

# POVERTY IN NEW YORK CITY

Analysis of Data from the US Census Bureau 2010 American Community Survey

September 2011, ALIGN: The Alliance for a Greater New York

## Summary

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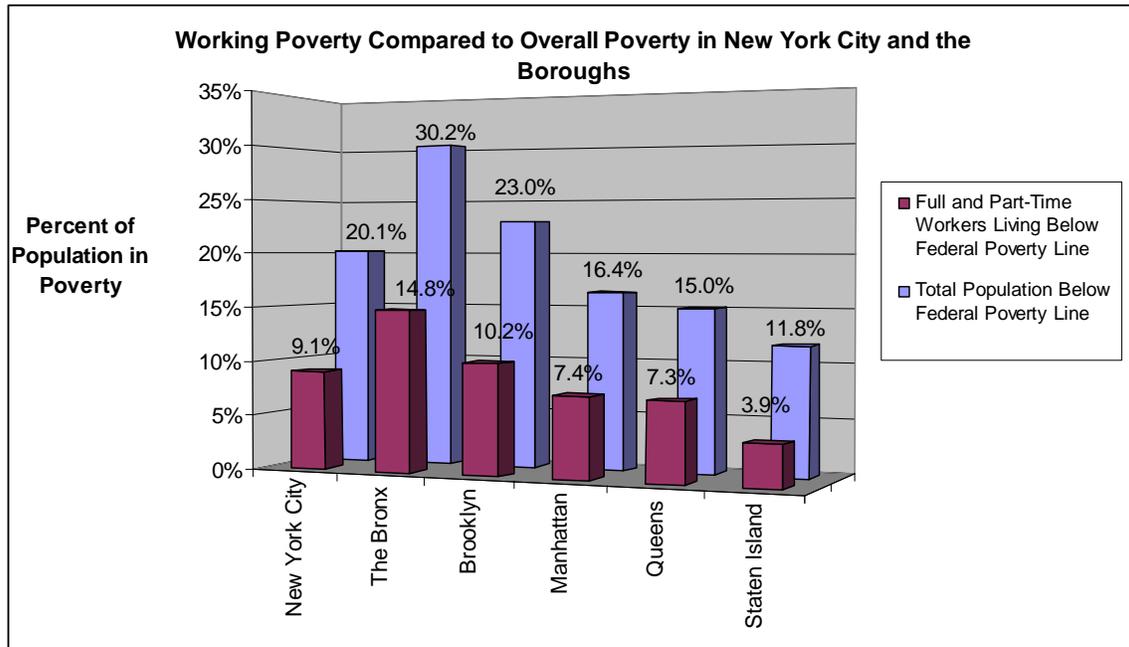
Throughout New York City, the “Great Recession” has had staggering impacts on our city. Amid the national debate on how to rebuild our economy, the 2010 Census’ American Community Survey allows us to take a moment to reflect on the severe impact the recession has had on our neighborhoods and boroughs. Poverty remains high, earnings for nearly half of the population in New York City do not cover basic needs, and Blacks and Latinos continue to suffer severe discrepancies in pay.

### Key Findings

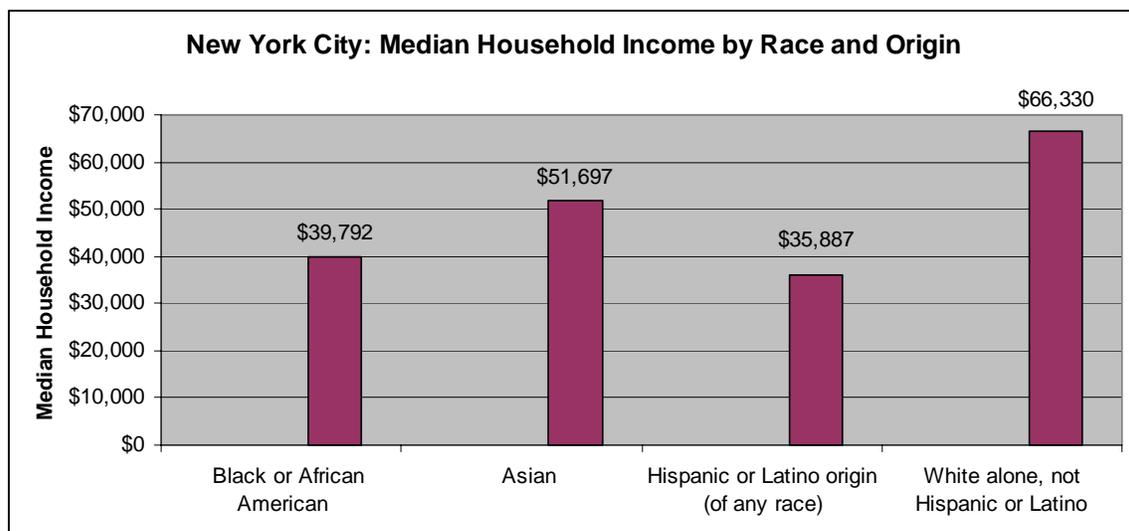
1. **Working poverty in New York City remains high**, with nearly one in ten full- and part-time workers living below the federal poverty line of \$10,830 per year.
2. **Black/African American and Latino/Hispanic households earn just over half the income of White households citywide.**
3. **Over half the income in New York City is earned by just one-fifth of the population.**
4. Nationally, **median household income** declined 2.3 percent to \$49,445 from 2009 to 2010. In New York City, median household income dropped a more dramatic 4.6% to \$48,743.

## New York City

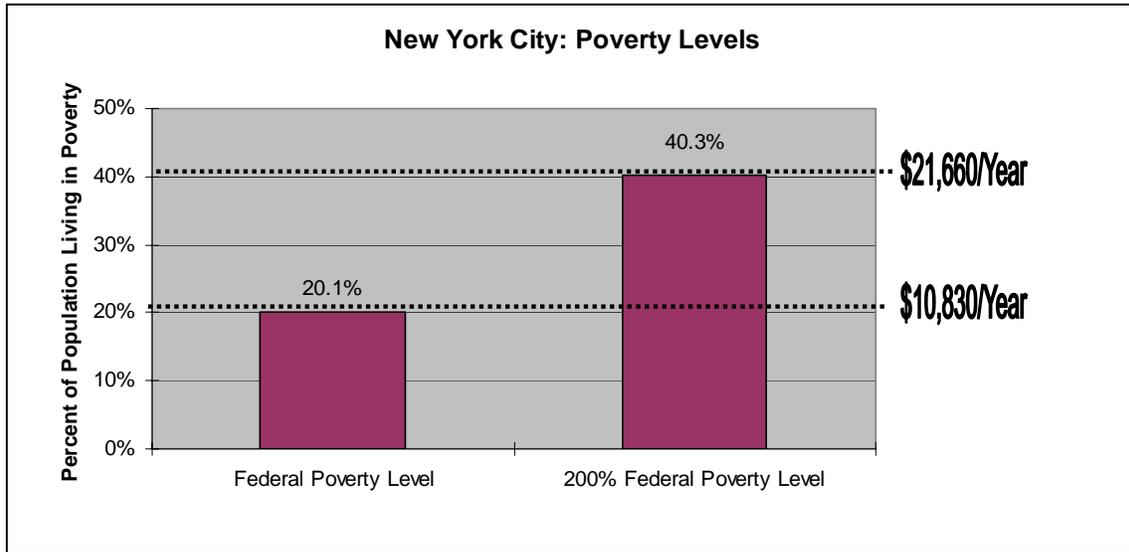
1. One out of every five New Yorkers lives below the federal poverty line of \$10,830 per year. Nearly one out of every ten New Yorkers has a full or part-time job and still lives below the federal poverty line.



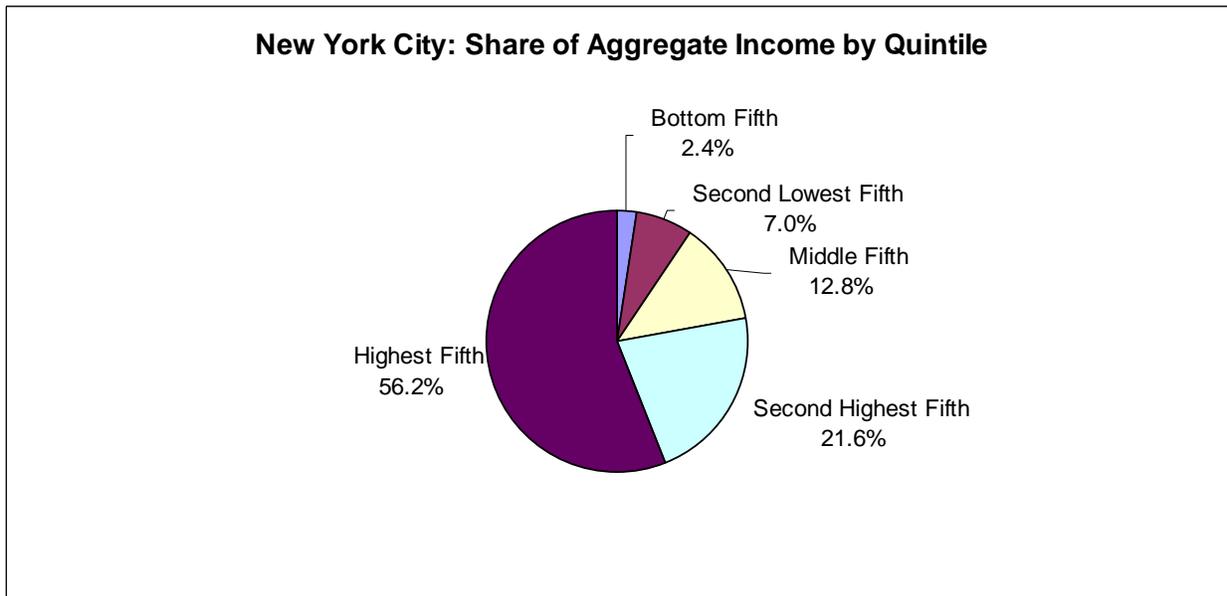
2. Latino households earn just over half the income of White households in New York City. Black households fare only somewhat better in comparison to White households.



3. While 20% of New Yorkers live below the federal poverty line of \$10,830 per year, 40% live below 200% of the federal poverty line of \$21,660 per year. Even 200% of the federal poverty line, \$21,660 per year, is hard to live on in NYC, which has the highest cost of living of any city in the U.S.

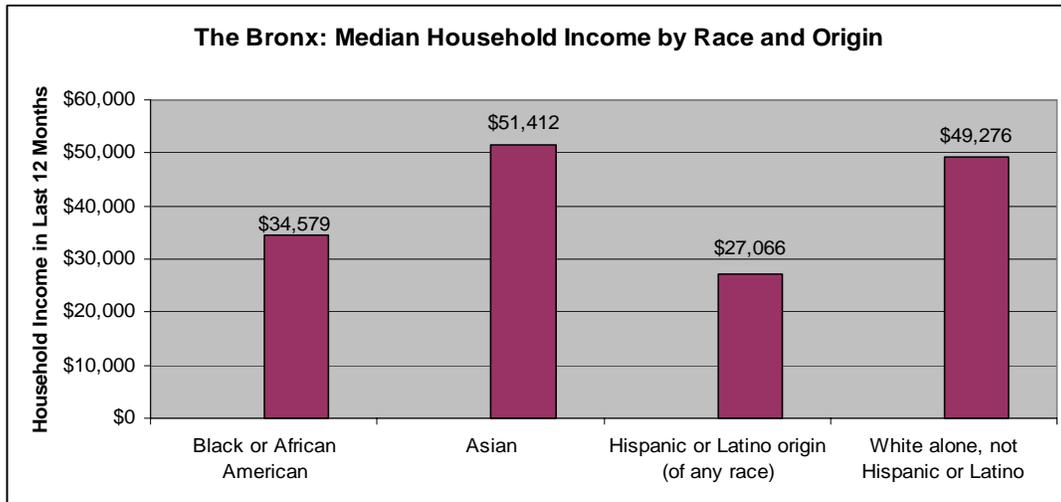


4. Over half the income in New York City is earned by just one-fifth of the population.

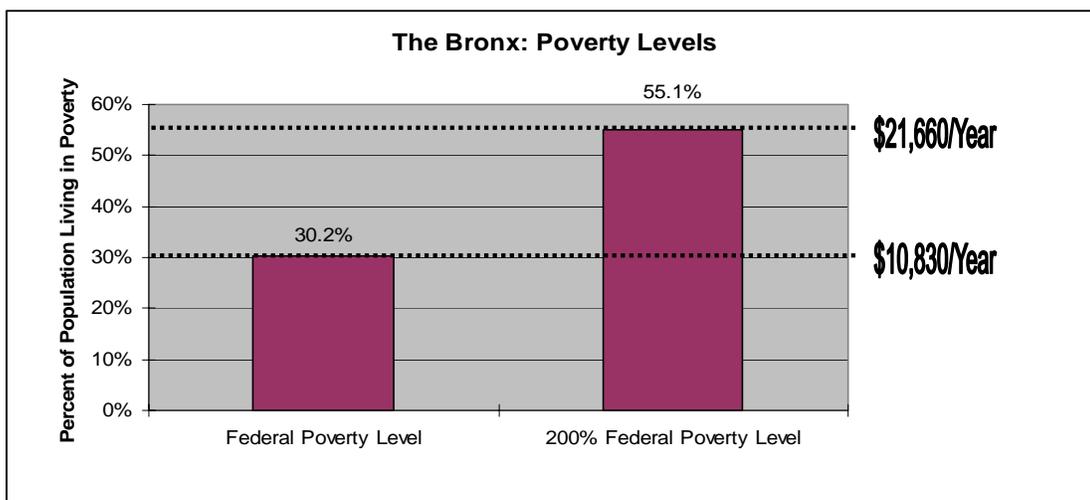


## The Bronx

1. Latino households earn just over half the income of White and Asian households. Black households fare only somewhat better.

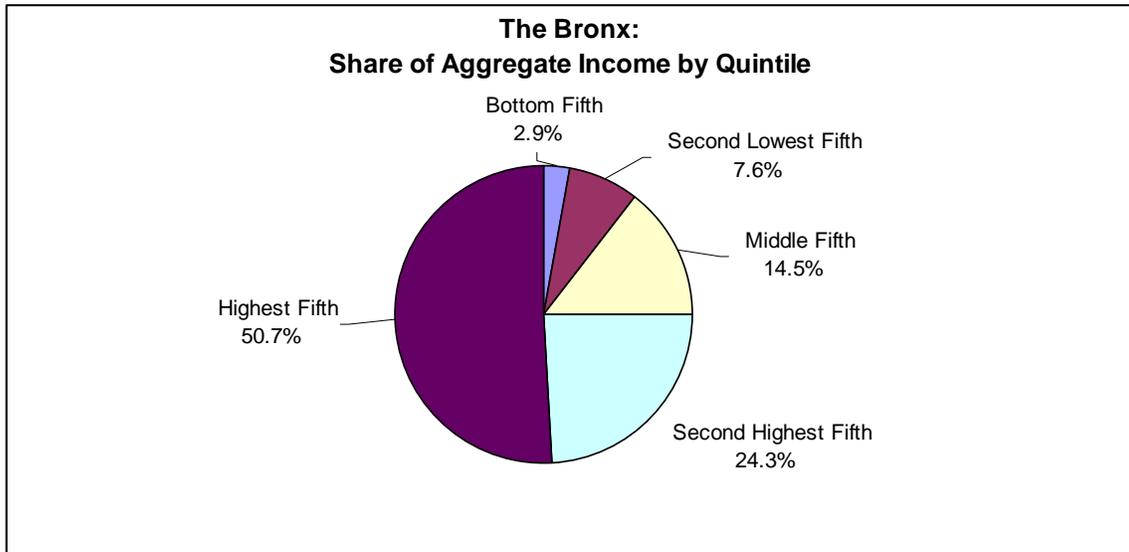


2. The Bronx has the highest level of poverty in New York City. Over 30% of Bronx residents live below the federal poverty line of \$10,830 per year. Over 55% live below 200% of the federal poverty line of \$21,660 per year. Even 200% of the federal poverty line, \$21,660 per year, is hard to live on in NYC, which has the highest cost of living of any city in the U.S. The Self-Sufficiency Standard, which measures how much someone must earn to meet her basic needs, sets the Bronx's minimum income at \$26,536. This means that potentially 60%-70% of Bronx residents cannot meet their basic needs, including housing, child care, food, health care, and transportation.<sup>1</sup>



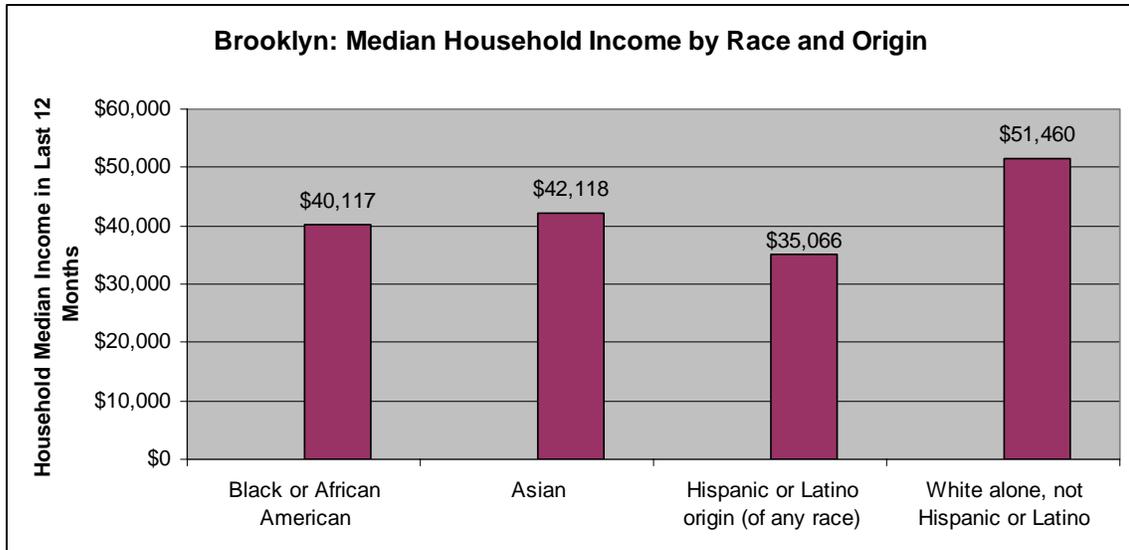
<sup>1</sup> The Self-Sufficiency Standard for New York City 2010, Diana Pearce, June 2010, at [http://www.wceca.org/publications/NYC\\_SSS\\_2010\\_WEB\\_062310\\_v2.pdf](http://www.wceca.org/publications/NYC_SSS_2010_WEB_062310_v2.pdf)

3. Over half the income in the Bronx is earned by just one-fifth of the population. Three-fifths of the population must share just one quarter of the income.

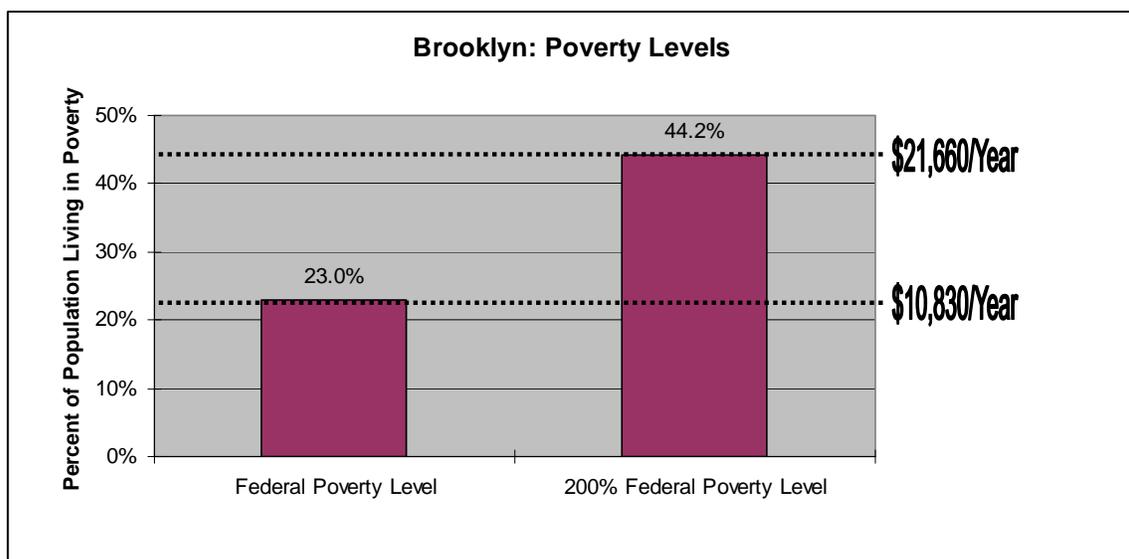


## Brooklyn

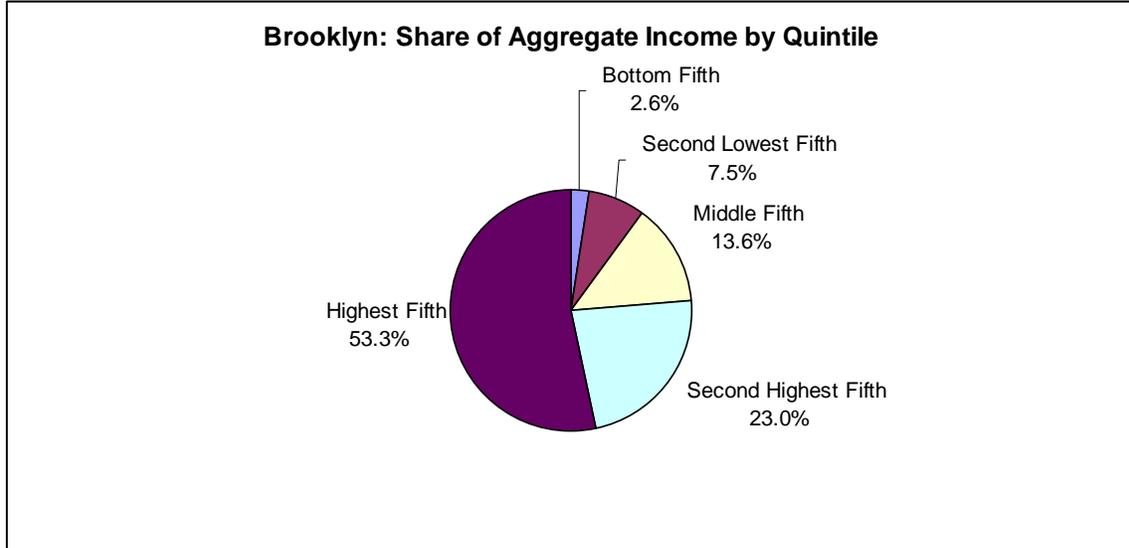
1. In Brooklyn, Latino households earn nearly one third less than White households.



2. While 23% of Brooklyn residents live below the federal poverty line of \$10,830 per year, over 44% live below 200% of the federal poverty line of \$21,660 per year. Even 200% of the federal poverty line, \$21,660 per year, is hard to live on in NYC, which has the highest cost of living of any city in the U.S. The Self-Sufficiency Standard, which measures how much someone must earn to meet her basic needs, sets Brooklyn's minimum income at \$28,367. This means that potentially over half of all people in Brooklyn cannot meet their basic needs, including housing, child care, food, health care, and transportation.

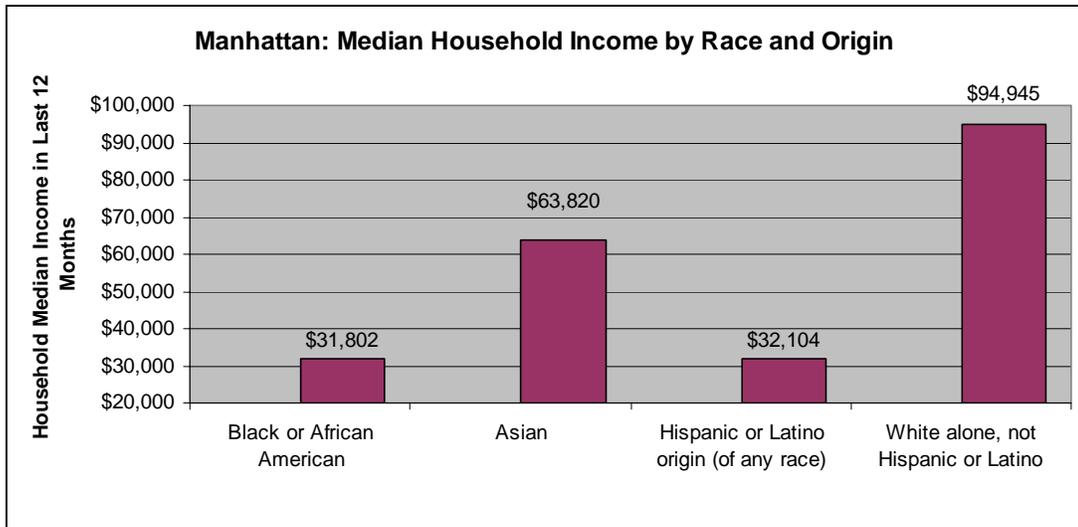


3. Over half the income in Brooklyn is earned by just one-fifth of the population. Three-fifths of the population in Brooklyn must share one quarter of the income.

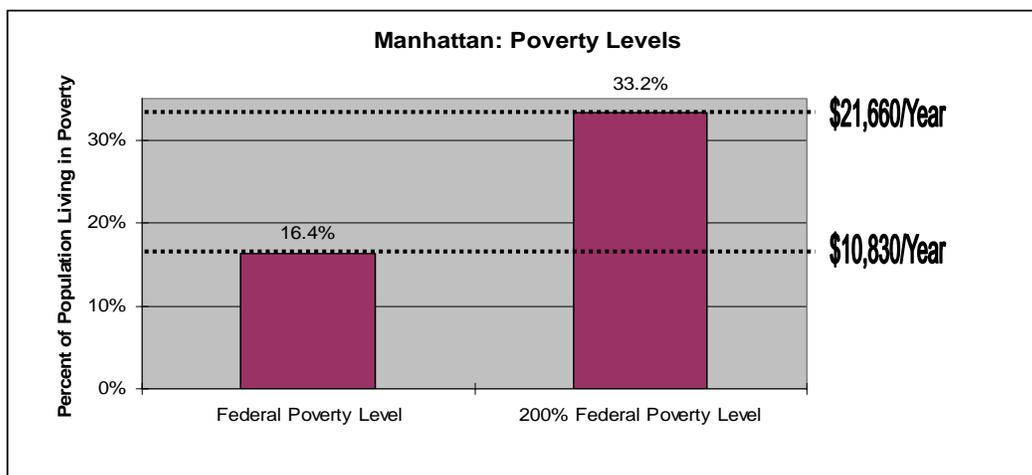


## Manhattan

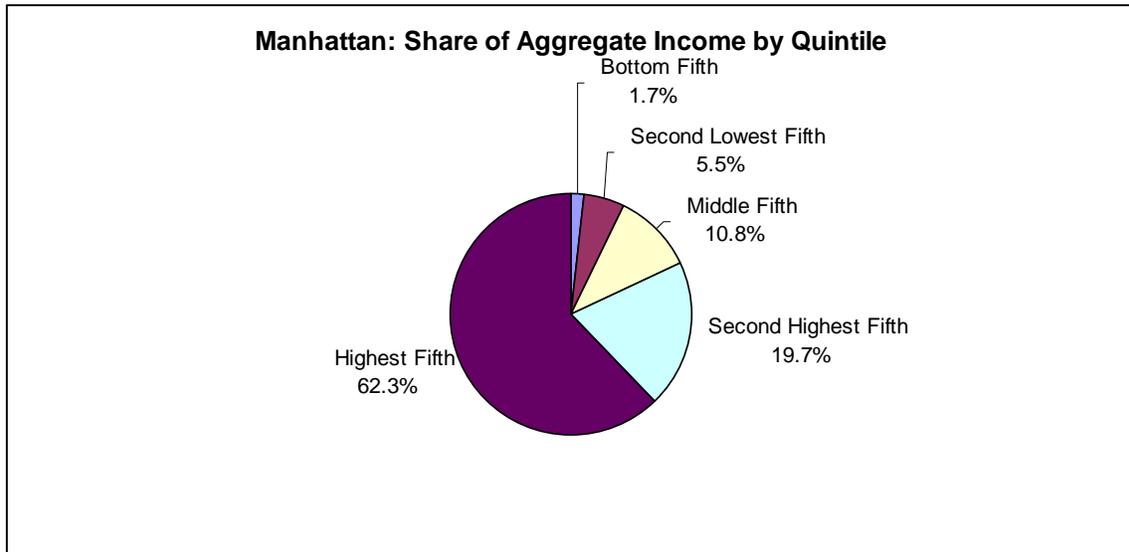
1. Manhattan experiences the greatest income inequality by race among the five boroughs. Latino and Black households earn just one third that of White households.



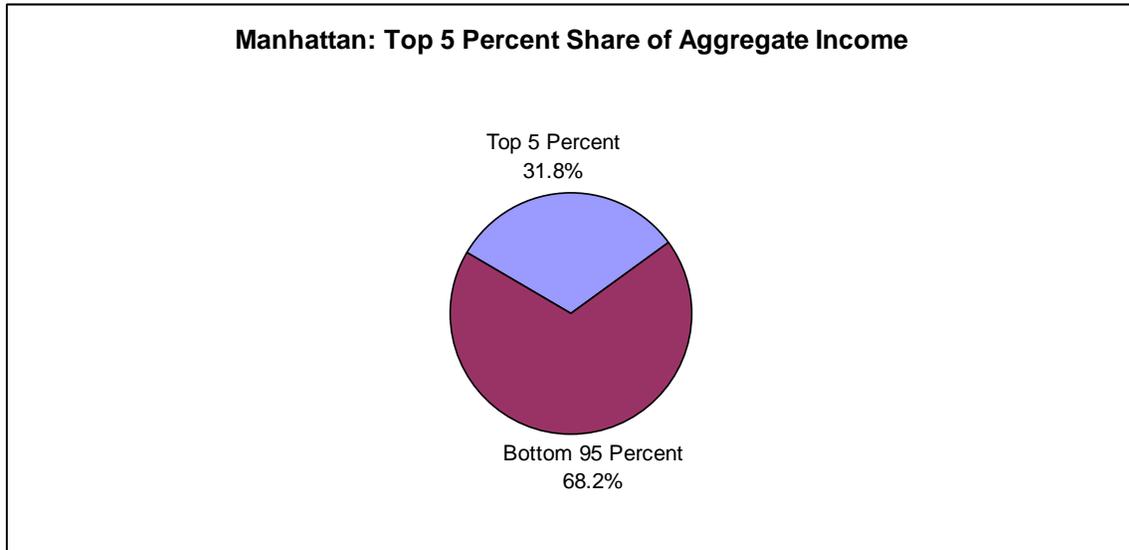
2. While 16% of people in Manhattan live below the federal poverty line of \$10,830 per year, over 33% live below 200% of the federal poverty line of \$21,660 per year. Even 200% of the federal poverty line, \$21,660 per year, is hard to live on in NYC, which has the highest cost of living of any city in the U.S. The Self-Sufficiency Standard, which measures how much someone must earn to meet her basic needs, breaks Manhattan's minimum income into two regions, North Manhattan and South Manhattan. North Manhattan's minimum income is \$23,394, while South Manhattan's is \$50,570. The high cost of Manhattan, particularly in the southern part, means that potentially over half of Manhattan's residents cannot meet their basic needs, including housing, child care, food, health care, and transportation.



3. Over 60% the income in Manhattan is earned by just one-fifth of the population.  
Three-fifths of the population in Manhattan must share less than 20% of the income.

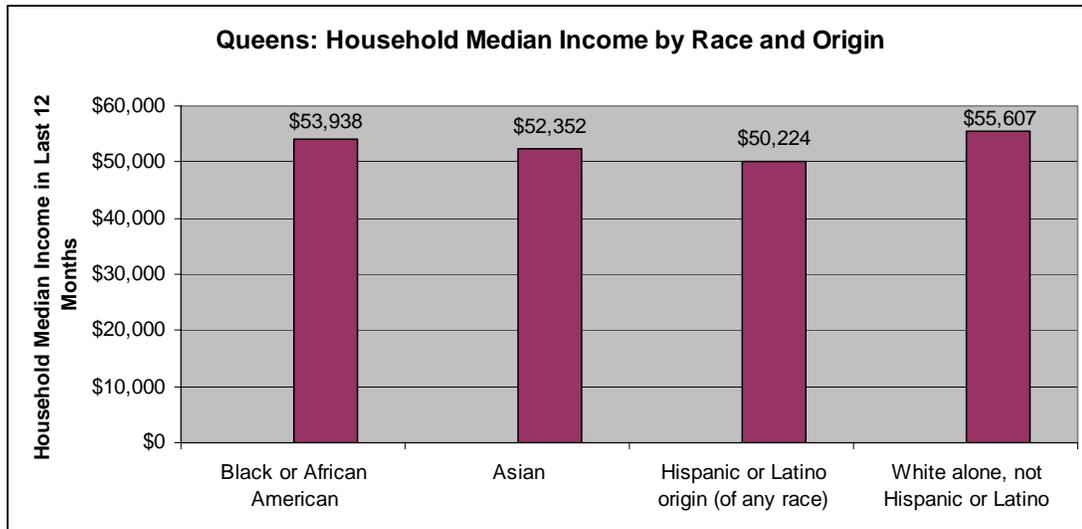


4. The top five percent of the population in Manhattan takes home nearly one third of the income.

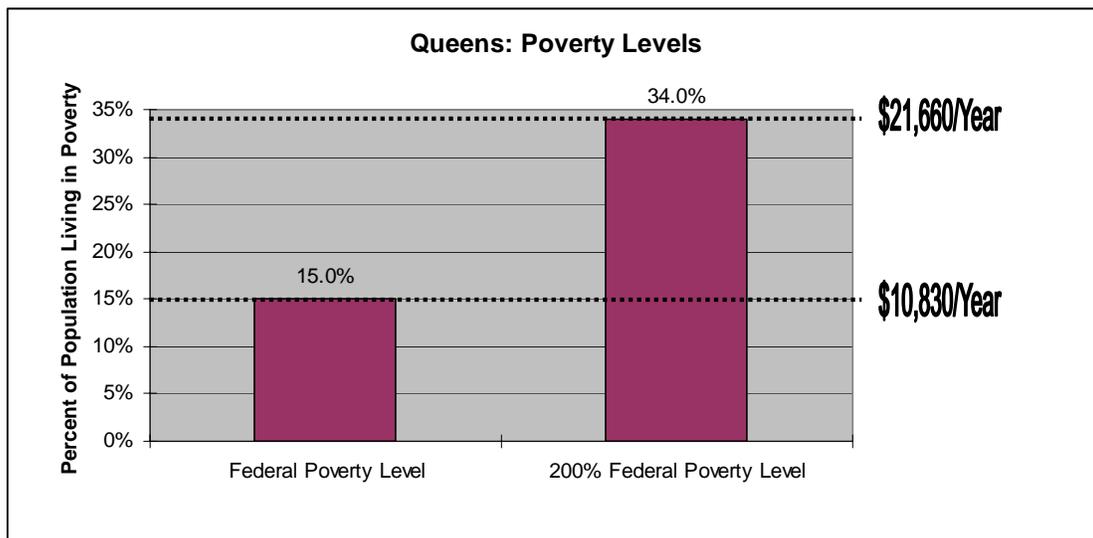


## Queens

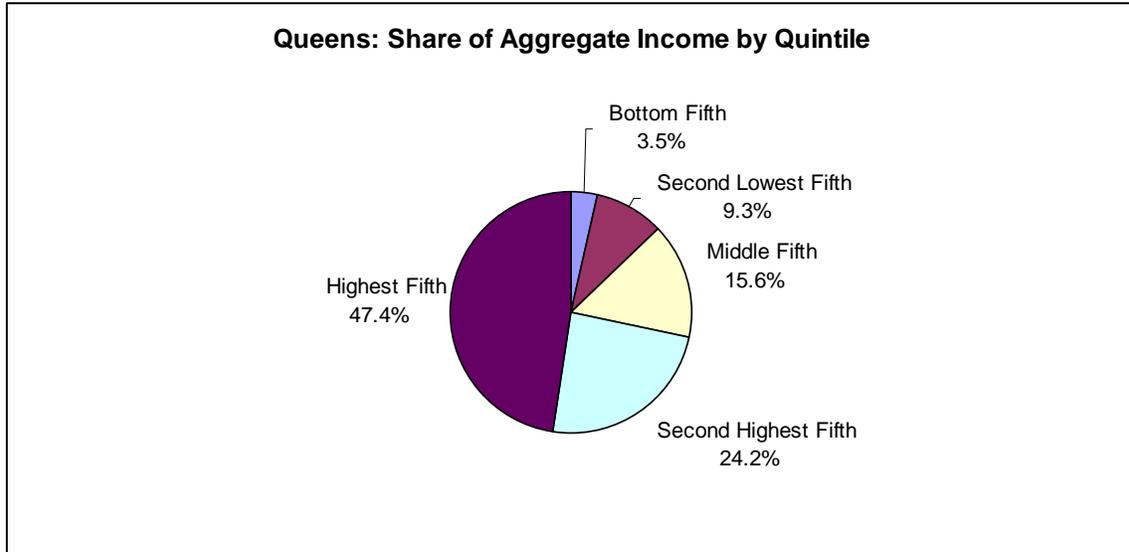
1. Queens has the greatest degree of income equality by race among the five boroughs, with Black and Latino households earning nearly as much as White households.



2. While 15% of people in Queens live below the federal poverty line of \$10,830 per year, 34% live below 200% of the federal poverty line of \$21,660 per year. Even 200% of the federal poverty line, \$21,660 per year, is hard to live on in NYC, which has the highest cost of living of any city in the U.S. The Self-Sufficiency Standard, which measures how much someone must earn to meet her basic needs, sets Queen's minimum income at \$31,185. With a minimum income nearly \$10,000 above 200% of the federal poverty line, potentially over half of all people in Queens cannot meet their basic needs, including housing, child care, food, health care, and transportation.

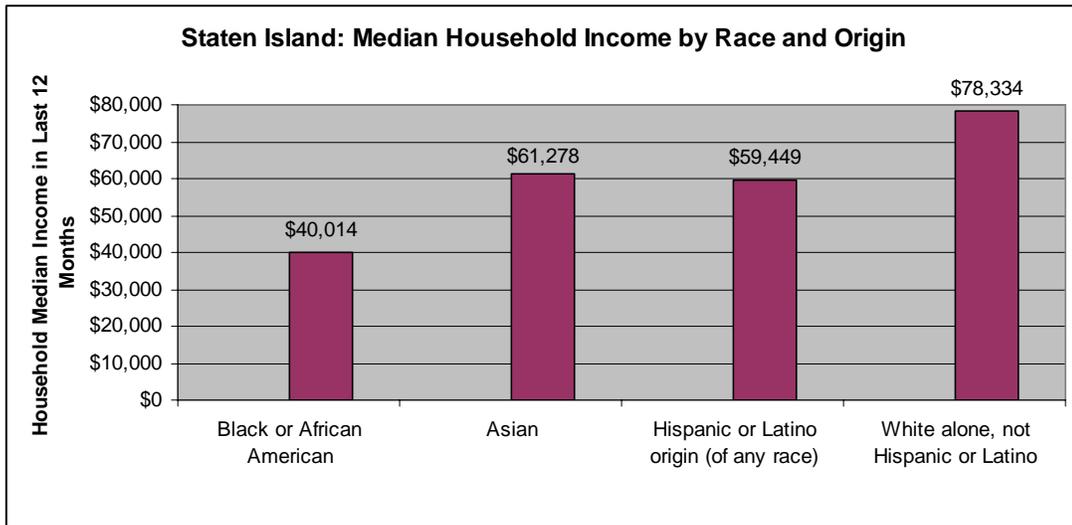


3. Nearly one-half the income in Queens is earned by just one-fifth of the population. Three-fifths of the population must share just over one quarter of the income.

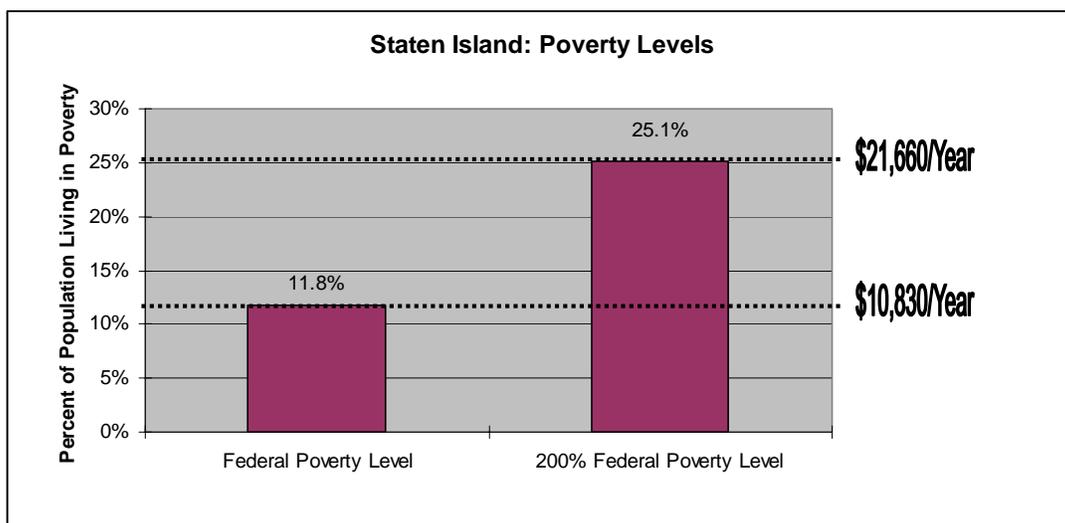


## Staten Island

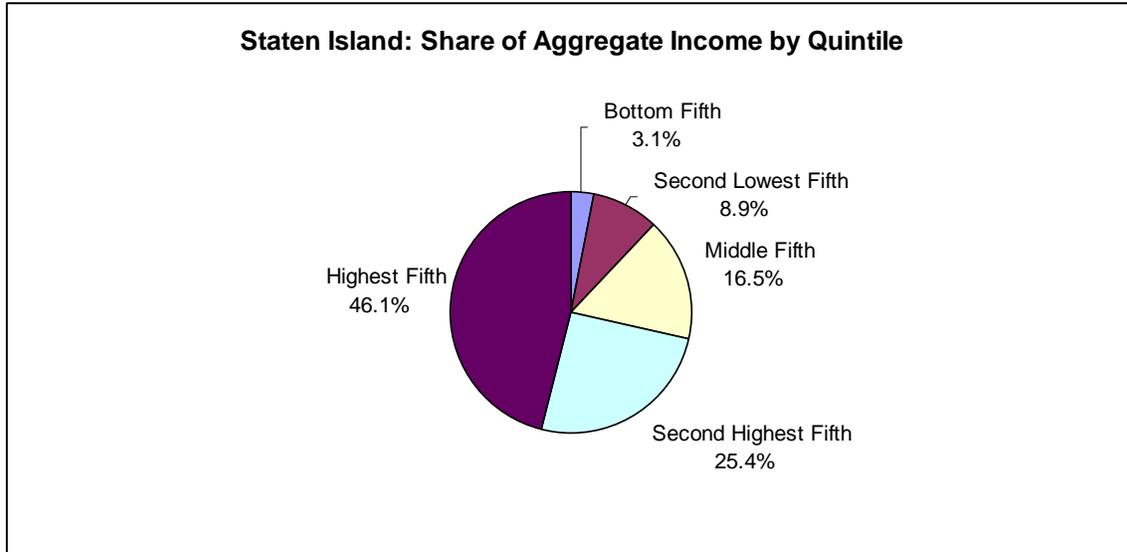
1. In Staten Island, Black households earn just over half the income of White households.



2. While nearly 12% of people in Staten Island live below the federal poverty line of \$10,830 per year, 25% live below 200% of the federal poverty line of \$21,660 per year. Even 200% of the federal poverty line, \$21,660 per year, is hard to live on in NYC, which has the highest cost of living of any city in the U.S. The Self-Sufficiency Standard, which measures how much someone must earn to meet her basic needs, sets Staten Island minimum income at \$30,361. With a minimum income nearly \$9,000 above 200% of the federal poverty line, potentially over half of all people in Staten Island cannot meet their basic needs, including housing, child care, food, health care, and transportation.



3. Just under half the income in Staten Island is earned by one-fifth of the population. Three-fifths of the population must share less than one third of the income.



## Background Information

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### About the Data

This data summary is based on American Community Survey data released on September 22, 2011 for January to December 2010. The American Community Survey is an annual survey of the U.S. Census Bureau that is conducted year-round for areas of population of 65,000 or above. Household incomes and earnings are reported for the past 12 months, and earnings are reported for the civilian employed population 16 years and over. Because the surveys are based on a sample, the American Community Survey reports margins of error. Please contact Josh Kellermann at ALIGN at 212.701.9483 for specific margins of error as identified by the American Community Survey for each data set.

### About ALIGN

ALIGN: The Alliance for a Greater New York's mission is to create good jobs, vibrant communities, and an accountable democracy for all New Yorkers. Our work unites worker, community, and other allies to build a more just and sustainable New York. ALIGN is a local affiliate of the Blue Green Apollo Alliance, Jobs with Justice and the Partnership for Working Families.