

# **NEIGHBORHOOD CHOICE AND RESIDENTIAL ATTITUDES AMONG LONG ISLAND BLACKS**

**Report Prepared for ERASE Racism by**

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## INTRODUCTION

Erase Racism sponsored the current survey of black Long Islanders as a follow up to an earlier poll conducted in 2008 that had documented pervasive experiences with discrimination on Long Island among local black and Latino residents. The survey follows this earlier study, probing more deeply into housing attitudes and residential preferences among African-Americans to better understand patterns of residential segregation on Long Island. It is the largest survey of black Long Islanders to include questions about housing-related issues.<sup>1</sup>The sample is selected from “minority” neighborhoods on Long Island in which the majority of residents are black (*please see the appendix for the list of townships from which respondents are drawn*).The poll also includes questions on residential satisfaction and investigates factors that drive neighborhood preferences.

The major findings of the survey are summarized below and discussed in greater detail in the report. Subgroups of African-Americans are only mentioned if their attitudes differ considerably. If differences are not mentioned in the report, it means that there was general consensus within the African-American community on a specific survey question or topic.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A majority of African-Americans in the study would prefer to live in mixed areas with a 50:50 split of black and white residents. Most neighborhoods on Long Island are majority white areas, making it difficult for African-Americans to find a neighborhood containing their ideal racial mix of residents. When asked, roughly 4 in 10 black residents said they would feel better about living in a white area if the schools contained a mix of black and white students. However, the racial composition of local schools raises a potential barrier to blacks moving into majority white neighborhoods. Three in 10 said they would consider moving into a white neighborhood in which residents were open to people of different backgrounds.
- The most important factors for black residents when thinking about where to live are good public schools and local services, low crime rates, and well maintained property. Black residents value the physical aspects of the neighborhood environment, such as low crime rates and well maintained property over social qualities, such as being close to family members. Respondents indicated that physical characteristics of the neighborhood are also more important than characteristics of a house in deciding where to live.
- A majority (58%) of African-Americans is satisfied with local schools and services, but a sizeable number (40%) is not. Respondents who reside in high-need school districts, defined by the state of New York as districts with a poverty level of 20% or more, or which serve 10,000 or more students from poverty-level families, are the least satisfied with the quality of the local schools. Fifty-five percent of those in high-need districts rate their local schools at fair or poor, compared to 9% in low-need districts and 13% in average-need districts. Even though a majority of African-Americans is satisfied overall with local schools, 55% believe they are not a good value compared to the taxes that they pay.

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<sup>1</sup> Several health polls conducted on Long Island have included large oversamples of African Americans, but they do not include questions on housing and neighborhood preferences and satisfaction.

[http://www.adelphi.edu/vitalsigns/pdfs/vitalsigns\\_jan2008.pdf](http://www.adelphi.edu/vitalsigns/pdfs/vitalsigns_jan2008.pdf)

- A majority (62%) of African-Americans is satisfied with the quality of local services, such as parks, libraries and police and 57% rate them as a good deal when compared to local taxes.
- Two-thirds of African-Americans are satisfied with their neighborhoods, but many also note problems. Three in four blacks report a major or minor problem with the use and sale of drugs in their neighborhood. This problem was reported most frequently by the youngest age group and by residents of Suffolk County. Overall, black residents of Suffolk County are more likely than residents of Nassau County to report a major problem with drug usage and sales, home breaking and entering, robberies and muggings. In this sense, black neighborhoods on Long Island are also at odds with black residents' preferences to live in low-crime areas.
- Just under a half of all African-Americans report some difficulty paying their rent or mortgage in an average month; younger respondents and those without a college degree find this especially difficult.
- A majority of African-Americans believes housing discrimination is pervasive on Long Island. Roughly a third has experienced housing discrimination or racial harassment in their neighborhood first-hand or within their immediate family. Black college graduates and residents of Suffolk County were most likely to have experienced housing discrimination at the hands of a real estate agent.
- Roughly a half of all African-Americans say they are likely to leave Long Island in the next five years. This is especially true for the youngest age group (18 to 34). Among those who say they are likely to leave Long Island, just under a half say they would move to a southern state.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PREFERENCES

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African-Americans on Long Island consider a number of neighborhood characteristics as very important when they think about a place to live. Eight in ten blacks rate a low crime rate, well maintained property, good public schools and high quality local government services as among their most important considerations. The social characteristics of the neighborhood matter too, but to a far lesser degree. Roughly half of all respondents considered a friendly area where people know each other and got along well as one of their most important considerations. But a roughly similar percentage (46%) rated this as important, but not one of their most important concerns. Living close to friends and family was considered less important. Just 28% mentioned it as their most important concern and another 55% rated as important, but not one of their most important concerns. Altogether this suggests that African-Americans focus on the physical characteristics and local services of a neighborhood in picking a place to live.

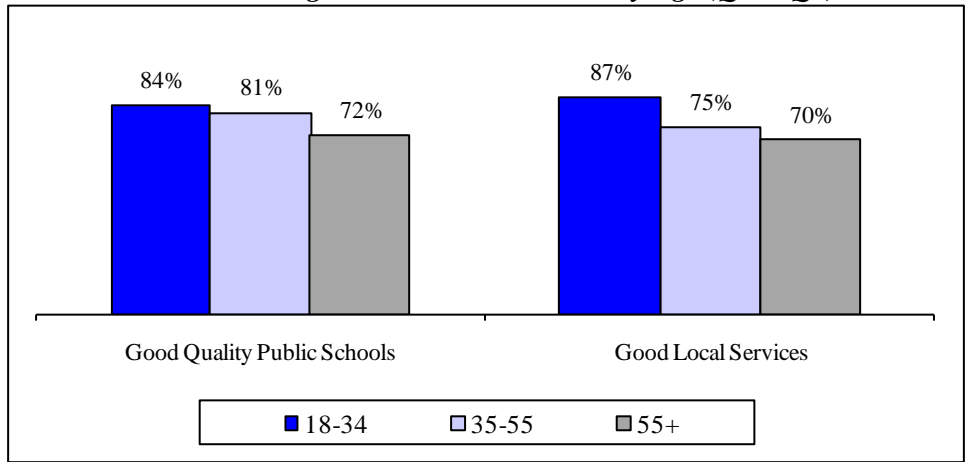
*Table 1: Importance of Neighborhood Qualities  
When Thinking about a Place to Live*

<b>Neighborhood Characteristics</b>	<b><u>One of the Most Important</u></b>	<b><u>Important, But Not the Most</u></b>	<b><u>Not Important</u></b>
Low crime rate(Q3)	89%	11%	1%
Landlords/homeowners who take care of their property(Q2)	81%	19%	-
High quality public schools(Q1)	80%	17%	3%
Good local services(Q5)	78%	22%	0.5%

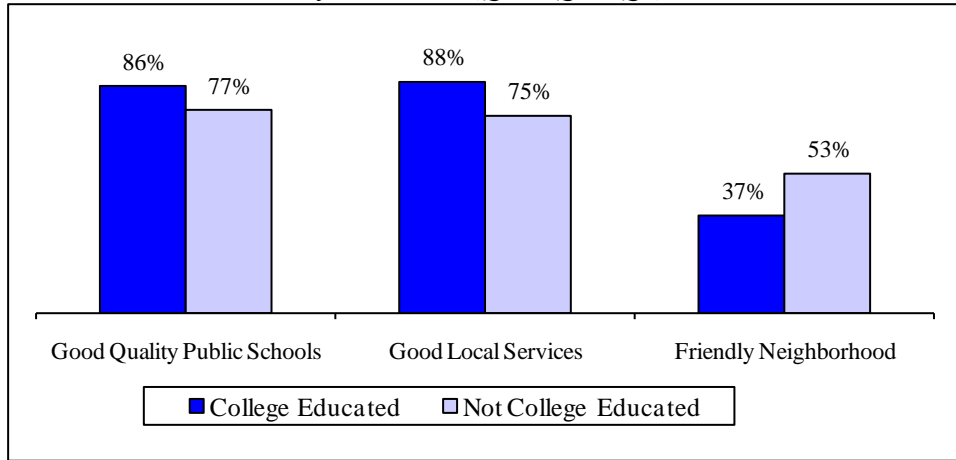
People know each other and get along(Q6)	48%	46%	6%
Close to family and friends(Q4)	28%	55%	17%

These preferences are broadly shared within the Long Island African-American community. However, there were some differences by age, education level, and county of residence in the degree to which respondents found certain neighborhood characteristics important. Local residents with a college degree were somewhat more likely than those without a college degree to regard high quality public schools as one of their most important considerations (86% of the college educated vs. 77% of those without a degree). Younger respondents aged 18 to 34 were more likely than respondents aged 55 and older to regard public schools as most important (84% vs. 72%). The college-educated were also more likely than those without a degree to rate good local services such as parks and libraries as one of their most important considerations (88% vs. 75%). Those aged 18 to 34 rated local services more highly than those aged 55 and older (87% vs. 70%). And college graduates were less likely than those without a college degree to rate a friendly neighborhood as one of their most important considerations (37% vs. 53%). Finally, blacks living in Suffolk County were more likely than those in Nassau County to rate living close to family and friends as one of their most important concerns.

**Graph 1: Rating Public Schools and Local Services as the “Most Important Factor” When Thinking About a Place to Live - By Age (Q1 & Q5)**

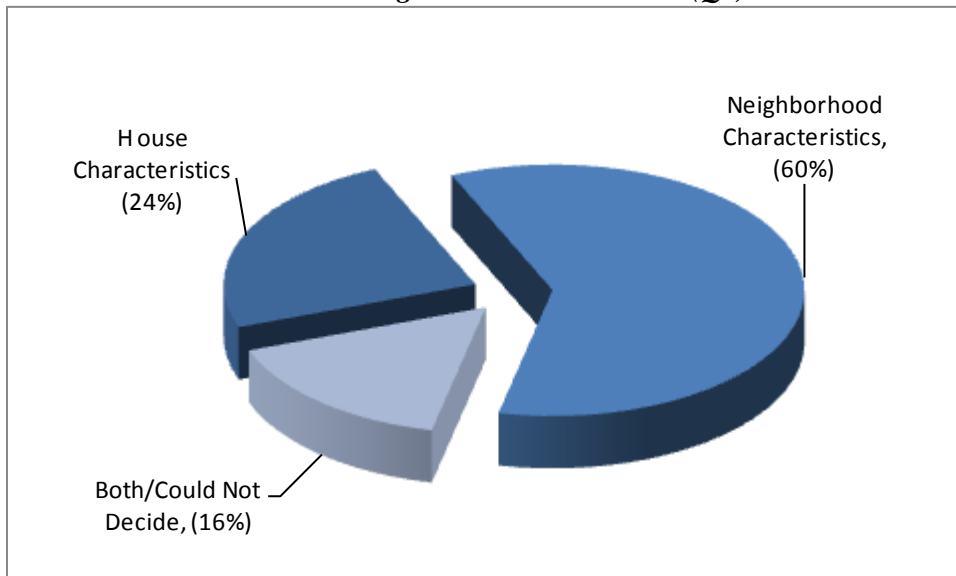


**Graph2: Rating Public Schools, Local Services and Friendly Neighborhood As the “Most Important Factor” When Thinking About a Place to Live By Education (Q1 & Q5& Q6)**



When asked to choose between the characteristics of a house and the characteristics of a neighborhood as most important in thinking about a place to live 60% of African-Americans picked the neighborhood, 24% picked the house, and 16% said both or could not decide. A preference for a good neighborhood over a good house was shared broadly among men and women, across age groups, county and education level, and differed only with regard to income level. Roughly seventy-one percent of those in households earning less than \$60,000 a year chose the neighborhood as more important than the characteristics of the house. In contrast, only 47% of residents in households with incomes in excess of \$100,000 chose the neighborhood as more important.

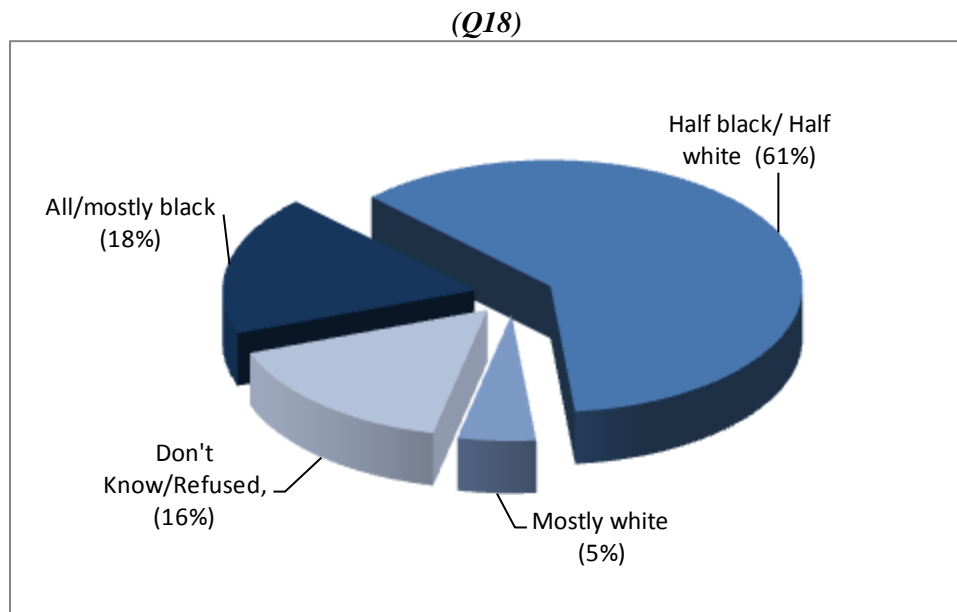
**Graph3: Preference for House Characteristics vs. Neighborhood When Thinking About A Place to Live (Q7)**



## PREFERRED RACIAL COMPOSITION OF NEIGHBORHOOD

When asked their preferred racial make-up for a neighborhood in which they could find desirable housing, 60% of black residents chose an area that is half black and half white. Another 5% preferred an area that was mostly white, 17% preferred an area that was mostly or all black, and 15% had no preference or were unsure. There are some modest differences in neighborhood racial preference by college education. An overwhelming 75% of college-educated blacks preferred a neighborhood that was half white and half black and only 9% preferred an area that was mostly or all black. In contrast, 55% of those without a college education preferred a half white-half black area and 22% preferred a mostly black area. Overall, blacks' preference for a mixed racial neighborhood is consistent with a large number of social science studies on African-American housing attitudes. Most of these studies find that blacks in the U.S. prefer to live in neighborhoods that are 50% white and 50% black.<sup>2</sup>

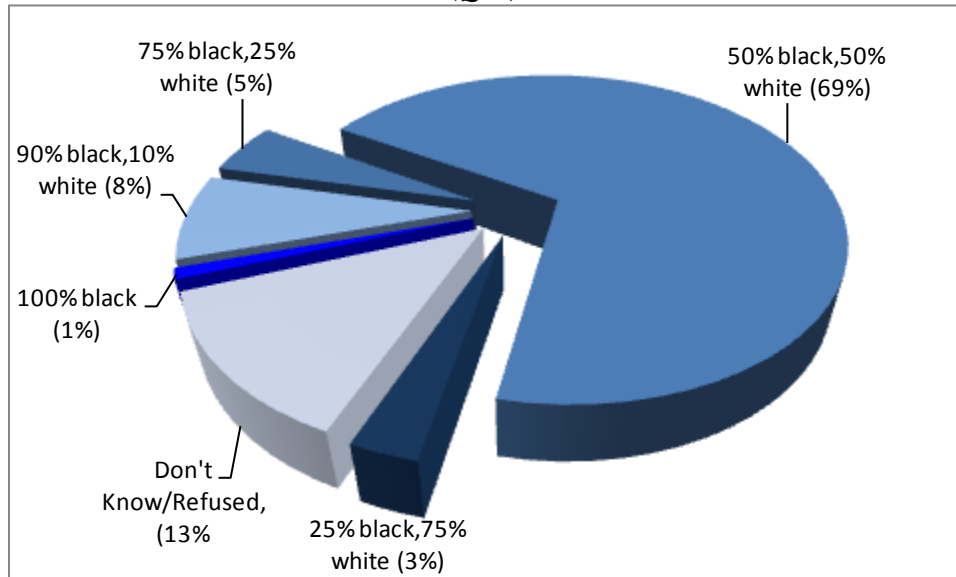
*Graph 4a: Preference for Racial Composition of Neighborhood*



In addition to being asked their preference for broad neighborhood racial composition in Question 18 (e.g., all black, mostly black, half black & half white, or mostly white; see Graph 4a), black residents were also asked to place an exact percentage on their preferred racial neighborhood composition in a separate question (Q19). A preference for a 50:50 white-black split was even more pronounced with almost 7 in 10 choosing it.

<sup>2</sup>Krysan, Maria, Couper, Mick P., Farley, Reynolds, and Forman, Tyrone A. 2009. Does Race Matter in Neighborhood Preferences: Results From a Video Experiment. *American Journal of Sociology*, 115(2): 527-559. .

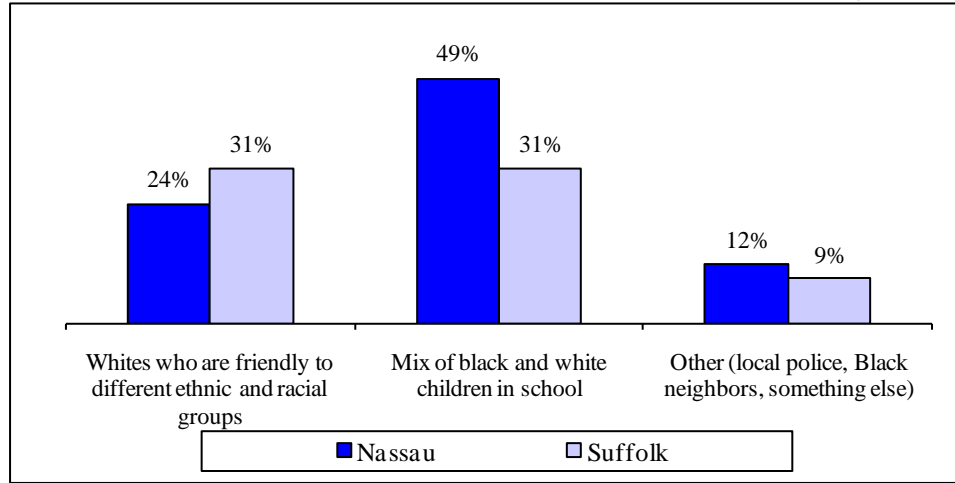
**Graph 4b: Preferred Racial Neighborhood Composition as a Percentage (Q19)**



Few black respondents chose majority white areas as their preferred place to live even though these dominate neighborhoods on Long Island. When asked to choose among different things that would make them most comfortable living in a neighborhood that was mostly white, a plurality of blacks chose a mix of black and white children in the local schools (41%), followed by white neighbors who were friendly to members of different ethnic and racial groups (27%). Very few (7%) chose an area with a few black neighbors or police who dealt effectively with racist behavior as an answer to this question.

There were marked differences, however, by county in response to the question on white neighborhoods. Residents of Nassau County were far more likely than Suffolk residents to choose a mix of black and white children in the schools (49% vs. 31%). In contrast, residents of Suffolk County were equally split between those who said having neighbors who were friendly to those of another race (31%) would make them feel comfortable in a white area and those who said a racial mix of children in the local schools (31%).

**Graph5: Characteristics Blacks Most Comfortable with When Live in a Neighborhood with Mostly Whites - By County (Q20)**



Most black respondents (65%) reported that there had been some change in their neighborhood racial composition over the past ten years. On balance, residents reported that their neighborhoods had become less black over time. Forty-five percent said that the amount of blacks had decreased in the neighborhood, 33% said that it had stayed the same and 20% said the percent of blacks had increased over the past 10 years. Among blacks who said their neighborhoods had become less African-American in the last 10 years, 80% said that Latinos had largely replaced blacks in their area.

## **QUALITY AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD**

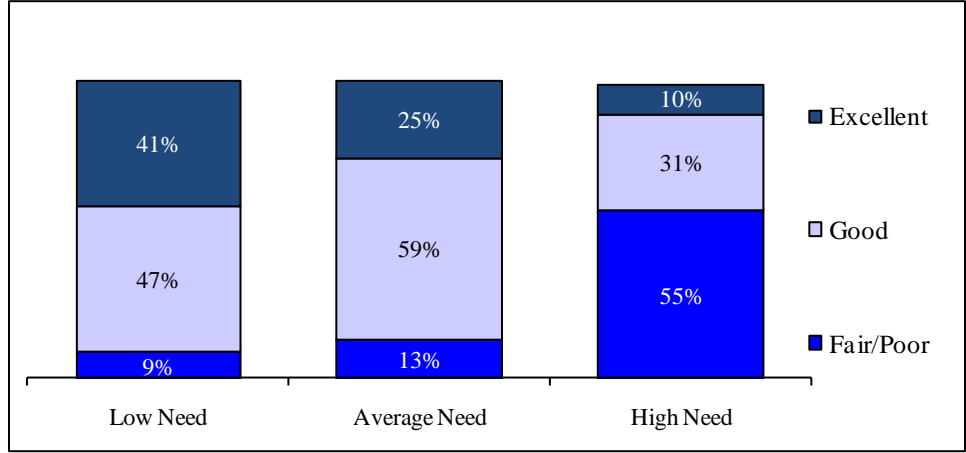
### ***Quality of Local Services & Schools***

African -Americans provided a mixed assessment of services in their current neighborhood. Roughly 6 in ten (58%) rated their local schools as excellent or good. This was broken down further into 16% who rated their schools as excellent and another 42% who rated them as good, leaving roughly 40% black residents who rated the schools as fair or poor. Overall, blacks had mixed views on whether or not the quality of local schools had gotten better or worse in the last ten years: 29% said they had improved, 26% said they had deteriorated, and 39% saw no change.

There are clear differences in satisfaction with local schools among residents of school districts rated as areas of high, average, and low-need by the State Education Department (SED). Districts are divided into high, average, and low-need categories based on their ability to meet the special needs of their students with local resources. Perhaps not surprisingly, residents of high-need districts are thus less satisfied with their schools than those in low-need districts. There is an almost 50 point gap in the rated quality of public schools by residents in high and low-need districts with 41% of residents of high-need districts rating the quality of education in their district as excellent or good compared to 88% of those in low-need districts.



**Graph6: Rating of Schools by Level of District Need (Q8)**



Even though 58% of African-Americans are satisfied with local schools, 55% agree that the schools are not good value compared to the taxes that residents pay. Only 37% said the public schools were good value. This perception was shared widely among African-Americans with the exception of those aged 55 and older and those who live in a high-need school district. African Americans 55 and older were evenly split: 45% said the schools were good value and 46% said they were not. However, only 28% of African-Americans who live in high-need districts thought the local public schools were good value compared to 57% of those living in low-need districts.

African-Americans are only slightly more negative about school value than Long Islanders as a whole. Data collected for the Long Island Index in 2010 found that overall 49% of Long Islanders viewed the schools as poor value compared to 41% who thought they provided good or excellent value.<sup>3</sup>

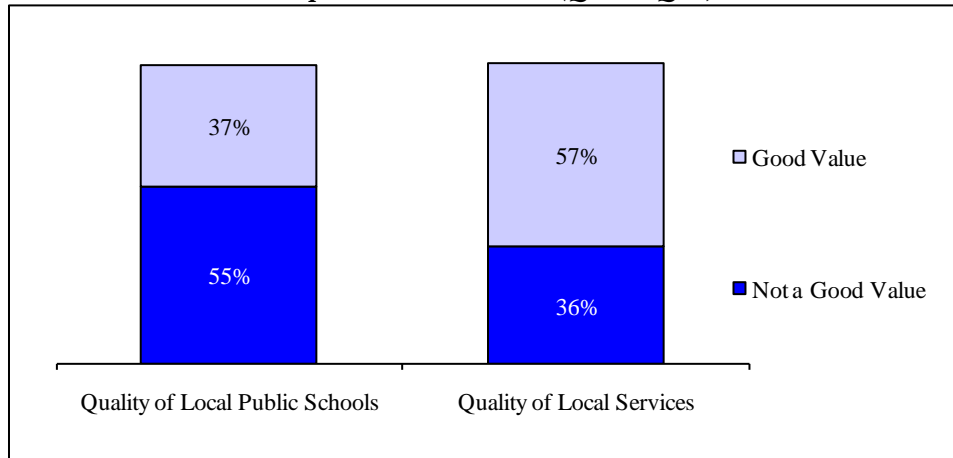
Similar to how African Americans rated schools, roughly 6 in 10 (62%) rated local government services as excellent or good; 15% rated local services as excellent and another 47% rated them as good. Once again, this left roughly 4 in 10 black residents who rated services as fair or poor.

A higher percentage of black residents of Nassau than Suffolk County rated their local government services as excellent or good (70% vs. 52%), and older residents were more likely than younger residents to rate local government services as excellent or good (79% vs. 44%). On balance, black residents were equally split over whether the quality of government services in their neighborhood had improved over the last ten years (42%) or stayed the same (44%). A majority (57%) also thought that local services such as park, libraries, sanitation and police were good value when compared to the taxes that they paid. When asked more generally about the quality of services such as parks and libraries within their larger town, African-American residents were somewhat more positive than when they had rated services in

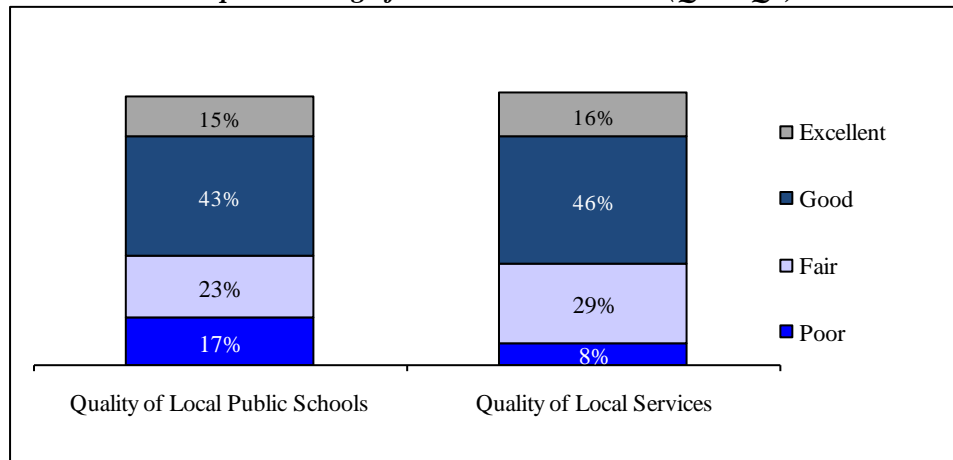
<sup>3</sup>Residential Satisfaction and Downtown Development: The View from Long Island and the NY Metro Area. Center for Survey Research, Stony Brook University, 2011; [http://www.longislandindex.org/fileadmin/Reports and Maps/2011\\_Index/Long\\_Island\\_Index\\_Survey\\_2011.pdf](http://www.longislandindex.org/fileadmin/Reports_and_Maps/2011_Index/Long_Island_Index_Survey_2011.pdf)

their immediate area or neighborhood. Roughly 3 in 4 (74%) rated local municipal services as excellent or good (compared to 62% who gave that rating to services in their neighborhood), and only 26% rated them as fair or poor. Residents of Suffolk County rated town services less positively than did residents of Nassau.

**Graph 8: Rating the Quality of Schools and Services Compared to Taxes Paid (Q53 & Q54)**



**Graph 7: Rating of Schools and Services (Q8 & Q9)**

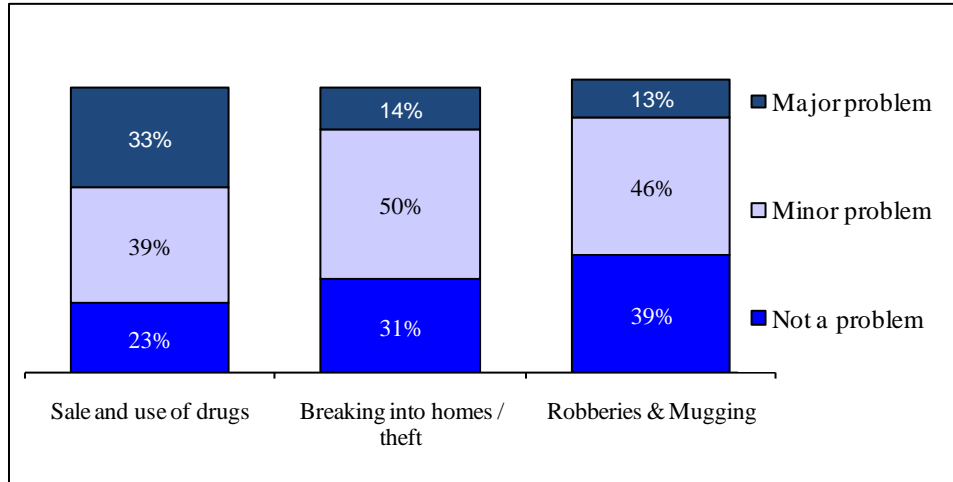


**Crime Rate**

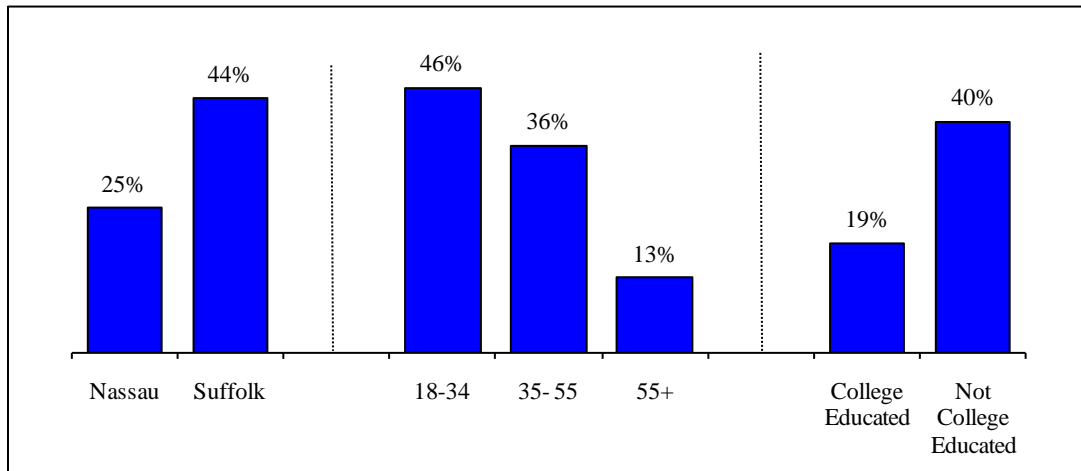
The sale and use of illegal drugs is the major local crime problem reported by African-American residents. A third of all blacks said this was a major problem in their neighborhood, and another 39% said it was a minor problem, resulting in over 7 in ten blacks who said it was at least something of a problem in their local area. This is a greater problem for residents of Suffolk than Nassau County, with 44% of Suffolk residents citing it as a major problem in their neighborhood compared to 25% in Nassau. Blacks with a college degree were less likely than those without a degree to cite drug usage as a major local problem (19% vs. 40%), and younger blacks were far more likely to see this as a major problem than were older respondents (46% of those aged 18 -34 vs. 13% of those aged 55 and older). Respondents who live in high-need school districts were much more likely to report the sale and use of illegal drugs as a

major problem (40.9%) compared to respondents who live in average (17.4%), or low-need districts (9.4%).

**Graph 9: Local Neighborhood Crime Problems(Q10, Q11, Q12)**



**Graph 10: Rating Illegal Drugs as a “Major Problem”  
By County, Age and College Degree(Q.11)**

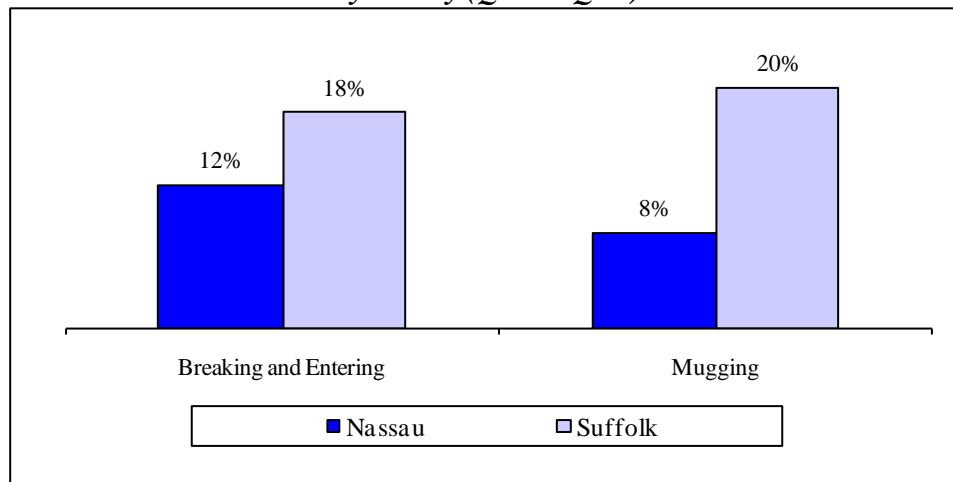


Relatively few blacks (14%) reported that breaking and entering into homes was a major problem in their neighborhood, although 50% said it was a minor problem. Younger respondents aged 18 to 34 were more likely than the oldest age group to see this as a major problem (25% vs. 7%); residents of Suffolk are somewhat more likely than those in Nassau to rate it as a major problem (18% vs. 12%). Respondents who live in high-need school districts were 18% more likely to report breaking and entering into homes as a major problem compared to those who live in low-need districts.

Similarly, few blacks (13%) reported that mugging was a major problem in their neighborhood, although a near majority (46%) said it was a minor problem. Residents of Suffolk County were more likely than those in Nassau to report that mugging was a major problem in their neighborhood (20% vs. 8%);

women were more likely than men to see mugging as a major problem (18% vs. 7%); and younger people aged 18 to 34 were more likely than those aged 55 and older to rate mugging as a major problem (21% vs. 6%).

**Graph 11: Rating Breaking and Entering, and Mugging as a “Major Problem”  
By County (Q.10 & Q.12)**



**Condition of Local Homes and Properties**

Most blacks (77%) said that landlords and homeowners kept property in their neighborhood in good or excellent condition, however there were notable differences based on age, education level and school district need. Older respondents were more likely than younger individuals to rate properties in their neighborhood as in good or excellent condition (84% vs. 68%). College-educated blacks were more likely than those without a college education to say that local properties were in good or excellent condition (85% vs. 73%). Finally, African-Americans in high-need school districts were less likely than those living in average or low-need districts to rate properties in their neighborhood as in excellent condition (21%, 36% and 43% respectively).

**Social Support**

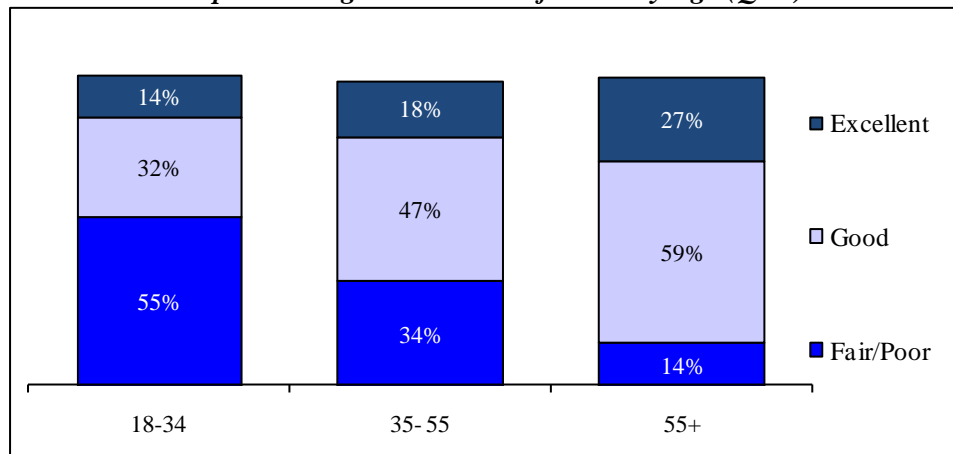
Black residents reported modest levels of social support within their neighborhood. Almost 3 in 10 said that they could count a great deal or somewhat on neighbors for assistance in finding jobs, babysitting, and carpooling. But that left 64% or almost two-thirds who said that they received a little or no such assistance from their neighbors. These numbers varied little by county, age group, gender or educational level.

**Overall Assessment of Neighborhood, Area, and Long Island**

When asked to rate their neighborhood overall as a place to live, few blacks -- roughly 2 in 10 -- rated it as excellent, and 46% rated it as good. This results in 65% or almost two-thirds who rate their neighborhood as good or excellent as a place to live. Six in ten local black residents rated their zip code as a good or excellent place to live. The most dramatic differences in ratings occurred between older and younger blacks. Among blacks aged 55 and older, 27% rated their neighborhood as an excellent place to

live compared to 14% of those aged 18 to 34. Altogether, 86% of older, but only 45% of younger blacks rated their neighborhood as a good or excellent place to live. A similar age difference is observed in ratings of the local zip code with 75% of those aged 55 and older rating their zip code as good or excellent compared to only 44% of those aged 18 to 34. There was also a link between how respondents rated their neighborhood and whether they lived in a low, average or high-need school district. Roughly 47% of those in low-need districts considered their neighborhood an excellent place to live compared with 23% in average-need districts and 15% in high-need districts. Contrarily, 44% in high-need districts considered their neighborhood a fair or poor place to live compared to 3% in low-need districts.

**Graph 12: Neighborhood Satisfaction By Age (Q.16)**



More modest differences were observed by education level. Overall, 73% of college-educated blacks rated their neighborhood as good or excellent compared to 60% of those without a college degree. And 65% of those with a college degree rated their zip code as a good or excellent place to live compared to 56% of those without a college degree.

Blacks gave a similar rating to Long Island as a place to live overall. Seventy-one percent rate it as good or excellent and 29% rate it as fair or poor.

**Table 2: Satisfaction with Neighborhood, Zip Code and Long Island**

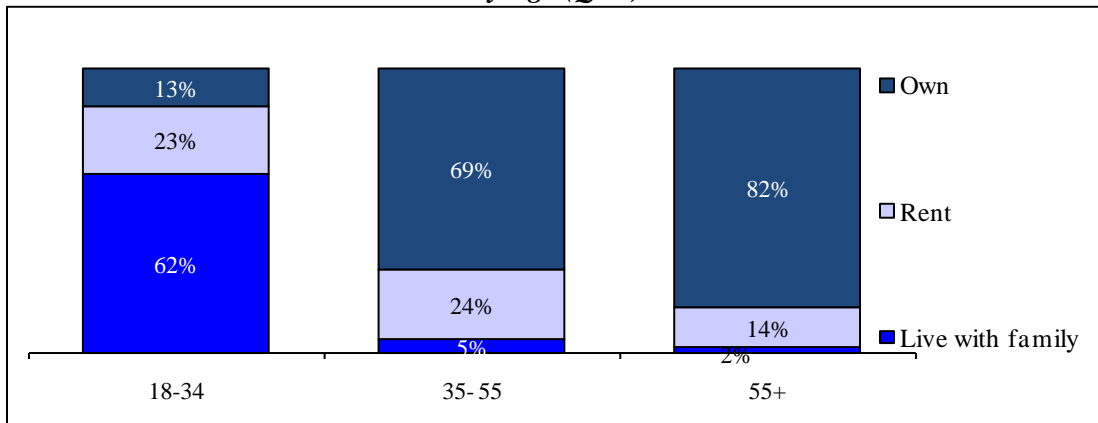
*(Q16, Q17, Q57)*

	<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>Long Island</u>
	%	%	%
<b><u>Excellent/Good</u></b>	<b><u>65</u></b>	<b><u>59</u></b>	<b><u>71</u></b>
Excellent	19	11	23
Good	46	48	48
<b><u>Fair/Poor</u></b>	<b><u>36</u></b>	<b><u>40</u></b>	<b><u>29</u></b>
Fair	30	35	27
Poor	6	5	2

## HOME OWNERSHIP AND FINANCING

Just over a half (55%) of all black respondents owned their home, 21% rented, and another 22% lived with other family members such as parents. Among blacks aged 18 to 34, 62% lived with family members, 23% rented, and only 13% owned a home. In contrast, among those aged 55 or older, 82% owned their home. Over 2 in 3 college-educated blacks (70%) owned their own home compared to 48% of those without a college degree. Six out of ten (61%) of local African-Americans have lived at their current residence for 10 years or more, and 22% have lived there between 5 and 10 years.

*Graph 13: Home Ownership  
By Age (Q.39)*

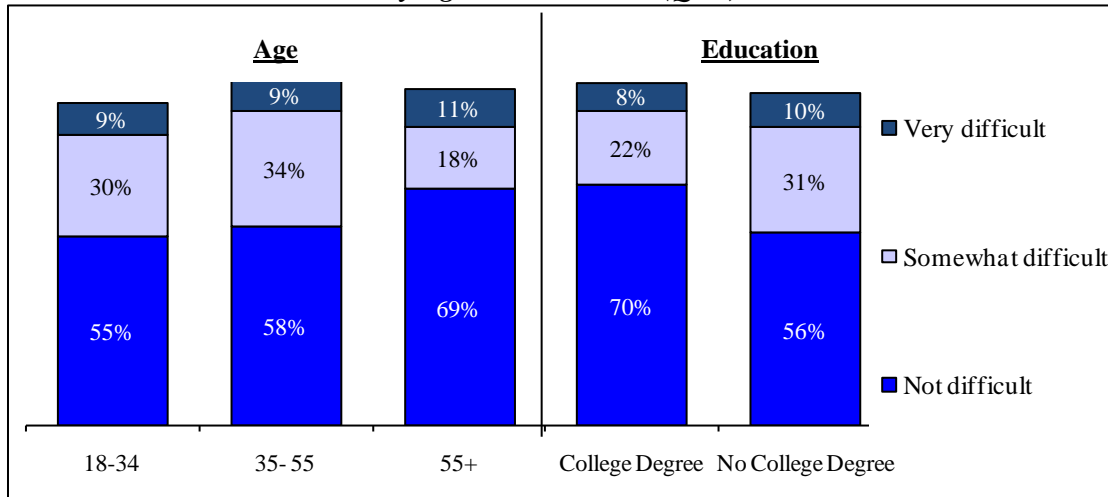


When renters were asked why they did not own a home, a majority (54%) said they could not afford it or could not afford high taxes, 11% mentioned various life changes such as divorce, and another 7% said they were thinking about it or saving for a down payment. Very few (2%) said that they did not want to have the responsibility of a home or felt it was too expensive to maintain. Overall, 84% of renters said that owning a home in the future was very important to them.

Among homeowners, just over two-thirds (68%) had owned only their current home. Almost all (96%) had taken out a home mortgage to purchase it and most were satisfied with the type of mortgage that had been offered to them. Fifty-two percent were very satisfied with their mortgage and another 31% were somewhat satisfied, leaving 17% who were somewhat or very unsatisfied. A higher percentage of young mortgage holders were very unsatisfied with their type of mortgage compared to the older generation. Among those aged between 35 and 55 who had taken out a mortgage, 46% were very satisfied with their mortgage compared to 58% of those aged 55 or older. Most of those unsatisfied with their type of mortgage mentioned high interest rates and/or high taxes.

Just under 4 in 10 blacks on Long Island found it somewhat or very difficult to meet their rent or mortgage payments in an average month. Those aged 55 or older had less difficulty meeting their housing payments than did younger blacks. College-educated blacks found it less difficult to meet housing costs than did those without a college degree.

**Graph 14: Difficulty Paying Rent or Mortgage  
By Age and Education (Q.56)**



## HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

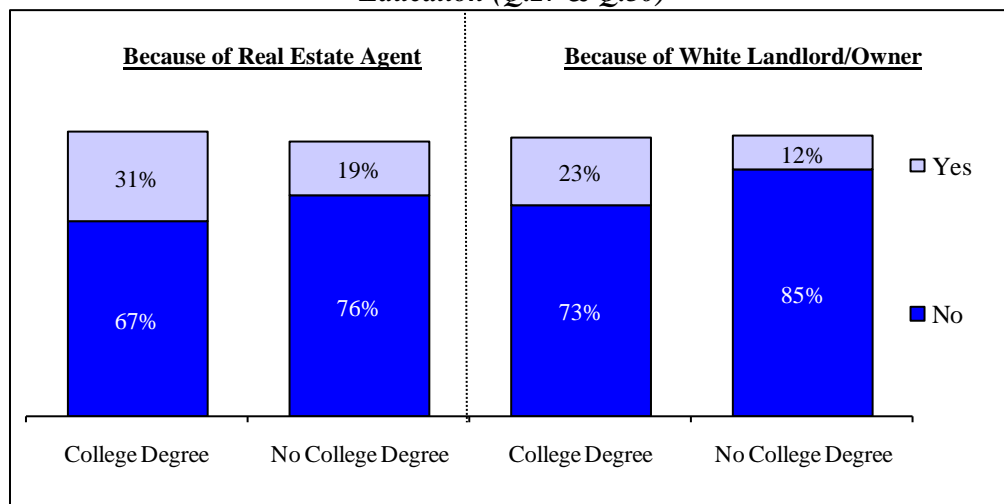
African-Americans believe housing discrimination is pervasive on Long Island. Almost 6 in 10 (58%) think it is very likely that real estate agents will not show black families homes in white areas that they can afford, and another 25% say this is somewhat likely. Forty-four percent of black residents think it is very likely that white landlords and homeowners will not sell or rent to blacks, and another 37% think this is somewhat likely. Altogether, over 80% of black respondents think these forms of housing discrimination are somewhat or very likely.

**Table 3: Experience with Housing Discrimination**

<i>Perceived Discrimination</i>	<b>Very Likely</b>	<b>Somewhat Likely</b>	<b>Somewhat/ Very Unlikely</b>
African-Americans miss out on housing because real estate agents won't show homes in white areas (Q26)	58%	25%	10%
African-Americans miss out on housing because white homeowners and landlords won't rent or sell (Q29)	44%	37%	13%
<i>Personal Experience (Self or Immediate Family Member)</i>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
<i>Experienced at least one of 3 forms of discrimination(Q27, Q30, Q32)</i>	<b>33%</b>	<b>67%</b>	
Missed out on housing because of a real estate agent(Q27)	22%	75%	
Missed out on housing because of a white landlord/homeowner(Q30)	15%	82%	
Been verbally or physically harassed by a neighbor because of race(Q32)	10%	89%	

Only a minority of blacks have experienced such forms of housing discrimination first-hand, however. Roughly 1 in 5 (22%) say that have had an experience in which a real estate agent failed to show them or an immediate family member homes in a white area. This was more common in Suffolk than Nassau County (29% vs. 18%). And college graduates reported this experience more often than those without a college degree (31% vs. 19%). Fifteen percent had an experience in which a white homeowner or landlord would not rent or sell to them. Once again, this experience was more common in Suffolk than Nassau (19% vs. 13%), and more common among the college-educated than those without a college degree (23% vs. 12%). Experience with this form of discrimination was reported more often by those aged 18 to 34 (21%) than older age groups (14% of those aged 34-55, and 11% of those aged 55 and older).

**Graph 15: Experienced Housing Discrimination by Education (Q.27 & Q.30)**



Finally, relatively few blacks (10%) reported an experience with verbal or physical abuse from a neighbor because of their racial background. This was more common in Nassau than Suffolk County (13% vs. 7%).

## MOVING

### *Leaving Long Island*

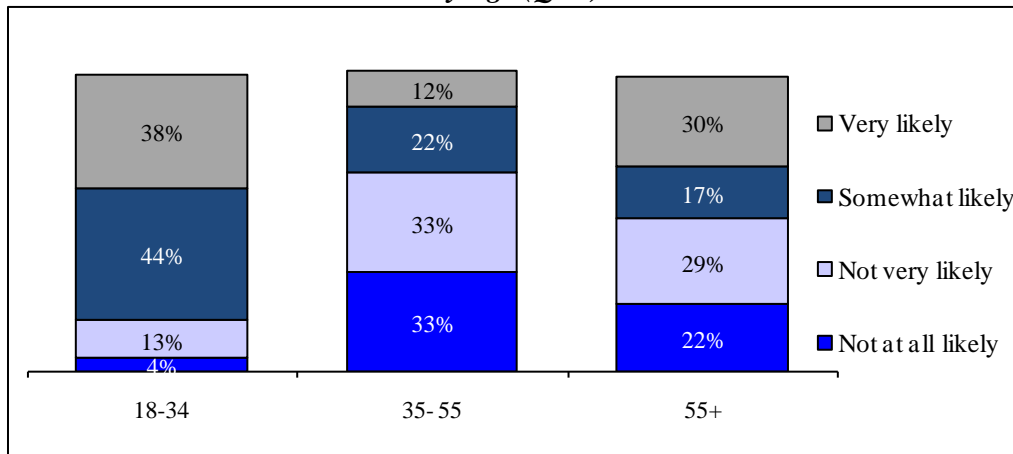
Roughly a half (52%) of all blacks say they are somewhat or very likely to leave Long Island in the next five years. Younger respondents, aged 18 to 34, were the most likely to say they would leave. Over 8 in 10 (82%) of the youngest age group said they were somewhat or very likely to leave in the next 5 years compared to 47% of those aged 55 and older. Only a third of blacks aged 35 to 55, an age group likely to have school-age children, said they were likely to leave. The number of blacks likely to leave Long Island is higher than among Long Islanders overall. In the 2011 Long Island Index (conducted in the fall of 2010) 44% of all Long Islanders said they were somewhat or likely to leave in the next five years. Among Long Islanders aged 18 to 34, 65% said they were somewhat or likely to leave.<sup>4</sup> This means that young blacks are far more likely to say they will leave Long Island than young people overall.

<sup>4</sup>[http://www.longislandindex.org/fileadmin/Reports\\_and\\_Maps/2011\\_Index/Long\\_Island\\_Index\\_Survey\\_2011.pdf](http://www.longislandindex.org/fileadmin/Reports_and_Maps/2011_Index/Long_Island_Index_Survey_2011.pdf)



Of blacks who said they were likely to leave, a plurality (46%) said they would move to the south, including Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky and Texas. Roughly 1 in 5 (21%) said they would stay in the North-East including New York City, Upstate, New Jersey, Washington DC, and Delaware. The percentage of blacks saying they would move to the south is roughly the same as among Long Islanders interviewed as part of the 2007 Long Island Index (conducted in the fall of 2006).<sup>5</sup>

**Graph 16: Likelihood of Moving Off of Long Island  
By Age (Q.21)**

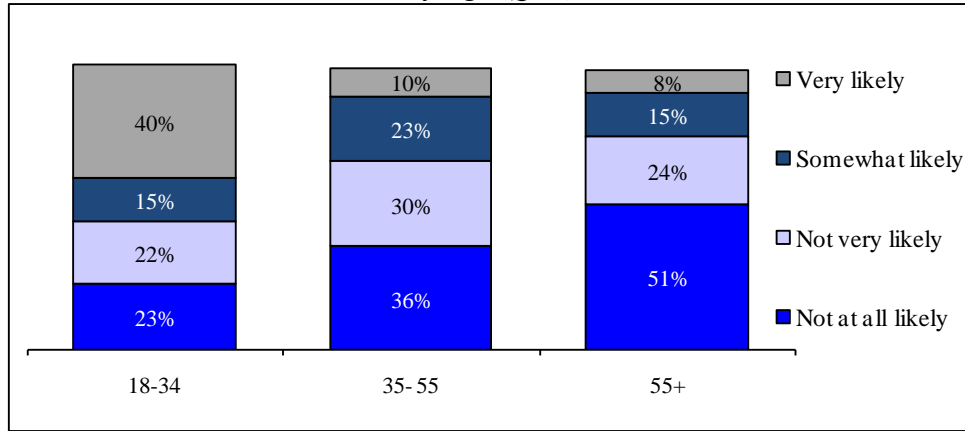


### ***Moving on Long Island***

Roughly 37% of African-Americans said they were somewhat or very likely to move from their current residence to somewhere else on Long Island in the next 5 years. Members of the youngest age group (18-34) were far more likely to say they would move than older generations, with over a half saying they were somewhat or likely to move in the next 5 years. In contrast, only 24% of those aged 55 and older thought they would move. Those without a college degree were more likely than college graduates to say they would move elsewhere on Long Island (29% vs. 40%).

<sup>5</sup> In a Tough Spot: Jobs, Taxes and Affordability on Long Island, Center for Survey Research, December 2006; [http://www.stonybrook.edu/surveys/LI\\_poll\\_report/LI\\_POLL.pdf](http://www.stonybrook.edu/surveys/LI_poll_report/LI_POLL.pdf).

**Graph 17: Likelihood of Moving Out of Current Residence  
By Age (Q.23)**



When asked why they were thinking of moving to somewhere else on Long Island, the most common response mentioned by roughly 40% was unhappiness with their current neighborhood. Other reasons for moving included wanting one’s own home, moving to a bigger house, and finding somewhere more affordable.

## APPENDIX

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### METHODOLOGY

The Stony Brook University Center for Survey Research conducted this survey by telephone from June 28th through July 24th, 2011. The sample was drawn from telephone directories of census block groups with 60% or greater proportion of African Americans. African Americans make up a smaller proportion of the population of Suffolk County (relative to Nassau County) so Suffolk County was oversampled to facilitate valid inference.

Selected households were screened to find an African American respondent of age 18 or older. Up to 9 contact attempts at various times of the day and week were made at each household phone number. In order to assure a representative sample, all households and individuals who initially were not willing to participate in the survey were contacted again, and an attempt was made to persuade them to participate. Most African-Americans (90%) interviewed for this poll had lived on Long Island for at least 10 years or more; a quarter had lived on Long Island for their entire life.

In total, 3,100 numbers were attempted. Of the total numbers attempted, 527 records had invalid numbers and 523 were not eligible. This left a remainder of 2051 valid records. Of these, interviews were completed with 305 eligible respondents with 153 completed interviews with residents of Nassau County and 152 completed interviews with residents of Suffolk County resulting in a response rate of 15%.

Margin of error for the Long Island sample is +/- 5.6%. The margin of error for each county sample is +/- 7.9%.

Weights were created for this sample based on population estimates for seven demographic variables drawn from the 2009 American Community Survey conducted by the US Census Bureau. These variables include gender, marital status, educational attainment, income, age and employment status. As the survey included an oversample of respondents from Suffolk County, the weights also account for the differential proportion of African Americans in Suffolk County relative to Nassau County. Weighting was done using an iterative process that has been developed to estimate joint weights for any number of demographic variables for which population percentages are known only individually, not jointly. Generally speaking, younger people, males, the less educated and those with lower incomes tend to be underrepresented in surveys such as this. Weights help to compensate for a lower response rate among these groups.

**LIST OF TOWNSHIPS FROM WHICH RESPONDENTS WERE DRAWN:**

**NASSAU COUNTY**

1. ELMONT
2. FLORAL PARK
3. FREEPORT
4. HEMPSTEAD
5. INWOOD
6. MASSAPEQUA
7. NORTH BALDWIN
8. ROCKVILLE CTR
9. ROOSEVELT
10. UNIONDALE
11. VALLEY STREAM
12. W HEMPSTEAD
13. WESTBURY

**SUFFOLK COUNTY**

14. AMITYVILLE
15. COPIAGUE
16. CORAM
17. DEER PARK
18. MEDFORD
19. MIDDLE ISLAND
20. WEST BABYLON
21. WHEATLEY HTS
22. WYANDANCH