

Community Conversation in Benning Ridge/Ft. Dupont Park

The Benning Ridge/Ft. Dupont Park area is one of the neighborhoods selected by DC Agenda to focus on in this year's issue scan, because it encompasses part of the nine census tracts that make up the highest poverty area in Ward 7 (Census tracts 77.03, 77.07 and 99.07). DC Agenda is partnering with local organizations in the area to provide neighborhood-level data to help identify critical challenges in the next 3-5 years. The area, as shown in the map, extends to Ft. Dupont park, and extends from Southern Avenue to East Capitol in the north, Minnesota Avenue in the west, all the way to Benning Road to the east.

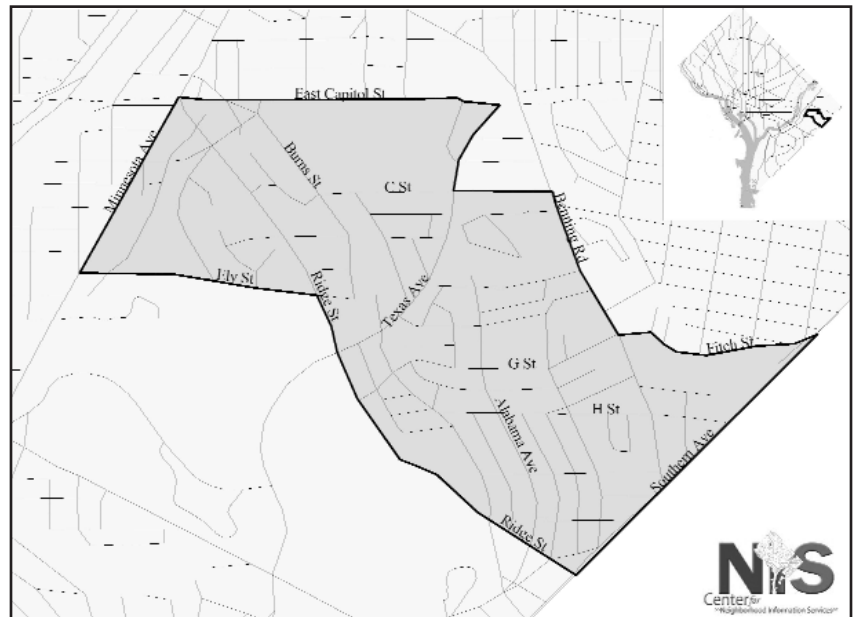
Child and Family Health

Benning Ridge/Ft. Dupont Park had a child poverty rate of 46%, far higher than the city's average of 32%, and did not show improvements on a host of child/family indicators. The Infant mortality rate increased by 57.4%, the teen birth rate increased by 29.8% and the change in low weight births increase by 77.8% over the four-year data period (1998-2001). The District either grew more slowly or declined across those three indicators.

Children, Youth and Education

Unlike some of the other highlighted communities, the Benning Ridge/Ft. Dupont Park area had the same high-school dropout rate as the rest of the city, and a higher rate of 3-5 year olds in school. The biggest gap between the neighborhood and the District was in the percentage of residents with college degree or higher. The Benning Ridge/Ft. Dupont Park area's rate was 9.7% compared with 39.1% in the District, although more than two-thirds of the residents in this community had at least a high-school degree.

Residents were extremely concerned about the lack of outlets for youth and the lack of respect they felt from youth. They felt that the local public school, Davis Elementary, was doing a good job, but they wanted a concerted effort to help kids



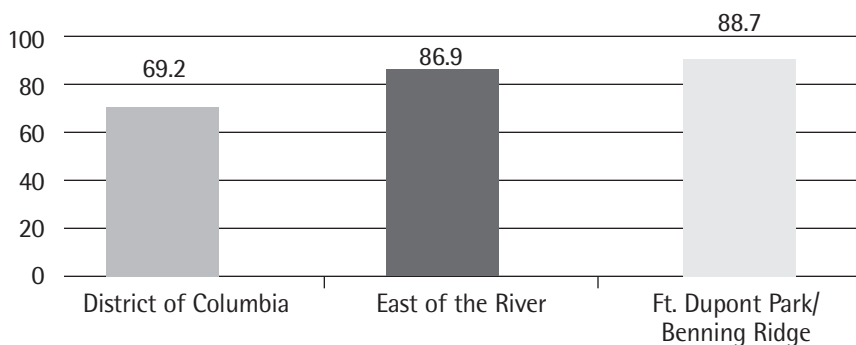
make good choices and avoid the destructive tendencies many have been displaying in the community.

Neighborhood Economies

The residents of Benning Ridge/Ft. Dupont Park spoke of the concentrations of poverty in their community. The data show the neighborhood's poverty rate at 31%, far higher than the District average of 20.2%. Unemployment was also higher in this community (16.7%) than the District (10.1%). The residents hoped to see more life skill programs/training that would lead to employment in either the private sector or government. They also mentioned more apprenticeships as something they hoped to see in the next three to five years. The result for the residents would be a greater mixed income community. This community is also far more likely to have long-term residents, as the percentage of households to have moved in the last five years into the community was only 34.2% compared with 50.1% for the District.

Housing and Community Development

Table 1: Percent of housing below Fair Market Rent of \$800



Residents in Benning Ridge/Ft. Dupont Park said there was a lack of affordable housing for younger residents, and greater housing opportunities in Prince George’s county, resulting in the area losing 11% of its population in the 1990s, twice the city rate. They also mentioned that the lack of public housing/Section 8 property upkeep was depressing overall property values.

Data for this area shows that more than 30% of the residents pay an unaffordable rental burden (residents paying more than 35% of their income for rent) despite the high number of units at below “fair market rents”. In Table 1, more than 88% of the rental units are less than \$800, which was the “fair market rent” for a Washington DC area 2 bedroom unit as determined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for 2000. These two statistics suggest that units are not generally affordable to local residents, despite the HUD determination.

Crime and Safety

	Number of Violent Crimes (2000)	Violent Crimes per 1,000 population
District of Columbia	8,502	15
East of the River	2,640	19
Ward 7	1,242	18
Ft. Dupont Park/Benning Ridge	191	17

While crime fell in this area between 1998–2000 by 7.7%, Benning Ridge/Ft. Dupont Park area residents were enormously concerned about the increase in crime in their community. Residents believed that crime, especially auto thefts by minors had increased significantly. Many residents said stolen vehicles are a major issue in their community, but a low priority to the Police. They said the Police do not pursue car thieves, due to a no-chase policy.

The residents also spoke of the lack of police visibility, and the lack of parental supervision for children who are offenders, many of whom are between 8–12 years old. They thought many of the kids committing the crimes were repeat offenders, and that their guardians were either suffering from substance abuse problems, or were too old to properly reprimand them. They described the situation as “Neighborhood Terrorism,” with neighbors afraid, and parents not being held responsible. They also said the current crime level was preventing former residents from returning from Prince Georges County.

When asked for recommendations to change these trends, residents had many ideas including:

- More resources for youth programs
- Courts keeping better records on repeat offenders
- Parents being required to attend community meetings and bring their children along
- Providing “Dummy” police cars in the neighborhood
- Court mandated attendance of meetings, programs for parents, kids
- Church sponsored parenting skills
- Getting rid of stripped cars

Residents praised a number of groups and institutions that were working in the community that were trying to address this problem, such as Davis Elementary School and the Washington Interfaith Network, and had many ideas they thought could be implemented in the near future.

Conclusion

Residents at the Community Conversation were engaged, and had a lot to say about what was happening in their community. They said the two main problems in the Benning Ridge/Ft. Dupont Park area were citizen and traffic safety. They wanted the city agencies to work with the community to deal with the auto theft epidemic, many of which are being committed by juveniles. They also wanted the Housing Authority to better screen residents and enforce the rules. If their concerns could be summed up, it was they wanted more enforcement and less talk.

They also wanted residents to have more individual involvement in the lives of the neighborhood children. They stressed that the civic responsibility of individuals needed to be improved. As we continue this process into 2004, it is clear the residents Benning Ridge/Ft. Dupont Park are deeply concerned about the children of their community. The spate of auto thefts has left many to question whether the community itself and city agencies are doing enough to help build a supportive environment for their youth.

Targeted Neighborhoods Community Conversations

Variables	Year	District of Columbia	East of the River	Ward 7	Benning Ridge/ Ft. Dupont Park
Demographics					
Population	2000	572,059	139,620	70,555	11,503
% change in population	1990-2000	-5.7	-12.9	-10.8	-11.2
% children under 5	2000	5.7	8.7	7.1	9.1
% children under 18	2000	20.0	31.8	27.5	32.9
% elderly	2000	12.3	10.2	14.0	12.6
Households	2000	248,590	53,618	29,415	4,323
% change in households	1990-2000	-0.2	-8.2	-6.3	-8.3
% married-couple families	2000	8.7	8.4	6.6	7.2
% single-parent families	2000	11.8	25.9	20.8	27.6
% foreign born	2000	12.9	1.7	1.4	1.5
% moved last five years	2000	50.1	43.4	38.4	34.2
Child and Family Health					
Children receiving TANF	2003	32,745	18,432	7,044	1,462
% change in children receiving TANF	1998-2003	-16.5	-15.8	-14.6	-23.0
Child poverty rate	2000	31.7	42.9	37.0	46.2
Total births	2001	7,598	2,416	1022	204
% change in total births	1998-2001	-0.9	-9.7	-5.9	-4.7
Teen births	2001	383	172	84	14
% change in teen births	1998-2001	13.3	16.5	8.7	29.8
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	2001	10.3	15.7	10.8	14.7
Change in infant mortality rate	1998-2001	-18.0	23.8	-31.2	57.4
Low-weight births	2001	922	381	170	48
% change in low-weight births	1998-2001	-9.1	-9.9	0.1	77.8
Births w/adeq. prenatal care	2001	4,056	1,080	440	82
Births w/o prenatal care	2001	1,791	675	288	61
Children, Youth and Education					
dropout rate (% 16-19 not enrolled)	2000	10.1	13.4	10.8	10.1
% 3-5 year olds in school	2000	83.0	80.0	83.3	89.5
% H.S. dipl. or higher	2000	77.8	68.9	71.1	68.8
% college deg. or higher	2000	39.1	10.5	12.6	9.7
% less than 9th grade	2000	7.8	7.3	7.6	6.1
reading scores, elementary schools, grades 3-5	2002/03	45.0	42.6	44.8	
% change in reading scores between 1997-2003	-0.4	3.7	3.2	NA	
math scores, elementary schools, grades 3-5	2002/03	49.9	46.3	48.5	
% change in math scores between 1997-2003	7.9	11.2	9.7	NA	

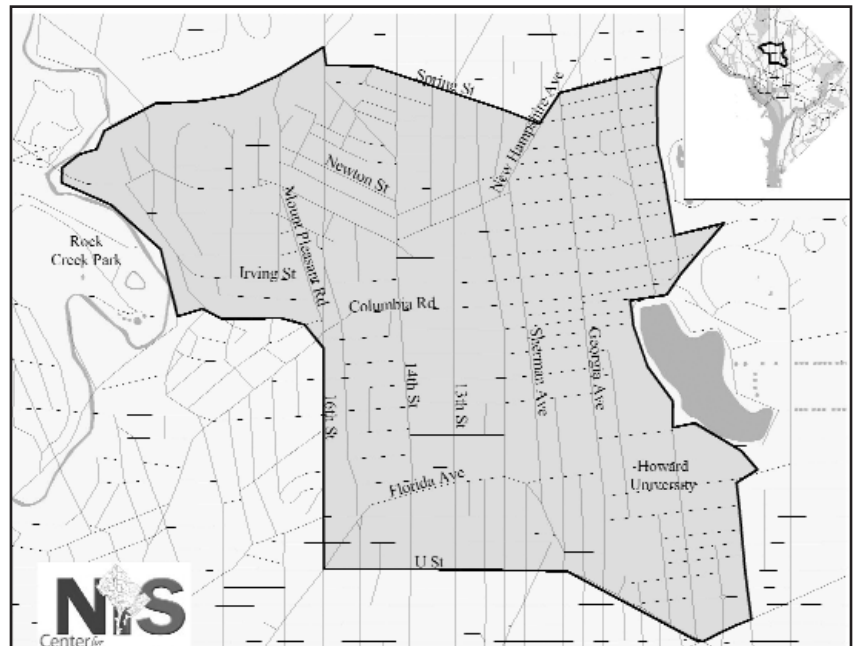
Targeted Neighborhoods Community Conversations

Variables	Year	District of Columbia	East of the River	Ward 7	Benning Ridge/ Ft. Dupont Park
Neighborhood Economies					
Unemployment Rate	2000	10.8	17.6	13.7	16.7
	1990	7.2	10.5	8.1	11.0
Households on public assistance (TANF)	2003	17,180	9,395	3,674	724
% of households on public assistance	2003	6.9	17.5	12.5	16.7
# vacant commercial properties	2002	859	159	58	3
Poverty Rate	2000	20.2	30.5	24.9	31.0
	1990	16.9	23.6	19.5	23.3
Housing and Community Development					
# housing units	2000	274,845	62,355	33,646	4,926
% of households paying over 35% income for rent	2000	28.1	30.3	30.6	30.2
avg. household rent	2000	695	498	517	474
percent of homeowners	2000	40.8	31.6	40.9	36.5
# building permits	2002	415	285	133	121
Number of home mortgage loans	2002	10,597	1,071	605.958848	75
total amount of home purchase loans (\$1,000's)	2002	2,366,955	116,668	68,855	8,994
# vacant and abandoned residential properties	2002	2,692	1,119	600	46
total public and subsidized housing units	2000	18,954	8,841	4,337	904
total public and subsidized housing units	1998	20,512	8,112	3,489	944
Number of sales, single-family homes and condominiums	2002	6,296	765	556	64
Median sales price, single-family homes and condominiums (\$)	2002	210,000	98,100	101,169	110,000
Crime and Safety					
# of adult crimes	2000	38,093	7,788	4,343	601
# of adult crimes per 1,000 population	2000	67	56	62	52
% change in adult crimes	1998-2000	-16.1	-15.2	-18.5	-7.7
# violent crimes	2000	8,502	2,640	1,242	191
# of violent crimes per 1,000 population	2000	15	19	18	17
% change in violent crimes	1998-2000	9.5	6.6	6.8	0.0
# property crimes	2000	29,591	5,148	3,101	410
# of property crimes per 1,000 population	2000	52	37	44	36
% change in property crimes	1998-2000	-17.8	-19.0	-22.4	-10.9
# arrests for prostitution	2000	1,114	342	108	0
% arrests for prostitution	1998-2000	2.0	2.2	1.6	0
# of 911 calls for drug activity	2000	17,974	6,257	2,713	211
% of 911 calls for drug activity	2000	2.7	3.5	3.2	2.0

Community Conversation in Columbia Heights/Mt Pleasant

The Columbia Heights/Mt. Pleasant area is one of the neighborhoods selected by DC Agenda to focus on in this year's Issue Scan, because it is a target area of DC Agenda's Equitable Development Initiative (EDI). EDI seeks to increase the level of resources dedicated to revitalizing communities by creating additional affordable housing to meet the population's needs, and to empower citizens to be a part of the ongoing development and growth of their respective communities.

The area, as shown in the map, includes Howard University, and extends from Florida Ave in the south to Spring Street in the north, 16th Street and Rock Creek Park to the west, all the way to 1st street to the east.



Child and Family Health

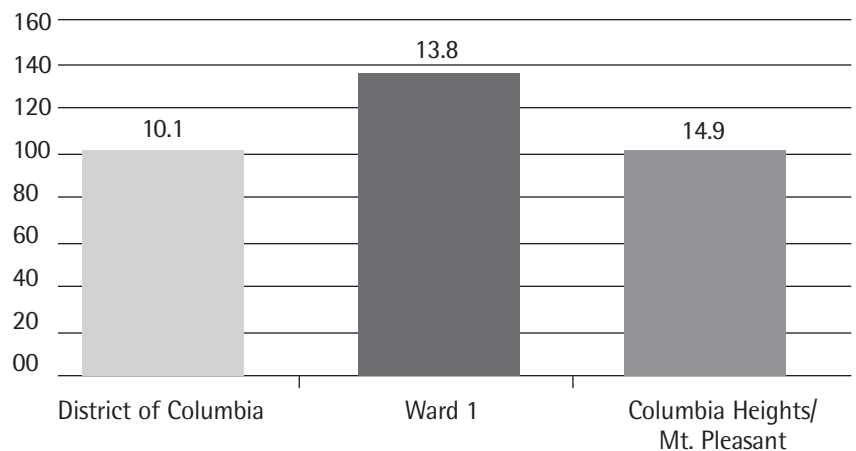
Columbia Heights/Mt. Pleasant continued to have a higher child poverty rate (36%) than the city (32%), but it experienced a drop in the infant mortality rate by nearly 61 percent between 1998 and 2000. The other indicators showed this area experiencing a smaller increase in the number of teen births than the rest of the city (8.7% to 13.3%), but an increase in low-weight births compared to an overall decline across the District (6.6% in Columbia Heights/Mt. Pleasant versus a -9.1% decline in DC).

Residents spoke of wanting more up-to-date information on child and family health, but they were not completely surprised by the findings. The decline of infant mortality was certainly a positive development, and many spoke of the excellent social service organizations in the area for contributing to the decline.

Children, Youth and Education

The number of adolescents that leave school surprised residents of the Columbia Heights/Mt. Pleasant area. As this table shows, the Columbia Heights/Mt. Pleasant area has an elevated high-school dropout rate compared to the city or Ward 1. The area also has the highest rate of adults with less

Table 1: Dropout rate (% 16-19 not enrolled)



than a 9th grade education in the city at 18.8%, which is more than twice the District rate of 7.8%. Residents said the most pressing needs related to education were to have more bilingual teachers in schools, and to develop programs that can help support parents. They also recommended the

Targeted Neighborhoods Community Conversations

following three policy directions for education.

1. Vocational training for youth
2. Bilingual classes
3. Summer programs

Neighborhood Economies

The residents of Columbia Heights spoke of the difficulties in finding work due to the poor economy. Many residents work in the restaurant and construction industries, and the lack of consistent work is reflected in the relatively high poverty rate in the area of 25.4%. The problem for residents in Columbia Heights has not been finding jobs, but having good paying jobs that provide benefits and lift residents out of poverty. The area, as shown in Table 2, has an unemployment rate of 8.8%, which is lower than the city, but slightly higher than Ward 1.

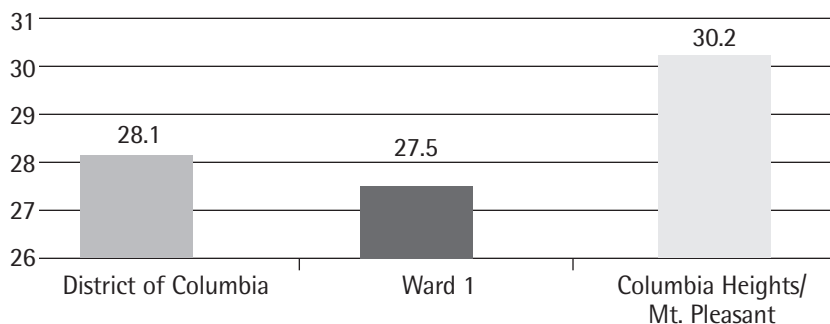
	2000	1990
District of Columbia	10.8%	7.2%
Ward 1	7.5%	7.0%
Columbia Heights/Mt. Pleasant	8.8%	8.5%

Residents were asked for their recommendations for improving their employment prospects. One was an emphasis on bilingual classes for learning new skills/jobs, as well as granting amnesty for recent immigrants to allow them to move from informal positions to more formal ones with benefits and worker protections.

Examining the local economic picture also showed a high number of check cashing places (20) in the area, compared with bank outlets (8). This disparity suggests that greater efforts at bringing wealth creating enterprises, such as banks and credit unions, may help lift residents out of poverty.

Housing and Community Development

Table 3: % Paying more than 35% income for rent



Residents in Columbia Heights/Mt. Pleasant said increasing rents and lack of building maintenance were the critical housing issues in their community. As this table shows, this area has a higher percentage of renters paying more than 35% of their income toward housing, or an unaffordable housing burden, than the City or Ward 1.

The unaffordable housing burden reflects the increase in this community's rental costs. The median housing sales price in Columbia Heights/Mt. Pleasant for a single family home and condominium grew by 45% from 1998-2002, higher than the city average of 40%. At the same time this area continued to gentrify the area lost nearly a quarter (-24%) of its public and subsidized housing units.

With 332 vacant and abandoned properties as of 2002, residents want to see more housing construction that focuses on lower income residents, and improved maintenance of the buildings they currently reside in.

Crime and Safety

The Columbia Heights/Mt. Pleasant area has experienced an increase in violence, especially gang related, that has troubled the community. In the three-year period we measured neighborhood crime (1998-2000), violent crime increased 8.8% in the Columbia Heights/Mt. Pleasant area, which is lower than the 9.5% increase across the city and the 11.6% violent crime increase in Ward 1. Overall, the Columbia Heights/Mt. Pleasant area had 1,290 violent crimes and a violent crime rate of 17 for every 1,000 residents. This rate was the same in Ward 1, and higher than the District's violent crime rate.

Residents said that all the social trends in Columbia Heights/Mt. Pleasant led to higher crime, especially youth crime, since the education system was not motivating youth to stay in school, which led to them dropping out, and led them into gangs and crime since they could not find work. Respondents also felt many adolescents carried resentments against authority, because the violence and aggression by DC police reminded them of the violence of the National Guard in El Salvador.

Residents also said that parents did not take care of their children, because they had two or more jobs and could not supervise them. They mentioned the disintegration of the family as contributing to crime. They said that after 7 PM on weekends there was no entertainment, or support for the youth. When asked for recommendations to change these trends, residents initially said it would be too costly

to fix, because the problems were so serious. Residents however mentioned working with the organized youth gangs and creating structures that could be developed to replace the youth gangs. They also said they not only wanted more police, but quality police officers, with cultural and human sensitivity.

Conclusion

Residents were very eager to discuss the trends they saw in their community. Columbia Heights/Mt. Pleasant is a vibrant community with a population that has increased in the last ten years. The trends show higher housing prices, but also troubling developments in crime and educational outcomes. As we continue to monitor changes in Columbia Heights/Mt. Pleasant, DC Agenda plans to work with local organizations and residents to help develop new measures of community well-being. By bringing data to the residents, it became apparent that there was a strong desire for more current information

Table 4	Number of Violent Crimes	Violent Crimes per 1,000 population
	2000	
District of Columbia	8,502	15
Ward1	1,260	17
Columbia Heights/Mt. Pleasasant	1,290	17

about their community. Many of the residents wanted to see the data disaggregated by race/ethnicity to help determine whether specific populations were facing particular hardships. As we continue this process into 2004, it is clear the residents and local organizations of Columbia Heights are eager to engage in a process of developing neighborhood indicators to help monitor socio-economic trends, and to help "change the curve" on the numbers that are going in the wrong direction.

Variables	Year	District of Columbia	Ward 1	Columbia Heights/Mt. Pleasant
Demographics				
Population	2000	572,059	72,977	68,744
% change in population	1990-2000	-5.7	1.1	1.5
% children under 5	2000	5.7	5.6	5.9
% children under 18	2000	20.0	17.9	18.8
% elderly	2000	12.3	7.6	8.2
Households	2000	248,590	31,404	28,106
% change in households	1990-2000	-0.2	2.4	3.7
% married-couple families	2000	8.7	8.9	9.4
% single-parent families	2000	11.8	9.9	11.5
% foreign born	2000	12.9	28.7	29.6
% moved last five years	2000	50.1	58.2	57.9
Child and Family Health				
Children receiving TANF	2003	32,745	2,600	2,670
% change in children receiving TANF	1998-2003	-16.5	-23.7	-23.0
Child poverty rate	2000	31.7	34.6	36.3
Total births	2001	7,598	1,057	1,019
% change in total births	1998-2001	-0.9	-0.3	-2.1

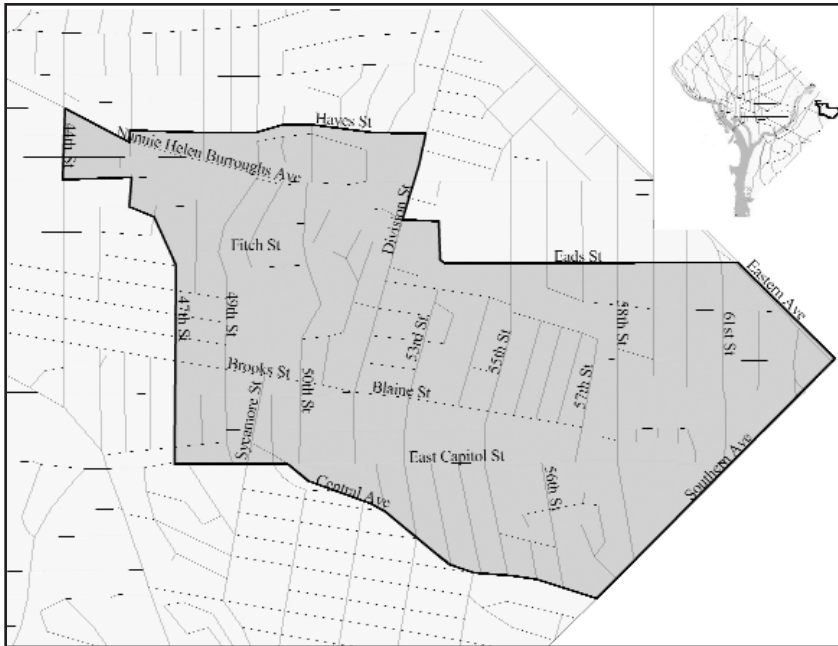
Targeted Neighborhoods Community Conversations

Variables	Year	District of Columbia	Ward 1	Columbia Heights/ Mt. Pleasant
Teen births	2001	383	55	58
% change in teen births	1998-2001	13.3	9.0	8.7
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	2001	10.3	4.3	4.9
Change in infant mortality rate	1998-2001	-18.0	-56.7	-60.7
Low-weight births	2001	922	101	97
% change in low-weight births	1998-2001	-9.1	8.0	6.6
Births w/adeq. prenatal care	2001	4,056	552	520
Births w/o prenatal care	2001	1,791	264	252
Children, Youth and Education				
dropout rate (% 16-19 not enrolled)	2000	10.1	13.8	14.9
% 3-5 year olds in school	2000	83.0	79.3	79.1
% H.S. dipl. or higher	2000	77.8	68.5	63.6
% college deg. or higher	2000	39.1	38.6	30.6
% less than 9th grade	2000	7.8	16.1	18.8
reading scores, elementary schools, grades 3-5	2002/03	45.0	40.8	39.5
% change in reading scores between 1997-2003	-0.4	-9.1	-10.2	
math scores, elementary schools, grades 3-5	2002/03	49.9	48.9	47.4
% change in math scores between 1997-2003	7.9	0.7	-2.1	
Neighborhood Economies				
Unemployment Rate	2000	10.8	7.5	8.8
	1990	7.2	7.0	8.5
Households on public assistance (TANF)	2003	17,180	1,410	1,448
% of households on public assistance	2003	6.9	4.5	5.2
# vacant commercial properties	2002	859	124	133
Poverty Rate	2000	20.2	21.9	25.4
	1990	16.9	20.7	23.8
Housing and Community Development				
# housing units	2000	274,845	34,602	31,578
% of households paying over 35% income for rent	2000	28.1	27.5	30.2
avg. household rent	2000	695	660	603
percent of homeowners	2000	40.8	28.6	26.6
# building permits	2002	415	13	14
Number of home mortgage loans	2002	10,597	1,711	1,524
total amount of home purchase loans (\$1,000's)	2002	2,366,955	360,833	315,884
# vacant and abandoned residential properties	2002	2,692	314	332
total public and subsidized housing units	2000	18,954	2,359	2,771
total public and subsidized housing units	1998	20,512	2,773	3,645

Targeted Neighborhoods Community Conversations

Variables	Year	District of Columbia	Ward 1	Columbia Heights/ Mt. Pleasant
Number of sales, single-family homes and condominiums	2002	6,296	774	685
Median sales price, single-family homes and condominiums (\$)	2002	210,000	232,250	208,000
Crime and Safety				
# of adult crimes	2000	38,093	5,026	4,966
# of adult crimes per 1,000 population	2000	67	69	72
% change in adult crimes	1998-2000	-16.1	-19.5	-19.2
# violent crimes	2000	8,502	1,260	1,290
# of violent crimes per 1,000 population	2000	15	17	19
% change in violent crimes	1998-2000	9.5	11.6	8.8
# property crimes	2000	29,591	3,765	3,676
# of property crimes per 1,000 population	2000	52	52	53
% change in property crimes	1998-2000	-17.8	-21.9	-22.3
# arrests for prostitution	2000	1,114	53	131
% arrests for prostitution	1998-2000	2.0	0.7	1.7
# of 911 calls for drug activity	2000	17,974	1,950	1,934
% of 911 calls for drug activity	2000	2.7	2.5	2.6

Community Conversation in Deanwood



The three census tracts examined in this neighborhood profile (78.04, 78.08 and 99.03) represent part of the neighborhood known as Deanwood. This area is part of nine census tracts that collectively had the highest poverty rates in Ward 7 in 2000. The Annie E. Casey Foundation along with its partners—the East of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative, the Marshall Heights Community Development Organization and the East Capitol Center for Change—are refocusing its work in DC to these tracts. These tracts were also selected because they were the focus of the Foundation’s recently concluded Rebuilding Communities Initiative. Thus, current investments in these neighborhoods build on the relationships and capacities the Foundation has developed previously.

The tracts that encompass Deanwood extend to the Maryland border in the South and East, and go to 47th Street NE in the West and Eads Street, and Nannie Helen Burroughs Ave to the North.

Child and Family Health

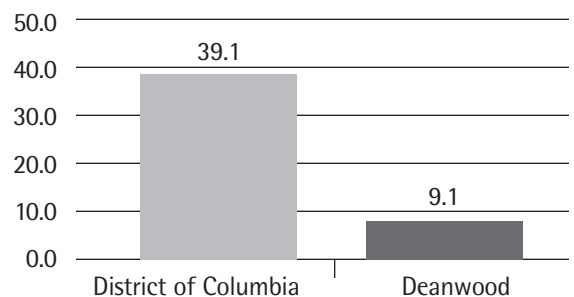
Deanwood had a significantly higher child poverty rate than the city (56% to 32%), but it experienced a drop in the infant mortality rate by 57 percent between 1998 and 2000. The other indicators showed positive developments as the teen birth rate dropped nearly 4% compared to the city’s increase over the three year period (13.3%), and a 14.6% decline in low-weight births compared to an overall decline across the District of 9.1%.

Residents did not speak a great deal about the child and family health indicators, but the numbers do show positive developments in the community. Deanwood still has a high child poverty rate, so many of the underlining issues around quality jobs and employment outcomes reveal themselves in that figure.

Children, Youth and Education

Deanwood’s high school dropout rate is slightly higher than the city at 11.7% versus 10.1, but the percent with a college degree or higher living in the area is far lower in Deanwood than the city. Only 9.1% of the residents have a college in Deanwood, compared with 39% for the entire city. The low education attainment is also found among high school graduates, where only 60% of Deanwood’s population has a high school degree, versus nearly 78% in the District, and 13% in Deanwood have less than a 9th grade education, versus 8% in the District.

Table 1: Percent of college degree or higher



Residents said the most pressing needs related to education were to provide after-school programming for all ages, and an expansion of recreation programs, so children have opportunities to play and stay out of more risky behavior.

Neighborhood Economies

Deanwood has some of the poorest employment outcomes in the city. Deanwood's unemployment rate is 19.8%, and its poverty rate is more than 39%.

Residents spoke of the lack of retail in their area, and the need for a supermarket. The Issue Scan data shows that the area has no banking outlet. Residents said that some cannot afford bank accounts and would rather use check cashing establishments, since banks have high monthly maintenance fees.

Deanwood residents want to see a new grocery store in the area, and they would like to have greater access to banks and especially ATMs. Residents also spoke of wanting to see more locally owned retail and more summer jobs for the neighborhood youth.

Housing and Community Development

Residents in Deanwood said there was a need for more senior-citizen housing. Residents said many long-time residents were on fixed and/or low incomes, and they could not afford the rising property tax increases.

Deanwood's homeownership rate is comparable to the District at 40.5% (compared to the District rate of 40.8%). Moreover, as this table shows, this area also has a comparable percentage of renters paying more than 35% of their income toward housing, or an unaffordable housing burden, as the city and is lower than the other areas East of the Anacostia River.

Many residents felt that promises on land development from District officials had not been kept, and they wanted to know the owners of the abandoned properties in their community. The residents also spoke of the unpaved alleys, pipe problems and dead trees that need be cut down. They said that sidewalks were unpaved and that there were drainage problems in bad weather. Overall, there was a sense of neglect by government toward Deanwood

Crime and Safety

Deanwood experienced a dramatic increase in violent crime over the three-year study period. Deanwood's violent crime rate increased by 26%,

Table 2: Employment Outcomes

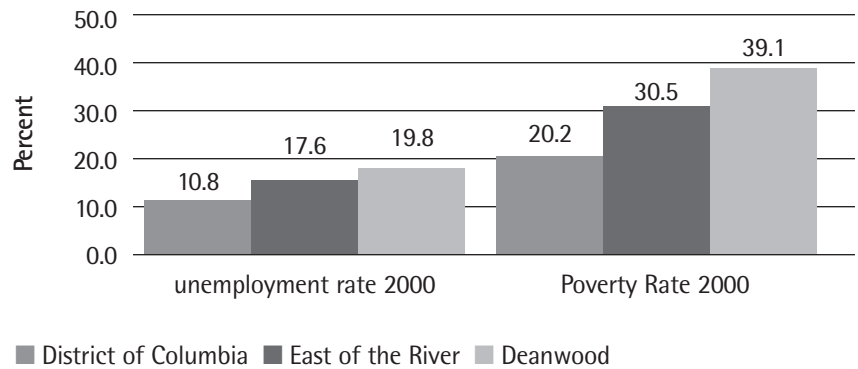


Table 3: % Paying more than 35% income toward rent

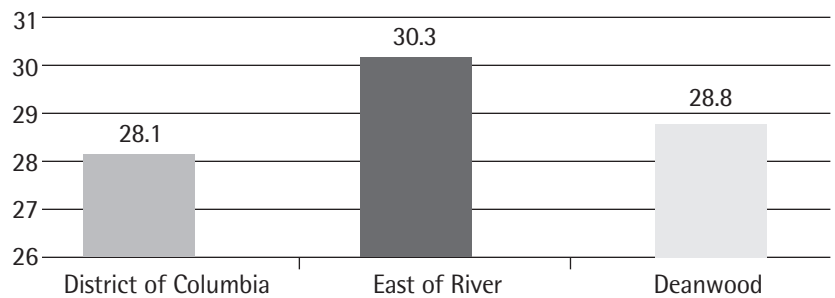


Table 4

	Number of Violent Crimes 2000	Violent Crimes per 1,000 population
District of Columbia	8,502	15
East of River	2,640	19
Deanwood	185	19

nearly three times the District increase of 9.5%. In 2000, 185 violent crimes were committed in Deanwood for a rate of 19 violent crimes per 1,000 population. This rate is higher than District and roughly the same for East of the River.

Residents described the current situation as continuous gun fights, car-related thefts and poor police responses. Auto theft was continually cited as a major problem in the communities we surveyed East of the River. Drug activity and prostitution were also cited as major problems in the community

Residents also said that there was a lack of parental involvement, and sense of responsibility toward youth offenders. Many of the auto thefts were committed by youths and residents wanted to know where the parents were. As mentioned earlier, residents wanted more recreation activities for

Targeted Neighborhoods Community Conversations

youngsters and greater accountability for people's actions. They also wanted Ward 7 to be approached as whole, rather than separate neighborhoods when crafting solutions.

Conclusion

Residents were very angry at the city about the failed promises and lack of services to their community. Many residents did not want to discuss the numbers (in fact, some thought the numbers were a "bunch of crap"), but rather express their feelings of frustration about attending another

meeting. Nevertheless, a consensus emerged that felt having numbers brought to the community on a monthly basis, might help increase accountability. The residents thought using existing meetings (i.e., meetings, events, ANC) to discuss the monthly trends as an effective mechanism, rather than reconvening a separate group to distribute data. The Deanwood community wants to see positive change in their community around employment, crime and housing outcomes, and the numbers provide an opportunity to monitor whether those changes are occurring.

Variables	Year	District of Columbia	East of the River	Ward 7	Deanwood
Demographics					
Population	2000	572,059	139,620	70,555	9,666
% change in population	1990-2000	-5.7	-12.9	-10.8	-18.1
% children under 5	2000	5.7	8.7	7.1	7.8
% children under 18	2000	20.0	31.8	27.5	34.3
% elderly	2000	12.3	10.2	14.0	15.7
Households	2000	248,590	53,618	29,415	3,412
% change in households	1990-2000	-0.2	-8.2	-6.3	-15.4
% married-couple families	2000	8.7	8.4	6.6	4.9
% single-parent families	2000	11.8	25.9	20.8	26.0
% foreign born	2000	12.9	1.7	1.4	0.7
% moved last five years	2000	50.1	43.4	38.4	37.8
Child and Family Health					
Children receiving TANF	2003	32,745	18,432	7,044	1,223
% change in children receiving TANF	1998-2003	-16.5	-15.8	-14.6	-33.2
Child poverty rate	2000	31.7	42.9	37.0	56.0
Total births	2001	7,598	2,416	1022	156
% change in total births	1998-2001	-0.9	-9.7	-5.9	-9.1
Teen births	2001	383	172	84	18
% change in teen births	1998-2001	13.3	16.5	8.7	-3.9
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	2001	10.3	15.7	10.8	12.6
Change in infant mortality rate	1998-2001	-18.0	23.8	-31.2	-57.1
Low-weight births	2001	922	381	170	28
% change in low-weight births	1998-2001	-9.1	-9.9	0.1	-14.6
Births w/adeq. prenatal care	2001	4,056	1,080	440	63
Births w/o prenatal care	2001	1,791	675	288	57

Targeted Neighborhoods Community Conversations

Variables	Year	District of Columbia	East of the River	Ward 7	Deanwood
Children, Youth and Education					
dropout rate (% 16-19 not enrolled)	2000	10.1	13.4	10.8	11.7
% 3-5 year olds in school	2000	83.0	80.0	83.3	74.7
% H.S. dipl. or higher	2000	77.8	68.9	71.1	60.3
% college deg. or higher	2000	39.1	10.5	12.6	9.1
% less than 9th grade	2000	7.8	7.3	7.6	12.8
reading scores, elementary schools, grades 3-5	2002/03	45.0	42.6	44.8	43.1
% change in reading scores between 1997-2003	-0.4	3.7	3.2	25.0	
math scores, elementary schools, grades 3-5	2002/03	49.9	46.3	48.5	48.0
% change in math scores between 1997-2003	7.9	11.2	9.7	34.2	
Neighborhood Economies					
Unemployment Rate	2000	10.8	17.6	13.7	19.8
	1990	7.2	10.5	8.1	12.0
Households on public assistance (TANF)	2003	17,180	9,395	3,674	599
% of households on public assistance	2003	6.9	17.5	12.5	17.6
# vacant commercial properties	2002	859	159	58	13
Poverty Rate	2000	20.2	30.5	24.9	39.1
	1990	16.9	23.6	19.5	36.1
Housing and Community Development					
# housing units	2000	274,845	62,355	33,646	4,366
% of households paying over 35% income for rent	2000	28.1	30.3	30.6	28.8
avg. household rent	2000	695	498	517	365
percent of homeowners	2000	40.8	31.6	40.9	40.5
# building permits	2002	415	285	133	2
Number of home mortgage loans	2002	10,597	1,071	606	87
total amount of home purchase loans (\$1,000's)	2002	2,366,955	116,668	68,855	9,797
# vacant and abandoned residential properties	2002	2,692	1,119	600	110
total public and subsidized housing units	2000	18,954	8,841	4,337	1,297
total public and subsidized housing units	1998	20,512	8,112	3,489	1,460
Number of sales, single-family homes and condominiums	2002	6,296	765	556	82
Median sales price, single-family homes and condominiums (\$)	2002	210,000	98,100	101,169	98,000
Crime and Safety					
# of adult crimes	2000	38,093	7,788	4,343	588
# of adult crimes per 1,000 population	2000	67	56	62	61
% change in adult crimes	1998-2000	-16.1	-15.2	-18.5	-34.0
# violent crimes	2000	8,502	2,640	1,242	185
# of violent crimes per 1,000 population	2000	15	19	18	19

Targeted Neighborhoods Community Conversations

Variables	Year	District of Columbia	East of the River	Ward 7	Deanwood
% change in violent crimes	1998-2000	9.5	6.6	6.8	26.0
# property crimes	2000	29,591	5,148	3,101	403
# of property crimes per 1,000 population	2000	52	37	44	42
% change in property crimes	1998-2000	-17.8	-19.0	-22.4	-37.1
# arrests for prostitution	2000	1,114	342	108	26
% arrests for prostitution	1998-2000	2.0	2.2	1.6	1.9
# of 911 calls for drug activity	2000	17,974	6,257	2,713	582
% of 911 calls for drug activity	2000	2.7	3.5	3.2	4.5

Community Conversation in Marshall Heights

The Marshall Heights area is one of the neighborhoods selected by DC Agenda to focus on in this year's issue scan. The area, as shown in the map extends from Southern Ave in the South to East Capitol Street in the North, Texas Avenue to the West, all the way to Central Avenue to the East.

Child and Family Health

Marshall Heights had a higher child poverty rate at 45% than the city at 32%, and it experienced a 247.1% increase in the infant mortality rate between 1998 and 2000. The other indicators showed this area experiencing a smaller increase in the number of teen births than the rest of the city (4.0% to 13.3%), and a significant decrease in low-weight births in line with the overall decline across the District (-47.8% in Marshall Heights and a -9.1% decline in DC). Residents spoke of wanting better, more affordable health care available to address these trends.

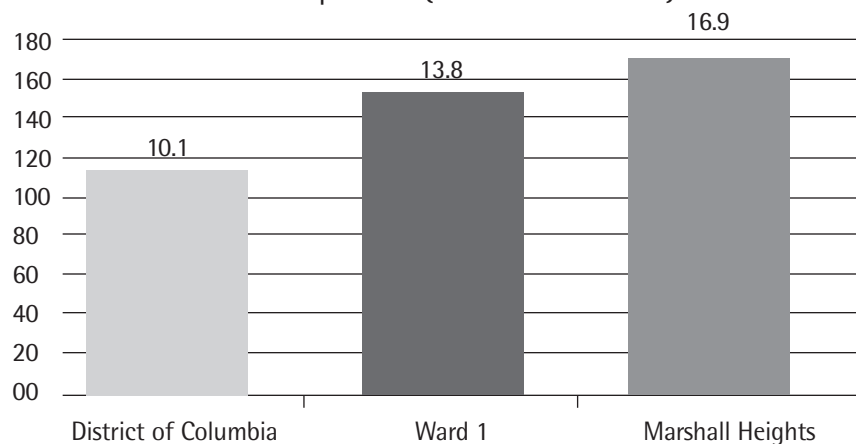
Children, Youth and Education

The number of adolescents that leave school did not surprise the residents of the Marshall Heights area. As this table shows, the Marshall Heights area has an elevated high-school dropout rate of 16.9% compared to the city at 10.1% or Ward 1 at 13.8%. Some residents said that there is not enough school pride and responsibility taken by students to maintain school property, and said that there was insufficient security to prevent the defecation of school property. While others said that learning environments were unattractive and did not warrant school pride.

Residents said that the most pressing needs to youth and education were to have more consistent parental involvement in the education of their children, and to have more out-of-school activities for youth in the evenings and on the weekends. They cited some parents' low literacy skills, as a cause for their lack of involvement in their children's



Table 1: Dropout rate (% 16-19 not enrolled)



education. They would like to see more youth involved in community activities and less involved in crime-related activities. Residents cited the lack of out-of-school activities for youth a reason for the increase in youth committing crimes in Marshall Heights.

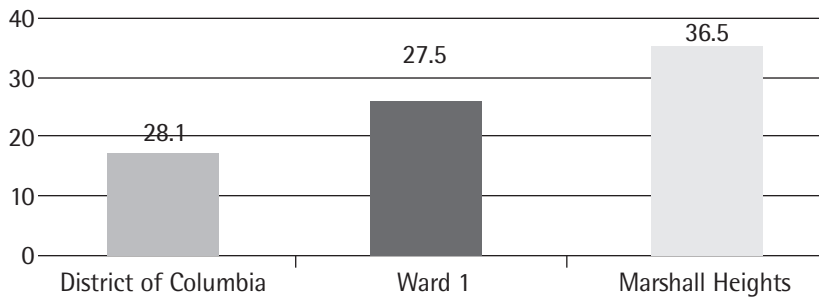
Neighborhood Economies

The residents of Marshall Heights spoke of the difficulties in finding work, and the lack of consistent work is reflected in the relatively high poverty rate in the area at 32.5%. The problem for residents in Marshall Heights has been finding good paying jobs that provide benefits and lift residents out of poverty, and prevent them from being displaced from their property or their neighborhood. The area has an unemployment rate of 18.5%, which is higher than the city, and more importantly it nearly doubled since the 1990s.

Housing and Community Development

Residents in Marshall Heights said increasing property values and lack of sufficient housing for families were the critical housing issues in their community. As this table shows, this area has a higher percentage of residents paying more than 35% of their income toward housing, or an unaffordable housing burden, than the city or Ward 1 at 36.5%.

Table 2: % Paying more than 35% income for housing



The unaffordable housing burden reflects the increase in the area's housing costs. This neighborhood has a home ownership rate of just 25.5%, despite the fact that the median housing sales price for a single family home and condominium is among the lowest in the city, and grew at a much slower rate than the city average, by only 15% from 1998-2002. At the same time, this area lost over half (-68%) of its public and subsidized housing units.

Table 3

	Number of Violent Crimes 2000	Violent Crimes per 1,000 population
District of Columbia	8,502	15
Ward 1	1,260	17
Marshall Heights	141	23

With 101 vacant and abandoned properties as of 2002, residents wanted to see more renovation or, if uninhabitable, the demolition of vacant and abandoned properties as well as new housing construction that focused on lower income residents.

Crime and Safety

The Marshall Heights area has experienced an overall decrease in crime, as it did across the city. But, as noted in the Crime section, this decrease was accompanied by an "emptying out of neighborhood residents," where the crime decreased by 24.7% and the neighborhood lost 27.8% of its population. In the three-year period we measured neighborhood crime (1998-2000), violent crime increased 12.4% in the Marshall Heights area, lower than the 9.5% increase across the city and the 11.6% violent crime increase in Ward 1. Overall, the Marshall Heights area had 141 violent crimes and a violent crime rate of 23 for every 1,000 residents. This rate was higher than the District's violent crime rate of 15 for every 1,000 residents.

When asked for recommendations to change these trends, residents said that there needed to be new effective strategies for getting the community, including the youth, more involved in solving their own problems, because visible and concerned residents would be necessary for any sustainable change. They also said they wanted more quality, responsive police patrolling their communities.

Conclusion

Residents were very eager to discuss the trends they saw in their community, and unhappy with the negative portrayal of Marshall Heights inside and outside of their neighborhood. The trends show higher housing prices, but also troubling developments in crime and educational outcomes. As we continue to monitor changes in Marshall Heights, DC Agenda plans to work with local organizations and residents to help develop new measures of community well being. By bringing data to the residents, it became apparent that there was a strong desire for more current information about their community. Many of the residents wanted to track the population changes within the neighborhood, and see the data disaggregated by race/ethnicity to help determine whether specific populations were facing particular hardships. As we continue this process into 2004, it is clear the residents, local organizations, and local schools of Marshall Heights are eager to engage in a process of developing neighborhood indicators to help monitor socio-economic trends, and to help "change the curve" on the numbers that are going in the wrong direction.

Targeted Neighborhoods Community Conversations

Variables	Year	District of Columbia	East of the River	Ward 7	Marshall Heights
Demographics					
Population	2000	572,059	139,620	70,555	6,028
% change in population	1990-2000	-5.7	-12.9	-10.8	-27.8
% children under 5	2000	5.7	8.7	7.1	8.8
% children under 18	2000	20.0	31.8	27.5	31.0
% elderly	2000	12.3	10.2	14.0	9.6
Households	2000	248,590	53,618	29,415	2,534
% change in households	1990-2000	-0.2	-8.2	-6.3	-22.2
% married-couple families	2000	8.7	8.4	6.6	6.1
% single-parent families	2000	11.8	25.9	20.8	24.3
Child and Family Health					
Children receiving TANF	2003	32,745	18,432	7,044	901
% change in children receiving TANF	1998-2003	-16.5	-15.8	-14.6	-15.1
Child poverty	2000	32%	42.9	37.0	45%
Total births	2000	7,649	2,416	1022	100
% change in total births	1998-2000	-0.9	-9.7	-5.9	-13.6
Teen births	2000	438	172	84	3
% change in teen births	1998-2000	13.3	16.5	8.7	4.0
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	2000	11.8	15.7	10.8	20.0
Change in infant mortality rate	1998-2000	-18.0	23.8	-31.2	247.1
Low-weight births	2000	911	381	170	11
% change in low-weight births	1998-2000	-9.1	-9.9	0.1	-47.8
Births w/adeq. Prenatal care	2000	3,668	1,080	440	39
Births w/o prenatal care	2000	2,039	675	288	32
Children, Youth and Education					
dropout rate (% 16-19 not enrolled)	2000	10.1	13.4	10.8	16.9
% 3-5 year olds in school	2000	83.0	80.0	83.3	69.2
% H.S. dipl. or higher	2000	77.8	68.9	71.1	63.6
% college deg. or higher	2000	39.1	10.5	12.6	4.6
% less than 9th grade	2000	7.8	7.3	7.6	7.1
Neighborhood Economies					
# check cashing est.	2002	107	23	17	
# pawn shops	2002	18	2	1	
# retail banking est.	2003	192	14	7	
unemployment rate	2000	10.8	17.6	13.7	18.5
	1990	7.2	10.5	8.1	9.9

Targeted Neighborhoods Community Conversations

Variables	Year	District of Columbia	East of the River	Ward 7	Marshall Heights
Population in labor force (age 16-64)	2000	138,684	40,418	19,421	1,831
	1990	119,369	36,099	16,951	1,932
Households on public assistance (TANF)	2003	17,180	9,395	3,674	483
	2002	16,937	9,360	3,819	461
	1999	18,254	9,942	3,896	447
# vacant commercial properties	2002	859	159	58	16
% foreign born	2000	12.9	1.7	1.4	1.1
% moved last five years	2000	50.1	43.4	38.4	46.5
% HHs w/financial income	2000	31.4	12.0	14.4	9.2
% poverty	2000	20.2	30.5	24.9	32.5
Housing and Community Development					
# housing units	2000	274,845	62,355	33,646	3,073
% of households paying over 35% income for rent	2000	28.1	30.3	30.6	36.5
median home value	2000	200,595	97,575	108,767	96,467
median household rent	2000	604	479	501	503
percent of homeowners	2000	40.8	31.6	40.9	25.5
# building permits	2002	415	285	133	3
# vacant and abandoned residential properties	2002	2,692	1,119	600	101
total public and subsidized housing units	2000	18,954	8,841	4,337	109
total public and subsidized housing units	1998	20,512	8,112	3,489	341
Crime and Safety					
# of crimes	2000	38,093	7,788	4,343	387
% change in crimes	1998-2000	-16.1	-15.2	-18.5	-24.7
# violent crimes	2000	8,502	2,640	1,242	141
% change in violent crimes	1998-2000	9.5	6.6	6.8	12.4
# property crimes	2000	29,591	5,148	3,101	246
% change in property crimes	1998-2000	-17.8	-19.0	-22.4	-30.3

Community Conversation in Shaw

Shaw is one of the neighborhoods selected by DC Agenda to focus on in this year's Issue Scan, because it is a target area of DC Agenda's Equitable Development Initiative (EDI). EDI seeks to increase the level of resources dedicated to revitalizing communities by creating additional affordable housing to meet the population's needs, and to empower citizens to be a part of the ongoing development and growth of their respective communities.

The area, as shown in the map, extends from Florida Ave and U Street in the north to the City Museum in the south, 15th Street to the west, all the way to North Capitol Street to the east.



Child and Family Health

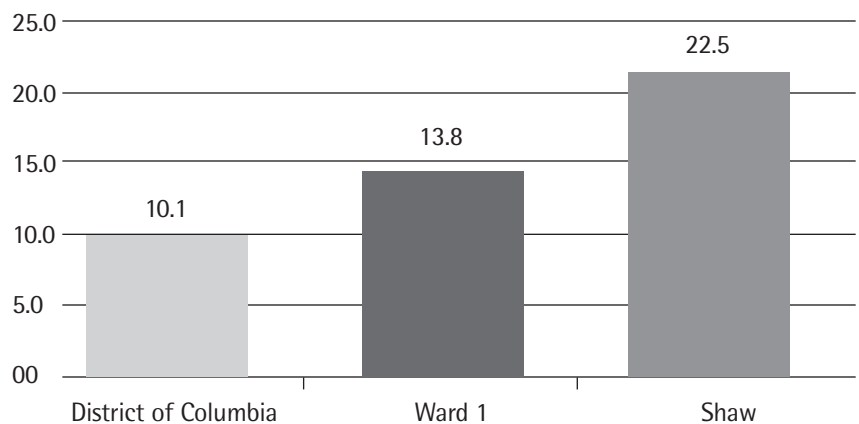
Shaw has a lower child poverty rate than the city (27% to 32%), and it experienced a drop in the infant mortality rate by nearly 61 percent between 1998 and 2001. The other indicators showed this area experiencing a slightly higher increase in the number of teen births than the rest of the city (13.6% to 13.3%), and an increase in low-weight births compared to an overall decline across the District (14.3% in Shaw versus a -9.1% decline in DC). Residents said there was an increase in single-parent families, but the significant drop in infant mortality suggest positive developments being made in the community.

Children, Youth and Education

The number of 16-19 not enrolled in school shocked Shaw residents. As this table shows, Shaw has a high-school dropout rate twice the District rate at 22.5%.

Residents felt that more students were passing through school systems due to social promotion rather than having the needed skills. They strongly encouraged an effort be made to emphasize the role of school (and retention) in creating better job opportunities. They also had practical suggestions, such as linking the museums and other free offerings to the education system, and creating more

Table 1: Dropout rate (% 16-19 not enrolled)



opportunities for adult learners. Ultimately, they wanted to reduce Shaw's drop-out rate by 50% in the next 3-5 years.

Neighborhood Economies

Economic development is occurring in Shaw, but residents were unsure of whether it was helping or hurting the community. Shaw residents believed the

Targeted Neighborhoods Community Conversations

Convention Center and other large scale, publicly funded projects had not yielded sufficient number of jobs to local residents. Shaw has a poverty rate of 25.4%, higher than the city average of 20.2, and a slightly higher unemployment rate.

Despite the higher than average unemployment and poverty rates, the citizens recognized the area had a number of assets for economic development, such as the Green line metro stops. The residents wanted to see more locally owned businesses in Shaw, and expressed a need for increased retail stores. They also discussed how to connect residents to jobs and other skill building resources, and mentioned the need for entrepreneurial education and assistance, more information regarding job training resources.

The residents described a series of positive changes they would like to see in their neighborhood in the next 3-5 Years. They included:

- 50% reduction in unemployment rate
- More banking options
- 50% increase of residents employed in neighborhood
- Increase retail opportunities with positions that provide living-wage and sustainable opportunities
- An increase in resident-owned/—operated businesses
- Mutual assistance for small businesses that could include management, bulk buying
- Decrease liquor stores/used car lots
- Increased access to capital for entrepreneurs

Housing and Community Development

Shaw residents have long been concerned about gentrification in their community. They said the new Convention Center and rehabilitated units in Logan and Columbia Heights have made parts of the neighborhood unaffordable to long-time residents. They also said upper-income residents are moving into new housing developments, creating a domino effect on existing rents and home prices. They believed lower/moderate-income residents could not afford the new property taxes or rents, leaving them with few housing options. Residents proposed "equitably" redeveloping the neighborhood's 122

vacant and abandoned residential properties into low-to-moderate income housing units.

The unaffordable housing burden in Shaw reflects the geographic split in prices and household composition. Higher income residents have moved into the western and northern boundaries of the neighborhood, which encompass the Logan Circle area, and border Dupont Circle and Columbia Heights. These residents have higher incomes than the residents living in the eastern part of the neighborhood and along the 7th Street corridor.

Crime and Safety

Shaw had 204 violent crimes in 2000, giving it one of the highest violent crime rates per 1,000 population in the city. Conversely, property crime fell at a faster rate than the District or the surrounding wards. Residents did not speak directly to the question of crime, but they mentioned increased graffiti and other markers, such as loitering, that suggest gang activity and other potential crime inducers. Many of the issues found in Shaw were similar to the ones found in Columbia Heights/Mt. Pleasant. Namely, since the education system was not motivating youth to stay in school, this led them to drop out, and led them into gangs and crime. Shaw residents did mention the need for more recreational opportunities, and other community strengthening initiatives to help battle the spike in violent crime.

Conclusion

Residents were very eager to discuss the trends they saw in Shaw. The trends show troubling developments in crime and educational outcomes. DC Agenda's work with the Manna Community Development Corporation will continue to focus on developing our Equitable Development Initiative, specifically around affordable housing issues. There was enormous interest in receiving more information and data about Shaw, and DC Agenda plans to continue engaging residents around developing neighborhood indicators to help monitor socio-economic trends that are already changing the face of the Shaw neighborhood.

	Number of Violent Crimes 2000	Violent Crimes per 1,000 population
District of Columbia	8,502	15
East of River	1,260	17
Shaw	204	23

Targeted Neighborhoods Community Conversations

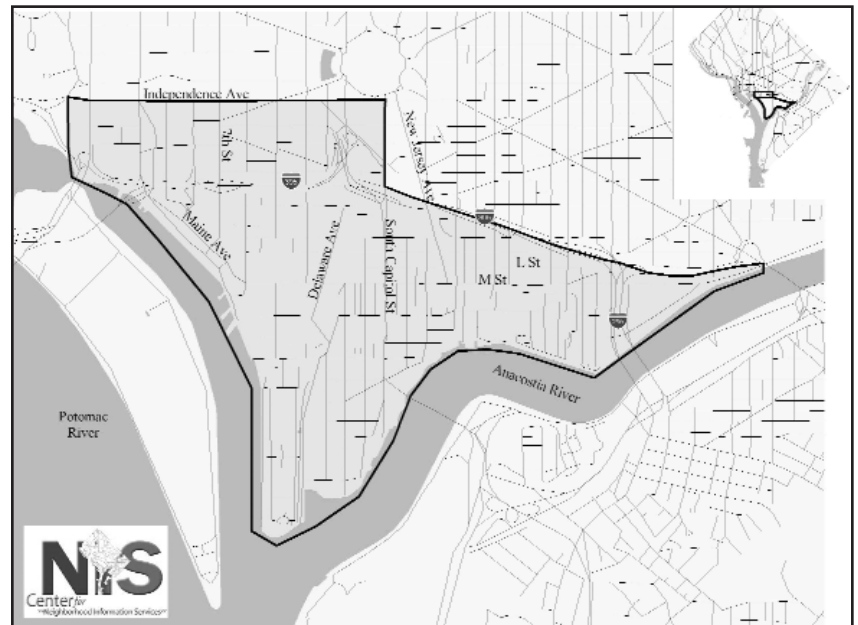
Variables	Year	District of Columbia	Ward 1	Shaw
Demographics				
Population	2000	572,059	72,977	9,028
% change in population	1990-2000	-5.7	1.1	2.4
% children under 5	2000	5.7	5.6	6.4
% children under 18	2000	20.0	17.9	23.7
% elderly	2000	12.3	7.6	9.6
Households	2000	248,590	31,404	3,883
% change in households	1990-2000	-0.2	2.4	10.7
% married-couple families	2000	8.7	8.9	7.8
% single-parent families	2000	11.8	9.9	17.4
% foreign born	2000	12.9	28.7	17.0
% moved last five years	2000	50.1	58.2	47.5
Child and Family Health				
Children receiving TANF	2003	32,745	2,600	568
% change in children receiving TANF	1998-2003	-16.5	-23.7	-26.7
Child poverty rate	2000	31.7	34.6	26.8
Total births	2001	7,598	1,057	160
% change in total births	1998-2001	-0.9	-0.3	28.0
Teen births	2001	383	55	9
% change in teen births	1998-2001	13.3	9.0	13.6
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	2001	10.3	4.3	6.25
Change in infant mortality rate	1998-2001	-18.0	-56.7	-60.9
Low-weight births	2001	922	101	16
% change in low-weight births	1998-2001	-9.1	8.0	14.3
Births w/adeq. prenatal care	2001	4,056	552	88
Births w/o prenatal care	2001	1,791	264	27
Children, Youth and Education				
dropout rate (% 16-19 not enrolled)	2000	10.1	13.8	22.5
% 3-5 year olds in school	2000	83.0	79.3	83.0
% H.S. dipl. or higher	2000	77.8	68.5	65.4
% college deg. or higher	2000	39.1	38.6	19.0
% less than 9th grade	2000	7.8	16.1	13.8
reading scores, elementary schools, grades 3-5	2002/03	45.0	40.8	43.2
% change in reading scores between	1997-2003	-0.4	-9.1	7.9
math scores, elementary schools, grades 3-5	2002/03	49.9	48.9	50.4
% change in math scores between 1997-2003	7.9	0.7	35.1	

Targeted Neighborhoods Community Conversations

Variables	Year	District of Columbia	Ward 1	Shaw
Neighborhood Economies				
Unemployment Rate	2000	10.8	7.5	11.2
	1990	7.2	7.0	12.2
Households on public assistance (TANF)	2003	17,180	1,410	327
% of households on public assistance	2003	6.9	4.5	8.4
# vacant commercial properties	2002	859	124	79
Poverty Rate	2000	20.2	21.9	25.4
	1990	16.9	20.7	27.5
Housing and Community Development				
# housing units	2000	274,845	34,602	4417
% of households paying over 35% income for rent	2000	28.1	27.5	27.5
avg. household rent	2000	695	660	512
percent of homeowners	2000	40.8	28.6	22.2
# building permits	2002	415	13	1
Number of home mortgage loans	2002	10,597	1,711	148
total amount of home purchase loans (\$1,000's)	2002	2,366,955	360,833	30,981
# vacant and abandoned residential properties	2002	2,692	314	122
total public and subsidized housing units	2000	18,954	2,359	648
total public and subsidized housing units	1998	20,512	2,773	360
Number of sales, single-family homes and condominiums	2002	6,296	774	85
Median sales price, single-family homes and condominiums (\$)	2002	210,000	232,250	165,000
Crime and Safety				
# of adult crimes	2000	38,093	5,026	701
# of adult crimes per 1,000 population	2000	67	69	78
% change in adult crimes	1998-2000	-16.1	-19.5	-26.7
# violent crimes	2000	8,502	1,260	204
# of violent crimes per 1,000 population	2000	15	17	23
% change in violent crimes	1998-2000	9.5	11.6	21.8
# property crimes	2000	29,591	3,765	497
# of property crimes per 1,000 population	2000	52	52	55
% change in property crimes	1998-2000	-17.8	-21.9	-28.5
# arrests for prostitution	2000	1,114	53	8
% arrests for prostitution	1998-2000	2.0	0.7	0.5
# of 911 calls for drug activity	2000	17,974	1,950	339
% of 911 calls for drug activity	2000	2.7	2.5	2.5

Community Conversation in Southwest Washington/Navy Yard

The Southwest Washington area consists of Neighborhood Clusters 9 and 27, and is a focus neighborhood of DC Agenda's Equitable Development Initiative. These two areas are quite distinct, as Cluster 9 has a relatively low poverty rate, whereas Cluster 27 has the highest poverty rate in the city at over 50%. As a result, the data reflects both of these distinct areas. The majority of residents we talked to in our community conversation came from the Navy Yard/Near Southeast area (Cluster 27), so more evidence of their concerns are found in Cluster 27 data than in the data presented here. Nevertheless, since our work is taking place in both of these two clusters, DC Agenda selected the entire area as one of the neighborhoods to focus on in this year's Issue Scan. The area, as shown in the map, is bounded on three sides by water with Independence Ave as its northern boundary. I-395 also represents the northern boundary to the east of South Capitol Street.



Child and Family Health

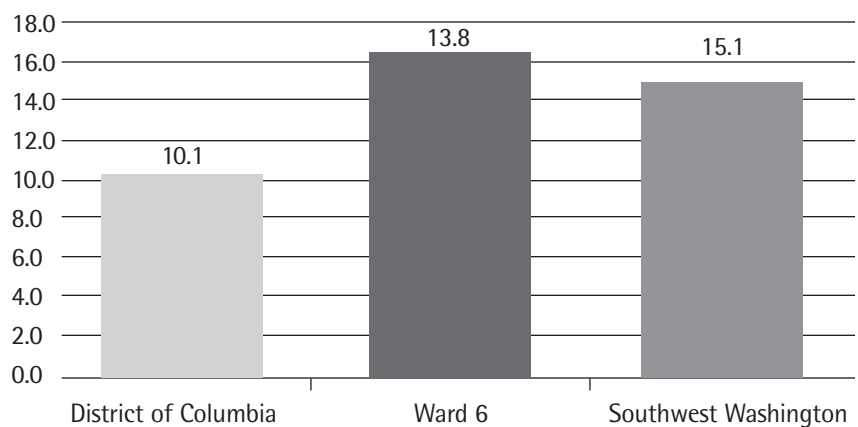
Southwest Washington has more than half of its children in poverty (55%), and has not made progress on a number of key children's health indicators. The infant mortality rate is 29.2, resulting from a 13.1% increase over the 4 year data period (1998-2001). The infant mortality rate is three times higher than the city, and this increase contrasts against the 18% drop across the city. The other indicators showed this area experiencing a smaller increase in the number of teen births than the rest of the city (9.5% to 13.3%), and a considerable drop in low-weight births compared to the District (-34.8% in Southwest Washington versus a -9.1% decline in DC).

Residents spoke of the need for counseling for children. They described a community in which rats and other pests were creating hazards for children, forcing many to stay inside. They also said that substance abuse was a huge problem, and that many residents who have psychological problems were self-medicating with drugs and alcohol.

Children, Youth and Education

Residents discussed the lack of affordable child care in the area as one of the most important issues under Youth and Education. They said that there was not enough money from TANF, forcing the local day

Table 1: Dropout rate (% 16-19 not enrolled)



Targeted Neighborhoods Community Conversations

care center to close, and sending residents to another community to get child care. Youth and Education data also show youth outcomes in Southwest Washington lagging behind the city, while at the same time having a large proportion of residents with higher education. As this table shows, the percentage of 16-19 year olds not in school was roughly 50% higher in the community than the city. This outcome coupled with the relative low number of children 3-4 year olds in school (71.3%) reveal troubling trends for the community's younger residents. At the same time, the number of residents with a college degree or higher was more than 46%, higher than the city average of 39.1%. The area also has a low rate of adults with less than a 9th grade education (5.8%, versus the District rate of 7.8%) than the city. One immediate implication is whether the community can use its highly educated population to help strengthen the education outcomes for its youth.

	2000	1990
District of Columbia	10.8%	7.2%
Ward 6	9.6%	8.2%
Southwest Washington	11.1%	6.9%

Neighborhood Economies

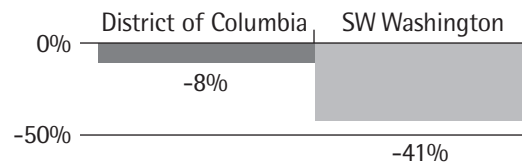
The residents of Southwest Washington spoke of insufficient income for single-female headed households to support children, and the general need for more money and jobs in the community. The area's poverty rate is 28% and unemployment rate is more than 11%, both higher than the city average. But both rates understate the severe poverty and challenges found in Cluster 27. Members of the Community Conversation believed many poor residents were being displaced to PG County, and felt they were having meetings, but seeing no results.

Residents wanted to know, "How is DC Agenda, and this meeting, going to be different from previous meetings; what will be the results?" Much of this skepticism came from a general belief that District government doesn't respond to residents, and that Planners come into neighborhood with promises and nothing comes from them.

Housing and Community Development

Residents in Navy Yard/Southwest Employment were extremely concerned about the Hope VI project in their neighborhood, and the impact that

Table 3: % change in total public and subsidized housing units 1998-2000



would have on rents. They felt many residents had been, or were about to be displaced. The renovated units in the area were unaffordable to residents and many were forced to move elsewhere. As this table shows, the Navy Yard/SW employment area lost 41% of its public and subsidized housing in just three years. Average rent was \$578, but many residents said that was growing. The low rent reflects the large number of subsidized housing that still exists in the area (more than 1,000 units).

Crime and Safety

Residents of SW Washington said there was a great deal of drug activity supported by the residents of Navy Yard, and outsiders from Maryland and Virginia. They said children were out late, riding bikes on the sidewalks, which they felt is both illegal and unsafe.

	Number of Violent Crimes	Violent Crimes per 1,000 population
	2000	
District of Columbia	8,502	15
Ward 6	1,329	20
SW Washington	315	22

They also believed there was no court presence in the community, which coupled with a lack of trust of the police, created an insecure environment.

In the three-year period we measured neighborhood crime (1998-2000), violent crime increased 10.8% in the Southwest Washington, higher than the 9.5% increase across the city. Overall, the Southwest Washington area had 315 violent crimes with a violent crime rate of 22 for every 1,000 residents. This rate was far higher than the District's violent crime rate.

Residents wanted to see an increased police presence in their community. They also spoke of additional challenges, such as the reintegration of

Targeted Neighborhoods Community Conversations

ex-offenders, as critical elements of any strategy to lower the crime rate, and provide additional safety to the area.

Conclusion

Residents had a set of recommendations they thought DC Agenda could help residents in Southwest DC. They were:

1. Get current data to residents in a timely and consistent fashion
2. Use data to promote current programs
3. Work together to get better, more accurate data

Residents were very eager to express frustration with city government, and the concerns they had with the changes that were occurring in their community. It became clear from our community conversation, that the residents in Clusters 9 and 27 wanted to stay engaged in the issues, and to monitor progress in their community. As we enter 2004, DC Agenda plans to not only help shape our Equitable Development Initiative to meet the needs of local residents, but we plan to work with residents to develop a data agenda that can lead to concrete action steps that tackles some of the long-standing issues facing this community and its residents.

Variables	Year	District of Columbia	Ward 6	SW Washington
Demographics				
Population	2000	572,059	68,037	14,253
% change in population	1990-2000	-5.7	-6.2	1.8
% children under 5	2000	5.7	4.9	5.1
% children under 18	2000	20.0	17.3	19.8
% elderly	2000	12.3	11.6	12.7
Households	2000	248,590	32,012	7,921
% change in households	1990-2000	-0.2	7.0	7.9
% married-couple families	2000	8.7	5.5	3.0
% single-parent families	2000	11.8	10.4	12.0
% foreign born	2000	12.9	6.6	8.8
% moved last five years	2000	50.1	52.3	52.1
Child and Family Health				
Children receiving TANF	2003	32,745	4,081	970
% change in children receiving TANF	1998-2003	-16.5	-16.4	-25.8
Child poverty rate	2000	31.7	35.9	55.2
Total births	2001	7,598	814	137
% change in total births	1998-2001	-0.9	-0.3	-11.6
Teen births	2001	383	28	5
% change in teen births	1998-2001	13.3	19.2	9.5
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	2001	10.3	13.6	29.2
Change in infant mortality rate	1998-2001	-18.0	-7.8	13.1
Low-weight births	2001	922	114	15
% change in low-weight births	1998-2001	-9.1	-2.6	-34.8
Births w/adeq. prenatal care	2001	4,056	453	60
Births w/o prenatal care	2001	1,791	197	43

Targeted Neighborhoods Community Conversations

Variables	Year	District of Columbia	Ward 6	SW Washington
Children, Youth and Education				
dropout rate (% 16-19 not enrolled)	2000	10.1	16.3	15.1
% 3-5 year olds in school	2000	83.0	84.5	71.3
% H.S. dipl. or higher	2000	77.8	78.8	79.2
% college deg. or higher	2000	39.1	43.6	46.5
% less than 9th grade	2000	7.8	6.6	5.8
reading scores, elementary schools, grades 3-5	2002/03	45.0	42.6	37.7
% change in reading scores between 1997-2003	-0.4	1.3	-7.5	
math scores, elementary schools, grades 3-5	2002/03	49.9	46.9	40.2
% change in math scores between 1997-2003	7.9	6.7	-12.3	
Neighborhood Economies				
Unemployment Rate	2000	10.8	9.6	11.1
	1990	7.2	8.2	6.9
Households on public assistance (TANF)	2003	17,180	2,160	500
% of households on public assistance	2003	6.9	6.7	6.3
# vacant commercial properties	2002	859	224	45
Poverty Rate	2000	20.2	21.0	28.1
	1990	16.9	18.5	22.1
Housing and Community Development				
# housing units	2000	274,845	35,422	8,596
% of households paying over 35% income for rent	2000	28.1	23.1	24.4
avg. household rent	2000	695	660	578
percent of homeowners	2000	40.8	40.7	31.2
# building permits	2002	415	73	
Number of home mortgage loans	2002	10,597	1743.16921	266
total amount of home purchase loans (\$1,000's)	2002	2,366,955	362,247	39,221
# vacant and abandoned residential properties	2002	2,692	455	30
total public and subsidized housing units	2000	18,954	3,608	1,099
total public and subsidized housing units	1998	20,512	4,471	1,862
Number of sales, single-family homes and condominiums	2002	6,296	1,010	139
Median sales price, single-family homes and condominiums (\$)	2002	210,000	234,250	169,900
Crime and Safety				
# of adult crimes	2000	38,093	6,194	1,461
# of adult crimes per 1,000 population	2000	67	91	103
% change in adult crimes	1998-2000	-16.1	-20.0	-13.3
# violent crimes	2000	8,502	1,329	315
# of violent crimes per 1,000 population	2000	15	20	22

Targeted Neighborhoods Community Conversations

Variables	Year	District of Columbia	Ward 6	SW Washington
% change in violent crimes	1998-2000	9.5	12.4	10.8
# property crimes	2000	29,591	4,865	1,146
# of property crimes per 1,000 population	2000	52	72	80
% change in property crimes	1998-2000	-17.8	-21.8	-14.0
# arrests for prostitution	2000	1,114	88	0
% arrests for prostitution	1998-2000	2.0	1.0	0
# of 911 calls for drug activity	2000	17,974	2,891	505
% of 911 calls for drug activity	2000	2.7	2.7	2.0