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Community Indicators Report

Norwalk, CT

2010

COMMUNITY INDICATORS REPORT - 2010

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Acknowledgements

To *Mary Peniston*, who steered the Committee and teams in designing the report, gathering and sorting the information, and creating a Report that reflects the status of the Norwalk Community.

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To the many Agency Directors, Department Heads and Staff for their cooperation and assistance in compiling this Report, many thanks.

A special THANK YOU to the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County for the Grant that made this Community Indicators Report possible.

Introduction

The **Human Services Council of Mid-Fairfield** is proud to distribute *The Community Indicators Report* at this very critical time. The economic downturn has had and continues to have a dramatic impact on our community programs. At a time when community programs are most needed, federal, state, city and private funding has been cut. *The Community Indicators Report* examines the current social health of our community to gain a better understanding for what services are in place, how they are operating and what services are needed. By working with the greater community in both the private and public sectors, we were able to uncover significant trends and issues that need to be monitored and critical questions that need to be addressed. This report serves as a follow-up to the 2007 report and will be further defined when the 2010 Census Report is released.

The Community Indicators Report is part of a long tradition of identifying our community needs. Since 1944, the Human Services Council has promoted the wellbeing of our residents through the coordination, planning, sponsorship and management of community programs.

The report is organized into eight sections, each of which includes key findings, figures and highlighted trends and changes.

1. *Demographics*: There appear to be many changes in the make-up of Norwalk's population, changes that have important implications for the social health of our community. We will be able to better understand the nature of these changes when Norwalk's 2010 Census data becomes available.
2. *The Economy*: Norwalk's unemployment reached recorded highs during 2009 and there are signs of increased poverty, although Norwalk has not been as negatively affected by the downturn in the economy as many other communities.
3. *Housing and Transportation*: Housing continues to be quite expensive and often out of reach for median and low-income families. The rise in demand for subsidized housing and increased use of public transportation may be signs of the difficult economic times.
4. *Basic Needs & Social Infrastructure*: Our community partners have provided compelling data to illustrate the impact of the economic downturn in our community. Stressed non-profits are being stretched to their limits to meet the enormous increase in demand for services.
5. *Education*: There is considerable data readily available to monitor the state of education in our community. There are promising trends – improved performance on third grade reading tests; but also troubling ones – are our young adults successfully finishing high school and community college? Are they prepared for the world of work?
6. *Health*: Norwalk has much to be proud of in terms of our public health services, especially for children and pregnant women. However, there are areas of concern, such as rising childhood obesity and signs of increased demand for mental health services, similar to trends in the U.S.
7. *Public Safety*: Overall, the data suggests that Norwalk has a declining crime rate. However, there is evidence that renters often don't have insurance, risking considerable loss in the event of a fire or theft.
8. *Civic and Cultural Indicators*: Norwalk has many cultural assets which could contribute to the health of our overall community if further developed and better publicized.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

GOOD NEWS

In reviewing key community indicators, we have learned there is much to celebrate in Norwalk.

Education

- Norwalk Public School students are showing improvement in third grade reading scores, across all groups, and their performance is approaching that of the state overall.
- Eighth grade CMT scores are also showing improvements, especially in Math.

Health

- Local programs appear to be making a difference in reducing low birth weight in Norwalk, but efforts must be sustained to engage pregnant women in timely prenatal care.
- Enrollment in HUSKY of eligible Norwalk children has risen and appears to be reaching all eligible children. Norwalk also has developed adequate capacity to serve HUSKY insured children.
- Overall Norwalk has a good delivery system for pediatric care – most children have a medical home and Norwalk has one of the highest immunization rates in the state.

Public Safety

- Data from the Norwalk Police Department show that the number of incidents of crime, have decreased from 2000 to 2008 suggesting that Norwalk is becoming safer.

It is important for us to continue to support the programs as well as the public and private investments that make these positive results possible. We do not want to lose ground in any of these areas.

ITEMS TO MONITOR

There are areas where we need to monitor trends. In some cases, we simply need to better understand how our community is changing and evolving. In other cases, there are troubling trends that we need to examine further and decide whether action should be taken.

Demographics

- Norwalk, like the U.S., is becoming increasingly diverse and its population is aging. This has implications for Norwalk's future workforce and the demands on the education sector, human services, and health care.
- Unemployment in Norwalk reached record highs during 2009 averaging above 7%. Norwalk's unemployment rates have been lower than those in Connecticut and the U.S. but have followed state and national trends.

Transportation

- Data provided by the Norwalk Transit District shows a rise in the use of public transportation from 2007 to 2009.

Basic Needs and Social Infrastructure

- The downturn in the economy has increased the demand for basic needs. *Are there ways we can respond to this need as a community? How can we support the social service agencies trying to support those needs?*

Education

- Norwalk has done significant work to increase access to preschool and improve the quality. However, there is a decline in the percentage of entering Kindergarten students reporting a preschool experience. *Are we reaching children that need strong foundations before they reach kindergarten? How good is the quality of the preschool experiences we offer?*

- There have been significant changes in the racial and ethnic make-up of Norwalk Public Schools. The number of Hispanic students has increased by 30% since 2001-2002 and they now represent 30.8% of the student population. *What might we need to do to respond to this change?*
- While there are many afterschool and summer programs, we need to ensure that there are sufficient affordable opportunities for school-aged children and youth. *How can coordinated community wide action help Norwalk build greater capacity?*
- Official drop-out rates continue to be very low and have been declining. However, there is a notable decline in the number of students from ninth grade to twelfth grade, as evidenced by the 22% drop in the enrollment of the class of 2009 from 9th grade to their graduation.
- There has been an increase in the enrollment at NCC, especially of students under 24. This increase, plus the increase in the number of full time students, reflects the downturn in the economy.
- Less than 10% of NCC students graduate within 3 years. However, the percentage of students transferring has more than doubled from 2000-2003 to 2005-2008.

Health

- Teen pregnancies are lower than in 1998 but have risen since 2003.

ACTION ITEMS

Several items emerged in preparing this report. While this is not an exhaustive list, it does highlight important areas where we can make a difference and improve the quality of life in our community.

Housing

- Norwalk's housing market until this past year has become increasingly expensive and has often been financially out of reach for middle and low-income families. Demand for subsidized housing is far exceeding availability. *Norwalk needs to rally behind efforts to make housing more accessible to all income levels.*

Basic Needs & Social Infrastructure

- *Social Safety Net is Fraying:* Local non-profits supporting the needy are stretched and stressed in the face of increased demand and decreased or delayed funding. Many stakeholders have suggested that Norwalk needs to have more robust coordination with a more active role from City Government. *With a more coordinated approach, not only can agencies serve the needy better, but individual and private philanthropy can be made more effective.*

Health

- Childhood obesity, following a national trend, is increasing among children in Norwalk and requires our attention. *The Norwalk Health Department is implementing multiple strategies. Others in the health and education fields can also look for successful evidence based practices to implement.*

Public Safety

- While most home and building owners have insurance to cover losses from fire and other events, there is concern that few residents that rent apartments in the City have renters insurance. *The Fire Department hopes to do more public education in this arena.*

Civic & Cultural Life

- Norwalk would benefit from greater collaboration between the business and Arts & Culture sector to explore the potential economic impact of further developing arts & culture in Norwalk as an economic engine.

We hope this report will provoke further study, ongoing tracking of community indicators and, most importantly, coordinated action to address those issues where we can make a difference.

1. DEMOGRAPHICS

ITEM TO MONITOR

Norwalk, like the U.S., is becoming increasingly diverse and its population is aging.

This has implications for Norwalk's future workforce and the demands on the education sector, human services, and health care.

Population of Norwalk

Norwalk's population was reported at 82,951 in 2000. Recent data projections and estimates from various sources give differing perspectives on the trend regarding Norwalk's population growth. The population, however, is relatively stable.

The 2010 Census will provide more definitive data.

Ethnicity and Race

Projections for 2010 show Norwalk's population becoming more diverse. This is consistent with trends in Norwalk educational institutions (see p. 12) and national trends.

- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2007 34% of the U.S. population claimed "minority" racial or ethnic heritage, a jump of 11% from 2000. Hispanics are the largest ethnic "minority" group (15.1% of the population) followed by blacks (13.5%)¹, the largest racial minority.
- From 1980 to 2020, nationally the white working age population (25-64) is projected to decline from 82% to 63%; the minority portion of the workforce is projected to double from 18% to 37%.²

Age Distribution

Projections show Norwalk's population is aging. The median age is expected to rise slightly from 36.5 in 2000 to a projected 37.5 in 2010.³ Those 65 and older are expected to be one of the fastest growing segments of the population through 2030. There are similar trends projected for Connecticut and the U.S.

The Connecticut State Data Center has reported that public school enrollment is shrinking;⁴ Norwalk's numbers show only a slightly declining trend over the past 9 years (see p. 13).

Educational Attainment

The Business Council of Fairfield County projects that, due to demographic changes, there will be a growing gap in the educational attainment levels in Norwalk and Fairfield County – between a highly educated, high earning elite and a low wage earning population with low levels of education.⁵ *The 2010 Census data should be analyzed to monitor this potential trend.*

Population Data

Date of Info	2000 Census	2006-2008		2010 Projection
Source of Info	U.S. Census	American Community Survey 3 Year Estimate		Connecticut State Data Center (2007)
Population	82,951	79,041	+/- 2,493	86,345
Change	5.9% growth from 1990	This suggests a small decline since 2000.		Projected 5.2% increase from 2000 to 2010

Ethnic & racial breakdown⁶

Racial Category	2000 Census	2010	# Change	% Change
African American	12,657	14,376	1,719	13.6%
Hispanic	12,564	17,826	5,262	41.9%
Other	3,404	5,304	1,900	55.8%
White	53,461	48,839	-4,622	-8.6%

Age distribution⁷

Age Groups	2000 Census	2010	# Change	% Change
0 to 19	19,778	20,465	687	3.5%
20 to 24	4,301	4,945	644	15.0%
25 to 29	6,670	5,372	-1,298	-19.5%
30 to 64	41,238	44,503	3,265	7.9%
65 and Over	10,099	11,060	961	9.5%

2. THE ECONOMY

ITEM TO MONITOR

Unemployment in Norwalk reached record highs during 2009 averaging above 7%. Norwalk's unemployment rates have been lower than those in Connecticut and the U.S. but have followed state and national trends.

Employment

Regional employment information shows a downturn in the number of jobs in almost all major industry sectors from 2005 (annual average) to December 2009. The Education and Health industry is the most consistent growth sector from 2005 to December 2009. Of the major employment sectors in the region, Leisure and Hospitality is the only other area showing some growth over time since 2005.

In 2008, Norwalk's labor force was 48,811 of which 2,321 were unemployed, representing 4.8% unemployment. The December 2009 labor force was reported at 48,579 (the monthly average for the year was 49,109), and the number of unemployed increased to 3,612, representing more than a 50% jump from the 2008 number of unemployed.

Unemployment in Norwalk has been lower than both the Connecticut and the U.S. rates, although unemployment trends have mirrored those statewide and nationally. In December 2009, Connecticut's unemployment was reported at 8.5% and the U.S. rate was 9.7%, compared to Norwalk's 7.4%.

Median Income

In 2000, Norwalk's family median income was \$68,219 and per capita income \$32,703 compared to \$65,521 and \$28,766 respectively for Connecticut.⁸ Per capita income for Connecticut rose 96% to \$56,428 in 2008.⁹ The American Community Survey for 2008 estimates Norwalk's median family income at \$98,143, +/- \$10,320.

In 2008 a family of four with two adults and two school aged children in Lower Fairfield County needed at least \$67,838 to pay for basic living expenses.¹⁰

Poverty

Federal data suggests poverty, especially child poverty, may be rising in Norwalk. The Senior Services Coordinating Council and the Norwalk Senior Center also report rising financial pressures on seniors.¹¹

City Tax Roll

The Tax Base for the City of Norwalk stood at \$12.6 billion for 2008-2009; the Tax Levy totaled \$248.6 million. Tax collections are down from 98.7% in 2007-2008 to 98.2% in 2008-2009.¹² This represents a loss of up to \$1.24 million to the City.

Employment Statistics for Bridgeport-Stamford Labor Market¹³

Number of employed in Economic Sectors (thousands - 000)	Annual Avg		12/08	12/09	Change 12/08 - 12/09
	2005	2007			
Total Nonfarm	411.3	419.8	416.6	405.2	-2.7%
Service Providing	355.1	363.8	362.8	354.1	-2.4%
Goods Producing	56.2	56.0	53.8	51.1	-5.0%
Education & Health	59.4	61.9	66.3	66.6	0.5%
Retail Trade	50.1	50.3	49.4	48.9	-1.0%
Financial Activities	42.8	45.5	45.3	44.4	-2.0%
State & Local Government	43.5	44.1	45.0	43.2	-4.0%
Manufacturing	41.1	40.3	39.6	38.0	-4.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	32.6	34.1	34.5	34.5	0.0%

Unemployment in Norwalk¹⁴

	2001	2005	2008	12/09
Unemployment Rate	2.8%	4.1%	4.8%	7.4%
# of Unemployed	1,330	1,936	2,321	3,612
Labor Force	46,755	47,429	48,811	48,579

Poverty Rates in Norwalk

	2000 ¹⁵	2008 ¹⁶ (range w/ margin of error)
Persons with income less than Federal Poverty Level	7.2% 5,944 people	9.6% (6.3%-12.9%)
Children under 18 below Federal Poverty Level	9.6% 1,732	16.9% (8.6%-25.2%)

Child Poverty¹⁷

	2001	2005	2008
Population	84,084	84,692	84,122
# Ages 5-17	12,921	13,224	12,821
# 5-17 in Poverty	1,152	1,290	1,334
Poverty Rate, ages 5-17	8.9%	9.8%	10.4%

City of Norwalk Tax Collections

	2007-2008	2008-2009
% Tax Collections	98.7%	98.2%
Tax Levy		\$ 248.6 million

3. HOUSING & TRANSPORTATION

NEEDS ACTION

Norwalk's housing market until this past year has become increasingly expensive and has often been financially out of reach for middle and low-income families.

Demand for subsidized housing is far exceeding availability.

ITEM TO MONITOR

Data provided by the Norwalk Transit District shows a rise in the use of public transportation from 2007 to 2009.

Housing

Housing in Norwalk, until this past year, has become increasingly expensive and unaffordable to low and middle-income families. With the downturn in the housing market, houses have lost value, but with growing unemployment and other economic difficulties, many families have found it increasingly difficult to keep up with their living expenses.

At the end of January 2010, RealtyTrac listed 145 home in Norwalk in pre-foreclosure and 82 as bank-owned.¹⁸

Affordability of Market Rate Housing

The Median Home Price in Fairfield County rose 10% from \$452,300 in the fourth quarter of 2003 to \$498,700 for the same period in 2007.

More recent data on housing and condo prices in Norwalk show that the median home price in Norwalk reached \$510,000 in 2008 but fell 16% to \$430,000 in 2009. With lower prices and interest rates, there was an increase of 5% in the number of homes sold, but a 22% decrease in the number of condos sold.

A monthly mortgage for a \$430,000 home at a rate of 5% and 5% down plus property taxes would be no less than \$2,700/month. If a family were to pay no more than 30% of their monthly income, they would need at least \$108,000 annual income which exceeds the projected median income in Norwalk. It is not surprising then that Norwalk ranks among the top 10 least affordable places in Connecticut to buy a home.¹⁹

The Fair Market Rate for a 2 bedroom apartment has risen 57.8% over the last 10 years to \$1,800 for 2010. Paying 30% of gross family income for an apartment at the 2010 fair market rate would require a family income of \$72,000 a year.

Availability of Subsidized Housing

Over the past 7 years, there has been no change in the *supply* of public housing units and only a 25% increase in Section 8 Housing (168 units). *Demand* for subsidized housing has risen dramatically over the last year as evidenced by the doubling in the number of people on waiting lists.

Transportation

The Norwalk Transit District's fixed route bus system is within a five minute walk of over 85% of Norwalk residents. These services allow for transfers to regional services to Bridgeport and Milford, Danbury and Stamford, at the Norwalk Pulse Point, which is undergoing extensive expansion with significant safety and security upgrades.

Housing Inventory in Norwalk²⁰

	2001	2005	2008
# of Homes in Norwalk	34,057	34,816	35,143

Home Prices in Fairfield County²¹

	2003-4 th Q	2007-4 th Q
Median Home Price	\$452,300	\$498,700

Home & Condo Prices in Norwalk²²

Single Family Homes	YTD 2008	YTD 2009	% Change
Average Sale Price	\$684,487	\$530,015	-23%
Median Sale Price	\$510,000	\$430,000	-16%
No. of Sold Units	416	438	5%
Condos			
Average Sale Price	\$324,592	\$303,713	-6
Median Sale Price	\$313,000	\$305,500	-2
No. of Sold Units	282	221	-22%

Fair Market Rent in Stamford-Norwalk, CT HUD Metro FMR Area²³

	2000	2005	2010
Fair Market Rent for 2 bedroom apt	\$1,141	\$1,437	\$1,800

Supply of Subsidized Housing in Norwalk

	9/2002	12/2009
o Public Housing Units ²⁴	1,133	1,131
▪ # living in Public housing	(data not	2,327
▪ # of children	collected	971
o Section 8 Units	669	837
▪ # living in Public housing	1,714	1,996
▪ # of children		847
o Non-Profit & Deed Restricted Units	857	561 (2008) ²⁵
o CHFA Mortgage Units	493	245 (2008)

Demand for subsidized Housing: Waiting Lists

	12/08	12/09	% Increase
Public Housing	305	646	111.8%
Section 8	300	556	85.3%

Norwalk Transit District Services

Local Service:	FY'07	FY'08	FY'09
WHEELS	1,231,027	1,288,859	1,293,903
Commuter Connection Shuttles	93,928	106,546	119,265
Norwalk ADA (door-to-door for persons w/disabilities)	30,366	28,252	27,546
Regional Service: *			
7 Link (Norwalk to Danbury)	53,207	58,490	59,073
Coastal Link (Norwalk to Milford)	1,142,484	1,199,044	1,153,304

4. BASIC NEEDS & SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

ITEM TO MONITOR

Increase in Demand for Services

The downturn in the economy has increased the demand for basic needs

NEEDS ACTION

Social Safety Net is Fraying

Local non-profits supporting the needy are stretched and stressed. Demand for services is increasing and funding has decreased or has been delayed. State budget deficits over the next few years are expected to lead to sharp decreased in funding for social services.

NEEDS ACTION

Many stakeholders have suggested that Norwalk needs to have more robust coordination of social services with a more active role from City Government. A city-sponsored dialogue can promote creative solutions to best utilize scarce resources.

Homelessness

Since 2008 the Norwalk Shelter has had a 12% increase in the average number of guests per night. Although demand is higher, they are limited in the number they can serve. With longer stays, fewer are being served, especially single adults.

Connecticut Counts annually calculates the number of homeless in communities at a given point in time. According to the 2009 report,²⁶ the most frequently stated cause for homelessness in Norwalk was “trouble with rent” (54 of 225) even though 21% of single adults and 31% of adults in families were working.

Demand for Basic Needs

The economic downturn has increased the demand for services. NEON reported a 175% increase in the number of households served – from 2,880 in 2008 to 5,031 in 2009.²⁷ In the last year, the Norwalk shelter has more than doubled the number of food pantry items distributed (↑125%) and Christian Community Action is serving 30% more people (3,039->3,948).

A May 2009 survey of non-profits by the Fairfield County Community Foundation (FCCF) found that more than half of respondents have experienced an increase in demand for services. Organizations providing basics needs such as food, shelter, health care, human services and especially workforce development, have experienced the greatest increases.²⁸

Agencies report that the newly unemployed are significantly contributing to an increase in use of services. Those that were already marginally employed or chronically unemployed are now competing for services that are in high demand.

Social Infrastructure

Local non-profits report that financial support has been uneven and is not keeping pace with increased needs. An FCCF survey of non-profits found that 81% reported decreased and delayed funding and donations. The most important source of operating income for Fairfield County nonprofits are individual donors, foundations, United Ways and corporations. Half of the region’s non-profits were unable to cover revenue losses in fiscal year 2009 with reserves and were forced to cut services.²⁹

The **good news** is that Norwalk agencies providing basic services are working together – especially through the Food, Fuel and Shelter Council which brings together 30 organizations on a monthly basis to coordinate efforts. But they are limited in their ability to provide case management and optimally coordinating resources. Many stakeholders have suggested that Norwalk needs to have more robust coordination with a more active role from City Government.

HOMELESSNESS

Norwalk Emergency Shelter

	2008	2009	Change: #s & %	
Guests Per Night	121	135	14	12%
Bednights	44,125	49,283	5,158	12%
# Using Shelter	2,523	2,367	-156	-6%

Point In Time Count of Homelessness

# of People experiencing Homelessness in: ³⁰	2007	2008	2009
Norwalk-Fairfield County	264	198	225

Family & Children’s Agency (FCA) annually provides service for 60 to 75 homeless clients and offers Social Rehab through their Drop-In-Center to more than 700 unduplicated clients.

FCA Programs	2007-2008	2008-2009	% Change
Case Management	51	75	47%
Vocational Services	55	63	14%
Supportive Housing units	25	32	28%
Supportive Housing Waitlist	18	35	94%

DEMAND FOR BASIC NEEDS

Norwalk Emergency Shelter – Other Services

	2008	2009	Change: #s & %	
Soup Kitchen Meals	184,348	229,420	45,072	24%
Food Pantry Items	172,311	387,677	215,366	125%
Clothing (#people)	8,117	8,891	774	10%

Christian Community Action

	2002	2006	2009
# People Assisted		2,870	3,948 (↑38%)
# Client Visits at Food Bank	5,418	12,627	17,790

Women, Infant & Children (WIC) Nutrition Program³¹

	9/2005	9/2007	9/2008	9/2009
# Served by WIC	1,842	2,080	1,918	2,052

CT Department of Social Services Caseload Growth - # Recipients³²

Program	Nov 2008	Nov 2009	% Change
Temp Family Assistance	39,189	42,469	8.4%
Medicaid	417,832	445,773	6.7%
Qualified Medicare	50,660	71,868	42 %
Food Stamps	224,138	295,677	32 5

Top Needs of South Norwalk Community per NEON Survey³³

In 2002:	In 2007:
1) Housing	1) Access to Healthcare/Dental Care ³⁴
2) Childcare	2) Childcare, AfterSchool & Youth Programs
3) AfterSchool Youth	3) Employment
4) Employment	4) Energy Assistance/Crisis Assistance
5) Teen Pregnancy	5) Affordable Housing

5. EDUCATION: *Demographics*

ITEM TO MONITOR

Norwalk has done significant work to increase access to preschool and improve the quality. However, there is a decline in the percentage of entering Kindergarten students reporting a preschool experience.

ITEM TO MONITOR

There have been significant changes in the racial and ethnic make-up of Norwalk Public Schools.

The number of Hispanic students has increased by 30% since 2001-2002 and they now represent 30.8% of the student population.

ITEM TO MONITOR

While there are many afterschool and summer programs in Norwalk, we need to ensure that there are sufficient affordable opportunities for school-aged children and youth.

Preschool Experience

A high quality preschool experience has been shown in many studies to better prepare children for school and to have numerous cost benefits over time. The partners in the Norwalk Early Childhood Council have been working to increase access to and the quality of preschool, to better prepare children for elementary school and beyond. Despite an increase of 161 subsidized spaces for 3 and 4 year old children over the past few years for a total of 486 subsidized “slots”³⁵, there is a reported decline in the percentage of students attending preschool.

Enrollment in Norwalk Public Schools (NPS)

There has been a small decline in the number of students enrolled in Norwalk Public Schools from 2001 to 2009. The Connecticut State Data Center has reported a decline in public school enrollment in Connecticut and projects a 17% decrease between 2004 and 2020.³⁶ In Norwalk, the small decline in public school enrollment is likely due to the decline in the population of children ages 5 - 17 (see p. 5). The percentage of all school aged students attending public school has remained relatively stable (reported at 86.7% in 2005 and 2007).

Norwalk currently has one Pre-K through 8 public charter school and several private schools up through 8th grade. Public school choice at the high school level has been limited by the recent closing of Wright Tech High School in Stamford.

Race & Ethnicity of Public School Students

There have been significant changes in the racial and ethnic make-up of Norwalk Public Schools. The number of Hispanic students has increased by 30% since 2001-2002 and they now represent 30.8% of the student population. There have been declines in both the number and overall percentage of white and black students.

Average Cost Per Student

The average cost per student in Norwalk Public Schools is less than that of neighboring towns, except Bridgeport.

Before and Afterschool Services

Before and afterschool programs can provide important supplemental learning opportunities for school-aged children. In Norwalk, about 25% of elementary students attend a program although demand is thought to be higher. There are considerably fewer opportunities for Middle School students. Data needs to be collected on summer programs. The AfterSchool Alliance knows anecdotally that there is a severe shortage of affordable opportunities.

% of Children Reporting Preschool Experience³⁷

	2001-2002	2007-2008
Norwalk	86.4%	81.6%
Connecticut	75.1%	79.2%

Enrollment in Norwalk Public Schools (NPS)³⁸

	10/1/2001	10/1/2005	10/1/2009
Enrollment	11,062	10,891	10,880
% Public School Enrollment	88%	86.7%	86.7% (2007-2008)

Race & Ethnicity of Students in NPS

	2001-2002		2007-2008		Change	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
White	5,192	46.9%	4,331	40.9%	-861	-16.6%
Black	2,902	26.2%	2,496	23.6%	-406	-14.0%
Hispanic	2,506	22.7%	3,257	30.8%	751	30.0%
Asian-American	448	4.0%	486	4.6%	38	8.5%
American-Indian	14	0.1%	21	0.2%	7	
TOTAL	11,062	100%	10,591	100%	-471	-4.3%

Per Pupil Expenditure³⁹

	2001-2002	2006-2007
Bridgeport	\$ 9,632	\$ 11,855
Norwalk	10,842	13,940
Stamford	11,269	14,848
Westport	12,920	15,409
Wilton	10,343	14,013

Enrollment in School Year Before & Afterschool Programs⁴⁰

	2001-2002	2009-2010	Change
Elementary	1,087	1,337	23%
MS-HS	289	377	30%
TOTAL	1,356	1,714*	26%

*Of the total, 949 are in school based programs, and 765 in community based programs

5. EDUCATION: *Academic Performance*

ITEM TO MONITOR

Norwalk Public School students are showing improvement in third grade reading scores, across all groups, and their performance is approaching that of the state overall.

Eighth grade CMT scores are also showing improvements, especially in Math.

ITEM TO MONITOR

Official drop-out rates continue to be very low and have been declining. However, there is a notable decline in the number of students from ninth grade to twelfth grade, as evidenced by the 22% drop in the enrollment of the class of 2009 from 9th grade to their graduation.

Third Grade Reading Proficiency

By third grade, students should become proficient readers to succeed academically. There has been an upward trend in the percentage of Norwalk students achieving proficiency in reading on the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) from 2006 to 2009. Cohorts of students are also making gains over time. In 2007 63% of 3rd graders were at proficiency or above; and 2 years later in 5th grade, 73% were at proficiency or above.

While there continues to be a gap in performance between white and minority students, the gap is decreasing.

Norwalk, like other urban districts, has a lower percentage of students achieving proficiency than the State overall, although the gap has been decreasing.

Eighth Grade CMT Performance

Students take CMTs every year starting in third grade through eighth grade. Norwalk 8th grade students are showing improvements from 2006 to 2009, most notably in Math.

SATs

There is a small increase in the percentage of students taking the SAT but average scores have remained stable.

Drop-out Rates

The state reported dropout rates in Norwalk are low and have dropped since 2000 and 2001.

Nationally there has been a discussion that official dropout rates often underreport the number of students not completing high school. A crude way to measure high school completion is to compare a cohort's enrollment in 9th grade and then 3 years later in 12th grade. For the class of 2009, there were 22% fewer students (206) in 12th grade than three years earlier.

**Percentage of 3rd Grade Students Achieving Reading Proficiency
(CT Mastery Test-CMT Results)⁴¹**

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
% Connecticut 3 rd Graders	69.2	69.3	68.4	71.1
ALL Norwalk 3rd Graders	63%	63%	65%	68%
African American	43	44	47	52
Hispanic	51	52	54	59
White	80	81	80	81
Asian American	76	89	84	85
Free & Reduced Lunch	42	48	44	51
Special Education	15	9	13	22
English Language Learners	38	28	33	42

Percentage of 8th Grade Students Achieving Proficiency on the CMTs⁴²

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Math	67	73	79	82
Reading	70	67	73	73

SATs⁴³

	2001	2005	2007
% Taking SAT	72.7%	74.2%	79%
Avg Math Score	473	485	470
Avg Reading Score	470	485	473

Drop-out Rates⁴⁴

2000 cumulative drop-out rate	2001	Cumulative Four-Year Dropout Rate for Class of 2007
7.2%,	9.40%	2.30%

High School Completion Norwalk Public Schools⁴⁵

Class of 2009	9th Gr-2006	12th Gr – 2009	Change
High School Enrollment	947	741	-22%

5. EDUCATION: *Adult & Community*

ITEM TO MONITOR

There has been an increase in the enrollment at NCC, especially of students under 24. This increase, plus the increase in the number of full time students reflect the downturn in the economy.

ITEM TO MONITOR

Less than 10% of NCC students graduate within 3 years. However, the percentage of students transferring has more than doubled from 2000-2003 to 2005-2008.

Norwalk Community College (NCC)

NCC has seen a 10.8% increase in enrollment from Fall 2005 to Fall 2009. Over half of the students are from Stamford or Norwalk (59.1%, Fall 2009). NCC is also seeing an increase in the percent of Hispanic students.⁴⁶

Norwalk Community College

Along with the 10.8% increase in enrollment from 2005-2009, there has been a 27.1% increase in the enrollment of full time students (547 more) rising from 33.4% to 38.3% of all students.

- The average age of students is decreasing from 30 in 2005 to 28.6 in 2008. Students 24 and under increased by 15.6% to 3,614 over this period while all other groups decreased.
- Students coming to NCC are less prepared for college level work; now over 60% of enrolled students have to take “developmental” courses in Math and/or English, delaying the start of their college studies.
- Graduation rates continue to be low. After 3 years, less than 10% are graduating from NCC. Compared to a national rate of 21.9%
- The percentage of students transferring is increasing. More students are trying to minimize their college costs by attending a community college the first 2 years.

Norwalk Adult Education

Enrollment in Adult Education offered by Norwalk Public Schools has not varied much since 2000. Today most of the 1,025 students are 25 or over (660, 63%), heavily immigrant (750, 73%), and unemployed (491, 48%)

Public Libraries

Norwalk has a number of public libraries that provide a myriad of educational, cultural and other community services:

- Belden Avenue (Main Branch);
- South Norwalk
- East Norwalk
- Rowayton

Libraries are not only a source of books and other educational materials, but also are an important place to gain access to computers and the internet. Information database use, in the Belden Avenue and South Norwalk branches, has more than doubled over the past year.

Norwalk’s public libraries also provide many other educational opportunities including English classes, educational programs for children and youth, and tax help.

Norwalk Community College Enrollment⁴⁷

	2005	2009	% change
Enrollment	6,036	6,685	10.8%
Ethnicity			
White	3,041 (50%)	3,194 (48%)	5.0%
Black	1,123(19%)	1,107 (17%)	-1.4%
Hispanic	1,140 (19%)	1,497 (22%)	31.3%

Norwalk Community College Enrollment⁴⁸

	2005	2009	% change
Enrollment	6,036	6,685	10.8%
Full Time	2,015 (33.4%)	2,562 (38.3%)	27.1%
Part Time	4,021 (66.6%)	4,123 (61.7%)	2.5%

Norwalk Community College: % Students Placing in “Developmental” Classes⁴⁹

	2006	2008
New, First Time Students	1,131	1,148
Math	60.3%	61.1%
English	51.4%	61.3%

Norwalk Community College Graduation Trends⁵⁰

Cohort Year→Graduation	2000→2003	2005→2008
Graduated with 3 years	8.9%	9.65%
Transferred	10.17%	24.78%
Still Enrolled	22.88%	22.15%

The national graduation rate based on the 2004 cohort for public 2 year colleges is 21.9%.⁵¹

Norwalk Adult Education⁵²

Enrollments in:	2000	2009
ESL	940	927
GED Prep	193	207
Adult HS Credit Diploma		476

Norwalk Public Library⁵³

	2003	2008	2009	Change
Residents with Library Cards	22,167	28,832	26,510	-8%
Circulation of Library Materials		426,293	444,033	4%
Door Count-Daily Average		1,021	1,009	-1%
Information Assists		5,662	6,012	6%
Public Computer Use		108,295	118,094	9%
Information Database Use		1,642	4,281	161%

Statistics are only for the Belden Ave & South Norwalk library branches.

6. HEALTH – Prenatal, Teen Pregnancy & Young Mothers

GOOD NEWS

Local programs appear to be making a difference in reducing low birth weight in Norwalk, but efforts must be sustained to engage pregnant women in timely prenatal care.

ITEM TO MONITOR

Teen pregnancies are lower than in 1998 but have risen since 2003.

Prenatal Care & Low Birth Weight

Lack of early and regular prenatal care puts babies at risk of poor birth outcomes such as prematurity and low birth weight. Premature birth is associated with developmental problems and is the leading cause of deaths among young children in Connecticut.

In 2006, 160 pregnant Norwalk women (12.4%) obtained late or no prenatal care. Norwalk maintained the percentage of pregnant women obtaining late or no prenatal care from 2003 to 2006 while Connecticut's rate increased. However, disparities exist among minority groups, most notably blacks.

Norwalk's percentage of late or no prenatal care for Hispanic mothers is lower than the Connecticut rate, and is at least partially attributed to the prenatal care provided by the OB/GYN clinic at Norwalk Community Health Center (NCHC), and to the success of Norwalk's maternal/child programs such as Healthy Start, MOMS and the Nurturing Families Network programs.

Since 2003, the percentage of low birth weight and very low birth weight babies has declined in Norwalk. In 2006, 93 babies were born at low birth weight, 17 at very low birth weight.

Teen Pregnancy

Norwalk's teen birth rate has been lower than the Connecticut rate, but is once again rising. 73 babies were born to teen mothers in 2006. Racial and ethnic disparities exist among teen births. Citywide, four times as many Hispanic teens gave birth compared to White (37 Hispanic compared to 9 White), and almost three times as many Black teens (26 Black compared to 9 White). 54% of the teen births were to South Norwalk teens.⁵⁴

Economic Downturn Impacting Young Mothers and Families

Of the 555 families served by Family & Children's Agency's Family Support and Prevention programs, 251 (45.2%) women did not have health insurance.⁵⁵ In the current economic climate, these families find themselves having to choose between meeting their basic needs (such as food, diapers, and formula) or receiving preventive health care (such as prenatal care or post partum care). Many of these families neglect dental and vision care for themselves and for their children.

Layoffs and cutbacks in the current economy are causing greater stress levels in these families. Many of these women are in need of mental health evaluations and follow up care. There are only two mental health referral sources for the uninsured,⁵⁶ both of which are located outside of Norwalk and require transportation which many of these families do not have or have difficulty accessing.⁵⁷

% Receiving Late or No Prenatal Care⁵⁸

Year	2003	2006
Norwalk	12.3%	12.4% (160 women)
CT	11.2%	14.2%

Prenatal Health Care Disparities⁵⁹

2006	Late or No Prenatal Care	
Races	CT	Norwalk
All Races	14.2 %	12.4 %
Black	27.4 %	26.1 %
Hispanic	27.1 %	17.5 %
Other Non-Hispanic	13.7 %	10.3 %
White	15.9 %	5.8 %

Low Birth Weight and Very Low Birth weight⁶⁰

		2000	2003	2006
Norwalk	LBW% of Total Births	5.2% (66)	8.7 %	7.2% (93)
	VLBW% of Total Births	1.6% (21)	1.9%	1.3% (17)
CT	LBW% of Total Births	Data not included in last report	7.6 %	8.2%
	VLBW% of Total Births		1.5%	1.7%

Teen Births⁶¹

Teen Birth < 20	1998	2003	2006
Norwalk	95 (7.0%)	51 (3.9%)	73 (5.6%)
CT	3,621 (8.3%)	2,884 (6.7%)	2,905 (7.0%)

Teen Pregnancy Data from School Based Health Centers

	2007/2008			2008/2009		
	Pregnancy Tests	Pregnancies	Births	Pregnancy Tests	Pregnancies	Births
Briggs	34	11	8	35	12	8
BMHS	82	10	4	71	5	5
Norwalk	86	6	2	94	8	4
Total	202	27	14	201	25	17

6. HEALTH – Health Insurance for Children & Pediatric Care

GOOD NEWS

Enrollment in HUSKY of eligible Norwalk children has risen and appears to be reaching all eligible children. Norwalk also has developed adequate capacity to serve HUSKY insured children.

Healthcare Insurance for Uninsured Kids And Youth (HUSKY)

The total number of Norwalk HUSKY enrollees increased 72% from just over 3,500 in July of 1998 to 6,026 as of November 1, 2009. Based on the number of children under age 18 in Norwalk (18,310) and the percentage that fall below 185% of federal poverty levels (about 1/3 of Norwalk students qualify for free/reduced school lunch), about 6,042 Norwalk children could be eligible for HUSKY. This suggests that Norwalk is succeeding in enrolling eligible low-income children in HUSKY.

There appears to be adequate capacity to serve HUSKY insured children. The Norwalk Community Health Center (NCHC) has increased its capacity, and two new pediatric practices that accept HUSKY opened in the Norwalk area in 2009.

Child Health Insurance & Healthcare Challenges

There are challenges Norwalk still faces to ensure that its children have adequate health insurance and health care.

- Many families with young children on HUSKY are unaware of annual renewal requirements. This often causes lapses in their children's health coverage that in turn leads to their missing preventive health care (well child) visits.
- Some children do not qualify for HUSKY insurance. In 2008, 344 (15%) of NCHC pediatric patients ages birth to age 9 were ineligible for health insurance, most often due to their undocumented status, so their parents paid out of pocket on a "sliding fee scale". Some families cannot afford the basic sliding fee at NCHC.
- In 2008, 27% of the Child Guidance Center of Mid-Fairfield County's 796 clinical clients had no health insurance to cover their behavioral health visits.

To address these and other challenges preventing access to healthcare, Norwalk has several programs for children and youth including the Americares Free Clinic, the Norwalk Health Department and Human Services Council's School-based Health Clinics.

Overall, Norwalk has a good delivery system for pediatric care.

- Most children have a medical home. There are 11 pediatric groups in Norwalk.
- Norwalk has one of the highest immunization rates in the state.
- Norwalk Community Health Center (NCHC) has become a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and is building up its wraparound services. In April 2010, they opened their new, expanded site.

GOOD NEWS

Overall Norwalk has a good delivery system for pediatric care – most children have a medical home and Norwalk has one of the highest immunization rates in the state.

HUSKY – Healthcare Insurance for Uninsured Kids and Youth⁶²

	July 1998	November 2009
Enrollment	3,500	6,026

Continuous HUSKY Care

The most recent data available for Norwalk indicates that 346 Norwalk HUSKY babies were born in 2005, and of those only 112 (32.4%) were continuously enrolled in HUSKY A for 15 months, and of those only 57% had 6 or more well child visits.⁶³

Subsidized or Free Healthcare Provided to Norwalk’s Young Children in 2008

	Age group	# Served
Americares Free Clinic	Under age 9	207
Norwalk Health Department	Under age 5	34
Emergency Room at Norwalk Hospital	Under age 9	3,560

HSC School Based Health Center

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
# Unduplicated Users	1,276	1,230	1,263
# Medicaid	72 (6%)	100 (8%)	223 (18%)
No Insurance	799 (63%)	502 (41%)	707 (56%)

2008 Norwalk Health Department Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Program Outcomes and Measures⁶⁴

- 1,645 children age 24 months in CT Immunization Registry & Tracking System (CIRTS) reside in IAP service area (Norwalk, Weston, Wilton, New Canaan).
- 1,457 or 89% of children who reside in service area are appropriately immunized with their 1^o series of vaccinations. Standard is 85%. Norwalk is one of top 3 in CT.
- 7,141 children ages 0-24 months were referred to the Norwalk Health Department IAP Program for immunization outreach.
- 7,141 children 0-24 months were successfully identified, brought back into care &/or records updated in CIRTS = 100%. Standard is 90%.
- 7 out of 10 providers the IAP Team deals with in the Norwalk area were at 90% or above. Norwalk Community Health Center achieved 95%.

6. HEALTH – Other Health Concerns & Challenges

NEEDS ACTION

Childhood obesity is increasing among children in Norwalk and requires our attention.

NEEDS ACTION

Agencies providing mental health services are reporting an increase in cases and acuity levels, but there is a shortage of capacity.

Childhood Obesity

A longitudinal study of Kindergarten and 6th grade students by the Norwalk Health Department indicates that Norwalk school children appear to be slowly gaining weight over time. By 6th grade almost half of students are either overweight or obese. Obesity is higher among boys than girls, and higher among Hispanic and black students.

Child Abuse

Child abuse includes physical neglect, physical abuse, emotional neglect, and sexual abuse (listed in order of most frequent to least). Child abuse in Norwalk appears to be declining.

Domestic Violence

The Domestic Violence Crisis Center has seen a notable increase in request for services over the past year – a 63% increase in shelter services and a 51% in direct client services.

Mental Health

There are increased environmental stressors – e.g. unemployment cost of housing - that are increasing mental health issues. The Child Guidance Center has seen a 60% increase in general clinical cases over the past year.

Acuity levels are becoming more severe as evidenced by the increase in the number of Emergency Mobile Crisis Services (up 40%). The major problem is referrals from EMCS to “step down” treatment services – capacity in the community is inadequate. As a result, many will not have access to care.

There is a shortage of mental health service capacity especially as regards (a) demand for Spanish Speaking Services; and (b) for the uninsured that do not qualify for Medicaid - middle class losing health insurance as they lose jobs.

There are no in-patient psychiatric beds for children under 12 in Fairfield County.

However, without a local Department of Social Services or a central community entity, it has been hard to monitor changes in mental health.

Senior Citizen Issues

Seniors living in poverty are not able to afford basic needs - e.g. food and medication - that put their health at risk. Other concerns of Norwalk seniors⁶⁵ include: (a) access to affordable housing & home care services, (b) increasing isolation (more difficult for them to get out, limited door-to-door transportation), and (c) navigating service changes in health care and Medicare.

Percent and Number of Students Obese and Overweight by Grade 2003-2007⁶⁶

		2003	2005	2007
Kindergarten	% Obese #	17.8 % (143)	15.3% (111)	19.9% (158)
	% Overweight #	17.5% (141)	15.6% (113)	16.9% (158)
	TOTAL	35.30%	30.90%	36.80%
6 th Grade	% Obese #	24.8% (205)	28.1% (215)	27.7% (190)
	% Overweight #	18.8% (156)	16.7 % (128)	18.4% (126)
	TOTAL	43.60%	44.80%	46.10%

Child Abuse Allegations and Substantiated Cases⁶⁷

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total Allegations	1,351	1,294	1,413	1,298
Substantiated	225	438	373	287

Domestic Violence Crisis Center

	2007-2008	2008-2009	Change
Shelter Services	156	255	63%
Adults	83	134	
Children	73	121	
Direct Client Services	1,632	2,457	51%

Behavioral Health – Report from Family and Children’s Agency (FCA)

- Severity of Behavioral Health issues has increased as evidenced by child/adolescent psychiatric hospitalizations. September/October of last year there were no hospitalizations and this year for the same time period FCA has had 5.
- FCA is seeing an increase (10% or more) in adolescents on their caseloads who have exhausted community resources, and may require residential placements.
- The recession is taking a toll on families; with lost jobs, loss of insurance for treatment. A barrier to clinical treatment is treatment must first focus on assuring that the individual/family’s basic needs are being met, before mental health can be considered as the primary treatment concern.
- Currently FCA has a wait list for their intensive in-home child & adolescent psychiatric service.

Child Guidance Center of Mid-Fairfield County - General Clinic Cases

Sept 2008 - Nov 2008	Sept 2009 - Nov 2009	Change
181 cases	284 Cases	60% Increase

Child Guidance Center of Mid-Fairfield County – Emergency Mobile Crisis Services

July 2008 - August 2008	July 2009 - August 2009	Change
28 cases	39 cases	40% increase

Seniors in Poverty

- FCA’s homecare department serves 174 Norwalk seniors over the age of 85.
- 95% of the 174 seniors live in poverty (below \$1,800/month).

7. PUBLIC SAFETY

GOOD NEWS

Data from the Norwalk Police Department show that incidents of crime have decreased from 2000 to 2008, suggesting that Norwalk is becoming safer.

NEEDS ACTION

While most home and building owners have insurance to cover losses from fire and other events, there is concern that few residents that rent apartments in the City have renters insurance.

Safety in Norwalk: Crime Statistics

The Norwalk Police Department is reporting a decline in all of the top offenses over time from 2000 to 2008 – suggesting that Norwalk is becoming safer. Vandalism, simple assaults and theft are the most frequent crimes.

Fire Suppression

The fire department responded to a consistent mix of calls for service. Fire and rescue calls represent approximately 50% of all responses. Emergency Medical Service calls represent the other 50% of all Fire Department responses.

Although major structure fires trended downward in the latest responding period, the number of displaced residents remains consistent as a majority of these incidents occurred in multi-family dwellings.

While most home and building owners have insurance to cover their loss, there is concern that few residents that rent apartments in the City have renters insurance.

While the Fire Department offers referrals to community agencies for residents affected by a fire, there is not a department to help provide key social services to assist in their recovery. Since December 2009, the Fire Department has had a more active role in providing assistance and referrals after an emergency, but there are few resources available to assist.

Fire Department Inspections

Inspections have steadily declined since 2005, primarily because there have been fewer inspectors.

Emergency Management

Since fall 2007, the Norwalk Fire Department- Office of Emergency Management has been working to create a culture of preparedness in the City of Norwalk. Planning activities have focused on working with City departments and staff, community non-profits and service providers, civic organizations, private-sector business and residents to engage them as partners and to educate them to be more self-sufficient in an emergency.

Norwalk Police Department: Primary Offenses⁶⁸

	2000	2004	2008
Vandalism/Destruction	1,240	1,199	924
Simple Assaults	801	645	649
Theft from Building	632	642	452
Theft from Motor Vehicle	443	412	419
Burglary	n/a	466	288

Homicide	n/a	3	3
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Residential Structure Fires that caused residents to be temporarily or permanently displaced

	2007	2008	2009
# Major Fires	12	8	7
# Residents Displaced	30	35	38
Fatalities	1	2	2

Arson Fires

2005	2007	2009
1	0	4

Number of Inspections, Norwalk Fire Marshall

	2005	2007	2009
All Occupancies	1,550	1,065	770
Multi Family (900 buildings)	195	127	76

Public Education on Emergency Management

Type	FY 2007		FY 2008		FY 2009- partial	
	#	People reached	#	People reached	#	People reached
Presentation/workshops	21	481	27	980	15	231
Events	3	275	6	725	3	950

Emergency Management launched a disaster volunteer reserve program in August 2009. Volunteers will be trained to provide assistance after a large emergency. In the first 4 months of the program, 40 people have completed training.

Note: Except for crime data in first table, all data on this page provided by the Norwalk Fire Department

8. CULTURAL & CIVIC LIFE

NEEDS ACTION

Norwalk would benefit from greater collaboration between the business and Arts & Culture sector to explore the potential economic impact of further developing arts & culture in Norwalk as an economic engine.

The Arts & Culture

Norwalk has a long history of community assets in the arts, culture & recreation (e.g. artists, attractions, cultural events.) The challenges currently facing Norwalk are (a) an ongoing fragmentation of the types of cultural offerings and (b) whether they serve the entire population of Norwalk. These assets tend to be fragmented because:

- There is not enough awareness about existing assets and offerings.
- There is inadequate financial support.
- Norwalk does not have a clear cultural identity to tie together its assets and help promote them.

The Norwalk Arts Commission, in its fourth year, is trying to create greater awareness and more collaboration around the arts and culture. Not only do they believe that arts and culture help bind the community together, but they also cite a national study that argues the creative economy supports the health of the overall community.⁶⁹

The Commission is promoting art in public venues, including networking events called ArtSpots. The Hour has created an Arts publication, ArtScape that is distributed for free to its entire circulation and enables the Commission to publicize arts events and activities that have and will occur. It has enabled them to track community response, and resulted in over 400 people redeeming their free parking coupon, and over 4000 people visiting their promotional web site pages.

Future plans are to develop a cultural district that would provide TIF (Tax Incremental Financing) structured financing to support a publicly accessible office with staff support. The Commission has undertaken a cultural assessment study and worked with the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency to craft cultural policy for inclusion in Norwalk's redevelopment area.

Norwalk would benefit from greater collaboration between the business and arts sector to explore the potential economic impact of further developing the arts & culture in Norwalk as an economic engine.

Civic Involvement

Voter turnout statistics show more registered voters vote in Presidential and Gubernatorial elections than in Municipal elections.

Attendance numbers for Museums

	2002	2009
Maritime Aquarium	537,580	475,000
Stepping Stones Museum	169,211	191,116

Attendance at Community Events

	2002	2008
Norwalk Symphony	Approx 3,500	Approx 3500
Sono Arts Festival	Est. 60,000	Est. 65,000
Oyster Festival (run by Seaport Association)	est. 70,000- 80,000	30,000*

* Estimated attendance would be between 45,000 and 50,000 if there had been good weather the entire weekend. In 2008 the Oyster Festival was closed the entire day on Saturday.

Landmarks

- The Seaport Association is the “Friends of the Norwalk Islands” in partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Four islands in the Norwalk chain are part of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. The Seaport is the steward for these islands
- About 5,000 visitors go to Sheffield Island during the summer season. Most are from out of town.

Recreation & Parks Department

- Norwalk Recreation and Parks Departments manages 70 parks on 1,215 acres throughout Norwalk
- The Seaport Association and Norwalk Recreation and Parks are currently working to raise funds and seek approval to renovate the bathhouses at Calf Pasture Beach.

Voting Statistics

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Type of Election	Pres	City	Gov	City	Pres	City
% Voting	74%	37%	50%	30%	75%	30%

ENDNOTES

- ¹ U.S Census 5/1/08 Press Release, www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/011910.html and "U.S. Minority Population Continues to Grow", 5/14/08, www.america.gov
- ² A Power Point presentation given Wednesday, October 14, 2009 to the Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce 2009 Norwalk Leadership Institute, The Business Council of Fairfield County
- ³ 2010-2030 Population Projections, Connecticut State Data Center at the University of Connecticut - <http://ctsdc.uconn.edu/Projections.html>
- ⁴ CT State Data Center at the University of Connecticut - <http://ctsdc.uconn.edu/EducationImpacts.html#2007PublicEnroll>
- ⁵ The Business Council of Fairfield County, "WHAT NOW? Surviving Today, While Building for a Better Tomorrow: A focus on the Issues & Trends critical to the region", PowerPoint, June 2009, www.businessfairfield.com/webpdf/Issues09.pdf
- ⁶ Same as above
- ⁷ Same as above
- ⁸ 2000 U.S. Census
- ⁹ Bureau of Economic Analysis website, <http://bea.gov/regional/spi/default.cfm?selTable=summary>
- ¹⁰ CT Voices for Children, State of Working Connecticut, 2009, www.ctkidslink.org/publications/econ09sowctfull.pdf
- ¹¹ *Agencies struggle to help seniors - Norwalk News - The Hour*, Feb 10, 2010
- ¹² Tom Hamilton – Finance Director/Norwalk, Information provided by phone, January 2009
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- ¹⁶ Connecticut Voices for Children, *Poverty in Connecticut: Summary of 2008 American Community Survey Census Data*, September 29, 2009, www.ctkidslink.org/publications/econ09censuspoverty.pdf
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- ²⁰ Annual Housing Inventory by Town, CT Dept of Economy & Community Development, www.ct.gov/ecd/cwp/view.asp?a=1106&q=250640
- ²¹ Home Sales Quarterly Reports, Connecticut Association of Realtors, CT Dept of Economic and Community Development website, www.ct.gov/ecd/cwp/view.asp?A=1106&Q=250640
- ²² Year End Marketplace Report on Norwalk, provided by William Pitt Sotheby's Intl. Realty
- ²³ HUD Fair Market Rents, CT Dept of Economic and Community Development, www.ct.gov/ecd/cwp/view.asp?a=1106&q=250640
- ²⁴ Public Housing and Section 8 data, Norwalk Housing Authority
- ²⁵ 2008 Affordable Housing Appeals List, CT Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)
- ²⁶ Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, *Connecticut Counts 2009 Point-In-Time Homeless Count*, 8/18/09, Hartford, CT
- ²⁷ *The Hour*, 1/11/10, p. A5
- ²⁸ Fairfield County Community Foundation, *The Impact of the Recession on Fairfield County Residents and the Nonprofits that Support them*, 2009
- ²⁹ Same as above
- ³⁰ Connecticut Counts Point-In-Time Homeless Counts, 2007, 2008 & 2009
- ³¹ Norwalk Health Department; the downturn in 2008 was attributed to a Nutritionist staff vacancy.
- ³² *The Hour*, 1/11/10, p. A1
- ³³ 2007 data is from NEON Head Start Community Assessment, August 2009
- ³⁴ The Norwalk Community Health Center also collected data confirming the lack of access to healthcare in 2007 and responded by expanding services and eventually opening a new community health center on Connecticut Avenue with more than double the space of the original Health Center at Water Street.
- ³⁵ Norwalk Early Childhood Council, *Snapshots of Success*, January 2009
- ³⁶ CT State Data Center at the University of Connecticut, ctsdc.uconn.edu/EducationImpacts.html#2007PublicEnroll
- ³⁷ CT State Department of Education (SDE) Strategic School Profiles, www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/profiles/index.htm

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- ³⁸ 2001 and 2005 enrollment figures and % Public School enrollment are from the CT State Dept of Education Strategic School Profiles (www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/profiles/index.htm)
- ³⁹ CT State Dept of Education (SDE) Strategic School Profiles, SDE website –
- ⁴⁰ Data for 2001-2002 come from the Norwalk AfterSchool Alliance *A Report to the Community: A Blueprint for Action*, May 2002. Data for 2009-2010 was gathered by representatives of the Norwalk AfterSchool Alliance.
- ⁴¹ Connecticut CMT and CAPT Reports, www.ctreports.com
- ⁴² Connecticut CMT and CAPT Reports, www.ctreports.com
- ⁴³ Connecticut State Department of Education website, Strategic School Profiles, <http://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/profiles/index.htm>
- ⁴⁴ Strategic School Profiles
- ⁴⁵ Data provided by Norwalk Public Schools Central Office
- ⁴⁶ NCC website, www.ncc.commnet.edu/dept/ie/institutional_research.asp
- ⁴⁷ NCC Website
- ⁴⁸ NCC Website
- ⁴⁹ NCC Website
- ⁵⁰ Data provided by NCC's Department of Institutional Research
- ⁵¹ see Table 26 on http://nces.ed.gov/das/library/tables_listings/Spring2008.asp
- ⁵² Norwalk Adult Program Profile for 2009, State Dept of Education website, previous data from Norwalk Public Schools
- ⁵³ Data provided by Norwalk Public Libraries
- ⁵⁴ Norwalk birth data collected from the Town birth records by Norwalk Healthy Families Collaborative from 1997 – 2007.
- ⁵⁵ Information provided by FCA for period 6/08-7/09
- ⁵⁶ The Dubois Center in Stamford and the Greater Bridgeport Hospital Mental Health Center
- ⁵⁷ Information from Ligia Masilamani MPH, CHES Director of Family Prevention Programs, Family & Children's Agency
- ⁵⁸ Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet, Co-published with the CT State Department of Education, *Ready by Five, Fine by Nine*, October 2006. p.12
- ⁵⁹ CT DPH Registration Report, 2006. [LBW = <5lb.10 oz. and VLBW = <3 lb. 4 oz.]
- ⁶⁰ CT DPH *Registration Reports* 2003 & 2006
- ⁶¹ CT DPH Registration Report, 2006
- ⁶² HUSKY Enrollment Reports for 11/01/2009
- ⁶³ *HUSKY & Well Child Visits Reports* Posted on the Graustein Memorial Fund Discovery 2009 Website
- ⁶⁴ Pam Bates, IAP Report at Norwalk NHFC/IAP/Help Me Grow Networking Meeting Report March 3, 2009
- ⁶⁵ Laura Epstein of Senior Services and staff provided data
- ⁶⁶ City of Norwalk Health Department and Norwalk Public Schools Student Body Mass Index Report: 2003-2007
- ⁶⁷ CT Department of Children and Families, Town Pages
- ⁶⁸ Data provided by Norwalk Police Department
- ⁶⁹ A 2005 national study by American for the Arts, *Arts & Economic Prosperity III: The Economic Impact of Nonprofit Arts and Culture Organizations and Their Audiences* provides a compelling case of how the arts can promote economic health in a community.