

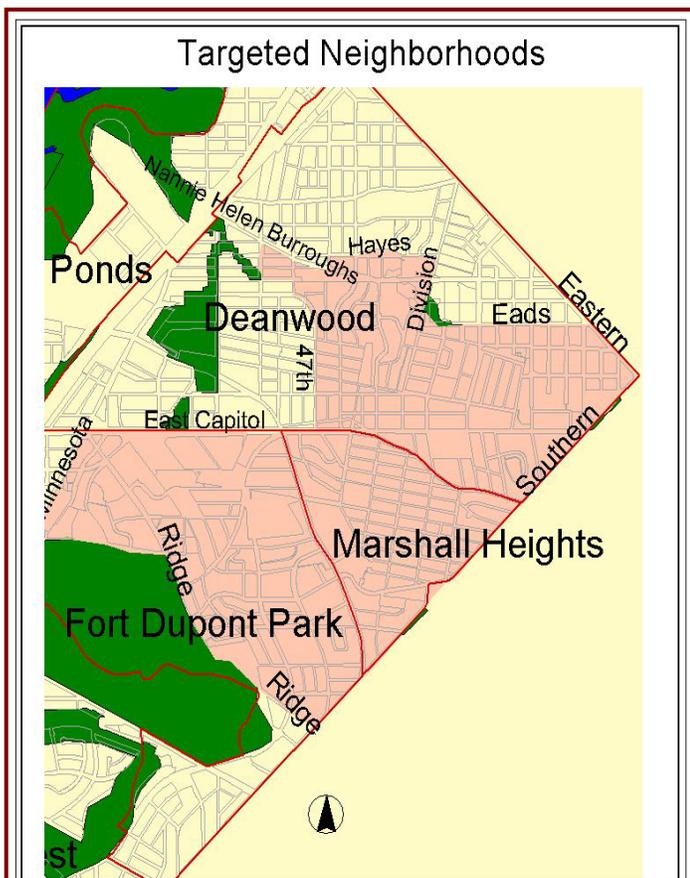
Family Household Characteristics

In Ward 7's Deanwood, Marshall Heights and
Ft. Dupont Park Neighborhoods

Prepared by Mark Rubin

Neighborhood Fact Sheet 1 –August 2003

Summary of Key Findings



- The nine census tracts comprising the neighborhoods focused on in this report lost 18% of its population in the 1990s—three times higher than the District's population lost (-6%).
- One-third of these neighborhoods are children—a higher proportion than Ward 7, East of the Anacostia River and the District as a whole.
- Overall, the child poverty rate is almost 50%, a significant increase from the 1990 rate of 42%.
- More than half of the community's residents (54%) have incomes below 200% of poverty, far higher than the District wide rate of 36%.
- The majority of the children (57%) in the nine census tracts live with single moms, and another 18% live with their grandparents.

Inside—More Information on these Neighborhoods on:

- Population Loss and Composition
- Income and Poverty
- Family and Household Composition
- EITC and Local Tax Campaign

Overview

The Washington, DC metropolitan area enjoyed a decade of prosperity between 1990 and 2000 as was reflected in rising incomes, increasing population and higher home values. But Census figures reveal a troubling trend, as poverty rose significantly in the District of Columbia over that same time period.

The District was ranked eighth of 102 metro areas for the greatest poverty rate increase in a central city. Other major cities geographically close to Washington, DC, such as Baltimore, Wilmington, Richmond and Philadelphia also saw their poverty rates increase over the decade.

This report focuses on three neighborhoods in Ward 7: Deanwood, Marshall Heights and Ft. Dupont Park. Collectively, these focus neighborhoods had the highest poverty rates according to the 2000 Census. These neighborhoods are defined by nine census tracts, according to the DC Office of Tax and Revenue. This area is bounded by Southern Avenue, north to Hayes Street, and from Eastern Avenue, west to Minnesota Avenue.

Population Loss and Composition

According to the 2000 Census, this area, like many District neighborhoods, experienced a population decrease during the 1990s, from 33,116 in 1990 to 27,197 in 2000; a decrease of 18%. This change followed an additional 15% decline in population during the 1980s. The area had a more severe population decline than the rest of the District (-6%), Ward 7 (-11%), and the East of the River area (-13%).

One-third of the population in the focus neighborhoods are children (8,958), and 13% are elderly. These focus neighborhoods combined have a higher proportion of children than the District, Ward 7 or the East of the River area.

Compared to the District of Columbia, these focus neighborhoods, Ward 7 and the entire East of the River area (Wards 7 & 8) all have proportionately fewer working-age residents, and more children and teens. The age structure in this area varies the most from the District, with 18-64 year-olds making up 54% of the population and 6-17 year-olds adding another 23%. These percentages are quite different from the citywide statistics of almost 68% of the 18-64 year-old population and only 13% for the 6-17 year-olds.

Income and Poverty

More than one-third of the population (9,124 persons) in the focus neighborhoods had incomes that were at or below the poverty level. (According to the Census Bureau, an individual is considered poor if their income was \$8,959 or less in 2000.) Nearly half (48%) or 4,345 of the poverty population were under the age of 18. Overall, the child poverty rate is almost 50%, a significant increase from the 1990 rate of almost 42%. These rates are not only higher than the District, but also higher than Ward 7 and the area East of the River. The focus neighborhoods have 1,687 families with children in poverty overall, and 2,592 families with children at 185% of poverty (see Table below). More than half of the focus neighborhood's residents (54%) have incomes below 200% of poverty, far higher than the District wide average of 36%. The percent of individuals at less than 200% poverty increased in the 1990's rising from 47% to the current 54% rate.

Income and Poverty		
Deanwood, Marshall Heights and Ft. Dupont Park		
	2000	1990
Average Household Income (1999 Adj. Dollars)	\$34,583	\$35,739
Poverty Rate	34.1%	27.6%
Child* Poverty Rate	49.5%	41.8%
Number of Families with Children in Poverty	1,687	1,602
Number of Families with Children at 185% Poverty	2,592	NA
Percent of Households Below 200% Poverty	54.0%	46.8%
*Under age 18 Source: DC Agenda, NIS, 2000 Census Data		

Household income in the focus neighborhoods declined by 3% in the 1990s. This decline was not as steep as in all of Ward 7, which had a decline of almost 16%, or the overall East of the River area which had a decline of 15%. In contrast, city-wide household income grew by almost 3%. DC's average household income overall was \$40,127 in 2000, compared to the focus neighborhood's average of \$34,583, Ward 7's average of \$30,234, and East of the River's average of \$26,373.

Family and Household Composition

Of the focus neighborhood's 8,716 children under age 18 living in families, only 1,190 (almost 14%) live with married parents. The majority of the children in the focus neighborhoods (57%) live with single mothers, and 17.5% live with their grandparents. Children living with single moms is particularly troublesome since more often than not, single moms have incomes below the poverty level.

Single adults living alone make up 31% of households in the focus neighborhoods. Single mothers with children comprise nearly one-fourth (23%) of all households. Less than 6% of households are married parents with children.

The percentages of individuals in non-family households and those in families with children vary widely from the citywide average. For the entire District, 54% (309,066) of the individuals live in non-family households, while the percentage for the focus neighborhoods ranged from 37% to 41%.

Living Arrangements of Children* Deanwood, Marshall Heights and Ft. Dupont Park 2000		
Family Type	Number	Percentage
Married Parents	1,190	13.7
Single Mothers	5,002	57.4
Single Fathers	446	5.1
Grandparents	1,521	17.5
Other Relatives	379	4.4
Non-related Families	169	1.9
In Group Quarters	5	0.1
On their Own	4	0.1
Total	8,716	100.0

*Under age 18
Source: 2000 US Census Data

Families with children, on the other hand, are much more common in the neighborhoods East of the River than the rest of the city, falling between 10 and 16 percentage points higher than the city average.

Household Type Deanwood, Marshall Heights and Ft. Dupont Park 2000		
Household Type	Number	Percentage
One Person Households	3,210	31.4
Other Non-Family* Households	2,461	24.0
Families without own Children	1,315	12.8
Married Parents with Children	586	5.7
Single Mothers with Children	2,399	23.4
Single Fathers with Children	266	2.6
Total Households	10,237	100.0

*Non-family households include single persons and unrelated individuals living together.
Source: 2000 US Census Data

EITC and Local Tax Campaign

Recent community efforts to address the trends mentioned in this report have focused on increasing local take-up of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to boost residents' incomes.

A single parent raising two or more children and earning between \$10,350 and \$13,520 in 2002 is eligible for the maximum EITC of \$4,140—a full 30 to 40 percent increase in the family's income. When combined with the DC EITC, which is 25 percent of the federal credit, the increase in a family's personal income can be as much as 40 to 50 percent.

However, recent data suggest that 15–20 % of workers who qualify for the EITC fail to claim the credit. Also, a substantial portion of the households that do apply for the EITC sacrifice 10% or more of their credit and refund to paid tax preparers due to lack of access to free tax preparation services.

How the Neighborhoods Compare				
	N'hoods	Ward 7	East of the River	District of Columbia
2000 Population	27,197	70,544	141,443	572,048
Change 1990-2000	-17.9%	-10.8%	-12.8%	-5.7%
Age				
Under age 6	2,814	5,696	15,091	39,326
6-17 years	6,144	13,372	29,790	75,663
18-64 years	14,699	41,586	82,159	387,169
65+	3,540	9,890	14,403	69,890
Poverty and Income				
Poverty Rate	34.1%	24.9%	32.2%	20.2%
Child Poverty Rate	49.5%	37.0%	39.6%	31.7%
Avg. Household Income, 2000	\$34,583	\$30,234	\$26,373	\$40,127
% Change in Avg. Household Income, 1989-1999	-3.3%	-15.8%	-15.2%	2.80%
% Below 200% Poverty, 2000	54.0%	42.7%	50.2%	35.9%
% Households with income <\$10,000	25.3%	19.9%	22.4%	14.9%
Household Composition				
Non-Family households*	10,042	28,680	52,010	309,066
Families with no children	6,129	17,668	31,776	124,295
Families with children	11,026	24,196	57,657	138,687
*Non-family households are single persons and unrelated individuals living together. Source: DC Agenda, NIS, 2000 Census				

EITC and Local Tax Campaign, *continued*

A recently completed EITC campaign in Ward 7 reached 304 clients, of whom 37% (113) resided in the focus neighborhoods. Ninety-eight residents in these neighborhoods received federal refunds totaling \$184,192, and an EITC amount of \$119,343. The filers in the neighborhoods had an average aggregated gross income (AGI) of just \$13,670, nearly 20% lower than the 2000 Census poverty threshold for a family of four with two children. State refunds totaled \$32,544, bringing the total refund amount to \$216,736.

Tax Campaign Stats Deanwood, Marshall Heights and Ft. Dupont Park 2002	
	Number
Filers in area	113
Federal Refund amount	\$184,192
State Refund amount	\$32,544
Total Refund amount	\$216,736
EITC amount	\$119,343
Avg. AGI of filers	\$13,670
Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Cash Coalition Campaign.	

So What?

We believe that information can and should be used to inform and mobilize stakeholders. We will work with community groups to understand what this data means for their efforts to improve conditions in their neighborhoods. Discussions will include questions concerning: *what might be a possible explanation for what the data show; how can we use the data to hold all of us accountable for our respective roles; what actions can be taken to improve these neighborhoods; and, what other indicators should we be tracking?*

About NeighborhoodInfo DC

NeighborhoodInfo DC is a partnership of the Urban Institute and the Washington DC Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). NeighborhoodInfo DC provides current and reliable neighborhood-level data and analysis to improve strategic decision-making by government and community organizations in the District of Columbia. The goal of NeighborhoodInfo DC is to democratize data for use as a tool in civic engagement.

For more information, visit us at:

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