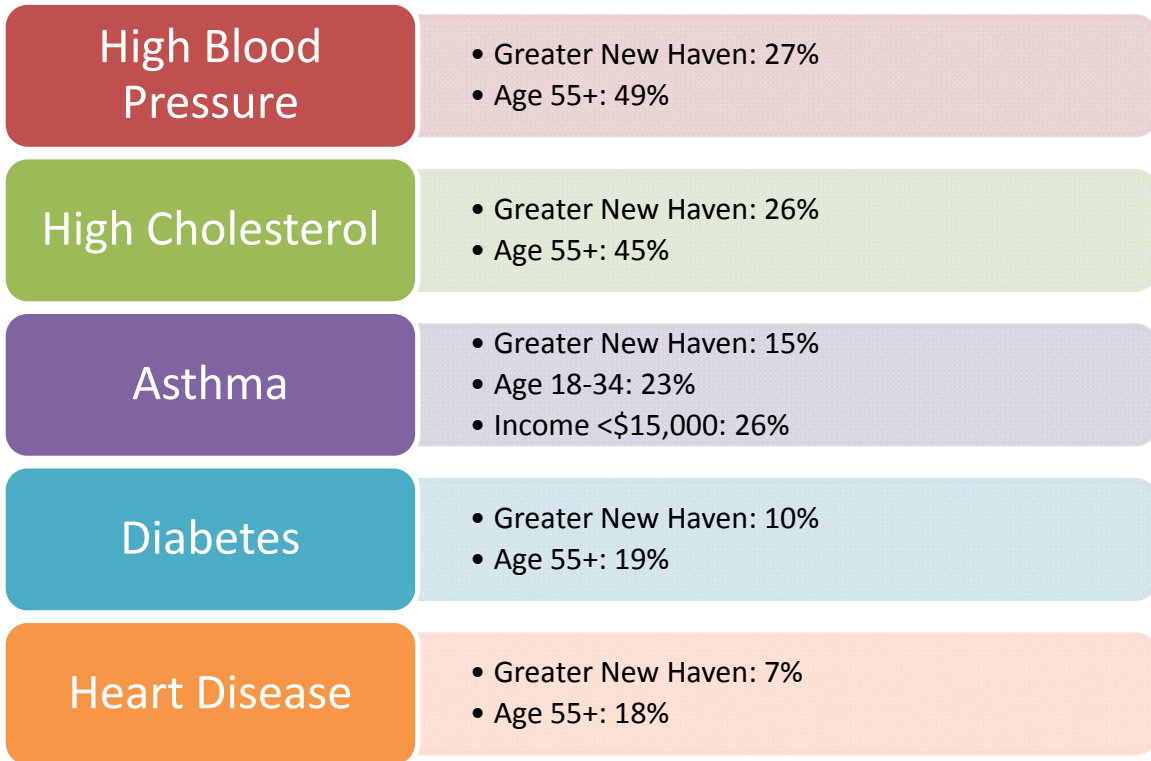
These data compare closely to national and statewide data, such as the 2012 County Health Rankings. Although Greater New Haven has relatively high proportion of adults who report being in excellent or very good health, the percentage of adults who report being in only fair or poor health, 16%, is slightly above the County Health Rankings' Connecticut statewide percentage of 11% as well as the national benchmark of 10% (the latter of which is based on the top 10% of best-performing counties nationwide).



Self-assessment of health is inversely correlated with age. Among those 55 years of age and older, 23 percent rate their health as only fair or poor while among those 18 to 34 that number falls to 10 percent.

Respondents with at least a Bachelor's degree, rate their health higher than those without a degree and residents with greater incomes tend to report greater quality of health.

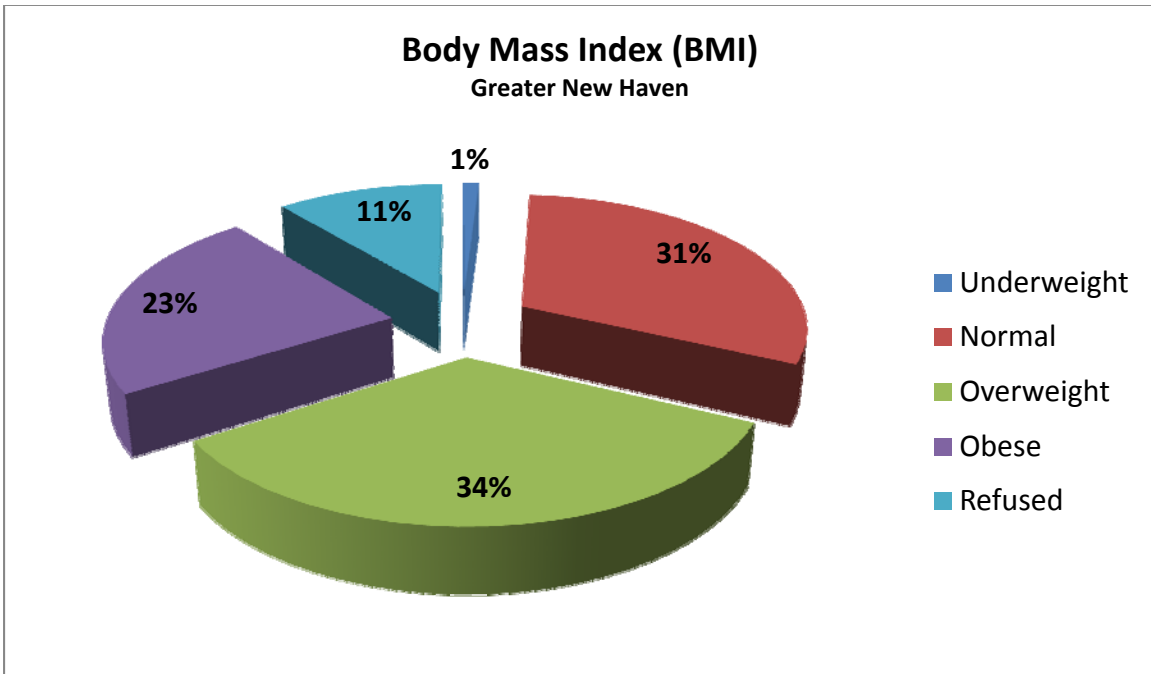
Asked if they have ever been told by a doctor or health professional that they have any of five medical conditions, residents across the region report:



Cross tabulating self-described health with the five medical conditions, we see that the percentage of those that indicate having been told that they have the condition increases for each condition as we move from excellent through poor health. As such, it appears

that respondents' self-assessment is honest and a reflection of the information doctors have provided them.

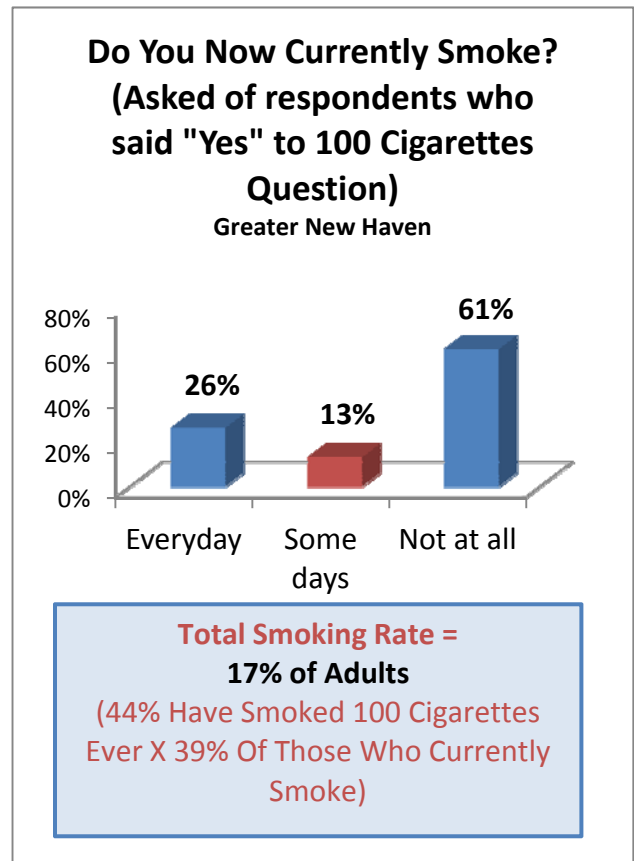
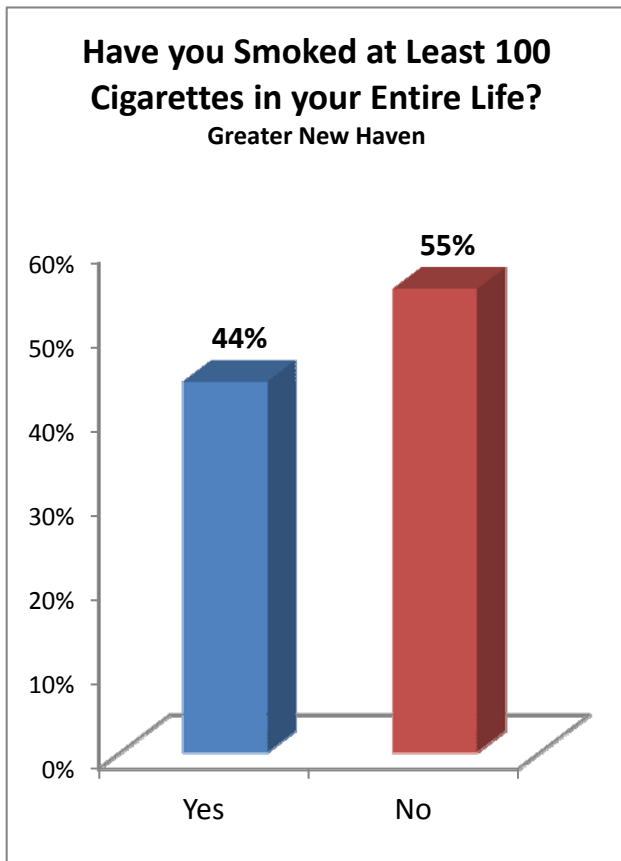
After asking all respondents to indicate their height and weight, we computed their BMI (Body Mass Index) and classified them per the BRFSS's categories. Only 31 percent of all respondents have a BMI that classifies as normal. Thirty-four percent are overweight, 23 percent are obese, 1 percent is underweight and 11 percent of respondents refused to answer either the height or weight questions. In that 64 percent of those that responded are at least overweight, it is likely that given the tendency of respondents to understate their weight and overstate their height as well as the probability that there are a number of overweight people among those that did respond, that approximately two-thirds of residents are overweight and as many as 25 percent are obese. This compares closely to the 2012 County Health Rankings reported obesity rate of 23% in Connecticut and 27% In New Haven County.



Cross tabulating BMI by self-reported health yields some potentially troubling findings. Of those that, according to BMI, are obese (23% of the total), 15 percent say that their health is excellent, 30 percent say that their health is very good and 31 percent say that their health is good. Among those that are, according to BMI, overweight, 31 percent say that their health is excellent, 34 percent very good, 21 percent good. Respondents that report being in very good or better health are less likely to be either overweight or obese.

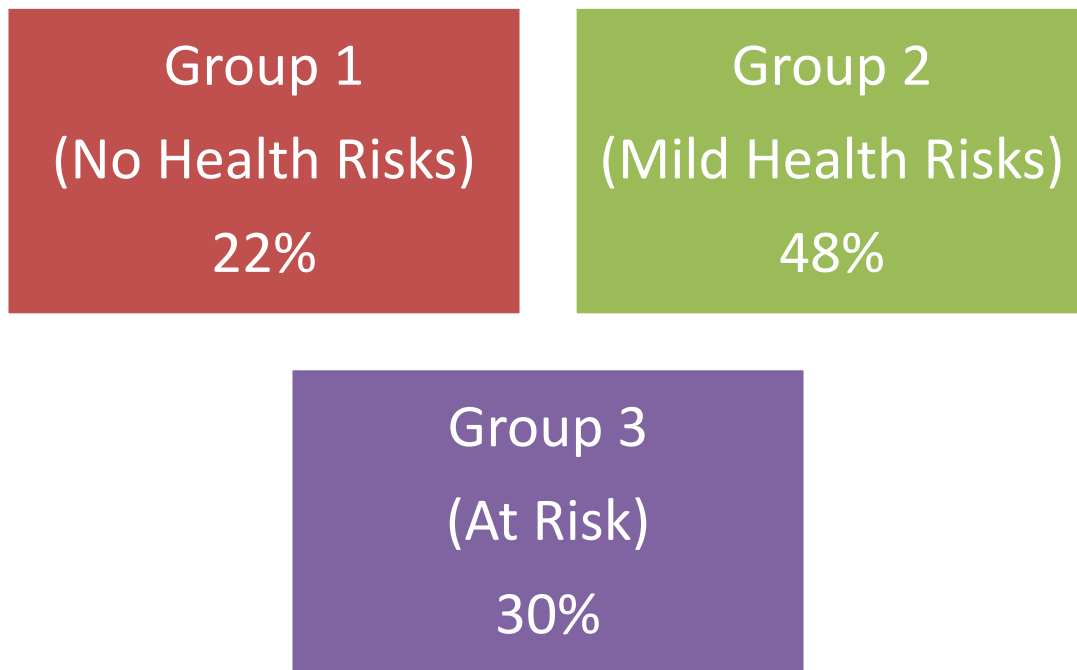
Additionally, we look at the five conditions above, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, asthma, diabetes and heart disease. We find that 22 percent of respondents are neither overweight nor obese and do have a history of any of the five conditions. Of those individuals, 94 percent report at least good health with 11 percent good, 37 percent very good and 47 percent excellent.

Given that many would consider smoking a detriment to good health, we note that while 44 percent of all respondents have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their entire life, today 17 percent of Greater New Haven residents are smokers. Using a standard national methodology from BRFSS, we calculate smoking prevalence as the proportion of those residents who have ever smoked 100 cigarettes (44%) who currently smoke (i.e., 44% X 39% = 17%).



Giving a point to every respondent for any of the five medical conditions, one point for being a smoker and one point for being overweight and 2 for being obese, we compute a total score for each respondent that indicates a measure of health risk. The number for every respondent can vary from 0 to 8. Twenty-two percent of respondents are not overweight, obese, do not have a history of any of the five conditions and are not smokers.

Now grouping respondents into three groups based on their summative score on the five conditions, smoking and BMI we generate three groups: Group 1 – no health risks, Group 2 – mild health risk (score of 1 or 2), Group 3 – at risk (score of 3 or more).



While we may be overstating risk in that respondents with a history of high cholesterol for example may have addressed that issue, we provide this breakdown to offer a perspective and to perhaps invite the community to set a goal to increase the number of residents moving from Group 3 to 2, or if possible from 2 to 1. It is possible to address smoking and weight, for example, thereby lowering a person's score.

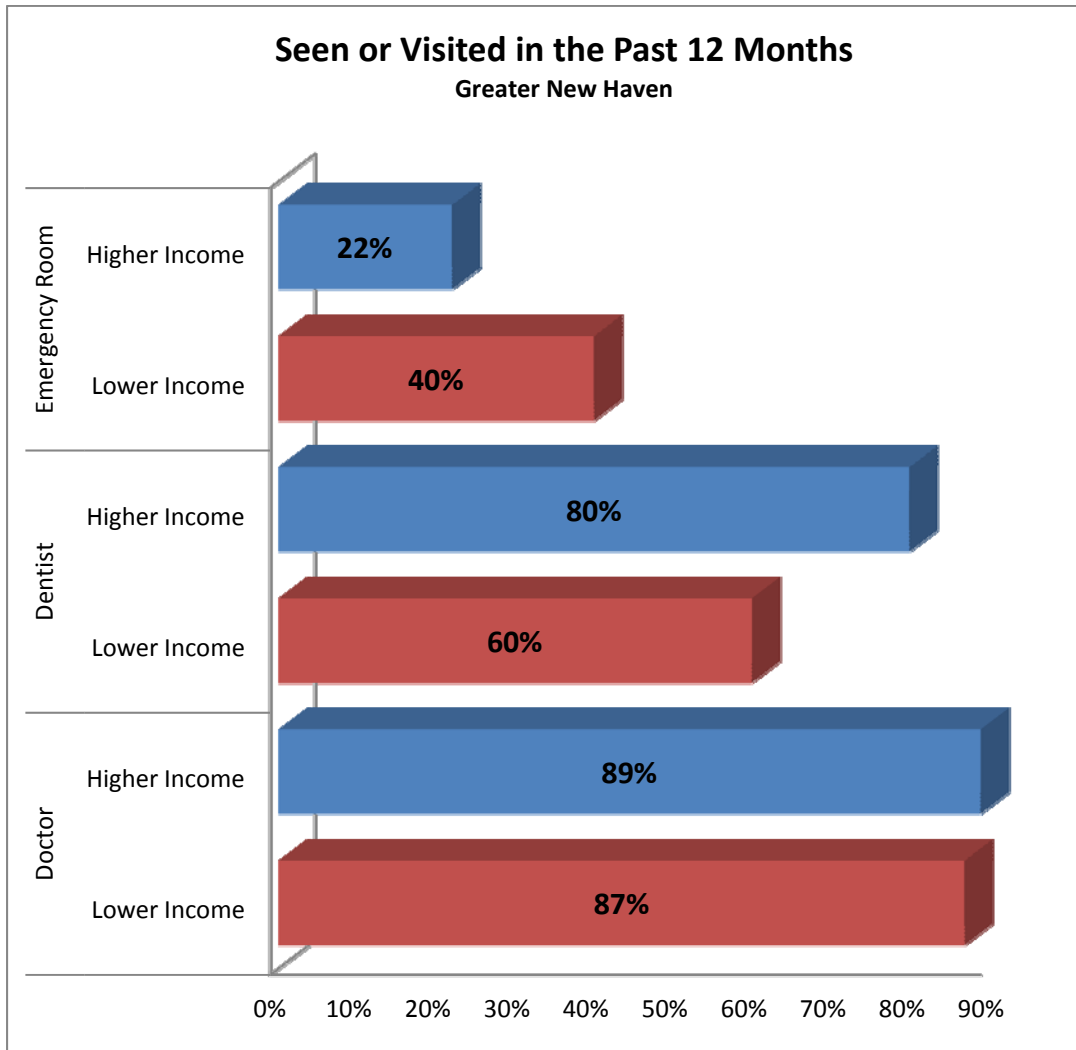
Additionally, we call attention to the cross tabulation of health risk group with self-described health and invite collective and individual analysis.

	Group 1 (22%)	Group 2 (48%)	Group 3 (30%)	Total
Excellent	47%	30%	12%	28%
Very Good	37%	37%	25%	34%
Good	11%	20%	35%	23%
Fair	3%	10%	21%	12%
Poor	1%	3%	7%	4%

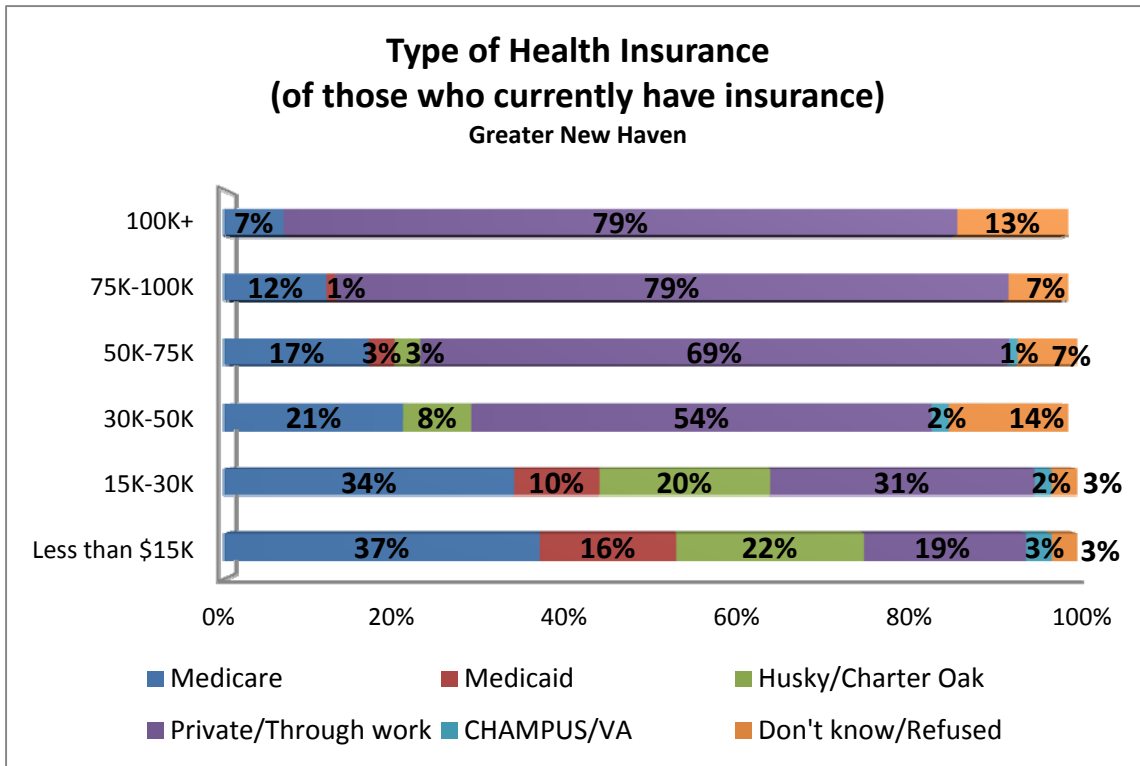
Clearly there is a recognition by members of each group as to their relative health status but just as respondents may overstate their positive attributes to an interviewer in a survey, individuals may overstate their health to themselves.

Still, there is a correlation between income and health risk status. Residents with lower incomes, especially those at or below \$30,000 are less likely to be in Group 1 and more likely to be in Group 3 than are residents with greater incomes especially those at or above \$75,000. For example, of those earning \$100,000 or more, 31 percent are in Group 1 and only 19 percent in Group 3 while among those earning less than \$15,000, only 9 percent are in Group 1 and 54 percent are in Group 3. Income does tend to predict health status.

Lower income residents are more likely than affluent residents to receive care in a hospital emergency room, and less likely to have seen a dentist in the last six months. However, approximately 80 percent of low income residents do have one person or place that they think of as their personal doctor or health care provider and a similar percentage of low income respondents have seen a doctor or other health care provider in the past 12 months for health advice or treatment. The rate among higher income respondents is greater. Similarly, between 78 and 80 percent of low income residents (\$30,000 or less) do have some form of health insurance while the rate among upper income residents is 98 percent.



Among upper income residents, health insurance is overwhelmingly provided privately or through work while lower income residents are spread across Medicare, Medicaid, Husky/Charter Oak and private insurance.



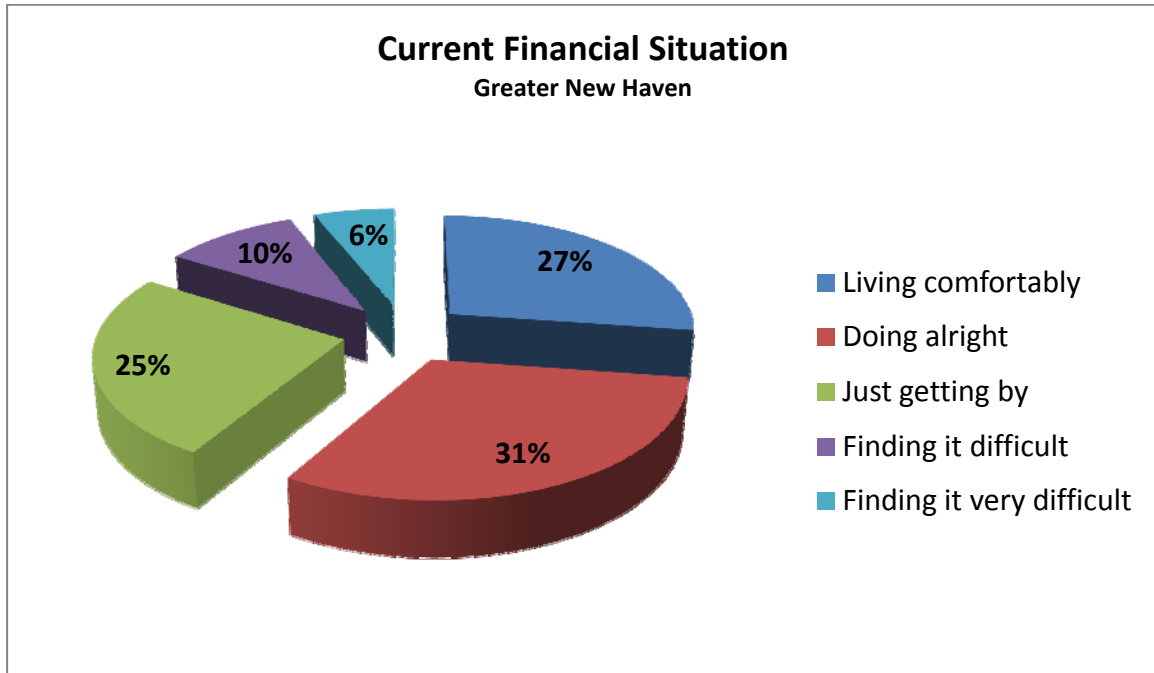
A possible answer to the finding that lower income residents tend to report and demonstrate lower rates of health and greater health risks than do upper income residents while still having access in most cases to medical attention may lie in nutrition and the cost of food.

Twenty percent of all respondents say that there has been a time in the past twelve months when they did not have enough money to buy food that they or their family needed. That is true of over half (52%) of those making less than \$15,000, and of 35 percent of those making between \$15,000 and \$30,000.

Economic pressures, the availability of lower cost foods of less nutritional quality as well as the potential differences in quality and attention between private and public health care may help explain the greater presence of lower income residents of Greater New Haven within the Groups at greater health risk.

Personal Finances and Economic Optimism

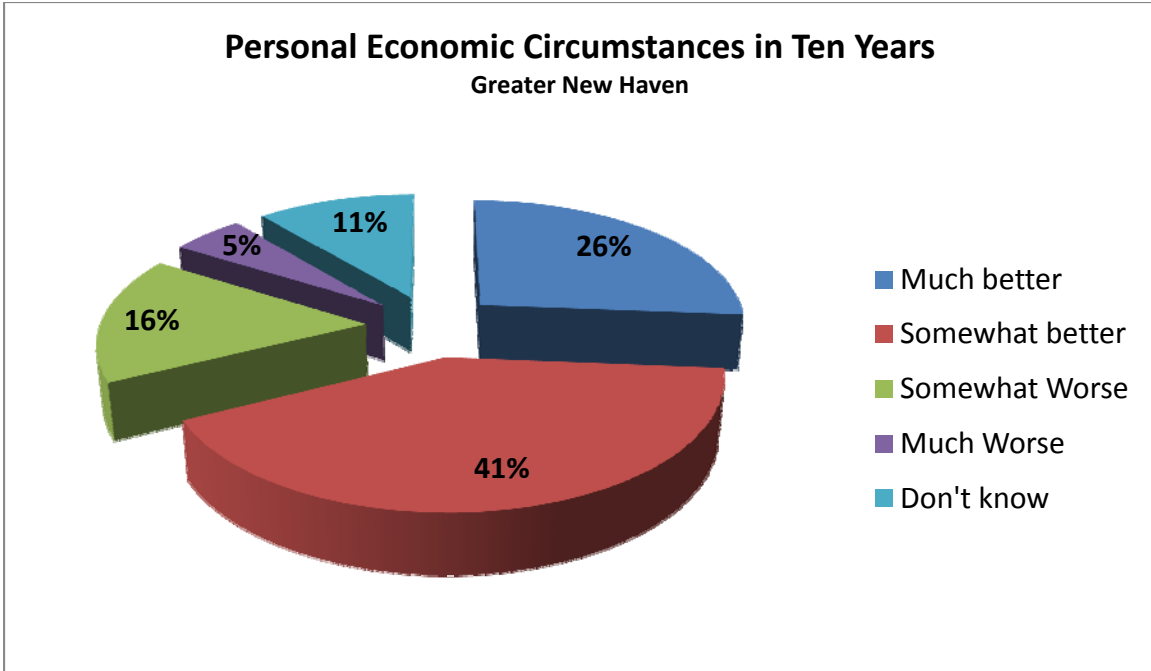
Fifty-eight percent of all residents say that they are either ‘doing alright’ (31%) or ‘living comfortably’ (27%) while a quarter are ‘just getting by’ and 16 percent are either ‘finding it difficult’ (10%) or ‘finding it very difficult’ (6%).



Not surprisingly, there is the expected correlation between stated income and the degree to which residents say they are managing financially these days. Half of those making over \$100,000 say that they are living comfortably while only 6 percent of those making under \$15,000 do. Still, it is noteworthy that over 40 percent of all respondents, including over half of all those making up to \$50,000, and nearly a quarter of those making between \$75,000 and \$100,000 say that they are no better than just getting by.

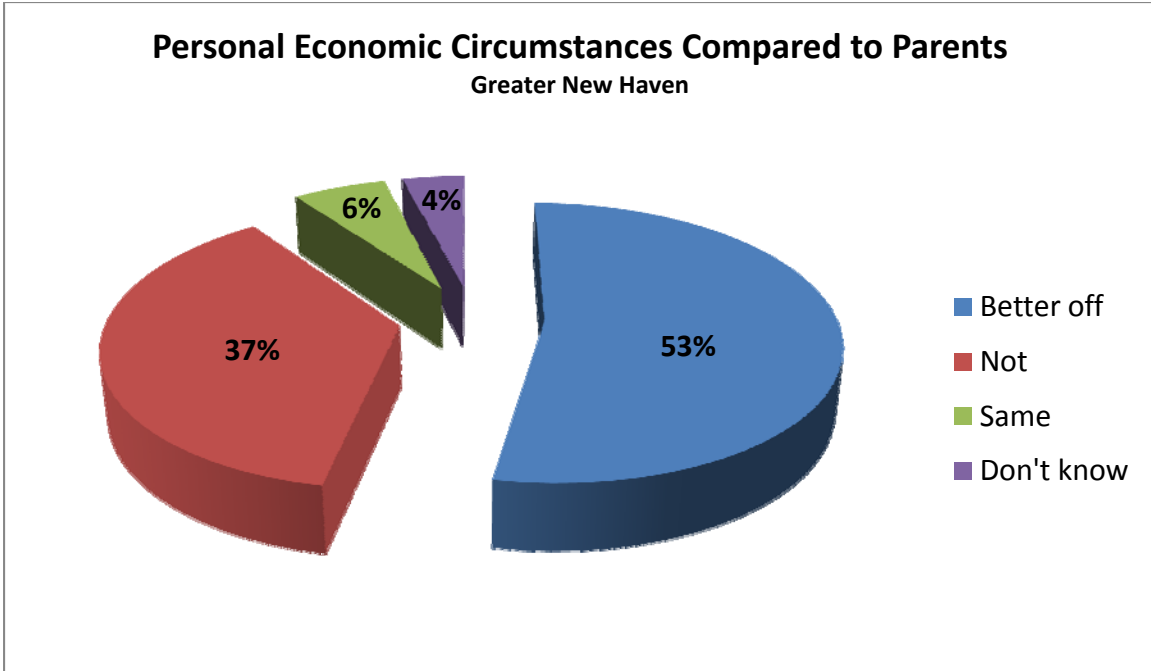
Fortunately for Greater New Haven, there is strong optimism for the future economic conditions. Sixty-seven percent of all respondents say that they think that ten years from now their economic circumstances will be at least somewhat better (41%) or much better (26%). That feeling is spread nearly equally across all income ranges which connotes an underlying faith in widespread economic improvement.

Young respondents, whether they live in the City of New Haven or one of the Rings are more hopeful of future economic improvement than middle age residents and far more hopeful than those over the age of 55.



Given the low marks the area received from residents on affordability and the ability to obtain suitable employment, we are forced to conclude that the high levels of optimism towards the future while encouraging is to some extent based on hope rather than concrete evidence. In fact, of those that predict their economic fortunes will be either somewhat or much better in ten years, only about a third say that the area in which they live has been getting somewhat or much better, while a majority of those that are optimistic about the future today say that their area is remaining about the same.

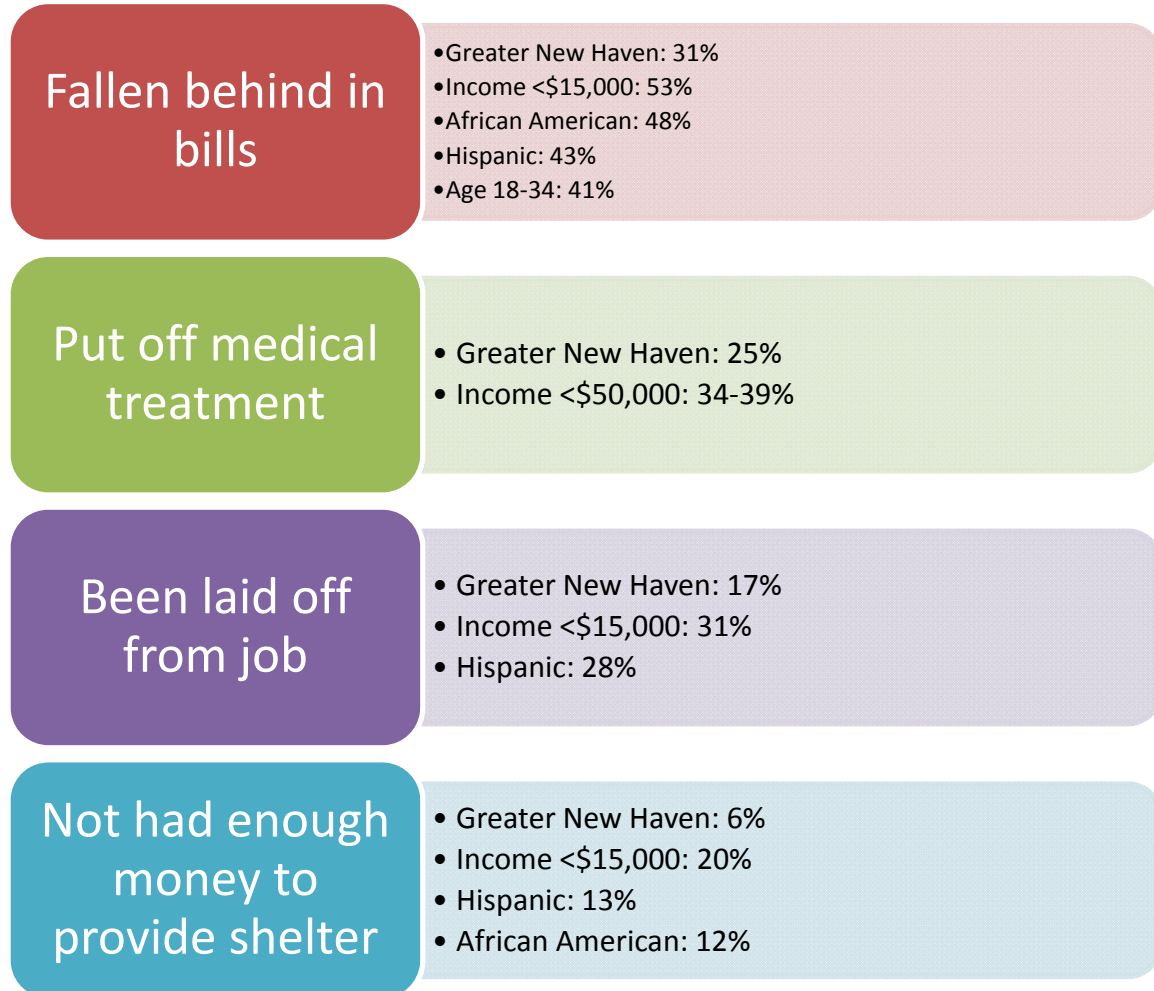
Despite the current economic challenges, a majority of respondents (53%) think that they are better off financially than their parents were at their current age. Only those making between \$15,000 and \$50,000 are evenly split on this question and only those making less than \$15,000 say as a majority that they are worse off than their parents were.

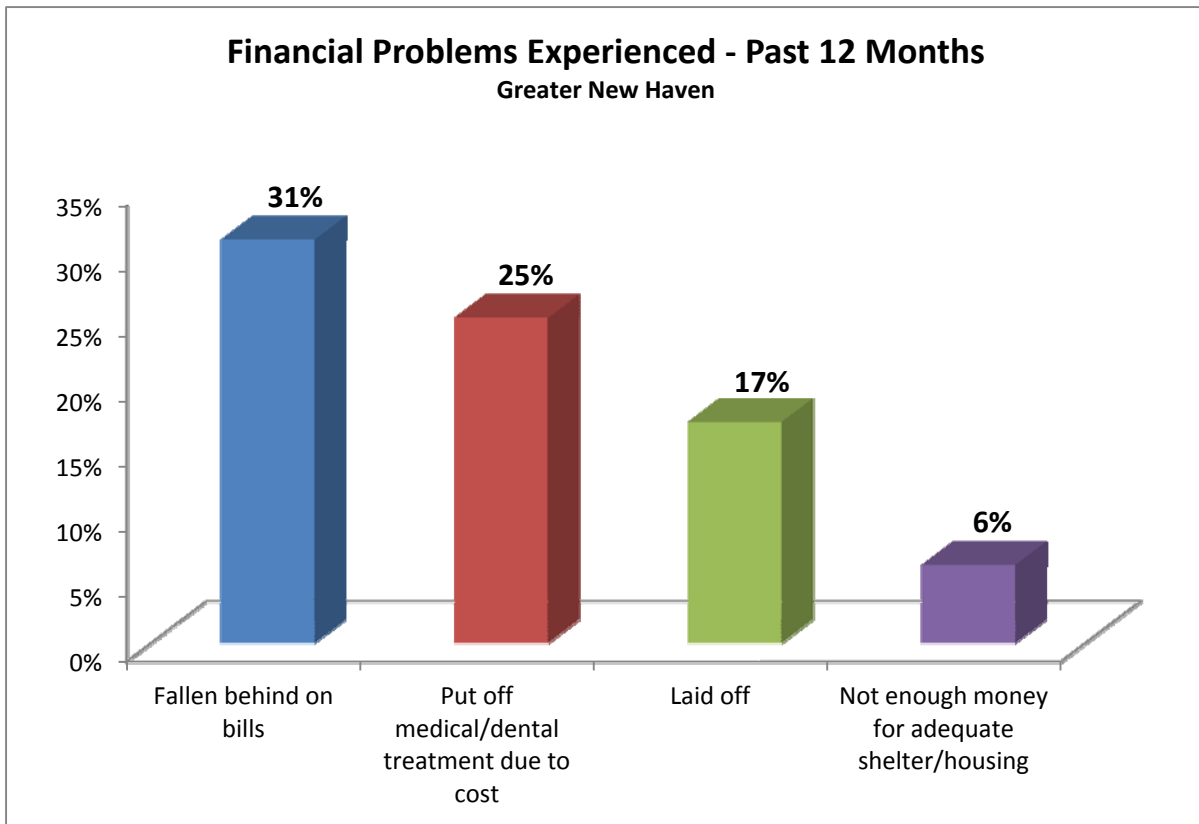


Thinking of the younger generation, that is, of all children, the optimism that respondents expressed about their personal economic circumstances dissipates somewhat. Residents are evenly split 46 percent to 45 percent as to whether the opportunities of children today to succeed will be better than or not as good as those that they have had. Men tend to say not as good, while a majority of women believe they will be better. African-Americans and Hispanics express more optimism for young people while White respondents do not. Lower income respondents are more optimistic than are higher income respondents.

Overall, respondents tend to express a dogged optimism in regards to their personal financial situation. But many temper that perspective when commenting on others, about children, or about the broader economic situation.

Asked specifically about four potential financial problems in their lives over the last twelve months – falling behind in your bills, putting off medical or dental treatment because of cost, being laid off from a job or not having enough money to provide adequate shelter or housing for themselves or their family – we find that:





Only 2 percent of area residents have experienced all four of these financial problems over the last year. Not surprisingly, 68 percent of those people say that they are finding it very difficult to get by.

Seven percent have experienced three of the four problems and of those people, 54 percent say that it is either difficult (19%) or very difficult (35%) to manage these days.

Fourteen percent have experienced two of the financial problems and of those people, 34 percent are finding it difficult (25%) or very difficult (9%) to get by and 42 percent are just getting by.

Twenty-three percent have experienced one of the financial problems and while 53 percent of them are just getting by (34%), or finding it difficult (15%) or very difficult (4%), 46 percent are either doing alright (33%) or living comfortably (13%).

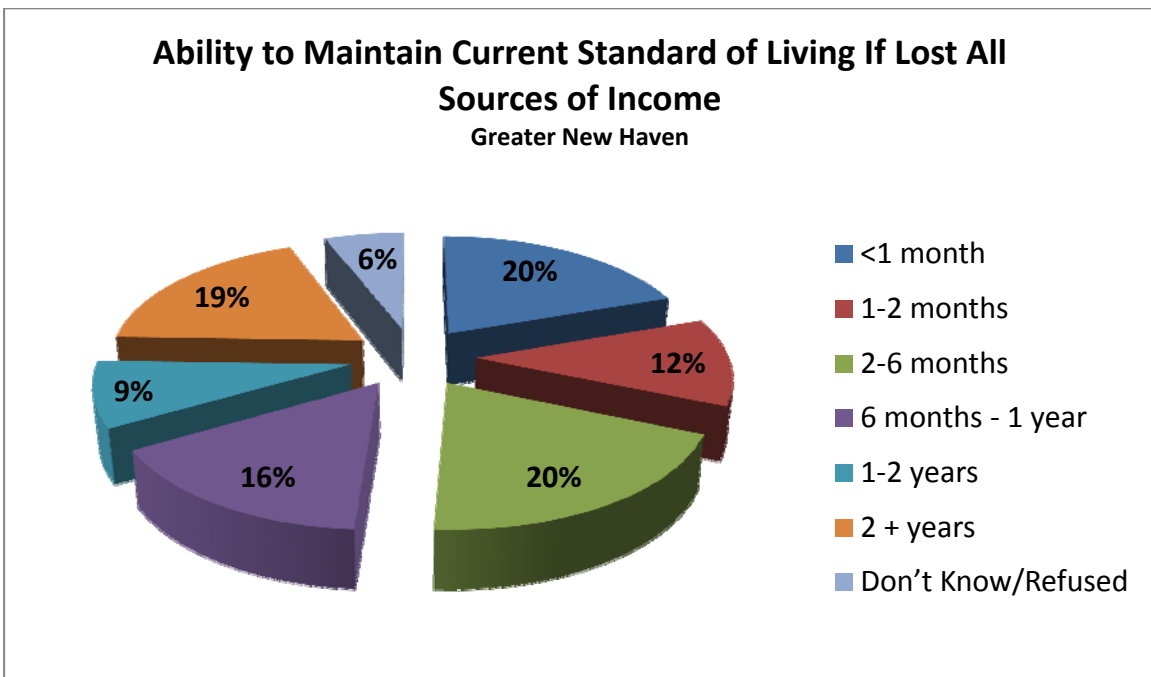
Fifty-four percent of residents have not experienced any of these four financial problems. Seventy-nine percent of those residents are either doing alright (37%) or living comfortably (42%).

Nearly half of households in the Greater New Haven area have experienced one of four difficult financial problems over just the past year. By their own description, those that

have experienced one or more of these problems and are unable to describe their financial situation as at least 'just getting by' comprise 14 percent of the entire area population.

While based on their experience of four financial problems and their self-description indicates that nearly 1 of 7 area residents has had difficulty in financially managing over the last year, when asked 20 percent of residents and at least 35 percent of those earning less than \$30,000 say that they could not continue to live as they are today for a month if they lost all current sources of household income.

Fifty-two percent of residents, including at least a majority of all those earning up to \$75,000 say they could not continue to live as they do today for six months if they lost all current income.



Demographic and Technical Appendix

Design of the Community Wellbeing Survey was based in part upon national and statewide surveys, in order to allow some degree of comparability with broader indicators such as those tracked by the Federal Government's Healthy People 2020 and Civic Life in America initiatives, by U.S. Census data, and by national benchmarking programs such as the County Health Rankings. Questions were also derived from local surveys such as Greater New Haven Community COMPASS, a 2003 initiative that helped develop a broadly-shared understanding of the changing conditions that impact the New Haven metropolitan area. The final list of questions was assembled by DataHaven with guidance from Dr. Donald Levy, Director of the Siena College Research Institute.

In addition to consulting with a variety of community partners, DataHaven coordinated its survey design and timing with the Community Alliance for Research and Engagement (CARE), a community-academic partnership based at the Yale University School of Public Health. CARE has developed a health survey of adults in six lower-income neighborhoods within the City of New Haven, which was conducted in 2009 and then again simultaneously with the Community Wellbeing Survey in the fall of 2012. CARE has been collaborating with DataHaven, the City of New Haven, regional health care providers, and local neighborhood associations around public health issues for a number of years. In the case where the questions overlapped between these two surveys, question wording was mostly identical in the English version as well as in the Spanish translations.

DataHaven selected the geographical area to include within the survey based on the extent of the 2003 Community Compass survey and the regions represented by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, United Way of Greater New Haven, and Southern Connecticut Regional Council of Governments. The Wellbeing Survey sampled all towns in these service areas on a proportional basis, with the exception of Wallingford, Meriden, and Cheshire, which were not included because they completed their own community needs survey in 2011, and the Lower Naugatuck Valley region, which was not included because it conducted its own Quality of Life Survey in 2010. In order to ensure a diverse sample that included populations that are traditionally more difficult to reach via telephone, a small oversample of residents within the City of New Haven was also conducted, with results weighted statistically to reflect the inclusion of the additional cell phone and landline calls in this area.

The design of the landline sample was conducted so as to ensure the selection of both listed and unlisted telephone numbers, using random digit dialing. The cell phone sample was drawn from a sample of dedicated wireless telephone exchanges from within New Haven County in Connecticut. Respondents were screened for residence in one of the 13 municipalities. There were a total of 290 respondents who completed the survey on a cell phone and 1,017 who completed it on a landline.

Using the American Association of Public Opinion (AAPOR) Response Rate calculation, we find our overall response rate for the project is 8.5%.

$$\text{Response Rate \#4} = (I+P)/((I+P) + (R+NC+O) + e(UH+UO))$$

I=Complete Interviews

P=Partial Interviews

R=Refusal and break off

NC= Non-Contact

O=Other

UH=Unknown Household

UO=Unknown other

e: a conservative multiplier applied to unknown households

Of the initial 43,367 phone numbers put into the system, 7,104 were determined to be non-households or not associated with eligible individuals (e.g., not an adult, not living in Greater New Haven, a business, or a non-working number). Of the remaining 36,263 numbers, we were able to contact 6,863 individuals (translating to a 19% Contact Rate), of whom 1,307 completed the interview (translating to 19% Cooperation Rate). The landline sample rates were 13% Contact and 35% Cooperation, for a response rate of 10.2%, whereas corresponding rates for the cell phone sample were 29% Contact and 7% Cooperation, for a response rate of 6%.

Although these response rates may seem low compared to more intensive field work methods or client surveys, they are thoroughly consistent with the response rates obtained by similar survey research organizations using intensive telephone survey methods. As the Community Wellbeing Survey was approximately 20 minutes in length, our cooperation rates, particularly for the cell phone sample, are lower than sometimes found in surveys of a shorter length.

For the landline sample, despite making more than 5 attempts to contact each number, 64% of the sample remains with an unknown eligibility which indicates despite repeated attempts we were unable to reach anyone at that household. For the cell phone sample, 59% of the sample had an unknown eligibility.

As with any current survey, the difficulty of reaching respondents is a potential limiting factor in this research. Nonetheless the demographic representativeness of the sample, the variation in responses, and comparisons to results from other local and national surveys that use similar or identical question wording, point towards an accurate reading of residents in Greater New Haven. As described on the first page, we applied standard techniques to weight data by demographic variables such as gender, age, and race in order to benchmark the population and create the most accurate estimates possible.

Our ability to conduct interviews in not only English, but also Spanish, enfranchised a significant number of Greater New Haven area residents. Still, it is a limiting factor of the study that potential respondents who wanted to be interviewed in a language other than English or Spanish were excluded from participation. We find this to be of no significant threat to the validity of the research or the reliability of the data.

It is important to note that this research coincided with the buildup to the November 2012 Election. It is possible that the number of polls taking place in the Greater New Haven area at the same time may have adversely affected our response rate.

Finally, unlike some research that we at the Siena College Research Institute regularly engage in, this survey was both lengthier and, to some, more personally invasive. As such, we had a slightly higher than average in-progress termination which again did serve to limit our response rate.

As is customary in telephone based public opinion research we recognize that there is some small percentage of the population that cannot be reached via either landline or cell phone. These individuals were subsequently excluded from this research.

**Technical Appendix: Nature of the Sample and Population Benchmark
(Entire Greater New Haven Region)**

	Sample	U.S. Census		Sample	U.S. Census
Male	47%	47%	Less than Bachelor's Degree	58%	66%
Female	53%	53%	Bachelor's Degree or above	41%	34%
18 to 34	30%	31%	Less than \$15,000	11%	11%
35 to 54	34%	35%	\$15,000 to \$30,000	13%	14%
55 and older	33%	34%	\$30,000 to \$50,000	15%	16%
			\$50,000 to \$75,000	14%	17%
White	68%	69%	\$75,000 to \$100,000	11%	13%
African American/Black	14%	14%	\$100,000 or more	23%	29%
Hispanic	11%	11%	Unknown	13%	N/A
Other	6%	6%			
			Children in household	35%	29%
City of New Haven	28%	27%	No children in household	64%	71%
Inner Ring	32%	32%			
Outer Ring	40%	41%			

Technical Appendix: Nature of the Sub-Region Samples			
	City of New Haven	Inner Ring	Outer Ring
Male	47%	46%	47%
Female	53%	54%	53%
Under 55	75%	65%	56%
55 & Older	22%	32%	41%
White	37%	68%	88%
Non-White	63%	30%	10%
Less than Bachelor's degree	65%	63%	48%
Bachelor's degree or above	34%	36%	52%
Less than \$30,000	41%	24%	11%
\$30,000 to \$50,000	14%	18%	14%
\$50,000 to \$75,000	18%	14%	13%
\$75,000 or more	16%	28%	50%
Children in household	40%	36%	33%
No children in household	59%	62%	66%

Technical Appendix: Precision of Survey Estimates	
Geography or Sub-Group	95% Confidence Interval Margin of Error (+/- pct points)
Greater New Haven Region	2.7%
City of New Haven	4.4%
Inner Ring Suburbs	4.8%
Outer Ring Suburbs	4.9%
New Haven: Lower-Income Areas	7.3%
New Haven: Mixed-Income Areas	7.4%
New Haven: Higher-Income Areas	10.6%
Male	4.2%
Female	3.6%
Age 18-34	7.8%
Age 35-54	5.2%
Age 55+	3.6%
White, Not Hispanic	3.3%
Black or African-American	6.9%
Hispanic	8.2%
Other Race, Not Hispanic	13.0%
Less than Bachelor's Degree	3.5%
Bachelor's Degree or More	4.3%
Income <\$15K	7.6%
Income \$15-30K	6.9%
Income \$30-50K	6.9%
Income \$50-75K	7.4%
Income \$75-100K	8.8%
Income \$100K+	6.2%
Children in Household	3.2%
No Children in Household	5.3%