

For 10 years, BNIA-JFI has been committed to promoting, supporting, and helping people make better decisions using accurate, reliable and accessible data and indicators to improve the quality of life in Baltimore City neighborhoods. The annual release of the *Vital Signs* report "takes the pulse" of Baltimore neighborhoods by measuring progress towards strengthening neighborhoods, improving quality of life, and sustaining a thriving, vital city. The goal of this effort is for neighborhood residents, organizations, and others to use data and the *Vital Signs* report strategically and effectively to foster new ways of thinking about improving our City, neighborhoods, and government over time.

10 Years of Vital Signs

In *Vital Signs* 10, BNIA-JFI tracks 111 indicators to show how Baltimore City has changed since the release of the first edition of *Vital Signs* in 2002. Many of the indicators are now available covering the years 2000 to 2010. The availability of ten years of data for Baltimore neighborhoods is important for two main reasons. First, every Baltimore community is unique, and these indicators reveal the experiences that each neighborhood has had over the past decade. From housing bubbles to foreclosures crises to crime amelioration to clogged storm drains, the indicators in *Vital Signs* corroborate (or dispel) perceptions of residents, business and other stakeholder about the quality of life in Baltimore's neighborhoods. Second, as communities continue to plan ahead over the next decade, these outcome indicators can now be used as inputs into strategic planning processes as well as tracking and monitoring the effectiveness of interventions and actions.

Since 2000, the City has seen improvement in many of the indicators tracked in *Vital Signs* reflecting the community-based efforts made to achieve these results. For example, the City in general is safer, healthier and more sustainable; the crime rate has declined by nearly 45%, the teen birth rate has declined by 32%, and the percentage of residents not using a car to travel to work has increased almost 11%. Neighborhoods like Midtown and Fells Point experienced the greatest improvements in crime rates; teen birth rates declined dramatically in Cherry Hill and Brooklyn/Curtis Bay; and in Harbor East/Little Italy, 2/3 of workers now commute to work by alternative means of transportation. Use of the City's newly implemented 311 service-call system for access to City services rose over the decade; for example, Baltimore residents increased calls to report dirty streets and alleys at a rate of more than 69 per 1,000.

The median household income in Baltimore City has increased by \$8,268, the median value of homes sold has increased by \$50,000, and the poverty rate for both individuals and for families with children has declined by nearly 2%. Highlandtown, Washington Village, Patterson Park and Canton experienced large increases in median income; home sales prices increased most in Medfield/Hampden/Woodberry, South Baltimore and Downtown; and poverty rates have declined most in Greater Charles Village/Barclay and Midtown.

Educational outcomes have improved with the percentage of chronically absent middle school students decreasing by over 13% (from 2005 to 2010) and the high school drop-out rate declining by slightly more than 6%. Chronic absenteeism among middle schoolers declined most in Southern Park Heights and Glen-Falstaff; the high school drop-out rate declined most in Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market.

However, these overall City improvements hide the fact that not all of the City's neighborhoods have benefited equally. In the City's most distressed neighborhoods, the compounding effects of population loss, increases in vacancies and foreclosures, recent increases in crime rates, and increases in unemployment and poverty continue to affect the lives of

thousands of residents. There are seventeen communities in Baltimore where at least three of every ten families with children live in poverty. In communities such as Upton/Druid Heights and Oldtown/Middle East, at least one in every two families with children lives in poverty. In some of the same neighborhoods, the crime rate is at least the same as the City average; in Oldtown/Middle East, the crime rate is currently more than 40% above the City average.

Some of the indicators tracked by BNIA-JFI have not shown positive improvement for the City as a whole over the past decade. From 2000 to 2010, there has been an increase in the percentage of persons unemployed, an increase in the percentage of vacant and abandoned homes, and an increasing percentage of residents spending more than thirty percent of their household income on their housing expenses.

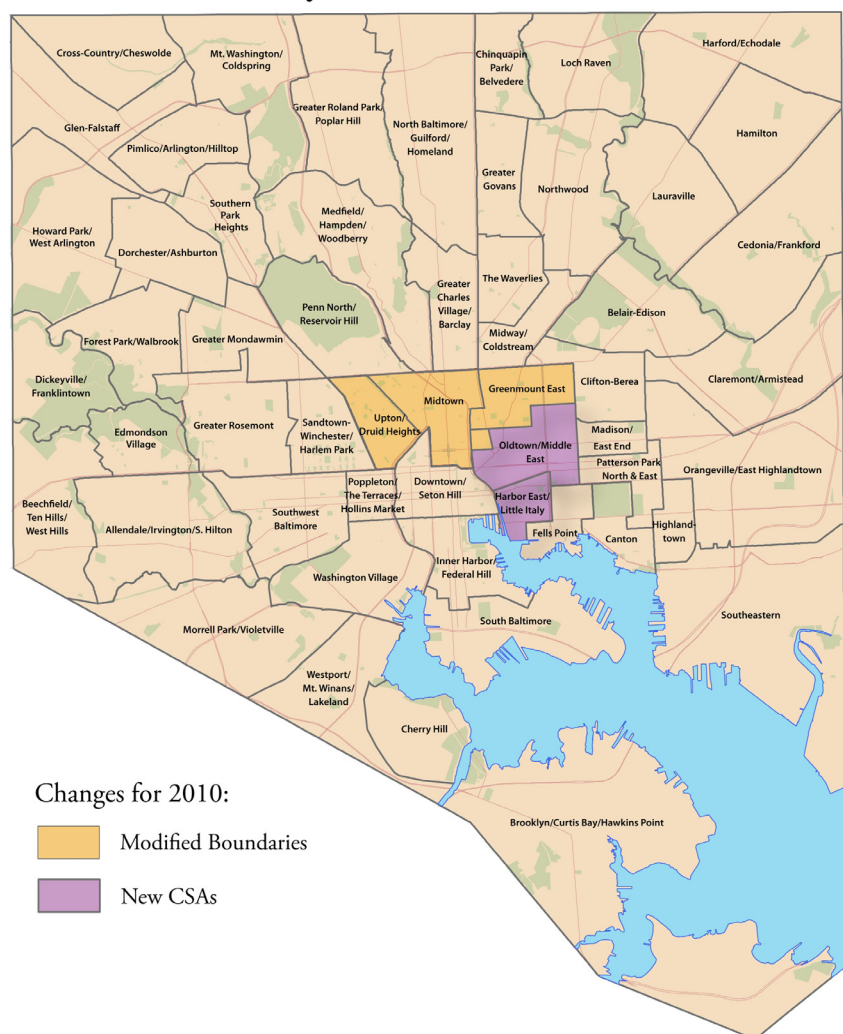
Vital Signs is meant to serve as a resource that allows for the identification of the areas that need attention and interventions to improve the lives of and opportunities for every resident and family in Baltimore City.

Geography and Data

The geographic level at which data is provided is important to understand. Wherever possible, *Vital Signs* uses Community Statistical Areas (CSAs) as the geographic level for which data is provided. CSAs are clusters of Census Tracts that correspond to Baltimore's neighborhoods boundaries and are consistent statistical boundaries for which data can be acquired. Neighborhood lines often do not fall along CSA boundaries, but CSAs are representations of the conditions occurring within those particular neighborhoods. The CSAs were originally created by the Baltimore City Department of Planning in 2002 and were updated by BNIA-JFI for *Vital Signs* 10 using new 2010 Census Tract boundaries.

Many of the data sources in *Vital Signs* is based on administrative records (housing code violations, vital statistics, 311-service calls, foreclosure filings, etc) precisely because US Census information was only available at the neighborhood level once every 10 years. Starting with *Vital Signs* 10, however, data from the American Community Survey has been made available for the City's neighborhoods. The new data collection methodology adopted by the Census Bureau means that while the data will be available more frequently, the indicators are not directly comparable with the 2000 Census. Throughout *Vital Signs*, use of the 5-year 2006-2010 ACS data is noted for clarification.

Community Statistical Areas, 2010



Changes for 2010:

- Modified Boundaries
- New CSAs

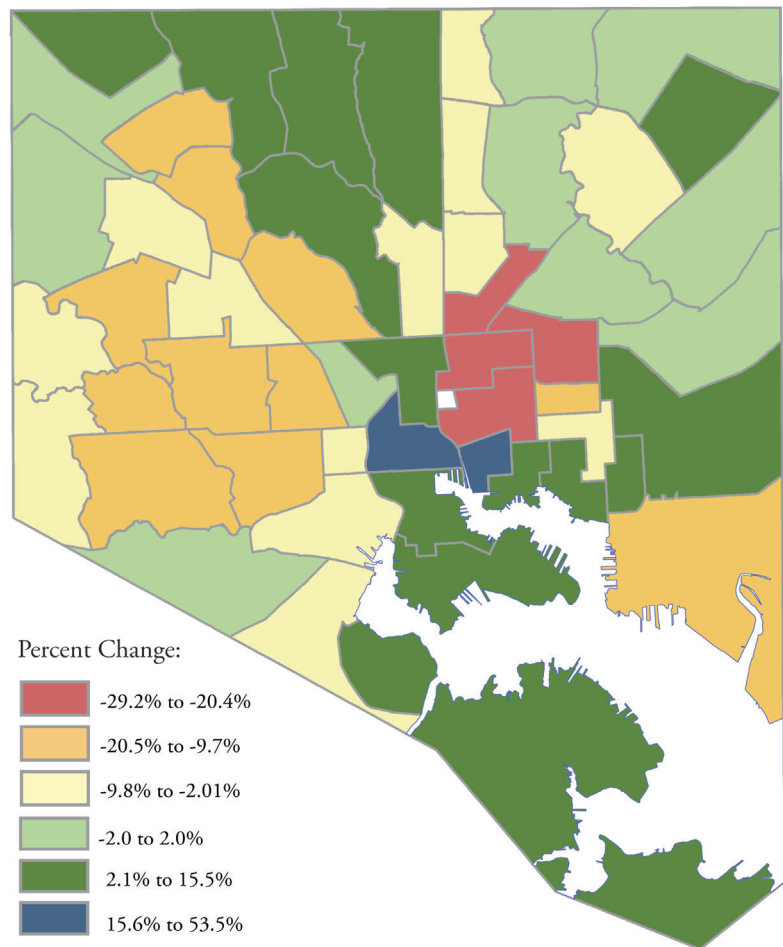
The indicators and data in *Vital Signs* are organized into nine sections, each of which corresponds to an issue or an area that is central to quality of life in Baltimore City. The full report details findings from all of the indicators in each of the nine sections. The following is a summary of the major findings from *Vital Signs 10*.

Census/Demographics

Population and Race/Ethnicity

- From 2000 to 2010, Baltimore City's population has declined by 4.6%, decreasing from 651,154 to 620,961 persons.
- A total of 19 CSAs experienced an increase in population with the largest increases occurring in Downtown/Seton Hill (35.2%), Canton (15.5%), Cross-Country/Cheswolde (10.5%), and South Baltimore (8.9%).
- Of the 34 CSAs that experienced a decline in population, the largest decreases occurred in Greenmount Eas (-29.2%), Clifton-Berea (-21.0%), and Midway/Coldstream (-20.4%).
- From 2000 to 2010, the percentage of Hispanic residents in Baltimore City increased from 1.7% to 4.2%.
- Five CSAs experienced increases in the percentage of Hispanic residents over 10%. These include: Orangeville/East Highlandtown (26.6%), Southeastern (15.9%), Patterson Park North and East (14.5%), Highlandtown (14.1%), and Westport/Mt. Winans/Lakeland (11.2%).
- The racial diversity index for Baltimore City's neighborhoods increased from 2000 to 2010 (meaning the neighborhoods became more racially diverse) in forty-eight CSAs, with the greatest increases experienced in Orangeville/East Highlandtown, Highlandtown and Morrell Park/Violetville.

Total Population Change, 2000-2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Income¹

- Baltimore City's median household income (in current dollars) increased by 27.5% from \$30,078 in 2000 to \$38,346 in 2010.

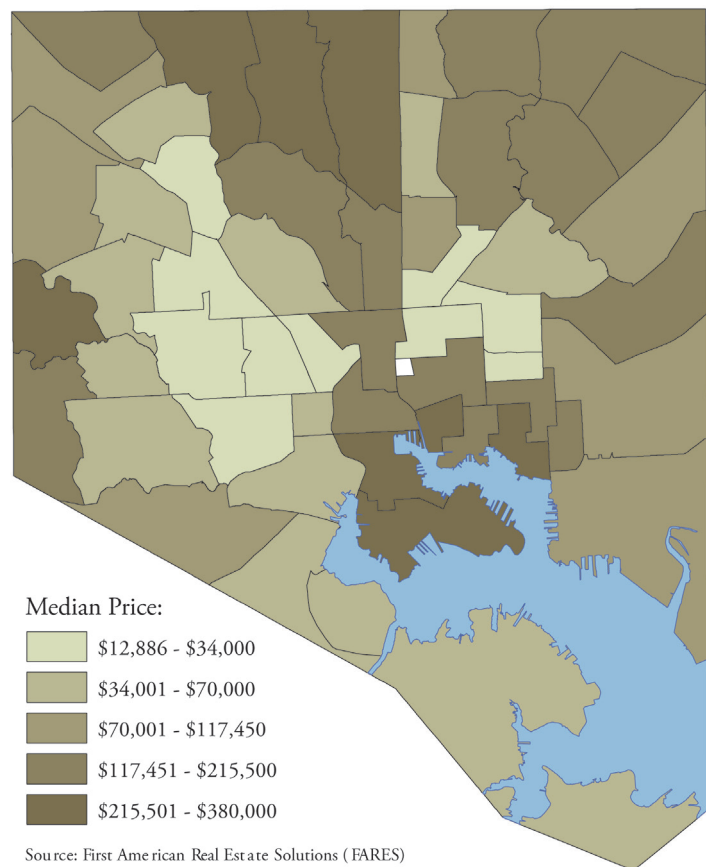
¹ Source of income data for the 2010 indicators in *Vital Signs 10* is the 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

- The CSAs with the greatest median household income in 2010 are Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill (\$96,854), Mt. Washington/Coldspring (\$79,127), and Inner Harbor/Federal Hill (\$77,888).
- In 2010, the CSAs with the lowest median household income are Upton/Druid Heights (\$13,811), Oldtown/Middle East (\$15,415), and Cherry Hill (\$18,606). These same CSAs have the greatest percentage of households earning less than \$25,000 annually: Upton/Druid Heights (66.5%), Oldtown/Middle East (60.6%), and Cherry Hill (59.3%).
- The CSAs with the greatest percentage of households earning more than \$75,000 annually include Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill (60.8%), Inner Harbor/Federal Hill (52.4%), and Canton (49.9%).

Housing/Community Development

- The median sales price of homes sold in Baltimore City decreased by \$30,000 or approximately 21% from \$145,000 in 2009 to \$115,000 in 2010. Despite the significant decrease from last year, over the decade, home prices in Baltimore City have increased by nearly 77%.
- From 2009 to 2010, the median sales price of homes sold in Baltimore City declined in 44 of the 55 CSAs. The greatest decreases in sales price were in Upton/Druid Heights (-77.7%), Clifton-Berea (-73.0%), and Greenmount East (-72.5%).
- From 2009 to 2010 the number of homes sold in Baltimore City increased. In 2009, there were 4,834 homes sold and in 2010, there were 5,913 homes sold in Baltimore City for an increase of 22.3%.
- The percentage of households living in rental properties that spend more than 30% of their household income on rent increased from 40.0% in 2000 to 52.7% in 2010.

Median Sales Price of Homes Sold, 2010



- In 2010, the CSAs where the greatest percentage of households spent more than 30% of their total household income on rent included Midway/Coldstream (70.1%) and Clifton-Berea (67.6%).
- The percentage of households living in properties with a mortgage that spend more than 30% of their household income on housing costs increased from 31.6% in 2000 to 40.0% in 2010.

- In 2010, the CSAs where the greatest percentage of households spent more than 30% of their total household income on housing costs included Downtown/Seton Hill (58.9%), Edmonson Village (58.1%), and Howard Park/West Arlington (55.0%).

- The number of Baltimore City homes receiving a mortgage foreclosure filing decreased by 29.2% from 6,263 in 2009 to 4,435 homes in 2010.

- In 2010, 2.2% of the City's residential properties received a foreclosure filing. This is a decrease of 0.8 percentage points from 2009.

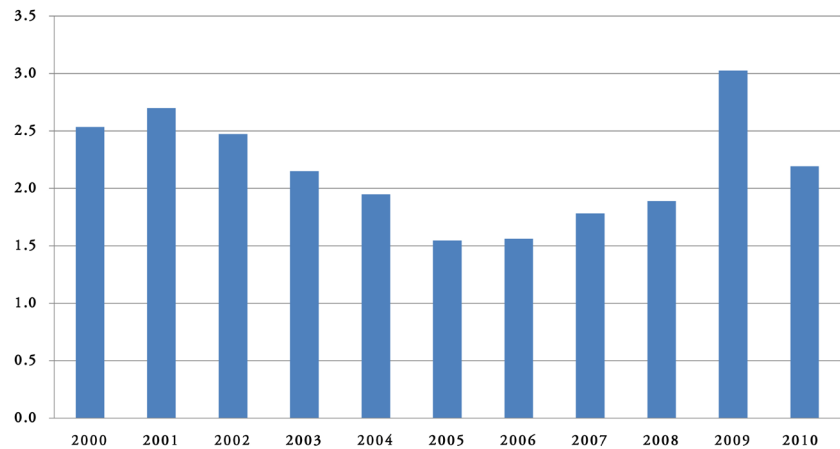
- The CSAs with the highest rates of properties with a foreclosure filing in 2010 were located in Downtown/Seton Hill (5.1%), Claremont/Armistead (4.7%), and Forest Park/Walbrook (4.5%).

- The percentage of residential properties that are vacant and abandoned in Baltimore City remained steady at 7.9% from 2009 to 2010. In 2010, there were 16,065 vacant and abandoned properties in the City.

- From 2001 to 2010, the percentage of properties that are vacant and abandoned in Baltimore City has increased by 2.6 percentage points from 5.3% to 7.9%.

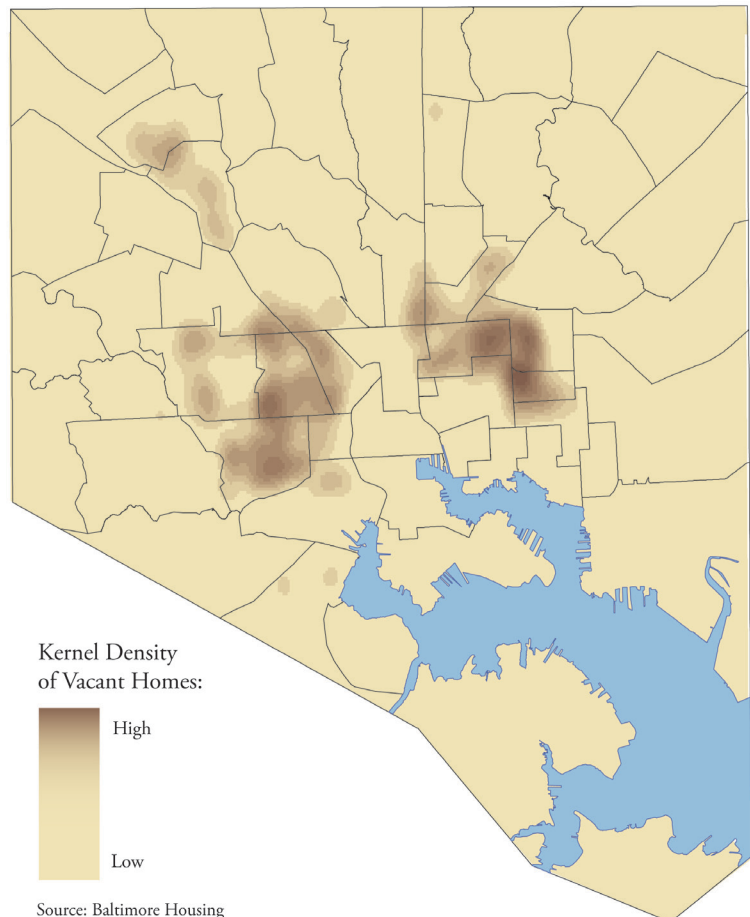
- In 2010, six of the 55 CSAs had at least one in five properties that were vacant and abandoned: Greenmount East (38.6%), Upton/Druid Heights (35.5%), Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park (31.0%), Madison/East End (25.7%), Southwest Baltimore (25.2%), and Clifton-Berea (24.51%).

Percent of Residential Properties Receiving a Mortgage Foreclosure Filing, 2000-2010



Source: Baltimore City Circuit Court, Maryland Judiciary Case Search System

Vacant and Abandoned Residences, 2010

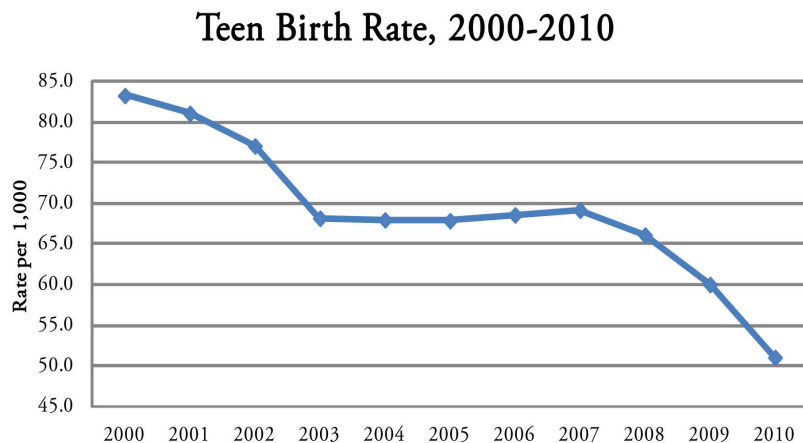


Children and Family Health and Well-Being

- From 2000 to 2010, the percentage of persons living in poverty decreased from 22.3% in 2000 to 21.3% in 2010.

- In 2010, the CSAs with the highest poverty rates include Upton/Druid Heights (52.0%), Cherry Hill (47.9%), and Oldtown/Middle East (47.4%).
- The percentage of families with related children under eighteen in Baltimore City living in poverty decreased from 26.2% in 2000 to 24.6% in 2010.
- In 2010, the CSAs with the highest rates of families with children living in poverty included Upton/Druid Heights (61.0%), Harbor East/Little Italy (54.8%), and Oldtown/Middle East (52.6%).

- The teen birth rate in Baltimore City has declined from 83.3 in 2000 to 51.1 per 1,000 teens giving birth in 2010. This is a decrease of 32.2 births per 1,000 teens over the past ten years and mirrors historic lows nationally in teen births².



Source: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH)

- From 2006 to 2010, the percentage of children who were tested for the presence of lead in their blood and were found to have elevated blood levels decreased by 3.2 percentage points from 4.8% in 2006 to 1.6% in 2010.
- In 2010, the CSAs with the highest percentages of children with elevated levels of blood lead lived in Belair-Edison (7.5%), Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park (6.9%), Midway/Coldstream (6.1%), and Madison/East End (6.1%).
- In Baltimore City, the number of children hospitalized for asthma has decreased from 1,034 in 2000 to 751 in 2010. This is a decrease of 27.4%.
- In Baltimore City, the percentage of persons with vaccine-preventable diseases has decreased from 13.4% in 2000 to 4.9% in 2010. This is a decrease of 8.5 percentage points over the decade. However, from 2009 to 2010, the percentage of persons with vaccine-preventable diseases increased from 1.6% to 4.9%. This is an increase of 3.4 percentage points from 2009 to 2010.

Crime and Safety

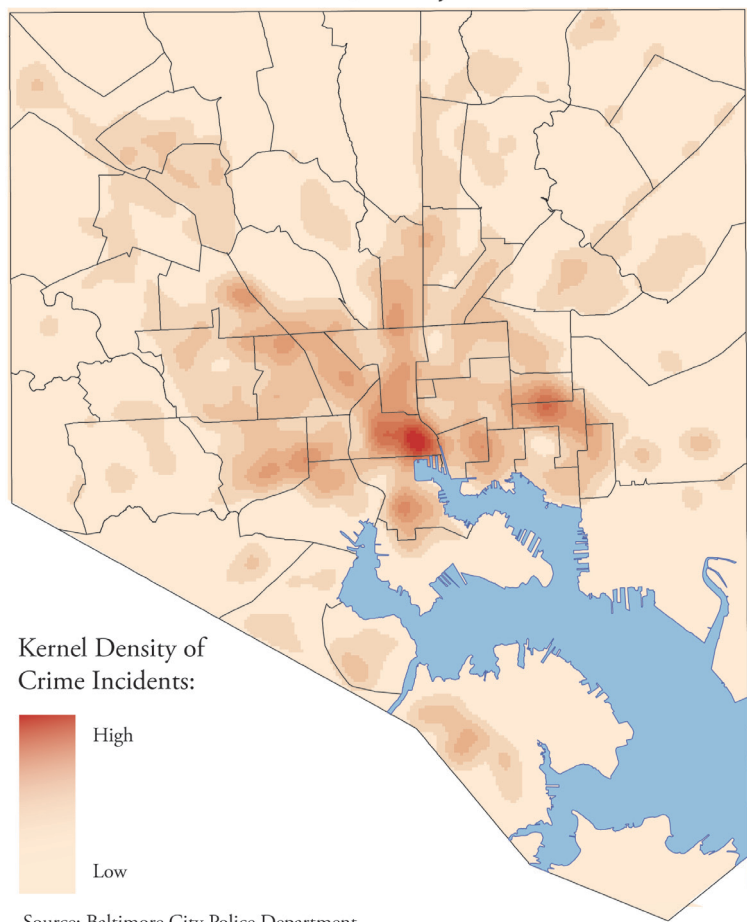
- The Part 1 crime rate in Baltimore City has declined from 106.0 offenses per 1,000 persons in 2000 to 61.4 offenses per 1,000 persons in 2010.
- The CSAs that have experienced the greatest decreases in Part 1 crime in the past decade have been Downtown/Seton Hill, Midtown, and Fells Point.
- The CSAs with the highest overall crime rates in 2010 were Downtown/Seton Hill (424.4 offenses per 1,000 persons), Inner Harbor/Federal Hill (165.2 offenses per 1,000 persons), Washington Village (123.9 offenses per

² The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that teen births hit an all-time low in 2010. There were 34.4 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19, a 9 percent drop from the year before.

Part 1 Crime, 2010

1,000 persons), Harbor East/Little Italy (119.3 offenses per 1,000 persons), and Greater Mondawmin (112.4 offenses per 1,000 persons).

- The City's violent crime rate decreased by nearly 11 incidents per 1,000 persons from 26.2 violent offenses per 1,000 persons in 2000 to 15.6 violent offenses per 1,000 persons in 2010.
- Only one CSA (Harford/Echodale) experienced an increase in their violent crime rate from 2000 to 2010.
- From 2009 to 2010, the violent crime rate for the City as a whole increased slightly from 15.3 offenses per 1,000 persons in 2009 to 15.6 offenses per 1,000 persons in 2010.
- The CSAs with the highest overall violent rates in 2010 were Downtown/Seton Hill (97.9 offenses per 1,000 persons), Southwest Baltimore (28.8 offenses per 1,000 persons), Harbor East/Little Italy (28.5 offenses per 1,000 persons), Oldtown/Middle East (27.8 offenses per 1,000 persons), Upton/Druid Heights (27.3 offenses per 1,000 persons), and Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park (27.1 offenses per 1,000 persons).

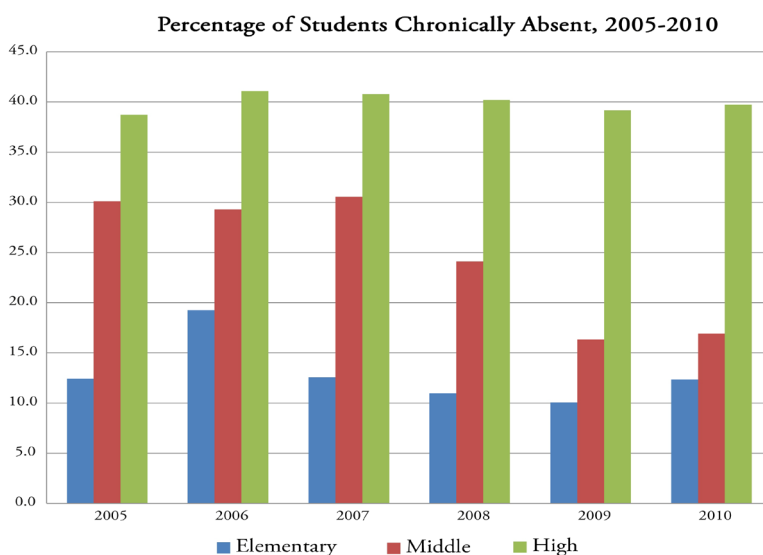


Workforce and Economic Development

- In 2010, 12.6% of the City's workforce was unemployed with six CSAs having at least one of every five persons being unemployed.
- In 2010, the CSAs with the lowest unemployment rates are Mt. Washington/Coldspring (2.8%) and Canton (3.0%) while the CSAs with the highest unemployment rates are Southwest Baltimore (24.3%) and Penn North/Reservoir Hill (24.2%).
- From 2000 to 2010, the percentage of persons in Baltimore City (aged 25 and above) that have a high school diploma held steady at 29.4%.
- The percentage of City residents with at least some college education (aged 25 and above) increased from 45.1% in 2000 to 47.9% in 2010.
- In 2010, 56.6% of businesses in Baltimore City can be considered to be small and successful businesses. These firms have 50 or fewer employees and are more than four years old. The CSAs with the greatest percentage of small and successful businesses are Cherry Hill (73.9%) and Harford/Echodale (68.3%).

Education and Youth

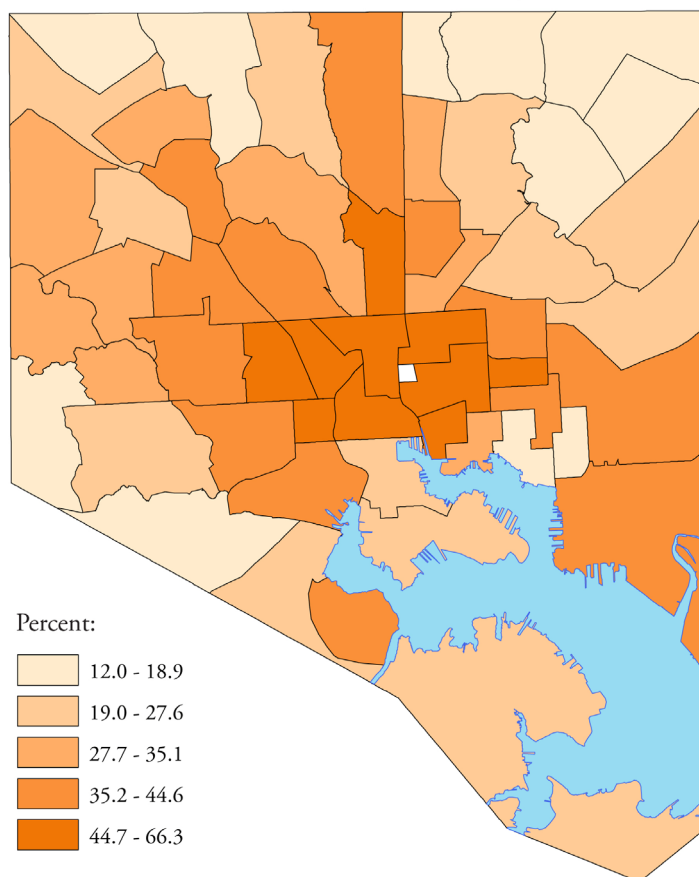
- The majority of students that attend Baltimore City Schools are African American (87.3%). While both the percentage of African American and white students has declined from 2005, the percentage of Hispanic students has increased from 1.8% in 2005 to 2.9% in 2010.
- The percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 in Baltimore City who withdrew from school before completion has experienced a significant decline from 10.2% in 2005 to 3.9% in 2010.
- Since 2005, the percentage of students that withdraw before completion has declined in 51 of the CSAs. The decline in the percentage of students that withdraw was greatest in Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market (-14.8%), Southwest Baltimore (-14.2%), and Washington Village (-13.5%).
- The high school completion rate has increased by five percentage points from 73.4% in 2005 to 78.4% in 2010.
- In 2010, more than one in every ten elementary school students were chronically absent. The percentage of elementary school students that were chronically absent increased from 10.1% in 2009 to 12.3% in 2010. The CSAs with the greatest percentage of chronically absent elementary students were Brooklyn/Curtis Bay/ Hawkins Point (19.6%), Morrell Park/Violetville (17.0%), and Edmonson Village (16.7%).
- In 2010, nearly 17% of the middle school students were chronically absent. The percentage of middle school students that were chronically absent increased slightly from 16.3% in 2009 to 16.9% in 2010. There were 18 CSAs in 2010 where more than one out of every five middle school students were chronically absent with the greatest percentage of chronically absent middle school students residing in Edmonson Village (38.2%).
- In 2010, nearly four of every ten high school students were chronically absent. The percentage of high school students that were chronically absent increased slightly from 39.2% in 2009 to 39.7% in 2010. In 2010, there were 28 CSAs where at least 40% of the high school students missed at least 20 school days and there were three CSAs where at least one out of every two high school students missed 20 or more school days.
- While, the percentage of 3rd, 5th, and 8th graders in Baltimore City public schools testing as Advanced/Proficient in their reading and math tests have increased from 2005 to 2010, the percentage of 3rd, 5th, and 8th grade students testing as Advanced/Proficient declined for reading and math exams from 2009 to 2010.
- While the percentage of high school students passing the HSA Government exam in Baltimore City increased from 2009 to 2010, the percentage of students passing the HSA English, Biology, and Algebra exams decreased from 2009 to 2010.



Urban Environment and Transit

- The percentage of employed City residents who commuted to work by a means other than a car increased from 22.7% in 2000 to 33.3% in 2010.
- In 2010, the CSAs with the largest percentage of residents who commute to work by means other than a car were Harbor East/Little Italy (66.3%), Greenmount East (55.5%), Madison/East End (54.4%), Downtown/Seton Hill (53.6%), and Midtown (51.5%).
- In 2010, the CSAs with the lowest percentage of residents who commute to work by means other than a car were Hamilton (12.0%), Mt. Washington/Coldspring (12.2%), Morrell Park/Violetville (14.8%) and Lauraville (14.9%).
- The percentage of employed Baltimore City residents using public transportation increased from 15.2% in 2000 to 21.8% in 2010. The percentage of employed Baltimore City residents who used transportation other than a car or public transportation (biking or walking) increased from 7.4% in 2000 to 11.5% in 2010.

Percent of the Population Using Means Other than a Car to Get to Work, 2006-2010



Source: American Community Survey

Neighborhood Action

- From 2003 to 2010, the number of properties in local historic districts in Baltimore City has increased by 17.5% from 7,230 in 2003 to 8,494 in 2010.
- The number of properties in local historic districts in Baltimore increased by 2.5% from 8,248 in 2009 to 8,494 in 2010. The CSAs with the greatest numbers of registered historic buildings are located in Midtown (1,916) and Fells Point (1,391).
- In 2010, there were a total of 342 community gardens in Baltimore City. The largest number of community gardens was located in Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park (30) and Penn North/Reservoir Hill (20).
- In 2010, there were a total of 508 park and environmental stewardship groups. The largest number of groups was located in Medfield/Hampden/Woodberry/Remington (41 groups).