

# NEW YORK CITY SOCIAL INDICATORS 2001

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GROWING PROSPERITY, LINGERING INEQUALITY

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## About the Center

The Social Indicators Survey Center (SIS) conducts research on inequality and survey methodology. Our mission is to provide unique data sources for the analysis of social problems, to provide teaching resources for Columbia University students and to provide useful knowledge to social service administrators, planners, and policy makers in New York City and elsewhere.

The SIS center conducts three innovative studies: The New York City Social Indicators Survey, on which this report is based, is one of the core research activities of the SIS center. It is a barometer of the quality of life in New York City and is intended to serve as a research and training tool. The 1997, 1999, and 2002 data are publicly available upon request. The fourth wave of data collection is scheduled for Fall of 2004.

The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing study, also called the Survey of New Parents, is a collaborative research effort with the Center for Research on Child Wellbeing at Princeton University. This study follows a cohort of new babies and their mostly unwed parents. It is designed to provide new information on the capabilities and relationships of unwed parents and the effects of policies on family formation and child wellbeing.

The Survey of Adults and Youth, a collaboration with researchers at New York University and Princeton University, monitors trends in youths' access to parental and community resources. The survey includes interviews with adults and youth and provides information on the salience of youth issues, trust in local government, civic involvement, parent-child relationships, involvement in after-school activities, and outcomes such as health, educational expectations and school achievement.

The Social Indicators Survey Center is housed within the Columbia University School of Social Work, the oldest school of social work in the country, which celebrated its 100-year anniversary in 1998. Since its inception, the School of Social Work has provided leadership in social work research and education. The school has 45 full time faculty members and graduates approximately 380 M.S.W. and Ph.D. students each year.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The New York City Social Indicators Survey (NYSIS) is designed to measure the overall well-being of New York City residents, that is, to take the “social temperature” of the City. In 2002, the Social Indicators Survey Center entered the field for the third wave of data collection. As with the first two waves of data collection in 1997 and 1999, a representative sample of New York City families were surveyed for their perceptions of life in the City and indicators of their economic and social well-being.

Not only did the City suffer from the economic downturn that hit the nation in early 2001, but it also directly experienced the devastation of the September 11<sup>th</sup> World Trade Center attack. In light of such dramatic changes, the New York Social Indicators provides a unique tool with which to track the consequences of changing economic conditions and public policies, as well as the impact of the 9/11 attack, on well-being and inequality in the City across a range of social indicators.

The 2002 report indicates that:

- ✍ Overall, life in the City continued to improve. Most New York adults and children were in good health. On other indicators of well-being – economic living conditions, satisfaction with life in the City, and social conditions such as safety – circumstances for most New Yorkers improved from 1999 to 2002. Perceptions of the City as a place to live also improved during this period.
- ✍ While life improved for many, the increase in well-being was far from universal. Disparities in human and financial assets remain wide across sub-populations and across boroughs. Adults living in the Bronx tend to be the least healthy, least educated, and least wealthy New Yorkers whereas Staten Island residents are generally the healthiest, best educated, and wealthiest of New Yorkers. Immigrants, families with children, and poor families, have fewer assets, poorer living conditions, and are less satisfied with the City and its services than New Yorkers as a whole. Differences in the human and financial assets of different racial and ethnic groups are substantial.
- ✍ Differences in well-being also exist among immigrant subpopulations. Latin American immigrants, who make up the majority of the foreign-born population in New York City, are significantly worse off than those from other regions. Those born in Mexico and the Dominican Republic are the most impoverished and experience the harshest living conditions. African, European, and Asian immigrants face disadvantages as well, but to a lesser extent than those from Latin America.
- ✍ The 2002 data, which were collected just six months after the World Trade Center attack, reveal high levels of adverse physical, emotional and economic responses to 9/11. A sizeable minority reported that they or a family member had lost work as a result of 9/11, and many reported new health problems, particularly in terms of mental health. Children were also greatly impacted by 9/11. For example, 30% of parents reported that their child was afraid the parent might go away and not come back as a result of 9/11.

In sum, the 2002 New York City Social Indicators paint a positive picture of the City’s overall health despite the 9/11 attacks and the recent economic downturn. Such findings, however, cannot be seen as a proclamation that all is good for New Yorkers. Hardship remains for many, particularly among vulnerable populations.

### *Description of the Survey*

The New York Social Indicators Survey (NYSIS) is a biennial survey of New York City residents. The core survey is designed to document individual and family well-being across multiple domains: human, financial, and social assets; economic and social living conditions; and perceptions of the City and its services. The survey also measures the sources and extent of external supports from government, family and friends, community and religious programs, and employers.

The survey is conducted every other year by telephone with a representative sample of 1500 families from the five boroughs of the City. Survey respondents include adults born in nearly 100 different countries. Data have been collected in 1997, 1999-2000 and 2002. All three waves were conducted in English and Spanish, and the third wave was also conducted in Mandarin, Cantonese and Korean.

The NYSIS survey is adaptive. Core elements of the survey remain identical from year to year to allow comparability over time and a portion of each survey wave is reserved for additional topics that are deemed important and timely. In the third wave, questions on reactions to the attack on the World Trade Center were included.

The 2002 SIS survey was conducted between March and June, 2002. In total, 1501 adults were interviewed. Interviews lasted an average of 24 minutes for families without children and 34 minutes for families with children. In order to adjust for sampling design and minor discrepancies in sample composition, the data were weighted to 2000 Census data. Appendix 1 contains information on weighting procedures and response rates.

## INTRODUCTION

The New York City Social Indicators Survey (NYSIS) is designed to assess well-being of City residents. Every two to three years, we contact a representative sample of New York City families to collect data on their perceptions of life in the City and indicators of their economic and social well-being.

In our first report, “New York City Social Indicators: A Tale of Many Cities” we described a rich tapestry of diversity in economic and social well-being. In the second report, we examined how the conditions of New Yorkers changed from 1997 to 1999, a period of strong economic performance and significant policy changes. We found that life improved in many dimensions but disparities between the “haves” and the “have-nots” in the City remained wide or even grew in this period.

In this report, we use data collected in 2002 as well as the data collected in 1997 and 1999-2000 to examine New Yorkers’ socioeconomic well-being and how it has changed over time. The social and economic context changed immensely since the previous report: the City not only experienced the economic downturn in early 2001, as did the rest of the nation, but it also experienced, directly, the World Trade Center attack.

### *The Structure of the Report*

The first two sections of the report describe the well-being of New Yorkers in 2002 across three domains, for the population in general and for various subpopulations:

**Assets** are the 1) Human, 2) Financial and 3) Social resources that individuals and families accumulate starting in childhood. These constitute not only present wealth but also resources that can be garnered for the generation of future wealth and income.

**Living conditions** refer to the immediate life circumstances of individuals and families. These include 1) Economic conditions and 2) Social conditions.

**Satisfaction with the City and Services** provides a global measure of how New Yorkers experience the City and some of its services.

The second section describes trends in New Yorkers’ well-being between 1997 and 2002. The section begins with a report of the ill-effects of the World Trade Center attacks of September 11, 2001 on adults and children. Changes in well-being between 1997, 1999 and 2001/2002 across each of the three domains are also described.

The final section provides a more detailed description of characteristics and well-being of New York City’s immigrant population.

## 1. NEW YORKERS' WELL-BEING IN 2002

### *1.1. Individual and Family Assets*

Table 1 presents indicators of adult and child human, financial, and social assets. The indicators are presented for the City as a whole and separately by borough. In this section, we discuss only the citywide figures. In section 4 we discuss variations by borough.

#### *Human Assets:*

Health and education are important components of quality of life in the short term and key ingredients in social and financial well-being over the life course. The two indicators of adult health are whether the respondent reports very good or excellent health and has no work limiting disability. Similarly for children, we report the proportion of parents who rate their child's health as very good or excellent and the proportion who report their child has no activity limiting disability. In addition, for children we report a number of indicators of child mental health, including the proportion of parents who report their child often has troubles concentrating and getting along with others and the proportions who report their child is often sad or depressed, nervous or tense, and acts young for his/her age. Finally, we report the proportion of children who had at least one of these problems.

There are two indicators of adult education—the proportions who have high school and college degrees. For children we look at four indicators: the proportions who have D's and F's, repeated a grade, skipped school, and have been suspended from school.

Most New York adults are in good health and are fairly well educated. Nearly 80% report good to excellent health and 84% have at least a high school education, although only a minority of adults (27%) have college degrees. On the other hand, large minorities are in only poor to fair health (22%), have a work limiting disability (15%), and lack a high school degree (16%). On the whole, the health of New Yorkers is comparable to the nation as whole, while education is slightly higher.

Most children also fare relatively well in terms of their health and education. Ninety-three percent are in good to excellent health and few exhibit signs of poor mental health and development. Most are not experiencing substantial problems at school. On the other hand, not shown in Table 1 is the fact that our health and education indicators for children deteriorate as they age. By age 15-18, the proportion of children in only poor to fair health is 10%. Similarly, by age 15-18, 23% of children have received bad grades and 20% have repeated a grade.

#### *Financial Assets:*

Financial assets are also very important factors in both short- and longer-term well-being. The most comprehensive measure of financial assets is net worth. Home equity is the most common source of wealth for most households.

The indicators reveal that a large minority (24%) of New Yorkers has \$100,000 or more wealth and an even larger minority has no or very few financial assets. One third of New Yorkers have zero or negative net worth – that is, their debt is equal to or greater than all of their assets combined. In addition, only one third of New Yorkers own their own home, which is substantially less than the national rate of roughly 68%.<sup>1</sup>

#### *Social Assets:*

Social assets are the resources available through kith, kin and community networks. Ability to borrow from family and friends provides one indicator of the richness of these resources. Children have access to social assets mostly from their parents. We report four indicators of child social assets: proportions of parents who regularly either read to their children or help them with their homework, eat with their children, and know where their children are most or all of the time.

Two-thirds of New Yorkers claim that they could rely on family or friends if they needed to borrow \$1000.

While some adults do not benefit from adequate social supports, most New York City children fare well in this respect – at least when one considers the support they get from their parents. Nearly all parents know where their child is most or all of the time (95%) and eat dinner with their children at least 3 times per week (93%). The proportions of parents with young children who read to them (82%) and parents with older children who help them with their homework (77%) are somewhat lower.

### ***1.2. Living Conditions***

Table 2 presents data on the living conditions of New Yorkers and their satisfaction with the City. As with Table 1, the data are presented for the City as a whole and by borough. In this section we focus on the citywide figures.

#### *Economic Living Conditions:*

Income and income relative to family size are the two most widely-used measures of economic well-being. The US poverty threshold provides a common metric by comparing a family's cash income to an inflation-adjusted minimum income based on family size. Our poverty indicator differs in two offsetting respects from the US official definition: First, only the income of respondents and their partners is counted (not that of other family members); Second, the poverty line calculations for this report is 25% higher than the official level. Economic living conditions are also assessed by the mean income of respondents and their partners and by material hardship measures.

The indicators of economic living conditions reveal that though most New Yorker families are doing well, a sizeable minority suffered from at least some forms of hardship. One third have income below 125% of the poverty threshold, over one quarter live in poor quality housing, and eight percent experience hunger.

### *Social Conditions:*

Safety is essential for a good quality life. Safety can be measured both objectively (e.g. whether a person was a victim of a crime) and subjectively (e.g. perception of neighborhood and school safety). Both are important indicators of well-being.

Despite substantial drops in violent offenses over the past decade, for a non-trivial minority, crime in the City remains a problem. Seven percent of adults reported that they or a family member had been the victim of a crime in the last year and much larger proportions of adults (19%) consider their neighborhood unsafe and their children's schools (14%) unsafe.

### **1.3. Satisfaction with the City and its Services**

Generally, New Yorkers are satisfied with life in the City. Eighty percent gave New York a positive rating as a place to live, and about three quarters did so for their own neighborhood.

In terms of City services, satisfaction is less universal. Nearly one third of adults report that police protection in the City is only fair or poor and 41% report that public schools are not good.

## **2. VARIATION IN WELL-BEING ACROSS SUB-POPULATIONS**

In this section, we examine the various social indicators across specific subpopulations. We focus on differences across boroughs and look at particularly vulnerable populations, including racial/ethnic minorities, foreign-born residents, families with children, and poor families. Many indicators are similar across these populations. We bring attention only to areas in which some groups appear to be particularly disadvantaged. The discussion of borough is based upon Tables 1 and 2. The discussion of vulnerable populations is based upon Tables 3 and 4, with key findings illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

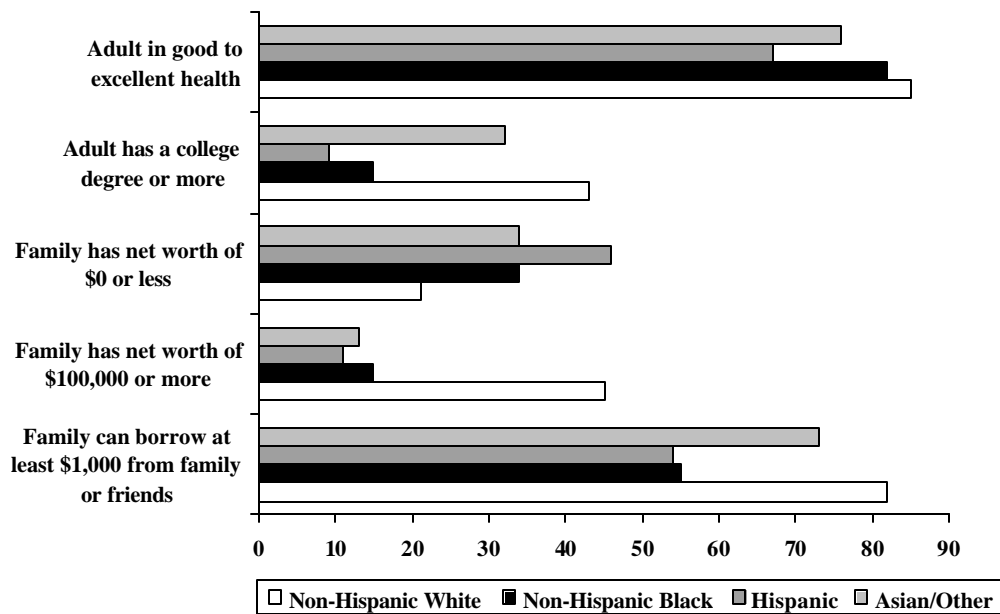
### **2.1. Human, Financial and Social Assets**

Human and financial assets vary significantly by borough. Adults living in the Bronx tend to be the least healthy, least educated, and least wealthy New Yorkers whereas Staten Island residents are generally the healthiest, best educated, and wealthiest of New Yorkers. One notable exception is that Manhattan has the highest proportion with college degrees—45%. Although the distribution of children's well-being across boroughs generally reflects the distribution of adult well-being, there is more variation and inconsistency amongst the child indicators than amongst the adult indicators. Because the SIS sample sizes for children are much smaller than those for adults, the margin of error for our child indicators is larger.

As depicted in Tables 3 and 4, immigrants, families with children, and poor families, have fewer assets, poorer living conditions, and are less satisfied with the City and its services than New Yorkers as a whole. Amongst these groups, not surprisingly, the

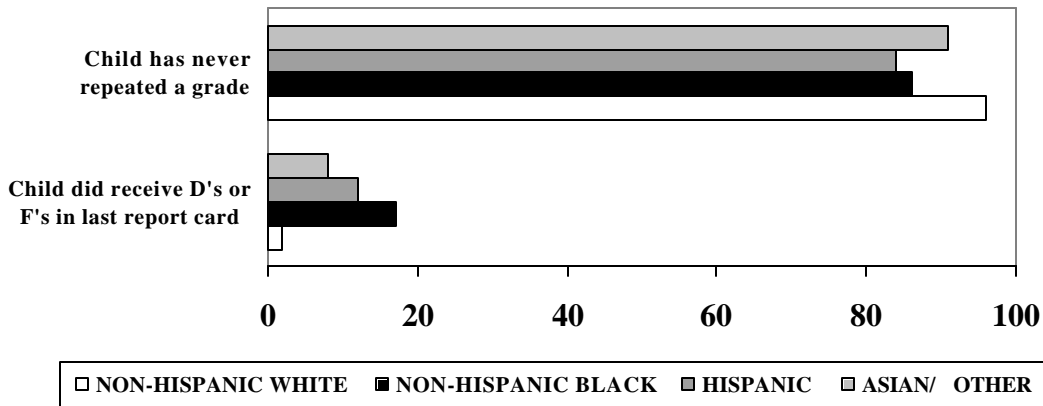
differences between the poor and average New Yorkers are largest. Differences between immigrants and the native born are discussed in a separate section below. What stands out in these tables, however, are the substantial differences in the assets of different racial/ethnic groups. As illustrated in Figure 1 below, white, non-Hispanic adults have the most assets and Hispanics the least. The largest difference is in educational attainment, where non-Hispanic whites are nearly five times as likely as Hispanics to have a college degree. While blacks are nearly as disadvantaged as Hispanics with respect to education, they are much healthier. Indeed the proportion of blacks in very good to excellent health is nearly as high as the non-Hispanic white proportion. Racial and ethnic minorities are much less likely than whites to be able to borrow money from friends and relatives.

**Figure 1: Human and Financial Assets by Race**



Racial/ethnic disparities in adult human assets are being transmitted to the children. As depicted in Figure 2 below, compared to non-Hispanic whites, blacks are nearly eight times more likely, and Hispanics are six times more likely, to report that their child received a D or an F on their last report card. Hispanic and black children are also more likely to have repeated a grade than whites.

**Figure 2: Child Indicators by Race**



**2.2. Living Conditions**

Poverty and extreme hardship are more pronounced in certain communities of the City. As was the case for assets, generally, residents of Staten Island have the highest incomes and experience the least poverty and hardship, while those in the Bronx have the lowest mean incomes and experience the most poverty and hardship. Indicators of income, poverty, and hardship also vary widely across immigration groups and racial/ethnic lines in ways that parallel variation in assets, with one notable exception: Asians are nearly as likely as Hispanics to live in poor quality housing.

**2.3. Satisfaction With the City and Its Services**

Overall satisfaction with New York City and its public services also varies by borough. Staten Island adults rate the City highest, and Bronx residents rate the City lowest.

Satisfaction with schools, the police, neighborhoods, and the City overall is considerably higher for non-Hispanic whites. For example, 90% of non-Hispanic whites rate New York as a good or very good place, compared to approximately three quarters among all other subgroups.

**3. CHANGES IN WELL-BEING IN NEW YORK CITY—1997 TO 2002**

Between 1997 when we first began measuring the well-being of New York City residents and 2001/2002 when we last measured their well-being, much has changed. Crime rates, following and indeed somewhat exceeding a national trend, declined between 1997<sup>2</sup> and 2002<sup>3</sup> by 36%. From 1997 through January, 2001, as the longest economic boom in American history finally took hold in the City, unemployment declined steadily from 10.1 to 5.7%<sup>4</sup>. By Spring of 2002 employment and unemployment rates had reached levels very similar to those in 1999. In fact, by the time wave 3 interviews were conducted, employment had dipped slightly below the levels seen during wave 2 interviews. All else being equal, we would therefore expect New Yorkers to be faring

similarly in 2002 as in 1999. Of course, not all else was equal. On September 11, 2001, the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center took the lives of 2,819 in New York City. The attack also resulted in economic losses to the city of an estimated \$82 to \$95 billion.<sup>5, 6, 7</sup> Given the salience of the 9/11 attack and its proximity to our interviews in Spring 2002, we begin our discussion of changes over time with a brief discussion of the effects of 9/11 on the well-being of New Yorkers.

### ***3.1. The Effects of the 9/11 WTC Attacks***

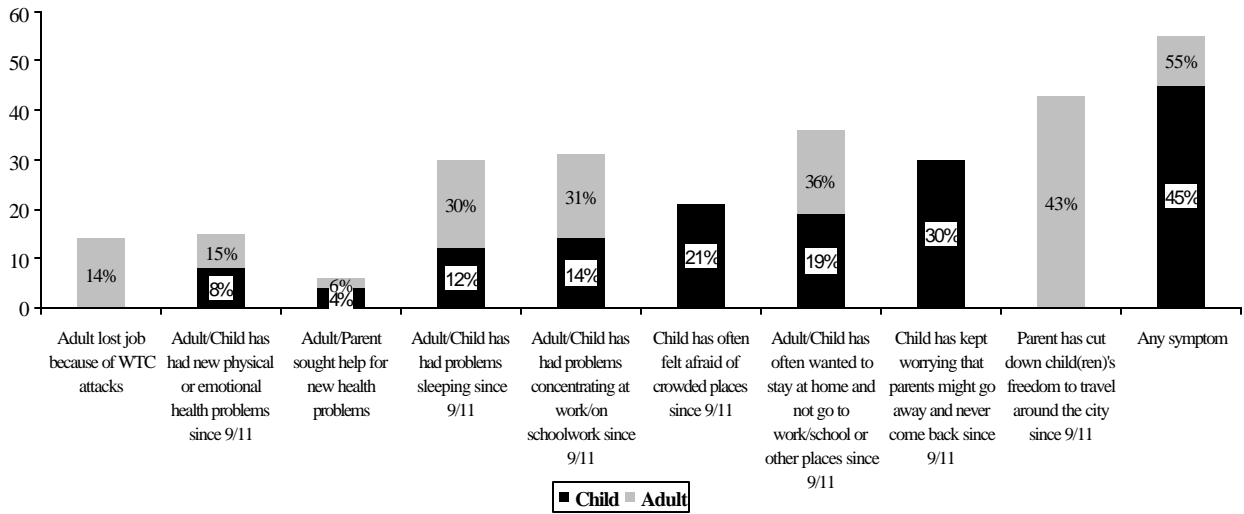
Specific questions about the impact of 9/11 on people's lives were added to the third wave of the NYSIS, which was fielded approximately six months after September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Respondents were asked about job loss, physical and mental health, and feelings of safety after 9/11. This section describes the survey findings based on these questions. A more in-depth analysis of these data can be found in Garfinkel et al. 2004<sup>8</sup>.

As depicted in Figure 3, the third wave of the NYSIS study reveals high levels of adverse physical, emotional and economic reactions to the World Trade Center attacks. A sizeable minority of respondents - 14% - reported that they or a family member had lost work as a result of 9/11. Fifteen percent of adults reported new health problems, including problems trying to sleep, depression, anxiety, fear, headaches, stomach aches, breathing, cough, skin problems, allergies, emotional problems, problems eating and stress. About one third sought help for these problems.

Much larger percentages of respondents reported specific symptoms of anxiety and mental health problems when asked about them directly. Nearly one third reported sleeping poorly and having problems concentrating at work. The 9/11 attack clearly changed many people's sense of security as well—36% of adults report that they preferred to stay at home and not go to work or other places and 43% of parents cut back on their children's freedom to travel around the City. Slightly over half (55%) of the adults interviewed reported having experienced at least one of these health problems since 9/11.

Eight percent of adults with children reported their child had a new health problem attributable to 9/11 and half sought help. Parents also reported higher proportions of children with negative symptoms when asked directly about them. Twelve percent reported that their child had trouble sleeping as a result of 9/11 and 14% said their child had problems concentrating as a result of the attacks. Seventeen percent of children were afraid in crowded places and 19% often wanted to stay at home and not go to school or other places without a parent. Most striking, 30% of parents reported that their child was afraid the parent might go away and not come back. In all, 45% of parents reported that their child experienced at least one of these outcomes

**Figure 3: Effects of the WTC Attacks on Adults and Children**



The overall prevalence rates of problems related to 9/11, reported above, do not capture variation across subgroups. Some populations were more strongly affected by the attacks of 9/11 than others. In general, already vulnerable populations—the least educated, the disabled, Hispanics, to some extent immigrants, and to a very limited extent blacks—experienced more mental health symptoms. Muslims were the most adversely affected group. The children of vulnerable adults were also more likely to have been affected, as well as early adolescents. Two exceptions are the relative invulnerability of adults over age 60 and the vulnerability of children in high income families.

**3.2. Changes over Time in Assets, Living Conditions, and Satisfaction**

Table 5 shows the assets of New Yorker adults and children and Table 6 shows the living conditions and satisfaction with the City and its services in 1997, 1999/2000, and 2001/2002. In addition to the levels in each year, both tables present the percentage point changes between the years and report whether the changes over time are statistically significant.

*Adult & Child Assets*

Consistent with research that indicates health gets worse in boom times (Ruhm, 2000 and 2003<sup>9</sup>), the proportion of adults reporting good to excellent health decreased between 1997 and 1999, then increased in 2002. Adult education does not differ significantly across the years.

Child health and school performance did not change a great deal over the three waves of the survey. Though two indicators of mental health indicate non-trivial improvements between 1999 and 2002: Difficulty concentrating increased by three percentage points after decreasing by one percentage point between 1997 and 1999 and acting young for one’s age increased by five percentage points.<sup>10</sup>

Adult measures of family financial and social assets increased somewhat over the three waves of the survey. The percent of families with negative or zero net worth dropped by five points between 1999 and 2002. Between 1997 and 2002 the percent of families that could borrow at least \$1000 from friends or family in a time of need increased by six points.

More troubling were the changes in social assets that children experienced. Parents reporting that they read regularly to their child dropped 12 points, from 94% in 1997 to 82% in 2002. Parents were also less likely to help children with their homework.

#### *Changes in Living Conditions*

Two significant indicators of living conditions improved over the period. The real incomes of adult respondents rose consistently each year from \$35,000 in 1997 to \$42,000 in 2002.

Two of the three safety indicators showed improvement. Crime rates decreased from 10% in 1997 to 7% in 1999 and remained at that level in 2002. The proportion of adults who consider their neighborhoods unsafe decreased from 23% in 1997 and 1999 to 19% in 2002. On the other hand, the proportion of adults who consider their child's school unsafe decreased between 1997 and 1999 from 12% to 9% and then increased in 2002 to 14%.

#### *Changes in Perceptions of the City*

There has been a surge of positive feeling about the City since the first SIS wave. While residents' ratings of their own neighborhood have changed little over the three waves, their ratings of New York City as a good place to live have climbed from 60% in 1997 to 71% in 1999, and then to 80% in 2002. Although only 59% of New Yorkers rate public schools as good or very good, the proportion with such positive ratings in 1997 was only 52%.

#### *Summary*

Despite the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center, on the whole New Yorkers report being somewhat better off in 2002 than they were in 1997 or 1999. The NYSIS indicates that the negative effects of 9/11 occurred in the context of a city undergoing many positive changes. The long period of economic growth and prosperity and declining crime immediately preceding 2001 significantly improved the living conditions of many New Yorkers. The overall positive effects of these improvements appear to have largely offset the negative impact of 9/11 on many indicators of well-being.

Indeed, as we conclude in our more detailed analysis of the 9/11 attacks, "one could characterize the entire population of New York as having been particularly resilient at the time of the attack because of a general sense that the City was on an upward trajectory. In fact, the attack may well have brought the City closer together, fostered a greater sense of community, a more positive view of city institutions, and, generally, greater satisfaction about being part of the City. In other words, despite having a clear negative impact on mental health, the attacks may also have had *positive* effects on other indicators of well-being."

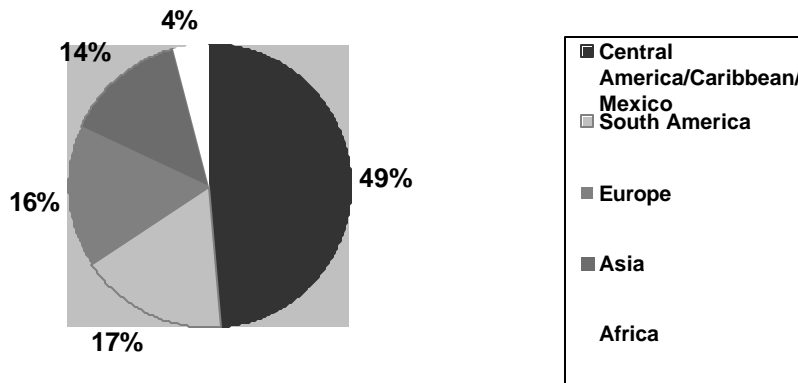
## 4. IMMIGRANTS IN NEW YORK CITY

### 4.1. *The Immigrant Population*

New York City serves as a major gateway to the US for immigrants. The immigrant population of the City is large and diverse. Approximately 40%<sup>11</sup> of SIS respondents were born outside the United States. As the pie chart in Figure 4 below illustrates, nearly one half of immigrants in the SIS sample are from Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean and nearly another fifth (17%) are from South America. Smaller proportions (16% and 14%) respectively are from Europe and Asia. The smallest proportion (4%) is from Africa. More than one third (38%) have been in the US for 21 years or more and 14% are recent immigrants (have been in the US for 5 years or less).

The pie chart and all analyses in this section utilize data from all three waves of the SIS and therefore represent the average level of well-being of each group over the years 1997 to 2002.

**Figure 4: Immigrant Population by Continent**



### 4.2 *Immigrant Well-being*

As noted earlier and documented in Tables 5 and 6, the foreign-born population in New York City is more disadvantaged than the US-born population. Furthermore, and not surprisingly, the level of disadvantage varies by length of stay in the US. On almost all adult indicators, immigrants that have been in the US longer fare better than recent immigrants. See Tables 7 and 8.

Tables 9, 10, 11, and 12 indicate that the level of disadvantage also varies by region of origin. Immigrants from Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean are the worst off, and within this group Mexicans face the most extreme hardships. African immigrants are better off than other groups on many measures of well-being, although they also have the

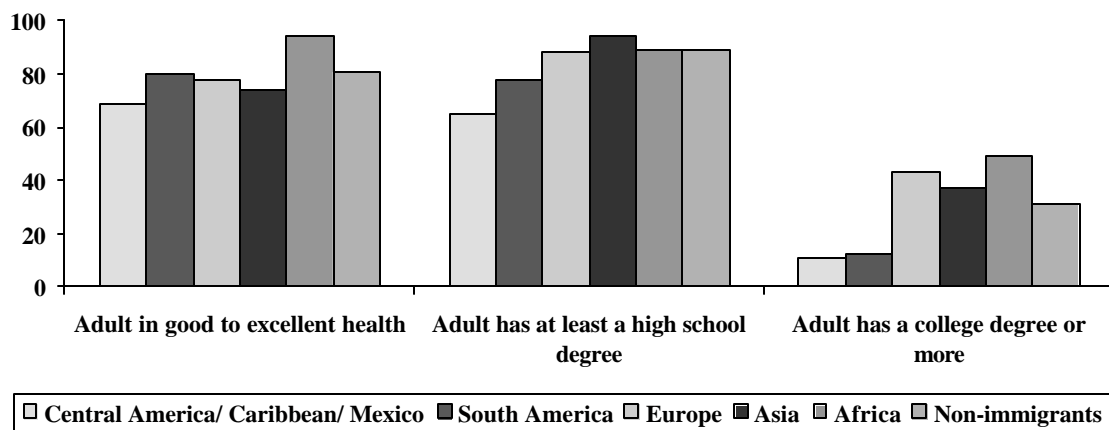
longest average residency in the United States, which probably contributes to their higher rates of well-being.

### 4.3 Assets

#### *Health and Education*

As illustrated in Figure 5 below, in general, adult immigrants face health and education disparities in comparison to non-immigrants. Immigrants overall are somewhat less likely to report good health, although Africans as a subgroup have excellent health. Foreign-born respondents have much lower rates of high school and college completion than those born in the United States. However, this reflects sizable differences among immigrant subgroups. Respondents born in Africa, Asia, and Europe have similar rates of high school completion to non-immigrants, and actually are much more likely to have a college degree. Conversely, those born in the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America have very low educational attainment, with considerable variation within these groups. African immigrants have notably high health and education levels. Indeed, African immigrants are healthier and more educated than the native born.

**Figure 5: Immigrant Health and Education by Region of Origin**



Although Table 7 indicates there is virtually no difference between the proportions of immigrant and non-immigrant children who receive D's and F's over the whole period, in 2002 children of foreign-born adults were almost twice as likely as children of US-born adults to receive D's or F's in school. Among immigrants, children whose parents have been in the US longer than 5 years are more likely to have been suspended from school or to receive bad grades. Indicators of mental health are not significantly different for immigrants compared to non-immigrants, but there are some notable differences within the immigrant group. Children from the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South American, and African parents are more likely to have difficulty concentrating at school, and children from South American and Asia are more likely to have trouble getting along with other children (although only 6% report this).

### *Financial and Social Assets*

Immigrants have fewer financial and social assets than non-immigrants. They are more likely than non-immigrants (41% vs 33%) to have a net worth of \$0 or less. Foreign-born respondents are also less likely to own a home and to be able to borrow at least \$1,000 from family or friends.

Immigrants that have been in the US for longer periods of time have larger financial assets. Those who have been in the US for 21 years or more are three times more likely than recent immigrants to own a home and twice as likely to have net worth of \$100,000 or more (reaching rates similar to non-immigrants).

Asset holdings vary considerably by region of origin. European and Asian immigrants are slightly more likely than the US-born to face debt, while those from Latin America are much more likely to do so. European immigrants are more likely than other subgroups to have a large net wealth and own a home.

### ***4.4. Living Conditions***

Immigrants have, on average, less income than non-immigrants--\$31,836 as compared to \$46,360. Not surprisingly, they are more likely to experience hardships such as hunger and failure to pay the utility bills on time. Long-residency immigrants generally have higher income than recent immigrants. However, even those that have been in the US for 21 years or more earn nearly \$12,000 less than non-immigrants.

There is considerable variation in living conditions among immigrants from different regions. Immigrants from Latin America are worst off overall, and have an average income that is lower than those from other regions. They are most likely to live in poverty and experience hunger, and they are least likely to live in a safe neighborhood. Within this group, immigrants from Mexico and the Dominican Republic have particularly low incomes and are most likely to suffer hunger. Although Asian immigrants are generally better off than those from Latin America, they are much more likely to live in poor quality, overcrowded housing. African and European immigrants overall have better living conditions than other immigrant groups, although they are still worse off than non-immigrants.

Immigrants are 32% less likely than the US-born to have health insurance. Lack of health insurance is most prevalent among immigrants from Latin America: about half reported having health insurance for all family members, compared to 81% of non-immigrants.

### ***4.5. Satisfaction with the City and Its Services***

Immigrants are somewhat less satisfied with the City and its services than non-immigrants, but the differences are not very large. Recent immigrants are more likely to

be satisfied with the City and with their own neighborhoods than immigrants that have been in the US longer.

#### ***4.6. Summary***

New York City's immigrant population is complex and diverse. Overall inequality in the well-being of foreign- and US-born New Yorkers masks significant differences between immigrant subpopulations. Central American, Caribbean and Mexican immigrants, who make up 65% of the foreign-born population, are significantly worse off than those from other regions. Within this group, those born in Mexico and the Dominican Republic are the most impoverished and experience the harshest living conditions. African, European, and Asian immigrants face disadvantages as well, but to a lesser extent than those from Central America.

### **5. CONCLUSION**

Overall, the City's health in 2002 was good. The mental health of New Yorkers suffered from the tragic September 11<sup>th</sup> event but on other indicators, living conditions were improving. This is probably due to the steady decline in crime rates, which most likely improved feelings of safety in the City, and to the beneficial effects of economic expansion. Even though the economy was in a downswing when the third wave of SIS was in the field, the City was still experiencing lasting effects of the economic expansion of the 90s.

The positive diagnosis of the City's health in general should not, however, be seen as a proclamation that all is good for all New Yorkers. Hardship remains for some, particularly among vulnerable populations.

**TABLE 1. NEW YORK CITY SOCIAL INDICATORS BY TOTAL, BOROUGH:  
ADULT AND CHILD HUMAN, FINANCIAL, AND SOCIAL ASSETS 2002**

	TOTAL	BRONX	BROOKLYN	MANHATTAN	QUEENS	STATEN ISLAND
Unweighted N	1,501	283	452	255	424	87
<b>Human Assets</b>						
Adult in very good to excellent health	78	78	78	76	79	83
Adult has no work-limiting disability	85	84	81	89	86	87
Adult has at least a high school degree	84	80	83	84	84	95
Adult has a college degree or more	27	16	25	45	25	19
Child in very good to excellent health	93	90	93	95	95	95
Child free from activity-limiting disabilities	95	97	93	94	95	94
Child does not often*						
have difficulty concentrating and paying attention	95	94	97	87	95	96
have trouble getting along with other children	97	97	97	96	98	98
feel unhappy, sad or depressed	98	100	98	99	99	92
feel nervous, high-strung or tense	98	100	97	100	98	94
act young for his/her age	93	95	92	91	93	94
Child has any behavioral problem often or all problems sometimes	17	15	17	26	16	15
Child sometimes, hardly ever or never skipped school in the past month	1	99	100	99	99	100
Child has been suspended from school	5	5	4	3	8	3
Child did receive D's or F's in last report card	10	10	12	15	7	5
Child has repeated a grade	11	17	11	9	10	4
<b>Financial Assets</b>						
Family has net worth of \$0 or less	33	39	35	28	35	17
Family has net worth of \$100,000 or more	24	20	21	16	29	48
Family owns a home	33	26	30	20	38	65
<b>Social Assets</b>						
Family can borrow at least \$1,000 from family or friends	67	61	62	73	68	85
Parent reads to child at least 3 times/week	82	77	84	85	85	68
Parent helps with homework at least 3 times/week	77	76	76	78	79	70
Parent knows where child is most or all of the time	95	91	94	97	96	100
Parent and child have dinner together at least 3 times/week	93	94	91	94	93	97

\*All child behavior indicators include children 6-17 years old.

**TABLE 2. NEW YORK CITY SOCIAL INDICATORS BY TOTAL, BOROUGH:  
ADULT AND CHILD LIVING CONDITIONS AND SATISFACTION WITH NEW YORK CITY 2002**

	TOTAL	BRONX	BROOKLYN	MANHATTAN	QUEENS	STATEN ISLAND
Unweighted N	1,501	283	452	255	424	87
<b>Living Conditions</b>						
Mean Income	\$41,917	\$34,596	\$38,570	\$50,500	\$40,118	\$57,925
Family has income below 125% poverty	33	42	30	34	33	23
Family members experienced hunger	8	12	5	16	7	1
Utility bills paid late due to lack of money	26	30	32	18	22	22
Family lives in poor quality housing	26	34	23	33	24	10
Housing does not have at least one room per person	8	2	4	12	12	7
Adult rates neighborhood as safe or very safe	81	78	80	83	79	97
Parent somewhat disagrees or strongly disagrees that child's school is safe	14	20	15	19	10	3
Family members were crime victims	7	9	10	8	5	3
Family member has no health insurance	29	27	32	29	30	6
<b>Satisfaction With the City and Its Services</b>						
Adult rates neighborhood as good or very good	73	59	68	72	80	92
Adult rates New York City as a good or very good place to live	80	77	75	87	81	92
Adult rates police protection as pretty good or very good	67	61	61	70	71	85
Adult rates public schools as pretty good or very good	59	47	52	55	66	86

**TABLE 3. NEW YORK CITY SOCIAL INDICATORS BY TOTAL, RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP, IMMIGRATION STATUS, FAMILY STATUS, AND POVERTY:  
ADULT AND CHILD HUMAN, FINANCIAL, AND SOCIAL ASSETS 2002**

	TOTAL	NON-HISPANIC		HISPANIC	ASIAN/OTHER	IMMIGRANTS	FAMILIES W/ CHILDREN	POOR
		WHITE	BLACK					
Unweighted N	1,501	480	404	454	130	587	791	489
<b>Human Assets</b>								
Adult in very good to excellent health	78	85	82	67	76	74	82	64
Adult has no work-limiting disability	85	84	82	84	91	87	91	73
Adult has at least a high school degree	84	93	84	65	91	75	81	66
Adult has a college degree or more	27	43	15	9	32	21	20	12
Child in very good to excellent health	93	98	92	93	90	92	93	89
Child free from activity-limiting disabilities	95	95	95	95	95	96	95	92
Child does not often*								
have difficulty concentrating and paying attention	95	96	95	93	95	95	95	95
have trouble getting along with other children	97	99	96	98	94	97	97	99
feel unhappy, sad or depressed	98	97	98	100	100	100	98	98
feel nervous, high-strung or tense	98	95	99	99	100	99	98	98
act young for his/her age	93	94	91	94	96	92	93	93
Child has any behavioral problem often or all problems sometimes	17	17	17	16	19	16	17	15
Child sometimes, hardly ever or never skipped school in the past month	1	100	99	98	100	99	99	99
Child has been suspended from school	5	4	5	5	9	6	5	4
Child did receive D's or F's in last report card	10	2	17	12	8	13	10	11
Child has repeated a grade	11	4	14	16	9	12	11	14
<b>Financial Assets</b>								
Family has net worth of \$0 or less	33	21	34	46	34	41	39	43
Family has net worth of \$100,000 or more	24	45	15	11	13	14	23	11
Family owns a home	33	50	26	13	29	25	33	26
<b>Social Assets</b>								
Family can borrow at least \$1,000 from family or friends	67	82	55	54	73	60	67	55
Parent reads to child at least 3 times/week	82	86	82	70	91	77	82	75
Parent helps with homework at least 3 times/week	77	75	78	75	79	73	77	72
Parent knows where child is most or all of the time	95	99	92	95	93	93	95	94
Parent and child have dinner together at least 3 times/week	93	95	89	96	91	91	93	92

\*All child behavior indicators include children 6-17 years old.

**TABLE 4. NEW YORK CITY SOCIAL INDICATORS BY TOTAL, RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP, IMMIGRATION STATUS, FAMILY STATUS, AND POVERTY:  
ADULT AND CHILD LIVING CONDITIONS AND SATISFACTION WITH NEW YORK CITY 2002**

	TOTAL	NON-HISPANIC		HISPANIC	ASIAN/OTHER	IMMIGRANTS	FAMILIES W/ CHILDREN	POOR
		WHITE	BLACK					
<b>Living Conditions</b>								
Mean Income	\$41,917	\$57,078	\$33,720	\$28,258	\$39,128	\$31,964	\$49,178	\$7,957
Family has income below 125% poverty	33	26	35	43	34	40	33	85
Family members experienced hunger	8	1	6	16	7	9	7	10
Utility bills paid late due to lack of money	26	12	30	34	27	32	36	27
Family lives in poor quality housing	26	15	22	34	33	31	28	23
Housing does not have at least one room per person	8	3	4	14	20	15	5	9
Adult rates neighborhood as safe or very safe	81	91	80	68	82	75	78	74
Parent somewhat disagrees or strongly disagrees that child's school is safe	14	4	17	20	11	14	14	20
Family members were crime victims	7	5	9	11	5	12	7	12
Family member has no health insurance	29	14	29	47	38	44	34	40
<b>Satisfaction With the City and Its Services</b>								
Adult rates neighborhood as good or very good	73	88	63	59	73	67	67	66
Adult rates New York City as a good or very good place to live	80	90	75	74	77	77	73	75
Adult rates police protection as pretty good or very good	67	80	55	62	67	68	64	65
Adult rates public schools as pretty good or very good	59	71	48	53	59	58	52	64

**TABLE 5. NEW YORK CITY SOCIAL INDICATORS BY YEAR OF SURVEY:  
ADULT AND CHILD HUMAN, FINANCIAL, AND SOCIAL ASSETS 1997, 1999, 2002**

	1997	1999	2002	CHANGE 1997-1999	CHANGE 1999-2002
Unweighted N	1,373	1,501	1,501		
<b>Human Assets</b>					
Adult in very good to excellent health	81	75	78	-0.06	0.03
Adult has no work-limiting disability	87	83	85	-0.04	0.02
Adult has at least a high school degree	82	82	84	0	0.02
Adult has a college degree or more	25	26	27	0.01	0.01
Child in very good to excellent health	94	92	93	-0.02	0.01
Child free from activity-limiting disabilities	95	94	95	-0.01	0.01
Child does not often*					
have difficulty concentrating and paying attention	93	92	95	-0.01	0.03
have trouble getting along with other children	96	96	97	0	0.01
feel unhappy, sad or depressed	97	97	98	0	0.01
feel nervous, high-strung or tense	N/A	98	98	N/A	0
act young for his/her age	N/A	88	93	N/A	0.05
Child has any behavioral problem often or all problems sometimes	25	24	17	-0.01	-0.07
Child sometimes, hardly ever or never skipped school in the past month	N/A	1	1	N/A	0
Child has been suspended from school	6	6	5	0	-0.01
Child did receive D's or F's in last report card	N/A	13	10	N/A	-0.03
Child has repeated a grade	5	15	11	0.1	-0.04
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Family has net worth of \$0 or less	37	38	33	0.01	-0.05
Family has net worth of \$100,000 or more	25	20	24	-0.05	0.04
Family owns a home	33	29	33	-0.04	0.04
<b>Social Assets</b>					
Family can borrow at least \$1,000 from family or friends	61	68	67	0.07	-0.01
Parent reads to child at least 3 times/week	94	83	82	-0.11	-0.01
Parent helps with homework at least 3 times/week	86	80	77	-0.06	-0.03
Parent knows where child is most or all of the time	N/A	92	95	N/A	0.03
Parent and child have dinner together at least 3 times/week	N/A	92	93	N/A	0.01

\*All child behavior indicators include children 6-17 years old.

N/A not applicable or question not asked of all groups or consistently in both years.

**TABLE 6. NEW YORK CITY SOCIAL INDICATORS BY YEAR OF SURVEY:  
ADULT AND CHILD LIVING CONDITIONS AND SATISFACTION WITH NEW YORK CITY 1997, 1999, 2002**

	1997	1999	2002	CHANGE 1997 - 1999	CHANGE 1999 - 2002
Unweighted N	1,373	1,501	1,501		
<b>Living Conditions</b>					
Mean Income	\$35,309	\$39,300	\$41,917	11%	7%
Family has income below 125% poverty	22	32	33	10%	1%
Family members experienced hunger	8	10	8	2%	-2%
Utility bills paid late due to lack of money	31	27	26	-4%	-1%
Family lives in poor quality housing	26	24	26	-2%	2%
Housing does not have at least one room per person	12	38	8	26%	-30%
Adult rates neighborhood as safe or very safe	77	77	81	0%	4%
Parent somewhat disagrees or strongly disagrees that child's school is safe	12	9	14	-3%	5%
Family members were crime victims	10	7	7	-3%	0%
Family member has no health insurance	25	30	29	5%	-1%
<b>Satisfaction With the City and Its Services</b>					
Adult rates neighborhood as good or very good	70	71	73	1%	2%
Adult rates New York City as a good or very good place to live	61	71	80	10%	9%
Adult rates police protection as pretty good or very good	64	60	67	-4%	7%
Adult rates public schools as pretty good or very good	52	61	59	9%	-2%

**TABLE 7. NEW YORK CITY SOCIAL INDICATORS BY IMMIGRANT'S NUMBER OF YEARS IN US, IMMIGRATION STATUS:  
ADULT AND CHILD HUMAN, FINANCIAL, AND SOCIAL ASSETS 1997, 1999, 2002**

	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21+	IMMIGRANTS	NON-IMMIGRANTS
Unweighted N	231	330	299	284	647	1,673	2,656
<b>Human Assets</b>							
Adult in very good to excellent health	69	78	78	67	71	74	80
Adult has no work-limiting disability	89	86	86	86	78	86	84
Adult has at least a high school degree	73	75	79	71	72	77	85
Adult has a college degree or more	25	22	16	17	22	23	27
Child in very good to excellent health	92	94	88	88	90	91	95
Child free from activity-limiting disabilities	98	97	96	94	94	96	94
Child does not often*							
have difficulty concentrating and paying attention	94	93	91	93	93	94	92
have trouble getting along with other children	97	97	95	94	96	96	96
feel unhappy, sad or depressed	99	99	97	99	96	98	97
feel nervous, high-strung or tense	99	99	99	99	97	99	97
act young for his/her age	95	86	90	92	89	92	90
Child has any behavioral problem often or all problems sometimes	19	21	24	27	19	19	24
Child sometimes, hardly ever or never skipped school in the past month	0	0	3	0	1	1	1
Child has been suspended from school	3	5	3	5	9	5	5
Child did receive D's or F's in last report card	8	9	16	16	17	12	11
Child has repeated a grade	8	17	11	9	14	12	11
<b>Financial Assets</b>							
Family has net worth of \$0 or less	44	46	45	45	40	41	33
Family has net worth of \$100,000 or more	12	10	9	12	24	17	26
Family owns a home	11	16	10	29	34	25	35
<b>Social Assets</b>							
Family can borrow at least \$1,000 from family or friends	69	63	58	67	51	60	67
Parent reads to child at least 3 times/week	89	81	85	75	85	77	89
Parent helps with homework at least 3 times/week	90	86	80	78	75	73	81
Parent knows where child is most or all of the time	93	96	92	86	91	93	95
Parent and child have dinner together at least 3 times/week	96	92	88	93	91	91	93

\*All child behavior indicators include children 6-17 years old.

**TABLE 8. NEW YORK CITY SOCIAL INDICATORS BY IMMIGRANT'S YEARS IN US, IMMIGRATION STATUS:  
ADULT AND CHILD LIVING CONDITIONS AND SATISFACTION WITH NEW YORK CITY 1997, 1999, 2002**

	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21+	IMMIGRANTS	NON- IMMIGRANTS
Unweighted N	231	330	299	284	647	1,673	2,656
<b>Living Conditions</b>							
Mean Income	\$25,431	\$26,905	\$31,410	\$33,050	\$34,641	\$31,836	\$46,360
Family has income below 125% poverty	45	36	35	33	34	35	26
Family members experienced hunger	13	8	15	11	9	10	8
Utility bills paid late due to lack of money	28	38	44	29	30	33	23
Family lives in poor quality housing	19	37	49	23	21	28	23
Housing does not have at least one room per person	45	41	30	34	12	29	14
Adult rates neighborhood as safe or very safe	68	72	78	66	72	75	80
Parent somewhat disagrees or strongly disagrees that child's school is safe	15	15	14	9	12	12	10
Family members were crime victims	18	10	15	12	7	12	6
Family member has no health insurance	67	50	44	43	25	44	19
<b>Satisfaction With the City and Its Services</b>							
Adult rates neighborhood as good or very good	65	60	61	63	63	66	75
Adult rates New York City as a good or very good place to live	69	68	62	62	66	68	72
Adult rates police protection as pretty good or very good	72	62	58	53	56	61	65
Adult rates public schools as pretty good or very good	63	66	47	47	53	56	58

**TABLE 9. NEW YORK CITY SOCIAL INDICATORS BY IMMIGRANT'S REGION OF ORIGIN, IMMIGRATION STATUS:  
ADULT AND CHILD HUMAN, FINANCIAL, AND SOCIAL ASSETS 2002**

	CENTRAL AMERICA/ CARIBBEAN	SOUTH AMERICA	EUROPE	ASIA	AFRICA	NON-IMMIGRANTS
Unweighted N	815	263	262	219	60	2,656
<b>Human Assets</b>						
Adult in very good to excellent health	69	80	78	74	94	80
Adult has no work-limiting disability	84	83	82	93	96	84
Adult has at least a high school degree	65	78	88	94	89	85
Adult has a college degree or more	11	12	43	37	49	27
Child in very good to excellent health	91	90	96	89	98	95
Child free from activity-limiting disabilities	95	95	97	97	95	94
Child does not often*						
have difficulty concentrating and paying attention	93	92	97	99	93	92
have trouble getting along with other children	97	94	98	92	99	96
feel unhappy, sad or depressed	97	98	100	98	100	97
feel nervous, high-strung or tense	98	99	100	99	100	97
act young for his/her age	89	95	96	94	90	90
Child has any behavioral problem often or all problems sometimes	18	19	11	30	19	24
Child sometimes, hardly ever or never skipped school in the past month	1	3	0	0	0	1
Child has been suspended from school	6	7	1	3	0	5
Child did receive D's or F's in last report card	17	6	4	12	19	11
Child has repeated a grade	13	17	3	3	8	11
<b>Financial Assets</b>						
Family has net worth of \$0 or less	45	49	33	34	32	33
Family has net worth of \$100,000 or more	13	10	35	17	19	26
Family owns a home	18	22	36	30	20	35
<b>Social Assets</b>						
Family can borrow at least \$1,000 from family or friends	58	60	66	70	47	67
Parent reads to child at least 3 times/week	80	77	88	92	71	89
Parent helps with homework at least 3 times/week	78	82	81	79	92	81
Parent knows where child is most or all of the time	92	93	99	86	86	95
Parent and child have dinner together at least 3 times/week	90	89	97	97	89	93

\*All child behavior indicators include children 6-17 years old.

**TABLE 10. NEW YORK CITY SOCIAL INDICATORS BY IMMIGRANT'S REGION OF ORIGIN, IMMIGRATION STATUS:  
ADULT AND CHILD LIVING CONDITIONS AND SATISFACTION WITH NEW YORK CITY 2002**

	<b>CENTRAL AMERICA/ CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>SOUTH AMERICA</b>	<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>ASIA</b>	<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>NON- IMMIGRANTS</b>
Unweighted N	815	263	262	219	60	2,656
<b>Living Conditions</b>						
Mean Income	\$27,093	\$25,853	\$39,073	\$38,365	\$48,262	\$46,360
Family has income below 125% poverty	36	37	34	35	23	26
Family members experienced hunger	16	6	5	2	10	8
Utility bills paid late due to lack of money	41	31	12	32	33	23
Family lives in poor quality housing	27	23	22	38	28	23
Housing does not have at least one room per person	30	34	11	44	29	14
Adult rates neighborhood as safe or very safe	71	68	84	77	75	80
Parent somewhat disagrees or strongly disagrees that child's school is safe	17	10	9	4	12	10
Family members were crime victims	14	8	12	13	12	6
Family member has no health insurance	52	50	26	39	44	19
<b>Satisfaction With the City and Its Services</b>						
Adult rates neighborhood as good or very good	56	65	78	76	66	75
Adult rates New York City as a good or very good place to live	62	70	72	76	68	72
Adult rates police protection as pretty good or very good	56	58	73	64	61	65
Adult rates public schools as pretty good or very good	57	56	56	56	56	58

**TABLE 11. NEW YORK CITY SOCIAL INDICATORS BY IMMIGRANT'S COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:  
ADULT AND CHILD HUMAN, FINANCIAL, AND SOCIAL ASSETS 2002**

	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	JAMAICA	MEXICO	TRINIDAD	OTHER CENTRAL AMERICA	EASTERN EUROPE	WESTERN EUROPE
Unweighted N	236	150	62	91	265	136	126
<b>Human Assets</b>							
Adult in very good to excellent health	58	80	27	85	78	82	75
Adult has no work-limiting disability	80	89	80	87	85	80	83
Adult has at least a high school degree	59	66	30	82	74	97	81
Adult has a college degree or more	10	16	4	7	12	43	43
Child in very good to excellent health	89	89	88	96	91	95	97
Child free from activity-limiting disabilities	95	94	98	98	95	98	96
Child does not often*							
have difficulty concentrating and paying attention	94	91	89	96	93	95	100
have trouble getting along with other children	98	97	97	97	97	97	100
feel unhappy, sad or depressed	96	98	100	98	98	100	100
feel nervous, high-strung or tense	100	96	100	97	98	100	100
act young for his/her age	87	92	100	88	87	94	97
Child has any behavioral problem often or all problems sometimes	18	18	15	13	22	16	4
Child sometimes, hardly ever or never skipped school in the past month	2	0	3	0	1	0	0
Child has been suspended from school	10	7	3	5	3	0	3
Child did receive D's or F's in last report card	15	8	16	24	22	4	3
Child has repeated a grade	18	15	17	6	9	1	7
<b>Financial Assets</b>							
Family has net worth of \$0 or less	56	20	70	49	41	35	32
Family has net worth of \$100,000 or more	8	24	1	8	15	30	39
Family owns a home	9	37	0	15	22	25	45
<b>Social Assets</b>							
Family can borrow at least \$1,000 from family or friends	48	66	52	65	60	62	70
Parent reads to child at least 3 times/week	75	86	54	94	89	85	93
Parent helps with homework at least 3 times/week	67	79	88	89	81	75	88
Parent knows where child is most or all of the time	96	96	87	81	91	98	100
Parent and child have dinner together at least 3 times/week	92	88	98	88	86	96	100

\*All child behavior indicators include children 6-17 years old.

**TABLE 12. NEW YORK CITY SOCIAL INDICATORS BY IMMIGRANT'S COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:  
ADULT AND CHILD LIVING CONDITIONS AND SATISFACTION WITH NEW YORK CITY 2002**

	<b>DOMINICAN REPUBLIC</b>	<b>JAMAICA</b>	<b>MEXICO</b>	<b>TRINIDAD</b>	<b>OTHER CENTRAL AMERICA</b>	<b>EASTERN EUROPE</b>	<b>WESTERN EUROPE</b>
Unweighted N	236	150	62	91	265	136	126
<b>Living Conditions</b>							
Mean Income	\$26,508	\$30,578	\$11,025	\$35,307	\$29,655	\$34,427	\$43,496
Family has income below 125% poverty	47	24	72	22	28	37	32
Family members experienced hunger	17	11	39	11	10	3	6
Utility bills paid late due to lack of money	43	41	34	29	48	21	4
Family lives in poor quality housing	30	13	24	31	31	22	22
Housing does not have at least one room per person	25	24	59	26	30	15	8
Adult rates neighborhood as safe or very safe	66	77	52	83	74	83	85
Parent somewhat disagrees or strongly disagrees that child's school is safe	20	14	30	11	17	9	9
Family members were crime victims	8	22	33	7	10	19	6
Family member has no health insurance	40	63	92	41	47	35	19
<b>Satisfaction With the City and Its Services</b>							
Adult rates neighborhood as good or very good	39	59	41	85	62	77	79
Adult rates New York City as a good or very good place to live	60	71	56	73	59	74	70
Adult rates police protection as pretty good or very good	56	61	45	76	49	69	76
Adult rates public schools as pretty good or very good	59	56	57	68	52	50	61

## ***Appendix 1: New York Social Indicators Survey Methods***

### **OVERVIEW**

The New York Social Indicators Survey (NYSIS) is a biennial survey of New York City residents. The core survey is designed to document individual and family well-being across multiple domains: human, financial, and social assets; economic and social living conditions; and perceptions of the City and its services. The survey also measures the sources and extent of external supports from government, family and friends, community and religious programs, and employers.

The survey is conducted every other year by telephone with a representative sample of approximately 1500 families from the five boroughs of the City. Survey respondents include adults from nearly 100 different countries. Data have been collected in 1997, 1999 and 2002. The repeated cross sectional surveys describe the population as social and economic conditions change and as the composition of the population changes. This dynamic picture of the City makes it possible to look at how conditions of New Yorkers change over time.

The NYSIS survey is adaptive. While core elements of the survey remain identical from year to year to allow comparability over time, a portion of each survey wave is reserved for additional topics that are deemed important and timely. The first wave included special questions on child support. The third wave includes special questions to measure the effects of the 9/11 attacks on New York City adults and children.

### **SAMPLING, DATA COLLECTION, AND RESPONSE RATES**

The three waves of the NYSIS survey were conducted using computer assisted telephone interview (CATI) technology and random digit dialing (RDD) by the survey research firm Schulman, Ronca & Bucavalas Inc. The first two waves were conducted in English and Spanish, and the third wave was also conducted in Mandarin, Cantonese and Korean. Interviews were conducted in Spanish to 112 respondents (7%) in 1997 and 136 respondents (9%) in 1999. In 2002 a total of 173 respondents (12%) were interviewed in Spanish and 21 respondents (1.4%) were interviewed in Mandarin, Cantonese or Korean. A core sample of random households was drawn, resulting in a cross-section sample of 1000 adults. In addition, an oversample of households with children ages 0-17 was drawn, resulting in interviews with an additional 501 caregivers for 1999 and 2002<sup>12</sup>. The adult with the most recent birthday was selected as the respondent in the cross-section sample. In the caregiver sample, a focal child between the age of 0 and 17 was randomly selected from the household and any parent or guardian of that child was selected as the respondent.

The response rates among all households, including those in which a respondent was never reached, were 28%, 33% and 30% for the cross-section samples of 1997, 1999 and

2002 respectively; and 35%, 42% and 37% for the caregiver samples of 1997, 1999 and 2002 respectively.

In 2002 the average length of the interview was 24 minutes for families without children and 34 minutes for families with children.

## **DESCRIPTION OF WEIGHTING METHODS**

We developed a nine-step weighting procedure based on inverse-probability weighting and poststratification to correct for various sampling and nonsampling biases arising from the survey design and selection procedure. Weight adjustments were made to the stratified cases based on information from the sampling design about the probabilities of their selection, and comparison with the 1990 and 2000 Census.

In steps 1 and 2 of our procedure, we weighted sample cases at the family level by the inverse probability of their selection<sup>13</sup>. Step 1 weights were calculated as the square root of the number of adults in the household over the number of adults in the family for the cross-section sample, and as the square root of the number of children in the household over the number of children in the family for the caregiver sample. In step 2, we weighted down cases with multiple phone lines and weighted up cases with interrupted telephone service.

In step 3, in order to adjust for non-randomness of caregiver sample, we created “shadow” spouses for all married caregivers. In this step we weighted down the married caregivers and their “shadow” spouses.

In steps 4 through 9 we weighted by gender composition, age composition, race by education, presence of own children, whether the respondent is married, and number of adults in the household.

In step 10 we applied a raking procedure, sequentially reapplied steps 4 through 9 until the weights converged. Finally, in step 11, we calculated family and household weights by dividing the individual weights by the number of adults in the family<sup>14</sup> and the number of adults in the household, respectively.

*Notes*

<sup>1</sup> US Census Bureau Housing Vacancy Survey figures,  
<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/hvs/q403tab5.html> Accessed 3/30/04

<sup>2</sup> FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program's Crime Index,  
[http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/Cius\\_97/97crime/97crime2.pdf](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/Cius_97/97crime/97crime2.pdf) Accessed 5/12/04

<sup>3</sup> FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program's Crime Index,  
[http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius\\_02/pdf/2sectiontwo.pdf](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_02/pdf/2sectiontwo.pdf) Accessed 5/12/04

<sup>4</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics figures for New York City,  
[http://data.bls.gov/servlet/SurveyOutputServlet?series\\_id=LAUPS36040003&data\\_tool=EaG](http://data.bls.gov/servlet/SurveyOutputServlet?series_id=LAUPS36040003&data_tool=EaG) Accessed 5/12/04

<sup>5</sup> This includes the lost wealth and capital (both physical and human) as well as the lost Gross City Product. New York City Partnership estimated a total economic impact of \$83 billion (including a lost GCP of \$39 billion); the New York City Office of the Comptroller (2002) estimated a total economic impact of \$82.8 - \$94.8 billion (including a lost GCP of \$52 - \$64 billion).

<sup>6</sup> New York City Partnership "*Working Together to Accelerate New York's Recovery*" February 11, 2002 (Update of "*Economic Impact Analysis of the September 11 Attack on New York*", November 15, 2001)

<sup>7</sup> City of New York Office of the Comptroller. "*One Year Later: The Fiscal Impact of 9/11 on New York City*", September 4, 2002.

<sup>8</sup> Garfinkel, I., Kaushal, N. Teitler, J. and Garcia, S. *Vulnerability and Resilience: New Yorkers Respond to 9/11*. Forthcoming in *Wounded City: The Social Effects of the World Trade Center Attack on New York City*. Russell Sage Foundation.

<sup>9</sup> Ruhm, Christopher J. 2003. Good Times Make You Sick. *Journal of Health Economics*. 24 (4): 637-658; Ruhm, Christopher J. 2000. Are Recessions Good For Your Health? *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 115 (2): 617-650.

<sup>10</sup> We have no measure of this indicator in 1997.

<sup>11</sup> Pooled 1997, 1999 and 2002.

<sup>12</sup> In 1997 the sample was also stratified, but the sampling design was different: 463 in the cross section sample and 910 in the caregiver sample.

<sup>13</sup> For this procedure, we considered family all people related by marriage, birth or adoption (i.e. Census definition) plus cohabiters.

<sup>14</sup> Single individuals were assigned a weight of zero because they are not considered a family under the Census definition.

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All errors of omission or commission remain the responsibility of the authors.

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