

# Module 4: Finding Data for My Community District – Community Data View

Now that you have identified where your community district is on the EDDE's Community Data view, we'll start to dive into what data you can find about your district and connect that data back to some of the guiding questions that we're using for the training. We will continue using the community district where Jackson Heights is located in Queens as our case example. Each section below provides detail to what you can find when you click on each of the five data categories in the Community Data view.

Here are our guiding questions again, so you know what we're trying to answer as we look through the data:

- Which of my neighbors are most at risk of being pushed out of our neighborhood?
- What is the financial situation for the majority of my neighbors (not the average)?
- What are some assets and resources in the neighborhood that most of my neighbors have access to?

## Demographic Conditions

- This category provides four major data points, all taken from the U.S. Census:
  - population by race,
  - age,
  - foreign-born population, and
  - limited English-speaking population.
- By looking at this data, you can get a clearer picture of who lives in this community district and the diversity of individuals in that area. These data are presented **over multiple periods of time**, so it is also possible to compare the information across time to understand population and demographic changes since 2000.
- In particular, this category helps us learn more about **who in our neighborhood is most at risk of being pushed out**.
- We can also think more about who makes up the majority of the population in the district by race as that informs the financial situation of most of the neighbors in the area. For example, the data table on race and ethnicity for our training case shows that Hispanic people currently make up about 65% of the total population in Jackson Heights and North Corona, making them a majority.
- **Relating this Data to Our Guiding Questions**
  - Looking at the table on race and ethnicity (and using some quick math), we learn that the non-white population of Jackson Heights & North Corona has gone from about 86% in 2000 to about 91% in 2020, **showing an increase in the proportion of residents identifying as people of color over time**.

- The foreign-born population is currently at 60% and the population over the age of five that speaks English less than “very well” is at 50%, meaning that **the community has a majority of immigrants as well as first and possibly second generation immigrants with low English proficiency.**
- These demographic factors do not immediately mean that these residents will be displaced, but they are characteristics of some communities that have historically been displaced in New York City – people of color, immigrants, and non-English speakers. If we wanted to learn about this information for specific groups, **we could go a step further and select a racial or ethnic group from the dropdown menu** to understand their specific demographic information as it relates to foreign-born status and English proficiency.

## Household Economic Security

- The Household Economic Security category shares:
  - educational attainment,
  - income level, and
  - workforce data.
  - These are all factors that impact residents’ financial stability and avenues towards wealth generation. These data are also pulled from the Census and are viewable across time and by race.
- By looking at **Educational Attainment**, you can learn the distribution of residents with various educational experiences which can heavily determine their employment opportunities and potential wages.
- The data on **Median Household Income** and **Households by Area Median Income (AMI) Band** provide details about the middle point of incomes in an area and how that informs who is considered low, moderate, and high income.
- The last few tables break down **occupation and industry data** to give an idea of what careers residents take up if they’re part of the workforce.
- **Relating this Data to Our Guiding Questions**
  - We can get a lot of information from this particular category to answer some of our guiding questions. To understand the financial situation for the majority of our neighbors, it’s important to know the Median Household Income which is currently \$58,791 in Jackson Heights. **This gives us a starting income to compare other incomes to based on race, occupation, and industry.**
  - The questions are focusing on the majority of our neighbors, so it is important to think about how separate households’ income levels compare to this median across the various income levels. **That information can inform who we think is most at risk of being pushed out of the neighborhood too.**
  - Looking at **Households by Area Median Income (AMI) Band**, we learn that about 58% of households, a majority, have an income that is less than 80% of the

**AMI. That means that they range between Low-Income and Extremely Low-Income households.**

- We can also look at this data by race, so let's look at how the Hispanic population's income data compares to the total populations to get a sense of the income status for the largest represented ethnic group in the area. When looking by race, we find that Hispanic people have a **Median Household Income** of \$54,908 and about 63% of Hispanic households have an income that is less than 80% of the AMI. **Compared to the total population, Hispanic residents experience economic hardship at a higher proportion.**
- When looking at the **Median Wages by Occupation**, we can see that only residents who work in "Management, business, science, or arts jobs" make above the median income with a salary above \$59,000. All other occupations provide workers in the area with an average salary of less than half of what management and related jobs offer.
- Since only about 21% of the population works in management and related jobs, the majority of the population earns an average wage that is tremendously lower than the median income. **This helps us see a more realistic picture of who fits the surface-level financial profile of the district.**

### **A Quick Note on Moving between Geographic Views**

- All the data provided in the Community Data View is available at all three geographic levels, it allows us to go back and switch to the borough or citywide views to see that information.
- Click "back to map" and then **select Borough** from the map view to see the borough outlines. Clicking the desired borough will pull up all the same tables that were available for the community district and they can also be broken down by race.
  - Doing this helps us to know, for example, that the **Median Household Income** in Queens is currently \$69,016, making it higher than our selected community district's.
- You can also select the citywide level to see the same information for the city as a whole.
  - The **Median Household Income** for New York City is \$64,519, slightly lower than Queens but still higher than Jackson Heights and North Corona. Having all of this information for this and other data points can help us start to see the detailed differences between when we talk about the city or boroughs as a whole and when we get down to district levels where people most experience their social, economic, and community lives.

### **Housing Security, Affordability, and Quality**

- Housing Security, Affordability, and Quality provide data details on:
  - housing ownership versus renting,

- the economic experience of renters in the current housing market, and
- the lived experience of having poor quality housing or no housing at all.
- Like the previous two categories, data is viewable by race.
- In addition to pulling data from the Census, this category pulls data from various City agencies including the Department of Investigation, the Department of Homeless Services, the New York City Housing Authority (or NYCHA), and HPD.
- Unlike the previous two tables, not all of the data from these various sources are viewable across time.
- These data can help you determine how much housing is affordable enough for people of various income levels as well as understand how many residents face issues of being removed from or kept out of certain housing opportunities.
- The first three tables (**Housing Tenure, Median Home Value, Median Gross Rent**) give you an idea of who is renting, who is owning, and the financial costs of both housing scenarios in the area.
- The following two tables (**Gross Rent as a % of Household Income, Rental Units Affordable to Households by Area Income**) break down how many residents are rent-burdened or extremely rent-burdened, meaning that their rent makes up over 30% or over 50% of their household income, respectively.
- The next three tables (**Overcrowding, Residential Evictions, Number of Individuals In Shelter System by Last Address**) share a series of data related to what happens to people in a housing market that is too small or too expensive.
- The final two tables (**Income Restricted Housing, Population in NYCHA Housing**) touch on housing that are meant to be affordable due to city restrictions or oversight, specifically income-restricted housing and NYCHA's public housing.
- **Relating this Data to Our Guiding Questions**
  - In Jackson Heights and North Corona, about 65% of housing units in the district are renter-occupied. This majority of housed residents are in a context where the median gross rent is \$1,582, but when we look more deeply **we can see some disparities in terms of how much of people's household income is committed to their specific rent cost.**
  - The **Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income, or GRAPI**, tells us that currently about 63% of renting households are rent-burdened meaning they spend 30% or more of their household income on rent. About 36% of renting households are considered *extremely* rent-burdened, meaning they spend 50% or more of their household income on rent. **This information is vital in helping us understand how many residents in this district have to reduce or give up spending on other basic or personal needs to meet the costs of living there.**

- The **Rental Units Affordable to Households by AMI Band** table tells us that about 60% of rental units meet the standard for low-income to extremely low-income households, which are those making 80% or less of the AMI.
- In Jackson Heights and North Corona, 611 evictions have been executed by a city marshal and 283 individuals have been identified in the Department of Homeless Services' shelter system with a last address in the district. It is helpful to know who has been displaced from a neighborhood or who lacks housing because it can **inform approaches to telling the story of neighborhood change and the drastic need for stable housing options.**

## Housing Production

- The Housing Production category focuses on:
  - construction,
  - preservation,
  - demolition, and
  - location of housing units in an area.
  - The Housing Production category does not allow you to look at the data tables by race or ethnicity. As mentioned before, this is because these data focus on the number of housing units and are not connected to population or demographic characteristics. The data in this category are drawn from DCP, HPD, and an open data source on historic districts.
- This category is most useful because of its focus on construction and preservation
- The first table shows the change in housing units between 2010 and 2020.
- The next table breaks down the number of newly constructed and preserved housing units since 2014 that have regulatory agreements.
- The last table shows the number and percentage of square miles within the community district that are considered a historic district.
- **Relating this Data to Our Guiding Questions**
  - While it does not look like there has been a priority in constructing affordable units in Jackson Heights and North Corona, there have been multiple efforts to preserve housing units for low-income to extremely low-income residents – 129 units specifically. **Preserved affordable housing is important in keeping low-income neighbors in the areas they call home.** Still, it is important to note that no housing with regulatory agreements have been constructed in that time, as well.

## Quality of Life and Access to Opportunity

- The final category is Quality of Life and Access to Opportunity and has many subcategories of data available that can best be broken down as:
  - health outcomes,

- access to local resources,
- educational outcomes, and
- public safety.
- The data sources for this category include the Census, the NYC Community Health Survey, NYC Vital Statistics, NYC EpiQuery, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, DCP, the Department of Education, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and NYC Vision Zero View.
- The first block of tables focus on health outcomes and provide a picture of overall health, mortality, and hazards to health that often are related to someone’s context and socioeconomic status.
- The tables on access to jobs, access to transit, and commute get into information on the ease residents have in getting work and getting to work.
- The table on access to broadband internet has been particularly relevant due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the increase of students and adults needed to learn or work from home.
- The table on park access reveals key information for understanding who has the ability to easily enjoy natural, open space in their community.
- There are two tables on educational outcomes that are important when we think about present-day needs that young people have for their learning and future needs they may have depending on how their educational path impacts their work and financial stability.
- The last few tables show data on public safety with a heavy focus on traffic and pedestrian safety and data on hospitalizations for accidents and assaults. These data inform our understanding of overall safety concerns and can inform questions on the ways traffic infrastructure and social services factor into personal and community safety.
- **Relating this Data to Our Guiding Questions**
  - When looking at health outcomes, we learn that about 72% of residents report having “Good, Very Good, or Excellent health.” While this data is from before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2015 and 2016, it gives us an idea of an overall positive context for health for most residents.
    - This data point does have a limitation that is worth noting as it may be true for other data points as you go throughout this part of the EDDE: it is not possible to look at this information by race because it was not collected with that information in mind, as we can see when we switch between different racial categories.
    - So, while we can speak positively about this finding, more work would need to be done to understand the health outcomes for specific racial and ethnic groups in the district.