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### Introduction

Youth Astray: The connection between youth gangs, schools, family, and the government

### Background

In these three census tracts, there are youths who hang out on corners, use drugs and/or alcohol, and or even end up joining gangs. This research has been compiled to try and explain possible reasons and effects of these actions.

### Maps

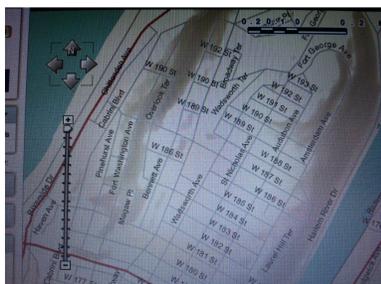
Tract# 929



Tract# 62

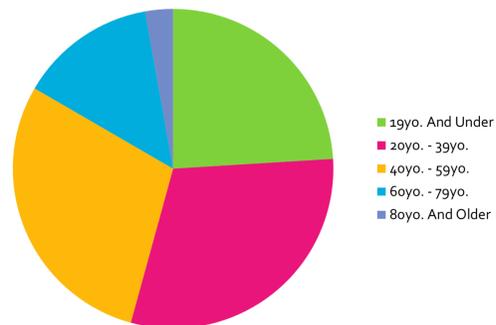


Tract# 271



### Census Tract# 929: College Point

Age Breakdown



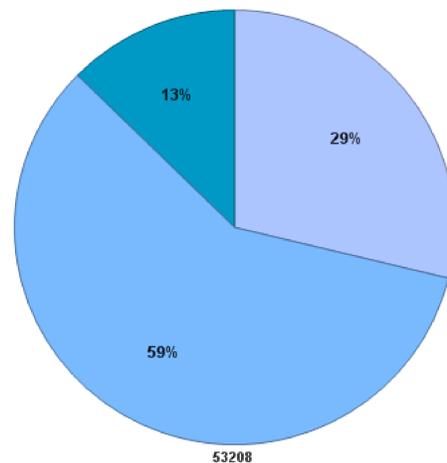
Today's youth, in College Point, have begun to grow up more rapidly than most teens in terms of maturity, which has caused an early introduction to alcohol and drug culture. This problem has an effect on both the teens themselves and others in the community.

- There are three main parks where teens in the area hangout.
- There are not many programs or community centers that provide a safe place for teens to hangout.
- Without productive forms of entertainment, local teens have turned towards illegal means of passing the time.
- Some adults in the area try to ignore the problem in order to maintain the idea that the neighborhood is pure and productive.
- The teens believe that because there are no other ways to have fun, and sports get boring, they have no choice.

### Census Tract# 271: Washington Heights

46% of all New York children are NOT enrolled in after-school programs.

Owner Occupied Renter Occupied Vacant



Due to low income, there is high number of rentals in W.H. Many are forced to rent rooms in their already rented apartments to pay rent. Low quality of life= higher influence to join gangs.

#### Statistics

The lack of government funding for educational and anti-gang programs also contributes to the ignorance of these youths of the risks of death and prison they are vulnerable to once they join a gang.

- 44.1% are on income support
- over 60,000 are on Medicaid/Medicare
- 48.7% of Hispanic students didn't graduate high school in four years
- Overall crime is up 15.89 percent in the 34th Precinct year-to-date

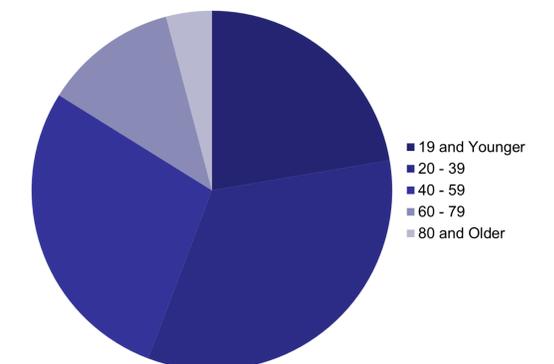
### Census Tract# 62

#### Bay Ridge

Thesis: Many youths hang out on the corners, and it's something very disturbing to the residents that live there or even for random people just passing by. There is a conflict between adults and youths over youths behavior.

- Even though this neighborhood is very safe, the youths hang out on the street corners and smoke illegal things.
- "Many of this youths want to have fun and experience things but in my opinion I think they go over the limit and do things that they're are not suppose to."--Mr. Alamo
- Some of the groups that hang around the corners, smoke marijuana, and drink alcohol are Arabic, Hispanic, and some white youths.
- "I believe that teens today are different than in the past and they have rejected traditional American values."—Mr. Randazzo

Age Breakdown



### Conclusions

Youth that have not been previously educated about the malice of street dangers and the repercussions of being a drop-out, easily fall into the temptations of illicit activities such as alcohol, drugs, and gangs.