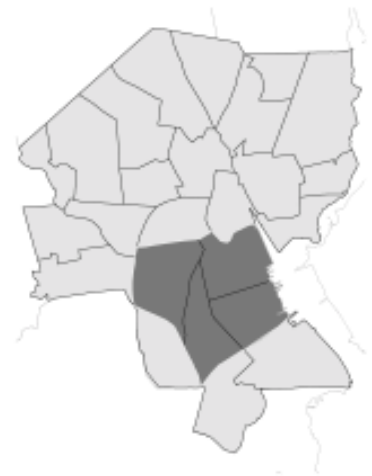


Residents and Data: Making the Connection

What the Residents Have Said and
What the Data Tells Us in the
South Providence, Elmwood, and
West End Neighborhoods



A Report Prepared
by the
Providence
Local
Learning
Partnership

September 2002

PROVIDENCE LOCAL LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

The Providence Local Learning Partnership enables families and neighbors in the Making Connections neighborhoods to share information and experiences in ways that enable them to access and benefit from economic opportunities, strong social networks, and quality support services. To find out more about how to be involved in the Local Learning Partnership, contact Shelly Weeden at The Providence Plan, 401-455-8880.

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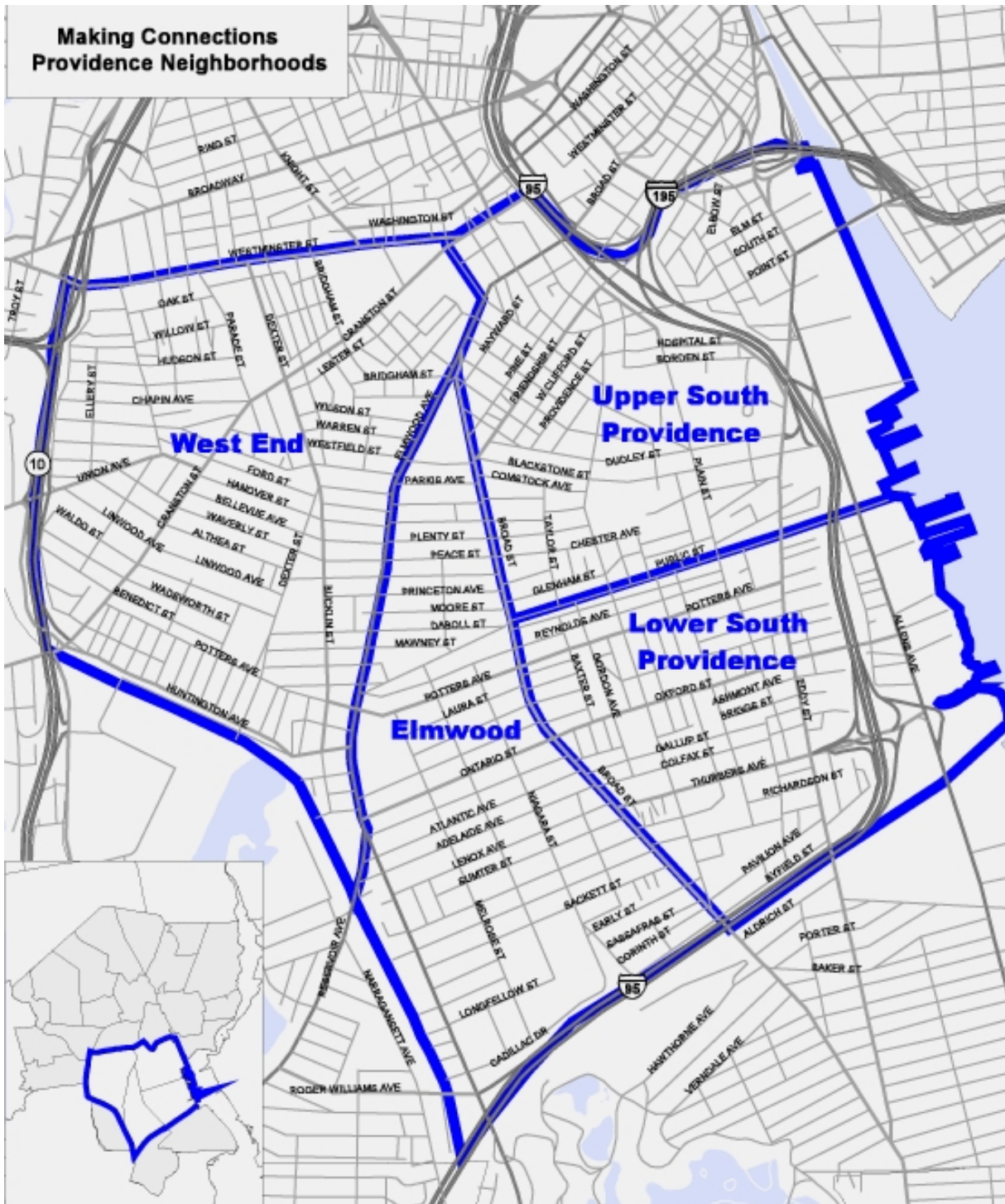
Special thanks to The Annie E. Casey Foundation for funding this report as part of the Making Connections initiative. For more information on Making Connections Providence, please contact Shannah Kurland, Site Coordinator, at 401-780-2255.

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Making Connections Neighborhoods

The Making Connections neighborhoods include areas defined by the Providence Department of Planning and Development as Upper South Providence, Lower South Providence, Elmwood, and the West End.



Introduction

South Providence, Elmwood and West End Neighborhoods: What have residents said? What does the data tell us?

The following information is intended to be a beginning guide answering the questions: *What have residents said?* and *What does the data tell us?* for the Upper and Lower South Providence, Elmwood and West End neighborhoods of Providence. This report has been prepared to inform neighborhood residents, community leaders, service providers and policy makers about the assets and needs of these Providence neighborhoods. Additionally, we hope this report will be used to provide context to those involved in the Making Connections planning process around four major focus areas: Family Economic Success, Strong Social Networks, Quality Services and Supports, and Immigrant and Refugee Concerns.

Methodology

This report was prepared by the Providence Local Learning Partnership with primary contributions from staff at Rhode Island KIDS COUNT and The Providence Plan. The primary function of the Providence Local Learning Partnership is to enable families and neighbors in the Making Connections neighborhoods to share information and experiences in ways that enable them to access and benefit from economic opportunities, strong social networks and quality support services. A

general call was made to all members of the Making Connections initiative as well as community leaders to provide contacts for planning projects, community needs assessments and other potential sources of information that have already been completed in the last ten years.

A total of 23 projects were reviewed, ten of which were used for their resident input in the form of surveys and focus groups. A list of all projects reviewed is included in the Appendix, with the ten projects used for their resident input noted in bold. Resident feedback was pulled from these ten projects and grouped according to subject area. That input is included in “bubbles” along with neighborhood level data.

Data and information used in maps were compiled from a wide range of sources, including The Providence Plan’s neighborhood profiles, the *2002 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook* and a variety of state and local data sources.

This report is designed to be a working document and not a final list of issues and data for the neighborhoods. We encourage your feedback and hope to expand this list to include more information on a wider range of family and neighborhood issues.

Making Connections Providence

In 1999, the Annie E. Casey Foundation began Making Connections, a new initiative involving 22 cities, including Providence. The primary aim of this effort is to stimulate and support a local movement that engages residents, civic groups, political leaders, grassroots activists, public and private sector leaders and faith-based organizations to help transform struggling neighborhoods into environments that support families. Making Connections is driven by the premise that children succeed when their families are strong and families thrive when they live in neighborhoods that connect them to **economic opportunities, social networks, and quality supportive services.**

Making Connections Providence focuses on the South Providence, Elmwood and West End neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Demographics

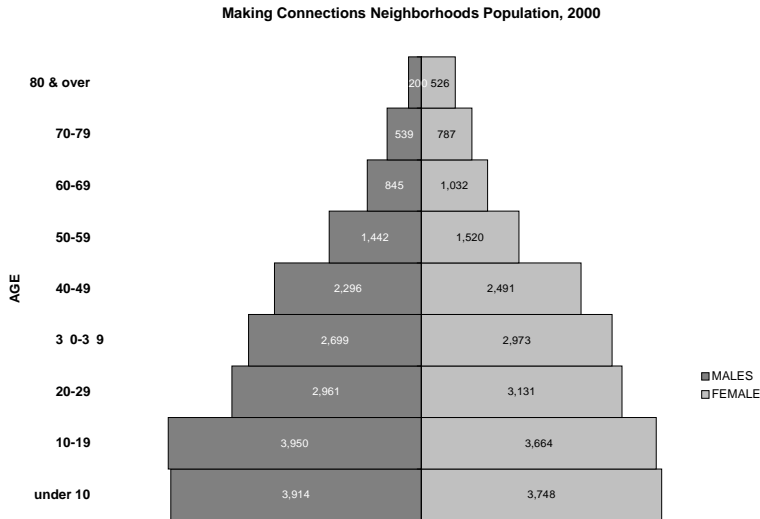
Total Population

According to Census 2000, there are 38,718 people living in the Making Connections neighborhoods. 35% of the population is under 18 and 57% are between the ages of 18 and 65. Of all the residents 75 years or older, 34% are male and 66% are female.

Population, Census 2000

11,533	Elmwood
5,744	Lower South Providence
4,965	Upper South Providence
+ 16,476	West End
<hr/>	
38,718	Making Connections Neighborhoods total

There are 13,741 children under age 18 in the Making Connections neighborhoods; 3,596 are under age 5.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Neighborhood Demographics

Diversity

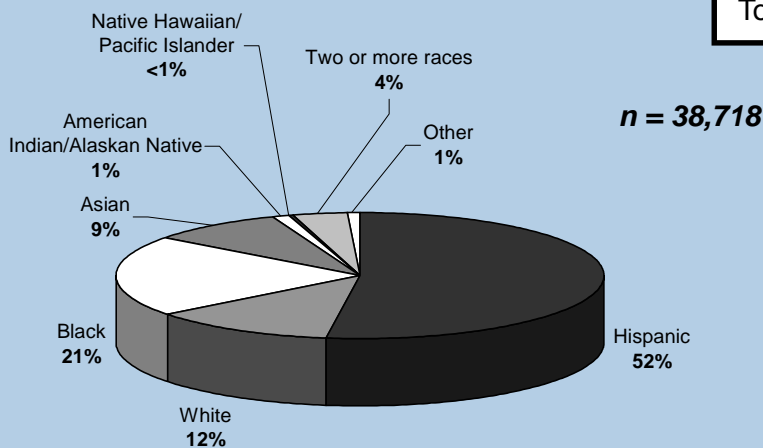
The Making Connections neighborhoods are among the most racially and ethnically diverse in the city.

Non-Hispanic:

White	4,733
Black	8,060
Asian	3,365
Native American	523
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders	18
Two or more races	1,414
Other	348

Hispanic: 20,257

Total Population: 38,718



The Hispanic population in the Making Connections neighborhoods grew by 55% between 1990 and 2000. One in two residents claim Hispanic origin in this part of the city.

All non-Hispanic racial groups declined over this same period. Despite these declines, the Making Connections neighborhoods remain some of the most ethnically diverse places in the city. Thirty different languages were spoken among public school students in 2001.

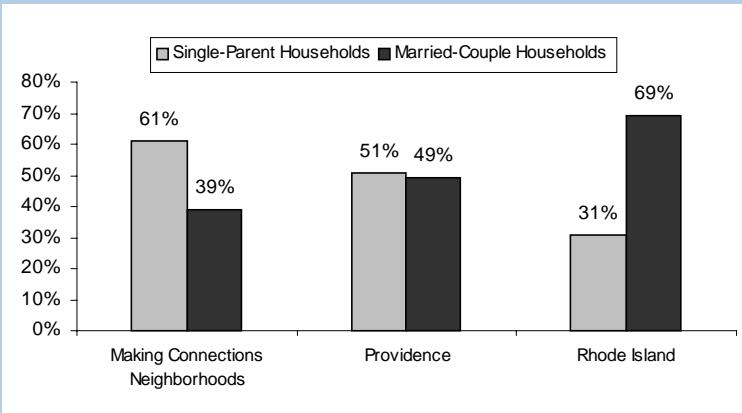
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, and Providence School Department.

Neighborhood Demographics

Families

The Making Connections neighborhoods are home to 6,210 families with children under age 18.

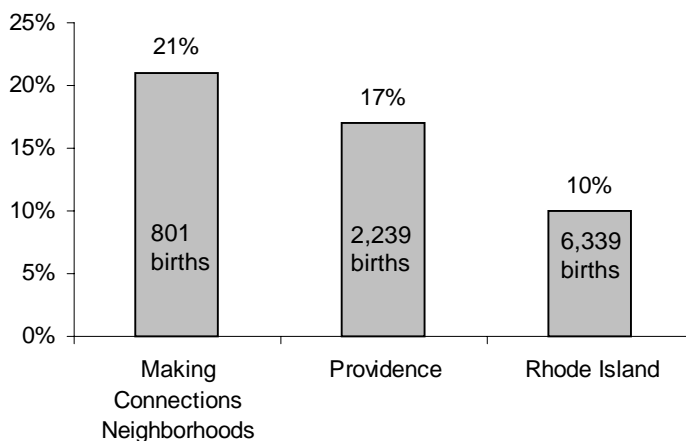
Single-Parent and Married-Couple Households, 2000



- Children who grow up in single-parent families are much more likely to be poor. Sixty-one percent of all children living in the South Providence, West End and Elmwood neighborhoods live in single-parent households. 51% of all children in Providence and 31% of children statewide live in single-parent families.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Births to Teens Ages 15-19, 1996-2000



One in five births in the Making Connections neighborhoods were to teens.

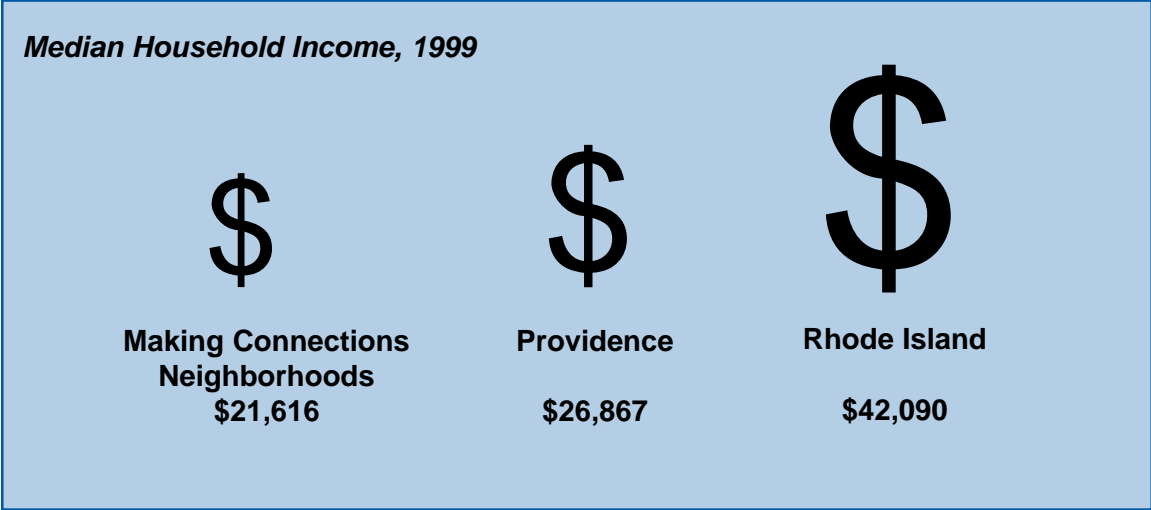
Sources: Rhode Island Department of Health, 1996-2000 and 2002 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook.

Births to Mothers with less than a Twelfth Grade Education

The education levels of parents are very closely connected with income and whether or not children will grow up in poverty. Almost half of all births (46%) to women in the Making Connections neighborhoods between 1996 and 2000 were to women with less than a high school diploma.

Family Economic Success

Income and Poverty



Half of all households in the Making Connections neighborhoods make less than \$21,616 and half make more. When adjusted for inflation, the median household income in the Making Connections neighborhoods **declined by 11%** between 1989 and 1999, from \$24,260 to \$21,616. Citywide, the median household income **dropped by 7%** from \$28,894 to \$26,867. The median household income statewide **increased by less than 1%** from \$41,985 to \$42,090 during this same period of time.

Employment Statistics, 2000

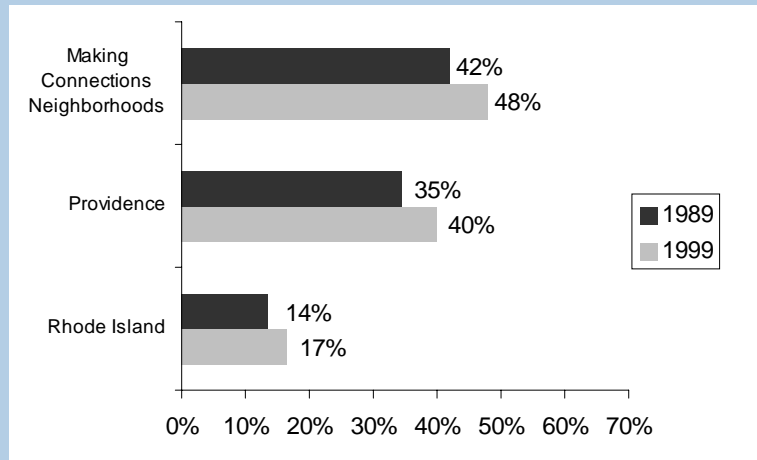
	<u>MAKING CONNECTIONS NEIGHBORHOODS</u>	<u>PROVIDENCE</u>	<u>RHODE ISLAND</u>
People ages 16 and over in the labor force:	13,471	76,833	543,353
% unemployed:	13%	9%	6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Family Economic Success

Income and Poverty

Child Poverty Rates, Providence and Rhode Island, 1989 and 1999



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Census.

- **14,210** people in the Making Connections neighborhoods are living in poverty. **6,480** are children under age 18.
- 40% (17,714) of children in the city of Providence are poor according to Census 2000. Providence is tied with New Orleans for the third highest child poverty rate in the country among cities with populations higher than 100,000.

During the 2000-2001 school year, there were 9,509 children in schools in the Making Connections neighborhoods that were enrolled in the free or reduced price meal program. Children must live in households that make less than 185% of the poverty level to qualify (185% of poverty in 2002 is an annual income of less than \$27,787 for a family of three).

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2000-2001 School Year.

The current poverty threshold for a family of three with two children is \$14,269 and \$17,960 for a family of four with two children.

“There is a lack of employment in the neighborhoods.”

“The problems with poverty and homelessness continue to grow.”

“The economy of the neighborhoods is struggling to stay alive.”

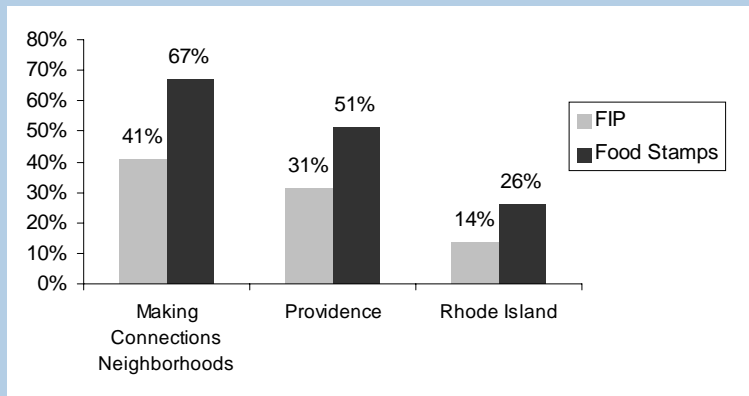


Source: Except where otherwise noted, information on this page is from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Family Economic Success

Access to Basic Resources

Participation in FIP and Food Stamps as a Percentage of all Households with Children Under Age 18, January 2000



- Access to basic resources, including the income and supports provided through the Family Independence Program (FIP) and help with food expenses provided through the Food Stamp program, can assist many families with making ends meet and moving toward economic success.

As of January 2000, there were 2,532 families enrolled in the FIP program in the Making Connections neighborhoods. Over the same time period, 4,160 families participated in the Food Stamps program.

Sources: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, 2000 and U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

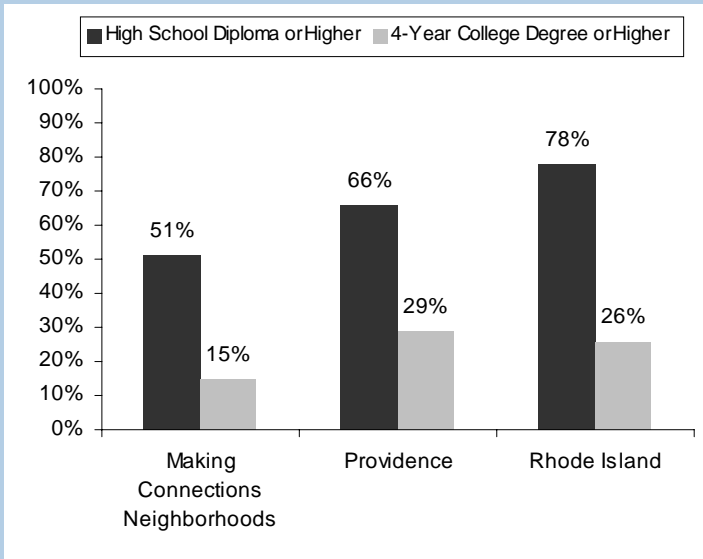
The **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** is a refundable credit on the federal income tax available to low and moderate income working families with children. The EITC removes more children from poverty than any other federal program. In 2001, 12,171 families in zip codes 02905, 02907 and 02909 claimed this credit. This is 35% of families filing tax returns in these neighborhoods. Of the families who accessed the EITC, 40% used Refund Anticipation Loans to access their refunds quickly, often at high interest rates.

Source: The Brookings Institution, Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy - EITC/RAL Spreadsheet (June 2002).

Family Economic Success

Skills Needed to Achieve Economic Success

Educational Attainment, 2000



Educational levels are strongly connected with employment and earnings across all racial, ethnic and gender categories.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



- Only 1 in 2 adults age 25 or older that live in the Making Connections neighborhoods have a high school diploma or higher education. This is well below the city and state averages.
- The share of people with a college degree in the Making Connections neighborhoods is half the city average of 29%.

In Rhode Island, the communities with the lowest median income tend to have the lowest educational attainment levels. On the other hand, the wealthiest communities have the highest educational attainment levels.

More than half the adults in Barrington and East Greenwich, the two highest income communities in the state, have a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 29% in Providence and only 5.7% in Central Falls and 10.1% in Woonsocket, the two lowest income communities in the state.

"There is a high illiteracy rate and a lack of education among our residents."

WHAT DO RESIDENTS THINK?

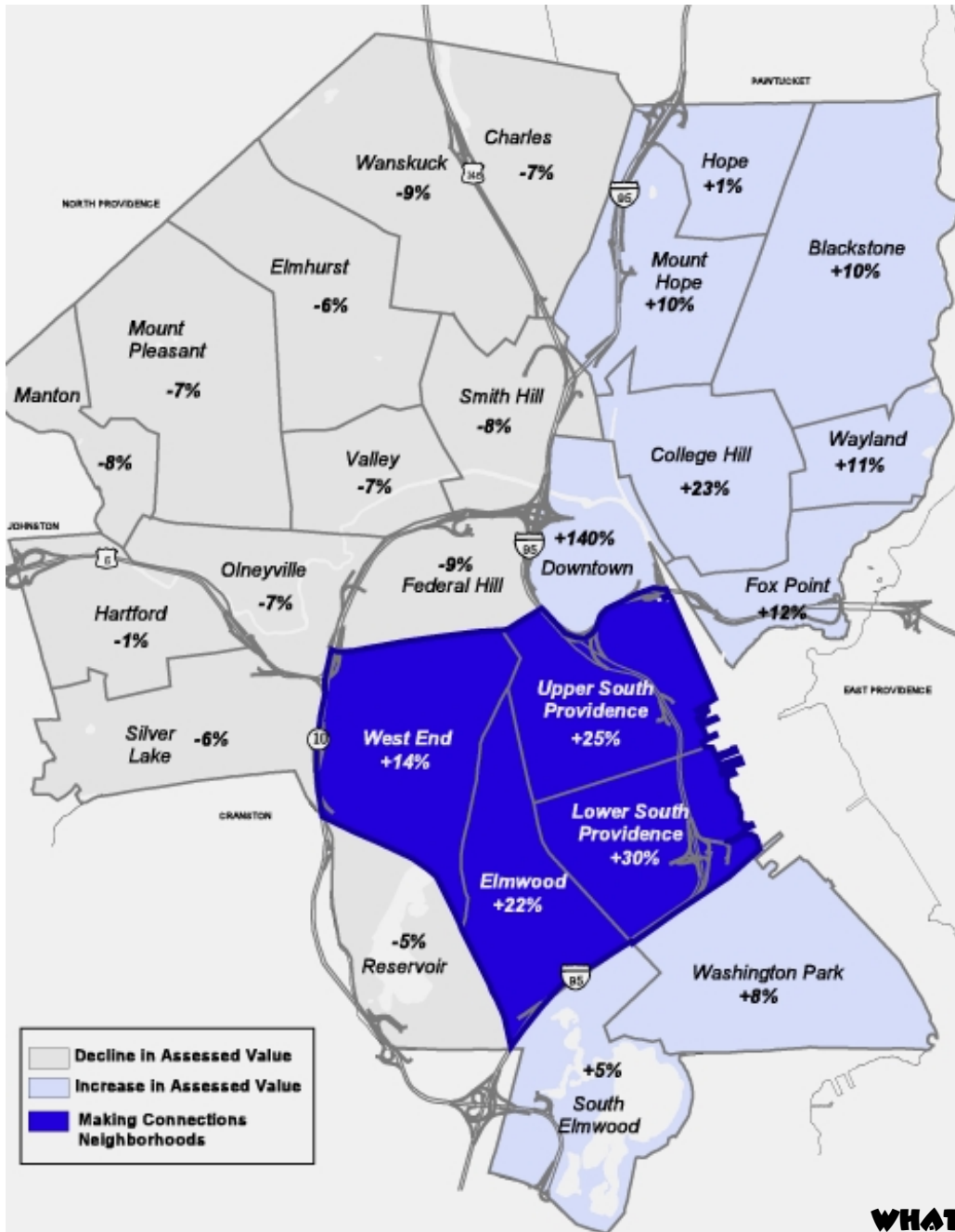


"There are many highly skilled residents in the neighborhood."

Family Economic Success

Access to Financial Resources

Change in Assessed Property Values, 2-5 Family Residences, Providence, 1996-2001



Property values in the Making Connections neighborhoods increased between 14% and 30% in the last 5 years. These were among the largest increases in the city.

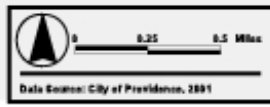
Access to Financial Institutions

There are only three banks and one credit union, two of which are located in hospitals, in the Making Connections neighborhoods. Residents often must use check cashing institutions and liquor stores as their primary means of banking.

“Banks and insurance companies discriminate because of the outside perception that Elmwood is a dirty place.”

WHAT DO RESIDENTS THINK?

Source: Providence Tax Assessor’s Database, 2001.



Family Economic Success

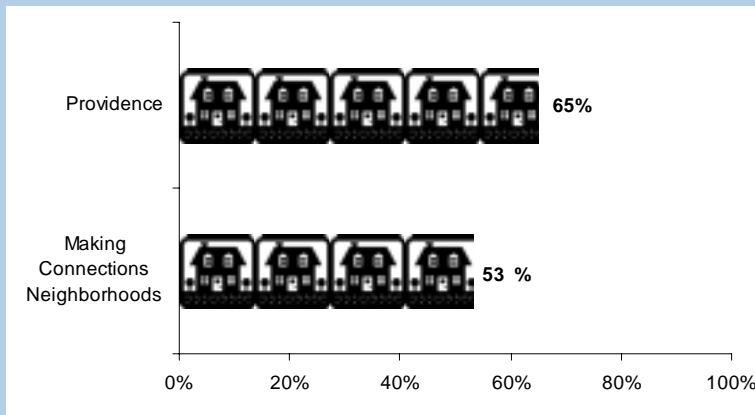
Access to Safe and Affordable Housing

Households that spend more than 30% of their monthly income on rent are “rent burdened.” Rent burden is an indicator of housing affordability, housing choice, and quality of life. Families that spend 30% or more of their monthly income for rent have less money available for their present and future needs.

Percentage of Families with Rent Burden, 2000

Making Connections Neighborhoods	44%
Providence	43%
Rhode Island	37%

Owner Occupancy, Providence and Making Connections Neighborhoods, 2001



- Less of the housing in the Making Connections neighborhoods is owner occupied than in the rest of the city.
- There are 4,755 residential structures in Making Connections neighborhoods. 2,522 of them are owner occupied.

Source: Providence Tax Assessor’s Database, 2001.

WHAT DO RESIDENTS THINK?



“Absentee landlords control many houses and there is a lack of code enforcement, but tenants don’t complain because they fear eviction.”

“Irresponsible landlords need to be individually addressed and action needs to be taken to force them to take responsibility for issues on their property.”

“More people are buying houses to live in. Affordable housing is more reachable here.”

“Housing is becoming less affordable.”

Family Economic Success

What else have residents said?

- Lack of links to jobs and opportunities for youth leads to drug dealing.
- Condition of neighborhood parks and streets need to be improved.
- Need for more information about local businesses.
- Need for more funding for the community.
- Using the bus to get to work on weekends, nights, and holidays is really bad.
- You have to leave much earlier to get to work on time when you take the bus.

What do residents want?

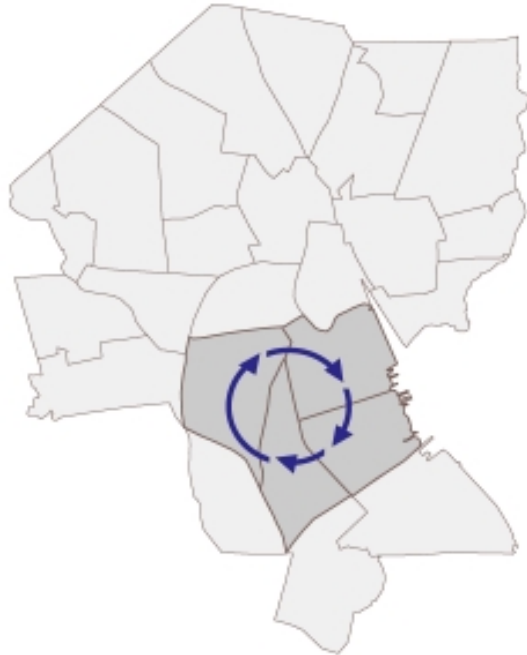
- Discontinue all of the class divisions in neighborhoods because of the effect it has on family pride.
- Economic stability.
- Want to be able to find and afford quality education.
- Increase numbers of residents who pursue higher education degrees.
- Increase number of high school and college graduates in the neighborhood.

What do you think?



Strong Social Networks

Neighborhoods Promote Resident Stability



Student Residential Mobility in the Making Connections Neighborhoods

About 1 in 4 public school children living in the Making Connections neighborhoods changed residences at least once between October 2000 and October 2001.

Nearly half of all the students who moved stayed within the Making Connections neighborhoods, moving between Elmwood, Upper and Lower South Providence, and the West End.

Families that move often do not have the opportunity to connect to churches, schools, services or their neighbors. Research shows that frequent moves can negatively affect school performance and behavior. Frequent moves indicate other difficulties for families such as poverty, unaffordable or unsafe housing, and broken families.

Neighborhoods Foster Strong Social Networks

There are a large number of places of worship in the Making Connections neighborhoods. There are more than 50 religious organizations in the neighborhood. The number of people who regularly attend religious services in these organizations varies widely from place to place.

Arts and cultural organizations include a wide range of different groups from arts organizations that work with youth in afterschool programs to organizations that produce large annual festivals.

"No one says hi."

"The Art Park built by Youth in Action was a good addition to the area."

"Lack of social support and networks can cause problems."

"Transition of residents prevents neighborhood stability and relationship community building."

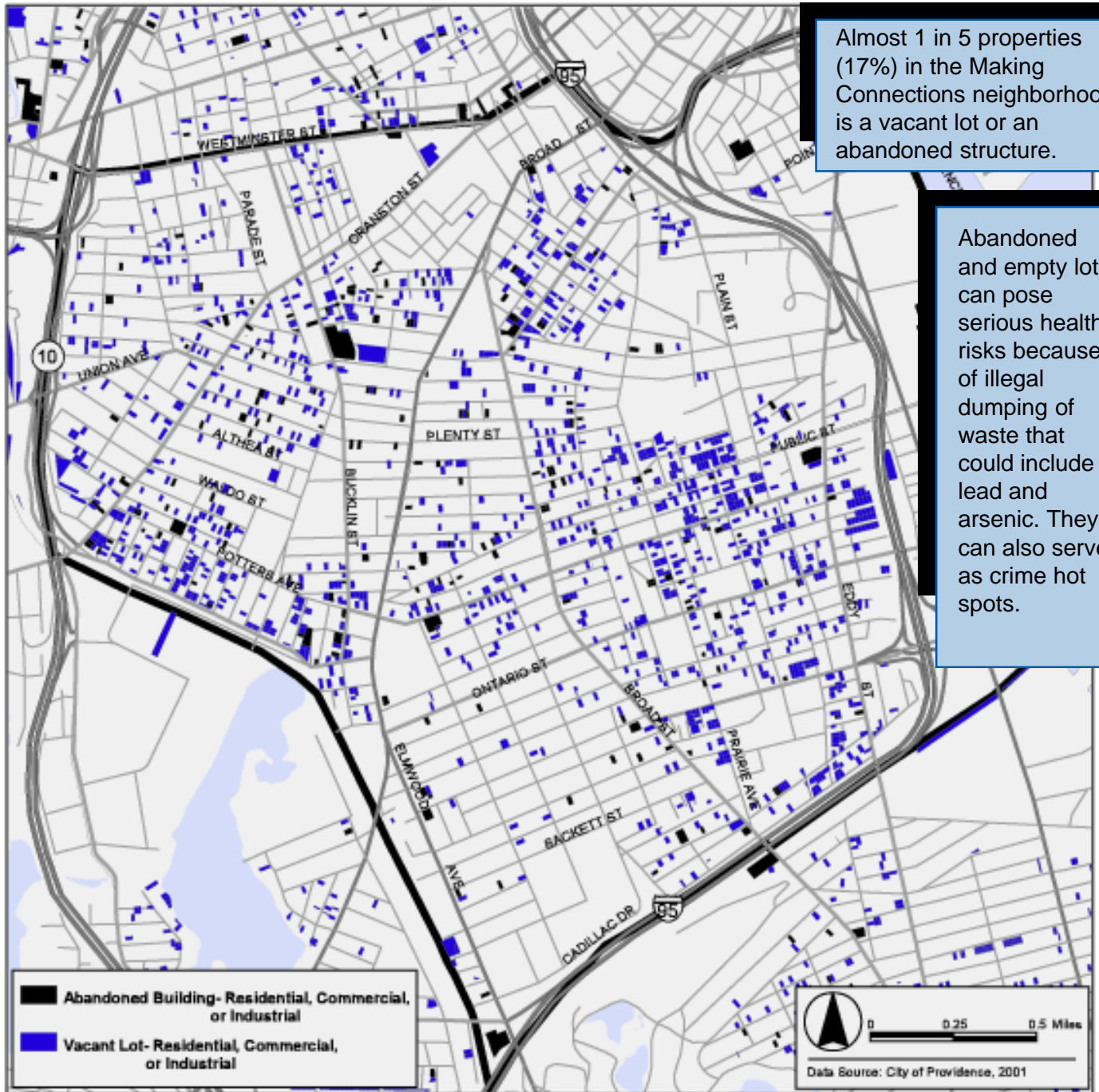


Strong Social Networks

Vacant and Abandoned Properties

Vacant Lots in Making Connections Neighborhoods, 2001

40% of all abandoned structures in Providence are located in the Making Connections neighborhoods.



Almost 1 in 5 properties (17%) in the Making Connections neighborhoods is a vacant lot or an abandoned structure.

Abandoned and empty lots can pose serious health risks because of illegal dumping of waste that could include lead and arsenic. They can also serve as crime hot spots.

"There is a great need to get rid of abandoned properties."

WHAT DO RESIDENTS THINK?



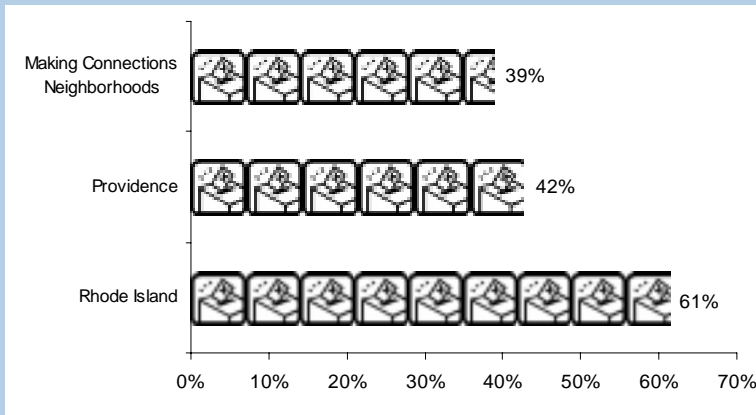
"Crime rates and abandoned properties are increasing everyday."

Source: City of Providence, 2001.

Strong Social Networks

Residents Feel Engaged in the Political System

Voter Turnout as a Percentage of All Registered Voters in the Making Connections Neighborhoods, Providence, and Rhode Island, 2000



- For the 2000 Presidential election, only one in four South Providence, West End, and Elmwood residents aged 18+ voted. Only one in three Providence residents aged 18+ voted.

32,088 people are registered to vote in the Making Connections neighborhoods. This is 66% of all people in the neighborhoods 18 years of age and over, compared to 76% citywide and 84% statewide.

Note: Making Connections neighborhoods are represented in wards 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, and 15. Numbers therefore include residents outside the Making Connections neighborhoods.

Sources: Providence Board of Canvassers, 2002, and U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

“Informal ‘neighborly’ groups at block levels will be more effective at getting people involved and should be nurtured by the CDCs, instead of controlled by them.”

“Leadership potential in the neighborhoods needs to be nourished.”

“We need more community organizing on the block level.”

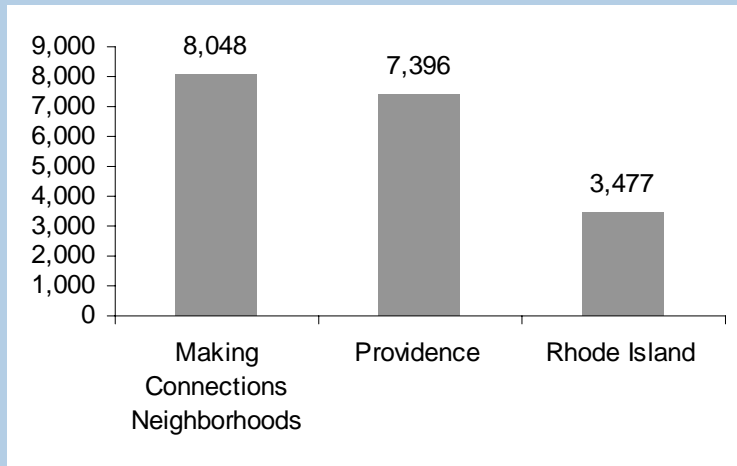
WHAT DO RESIDENTS THINK?



Strong Social Networks

Residents Feel Safe in Their Neighborhoods

Crime Rates* for Making Connections Neighborhoods, Providence, and Rhode Island, 2000



* Based on crime rate per 100,000 population. Crimes include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.

Source: State of Rhode Island, Division of State Police, Rhode Island Uniform Crime Reports 2001.

After downtown, **Elmwood** and the **West End** neighborhoods have the highest crime rates in the city.

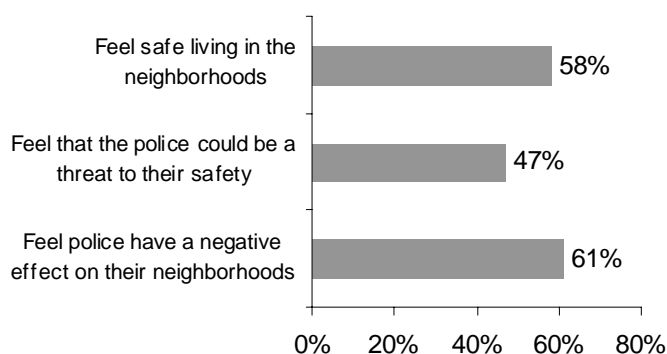
40% of all violent crimes committed in Providence between 1998 and 2000 were in the **Making Connections neighborhoods:**

violent crimes	%*
assault	29%
murder	58%
rape	36%
robbery	33%

non-violent crimes	%*
breaking and entering	21%
drug crimes	30%
motor vehicle theft	31%

*percentage of all such crimes in Providence

Residents' Concerns about Safety and the Police in the Making Connections Neighborhoods, 2001



n ≅ 500 residents

Source: South Providence Partnership DARE Community Survey, 2001.

"Traffic on neighborhood streets provides danger for children."

"There is a lot of drug use, gang activity, and violence in the neighborhoods."

"Families are concerned about the safety of neighborhoods."

WHAT DO RESIDENTS THINK?



Strong Social Networks

Residents Feel Safe in Their Neighborhoods

Between January 2000 and December 2001 Providence witnessed 53 homicides. Of these, the 30 lives lost in 2000 were the highest in a decade. The majority of those killed were young men.

Sadly, 24 of these homicides occurred in the Making Connections neighborhoods. Far too many youth, fathers, children, friends and loved ones experienced untimely deaths in the neighborhoods. Much of the violence was related to old feuds, gangs, and drug activity.

In presenting their names below, we honor the 24 lives lost and the loved ones they have left behind.

2000	2001
☪ <i>Juan Gonzalez, 26</i>	☪ <i>Sarah Brown, 66</i>
☪ <i>Thomas Coward, 21</i>	☪ <i>Wayne Williams, 26</i>
☪ <i>Manuel Clemente, 23</i>	☪ <i>Alfonso Brown, 20</i>
☪ <i>Dennys Cabrera, 20</i>	☪ <i>Rom Peov, 31</i>
☪ <i>Hector Perez, 23</i>	☪ <i>Peter Adorno, 66</i>
☪ <i>Jennifer Rivera, 15</i>	☪ <i>Donald Couitt, 41</i>
☪ <i>Jordan Acosta, 24</i>	☪ <i>Hector Taveras-Disla, 41</i>
☪ <i>John Hyman, 17</i>	☪ <i>Luis Bruno, 24</i>
☪ <i>Kenneth Kilgore, 28</i>	☪ <i>Franklin Mercado, 36</i>
☪ <i>Omar Gomez, 21</i>	
☪ <i>Daniel Luciano, 15</i>	
☪ <i>Lawrence Clement, 50</i>	
☪ <i>Angel Martinez, 19</i>	
☪ <i>Diogenes Ramos, 19</i>	
☪ <i>Jay Robinson, 19</i>	

Sources: Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General and The Providence Journal Archives, 2000 and 2001.

Strong Social Networks

What else have residents said?

- There are good neighbors that show affection.
- The neighborhood has good stores with good service.
- There are too many liquor stores in the neighborhood.
- Very diverse and mixed cultures.
- Issue of language barriers is often a problem.
- There are a lot of junk cars in the neighborhood.
- The noise factor in the neighborhood is ridiculous.
- Drinking is a problem in the area.

What do residents want?

- More police patrol.
- More family-owned businesses in the neighborhood.
- Improvement in neighborhood parks and recreational areas.
- Establishment of the community as a whole.
- More street lights are needed in the neighborhoods.
- More “fun activities” like block parties, festivals, etc.
- Neighborhood organizations need more staffing and nurturing to effectively deal with safety issues.
- Change in the attitude of law enforcement officials.

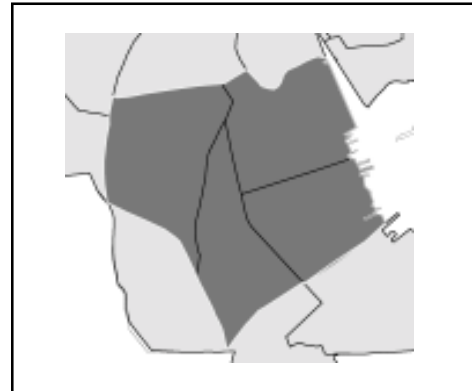
What do you think?



Quality Services and Supports

Organizations and Resources in the Making Connections Neighborhoods

Organization Type	Total
 Arts and Culture Organizations	21
 Boys and Girls Club	1
 Church/Religious Groups	51
 City Community Centers	2
 City Recreation Centers	4
 Child Care Centers	13
 Community-Based Organizations	27
 Head Start Center	1
 Health Centers	2
 Hospitals	4
 Housing/Community Development	5
 Libraries	2
 Public Schools	18
 Private & Catholic Schools/Other	6



Note: Refer to the Organizations and Resources Map included in the center of this report for the locations of organizations in the Making Connections neighborhoods.

There are a large number of community organizations in the neighborhoods that provide a wide range of services and supports to families.

"There is no place for teens (ages 13-15), no programs for teens and this is the age where crime is an issue and teen pregnancy."

"There needs to be an increase in the number of community assets that are used."

"There are many supportive organizations in the neighborhood."

WHAT DO RESIDENTS THINK?



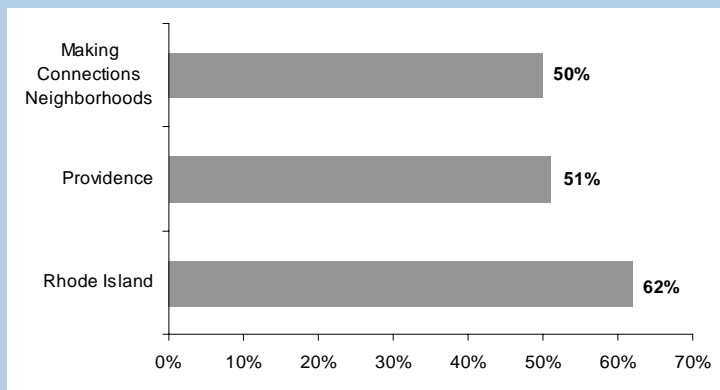
Quality Services and Supports

All Families Have Access to Quality Child Care

There are 6,210 families in the Making Connections neighborhoods with children under 18 years of age. 61% are single-parent households.

There are 13 child care centers and 140 family day care homes in South Providence, Elmwood and the West End. 280 families receive Head Start services through the Friendship Street Head Start Center and approximately 40 families in the neighborhood are involved in the Early Head Start Program.

Percentage of Children Under Age 6 in Families with All Parents in the Household Working, 2000



There are 1,378 grandparents living in homes with their grandchildren. 507 of them are responsible for care of their grandchildren.

- 1,897 children under age 6 in the Making Connections neighborhoods live in families with all parents in the workforce.
- Families rely on child care to enable them to work and to prepare their children to enter school.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

"If parent isn't working, they can't receive child care subsidies, but need child care to get a job."

"It's hard finding child care for 2nd shift employment."

"Day care providers are not consistent with hours that families work."

"Overwhelming need for child care."

RESIDENTS THINK?

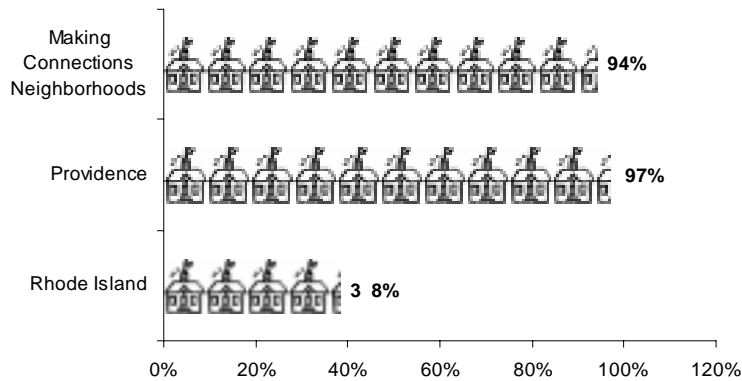
WHAT DO



Quality Services and Supports

All Children Have Access to Quality Schools

Percentage of all Schools that are Low Performing, 1998-2001

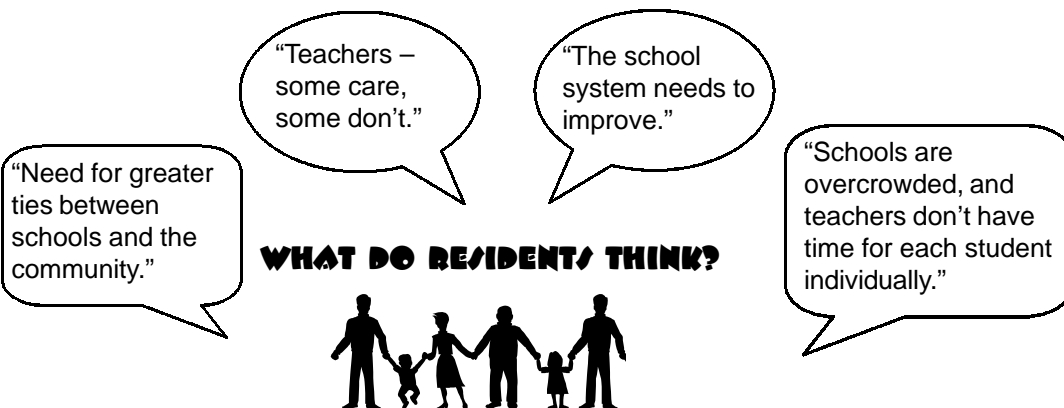


Classical High School was the only public school in Providence (elementary through high school) that boasted a high performance rate. The other public high schools in Providence had a low performance rate.

- There are 11 public elementary schools, 3 public middle schools and 4 public high schools in the Making Connections neighborhoods. All of the elementary schools and all of the middle schools fell under the low performance category.

High performing schools are those in which at least 50% of students achieve the standard; low performing schools are those in which 33% or more of students performed significantly below standards or did not score.

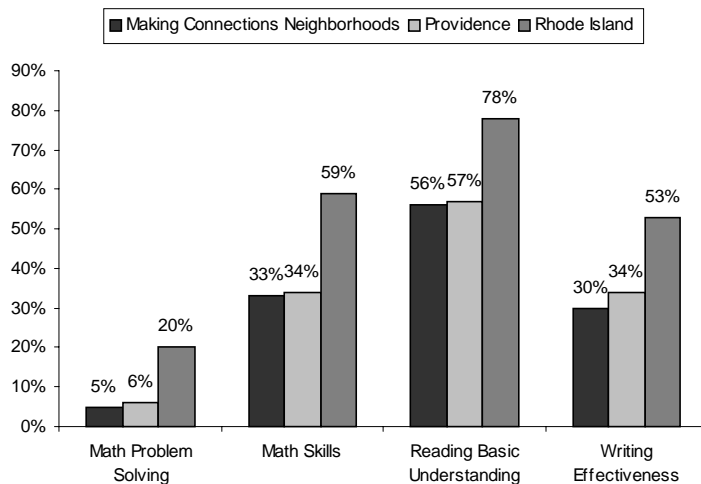
Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Information Works! 2001.



Quality Services and Supports

All Children Have Access to Quality Schools

Share of Fourth Graders that Achieved the Standard in Math and Reading, Spring 2000



- Reading skills are critical to a student's success in school and in the workforce. Students who cannot read are more likely to be absent from school, exhibit behavior problems, have low levels of self-confidence, and perform poorly in school.
- Children in the fourth grade who lived in South Providence, Elmwood and West End neighborhoods performed about as well as other children in Providence but significantly lower than the statewide average on standardized tests of math, reading and writing.

Note: Percentages indicate the share of children that achieved the standard on each of the tests.

School performance directly affects graduation rates. The graduation rate for Providence schools is considerably lower than the rest of the state. In 2001, Providence high schools had a graduation rate of 64%, compared to the rest of the state with a graduation rate of 81%.

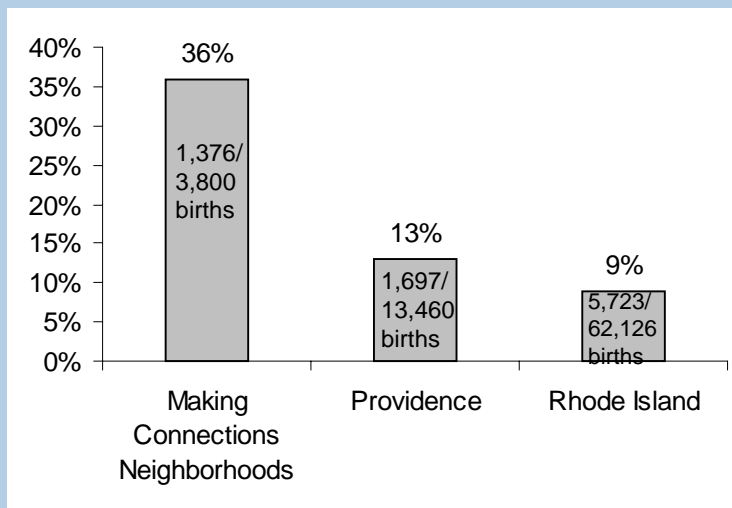
Sources: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Information Works! 2001 and the Providence School Department.

Quality Services and Supports

Families Are Healthy and Have Access to Preventive Health Programs

As of December 2001, there are 5,690 children and adults enrolled in Rlte Care and Medical Assistance in the Making Connections neighborhoods. This is 28% of all people enrolled in Medical Assistance in Rhode Island.

Women with Delayed Prenatal Care, 1996-2000



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health; Rhode Island KIDS COUNT 2002 Factbook.

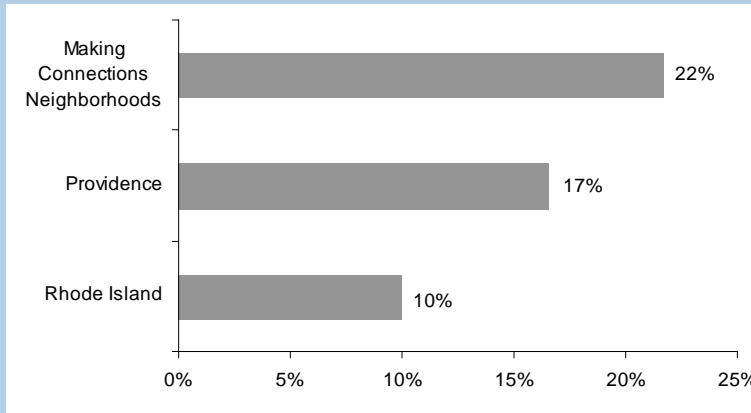
There are four hospitals and two health centers in the Making Connections neighborhoods.

Women living in the South Providence, Elmwood and West End neighborhoods are four times as likely to not get the prenatal care they need to insure that their babies are born healthy than women in the state as a whole.

Quality Services and Supports

Families Are Healthy and Have Access to Preventive Health Programs

Children with Elevated Blood Levels, Rhode Island, Providence, and Making Connections Neighborhoods, 2000



Although the number of children in the Making Connections neighborhoods with elevated blood lead levels (≥ 10 ug/dl) has dropped dramatically, from almost half of all children (47%) tested in 1996 to one in five (22%) children tested in 2000, children living in these neighborhoods are still twice as likely as the state average to have elevated blood lead levels.

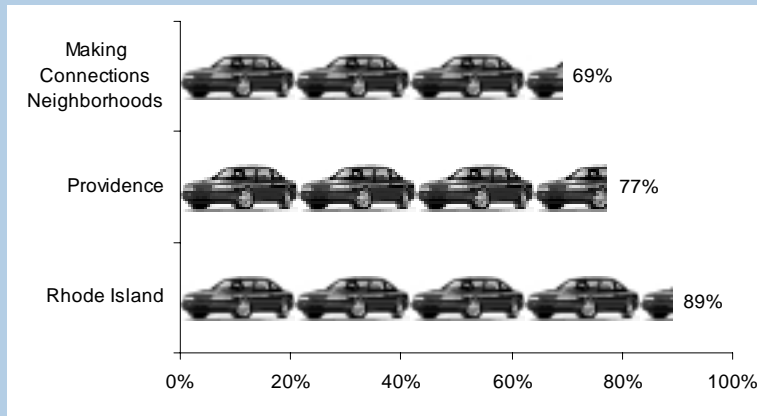
Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, children tested in 2000.



Quality Services and Supports

Families Have Access to Transportation

Percentage of Households with Own Vehicles, 2000



Close to one third of all households in the Making Connections neighborhoods **do not** have a vehicle available to them (31% or 3,800 households). This is much higher than the Providence average of 23% and the statewide average of 11%.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Homeowners are much more likely than renters to have a vehicle. In the Making Connections neighborhoods, 90% of households that own their homes have at least one vehicle while only 62% of renter households have one.

"People don't feel safe riding the bus at night."

"The bus is the primary means of transportation for many families to go to work and to other appointments."

"It's hard to get on and off the bus with kids and carriages."

"The weekend and night-time bus schedule is awful."

RESIDENTS THINK?

WHAT DO



Quality Services and Supports

What else have residents said?

- Neighborhoods are in convenient locations to medical and business services.
- Pick up the slack on the maintenance services (for example, trash is not being collected on time).
- The quantity of respect that is given through some of the services is very minimal.
- Lack of streetlights, stop signs, and speed bumps.
- Great need for services that have the ability to make families become independent.
- Bus drivers are inconsiderate and don't always stop when you want them to (buses are often late or don't come at all).
- Board members of many local agencies are not members of the neighborhoods, which is a governance/representation issue.
- Some people are afraid to go to DHS offices for services.
- Medicine and prescriptions are too expensive.

What do residents want?

- Improvement in recreational areas and programs.
- Safer atmosphere for youth.
- Need to get the word out on programs that already exist.
- Needs to be more teacher accountability.

What do you think?

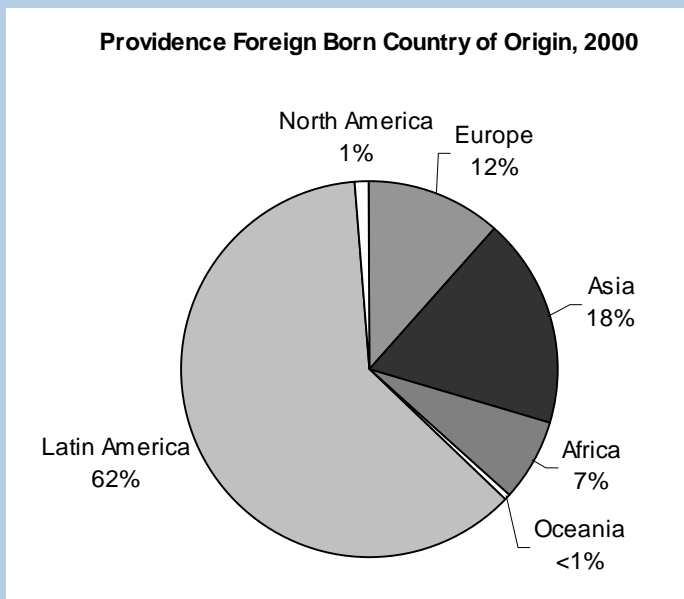


Immigrant and Refugee Concerns

Immigrants and Refugees in Providence

Foreign-Born Population in Providence:

- Mostly recent immigrants.
- 45% arrived between 1990 and 2000.
- Mostly non-citizens.
- 66% not naturalized citizens.
- Two out of three foreign-born people living in Providence in 2000 was from a Latin American country.
- Nearly one in five was from an Asian country.



n = 43,947

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

	MAKING CONNECTIONS NEIGHBORHOODS		PROVIDENCE		RHODE ISLAND	
U.S. Born	23,431	61%	129,671	75%	929,042	89%
Foreign Born	15,287	39%	43,947	25%	119,277	11%
Total Population	38,718	100%	173,618	100%	1,048,319	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

“There is a perception that jobs are more readily available in Providence than in other cities, but many of us come to the US to live better, and end up finding poverty and no hope.”

RESIDENTS THINK?



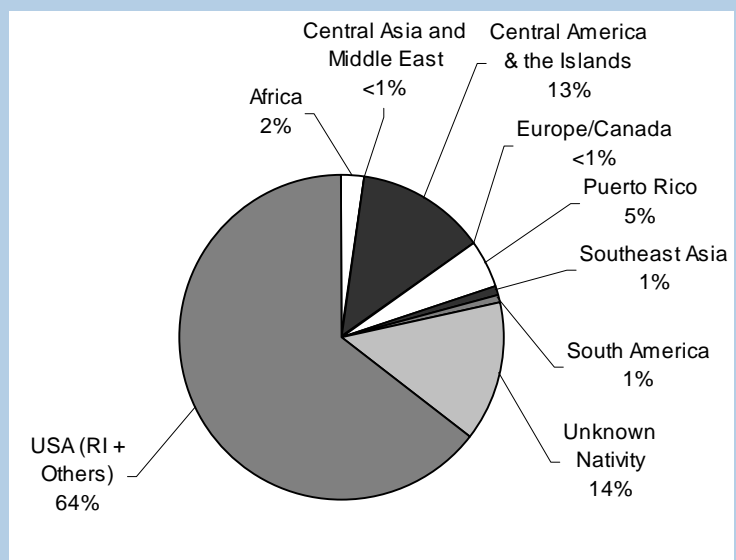
“There is no support for professionals coming to Providence, and therefore they end up working in factories. There need to be programs that help professionals and trades people transfer their training and experience to work in Rhode Island.”

Immigrant and Refugee Concerns

Immigrants and Refugees in South Providence, Elmwood and the West End

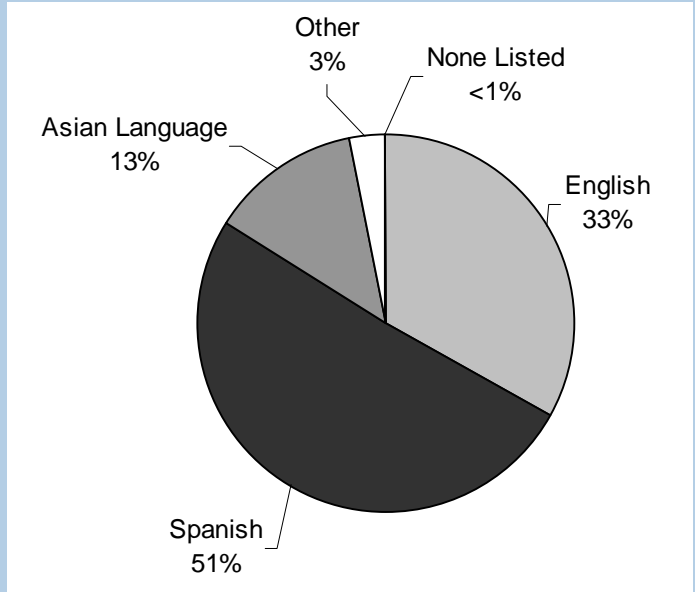
There are at least 2,000 school aged children who are immigrants living in the Making Connections neighborhoods. This is about one in four children for whom country of origin is known.

Nativity of Students in Public Schools Living in Making Connections Neighborhoods, 2001



n = 9,121

First Language of Students in Public Schools Living in Making Connections Neighborhoods, 2001



n = 9,093

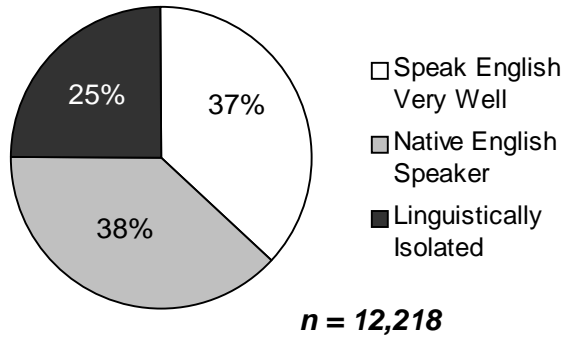
Of the approximately 9,100 public school students in the Making Connections neighborhoods, 5,876 claim a language other than English as their first language.

Source: Providence School Department, 2001. Pie chart population numbers differ because data runs occurred on different days of the school year.

Immigrant and Refugee Concerns

Language and Literacy Skills to Succeed

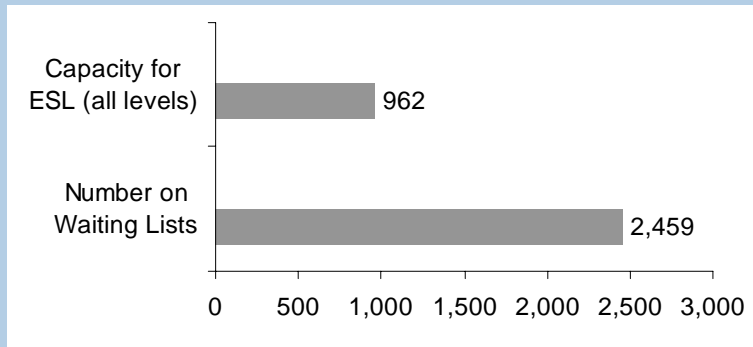
Linguistic Isolation in the Making Connections Neighborhoods, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

- The Census Bureau considers a household linguistically isolated if no person in the household 14 years and older is a native English speaker or speaks English “very well.”
- 25% (3,060) of households in the Making Connections neighborhoods are linguistically isolated. Of these households, 84% are Spanish speaking, 10% Asian language speaking, and 6% speak other languages.

ESL Programs in Making Connections Neighborhoods, 2002



- As of June 2002, there were 13 programs offering some type of English as a Second Language programs in South Providence Elmwood and the West End. Still, the need greatly outweighs the capacity for service.

Source: Phone survey of programs listed in the LVA directory. Although there may be some duplication in the number on waiting lists, many programs could but choose not to carry waiting lists.

Legal assistance and help attaining citizenship is a great need among members of the community. Only two programs currently offer citizenship classes in the Making Connections neighborhoods and only the International Institute offers legal assistance at a reduced rate.

“There are a lack of jobs, and lack of affordable English classes.”

“Need more opportunities to learn English (available and affordable).”

“When I go somewhere there is no interpreter, I have to wait for a long time and I understand very little.”

“There is a lack of respect for cultures.”

RESIDENTS THINK?

WHAT DO



Immigrant and Refugee Concerns

What else have residents said?

- For residents that do not speak English, health care and transportation are very difficult...some do not take public transportation because they do not speak English.
- There is rich cultural and language diversity in Providence.
- Language barriers are problematic because they hinder adequate understanding between families and health care providers/physicians.
- Immigrant families are isolated and unable to access resources.
- Need services to be multicultural as well as bilingual.
- Need for more knowledge of the different cultures that are present.
- Kids are becoming too “Americanized.”

What do residents want?

- More job opportunities found around the neighborhood.
- More knowledge about their different cultures, as well as the cultures of others need to be in the street.
- More buses need to run routes where people are getting jobs.
- The immigrant community as a whole needs to get involved with the community more.

What do you think?



Appendix

PROJECTS REVIEWED*

1. COZIN (Community Opportunity Zone Information Network) Survey.
2. **South Providence Partnership DARE Community Survey.**
3. City of Providence Application for Empowerment Zone Status.
4. Greater Elmwood Neighborhood Services (GENS) – Physical Assessment Survey.
5. Imagine – The Report of the Providence Blueprint for Education.
6. Impact of After-School Arts Mentoring Survey.
7. Ready to Learn – Providence Report.
8. Taking Stock – Services for Families and Children in South Providence, Elmwood, and the West End.
9. School Accountability for Learning and Teaching (SALT) Survey.
10. **Focus Groups – Providence Demography Initiative Survey.**
11. **Civic Entrepreneurs Report – Taking Stock Focus Group Results.**
12. WEHDC – West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation Survey.
13. West Side Action Plan Survey.
14. Community Needs Assessment and Market Research for the Southside and West End: Report for the YMCA of Greater Providence.
15. **Youth in Action – Community Action Survey.**
16. **West End Resident Needs Assessment Study.**
17. Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Info Works Reports.
18. **Community Focus Groups on Transportation – A Report for the Providence Plan.**
19. **The Elmwood Collaborative: Elmwood Neighborhood Revitalization Plan.**
20. City of Providence Application for Enterprise Community Status.
21. **The Mayor’s Early Childhood Task Force Needs Assessment.**
22. **Making Connections – Local Learning Partnership: Measuring Neighborhood Improvement Workshop Results.**
23. **Department of Human Services – Child Care Focus Groups.**

*Projects noted in bold were analyzed for resident input in the form of surveys and focus groups.

