A Report for
Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto
Superintendent
Hartford Public Schools

Hartford Neighborhood Assessment: Factors Impacting Student & Family Success

Prepared by:

Angela G. Colantonio, B.S.
UConn MPH Candidate, 2013

and

Katie S. Martin, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor in Residence
Department of Allied Health Sciences
University of Connecticut

SPRING | **2013**

Executive Summary

The neighborhoods in which children live influence their ability to learn, thrive and succeed in the future. In 2009, a needs assessment was conducted to identify neighborhoods with high risk factors for children, such as high poverty rates and low graduation rates from high school, but also community assets that can foster child development. In this report, we provide updated information for Hartford neighborhoods for 2012, and make comparisons to the 2009 data.

Key Findings from this report:

- Most neighborhoods showed improvements in indicators since the 2009 assessment
- Frog Hollow and Clay Arsenal remain the two neighborhoods with highest risk scores
- Asylum Hill had the largest decline in conditions, primarily due to high poverty rates
- Sheldon / Charter Oak had the largest improvement in total score, largely due to progress in poverty, education, and health indicators

Percent change in total score from 2009 to 2012
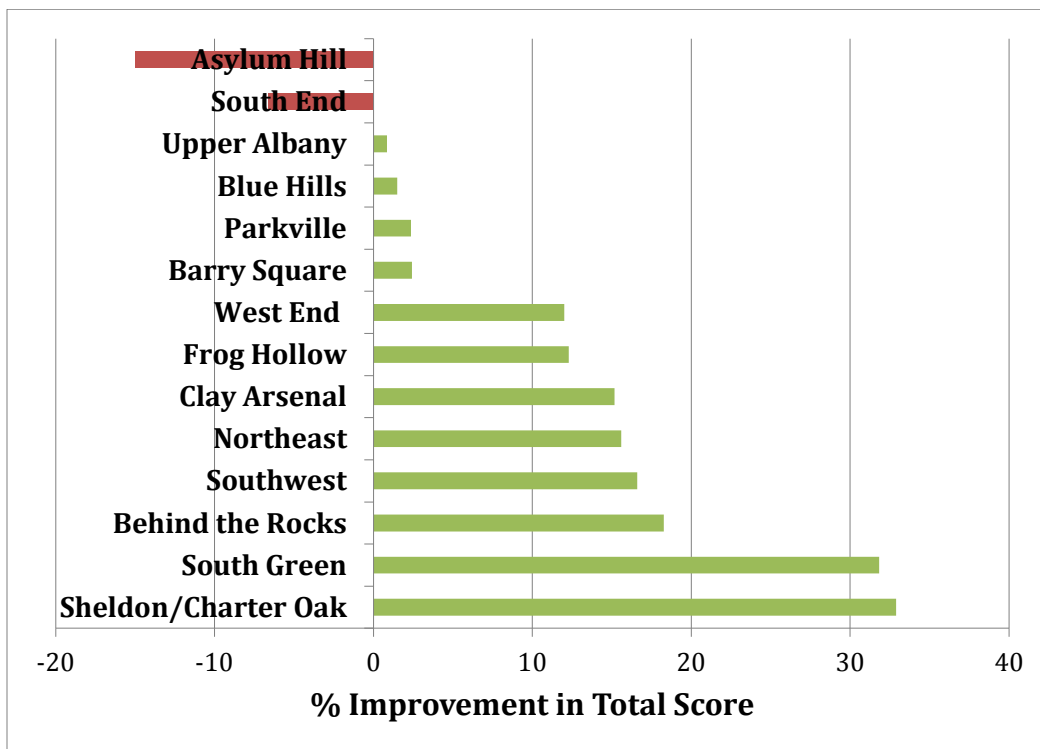
This updated Hartford Neighborhood Assessment is supported by the Office of Institutional Advancement, Hartford Public Schools. The goal of this report is to identify neighborhoods that would benefit from increased services and programs so that schools, community agencies and local officials can work together to improve conditions for children to learn and thrive.

Background

Neighborhoods with both high needs and community assets have great potential for improvement. The city of Hartford has 17 well-defined neighborhoods that were created in the 1970s by the City of Hartford Planning Department. The needs assessment presented here identifies high-risk neighborhoods in Hartford that contain community resources that can be capitalized on to address current needs.

In 2009, an assessment of Hartford neighborhoods was conducted to help identify a potential Hartford Promise Zone – a neighborhood with high risk factors including a high child poverty rate (at least 30%, but more specifically above 40%) as well as community assets, such as early childhood programs and schools – to support disadvantaged children from low-income families. The criteria used to evaluate Hartford's neighborhoods were based on the Harlem Children's Zone model. This framework uses child poverty rates, educational attainment, crime statistics, health indicators, neighborhood stability, and community assets as measurements of risk and potential for improvement.

The 2009 assessment identified the following eight neighborhoods as having high risk and potential for improvement, from highest to lowest: Frog Hollow, clay Arsenal, Northeast, Barry Square, Upper Albany, Sheldon / Charter Oak, Asylum Hill, and Behind the Rocks.

The current assessment uses the same model to assign a total score and to compare changes from 2009 to 2012 for all neighborhoods in Hartford with the exception of Downtown, North Meadows and South Meadows, which have small populations and are largely non-residential.

This updated Hartford Neighborhood Assessment is supported by the Office of Institutional Advancement, Hartford Public Schools. The mission of Hartford Public Schools is "to provide all students with access to participation in a global economy through attainment of Academic Standards of the State of Connecticut and readiness for post-secondary education". The environments in which children live and grow are critical to their ability to learn, thrive and succeed in the future. By identifying high risk neighborhoods in Hartford and highlighting how community resources can be used more effectively, there is great hope that children in Hartford can excel in school, grow in healthy home environments, and develop into productive members of the community.

Methods

The following list of risk factors and community assets was used to calculate scores for each neighborhood based on secondary data sources. The framework of indicators, with their corresponding risk factors and weight values, was modeled after the Harlem Children's Zone priority areas. This assessment utilized updated data sources to determine how the neighborhoods have changed over time. Every effort was made to obtain data from the same sources as the 2009 assessment so that results are comparable. Refer to the Appendix for an explanation of data sources and how the current assessment has changed since the first was conducted.

Calculating Neighborhood Scores		
Topics	**Indicators**	**Weight**
Child Poverty Demographics	Child poverty rate	25%
	# of children in poverty	
	Neighborhood population	
	% of children with single parent not working	
Education	% of students not proficient in overall CMT scores	20%
	% of adults without HS diploma	
	% of adults without college degree	
	# of Tier 1 under-performing schools	
Crime	Crime per capita	15%
	% of students with disciplinary actions	
Health	Teen Pregnancy rate	15%
	% of 4th graders meeting fitness goals	
Housing	% of Housing that is Rented	5%
	# of very high risk Lead buildings	
Neighborhood Stability	% of households with high social capital	10%
	% of households living at address <5 years	
	% students attending school last year	
Community Assets	# of preschool, afterschool programs and other services	10%
	# of schools	
Total		100%

Results

2012 Hartford Neighborhood Assessment

The 2012 Hartford Neighborhood Assessment, based on the Harlem Children's Zone model, provides a framework for identifying risk factors that hinder the ability for children to thrive, but also community assets that can foster child development. The scores listed here synthesize these many factors – poverty, education, housing, crime, health, neighborhood stability, programs and schools – into one summary score. The largest weights are assigned to risk factors or negative outcomes, including high poverty and low education indicators. Smaller weights are assigned to environmental conditions such as crime and housing, and also to poor health outcomes. Twenty percent of the overall scores are assigned to community strengths and assets, such as neighborhood stability and community programs available for children and families.

Recognizing the importance of identifying both neighborhood risks, as well as community assets and resources, the assessment offers a clear framework for balancing these interests. The process used to prioritize the neighborhoods, based on their potential for improvement, is a valuable method for directing programs and services to communities primed for positive change.

Total scores by neighborhood

Table 1- Total assessment scores from highest to lowest score, 2012

Neighborhood	2012 Total Score	Ranking
Frog Hollow	19.25	High
Clay Arsenal	18.45	High
Barry Square	18.15	High
Asylum Hill	17.65	High
Upper Albany	17.60	High
Northeast	16.50	High
Blue Hills	13.10	Medium
Parkville	12.40	Medium
Behind the Rocks	11.85	Medium
Sheldon/Charter Oak	11.50	Medium
South End	11.25	Medium
Southwest	10.05	Low
South Green	9.85	Low
West End	6.6	Low

Results of the 2012 Neighborhood Assessment indicate that six neighborhoods, Frog Hollow, Clay Arsenal, Barry Square, Asylum Hill, Upper Albany, and Northeast, have total scores that are noticeably higher (over 16) than the other neighborhoods. The West End neighborhood stands out as having a noticeably lower rate than the other neighborhoods (6.6).

Examining Individual Indicator Scores

In addition to the total scores, it is important to pay attention to which indicator values drive the scores of high priority neighborhoods. Therefore, total scores were disaggregated to look at neighborhood scores by separate topics. Neighborhoods are ranked by their total poverty scores in Table 2.
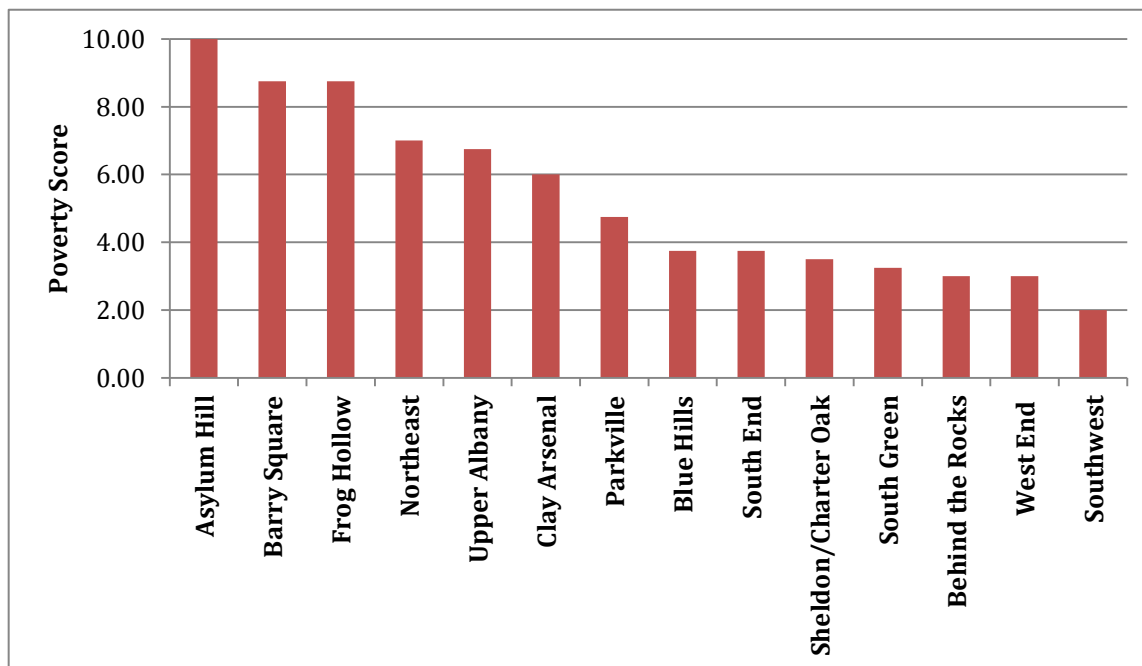
Overall Poverty Scores

Table 2- Poverty scores from highest to lowest score, 2012

Neighborhood	2012 Poverty Score
Asylum Hill	10.00
Barry Square	8.75
Frog Hollow	8.75
Northeast	7.00
Upper Albany	6.75
Clay Arsenal	6.00
Parkville	4.75
Blue Hills	3.75
South End	3.75
Sheldon/Charter Oak	3.50
South Green	3.25
Behind the Rocks	3.00
West End	3.00
Southwest	2.00

There is wide disparity in poverty scores among neighborhoods. Asylum Hill stands out with the highest poverty score of 10, while Southwest has the lowest score of 2. Five neighborhoods have medium poverty scores (from 5 – 10). Three neighborhoods have poverty scores of 3 or lower.

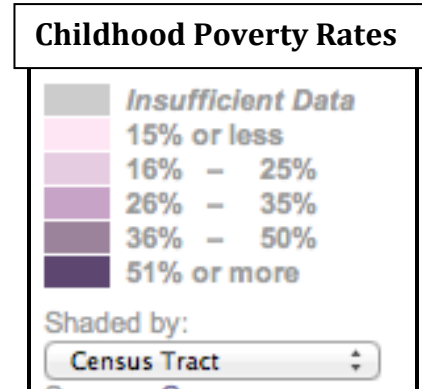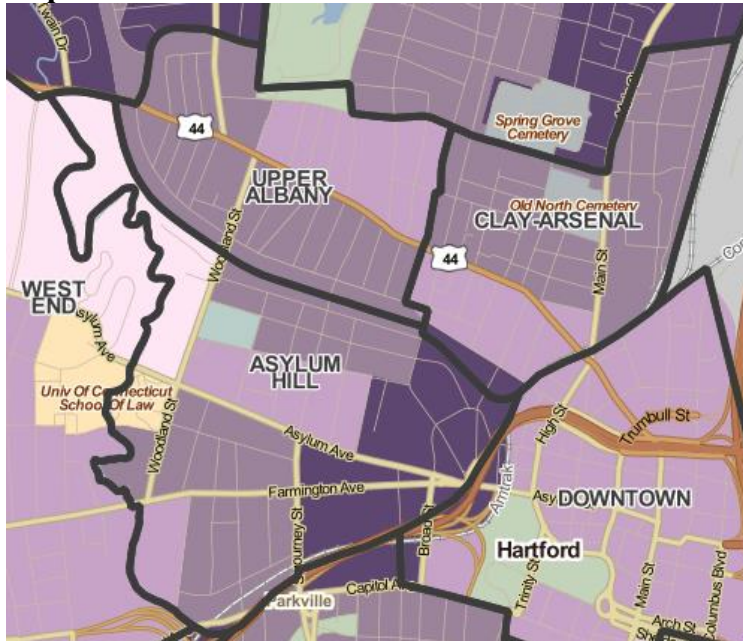**Figure 1- Poverty scores from 2012 assessment, ranked from highest to lowest score**

According to the 2012 assessment, Asylum Hill, Barry Square, Frog Hollow, Northest, Upper Albany, and Clay Arsenal have relatively high poverty scores. The darker areas in the
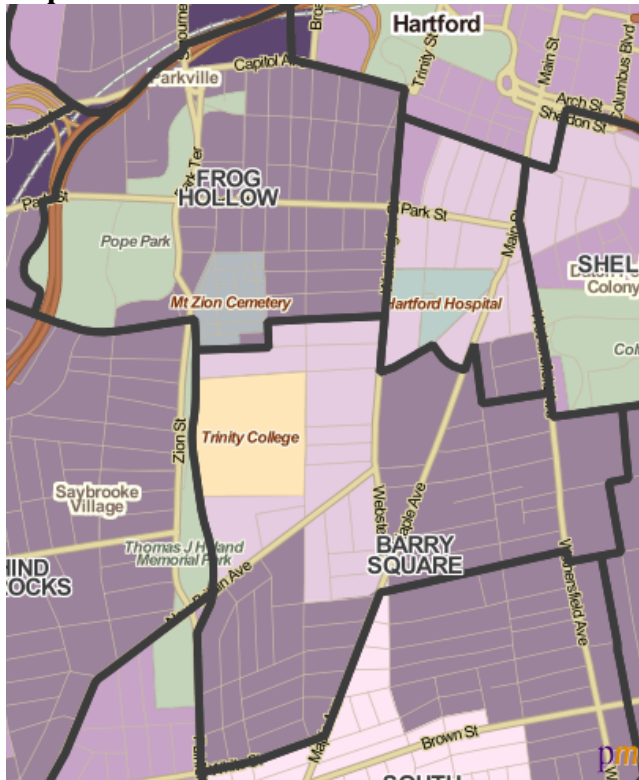
5

following maps show which census tracts within these priority neighborhoods are most affected by childhood poverty.

Maps A, B & C- Estimated percent of all people living in poverty who were under 18 between 2005-09 in neighborhoods with highest poverty scores
Map A:

Childhood Poverty Rates

	Insufficient Data
	15% or less
	16% — 25%
	26% — 35%
	36% — 50%
	51% or more

Shaded by:

Census Tract

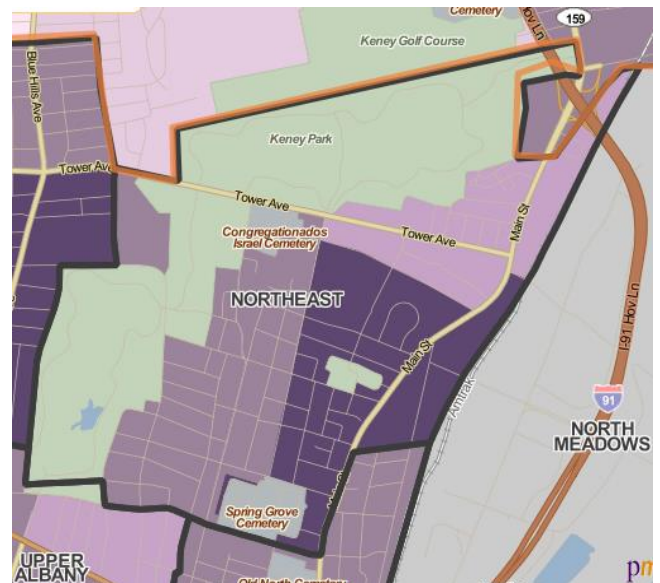**Map B.**   **Map C.**

(Maps generated using Hartford Public Library's Interactive Mapping Widgets at http://hartfordinfo.org/interactive_mapping/widget_wrapper.asp).

6

Overall Education Scores

After poverty scores, education scores carry the next greatest weight toward overall scores. Therefore, each neighborhood was compared according to their education score. Similar to poverty scores, there is variability in the education scores. Clay Arsenal has the worst educational achievement and West End has the lowest overall score, which indicates a high level of educational achievement.

Table 3- Education scores from highest to lowest score, 2012

Neighborhood	2012 Education Score
Clay Arsenal	6.80
Frog Hollow	5.80
Upper Albany	5.00
Northeast	4.20
Parkville	4.20
Barry Square	4.00
Behind the Rocks	3.00
South Green	3.00
South End	3.00
Blue Hills	2.80
Sheldon/Charter Oak	2.80
Southwest	2.80
Asylum Hill	2.40
West End	0.80

Education Scores Combine:

- % of students not proficient in overall CMT scores

- % of adults without a High School diploma

- % of adults who have graduated from college

- # of Tier 1 schools

Figure 2- Education scores from 2012 neighborhood assessment, ranked from highest to lowest score
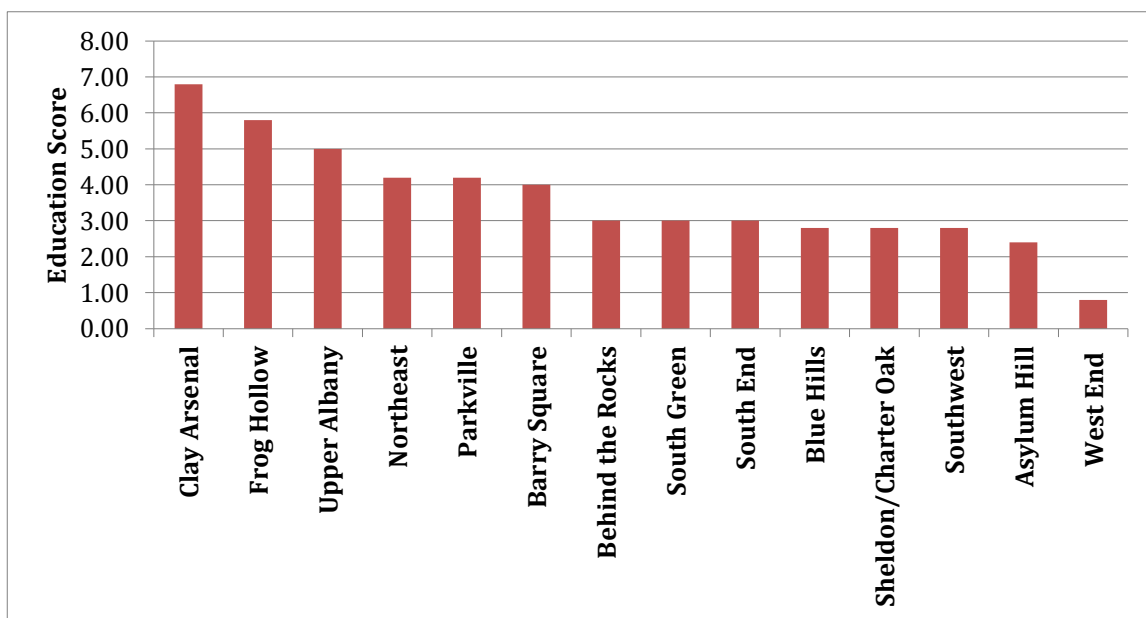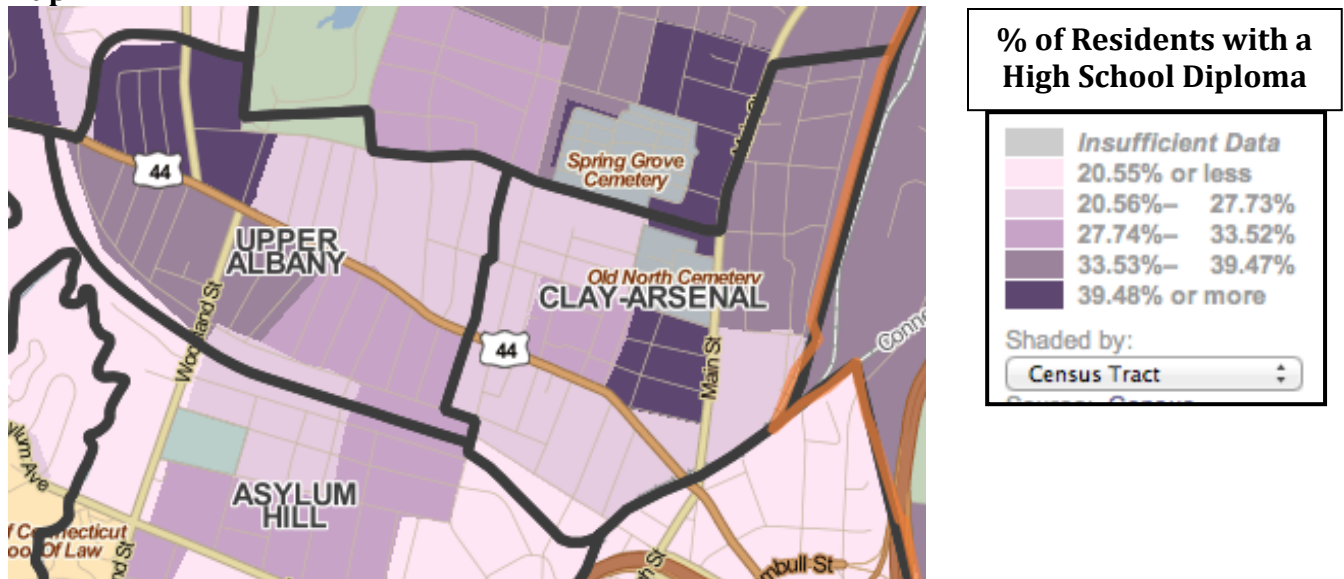

According to the 2012 assessment Clay Arsenal, Frog Hollow, Upper Albany, Northeast, Parkville and Barry Square have relatively high scores, indicating poor educational achievement.

The lighter areas in the following maps show which census tracts within these priority neighborhoods are most affected by low educational attainment, as indicated by the percent of residents with a high school diploma.

Maps D, E, &F- Estimated percent of people with a high school diploma between 2005-09 in neighborhoods with worst education scores

Map D.

% of Residents with a High School Diploma

	Insufficient Data
	20.55% or less
	20.56%– 27.73%
	27.74%– 33.52%
	33.53%– 39.47%
	39.48% or more

Shaded by:

Census Tract

Map E.
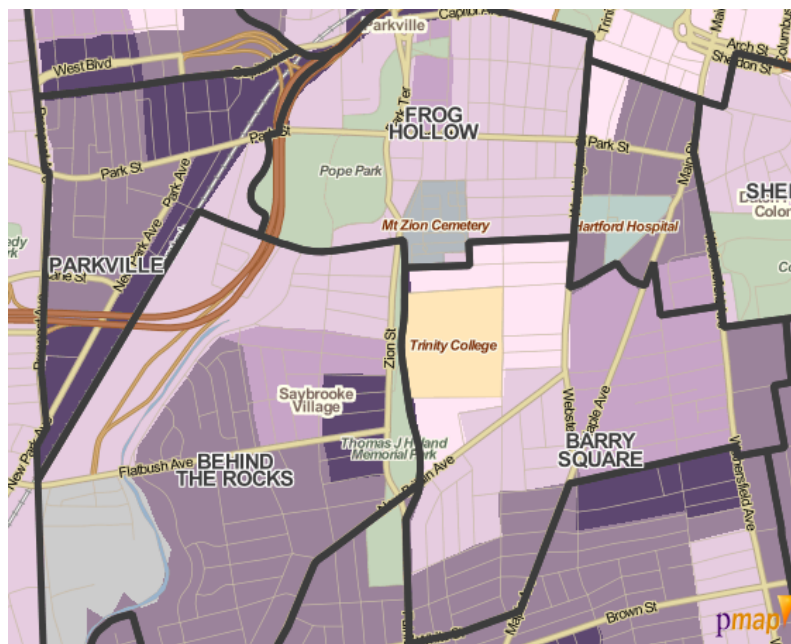
Map F.

(Maps generated using Hartford Public Library's Interactive Mapping Widgets at http://hartfordinfo.org/interactive_mapping/widget_wrapper.asp).

High Priority Neighborhoods

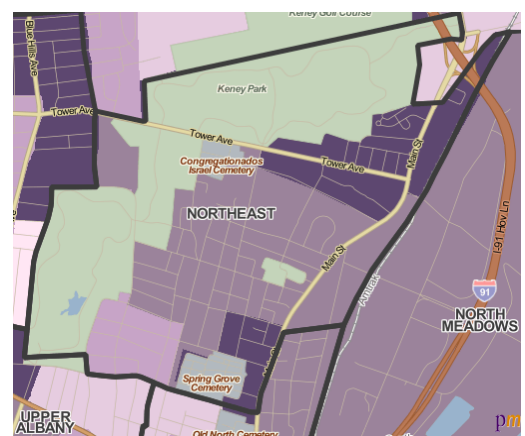A breakdown of the scores that contribute to the high total scores for the top priority neighborhoods are shown below. The neighborhoods with the highest score in each topic area are highlighted in Table 4. By analyzing scores for each topic area, we can identify the main drivers of the high scores for each neighborhood. The two neighborhoods with highest overall scores, Frog Hollow and Clay Arsenal, ranked high on most topics. However, Asylum Hill has the highest poverty score, but lower education score, showing stronger education achievement compared to the other neighborhoods. Crime scores were high in almost all of the neighborhoods.

Table 4- Topic scores for neighborhoods with highest total scores, 2012

Topic (possible score)	Frog Hollow	Clay Arsenal	Barry Square	Asylum Hill	Upper Albany	North east
Poverty (10)	8.75	6.00	8.75	*10.00	6.75	7.00
Education (8)	5.80	*6.80	4.00	2.40	5.00	4.20
Housing (1)	*0.85	0.50	*0.85	0.50	0.70	0.65
Crime (3)	*1.95	*1.95	1.65	*1.95	*1.95	*1.95
Health (3)	0.30	*0.60	*0.60	0.30	0.30	0.30
Stability (3)	0.50	*1.50	0.30	0.50	1.40	0.90
Programs (2)	1.10	1.10	*2.00	*2.00	1.50	1.50
Total (30)	19.25	18.45	18.15	17.65	17.60	16.50

*Neighborhoods ranking highest in each topic area

Areas for Improvement

The outcome of the 2012 Neighborhood Assessment indicates that Frog Hollow, Clay Arsenal, Barry Square, Asylum Hill, Upper Albany, and Northeast are high priority neighborhoods, set apart from the other neighborhoods, with total scores exceeding 15. By determining for which indicators each neighborhood received high-risk values, areas for improvement and intervention can be identified and addressed. The following list outlines the high-risk indicators for each neighborhood, from greatest to least total score.

- Frog Hollow: high child poverty rate, large number of children in poverty, high % of female householder in poverty with no husband and children under 18, high number of Tier 1 schools, high % of housing rented, high % of students with disciplinary action, and low number of community assets.

- Clay Arsenal: low % of adults graduated from college, high number of Tier 1 schools, high % of students with disciplinary action, and low number of community assets.

- Barry Square: high child poverty rate, large number of children in poverty, low neighborhood population, large number of high risk lead buildings, high % of students with disciplinary action, low number of community assets and number of schools.

9

- Asylum Hill: high child poverty rate, large number of children in poverty, low neighborhood population, high % of female householder in poverty with no husband and children under 18, high % of students with disciplinary action, low number of community assets and number of schools.

- Upper Albany: high child poverty rate, low % of adults graduated from college, high % of students with disciplinary action, low social capital, and small number of community assets.

- Northeast: large number of children in poverty, low neighborhood population, low % of adults graduated from college, large number of very high risk lead buildings, high % of students with disciplinary action, and small number of community assets.

Change in Scores from 2009 to 2012

One of the main goals of the 2012 assessment was to compare neighborhood scores to the 2009 assessment and identify significant changes. In order to interpret the scores for each neighborhood, it is important to understand what the scores represent and what it means when a score, like poverty, education, or health, changes.

> Since most of the indicators are interpreted as negative or undesirable values, a decrease in topic scores or total score generally represents improvements in neighborhood conditions.

Conversely, increases in topic scores or total scores are usually indicative of a worsening of conditions, with the exception of the programs and schools topic. Increases in the programs and schools topic represent gains in community assets – including early childhood programs, afterschool programs, family support centers, health services, libraries, police substations and schools. However, the indicators in this topic area are weighted at only 10% of the total score.

Therefore, the total score for each neighborhood is primarily an estimate of risk or needs, which may be further elevated by the presence of community resources, as an indication of potential resources. The total scores from 2009 and 2012 were compared by calculating absolute change and percent change.

Comparison of 2009 Promise Zone Assessment & 2012 Neighborhood Assessment

Table 5- Calculation of percent improvement in total assessment score, 2009-2012

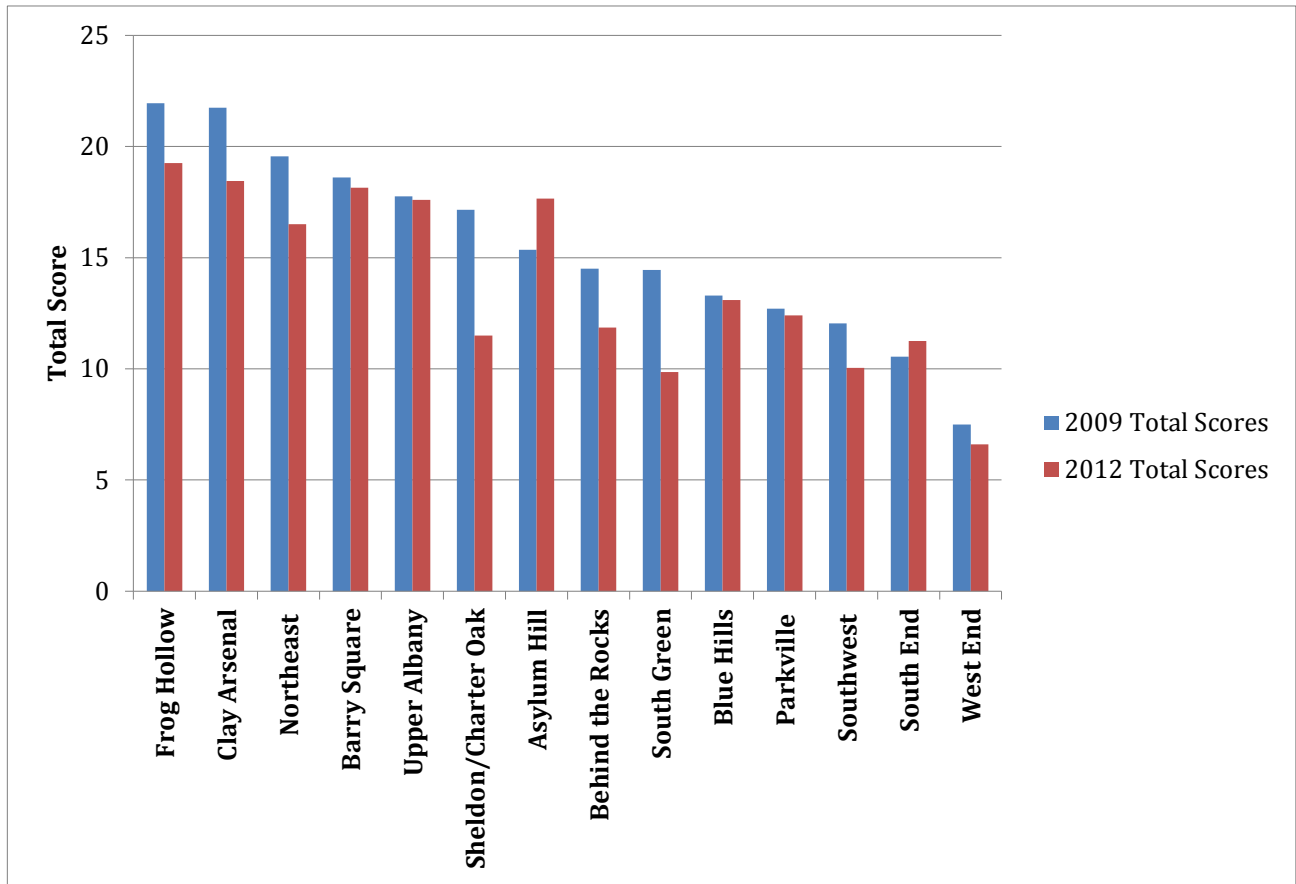| Neighborhood	2009 Total Score	2012 Total Score	Change in Score	% Improvement
Frog Hollow	21.95	19.25	-2.7	12.30
Clay Arsenal	21.75	18.45	-3.3	15.17
Northeast	19.55	16.5	-3.05	15.60
Barry Square	18.6	18.15	-0.45	2.42
Upper Albany	17.75	17.6	-0.15	0.85
Sheldon/Charter Oak	17.15	11.5	-5.65	32.94
Asylum Hill	15.35	17.65	2.3	-14.98
Behind the Rocks	14.5	11.85	-2.65	18.28
South Green	14.45	9.85	-4.6	31.83
Blue Hills	13.3	13.1	-0.2	1.50
Parkville	12.7	12.4	-0.3	2.36
Southwest	12.05	10.05	-2	16.60
South End	10.55	11.25	0.7	-6.64
West End	7.5	6.6	-0.9	12.00

The calculation of percent improvement in total score between the 2009 Promise Zone Assessment and the current 2012 Neighborhood Assessment shows which neighborhoods experienced an improvement or worsening of scores over time.

Table 6- Percent improvement in total assessment score from greatest percent improvement in score to greatest percent worsening in score, 2009-2012

Neighborhood	% Improvement in Score
Sheldon/Charter Oak	33
South Green	32
Behind the Rocks	18
Southwest	17
Northeast	16
Clay Arsenal	15
Frog Hollow	12
West End	12
Barry Square	2
Parkville	2
Blue Hills	2
Upper Albany	1
South End	-7
Asylum Hill	-15

Only two neighborhoods, South End and Asylum Hill, demonstrated an increase in their total score, indicating worsening conditions. Two neighborhoods, Sheldon/Charter Oak and South Green, showed the greatest decrease in scores (both over 30 points), indicating improvements in conditions.

Figure 4- Comparison of total scores from 2009 and 2012 assessments, ranked from highest to lowest 2009 assessment score.

The graph above represents the absolute change in total scores between the 2009 and 2012 assessments for each neighborhood. The scores of the neighborhoods identified as potential Promise Zones in the 2009 assessment improved, with the exception of Asylum Hill.

Changes in Total Scores

Of the fourteen neighborhoods included in the assessment, twelve experienced improvements in their total score between the 2009 and 2012 Neighborhood Assessments. The neighborhoods that had at least a 15% improvement in their total score were Sheldon/Charter Oak, South Green, Behind the Rocks, Southwest, Northeast, and Clay Arsenal. Asylum Hill was the only neighborhood that experienced a worsening in total score of at least 15%.

Figure 5- Percent change in total score from 2009 to 2012
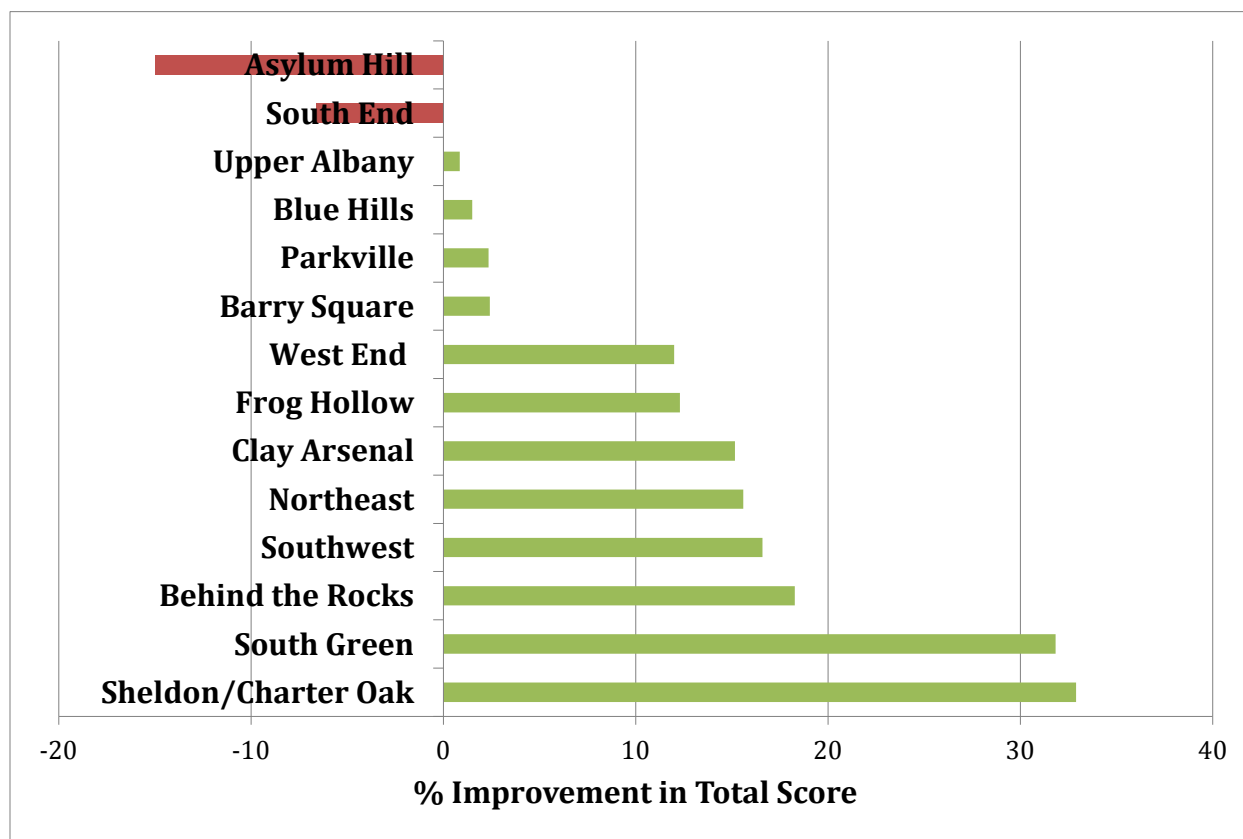
Understanding Where the Change Occurred

Similar to analyzing the total scores, it is important to understand which topic ares were responsible for the large change scores. Scores were disagregated by topic area for the neighborhoods with the largest change over time.

Table 7- Changes in topic scores for neighborhoods with largest improvements

Topic	Sheldon/Charter Oak		South Green	
	2009	2012	2009	2012
Poverty	4.75	3.50	5.50	3.25
Education	5.60	2.80	3.80	3.00
Housing	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55
Crime	1.95	1.95	1.65	1.65
Health	3.00	0.30	1.65	0.30
Stability	1.10	0.90	1.10	0.90
Programs	0.20	1.50	0.20	0.20
Total	17.15	11.50	14.45	9.85
% Improvement		33.00		32.00
Legend	Decrease in Score		Increase in Score	

It is worth investigating what types of initiatives have taken place, or what factors have contributed to the large improvements in Sheldon/Charter Oak and South Green over the past three years.

13

Sheldon/Charter Oak and South Green both experienced improvements in their poverty, education, and health scores, and slight decreases in stability scores. Sheldon/Charter Oak had an increase in their programs score, which remained constant for South Green. Both neighborhoods showed large improvements in key indicators over three years, with improvements in scores dramatically greater than other neighborhoods.

Table 8- Changes in topic scores for neighborhoods with improvement of 15 – 20%

	Behind Rocks		Clay Arsenal		Southwest		Northeast	
Topic	**2009**	**2012**	**2009**	**2012**	**2009**	**2012**	**2009**	**2012**
Poverty	4.00	3.00	8.00	6.00	2.00	2.00	9.25	7.00
Education	5.00	3.00	8.00	6.80	3.20	2.80	4.20	4.20
Housing	0.10	0.10	0.50	0.50	0.10	0.10	0.65	0.65
Crime	1.20	1.95	1.20	1.95	2.25	1.65	1.95	1.95
Health	2.10	1.20	1.95	0.60	1.20	0.60	0.60	0.30
Stability	1.50	1.10	1.50	1.50	2.70	1.80	1.90	0.90
Programs	0.60	1.50	0.60	1.10	0.60	1.10	1.00	1.50
Total	14.50	11.85	21.75	18.45	12.05	10.05	19.55	16.50
%Improvement		18.00		15.00		17.00		16.00

Legend	Decrease in Score	Increase in Score

Behind the Rocks and Clay Arsenal both experienced improvements in their poverty, education, and health scores, but a worsening of their crime scores. Both neighborhoods had increases in their community programs. In addition, Behind the Rocks experienced a decrease in its stability score. These sets of changes resulted in an improvement in scores from 2009 to 2012 of at least 15% for each neighborhood.

Southwest realized a 17% improvement in total score from 2009 to 2012 due to progress made in education, crime, and health topic scores. Southwest saw a decrease in stability scores, but an increase in the programs score. Many of the topic scores for Northeast remained constant, but improvements in poverty and health scores as well as an increase in the programs score resulted in 16% improvement in total score from 2009 to 2012.

Increase in Total Score

Table 9 – Changes in topic scores of Asylum Hill neighborhood

Topic	Asylum Hill	
	2009	**2012**
Poverty	7.25	10.00
Education	2.40	2.40
Housing	0.65	0.50
Crime	1.20	1.95
Health	1.65	0.30
Stability	1.10	0.50
Programs	1.10	2.00
Total	15.35	17.65
%Improvement		-15.00

This analysis of where the changes occurred helps explain why Asylum Hill had the seventh highest total score in 2009, but was ranked fourth in 2012 for highest total score.

Legend	Decrease in Score	Increase in Score

Asylum Hill was the only neighborhood that experienced a relatively large worsening (15%) in total score from 2009 to 2012. Although Asylum Hill showed improvements in housing and health topic scores, relatively large increases in its poverty and crime scores caused the total score for this neighborhood to worsen. Asylum Hill showed an increase in community programs, but this was offset by a decrease in neighborhood stability.

Key Findings from 2012 Assessment:

- Most neighborhoods showed improvements in indicators since the 2009 assessment
- Frog Hollow and Clay Arsenal remain the two neighborhoods with highest risk scores
- Asylum Hill had the largest increase in total score, indicating worsening conditions
- Sheldon / Charter Oak had the largest improvement in total score, largely due to progress in poverty, education, and health indicators

Summary of Findings

Instead of referring to or conceptualizing the total score as simply an evaluation of risk, it is suggested that it be thought of as a score of potential and promise. High scores represent neighborhoods with great capacity to be mobilized to improve conditions based on existing resources and services, or high priority areas for interventions. Low scores represent neighborhoods where there are less risky conditions and fewer community assets, which are more likely to be sufficient to meet the current needs of residents, or areas not commanding immediate action.

It is important to not only consider the indictor risk values for the current assessment, but to examine how the indicator risk values changed from the original 2009 Promise Zone Assessment to the 2012 Neighborhood Assessment. The following list outlines the changes observed for the neighborhoods that experienced a change in total score of 15% or more.

- Sheldon/Charter Oak experienced the largest percent improvement in total score. The poverty score improved over time due to a decrease in % of female householder in poverty with no husband and children under 18 (hereafter single mothers in poverty). The education score improved due to reductions in % of students not proficient in overall CMT score and % of adults without a high school diploma as well as increases in the % of adults graduated from college. A decrease in the teen pregnancy rate and an increase in the % of 4th graders meeting fitness goals caused the health score to improve. The neighborhood stability score decreased due to a small increase in the % of households living at the same address for less than 5 years. Finally, all these improvements in indicator risk values were offset by an increase in the programs and schools score, which indicates additional resources in the community.

- South Green experienced the second largest percent improvement in total score. The poverty score improved due to a relatively large decrease in the indicator for % of single mothers in poverty. The education score improved due to a modest reduction in the % of adults without a high school diploma. A decrease in the teen pregnancy rate was responsible for the overall improvement in the health score. Similar to Sheldon/Charter Oak, the neighborhood stability score decreased due to a small increase in the % of households living at the same address for less than 5 years.

- Behind the Rocks had an improved poverty score due to a decrease in the % of single mothers in poverty. The education score for this neighborhood was improved based on decreases in the % of students not proficient in overall CMT score and % of adults without a high school diploma. There was an increase in the crime score due to a rise in the % of students with disciplinary action. The teen pregnancy rate also declined in this neighborhood, resulting in an improvement in the health score. There was also an increase in the % of households living at the same address for less than 5 years, which caused the neighborhood stability score to go down. These decreases in indicator risk values were offset by an increase in the programs and schools score.

- Southwest had a moderate improvement in overall score that, unlike the previously described neighborhoods, was not due to any changes to the risk values for the heavily weighted poverty topic area indicators. The education score improved, but this was due to

16

a combination of an increase in the % of students not proficient in overall CMT scores and a significant decrease in the % of adults without a high school diploma. Similarly, the crime score improved due to a combination of a significant decrease in crime per capitar and an increase in the % of students with disciplinary action indicator. The health score improved due to progress made in the % of 4th graders meeting fitness goals and the neighborhood stability score decreased due to a lower % of students attending the same school as the previous year. The total neighborhood score had a relatively large percent improvement despite these fluctuations in indicator risk values, as well as an increase in the programs and schools score indicating an increase in the number of community assets.

- Northeast remained a top priority, high potential neighborhood in the 2012 Neighborhood Assessment despite a considerable percent improvement in total score. The poverty score improved due to a decrease in child poverty rate and % of single mothers in poverty and an increase in the number of children in poverty. The education score remained constant due to an increase in the % of students not proficient in overall CMT score indicator and a decrease in the % of adults without a high school diploma indicator. The health score improved due to a decline in the teen pregnancy rate. The neighborhood stability score decreased due to an increase in the % of households living at the same address for less than 5 years and a lower % of students attending the same school as the previous year. Finally, the programs and schools score increased due to an increase in community assets.

- Clay Arsenal was another community that remained a top priority, high potential neighborhood in the 2012 Neighborhood Assessment despite a considerable percent improvement in total score. The poverty score improved due to a decline in the child poverty rate and the % of single mothers in poverty. The education score improved as a result of a decrease in the % of students not proficient in overall CMT score and the % of adults without a high school diploma. The crime score worsened due to an increase in the % of students with disciplinary action. The health score improved due to a decrease in the teen pregnancy rate and an increase in the % of 4th graders meeting fitness goals. The programs and schools score increased due to an increase in community assets.

- Asylum Hill was the only neighborhood to experience a relatively large percent worsening in total score, which caused it to rank higher as a top priority, high potential neighborhood in the 2012 Neighborhood Assessment. An increase in the child poverty rate, the number of children in poverty, and the % of single mothers in poverty increased the poverty score. The housing score improved due to a small decline in the % of housing rented. The crime score worsened due to an increase in the % of students with disciplinary action. The health score improved due to a large increase in the % of 4th graders meeting fitness goals. The neighborhood stability score decreased due to an increase in the % of households living at the same address for less than 5 years and a decrease in the % of students attending the same school as the previous year. Finally, similar to other neighborhoods, there was an increase in the programs and schools score.

Limitations

The primary limitation of the current assessment and of the comparison analysis is that the secondary data sources for each indicator were not exactly the same for both assessments. In certain cases, the data sources had not been updated or data was not available or accessible. However, it should be noted that new sources of secondary data were strategically chosen to improve data quality and ensure that the same information or criteria could be used in future updates of the assessment. For a detailed explanation of how the data sources differed between the 2009 and 2012 assessments, please refer to the Appendix.

Putting this Assessment in Context

The Neighborhood Assessment presented here was conducted with an awareness of other published community assessments and available databases. For example, in March 2012 the Hartford Department of Health and Human Services released A Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), in collaboration with area hospitals, local non-profits, and public health organizations. This report focuses on the social determinants of population health, or the factors that threaten, promote, and protect the health of communities. The CHNA was completed through secondary data analysis, telephone interviews with opinion leaders, surveys of residents, and use of the Health Equity Index (HEI). The Connecticut Association of Directors of Health developed the HEI to support local health departments, by providing data ranking measures of social determinants of health, including community profiles related to housing, education, safety, employment, environmental quality, and civic engagement. The goal of the Index is to promote health equity by supplying local health departments with the resources and tools needed to engage community members in analyzing and considering data during decision making processes.

In the context of these other sources of data, the 2012 Hartford Neighborhood Assessment is unique in that it focuses on community conditions and health outcomes specific to school-aged children. It also emphasizes the partitioning of the City into neighborhoods, highlighting the distinctive characteristics of each. The formula used to calculate the total scores and indicator scores for each neighborhood in the present assessment is a measure not offered in other reports, which provides a fresh perspective on neighborhood conditions. The intent of this report for Hartford Public Schools is to complement these other assessments and databases as well as contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the neighborhoods in Hartford for residents of all demographics.

Conclusion

On a positive note, from 2009 to 2012 almost all neighborhoods showed improvements in key indicators that can contribute to child development and well-being. Frog Hollow and Clay Arsenal remained the top two neighborhoods with highest scores in the assessments in both 2009 and 2012. Other critical neighborhoods are Barry Square, Asylum Hill, Upper Albany and Northeast. These six neighborhoods remain areas of concern for child development due to high poverty rates, low education achievement, high crime and poor child health outcomes. Asylum Hill had a noticeable worsening of risk scores, and Sheldon / Charter Oak showed significant improvements in key indicators over the past three years. Attention should be given to understand why these changes, both good and bad, occurred.

This report can be used to investigate what social, economic, cultural, or political changes took place in Hartford neighborhoods in the past few years that may be responsible for the changes in total scores observed. Hartford Public Schools and other community organizations can learn from the changes in scores between 2009 and 2012 and gain insight into what programs are effective, what services aren't working well, and what could be done to further improve scores for future assessments. This information can be used to target specific neighborhoods and schools within those neighborhoods that have high needs to provide additional resources, programming, and services.

Appendix

A. Notes on 2009 Promise Zone Assessment Methods

The original assessment focused on eight priority neighborhoods (Behind the Rocks, Asylum Hill, Sheldon/Charter Oak, Upper Albany, Barry Square, Northeast, Clay Arsenal, and Frog Hollow) as potential Promise Zones. The risk scores for the remaining neighborhoods were calculated using raw data from the previous assessment. This allowed for a complete comparison of Hartford's neighborhoods with the exception of Downtown, North Meadows and South Meadows, which have small populations and are largely non-residential.

B. Notes on 2012 Neighborhood Assessment Methods

Primary source of data:

The previous Promise Zone Assessment relied on Census 2000 data. The 2000 Census is based on two questionnaires –a short form administered to all Americans to collect basic demographic information and a long form to given to one out of six households to collect more detailed information, including such topics as income, education, migration, health insurance and much more. In response to requests by governmental and nongovernmental organizations for more frequent updates, the Census Bureau has eliminated the long form from the decennial Census and has began in 2005 to use the American Community Survey (ACS) to provide more frequent updates. The ACS is a monthly survey that collects data on a sample of American households and data is aggregated over five years. The raw data used to calculate risk scores for the 2012 Neighborhood Assessment was based on Census 2010 and ACS 2005-09 data where appropriate.

The major differences between the Census and the ACS are the time periods represented by the data; the margin of error calculated included with estimates of populations data collected through the ACS; and changes in parameters for certain measures. For a more comprehensive comparison of the Census versus the ACS and recommendations on how researchers should approach using these data sets, please refer to "Policy Brief: Using the American Community Survey To Measure Change" produced by the Metropolitan Philadelphia Indicators Project at Temple University.

http://www.stablecommunities.org/library/policy-brief-using-american-community-survey

Poverty Demographics:
- Census 2010 population counts were used for population indicator rather than the ACS for a more accurate count
- ACS population estimate was used for calculating percentages and determining ranks for other indicators based on ACS
- The ACS estimate for # Children <18 years was used to calculate # of children in poverty
- % Children Living <100% Federal Poverty Level SF3 Table B17024 used for child poverty rate

- Previous indicator of % Children, Living With 1 Parent- Parent not in Labor Force SF3 Table P46 (Census) replaced by % Families in Poverty - Female householder, no husband present, with own children under 18 Table B17010 (ACS).

Housing
- The report "Lead Poisoning Risk in the City of Hartford: An Analysis Using GIS", issued by the Hartford Department of Health and Human Services in 2008, was used again for the number of very high risk lead buildings. Therefore, this data is the same for both the 2009 and 2012 assessment and did not contribute to any changes in risk scores observed.

Health:
- % births to teen mothers calculated as (teen birth count/total teen pop)*100

Neighborhood Stability:
- The measure of % high social capital was not updated in this assessment because more recent data could not be acquired for the current assessment. Consequently, the risk values were kept constant from the 2009 assessment.
- Transiency reported as % household living in current address < 5 years, rather than < 1 year in previous assessment

Existing Services:
- Community assets data for early childhood programs and health services not changed from previous assessment due to lack of updated sources of data.

C. Data Sources for Risk Factors

Data Source	Indicators
American Community Survey 2005-09 www.HartfordInfo.org	Childhood Poverty Rate Number of Children in Poverty % Families in Poverty - Female householder, no husband present, with own children under 18 % of adults without high school diploma % of adults graduated from college % housing rented % households living at address <5 years
Census 2010 www.HartfordInfo.org	Neighborhood population
Data Interaction for Connecticut Mastery Test, 4th Generation, www.cmtreports.com	% not proficient in overall CMT scores (2012, Grade 4)
Connecticut State Department of Education, www.sde.ct.gov	# of Tier 1 schools (School Improvement Grants)
Connecticut State Department of Education, Connecticut Education Data and Research (CEDaR), http://sdeportal.ct.gov/Cedar/WEB/ct_report/DTHome.aspx	% 4th graders meeting fitness goals (2010-11) # of schools
Hartford Department of Health and Human Services	# of very high risk Lead buildings
Hartford Police Department	Crime per capita # community assets
Hartford Public Library	Teen pregnancy rate # community assets
Hartford Public Schools	% students attending school last year (2011-12) % students with disciplinary action (2011-12) # community assets
Mayor's Office for Young Children	# community assets

## D. Risk Factor Values and Weights Table *(continued on next page)*

Topic	Indicator	Values	Risk Value	Weight
Poverty Demographics	Child Poverty Rate	< 30%	1	
		30 - 39%	3	
		40 - 49%	7	
		> 50%	10	
	Number of children in poverty	< 500	1	
		500 - 1000	3	
		1000 - 1500	7	
		> 1500	10	
	Neighborhood Population	< 5,000 people	1	
		5,000 - 9,999	5	
		>10,000	10	
	% children w/ single parent not working	< 20%	1	
		20 - 29%	5	
		> 30%	10	25%
Education	% not proficient in overall CMT scores	< 60%	1	
		60 - 69%	3	
		70 - 80%	7	
		> 80%	10	
	% of adults without HS diploma	< 30%	1	
		30 - 39%	3	
		40 - 49%	7	
		> 50%	10	
	% of adults graduated from college	20 - 30%	1	
		10 - 20%	5	
		0 - 9.9%	10	
	# of Tier 1 schools	0	1	
		1	5	
		2	10	20%
Housing	% of Housing is Rented	< 70%	1	
		70 - 79%	3	
		80 - 89%	7	
		> 90%	10	
	# of very high risk Lead buildings	< 200	1	
		200 - 399	3	
		400 -599	7	
		> 600	10	5%
Crime	Crime per capita	< 5%	1	
		5 - 7.5%	3	
		7.6 - 10%	7	
		> 10%	10	
	% of students with disciplinary action	<10%	1	
		10 - 15%	5	
		>15%	10	15%

Topic	Indicator	Values	Risk Value	Weight
Health	Teen Pregnancy rate	< 15%	1	
		15 - 20%	3	
		20 - 25%	7	
		25 - 35%	10	
	% 4th graders meeting fitness goals	> 40%	1	
		30 - 40 %	3	
		20 - 30 %	7	
		< 20%	10	15%
Neighborhood Stability	% high social capital	< 35%	1	
		35 - 44%	3	
		45 - 54%	7	
		> 55%	10	
	% Households living at address <5 years	> 40%	1	
		30 - 39%	3	
		20 - 29%	7	
		< 20%	10	
	% students attending school last year	< 75 %	1	
		75 - 80 %	5	
		> 80 %	10	10%
Existing Services	# of community assets	< 5	1	
		5 - 10	5	
		10 +	10	
	# of schools	0-2	1	**Total Score**
		between 3-5	5	**Score**
		> 5	10	10% **100%**

E. List of Schools Included in 2012 Neighborhood Assessment

Neighborhood	School	Address
Asylum Hill	Classical Magnet School	85 Woodland Street
	HPHS Academy of Engineering & Green Tech.	55 Forest Street
	HPHS Freshman Academy	55 Forest Street
	HPHS Law and Government	55 Forest Street
	HPHS Nursing Academy	55 Forest Street
	Opportunity High School	875 Asylum Avenue
	West Middle Elementary School	927 Asylum Avenue
Barry Square	Bulkeley High School Lower	300 Wethersfield Avenue
	Bulkeley High School Upper	300 Wethersfield Avenue
	Burr School	400 Wethersfield Avenue
	Hartford Magnet (Trinity College Academy)	53 Vernon Street
	M.D. Fox	470 Maple Avenue
	Moylan School	101 Catherine Street
Behind the Rocks	Mary Hooker School	440 Broadview Terrace
	McDonough School	111 Hillside Avenue
	Breakthrough Magnet School	290 Brookfield Street
Blue Hills	Annie Fisher/Montessori Magnet	280 Plainfield Street
	Breakthrough II	395 Lyme Street
	Culinary Arts Academy	415 Granby Street
	Journalism and Media High School	415 Granby Street
	Renzulli Gifted and Talented Academy	121 Cornwall Street
	Sarah J. Rawson Elementary	260 Holcomb Street
	Sarah J. Rawson Middle	260 Holcomb Street
	STEM Magnet at Annie Fisher	280 Plainfield Street
	University High School	351 Mark Twain Drive
	Weaver High School	415 Granby Street
Clay Arsenal	Americas Choice at SAND	1750 Main Street
Frog Hollow	Burns Latino Studies Academy	195 Putnam Street
	Maria C. Colon Sanchez Elementary	176 Babcock Street
Northeast	John C. Clark, Jr. School	75 Clark Street
	Pathways Academy of Technology and Design	184 Windsor Avenue
	Simpson-Waverly School	55 Waverly Street
	Wish School	350 Barbour Street
Parkville	Parkville Community School	1755 Park Street
Sheldon/ Charter Oak	Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts	65 Block Avenue
	Ramon E. Betances Early Reading Lab	42 Charter Oak Avenue
	Sport and Medical Sciences Academy	280 Huyshope Avenue
South End	Asian Studies at Dwight/Bellizzi	585 Wethersfield Avenue
	Dr. Joseph Bellizzi Middle School	215 South Street
	Naylor School	639 Franklin Avenue
Southwest	Batchelder Elementary School	757 New Britain Avenue
	E.B. Kennelly School	180 White Street
Upper Albany	Global Communications Academy	305 Greenfield Street
	Milner Core Knowledge Academy	104 Vine Street
	Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School	25 Ridgefield Street
West End	Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet	4 Cone Street

F. Total scores from 2012 neighborhood assessment, ranked from highest to lowest score
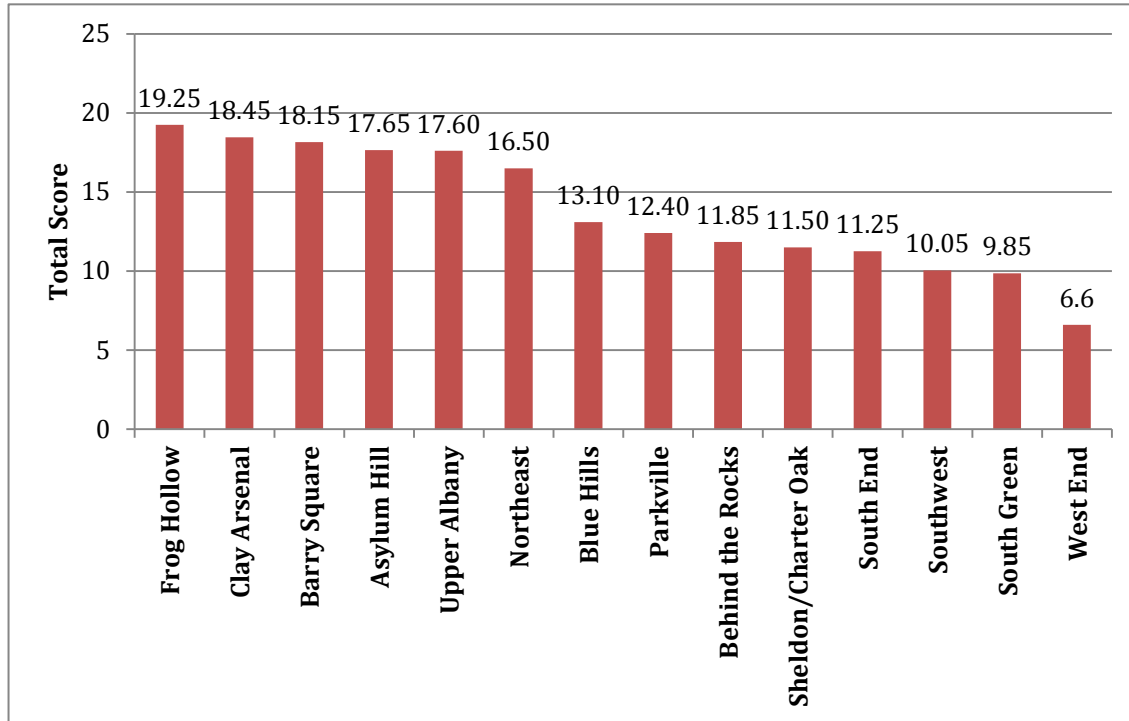
For an interactive neighborhood map of Hartford visit,
http://www.hartfordneighborhoods.org

Acknowledgements

We thank the following individuals for their assistance with providing data for this assessment.

Sandra J. Ward, Hartford Community Schools
Elena Filios, Hartford Public Library
Richard Frieder, Hartford Public Library
George Michna, Ph.D., Hartford Public Schools

This report was produced for the Office of Institutional Advancement, Hartford Public Schools. For more information, please contact:

HARTFORD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Where the future is present.