

Manhattan Community District 4 Needs Assessment

Presented by:



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WELCOME

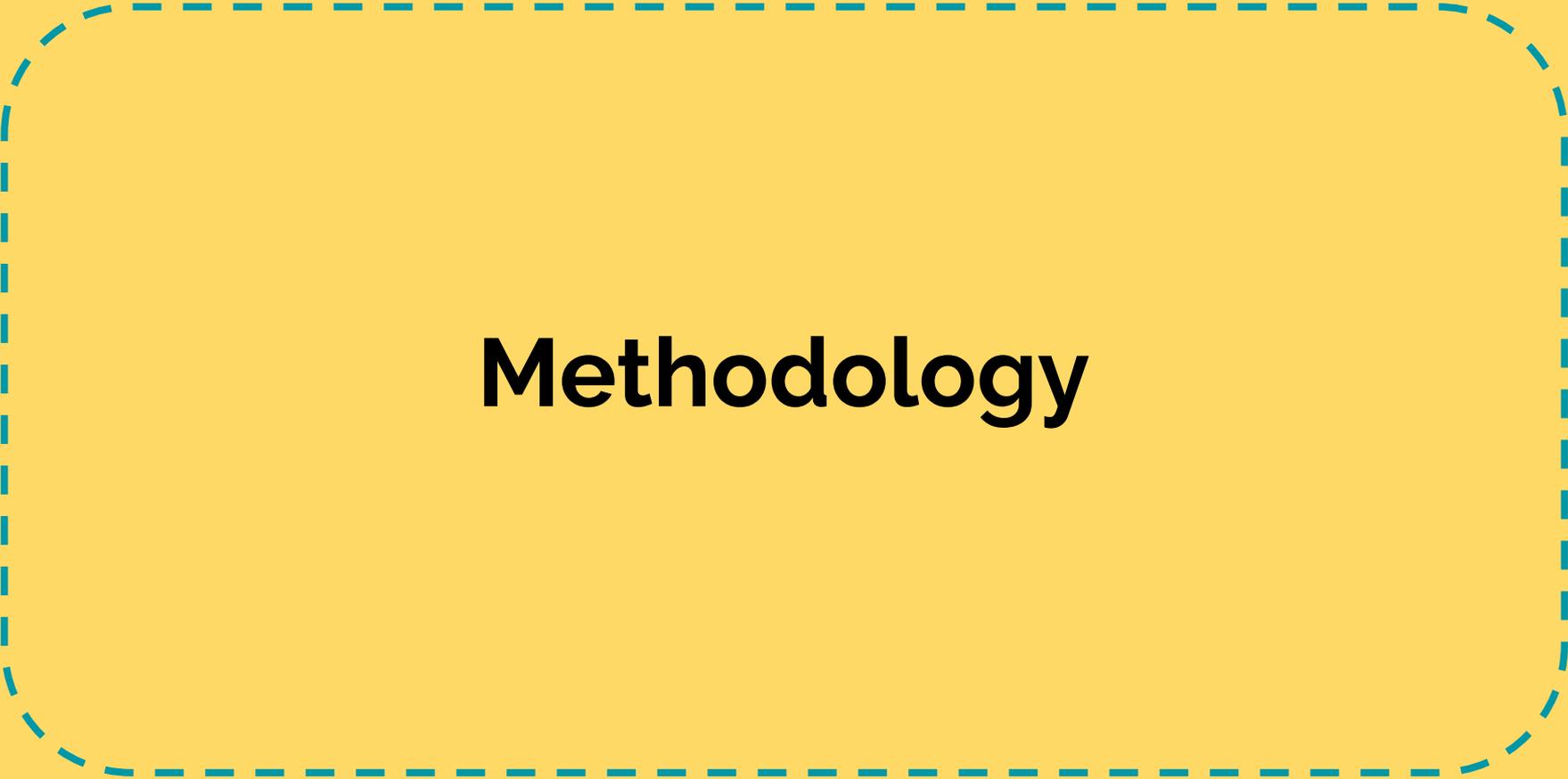
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Methodology

Research Questions

- ❖ What vulnerable populations are there in MCD4?
- ❖ What gaps in service do stakeholders perceive in the district? In other words, who isn't receiving the services they need?
- ❖ What additional information might MCB4 need to understand the community and address its needs?

Data Source 1: Document Review

- ❖ 311 and City Council complaint logs
- ❖ MCB4 Documents
 - Affordable Housing Plan
 - Meeting minutes
 - Statement of District Needs and Budget Requests
- ❖ Class Divide documentary (film)
- ❖ Keeping Track Online
- ❖ NYC Admin. for Children Services Preventive Service Directory
- ❖ NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Health
 - Community Health Profile and Survey
- ❖ NYC Dept. of Planning
 - MCD4 Community Profiles
 - Zoning for Coastal Flood Resiliency
- ❖ NYC Dept. of Sanitation Community Report
- ❖ NYPD Crime statistics
- ❖ NYS Department of Health Statewide Planning/Research Cooperative System
- ❖ U.S. Census/American Community Survey

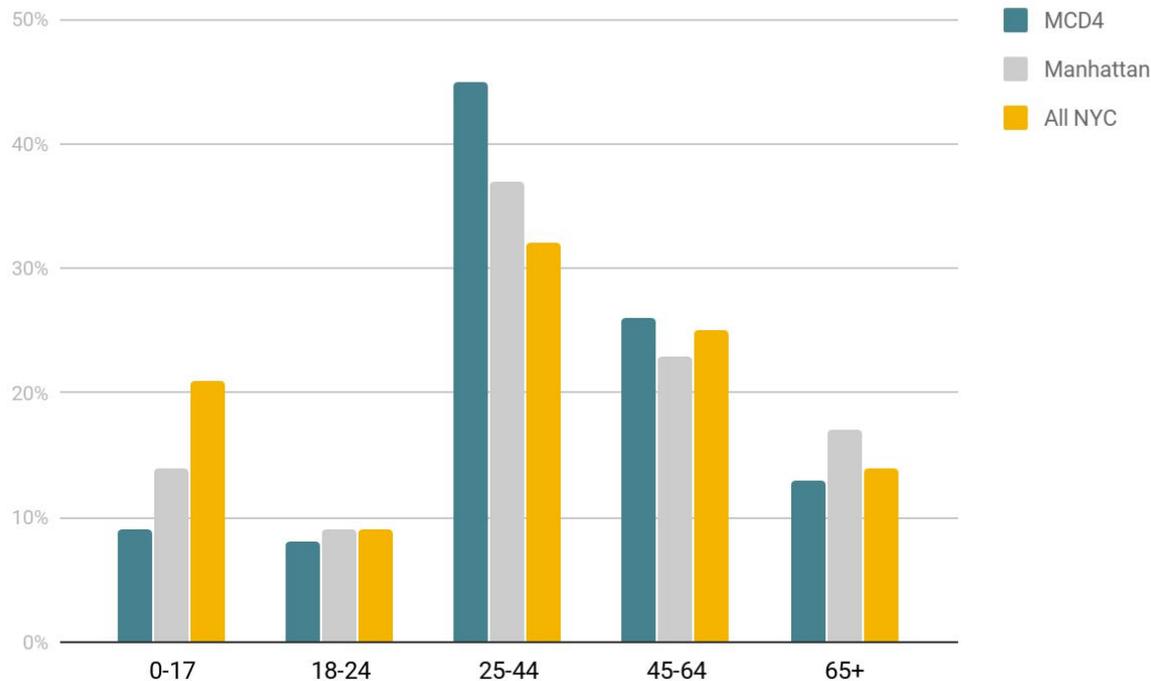
Data Source 2: Stakeholder Interviews

- ❖ Breaking Ground
- ❖ Councilmember Rosenthal's office
- ❖ Council Speaker Johnson's office
- ❖ Covenant House
- ❖ Hartley House
- ❖ Hudson Guild
- ❖ Metro Baptist Church
- ❖ NYCHA
- ❖ Fulton House
- ❖ Penn South



The MCD4 Community

Age

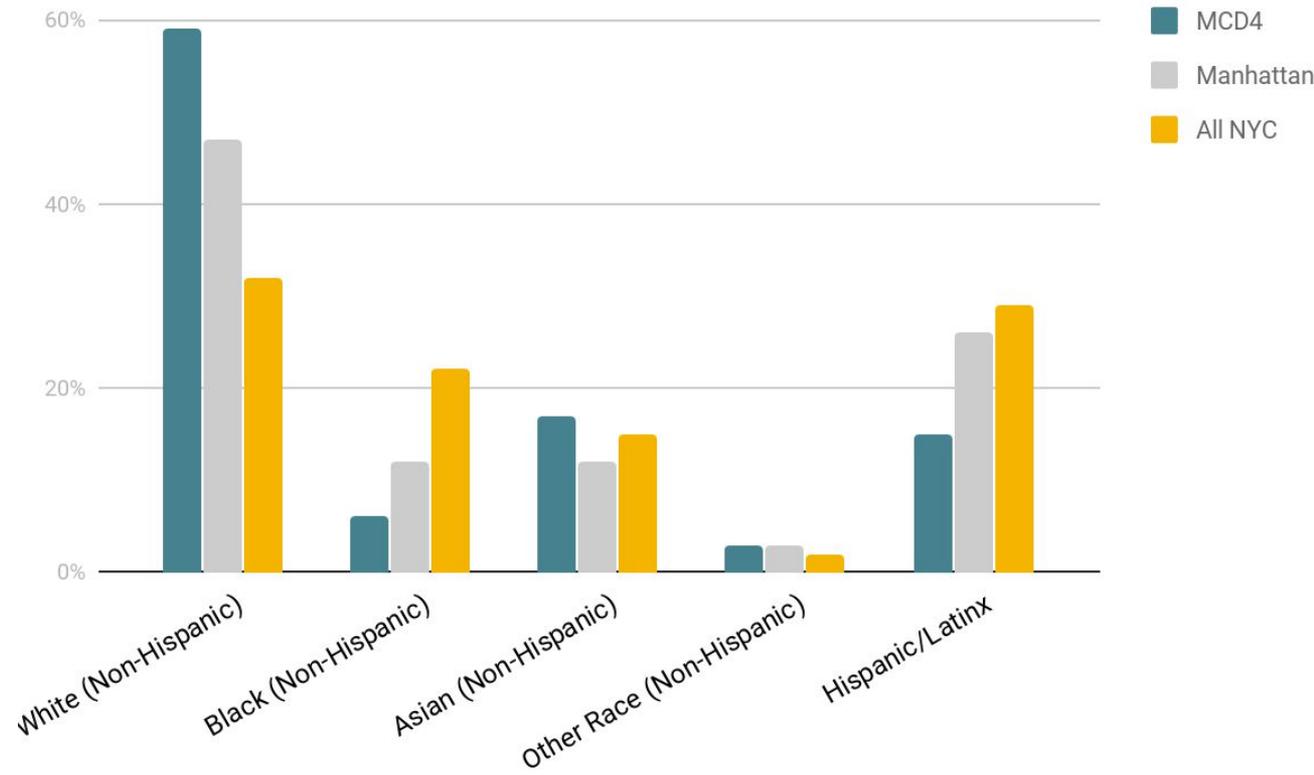


MCD4, similar to Manhattan, has a much smaller population of children and a higher concentration of 25-44 year olds than the city overall.

Race/Ethnicity

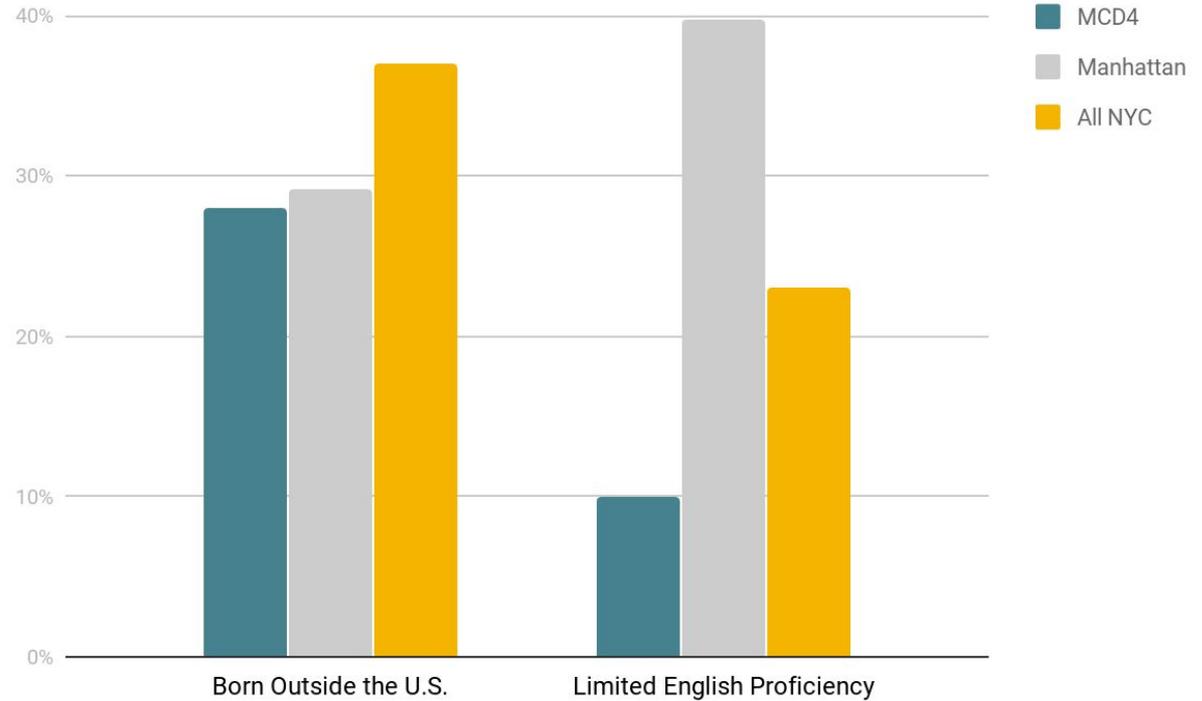
MCD4 is comprised of 59% White residents, higher than the citywide rate of 32%.

There are significantly fewer Black and Hispanic/Latinx occupants residing in MCD4 in comparison to the rest of Manhattan and NYC.

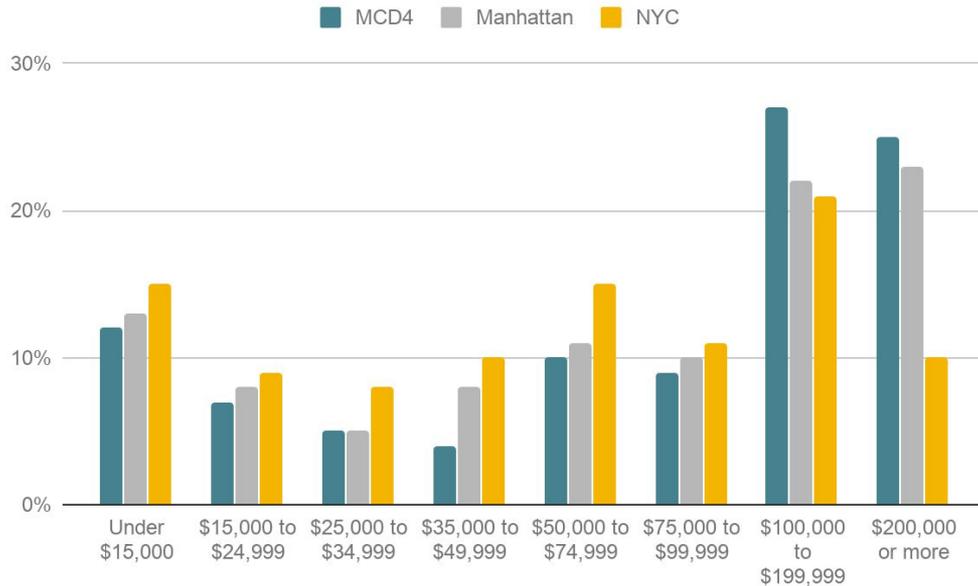


National Origin and Native Language

MCD4 has smaller immigrant and English language learner populations than Manhattan and the rest of the city.



Poverty and Income



	MCD4	Man	All NYC
Poverty Rate	11%	14%	20%
Unemployment Rate	5%	7%	9%
Rent Burdened Residents	41%	45%	51%

52% of MCD4 residents earn \$100,000+, compared to 31%. The district has lower unemployment, poverty, and rent burdened rates than Manhattan and NYC. However, there is **significant income inequality** in the district.



Research Findings on Community Needs

Community Needs

Four themes emerged:

- ❖ Employment for teenagers and young adults
- ❖ Services for older adults, with a focus on non-native English speakers
- ❖ Cost of living for families in affordable housing
- ❖ Challenges for people experiencing homelessness and/or mental illness

Employment for Teenagers and Young Adults

- ❖ The unemployment rate for teenagers 16-19 seeking work is 59%, the second highest rate across NYC and significantly higher than the citywide rate of 29%.
- ❖ The high school dropout rate in MCD4 increased by .5% in 2018 while the citywide rate decreased by 3%.
- ❖ There is a perceived lack of job readiness resources, employment training, and career pathways for young people.

"We need to try to find more programs for teenagers to work... more indoor space for the younger generation."

- Miguel Acevedo, President of the Fulton Houses Tenant Association

Employment for Teenagers and Young Adults

COVID19 Implications

- ❖ The job market is extremely tight, with many adults vying for employment in jobs typically held by young adults in those businesses that are still open (food service, delivery, child care).
- ❖ The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) has been cancelled for summer 2020. This eliminates 75,000 jobs citywide.
- ❖ Publicly-funded summer camps were de-funded for summer 2020, eliminating thousands more jobs typically held by young adults.

Older Adults

- ❖ Seniors are struggling to navigate housing and financial decisions, as well as systems that often require the use of technology.
- ❖ There is limited accessibility to medical appointments, stores, and service providers.
- ❖ Language barriers create additional hurdles for older adults seeking services and social opportunities.
- ❖ Limited physical space hinders the capacity to provide programs and resources.

“...For folks where English is not their first language, especially older adults... they need someone to advocate for them.”

- Yesenia Zuniga, Hartley House

Older Adults

COVID19 Implications

- ❖ Seniors have been increasingly isolated since social distancing began.
- ❖ Senior services have been spread thin, with many organizations shifting to home-delivered meal services and virtual wellness checks.
- ❖ Translating center-based services to virtual/in-home services requires an investment in planning, materials, and training.

Families in Affordable Housing

- ❖ Low-income families have housing opportunities, but lack means to sustain quality of life.
- ❖ There is a lack of affordable retailers, grocery stores, and service providers.
- ❖ Residents' needs include but are not limited to social services, immigrant services, and pathways to affordable food programs.

“This neighborhood needs [to support] all the people who are here, money shouldn't be a barrier.”

- Ken Jockers, Hudson Guild

Families in Affordable Housing

COVID19 Implications

- ❖ Low-income families are more likely to be people of color and/or essential workers, which suggests they are more likely to have been impacted by illness and loss.
- ❖ Families' incomes across the income spectrum may be temporarily or permanently reduced.
- ❖ More families are likely to slip below the poverty line over the next year.

Homelessness / Mental Illness

- ❖ Residents and stakeholders are not aware of accessible mental health resources and there seems to be more demand than supply.
- ❖ The rate of adult psychiatric hospitalization in MCD4 is higher than the citywide rate, 861/100,000 in MCD4 compared to 750 in Manhattan and 676 citywide.
- ❖ MCD4 also reports a suicide rate of 9.2/100,000 people, higher than the citywide average of 5.1

"I'm seeing a great need in addressing issues of those who are in shelters or on the street. We see that; people come to our door non-stop asking for different types of support."

- Tiffany Henkel, Metro Baptist Church

Homelessness / Mental Illness

COVID19 Implications

- ❖ People experiencing homelessness are more susceptible to getting sick, with higher rates of serious underlying health problems, lack of access to quality health care, and no way to regularly practice proper hygiene or self-quarantine.
- ❖ Mental health organizations are seeing a 15-20% increase in anxiety screenings.
- ❖ Containment measures have made it harder for people with substance use disorders to seek help, keep up treatment, and access social supports.



Recommendations

Possible Action Steps

- ❖ Teenagers and Young Adults
 - Meet with DYCD to assess the youth workforce programs available in MCD4
 - Meet with Jobs First NYC to discuss strategies that have worked in other communities, including the Lower East Side Employment Network (LESEN)
 - Continue securing commitments to hire from the local community and align job readiness programming with local jobs

Possible Action Steps

❖ Older Adults

- Assess programs available and gaps in services
- Partner with service providers to expand access to bilingual advocates
- Identify underutilized community spaces for seniors' activities
- Meet with DFTA to assess resources available and home-delivered meals partnership

Possible Action Steps

- ❖ Families in affordable housing
 - Work with local businesses to offer a sliding scale or discount programs
 - Mobilize service providers to expand poverty relief and financial literacy services
 - Engage donors to subsidize the cost of food, clothes, and other basic supplies

Possible Action Steps

- ❖ People experiencing homelessness/mental illness
 - Meet with DHS to discuss homeless shelter availability
 - Conduct an inventory of programs that serve people living with mental illness

Recommendations for Further Research

- ❖ What are all the available programs for the four populations identified?
 - Are any of these programs underutilized, and if so, how can they be maximized? What marketing/access strategies are needed?
 - Do any of these programs have waitlists, and if so, how long are they? What does this data suggest about how to prioritize the four groups?
- ❖ What COVID19 relief funding might be secured and targeted to each target population?
- ❖ How do our public agency partners (e.g., DFTA, DYCD, DHS) view the needs in MCD4? How would they recommend approaching service expansion?

Questions and Discussion

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