

ABOUT NEWTON IN THE 21ST CENTURY – A BRIEF OVERVIEW

This sheet was prepared as a supplement to the Newton Human Rights Commission February 11, 2009 program on **Challenging Prejudice in Newton and Beyond: A Community Conversation**

Statistics are approximate; most from 2000 Census. Due to space limitations, only selected data are presented.

Population: Newton is a city of 83,829 living in 13 villages.

Land use: 49 % residential, 20 % open space, 20 % streets/roads, 6 % institutional, 5 % commercial, 1 % industrial/mixed use.

Languages spoken at home, (residents age 5 yrs.+): English + 38 other languages spoken

- Speak only English: 78 %
- Each of 5 languages spoken by over 1.0% of population: Spanish or Spanish Creole, Italian, Russian, Chinese, Hebrew; these speakers total 10,622 residents, or 13.4 % of population.
- 33 other languages spoken

Race and Ethnicity (approximate figures)	2000 census	%	2008 Estimate	%
American Indian or Alaska Native	61	.1 %	71	0.1 %
Asian or Pacific Islander	6,463	7.7 %	8,809	10.7 %
Black or African American	1,653	2.0 %	2,340	2.9 %
Hispanic or Latino	2,111	2.5 %	2,514	3.1 %
Some other race or Two or more races:	1,821	1.46 %	2,178	2.7 %
White	73,831	88.1 %	68,577	83.7 %

Age of population: Median age: 38.7 (older than average age in the U.S.); 65 years and older: 12,640.

Household Income	2000 Census	2008 Estimate
• Average household income	\$120,775	\$155,855
• Median household income	\$86,133	\$109,425
• Per Capita income	\$44,952	\$58,669

Poverty status in 1999 (number and % of Newton population): Families: 546, 2.6 %; Individuals: 3,382; 4.3 %

Housing

- Median cost of a home: \$680,700.
- Of 31,201 occupied housing units in Newton, 70 % are owner-occupied; 30 % are renter-occupied.

Employment

Most workers are employed in Newton + surrounding towns, and do not commute to the nearest large city.

Types of employment

- in professional, managerial and technical jobs 64 %
- in sales and office occupations 16 %
- in service jobs 7 %

Unemployment rate low at 2.9 %, compared to national 6.9 %.

Disability status (non-institutionalized, age 5+): 9,944 residents (including 31 % of population over age 65)

Educational attainment (selected data):

No high school diploma: 3,144; 5.5 %. High school graduate: 7,005; 12.1 %.

Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree: 41,485; 71.9 %

NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Data as of 10/1/08 provided by the Newton Public Schools, Business, Finance & Planning; by grade level.

ENROLLMENT BY STATE RACE CODES

Race	N	% of Total K-12 Enrollment
Asian	1,676	14.5%
Black or African American	597	5.2%
Hispanic	710	6.1%
Mixed	520	4.5%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	14	0.1%
White	8,053	69.6%
Total	11,570	100.0%

ELL (English Language Learning) ENROLLMENT

Grade Level	N	% of Total Enrollment
Elementary	472	8.6%
Middle	97	3.9%
High School	81	2.3%
Total	650	5.6%

METCO ENROLLMENT BY LEVEL also see below *

Grade Level	N	% of Total Enrollment
Elementary	207	3.8%
Middle	94	3.8%
High School	122	3.4%
Total	423	3.7%

FREE/REDUCED LUNCH, also see below **

Grade Level	N	% of Total Enrollment
Elementary	483	8.8%
Middle	244	9.8%
High School	380	10.6%
Total	1,107	9.6%

POST GRADUATE PLANS FOR THE CLASS of 2008

Post Graduate Plans	N	%
4-Year College (Public & Private)	704	81.5%
2-Year College (Public & Private)	38	4.4%
Other Post-Secondary	30	3.5%
Military	2	0.2%
Work	20	2.3%
Other (travel, family, etc.)	15	1.7%
Unknown	55	6.4%
Total	864	100.0%

* METCO (Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity)

- METCO is a state-funded educational program designed to decrease racial isolation and expand educational opportunities, for both Boston and Newton school children.
- Newton was one of the first 7 communities, in 1966, with 220 African American children from Boston.

- Program is open to all children of African American, Latino American, Asian American, and Native American descent who live in Boston and volunteer to participate.
- Newton is largest sponsor of program; all 21 schools participate; total averages 415 yearly in Newton.

**** FREE/REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAM**

- The National School Lunch Program is administered by state education agencies and school food authorities who get cash subsidies and donated commodities.
- The goal in Newton is to provide nutritious and healthy choices to support learning and physical development.
- First implemented in 1946, the program has been amended and strengthened to include dietary guidelines, school breakfast and snacks and a special milk program -- also, adult day health and WIC clients.
- Food authorities try to use more and more reimbursable foods.